

Lane County Develops System of 23 Parks To Provide Recreation for Expanding Area

Dam Reservoirs Given Priority

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing in The Sunday Oregonian. It is one of an annual series of travel articles sponsored jointly by the Oregon State Motor Association and The Oregonian.

BY JOHN A. ARMSTRONG

Lane county, one of only two Oregon counties reaching from the high Cascades to the Pacific ocean (the other is Douglas) stretches 118 miles from east to west and 58 miles from north to south.

In the county's 4573 square miles are many opportunities for recreation and family outdoor enjoyment, not the least of which are the Lane county parks, 23 in number, and being enjoyed by the public; the sites for ten more acquired and planned for future development.

We visited some of these outstanding county parks in a recent swing through the county in the Oregon State Motor association's white motorlog car.

Population Jumps

Five years ago a number of far-thinking Lane county residents, members of service clubs, conservationists, sportsmen, became alarmed about the county's natural recreational resources.

A rapidly increasing population—nearly double the 1940 total of 70,000—was straining existing recreation facilities.

As timber was cut to feed the area's booming lumber industry, more and more natural recreation sites were disappearing.

These civic-minded people banded together to form Lane County Recreation, Inc., which in turn generated public interest in the problem and eventually called an open, public meeting to discuss and deal with it.

The public meeting took action to recommend that the county commission set up an



There are four developed Lane county parks along the shores of the lake behind Dorena dam. Here, the Oregon State Motor association car stops at Harms park, which has boat moorage and an excellent launching ramp. The Dorena dam in the center background.

advisory commission to make a planning survey for county-wide outdoor recreation.

County commissioners and the advisory group went to Roseburg to observe the workings of the Douglas county parks system, which had been set up two years before. A month after, in April, 1953, the county commissioners wrote the order setting up the Lane county parks and recreation commission.

Not Special District

The Lane county parks and recreation department is not set up as a special district. It is a department of the county government, a general fund department. Last year's operating budget was \$36,333, with a little larger one approved for the present fiscal year—\$5000 has been specifically earmarked for the first time, for acquisition of land. Up to this year, land for county parks has been acquired by tax foreclosure, gifts, plus one acquisition with funds realized by a transaction with Southern Pacific.

The Lane County Parks and Recreation department does not seek to infringe on the operation of any other governmental agency, according to Parks Superintendent Gene Renard. The county set-up, he emphasizes, is concerned with developments in non-urban areas where cities do not figure, and steps in only where federal or state governments are not filling the need for parks and recreation.

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able, but not recommended for tourist travel. However, work is going on on the new straight cut-off from Richardson to Mapleton, and according to Ralph Petersen, Lane county commissioner, this stretch may be passable by next summer and "certainly a pretty good road will be through by two years from now."

A tunnel has been built, on county and federal funds and engineered by the state, through the coast range ridge at Knowles creek. Remaining to be done is a stretch of road connecting the west end of the tunnel to Mapleton.

According to Petersen, the new Route F when completed will cut off 21 miles from Eugene to Florence as compared to the present route via highway 36. With Eugene at that time only 60 miles from Florence, the concern of the Lane county parks department in developing coast facilities is understandable.

A five-year plan calls for development of a minimum of 150 more camping and picnicking units throughout the county.

The Lane parks department is much concerned with development in two critical areas: first, around the man-made lakes behind the flood control dams on the Willamette and tributaries; second, along the coast area, in Florence and to the north of it.

The tremendous boom in boating and water sports, plus the convenient access of the dam reservoirs to the Eugene area, center of Lane county's population, motivates development of lake-side recreation areas.

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Lane County Parks

1. Heosta beach park, five miles northwest of Florence; water, toilets, picnicking, fishing, view, auto access to beach.
2. Holiday harbor, at Florence; caretaker, water, toilets, boat launching ramp, moorage, fishing; administered by city.
3. Sitawaw public landing, West-lake; popular lake fishing, boat launching.
4. Sitawaw harbor vista, four miles northwest of Florence, overlooking mouth of Sitawaw; 11 acres, toilets, picnicking, fishing, trail, view, water facilities being developed.
5. Tide Wayside park, three miles west of Swishome; large fireplace, water, toilets, picnicking, swimming, boat launching, trail, view.
6. Camp Lane, Richardson, route F; group camp, 4-H administered; caretaker, water, flush toilets, public picnicking and camping allowed on permission of caretaker, fishing, trail.
7. River's public landing, two miles southeast Junction City; access to Willamette river, toilets, picnicking, fishing, boat launching.
8. Baker street bridge park, Eugene; beautiful area of 15 acres, fishing, boat launching.
9. Sandy's park, five miles northwest of Eugene; community project, playground.
10. Spencer's Butte bridge trail, south of Eugene, Amazon to Spencer's Butte; trail and view.
11. Harms park, north side of Dorena lake; toilets, picnicking, camping, fishing, boat launching, small moorage, fine ramp and pier.
12. Baker Stewart park, north side of Dorena lake; toilets, picnicking, camping, popular fishing spot.
13. Vaughn park, 25 acres south side of Dorena lake; toilets, picnicking, swimming, camping, popular fishing spot.
14. Baker Bay recreational area, south side Dorena lake; caretaker, water, toilets, picnicking, swimming, camping, fishing, boat launching, moorage, boats and supplies available.
15. Mountain park, seven miles southeast of Cottage Grove; water facilities being developed, toilets, picnicking, camping, fishing, also timber demonstration tract.
16. Dexter North Shore park, west of Lowell; caretaker, water, toilets, picnicking, swimming, fishing, boat launching, moorage administered by boat club.
17. Landus landing, Lookout Point lake; sheltered cove, boat launching, toilets, picnicking, camping, fishing.
18. Ivan Oakes park, Lookout Point lake; 30 acres and major project under way; water, toilets, picnicking, swimming, camping, fishing, boat launching.
19. Clover Point, at Nimrod; McKenzie viewpoint, fishing.
20. Blue River community park, at Blue River; water, toilets, picnicking, playground, fishing, ball field, skating rink.
21. Forest Glen landing, at Blue River; game commission owned, fishing and boat launching.
22. Dexter viewpoint; 100 acres, water, toilets, fishing and boat launching; picnic facilities being developed.
23. Mercer lake landing, north of Florence; fishing and boat launching.
24. Licensed corps of engineers land.
25. Swimming and camping is allowed in all parks, even where no special facilities are provided, unless specifically prohibited by signs posted on the spot.



Spencer's Butte bridge trail, south of Eugene, Amazon to Spencer's Butte; trail and view.

Lack of More 'Scare' for Hurricane Audrey Regretted

New Orleans—Raymond Kraft, newly promoted chief weather forecaster for New Orleans, said he wished he had put more "scare" into warnings about Hurricane Audrey.

This was the first public statement issued by a U.S. Weather Bureau official in response to criticism that Louisiana coastal residents were not fully warned of the danger.

When Audrey swept in from the Gulf of Mexico with 105-mile-per-hour winds in June, a wall of water engulfed entire towns. Audrey left 328 persons known dead and 190 missing.

Many survivors in the hard-hit area of Cameron, La., have blamed the weather bureau, at least in part, for the high death toll.

"When we went to bed Wednesday night," one man said, "radio and television said the hurricane would not hit until the next afternoon. We thought we had lots of time."

Kraft, who prepared weather forecasts for the Army before he bombed the Ploesti oil fields of Hungary in World War II, said it is difficult to argue with "those who have suffered such great losses."

Louisiana's U.S. senators and Rept. T. A. Thompson (D-La.) were highly critical of the weather bureau for its warnings about Audrey. Thompson demanded an investigation.

But Kraft, long with the weather bureau's headquarters in Washington and Maj. Gen. Raymond Hufft, Louisiana, adjutant general, pointed out that the hurricane advisories warned 22 hours before the storm hit, that persons in low lying areas should evacuate to higher ground.

"If we had it to do over," Kraft said, "we'd try to scare them a little more through the advisories, but there is a danger of crying wolf. If we cry wolf everytime a storm stirs in the

Pinocchio's Red Lobster Inn Replica To Be Built

Washington—The fictional Red Lobster Inn where the puppet Pinocchio and his companions, the Fox and the Cat, had so many misadventures is coming to life.

R. E. Fagiolo, a Washington insurance executive, has received permission from the Italian government to build a replica of the inn at Pinocchio Park in Colloidi, Italy.

Colloidi is the birthplace of the Story Book puppet's creator, Carlo Lorenzini, Fagiolo, 56, is a native of Rome and married a girl from Colloidi.

The inn is no fairy tale to Fagiolo. It's strictly a business proposition. He recently presented a plan of plans for a \$75,000 replica to Manlio Brosio, Italian ambassador in Washington.

The executive has formed a corporation to finance the Red Lobster. He plans to issue 10,000 shares at \$20 each.

"Many people I meet in my business want to buy shares, even staff members at the Italian embassy," he said.

Once the inn opens next summer, it will be a "going operation," Fagiolo said.

"We hope to make it one of the biggest tourist attractions in Italy."

Four future tourists already have indicated they want to see Pinocchio Park—Fagiolo's four grandchildren.

The inn will accommodate 400 diners in an indoor tavern and an outdoor patio roofed with a grape arbor. There will be eighty

Pinocchio's Red Lobster Inn Replica To Be Built

overnight guest rooms. The Red Lobster will be built in the traditional architectural style of Colloidi. The city is in the Tuscany section of Italy near Florence. Colloidi's gardens, dating back to the eighth century, already are a popular tourist stop.

Fagiolo became interested in Pinocchio Park in 1950 when he visited Italy for the first time since he left the country as a 12-year-old boy.

A 20-foot high statue of Pinocchio and his good fairy was dedicated at the park last year by President Giovanni Gronchi of Italy. The statue, by Emilio Greco, was financed by contributions from persons in 26 nations. Walt Disney gave \$150.

Each contributor received a certificate "good for one lie," guaranteeing that the fibber's nose would not lengthen as Pinocchio's did when he strayed from the truth.

Also installed at the park are mosaics Italians love so much. Also planned for the park are a library and possibly an orphanage.

Fagiolo's life hasn't been the same since he became involved in the project. His downtown office is crowded with blueprints of the Red Lobster, pictures of Pinocchio Park and scrapbooks full of newspaper and magazine clippings about the park.

If he has been slow in answering his correspondence lately, there is a good reason. His secretary is reading "Pinocchio."

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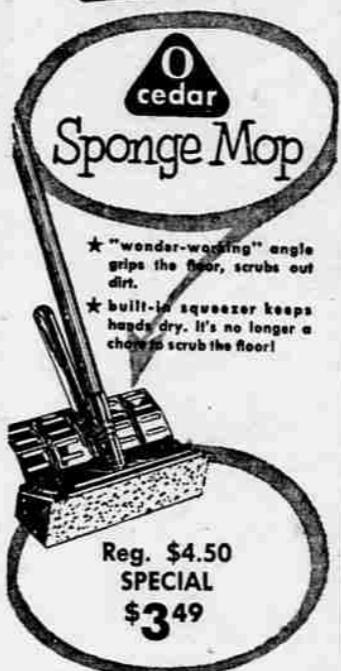
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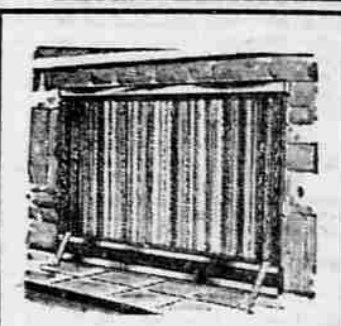
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