SADDLE MOUNTAIN

STATE PARK

Saddle Mountain State Park is situated in central Clatsop County, Oregon; described as being in the northern part of Township 5 North and the southern part of Township 6 North Range 8 East, W.M., containing 2,682 acres. Of this area 1 280 acres were a gift from O. W. Taylor and wife, the deed date November 21, 1928; and 1,402 acres were a gift from the Oregon State Land Board, the deed date December 5, 1935. All of this area, except the rock mass of Saddle Mountain itself, had been logged off before its acquisition by the state. In addition 372 acres were purchased for right-of-way for the Saddle Mountain Road, which connects with the Sunset (Wolf Creek) Highway, near Necanicum Junction, fifteen miles from Seaside, and about the same distance from Cannon Beach. This road right-of-way was purchased from six owners, the deed dates running from February 25, 1938 to October 6, 1939. The total park and road area aggregates 3,054 acres.

The park terrain is generally of the rough type common to all the west slope of the Coast Range; its outstanding physical feature being Saddle Mountain, rising "to 3,287 feet, next to Mary's Peak in Polk County, with an elevation of 4,097 feet, the highest in the Coast Range north of the Coquille River."

Topographically approximately 1,800 acres of the park are included in the basal area of the rock mass above the 2,000 foot contour, where the park road ends and the foot trail begins. The vertical rise from the road end to the highest point of the mountain is approximately 1,300 feet. Approaching the park from the highway, the road distance is

about seven miles, the trail distance a little more than three miles; over a devious, zigzaggy trail, laid on the best available grades, thru an exceedingly interesting maze of cliffs, rock benches and steep slopes that obstruct any direct ascent.

There is reward of effort in observing the unusual geology revealed at every angle of the trail, and also in the unique flora of the highland benches and slopes, culminating in a magnificent, widespread panorama that embraces portions of the surf-bound shore and wide waters of the Pacific Ocean, the sweep of the majestic Columbia River as it enters the sea, the neighboring hills and valleys, and on the distant horizon to the east there is visible an array of the proud, uplifted snow peaks; Jefferson and Hood in Oregon; St. Helens, Adams and Rainier in Washington; which in their individual and collective glories, tower far above everything in the surrounding landscape.

HISTORY

Saddle Mountain, the magnificent, highly impressive rock summit that surmounts the park area, has a place in the traditions of the early natives on both sides of the Columbia River.

In 1868 the Reverend Gustav Hines, published an interesting volume entitled "Oregon and its Institutions." On page 21, in commenting on the Coast Range mountains he says: "The most remarkable in the vicinity of the Columbia River is one named 'Swallalahoast', concerning which they have a singular tradition One of their great and mighty chiefs a long time ago,... after having accomplished the most wonderful exploits in behalf of his people, was finally killed by his enemies; but after death he assumed the form of a monstrous eagle, and, taking wing flew to the top of this mountain, and there became the creator of the lightning and the thunder

at the top of this peak."

In Volume 29, 1928 edition of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, page 316, John Gill, in describing Saddle Mountain, mentions another version of the "Thunder Bird", which says:.. "from the roar of the 'Thunder Bird' wings came thunder, and lightning was the flash of his angry eyes. From Willapa (in Washington) to Nestucca (in Oregon) 'Swallalahoast' was deemed the roost of the 'Thunder Bird".

Swalla-la-hoost. A mythological, Clatsop tribe phrase-word which, like many other native place names, it is now too late to fully interpret the meaning of the word in all its intriguing native significance; but it does conjure up visions of tribal elders seated about their camp fires, fervently relating the story of the valiant chieftan, who in death took up his abode amidst the highest crags of the peak, and as the "Thunder Bird", hurled his awesome thunders and lightnings upon the enemies of his tribal descendants, whenever they offended.

This peak was noted by Lewis and Clark in 1805, and the forested area around its northern and western base was the expedition's most prolific hunting ground where the hunters killed most of the 131 elk, which they consumed during their four months stay at Fort Clatsop. However, it remained for Captain Charles Wilkes, of the United States Navy to give the peak its appropriate present name, in 1841.

In the Commonwealth Review of May 1938, Vol. 20, No. 2, page 500, an article by Kenneth Fitzgerald, says "as early as 1855 Congress provided for the building of a military road from Astoria to Forest Grove. In the two years following the action of Congress, 53 miles of this road were constructed and the remaining distance was connected by a pack trail in 1858. This road became an important mail route in later years." A foot note from

the "Weekly Astorian of December 2, 1876 (sic) quotes the following: "The Forest Grove-Astoria road was not completely traversed by wagon till 1895 prior to that time it was accessible over its entire length only by pack train."

This trail-road is believed to be the one shown on some old maps as a "military trail," skirting the west and south base of the Saddle Mountain rock summit, thence eastward across the park area. Sections of this road are still visible where the present Saddle Mountain road and the summit trail meet. The road is also mentioned in the 1907 edition of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, Volume 8, Page 195 where we read: ... The War Department then (in the 1850's) was much taken up with military roads. In Oregon a number of such roads were located, among them ... one from Astoria to Salem Lieutenant John Withers, Lieutenant George H. Derby and Lieutenant George H Mendell, all of the Engineer Corps, had charge of these roads in 1855, 1856 and 1857. Lieutenant Withers had a bit of unpleasantness with Colonel W. W. Chapman, the well known Oregon Pioneer, who eujoined him in the Territorial Court, but Honorable S F. Chadwick came to the assistance of the army officer and had the injunction set aside Lieutenant Derby suggests that sixteen feet wide for the road from Astoria to Salem was sufficient, instead of the one hundred feet in his orders. He found it difficult to get laborers at sixty dollars a month, owing to a gold discovery at Colville He opened twelve and two thirds miles of the road at the Astoria end and Lieutenant Mondell added forty miles more in 1857. It was only a trail over much of its length, available for park animals and the driving of livestock Mendell thought $600 a mile would construct a fair road from Astoria to Tualatin Plains, a distance of about fifty-two miles.

An incident in the more modern history of this mountain is told by

historian Leslie M Scott in Volume 15, of the 1914 edition of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, page 235, which says: "Some 14,000 feet of (railroad) trestle was constructed round Smith Point and up Young's Bay. ... Seventeen miles of grading was built up to Saddle Mountain, this in the summer of 1892 (with the intention of tunnelling thru the mountain). . Suddenly in September 1892, construction stopped There was no money. ... The project went to tuin." This was perhaps a misfortune for the investor, but left this majestic rock mountain intect, to become the central feature of a splendid state park. It is far better for posterity that instead of having been tunnelled for a railroad, "Swallalahoost" has been left to its winter storms and summer quietude; disturbed only by the truculent moods of the "Thunder Bird."

GEOLOGY

In March 1937, the National Park Service submitted a copy of "A Report on the Geology of Saddle Mountain State Park, Clatsop County, Oregon," prepared during the summer of 1936 by Student Technician, Robert A. Layfield," with the comment: "Mr. Layfield's work was under the direction of the National Park Service geologists. His conclusions regarding the age of the rocks, based on fossils which he collected, has not been checked The theory of the origon of the mountain is considered essentially correct."

This report presents an interesting, detailed story of the geology of Saddle Mountain and the park area, with some references to the neighboring Humbug Mountain, three miles south of Saddle Mountain, and two miles south of the park boundary Excerpts from this informative report have been used in this narrative.

In his introductory paragraph, Mr Layfield in part says: The park covers an area of four square miles. Saddle Mountain itself occupying about

two thirds of the park area."...

"Saddle Mountain controls the headwaters of two drainage basins: the Young's River flowing to the north and northwest, emptying into the mouth of the Columbia River southeast of and adjacent to Astoria; the Lewis and Clark River (the native name "Netul") practically paralleling the Young's River four to six miles to the west." The Necanicum River, which empties into the ocean at Seaside, has its source on the south side of Humbug Mountain, two or more miles south of the park boundary.

Central Clatsop County is mentioned as "Being primarily of soft marine sediments and harder igneous rocks, where stream erosion has reduced the topography to the state of early or middle maturity. Many of the ridges, especially the drainage divides, exist because of underlying basalt dikes or sills. Saddle Mountain and Humbug Mountain, particularly the former, are in places quite precipitous with bare walls of "volcanic breccia standing out conspicuously with angles of slope from sixty to ninety degrees, where great blocks of rock have broken off in many places leaving smooth wall surfaces . . "The general dip of the sediments of the Saddle Mountain section is to the northwest and probably form the south limb of a broad, low syncline striking generally northeast-southwest. Dips taken show they are generally northwest from ten to fifteen degrees."

"Saddle Mountain is cut by sixteen of these basalt dikes: two of which stand out as walls forty and fifty feet in height The area of the park proper contains three distinct types of rock, the basalt breccia of the mountain, the fine grained dikes and the more or less indurated mica clay shales surrounding the mountain. They are of marine origin and several hundred feet thick: their base has not been seen " A notation of particular interest is: "An unusual spring occurs one hundred feet below the highest

peak from which the lookout is supplied with water. This spring flows very steadily all year, while other springs and creeks down the gulches of the mountain dry up soon after the end of the rainy season "

In a discussion of the "Age and Correlation" of the Saddle Mountain area (page 18) Mr. Layfield says: "With this fossil evidence and the fact that the strata compares lithologically with the upper part of the Astoria formation especially in having sandy strata at the top, and in the gentle morthwest dips, it can be safely concluded the clays of and surrounding Saddle Mountain Park are of the Upper Astoria (Lower Miocene) . . .

"As there has never been evidence of much Pliocene activity in this area the formation of Saddle Mountain can be confined to Middle or Upper Miocene time Subsequent erosion has carved the Young's River, Lewis and Clark and Necanicum drainage basins leaving Saddle and Humbug mountains as the old cores of extrusion."

Following is the geologist s summary:

1 "Blue Black to yellow-brown mica clay shales and their upper sandy member surrounding Saddle Mountain are part of the Upper Astoria formation of Lower Miocene age.

2. "Saddle Mountain and Humbug Mountain are eroded volcanic cores of palagonitic basaltic breccia, with Saddle Mountain the main center of extrusion.

3 "Breccia has chilled under aqueous to sub-aqueous conditions. The lower dips of underlying sediments with lack of folding evidence in the breccia, and considering the present elevation, hardly warrant conclusions of flowage under a Miocene ocean Ellipsoids are found at the very top of the peak. Wet muds or small pools of water could produce the same results

4. Dike intrusion is later than the volcanic breccia "

FLORA AND WILDLIFE

In his glowing, enthusiastic "Wildlife Report on Saddle Mountain", made in 1936; Mr. Ashley C. Browne, A Wildlife Inspector of the National Park Service, speaks of this peak as being composed of a peculiar resistant formation "That has withstood weathering and maintains a proportion and profile that sets it apart as one of nature's wonders."

The steep, open slopes, sheer walls and protruding narrow ledges are of great interest and unusual beauty "

Dispersed over the steep under slopes of the mountain are numerous grass openings, profusily flowered in season, which are a lush pasturage for many deer.

Mr Browne considers "These summit openings as representing as Arctic and Sub-Arctic life zone, which maybe construed as being relics left from the last glacial period, and the rare plants make the slopes a feature of such charming interest that they assume first rank importance." It would, he says: "be difficult to find a duplicate of the natural alpine gardens of Saddle Mountain in any other existing western state park This feature is of such scientific and inspirational significance that effort should be made to preserve the area from spoilation. "Of special interest to visitors is a spring of clear, cool water, almost at the mountain's summit, from which they drink after the arduous climb."

The broken slopes of Saddle Mountain are reputed to be a favorite hunting ground for botanists. From its sides, it is alleged, some two thousand specimens of flora have been classified. Many growing there are not found elsewhere in this region Most notable among these is the highly prized, exceedingly rare Crucifer, Cardamine pattersonii, which scientists declare grows no where else but on this mountain, where it was first found by the

indefatigable Professor Henderson.

The splendid primeval forest of spruce, hemlock, fir and cedar was logged to the very base of the rock summit, during the years 1920 to 1930. The fire history of the subsequent period is somewhat obscure. Evidently the logging debris was burned in accordance with the requirements of state law in effect at the time On Thanksgiving Day ~~1939~~ 1936, a second severe fire was in progress over much of the park area. All available members of the Saddle Mountain CCC camp were called out to assist the county fire association forces in their efforts to control it and missed their sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner Despite these efforts, and the lateness of the season, the fire swept the park area and burned over the tracts acquired for the park road, killing much of the living forest along its way, and the reproduction that had survived the earlier fires. The severity of these fires is evidenced by the rather scant evergreen reproduction that has since taken place, even in this favorable Coast Range locality and climate

On page three of his report, Mr. Browne remarks -- "Of great interest and remarkable beauty are the open mountain slopes, sheer walls, and narrow ledges, for here are to be found unusually great numbers of hardy alpine plants, adapted to a vigorous existence under conditions unfavorable to most other forms of plant life The soils are shallow, from one to six inches deep, almost wholly composed of organic material underlaid by the solid native rock. Exposed to great extremes of heat, cold, moisture, wind and light rare, unusual and interesting plants bedded in hardy masses, here find suitable environment. Of great range in species, the color patterns, forms and adaptions and variations, make the slopes a feature of such interest and charm that they assume an importance of the first rank."

This observing wildlife inspector commenting on the presence of the

spring so near the mountain top, remarks that it "is responsible for maintaining a patch of emerald-green mass on the face of the hot, wind-swept and exposed southwestern face, and swallows in numbers nest in the cliffs below and come for water

"A small stand of true fir (variety not mentioned) finds protection in a sheltered cove east of the summit,.... They are not found in numbers elsewhere along the hikers path.... They constitute one of its most interesting features and shall be carefully preserved."

In 1936, Mr Browne found the mountain area generally inaccessible, the park remote, and human development meager, except for the swift and ruthless removal of the merchantable timber, after which the lands were allowed to return to a wilderness. The period of human occupancy was brief and relentless as most western logging operations were at that time. During his examination of the park area he found deer, elk, bears and cougars were present, with abundant evidence of the presence of the lesser predators, lynx, wildcats, coyotes and even the elusive Oregon fox. He mentions the presence of four bands of elk in the adjacent areas. "They are rather definitely associated "and have" rather well defined ranges from which they do not stray far nor often." Also, there was a wide range of bird life, "among them large numbers of Richardsons grouse. The Clark's Crow with its raucous calls was there, "Characteristically confining itself to the higher elevations." He calls to attention the need of certain species of birds for "snags for shelter and nesting" and anything like the complete removal of all snags from the drains and gulches would be unwise as it would eliminate many birds who would be obliged to seek new snag areas for nesting places, "the larvae and adult forms of wood-infesting insects," essential to their well being

"Whether on the forest floor, the mountain top, or in the slash, one is constantly impressed by the abundance of species of the lower plants.... Many other species, some very rare and showing high specialization and confined to the area, are to be found, especially on the rocky slopes. Those . . "should be given consideration as definite assets to park values in connection with cleanup work, trail and road building and in trailside fire hazard reduction."

In his report on the Saddle Mountain park area, and its immediate surroundings, Mr Browne had seemingly made comprehensive studies of all its outstanding physical and biological features. The various subjects involved he has discussed briefly, and recommendations for the future development of the park have been presented Altho the report was prepared ten years ago, the natural features have changed but little and the recommendations then offered are still pertinent and worthy of consideration. The principal adverse change was the severe burn of 1939, which destroyed considerable green timber and much of the natural conifer reproduction that had succeeded the logging operations The principal betterment changes were improvements of the road and trail, by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, before the alarms of war called these young men into the armed forces. As neither labor nor essential materials were available during the war period, there was no maintenance of the road nor other improvements, and their rehabilitation is only now underway.

On page eleven of his report Mr. Browne has suggested the acquisition of an additional 7,680 acres adjoining the north, west and south sides of the present park area

He says: "To be as completely effective as possible, the present park limits, . . . are felt to be inadequate The complete picture, it is

believed, should ultimately be expanded in such a manner as to include Humbug Mountain two miles to the south The expanded park would then include an area of sixteen sections, almost all cut-over land except for limited uncut stands on the rougher slopes....

"Several major advantages would follow the addition of these properties,...". Then follow nine reasons setting forth the particular ones that would accrue to Saddle Mountain Park, if the additional lands were acquired and the park extended. These unquoted reasons are followed by the following excerpt, which is still pertinent:

"Since the Saddle Mountain Park is so new, so untouched, and has been so relatively seldom visited, there have not as yet appeared any of the unnatural wildlife trends such as have in places appeared in some of the more highly developed and better known parks. Every effort should be made now to keep the existing values in their present balances, both plant and animal, since the true problem of wildlife management is not so much in the care of the creatures of the wild, but in minimizing the destructiveness of the impact when human influences eventually come into conflict with it." This is followed by Mr. Browne's "Summary and Conclusions", map and photographs of the area These, and the entire report, are worthy of consideration before any plan for the future development or expansion of Saddle Mountain Park is put into execution.

CONCLUSIONS

On June 18, 1947, with Mark H. Astrup, Assistant State Parks Superintendent, went to Astoria in the afternoon, preparatory to ascending Saddle Mountain peak. The following day we reached the upper end of the park road in good season, and the top of the highest peak at 10:30 The day was cool, partially cloudy, with intervals of clear sky, and brief showers. The leisurely trail climbing time was two hours and fifteen minutes.

With the exception of an uncertain, half roadbed, where an earth fill had been partially washed away during the war period, a nearby short, badly rutted wet place, and some brush overhanging its sides, the road was in fair condition and no trouble was experienced. Members of a pre-war CCC camp had partially opened a section of new road and erected the frame work of a log bridge over a stream. When completed, this new road will eliminate the present bad places. These can also be by-passed by obtaining permission to use a lumber company's private road.

The improvements at the junction of the park road and the mountain trail are also in disrepair. Plans for completion of the new road section, together with the rehabilitation of the wayside and parking area at the road end, are in preparation. The improvements are planned for next year.

Where road and trail meet at the base of the rock acclivity, water seepage from the high ground, supports a dense growth of alder and other shrubs and plants which thrive on moisture laden soil. The trail immediately enters this dank coverage, where night showers had wet the vegetation overhanging the trail, and out legs were soon wet, but travel was not impeded

Considering the rugged steepness of this magnificent rock summit, the CCC trail is well located, has a generally moderate grade, and presents no particular dangers or difficulties, other than the effort that pertains to any 1300-foot ascent of a necessarily devious, ever rising trail threading its way thru a maze of precipitous rock cliffs.

Above the west section and thru a wooded one, the trail veered to the right and into the open Here the ever widening panorama begins to unfold, passing well above a bold, prominent rock point which overlooks the peaceful comparatively smooth and quite open, cut-over land, traversed by the visible park road, a logging company's protection road, and old logging railroad grades.

Reaching over upward, the trail occasionally turns when balked by steep cliffs or yawning chasms One section of switchback trail is twice deflected by a spectacular, practically vertical, five-foot dike of intruded, fine grained basalt, in places rising to ten and even to fifty feet, above its narrow-base which has stood thru the ages like a well constructed concrete wall. An unusual feature of this particular dike, and a few of the others, is the jointed columnar form of its visible five-foot base which is uniquely cross bedded.

Saddle Mountain peak, in addition to being a strikingly picturesque pile of cliffed and chasamed rock, is also quite generally richly flowered. It has been asserted that from its bases to its summits, some two thousand plant specimens have been collected and classified. This emphasizes the great variety of flora to be found in this one particular locality.

On the upper slopes of the mountain they are at their best in mid-June While there were frequent drifts of rain clouds over the summits as we

passed thru the attractive flower strewn area it seemed as if the mythical "Thunder Bird", hidden in the recesses of the surrounding cliffs, had hearkened upon our outspoken praises of his enchanting gardens, and lighted the skies with bursts of warm sunshine to heighten the charming loveliness of the dainty flower strewn slopes of his domain for our special benefit

And there they were. On every hand the flowers in their lovely colorings were nodding in great profusion amidst the grasses Areas of golden Tiger lilies, rivaled patches of colorful Indian pinks, often almost red clusters of penstemons in a variety of shades appeared, as did the yellow mimulus, and many others, less frequent and less gaudy, but there to be accounted for. "These with the liverworts, mosses, lichens, ferns and fungi of the wooded sections", competed for attention with the rare and delicate sub-Arctic flora that Mr. Browne has pointed out as precariously clinging to life in the thin soil coverings of the rocks. It was a rare field day for lovers of wild flowers, found in unusual places.

A few recent elk tracks were seen and deer tracks were frequently visible all along the trail On one of the flower bedecked slopes, a buck prudently rounded a rock point and out of sight. A lone doe indifferently watched our passing from another Higher up, a fawnless doe, followed by two yearlings, watched our progress between nips of the lush mountain grass, seemingly without alarm.

Soon a cloud swept up thru a steep gap, enveloped the mountain, and a brisk shower hastened us to the shelter of a nearby, partially dismantled, lookout station building The shower soon passed, and for a few minutes the shoreline surf, with an expanse of the ocean, and the broad mouth of the Columbia, were glimpsed before the rain clouds again gathered,

and for a time our descending view was closely limited. However, the sights granted were indicative of the wonderful panorama the summit of this extraordinary, strategically located peak would reveal on a clearer day

It would be difficult to improve upon Mr. Browne s glowingly enthusiastic report on the Saddle Mountain park area and its possibilities as a future wildlife sanctuary The report is commended for perusal by anyone interested in the park, its principal features or its future development as a broadened, wildlife area if kept, as nearly as possible, in its former well balanced, ecologic and biologic condition.

One of the outstanding features of the upper reaches of the mountain, stressed by Mr. Browne as needing protection, is the delicate type of flora, described by him as belonging to an Arctic or sub-Arctic life zone. Specimens of those unusual flowers have persisted down thru the ages and maintained a precarious existence on the thinly soil covered rocks, only because of their isolation which, up to the present time, has been so little disturbed by the impact of human invasion

Being the only Oregon state park where such rare flora is found, its conservation depends upon being kept from spoilation by visitors who are so heedlessly indifferent to the preservation of the delicate plants that are so vulnerable to indiscriminate picking or the unrestricted human use of their surroundings. They are a precious heritage that should be preserved if possible even if the general public have to be excluded from their habitat

A measure of protection would lie in developing a system of meandering trails amidst the flowered areas, to which guided visitors should be restricted when viewing these unusual, and distinctly alone, state park

wild flower gardens.

The avowed purpose of creating a state park is the preservation of its outstanding feature, or features, for the edification, reasonable use, and pleasure of the public If public use tends to defeat the purpose of preserving any unusual feature that cannot survive the contact of the destructive human element, the public should be prevented from visiting the particular locality except under the guidance of an informed custodian.

Saddle Mountain State Park is very definitely one of this character, and its rare flora should be afforded every possible protection during the flowering season Being a game refuge, the wildlife of the park, with the assistance of the state game officers, will fairly well care for itself. Only close protective surveillance will save its flora

Mr. Browne, impressed with the many closely related physical and wildlife features of the area, considered the locality to be especially favorable for the creation of a larger and more comprehensive park, which would for all time give sanctuary to the numbers and exceptional variety of the fauna, of which he saw considerable evidence, that were, or could be all the year around dwellers of the locality.

His report suggests the expension of the present park to include the forested Humbug Mountain, two miles south of the present boundary, and the extension of its other boundaries to aggregate over ten thousand acres. This would include all of both principal mountains, the headwaters of Clatsop County's largest streams, some primeval forest to the south and a greatly expanded area of restocking cut-over land, which in time would become an ideal preserve, large enough to harbor all forms of native wildlife in their natural surroundings, which could remain in ecologic and biologic balance for a long period of years, perhaps forever.

All Oregon state parks are game refuges and flower picking is forbidden However, no state park has so far been created for the specific purpose of handing down to posterity any considerable, readily accessible area possessing such an unusual and rare floral exhibit, or a similar grouping of inland, Coast Range fauna and avians as would be possible in Saddle Mountain state park, if it were enlarged as suggested by Mr. Browne in his 1936 report.

Climatically and physically, the present park area represents a site, which in its present form is very definitely the centerpiece of a tract well suited for a wildlife sanctuary; scenic distinction being added to its value by the presence of Saddle Mountain itself, rising so picturesquely above its surroundings Its lower fastnesses sheltering an indigenous wildlife, its upper slopes having in their keeping a rare floral display.

The preservation of wildlife in its natural surroundings has long been an established policy of state park administration and hunting is forbidden within park bounds An extension of Saddle Mountain park to broaden the scope of its wildlife protection would alone be a commendable innovation and meet the approval of nature lovers, who view with dismay the every widening destruction of the living forest, and the evils of the subsequent fires, which mean the loss or displacement of the wildings whose homes had been in the devasted areas.

Culturally, as well as biologically, the principles of Mr. Browne's suggestions for enlarging the Saddle Mountain park are commended for consideration. And, if the creation of an extended wildlife refuge is given serious thought by park authorities, either now or in the future; the present park and its immediate surroundings are believed to be a logical place for its establishment.

With the "Thunder Bird's" eyrie and its stream sources as a nucleus, its area could be extended to include the neighboring mountain and its south side stream sources, and also widened in all other directions to include a portion of the uninhabited, now restocking cut-over lands which are the potential forests of coming years, to shelter the wildlife that will seek its protection, and be a joy and pleasure to those who will visit there in the future.

W. A. LANGILLE

8/28/47

RECOMMENDATIONS

Saddle Mountain Park is a companion park to a string of coastal parks that create a recreational variance of importance.

Recreational development at the foot of the mountain trail should be of the highest design. When the park reaches fifty per cent of its development, overnight camping facilities should be considered. It is seven miles from the Sunset Highway and no camping facilities nearby. A four hundred foot wayside was acquired bordering the entrance road. This should be tree planted where needed and cultivated to bring out the best results. The entire park area has been burned over and reforestation should be done to bring back the forest in full.

S. H. BOARDMAN
State Parks Superintendent

10/31/47