

## THE JESSIE M. HONEYMAN

### MEMORIAL STATE PARK

The Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park, situated adjacent to the coast in Lane County, Oregon, was named in honor of Mrs. Jessie M. Honeyman, a resident of Portland since 1882.

For many of her later years Mrs. Honeyman was president of the Oregon Roadside Council and recognized as one of the foremost state and national leaders of the organizations of women, who have so earnestly and zealously advocated the beautification of highway roadsides, and the unsullied preservation of the beautiful in nature along the highway routes.

The interesting dedicatory ceremonies were held in the park on July 12, 1941, in the eighty-ninth year of Mrs. Honeyman's vigorous and useful life to confirm the naming of this beautiful park, and dedicate it as her memorial, with herself as the guest of honor, to be for many years to come a retreat where people would find peace, happiness and pleasure. In her own words she has said "We must keep our faith and our vision if our children and children's children, are to have a fragment of the glorious national heritage so lavish in this western country".

Naming this park in honor of Mrs. Honeyman was a fitting tribute to a most unusual and lovable character, who brot from the highlands of Scotland a love and keen appreciation of the beauty in nature; an appreciation which she so devotedly endeavored by word and deed, to impress upon the minds of the citizens of Oregon, that they might realize the need of the utmost effort in preserving forever the abundant, scenic richness that is one of Oregon's great and enduring natural heritages.

The park is one hundred seventy one miles from Portland by way of McMinnville, Otis and the Oregon Coast Highway. Eugene, the nearest of the larger Willamette Valley towns, is eighty-two miles distant and to the south, Gardiner and Reedsport are about twenty miles away.

The park area is 522 acres, described as being in sections 10, 11, 14 and 15, Township 19 South of Range 12 West, W.M., Lane County. The first tract of land purchased for the park was 163 acres, acquired on July 15, 1930. The remainder was purchased from three other owners, between that date and March 6, 1935.

AREA HISTORY Information regarding the early history of the park area is lacking. Neither do the park lakes, nor the neighborhood, seem to have had any history of significance, altho there were settlers in the vicinity years before the land was acquired for park purposes.

Florence, two and six-tenths miles distant, was founded by Duncan and Company in 1876, then they established a salmon cannery and A. J. Moody opened a store. On July 16, 1877, the twin screw steamer, Alexander Duncan, in command of James Carroll, and owned by R. D. Hume and Company of San Francisco, was the first steam vessel to enter the Siuslaw River. This marked the beginning of an early day commercial trade with San Francisco. This became of considerable importance for a time, but later on declined. In 1883 a steamer laden with two hundred tons of freight and drawing fifteen feet, entered the river and took out an equal tonnage of salmon. At that time Florence had a population of two hundred people, boasted two stores, a hotel and cannery. The 1940 population was four hundred fifty. The townsite of Glenade, on the south side of the river, was platted in 1890 but it never became a place of any consequence.

GEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES Characteristic of this part of the Oregon Coast, the entire park area is an ancient sand dune formation, generally low and undulating, with elevations up to one hundred sixty feet, with a covering stand of mixed forest and dense shrubbery undergrowth. In his notes on the geology of the park area, prepared in 1936, Walter N. Chappell, an assistant geologist of the San Francisco office of the National Park Service, Region IV, says:

"its entire area seems to be underlain by dune sand which has an unknown depth. South of the park area most of the rock outcroppings along the coast are sandstone of late Mesozoic and early Tertiary age. Miocene lavas are abundant along the coast north of the park, but the flows are separated in many places by layers of sandstone and shale. The rocky cliffs, promontories, islets, stacks and sea caves which characterize these parts of the coast, clearly indicate that the sea is advancing on the land".

The naked, younger dunes along the ocean shore are said to be of the Recent period. Their ever shifting sands are almost free of growing vegetation and very unstable. Some of the best examples of these drifting dunes to be found on the Lane County shore lie south of the Siuslaw River and along the front of this park, where they rise to a height of two hundred feet or more. They are still being built up by the ocean winds and are ever crowding inward. Inch by inch they progress, first covering the herbs, grasses and shrubs at the foot of the interior slopes, finally enveloping the tops of tall trees. Some of the visible ones are dead, others are still living, awaiting their inevitable submergence by the relentless, smothering sands, whose steep inland slopes are susceptible to the slightest disturbance of their surface. A wisp of wind, a cone from a tree top, or a timorous mouse crossing their lower slopes cause the unstable sands to revel from base to top.

The chief attractions of the park are the two beautiful lakes. Cleawox and Washink, names that are assumed to be of Indian origin, but the meaning or significance of the words, if there was any, has been lost. The lakes are separated by an ancient, undulating dune ridge, traversed by the Coast Highway in a north and south direction, two miles air line distance from the ocean. Cleawox is west of the highway and separated from the ocean by high, coastal sand dunes, their drifts, chin to the lake basin. The surface is seventy two feet above the sea, the water reported quite shallow, with an irregular park shore line of one and six tenths miles. The inland shores are low and covered with dense vegetation to the waters edge.

Washink Lake is larger, having a twenty six mile shore line, over six miles bordering the park area. The surface stands at thirty six feet above the sea, its

outlet to the south into Siltcoos Lake, which in turn is sixteen feet above tide. Altho no soundings are given, Woshink is reputed to be of exceptional depth for a coastal lake.

Placid and serene in their sylvan retreats, the lakes are shielded from the disturbing ocean winds by the high, gray dunes, that many years before had impounded their waters and now give them their engaging, sheltered quietness. For the most part the lake shores are low and very irregular, forming numerous small bays and penetrating inlets, hidden by narrow, forested peninsulas with a general north and south trend. Looking down these shadowy avenues of water the ever changing views are most pleasant to look upon, and very inviting to canoeists or fishermen who find solace and comfort in the peaceful seclusion of these forest bordered waters, where voices are subdued, and even the splash of a leaping trout, or the sudden flight of timorous waterfowl are sharp and discordant sounds in the hush that pervades the quiet scene.

This is the only developed state park that offers the coast visiting public a lake setting as charming, where visitors can find a situation so ideal for comfortable picnicking and bathing, with all modern conveniences at hand in a sea-shore atmosphere that is sheltered from the harshness of the winds that often prevail along the open coast.

FOREST COVER While all of the common coast trees are present, the dominant one along the low, lake shore land, and where the park facilities have been installed, is the Lodgepole pine, *Pinus contorta*, frequently, but erroneously, called "Coast pine". This pine is the first of the conifers to establish itself in the sand belts along the coast, and for long periods they live unto themselves, creeping into and stabilizing the sand wastes, hand in hand with the hardy shrubs and minor deciduous trees that attain a foothold and prepare the ground for their successors, the giant spruces, hemlocks and cedars that overtop and obliterate them as they in

turn become the dominant and commercial forests of these areas. While the pines are of no commercial importance, they are of incalculable value for the integrity and protection of the park lands. Their often grotesquely, distorted forms may be seen anywhere on the wind swept headlands or giving a pleasing, picturesque touch to the stabilized forest along the rim of the sea.

The pine trees along the shores of the lakes, and over their low narrow peninsulas, shelter a dense undergrowth of the typical shrubbery. This is made up of the ever present salal, the evergreen huckleberry, richly fruited in season, and its foliage a prized Christmas greenery. There is also a full quota of salmon berry with its abundant, colorful red and yellow berries, and interspersed in this maze of shrubbery there may be seen an occasional spirea, wax myrtle; wild crabapple or chittim bark trees (cascara) and massed clusters of Scotch broom all enriched by an abundance of the gloriously beautiful wild rhododendrons that are each year, from mid-May to mid-June, a flower show unto themselves, and greatly admired by those who are fortunate enough to walk intimately with them along the park paths they border.

The dense undergrowth suppresses the lesser flora, and many of the common woods flowers are not usually seen. Yellow Pond lilies, *Nympha polysepala*, are quite plentifully grouped in the shallows of the inlets, their rich blossoms adding a touch of bright color to their water habitats. Also, in places favorable to their growth, the always interesting fly catcher or pitcher plants, *Darlingtonia californica* are to be found.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS Southward from Florence and the Siuslaw River and on down the forest lined roadway, this prominently monumented park is soon reached.

On a rise of ground to the left, is the picturesque caretaker's cottage, where any needed park information may be obtained.

This well designed cottage, constructed of native stone and wood, has high, peaked gables and a steep roof, covered with shakes from native trees. Two heavily built, rock chimneys lift above the roof, invariably emitting a blue,

light wood smoke, that curls downward from their tops, coming to the nostrils with the delightful odor of an evening camp fire drifting down a forested canyon. The cottage site is in a setting of fir trees, with plantings of other trees, shrubs and flowers, fronted by a landscaped lawn with flagstone walks. Looking eastward there is a long, superb, tree framed vista of the shimmering waters and forested points of the inviting Woahink Lake.

Leaving the highway at the monument it is but a few minutes drive down the park road to the Lake Cleawox parking area. Nearby there is a score or more of combination tables and benches distributed in their pine tree settings, close to a sheltered kitchen with its trio of stoves built into a single, large stone chimney. On the not distant shore of the lake is a commodious, modern bath house artistically designed and also built of stone and wood. The building has a heating plant, dressing rooms, hot and cold showers, and basket lockers for clothes and belongings. In front of the bath house is a sanded beach and a float with padded spring boards and diving tower. These bathing facilities were first made available to the public in the 1939 season, when a certified Red Cross life guard was also employed, all open to the public without charge. During the 1940 season a modest charge for these privileges was introduced, which covered all the bath house and water front services. The installation of these facilities proved to be very popular, and the presence of a life guard gave greater assurance for the safety of bathers, especially relieving the anxiety of parents whose children disported in the lake waters. While receipts from these charges were inadequate to cover the operating costs, this innovation indicated that the public was not averse to paying a reasonable amount for such special services, even in a state park. This may forecast the introduction of similar fees for like privileges in other parks, in the post war period. In 1942 due to the exigencies of the times, the bath house was closed.

A county road leaves the highway opposite the Cleawox road, bridges an arm of Woahink Lake on its way to a small hamlet called Canary, and just beyond the bridge a park road turns to the right, leading to the Woahink Lake picnic area on a near peninsula. Here, there is an ample number of tables and benches, a shelter

kitchen with stoves, and an outside stove or two. This Woahink picnic area is a comfortable and pleasing one, that is popular with visitors who prefer its quiet seclusion.

These ancient, forested sand dunes, in and surrounding the park area, are devoid of living springs and, within a reasonable distance, gravity water is not obtainable. The present supply is derived from a driven well, which yields a good volume of pure cold water. An electric pump puts it into an elevated tank, whence it is distributed to the various points of usage.

An unusual feature in this park is a powered boat on Woahink Lake for the direct and rapid movement of a portable fire pump, hose and other fire fighting equipment for the prompt suppression of any chance forest fire on the lake shores.

The closed CCC Camp is situated at the south end of Woahink Lake, some two miles down the highway from the park headquarters. In 1942 it was taken over by the army for housing an element of the coast defense patrol.

PARK DEVELOPMENT This park is one of the two outstanding state parks of Oregon that have been extensively improved by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

As was the usual procedure, all state park development work by the CCC organization was initiated by the Oregon State Highway Commission, thru its State Parks Department. The site, proposed improvements and project work plans, were subject to the approval of the Fourth Regional office of the National Park Service in San Francisco, the technicians of that office passing judgment upon the details of all improvement and construction plans. Their field inspectors supervised the conduct of the work and exercised a measure of control over the facilitating personnel of the camps, who were paid thru the National Park Service office in San Francisco.

The Woahink Lake CCC Camp was established in the Sixth period, beginning October 15, 1935, carrying on until the end of the Seventeenth period in May, 1941,

a total of twelve consecutive periods or six full years, with an almost continually full complement of enrollees and a continuing well trained supervising personnel.

In this long work period a great amount of permanent improvement was accomplished with Honeyman park as the principal project. Work was also done in other Lane County parks namely; Devils Elbow, Ponsler, Joquin Miller Wayside Forest, and also in Tidewater Park in Douglas County.

In Honeyman, park roads were surveyed, rights of way cleared, road beds graded and ditched, cross drains installed, banks finished to easy slopes, fine graded and landscaped with native shrubbery. Where necessary, the roads were surfaced by the State Highway Department's maintenance forces with their especial equipment, but paid for out of state park funds.

Delightful foot paths of good width were laid out and graded, along sections of the lake shores and circulating thru the developed portions of the park area, all done with the least possible disturbance of the natural conditions necessary to the attainment of their objectives.

These pleasant paths along the shores of the lakes lead to resting benches, so placed as to present views of the ever changing, but always charming vistas of sparkling water and tree lined shores that are so pleasingly revealed with every new angle of vision. As mentioned, here and there, in season, a turn of the path presents a gorgeous display of flowered rhododendrons or masses of the rich yellow Scotch broom, occasionally touching the heads of small inlets where there are floating clusters of the golden yellow water lilies adorning the shallows. While unfortunate that a greater display of the lesser flowering herbaceous plants is absent, this typical coastal feature is fully compensated by the richness of the abundant flowering shrubs and small trees.

This naturally beautiful park site, with its lakes, sand dunes, sylvan and floral features, coupled with its splendidly designed and well built structures is now popular and bids fair to become one of the most favored general outing state parks of the coastal province, despite its distance from the populous areas.

HONEYMAN PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

An extension of the south Washink road should be made to the sand dunes. Tables, stoves, etc., comprising picnic area on south side of lake, should be moved to north side of lake where complete picnic area can be under one supervision. A new latrine should be built. More picnic tables should be constructed. Better methods for the fire protection of the park should have study.



S. H. Boardman  
State Parks Superintendent

SHB:es

## JOAQUIN MILLER WAYSIDE FOREST

The Joaquin Miller Wayside Forest was named in honor of the pioneer poet of this name who was a former owner. The area is situated south of the Siuslaw River bridge, described as being in Section 34, Township 18 South of Range 12 West, W.L., Lane County, with an area of one hundred thirteen acres, of which one hundred eight acres were a gift from Lane County to the State, the deed date March 25, 1935, and five acres were purchased, the deed date November 24, 1936.

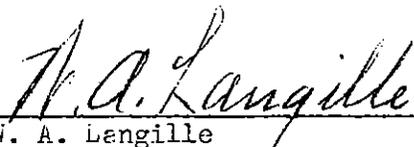
The tract adjoins the townsite of Glenada. West of there it drops down a gulched slope toward the Siuslaw River estuary, extending west to the high coast sand dunes. Huge, old, high-cut fir and cedar stumps, and an old railroad grade, indicate that the tract had been logged, leaving the hemlock, now the dominant tree, interspersed with scattered spruce of fair size and quality, and here and there decadent specimens of the large old firs and cedars that once made up the forest. Along the north side of the tract the forest is mostly a pole size growth of hemlock and spruce, with some fir. This slope is too rough and broken for recreational use, but the new trees are rapidly growing to be a highly valuable wind break and if possible should be preserved.

A CCC detail from the Washink Lake camp built a quarter mile of road, leading toward the center of the tract and graveled the surface, but its purpose is not apparent. It was not much used and is now blocked by fallen timber. They also cleared a narrow fire trail, roughly paralleling the south property line. This has been obliterated by new growth, uprooted trees and tree tops from logging operations on adjoining property. The tract was surveyed and pipe corners placed by park engineers. There are no other improvements.

Early in 1943, a high southwest wind swept in over the adjoining cut-over area, resulting in a blow-down of bordering park timber, prostrating a fifth or more of the standing forest on the tract. In two places reaching a depth of at

least five hundred feet, others of less depth. Between these openings, protruding tongues of thinned and weakened trees were left, with succeeding winter storms taking a further toll in the windfall area. Loggers have since removed the usable down timber and the weakened, isolated trees, forming a more or less straight front. This will help to reduce but cannot eliminate the blow-down menace, but it will, however, reduce the fire hazard to some extent.

This ever possible wind-throw is a condition that threatens all parks in the coastal area where logging operations expose their boundaries to the sweep of the winds.

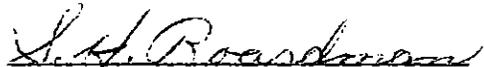
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
W. A. Langille  
State Park Historian

WAL:eo  
1/14/46

JOAQUIN MILLER

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

This to remain as a wayside. Should be cleaned up  
and replanted where blow-down occurred.

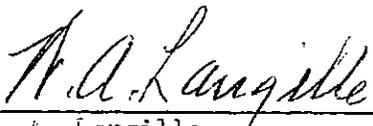
  
S. H. Boardman  
State Parks Superintendent

SHE:ao

## FIDELWAYS STATE PARK

This park is the portion of Bolon Island lying below the Coast Highway, between the Umpqua River bridges. It is described as being in Sections 26, 27, and 35, Township 21 South of Range 12 East, W.M., Douglas County, with an area of twelve acres; a gift to the State from W. C. and Jennie D. Chamberlain, the deed date October 4, 1934. The area is forested and has an elevation of 160 feet. Reached by a good trail, the summit presents a splendid view of the broad Umpqua River estuary, a stretch of its up-stream course, the mouth of Smith River, an overlook of neighboring towns of Gardiner and Reedsport, and their pleasant surroundings.

A limited picnic area is on the lower end of the island, also reached by trail, where there are four tables and a stove in an open grass plot, with the appearance of having once been the site of Indian houses.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
W. A. Langille  
State Park Historian

WAL:eo  
1/14/46

TIDEWAYS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Install new tables. Improve entrance way. Try to  
get fresh water for park. Landscape entrance.



S. H. Boardman  
State Parks Superintendent

SHB:ao

## DEVIL'S ELBOW STATE PARK

The Devil's Elbow State Park is situated thirteen miles north of Florence, adjoining the Heceta Head Lighthouse Reservation, touches Cape Creek, Cape Cove and borders the ocean south of the cove. It is described as being in sections 33, and 34, Township 16 South of Range 12 West, W.M., Lane County, containing ninety seven acres, more or less.

Of this area four acres were a gift from Annie Stonefield, widow, and Rufus C. and Rosa Stonefield, heirs of C. F. Stonefield, by deed dated June 18, 1931. Seven acres were a gift from the United States of America, by and thru the Department of Commerce, Lighthouse Service, the deed date September 3, 1935. On September 13, 1939, Rufus C. and Rosa Stonefield deeded one acre as a gift to the State and on September 28, 1939 the State deeded back to Rufus C. and Rosa Stonefield, husband and wife, two and eight one hundredths acres, described by metes and bounds as being in said Section 34. The gifts totaled fourteen acres and the net purchased area is a fraction over eighty one acres.

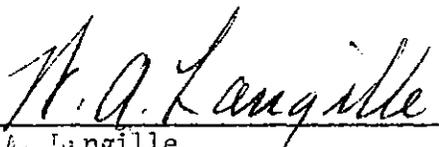
HISTORY The park itself, so far as known, is devoid of any historical significance. However, the name Heceta Head, with which the park is physically associated, dates back one hundred seventy years. In Lewis A. McArthur's, Oregon Geographical Names, we read that the Spanish navigator, Captain Bruno Heceta (the Spanish pronunciation Ay-thay-tah) was the first to see the mouth of the Columbia River, the date August 17, 1775. And, Gaston's History of Oregon says, he landed about seventy five miles south of the entrance of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, erected a cross and took possession of the land in the name of the king of Spain, on July 14, 1775. The first Europeans to set foot on the coast of the Oregon Country.

PARK FEATURES The highway as it approaches the park from the north rounds a high, steep shoulder where there is a parking space that affords a chance to pause for an extraordinary view of the ocean, its immediate rugged shore, the light house and several conspicuous off shore bird rocks of considerable elevation, all

in a superb panorama that may be glimpsed from other interesting highway and park angles. From this high, pleasing view point the highway descends circuitously to the acute turn of the "Devil's Elbow" itself, just before reaching the park picnic area, nestling slightly below and to the right of the roadway, near the edge of the picturesque cove, with the high Cape Creek bridge and tunnel entrance just beyond. In the picnic area there are four table and bench combinations, one stove and a well and pump to furnish water; no other facilities.

Looking from the bridge deck, the attractive, Heceta Head Lighthouse rests prominently on the elevated outer point, its light two hundred five feet above tide, with its gleam flashing every ten seconds, visible over an ocean radius of twenty-one miles. On the north side of the cove, about mid-distance between the bridge and lighthouse, are the light keeper's neat, trim quarters and the store rooms. This is a rare and unique situation where a state park is picturesquely linked with a pleasing stream, flowing beneath a high, beautifully arched, primary highway bridge, directly connected with a lengthy tunnel where the ocean waves cast their spume beneath the bridge arch and tunnel end. In the foreground is a cliffed cove, a lighthouse headland, offshore rocks and rock islets, backed by the wide, wide restless sea.

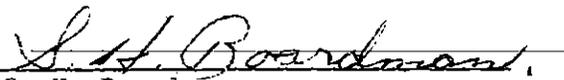
There is no other of Oregon's coastal parks, possibly no other place in the entire nation, that presents such an unusual combination of natural and structural features, within so small an area as is included in this unusual composite picture.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
W. A. Langille  
State Park Historian

WAL:so  
1/14/46

DEVIL'S ELBOW  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Additional tables should be added to present setting.  
Caustic soda latrines added. A lookout trail onto the promontory  
north of the lighthouse would make a nice improvement. Reforesta-  
tion should be made in the open spaces.

  
S. H. Boardman  
State Parks Superintendent

SHB:eo

MURIEL J. PONSLER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

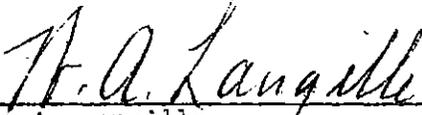
This small park was a gift to the state by J. C. Ponsler to commemorate his wife, Muriel J. Ponsler.

The tract is situated three miles north of Devil's Elbow State Park, described by metes and bounds, as being in Section 22, Township 16 South of Range 12 West, W.M., in Lane County, containing two acres, more or less, the deed date, April 29, 1939.

The park area is a quite smooth, gently sloping trace lying between the highway and the ocean shore, bordering China Creek, once mined for placer gold by Chinese, hence its name. A small section of gravel beach fronts the tract at the mouth of the creek. This is reputed to yield many specimens of agate of high quality.

The park improvements are a gravelled parking place adjoining the highway faced with an outside rock wall. In this space a sign monument has been erected.

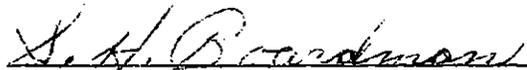
Altho small, this park is a delightfully pleasant and inviting bit of readily accessible low, open grassed land that touches the marge of the sea. There are no facilities.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
F. A. Langille  
State Park Historian

WAL:ED  
1/14/46

PONSLER MEMORIAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Latrines. Grass planting in center of bowl. Attempt  
renewal of bush planting.

  
S. H. Boardman  
State Parks Superintendent

SHB:ao