

Crater Lake Park Offers Never-Ending Beauty

(Compiled by Oregon Travel Bureau)

Where great forest-covered mountains of the west lift majestic crests high into the heavens in never-ending beauty, Crater Lake, within Crater Lake National Park in southern Oregon, is a favorite vacation spot and scenic attraction for many thousands of visitors each year from all parts of the United States.

This scene of mysterious beauty, with its unbelievably blue waters and towering multi-colored lava cliffs, is wrapped in the silence of lost centuries, intensifying the grandeur of nature's creative efforts. Crater Lake, with a water area of approximately 20 square miles and a shoreline of 26 miles, is resting in an ancient caldera which owes its existence to volcanic activity of prehistoric times.

Men of science say a giant volcano, estimated to have been more than 12,000 feet high, continued upward from its present jagged rim for another 5000 feet. The fire mountain, in its time, is described as having been one of the most active of numerous volcanoes which studded the Pacific northwest.

Eruptions of the southern Oregon volcano, now known as Mt. Mazama, covered unknown centuries, interspersed by dormant periods which gave rise to glaciers. These held the fire mountain in icy tentacles until volcanic eruptions again resumed.

Massive and powerful as it was, the structure of the great volcano weakened. The upper 5000 feet of its summit were destroyed in a cataclysmic eruption. The eruption may have been explosive in action or it may have caused old Mazama to fall in upon itself. There may have been a combination of both.

The wrecked volcano remained active for many years before subsidence became a fact. Three cinder cones were thrown up from the crater floor in a vain effort of the old volcano to rebuild itself. When volcanic energies were entirely expended, water from melting snows, whose seasonal fall is often in excess of 70 feet, gradually filled the dead crater.

Water covered two of the cinder cones and out of the third

formed Wizard Island, covering 563 acres with a height of 763 feet. As the lake crept up the sides of the crater, it apparently reached porous sections of the walls.

Through these porous sections scientists say the waters seep away, possibly appearing as springs at lower levels. There are no known inlets or outlets.

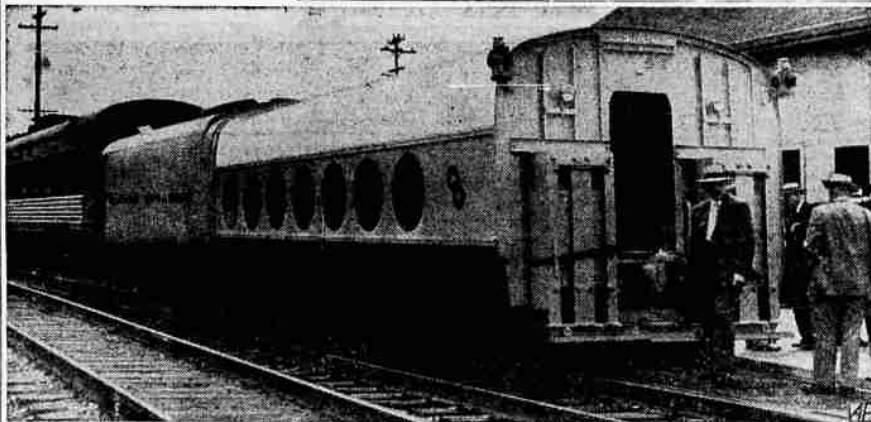
Crater Lake was discovered by white men in 1853 when a party of miners was on a vain search for a fabulous lost mine. One of the party, John Wesley Hillman, came on the sea of blue quite by accident. It was seldom visited during Oregon's pioneer years. In fact, the lake was rediscovered twice after Hillman's first visit. The area was established as a national park in 1902 and since that time has been gradually developed.

A 32-mile paved highway encircles the rim of the lake, providing motorists with numerous parking areas along the way to gain spectacular views of Oregon's scenic gem. A trail leads to the water's edge, entailing a walk of one and one-half miles and a drop of 1000 feet from the rim village area. At the foot of the trail boats are available for fishing and excursion trips. No license is required for angling.

The Oregon state highway commission travel information department states that the park is open to travel throughout the year, but during the winter no general public services are available because of deep snows. The latter provide excellent winter sports. During the summer travel season, from mid-June until mid-September, visitors have numerous services at their disposal, including guided field trips, naturalist discussions, evening programs at the lodge and community house.

Conveniently located and of intense interest is the Sinnott Memorial observation station, located on the inner rim of the lake, nearly 1000 feet above the water. It is equipped with a series of binoculars, trained on points of unusual geological interest, supplemented by display cases.

The glasses and displays enable visitors, through their own efforts, to gain extensive infor-



mation on the present geologic features and their relation to their ancestral mountain. On scheduled hours throughout the day, informal discussions are led by ranger-naturalists to further explain the mysterious story of Crater Lake.

Other points of interest include The Watchman fire lookout station, perched on a high point of the west rim. Visitors are welcome to view the lake from this eminence as well, observing the technique of fire detection. A short trail from the rim road leads to the summit of Mt. Scott, nearly 9000 feet up, the highest elevation in the park. A fire lookout is also located at this point and is reached by a two-mile trail from the rim road.

Medford and Grants Pass are gateway cities on U.S. 99 to Crater Lake on the west side of the Cascade mountains. Bend and Klamath Falls serve in the same capacity on U.S. 97 on the east side of the mountains.

The Oregon Vortex, off U.S. highway 99 near Gold Hill, Oregon, was known originally as forbidden ground by the Indians, but now is visited and wondered at by thousands of people annually.

Vacation Sec.—Capital Journal, Salem, Ore., June 13—13

New Railroad Car Exhibited—Representatives of 15 major United States and Canadian railroads were on hand to inspect this new type railroad passenger car shown in Detroit by the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. One-third the usual coach length, the 31-foot low slung car has wheels on only one end. The wheel-less end attaches to the coach ahead. The car floor is 2½ feet closer to the ground than the usual coach. The roof is three feet lower. (AP Wirephoto)

The Astor Column, located on a hill overlooking Astoria, Oregon, is both a viewpoint reached by a circular staircase within and a work of art depicting by circular frieze paintings, the historical events of the area on the outside.

A spearhead found in Alaska indicates to archeologists that Asiatic tribesmen crossed the Brooks mountains of Alaska and

wandered along a trail to Central Oregon some 9500 years ago.



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