

Lava Beds Is Region of Historial Interest

Monument Has Ice Caves, Other Interest Points

BY JIM FISHER

A region of rugged lava flows and historical interest lies 30 miles south of Klamath Falls, just over the Oregon-California border.

Known as the Lava Beds National monument, this area contains some of the most recently formed volcanic formations. It was also the scene of the Modoc Indian War of 1872-73, perhaps the most costly war the United States has ever fought in terms of number of the enemy killed or captured.

Traveling south from Klamath Falls, it is possible to enter Lava Beds National monument from Merrill or Tulelake. The Tulelake entrance leads past Petroglyph Point, a rock cliff rising from the surrounding flat country. On the cliff are found petroglyphs or carvings made by an unknown tribe of Indians. Even at the time when white men first came to this area, the carvings were mentioned in legends.

Scene of War

A short ways on is the major scene of the Modoc Indian War, Captain Jack's stronghold. This natural formation of trenches, caves, and rock forts was the site of the Modoc Indians' last stand against the United States Army.

The Modocs had fled from the Klamath Indian Reservation because of their hatred for their bitter foes, the Klamaths. With their knowledge of the land, the Indians had entrenched themselves in the Lava Beds, taking their women and children with them.

Within the stronghold, sentries watched the movements of the soldiers and continually shot at them without showing themselves. The Indians could travel on three sides of the stronghold by following the lava trenches. The fourth side was protected by a broad open field that offered soldiers no protection for an attack.

Private caves for the Modoc chief, Captain Jack, and his sub-chiefs were also available. A grassy opening surrounded by a rock wall with only a narrow entrance provided the Modocs with a corral for their stolen cattle. From a special viewpoint at the front of the stronghold, Captain Jack could watch the fighting and make his plans.

Two Major Battles

In two major battles, 53 Indian braves were victorious over nearly 1,000 soldiers. The soldiers were helpless in the open country against the murderous fire of the Indians. Rocks were piled up by the soldiers for a little protection and can still be seen surrounding the stronghold.

Finally, at a peace conference on April 11, 1873, the Modocs met with General E. R. S. Canby and his party of peace commissioners to discuss ending the war. The Modocs opened fire on the commissioners, killing Canby and the Rev. Eleazar Thomas.

Outraged by this action, the soldiers were finally able to close off the Indians' water supply after a series of fierce battles. Losing their source of water, the Indians slipped away from their natural fort. The soldiers followed and in another battle, they suffered their third defeat with two-thirds of the Army command being killed or wounded and four of the five leading officers meeting death.

Soldiers Victorious

Still chasing the Indians despite their defeats, the soldiers were finally victorious at Dry Lake on May 10, 1873. The small army of braves was captured and Captain Jack was hung at Fort Klamath soon afterwards with three other leaders.

Practically all of the battleground area is unchanged. The stronghold still looks as it did when occupied by the Indians and remnants of the battles are still being found. A short distance from Captain Jack's stronghold stands Canby's Cross, erected by the Army at the scene of the general's slaying. The sites of the Army headquarters and its graveyard are also marked for interested persons.

Just as the Modoc Indian War is the main topic of interest for the north part of the Lava Beds National monument, caves are the main sights to see in the south half of the area.

These caves number far more than the 200 caves that have been discovered. Many of the caves have ice formations in them, a sharp contrast to the hot, dry temperatures found on the surface



INDIAN MARKINGS—Ancient Indian markings are found on the steep walls of Petroglyph point located within the Lava Beds National monument. These carvings are believed to have been made by Indians of a higher civilization than those the white men found when they first came to the area.



TRENCHES—The natural trenches of Captain Jack's stronghold enable the small band of 53 Indians to fight off more than 1,000 soldiers during the six-month Modoc Indian War in 1872-73. The stronghold remains today just as it was when the Indians occupied it.



MONUMENT—Canby's cross in a monument to the general who conducted the peace meeting with the Indians and was killed during the meeting. Soldiers of General E. R. S. Canby erected the cross at the site of the slaying.

during the summer months. Good trails and stairways have been constructed in the more popular caves.

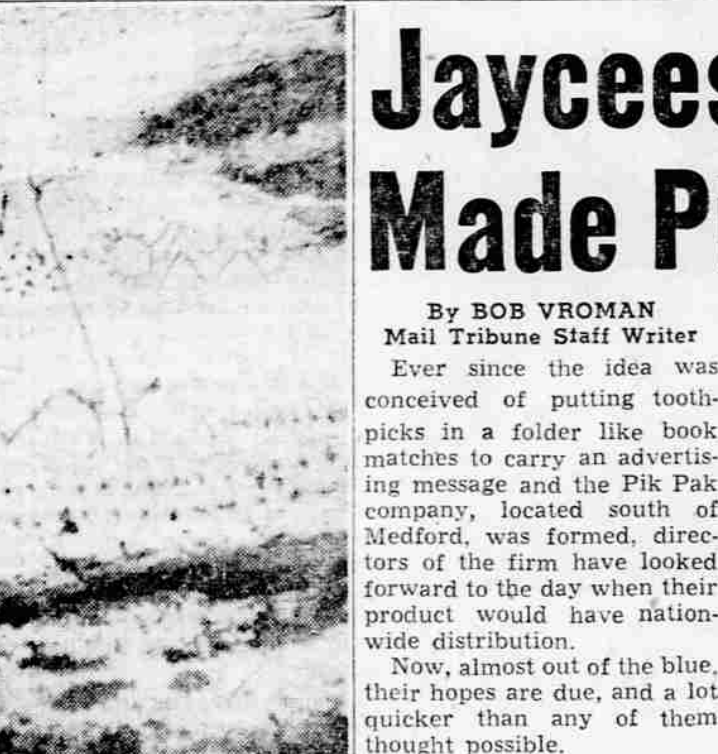
Indian Well Cave

Indian Well cave is located near the monument headquarters and campground of the same name. Other popular caves include Catcombs cave, Valentine cave, and Sentinel cave. Ice formations are found in Merrill ice cave, Skull cave and many others.

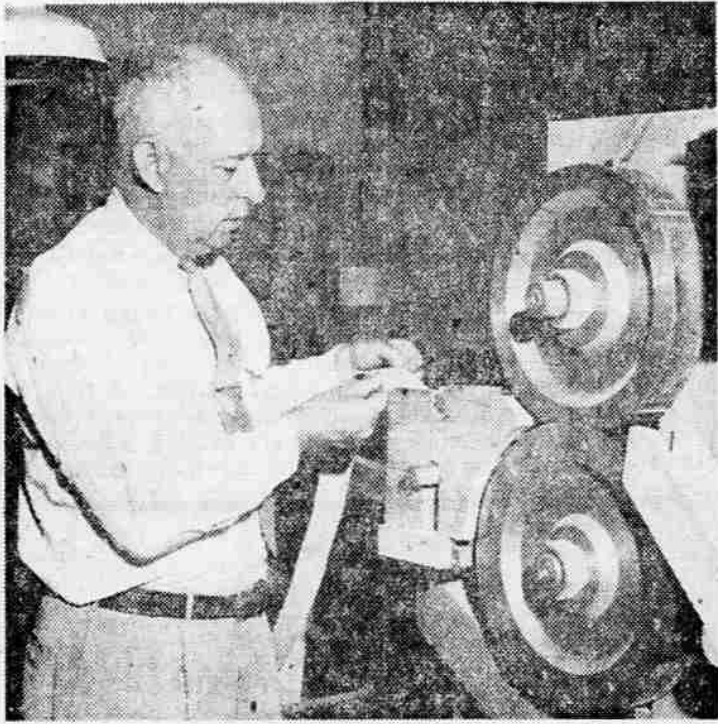
Many of the caves were formed when lava flows first cooled and hardened on the outside and the center continued to flow. Some of the tubes then collapsed to form the deep trenches seen in the area. The portions that did not collapse became the caves in many instances.

Other geological formations to be seen in the Lava Beds are the cinder cones and the chimneys. The cones were formed just as volcanoes were formed. The chimneys were formed by gas-inflated lava that spouted from the earth in fountains. The chimneys now remain as deep holes often three feet in diameter and extending one hundred feet into the earth.

To the sportsmen of eastern Oregon, the Lava Beds is thought of as the wintering grounds for the large number of mule deer that migrate each year from the higher country in Oregon to the monument area. These deer can be seen from the highways



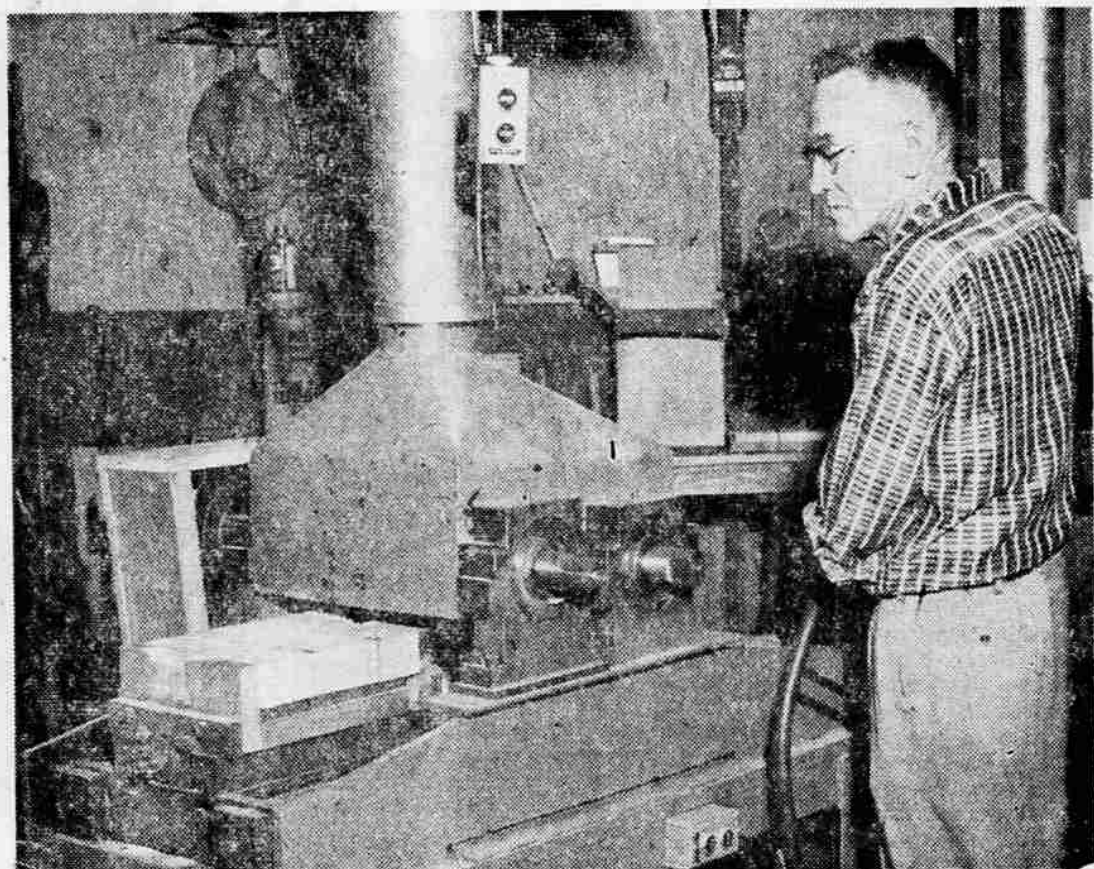
DEMONSTRATES MACHINE—Pik Pak corporation's president, M. L. (Doc) Wright, above, demonstrates how the band of "peeled" madrone wood is fed into the clipper machine to be cut into uniform lengths before being sawed into toothpicks. The clipper, like other machines in the plant, were especially designed by Wright. The factory is now able to turn out up to 90,000 Pik Paks a day. Many local firms are now using Pik Paks as a novel advertising idea. The company is now experimenting with the idea of flavoring the picks with spearmint, clove and wintergreen.



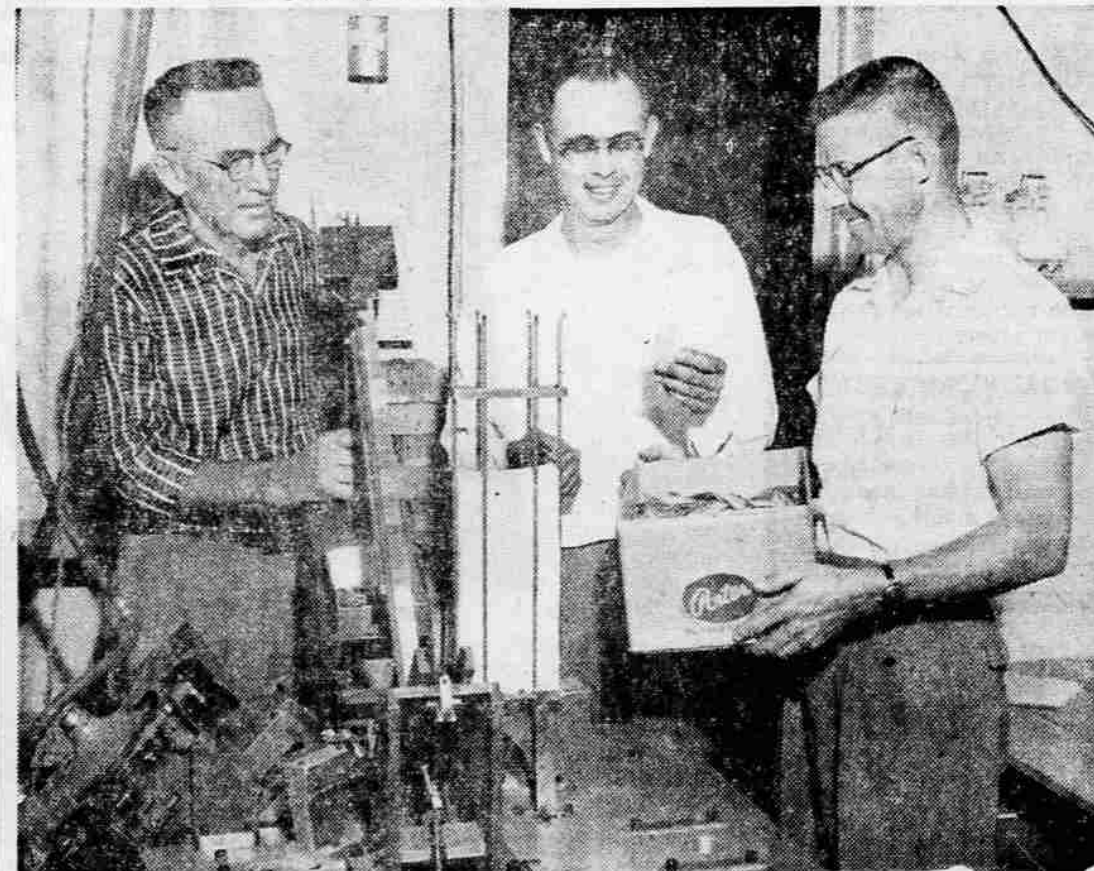
Working together, the group soon had endorsement from the centennial commission, the executive committee of the Oregon Jaycees, the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Ashland Chamber of Commerce as well as the Medford and Ashland Jaycees.

Other Junior chambers of commerce in the state were contacted and they agreed to help sell Pik Paks to Oregon merchants. The final step was to arrange for distribution by Jaycees throughout the United States.

The Pik Paks will be put out in hotels, motels, restaurants, service clubs and tourist information centers, and the novelty of the packets is bound to draw the attention of millions of people, Wright said.



TOOTHPICK SAW—The machine being demonstrated above by Pik Pak Employee Lisle Tame is the device that saws the laminated madrone stock into sections of containing five toothpicks, which will be stapled into the folder after a curing period. The machine was designed by Wright himself after engineers in the east gave up the job. Directors of the company include M. L. Wright, president; A. E. Eitemiller, vice president; Edward Branchfield, secretary-treasurer, and Guy E. Clark and Forest Cahill.



INSPECT SAMPLES—Above, Art Van Leeuwen, president of the Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce (right) and Don Carlson, chairman of the Centennial Pik Pak committee of the Jaycees, inspect a sample batch of Centennial Pik Paks as they come off the assembly machine at the factory south of Medford. About 20 million of the toothpick folders, which will advertise the 1959 Oregon Centennial, will be distributed by Jaycee organizations throughout the nation during the coming year. Operator of the machine, left, is Pik Pak Employee Lisle Tame.

Jaycees to Distribute Locally Made Product Throughout U.S.

By BOB VROMAN
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Ever since the idea was conceived of putting toothpicks in a folder like book matches to carry an advertising message and the Pik Pak company, located south of Medford, was formed, directors of the firm have looked forward to the day when their product would have nationwide distribution.

Now, almost out of the blue, their hopes are due, and a lot quicker than any of them thought possible.

During the coming year, through the efforts of Junior Chamber of Commerce organizations all over the country, some 20 million Pik Paks will be distributed nationally to publicize the 1959 Oregon Centennial exposition and Trade Fair in Portland.

Recreational Facilities

The Pik Paks will boost Oregon's recreational facilities and help draw people to the state during the coming tourist season as well as to the centennial exposition next year. On the outside cover will be the official Oregon centennial seal, the use of which was recently sanctioned by the centennial board, and on the inside will be advertising for particular areas in Oregon.

According to M. L. (Doc) Wright, president of Pik Pak, such widespread distribution of the product would not be possible without the help of an organization like the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which has worked with him on the idea from the beginning.

The plan took shape in Medford when Jennings Pierce, a member of the Centennial promotion committee, presented the Centennial Pik Pak idea to the promotion committee in Portland. A meeting was held with Don Carlson, Art Van Leeuwen and Hal Gardiner of the Medford Jaycees, who, together with Wright and Pierce, planned the "merchandising" of Centennial Pik Pak.

Commission Endorsement

Working together, the group soon had endorsement from the centennial commission, the executive committee of the Oregon Jaycees, the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Ashland Chamber of Commerce as well as the Medford and Ashland Jaycees.

Other Junior chambers of commerce in the state were contacted and they agreed to help sell Pik Paks to Oregon merchants. The final step was to arrange for distribution by Jaycees throughout the United States.

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Besides helping to bring tourist dollars to Oregon, the large order will be of particular benefit to the Rogue valley by giving one of its industries a "shot in the arm." The widespread distribution of the centennial Pik Pak may bring in future orders that will aid substantially in the growth of the company, Wright said.

Native Oregon Wood

The toothpicks themselves are made of the native Oregon wood, madrone, which is fine-grained, and "works" perfectly in the special machines designed for the job. After extensive experimenting, it was found that the trees growing at high altitudes and on the northern slopes made the best picks.

According to Wright, if an order for 20 million Pik Paks had come in six months ago it would have been impossible for the plant to turn them out, for since 1954, when the plant was first set up, work has been going on constantly to perfect high-speed machinery that would mass-produce the units.



PIK PAK FOLDERS—The Oregon Centennial, which will be held in Portland in 1959, will get a boost from the estimated 20 million Pik Pak folders, like the ones shown above, that will be distributed throughout the United States during the coming year. Use of the official Oregon Centennial seal on the Pik Paks was recently approved by the centennial commission. Production will begin in June.

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Nine Rescued from Burning Freighter

Tokyo—Nine crewmen were rescued early Saturday from a burning Japanese freighter, but fate of 28 others aboard the ship was unknown.

The Japanese maritime safety agency said three of its patrol boats and a U.S. Navy LST were battling high seas in an attempt to rescue the other men.

The ship, the 2,200-ton Hosho Maru, caught fire late Friday about 60 miles west of southwest of Taishima Island in the Korea Straits.

wood strips into uniform segments, a barking machine, conveyor chutes, drying racks and other units necessary for fast production.

Other members of the firm also pitched in under "Doc's" leadership and after almost three years of constant mechanical "headaches," their problems were licked—except for getting the orders. Now even that problem has been solved, at least for a year, and already things are beginning to hum at the Pik Pak plant. The first of the centennial Pik Paks will be in production early in June.

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