

# Headwaters of Mighty Columbia Traced Into Canada on Motorlog

## Columbia Lake Is Quiet Beginning For River of West

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing July 15 in Northwest retrospective magazine of The Sunday Oregonian. It is one of an annual series sponsored jointly by The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor association.

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We came to Canal Flats over highway 95 on a motorlog expedition from the south, crossing the Kootenay to the brief gravelly plain which separates that already powerful stream from the headwaters of the Columbia.

You cannot see the lake from the Flats. We stopped the Oregon State Motor association's white Ford there only to see the remnants of the famous old canal and locks by which a sternwheeler from Montana had entered the Columbia at its very source, surely a feat worth remembering, and which brought a steamboat era to the upper river a good 60 years after the first steamer had entered the stream at its mouth.

We drove on north a few miles to a high bench overlooking Columbia lake. This is it—the headwaters of a stream that here begins its vagrant way to the ocean, 1210 miles distant. The sight is all one could wish, this clear, cold and remote beginning of the great river, which has the misfortune to rise at the high elevation of 2650 feet above the sea and is thus indelibly branded for the harnesses of power and irrigation.

### Lake Stocked With Trout

The river begins to spread out into marshes that continue on to Lake Windermere, which I was told was stocked with Kamloops trout; and on or near its shores are the villages of Wilmer, Athalmer, Windermere and Invermere.

Golden, once known as First Crossing, is where the Canadian Pacific railroad first comes to the Columbia. The Big Bend begins here, and for 200 miles the highway runs through a primitive forest such as is not to be seen elsewhere along the Columbia.

We soon came to the lake named for Chief Kinbasket, and stood to wonder that so lovely a place seemed virtually unknown to outlanders. Both the Selkirks and the Rockies have closed in to hem the lake and shadow it by most formidable peaks, ranging up to 12,000 feet.

Out of Kinbasket the Columbia roars into 24 miles of almost continuous rapids. The traveler



Source of Columbia, illustrated in watercolor by Ernest Richardson, is placid lake 2650 feet above sea in British Columbia.

sees the white water through the trees, and he is constantly aware of the sound of its fury. Far below in the canyon it boiled from fall and speed, and the echoing cliffs sent up a thunder that will no longer be heard elsewhere on the river, now that Celilo is about to be stilled.

At Boat Encampment is the apex of the Columbia's northward surge. Here it turns suddenly around the end of the Selkirk range and starts south, and the highway moves to the east side of the river. The Rockies have been left behind. The Selkirks are now on the left. On the right stand the Monashees. After its 200-mile start for the North Pole, the Columbia is now heading, in its own strange fashion, for Astoria.

The city of Revelstoke is considered the lower end of the Big Bend. The Canadian Pacific

meets the Columbia again here. No town has a more dramatic setting. Its horizon is mountains in full circle, peaks of all shapes and sizes. Revelstoke likes to call itself "the ski center of the West."

A passenger and car ferry operates from Arrowhead to Nakusp and other points on the widened Columbia known as the Arrow lakes.

### Bombing Still Unsolved

We left the ferry at Castle-gar, in the heart of the Duk-hobor country, and drove half a dozen miles to Brilliant and the high bluff on which is the tomb of the late Peter (the Lordly) Verigin, head of the Russian religious sect until the railroad car in which he was a passenger was blown to bits, along with Peter himself and one of his handmaidens, in what is still one of the most celebrated unsolved crimes in Canada.

With the volume of the Kootenay added, the Columbia hurries on to Trail, center of an immense mining and smelting empire that smokes by day and flares by night, a sort of wilderness Pittsburgh through which the river surges on its last lap as a stream as wild as it was when David Thompson first saw it.

Some ten miles below Trail, the Clark Fork enters the Columbia; and soon enough the stream begins to slow and deepen as it crosses the 49th parallel. In another few miles it becomes apparent that the Columbia is no longer a river but a piece of the lake backing up behind Grand Coulee dam.

When you cross the boundary, you have seen what remains of the untamed Columbia, which is the 465 miles upstream to Columbia lake and Canal Flats. If you mean to see that stretch in its primitive state, the present year may turn out to be none too early.



From its source Columbia sweeps north, then south in great are known as Big Bend.



### DOUG'S BEEN A VISITING!

The long heralded "hot political campaign in Oregon," billed to hold the focus of the nation, has been only mildly competitive with our fair and warmer summer weather.

All during June and July, and until last week, Doug McKay had a clear field campaigning for U. S. Senator. His rival, Senator Wayne Morse, was on his job in Washington, while Doug who is currently out of a job, was on the pump handle routine, just shaking hands with voters, getting acquainted and missing no chance of putting in a plug for Wayne's rival. He visited in most of the towns and even the ranches of the state.

The number of handshakes Doug wrapped up on his tours will be a potent quantity when ballots are counted.

"Unhurried visiting, the personal chatter and discussions of unpolitical local happenings will reflect confidence, a presage of success that is most valuable in a close race," so reads a paragraph from one of the snake charmers in national headquarters press department.

### BUILDING VOLUME DIPS

Oregon's total of building was down over a million dollars for the month of June this year compared with June 1955.

Heavy industrial construction in California pushed the five western states' aggregate building total during July 1956 to a record \$259,781,330—a figure which is 20 per cent higher than those of the same month a year ago. The record gain resulted despite decreases in Washington, Montana, and Idaho as well as Oregon.

Oregon's July total was \$12,149,348 compared to \$13,819,276 for July of 1955. The state's highest point was the past June, which totaled \$14,141,212.

### ELECTION REGISTRATIONS

Election registrars appointed by the county clerk may not accept registrations from a "temporary" location, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton ruled Wednesday in an opinion requested by State Senator Monroe Sweetland of Milwaukie.

Thornton observed that the present Oregon law required the registrar to establish and maintain a fixed place for the registration of voters.

The County Court or Board of County Commissioners may, however, require the clerk to appoint additional registrars if ample registration facilities are not otherwise provided.

In another opinion the attorney general held that chattel mortgages on vehicles to be registered and licensed are to be filed with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The duty of filing mortgages on migratory chattels other than mortgages on licensed vehicles remains with the Secretary of State.

### CAPITOL PERSONALS

Justice Earl Latourette of the Oregon Supreme Court, hospitalized for the past ten days in Portland is reported slowly improving.

Loran Stewart, Cottage Grove is contacting prospective members of the House at the 1957 Legislature in connection with his campaign for speaker. "I'll defer seeking pledges until after the general election in November," the former chairman of the House Tax Committee said.

Jack C. Stangier, Pendleton oil distributor, was appointed Thursday by Gov. Smith to the state

### FAIR-MINDED

This week it is hoped you are all doing those things that must be done the last minute. The final check on the hem of a dress. The final wash and waive on an animal. The final check on the flowers and vegetables to try and decide which will be ready next week. The final personal judge of the canning and that final pressing of needlework. Is this sketch better than that and how about this colored picture of junior?

He will fill the unexpired term of Wilbur Stadelman, who resigned.

Rep. Walter Norblad reports that he has been appointed as a member of the subcommittee to study proposed legislation to improve small boat safety.

Chief Justice Harold Warner of the State Supreme Court will attend the annual meeting of supreme court chief justices at Dallas, Texas, starting Aug. 22.

John Markin, Salem, Chairman of the Marion county Republican central committee has been placed on the executive committee of the Republican state central committee.

Henry Semon, Klamath Falls, filed Friday as an Independent candidate for representative in the state legislature from the 30th district, Klamath County. He has served 24 years as a Democrat in the House being a member of the joint ways and means committee for 20 years and currently is a member of the emergency board.

The Rev. and Mrs. George Little are in Portland where he is undergoing treatment at The Good Samaritan hospital.

### June Traffic in State Sets Record

June motor vehicle travel in Oregon soared to a high so far this year with an estimated 712,150,599 miles driven, the department of motor vehicles reported to day. It was an increase of more than 66 million miles over June last year.

Peak travel is expected to occur in August with July a close second. If good weather continues both months may break all-time records.

Some indication of how Oregon travel has increased, and why drivers must be more alert than ever, can be gained by a look at past mileage records: 20 years ago, total mileage in the state for June was a mere 264,202,833; 10 years later, in June, 1946, mileage hit 403,667,624, still more than 200 million miles below the figure this June.

The June death rate this year, a figure which compares number of traffic deaths with miles driven, was 4.8. This means that in each 100 million miles of travel slightly more than four persons were killed.

### 4-H Club News

#### THE CHEFS

The meeting was called to order by our leader, Mrs. Glass, in the absence of our president and vice president.

The minutes were read and passed. We talked about our exhibits for the fair.

We then, cooked our meal.

Our next meeting is going to be at the count house Wednesday August 15.

Neal Penland, reporter

Mrs. Jack Bedford returned Sunday after a week in Molalla and Portland visiting relatives

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