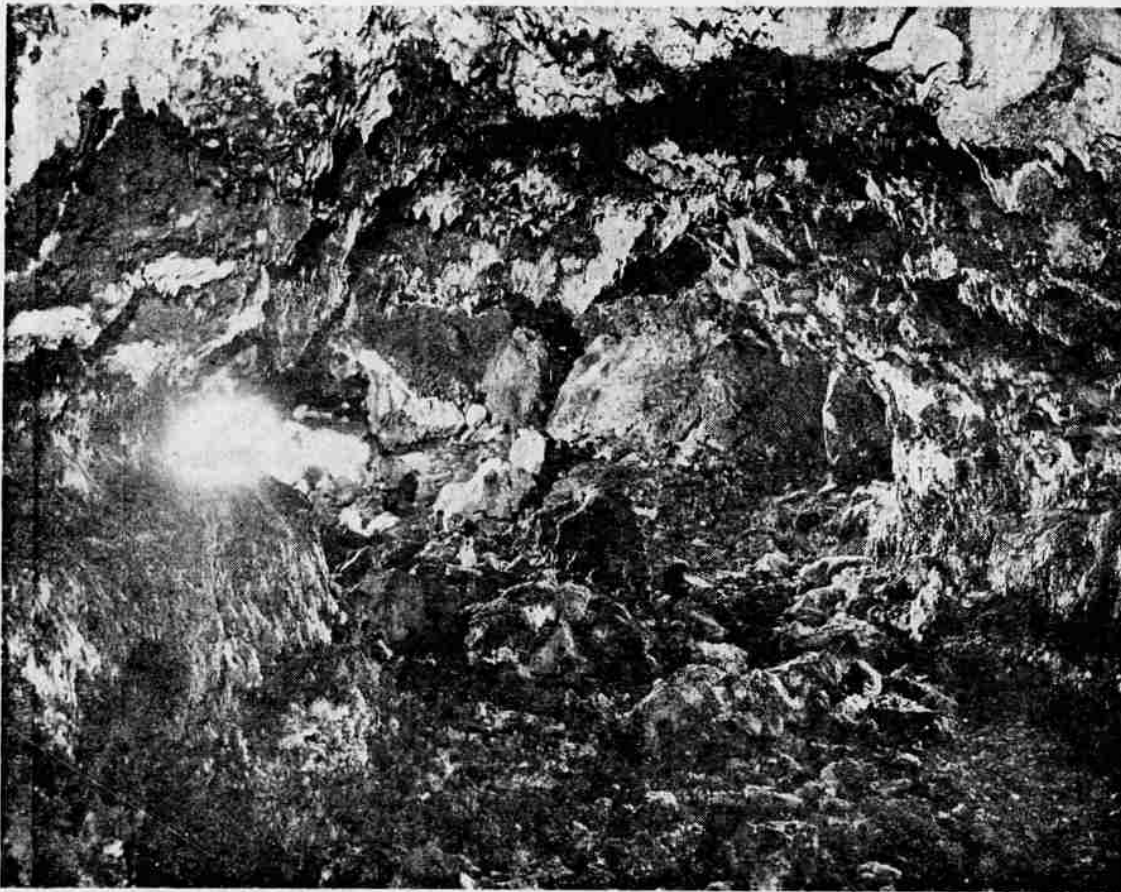


Lava Beds Tour Easy, Varied And Interesting



LABYRINTH CAVE is a good example of the underground wonders to be found at the Lava Beds National Monument. This picture, snapped by Herald and News photographer

Don Kettler, shows the cave with the light of a gas lantern glowing in the background.



RIMROCK COUNTRY on the way to the main entrance of the Lava Beds is exemplified in this picture taken just after turning off the state line road and on the way to the park.

Forty one miles south of Klamath Falls lies the 72-square-mile area of the Lava Beds National Monument, site of the famous battles of the Modoc War of 1872-73. But there is more to the site than mere battle scenes no matter how exciting historically they might be. Within the monument are to be found spectacular lava flowers, fumaroles, ice caves with floors composed of solidly frozen rivers, huge caverns with domed roofs and, in season, myriads of wildflowers. In addition to all this there are over 40 species of wildlife within the monument. Lying to the north and adjacent is the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge where in spring and fall hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese are to be seen.

Huge bands of deer roam the Devil's Homestead area in winter when they come out of the high hills in search of pasturing ground.

The trip is one well worth the time to make whether you are an "old-timer" in the country or a newcomer to the desert scene. While no eating or hotel facilities are available at the monument at present there is nearby Tulelake where these needs can be taken care of. At the monument there is a campground at Indian Well and a picnic ground located at Fleener Chimney.

The area was set aside by presidential proclamation in 1925 and was transferred to the National Park Service in 1933. Since that time the roads have been constantly improved and extended in order that more of the natural beauties of the place could be easily visited by tourists.

Most famous occurrence in the area, of course, was the Modoc War of 1872 which saw a handful of Indians holding at bay a huge force of United States troops in a last ditch fight. Taking advantage of the rough terrain, the natural trenches in the lava, the hidden springs and their knowledge of the country Captain Jack and his brave band of only 71 fighting men held on until the final defeat at Dry Lake on May 10, 1873. The old rifle pits are still standing, a few of them, and occasional relics of the war years turn up, buried under their dusty covering of rocks and weeds.

The scene of Captain Jack's Cave, reputedly filled with the arsenal and personal goods of the warriors, is still busily sought by the small fry as they scramble about in the lava flows.

Of more immediate interest are such items as Dragon's Head and Post Office caves, one of which is located in a chasm over one hundred feet deep. There is Valentine's Cave and its varying-lava flows. Skull Cave, so-called from the fact that scores of skulls of bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope killed by Indians in days gone by were found on the floor, has three levels, the roof soaring to 75 feet at the dome and the lower level made up of solid ice which never melts.

There are, too, the pictographs of Symbol Bridge, ancient art inscribed on the walls and preserved to this day.

It is an easy trip from Klamath with a choice of two routes. For those who are new to the area perhaps the most scenic route is to head south on US 97, cross over the state line road and swing into the monument around Petroglyph Point. A more direct route is to go through Merrill and turn off, right, just beyond that town.

The pictures accompanying this article give at least some idea of the various attractions to be seen.

YOUNG RUSTLERS

ALBERT LEA, Minn.—Cattle rustling is largely passe in this dairy and hog raising section of Minnesota. But, two teen-age boys admitted theft and sale of 40 hogs to a packinghouse for nearly \$1,100.