

Scenically, Oregon Is Unsurpassed

(Compiled by Oregon Travel Bureau)

A land of green forests, high mountains, modern cities and far-flung farming lands, Oregon of the Far West is a state of extraordinary appeal.

As states go, Oregon is comparatively young, admitted to the Union less than a century ago.

When pioneers first came in the 1840's, the Oregon country included the present states of Idaho, Washington and portions of Montana and Wyoming, in addition to Oregon with most of the early settlers converging on Willamette Valley.

Here Hudson's Bay Company was active early in the 19th century, gathering furs from adventurous trappers who braved great dangers to obtain valuable pelts which were sent to the east. In their footsteps came the missionaries who sought to bring Christianity to the Indians who had made their tribal homes in the Oregon country for unknown centuries before.

Among these was Jason Lee who established a mission in the Willamette Valley in 1834 and later established a school which today, as the Willamette University at Salem, is the oldest institution of higher learning west of the Missouri river.

At Oregon City was established the first seat of provisional government in the West, serving California as well as all of the Oregon country. It was at Oregon City that the original plat of San Francisco was filed. As more and more settlers came to the green acres of the West over the Old Oregon Trail, statehood in 1859 followed territorial status in 1848.

Today, with a population of more than a million and one-half people, Oregon is one of the most progressive states in the Union and continuing steady development along all lines of endeavor.

Scenically, Oregon is unsurpassed, and as a vacationland, which attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually, it is unequalled. Constant surfs of the Pacific wash more than 400 miles of coastline from the mouth of the Columbia river to the California state line. U. S. Highway 101 closely follows the shore for most of the way, bringing visitors past rare seascapes some of which have been incorporated into state parks.

Resort hotels, motels and other vacation facilities are numerous along the Oregon coast providing modern accommodations, extremely popular from spring until autumn, and open throughout the year.

One of the wonders of the world, Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park, a sapphire gem from the treasure box of the ages, is a scenic climax to an Oregon visit. Resting in the crater of an ancient volcano, the summit of which was destroyed in a cataclysmic eruption unknown centuries ago, Crater Lake, a deep blue sea of silence, is at once awesome and of such beauty as to baffle description.

A 32-mile road around the rim brings visitors to points of unusual interest where high crater walls emerge almost vertically 2000 feet high from cerulean depths 2000 feet deep. The calm surface of the blue

is broken by eerie Phantom Ship, a lava formation so akin to a ghostlike vessel at anchor on a mystic sea. On the other side, Wizard Island emerges to a height of 763 feet, a prehistoric cinder cone which erupted in its own right after the summit of the parent volcano was gone.

Near Crater Lake are the well known Oregon Caves where two miles of passageways lead visitors through a series of underground chambers and past numerous fantastic formations. The caves are illuminated with some rooms including the play of colored lights.

The Cascade mountains, the alpine backbone of Oregon, are dominated at their northern end by towering Mt. Hood, 11,245 feet, overshadowing such lesser peaks as Mt. Jefferson, the Three Sisters, Mt. Thielsen and Mt. McLoughlin, all in the 10,000 foot range, except the latter two which are nearly so.

Mt. Hood offers mountain climbing in the summer over a choice of trails to the summit and in winter has a number of outstanding snow sports areas, including Timberline and Government Camp.

A number of resorts are in operation on the slopes of the Hood, which is less than 65 miles from Oregon's metropolis of Portland, a city of nearly 500,000 people.

A popular drive for Oregonians and visitors alike leads east from Portland through the Columbia river gorge, past a series of high waterfalls, around Mt. Hood and back to Portland. Of the 11 waterfalls along a 11-mile length of highway, paralleling the Columbia river, Multnomah is the highest, its waters tumbling 620 feet over basaltic cliffs. Likewise, ocean beaches are near Portland with a choice of routes available.

Scores of lakes in the Cascade wonderland and many miles of

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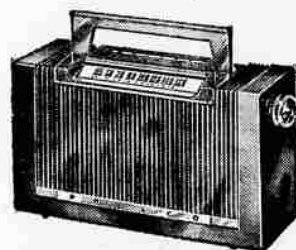
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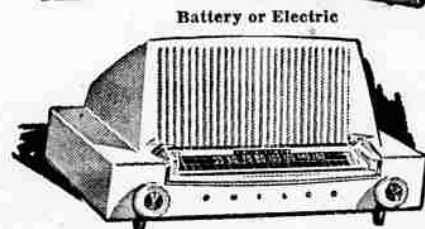
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