

Unusual Myrtlewood Along Coast of Oregon

(Computed by Oregon Travel Bureau)

Land of the myrtle woods, southwestern Oregon along spectacular shorelines of the Pacific, is the nation's principal habitat of this distinctive type of tree, which grows to best advantage in Curry and Coos counties. Myrtle is an uncommon species but yet is found in Oregon in sufficient supply to form the nucleus of an unusual industry in the manufacture of novelties, furniture and panels.

Yet at the same time, the groves as a whole, are under the protection of the "Save the Myrtle Woods, Inc.," organized just a few years ago to assure preservation of the trees in the years ahead, with special reference to virgin stands.

The Oregon myrtle is a distinctive tree, with dense foliage, dark, rich glossy green throughout the year. Most of the trees are symmetrical, appearing as if they had been freshly pruned, the leaves glistening in the sunshine. Others are columnar and some with fantastic shapes, wide spreading and forked, heavy with burls. They can be seen in every direction in sylvan array as they march up hillsides and through the meadows, flanking the roadways.

Much of Oregon's myrtle is second growth, especially those observed from highways. Foresters say regardless of how the original trees were cut or slashed, they shape themselves generally in perfect symmetry as they grow back from the roots.

A forest of small myrtles greet motorists along state highway 42 entering Myrtle Point from Coquille. Larger myrtles are found throughout both cities and they border the highway to the Powers junction turn-off, with the largest groves on the Powers route, about 22 miles from Myrtle Point. Remnants of once gigantic myrtle forests can be observed in the valley of the south fork of the Coquille river.

Farther south along the coast on the Chetco river, are the well known Loeb and Bankus tracts, rivalled only by the Brummett creek area of Brewster Valley, 26 miles from Myrtle Point.

Oregon myrtle wood is of fine texture and of extreme hardness, taking an exceedingly lustrous polish, ideal for working into lamps, vases, platters, fur-

niture and other artistic and useful articles. A remarkable feature of the wood is the combination of colors in its grain, boasting medleys of reds, greens, yellows, golds, browns, tans and blacks interwoven in incomparable designs.

Foresters explain the colorings are attributed to silica content peculiar to Oregon soil.

Myrtle wood was not marketed commercially until 1935 when the first retail shops were open along the coast highway, U.S. 101, primarily for the benefit of out-of-state visitors. No ordinary woodworker can handle the myrtle to evolve the artistic handicraft which makes myrtle products so in demand.

The trees, some of them several hundreds of years old, must be hand-logged by a selective process and hauled to the factory, as the wood is too heavy to float.

The lumber is cut into thicknesses from one to five inches, generally about eight feet long. Much of the lumber is highly polished for use as walls and ceilings for offices and for private homes. For novelties, planks are scribed to sizes desired and bandsawed into circular discs for bowls, trays and similar objects. Band-sawed pieces are "roughed out" on a lathe. As an example a salad bowl is molded into the general shape, but is left about an inch thick on the sides and bottom. The piece is stored for some time to dry and after being properly seasoned is again molded on the lathe to the desired size, followed by sanding, after which it is treated with sealer and lacquer, upon which high polish is applied.

Because of the limited range of the myrtle and the fact it is not particularly reproductive, the trees are likely always to be classed as a rare species.

In view of this rarity, "Save the Myrtle Woods, Inc.," has now set aside a number of virgin groves for posterity, or has cooperated in having them set aside. The largest of these is a 462-acre tract of virgin forest which has been preserved by the federal government.

It adjoins the Brummett creek tract of 40 acres in Coos county, purchased by Mrs. C. S. Jackson of Portland, and to be estab-

lished as the Maria C. Jackson park.

The Oregon state forestry department has acquired 160 acres along the Chetco river near Brookings, described as one of the most picturesque mature groves now remaining. It has been named the Alfred A. Loeb state forest-park, recognizing the generosity of its former owner. Strips of myrtle, bordering state highways, have been acquired as scenic waysides.

Record Season Ahead For Timberline Trolley

A record season is in prospect for the Timberline Trolley, the nickname for the aerial tramway, longest in the world, which travels over 3 miles up the slopes of Mt. Hood, Oregon from Government Camp to Timberline lodge.

The trip takes less than a half hour one way and the rider views miles of the Cascade range to the south.

State Parks Open This Year for Overnight Parking

For the first time, Oregon will open many of her state parks for overnight camping this year.

Special overnight camping facilities will be opened at Silver Falls State Park near Salem and Wallawa Lake State Park in Northeastern Oregon. These two facilities will include electric stoves, wood stoves, a utility building for washing, ironing and bathing and specially constructed niches for trailer houses including water and electrical connections.

A nominal charge will be made for overnight camping privileges at all state parks opened to the public for this purpose. These camping places will be in addition to over 250 U. S. Forest Service camps in Oregon's 13 national forests.

One hundred acre Lithia park, home of famous Lithia water, is located in the heart of Ashland, Oregon.

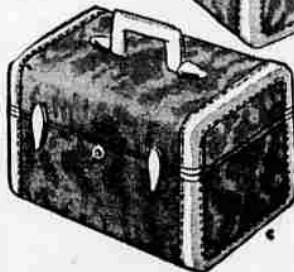
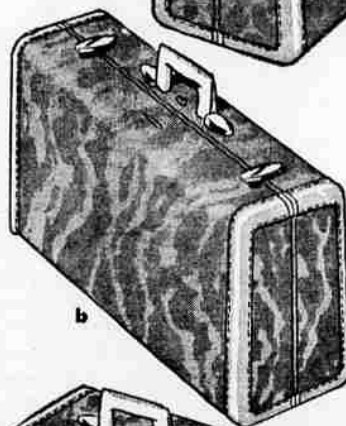


GEVURTZ says

take a tip

from travel veterans...

take **Samsonite**
Luggage



• Its smart lines and colors give you an air of distinction. Make you feel like visiting royalty.

• It carries more clothes, keeps them wrinkle-free; has pockets and hangers to make packing easy. And the better-than-leather coverings wipe clean with a damp cloth!

• If you're going by car... you'll stow more Samsonite (and more sports' gear) in the rear deck... thanks to the scientific tapered shape.

• In a pinch... Samsonite's a cinch to handle personally. Because of special grip-fit handles and slim shape.

• Samsonite costs so little! Two pieces total less than you'd expect to pay for just one of such quality. You can own a complete family ensemble right off!

a Pullman Case, \$27.50

b Ladies' O'Nite (Regular), \$19.50

c Ladies' Train Case, \$17.50

d Men's Two-Sutter, \$25.00*

*All prices plus existing taxes

COMPLETE YOUR VACATION WARDROBE at Kay Woolen Mill

Colorful Sport Shirts

Slax - Sport Coats

Robes (a must for every family)

New lightweight Sport Jackets, for golf, ball games, etc.

Also Army Blankets — just the thing for picnics and camping

OPEN ALL DAY SATURDAY

Kay Woolen Mill Store

260 South 12th St.

2 Blocks South of State on 12th



A little down on a big bill

GEVURTZ FURNITURE CO.
275 N. LIBERTY