

# Area That Rhinos, Camels Roamed Interesting Terminus for Motorlog

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing in the July 9 Sunday Oregonian magazine. It is one of an annual series prepared by The Oregonian in co-operation with the Oregon State Motor association.

**BY JOHN A. ARMSTRONG**  
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**THE BEST TIME** to visit the John Day fossil beds is right after a rain—or so some natives of the area say.

The rains wash the dust and debris from the surfaces of the beds and leave them freshly exposed, their delicate hues and tints glowing like an oil painting.

Now, in western Oregon it's no trick at all to visit some scenic spot right after a rain. In fact, the chances are pretty good that if you get a day off and want to go somewhere, it will be raining or have just rained, thus ruining your trip.

Even in the Cascades it's a different matter. It may not have rained the day or two before you visit the John Day fossil beds, but whether or not the rains have scrubbed them clean and shining, you still will enjoy the magnificent vistas that brighten the area.

The accompanying map shows the routes to and from the John Day fossil beds. On a recent motorlog in the white Oregon State Motor association car, we approached the area via Prineville and the Ochoco summit highway, U. S. 28.

**Check Road Conditions**  
It is advisable to check road conditions east of Prineville, since portions are not paved and other stretches are being improved this summer.

As you drive east from Prineville past the Ochoco reservoir, you pass rich grasslands on the valley floor, grazed by herds of sleek cattle. The road winds up to the summit, skirting one of the clearest, merriest little mountain streams in Oregon.

We residents of western Oregon think firs are a majestic tree, but nowhere will you see more regal trees than the pines that line this stretch of highway.

Once over the Ochoco summit the road winds down into more cattle country. Business center of this area is the tiny town of Mitchell in narrow Keyes canyon, now a peaceful hamlet, but once a roaring cow country community. Most of Mitchell's homes



Map of motorlog route.



Heart of Painted Hills state park area.

are located on a bench a hundred feet above the creek and well out of reach of any future flash floods such as damaged the town three times in the past.

About ten miles east of Mitchell, the highway crosses Bridge creek, over a covered bridge. At the east end of this bridge, a tiny, dirt road turns northwards. It's not a very promising looking road, but a five-mile side trip up it will reward you with sights you'll remember for many years, especially if you have a color camera with you.

**Park to Be Dedicated**  
Just five miles up Bridge creek is the Painted Hills park area, one of Oregon's newest state parks, which will be dedicated in special ceremonies August 27.

Here the state has purchased over 13 acres surrounding varicolored mounds which rise 200 to 300 feet above the sagebrush plains. From these mounds the park gets its name.

The base of slopes paralleling the Bridge creek road are fine examples of the lower John Day fossil beds, exhibiting a ribboned sort of coloring, bright red at the bottom and shading upwards to pinks and yellows or dull grays. This coloration extends into the Painted Hills park. The hills are smoothly rounded off into even domes.

The fossil beds in the Painted Hills area are known for their plant and leaf specimens. Without being too technical, it is sufficient to say that these Painted Hills fossil beds were formed in an era when the now-dry sagebrush land was covered with verdant forests and lakes. Though vegetation was luxuriant, the area seemingly was devoid then of animal life, for only plant fossils are found here.

After lunch in the Painted Hills picnic grounds, it's back down Bridge creek to U. S. 28 and east into the sheer rocky

cliffs of Picture Gorge at the junction of U. S. 28 with Oregon state highway No. 19, which runs northerly along the John Day river.

Between Picture Gorge and Kimberly, on Oregon 19, the John Day river has cut down through hundreds of feet of varicolored, fossiliferous strata—reds, greens and buffs.

These are examples of the upper or later John Day beds, formed at a time subsequent to the Painted Hills strata, and contain the bones of many strange, primitive mammals. They bear witness to the theory that there once roamed this area such creatures as rhinoceroses, saber-toothed cats, three-toed horses, tapirs, peccaries and giraffe-camels.

**Fossil Beds Explained**  
The formation of these fossil beds is simply explained by Phil Brogan, Bend geological writer, who says that many ages ago mid-Oregon streams were checked in their courses to the western sea by the rising Cascades. Some of the streams formed vast lakes. Others deposited their sediments on broad plains.

Ashes and pumice from the volcanoes of the Cascades fell on the plains and into the lakes. Through the warm, moist ages these volcanic deposits decomposed into clays and rusty oxides. Thus the colors of the lower John Day fossil beds are reds, browns and yellows.

Later volcanic explosions showered more ash on top of these beds, piling up so rapidly that oxidation was checked. Therefore the colors of the middle John Day fossil beds are pale green, cream and white.

From Kimberly the tourist can continue north to the Columbia and west to Portland. Not having to hurry, we backtracked to Picture Gorge and turned east through more cattle land to the John Day and Canyon City area, an area rich in Oregon historical lore.

## Oregon Over Top In Independence Savings Bond Campaign Ending First of This Month

Oregon went over the top in the Independence Savings Bonds campaign, according to Larry Hilaire, vice chairman of the Oregon Savings Bonds committee. The treasury department opened its sales campaign May 15, with July 4 as the closing date.

"Final report to the Federal Reserve bank shows Oregon people purchased \$5,940,831 as against a quota of \$5,892,000," Mr. Hilaire said. "Although the margin of success was very slim extremely heavy sales during the days covered by the final report made it possible for Oregon to maintain its record of never having failed to make its quota in 11 successive War and Savings Bonds drives. And, while they were making the purchases that preserved the record of the state, many an Oregonian added substantially to his personal financial independence and security."

"Twenty-three of our 36 counties over subscribed their quotas with Gilliam, which led most of the way heading the list with 194 percent of quota. Following in order were Tillamook 144, Grant 126, Wallowa 117, Josephine 115, Union 103, Curry 102, Morrow 101.6, Sherman 101 and Jackson 100.5 percent."

A release from the office of Secretary of Treasury John W. Snyder reports that \$716,013,000 in E bonds were sold in the nation during the Independence drive. The national quota was \$654 million.

According to James H. Driscoll county chairman, total sales in Morrow county amounted to \$35,585 or 101.6 percent of the quota of \$35,000.

### NAMES OMITTED

In listing the names of sponsors for the Wrangler party at the Winchester cabin last week the names of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Letraze and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smothurst were not included in the copy turned in to this newspaper. The copy writer feels duly humiliated and is hereby tendering an apology to those whose names did not appear.

### EXAMINER COMING

A drivers license examiner will be on duty between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. Tuesday, August 8 at the city hall in Heppner. Persons wishing licenses or permits to drive are asked to get in touch with the examiner well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure completion of their applications with a minimum of delay.

### Care for Veterans

Of the 110,675 patients in Veterans' administration hospitals in February of this year (1950), only 36,726 were service-connected cases. The remaining 73,949, or 68.5 percent of the total number, were non-service-connected cases.

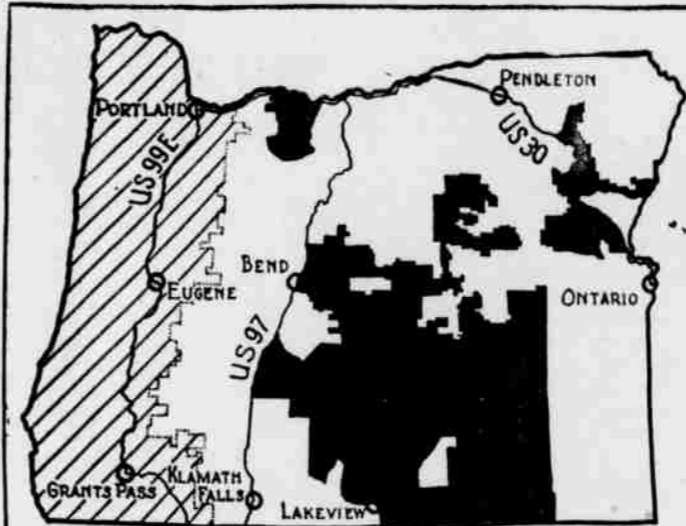
ed cases. The remaining 73,949, or 68.5 percent of the total number, were non-service-connected cases.

### IF YOU WANT TO SAY—

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Congratulations  
Sincere Sympathy . . .  
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OPEN AREA, EASTERN OREGON: AS SHOWN  
OREGON STATE GAME COMM.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

### Take Your Choice

Sitting around last Friday evening, the talk turned to the best way of getting to sleep when it seems you just can't. "The way I always do," says Sandy Johnson, "is to breathe deep and make believe I weigh a ton."

"Just throw away the pillow—it works every time," says Buzz Ellis. When counting sheep came up, right away was the question: What kind of sheep?

From where I sit, you could argue 'til Doomsday and never get complete agreement on a lot of things. Now, take me, I'm all for

having a glass of beer or ale on occasion. Your "sociable beverage" may be a "Coke"—or buttermilk or maybe a cup of hot coffee.

But enjoying our preferences is a right in this country and each of us is entitled to his own. The important thing is to respect that right in the true democratic spirit of understanding! As a matter of fact, what a tiresome old world this would be if we all did have the same likes and dislikes!

Joe Marsh

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Willows Grange Hall - - IONE  
Saturday Evening, July 29



MUSIC BY FARROWS ORCHESTRA

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