

Vol. 1

May, 1927

No. 3

STEEL POINTS

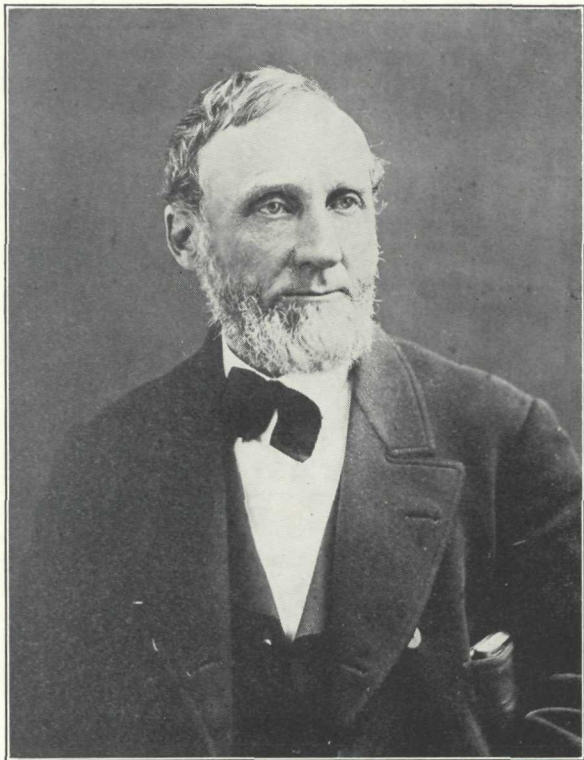
JUNIOR



CRATER LAKE LEGENDS

25 CENTS

Published occasionally by
William Gladstone Steel
Eugene, Oregon



HANS THIELSEN

STEEL POINTS

(JUNIOR)

VOL. I

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THE LLAOS*

While at Fort Klamath, in 1885, I obtained from Allen David, then chief of the Klamath Indians, the following tradition. When telling the story, David placed his partly closed hands before him, to describe the rock on which the Indian's throat was cut by Llaos. No mention was made of the fact in my notes and I had forgotten it until next day when a view was obtained of the rock, when a vision of hands appeared to me and it was then and there named Llao Rock.

"A long time ago, long before the white man appeared in this region to vex and drive the proud native out, a band of Klamaths, while out hunting, came suddenly upon the lake and were startled by its remarkable walls and awed by its majestic proportions. With spirits subdued and trembling with fear, they silently approached and gazed upon its face; something within told them the Great Spirit dwelt there, and they dared not remain but passed silently down the side of the mountain and camped far away. By some unaccountable influence, however, one brave was induced to return. He went up to the very brink of the precipice and started his camp fire. Here he laid down to rest; here he slept till morn—slept till the sun was high in air, then arose and joined his tribe,

*Llao was the Indian deity. Llaos were the sea monsters in the lake.

far down the mountain. At night he came again; again he slept till morn. Each visit bore a charm that drew him back again. Each night found him sleeping above the rocks; each night strange voices arose from the waters; mysterious voices filled the air. At last, after a great many moons, he climbed down to the lake and there bathed and spent the night. Often he climbed down in like manner, and saw wonderful animals, similar in all respects to a Klamath Indian, except that they seemed to exist entirely in the water. He suddenly became hardier and stronger than any Indian of his tribe, because of his many visits to the mysterious waters. Others then began to seek its influence. Old warriors sent their sons for strength and courage to meet the conflicts awaiting them. First they slept on the rocks above, then ventured to the water's edge, but last of all they plunged beneath the flood and the coveted strength was theirs. On one occasion the brave who first visited the lake, killed a monster, or fish, and was at once set upon by myriads of excited laos (for such they were called), who carried him to the top of a



great rock, cut his throat with a stone knife, then tore his body into small bits, which were thrown down to the waters far beneath, where they were devoured by the angry laos."

When telling this story Devid placed his partly closed hands before him to describe the rock on which the Indina's throat was cut.

KLAMATH LEGEND OF LA-O

O. C. APPLGATE

According to mythology of Klamath and Modoc Indians, the chief spirit who occupied the mystic land of Gayway, or Crater Lake, was La-o. Under his control were many lesser spirits, who appeared to be able to change their forms at will. Many of them were monsters of various kinds, among them the great crawfish (or dragon), who could, if he chose, reach up his mighty arms even to the tops of the cliffs and drag down to the cold depths of Crater Lake any too venturesome tourists of the primal days.

The spirits of beings under the control of La-o, assumed the form of many animals of the present day, when they chose to go abroad on dry land, and this was no less true of the other fabulous inhabitants of Klamath land, who were dominated by other chief spirits, and who occupied separate localities; all these forms, however, were largely or solely subject to the will of Komoo'kumps, the great spirit.

Now on the north side of La-o Yaina (La-o's mountain), the eastern escarpment of which is known as La-o Rock, is a smooth field, sloping a little toward the north, which was a common playground for the fabled inhabitants of Gaywas and neighboring communities.

Skell was a mighty spirit whose realm was the Klamath marsh country, his capital being year Yamsay river, on the eastern side of the marsh. He had many subjects who took the form of birds and beasts when abroad in the land, as the antelope, the bald eagle, the bliwas, or golden eagle, among them many of the most sagacious and active of all the beings then upon the earth.

A fierce war occurred between Skell and La-o and their followers, which raged for a long time. Finally Skell was stricken down in his own land of Yamsay and his heart was torn from his body and carried in triumph to La-o Yaina. Then a great gala day was declared and even the followers of Skell were allowed to take part in the games on La-o Yaina, and the heart of Skell was tossed from hand to hand, in the great ball game, in which all participated.

If the heart of Skell could be borne away and be restored to his body, he would live again, and with a secret understanding among themselves, followers of Skell watched for an opportunity to bear it away. Finally, when it reached the hands of Antelope, he sped to the eastward like the wind. When nearly exhausted he passed it to Eagle, and he in turn to Bliwas, and so on, and although La-o's followers pursued with their utmost speed, they failed to overtake the swift bearers of the precious heart. At last they heard the far away voice of the dove, another of Skell's people, and then they gave up the useless pursuit.

Skell's heart was restored to his body and he lived again, so the war was renewed and finally La-o was himself overpowered and slain. His bleeding body was borne to La-o Yaina, on the verge of the great cliff and a false message was conveyed to La-o's monsters in the lake, that Skell had been killed, instead of La-o, and when a quarter of the body had been thrown over, La-o's monsters devoured it, thinking it was part of the body of Skell. Each quarter was thrown over in turn, with the same result, but when the head was thrown into the lake, it was recognized as that of La-o and they refused to touch it, so it remains today, an island in the lake, to all people now known as Wizard Island.

STAGES OF WATER

In 1905 the U. S. Geological Survey set a plate, or bench mark, 24 inches above the water in Crater Lake, in solid rock, marked 6,179 feet. The following measurements are given in inches below that bench mark:

- 1908—Oct. 8, 36.75.
- 1909—Aug. 14, 50.; Sept. 7, 32.
- 1910—Aug. 26, 22.
- 1911—Aug. 21, 33.
- 1912—July 10, 32.50; Aug. 1, 34.25; Aug. 12, 35; Aug. 26, 35.50; Sept. 17, 37.
- 1913—July 19, 28.75; Aug. 3, 29.25.
- 1918—July 14, 47.50; July 30, 59.50; Aug. 23, 66; Sept. 17, 66.
- 1919—July 5, 61.; July 11, 61.; Sept. 20, 74.; Sept. 25, 75.
- 1920—July 6, 79.; Aug. 14, 87.
- 1921—Aug. 2, 55.; Aug. 20, 63.
- 1922—July 21, 54.50; July 26, 56.50; Aug. 20, 62.50; Sept. 10, 65.50.
- 1923—July 1, 62.75; July 24, 67.; Aug. 7, 69.25; Aug. 26, 74.; Sept. 24, 86.
- 1924—June 2, 89.50; July 2, 91.50; Aug. 2, 100.50; Sept. 2, 106.
- 1925—July 1, 87.; Aug. 1, 94.; Sept. 1, 101.; Sept. 22, 107.
- 1926—May 22, 108.; July 22, 114.; Aug. 22, 121.; Sept. 15, 128.

In 1896 Dr. B. W. Evermann, Ichthyologist of the U. S. Fish Commission, took the following temperatures of Crater Lake:

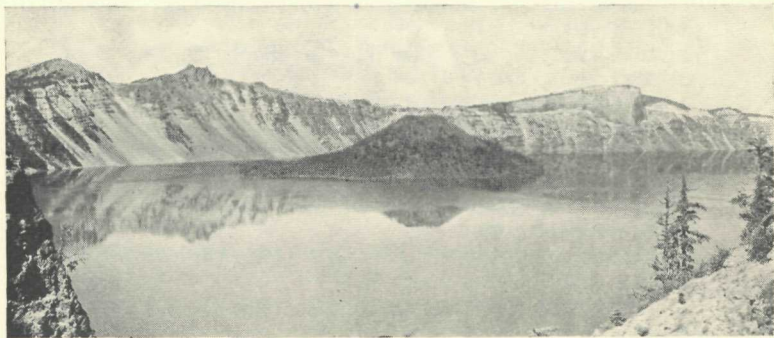
Date	Hour and Station	Depth Feet	Temper- ature
August 20,	11 a. m., at bottom, ½ mile south of Wizard Island.....	93	43.5
August 22,	3 p. m., about 2¼ miles east of Wizard Island	550	39.
August 22,	4 p. m., about 2¼ miles east of Wizard Island	555	39.
August 22,	5 p. m., at bottom, east of Wizard Island	1623	46.
August 22,	on the surface		61.

The Watchman

Hillman Peak

Wizard Island

Llao Rock



CRATER LAKE

CRATER LAKE NAMES

ANDERSON SPRING—Named by Capt. O. C. Applegate in 1888, for Frank M. Anderson.

ANNIE CREEK—So named in 1865 for Miss Annie Gaines, who, with Mrs. O. T. Brown, were the first white women to reach the water of Crater Lake. Miss Gaines reached it first.

APPLEGATE PEAK—Elevation 7115 feet. Above the water, 1938 feet. Named for Capt. O. C. Applegate, of Klamath Falls.

BALD CRATER—Elevation 6474 feet. An extinct crater with no timber on it.

BUTTERFLY SLIDE—Discovered and named by Mrs. Sumpter de Leon Lowry, of Tampa, Florida, August 10, 1916, and so named for the reason that the reflection, added to the slide in front of Dutton Cliff, make the form of an immense butterfly.

CASTLE CREEK—Originally Crack Creek, because of the depth of the canyon and steepness of the sides. Subsequently called Castle Creek because of the pinnacles, or spires, within the canyon.

CHASKI BAY—A Klamath Indian name for one of their sub gods. Named by Will G. Steel.

CLEETWOOD CANYON—The Cleetwood, the boat used to sound the lake, was launched down this canyon in 1886. Named by Will G. Steel.

CLEETWOOD COVE—A name dreamed by Will G. Steel, then given the boat for which the cove was named.

CLOUD CAP—Elevation 8070 feet. Above the lake, 1893 feet. Named by J. S. Diller because of its high dome.

COPELAND CREEK—Named for Hiram Copeland, of Fort Klamath.

CRATER LAKE—Discovered by John W. Hillman and a

Party of prospectors, June 12, 1853, and named Deep Blue Lake. Discovered again October 21, 1862, by Chauncey Nye, J. W. Sessions, H. Abbott, J. Brandlin and James Leyman, and named Blue Lake. It was again discovered in July, 1865, by two hunters from Fort Klamath and named Lake Majesty, which was retained until a party from Jacksonville, in August, 1869, named it Crater Lake. Depth, 1996 feet.

CRATER PEAK—Elevation 7265 feet. So named by the U. S. Geological Survey, because of its little extinct crater.

DEAD INDIAN ROAD—About 1854, a few settlers of the Rogue River Valley went to the mountain valleys now called Dead Indian, and in one of them found two or three deserted wigwams, in one of which were the bodies of two Indians, supposed to have been Rogue Rivers. There was bad blood between the tribes and this was accepted as mute evidence that hunting parties had met.

DESERT CONE—Elevation 6651 feet. So named because of the appearance of the immediate vicinity.

DUTTON CLIFF—Elevation 8150 feet. Above the water, 1973 feet. Named by Will G. Steel in August, 1886, for Capt. Clarence E. Dutton, then in charge of the surveying party.

DYAR ROCK—Named by Capt. Oliver C. Applegate in 1872, for Leroy S. Dyar, of Ontario, California, then Indian agent on the Klamath reservation and later a member of the Modoc Peace Commission. He was the only commissioner who escaped uninjured when attacked by Capt. Jack and other Modoc Indians in the Lava Beds, April 11, 1873, at which time Gen. E. R. S. Canby and Dr. E. Thomas were killed and A. B. Meacham was wounded and left for dead.

GARFIELD PEAK—Named by Will G. Steel for James R.

Garfield, then Secretary of the Interior, July 15, 1907. Mr. Garfield was the first cabinet officer to see Crater Lake.

GOODBYE BRIDGE—So named by U. S. Marshal Leslie M. Scott, July 22, 1913, because it was the last piece of work in the park by W. F. Arant, the retiring superintendent. The creek was named for the bridge.

GROUSE HILL—Elevation 7401 feet. So named by the U. S. Geological Survey, because of the abundance of grouse there.

HILLMAN PEAK—First known as Maxwell Peak, for Sir William F. Maxwell, of Edinburg, Scotland, who explored the Crater Lake region in early days. Then called Glacier Peak. Later named for John Wesley Hillman, who discovered Crater Lake, June 12, 1853.

KERR NOTCH—(Pronounced Car). Named for Mark B. Kerr, chief engineer when Crater Lake was surveyed and sounded in 1886.

LLAO ROCK—Elevation 8046 feet. Above the lake, 1869 feet. Named by Will G. Steel August 15, 1885, for the Indian deity, supposed to be the special guardian of the lake.

MAKLAS PASS—From the Klamath, Muck-lux, signifying persons, or people.

MOUNT MCLOUGHLIN—9760 feet elevation. Named by Donald McKay in 1832, for Dr. John McLoughlin, the Father of Oregon, then factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver. So designated by resolution of the Oregon legislature in 1905, by the Oregon Geographic Board and the U. S. Geographis Board. Same as Mount Jackson of 1846. At one time known locally as Snowy Butte.

MOUNT MAZAMA—On August 21, 1896, Miss Fay Fuller, then of Tacoma, Washington, christened the mountain

- at a meeting of Mazamas, on the rim of the lake, naming it for the club.
- MOUNT SCOTT**—Klamath name, Muckwulx, meaning a place where chiefs sleep. Named for Capt. Levi Scott, a member of the Oregon constitutional convention. He was with Jesse and Lindsay Applegate and twelve others on the initial exploration of southern Oregon in 1846. Elevation 8938 feet. Above the lake, 2761 feet.
- MOUNT THIELSEN**—Elevation 9250 feet. So named by John A. Hurlburt in 1872, for Hans Thielsen, of Portland. Born at Flensburg, Denmark, June 11, 1814; came to the United States in 1837, and to Oregon in 1870. Died in Portland April 25, 1896.
- MUNSON POINT**—Named by Captain O. C. Applegate for Dr. Munson, physician at Klamath agency, who died on this point in 1872. He was accompanied by Sir William F. Maxwell, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and a Mr. Bentley, of Toledo, Ohio.
- POLE BRIDGE CREEK**—So named in 1865, when it was hastily bridged by soldiers with lodgepole pine poles.
- RED CONE**—Elevation 7372 feet. So named because of its color when seen at a distance.
- ROCK OF AGES**—Name suggested by Miss Jean Gladstone Steel, daughter of Will G. Steel, October 12, 1918, when passing over the rim road for the first time.
- SAND CREEK**—So named because of its dangerous quicksands.
- SKELLS HEAD**—Named by Will G. Steel in 1908 for the Indian deity of the plains.
- SPARROW TRAIL**—Named for Alex Sparrow, park superintendent.
- STEEL BAY**—Named by J. S. Diller for Will G. Steel.
- THOMPSON SPRING AND CREEK**—Named for Col. C. G. Thompson, park superintendent, by Will G. Steel.

TIMBER CRATER—Elevation 7360 feet. So named by the U. S. Geological Survey, because it is an extinct crater with timber on its sides.

THE WATCHMAN—This name was given for the reason that when the lake was being sounded, a party of engineers was stationed on the summit to receive signals and record the soundings. They were watching for signals.

UNION PEAK—Elevation 7698 feet. Discovered by Chauncey Nye, H. Abbott, S. Smith, J. Brandlin, James Leyman and J. W. Sessions, October 21, 1862, and so named because of their Union sentiments.

VICTOR ROCK—Named for Mrs. Frances Fuller Victor, the historian, who visited Crater Lake in 1872 and stood on the rock.

WAUPEG CAMP—In the summer of 1865, members of Company I, 1st Oregon Infantry, then engaged in the construction of a road from Fort Klamath to Jacksonville, named the place. A corruption of the word Wopp (invented by the cook). A member of the company found a large piece of pumice of egg shape, then trimmed it until it was a good representation. While the men were off during the day, the cook bored a hole through it lengthwise, then climbed a tall lodgepole pine in camp, cut off the slender top and inserted the remainnder through the egg. He then trimmed off the limbs as he descended, leaving a tall pole with an egg at its top. When the men returned they were informed that an enormous bird called a Wopp, had flown over and stopped long enough to lay the egg.

WHEELER CREEK—Named for James H. Wheeler, of Fort Klamath.

WINE GLASS—So named by J. S. Diller, because of its shape at a distance.

WITCHES CAULDRON—Named by Will G. Steel, August 17, 1885.

WIZARD ISLAND—763 feet above the water. So named by Will G. Steel, August 17, 1885, because of its weird appearance.

INDIAN LEGEND OF WIZARD ISLAND

(In Crater Lake)

According to the legend
Of the red-skinned Modoc tribe,
In the infinite depths of the water
Was the throne of their mystic guide.

The great god Llao with warriors bold
Surrounding his mighty throne,
Many a war had waged and fought
By these monsters on patrol.

The sinister claws and gigantic strength
Of these titanic, bold crawfish,
Could reach and capture the enemy
From the tall and rugged cliffs.

Factionous and peaceful the Modoc tribe
Of swarthy, stalwart braves,
Lived till the death of their mystic guide
Llao, the god of the lake.

In the neighboring marshes the Klamath tribe
With the great god Skell, their aide,
And coyote and eagle in servant guise,
Dwelt safe and unafraid.

Then war was waged by the powerful Skell
The mighty Llao to appall
But was captured by one of the great crawfish
And his heart used for a ball.

The trusty eagle soaring high
The flying missile caught,
And the coyote on the mountainside
It from the eagle took.

So the body of this god of theirs
Grew around his living heart,
And once again with power ruled
And his vengeance did assert.

Another war he straightway waged
And this time thus did take,
With cunningness and crafty skill
The great god of the lake.

The body of the giant god
Upon a cliff was torn,
His head into the lake was cast
For his warriors brave to mourn.

The head still rests there in the lake
According to the legend old,
And Llao Rock where they quartered him
A constant vigil holds.

FANNIE B. WHITE.

May 27, 1926.

Morning Oregonian
September 1, 1926

CRATER IS PLACE FOR ROAD

Building Within Rim Would Enormously Enhance Value

CRATER LAKE, Ore., Aug. 30.—(To the Editor).—The construction of new roads at Crater Lake is in full swing and we are getting satisfactory results, in that grades are being greatly reduced and sharp curves are being eliminated. The why of all this construction consists in the fact that the war department spent \$400,000 building roads in the first place, \$300,000 of which money was recklessly wasted. The present work seems to be in competent hands and good results are expected. However, there is one danger, which consists in the insincere expression of economy, the significance of which is beyond understanding. It is almost always used by small men to cover waste in insignificant projects of little or no merit, but great engineers design bold projects of brilliant conception and vast utility, that command the approval of those who pay the taxes and they are afterwards remembered as public benefactors.

In the beginning the war department built a road from the hotel to Kerr Notch, over two heavy grades, with many sharp curves, through an uninteresting region, out of sight of the lake and 13 miles long, that is to be replaced by something better. Shall it be just a little better, and through the same region, or shall it be built from the hotel to the base of Kerr Notch, on a four per cent grade, four miles long, then through a tunnel half a mile long, on a five per cent grade, with the debris of the tunnel used to fill in along the lake shore, for parking, turning, boathouses and other purposes? If not built within the rim at this time, it will be another waste of public funds and at a later date such a road will be built and the present engineer referred to as wholly unequal to

his job. The probabilities are that he will be accused of wasting public funds, just as the war department did and is now accused of having done.

Crater Lake is acknowledged to be one of the greatest wonders of the world, and it is safe to say that nowhere on earth is there within a similar area such possibilities for sensational road construction. It is a wonderful asset; then why not use it? With this road within the rim, the whole world would read of it and see it pictured, and from all quarters of the earth would come intelligent men and women to see it, so that the present season of 80,000 visitors would soon appear wholly insignificant by comparison. At this time not to exceed five per cent of those visiting the park climb down to the water, but with an automobile road there would be no exceptions. Let the feeble, the lame and the halt go to the water by automobile, then enter boats and pass over this wonderful sheet of water and cast the fly to greedy fishes. They have as good a right to do all this as you and I.

Let me call your attention to this fact: Thousands of roads are being built throughout the land, wholly for utility. The fact becomes monotonous and yet taxpayers want them and are willing to pay for them. If a road is proposed within a national park that is acknowledged to be sensational, everybody is at once interested and the engineer who carries it into effect immediately reaps his reward by becoming famous. At the same time the road itself becomes popular and American citizens are proud of it. Then why have a road a little better than that built by the war department, which is acknowledged to be a failure, and that by no possibility can ever become popular?. I am opposed to hiding our road in the woods of the park, and insist that it be placed where everybody in the country will hear of it and want to see it.

WILL G. STEEL.



STEEL POINTS JUNIOR

Vol. 1, No. 1, Lady of the Woods

*Vol. 1, No. 2, Crater Lake, Yesterday, Today and
Tomorrow*

Vol. 1, No. 3, Crater Lake Legends

Twenty-five cents per Copy