

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 1, 1957

Oregon

Instead of being the usual tourist traveling through beautiful scenery we are taking our time and leisurely stopping at all points of interest. Probably the reason for a part of this virtuousness is that Mary Alice, age 11 years, and Pat, who will be 13 on July 4th, have been told that the trip is an educational one, and that they must be observing.

1

So instead of rushing by the many historic markers in the three states we will pass through on our way to Victoria, B. C., we are stopping to read them all and sometimes to take notes on the stories they tell. After a visit to Fort Ross, the Russian Fort in Northern California, our next stop was at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park six miles north of Orick, one of the outstanding coast redwood parks, where we saw the last remaining herds of native Roosevelt Elk.

In the Humboldt Redwoods State Park, a 22,160-acre area of splendid coast redwood groves, 40 miles south of Eureka, we visited the famed Founders' tree, the world's tallest at 364 feet. This park alone contains more than 40 memorial groves. We noted the name of the late William May Garland there. Mrs. Garland divides her time between her homes at Pebble Beach and Los Angeles.

Near Florence, Oregon, we paused again to see the only mainland sea lion rockery in the world, so the folder told us. There were literally hundreds of the huge creatures on the rocks below us and on the cliffs above were the "Pigeon Guillemot," a migratory bird which spends most of its life on the open sea. They come to this spot on the Oregon coast each year in March and remain until about Labor Day. A dark bird, Pigeon Guillemot has a patch of white on each wing, long-sleek necks and trim bodies and scarlet webbed feet which it uses as a rudder during flight. In China these birds are used by fishermen who put a cord to a ring around its neck so they can retrieve both bird and fish.

We learned the story of the myrtlewood of Oregon at North Bend when we stopped again at Duncan's Myrtlewood Crofters. So far as is known the myrtlewood trees growth is confined to the coast region of Oregon. These majestic round trees often attain a height of 60 to 80 feet and some are 250 to 500

years old. The cut lumber or slabs from the trees are allowed to season for at least two-years and then must wait through another seasoning before the handsome wooden articles are finally made by the artists in the factories in Oregon.

Agate Beach and the Tillamook Cheese factory were the next stops on tour agenda. We did not find an agate marble for the young man but we did enjoy a taste of the famous cheese at the factory. A tour of the factory is given every few minutes throughout the day, including Sundays, and the guide gives a complete description of the process of cheese making and of the machinery used in its manufacturing.

When the sign "Fort Columbia, State Historical Monument" appeared before us on the highway, we turned in and visited this old fort and the "Battery Jules Ord." We must do a bit of research when we return and find out if this Ord is a relative of our Monterey Ords, for whom Fort Ord is named.

The country where the Oregon fort is located is most beautiful and the view from the veranda of the old building where the museum is located is of a coastline, long to be remembered. The exhibits telling the story of the history of Oregon from its history in 1792, through the visits of many explorers, the life of the Chinook Indians, the first inhabitants, and the fort which was in use from 1896 until the end World War II. It was made a State Historical Monument in 1951 and still stands guard over the entrance to the Columbia River.

Tomorrow we will be in Victoria, B. C., where we will still be absorbing history - English instead of American.