OREGON WELCOMES rock hunters to the Agate State. . .
Collectors of every age enjoy the thrill of discovering a flawless gem or a rare fossil, and Oregon is the place to find them. Come on out and try your luck in one or all of the state's many rich deposits. However, don't be disappointed if you fail to "strike it rich" on your first outing...it took the residents of Canyon City, in central Oregon, 10 years to discover they had paved their streets with gold-bearing gravel!

ROCKHOUND RULES
Oregon is a collector's paradise, but even in a paradise it is wise to follow a few simple rules...certainly they will tend to assure the best possible success.

1. Select several sites within a fairly small area to avoid spreading valuable collecting time too thin...become informed on the material available and its exact location.
2. Don't hesitate to ask local collectors for information about selected sites...check with rockhound clubs wherever they are found.
3. Bring along the proper tools and equipment—including boots and sturdy clothing—for field work...depending on the material sought, you may find use for a rockhammer, shovel, prybar, sledge and chisel, or light pick mattock.
4. Make special preparations for seasonal weather conditions—canteens, caps and sunglasses for the desert, warm jackets for the mountains, etc.
5. Obtain permission of land owners before entering private property...don't leave campsite debris scattered about and BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE.
6. Take care in entering abandoned mine shafts—you enter at your own risk.
7. Don't throw rocks from cliffs and endanger persons who might be below...use proper care in handling tools.
8. Take only the material you will use and leave the rest for other collectors.

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MINERALS, FOSSILS

Jaspers and agates, petrified wood, Oregon "jade"...

Tumbling material is found from Oceanlake south to Newport... 

Banded agates, moss agate, opals; polka dot... This famed location is near U.S. Highway 101, about 1 mile south of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND THEM...

Southern Oregon Beaches—Gem quality agates and jaspers, petrified wood, Oregon "jade"... 

Banded agates, moss agate, nodules, agatized wood;... The Chamber of Commerce has a listing of other locations.

Northern Oregon Beaches—Variety of jaspers and agates, petrified wood, Oregon "jade"... 

Banded agates, moss agate, opals;... The Antelope Creek area is one of the best known producers of gem-grade agates in Oregon... 

Willamette River—Gem quality agates... 

The Antelope Creek area produces Morrisonite—a hard jasper-like material similar to the "wonderstone" of Utah... 

Gold Buttes—Obsidian... 

This site is found on U.S. Highway 20 between Bend and Burns... 

Lakeview—Thunder eggs, agate, jade,... 

Variety of agates and jade... 

Hart Mountains—Quality agate nodules, fire agate, crystals of various kinds, sunstone;... 

Greenhorn—Fossils, variety of gem material... 

Pineville—Thunder eggs, jade... 

Sucker Creek—Thunder eggs, jasper, petrified wood... 

Sweet Home—Petrified wood, banded agate, Oregon "jade"... 

Petrified wood, banded agate, agatized wood;... 

Wickiup—Thunder eggs containing blue agate, plume agate, green and red moss agate;... 

Warm Springs reservoir—Back dendritic and white plume agates;... 

Sucker Creek to Rockville is an extremely prospective rock hunting location... 

Sucker Creek—Thunder eggs, jasper, petrified wood... 

An area south of Adrian along Sucker Creek... 

Oregon "jade"—Garnet, Oregon "jade"—

Metal minerals, ores

Agates—Opals, petrified wood, serpentine, Oregon "jade" (grossularite garnet)... 

Metal minerals, ores

Garnet, Oregon "jade"—

Minerals, Fossils
OREGON'S GEOLOGIC PAST

OREGON ABOUNDS with geologic wonders, ranging in size from the towering snow-capped peaks of the Cascade Range to the fossilized seeds and plant spores of the Clarno deposit. These features form a visible link between the present day and a history which spans 400 million years.

THE OLDEST ROCKS found on the surface are the schists of southwestern Oregon and the limestone formations of central Oregon. Among the newest are the scattered cinder cones and lava flows of recent volcanic upheaval...one eruption occurred no more than 250 years ago—a "fraction of a second" in geologic time.

OREGON'S CLIMATE has ranged between glacial and semi-tropical, and as a result the fossilized remains of such dissimilar creatures as the woolly mastodon and the crocodile may be found today.

SEMI-PRECIOUS GEMS are found in every section of the state, from the beaches to the eastern border...Oregon gems are "ageless," in that they are found among the rocks of many geologic periods.

OREGON'S MINERALS...

The state's metallic mineral wealth may be measured—at least in terms of collecting—by both the abundance and diversity of available types. Topping the list are gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, mercury and iron. In addition, the only nickel mine in the United States operates in southwestern Oregon. Commercial-grade uranium ore was discovered in southwestern Oregon in 1955 and is known to exist in other parts of the state. The list of metals includes tungsten, molybdenum, cobalt, antimony, and chromium.

GEMS...

Oregon is famous for its semi-precious gems. Agates, petrified wood, jaspers, opals and thunder eggs are found in quantity in many areas of the state. Also to be found in gem quality are hematite, garnet, sunstone, malachite and azurite, rhodonite, chrysocolla, obsidian and rock crystal. Native gold and cinnabar, when found in matrices suitable for polishing, are used as gem stones. Oregon's annual gem production is estimated at $1,000,000.

FOSSILS...

Prolific fossil beds are located in many sections of the state. Of special interest are the John Day beds, first explored by Dr. Thomas Condon, the "Father of Oregon Geology." Fossils of plants and animals which existed 30 to 40 million years ago are taken from these beds. Clarno formation fossils, including many varieties of nuts and semi-tropical plants, have become world famous. Marine beds in western Oregon contain an abundance of fossil sea shells and occasional shark teeth and whale bones. Mollusks and rare specimens of marine reptiles occur in Oregon's rocks of the Mesozoic era (100 to 200 million years ago).

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CLUBS, SOCIETIES

Oregonians are aware of the scenic beauty of their state, but many are also aware of the beauty which lies beneath the surface. Oregon has nearly 50 clubs and societies which exist because of this awareness. The members of these clubs are a friendly and enthusiastic lot and welcome inquiries from out-of-state collectors. Contact any or all of the clubs listed below for tips concerning little-known localities and "special" diggings.

- Agate Beach Agate Society, Toledo
- Albany Rock and Gem Club, Albany
- Ashland Mineral and Gem Club, Ashland
- Blue Mountain Gem Club, La Grande
- Camp White Rock Club, Camp White
- Clatskanie Gem and Mineral Club, Clatskanie
- Columbia Gorge Rockhounds, Corbett
- Columbia Rock and Gem Club, St. Helens
- Coos County Mineral and Gem Club, Coos Bay
- Corvallis Rock and Gem Club, Corvallis
- Deschutes Geology Club, Bend
- Eugene Mineral Club, Eugene
- Hat Rock Gem Club, Echo
- Hi-Desert Gem and Mineral Society, Bend
- Illinois Valley Mineral Hobbies Club, Cave Junction
- John Day Basin Gem and Mineral Club, Prineville
- Klamath Mineral Club, Klamath Falls
- Lebanon Geological Society, Albany
- Madras Gem and Mineral Club, Madras
- Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society, Heppner
- Mt. Emily Gem and Mineral Club, Brooking
- Mt. Hood Rock Club, Gresham
- Newberg Gem and Mineral Club, Newberg
- Newport Gem Society, Newport
- Nickel Mt. Rock Club, Myrtle Creek
- Oregon Agate and Mineral Society, Portland
- Oregon Trail Gem and Mineral Society, Pendleton
- Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, Mamha, Idaho
- Pioneer Prospectors Club, Toledo
- Prineville Mineral Society, Prineville
- Rogue Gem and Geology Club, Grants Pass
- Rasy Ann Gem and Mineral Club, Central Point
- Stanecrafters, Joseph
- Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society, Sweet Home
- Tektronix Employees Geology Club, Hillsboro
- Tillamook Rock Hounds, Tillamook
- Trails End Gem and Mineral Club, Astoria
- Tualatin Valley Gem Club, Hillsboro
- Tyee Mineralites, Dalles City (The Dalles)
- Umpqua Mineral Club, Roseburg
- Vernonia Gem and Fossil Club, Vernonia
- Williamette Rock Club, Springfield
- Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Salem
- Yamhill County Rock and Hobby Club, McMinnville