

History Shrouds Beautiful Area Of Fort Klamath

By ELIZABETH K. LOOSELY

The site of the town of Fort Klamath was once a part of the military bay reserve, and a rendezvous for the United States soldiers garrisoned at Fort Klamath 1853-1859.

The soldiers stationed at Fort Klamath needed outside interests and on land not military they had their baseball games, their horse races and foot races. It was on that portion of land just below where Joe's Motel now stands and back of the Hescoek residence that they had their baseball games, horse and foot races.

The Indians had good ponies and soon put on a spectacular show. (Now it would be called a rodeo.) Some of the soldiers as well as settlers had outstanding horses. Altamont was in this group; in fact, he became so famous that Altamont District in Klamath Falls was later named for him. Jay Beach was the owner.

Later one other horse, Tulare Chief, took all purses, even as far away as Alturas. His owner, a Mr. Jackson, an Indian, would leave him overnight uncurried and with his heavy saddle on, but at that he outdistanced all comers, including many thoroughbreds from around the San Francisco Bay Area. He once won a \$2,500 purse.

The valley had its cattle rustling days, its growin' pains, but escaped exploitation and gradually expanded until today some 20,000 head cattle and 10,000 sheep fatten here per season. The 200 million feet of timber from the west slope of the Cascades is being towed seven million feet out by tugboat down Upper Klamath

Lake, as well as one million by year, shipped by rail and then put a quietus on cattle rustling. More land has been cleared, leveled, reclaimed, irrigated, and the stock has increased materially. Much timbered area is used some leased especially in the "Marsh" — a stretch northeast of Fort Klamath. This makes excellent sheep range for the Red Bluff and Cottonwood people who move in come summer to run about 10,000 head of sheep.

At one time in its development cattle thieves used to make inroads on the fattened stock. But it was tried once too often — the stockmen learning of the vigilantes — with an accompany. The McAuliffes, John P., Joe Pat, and the two sons of Pat, who move in come summer to run about 10,000 head of sheep. The McAuliffes, John P., Joe Pat, and the two sons of Pat, who move in come summer to run about 10,000 head of sheep.



THE BEAUTIFUL STRETCH of country in the Wood River Valley is shown in this photograph taken at the head of Wood River. The Jackson Kimball Memorial Park is located here. It's the spot of the annual Oldtimers picnic and a scenic wonderland that lures tourists and artists to its beauty and serenity.

Old Logging Equipment In Collier Park Display

By RUTH KING

Visits to Collier Memorial Park in Southern Oregon, located on U.S. Highway 97, about 20 miles north of Klamath Falls, can turn back the pages of logging history to those days in Northern California and Southern Oregon when straining oxen and sweating horses and the "stinger-tongue" logging wheels 12 feet high were standard equipment in the great stands of virgin timber of the West Coast.

Here in the whispering pines, beside tumbling, scold Spring Creek, against a backdrop of the mountains is one of the most unique museums in the U.S., unique for two reasons. Collier Park is the only state park in Oregon located within the perimeter of an Indian Reservation, and it is the site of the probably the largest museum collection of obsolete logging equipment in the United States.

The park is the brainchild of Alfred "Cap" Collier, who with his brother, Andrew, gave the park site to the state and dedicated it to their father, Charles Morse Collier, a pioneer surveyor and engineer, and to their mother, Janet, who was instrumental in establishing the University of Oregon. The state made the museum a state park in 1947. Cap Collier grew up in the rough and tumble atmosphere of early day logging when "men put out more than they got," and the oldtime logger was as rugged as the trees he felled. . . . when horses and sweating men and steam equipment worked the logs out of the camps. He worked as a surveyor, worked in the camps as a cruiser, a log scaler and a logger and now owns a moulding plant in Klamath Falls.

From his lifelong kinship to the lumbering industry grew the plan to create a spot where those who visit Oregon could climb aboard an 1886 donkey engine, a wagny load of logs, test the teeth of an early day drag saw, rattle a survivor's chain and almost feel the heat from a blacksmith's forge.

Beneath shake-roofed open sheds and in adjacent acres Collier has collected hundreds of pieces of equipment, lead bars and equalizers used in skidding with a cross-tail team, an old power trip-hammer used in the Weed area, a sled that was used for winter hauling when snow lay deep, an assortment of logging wheels from the earliest to the most recent.

There are logging trucks with solid wheels, made from crossed slices of logs and packed in rock salt to cure. These were runned with iron, and worked as they dried.

There are fleets of wagons and a portable sawmill that will actually turn out rough lumber; there is a nest of axes used more than half a hundred years ago and mementoes of the McCloud River Lumber Company in the sugar pine country in Northern California.

The oldest exhibit of equipment in the museum is a "J.C." — a Case's early clear-bowl steam engine vintage of 1872.

The museum, provided with a caretaker and guide who knows the lingo of the woods and the use of each of the articles collected there, is centered in a picnic spot of acres of green lawn that is a favorite for weekend picnicking or acting, complete with a fisherman's paradise of adjacent Spring Creek.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 persons per year visit this beautiful spot on U.S. 97 north of Klamath Falls.

Additional pieces of logging equipment have been added to this exhibit in the years since 1947 when it was first established.

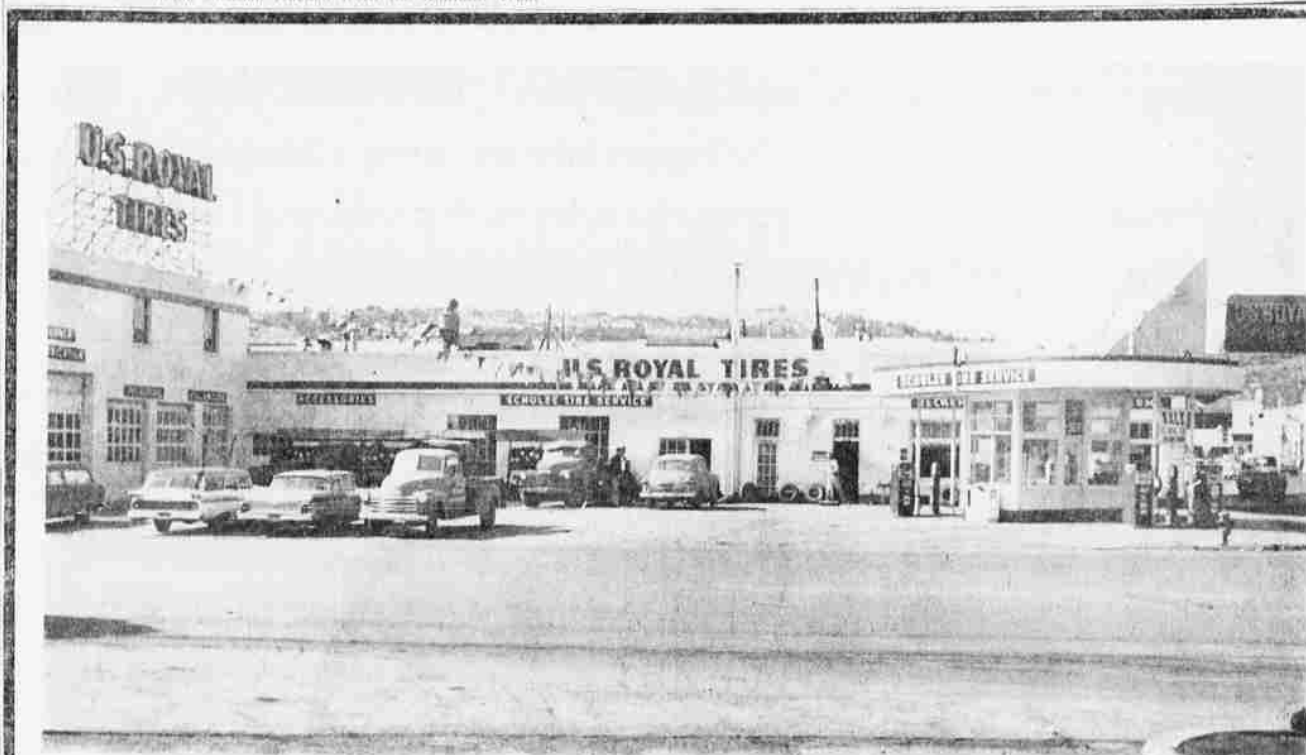
The park area, 146 acres, was formally deeded to the State of Oregon on December 26, 1943, by Alfred D. Collier and his brother, A. M. Collier, both of Klamath Falls.

Today, 16 years later, they find their gift is providing a treasure trove of the logging era of true men amid the forests.

Fort Klamath — surrounded by Hatchery, one of the largest in other points of interest as: Marcus Egg Springs (containing an all-gas found mostly in China. Pinacles on both Highway 82 and 103. Seven Lakes — rugged scenery unsurpassed fishing. Mt. McLaughlin Agency. Battle Lookout affording a panorama with Mt. Shasta in the picture to the far south.

Another point of interest is the Jackson Kimball Memorial Park at the head of Wood River. The water comes up without fuss or furor, no bubbles, no eddies and moves off placidly to be augmented by more quiet moving bluish-glass-clear water. Here mountainside trees and shrubbery are collected as in a museum — even a single stock of grass is donated. Fishing is good especially at sundown when the rainbow are jumping for food.

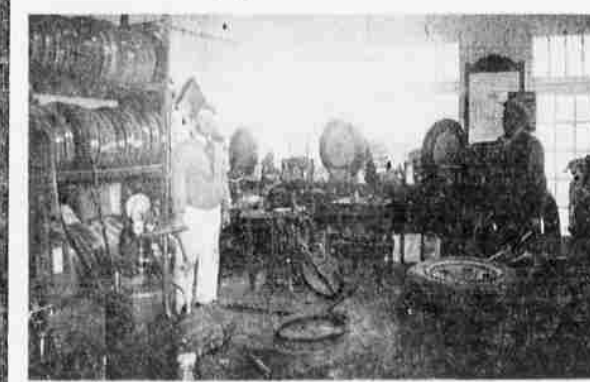
Not only for its local attraction but for its unique location. The park is the brainchild of Alfred "Cap" Collier, who with his brother, Andrew, gave the park site to the state and dedicated it to their father, Charles Morse Collier, a pioneer surveyor and engineer, and to their mother, Janet, who was instrumental in establishing the University of Oregon. The state made the museum a state park in 1947. Cap Collier grew up in the rough and tumble atmosphere of early day logging when "men put out more than they got," and the oldtime logger was as rugged as the trees he felled. . . . when horses and sweating men and steam equipment worked the logs out of the camps. He worked as a surveyor, worked in the camps as a cruiser, a log scaler and a logger and now owns a moulding plant in Klamath Falls.



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JACK H. SCHULZE

The picture at the left is our first shop as it looked in the 30's. It was located right here at our present location . . . and, looking it over, brings back to mind many incidences . . . and people . . . that made our "growing" interesting . . . and fun! Jack H. Schulze (left)



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HERE IS A CLOSEUP view of one of the plaques taken from the trees on exhibit at Collier State Park. This Ponderosa Pine was born in 1449. The park was donated by Alfred and Andy Collier in memory of their father and mother in 1945.



THE MUSEUM EXHIBIT includes a number of huge logs with explanatory plaques on them, giving the approximate date of the tree and some facts about its background. The park features an extensive exhibit of logging equipment, and constitutes one of the finest logging displays in the western United States.



THIS IS A VIEW looking through one of the shake-covered open-sided shelters that cover some of the logging equipment at the unique Collier State Park Logging Museum north of Klamath Falls on U.S. Highway 97.