OREGON WELCOMES rock hunters to the State. ... Collectors of every age enjoy the thrill of finding a flawless gem or a rare fossil, and now is the place to find them.

Come on out and try your luck in one of the state's many rich deposits. However, don't be disappointed if you fail to hit it rich on your first outing ... it took residents of Canyon City, in central Oregon, years to discover they had paved their town 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.

Published by
TRAVEL INFORMATION SECTION
OREGON STATE HIGHWAY DIVISION
SALEM, OREGON
OREGON'S GEOLOGIC PAST

Oregon abounds with geologic treasures, ranging in size from the towering volcano-capped peaks of the Cascade Range to the limestone formations of central Oregon. The oldest rocks found on the surface are the schists of southwestern Oregon. Among the newest are the scattered cones and lava flows of recent volcanic activity. 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, fossils of plants and animals which existed 30 to 40 million years ago are found today. 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).

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).
MINERALS, FOSSILS

AND WHERE TO FIND THEM...

1. SOUTHERN OREGON BEACHES—Gem quality agate, jasper, petrified wood, serpentine, Oregon jade (jasperite garnet), ... Merchant's Beach and Whiskey River Point are highly prized myrtle and other woods, blue and white banded agates, flower jaspers; located off Seven Devils Road, ... island north of Neskowin. ... Highway 66 about nine miles east of Ashland, ... nodules are found in place in a basalt flow a few feet below a highway cut, on the left side of the road going uphill, ... various roads cut near Ashland contain fossil shells of Cretaceous marine life.

2. CLACKAMAS RIVER—Cinnabar, petrified wood, jaspers ... the river bed above Estacada produces gem quality cinnabar, a variety of petrified woods and dark green bloodstone, often associated with common opal ... to find opals near Fairmile.

3. SUNFLOWER FLATS—Banded agate, crystal-lined geodes, jaspers, ... areas is located on the Wapinitia cut-off southeast of Bear Springs Forest Camp, between the Maupin road and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. 

4. CRABTREE FOREST—Agates, jaspers, ... geodes and fire-engine red jasper are found near the railroad cut on the hill above town. 

5. WESTERN COAST BEACHES—Jaspers, obsidian, garnet, Oregon jade, agate, nodules, agatized wood, blue plume agate, fire opal are found in the cliffs at Beverly Beach State Park, near Garibaldi, on the south side of Tillamook Bay. 

6. CENTRAL OREGON BEACHES—Quality agate, jasper, Oregon jade, petrified wood, beach at Road's End produces colorful jaspers ... excellent tumbled material is found from Oceanlake south to Newport, ... and driving for two miles to junction of road ... best time to collect opals near Ocean Lake.

7. NORTHWESTERN OREGON—Variety of jaspers and agates, petrified wood, Oregon jade. ... beaches near Oceanside contain fine material, including colorful jaspers and sapphiric agates ... large specimens are found on Tillamook County beaches ... cliffs bordering Tillamook-Bay county road contain Miocene fossil shells.

8. CLEAR CREEK—Carnelian and plume agates, jasper, petrified wood, a well-known location near the Nehalem River southwest of Vernonia. ... fine material is found in the gravel bars of the creek bed and on the hillside above the creek.

9. WILLAMETTE RIVER—Gem quality agates ... the best material comes from river bars and gravel and cobbles along the river, especially north from Salem to South Corvallis. ... jaspers may be found in the metasediments of the Portland area.

10. SWEET HOME—Petrified wood, banded agate, carnelian agate, jasper, crystal-lined geodes, ... the area around Sweet Home was the location of a vast prehistoric forest, and an abundance of silicified fossil wood—some beautiful material with clear crystalline grain and ring structure—is found here ... locations to look include Ames Creek and the Calapooya River south of town. 

11. MEDFORD—Sawmill Creek. ... many square miles of land in the area of Camp White and Eagle Point produce an abundant variety of material. ... Eagle County road crosses Antelope Creek a short distance east of Eagle Point and provides easy access to the creek bed. ... the Medford Chamber of Commerce has a listing of other locations.

12. GREEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN—Banded blue-gray agate, crystal-lined agates. ... best locations are on Hwy 99, north of the highway cut, on the left side of the road going uphill, ... various roads cut near Ashland contain fossil shells of Cretaceous marine life.

13. JASPERVILLE—Cinnabar, petrified wood, jaspers ... the river bed above Estacada produces gem quality cinnabar, a variety of petrified woods and dark green bloodstone, often associated with common opal ... to find opals near Fairmile.