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## Harney County Tops As Picturesque Area



**BURNS**—The wide-open spaces of Harney County in Southeastern Oregon comprise an interesting part of the nation's 9th largest state, with its desert, sagebrush, rabbits, coyotes and miles of rugged terrain. One of the most interesting spots is two-mile long Malheur Cave, entrance to which is shown above. (About 325 miles from Salem via Highway 222 east to Sisters, then Highway 20 through Bend to Burns and south from Burns on Highway 78 to a turn-off.)

### Malheur Cave Interesting Point

By JEAN ROBERTS  
Statesman Correspondent

Down in Southeastern Oregon is Harney County, Oregon's largest and perhaps least known area. Seemingly a bleak, sage dotted plateau it offers many things of interest to venturesome vacationists. Anyone desiring something different in the way of a vacation would welcome the warm hospitality of the scattered residents of Harney County.

A "no trespassing" sign is unheard of in that section of Oregon. One is welcome at any door. It is a land of a gray-green horizon, jack rabbits, coyotes, rattlesnakes, sagebrush, sage ticks and good fishing.

Vast areas of sage crisscrossed with rabbit trails invites rabbit hunting. One is welcome to hunt in anyone's fields, but must obey the unwritten law of always closing a gate that is found closed, and never shooting stock.

Coyote Cry Weir  
The coyote, a cowardly animal, is seldom seen during the day, but at night his howl is a weird sound and if answered by shouts can be heard to come closer and closer, but he never appears. The fear of rattlesnakes deters persons from exploring the sage-covered plateau of Harney county. But a rattlesnake does not strike without warning and will slither away unheard and unnoticed if given an opportunity. In my 12 years of living in the desert country south of Burns, there was only one man anyone could recall who was bitten by a rattlesnake. He had the snake cornered and was teasing it.

To explore much country one must walk through sagebrush to reach a butte or a rimrock. Birds' nests can be found in the sage, and atop the rimrocks are nests of hawks, ravens, owls, and occasionally an eagle.

**Fish Plentiful**  
Streams are small and considerable distance apart, but fish are plentiful.

Perhaps the most interesting spot in Harney county is the Malheur Cave. The cave, which is a little hard to find, lies in the middle of a valley. It was so named because the Malheur River heads in this underground cavern. It is huge, approximately two miles in length. A mile can be traveled on foot with the aid of lanterns. A boat is anchored at that point to transport sightseers over the clear water. At present the cave is the site of an annual Masonic meeting but once it was an Indian battleground. A decade ago, arrowheads still covered the ground outside the entrance.

**Cattleman Winners**  
The Steens Mountains, which change to all colors of the rainbow in the setting sun, are centrally located in the county. A few years ago the mountains were dotted at night by campfires, where Basque Shepherders watched their bands. Now the mountains are covered with bunch grass and dotted with beef stock. In the age-old controversy between the sheepman and the cattleman it appears at present that the cattleman has won.

Down through the Steens and just across the Harney-Malheur County border lies Follyfarm. A lone saddle horse in a corral there was the only evidence of life. The saddle horse was reminiscent of the case of Sheriff Goodman who was shot there about 20 years ago by a horse thief who had been trailed and placed under arrest. The man asked permission to go to the corral to unsaddle his horse. The sheriff gave his permission but a moment later a bullet struck a key in the sheriff's pocket and severed an artery in his leg. He was found dying beside his car.

Follyfarm is still much as it was. Cereal boxes still cover the shelves inside the deserted store.

**Mildew Unknown**  
Changes come slowly to the desert country, where mold and mildew are unknown. Homesteaders' shacks built 40 or 50 years ago still stand solidly, amidst the sand and sage. . . mute evidence of the failure of many to eke out a living in the desert.

Burns is Harney's largest city and county seat, with a population of 3,000. It is still a frontier town and life moves in a slow, leisurely manner. Blue jeans and

boots are the usual attire for women and men.

Harney, now a ghost town consisting of ranch buildings and a cemetery, was the original county seat. Burns, according to old timers, became county seat not by a vote of the people but in a truly Western fashion. Some of the Burns men rode over to Harney one night, seized the county records and transported them to Burns.

The prospect of finding oil has been considered for years, and at present no Harney land is for sale.

Those who live on that vast plain of sand and sage think there's no place like it; and those who wouldn't live there heartily agree.

### Shirts Make Fine Gift for Father's Day

The "light, bright look" of the new 1954 shirts is of special interest for Father's Day.

Preference for color and pattern is as strong a trend as the new rounded collars. Solid colors are of prime importance after white, but they are selected from a narrow range, best described as muted. They are not dark, nor are they pastel. Many of them are the result of a weave that includes colored and white threads so woven as to mask each other.

Broadcloth is still first choice in shirt fabrics, with oxford cloth second.

Sports shirts depart from well-worn paths of previous seasons with semi-wide spread, short-pointed collars. There is some enthusiasm also for button-down collar styles. Patterns tend more to abstract, geometrics instead of the waving palm, soaring flamingo scenes of not-so-long-ago.

## Winning Tips On Dad's Day | Geologic Area To Be Opened

**DAD'S DAYS IN THE SUN**  
A happy Father's Day gift: Sun glasses with neutral gray lenses in rugged plastic frames.

For weather protection, give Dad a good lightweight raincoat, an umbrella or a waterproof active sports jacket.

Completion in 1954 of the 18-mile long highway from U. S. 97 into Newberry Crater, near Bend will bring within easy range of visitors one of the outstanding geologic attractions of Western America.

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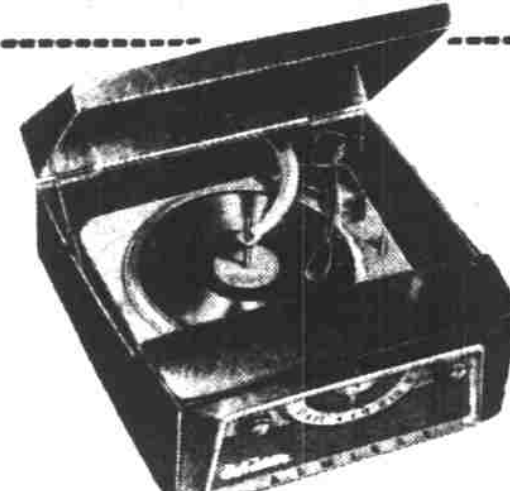
**SUNDAY, JUNE 20th**  
IS  
**Father's Day**

|                                                                                           |                                                                                |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SPORT SHIRTS</b><br>STRADIVARI<br>HOLLYWOOD ROGUE<br>ARROW<br>GAME AND LAKE<br>COOPERS | <b>JACKETS</b><br>SCULLY<br>WHITE STAG<br>BUCK SKIN JOE<br>WOOL MASTER         | <b>SUITS</b><br>KUPPENHEIMER<br>VARSITY TOWN<br>GRIFFON |
| <b>DRESS SHIRTS</b><br>ARROW<br>EXCELLO                                                   | <b>PAJAMAS</b><br>PLEETWAY                                                     | <b>HATS</b><br>DISNEY<br>DOBBS                          |
| <b>HOSE</b><br>INTERWOVEN<br>ROCKE                                                        | <b>Leather Goods</b><br>HICKOK                                                 | <b>SWEATERS</b><br>JANTZEN<br>TOWNE AND KING            |
| <b>TIES</b><br>ARROW<br>STERN-MERRITT<br>WEMBLEY<br>FASHION CRAFT                         | <b>SPORT COATS</b><br>KUPPENHEIMER<br>VARSITY TOWN<br>BLACKER BROS.<br>GRIFFON | <b>ROBES</b><br>RABHOR<br>BOTANY                        |
| <b>SLACKS</b><br>KUPPENHEIMER<br>MAYFAIR<br>KURTZMAN<br>VARSITY TOWN                      | <b>SHOES</b><br>NUNN-BUSH<br>KEDS                                              | <b>JEWELRY</b><br>HICKOK                                |
|                                                                                           |                                                                                | <b>BELTS—SUSPENDERS</b><br>HICKOK                       |

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