

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 5, 1957

### **Crater Lake**

Today we crossed the 45th parallel, the halfway mark between the North Pole and the Equator, at about the halfway mark between Portland and Madras in Oregon. This fact and the marker which announced the fact, caused much discussion and numerous questions to be asked by our two companions, the 10-year and the 12-year-old. When an explanation is not immediately forthcoming we are reminded that this trip was to be an educational one and we must know all the answers.

Today we also visited Timber Line Lodge at the foot of Mt. Hood in Mt. Hood National Park, Mt. Rainier National Park, Rogue River National Park and Crater Lake National Park, four exceptionally beautiful and unusual parks which our national government has saved for this and future generations to visit and enjoy. There is a one-dollar entrance fee at Mt. Rainier and at Crater Lake.

Mt. Hood, the Three Sisters, Mt. Jefferson, and many of the surrounding mountains were covered with snow. At Crater Lake we found acres of snow in the forests, and several feet of snow bordering the highway. There were hundreds of people and hundreds of automobiles everywhere we went, but we saw no accidents, discourtesy or wild, driving which made the whole day a delightful one.

Each of these national parks differs from the others in many of its scenic features, but each tends to complement the others. Mt. Rainier National Park was established by act of Congress on March 2, 1899. It contains 241,571 acres of Federal lands. Mt. Rainier, a towering, ice-clad volcano, is the distinctive feature of Mt. Rainier National Park. The mountain is 14,410 feet above sea level as re-established by the Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior, in 1956.

The National Park Service has supplied us with a bit of history of Mt. Rainier Park. Capt. George Vancouver, of the Royal British Navy, was first white man to record sight of "The Mountain," named it Mount Rainier in honor of his friend, Admiral Peter Rainier. In 1870 Hazard Stevens and P. B. Van Trump made the first successful ascent via Gibraltar route. In 1890, the first woman, Fay Fuller, reached the summit of Mt. Rainier.

1915 saw the first public travel by automobile to Paradise Valley. In 1916 the National Park Service was established in the United States Department of the Interior to administer the national parks and national monuments.

Rhododendrons and dozens of various varieties of wildflowers are in bloom among the forests which line the roadways in Oregon. Rivers, lakes, small waterfalls and snowcapped mountains all make motoring in this north country anything but boring. We have also been most fortunate to find hospitable motels every night and have felt that we had made new friends with most of the owner-managers, all of whom seem to go to extremes to make the guests welcome and comfortable.

The first name given to Crater Lake was Mount Mazama, a name given by the early Indians who were terrified by the volcano's violence, but, today, the terror is gone. This crater now holds an unbelievably blue body of water. It is the central feature of the 160,290-acre Crater Lake National Park, which is on the crest of the Cascade Range in Southern Oregon.

Crater Lake was discovered on June 12, 1853. by John Wesley Hillman, a young prospector leading a party in search of a rumored "Lost Cabin Mine." He named it Deep Blue Lake. On Oct 21, 1882, Chauncey Nye, leading a party of prospectors from Eastern Oregon, happened upon the lake. They thought they had made a discovery, so they named it Blue Lake. A third "discovery" was made Aug. 1, 1865, by two soldiers stationed at Fort Klamath, who called it Lake Majesty. In 1869 this name was changed to Crater Lake by visitors from Jacksonville. The park was established on May 22, 1902.