



Isolated Valley

There is no easy way to arrive at Lane County's Lobster Valley, above. For persons with patience and steady nerves, the county's Deadwood Road from Highway 36 is recommended. Luckily, visitors to Paris, a small community near the valley, do not have to rely upon this sign, below, to know they have arrived. The town has a prosperous mill, lower right, surrounded by many homes—but the only store is now closed and empty. Youngsters go to Alsea for school and there is not a foot of paved road for many surrounding miles.



Homes Most everyone in Lane County's portion of Lobster Valley lives in this small group of homes once owned by the local mill. The only access to the valley is through Benton County, and there are no maps that will admit a road to the little valley even exists.

Lobster Valley: The Place the Map Forgot

By SAM FREAR
Of the Register-Guard

Tucked away in a mountain fold along the northern boundary of Lane County is a little valley that isn't marked on any map, nor is it given credit for being connected to anyplace by road.

There is no postoffice, no store, no gas station and no church.

There is no way for persons on Sunday drives to enter it by way of Lane County. And although it lies within Lane County lines, its children go to school in Benton County.

The valley is called Lobster. It is a pretty little valley, with rich farmlands beside small rivers, and backed up against hills thickly covered with emerald green trees.

But it is a place few people in Lane County have heard of. It is not difficult to imagine why.

If you want to go to it by way of the closest entry point within Lane County there is a county road (of sorts) called the Deadwood Road which parts from Highway 36 near Triangle Lake.

The road goes through Alpha and Paris.

These two Lane County areas are almost always marked on maps,—but for Alpha this is the

only claim to fame. The days of its importance as a stage stop are past. A person knows he has been there only after passing its map location and realizes he didn't notice anything except a farmhouse or two.

But it's different when entering Paris. After carefully passing over the razor-backed Deadwood Mountain on a winding road barely wide enough for a small car, there is a sign in a tangle of blackberry vines at the bottom of the mountain: "Entering Paris. Population 133."

Even though Paris has no store, no gas station, no postoffice, nor a church, there is a prosperous - appearing mill owned by the Coquille Valley Lumber Co. and a cluster of houses and trailers.

From Paris the road signs begin to point the way to Lobster Valley—here county lines lose significance as the road winds in and out of Lane County.

At the end of a short little valley there is a cluster of homes.

A woman, Mrs. Robert Royse, was standing on her porch. "Is this Lobster Valley?"

"Part of it," she replied.

No one is quite sure how Lobster Valley got its name. It is assumed that someone tagged it such after observing the na-

tive crawfish around these parts. And, of course, Lobster Creek runs through Lobster Valley.

It's a long way from Lobster Valley to Eugene. The valley is naturally turned toward Benton County. Folks do most of their business in the small town of Alsea, or travel 35 miles into Corvallis.

This natural affiliation of the area with Benton County produced a secessionist movement in the fall of 1948 and the Lane County Court agreed that it should be annexed by Benton.

But twice the agreement and the opening of the legislature in 1949 something happened. When a permissive bill was enacted in Salem, it pertained only to that portion of Lobster Valley within Lincoln County. This was transferred to Benton County, but Lane County has retained the remainder.

"When you first come out here it does seem kind of remote," Mrs. Royse admitted, "but you get used to it. It is nice and quiet out here."

There are about 40 persons living within Lane County's share of the two-mile southern end of the valley. Children travel 13 miles to Alsea for schooling.

The Alsea Lumber Co. mill,

where many of the men work, is located in the Benton County end of the little valley. Mail is addressed to Alsea.

But Mrs. Royse said that she is very conscious that she lives within Lane County despite her isolation. For one thing, she and her husband are never forgotten by the tax collector. And if the road needs work, Lane County is asked to fix it.

She said she has never voted in the 10 years she has lived in the valley. Registration and voting is conducted in Paris. "And you know, by the time your husband gets home at 5 or 6 p.m. you just don't feel like going over the mountain to Paris," Mrs. Royse said.

Some people have moved out of houses they rented from the Royses. "It's not that they minded the isolation," Mrs. Royse said. "They just didn't like the inconveniences."

But she has adapted to them. She has two freezers to store food in, and has become adjusted to planning ahead for all needs.

Besides, the valley may seem remote, but it has the basic conveniences of modern life. "People come way out here and are surprised that we have telephones, running water, electricity and television," she noted.



Johnny Isn't the Only One Who Can't Read

Pioneering Texas Program to Challenge State's Adult Illiteracy Program

EDITOR'S NOTE—Johnny isn't the only one who can't read. Some of his parents can't, either. Ten per cent of adult Americans are illiterate. To remedy this blight, a Texas university is pioneering a program in hopes it will teach everyone the difference between A and Z.

By FINIS MOTHERHEAD
Of the Associated Press
WACO, Tex. (AP) — Suppose you're in a bus. You casually glance up to read a poster or no smoking sign.

If your bus is a typical cross-section of the United States, one out of every 50 passengers aboard can't read the signs. He's illiterate.

For two out of 100 adults in the country are unable to read with comprehension, a surprising figure for a nation that prides itself on its universal education.

Worldwide the problem is worse. Seven out of 10 can't read.

To challenge this appalling blight is the task of the first literacy center of its kind in the United States. It is located at Baylor University, has been operating four years.

"Since then," said Richard Cortright, until recently director of the literacy center, "a

stream of people have come from Malaya, Cambodia, Indonesia, Jordan, Hong Kong, Tanganyika, India and all over the United States. They have come to share information and problems concerning illiteracy in the world. Some have stayed to

study and teach." In the world illiteracy is commonplace. In the United States it is not only a major impediment to a career. Often the illiterate lives in agonized fear of embarrassment lest friends find him out. Some have man-

aged to keep the deficiency secret for years. One case the center came across was a Dallas painting contractor. In his 50s, he could neither read nor write. Yet he earned more than \$100 a week, owned his own home and car.

Since he could not read signs, he memorized the appearance of stores and streets. Close attention to television, radio and the conversation of friends kept him surprisingly well posted on current events, which he would pretend to cull from newspapers.

Playing a Role

When he finally raised the courage to ask instruction, he confessed:

"For more than 40 years I have been playing a role, afraid of my friends, my wife, my business associates and finally my own 6-year-old daughter."

Another nonreader told of attending a Sunday school class where the practice was to pass about various periodicals for quick perusal and discussion.

Carefully he would observe how long it took others to scan the printed matter, and then time himself accordingly.

"If there weren't any pictures on the page, I would be scared to death I might be holding it upside down."

The center at Baylor has a twofold program: to train specialists as specialists in literacy work and set up community and area workshops for training volunteer teachers and writers. Already the center has been

able to cite progress. So far, 1,738 Texans have been taught to read. Another 1,065 are being taught and 453 are learning English as a second language. It is estimated, however, that the state still has 800,000 functional illiterates.

Baylor has turned out 2,256 literacy tutors, either on the campus or in Texas community workshops coordinated by the nation's first statewide council for this purpose. Area or local councils have been established in 54 cities or towns. An important purpose of the Baylor

program is teaching people to read well enough to understand the Bible.

Workshops and councils have been established in a dozen other states, mostly in the South.

And in an "each one teach one" crusade, individuals, without waiting for further instruction, are asked to teach someone else a lesson he has just learned.

Missioner's Methods

Baylor's literacy program employs methods evolved by Frank C. Laubach, Congregational

Church missionary who founded World Literacy Inc. The organization is credited with helping 15 million persons in 64 nations to read.

Instruction is keyed to charts, each bearing a letter of the alphabet superimposed on the picture of a familiar object. The name of the object begins with the same letter.

The teachers use whatever facilities are available. One in Abilene used church basements, vacant classrooms, private homes and once even used cars during a sandstorm because no other shelter was readily available.

At Rotan, Tex., a graduation class for newly taught adult readers contained the first Negro to finish a course there. They held a graduation banquet in a public restaurant.

"We considered the integrated banquet a fine example of what literacy work can do to break down barriers," one of the leaders said.

One 70-year-old woman, who never went to schools and could only write "I am fine," came to a teacher because she wanted to "know more about figuring." She was a quick learner, spurred by her ambition "to read the Bible and write letters to my daughter."

GOP State Legislators Advised to Give More Speeches to Create Winning Image

SALEM (AP) — Republican state legislators were told Saturday they must make more speeches in order to create an image that would win this year's elections for the GOP.

The advice came from Wally Hunter, executive director of the State Republican Central Committee. He spoke at a conference of Republican members of the Legislature.

As a starter, Hunter announced that panels of GOP legislators and other officials will appear at luncheons and dinners of Feb. 14 in 12 cities. He called this "Alert Oregon Day."

These panel meetings will be held in Portland, Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, The Dalles, Bend, Klamath Falls, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker

and Ontario. The meetings at Portland, Salem and Baker will be luncheon dates, while the other appearances will be at dinners.

The purpose of these meetings, Hunter said, is to "alert the voters of Oregon to the need for electing a Republican-controlled House and adding further GOP strength to the Senate."

The Democrats held a 31-29 lead in the 1961 House, and 20-10 in the Senate.

Feb. 14 was picked because that is the anniversary of Oregon's admission to the Union.

Hunter said lots of hard work must be done to get people to register in the Republican party. And, he went on, the GOP legislators can help greatly by

making many public addresses. He pointed out that the Republicans trailed by 75,000 in registration in 1960, and said this deficit could reach 100,000 this year unless the party goes to work.

But he said he thought the Republican deficit could be reduced to less than 75,000. The Republicans have a registration lead in only eight of the 36 counties.

Hunter told the legislators how to conduct their campaigns more effectively.

Rep. F. F. Montgomery, R-Eugene, House GOP leader, conducted the meetings.

Hunter spoke in place of Robert G. Davis, Grants Pass, state Republican chairman, who was unable to attend because of adverse weather.