

Summer geology program students travel 1500 miles

By Jane Brown
Bulletin Staff Writer

Thirty Bend students, 18 boys and 12 girls, have traveled over 1500 miles this summer familiarizing themselves with the geology of Oregon.

All traveling and study has been done through the Field Geology program headed by Wallace Wilson, science teacher at Bend Junior High. It was the first time that such a program has been offered.

The study, which is actually an extension of the ninth grade earth science class, provided an opportunity for field experience in geology and application of geologic principles for those interested students.

The format of the course, which was from June 11 to July 11, consisted of a class on Monday. This was followed by field trips on Tuesday and Thursday to various parts of the state with geologic points of interest.

Each student paid a fee of \$5.50 for the course. This entitled him to a textbook, "Geology of Oregon." The fee also paid for a boat trip to Wizard Island in Crater Lake, the grand finale of the program.

Many valuable comparisons were made between different types of rocks, different formations and different types of geologic preservation.

Not only were the students encouraged to gain an appreciation of the earth's geologic features, but they were also able to understand the necessity of preservation.

One of the most striking comparisons seen was the difference resulting from controlled and uncontrolled collecting of specimens.

The Lava Cast Forest, south of Bend has been partly destroyed by public collectors. In the Plot Butte region, collection has been controlled by the Forest Service. Here the lavacicles are still very much intact in a lava tunnel.

Comparisons were made between the block mountains of the Summer Lake area and cuesta mountains of the Smith Rock region. The diatomaceous earth deposits are also renowned in the Smith Rock area.

Other trips were made to the Lost Forest area to study the effects of wind abrasions and sand. The group also visited the John Day Fossil Beds.

One month and 1500 miles later, all of the students realized that there is much knowledge to be gained from the earth's surface. Also, they have gained a deeper appreciation of the Central Oregon area for something other than just recreational use.



Paul Gehrman examines gold mine operation



Steve Lewis, left, and David Lundy on trip



Rod Pitcher spent part of summer studying geology



Carmen Simpson, left, and Lynette Sholes do basic research



Looking for rock samples



Members of the group preparing to enter Lavacicle Cave



Group of students on obsidian flow in Newberry Crater



Inspecting spatter cone