33 AUTOMOBILES CONVEY VISITING GEOGRAPHERS FROM MEDFORD TO CRATER LAKE

Famous Scientists See Crater Lake

In September, 1912, the Medford Commercial club entertained the American Geographical society by arranging a trip by automobile from this city to Crater Lake. The affair was a success throughout the seventy visiting scientists from all sections of the globe being taken 85 miles and return without mishap. This did more to advertise Crater Lake than any other one thing, the visitors being most enthusiastic regarding the lake and the courtesy of the Medford business men. W. M. Davis, professor of geology at Harvard, director of the excursion, said:

"This excursion to Crater Lake arranged by the Medford Commercial club is the biggest, most successful and altogether delightful experience we have had since we left New York. The foreign members of our party declare that such an excursion could not be pulled off by any nation in the world outside of America while the Americans in our party declare that such an entertainment could not have been arranged east of the Mississippi river. It is absolutely the best thing we have run up against so far and we appreciate it.

Crater Lake Wonderful

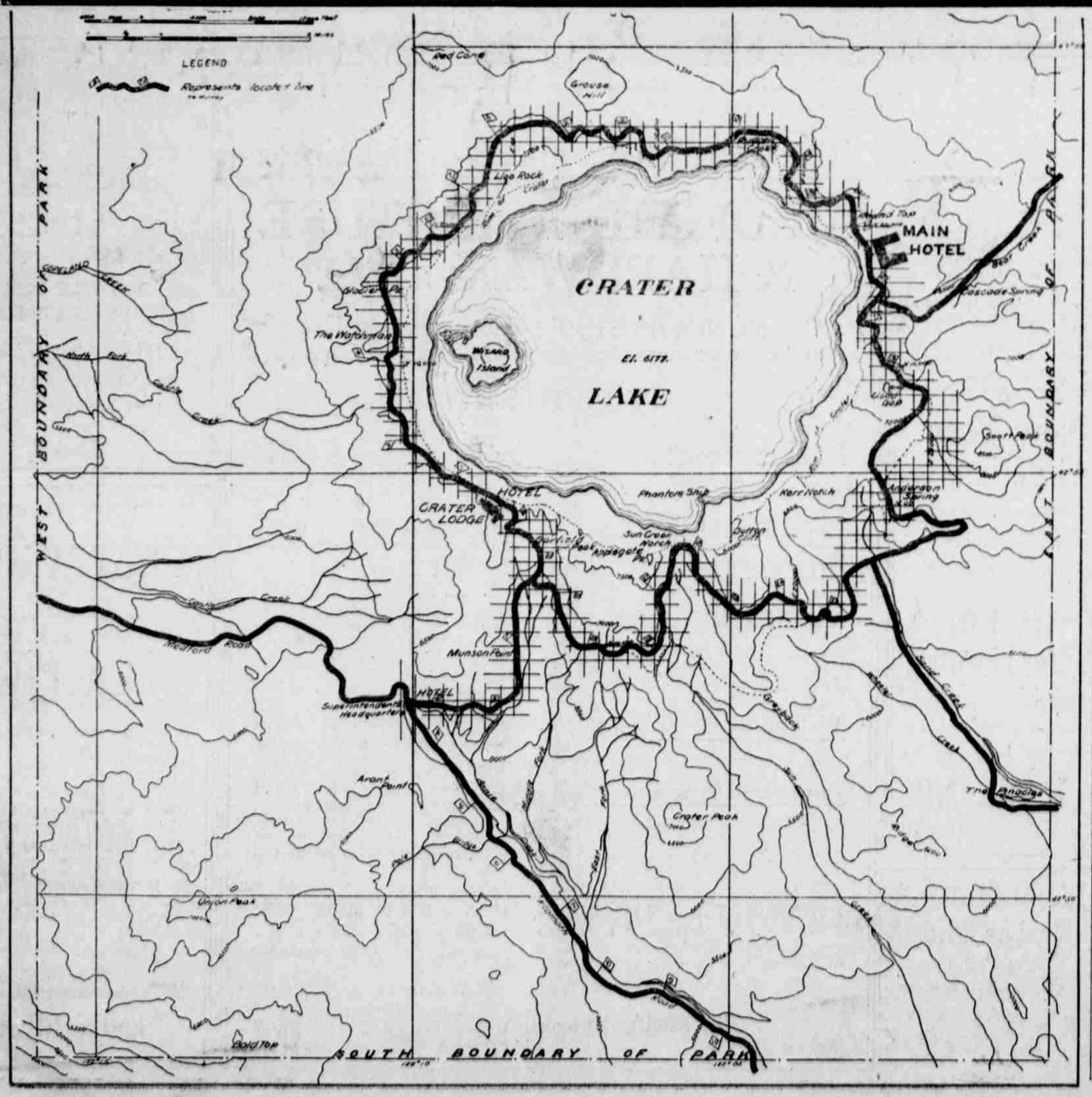
"As for Crater Lake," continued Professor Davis," it is absolutely without a peer in point of beauty. Some of the most prominent members of our party from foreign lands expressed themselves emphatically to that effect. All unite in praising the beauty of the lake and declare that it will eventually be the means of thousands of tourists who travel simply to see the beautiful as expressed by nature.

"We favor the building of a national highway to the Crater Lake national park and our society will work toward that end. Foreign societies represented in our party will also lend their influence. Crater Lake is too great, too wonderful, not to be one of the world's great highways.

"Put what I have to say in your largest and blackest type. You cannot convey my enthusiasm in any other manner."

Thirty-one autos were volunteered for the excursion, and all reached the lake on schedule time. An hour's stop was made at Prospect where lunch was served by the ladies of Prospect. Great tables fairly groaned under the piles of good things to eat under the great trees along the river's banks. The scientists would not spare the time to visit Mill Creek falls, so eager to reach the lake were they.

A large number of the foreign visitors expressed themselves as delighted with all of the circumstances connected with the trip.



Scenic Highway of the World

"It is doubtful if any view existing in the world today is as impressive and at the same time as beautiful as the view of Crater lake from the rim," said Major Jay J. Morrow of the army engineering corps, in transmitting a report to the war department recommending the expenditure of $642,000 for the construction of roads and trails in the Crater Lake National park.

Congress at its last session passed an appropriation of $50,000 for the beginning of this highway construction. An additional $100,000 is recommended by the war department for this year and it is expected that $100,000 yearly will be expended until the system of highways is complete.

62 Miles of Road

About 62 miles of good roads and 100 miles of trails, in the opinion of Major Morrow, will enable the tourist to reach the most important spots in the park with facility, and, while the estimated cost is high, he believes the expenditure is fully justified, particularly as it is proposed to build the roads for automobile travel. Compared with the cost of building roads in the Yellowstone and Rainier national parks, where the topography is similar to that in the Crater lake park, Major Morrow says the figures cited in his estitmates are not excessive, but about on a par with the actual cost of building roads over like territory in the two older parks.

This boulevard will be unlike any other in the world. Not only does it look down upon America's deepest lake, lying like a blue amethyst in mystic beauty, and admittedly unrivaled among the world's natural wonders, but it affords a wonderful panorama of mountain scenery, of bleak hills and verdure-clad slopes, of snowy peaks—a bewildering multitude of mountain ranges stretching toward horizons in every direction as far as the eye can see. Mount Jefferson is plainly visible in the north, Mount Shasta in the south. To the east lie the lakes and green fields of the Klamath stretching like a fairyland into the sage brush hills om the distance. To the west are the many ribbed slopes of the wooded Umpquas and the Siskiyous.

To make the park accessible, the people of Medford and Jackson county have labored incessantly for the past four years to construct a scenic auto highway up the Rogue river to the lake. An appropriation for this purpose was scheduled from the state of Oregon, but was held unconstitutional by the supreme court.