EUGENE SCRIBE PRAISES PASS

McKenzie Pass Trip Is Found Beautiful

Scenic Points Within Easy Reach of Bend Motorists Are Described

(Eugene Register)

Here's a little tip between friends. If you want a week end trip that you can brag about until all your acquaintances turn pale green with envy, drive over the McKenzie pass to Bend some Saturday afternoon before the smoke begins to get heavy enough to obscure the view. Spend the night in Bend, and return the next day to Sisters. Turn north at Sisters and follow a good sage brush road to the Metolius river, where Sunday night can be spent in great comfort and in the midst of wonderful scenery. An early start from the Metolius will land you back in Eugene not much later than the middle of the forenoon—assuming, of course, that the start is early enough.

Just a word at the start as to distances. It is 125 miles by the speedometer to Bend, and the average Eastern Oregon driver makes it from Bend to Eugene in a little over four hours. That means that an average ordinary, west-of-the-mountains driver can make it from Eugene to Bend in five or six hours. A fairly early start after noon will bring you to Bend in good time for dinner.

By way of explanation, it may be added that over in Eastern Oregon they drive. The roads are uniformly good, and the distances are great. So they jam the accelerator down to the floor and ramble.

Going All Good

The distance from Sisters to Bend is 22 miles, and from Sisters to the Metolius resorts about 15 to 18, depending on where you are going. It is thus a little less than 40 miles from Bend to the Metolius. The distance from the Metolius to Eugene is about 120 miles, with the going all good. The round trip can be made with plenty of time over for sightseeing between noon Saturday and the middle of the forenoon Monday. It can be made in complete comfort between noon Saturday and Sunday night.

The McKenzie highway from Eugene to Blue river is in better than average condition. The new construction between Nimrod and Cook's is practically completed, and is surfaced most of the way. Between Cook's and Blue river there is some construction, but the going is good. The state stretches of the highway this side of Blue river are splendidly maintained and are in fine condition. The county stretches are not so good.

From Blue river to a point about a couple of miles beyond Alder springs, the road is wonderful—perfect macadam and as good as any pavement. As a matter of fact, a macadam as perfect as this is really a little better than pavement, for there is less likelihood of a skid. To Lost Creek ranch the road leads through fine timber along the river for the most part. The grade is easy and gradual.

Summit Section Good

A couple of miles beyond Alder springs the macadam ends, and from there to the east side of the lava beds the unsurfaced grade is followed. As to the condition of this road this writer, being cautious, elects to preserve discreet silence. No enterprise is more risky than describing the condition of a mountain road and offering an opinion as to whether it is good or bad. If you aver innocently that it is good, every pavement hound in Oregon will immediately take your advice and make the trip and will spend the rest of his life proclaiming to all and sundry that if Ananias had lived in the 20th century he would have had to take off his hat to you.

If you say it is bad, every old timer in the country who cut his eye teeth on boulders and spent his younger years leaping from crag to crag in a flivver will follow in your tracks and come home and report that you have Baron Von Munchhausen lashed to the post, and that if you call that road bad you must have spent the greater part of your life tatting edgings for lace handkerchiefs and that the most dangerous thing you ever piloted was a rocking chair on the front porch.

It will bear repeating that offering an opinion as to the condition of any good road, barring pavement, is a risky job. People differ, and their opinions as to what constitutes a good road differ even more widely. "One man's meat is another man's poison," etc.

Grades Are Easy

It is perhaps safest to say that a car that is reasonably new and powerful will go over the summit of the McKenzie pass without ever shifting out of high and that almost any car will cross with only a few shifts into intermediate. From Alder springs on the road is not yet surfaced, to be sure, but it is a new grade and will appeal to all except pavement fiends as excellent. To those who remember the old road, it will appear to be smooth as a dance floor.

The old Dead Horse grade is eliminated, its place being taken by a series of easy loops that are climbed with little effort. Gone too are the tire destroying lava boulders of the summit. They have blasted and otherwise dug out a straight, smooth road over the lava, occasionally making deep cuts, and a coating of earth has been spread over the lava foundation preliminary to macadamizing. The crusher has been set up at Scott lake, and the work of putting on the final surface is just beginning. There will be graved trucks to consider all summer, of course, but the people of Oregon are becoming so accustomed to that as to give them little thought.

From the east edge of the lava to Sisters is one of the most wonderful pieces of mountain highway in the world. It is scenic, and it is wonderfully good. There is one straightaway where, if your car will travel that fast, you can make 100 miles an hour. Driving at that rate is not advised, naturally, but the road is good enough to justify it.

Mount Hood Visible

At Windy Point, the top of Mount Hood can be seen plainly, just a little to the right of Mount Jefferson, while from out on the Deschutes flats near Tumalo the whole of old Hood can be seen as plainly as from Portland. Hood, however, is no more beautiful than the Sisters or Jefferson—our own mountains.

From Sisters to Bend, the road is good macadam, and most of the way the wonderful skyline of the Cascades—Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack, Mount Washington, the Three Sisters and the Husband—is in plain sight off to the right. On the east side there are no foothills, and these splendid peaks rise sheer from the floor of the high plateau. The view is much more impressive than from the west side.

Bend is a beautiful and thriving city of 9,000 or 10,000 that has grown up from the sage brush in a couple of decades. Where now are paved streets and thoroughly modern buildings and business establishments there was only a smooth flat lying in a great curve of the river 20 years ago. This spot was called Farewell Bend by the pioneers and from this the present city takes its name. It is busy and active, and there is a hopeful attitude on the part of all residents. Eugene and Bend are today probably the most active of Oregon cities.

Pine lumber is the big resource back of Bend, and two of the largest pine mills in the west are located there. Both are running two shifts now, and one of them is soon to add a third. Other manufacturing plants using wood waste are springing up, the latest being a branch of the Hartshorn Shade Roller company.

Bend Beautifully Located

Bend has one of the loveliest natural locations in Oregon. The Deschutes river runs through the city, with frequent bridges, and a fine residence district is growing up on the east side of the river. Off in the background is the Cascade skyline, the big white peaks seeming to be so near as to be almost touchable. Those who want to camp will find a modern municipal camp ground on the banks of the Deschutes, in addition to innumerable camping spots all along the river, and those who want a hotel will find one of the best in the state in the Pilot Butte Inn. A new wing is being added to the inn to provide additional room.

Sisters is a natural stopping point en route to Bend or the Metolius, for it is at the foot of the grade and makes a handy place to fill up after coming over or before starting back. Almost the entire town was destroyed by fire last year, but it is rising from the ashes, new and much better than ever. It is surrounded by one of the finest irrigated sections of Central Oregon.

From Sisters to the Metolius resorts is a distance of from 14 to 17 miles, depending on where you are going. The road is a typical Central Oregon sage brush road, but is good and can be driven at a speed of 25 or 30 miles an hour. There are no grades.

Hausen's is the first of the Metolius resorts, and is 14.3 miles from Sisters. It is a wonderfully attractive spot, on a branch of the Metolius running down from Suttle lake. It has a six hole golf course in a sheep pasture across the road from the hotel, and from this pasture six great white snow peaks are visible. There is no more thrilling spot in Oregon to indulge in the pastime of cow-pasture pool. The elevation is high, and while the days are warm the nights are cold and snappy.

Springs Are Icy

Heising's is three miles beyond Hansen's, and is one of the lovely spots of the mountains. It boasts 110 icy springs on the premises. The house is located on a sightly knoll, sloping down to the cold Metolius. Mrs. Heising uses one of the springs for a refrigerator. Its temperature is 35 degrees and it keeps food much better than a city refrigerator.

The Metolius river is one of the numerous natural wonders of Central Oregon. It bursts, full grown, from the side of Black Butte, and is inhabited by a particularly gamey tribe of trout. It is assumed that the waters flow underground from the snows of the summit and burst out in a huge spring. Don't fail to see the source. It is reached by a road whose departure from the main road is plainly marked.

There are many beautiful trips out of Eugene, but none is more attractive than the Sisters-Bend-Metolius trip. It will repay anyone for the time spent.

Geologist at University Claims Bendandi Wrong

(U. P. Leased Wire to The Bend Bulletin)

MARSHFIELD, July 24.—Prediction of Professor Bendandi, noted Italian seismologist, that a "terrific earthquake" would shake Alaska and North America tomorrow or Sunday was scouted here today by Professor E. T. Hodge, University of Oregon geologist.

Following the Omari rule, which states strain relieved at one point is concentrated in another, Professor Hodge offered a guess that the next severe earthquake would be felt in Asia. He declared, however, that the science of seismology has not yet been perfected to the point where earthquakes could be foretold with any degree of certainty.

Cigarets now made especially for the use of women are tipped with rose leaves and with actual pansy petals.

Her name on a strawberry box has led Miss Irma Phillips of Pasadena to the altar. Several years ago, while living in Arkansas, Miss Phillips wrote her name on a box of berries being shipped to the northern market. The berries were purchased by a man in Chicago. A correspondence was begun, which has culminated in the marriage of the couple in California.

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