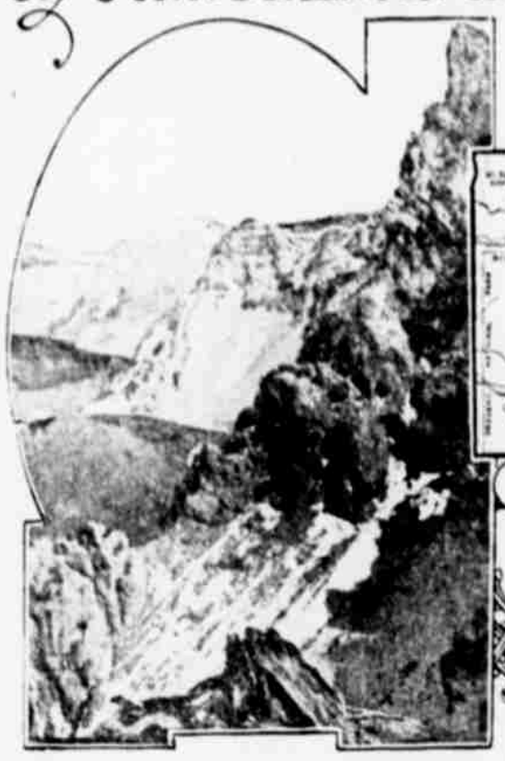
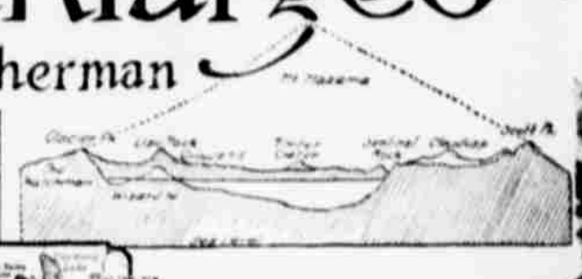
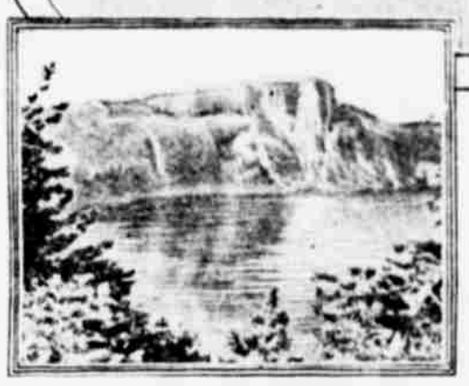
CRATER LAKE National Park To be Enlarged

by John Dickinson Sherman







CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK is to be enlarged—according to all indications. The senate passed the bill (S.2707) the other day without opposition. The house is likely to follow suit; at least no opposition to the project has made its appearance publicly. The national park service is supporting it. The area to be added is public domain. There is therefore no expense. The enlargement is scenically attractive, is naturally a part of the park and is needed for the comprehensive development of the public playground of which Crater Lake is the feature.

The small map given herewith has a broken line around the present park and the heavy continuous line shows the park as enlarged. The present park is approximately 13 miles east and west by 28 miles north and south and contains 249 square miles or 159,360 acres. The enlargement contains about 145 square miles or 92,800 acres. The park lies in Klamath county, in southwestern Oregon, about 60 miles from the California line. The nearest railroad points are Medford on the main line of the Southern Pacific, 84 miles to the southwest, Klamath Falls, 62 miles to the south on a branch line, and Kirk, 26 miles to the southeast on a branch line. The park lies on the crest of the Cascades and varies in elevation from 5,000 to 9,000 feet.

The addition is spoken of locally as the "Diamond lake region," because of the very attractive lake which is one of its features. This lake is about 5,000 feet above sea level and is about 5 by 2½ miles. From Crater lake to Diamond lake by trail is 18 miles. Diamond lake is comparatively shallow and warms up enough for comfortable bathing. On the east and south the shore is grassy, with a gradual slope to a pebbly beach. The lake is beautifully situated and altogether the location makes an ideal camping ground.

In this lies much of its desirability. Crater lake is a world marvel, but it is not entirely admirable as a camping ground. The camping ground is of course on the rim, a thousand feet or so above the water. And as a bathing lake it is out of the question, the temperature of its water being about 38 degrees all summer. And in addition the lake is more than 2,000 feet deep in places.

The Diamond lake region offers fine fishing also. To be sure, nobody could ask for finer trout than the rainbows in Crater lake. They run big; some of them scale ten pounds. And they are magnificent fighters; many experts hold that pound for pound the Crater lake rainbow is the hardest fighter of all the western trout. But fishing from the rocky, broken shore at the foot of the lake walls is often hard work. The best fishing is from a boat—and to some anglers this is comparatively no fun. They want to steal along a stream and find a pool and match wits with the big fellow that has preempted it and holds it against all comers.

And that's just the kind of fishing there is up around Diamond lake. Two creeks—Silent and Short—flow into Diamond lake at its south end. Two Bear creek flows into it from the north. Other trout streams are scattered over the addition.

All the roads into the present park come from the south. The enlargement will give the park a road from the north and direct connection with Bend and central Oregon points. In the future a connecting road to the wonderful Rim road around Crater lake would be a natural improvement; at present only a horse trail crosses the range, which thrusts through the enlargement and into the park like a huge wedge.

Right up in the very northeast corner of the enlargement is Howlock mountain (8,351 feet). To the east of Diamond lake is Mount Thielsen (9,178) and to the west is Mount Bailey (8,356). They are picturesque peaks and well worth ascending. All through the addition there is scenery worth while.

Crater lake attracted 16,645 visitors last summer and the attendance is increasing every year; in 1918 there were 13,231. So the enlargement is needed—to give more camping room, varied scenery and different trout fishing, among other things. The enlargement will offer additional attractions and make Crater Lake National park the kind of place where the visitor will want to stay all summer. In short, Greater Crater lake will be both show place and playground.

It is the plan of the national park service to give this playground aspect so far as possible to all of the national parks. Not all of them come by it naturally, and these are to be helped along by development.

Yellowstone, our oldest and most famous national park—the first national park in the world—never had been a success as a playground. The truth is it is a wonderhouse of freak scenery—geysers, boiling springs, volcanic curiosities and the Yellowstone Falls. Also it has its semi-domesticated bears and its wonderful big game. In the old days of the stage coach the regulation trip took five days. After that the tourist was ready to leave. And he seldom returned to see the park a second time. Now that the automobile has taken the place of the coach, the time of the regulation trip has been cut in two; otherwise the same conditions obtain. The Yellowstone attendance figures tell the story. In 1915, the attendance was 51,895; in 1916 it was 35,849; in 1917 it was 35,400; in 1918 it was 21,275; in 1919 it was 62,201. By way of contrast take the corresponding attendance at Rocky Mountain National park, which is a play ground park where people stay their entire vacation time and there are thousands of "regulars" who go every year: 31,000 and 51,000 and 117,186 and 101,407 and 169,862. Rocky mountain has no freak scenery, but its scenic magnificence wears well and a large proportion of its visitors regard it as their summer home.

In consequence the national park service is promoting the project of adding about a thousand square miles to the south end of Yellowstone, including the Teton range, Grand Teton, Mount Moran, Jackson lake and the Jackson Hole region and the headwaters of the Yellowstone. This addition will give the Yellowstone the kind of scenery it lacks. Moreover, plans for the farther development of the Yellowstone include large automobile camps, golf links, tennis courts and the encouragement of fishing, mountain climbing and riding. In short, the Yellowstone is to be made a playground sufficiently attractive to hold the tourist for a time and to induce him to return.

Another example of needed enlargement is Sequoia National park in California. This park was created in 1890 and contains 252 square miles. It was created largely for the purpose of preserving the Big Trees (Sequoia gigantea)—the biggest and oldest living things on the earth. The General Sherman tree, for example, is about 36 feet in diameter and is approximately 5,000 years old. Congress, with an eye to the big trees only, cut the park boundaries arbitrarily and left out a magnificently scenic area which lies contiguous. Features of this contiguous area are the canyons of the Kings and Kern rivers and the summit of Mount Whitney (14,501), the highest mountain in continental United States. It is now purposed to add about a thousand square miles of this contiguous area to Sequoia and to change its name to Roosevelt, making the enlarged park a national outdoor memorial to the dead statesman. Here again the public playground idea is the basic proposition.

No description can do justice to Crater lake itself. Uncle Sam, however, has done a good job under the circumstances in a booklet issued last season by the United States railroad administration. And this booklet says among other things:

All of our great national playgrounds have their distinctive beauties; each is different in great measure in the sublimity and attractiveness of its national grandeur, but Crater lake stands alone in this: that all likeness to any familiar landscape here ceases.

Other lands have their crater lakes—Italy, India and Hawaii—and there are some craters in this country that contain miniature lakes; but there is only one really great caldera of this kind in the world—still one immense basin apparently formed through the complete melting by intense heat of the entire core of a great volcanic and the falling in and over disappearance through subterranean caverns of its massive bulk.

The titanic convulsion that formed this remarkable beauty spot no human eye witnessed. Geologists have concluded that ages ago, in the great chain of volcanic mountain peaks which today extends from Washington to California—among them Mt. Rainier, Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, Mt. Jefferson, Three Sisters, Mt. McLoughlin, Mt. Shasta and Lassen Peak—there towered one, which has been called Mount Mazama, that may have topped the tallest of its fellows. Judging from the pitch of the remnants of its outer slopes scientists conclude with reasonable certainty that, if reconstructed, its snow-clad peak would rise from seven to eight thousand feet above its broken rim. Mazama stands today an uncrowned king, shorn of its diadem of burning gold and glittering silver, yet holding within its heart a treasure the rarest in the world—a beautiful lake, the deepest of all lakes, with waters the bluest of all blue waters. And this is Crater lake.

Crater lake is almost circular, varying from five to six miles in diameter. Its known depth is 2,000 feet and it is believed to be the deepest body of fresh water in the world. Its surface is 6,177 feet above the sea. It has no inlet or outlet, being fed by springs and winter snows; its water escapes by underground channels, reappearing as springs in the Klamath region, a few miles away. It is completely girdled by precipitous cliffs and steep talus slopes that fall sharply downward from its rim 2,000 to 600 feet to the water's edge. Closely encircling it rise many high peaks, notably Llao Rock, The Watchman, and Cloud Cap; also Glacier, Garfield and Vidae Peaks.

Surrounded by canyons, ravines and pinnacled rocks, and belted by a wilderness of boulder-strewn forests, the region for years was inaccessible, and unexplored except by the more venturesome who were attracted by stories of the Indians of this mystery lake in its fantastic setting. Yet its discovery was accidental; it occurred in 1853 while an expiring party was searching in the Cascade mountains for the famous Lost Cabin mine.

A dispute arose over the choice of a name, the party dividing between Mysterious lake and Deep Blue lake. The advocates of Deep Blue lake won the vote, but in 1869 a visiting party renamed it Crater lake, and this by natural right became its title.

The first sight of Crater lake is well-nigh bewildering. Unless looked into from the rim it is invisible. Wonderment at the height and steepness of its encircling cliffs succeeds the first astonishment; admiration of the loveliness of its coloring next enthralls the beholder in the sequence of impressions. Its unique beauty lies in no small measure in its coloring, the brilliance of which if reproduced in painting or print would seem exaggerated and impossible to those who have not seen the reality. Nowhere else is there such an azure. One feels that a glass of its water would show blue as if stained with cobalt, but it is clear as crystal and as pure. The deeper parts are a brilliant ultramarine, shading to turquoise in the shallower reaches, and to light jade green in the few indented coves around the shore. A hundred feet down the glaze of a plate is plainly discernible. The surroundings help the brilliance of the blue; the rocks are of metallic hues; the peaks of the rim are often snow covered; the lava gray of the steep scarred walls is mottled and splotched with bright yellows and reds, markings left by volcanic action long ago, and always there is the dark green of the pines and firs and shrubs that grow on these declivities wherever they find root-hold. The waters are usually placid, gleaming as though glazed by the sun, and in this mirror of Nature the reflections stand out with astounding distinctness.

The KITCHEN CABINET

As the uncouth oyster that lies beneath the deep
Within its rough and homely shell a precious pearl may keep;
As gems of precious value and veins of purest gold
May lie beneath the surface of a naked, bloomless mold—
So God oft hides a heart with the noblest traits endowed
In one to whom he hath no outward grace allowed.

—James Gardner.

A TEA-TIME CAKE OR TWO.

For those who practice serving afternoon tea, a few choice cakes and sandwiches are needed to accompany the refreshing beverage.

Oriental Tea Cakes.—Work one-fourth of a cup of shortening until creamy, add one cupful of brown sugar gradually, beating constantly. Dissolve one-eighth of a teaspoon of soda in one tablespoonful of water and add this to the first mixture; then add one-half teaspoon of vanilla and one cupful of flour. Mix it until it holds together well and leaves no crumbs in the bowl. If it separates add water a drop at a time until the mixture can be molded into small balls. Place the balls on buttered tins an inch and a half apart and bake in a quick oven until delicately browned. This recipe will make 40 cakes.

Ham Tomato Toast.—Take one-half tablespoonful of minced onion and one tablespoonful of minced green pepper, cook in two tablespoonfuls of butter, then add two tablespoonfuls of flour, a teaspoonful of sugar, a few dashes of pepper, one-half teaspoonful of salt, one-half cupful of minced ham, and a cupful of tomato puree. Serve on toast.

Almond Toast.—Mix five cupfuls of flour, one and one-half cupfuls of sugar, one-fourth of a cup of butter, one-half cupful of milk, one-half teaspoon of vanilla, four eggs, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, four tablespoonfuls of olive oil. Mix as usual, adding at the last one-fourth of a pound of split unblanched almonds. Knead lightly and well, using flour on the hands to keep from sticking. Form into three well greased bread pans and bake in a moderate oven until brown. Cut the loaves in half-inch slices and place them crosswise in a pan to brown; turn so that the sides will brown. Cool before packing away. These are excellent to serve with tea or coffee and will keep for weeks in a dry place.

Fudge Frosting.—Melt two ounces of chocolate over hot water. Add two cupfuls of sugar and one cupful of milk. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. When the boiling point is reached, beat vigorously and cook to the soft ball stage (236 F.). Remove from the fire, add a teaspoonful of butter and let stand until cold, then beat until creamy and spread on the cake. Fills of minced parsley.

Ruskin says: First feed people, then clothe and house people, then please them with art. The fundamental thing is to feed them. "As arrows travel on their stomachs," so an active brain must have a well-nourished body.

A COLLECTION OF GOOD THINGS.

For a spring dish which is especially good, cook together green peas, new potatoes and small green onions and new carrots; add a few slices of crisp fried bacon cut in bits and when the vegetables are cooked, season well and add milk. Serve hot.

Coleslaw.—Slice firm cabbage and put into a dish of cold water to crisp. Prepare the following for dressing: Take two well beaten eggs, half a cupful of sour cream and cook over water until thick, take from the fire and add two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, half a teaspoonful of salt and a dash of cayenne. When cold mix with the cabbage which has been well drained and dried on a cloth.

Fruit Drop Cakes.—Cream two-thirds of a cupful of butter or any sweet fat, add one cupful of brown sugar, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-third of a cupful each of currants and raisins cut fine, two-thirds of a cupful of chopped walnuts, two well beaten eggs, a half teaspoonful of vanilla, one pint of flour and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Drop by spoonfuls on baking sheets. Bake in a moderate oven.

Coffee Caramels.—Put a pound of dark brown sugar into a saucepan, add one cupful of clear strong coffee, one-half cupful of cream and one tablespoonful of butter. Cook until it snaps when dropped in cold water. Pour into greased tins and mark in squares, as it cools.

Velvet Sherbet.—Mix the juice of three lemons, one and one-half cupfuls of sugar and stir until dissolved; add four cupfuls of rich milk and freeze. It may look curdled, but when frozen it will be as smooth as velvet.

Stuffed Egg Salad.—Cut hard cooked eggs in halves, take out the yolks, cut a thin slice from each rounded white to make it stand firmly, drop in each a little mayonnaise. Mix the yolks to a paste with the mayonnaise, using any minced meat fish or flavor vegetable for seasoning. Fill the cavities and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Nellie Maxwell

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