

# Touring the Land of the Nez Perce Motorlog Finds Scenic Grandeur

## Rugged Country Draws Sportsmen Into Uplands

The following is a condensation of a motorlog which appeared in the May 31 issue of The Northwest's Own Magazine. It is one of a series sponsored by The Oregonian-Citizen State Motor association motorlogs.

BY HELEN HOOVER Staff Writer, The Oregonian

On this spot, the marker related, 37 white men lost their lives on June 17, 1877, in battle with the Indians.

It didn't add how many Indians lost theirs.

We had just descended, by a series of sharp switchbacks on an engineering triumph of a highway, from the summit of White Bird hill in western Idaho, and it was difficult to believe that this beautiful small valley had ever been desecrated by war.

This, and the country we had traveled for the past day through eastern Oregon and Washington, and western Idaho, had once been the land of the Nez Perce, and we had reached the site where, under the young Chief Joseph, they resorted to arms in a final, futile effort to prevent the white men's taking it away from them.

We must admit that resentment for what our own people did to the people of Joseph did not rest too heavily on our spirits as we bowed along in our white Ford, with the oval medallion of the Triple-A, on the first leg of a motorlog sponsored by Oregon State Motor association and The Oregonian.

Wallawa, Imnaha, Asotin, Lapwai, Joseph canyon, Grande Ronde, Lawyers Canyon—these and other names were reminders of the days when the Nez Perce freely roamed this region of the Northwest.

But they were also synonymous with scenic grandeur; for no tribe ever enjoyed more of nature's beauty than did those of the land of the "wandering water"—the Snake and its tributaries.

It was too early in the season for us to get into the snow-capped granite peaks of the Wallawa, rising without foothills into full majestic southward from Wallawa lake. We stopped to talk with Fred Davison, district park supervisor for eastern Oregon, and learn

about the pack trips, last-word in convenient camping and fishing, riding and hiking that will attract several hundred thousand tourists to that wonderful land this summer.

Highway 3, said the Triple-A Triptik; Chief Joseph Trail, more colorful said the map. For a time there was prosperous ranch country, as the road gradually winds toward its 4700-foot summit in the upper arm of the horseshoe-shaped Wallawa forest. Here, on the map, the AAA had stamped several "construction" warnings, but these proved less dire than we expected. Loose gravel slowed us down, and now and then we met equipment at work, but no where did men or machinery halt us.

The map shows a couple of convulsions in the road highway line to the north, and let this be a warning that each convulsion means actually a dozen or two twists and turns. But such magnificence! Breathing in the only word for those by which we descended Shesnaeker grade to cross the Grande Ronde, sliding frowning walls with tiny sheepherders' cabins perched on them.

Out of this grandeur we emerged to small farm country with large, old, solidly-built houses, each flanked by windmill and topped rakishly by a television aerial.

Flat wheat fields creep to the very edge of the canyons as the highway nears the deepest canyon of all—the Snake river. Another series of switchbacks, and suddenly there is Asotin, Wash., an emerald city of 740 persons, tree-shaded streets, violently green lawns, water spraying from hoses, and an air of gracious, untroubled living.

At Clarkston we crossed the Snake into northern Idaho's largest town, Lewiston; known for its one long street, squeezed between towering mountains, and for its "inland seaport," shipping lumber, grain and fruit.

Hilly and no court gave us a comfortable night, after dinner at Lewis and Clark hotel, where the big attraction is the salad bar, but all of whose food we found good.

We were now headed generally south, after a long eastward along the Clearwater river, which joins the Snake. The preservation at Lapwai,



Never tiring to the eyes is Wallawa lake with early snows still partially covering smooth-topped foothills. Jagged, familiar Middle mountain is seen in the right background.

to which the United States government sought to force all of more prosperity than charm, but with much bucolic beauty spread all around. From the plateau east to Craigmont, snow-tipped ranges are visible in all directions—Bitterroots, Sawtooths, Blue mountains and the Devils.

Craigmont, at nearly 4000 feet elevation, is special for its six elevators—it's the second largest grain-shipping center in the Northwest—and for its peacocking industry.

Lawyers canyon, down which we wound, past its frequent tiny picnic areas along a tumbling stream, is not named for some modern male Portia, but for the Nez Perce chief, Lawyer, the only one willing to sell his people's lands to the Great White Father.

We stopped the Ford in a lefty grove of pines alongside a weed sign, carved in the shape of the Idaho map and creaking on its chains in the wind, to read that the vast, pastoral scene spread below was Camas prairie in Idaho county, "larger than the state of Massachusetts" and producer of wheat, gold, livestock, timber and dairy products.

At the south end of this valley, proclaimed by one guide book as "most beautiful in Idaho," is Grangeville, once a gold-mining center, now agricultural, to which the remnants of cavalry forces under Col. David Perry retreated, that June day in 1877, leaving the Nez Perce temporarily victors at White Bird hill, and young Joseph a recognized military genius.

Our next wonder was the gorge of the Salmon river; not even in early May; the powerful stream rolling between bleak walls. From Riggins, where the Little Salmon joins its big brother and the main stream turns north to the Snake, we still unreachably by highway, and were content with the spectacular cascading of Little Salmon accompanying us down highway 95.



Map of trip taken by writer

# Monument People Spent Fourth Fighting Fire

By Millie Wilson

Most of the people on Copper Creek spent the Fourth fighting fire which broke out above the old Hayward place. It burned over about three acres. It is not known what caused the fire. It is necessary to still keep some men to watch that it doesn't break out again.

Delbert Sweek and his mother of John Day, visited relatives in Monument on Sunday.

Ben Spain and Carl Blair attended a business meeting in Pendleton on Friday.

Among those to enjoy the Fourth in the mountains fishing were: Mr. and Mrs. Dell Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Chance Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Neal, Billy Neal, Sherry Neal, Archie Leathers Jr., Roy Leathers and Frank Elder. They spent two days camping on Butte Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Brookshire and Mr. and Mrs. Watts of Newport, drove to Spokane to spend the Fourth with relatives.

Carl Blair spent the Fourth with his wife in Spokane.

Lloyd Gienger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Gienger of Cottonwood, surprised his parents when he came in last Friday. Lloyd is in the Air Force at Mitchell Field, New York. This is his first furlough since going into service. He flew from New York and after a ten day visit he will fly to Los Angeles for further instructions.

Morrie Kay spent two days at the Columbia Power Co-op office last week. He left Thursday for his home in Spokane.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barrett, Portland, spent the weekend at the Dwight Hult home, Stephen and Carolyn Barrett returned home with their parents, Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Hult are sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Fortner returned from North Bend, Wash., Sunday after the week with Mrs. Fortner's father, Fred Lucas. The party also visited relatives, Mr. and Mrs. John Klein in Elmira, Wash. Mr. Lucas returning by bus to North Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Messenger, Betty, Gerry and Carroll Messenger, Mr. and Mrs. Billie Marquardt and family and Carl Marquardt, Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Fortner returned from North Bend, Wash., Sunday after the week with Mrs. Fortner's father, Fred Lucas. The party also visited relatives, Mr. and Mrs. John Klein in Elmira, Wash. Mr. Lucas returning by bus to North Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Yokom and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Musgrave of Mt. Vernon, were among those who attended the funeral services for George Martin last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hynds of Cecil and Mrs. Hynds' sister from Canada, visited their niece Louise Scott at Top on Tuesday.

Mrs. Bud Engle took her daughter Janet, to Bend for medical aid last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Saddler were business visitors in John Day on Monday.

Louise Bleakman, Edith Musgrave and Betty Saddler spent Tuesday at Kimberly picking strawberries.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Musgrave had as their guest last week, Mrs. Musgrave's father, John Stevens of Hardman. While here Mr. Stevens visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howell on Wall Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stubblefield were in John Day last Tuesday having dental work done.

Onida Cork was a business visitor in John Day on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Simas and children and Mrs. Mary Lee Lesley and children all left last Tuesday for Roseburg. From Roseburg Mrs. Lesley and children will go to Eureka, California to join her husband who is employed there.

Johnnie Stubblefield and his mother, Mrs. Ellen Stubblefield were attending to matters of business in John Day last Monday.

Mrs. Mattie Stubblefield enjoyed a visit with her sister and husband from Portland last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Stubblefield enjoyed several days visit with Mrs. Stubblefield's sister, Dorsey Hardy and her brother Ike Shank. Mr. Shank remodeled a bedroom for Mrs. Stubblefield while here.

Dee Ann Johns, of Madras was a houseguest of Laura Lee Shank last week.

Darrel Cork of Burns visited his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sweek last week. Mr. Cork was on his vacation.

Mrs. Frank Howell of Wall Creek, had her mother, Mrs. Hattie McDaniel of Heppner as her guest last week.

Doc Hinton and son Boyd returned from Portland Wednesday. Mr. Hinton's daughter Ella, came through her operation in fine shape and was steadily improving when they left.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sweek spent the Fourth by fishing on Wader Creek.

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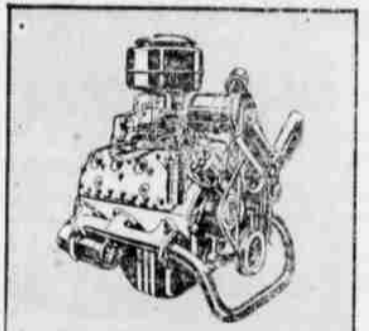
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# Boardman News

(Continued From Page 3)

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Plocker and daughters, Portland were weekend guests at the Ray Gronquist home. Mr. Plocker returned to Portland Monday; Mrs. Plocker and daughters remained for the week. Plocker and Gronquist were Service buddies. Mrs. Plocker will be remembered as Lucille Tyler.

Guests this weekend at the L. T. Pearson home were Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Bradley, Roseburg, Oregon.

Walter Bartle, Congress, Ariz., is a houseguest of his niece, Mrs. Frank Marlow.

Mrs. Leo Dishrow drove down from Burke, Idaho, Friday, going to The Dalles to visit her husband. Mr. Dishrow, who is a patient in The Dalles Sanatorium, Mrs. Dishrow returned to her home Sunday, taking her daughter, Fay back. Little Fay had spent the past month with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Miller. Holiday guests at the Dewey West Jr., home were Mr. and Mrs.

# HARVEST TIME

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