

Capitol Memo

Oregon Boasts Park With 16 Acres of Meat-Eating Plants

Salem — (UPI) — Oregon can boast of a state park alive with plants that eat meat. On top of that, they look like Cobras.

The 16-acre park, actually a bog, is Darlingtonia Way-side, a few miles north of Florence in Douglas county just off U.S. Highway 101.

Its name is derived from the carnivorous plant Darlingtonia, also known as the pitcher plant, native to South-west Oregon. The park has hundreds of them.

They are greenish and red-spotted, along the lines of the Venus fly trap, devouring flies, bees and other insects that blunder into the dome-shaped, leafy "mouth," lured by a sweet fluid.

Must for Tourists

Although not the best spot to toss down a picnic lunch, the Wayside is a must for tourists aiming for the off-beat.

"Those who stop are fascinated," says C. H. Armstrong, Oregon Parks superintendent. He adds: "They don't stay too long."

But if Darlingtonia Wayside is on the botanical side, Oregon has 173 other state parks lush in every green, blue and brown hue Mother Nature has to offer. In sheer numbers, this is more than either of her coast neighbors, California and Washington.

Last year Oregon set a record for state park attendance, 10,291,000. Armstrong expects "at least 11 million visitors this season, a new mark."

Yaquina Leads Pack

Yaquina Bay State Park at Newport leads the pack, drawing close to a million visitors each year. The 1959 figure was 828,810. Honeyman State Park south of Florence has the most overnight campers—73,976 in 1959 with a total of 308,000 visitors.

Swimmers flock to Rooster Rock along the Columbia river east of Portland, 336,000 of them last season.

Oregon's biggest state park is Silver Falls, near Silverton, with 8,259 acres. The tiniest is Dyer Park in Gilliam county 15 miles from Condon, six-tenths of an acre.

Lincoln county has more state parks than any other county, 22, and four counties, Morrow, Harney, Grant and Clackamas, have none.

Umpqua Gets Help

The State Parks Division is pouring the most money this year into Umpqua Light-house State Park west of Reedsport. The \$61,000 expenditure is for general im-

International Is Low for Trucks

International Harvester company, 2232 Biddle road, was awarded the contract for two cabs and chassis and two dump truck units for the county roads department, the county court has announced.

International Harvester was the lowest of five bidders meeting specifications, the county court said. Bid price on the two cabs and chassis units was \$10,925.14 and \$21,244.80 for the two dump truck units. International Harvester and Witham Parts and Equipment company, Fifth st. and Riverside ave., were the only two companies who submitted bid bonds and were the two lowest bidders, the county court noted.

Other companies who bid were Dean and Taylor Pontiac company, Jerry Olson Mac Truck Sales and Hauptert Tractor company, all of Medford.

County Judge Earl Miller noted that other dealers had complained that the specifications issued by the county engineer's office made it impossible for them to bid. However, trucks meeting those specifications are needed for the job to be done, Miller explained.

The county court also agreed that County Engineer Robert J. Carstensen should bear in mind what all the truck dealers have to sell when issuing specifications for trucks next time. County Commissioner Ralph James said that too liberal specifications may force the county to take something it did not want.

Toughest Opposition to Dunes Park Is From Forest Service

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune
Washington Correspondent
Gardiner, Ore. — (Special)

The toughest opposition to the creation of the Oregon Dunes National Seashore park in this area is coming from the U.S. forest service, rather than a vocal group at Florence.

That is the belief of William M. Tugman of the Oregon State Parks Advisory committee, who is a strong advocate of

the seashore concept which is being promoted by the national park service and conservation organizations.

The forest service has already indicated its opposition in reports to Congress on seashore legislation introduced by Oregon Rep. Charles O. Porter and the late Sen. Richard L. Neuberger. It does not want to give up the jurisdiction it now has over much of the federal property which would be embraced by the seashore park.

Recalls Fight

Tugman recalled the bitter fight between the forest service and the national park service back in the Thirties.

Harold Ickes, then interior secretary, gave the rival forest service (which is in the agriculture department) a bad beating on the Olympic peninsula.

In that far northwest corner of Washington State, the forest service had jurisdiction over much of the heavily forested land. Ickes convinced President Roosevelt it would make a good national park, and the battle was on. As in the case of the Oregon Dunes seashore proposal, Congress was required to pass legislation authorizing Olympic National park. The bill was finally enacted in the late Thirties.

Old timers in the forest service, some of them now in high positions, have not forgotten that they lost that fight, Tugman said in an interview, and they are determined not to lose this one.

Backstage Pulling

The forest service, with many friends in Congress, is regarded as effective in the backstage pulling and hauling that goes on in Washington on any controversial legislation. But so is the national park service.

A surface indicator of the undiminished forest service opposition to the park came last week when Ervin Peterson, assistant secretary of

agriculture, cheered the opposition forces at Florence with a prediction that the Eisenhower Administration would not back the seashore bill.

The Administration, however, is now on the side of the park service. Not only has Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton been permitted by the White House to advocate approval of three seashore parks—at Cape Cod, Mass., Padre Island, Texas, and the Oregon Dunes—but President Eisenhower himself made a recommendation to Congress in behalf of seashore legislation in his annual budget message in January.

Tugman, veteran of many a successful public service battle in his years as a newspaper editor, is convinced that a national seashore would be highly beneficial to the scenic appearance of this area and its future economy. He deplores the shabby appearance of much of the exploited private property along the coast highway between Florence and Reedsport, in sharp contrast to the scenic beauty of Honeyman State park.

The trouble with forest service jurisdiction over the federal lands here, even if they were developed for public recreation purposes, is

that the forest service doesn't administer its recreation grounds adequately, Tugman maintained.

"The state of Oregon does a much better job than the forest service," declared Tugman.

He explained that the state keeps resident park supervisors to operate and protect its parks against destruction, while the forest service tends to let its facilities deteriorate because of inadequate supervision.

The forest service is chiefly a timber management agency, supervising sustained-yield logging in the national forests. The national park service, like the state park board, has one chief function—to create and operate recreation areas.

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