

JACKSON COUNTY - in Shasta Cascade Wonderland

IT'S RAINBOW END FOR VACATIONIST AND HOMESEEKER

By A. E. Powell

When the average tourist comes to Jackson County in the heart of Southern Oregon his first question is, "What is there here to interest me?" To answer such a question would call for a book, not a brief article such as this. But perhaps I can give such a one some idea of what this country is and what it has to offer in the way of pleasure.

First a word as to its geographical features: This county, one of the southern tier of counties of Oregon, is almost in the same latitude as South Dakota or Chicago—but with a difference. Jackson county is bounded on every side by mountain ranges. To the north are the Umpquas; to the east, the Cascades; to the south, the Siskiyou and on the west, the Coast Ranges. And between these mountain ranges is the world-famed Rogue River Valley, which, on account of its surroundings, has an extremely mild and equitable climate. No hurricanes, floods, severe thunderstorms, and the like ever reach this favored valley. Although the days are hot in summer, the altitude and proximity to the mountains bring cool and bracing nights.

In its history perhaps no other section of like area in the West has seen so much drama. This section was probably first visited by white men as early as 1835, when trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company passed through on their way to and from California. But it was not until after gold had been discovered at Sutter's Fort in California and the great rush of '49 and '50 that any real settlement of this region. In the fall of 1851 gold was discovered at Rich Gulch in what is now the town of Jacksonville by James Clugage and J. R. Poole. At once the news of the strike was carried all over the mining districts of California and up into the Willamette valley. Immediately a rush was on. Inside a few months several hundred miners were at work in that region. A little settlement was formed which came to be known as the center of activity for the entire region. Just how that settlement came to be named Jacksonville no one living seems to know, but it was for years the leading city in the whole district south of the Umpqua mountains from the Pacific ocean to the Cascades.

Mining was for many years the principal industry of the region and everywhere one looks one sees the scars of the old workings. Just what was the output of the gold mines of the county is not known, but it is certain that the figure reached at least thirty millions between the years 1851 and 1884.

So to the inquiring tourist we offer first the old town of Jacksonville as a point of interest. There he may see all sorts of things reminiscent of the pioneer and the gold miner.

As I sit in my office today within a few yards of the exact geographical center of the Rogue River valley I look about in all directions and see that every way I turn there is something which is of human interest.

To the north is the great river from which the region takes its name. The Rogue is perhaps one of the best known fishing streams in the West. Heading far to the northeast on the slopes of Mt. Mazama, in whose sunken bosom lies that greatest of Nature's wonders, Crater Lake, it has dug its tortuous way to the sea. Along that beautiful gorge we find summer homes, fishing camps, cabin camps and picnic grounds where one may rest in peace. Also to the north we see the two Table Rocks, which have always been noted landmarks in the valley and about which much of the troubles with the Indians centered.

Lying to the north of the Table Rocks is a beautiful and very fertile valley which bears the name of a noted Indian chief, called by the pioneers, Sam. He and his brother, Joe, were chief of the Rogue River tribe and their home was in the vicinity of Table Rock, with their favorite hunting grounds in the hills to the north. Sam's Valley and the hills about Evans Creek saw the last of the Indian outbreaks in this sec-

tion. A treaty of peace was signed on the slope of Upper Table Rock between Chiefs Sam and Joe and General Lane, who commanded the troops in the war of 1853. Col. John E. Ross, who lived on a Donation Land Claim between Jacksonville and what is now Central Point, acted as interpreter for General Lane, who gave him the pipe of peace used that day. The pipe is now the prized possession of Col. Ross' son, John E. Ross, of Central Point.

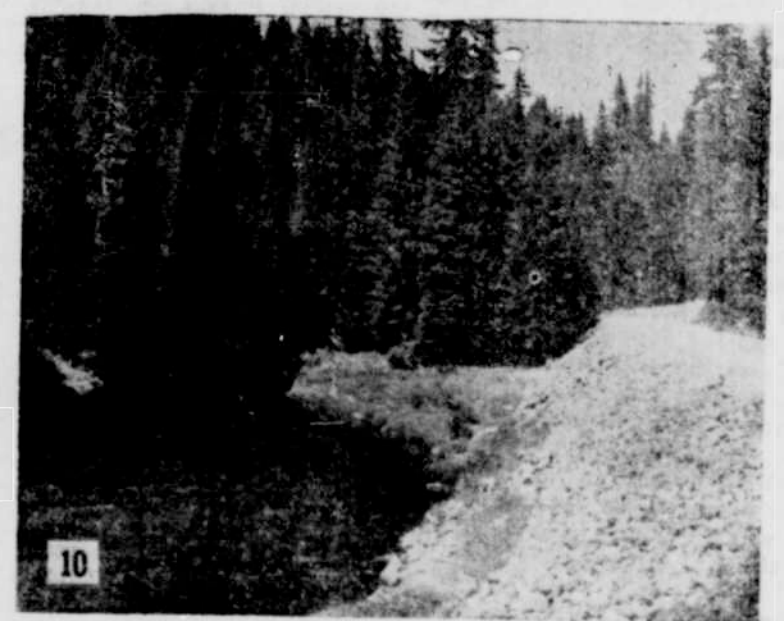
Turning toward the East we see the snow-capped peaks of the Cascade range. From the peaks surrounding Crater Lake on the north to the Siskiyou on the south there is much to interest the vacationist. This region is probably the wildest and nearest to Nature as the Almighty made it of any portion of the county. There are several roads bisecting this section, notably the ones to the many lakes in the vicinity of Mt. McLoughlin, or Mt. Pitt, as the early-day settlers called it. Fish Lake is noted for just what its name implies, while a few miles beyond is Lake o' the Woods, one of the most popular sites for summer homes in Southern Oregon. In this direction also are several medicinal

springs, notably Dead Indian Soda Springs, with a beautiful resort situated in a grove of immense sugar pine trees.

As we turn our eyes further to the southward we see the pass in the mountains through which many of the early-day settlers entered Oregon. At first the main line of travel was from Fort Hall to the Columbia river and down to the present site of Portland, then up the Willamette. In 1842, a party headed by Lindsey Applegate started out to find an easier route. They came into Southern Oregon over what is now almost the Pacific Highway. Leaving Rogue river near the mouth of Bear Creek they followed that creek almost to its head. Turning eastward they followed up what is now Emigrant Creek, over Greensprings Mountain, Mt. Parker and Mt. Hayden to the Klamath river. Staying on the north bank of the river they finally came to the gap between Upper and Lower Klamath Lakes, where they crossed what is (and was) the shortest river in the United States—Link River—and on eastward. This route is practically the same as now used between the Rogue River valley and the Klamath country.

To the south of the valley lies the majestic Siskiyou Mountains. It was over their rugged crags that the prospectors of the '50's toiled their way into the valley. And today if one wishes to get a real picture of Southern Oregon and Northern California there is no better way than to take the Mt. Ashland Loop road from the city of Ashland to the summit of Mt. Ashland, the highest peak in this section. From there the road follows the Siskiyou divide westward and returning to the valley by way of the Applegate river to Jacksonville. Anyone interested in real mountain scenery should by all means plan to make this trip, requiring less than a day.

In closing this little sketch may I again call attention to the fact that starting at any point in the valley one can, in an hour's drive find himself in the "forest primeval", far from the maddening crowds. Yet in the center of this vast vacation land one finds modern cities with all their conveniences; the whole connected with miles of hard-surfaced roads. And the visitor will find here the same open-hearted welcome and courteous treatment which made the old-time West proverbial.



- 1** Incomparable Crater Lake, Mecca of vacationists from the four corners of the globe. This scenic marvel is reached in a two and one-half hour drive over a fine road from Medford.
- 3** The Southern Oregon College of Education at Ashland offers a fully accredited teachers course and two years of junior college work are available. Sightly buildings in a beautiful setting make the school one of the most attractive in the state's system of higher education.
- 4** Medford's beautiful Rogue River Valley golf course, 18 holes laid out by the late H. Chandler Egan, master golf architect and former national champion, is considered one of the world's finest. Medford also has a nine-hole municipal course and Ashland boasts a splendid nine-hole course.
- 5** One of Jackson county's most delightful vacation spots is Diamond Lake, 85 miles from Medford. Good fishing, as well as boating and swimming, is enjoyed in this beautiful lake.
- 7** Ashland's famous Lithia Park, comprising 1500 acres, some landscaped and some in natural forest, has long been a favorite spot for tourists. Tennis, horseshoe and croquet courts, a zoo and children's play park are included within the area.
- 8** Lake o' the Woods is one of Jackson county's favorite recreational spots. The beautiful body of water, surrounded by forest is an ideal spot for tourists, sportsmen and campers. Lake o' the Woods may be reached by roads from Ashland, Medford or Klamath Falls.
- 9** The Medford Corporation of Medford, operates the largest sawmill in Jackson county. Some of the largest bodies of sugar pine in the United States lie within this area and provide raw material for numerous lumbering concerns.
- 10** Rogue River is known to sportsmen the world over for its fighting steelhead trout and the mighty Chinook salmon. The upper reaches within Jackson county offer many camping spots and summer home sites.