

# Lake County Examiner

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## LAKE COUNTY WONDERS.

### Rim Rocks, Moving Lake, Modern Dead Sea, Fossil Field and Salt and Borax Deposits.

Paul De Laney, in Portland Telegram.

While the extreme southern part of Lake county, Oregon, especially that part bordering her great inland sea—Goose Lake—is a typical garden spot, such as is found on all of the pure water courses of the country, the northern part of the county embraces a large territory lying in what is known as the desert, and within this territory is found wonders that will furnish food for thought for the scientist for years to come, and when they are thoroughly known to the outside world will draw a horde of tourists and students of science to them annually. The field is a virgin one as yet, only having been visited by the stockmen who have interests in the vicinity, and an occasional traveler who is hurrying from one business point to another. The fossil fields, the "moving lake," the modern Dead Sea, and the salt and borax deposits, the hot springs and natural artesian wells are possibly among the best of the wonders within this territory, but they are so prominent and many of them cover such a large section of the country they could not remain hidden from the most casual observer, and their remarkable appearance could not fail to attract the attention of the most disinterested student in the formations of nature.

The county's name doubtless originated from the number of large lakes in the county more than from the large number of lakes. Goose Lake, at the head of which is built the county seat town—Lakeview—is the largest, and its valley is the most important farming section in the county at present. While only about 16 miles of the lake lies in Lake county, it is about 40 miles long and ranges from two to five miles in width, and the larger portion lies in Modoc county, California. Then comes Summer Lake, Silver Lake, South and North Warner, all large and beautiful lakes, but they are commonly known, their valleys thickly settled and their description not included as a part of this story. It is practically the unknown, the unwritten, that the public is most interested in.

#### Rim-Rocks.

Few people realize the beauty and grandeur of the rim-rocks of Eastern Oregon, and Lake county has her share of these. In fact, many people do not know what they look like, and some do not even know what the word means. A correspondent to a leading paper of the state was horrified to see the name of these rocks, where he had referred to them, changed to "round-rocks" by the managing editor.

Throughout Eastern Oregon, and especially in what is known as the "desert" country, these rim-rocks are prominent features. The country is a succession of level plains, varying in width and length from a few miles to more than a hundred. These plains are often spoken of as plateaus from their high elevation above sea level; in fact, they are nothing more nor less than a succession of basins, in many cases resembling crater beds, for they lie among the mountain tops, only lower than the snow-capped peaks that have to be ascended from almost every point to reach them, and the tall rim-rocks that tower immediately above them. These plateaus or basins are separated by the rim-rocks and along one side or the other of the large lakes tower from a few feet to hundreds of feet in the air. The walls of these rocks are perfectly perpendicular, often possessing the appearance of having been constructed by skilled human hands. Layer upon layer of smooth rocks lie upon one another with the joints broken as carefully as modern masonry work, with pillars now and then many feet tall to support them on broader tables of rocks. These pillars, however, are close together and although possessing various sides, from a triangle to an octagon, they fit perfectly together. At the top of these walls broad level rocks lie, jutting out to several feet above the sides of the wall like the leaf of a table or the rim of a

hat. It is impossible to descend from the top of this rim down the wall or to ascend from below to the top of the rim-rock, except where the wall is broken by crevasses or gulches or canyons. Many of the small plains thus surrounded have been the scene of wholesale slaughter in the past. Indians used to find deer and antelope browsing in these basins and placing a guard at the only entrance or entrances, go among the animals and slaughter the entire band. The deadly way in which they used to fire upon immigrant trains from these rim-rocks is part of the history of the country.

#### Moving Lake and Fossil Beds.

A two days' drive from Silver Lake the entrance way to the main "desert," brings one to the greatest wonder on the Pacific Coast, possibly the greatest in the United States. Here is a rich fossil field covering hundreds of acres, in the midst of which is the wonderful "moving" lake. One does not see it move in fact, but the evidence is there to show that it moves, and there are men living in Lake county who can verify the fact that it is constantly on the move. Not only the water moves, but the lake changes its bed from time to time, and in the course of a few decades traverses considerable territory.

In this region there is a continuous exposure of sand beds. The sand is of the finest grains and is of an unknown depth. It is always dry, as it seems to never rain to amount to anything at this point, and what little rainfall there is in this section does not even dampen the dry sands, much less moisten the earth. At this point the wind blows a gale most of the time, and carries with it clouds of the sand. In a few days' time the wind shifts the sand until a point that was high last week is a deep hole or pit this week. Then the wind changes and blows from another direction for a few days, and thus shifts the surface of the earth at this point again. The lake which lies in these sand beds is necessarily compelled to change its bed continually. As the wind sweeps out a hole on the north side the water must follow; then it changes to the east, then south and then to the west, so that one can see where it has traveled about the desert for years, never getting far from home, it is true, but still it travels considerable distances for a lake. It is a mystery to all who visit this section why the lake never dries up in such a place. There seems to be no springs and there is no stream to feed it, and the rainfall is light, and being constantly on the move, one would think that it would be absorbed by the dry sands, but, within the knowledge of the first settlers of the country, this lake has never been dry and has neither grown larger or smaller.

But the greatest object of interest to the scientist in this section is the fossil beds. The entire sand-covered section is a fossil field. Animals for ages have come to this lake for water, and as the aged and sick ones have died they have been covered by the dry sands and their bodies preserved in such a state so long that they have become completely fossilized. And as they have followed the lake in its travels, the consequence is that the field is a large one. The inexperienced, who have picked up the petrified bones of these animals, find many the species of which is unknown to them, and it is said that species have been found here that puzzle and interest the few scientists who have seen them. They have been hauled away by the occasional visitors, and adorn many of the yards of distant ranchers, but the field is still full of them and the scientist may find work here for years to come.

#### Modern Dead Sea.

Abert Lake, commonly called the "Modern Dead Sea," is better known. It is 20 miles long, with an average width of from one to 10 miles and has a depth of from one foot to 75 feet. It lies in

the desert proper, with tall rim-rocks towering abruptly above its eastern shore, while its western shore is at the foot of a long range of rock and sagebrush-covered hills. Its walls are so impregnated with alkali and other minerals that nothing can live in it. It is fed by a small stream, called Chewaucan River, and a few other smaller streams, and has no outlet. Its waters stand and evaporate until it becomes thick and takes on a dark color and is death to every living thing. Chewaucan River, its principal feeder, is filled with fish. At the mouth of this stream there is a fall where fish that have ventured or fallen over these falls are there in evidence to show that nothing can live in Abert Lake. The shores of the lake at this point are composed of dead fish and fish bones. Tons of these bones could be gathered up, and at certain seasons of the year the shores are lined with fish in all stages of decomposition. When the fish first strikes the water of the lake it makes for the shore and tries to flounder out, and if it fails, hugs the shore as closely as possible, with its head out of the water, until it dies. The geese and ducks and other water fowls that abound in this section do not even light upon the lake, except at the mouth of fresh-water streams.

There is a mystery also connected with a wagon which lies at the bottom of this lake. At the foot of the rim-rocks at a point where they are several hundred feet high this wagon lies in several feet of water. It has been there for many years. It is believed that Indians murdered immigrants near this point in early days and threw the wagon from the rim-rocks above to conceal their crime.

#### Salt and Borax Deposit.

Near the headwaters of Warner Lake there are a succession of small lakes, not exceeding one mile in length or breadth. These lakes go dry in the summer, and when the water is all evaporated a layer of salt is left on the ground several inches in depth. The ranchers gather tons and tons of this salt annually, which they feed to their stock. In fact, no other salt is shipped into this vast section of country, except for table use. As a stock salt it is said to be of a superior quality.

The discovery of borax was an accident and the industry at this point has never been developed. A few years ago, when the lakes went dry one season, they failed to leave the salt deposit. The ranchers thought there must be a salt mine beneath, and as their stock was suffering for salt, proceeded to the place and began to dig for salt. Within a few feet they struck a white substance, but it was not salt. They took it to a blacksmith, who did splendid welding with it, and they afterwards learned that it was a fine grade of borax. No development has been made, however, to this date, although the borax there is practically inexhaustible, and it is worth from 6 to 9 cents per pound.

But these are only a few of the great wonders and virgin resources of Eastern Oregon.

#### A. P. Merritt.

A. P. Merritt, of Globe, Arizona, arrived here last Saturday, and Lakeview looks so good to him that he has concluded to locate. Mr. Merritt is an artist—a scenic and fancy sign painter—who left a good business in Globe to seek a more healthful and cooler climate. He has all the paraphernalia with him to do handsome work, and within the next week a sample of his ability will be seen on the windows of Whorton & Smith's club rooms. Every man in town takes an interest in the only building in the town where amusements can be held, and every man, woman and child in town is tired of looking at that old drop curtain in the opera house, that has greeted them with all its hideousness for years past, at every public entertainment. It is the intention of some of the business men to have Mr. Merritt paint a new drop curtain for the hall, and it is hoped that every business man in town will assist in the work. It is expected that we will have some splendid entertainments here during the winter months, and a new curtain, arranged artistically would certainly be a pleasing innovation. Mr. Merritt makes designs of all his work for patrons to choose from. The Examiner hopes he will find a lucrative trade here.

## HOT TIMES IN KANSAS.



It was so hot in Kansas that the corn was actually popping on the stalks.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

## "HALT! PASS OUT THE BOX"

### Lakeview-Ager Stage Held Up by Lone Highwayman at the Big Spring, Near Ager.

The Lakeview-Ager stage going west from Klamath Falls was held up by a lone highwayman at 10 o'clock a. m. on the 21st inst., at a point six miles from Ager. The masked robber told driver Tom Drews to halt and throw his mits skyward and then politely requested him to deliver Wells Fargo's express box and Uncle Sam's mail pouches. But one passenger, George Frame was on the stage, and he was not molested. The box and registered mail packages were found rifled about two hundred yards from the scene of the hold-up. The express agent at Ager reports that there was no money in the box. The contents of the registered mail is not yet known.

The robber wore a calico mask and had a couple of hours start of the officers in pursuit. The Sheriff and posse were still on the trail at last reports, and they believe firmly that they know their man. The place where the stage was stopped is near the big spring at a high bluff on a curve in the road, about a quarter of a mile from McClintock's, the stage having been waylaid at the same place on a former occasion. The highwayman followed the example of Winters in the Selby Smelting Works steal, and sprinkled red pepper all over the ground and vicinity, so that dogs could not scent his trail. The notorious crooks by this means, can evade any pursuit by hounds of any kind, even blood hounds.

Oliver W. Goodale, ex-supervisor of Siskiyou county, a native of New York state and a resident of Siskiyou county since its first settlement, died a few days ago at his home in Scott Valley, aged 70 years. He was an upright, industrious and substantial farmer, highly respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He leaves a grown up son, A. H. Goodale, at the ranch, and a daughter, Mrs. B. F. Walker, to mourn his loss.

Drummer—It is pretty hard to get a drink in this town, isn't it? Landlord (Kansas hotel)—You bet! Why, you can't even work the snake bite racket any more unless you carry the snake to the drug-store and let him bite you in the presence of a committee!

## MANY LIVES LOST AT SEA

### Steamer Islander Goes Down at Douglas Island and Seventy People are Drowned.

One of the most appalling ocean disasters in the history of the Pacific Coast was reported last week by the steamer Queen, on arrival at Seattle from the north. The steamer Islander left Skagway August 14th and when near Douglas Island at 2 a. m. the following day, running at full speed, struck a floating iceberg and in twenty minutes went out of sight, with all on board.

The Islander carried 108 passengers, and all were in bed when she struck. Word was soon passed that the steamer was doomed and a wild scramble for lifeboats ensued, many jumping overboard and attempting to swim to the shore, the distance being short. It was said by some that the captain was engaged in a drunken debauch with a crowd of miners who were coming out from the gold fields of the north with their wealth, and that he committed suicide when he found the craft was doomed. Others deny this.

A number of the passengers were rescued. One man was on his way home to Seattle under an assumed name in order to give his wife a glad surprise. He dropped immense wealth on the deck and told a friend to tell his wife goodbye. There were many heart-rending scenes. About seventy people were drowned, and \$300,000 in gold went down.

#### Mrs. B. B. Lyon Dead.

Just before going to press The Examiner learns of the death of Mrs. B. B. Lyon at her home near Willow Ranch, yesterday morning. Deceased has been an invalid for many months. The funeral will be held at New Pine Creek today, Thursday, at 10 a. m.

Attorney-General Ford is quoted as saying that information at hand in the matter of the Modoc lynchings, is sufficient to enable him to proceed to the trial of Eades, Brown and Leventon, now in jail. He says he has no doubt a conviction can be secured. The writ of intervention, by which it is intended to prevent Judge Harrington from trying the case, will be decided by the Supreme Court on September 2d, and then the trial will proceed.