

Oneonta Falls is hidden from view by nearly verticle walls covered with moss and ferns. This much photographed gorge can be waded during low water or the falls can be seen from the trail leading to the crest.

**Bonneville Dam**

The first Federal dam built to harness the energy of the Columbia is Bonneville Dam, built in the 1930's. Operated by the Bonneville Power Administration, this dam and other federal dams in the river provide low-cost electric power to public and private utilities.

A Visitor Information Center explains the operation of the dam as well as the history and geology of the area.

Visitors can watch the salmon — which once leaped up the great falls of the Columbia — struggling up the fish ladders on their way up the river to spawn. Salmon, which are hatched in the tiny rivlets where the rivers begin, migrate downstream to the ocean — then as adults each returns to its birthplace to lay its eggs and to die. One also can watch the operation of the 500 foot long navigation locks which allow ships and barges to pass through the dam.

Immediately downstream from Bonneville Dam is the Eagle Creek fish hatchery where salmon and steelhead are raised to be planted in the streams.

**The Bridge of the Gods**, one of the older bridges over the Columbia, gets its name from the Indian legend that a natural bridge arched the river at that point.

**Cascade Locks Park** is at the site of the old Government Locks. Before the locks were built in 1896, travellers had to portage around this place in the river because of numerous rocks and cascades. The old locks have been preserved and a museum houses the history of the paddle wheel steamboats, which were one of the main methods of river travel.

Hood River is best known for its apple orchards that bring the valley in bloom each

Spring. The 20-mile long Hood River Valley is Oregon's largest apple producing regions and also is the site of many cherry and pear orchards. The east face of Mt. Hood towers over the valley.

**East of the Mountains**

Passing Hood River the vegetation changes — the firs change to pine, the thick underbrush disappears and the sagebrush that is more suited to the arid climate becomes more evident.

The cliffs are shaped by sharp outcroppings of lava, the hills slope away from the river, turning from the dark green of the gorge to the grays of the eastern plateau.

**The Dalles**, surrounded by the rugged cliffs and hot in the dessert sun, was the end of the Oregon Trail. Here the pioneers left their wagons and took to the river for their journey on to Fort Vancouver and the fertile Willamette Valley.

The Dalles is the site of the longest continuous habitation in North America, having been occupied for more than 5,000 years. Although the Indian villages have long been gone and their sites flooded by the dams, many of their artifacts remain — the petroglyphs and petrographs on the cliffs above the river, the arrowheads, baskets and trade goods, now usually found in museums or carefully cherished by Indian families.

Places of interest in The Dalles are: The original Wasco County Courthouse built in 1850; Fort Dalles Museum, built in 1858 and now housing a museum; Bigfoot Museum, containing the lore of the Sasquatch; and The Dalles Dam. Near the dam is a museum operated by the Wy-om Indians which contains many artifacts found in the area.

Below the dam and at Cascade Locks Indians can be seen fishing in their traditional way — on wooden platforms built over the churning water — they catch their salmon in nets fastened to long poles. Current disputes over fishing treaty rights of the Indians stem from the destruction of the Indians traditional fishing grounds by the dams and the resulting loss of fish available to them.

**Oregon Historical Society**

The Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S.W. Park, was established by Oregon pioneers in 1873. All of its museum and library materials are held in trust for the people of the state.

A special exhibit now displayed at the center is "Blacks in the Westward Movement," a Smithsonian Institution Travelling Exhibit. Blacks have been overlooked in the writing about the exploration of the west, but they were there — guiding and interpreting for early explorers, riding in the great cattle drives, homesteading the plains, and contributing to the development of the nation. These contributions are chronicled in picture and in word in the Smithsonian exhibit.

Permanent displays at the center include "Indians of the Oregon Country," a maritime collection, and artifacts of exploration and discovery.

Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Admission free.

**Western Forestry Center**

The Western Forestry Center offers the opportunity to see the timber that dominates the economy of Oregon. Around the central rotunda in the Exhibit Hall are fourteen giant photomurals showing the magnificent trees of the west. The popular "Talking Tree" tells the story of the forest.

The 100-year-old Jesup Wood Collection has more than 500 specimens. Photographs and operating displays demonstrate how trees become lumber and veneer. A 1909 Sharf locomotive greets the visitors, who are welcome to climb aboard.

**Hoyt Arboretum**

Hoyt Arboretum is an outstanding display of Northwest trees, shrubs, ferns and wild flowers covering several acres on the West Hills adjacent to the Forestry Center and Zoo. Seven miles of trails and numerous identification markers make the plantings accessible and picnic areas make the Arboretum a popular place for an afternoon outing. The Western Forestry Center offers guided tours.

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