

Mystery Mist Impressed Early Day Klamath Lake Visitors

(Continued from Page 1)

state legislator, and his partners from Dixon Hall.

The first of the homesteads to be passed by the tourist traveling west is marked by a stone fence which served to confine livestock. The highway leads over a saddle and into a long flat valley which was once part of the lands owned by the other homesteader.

Near the Geary Ranch maintenance shops are a grove of eight apple trees which still bear fruit more than 80 years after they were planted by the original owner.

THE MISNAMED BAY

Four miles farther along the highway is Howard's Bay, which in recent years has become known as Wocus Bay because, it is said, an errant mapmaker inscribed that name on one of his productions. The name, similar to that of a finger-shaped bay in Klamath Marsh, apparently stuck.

Howard's Bay is a popular spot for fishermen, and along its shoreline is one of the few public boat launching sites on the lake.

The road abruptly leaves the lake and ascends a moderate slope along Doak Mountain. About two miles from Howard's Bay,

the highway crosses the summit, and far below, to the right, looms the northern portion of Klamath Lake, centered before some lofty peaks of the Cascade Range, including the once towering Mt. Mazama which blew its top, and in the crater that remained formed the cradle for fabulous Crater Lake.

WILDERNESS LAKES

To the left of the pass, across a verdant valley fed by Denny Creek, are Mt. Carmine and Aspen Butte (alt. 8209) which cradles part of the Mountain Lakes Wilderness Area between their slopes, including Harriet, Como, and Eb and Zeb lakes.

Entrance into the wild area is via one of two trails, the first which starts from the Denny Creek road and goes east, while the other begins at the Varney Creek Trail, near Rocky Point, and provides access into the region from the west.

From the latter trail, Como and Eb and Zeb lakes are nearly five miles from the end of the Varney Creek road over a moderately steep trail. Harriet Lake is approximately another four miles beyond Como Lake.

The high mountain waters provide excellent trout fishing for

the early season angler who is hardy and willing to endure low temperatures and the rigors of a long hike.

At the summit of Doak Mountain, the highest peak on the skyline is Mt. McLoughlin (alt. 9,493), once known as Mt. Pitt, an extinct volcano in the southern Cascade Range. Mt. McLoughlin's lofty pinnacle was once the site of a fire lookout station that was manned by a hearty forester who left the lookout only to pack in his own food and supplies. One year the forester died and soon after the lookout tower was struck by lightning and destroyed in the fire that followed. The station was never replaced.

EAGLE RIDGE

From the pass, the highway descends about one mile to the base of Doak Mountain and from that point the rest of the journey around the lake is over land either flat or gently rolling. At the bottom of the summit and to the right is a dirt road leading to Eagle Ridge, once the site of the Eagle Ridge Tavern and Lodge which were destroyed by fire. Inaccessible by road, the lodge was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Griffith and received frequent visits from tourists who

came by steamboat when those crafts were the means of travel on the lake. The Griffiths later sold the resort to the Copco Company, which possessed the historic landmark when it was consumed by fire. The land was once the site of a cattle ranch owned by W. R. Alexander, who established one of the first Angus herds introduced in Oregon.

In prehistoric times, Eagle Ridge was a weather station to local Indians who placed religious significance in a peculiar boulder there known as "Chimney Rock."

Legend indicates that Indians determined the weather by listening to the sound of the wind as it passed through openings in the rock.

About one and one-half miles beyond the turnoff to Eagle Ridge is a stone monument proclaiming that three men of John C. Fremont's exploration party of 1846 were killed by Indians while the explorers were camped in the area.

Denny Creek (now known as Rocky Creek), which flows through a meadow nearby, was named in honor of one of the victims.

The site of the massacre is four miles west of the stone monument and was marked by a rock fountain which had been constructed in memory of the incident. The monument was originally placed near the historic site but was moved to its present location when vandals destroyed the fountain.

Chronicles report that two of Fremont's party were killed by arrows (one was struck five times) in the night attack by Klamath Indians. The other victim succumbed to a blow on the head from an ax-wielding Indian.

The sound of the ax striking the pathfinder awakened the members of Fremont's troops who jumped from their blankets and drove off the Indians. The Klamaths lost a chief in the brief battle.

Fremont later turned south where he and his followers took part in the Bear Flag revolt which freed California from Mexico, making the nation's most populous state a republic. Soon after it was annexed to the United States as a territory and became a state in 1850.

TRADING POST STILL STANDS

The dirt road that bears south from the monument leads to Denny Creek and Aspen Lake, a shallow, marshy body of water that produces good catches of catfish.

One-half mile beyond the Denny Creek road on the main highway is the first of two turnoffs to the Wilderness Lakes Trail and the Mountain Creek Trail.

Two and one-half miles farther along the highway now fringed by a young forest of evergreens is the east boundary of the Winema Forest, an area of 913,444 acres which includes within its boundaries countless trout stocked lakes along Oregon's famed skyline trail, a bird and wildlife refuge, and Tomahawk Ski Bowl. Plans to construct another skiing facility at Pelican Butte, the nearest bluff north of Tomahawk, has been considered by the Klamath Falls Ski Club and is still under study by that group.

After entering the Winema Forest look to the right for a view of Odessa Creek which flows parallel to the highway.

At the turn of the century, Indians canoed across Klamath Lake and paddled up the creek to swap their furs at a trading post located at the headwaters of the stream.

The old hand-hewn log trading post still stands, although in ruins, under a grove of trees near the ranch house of A. E. "Mickey" Wampler, a nearly life-long resident of the area.

On the west side of the Wampler home is a huge foundation stone, the only remnant of the Odessa Hotel which stood at that point before it was ignominiously torn down some years ago.

A short distance east of the old hotel site is a pine tree which is believed to mark the grave of the mother of Dan Griffith, who operated the hotel and later established the lodge at Eagle Ridge.

COLDEST DAY ON RECORD

One of a number of diaries kept by Wampler reveals that the lowest temperature on record at Odessa occurred Feb. 10, 1930 when the mercury fell to 31 degrees below zero. During a four-day period the temperature never rose higher than 29 below.

One and a half miles past the Wampler Ranch is the fishing resort of Odessa Marina; a short distance beyond the establishment is the Odessa Cafe, a grocery, and a service station.

Except for Rocky Point and Harriman Lodge, Odessa is the last place tourists may obtain refreshments and gasoline before arriving in Fort Klamath, on the north side of the lake about 25 miles away.

Two miles past Odessa is Rocky Point Junction, located near the base of the Tomahawk Ski Bowl. The road to the left ascends to Lake of the Woods while the other road continues around the

lake along the route of the present tour.

The truck scales near the junction mark a portion of an old dirt road which linked Klamath Falls with Rocky Point, via Round Lake, Aspen Lake and Long Lake.

In the early days, tourists traveling in horse drawn wagons negotiated the 38 miles of dusty road in 18 hours, compared to their modern counterparts who tour nearly the same distance in less than an hour in automobiles over asphalt highways.

About a mile from the junction, the highway is intersected by a dirt road leading to Pelican Butte Lookout, Horse Creek and Cold Springs. The latter point, terminus of the road, is the start of the 3½-mile forest service trail to Heavenly Twins Lakes, a popular haven for trout fishermen.

MECCA FOR TOURISTS

Another mile farther and the highway returns to the lake at Harriman Lodge, once the site of a mansion constructed for E. H. Harriman, an early day Eastern railroad magnate.

The seven-bedroom house stood for 60 years before it burned down in 1943. The property was originally homesteaded by a man named Lincoln, who sold it to Harriman. The land was later passed on to S. O. Johnson who invested about \$1 million constructing a number of cabins, cottages, a dormitory, and a dining room to accommodate 150 people in an attempt to develop the area into a mecca for tourists.

Johnson's ambitious plans ended forever when he filed bankruptcy in 1933.

The property was later acquired by the Klamath Development Co. in 1936, and in 1953 it came into possession of the present owners, Bob and Peggy Sloan.

In the days of the steamboats on Klamath Lake, paddle-wheelers such as The Fly, The Wasp, and The Winema stopped regularly at the lake front near the lodge.

A 25-pound rainbow trout was landed near the lodge by a Dr. Sykes in 1930 and represented the largest of that species to be caught until 1950, when a rainbow of a similar weight was taken at the mouth of Odessa Creek.

LEGEND OF LOST GOLD

The asphalt highway ends at the lodge and the remaining distance to Fort Klamath is over rock and gravel surfaced road, mostly rock (and large ones) for the first few miles of the journey.

The two-lane road departs from the lake shore and winds several miles under cover of tall trees to Malone Springs, a natural spring marked by the forest service.

At one point along the route, the road ascends upon a clearing near the top of a hill and available to the viewer is a breath-

taking panorama of the lily-padded, marshy region of the upper waters of Klamath Lake.

One mile past the springs is Rock Creek, the scene of an alleged early day battle between Indian placer miners and the story of buried gold.

A description of an area is not complete without a saga about a lost treasure.

One such tale concerns a kerosene lantern filled with gold which still lies buried at the base of a juniper tree near Rock Creek. The creek, which flows as a narrow thread of water during most seasons of the year, bisects the west side highway about seven miles from Rocky Point.

The legend is that a group of Caucasians and a Chinese were placer mining along Rock Creek when they learned that Indians had attacked other miners nearby. Hastily, they concealed their gold dust in a lantern and buried it beneath a juniper tree in event they were attacked.

The miners marked the location of the gold with three stones placed in a triangle at the base of the tree.

A short time later, the group was set upon by Indians and everyone, except the Oriental, perished in the ambush. The survivor was so terrified that he fled from the scene, never to return. On his deathbed years later, he related the story of the buried treasure which has yet to be uncovered.

The area near Rock Creek was originally settled by homesteaders but is now almost as it was when white men settled thereabout a half century ago.

MARES' EGGS

Within the next three miles, two creeks that provide fishermen with good catches of trout early in the season bisect the highway.

The first is Crystal Creek, one mile north of Rock Creek, and the other is Cherry Creek, located two miles farther along the road on a ranch with the same name as the stream.

During the middle of summer an abundant supply of water flows from the west and passes under the highway bridge only to disappear underground several hundred yards from the road.

Inquisitive summer tourists seeking the course of the stream should be fortified with insect repellent because hungry hordes of mosquitoes await them there at that time of year.

From 1863 through 1868, a small sawmill was operated by Fred Brown in the vicinity of Cherry Creek.

Large numbers of elk were observed in that region about the turn of the century but the later encroachment of civilization scattered the progenies of the herds into more wild areas to the west.

Approximately three miles farther along the highway, in the vi-

cinity of Three Mile Creek, is a forestry sign marking Mares' Eggs Spring, a natural phenomenon unique to Klamath County and several other parts of the world.

The spring is named for unicellular algae known scientifically as Nostoc, which are minute cells that join together in chain-like form and then break apart after reaching various lengths.

Each section forms a new chain and the process continues, with the chain finally breaking off to form yet another colony. Eggs, varying in size from a pin-head to that of a baseball, grow in the shallow spring approximately an acre in extent and four feet deep at its center. At that point eggs have grown into high piles.

The spring is clear and cold, originating from the melting snow near Crater Lake. Even on the warmest summer day, the spring is never higher than 40 degrees in temperature. Paracelsus, in the 16th century, gave Nostoc its name. It is also known as witches' butter, star jelly, and spittle of the stars but the name Mares' Eggs is believed to have been derived locally.

Many people believe that the springs is the only place in the county where the algae is found, but specimens have been observed at the head of the Wood River, Agency Spring, and Spring Creek.

HINGES SURVIVE FORT

Seven miles farther around the lake is Fort Klamath, a cattle and dairy community (population 170, altitude 4,150) located near the site of a U.S. Army Fort which was known by the same name. The fort, constructed in 1863, has since been dismantled and today no trace remains of the structure which offered protection to white settlers against Indian attack.

A pair of hinges, once affixed to the doors of the stockade at the fort, now serve to swing a pair of double doors at a service station operated by Gus Page and located near the Old Fort Klamath Hotel. The hotel was constructed in the late 1890s and is one of the few remaining buildings in the county that provide a link to Oregon's exciting and colorful past.

The road through Fort Klamath is designated Highway 82. East of the community near the highway is Wood River, a meandering, transparent river noted for its trout fishing and bird hunting. A few miles farther, at the junction of Highway 82 and the road to Collier Park, is a museum operated by Lefty Wild Eagle, a Karok Indian. The private museum displays artifacts and Indian relics of periods before and after the coming of the white man.

Several miles past the junction

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WOODEN SPOKE WHEEL RECALLS RIGOROUS TIMES — A. E. "Mickey" Wampler, elder Odessa rancher, toys with the scars on a wooden wheel that was part of a horse-drawn wagon he drove as a youth hauling logs. Wampler raises hereabouts on some 3,000 acres in the Odessa area.

is Crooked Creek, a productive trout stream, on which the State Fish Hatchery is situated.

HOME OF INDIAN AGENCY

From the creek the highway bears south on the last leg of the circuitous route back to Klamath Falls. About two and one-half miles ahead and on the right is Agency, headquarters of the Chiloquin Ranger District and the location of an office of the Klamath Forest Protective Association.

The buildings now housing the staff of the ranger district were formerly the local quarters of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which administered to the Klamath Indian Tribe before it was disestablished by the Klamath Termination Act in 1960. The Agency was established in 1863 by Capt. O. C. Applegate who brought initial equipment for the office from Ashland by oxen-drawn wagons.

Near the site of the old headquarters is Agency Spring, the southernmost in a series of springs believed to flow underground from Crater Lake by way of the great escarpment named after the famous lake.

On the highway about 100 yards from Agency is the Chiloquin-Klamath Falls Junction. Both roads are about equal in distance to Klamath Falls—the one to the right skirts the eastern rim of the lake and connects with Highway 97 at Modoc Point, while the other flows into the same highway near Chiloquin.

In the hills about two miles northeast of Chiloquin is Cave Mountain, accessible by Sprague River Road, named for a cave on its south slope which was the abode for Indians during ancient times.

Much of the land bordering the northeast end of the lake is owned by the remaining members of the Klamath Indian Tribe and the Tulana Farms, Inc. The latter has title to about 13,000 acres while the tribe possesses more than 2,000 acres.

Railroad Stop

Chiloquin (population: 945 Altitude: 4,145), established in the 1920s as a railroad stop along the Southern Pacific route to Eugene, is located on the east banks of the Williamson River, one of the most notable trout fishing waters in the county.

The Williamson River, which begins its flow in the northern part of the county, drains the vast sepia-toned waters of the Klamath Marsh. Near Collier Park, about 10 miles north of Chiloquin, it joins the ice, transparent currents of Spring Creek.

The waters from the two sources flow side by side in the same channel, refusing to mix, with the crystal-like waters of Spring Creek flowing along the west bank and the brownish marsh water filling the east part of the river bed.

About a mile north of Chiloquin, the Williamson becomes one color.



HINGES FROM OLD FORT IN USE — A set of hinges used 100 years ago at Fort Klamath, a U.S. Army fortress abandoned in 1889, is in service at a gasoline station in a local community named after the old fort. Pointing to one of the hinges is Gus Page, operator of the service station located near the Fort Klamath Hotel, one of the more interesting historic landmarks remaining in the county. Page has indicated a willingness to donate the hinges to the Klamath County Museum if someone will replace them. The old fort and other points of interest in the vicinity of Upper Klamath Lake are the subjects of an article appearing in the feature section of today's newspaper. The article, one of a series of four to be published at various times in forthcoming Sunday editions, has been written to enhance the pleasure of visitors or local residents who will, at some time, take one or some of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce's four tours through the county. Other stories in the series will cover tours through the Sprague River area, Crater Lake and Lake of the Woods.



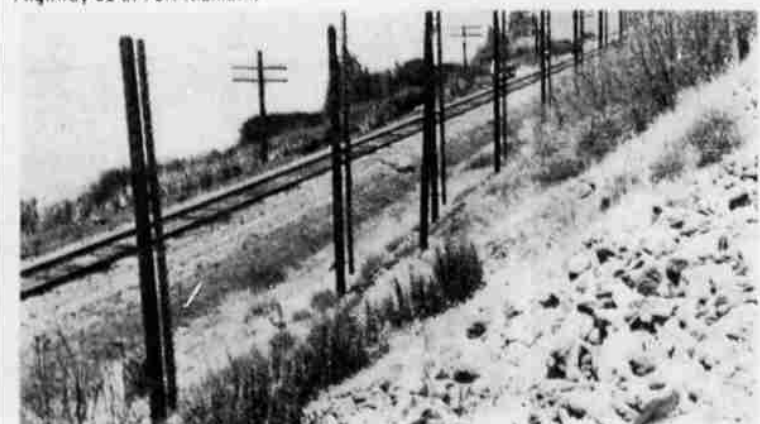
LAVA SUGGESTS VIOLENT ERA — Rock slides of hardened lava near Algoma attest to the prehistory of Klamath County when it was buffeted with showers of volcanic magma and ash. U.S. Highway 97 intersects the hills and the eastern rim of the lake.



ASPHALT RIBBON RIMS LAKE FRONT — Excellent two-lane asphalt highway meanders along the west shore of Upper Klamath Lake providing access to Lake of the Woods and Rocky Point. Funds have been allocated for improvement of the road which will one day be the principal route to Medford from Klamath Falls.



SWAMPLANDS FORM WATERFOWL REFUGE — A vista near Rocky Point offers a view of the marshy Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge and the deeper waters of Klamath Lake beyond. Highway 236 skirts the west side of the lake, connecting with Highway 62 at Fort Klamath.



STEEP HILLS DIP SLOPES INTO KLAMATH LAKE — A low range of hills, spewn with slides of lava rock, form their base in the bed of Upper Klamath Lake, near Modoc Point. The latter landmark is the low lying strip of land at the bottom of the last hill.

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