

Twenty-One Mile Launch Trip Affords Scenic Glimpses of Crater Lake

TOWERING CLIFFS ARE BEST VIEWED FROM LAKE LEVEL

Naturalist Tells Geological Facts and Indian Legends On Scenic Cruise.

By John E. Doerr, Jr.

The launch trip around Crater Lake, certainly the outstanding guided trip in Crater Lake National park, offers perhaps the finest opportunity for enjoyment of the scenic values afforded to visitors to the park. Visitors who come to the Medford Rogue Wonderland will find in this launch trip an experience which has been appropriately termed one of the finest opportunities for the enjoyment of scenic wonders that can be obtained anywhere in the United States.

Visitors to Crater Lake National park invariably name the launch trip around Crater Lake as the richest aesthetic experience gained from the various facilities and services offered by the Park Service. and since this, perhaps the outstanding scenic trip in all of our national parks, is within close access of visitors to the Medford Rogue Wonderland area, the opportunities for a trip of rare beauty and rich scientific interest are of the very best.

From the west or Medford Rogue Wonderland entrance to the park, a drive of seven miles through beautiful forest country brings us to Annie Spring, where the visitor is welcomed into the park by a National Park Ranger. Then, after a drive of six miles over a spacious highway, we arrive at the rim of Crater Lake and gain our first view of this scenic gem which has gained the distinction of being one of the natural wonders of the world, both from the point of view of scientific excellence but also in terms of outstanding scenic value.

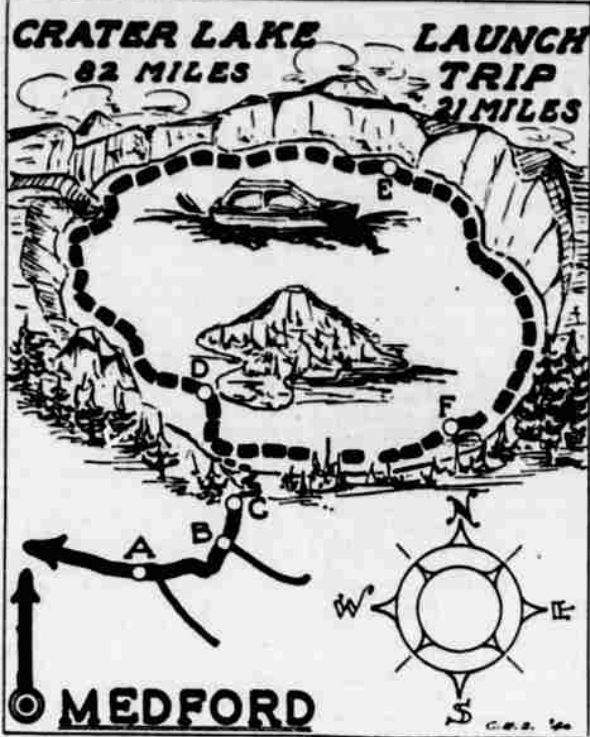
Crater Lake as seen from the steep angle of the rim seems unsurpassably blue, but we shall find as we begin our descent down the trail to the lake that the hues and values of color will deepen as we approach the water's edge. The trail, wide and safe, is carefully built so as to eliminate steep descents, and with its 23 switchbacks which wind back and forth we descend down to the edge of the lake, hardly realizing as we go that we have left the rim area and have arrived at the boat landing in such a short length of time.

Many visitors to the Medford Rogue Wonderland will of course stop at various points on the trail where breath-taking vistas of beautiful blue seen through the frame of towering hemlocks and pines will charm the person who will take advantage of these stops to see the lake from these outstanding vantage points.

Arriving at the dock, the party will be seated comfortably in the power launch which gives ample and comfortable room for even large numbers which come to take the trip at the height of the summer season. In case of overflow crowds a second launch of equally capacious appointments is available so that all may make the trip and enjoy its many genuine thrills, in terms of sights that cause one to marvel at nature's handiwork in this part of Medford's Rogue Wonderland area.

The National Park service assigns a naturalist guide who accompanies the launch trip around Crater Lake, explaining both scientific and scenic values so that the maximum of information desired may be given in a courteous and interesting manner. The procedure of the naturalist guide at the beginning of the trip is usually to outline at the outset of the trip the outstanding features to be seen in terms of geology, botany, and ornithology, because here on the launch trip is perhaps the most favorable opportunity for bringing many of the features of Crater Lake to our attention.

The massive crater walls, certainly seen at their best from the vantage point of the launch, and which we may consider as



Crater Lake Launch Trip—A. Annie Spring, 75 miles from Medford. B. Park Headquarters, 79 miles from Medford. C. Rim Village, 82 miles from Medford. Trail to boat land 1.5 miles. Mileage from boat landing. D. Wizard Island, 2 miles. E. Cleetwood Cove, 10 miles. F. Phantom Ship, 18 miles. Boat landing, 21 miles.

the massive frame encircling the constantly changing patterns of color below, will prove to be of just as much compelling interest as the lake which has made this area famous. Outstanding features on the crater wall, significant formations such as glacial valleys, volcanic dikes, brilliant colorations as a result of rusting of fragmental materials on the scraggy edges of lava flows which built up the mountain—all these will be seen on the 2 1/2 hour trip which awaits us. Just before embarking to enjoy these outstanding scientific and scenic values the naturalist will see that everyone is acquainted in order that a spirit of good fellowship and pleasant acquaintanceship will characterize the trip.

To become acquainted, each visitor on the trip will announce in turn his name and the city where he resides. This means of "breaking the ice," so to speak, will add to the good fellowship and will make everyone feel free to chat with any other member of the party during the time the boat glides its way beneath the towering cliffs above.

As the boat takes its departure from the landing immediately we see over the sides of the boat a new value of blue, one that is never seen high above in the rim area, for the amount of atmospheric interference in the 900 feet difference in elevation prevents one seeing the true color of Crater Lake, a color which can be described only as Crater Lake blue. The naturalist circulates around to various groups on the trip and explains that this color is to be attributed to the purity of the water, its great depth, and the brilliant sunlight—three factors which combine to produce a color which is perhaps unrivaled in other lakes on this hemisphere.

As the launch approaches the first stop in the cove at Wizard Island our attention is inevitably drawn to large holes looming into view in the lake floor, varying in size from little more than small fissures to large depressions eighteen feet in depth. It is believed that these holes are fumaroles, caused by escaping gases and a part of the volcanic activity incident to the development of Wizard Island.

As the boat comes to a stop in a cove, we see rising above us the picturesquely situated cinder cone known as Wizard Island, rising 776 feet above the lake and giving the appearance of a perfect cone. If we look closely we see indications of a depression at the top, and we learn that Wizard Island also has a crater, with a depth of 90 feet and a diameter of over 400 feet, and we thus have the phenomenon of a crater within a crater. The actual height of Wizard Island is certain to be of interest, and we learn that the major portion of this small mountain existing within a larger mountain is approximately 2700 feet high since the bottom of the mountain is in the bottom of the crater which is near

seen than at this vantage point, directly below the highest peak on the rim of Crater Lake, rising 8,156 feet above sea level and nearly 2,000 feet above the lake.

The launch stops for us to get pictures of this outstanding value in Crater Lake, reflected crater-wall color. Here, too, we see the Devil's Backbone, a sharply protruding dike which stands out in bold relief, its jagged outline also being mirrored in the deep waters below. There are at least two other outstanding values to be seen by us at this stop.

Llao Rock, the first and most impressive one, is a grand mass of lava, filling up a glacial canyon and telling in its rugged massiveness one of the most interesting scientific stories to be witnessed in nature—the story of struggle and succession of two great forces, volcanism and glaciation. Attractive and awe-inspiring was this rock to the Klamath Indians who named the great rock the throne of Llao, and wove strange legends about the god of the fiery pit—the god of the volcano. This legend, the naturalist relates to us in brief, the fascinating story of elemental forces as they had their place in the history of the god of the volcano. Llao Rock rises actually 1,882 feet above the lake and 48,046 feet above sea level. It is the grandest, most impressive single feature in the massive, towering walls that gird the lake.

We hear from our naturalist guide the fascinating history of this gigantic west wall of the crater, but must now move on in our voyage to the north wall where we stop in the peaceful little northerly bay called Cleetwood Cove. Here on the warmer side of the lake we find not single trees struggling for existence within the crater with just a minimum of soil conditions, but a beautiful grove consisting chiefly of Yellow Pines and hemlocks—a grove nesting in an area protected from wind, where flourishing and stately trees rise high up with a luxuriance that is remarkable for the volcanic soil in which these grow. Here also in Cleetwood Cove we see a curious body of rock known as Diller's Back flow, where our naturalist guide tells us the story of the building of Mt. Mazama, and the fascinating episodes in its history, including the catastrophic collapse of the peak to form the deepest crater in the world.

Leaving Cleetwood Cove, the east and west Palisades challenge our attention. High up on these gigantic cliffs are lichen growths which cover these bold faces of rock with a yellow hue. As we glide along, the Wine-glass comes into view, a natural slide which resembles a goblet with a long stem and remarkably symmetrical outline. One of the most picturesque parts of our trip now awaits us. We travel through caverns

U. of O. President Likes Picture



Mr. Donald M. Erb (left), president of the University of Oregon, receives from Miss Janet Goresky, a color reproduction of McKenzie river, current picture of these series now being distributed here by the Standard service men. With President Erb and Miss Goresky is O. E. Garver, Standard Oil Company of California representative.

Several million natural color photograph reproductions have been given away by the Standard Oil Company of California throughout the west, according to an announcement today by Mr. L. T. Nygaard, the company's representative in Medford.

Reproductions of famed western scenes, including the western national parks, have been distributed during the past few weeks by all Standard service

and grottoes, an area known as Grotto Cove, where we see unusual flow lines of lava and where erosion has carved out remarkably fantastic shapes. Then, looking upward, the Pumice Castles come into view. Rusting and weathering of pumice material have here produced a remarkably realistic illusion to real castles with trees around and tent-like structures of pumice looming up along the west side of these remarkable "castles." Curious as these formations are, they are not nearly so interesting scientifically as Red Cloud Cliff.

Seven definite periods of glaciation can be counted in the glacial striae around this great U-shaped body of lava rock which rises 1,786 feet above the water. As we pass beneath this fine, massive rock, we see small waterfalls and small rivulets issuing from the areas where snow and ice have been protected from the sun and they cascade down into the lake with thread-like appearance and afford views of slender waterfalls in picturesque contrast with the

to the boat landing (2.63 miles) is soon covered and we discover all too soon that our trip in Medford's Rogue Wonderland has drawn to a close. It is hard to realize that the trip has been one of 21 miles in length, for some of the finest scenery in all the world has burst upon us in rapid succession, both in natural hue and in the superb reflections of towering cliffs in water of eternal blue.

The ascent of the trail we make in a few short stages, resting on the benches provided at the various switchbacks. Arriving at the rim village area again, we take a last view of this scenic gem nestled in the heart of the Cascades, one of the choicest spots to be seen in Medford's Rogue Wonderland.

MINING ENGINEERS TO SEE SOUTHERN OREGON OPERATIONS AT MEET

Grants Pass, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Albert Lewis of the state assay office completed arrangements today for conferences beginning August 31 of the Oregon section of the American Institute of Mi-

ning and Metallurgical Engineers.

Members will meet at Sutherlin and visit Douglas county's Bonanza cinnabar mine, described as the country's largest producer of mercury, which is of vastly increased importance during war times. In the evening the engineers will banquet at Roseburg and spend the night there.

The next day, Sunday, they will visit the Benton gold mine in Josephine county and spend the night in Grants Pass. Monday the party will divide, some inspecting dredging operations for gold and some going to Crater Lake for an explanation of its geology by Dr. Warren D. Smith.

Victoria Cross Given

London, Aug. 17.—(AP)—King George awarded the war's seventh Victoria cross today to Acting Flight Lieutenant Roderick Learoyd for "most conspicuous bravery" in bombing Germany's Dortmund-Ems canal from 150 feet the night of August 12 in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire.

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