THE LANDSCAPES OF HOT SPRINGS AND MINERAL SPRINGS IN WESTERN OREGON

by

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A THESIS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF MAPS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Colestin
Main Lodge, around 1885
(photo from files of Jackson County Museum)

INTRODUCTION

Hot springs and mineral springs have been regarded as extraordinary natural features by mankind since the dawn of civilization. On every continent, spring sites have been places of veneration set aside for purposes of healing. During the Age of Exploration, the search for magical spring waters ranked with the search for gold as a prime mover in the exploration of the New World--Ponce De Leon and Hernando De Soto are two of the more famous seekers of renewal from such waters.

The western mountain belt of North America, a geologically active part of the world, is generously endowed with both hots springs and mineral springs. This thesis will attempt to examine these springs located west of the crest of the Oregon Cascades, particularly from the viewpoint of the cultural geographer: what kinds of activities and landscape features have marked these springs, and how do changes in the landscapes of springs reflect changes in human society?

Western Oregon's hot and mineral springs were well known to the American Indians, and there are many accounts of how various tribes used the mineralized waters. The springs with the biggest volume of water and most accessible location were quickly claimed by the pioneer settlers, and commercial development at these prime sites was well underway by the 1870s. Although there were great variations in the scope and extent of development from place to place, they all exploited the medicinal qualities of the water. Other attractions may have existed at a given spa, but the water itself was the unique element that defined the place. Some spas

had sanatoriums with a medical doctor in residence; others did not. At the spas the social amenities were often as important as the springs themselves: many had dance-halls, restaurants, entertainment, and sports facilities. Other kinds of commercial activities, such as mineral water bottling plants, often grew up around the springs.

Although hot springs and mineral springs were places of importance in earlier times, they have been gradually abandoned during the course of the twentieth century. Most of the hot spring and mineral spring sites today can be considered "relict landscapes"--forgotten places with the remnants of once elegant buildings. It is the author's contention that this abandonment, which is not unique to western Oregon but is part of a general pattern throughout the United States, resulted largely from a combination of factors including changes in medical practice and increased efficiency of transportation systems.

Changes in medical habits resulted in much less emphasis on the curative values of hot and mineral spring waters. The long-standing tradition of "taking the waters" was gradually all but forgotten in Oregon and elsewhere in this country. The increasing rapidity and freedom of movement resulting from the triumph of the automobile, and the parallel changes in our society's leisure-time habits, worked to the detriment of the spas throughout the United States.

Underlying these and other valid explanations for the decline of hot and mineral spring landscapes was the gradual erosion of the existence of the places in our individual and collective consciousness. This erosion is rather dramatically illustrated in the extraordinary drop-off in the field of published literature about

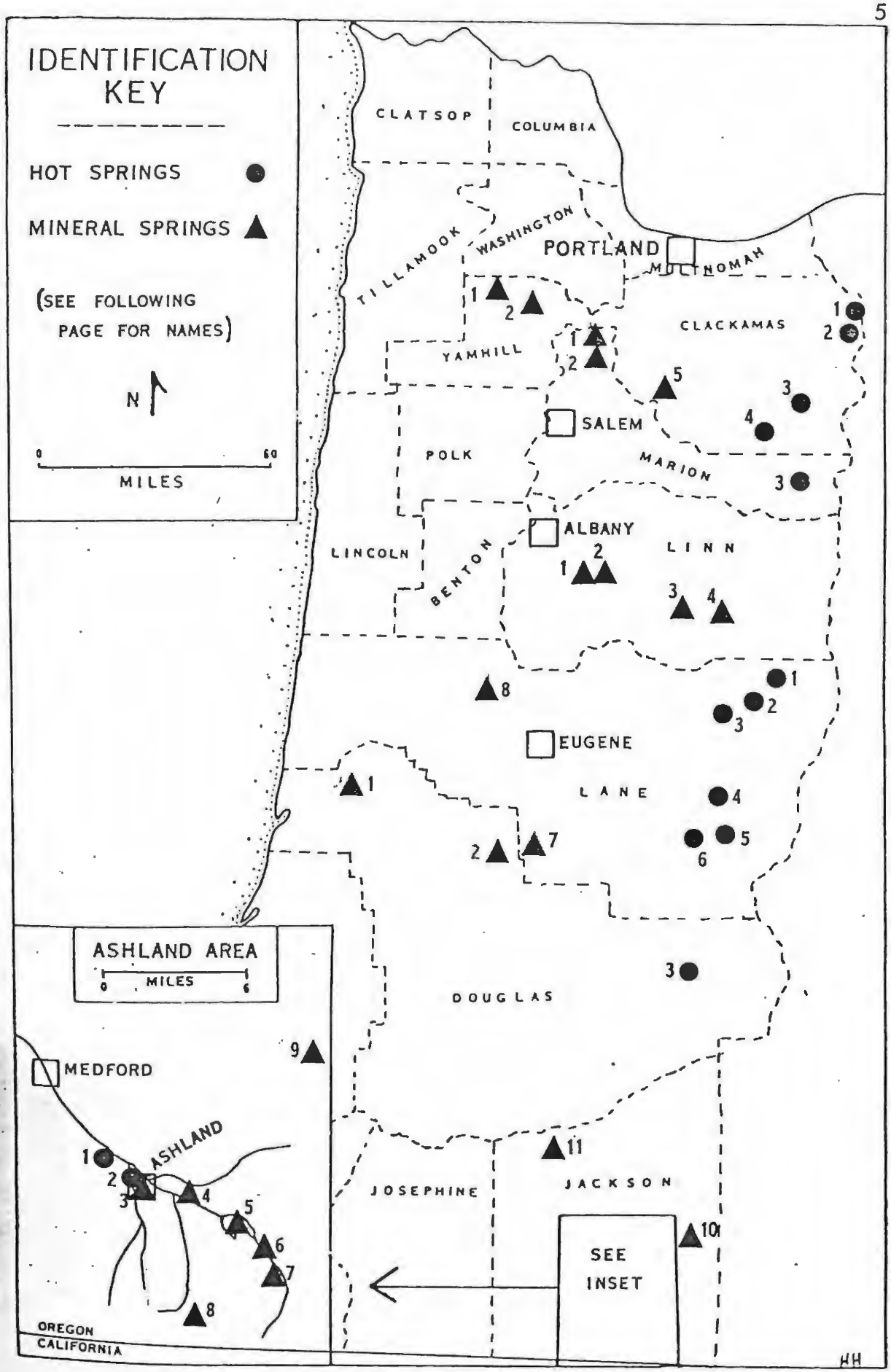
mineralized springs in recent decades, at a time when the field of publishing itself has expanded greatly. Benjamin Waterhouse's study of the mineral springs at Saratoga were included in the fifth and later editions of Jedidiah Morse's American Universal Geography, which was popular around 1800. Other important early American works, including Bell's On Baths and Mineral Waters (1831), periodical magazines such as the Water-Cure Journal (1840s and 50s), and compendiums such as Crook's Mineral Waters of the United States and their Therapeutic Uses (1899), are presently unavailable and apparently have no modern counterparts.

Another indication of the decline of hot and mineral springs in recent decades is the relative lack of interest in those springs which were set aside as public parks in an earlier era. Platt National Park in Oklahoma (1906) and Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas (1921) are not among the most renowned or heavily visited national parks today, although the Arkansas springs were very famous at one time.

In 1859, Oregon's Act of Admission into the Union as a State provided in Section 4 for the free land grant acquisition of up to twelve mineral springs, each with six sections (3,840 acres) of adjoining land. However, due to "the stupidity, indifference, and lack of vision of certain of our early State officials" (Governor Oswald West, Oregonian, 2/18/1948), no application for patent was made within the three years during which the land-grant proposition was in effect. If the state had acted on the proposition, then the landscapes and history of Oregon's hot and mineral springs would certainly have been very different. At any rate, Sodaville

Springs eventually became Oregon's first State Park, and Cascadia Springs was later added to the State Park System. In general, the springs which have ended up in public ownership are today the only springs still open to the public and are for the most part in much better condition than the privately-owned springs. It is sad, but not surprising, that contemporary efforts to add mineral spring sites to the state and county park systems have been given low priority; at Hubbard, for example, persistent efforts in the late 1960s to bring about public acquisition of the once beautiful but deteriorating Hubbard Mineral Springs met with repeated failure.

This thesis, then, is an attempt to examine the changing landscapes associated with hot and cold mineral springs. Cold mineral springs and hot mineral springs are not physically very similar. (In fact, both include extreme variations of mineral content.) Although they have rather distinct spatial distributions, they were used in a virtually identical fashion by the various human cultures of Oregon until fairly recent times. Today the hot springs seem to be getting more attention than the cold mineral springs, and so the landscapes associated with them are beginning to diverge, but traditionally they have been treated together and so will be considered together in this thesis. It is hoped that this work will make a small contribution to the effort to bring these once prominent natural and cultural features out of the darkness into which they have become eclipsed.


IDENTIFICATION KEY
HOT SPRINGS
MINERAL SPRINGS
(SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR NAMES)
N
0
60
MILES
CLATSOP
COLUMBIA
TILLAMOOK
WASHINGTON
PORTLAND
MULTNOMAH
CLACKAMAS
YAMHILL
SALEM
POLK
MARION
LINCOLN
BENTON
ALBANY
LINN
EUGENE
LANE
DOUGLAS
JOSEPHINE
JACKSON
SEE INSET
ASHLAND AREA
0
MILES
6
MEDFORD
ASHLAND
OREGON
CALIFORNIA
HH

Identification Key to Western Oregon Hot and Mineral Springs

Clackamas County

1. near top of Mt. Hood
2. "Swim"
3. Austin Hot Springs
4. Bagby Hot Springs
5. Wilhoit Mineral Springs

Douglas County

1. Sulphur Springs
2. Boswell Mineral Springs
3. North Umpqua Hot Springs

Jackson County

1. Jackson Hot Springs
2. Helman Baths
3. White Sulphur Springs Hotel
4. Lithia Springs
5. Kingsbury Springs (drowned by Emigrant Reservoir)
6. Wagner's Soda Springs
7. Buckhorn Springs
8. Colestin
9. Dead Indian Soda Spring
10. McCallister Soda Spring
11. Bybee Springs

Lane County

1. Belknap Hot Springs
2. Foley Hot Springs
3. Rider Creek Hot Springs
4. Wall Creek Hot Springs
5. McCredie Hot Springs
6. Kitson Hot Springs
7. London (Calapooya) Springs
8. Elk Springs

Linn County

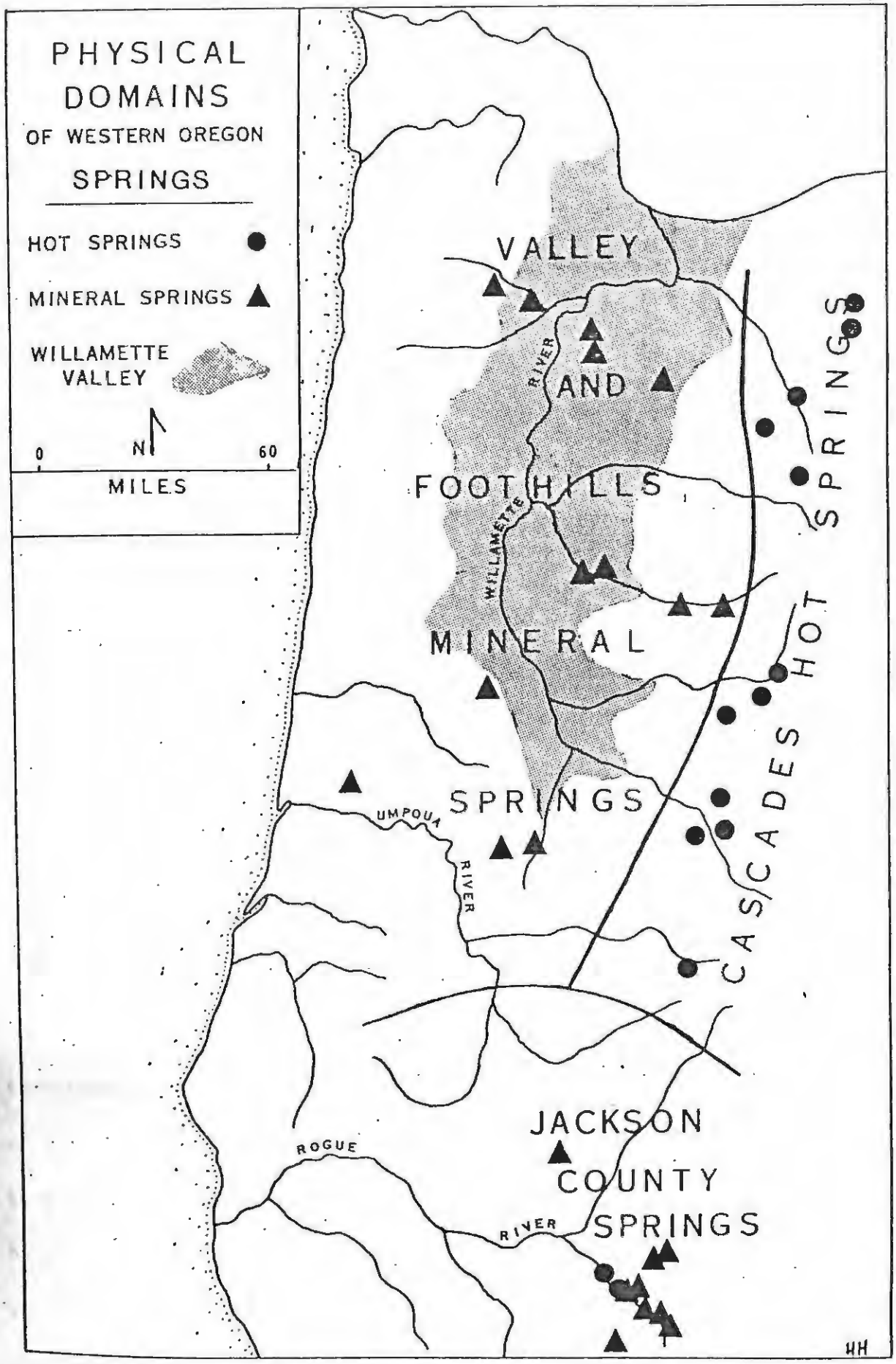
1. Sodaville Mineral Springs
2. Waterloo Mineral Springs
3. Cascadia Mineral Springs
4. Upper Soda

Marion County

1. Giesy's Mineral Springs
2. Hubbard Mineral Spring
3. Breitenbush Hot Springs

Yamhill County

1. Fairdale Mineral Springs
2. Johnson's Mineral Springs


PHYSICAL DOMAINS
OF WESTERN OREGON
SPRINGS
HOT SPRINGS
MINERAL SPRINGS
WILLAMETTE VALLEY
0
N
60
MILES
VALLEY
AND
FOOTHILLS
MINERAL
SPRINGS
JACKSON
COUNTY
SPRINGS
CASCADES HOT SPRINGS
WILLAMETTE RIVER
UMPQUA RIVER
ROGUE RIVER
WH

CHAPTER I

THE USE OF SPRINGS BY AMERICAN INDIANS

One apparently universal feature of Oregon's hot and mineral springs was their discovery and use by the native American populations. Nearly all the springs "discovered" by white settlers were accessible by Indian trails; in many instances settlers were introduced to the springs by Indian guides. An advertising brochure for Breitenbush Hot Springs describes how they

> are said to have been first discovered in the early 1840's by a one-armed Dutch pioneer named Peter Breitenbush, whose name they bear. Through his association and friendship with the Indians he learned of these miraculous curative waters bursting forth from nature's reservoir. (Oregon Historical Society files)

At Belknap Springs, the owner remembers finding arrowheads on the property as a child and relates that they had been very numerous in the early years of the spa (Mrs. Betty Smith, personal communication). McCredie Springs was a great Indian hunting ground and a place where many natives took mud baths for their rheumatism (Mrs. C. A. Huntington, personal communication). The mineral springs which became known as London Springs were very well known to the Indians, and the trademark for Calapooya Smiling Water was a noble warrior in full regalia (old bottles, Lane County Museum). At Foley Springs, the owner recalls that Indians were frequent summer visitors to the waters and that they came in groups for occasional visits as recently as 1920, when the resort was in full swing (P. Runey, personal communication).

An article about Boswell Springs begins

> One nation or race of people follows in the footsteps of another. This has been true of all ages and in all countries and among all phases of civilization. The famous health and pleasure resort known to modern civilization as Boswell Springs, if we are to believe Indian tradition, was a favorite resort of the Indian tribes from the Multnomahs on the Willamette to the warlike tribes who inhobited the Rogue River country. It is said that the lame, the afflicted, and the aged among various tribes inhabiting this vast country made annual pilgrimages to these springs, where they met on peaceful footing and bathed in and drank the magic waters until they were restored to perfect health. (Portland Evening Telegram, 6/01/1903)

At about the same time the Boswell Springs description was written, the railroad brochure Outings in Oregon conveyed a similar message, although in a more narrow-minded way:

> Many of the medicinal springs of Oregon have a record of centuries of healing among the Indians, who, like the lower animals, instinctively discover true nature remedies for the ills that overtake them. (Outings in Oregon, c. 1910, p. 57)

It is curious that although virtually every hot spring and mineral spring in western Oregon was described as a medicinal bathing place for the Indians, very few accounts remain describing the way in which the springs were used. One account which does survive, written about the Emigrant Creek springs by Bertha M. Borden and printed in the Medford Mail-Tribune in 1948, is interesting but was apparently not based on direct personal experience. She writes

> How they (the Klamaths) learned of the medicinal qualities of the water is not known. Who taught them about the dangers and uses of the seductive gases emanating from the rocky fissures along the creek is still a mystery.
>
> Perhaps by trial and error came the methods they employed to heal the sick. They built their flimsy wickiups of fir boughs over

> the rocky crannies and placed the patient in a comfortable position to inhale the gaseous vapors.
>
> When he become unconscious he was removed to a safe distance to regain consciousness. His circulation was restored by rubbing, and in a day or two the rite was repeated, and thus continued until the malady subsided. (Medford Mail-Tribune, 3/26/1948)

Mrs. Borden goes on to explain that "the carbon dioxide gas . . . caused death when inhaled too long," and so the first white settlers called the springs "Poison Water" until they learned how to use them by observing the Indians.

The improvement of pools for bathing and the construction of sweathouses seem to have been characteristic cultural features on the springs landscapes before the arrival of white settlers. Although it is likely that the sweathouses varied in detail among different communities, the only general description of the sweathouse I uncovered in found in an extensive study of the Klamath peoples published by the American Philosophical Society:

> Sweat houses were of two kinds, a round dome-shaped structure used in summer and a more solid, gable-shaped type used in winter. The gable-shaped variety is built over a shallow, elliptical pit about five feet in length. The ridge-pole is supported by a pair of struts at each end pushed into the edges of the pit. Sticks and bark are then leaned up against the ridge-pole and this "roof" is covered with dry grass and dirt. The ridge-pole is about 3½ feet above ground. The small entrance is covered with a mat. Stones, heated outside, are rolled into the house and after they have cooled somewhat water is thrown on them for steam. . . The gable and sweat lodge, a much longer type, was used for ceremonial swearing and perhaps indicates an older pattern. . . (Klamath Prehistory, 1956, p. 392)

For the most part, the various Indian peoples inhabiting western Oregon tended to be mobile, with relatively few permanent settlements. The Klomaths, who were regular visitors at most of the hot and mineral springs throughout the

southern two-thirds of the study area, are described as

> having a very neat adjustment to the marsh, riverine, vegetational resources . . . an adoptation to the particular ecological conditions of the area that bespeaks a long period of occupation. . . . Each group had a recognized home area to which it always returned at the close of the seasonal movements in search of the particular resource available at special seasons and places. The seasonal round of life was thus well established. (Ibid., p. 392)

Although there seems to be no evidence of permanently inhabited villages at any of the hot springs or mineral springs, there have been extensive archaeological excavations at Kawumkin Springs in Klamath County. Kawumkin Springs consists of a series of large springs located near the banks of the Sprague River. The main springs discharges at a constant temperature of 52 °F, while smaller adjacent springs ore slightly warmer (Klamath Prehistory, 1956, p. 405). Although this is not warm enough to be included in Peterson and Bowen's compilation of thermal springs and wells in Oregon, it is sufficient to keep the downstream portion of the Sprague from freezing in winter; this was considered to be one of the attractions of the site.

The Kawumkin Springs site was occupied, though not continuously, for many thousands of years. The earliest house pits date back at least 9,000 years and may be related to archaeological sites in the Fort Rock Basin (Klamath Prehistory, 1956, p. 463). Various levels of occupation have been unearthed, with an opparent time lapse between levels and a renewal of activity at about 1500 A.D.

> There is a sequence of occupation but no clearly definable difference in the house types over a long period of time, but the evidence from the early period of the Kawumkin Springs midden shows a completely different type of habitation. The hiatus between that period and the earliest house pits . . . connot at present be filled in. (Ibid., p. 445)

At present, the Kawumkin site "is covered with a heavy growth of weeds and bunches of wild rye" (Ibid., p. 405), except along the spring course and the riverbank, which support cottonwood and thick stands of alder. Viewed from the long distance of historical time, the present situation may be seen as a representative "unoccupied period" in the typical landscape of springs and has much in common with the abandoned hot and mineral spring spas of the white man's landscape today.

CHAPTER II

SPAS AND "SOCIETY"

One characteristic of hot spring and mineral spring use, at least in Europe and the United States, was the development of grandiose facilities to engage the attention of the very wealthy. The very names Marienbad, Karlovy-Vary, and Vichy in Europe, and Saratoga in the United States, call to mind a kind of decadent elegance reminiscent of past glories.

In Europe, where the spa tradition originated,[1] and has flourished for many hundred of years, the communities which grew up around the springs have become stabilized as small towns and cities. Perhaps because a class-structured society is more firmly established in Europe than in this country the spa tradition has survived better there than it has here. (See Duguid and Licht for details on European spas.)

In the colonial period in the United States, warm springs and mineral springs were developed by the gentry into spas of the European style. Stafford Springs in Connecticut was apparently the first spa to be developed, but Saratoga Springs and Ballston Springs in New York and the variaus hot springs in Virginia were more notable gathering places for the eorly American "high society." Thomas Jefferson,

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[1]According to Licht, the word "spa" dates back to about the 14th century and comes originally from the old Walloon word "espa" which meant "fountain." Today the word "spa," which has come to mean a mineral waters resort, is used only in the English-speaking countries. (See Licht, p. 437, for more details on the word derivations.)

for one, took great interest in the Virginia Springs; he described them in detail in his Notes On The State Of Virginia and subsequently recommended that the state should acquire some of them for the public good (Kamenetz, Medical Hydrology, p. 169).

Although the eastern half of the United States has fewer hot springs and mineral springs than the western half, they were virtually all developed into elegant spas for the aristocratically inclined. Although the eastern spas were equipped with medical facilities as well as social facilities, the emphasis had become decidedly social by the middle of the 19th century. Kamenetz, in his "History of American Spas and Hydrotherapy," which is by far the most thoroughly researched article on the subject the author has seen, explains that

> for most of the travelers, the waters were only a pretext. What attracted them were not precisely medical problems, but the company of others, the multi-colored world of social life with promenades, clubs, cotillions, mask and other balls; races, hunting, sketching, and later photography; courting, serenades, romance, faro, prize euchres, champagne suppers, and the marriage market. Health and water, the excuse for all, had importance for only a few. (Ibid., p. 172)

Dr. John Freeland, a physician who used to frequent the Virginia Springs, described the medical situation even more succinctly: "The baths and waters are good for you if you're all right, but they're bad for you if you're not" (Amory, 1948, p. 450). In fact, the Virginia Springs were careful not to take on too many invalids at any given time, lest it risk its gay social reputation.

Many of the West Coast hot springs and mineral springs were developed through conscious imitation of these Eastern spas. In general, as Ganoe describes,

Oregon had "almost a compulsion to imitate the East. (The native Oregonian of the 1890s) . . . took pride in succeeding in recreating life in the East. The favorite comparison of Oregon publicists and Oregon journalists was how much Oregon . . . was to be found like its eastern predecessors" (Carson, 1953, pp. 68-9).

Saratoga was a model for many of Oregon's spa developments; in fact, Harry Silver based his projected Pompadour Chief Lithia Water Spa, which was to be just outside of Ashland, on his prior experience in Saratoga. The racetrack at Saratoga (which soon equalled and eventually surpassed the waters as the place's main attraction) had its counterpart at London; as a small college town, Saratoga served as a model for Sodaville, where the short-lived Mineral Springs College was located around the turn of the century. Furthermore, Saratoga's 1821 statement of its curative powers--". . . most efficaceous (for Jaundice and bilious affections generally, Dyspepsia, Habitual Costiveness, Hypochondricol Complaints . . ." (Amory, 1948, p. 410) --became the model for health advertising used at nearly all of Oregon's developed springs.

The Virginia Springs, which had become a major symbol of the old Southern aristocracy, was also a model for many of Oregon's spas. The Grand Tour of the Springs--an essential courtship ritual in the "coming out" of Southern belles (see Amory, 1948, for detailed commentary on the Grand Tour), did not have its formal counterpart in Oregon, but the lavish elegance of the buildings at the Virginia Springs was a model for the buildings and furnishing at many Oregon springs. Captain Boswell, a Southern aristocrat, established Boswell's reputation

as a resort in the grand old style, and Paul Coles did likewise at Colestin.

Despite the old cliche about class lines breaking down in the pioneer and early settlement era of the West, a great many resorts were established on the West Coast which catered particularly to the wealthy and well-placed. Carson maintains that Oregon was far from being a classless society:

> The frontier tended to diminish class lines, but it never succeeded in eradicating them. . . The greatest contribution of the frontier in this respect was not that it eliminated class lines but that it enhanced social mobility. . . The social aristocracy centered of necessity in the cities. Though many Oregon farmers were prosperous, few had the leisure or means requisite to the highest social standing. . .
>
> Throughout the 'nineties the gap that separated the highest from the lowest on the social ladder continued to widen. The homes and grounds, social habits, and recreation of the social elite contrasted more and more sharply with those of the city working man. Oregon newspapers throughout the 'nineties referred to "society," apparently to the confusion of no one as to whom the term included and excluded. (Carson, 1953, pp. 19-20)

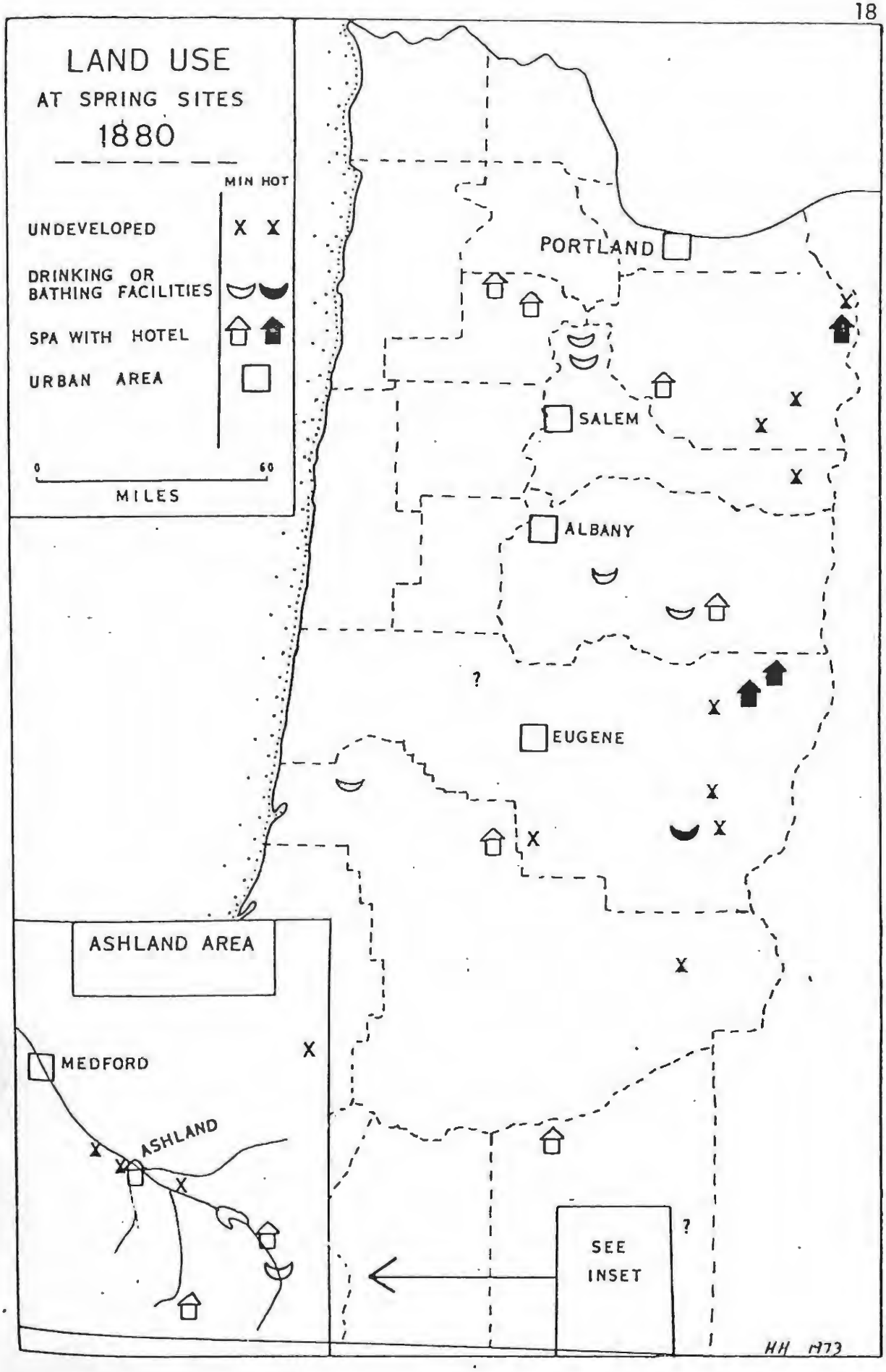
In Oregon there was an unwritten but very clear distinction between the springs for the wealthy and the springs for the "common man." On the McKenzie River, for example, Foley Springs catered for the most part to a more affluent and pretentious class of people than nearby Belknap Springs. This is not apparent from any differences in advertising or in any literature but is the opinion of many personal informants based on their recollections.

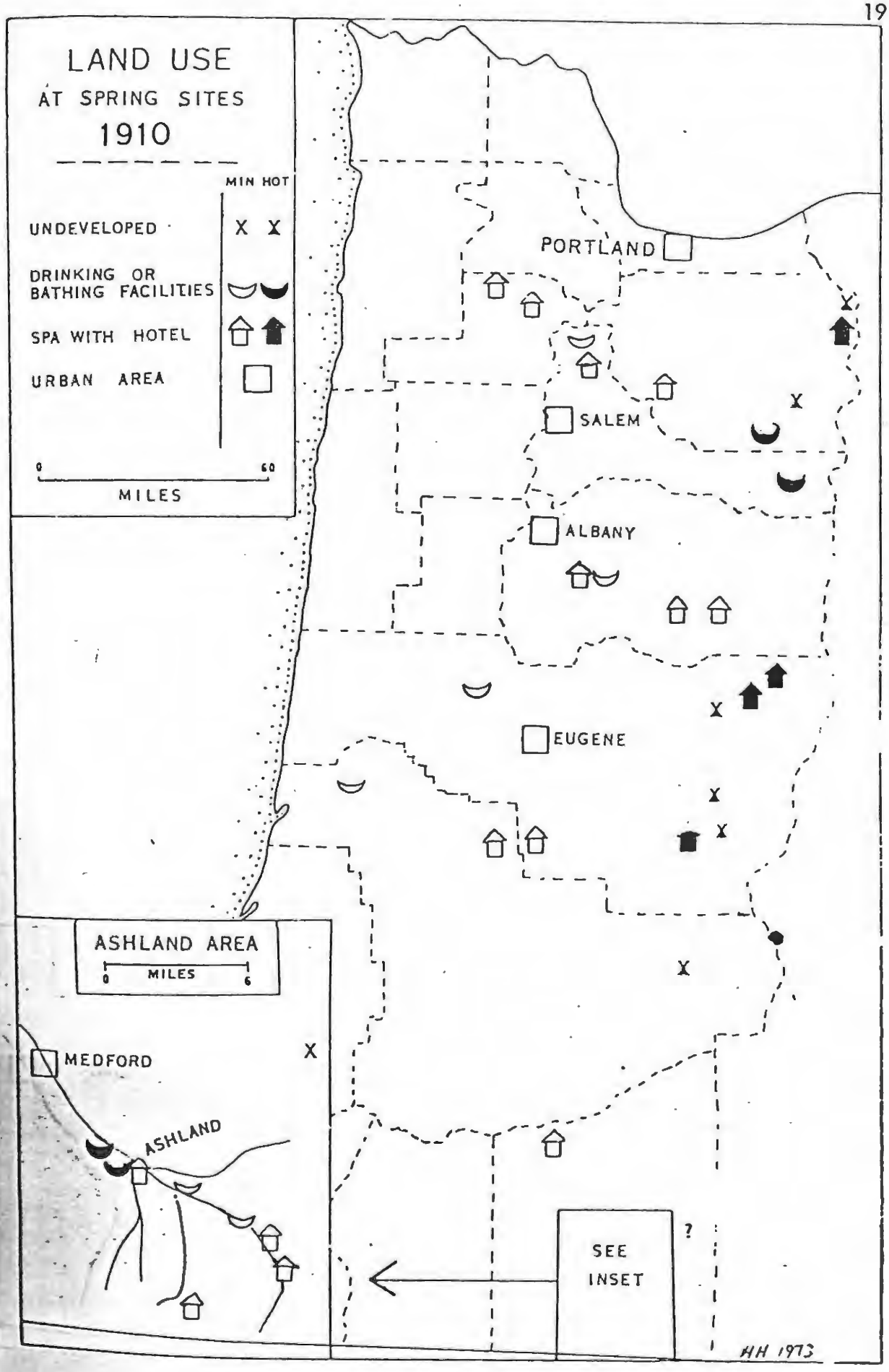
The springs which catered particularly to the wealthy in the late 19th century included Wilhait, Sodaville, Foley Springs, Boswell Springs, Colestin, Wagner's Soda Springs, and Klamath Hot Springs just across the border in California. Every one of these springs except Sodaville is now closed and virtually

abandoned, and Sodaville, although a state park, no longer has any facilities to accommodate guests and has labeled the water "unfit to drink."

The peak of Oregon's spa era came around the turn of the century, and the decline of spas in Oregon is to some extent the story of the decline of Society throughout the notion in the twentieth century. As one member of the "old guard" lamented, "The 400 has been marked down to $3.98" (Amory, 1948, p. 7). The public swimming pools of the 20th century were both cheaper and more accessible than the privately-owned spas.

Another facet in the social geography of springs use which has been noted by observers in other areas is the importance of ethnic minorities, particularly of European origin. In southern California, for example, a preponderance of Jewish and European clientele was noted at some spas (Dykman, 1971, pp. 30-31). For the most part, ethnic minorities have not played an extraordinarily significant role at Oregon's springs, perhaps because there is a relatively small minority population. A few places, such as Breitenbush and Colestin, were developed or acquired by European immigrants, but the majority were never owned by foreign-born people and did not cater to a large portion of ethnic clientele. Austin Hot Springs, where repeated visits by groups of gypsies from Portland and Russian Old Believers from the Woodburn area apparently frightened some people, was eventually closed to overnight camping by Portland General Electric (Wayne Halseth, personal communication).


LAND USE
AT SPRING SITES
1880
MIN HOT
UNDEVELOPED
DRINKING OR BATHING FACILITIES
SPA WITH HOTEL
URBAN AREA
0
60
MILES
PORTLAND
SALEM
ALBANY
EUGENE
ASHLAND AREA
MEDFORD
ASHLAND
SEE INSET
HH 1973


LAND USE
AT SPRING SITES
1910
MIN HOT
UNDEVELOPED
DRINKING OR BATHING FACILITIES
SPA WITH HOTEL
URBAN AREA
0
60
MILES
PORTLAND
SALEM
ALBANY
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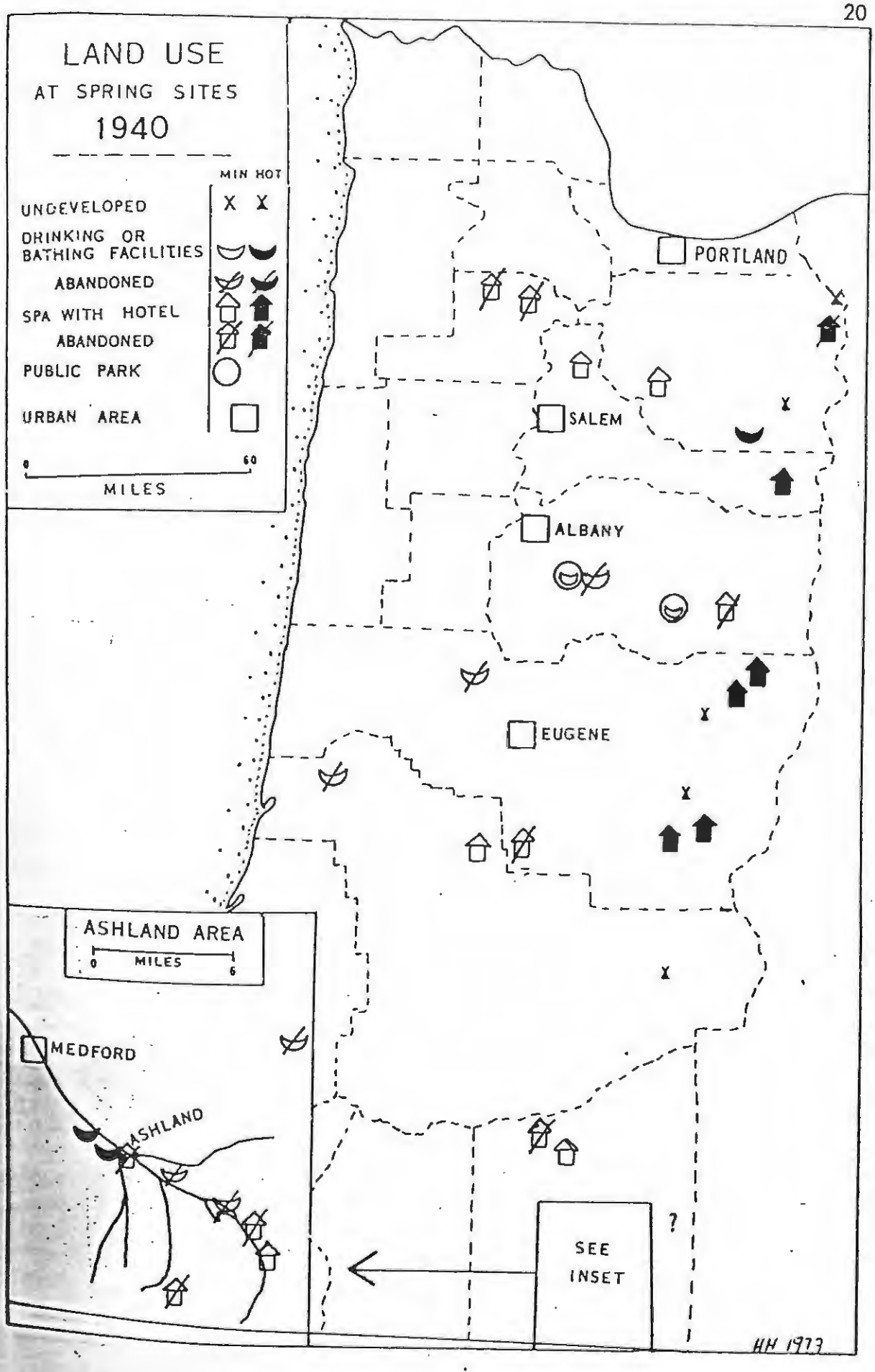
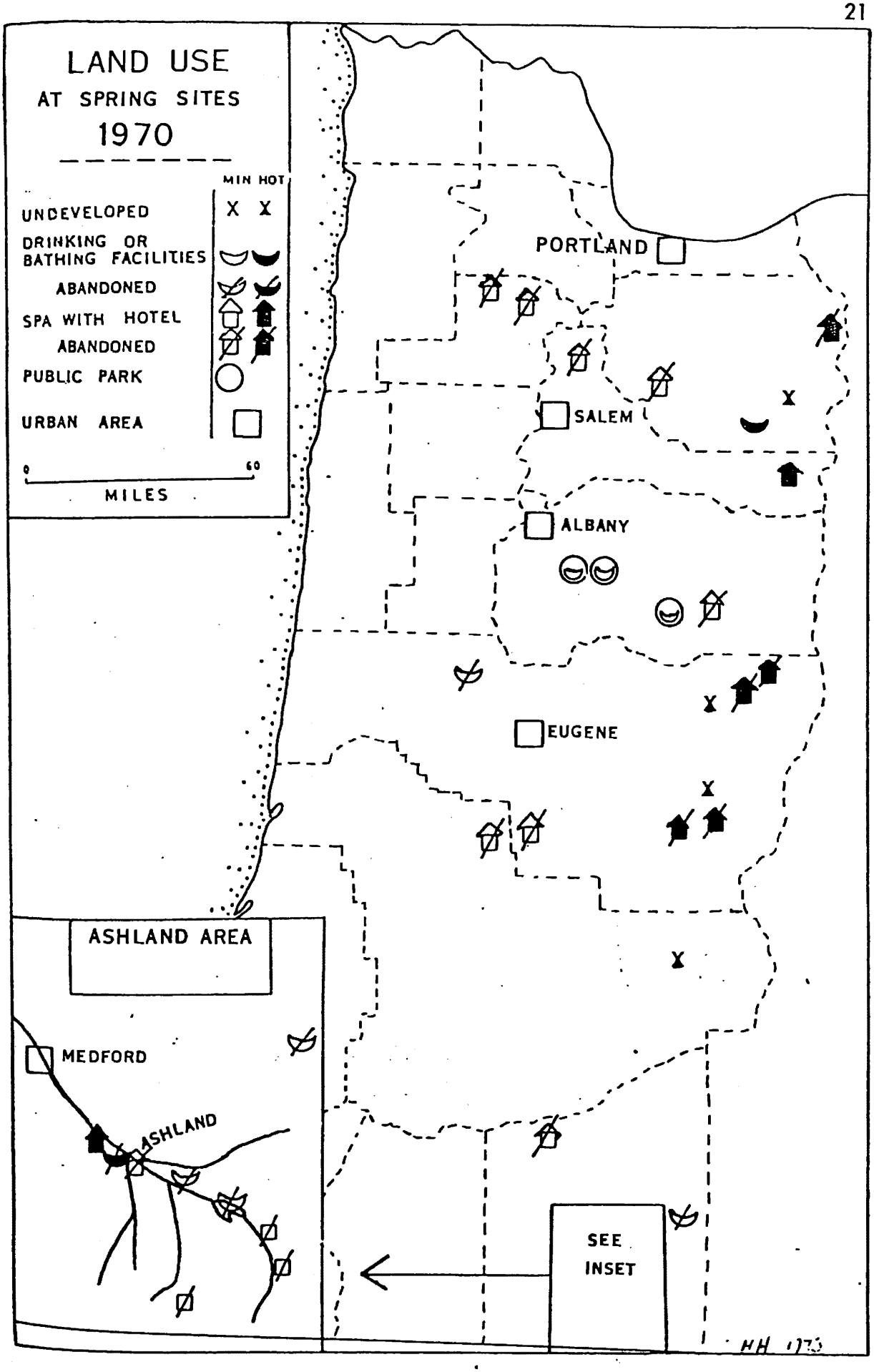
ASHLAND AREA
0 MILES 6
MEDFORD
ASHLAND
SEE INSET
?
HH 1973


LAND USE
AT SPRING SITES
1940
MIN HOT
UNDEVELOPED
DRINKING OR BATHING FACILITIES
ABANDONED
SPA WITH HOTEL
ABANDONED
PUBLIC PARK
URBAN AREA
0
60
MILES
PORTLAND
SALEM
ALBANY
EUGENE
ASHLAND AREA
0 MILES 6
MEDFORD
ASHLAND
SEE INSET
?
HH 1973


LAND USE
AT SPRING SITES
1970
MIN HOT
UNDEVELOPED
DRINKING OR BATHING FACILITIES
ABANDONED
SPA WITH HOTEL
ABANDONED
PUBLIC PARK
URBAN AREA
0
60
MILES
PORTLAND
SALEM
ALBANY
EUGENE
ASHLAND AREA
MEDFORD
ASHLAND
SEE INSET
HH 1973

CHAPTER III

CLAIMS REGARDING THE CURATIVE POWERS OF SPRING WATER

The curative powers of the hot spring and mineral spring water has always been their prime attraction--other attractions may exist at the spas, but the waters themselves are the unique elements that define the place. The various spas in western Oregon differed somewhat in the degree of emphasis they placed on the medicinal qualities of the water, but they all mentioned them in their advertising. Virtually every spa made use of a standard brochure style, which invariably included a chemical analysis of the water and an explanation of the curative powers of each element in that water. The clearest way to describe them is to let them speak for themselves; sections of a typical brochure, from Wilhoit Springs, are reproduced on the following page.

Hubbard Mineral Springs was very modest in its claims compared to some of the mineral spring spas. Boswell Springs, for example, reaches glorious heights of hyperbole in an advertisement in the Portland Evening Telegram on June 1, 1903:

> A chemical analysis of the water by the highest scientific authority in this country proves beyond a doubt that it possesses the highest medicinal virtues of any water on this continent, if not in the whole world.

After listing the analysis and describing the healing effects of all the ingredients (potassium iodide for blood, potassium bromide for nerves and hysteria,

calcium salts for St. Vitus' Dance, and magnesium for the stomoch), the article states that

> The best chemical authorities agree that the combination of minerals in the waters of these springs will absolutely relieve constipation. Scientists say there is not a mineral in the waters of Boswell Springs that is not necessary to human health and not a single ingredient that is injurious to the system.
>
> The waters cure 90 percent of cases of constipatian, rheumatism, catarrh, stomach, kidney, and liver troubles.

There is no question thot a stay in Boswell Springs did result in a great deal of relief to many sufferers who came seeking it, although the water itself may not have been the primary cause. The multitude of testimonials received here and at nearly all of the health spas provide strong evidence that the water was perceived to have cured these people, or at least helped to cure them.

It is interesting to nate that on the same page of the June 1, 1903, Portland Evening Telegram there were advertisements for

1. S.S.S.--an antidote for "that most loathsome disease, Contagious Blood Poisan" which has affected "so many pure and innocent men and women"
2. Big G pills
3. English Pennyroyal Pills
4. Santal-Midy Capsules
5. a doctor who specialized in "men's problems", and
6. C. Gee Wo, "The Great Chinese Doctor," who "treats any and all diseases with powerful Chinese herbs, roots, buds, bark, and vegetables," and who "guarantees to cure catarrh, asthma, lung troubles, rheumatism, nervousness, stomach, kidney, liver, female troubles, and private disorders" (charges moderate).

So the contemporary pill-culture apparently has quite a well-established heritage!

It is interesting to note in this regard the remarkable enterprise known as "Brooten's Kelp Ore Mines," a very unusual "mineral springs" located near Cloverdale in Tillamook County. In his advertising booklet Strangers Once But Friends Now--An Explanation of Brooten's Celebrated Kelp Ore--Also Several Testimonials As To Its Curative Powers, H. H. Brooten explains how he has developed and packaged what can only be described as "powdered mineral water."

Although Brooten's mine and bath house does not qualify as a hot spring or mineral spring in the physical sense, it seems to have served a culturally identical purpose. A quotation here of a portion of his manuscript will reveal much about Brooten himself, the medicinal role of mineral springs, and also about an aspect of Oregon's cultural life of the early 1900s.

> Why hunt for mineral springs when you can buy a pound of mineral that will make twenty gallons of the best mineral water in the world?
>
> Why hunt for a health resort and good water when we have them here? Millions of gallons of the best drinking water are going to waste every year!
>
> Take advantage of this great opportunity. I will insure you that you will be honestly treated and reasonably charged.
>
> Beware of imitation Kelp Ore! There is fake ore on the market; the only original Kelp Ore is that having H. H. Brooten's signature and photograph on booklets and boxes.
>
> Kelp Ore $2.50 per lb. Postage extra.
>
> Urine analyzed free (send 6 oz. bottle)
>
> Cottages with stove, bed spring, & electric light at moderate rates. Baths $2.50 each. . .
>
> I am about to give full particulars about this mineral, how I discovered it and how I prepared it for drinking and bathing purposes, also how many kinds of ore and oxide of iron which are used for poultices, and the magnetism in the water and what it cured.
>
> In the summer of 1904 I discovered a ledge of blue shell rock formed by a sea-kelp deposit. I commenced to experiment with it by heating it, and found that it had a strong magnetic power.

I found that with different degrees of heat that it would charge with different minerols such as chlorides, sulphites, and murites. . .

I will say I commence with 240 Fahrenheit, then the magnetic water is poured on the hot ore and through the explosion the obove-mentioned substances are token from the air and stored in the water, which is pure oxygen and ozone and a vitalizer for all animals. . .

The magnetic water is undoubtably the water that was on the earth in the beginning of all vegetable and animal life millions of years ago, and I called it "Magnetic Eocene Water." My method for treating all constitutional diseases is as follows: I find an a patient with cancer, for instance, that the nerves are closed and the gas that should pass through all the millions of pores and glands cannat da so as these organs are closed, and the absorption of oxygen is restricted. . .

For a patient with this disease I give a bath far one haur in magnetic water and one hour in full ozone oxidized steam, then 15 minutes massage and 40 minutes to cool off, which make a one-half day treatment. The temperature of the water is 106° Fahr. The fresh water steam is forced through full ozone oxidized ore, at potient inhaling it at a temp. of 90-110° Fahr.

It is necessary for the patient to take six hours treatment every day. I use the magnetic water for the bath from 4-6 days. After all microbes are cleaned out of the system I begin with the oxygen kelp ore mineral baths and continue them until the patient is cured. After thirteen days thé patient begins to break out all over with secretions of yellow water and matter. . . After than the naturol persperation flows freely ond the pores are in healthy action. . .

My course of baths is twenty doys. Sometimes it takes one course and sometimes more to cure constitutional diseases. All constitutional diseases are treated in the same manner. . .

I have had ten years experience as a hydropathic and have treated thousands of cases and have full knowledge of how to handle the ore. . . In the ten years I have operated these baths I have not had one word of advertisement only what one person has tald another. . .

Brooten goes on for many more pages of detail, but the key element in his sales pitch is the collection of twenty-four testimonials at the end of the booklet, touting cures for a wide range of ailments from eczema to diabetes. Just as "Magnetic Eocene Woter" was the "secret Ingredient X-49" of its day, so these testimoniols can be seen as forerunners of the modern-doy laundry detergent

advertisements on television. As an exomple, L. Erl, of Hubbard, Oregon, testified that he wos suffering grovely from hard lumps and felt that he wos soon going to die until "H. H. Brooten diognosed my case to perfection. . . my ailment was concer of the stomach and I did find it out when cancer up to one inch long passed from me. After my stomach wos healed . . . the lumps . . . were entirely healed and now I am enjoying the best of health" (Brooten, c. 1914).

Of the twenty-four testimoniols in Brooten's book, nineteen came from Oregon residents, three were from Washington, one from Idaho, and one from Utah. This indicates the local nature of the enterprise; it is characteristic that most of Oregon's spas, even the "famous" ones, tended to draw their clientele from the local area. This, to be sure, did not deter any of them from making claims of world-wide renown.

CHAPTER IV

MINERAL WATER BOTTLING PLANTS

It should not be surprising that bottling works were established at many of the hot and mineral spring sites in western Oregon. The tradition of bottling the health-giving waters for distant markets has been a long-established element of mineral springs commerce throughout the world; brands such as Vichy Water and Perrier Water, for example, are still household words.

Apparently the profits accrued from the sale of bottled water were at some times and places greater than the profits accrued from the resort operation. Mr. Thomas Moffett, owner of the Cascade Mineral Springs, a hot mineralized spring located on the Washington side of the Columbia River near "The Bridge of the Gods", is quoted as saying:

> In 1885 I commenced bottling the water and by 1890 it required my entire time and attention, the business had grown to such dimensions. Then I shipped it north, south, east, and west. . . In fact, the demand has been far beyond my ability to furnish, from the first day's bottling. (Oregon Native Son, 1901, p. 231)

Around 1901 Moffett sold the water rights to an ambitious Portland-bosed enterprise called The Oregon Mineral Waters Bottling Company; this outfit also acquired rights to Wolfer's Mineral Spring in Hubbard, Oregon. They proposed to bottle, distribute, and advertise these waters, with the expectation of "bringing here and placing in circulation a vast amount of money annually." (Ibid., p. 232)

> In order to demonstrate the importance of such an enterprise, let us make a little calculation. It is estimated thot the Cascade springs will furnish 25,000 gallons per day, or 9,125,000 gallons per year. It is retailed at 10 cents per bottle, or 40 cents per gallon. At this rate the possibilities amount to the enarmous sum of $3,649,000. Allowing 20 percent profit, and there remains $2,919,000 for the amount that would be paid onnually for labar and material when the springs are handled to their full capocity. After all, it is not such a great problem, either. One person will readily drink a syphon of this water every two days. This means 36 gallons per year to each constant customer. And at this rate, 300,000 people would consume the entire output of the springs, and we have 2,500,000 on this coast to draw consumers from. (Ibid., p. 231)

I found no other information about the Oregon Mineral Waters Bottling Company; their business success, if any, was apparently short-lived, calculations notwithstanding. The projections failed to take some things into account: competition from numerous other bottled-water products manufactured in the region, changing public tastes with regard to drinking the waters, and changes in technology.

Other bottling works were fully as ambitious as The Oregon Mineral Waters Bottling Company. Levi Geer's "Calapooya Smiling Water," bottled at London Springs, won a gold medal in the Alaska Yukon Exhibition (Golden Was the Past, 1970, p. 216), while Boswell Springs was bottling its own product just across the divide. At least two large bottling works were established around Ashland, one by Jacob Wagner at his elegant Soda Springs Spa and the other at the Pompadour Chief Lithia Spring. The accompanying map, which shows the distribution of bottling plants and of springs that sold bottled quantities of their water, will indicated the intensity of the competition that must have existed. This distribution, observed with

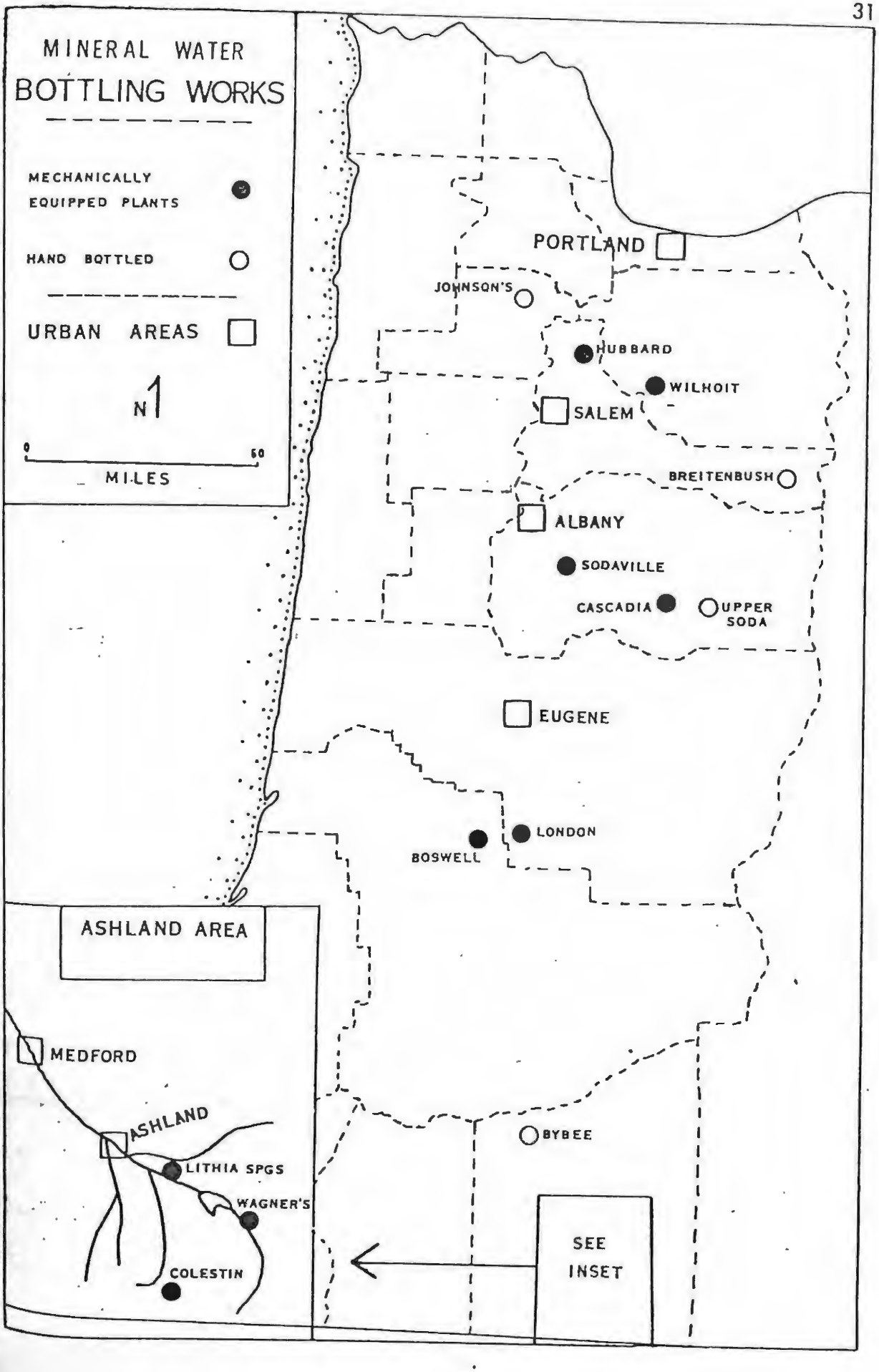
the knowledge that many other bottling works were operating in California (more famous ones) and in Washington, seems to indicate that the market for the bottled product was for the most part a local one.

The most thorough description of a mineral waters bottling operation I was able to find comes from Marjorie O'Harra (writing in the Ashland Daily Tidings). It examines the bottling works at Wagner's Soda Springs, where "Siskyou Natural Mineral Water" was prepared for market:

> Development of the mineral water springs bottling works was completed by 1891 and in June of that year a full car load of Siskyou Natural Mineral Water was shipped from Ashland to Portland, where the firm of Parkinson and Walker acted as distributors.
>
> The bottled water was also sent to San Francisco, but as remembered by R. A. Wagner (son of J. W.) . . . and by Hugh Dozier, who worked for many years in the bottling plant, the bulk of the mineral water was sold in Medford and in Ashland.
>
> The water was used principally as a mixer for liquor and was also served and acclaimed as a chaser that would "minimize the diastrous effects of hard liquor."
>
> The water was bottled in pints and in quarts, the quart bottles being shipped from St. Louis, Mo., stacked like cord wood in freight cars. About nine cases, or 450 quarts, was a maximum bottling load. The spring had been concreted to a depth of about five feet and the opening fitted with a bottomless copper tank that would rise as it filled with the captured gas.
>
> Gas was released at the top of the tank through a hydrant fitted with a hose, and after water was taken from the spring it was then re-carbonated with this natural gas.
>
> About 90 pounds of pressure during bottling resulted in many explosions. "Glass would fly in a million pieces," Dozier remembers; he recalled also that to watch the bottling process was a favorite pastime of guests who were staying at the Soda Springs House in order to partake of the water for its "medicinal" qualities.
>
> The mineral analysis of the water has been lost through the years, but it did appear on the labels that were at first printed in Ashland at the Tidings print shop and later in San Francisco.

> Local delivery was made by team and wagon and the water was also distributed in Grants Pass and for a time in Hilts and Hornbrook, California. The operotion was a pioneer in the use of the crown cork, according to Wogner, who explained that the crown cork is the kind that may be found on soft drink bottles today. (Ashland Daily Tidings, 1/2/1962)

Mrs. O'Harra concludes that "the advent of prohibition collapsed the largest profitable market for the Siskyou Natural Mineral Water," a judgment most observers seem to share about other bottling operations as well. Rising shipping costs, centralization of industry, and, perhaps most important of all, development of inexpensive methods for artificial carbonation, were also major factors contributing to the decline of the locol mineral waters bottling industries.


MINERAL WATER
BOTTLING WORKS
MECHANICALLY EQUIPPED PLANTS
HAND BOTTLED
URBAN AREAS
N
0
50
MILES
PORTLAND
JOHNSON'S
HUBBARD
WILHOIT
SALEM
BREITENBUSH
ALBANY
SODAVILLE
CASCADIA
UPPER SODA
EUGENE
LONDON
BOSWELL
ASHLAND AREA
MEDFORD
ASHLAND
LITHIA SPGS
WAGNER'S
COLESTIN
BYBEE
SEE INSET

CHAPTER V

VALLEY AND FOOTHILLS MINERAL SPRINGS

The cold mineral springs on the floor of the Willamette Valley and in the surrounding foothills were for the most part claimed and developed several decades earlier than the hot springs in the higher elevations of the Cascodes. Most were originally taken as Donation Land Claims by pioneer settlers in the 1850s; spa-type commercial facilities, however, often were delayed several decades until sufficient money was available to establish them.

Settlements generally grew up around the mineral spring sites in this period. They were small communities in the winter but swelled up with tourists during the summer season. The summer vacation residents at these spas were almost all from the Willamette Valley; many were from Portland and other cities, but at least as many were from towns in the immediate vicinity of the springs.

During the late 19th and early 20 century, the mineral springs served as focal points for the local area as well as summer vacation sites for well-to-do Portland residents. Dances, holiday celebrations, ball games, and picnics under the trees were as important as drinking the waters and taking heated mineral water baths. In short, the Willamette Valley mineral springs served as parks at a time when there were virtually no officially designated "porks" in Oregon. It is appropriate that Sodaville Springs became the first piece of land deeded to the state for

a park; it is sad that only Sodaville and Coscadia, two springs which became part of the State Parks System, and Waterloo, which became a Linn County Park, have retained any vestige of their former elegance and beauty. Wolfer's Mineral Springs, once the focus of Hubbard, is now a shambles: huge wrecked buildings, thick brush, and a swampy drainage ditch occupy the once beautiful grounds. The same situation prevails at Boswell and London at the southern end of the valley. Several other springs locations, including Johnson's, Giesy's, and Wilhoit, are now rural residences with no particular reference to the mineral springs. In short, the decline of the mineral springs landscape reflects the decline of the position of the springs themselves in our consciousness.

Hubbard Mineral Springs

The Hubbard Mineral Springs site has gone through the cycle of changes which must be considered characteristic for western Oregon's mineral springs. The springs were the site of an Indian encampment, were taken up in a Donation Land Claim by Charles Hubbard, developed into the focal point of the town of Hubbard in the late 19th century, eventually became a health sanatorium, and finally fell into a state of disrepair.

Actually it was not Charles Hubbard but rather George Wolfer whose name was associated with these springs in their prime. Wolfer purchased the site in 1882 and constructed a mineral water bottling plant shortly afterwards. Mr. Wolfer's

descendants clearly recall the bottled water being peddled in the streets of Hubbard and Aurora in the 1890s (Mrs. Sadie Scholl, personal communication).

During this period, Wolfer's Mineral Springs was made into a popular park. The springs themselves were housed in an octagonal cement frame; people would sit around the springs and drink their fill. Mill Creek flowed through meadows and large trees near the springs, and the stream banks were the site of numerous gatherings and celebrations. A baseball diamond was built complete with grandstands and bleachers. Baseball teams came out from Portland and other cities for exhibition games. According to Mrs. Scholl, Negro bands were often brought in from Portland for entertainment.

The railroad depot at Hubbard was located about a quarter-mile away from the mineral springs site; many of Hubbard's visitors came by train from Portland.

George Wolfer was for many years one of the leading citizens of Hubbard and was very eager to see the springs developed as fully as possible. He is described at some length in Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon (1903) as a "public spirited and ambitious man . . . actively identified with the best interests of county, town, and state. . . (he) has uniformly cast his vote with the Republicans." (pp. 684-5).

The description of the springs contained in this book is worthy of inclusion:

> About ¼ mile from the city, Mr. Wolfer owns 75 acres of land, on which his celebrated mineral springs are situated, and his bottling works are erected. From a correct analysis of the water obtained from these springs the following matter in solution is found, proving it to be of great value for both medicinal and bathing purposes:

Chloride of sodium and potassium	29.74
Bi-carbonate of lime	6.82
Bi-carbonate of soda	16.10
Bi-carbonate of magnesium	4.26
Bicarbonate of iron	2.10
Silica	2.39
Sulphate of Soda	.58
Mangonese	trace

These springs ore for sole on easy terms by the present proprietor.

In fact, Mr. Wolfer did eventually sell his "Medical Mineral Springs" to a consortium of seven directors, including three doctors, who built a sanatorium on the site. Around 1923 a three-story lodge was constructed, and the sanatorium went into operation, catering especially to rheumatics. The consortium originally expected "to build a golf course, bridle paths, tennis courts" (Hubbard Enterprize, c. 1923), but apparently the opposite happened: once the sanatorium was completed the springs ceased to be a community focal point (Scholl, personal communication). Apparently the sanatorium physically enclosed the springs, so the public no longer had access to the mineral water.

The sanatorium changed hands several times and eventually became a rest home. By this time (1940s), the springs were of minor importance. I do not know when the site was finally abandoned, but it was at least ten to fifteen years ago. There were several efforts in the 1960s by local citizens to convince the state or county to acquire the spring site and restore it as a park; however, all of these efforts met with failure. (See Salem Statesman, February 15, 1967, and October 3, 1968.)

Eventually Mill Creek was diverted for irrigation, flood control, and sewage treatment (the plant is immediately adjacent to the springs site); today the creek side is merely swampy ground overgrown with brush. The huge old trees were cut down years ago, and the collapsed remains of the old sanatorium building is the only remnant of the springs' former landscape.

Giesy's Mineral Springs

This mineral spring, also known locally as Salt Spring, emerges about one and a half miles south of Aurora, not far from Hubbard Mineral Spring. It was never developed as intensively as Hubbard: there were never any lodging or bottling facilities at Giesy's. The spring was owned by Dr. Benjamin Giesy for many decades; at one time it was a gathering place where much salty mineral water was drunk, which, according to several old-timer residents, "tasted horrendous." The spring was included in the Southern Pacific Railroad's promotional booklet Outings in Oregon (c. 1910).

At the present time the springs flow undisturbed in a field alongside a private residence. The site is supposedly used as a pigeon-hunting grounds on occasion, as the birds are attracted to the mineral water.

Wild Pigeon Springs

The author has no information about these springs except for a chemical analysis made of the water around 1910. "Wild Pigeon Spring" is quite probably the same as Giesy's Mineral Spring.

Wilhoit Springs

One of the most popular of western Oregon's mineral waters spas, Wilhoit Springs is located in the foothills of the Cascades on Rock Creek about ten miles southeast of Malallo. Commercial facilities at Wilhoit, including hotels, cabins, stores, a bottling plant, and a post office, were in operation almost continuously from the early 1870s on through to the Depression. In recent decades there have been several attempts to re-open Wilhoit resort, but none have been successful to date.

The springs were known for years as a great deer-lick where game was plentiful--even horses "were known to break out of their pastures, miles away, to satisfy their thirst for these waters" (Chittenden, 1883, p. 229). The springs were claimed by John Wilhoit in 1866, but no commercial facilities were developed until A. F. McLeran purchased the property about five years later (Oreganian, June 30, 1963). McLeran constructed a road to the springs, installed a bottling plant, and shipped the mineral water by horse-team to Aurora and by train to Portland (Oreganian, September 24, 1950).

Wilhoit enjoyed an early period of great popularity and expansion--during the 1880s and 1890s a dance hall, a bowling alley, and a variety of additional cabins were built to meet the great demand. At this time, daily stage passenger service was operated from both Salem and Portland (with way-stops en route), as well as two regular commercial bottled-water stages to Portland (Chittenden, op. cit., p. 229).

At this time, optimism ran high about the future of Wilhoit Springs. They were very popular among the Willamette Valley residents and were beginning to develop a reputation in more distant places. Wilhoit's advertising material makes much of write-ups the spa received in the German paper Deutsche Hausohatz during 1884-1885, in which Wilhoit water was compared with that of the famous springs at Kissengen (advertising brochure, Oregon Historical Society files, undated). Newton Chittenden devotes more space to Wilhoit than to any other Oregon spa. He is of the opinion that

> The time will come when the Wilhoit Mineral Springs will take a front rank among the most famous natural sanitoriums of the world --become the Saratoga of the Pacific Coast--and when their waters will be as widely known and drank as those of the most celebrated. (Chittenden, 1883,. p. 229)

It is curious to note that although Wilhoit was supposedly establishing far-flung fame, nearly all of its visitors actually came from the very local area. A portion of the 1906 guest register book was examined by the author; of the 155 entrees made by guests, at least 145 came from the upper Willamette Valley, and the majority of those were from the portion of the Valley closest to Wilhoit. (Wilhoit Springs Resort, Miscellaneous Records, University of Oregon Catalogue of Manuscripts).

The McLeran family operated Wilhoit Springs for over four decades; when automobiles replaced stage coach teams, F. W. McLeran purchased "two nine-passenger McIntyre cars, 1910 model, one seven-passenger Haynes car, one five-passenger Kissel-Kar, and one large McIntyre baggage car" for transportation

services (advertising brochure, Oregon Historical Society files, undated). The spa was sold in 1921, and the new management planned a major expansion, to include a nine-hole golf course and other new sports facilities (advertising brochure, Oregon Historical Society files, 1921). However, Wilhoit's peak was already in the past by this time, and these new facilities were never built.

Although there is plenty of information about the projected expansion of Wilhoit Springs, no material seems to be available documenting its decline. Wilhoit Resort did not survive the Depression, and by 1942 plans were already being made for public acquisition of the springs for a park (Oregonion, March 29, 1942). Public purchase never came to pass, however, and although several attempts to re-open Wilhoit Springs Resort have been made, none have been successful. (See Oregonian, September 24, 1950, and June 30, 1963.) The present owner is Theodore Madrones, who operates a mine on the premises not far from the spring site. The old buildings are all gone now, but apparently somebody somewhere is still interested in Wilhoit, because a sign near the property reads "Watch For Future Development."

Johnson's Mineral Springs

This landscape relict, located on Mineral Springs Road about a mile outside of Lafayette, was once a very popular spa, with people coming to visit "from quite a distance" (Mrs. Bryan, personal communication). Acquired in a Donation Land Claim by Daniel Johnson, the springs remained in the Johnson family for over 100

years, until two years ago. The town of Lafayette is one of the oldest towns in Oregon and has been described as "the principal trade town of the western Willamette Valley during the territorial period" (Holtgrieve, 1973, p. 78). Johnson's mineral springs' early history has been largely forgotten, but it apparently was developed at an earlier date than most other springs in Oregon.

Johnson's Mineral Springs developments included a hotel, which Mrs. Bryan recalls was "quite large for those days," several cabins, bath-houses, a pumphouse, and a deep, brick-lined well which still exists on the hill near the back of the property. In the 1920s Johnson's Mineral Springs was leased out to some Portland businessmen who built a dancehall, and there were dances every Saturday night. There was also a skating rink built on a flat area near the springs outlet. The hotel burned in the 1930s, and the property was returned back to Daniel Johnson's daughters; after that it was never re-opened as a resort.

"Johnson's Mineral Spring Water" was bottled at the springs and distributed around the Northwest for many years. The water was stored in a bathtub-sized cement reservoir built next to the spring outlet, and gallon jugs of it were filled, corked, and labeled by hand for market. Although the author found Johnson's Mineral Spring Water to be one of the most unpalatable mineral waters around, it is, according to the present owners, still being bottled and sold today, mainly around Seattle, by a man who has retained water rights from before the property sale (Gregor, personal communication).

The Johnson Mineral Springs property has been divided up over the years, and the portion containing the springs and hotel site were purchased two years ago by Andy Gregor, who lives there with his family. The land serves as a family farm with a number of cows and sheep; the old deteriorating barns suggest that it has been used as a farm for many years. One of the former auxiliary cabins of the resort was moved and renovated; it now serves as the Gregors' house and occupies the old hotel site. The only remnant of the hotel still in existence is part of the foundation; cement steps leading up to the doorway.

Fairdale Mineral Springs

Seventy years ago, Fairdale was a well-known mineral springs resort alongside the old Tillamook Stage Road, but today it is just an old, rundown cowpasture. Located deep in the Coast Range near the headwaters of the North Yamhill River, it is now one of the most remote mineral springs in the study area. This spring did not exist until sometime in the 1880s when some coal miners drilling on the Fairchiles Land Claim hit a "gusher" of water about thirty feet below surface level (Mrs. P. Helen Stump, letter, Douglas County Museum). The water turned out to be mineralized, with a brackish taste, and was found to have "curative powers." According to Mrs. Stump:

> Some people felt it helped their rheumatism, others drank it for its effect on the digestive system, while others came to cure the terrible itching from the rash caused by poison oak. How much the water helped rheumatism is a question, but it is a fact it did heal the rash of poison oak. (Ibid.)

A wooden springs house was built around the spring, and the water was piped into a brick reservoir for people to use. A hotel was built on the hillslope above the spring, and later another hotel was developed across the river. A covered bridge crossed the river at this location, and Fairdale became the overnight stopping place for travelers traversing the Coast Range on the old Tillamook Stage Road.

Nels Fairchiles owned the place around 1900 and began to develop more facilities around the spring--a bathhouse, several cabins, and a store. Furthermore,

> To add a lighter touch to the community a dancehall was built by the Holm, Hanna and Sampson Logging outfit not far from the hotel. Here dances were held. At least two Fourth of July celebrations were conducted on level land near the Spring. Mr. Fairchiles built a log cabin at the entrance to the land around the spring. Here he sold food and supplies to the celebrating people. (Ibid.)

When the Tillamook Stage ceased to run in 1911, Fairdale Mineral Springs lost its steady stream of customers. "People had to furnish their own transportation and interest in the Spring declined" (Ibid.). The old hotel and other buildings decayed, and all are gone today.

The Fairdale Mineral Springs site is presently owned by Bryce Mitchell, who has lived in Fairdale for many years and operates the Flying M Ranch, a 1,000-acre sportsman's club. The little log cabin which was once the store is boarded up but still standing near the springs, which are now enclosed in a bullpen to keep the horses and cattle out of the mineral water.

London (Calapooya) Springs

This mineral springs is located on the bank of the Coast Fork Willamette River neor the tiny hamlet of London, Oregon, about ten miles south of Cottage Grove. In many respects, its history parallels that of nearby Boswell Mineral Springs, located in the Yoncalla Valley just across the divide into the Umpqua watershed.

The London area was first settled in the 1850s, and by 1890 had several mills, a church, and a post office. However, it wasn't until 1904, when Levi Geer established the Calapooya Springs Hotel, that London reached its full glory. Geer, a man with a pioneer background and strong entrepreneurial ambitions, attempted to develop the mineral springs into a nationwide attraction. He converted a big hop barn into a large, elegant hotel, and constructed a two-story bathhouse and swimming pool featuring hot mineral water (heated in a large adjacent steam boiler).

The Calapooya Springs Hotel was a very busy place for many years. Besides swimming and bathing, it offered visitors not only a pleasant rural setting with opportunities for fishing, hunting, and hiking but also many social amenities as well. A manicured park grounds featured croquet and swings, and in the evenings there were dancing and partying. In its prime, Calapaaya Springs operated a race track, complete with grand stands and horses for hire (Robe, Lane County Historian, Spring, 1970, p. 12). According to Geneva Richardson, a long-time area resident,

> The hotel came alive during the Fourth of July celebrations. Wild west rodeos, brought by Guy and Willie Ray and their cowboys, drew thousands of spectators. Tennis and croquet matches, swimming in the concrete heated pool were prime attractions, not to mention horse, midget car, and motorcycle races in the 20s. The neighbors banded together and built a bandstand, draped with red, white, and blue bunting for their speakers and music. The young people supplied the noise and smell of fireworks, and wherever you looked you saw flags, flags, flags. (Golden Was the Past, p. 195)

Transportation between London Springs and Cottage Grove was provided by daily stagecoach service. Mrs. Richardson recalls

> It was hard to tell who received the biggest thrill, the people who crowded to meet the train at the Cottage Grove depot or the guests who were met by the red and yellow stage from the Calapooya Hotel. They had time, as the horses snorted and strained up the hills and forded the Coast Fork River, to enjoy the green timbered hills. Some may have objected to the dust in summer and the mud and chuck holes in winter, but still they came. (Ibid., p. 196)

Levi Geer did not limit his business enterprise to the resort facilities. He also established an ambitious bottling works, where he produced "Calapooya Smiling Water" for distribution throughout the country. According to Mrs. Gale Roby, it was shipped to England for use as a mixer in bars and "won a gold medal at the Alaska Yukon Exhibition held in Seattle in 1907" (Ibid., p. 216).

Apparently the Calapooya Springs Company overextended itself financially as ambitious stock-selling and development plans fell through. Artificial carbonation, increasingly centralized industrial and transportation systems, and the economically deadening effect of prohibition doomed this and all the other small bottling industries, although they lingered on for some years.

The ownership changed hands frequently in the 1920s and 30s, and the activity at the springs began to decline. I have not been able to get very specific information about the closing of the spa, but Mrs. Richardsan's closing remarks accurately portray the picture at London today:

> What happens to little places like London? The swimming pool fell into disuse and deteriorated first. The bathhouse is gone and a very dejected looking hotel was razed to make way for a better road. The post office was discontinued, the store burned, the carbonator or bottling works is no more, and even the mineral springs seem to have vanished. The little white church, near the hotel that seemed to be eternal, stands unused--waiting for oblivion. (Ibid., p. 196)

Boswell Mineral Springs

This well-known "watering hole," also known as Snowden Springs and Payton Springs in earlier times, was located directly on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the Yoncalla Valley two miles south of Drain. This favorable circumstance was probably the reason why Boswell Springs was for many decades one of the more popular and fully developed spas in Western Oregon.

The question of who first discovered these springs is uncertain, but there is evidence that their presence was known to very first settlers in the Yoncalla region. In George Abdill's article, "Boswell Springs--Pioneer Spa," which appeared in the Winter, 1965, edition of the Umpqua Trapper, Rozelle Applegate Putnam is quoted as writing in 1852:

> in going around (the Yoncalla Valley) you cannot travel more than half a mile without passing a small spring of excellent water--there are also two salt springs on it. . . (Abdill, p. 6)

Conrad Snowden acquired the springs property in 1874 and began to develop a spa on the site after observing the beneficial effects of the water on the livestock which congregated to drink and lick there. Together with a man named Payton, he built a hotel, advertised, and established a reputation for the springs as a health spa. It was said to be "of special benefit for disorders of the kidney" (Ibid., p. 8).

According to Abdill,

> about 1877 Conrad Snowden was forced to relinquish his share in the spa to his partner, Payton, and the name was changed to Payton Springs. The late Mrs. Caster wrote that Daniel Payton was the partner who acquired Snowden's interest, but the possibility exists that the new owner may have been Dr. John E. Payton, a native of Missouri who graduated from Willamette Medical School in 1877 and was in practice in Drain from 1883 until 1895. (Ibid., p. 8)

A doctor in residence, of course, was a big selling point for all spas interested in expanding to a large-scale enterprise, and, furthermore, many doctors found that running a health sanatorium in the countryside was a desirable way to live. Newton H. Chittenden confirms that it was indeed Dr. Payton who owned and operated the spa; he writes "The springs are owned and operated by Dr. Payton and Mr. Cartwright, who together with Mrs. Cartwright, an excellent housekeeper, devote their entire attention to providing for the health, comfort, and pleasure of their guests" (Chittenden, 1884, p. 219). After Payton left, Cartwright operated the spa briefly, then sold it to Capt. Benjamin D. Boswell, who, with his wife, operated the resort for many years until his death.

Boswell Springs was quite an elegant recreation and health spa and descriptions of the good life there have survived ranging from Chittenden's in 1883

to Leland Robe's recollections in 1971. Chittenden writes that the springs are

> surrounded by the most charming landscapes, composed of gently rolling hills and handsome dales, finely wooded with fir, cedar, maple, oak, and other indigenous trees, through which course numerous clear mountain streams. . . The grounds embrace a splendid 320-acre tract adjoining the well-known Jesse Applegate 6000-acre estate, through which flows Elk Creek, a tributary of the Umpqua. It is . . . the resort of deer, fox, partridge, quail, and other game.
>
> The improvements comprise, besides a good hotel, a carp pond, hennery, and garden supplying the table with the luxuries of fresh fish, butter, eggs, milk, vegetables, fruit, and fowl. (Ibid., p. 219)

In its own advertising, Boswell Springs was described as follows:

> The scenic beauty of the surrounding country is grand indeed, the low line of hills on every side, with now and then an eminence towering far above its companies, whose green summit almost impreceptibly blends with the blue sky, reminding one of the Swiss hills.
>
> The grounds surrounding the building are a veritable bower of roses. The interior of the public and private guest chambers, the amusement hall, and even the clubrooms have an air of luxury.
>
> A delightfully pleasant place, where nature, rest, and recreation soothe the weary and the ill to perfect health.
>
> Captain and Mrs. Boswell are both of good Southern stock, they have traveled in every country on the globe, and at the Springs can be seen famous paintings by the old masters. . . (Portland Evening Telegram, June 1, 1903)

In more recent times, Leland Robe has this to say about Boswell Springs:

> I can well remember the guests seated in comfortable rocking chairs on the big front veranda, taking their leisure between meals and mineral baths, which had a widespread reputation. The remains of landscaped gardens, walking paths, spring house and rose garden are still evident, but the big old sanitorium is ghostly. . . (Robe, op. cit., p. 14)

Abdill notes that Capt. and Mrs. Boswell "had established their reputation for gracious hospitality, good food, and entertainment . . . it became the custom

to travel to Boswell Springs for balls and parties, as well as for the curative benefits of the baths" (op. cit., p. 8).

The big hotel burned to the ground shortly after Capt. Boswell's death in 1915, and the place was closed to the public for several years. There were promoters who wanted to develop another big spa, but Mrs. Boswell claimed she wanted to will the land to the State of Oregon in her husband's memory. However, she eventually sold it, and after several transactions the springs were re-opened to the public. A bottling plant was established and mineral water was "shipped to Seattle and other places" (Abdill, op. cit., p. 9).

The Boswell Springs resort was sold to Dr. Harrison Folk in 1949 for $50,000; he operated the Boswell Mineral Springs Clinic there for several years without much fanfare and apparently maintained or re-opened the bottling works "as a profitable sideline"(Drain Enterprise, November 17, 1957).

The most recent flurry of activity at Boswell Springs occurred in 1957-1958 when a group of local business men and community leaders formed a non-profit corporation named "Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Hospital for Crippled Children," with the intent of establishing a convalescent hospital at Boswell Springs.

> The new hospital development will be financed entirely by donations. Construction of new, larger facilities will be handled in the same way with financial help anticipated from many clubs and organizations besides funds from state or federal governments. A permanent structure housing about 200 children is expected to be built in two years, with more units to be added later until a goal of 1,600 beds is reached. (Ibid.)

The group signed an option for the purchase of twenty-two acres from Dr. Folk for $52,000 and filed articles of incorporation on February 19, 1958 (Drain Enterprise, February 21, 1958). I don't know what befell this idealistic plan, but it never materiolized, and the February 21, 1958 newspaper carried a note from Dr. Folk announcing that his clinic "is still being operated as usual."

At the present time the land is vacant, with nothing left but the deteriorating remnants of an old building. Thus, the evolution of the Boswell Springs landscape is curiously parallel to that of its close neighbor in Lane County, London Springs.

Sodaville

Sodaville is the only legally incorporated town in Oregon to owe its existence to the presence of mineral springs waters. During the boom years of the Willamette Valley mineral springs in the late 19th century, Sodaville was a fast-growing town, but when the springs fell into disuse the town became all but abandoned.

The Santiams, a branch of the Mollalla Indian family, inhabited the land around the springs and left three burial grounds in the immediate vicinity of Sodaville (Madsen, Oregonian, September 22, 1929). Ruben Coyle was the white discoverer of the springs; he found them while searching for stray oxen in 1848. The Thomas Summers family took up the land in a Donation Land Claim shortly thereafter and encouraged settlement around the springs.

> At first Portland was the nearest shopping center. Each fall the families would drive from Sodaville to Portland by ox team and haul back a year's supplies. But with the coming of more people a town began. Soon a store was built. A nursery was put in. A house, a livery stable, a drug store, a saloon, photograph galleries, pool halls, shooting galleries, a barber shop, three hotels, three churches, mineral springs bath houses, all soon followed. The town of Sodaville almost took on the aspect of a city. Even a local paper, The Sodaville Review, was published.

Sodaville became a stage stop on the Cascade Wagon Road and, between the transportation business and the soda water business, the hotel trade flourished. During the 1890s the town's hotels "were filled to capacity every summer, and camping places were at a premium." (Mullen, 1972, p. 74) Sodaville's mineral water was bottled and sold in stores and restaurants in nearby Albany.

Sodaville became a college town in 1892 when the Mineral Springs Seminary was established by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church organization. The college was renamed the Mineral Springs College after it broke its ties with the church, but still it could not be saved. The Mineral Springs College closed its doors in 1902 after only ten years, and when it folded, the town of Sodaville folded with it. The incorporated population declined steadily from a high of 178 in 1900, and by 1932 articles such as "Sodaville, With 77 Citizens, Refuses to Dissolve" were appearing in the newspapers (Oregonian, December 7, 1932). However, in recent decades Sodaville has been growing once again, and it is now a small residential community just outside of the urban fringe of Albany-Lebanon.

Sodaville Springs became Oregon's first State Park when Thomas Summers deeded the spring site to the state in 1970. It is also Oregon's smallest state park--

one-quarter acre of land around the spring. The little park is still enjoyed by many visitors who find it a pleasant place for a picnic. The springs, however, are now encased in concrete and drinking the water is cautioned against, as a potential health hazard. That's quite a turn-about from one hundred years ago!

Cascadia Mineral Springs

Cascadia, located at Soda Creek just above its confluence with the Soda Fork of the South Santiam River, has been a continuously popular recreation site for over a century. At its peak, when the Cascadia Hotel was in operation, Howard McKinley Corning relates that "Customarily, at the height of the season there were as many as a thousand (people) in attendance there" (Oregonian, July 24, 1949).

The early history of the Cascadia Springs is not altogether clear. According to Governor Oswald West, the springs were discovered by an ex-slave, Tom Davis, and were once called "Finley Springs" (Oregonian, February 18, 1948). According to Corning, the spring site was claimed and homesteaded by John A. Blatch. Anyway, the springs themselves were known and used for several decades before being commercially developed.

George W. Guisendorfer acquired the springs in 1895 and built a lavish thirty-room hotel on the terrace above the river. A bathhouse was also constructed with hot and cold water and drinking facilities. Most of the furniture in the lodge was built by Guisendorfer himself. He also built fifteen vacation homes on the property during the 1920s.

During the prime years of Cascadia Springs daily stage service was operated from the railhead at Lebanon up to the hotel. The trip from Albany across the Cascades to Prineville was then a three-day journey by horse team, and Cascadia was often used as an overnight stop (Corning, Oregonian, July 24, 1949). Cascadia was at this time a full-fledged rural community, with a grocery, a post office, and telephone service. Recreational facilities included ball parks and a bowling alley. A bottling plant was run profitably until it was closed by legal authorities (Elliot, 1971, p. 73).

There are many people still residing in Western Oregon who visited Cascadia in its heyday, and several recollections of the life at the place have been written. Corning recalls the ritual of drinking the waters in vivid terms:

> You came down to the springs, in groups as a rule, and each with your own tin cup. With brimming cups you would sit about on the benches, drinking and chatting. When your cup was empty you would refill it and chat some more. There was never any hurry. In this way the springs themselves became a kind of social center and many people got acquainted. . . You did this first after breakfast, then again after the noon dinner, and finally after supper. You really got filled up on the waters for the duration of your stay. (Oregonion, July 24, 1949)

Leland Robe tells a similar story about the drinking activities at the spring house in a recollection published by the Lane County Historical Society in 1970. A most revealing section of Robe's article is quoted here to shed some light on the vacation life-style which was not unusual in the prime years of the Oregon spas.

> In 1912 I spent a summer on my grandfather's ranch at Brownsville, and after the summer's work was finished the folks decided to have a vacation at Cascadia. Grandfather tool his hayrack and loaded on an unused kitchen stove with several joints of pipe and a couple of elbows, two sets of bed springs, five or six chairs, a small toble, a bench and

> a box of kitchen pots and pans, two old round-topped trunks with bedding and changes of clothes and then a big box of food--smoked ham, sausage, potatoes, beans and such.
>
> It took him all day to get from the ranch to Cascadia, about twenty-five miles, and he had to milk 15 cows by hand before he could start. The women folks went up later in the day in their 1910 model T Ford and helped set up camp, which was really nice and comfortable. The big tent was decorated with boughs and fern and made to be very attractive. (Rabe, Lane County Historian, p. 13)

Cascadia declined after the onset of the Great Depression and never regained its former prominence as a spa. According to Corning, "people who had formerly visited there for the entire summer--seldom for less than weeks at a time--now stayed but a few days, bottling up the water they wanted, then away again in their cars, quickly telescoping distances once encompassed at slow pace and by great labor" (Oregonian, July 24, 1949).

Cascadia Lodge was closed in the late 1930s, and in 1940 Guisendorfer sold the entire 300 acres to the State of Oregon for $25,000. The old buildings were eventually town down, and standard park facilities have been built to replace them. Cascadia is still a popular and beautiful state park, although the springs themselves play a minor role. The mineral water can still be drawn by a rusty hand pump. Although the author found it to be one of the most pleasant tasting of waters, nobody else was seen around the spring site, although the park itself was moderately crowded.

Waterloo

This early mill town, located alongside the falls of the South Santiam River not far from Sodaville, has a mineral spring which was once frequented by health-

seekers and other mineral water drinkers. S. D. Gager owned the springs around 1885 and developed facilities for drinking and bothing, but no hotel was ever established at the site (Mullen, 1972, p. 80) Waterloo Springs is referred to in the Southern Pacific Railroad's promotional literature, written about 1910. The site of the mineral springs eventually became the property of Crown-Zellerbach Corporation. The corporation donated 27 acres including the springs in 1962 to Linn County for a county park.

Upper Soda

The mineral springs at Upper Soda (located about ten miles upstream from Cascadia, or "Lower Soda," on the Soda Fork of the South Santiam River) were popular in the late 19th century when the Santiam Wagon Road was in peak use. Upper Soda was and still is a local focal point for the population in the easternmost portion of Linn County. Today the old stage house stands abandoned, but the Mountain House resort and restaurant is still open to the public. However, the soda water, which was once bottled and sold locally, is no longer of any importance in the life of the community.

Sodo Springs

One of the earliest known of the soda springs in the south Santiam area, known simply as "Soda Springs," was located near the present town of Foster. It is found on the 1878 map of Oregon by Habersham (Historical Oregon, 1970, p. 18).

Apparently no commercial facilities were ever established at this site, and no references to it were found in any 20th century literature.

Elk Springs

The only reference to this spring the author could find was in the Southern Pacific Railroad advertising literature. It reads:

> These springs are located ten miles west of Junction City, Oregon, and are reached by private conveyance. There are good camping accommodations, but no hotels. The waters are highly mineralized and made a delicious drink beneficial to all. For details, address F. W. Williams, Junction City, Oregon. (Outings in Oregon, c. 1910, p. 58)

CHAPTER VI

THE CASCADES HOT SPRINGS

The hot springs of western Oregon are all located on a north-south trending axis which corresponds roughly to the contact zone between the Old Cascades to the West and the High Cascades to the East. They are apparently associated with extensive old fault systems which are also reflected in the structually controlled drainages of the area. Because of their remote mountain locations, high elevation, and considerable distance from population centers, the hot springs were for the most part developed at a later date than were the mineral springs of the Willamette Valley and Jackson County. There were some exceptions to this, notably Foley and Belknap Springs on the upper McKenzie, and "Swim" at the Cascades Summit near Mt. Hood. "Swim," however, was a key stage stop on the old Barlow Road, and the upper McKenzie area was populated and had direct stage contact with Eugene by the early 1870s.

Because of their remoteness, many of the hot springs were unclaimed by the settlers of the 19th century and became included in the national forests when they were established in 1906. One of these, McCredie Springs, was subsequently leased to private interests which developed a large resort; when the resort closed, the springs reverted back to Forest Service management. Bagby Hot Springs were developed by the Forest Service as a guard station, and bathing facilities were

constructed for public use. Nearby Austin Hot Springs were acquired by Portland General Electric, and a public campground has been established at the site.

Most of the hot springs on National Forest land have been maintained in their natural state as much as possible; although bathers have long been aware of Umpqua Warm Springs and Wall Creek Hot Springs, no facilities have been needed to accommodate them as the use has not been intensive. Rider Creek Hot Springs is now reached fairly easily from Eugene, and the number of bathers in this spring has vastly increased in the last couple of years.

The only hot springs in western Oregon which are open to the public in 1973 are those which earlier settlers did not consider desirable enough to acquire. The choice hot springs were claimed by homesteaders, built up, and finally either abandoned altogether or closed to the public.

Swim

Dormant Mt. Hood gives vent to several hot springs, one near the top of the mountain and one at the base of the south slope. The hot springs near the top of the mountain are in the zone of permanent snow and ice and have no cultural history to speak of. The springs at the base of the mountain, however, were located near the summit of the Barlow Trail, an early pioneer trail into the Willamette Valley.

At the top of the Barlow Trail there is a large, level grassy area known as Summit Meadows, also known as Summit Prairie, or "Sumate Prairie" to the pioneers. "It contained luscious pasture for their cattle and oxen after the long hard climb

over the divide. Early days saw large groups camped in the meadows, playing games, making repairs, and generally resting." (Whitwher, ?, p. 118)

The town of Swim developed at the northern edge of Summit Prairie; it centered around the hot springs known by that name, which were developed into a resort. According to Donald Whitwher

> For a considerable period, people came to Swim to bathe in the warm water of the natural warm springs. This commercial venture promptly failed when people learned that the warm springs were actual water (sic) piped from wood fired stoves high on the hill above. (There is no agreement on this paint, however, between authors or people still living who were contacted.) A lodging house in the shape of an Indian teepee was erected and later an addition was made to it. This was the original Summit House, serving also as a trading post. There is only one visible portion of this old building left, an old teepee pole; trappers and campers dismantled and used the building for fire wood. (Whitwher, undated, p. 118-9)

Actually, Whitwher is apparently wrong in deciding that there was no real hot spring on the premises, because the U.S. Geological Survey map includes "Swim" among its springs and tells us that it flows at a rate of twenty-five gallons per minute at a temperature of 80 °F (Misc. Paper #14). This might well be cool for bathing, though warmer than regular ground water.

An advertisement for "Mt. Hood Warm Springs" appeared in The Oregon Cascade Wonderland Calls You, a promotional booklet put out by the Bend Chamber of Commerce and other Chambers of Commerce probably in the late 1920s (Lane County Museum files).

The exact date of the resort's final disappearance is unknown to the author. Today there is not even a teepee pole to mark the site of the old resort; it has

become part of Still Creek Forest Camp in the Mt. Hood National Forest. In fact, the springs area has been fenced off from the public for the past several years; on the fence there is a sign that reads:

> There are some 200,000 species of animals and plants in North America. Some 5% of them are endangered, and about 1% are nearly extinct. One of these highly endangered species is a rare, primitive dragonfly whose closely related ancestors flew alongside the dinosaurs, 150 million years ago. This species is restricted to the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, and parts of the Coast Ranges. It lives in highly restricted alpine and sub-alpine habitats, rarely more than an acre in extent, usually much less. One of the few places where this species lives is here, beyond the fence. Your cooperation in protecting this species is encouraged and appreciated. Please watch your children and pets closely, and do not retrieve paper that blows into the area. Be particularly careful, because the small population is critical to current research into the ecology and genetics of these dragonflies--their interrelationships with their environment and each other. Such research is part of the Forest Service policy of multiple use. Richard F. Buscher, District Ranger, Zigzag.

"Swim," then, got an earlier start as a watering hole than many of Oregon's hot springs; the Summit House was built by Perry Vickers in 1868 (Whitwher, undated, p. 119). However, it is one of the springs which has over the years lost all traces of its cultural heritage, to the point where it is now being managed as a "natural area" for dragonflies.

Breitenbush Hot Springs

Breitenbush Hot Springs is unique among western Oregon's springs in several respects--for one thing, since 1910 there have been two separate properties which each have used the name "Breitenbush Hot Springs" (and fought over it); furthermore,

one of these places is still a summer resort, making it the only hot or mineral spring spa still operating at the present time.

There is a profusion of hot springs for about a quarter-mile just downstream of the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Breitenbush River; over sixty separate springs, ranging in temperature from 124 °F to 194 °F (advertising brochure, Oregon Historical Society files), emerge along the banks and in the stream channel. The massive scouring and siltation which accompanied the 1964 flood seems to have buried many of the springs, or at least altered their outlets enough to confuse the property owners.

These springs were visited regularly by the nearby Warm Springs Indians, who came over from the eastern side of the Cascades along what became known as the Lemati Trail (Wayne Halseth, personal communication). The Indians often stayed around the springs for the summer and went down to the confluence of the Breitenbush and North Santiam Rivers to fish for salmon. The Indians dug out pools in the rocks and bathed in them, or at least the men did; the women apparently spent at least part of the season on the slopes of what is now Mansfield Ridge, which was known as Squaw Mountain to the early settlers. Until the 1890s, a lot of sheep were grazed here, and ridges such as Squaw Mountain were kept open and grassy (Halseth, personal communication). Today they are covered with thick stands of young timber.

A Dutch pioneer named Peter Breitenbush is said to have "discovered" the springs in the 1840s through his association with the Indians. It was homesteaded by

a man named Mansfield, who lived there for many years but did not establish any commercial developments. After his death, Mrs. Mansfield married into the Bruckman family, which owned the place from 1925 to 1956. The Bruckmans established a resort spa, which eventually included a thirty-two room hotel, fifty-four cabins, a swimming pool, a restaurant, a cafe, a dancehall, and in the early years, a post office (advertising brochure, Oregon Historical Society files, undated). The road connecting Breitenbush with Detroit was built in 1928; until then, the springs could only be reached by a twelve-mile hike or by packtrains.

Long before the road was built, however, a dentist named Dr. Skiff leased twenty-two acres of adjacent downstream land (which also contained hot springs) from the Forest Service. He built a cabin there in 1910 and developed a resort over the next two decades; most of the thirty cabins still in use today were built in the 1920s. After Dr. Skiff's death, the Forest Service leased the site to a number of people over the years, and it finally was acquired by the Halseth brothers in 1955. The Halseths also purchased the main resort from the Bruckman family in 1956, and for a brief period of time "Upper" and "Lower" Breitenbush were united.

Due to legal entanglements (the nature of which Wayne Halseth was reluctant to discuss in detail), the property was soon split again, and two separate resorts were operated. Further lawsuits were filed concerning which one was entitled to use the name "Breitenbush Hot Springs"; this question is apparently still not resolved. However, the Upper Breitenbush Hot Springs, which is on privately-owned land and includes most of the springs and facilities, has been closed for about

ten years and will apparently not re-open in the foreseeable future. Lower Breitenbush Hot Springs operates with a one-year renewable lease from the Willamette National Forest; it is not expanding (the last cabin was built in 1956) but it is maintained. Besides the cabins, it includes a store, a bathhouse with masseur and masseuse in residence, a small dam, a powerhouse, and trailer spaces. There was once a lodge, but it collapsed under heavy snow in 1966-1967.

Wayne Halseth indicated that in the past, the younger people generally preferred the upper resort, with its pool and dancehall, while the elderly people congregated around the bathhouse at the Lower resort. Today almost the entire clientele at Breitenbush Hot Springs consists of elderly people, mostly from Portland and Salem, who come for the mineral baths and the peaceful atmosphere (Halseth, personal communication). However, Halseth mentioned that many "Latvians, Finns, and Norwegians" also traditionally go to Breitenbush, and the caretaker there is Scandanavian by birth.

Although the use of mineral waters for medicinal purposes is no longer in vogue, it apparently is still the main attraction of the place for many visitors. A relatively recent brochure (since 1956) describes the curative powers as follows:

> Many helpless invalids who have been carried into our baths, suffering from rheumatism or neuritis, have in short time regained their health and full use of their limbs.
>
> Diseases of the stomach, skin, kidneys, and regulatory system, dyspepsia, nicotine habit, and blood diseases have all responded to the remarkable curative powers of these waters.
>
> We do not accept contagious, tubercular, of venereal cases. Treatments are given in large, modern bathhouses with private tubs, mineral pools, hot natural steam baths, and blanket sweats. (Oregon Historical Society files)

Although there were never fully-developed bottling works at Breitenbush, the hot mineral water was sold in gallon jugs bearing the label "Breitenbush Deep Earth Mineral Water." The sale of the mineral water was discontinued around 1963 (Halseth, personal communication).

Belknap Springs

Belknap Springs, located on the banks of the McKenzie River about five miles east of McKenzie Bridge, has long been a landmark in the area. It was always popular and, according to its owner, accommodated crowds of up to several thousand people for the July 4th weekend in the 1920s (Mrs. Betty Smith, personal communication). Although the commercial establishment has been closed to the public since 1967, Belknap Springs is still found on most Oregon highway maps and also on a public information sign on Highway 126.

Although there are several contradictory stories about the original discovery and development of Belknap Springs, there is evidence that R. S. Belknap was at one time formally associated with the resort. The following advertisement appeared in the June 20, 1874, edition of the Eugene State Journal:

To Those in Search of
HEALTH OR PLEASURE

The Undersigned, Proprietor of the
SILOAM SPRINGS
would call attention of those in search of health or pleasure to the properties and excellent situation of the above springs. They are situated on the McKenzie River, sixty miles east of Eugene City, surrounded by scenery beautiful and grand. The neighborhood

abounds in game of every kind, and the streams with fine trout. The medicinal properties of the water have been tested by the cure of those who have visited them who have been afflicted with various diseases, particularly Female Weakness, Scrofula, Rheumatism, Inflammations both external and internal, and general debility. Experienced males and females always in attendance. Charges moderate. Good pasture near by.

R. S. Belknap, M.D.
John W. Sims, Proprietor

It should be noted in passing that R. S. Belknap, a well-known early McKenzie resident and explorer, was not a licensed medical doctor (Mrs. Clarence Belknap, personal communication). At any rate, Belknap Springs was a thriving resort spa continuously from the 1870s on until quite recently. Frank Bigelow owned and operated the resort for many years, and rebuilt the main lodge in 1933. At his death the property was divided among four children, with the main hot springs and lodge going to his daughter, Mrs. Betty Smith. (There are several hot springs on the property, all located on the north bank of the river; water was piped across the river to the lodge on the south bank.) Mrs. Smith maintained the resort until 1967 and still lives at the lodge with her family.

In its prime Belknap Springs included a huge lodge, a dance hall, two restaurants (one fancy and one "coffee shop"), fourteen cottages, and several acres of tent sites. According to Mrs. Smith, "Grandma and Pop came for the baths; Daddy fished and Mom knitted and the kids swam--it seemed like half of Eugene must have learned to swim up here."

In the early days, Belknap Springs was at the end of the road, and the daily stage route terminated here and at Foley Springs. Until 1928, when the McKenzie

Pass Highway was improved, Belknap and Foley were both jump-off points for pack trips and hikes into the High Cascades. The Clear-Lake Cut-off was not constructed until ten years ago--until then, Belknap Springs was still a point of departure for much of the high country. The guests at Belknap Springs came mostly from the Willamette Valley, but some were also from the Bend-Redmond area (Mrs. Smith, personal communication). Regular guests, who stayed for two weeks and longer, made up the bulk of the business, although many people also came from Eugene in more recent times for a day's swim.

What were the reasons for the closing of Belknap Springs? I asked this question, on separate occasions, of both Mrs. Smith and John Bigelow, a brother who grew up on the site and also owned and operated another Cascade resort, Blue Lake, for many years. They both stated that unreasonable demands by the Lane County Health Department contributed to the shutting down of commercial operations. The high cost of improvements to the septic tank system were cutting deeply into the profit margin, but the chlorine requirement for all county swimming pools was the devastating ordinance. The presence of chlorine destroys the appeal of the hot springs water--for one thing, it apparently caused oxidation in the Belknap Springs water and turned it black! In general, bureaucratic demands were made that were not economically possible to satisfy; the short operating season (May through September) just did not bring in a very high income. In the early 1950s before Frank Bigelow's death, much of the timber was sold to pay taxes, although 100-year old maples still tower around the lodge. Finally John Bigelow considered

government competition in the form of federal and state parks a big factor in Belknap's decline: Paradise Forest Camp was developed just a mile downstream, and people who otherwise would have paid for overnight accommodations stayed there instead, just coming to swim in the pool for fifty cents. Despite all this, Mrs. Smith feels she could still fill the place if she re-opened, but profits aren't high and she says she has lost the desire to deal with the public. At the present time, Belknap Springs is for sale.

It is interesting to note two other aspects of the Belknap Springs situation. One is the possibility, albeit remote, that it could be developed as a small-scale geothermal power-generating plant. John Bigelow is very interested in exploring power resources and has constructed a small-scale hydro-generating plant on his own property (about one-half mile downstream from Belknap Springs).

One of the Bigelows sold their portion of the land to a Mr. Nation, who has developed "Belknap Woods" on the parcel. Although the Belknap Woods property does not include hot springs, the possibility of piping hot springs water from one of the Bigelow brothers' land across the river is presently being discussed. There have been mobile-home spaces available in the area for most of the last decade, but Nation has just built a new swimming pool, and the Belknap Woods mobile-home facilities are being rapidly expanded. It is also rumored that a large development corporation is interested in acquiring the Belknap Springs property along both sides of the river.

Foley Hot Springs

The Foley Springs spa, which operated continuously from the early 1870s until 1950, was regarded as one of the more elegant resorts in Western Oregon. Around the turn of the century the Caroline Gage Theatrical Company, which was then very popular, would "often beguile odd days between engagements by visits up the McKenzie to Foley Springs, or some such Sylvan spot" (Oregon Historical Quarterly, 44, p. 235). Beautiful mountain scenery, spacious grounds, fine food and good accommodations made this one of the most popular places for the well-to-do to come and stay for the summer season.

The early history of this site is not clear, but it was operating as a spa at least as early as 1874, when this advertisement appeared in the Eugene State Journal, near a similar ad for nearby Belknap Springs:

HO! Ye Weak and Weary
BETHESDA SPRINGS

These springs are located about 55 miles East of Eugene City and within 4 miles of the celebrated Big Prairie of the McKenzie. They are within a few hundred yards of Horse Creek, one of the most famous trouting streams in Oregon. Deer and elk are very plentiful near these springs, having been the resort for ages of these animals. The grandest and most picturesque scenery of the North Pacific. We have the best buildings and the best accommodations of any springs in this part of the state. Our bath-house is new, and is constructed with reference to the wants of those visiting us from the Valley. We also have an excellent vapor bath room constructed near the head of the Spring, and in all things, we propose to keep up with the demands for an institution of this kind.

An experienced physician in attendance at all times. Board and lodging in good style for those who prefer it. Animals can be pastured for small cost with us, and be perfectly safe.

A. N. Foley)
J. B. Alexander) Proprietors

(Eugene State Journal, June 20, 1874)

Apparently Dr. Foley bought out his partner's share in the place not long afterwards. The following contract has been preserved (but forgotten even by the present owners!) at the Lane County Pioneer Museum:

> State of Oregon County of Lane
> A contract (illegible) and entered into by and between J. B. Alexander and wife and A. N. Foley. The conditions of contract is such that if the partys (sic) of the part shall relinquish to A. N. Foley, their claim to the Bethesda Hot Spring, with all its appertenances thereunto belanging the said A. N. Foley is to pay them one wagon and share of Harses and further to relise there toen lot in Eugene City from under Morgage the amount of which is (311.25) three hundred and eleven dollars and 25 cts and further pay them dawn 50.00 fifty dollars.
> in witness hereby sworn (?, barely legible)
> A. N. Foley
> J. B. Alexander
> & Alexander
>
> (Lane County Museum files)

Dr. Foley owned the springs just long enough to give them his name--he died and they were sold to the Runey family in 1880. The Runeys have owned the property ever since and still live at Foley Springs today.

According to Peter Runey, the biggest boom years for Foley Springs occurred during the 1920s; at this time, to accommodate the crowds, a second lodge was built around Dr. Foley's old cabin. At this time, Foley Springs included two lodges, a post office, dining facilities, a pool and bathhouse, a string of cabins (seven to ten at various times), and huge "tent-cottage," and camping grounds.

However, the depression hit hard at Foley Springs; harder, apparently, than at nearby Belknap Springs, perhaps because it catered more heavily to the well-to-do. During the 1931 or 1932 season nobody at all came until June! (P. Runey,

personal communication). Foley Springs never fully recovered after the depression and struggled along until Mrs. Haflenger's death at the age of 90 in 1950. Mrs. Haflenger, A. P. Runey's widow, had managed the resort for over twenty years and was apparently well-known for her strength and also her eccentricity. In the last three decades, Foley Springs had deteriorated greatly; perhaps more from the ravages of vandals than from the ravages of time. William Runey, the head of the household, makes it clear that at this time he and his family want and expect their privacy.

Foley Springs' business came predominantly from the Willamette Valley, although some Easterners and a scattering of Europeon visitors also signed the ledger books (personal observation). It is interesting to note that a large number of hotel employees were Chinese; the salory records at Wilhoit indicate a similar situation, so it may be that Chinese labor lobor was a common feature of early Pacific Coast spas.

Rider Creek Hot Spring

Although this little hot spring, now a quorter-mile off the road from Cougar Reservoir, was never the scene of very much activity in the past; it is currently receiving a great amount of use from bathers. Martha Belknap, a long-time upper McKenzie resident, recalls that at one time this spring was known as "Terwilliger Spring," but that the land was never claimed because of its remote location. Until Cougar Reservoir and the forest roads encircling it were constructed in the

early 1960s, access to the spring was difficult and visits were infrequent. (Even today the steep terrain and muddy trails make access somewhat difficult in wet weather.) It is said, however, that a pugilistic champion (possibly Braddock?) used to pack into the hot spring for training sessions in the post-World War I years.

The author has been familiar with this spring for less than three years, but in that short span of time it has been modified considerably by the phenomenal increase of visitors. The original pool, created by building a little mud and rock dam near the spring outlet, has been augmented by the construction of several larger pools below it. These pools are also built out of the materials at hand and tend to vary widely in number and condition, since there is nobody responsible for their maintenance except for the bathers themselves. Each pool has a slightly different water temperature, because an adjacent tributary of Rider Creek is a source of cold water which can dilute the hot spring water.

The remarkable increase in use seems to be the result of selective diffusion based on word-of-mouth and centered in the Eugene area. Most of the bathers and overnight campers are young, and nudity is the rule. This situation has apparently engendered some controversy and the Forest Service has been under some pressure to "clean up the mess up there" from some local citizens. Actually, the Forest Service is the first to admit that there is surprisingly little "mess" at Rider Creek Hot Springs, considering that it is not unusual to have upwards of fifty visitors per day in the summer months. However, the steep, unimproved trail to the springs is showing

evidence of severe erosion, and the lack of sewage facilities, lack of adequate parking facilities, and other problems related to overuse have left the Forest Service with a "real knotty problem" (Mohane, U.S. Forest Service, personal communication).

Although Rider Creek is in an old growth stand of Douglas fir, commercial timber harvest is unlikely because of its proximity to Cougar Reservoir, which is heavily used for recreational purposes. Lack of funds is preventing the Forest Service from developing new facilities to serve the area, so for the near future, at least, Rider Creek Hot Springs is likely to continue to be a popular, unimproved bathing spot in the woods.

Kitson Springs

Kitson Hot Springs, which pour at 112 °F to 114 °F out of several cracks in the edge of a cliff carved into the basalt bedrock by Hills Creek, were the first hot springs in the upper Willamette area to be inhabited by white settlers and were developed into a popular resort.

A homestead claim was made at the site by Dave Kitson, after Charlie Tufti, an Indian who figures prominently in early stories of the Oakridge area, led him to the hot springs (Mrs. C. A. Huntington, personal communication). The Indians had a permanent camp nearby at Packer Creek and used this water for healing purposes; they also soaked their salmon in the hot springs water to cure the fish (Loftstrom, personal communication).

Kitson, who was described as "a man who needed solitude and got lots of it," built a cabin in 1865 and lived at the springs for thirty-five years. He sold the property to Paul Warfield in 1900 for $1,500, after rejecting an offer (for the same price) from some Portland gentlemen who made the mistake of wearing white-collared shirts and bringing small dogs along with them! (Lamoreux, Oakridge Telegram, September 8, 1959). The property was never sold again and is presently owned by Mrs. Helen Huntington, a descendent of Warfield, who apparently lived in Washington, D.C. It is managed by B & H Cedar Sales Company. Warfield developed the resort at Kitson, and later it was leased by the ownership to William Cash, who operated Kitson Springs Resort for twenty-three years until it closed in 1963. At its prime, Kitson Springs included a big old-fashioned lodge and dining room (twenty rooms), an elaborate bathhouse (twelve bathrooms and second-story sundeck), a post office, and thirty-five cabins strung out along both sides of Hills Creek and up on the surrounding hillside flats (Loftstrom, personal communication).

The resort was connected to Oakridge by a reliable road before 1916, for in that year the first Model T Ford was driven up to the springs (Lamoreux, op. cit.). The spa was open for business every summer until 1963, and, according to Cash, over sixty percent of the customers were regular visitors (Ibid.).

Kitson Springs was condemned by the Lane County Health Department in 1963 because its septic tank system was failing. The cost of putting in a new sewage system to take care of the lodge and thirty-five cabins was considered prohibitive, and so the buildings were evacuated and torn down. The only facilities which

remain today (besides the caretaker's house) are the swimming pool (across the bridge over Hills Creek, on the opposite side from the springs) and the big bathhouse. At the present time, Kitson Springs is used as a "company retreat" by the management of the wood products company; with its total taxable value assessed at $12,380, for over ninety-five acres plus buildings and pool (Lane County Tax Records), the company is unlikely to make many changes in the near future.

McCredie Springs

McCredie Springs have evolved through a complete cycle in the past century: the landscape was developed from "wild" to "civilized," but has now reverted back to "wild."

Eleven hot springs, located on the banks of Salt Creek in the upper Willamette River drainage about twelve miles east of Oakridge, emerge from the ground into mudpools and range in temperature from 130 °F to 170 °F. In the nineteenth century they were known as "Winano Springs" but were accessible only by a long foot trail and were rarely used by white settlers. The Indians, however, "used to come to these hot springs . . . and bathe in its health-giving waters" (Owen, Eugene Register-Guard, August 11, 1957). Frank Warner, a trapper, built a cabin at the site around the turn of the century, but the springs were not developed commercially and became government land when the National Forests were established shortly after 1900. It was not until railroad service was put into the Oakridge area in 1912 that the Winano Springs attracted the interest of developers.

Anti-trust litigation against the Southern Pacific-Central Pacific merger halted construction of the railroad (intended to go up Salt Creek over Willamette Pass and into California) in 1912; construction was not resumed until 1924. However, the grade had been completed six miles beyond Oakridge, and this was "a very life-saver" (Owen, op. cit.) for Winono Springs, as it put the springs within three miles of the railroad terminus. John Hardin attempted to file a mineral rights claim to forty acres around the springs but was not allowed to; however, he was able to lease the land from the Forest Service. He constructed a sawmill, cleared the timber from the terrace above the springs and built a lodge in the clearing. The lodge, which was started in 1914 and finished two years later, was an ambitious undertaking considering the still-remote location and Hardin's limited means; it was two stories high with eighteen rooms upstairs and had dimensions of fifty-four by 120 feet. The trail was widened into a road which dead-ended at the springs, and a resort was opened.

With financial help from the John Cartright family of Harrisburg, a twenty-six by sixty foot swimming pool was built across Salt Creek, but business was not very good and in 1918 Judge (Walter?) McCredie of Portland acquired the lease. According to Mrs. C. A. Huntington, Judge McCredie owned the Portland baseball team and used to bring all the players up to the springs for mud baths (Mrs. C. A. Huntington, personal communication). The Judge owned the resort for only five years, but he did much to develop and advertise the facilities, and it has been known as McCredie Springs ever since.

Although the operation of McCredie Springs was highly unstable (fifteen turn-overs in management in less than forty years), the actual ownership of the lease changed hands only three times in the resort's history (Owen, op. cit.). Management turn-over notwithstanding, the resort operated continuously until 1957, and McCredie Springs grew into a small community, the "uppermost" community in the Middle Fork Willamette basin. One very important stabilizing feature was the Southern Pacific Railroad, which finally completed the route in 1927 and established a station on the high terrace above the McCredie Springs lodge. The railroad established a small company town alongside the station, which is gone today except for three buildings still occupied by the families of Southern Pacific Company employees.

By the time Highway 58 was completed in 1943 (it cut right through the river terrace at the edge of the resort), McCredie Springs had come from being one of the most remote of all the hot springs to one of the most easily accessible. Five trains stopped at the station daily, and Eugene was only about one hour's drive from the lodge door. Around this time, McCredie Springs in "in full glory": it had a health sanatorium with W. E. Harris, M.D., in residence, and was "the delight of children and grown-ups alike" with its warm water swimming pool, horseback riding, and hiking trails (Owen, op. cit.).

One ambitious plan of this period, the McCredie Springs Project, which apparently captured the interest of businessmen and community leaders, is described below in the Eugene Chamber of Commerce minutes for August 14, 1935:

> McCredie Springs Project - The chair stated that he and the secretary had been working some time past with a small committee from the Medical Society upon a project looking into the conversion of McCredie Springs into a national hospital for infantile paralysis cases similar to the Warm Springs Sanatorium (Georgia) with the hope that the board of the Warm Springs Sanatorium Foundation and President Roosevelt would become interested in our project and assist in putting it over. By unanimous opinion the Board believed the project to be very worthwhile and urged that the Chamber do everything within its power to put the proposition before the Warm Springs Foundation. Upon motion by Paris, seconded by Carlson, the chair was authorized to appoint a committee to go into the matter further.

No further reference to the matter is made in the following months and, needless to say, the national hospital for infantile paralysis patients never came to pass. However, the resort apparently thrived for some years, then began to suffer from mismanagement and neglect. According to George Owen,

> Mother Nature, not content with seeing this fine resort plagued with mismanagement and misconduct, loosed a flood upon its lovely grounds, doing much damage. . . However, this damage has been repaired and the channel deepened and straightened so there can be no recurrence. (Eugene Register-Guard, August 11, 1957)

Owen purchased the lease shortly after this flood and was the last person to own and operate McCredie Springs Resort. He expended a lot of money and effort to advertise and upgrade the facilities and brought them into line with the Lane County health and sanitation codes only to see the lodge burn to the ground on January 15, 1958. The lodge, which was considered "an Eastern Lane landmark since 1914" was never rebuilt (Eugene Register-Guard, January 16, 1958).

Although the resort was gone, the properly chlorinated warm springs swimming pool continued to operate for seven more years. Many of the swimmers

were people who were camping at Blue Pool Forest Camp, which was adjacent to the downstream edge of the springs site. The Christmas flood of 1964 washed away the bridge across Salt Creek and tore out the swimming pool, Owen's "deepened and straightened channel" notwithstanding. (Actually, there has been a history of repeated flooding at McCredie, as the springs and many of the facilities were built directly on the riverbanks.) The 1964 flood marked the end of commercial activity at McCredie. The lease of the land from the Forest Service was terminated, and Lane County foreclosed the remaining buildings and improvements on the property (D. Atkinson, Lane County assessor, personal communication).

Today there are no improvements whatsoever remaining on the old McCredie Springs site. All buildings are gone, and the foundations have been largely removed. Even the gas station on the road and the railroad depot up on the terrace have been torned down. Although the land is presently being managed by the Forest Service in a regular multiple-use category, it is possible that a campground may someday be developed there, "perhaps by the year 2000" (David Yates, U.S. Forest Service, personal communication). In the meantime, several pools have been dug out on the banks of Salt Creek by hot springs bathers, and the springs seem to be getting a moderate amount of use.

Bagby Hot Springs

Bagby Springs, located 2,300 feet above sea level near the Hot Springs Fork in the upper Clackamas River drainage system, has long been a popular bathing

place in the woods. It consists of three separate springs, accessible by a maintained trail through the remote reaches of the Estacada Ranger District in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Because it is on public land, Bagby is one of the few improved springs in the study area which is still available for public use.

The only historical material I was able to find about Bagby comes from Forest Service literature. Bob Bagby, hunter and prospector, is said to have discovered the springs in 1881, and the Forest Service has a picture of him, a vigorous, white-bearded old man, sitting by the springs drinking the water.

In the early years of the 20th century, Bagby Springs was developed for public use by the Forest Service. A cabin was built in 1913, and a barn, a dam, shelters, and a bathhouse were all constructed during the 1920s (U.S. Forest Service brochure). Until 1940 Bagby Springs served as summer headquarters for a fire-fighting crew and was equipped with telephone facilities. The bathhouse consists of several large deep wooden tubs, hewn from giant cedar logs. The water flows at 133 ^{o}F, which places it somewhat above the normal limits of tolerance for bathing, so it is generally diluted or allowed to cool before use.

Many of the facilities which have been built earlier deteriorated and have been removed over the years. Today, besides toilets and primitive camping facilities, only the bathhouse and guard cabin remains. Bagby has suffered so badly from vandalism in recent decades that the Forest Service now discourages overnight use (U.S. Forest Service brochure) and may eventually decide to simply close it.

Austin Hot Springs

These very hot springs bubble up in pools along the banks of the upper Clackamas River in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The ten-acre parcel of land immediately around the springs belongs to Portland General Electric, which manages the springs as a public recreation site. Improvements are limited to tables, stone fireplaces, toilets, and a footbridge across the river. Whether the geothermal possibilities of the hot springs at Austin are a factor in Portland General Electric's possession of the site is unknown to the author. At present, however, the day-use recreation is fairly intensive during the summer months; there is no charge for use.

North Umpqua Hot Springs

The North Umpqua Hot Springs is one of the few springs in western Oregon which the author did not visit. It is located in the Umpqua National Forest and has never been developed for commercial purposes. It was used by the Indians as a bathing area, and a small pool was dug out of the travertine by an early Forest Ranger. The springs have never been used intensively. The only description of the springs available comes from the files of the Douglas County Museum: an interview with Alan Knudtson. This interview, transcribed by George Abdill, is included in full below.

North Umpqua Hot Springs
(An interview with Alan Knudtson, Roseburg, 3 January 1973 - GBA)
The North Umpqua Hot Springs are located about 3 miles above Toketee Lake on the north side of the North Umpqua river. A U.S.

Forest Service campground, called Winter Night (or Winternight?) Camp is located a short distance downstream, within hiking distance of the springs.

The main spring runs out of the hill and is located in a travertine deposit (or is the travertine a deposit formed by the minerals escaping from the springs?). There is a Forest Service lookout station nearby. The hot water flows down a bank and over a ledge into the river. The water is about as hot as a person can stand to get into.

Early history of the spring is unknown, but Jessie Wright told Alan Knudtson that the local Indians used to bathe in the natural hot water. Perry Wright and his wife, Jessie (Hatfield) Wright, who homesteaded up the North Umpqua early in the century, used to drive their cattle up the river to Mountain Meadows to range in the summer, and the Wrights camped on the big meadow, about a mile from the hot springs. They went there to bathe while tending the stock on the summer range. At that time no improvements had been made at the site, the users simply bathing in the natural basin of the spring.

Carlos Neal of Roseburg was stationed at the Forest Service lookout for a number of years. He used the hot spring as his private bath and made some improvemements. The travertine was fairly soft and Mr. Neal used to take a hammer and cold chisel with him when he went to bathe. He cut the soft formation out below the spring, created a bath tub in the travertine that was several feet in depth, and later the Forest Service built a three-sided shelter over this tub.

Alan Knudtson used to bathe there in later years (1940s) when he was employed by the Forest Service. He carried a length of hose and would siphon out the tub and allow it to fill with fresh hot water from the spring. Alan says there was a steady flow of campers from the camp downstream, including many older people, who hiked up to the spring to bathe. Alan usually waited until late in the evening before he went to the spring to bathe, after the campers had returned to the campground for the night, leaving the spring deserted.

No commercial development of the springs ever seems to have been undertaken. The only access road is by the rough service road along the Copco canal, which roughly follows the old Bradley Trail, and even this route does not lead directly to the hot springs, but is within walking distance. The springs are located up this access road about 5 miles from the point where the access road leaves the North Umpqua Highway; the road is usable in the summer months only.

G. B. Abdill

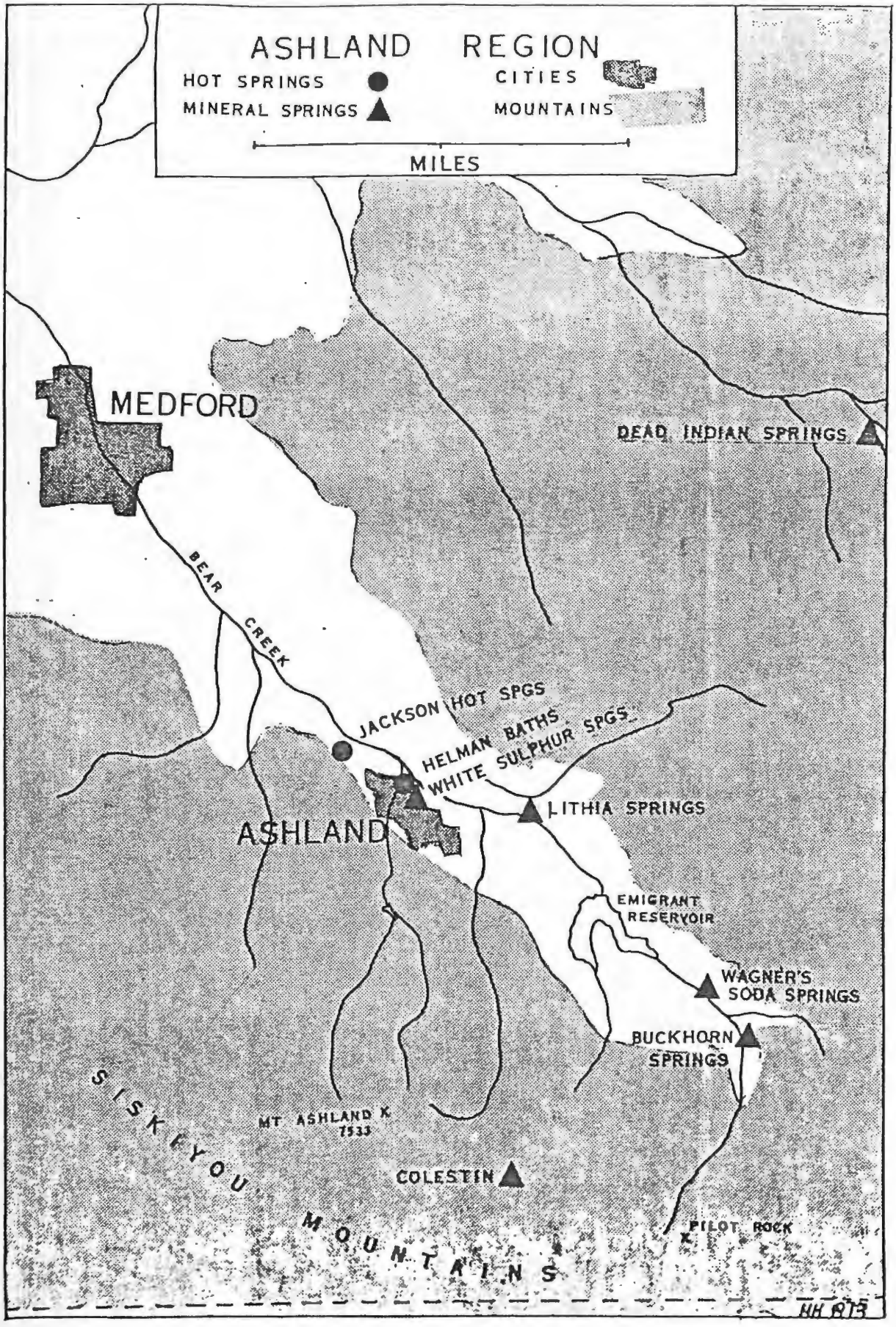
CHAPTER VII

JACKSON COUNTY SPRINGS

No county in western Oregon is as generously endowed with mineral springs as Jackson County. The profusion of mineral springs in this area, particularly along the tributaries of Bear Creek, was widely advertised by early proponents of the area as a great asset. Ashland was surrounded by a variety of hot springs and mineral springs, including two (Helman's and White Sulphur) within several blocks of the city center. Some of the mineral springs in the surrounding countryside were developed as stage stops on the roads connecting Jackson County's population with Linkville (Klamath Falls) over the Cascades, and with California over the Siskiyous. E. A. Swope, after a visit to Ashland in 1886, concluded that

> The region is particularly rich in soda and sulphur springs, both cold and thermal, and is fast becoming a resort for invalids, tourists, and those in search of the healing waters of nature. The opening of through railroad communications will, in the near future, bring thousands from abroad to the fountains of life. (Portland World, July 2, 1886)

The prominence of the mineral springs of Ashland reached a peak in 1914 with the landslide passage of a bond issue designed to pipe lithia water and other mineral waters into the city. The nearby city of Medford, envious of Ashland, got excited about the possibility of piping mineral water to their own city and packed the library to hear visiting Professor Charles G. Anthony, an "eminent authority on mineral


ASHLAND REGION
HOT SPRINGS
MINERAL SPRINGS
CITIES
MOUNTAINS
MILES
MEDFORD
DEAD INDIAN SPRINGS
BEAR CREEK
JACKSON HOT SPGS
HELMAN BATHS
WHITE SULPHUR SPGS
ASHLAND
LITHIA SPRINGS
EMIGRANT RESERVOIR
WAGNER'S SODA SPRINGS
BUCKHORN SPRINGS
MT ASHLAND K 7533
COLESTIN
PILOT ROCK
SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS
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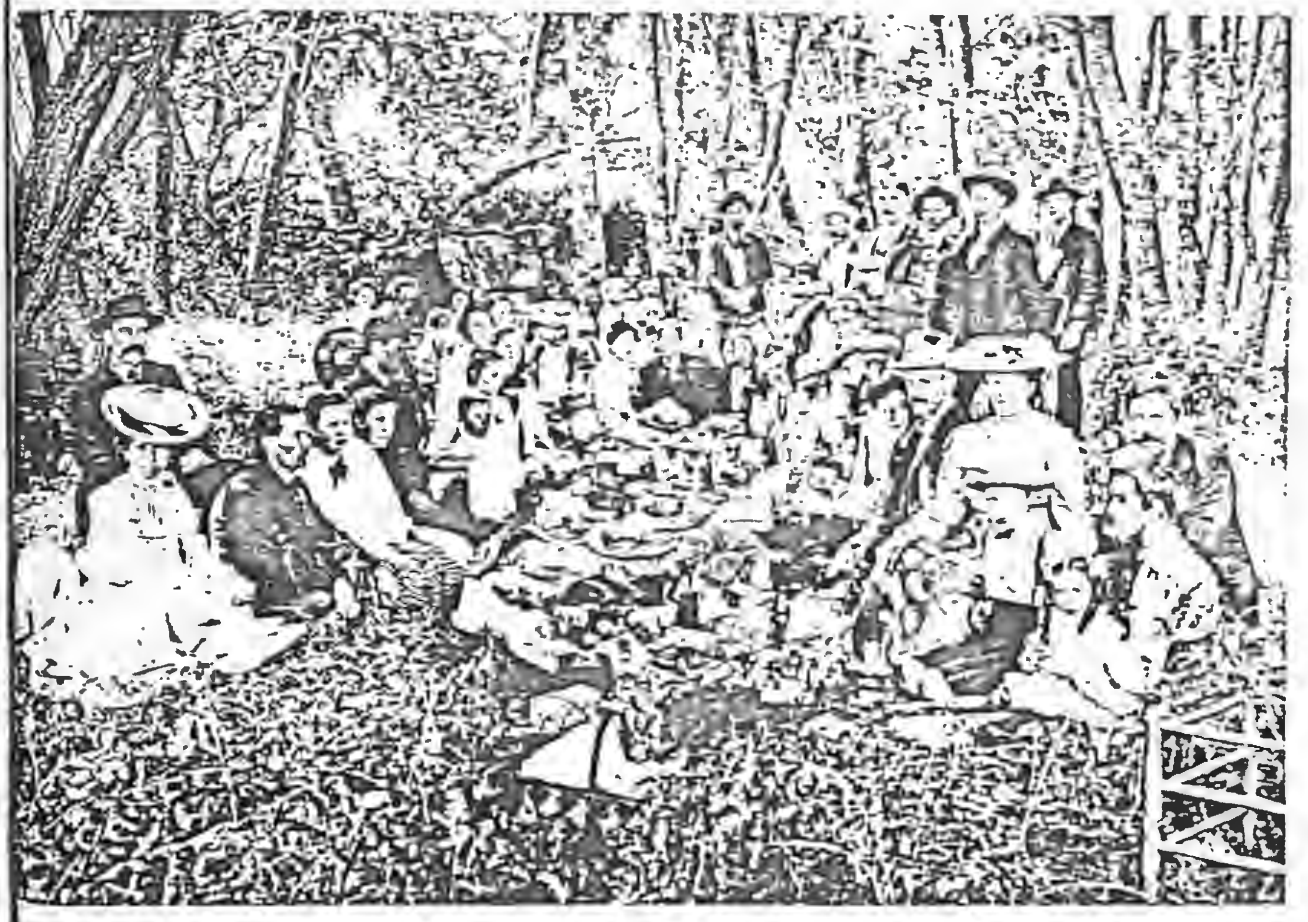


Picnic at Kingsbury Springs, date unknown
This once popular mineral spring has since been drowned by Emigrant Lake.
(photo from files of Jackson County Museum)

waters," explain the opportunity. (See "Mineral Waters Might Easily Be Piped to Medford," in Jacksonville Museum, c. 1914.)

The mineral springs never did become the central focus of Ashland, despite the elaborate system of lithia fountains, and no water was ever piped to Medford. However, the relative importance of the springs was considerable. In 1918 the American Travel and Hotel Directory's only comment about Ashland was "Within the city of Ashland and its immediate vicinity are more than fifty various kinds of mineral springs, which with the many parks make it attractive as a tourist and health resort" (Phillips, H. W., pp. 123-4). As recently as 1935, Polks' Medford and Jackson County Directory had this to say about Ashland:

> Ashland is famous for its mineral waters. Foremost among these is the Lithia Water--a mineral water which has gained for Ashland the name of "Lithia City." Famed for its curative powers, it is also a delightful beverage and made available in hotels and fountains, the chilled Lithia Water becomes one of the big attractions of the "Lithia City." People suffering from rheumatism, stomach, liver, intestinal and other ailments come from all parts of America for treatment and baths. (p. 287)

Today the many springs in rural Jackson are almost all either closed to the public or fallen into total oblivion. A look at the evolution of the most important of these springs will help provide specific material for examination of the underlying patterns of the cultural landscapes of springs.

Buckhorn Springs

These remarkable mineral springs, which emerge along the banks of Emigrant Creek about ten miles southwest of Ashland, are heavily charged with carbon

dioxide; not only does mineral water emerge, but in fact a considerable volume of carbon dioxide is emitted as a gas from vents in the ground around the springs. As carbon dioxide is heavier than air, it does not rise but tends to sit and form an airless layer immediately above the ground. There is absolutely no oxygen in this layer; the author has seen a lighted match get snuffed out in it. The earliest trappers and settlers called these springs "Poison Water" because of all the dead insects and animals they found lying around the ground (Borden, Medford Mail-Tribune, March 26, 1948). The water actually is not poisonous at all; both the Indians and the white settlers drank it, and this author finds it to be more palatable than many spring waters.

This mineral springs and the land around it was considered to be a sacred place by the American Indians; they believed that the gases which welled up here were a manifestation of the breath of the Great Spirit (O'Harra, Medford Mail-Tribune, May 11, 1966). Numerous accounts describe the Indians' use of these springs; one of the most thorough is Bertha Borden's, which details the medical treatment given to the old and the sick members of the Klamath tribe (Bordon, op. cit.). Buckhorn Springs, as sacred ground was set aside from battle, and leaders of warring tribes met peacefully at the springs (Harrell, personal communication, also Borden, O'Harra, Elhart, etc.). Two crescent-shaped mounds of earth, which are the remains of bathing pools used by the Indians, are still visible alongside the springs. In these pools the sick Indians confronted their fate: the breath of the Great Spirit "would cure the afflictions . . . even the most obstinate cases of

rheumatism, asthma, kidney disease, and stomach trouble--if, that is, the stricken person had been worthy of continued life" (O'Harra, Medford Mail-Tribune, March 11, 1966). Lucy Harrell stated that about six years ago an old Indian came to the springs with his father, who had wanted to come to drink and bathe in the gases and the water.

These springs were acquired and developed in the early 1890s by James Clark Tolman, the U.S. Surveyor-General of Oregon, a "much-esteemed citizen" of Ashland (Borden, op. cit.). Tolman Springs acquired a reputation as an excellent health spa, with a hotel, cottages, vapor baths, mud baths, mineral baths, mountain air, and beautiful scenery. The Southern Pacific Railroad brochure Outings In Oregon singled Tolman Springs out for special mention:

> These springs are mentioned under "Ashland" but it may be further stated that for curative powers they perhaps have no superior, though they are little known. The Indians brought their great chiefs here from long distances, when all other remedies failed.

At the time of this brochure (about 1900), Tolman Springs was accessible by a stage road which ran from Ashland over the Siskyous into California. This route, which passed close to Pilot Rock, a Siskyou landmark, was probably determined to a large extent by Tolman Springs, Wagner Soda Springs, and the other mineral springs which were developed along Emigrant Creek. This "eastern" stage route was eventually abandoned, perhaps because the Southern Pacific Railroad had selected the "western" route (through Colestin) for its Oregon-California connection.

Since Tolman's death in the early 1900s, these springs have undergone many changes of ownership. Sometime between Tolman's death and the early 1930s the

place was renamed Buckhorn Springs; a corporation headed by Amelia Toft was established to run it in the early 1930s and developed the lodge which included a dance hall (Lucy Harrell, personal communication). Square dances and country dances were held here every Saturday night until 1942, when Dr. Herman Wexler purchased the property and converted it into a health sanatorium. Buckhorn Springs operated as a sanatorium for twenty years until Dr. Wexler's death in 1962.

At present Buckhorn Springs has no public accommodations. The lodge was severely damaged by fire many years ago and has been converted into a private residence. Most of the cottages are still standing but have been vacated because of inadequate sewage facilities. The mineral water is still consumed, although it no longer flows out at the surface above the Indian mounds; perhaps because of the deep artesian wells that were dug in their immediate vicinity. However, the gas is still emitted in full strength, and the Carbon Dioxide Vapor Bathhouse is still standing and still gets occasional use.

Wagner's Soda Springs

This very elegant mineral spring spa was at one time perhaps the most "fashionable" of the many springs which emerged along the banks of Emigrant Creek. The soda springs were known to the early settlers, as they were located on the very important Ashland-Linkville stage route, which was a segment of the Applegate Trail and led to the South Pass over the Cascades. (Borden, Medford Mail-Tribune, March 26, 1948; also see Oregon Historical Atlas). The strategic location,

combined with the great beauty of the landscape around the springs, led to relatively early development of the site. An 1867 article notes that "Dr. Colwell and his wife have located at Soda Spring" and complains that "squatters have encroached on the road up the creek" (Oregon Sentinel, May 18, 1867). Dr. Colwell, an Ashland dentist, built the very fancy Soda Springs Hotel in 1870, and it soon became the gathering place for burgeoning young Ashland's "high society." In 1885, the Soda Springs Ranch was purchased by Jacob Wagner, the state representative from Jackson County, a "progressive, public-spirited man" (Borden, op. cit.). The spa flourished for several decades under Wagner's control; the hotel was developed into an even fancier place, frequented by long-distance travelers as well as by the local gentry.

In 1886, E. A. Swope wrote a rather idyllic, Victorian account of life at Wagner's Soda Springs:

> A ride of 2 hours either by stage or wagon brings us to (Wagner's Soda Springs) . . . The air is pure mountain, perfumed with the fragrance of variegated wild flowers and shrubs that grow in voluptuous profusion on the mountain sides. . . There is a most fascinating charm about the spot. The gush of brawling waters . . . the sublime view of Ashland Butte rearing its snow-covered head . . . the perfect seclusion of the place . . . where no harsher sound is heard than the coo of the turtle dove or the musical shrill of the lark piping its lulling notes to the bleating flocks that browse upon the mountain sides or rest under the shade of some ancient and expansive live oak tree--All render the springs a most delightful retreat to those in search of rest and recreation, or the recuperative powers of the waters so palatable to the taste and invigorating and health-giving to the system. (Portland World, July 2, 1886)

In 1886 a post office was established at the soda springs, and in 1891 Wagner opened up his bottling plant. The details of Wagner's bottling plant where "Siskiyou

Natural Mineral Water" was prepared for distribution to distant markets, are described in O'Harra's article and discussed in the "Bottling Works" chapter of this thesis (O'Harra, Ashland Daily Tidings, January 2, 1962).

Although Wagner's Soda Springs was one of the first mineral springs to be developed in southern Oregon, it was also one of the first to close its doors to the public. When Highway 66 was built between Ashland and Klamath Falls, the route chosen did not include the Soda Springs. In 1911, the post office was closed, and the coming of Prohibition hastened the abandonment of the mineral waters bottling plant. The old hotel burned to the ground in 1926, and after that no attempt was ever made to rebuild the facilities.

Today Wagner's Soda Springs is marked by a small, concrete, gazebo-like structure and, although privately-owned, is available to the public for drinking. The springs are reached by a small footbridge across Emigrant Creek from Buckhorn Springs Road.

Colestin

This former mineral water spa, located high in the Siskiyous not far from the Mt. Ashland Ski Area, once spawned a town, but today the town is gone and the hotel is deteriorating, a victim of changing life styles and transportation route abandonment.

The water, which was bottled for many years and sold as "Colestin Natural Mineral Water," was the focus of the resort, which was developed by Byron Cole.

Cole first took up a Donation Land Claim in the area in 1851, and when the first toll road over the Siskiyous was built in 1867, his homestead became a stage stop. In 1881, when Colestin Post Office was opened, the permanent population of the area was "some 70 people--mill owners, saloon keepers, ranchers, teamsters, merchants--who had located along the stage line" (O'Harra, Medford Mail-Tribune, June 26, 1967). Gambling that the railroad would eventually follow the stage line and pass through his land, Cole developed a large-scale, elegant resort lodge.

> The main gathering place for visitors was the hotel. Framework for the big 2-story building erected in 1881 was hewn from standing timber. The timbers were tongued and grooved and pinned with round hardwood pins.
>
> Foundation underpinning was out from the heart of red cedar, surface charred before it was used and the 650 bannister rounds that were used for porch railings were turned out by hand with a lathe. Lumber for the floors and walls had been cut in a nearby mill powered by an overshot waterwheel and hand cut sugar pine shakes were used for the roof. A stone fireplace heated the dining room and sparkling prism hung kerosene chandeliers lighted the main rooms. There were special pieces of furniture Mrs. Byron Cole had brought from the East--big wicker chairs, a cradle (nine of the Cole's ten children were born at Colestin), a trundle bed and a spinning wheel. (O'Harra, Medford Mail-Tribune, June 26, 1967)

The Southern Pacific Railroad was completed in 1887, with a depot at Colestin, and the spa depended on it for about forty years. "Trains would chug to a stop while passengers, tents, bags, and baggage were unloaded on the small wooden railroad platform." (Ibid.)

Colestin Natural Mineral Spring water was highly regarded for its flavor and its medicinal qualities. It was said to be "comparable to Congress water at Saratoga Springs" in its medicinal qualities, and Leland Stanford considered it so refreshing

as to be "slightly intoxicating" (O'Harra, Medford Mail-Tribune, June 26, 1967). Besides being a health-seekers' spa where immense quantities of mineral waters were consumed, Colestin was a center for social activities. A band came from the Italian colony in nearby Hilts, California, for evening and weekend dances. Tennis courts were built and an artist colony grew up among Colestin's tall shady trees (Ibid.).

Colestin was by-passed by Highway 99 and the resort became less and less profitable. The property was sold to George and Gust Avgeris, Greek immigrants, in 1925, and the hotel was closed to the public. Since the resort closed, the Avgeris family has supported itself through a number of activities, including ranching, cheese-making, bee-keeping, the sale of bottled mineral waters, and presently Christmas tree farming (Sherry Avgeris, personal communication). The bottling plant remained in operation until the late 1930s, and it still stands today, slowly caving in. (See photographs.) At the present time, Colestin is a private residence; the springs flow out of the ground undisturbed; the old hotel still stands; and the freight trains still roar by several times daily.

Bybee Springs

This once popular mineral springs, located on the banks of Evans Creek about eight miles upstream from the town of Wimer, has over the years been virtually obliterated from the landscape, both physically and culturally. It once consisted of two mineral springs with a heavy salt and sulphur content, but the scour and fill

associated with Evans Creek's annual flooding has left the main spring buried beneath the sand now that maintenance efforts have been abandoned.

In the late 19th century Bybee Springs was a stage stop on the road which linked Medford and Grants Pass. At that time a large hotel was built on the hill overlooking Evans Creek, and visitors ranged from overnight travelers to health-seekers who often stayed for weeks (Griffen, personal communication). The medicinal properties of the sulphur water were first developed by Mr. Bybee (Bibbey?), a Portland businessman who came as a terminal patient with stomach ulcers, sat in the mud and drank the water (after observing deer do it), and recovered to live for another twenty years (Griffen, personal communication).

"Bibbey Springs" is included in the South Pacific Railroad's booklet Outings in Oregon (c. 1900); it is described as

> located 16 miles from Woodville . . . and reached by stage or private conveyance. There is a good hotel and camping accommodations. The springs are strongly tonic, containing iron, sulphur, and other minerals.

At this time there was a full-fledged little community at Bybee Springs and a small schoolhouse was built very close to the hotel. However, the abandonment of the Evans Creek stage road in favor of the much more direct Rogue Valley route, combined with the pronounced urbanization which characterized the period around the turn of the century, led to the abandonment of Bybee Springs. I do not know what became of the old hotel, or when the springs fell into disuse; today, however, there is a private residence on the old hotel site; the springs themselves are unused,

and the only remnants left of Bybee Springs' heyday are some fancy pieces of old furniture in the house and the decaying structure which was once the schoolhouse.

Helman White Sulphur Baths

The Helman Baths, as the Helman White Sulphur Baths and Recreation Park was generally called, was the first swimming pool and recreational park in Bear Valley (Skinner, Medford Mail-Tribune, December 22, 1967). It remained a popular swimming place for seventy years, and Otis Helman was evidently telling the truth when he wrote that "those of the younger set who could testify to the fact that they have had the time of their lives at the Helman Baths would flood the columns of the Tidings and then some" (Helman, Ashland Daily Tidings, December 31, 1914).

The springs were included in the Abel D. Helman Donation Land Claim, filed in 1851. This property included land which is today quite close to the city center of Ashland and was already "urbanized" by the time Helman wrote his article in 1914. The white sulphur springs flowed undisturbed for many years, a puddle in the cow pasture near the north end of the claim. Major James H. Russell, a stonecutter and early pioneer, was the first to make use of the mineral springs for bathing. According to Otis Helman,

> He visited the Springs when in their original state, burrowed in the sand, allowed the warm water to flow around the afflicted parts and cured himself of rheumatism. Later my father and Mrs. J. M. McCall, both now deceased, were cured of the same disease. The latter was an untiring advocate of the virtues of the water and sent many other afflicted . . . to be benefitted by the baths. (Helman, op. cit.)

Grant Helman opened the first public bathing facility on June 25, 1886 (Elhart, Ashland Daily Tidings, November 25, 1972), and a wooden swimming pool was opened up three years later, where the children skinny-dipped "at 10¢ a head" (Helman, op. cit.).

By 1900, the Helmans realized that their popularity had outstripped their facilities. A large swimming pool was built using sandstone blocks and pebbles for lining because of the difficulty of maintaining the highly-charged water in concrete (Skinner, op. cit.). A small pool was built alongside the big one and was maintained with wood-stove boilers and pipes as a hot-water pool. According to Mrs. Skinner,

> This smaller pool was considered very therapeutic and was endorsed by a group of Medford doctors who sent their patients to Helman Baths for regular treatment.
>
> The larger pool was strictly for play. There was a high slide that began 25 feet above the water in the cupola and zinged down with two scary humps into the shallow water. There were traveling rings, a trapeze, and a diving board at the deep end. It was all wonderful fun but not very sanitary for . . . (the pool) . . . was very difficult to keep clean. (Skinner, op. cit.)

Although the health-giving properties of the Helman waters were exploited in the advertising, there was never an equipped or staffed sanatorium on the site, and the main emphasis was recreational. Otis Helman developed a formally designed "Recreation Park," which featured picnic tables, fields, and a baseball diamond with a large spectator's grandstand (Skinner, op. cit.)

The Helman White Sulphur Baths and Recreation Park remained open to the public until 1956. Since closing, the property has suffered from storm damage

October, 1962) and from general deterioration. Mary Lou Skinner expressed her feelings about the present state of Helman Baths in this way:

> While committees look for land for a youth center, Helman Baths, in the middle of 4 acres, slowly disintegrates. The springs are there. An old house still stands. A little imagination, a lot of hard work, and a pocket of money could make it again the recreation center of the valley. (Skinner, December 22, 1967)

White Sulphur Springs Hotel

The sulphur springs which emerge from the ground in the heart of Ashland, within several blocks of the city center, were developed into one of the area's first mineral springs spas. The White Sulphur Springs Hotel, an Ashland landmark until around 1930, was a very popular place in the 1870s and 1880s. The hotel, which was adjacent to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, was an elegant clapboard structure which accommodated up to forty guests. According to Leland Wise, who lived on the property from 1898 to 1905, many of the guests were long-term occupants who rented rooms for years (Gillespie, Ashland Daily Tidings, June 6, 1967). Some worked on the railroad, others at the Ashland Mines and quartz mills, and some were health-seekers. An artist from San Francisco named Toletti "lived it up" at the hotel and paid with paintings. Wise recalls that other people skipped out and left horses, bicycles, and other items behind as "payment." "For a time a sign in the front left window proclaimed the business of a fortune teller within. One long-time guest was a gambler." (Wise, in Gillespie's article, op. cit.)

The White Sulphur Springs Hotel was supplied with a variety of mineral springs waters.

> There were many mineral springs in and about Ashland. There used to be five different kinds of water piped into the hotel. . . They were black and white sulphur, iron, soda, and a kind of lithia water. . . After the giant earthquake in California they were never quite the same. Some of the phizz seemed to have gone out of the water. (Wise, Ashland Daily Tidings, June 6, 1967)

The Ashland Mineral Springs Sanatorium was formed in 1908 and announced plans to develop swimming facilities at the sulphur springs site. A large building containing two pools and an extensive dancehall was constructed and quickly became a very popular place to swim. In fact, the swimming facilities thrived over the years and still operate today, but the White Sulphur Springs Hotel declined and finally disappeared. Today the Oak Street Tank and Steel Company has a very noisy industrial plant on the site where the hotel once stood.

The swimming pools, which became known as the Twin Plunges, have remained open to the public continuously except for a few years at the very beginning of the Depression (Willstader, personal communication). The building housing the pools was torn down in 1928 but, after the property was bought for taxes in 1932, the "open-air pavilion" was popular for roller skating and dancing. Twin Plunges is presently owned and operated by Al Willstader, one of Ashland's city councilmen; it is still a very popular place to swim, although the mineral springs origin of the pools are not advertised and probably not realized by the vast majority of contemporary swimmers.

Lithia Springs

The early history of Ashland is inextricably bound up with the story of its lithia springs, but today the impact of the lithia water is in name only for most people. Lithia Park is still the focal point of downtown Ashland, but the lithia fountains do not get much use; in fact, even the name "lithia" is slowly disappearing: the old Lithia Hotel, Ashland's landmark of post-Victorian elegance and pretention, has been renamed the Mark Antony.

Sixty years ago, however, Ashland was in the midst of a raging furor over the development of its lithia springs, which were seen as the key to the city's future greatness. Although the lithia springs bubbling up along the banks of Emigrant Creek were known to both the Indians and the early settlers, nobody took very much interest in them until Harry Silver and G. H. Gillette bought them in 1907. Silver had the water analyzed and learned that his lithia spring had the second highest concentration of lithium of any known water in the world (Skinner, Medford Mail-Tribune, February 9, 1968). The curative powers of lithium were then very highly touted, and the waters of the world-famous spas of Carlsbad, Germany, and Saratoga Springs, New York, were much sought after for their lithium content. Silver decided that his lithium springs were ideal for development as a health spa in the classic manner, with a fully-equipped medical establishment, a golf course and other recreational facilities, fine food, shaded walkways, and scenery. He built a bottling plant and sold lithia water to customers at his own shop (13 Main Street)

and elsewhere. However, the big spa was never developed, as Silver became embroiled in a bitter controversy with Bert Greer, the new editor of the Ashland Daily Tidings. Greet thought that the lithia water should be piped into the city of Ashland; he argued in many editorials that the whole community should benefit, and that Ashland could become the great health mecca of western North America. After two years of fighting between Greer and Silver, the city of Ashland hired a well-drilling crew to explore properties adjacent to Silver's, and in the spring of 1914, another lithia water source was found. A development bond was promoted for $175,000, and after a heated campaign it passed by a landslide, 1,206 to 308. (See Ashland Daily Tidings, June 5-12, 1914.) This bond, which later was increased to $225,000, was used to pipe lithia water from the well near Emigrant Creek into the city of Ashland. Fountains were built at the railroad depot, the Ashland Hotel (later Lithia Hotel), the city library, the Plaza, and Lithia Park. Lithia Park was envisioned as a showpiece for the great spa city--John McLaren, a famous San Francisco park designer, was commissioned for landscaping the grounds. The park was envisioned as having more than just lithia water fountains:

> the sulphur springs on the Patrick Dunn property was to be piped into a cave in the park called Satan's Sulphur Grotto; the soda water from Kingsbury Springs . . . was to be piped into the park, much to the delight of the ladies who liked to carbonate their lemonade and the bartenders who found it a popular mixer. (Skinner, Medford Mail-Tribune, February 9, 1968)

At the time of the election public enthusiasm for the lithia springs project was intense--songs were written with such titles as "Ashland Grows While Lithia Flows"

and "The Springs are Coming, Hurrah, Hurrah" (Skinner, Medford Mail-Tribune, February 9, 1968, and O'Harra, Ashland Daily Tidings, May 12, 1963). However, costly construction problems (caused largely by the highly corrosive nature of the spring water) and the distraction of World War I seemed to dampen the public's enthusiasm. Plans for a grand spa were quickly forgotten, particularly after a New York doctor estimated that $3,000,000 was a "moderate" estimate of the cost of development of a real mineral water spa town (O'Harra, Oregonian, May 12, 1963). The piped lithia water was so expensive to maintain that the fountains were closed one by one; today it flows only at the plaza and in Lithia Park.

Meanwhile, back at the springs site, Silver had drilled another well and struck an artesian flow of lithia water, which "erupted" on an irregular basis and became known as the "Silver Geyser." He built the Pompadour Spring House (named for nearby Pompadour Bluff) where the water was stored in pools and bottled. Bottling contracts were signed with the Clark Simmonds Company of Portland and the Liquid Carbonic Gas Company of Chicago (Skinner, op. cit.). This operation lasted for about five years, then closed due to Prohibition and rising freight costs.

More recently, the lithia springs have been the site of another kind of commercial enterprise: the manufacturing of dry ice. For about fifteen years, during the 1950s and early 1960s, the Dry Ice Corporation operated a plant which captured the excess carbon dioxide from the highly-charged lithia water and

solidified it through supercooling. However, the Dry Ice Corporation folded as it is now cheaper to manufacture large quantities of carbon dioxide synthetically than to trap it from spring water.

Although there have been recurrent plans to open the lithia springs site as a public park (see Skinner, Medford Mail-Tribune, February 9, 1968), the area is not currently being used. There are occasional requests from various firms around the nation to purchase water rights, but at present the only outlet for Ashland's lithia water are the rarely used fountains.

Jackson Hot Springs

This hot mineral springs is located less than two miles north of Ashland on Highway 99. It has been continuously in commercial use since shortly after the turn of the century and is one of the few springs in western Oregon which is still open to the public.

Originally part of a ranch belonging to a man named Jackson, a twenty-two acre portion including the seven hot springs was leased by Mr. and Mrs. Jason C. Ottinger for development as a spa, on the condition that Jackson's name be used for the springs (Elhart, Ashland Daily Tidings, November 25, 1972). An early photograph of children skinny-dipping in Jackson Hot Springs (Ashland Daily Tidings, November 25, 1972) indicates that at one time the pool seemed to be a small lake dug out of a grassy field. The Ottingers built the large swimming pool and a dance hall in 1922 and continued to manage the resort for many years. The dance hall

burned in 1933, and an open-air pavilion was used for dances after that. I don't know how long ago Jackson Hot Springs began to convert itself into a mobile-home park, and the present manager was not very informative. Today Jackson Hot Springs is a busy resort and mobile-home park and offers swimming and hot mineral baths.

Dead Indian Soda Springs

These soda springs, located on Dead Indian Creek near its confluence with Little Butte Creek, was a very popular summer campground around the turn of the century. There were efforts made around 1905 to 1910 to develop the springs, and some cabins were built, but they were quickly washed away by flooding and further commercial activities were not attempted (Haines, personal communication). The soda springs property is now owned by the Methodist Church and is available for use as a camp area for high schools, boy scouts, and other organized groups.

McCallister Soda Springs

This was a popular drinking place at a campground in the southern Cascades east of Medford. Although it was referred to in the Southern Pacific Railroad advertising brochure (c. 1910), there has never been any commercial development of the springs.

CHAPTER VIII

THE INFLUENCE OF TRANSPORTATION PATTERNS ON THE LANDSCAPE OF SPRINGS

From the location of Indian trails to the location of highways, the use of hot springs and mineral springs has depended on the nature and condition of the transportation systems. More often than not, the springs tended to be a passive factor rather than an active factor in transportation patterns: spur roads led out to the springs, but the location of the main raads was not greatly influenced by the presence or absence of springs. There are exceptions to this situation, as in northeastern Oregon where the railroads went far out of their way to go to Bingham Springs and other spas, and Ashland, where the springs played an important role in the early development of the area. Even these spas, though, ultimately depended on the existing transportation system much more heavily than the existing roods and railroads depended on the spas.

Indian trails led to nearly all of the hot springs and mineral springs in western Oregon, but few of these spring sites were permanently inhabited. Breitenbush Springs was one stop on a major trail leading from Warm Springs over to the Willamette Valley, and Kitson Springs was also on a cross-Cascades trail. It is interesting that both of these places also were near important salmon fishing places (the Breitenbush-Santiam confluence and Hills Creek); in some places, salmon were

cured in hot springs water. Buckhorn Springs, which was sacred ground to the Indians, was located directly on their main north-south trail across the Siskyous. Although an early stage road (the Pilot Rock Road) followed this trail, it was eventually abandoned and Buckhorn Springs subsequently slipped into a long but gradual decline. Of course, the reverse process is also true: if Buckhorn Springs (then called Tolman Springs) had gotten established as a more successful community, it would probably not have been abandoned.

It is interesting to look at the development of the trans-Siskiyou crossing routes, because they shed light on the conditions of the region's mineral spring spas, and exemplify the influence of transportation on their landscape history throughout western Oregon.

The Pilot Rock trail used by the Indians and early settlers was gradually supplanted by a rival cross-Siskiyou stage road about ten miles to the west, which crossed the main ridge at Siskiyou Poss and descended to California by way of Colestin. The Southern Pacific Railroad selected the Siskiyou Pass route and completed its Oregon-California connection in 1887 with a depot at Colestin. During these years Colestin flourished; besides the large mineral springs hotel, cabins, and bottling works, there was a full-fledged community in the neighborhood of the railroad station, with a post office and a school. However, it did not grow into a large enough town to save itself from being abandoned by the main automobile route: the Pacific Highway (99) was built over Siskiyou Pass, but it separated from the railroad route, by-passed Colestin, and entered California to the east of Hilts.

Colestin stopped growing and, when the Southern Pacific Railroad discontinued its possenger service after the Natron Cut-off was built over Willamette Pass in the 1920s, just withered away. The mineral springs hotel was abandoned first and eventually the bottling facilities were also closed down.

Today the only passenger route of significonce going north-south across the Siskiyous is Interstate 5; on this superhighway a car can travel from Ashland south across the Siskiyous in about an hour, a trip which in earlier times required an over-night stop-over. At various times both Buckhorn Springs and Colestin were described as very elegant spas which catered to both the overnight traveler and the seeker of health and leisure, who often stayed for weeks or months. At the present time, both places are closed, having been abandoned by the changing transportation system. The only exit from I-5 in the Oregon Siskiyous today leads to the Mt. Ashland Ski Area, a places which represents a social activity very much analogous to what the nearby mineral springs represented seventy-five years ago.

Salt springs and soda springs were important ploces in the 19th century rural Willamette Valley landscape, and efforts were made to make access to them as convenient as possible. Many of these mineral springs, like those in other regions, had hotel facilities that served as overnight stop-overs on stagecoach routes. Mineral water spas that became stage stopovers in this region included Fairdale on the North Yamhill and, at various times, Soda Springs, Sodaville, Cascadia, and Upper Soda on the South Santiam. Boswell Springs became a stopping point on the Southern Pacific Railroad, and other mineral springs, including Wolfer's (Hubbard),

Johnson's, and Giesy's, were very close to railroad stations. More distant springs arranged for regular stagecoach connections with the railroad terminus.

The hot springs in the Cascades were more remote than the valley and foothill mineral springs and, with the few exceptions mentioned earlier, were inaccessible except for foot or pack horse travel until the twentieth century. As a result of the lack of roads, high elevation, and forbidding terrain, a number of the hot springs sites were never claimed and became federal property when the National Forests were established.

When roads did reach up to the hot springs, their mountain location enhanced their desirability and as a general rule these spas were still popular for several decades after the lowland mineral springs were abandoned. Their remote situation (often at the ends of roads) and proximity to rivers and lakes made them prime locations for fishing, hunting, pack trips into the wilderness, and just relaxing in the mountains.

Hot springs and mineral springs were at their prime in the era of stagecoaches and railroads and often depended on a combination of the two for their business. Many advertisements were written by the large railroad companies featuring hot springs and mineral springs which could be reached via the railroad. Reproduced on the following page is one of these advertisements which appeared regularly on the inside front cover of the magazine "Oregon Native Son " in 1902-1903. Note that while Klamath Hot Springs was located directly on the main line, Foley Hot Springs was reached via a stage connection at Eugene.

Another piece of railroad advertising which included extensive promotion of Oregon's springs was a small book entitled Outings in Oregon published around 1905 to 1910. The final chapter of this booklet deals exclusively with hot springs and mineral springs and in fact seems to be one of the most thorough listings available. All of the major spas of the time are listed (Breitenbush and McCredie were developed later), and transportation routes, accommodations, and prices are given for each of them. Several minor springs were listed as well: I have been unable to find any other information about "Elk Springs" west of Junction City, for example.

If springs and passenger railroads had a mutually beneficial relationship, the same cannot be said for springs and automobiles. The rise of the automobile, and the development of the highway system, were responsible for changes in our society's leisure time habits, changes that were drastic to the spa resorts. Roads which formerly dead-ended at the hot springs punched through the Cascades, and the spas were increasingly by-passed by vacationers. In some places roods were relocated away from the springs as more direct routes were found--besides the Siskiyou spas previously mentioned, places like Fairdale and Bybee Springs were relegated quickly to oblivian after the old stage roads that went by them were abandoned. In other places, such as along the South Santiam, the stage route was not substantially relocated, but it was improved so greatly that the springs suffered almost as badly as if it had been relocated. As the travel time between distant cities in Oregon was reduced from days to hours, stop-over sites disappeared. The valley and foothill

springs were the first to become increasingly neglected as vacationers found that more distant, spectacular vacation spots were as easily reached as the springs.

The indirect results of the automobile were even more devastating to the spas. Swift transportation systems, combined with a much more mobile society, generated a shift to overnight or weekend vacations, while the spas generally catered to a more leisurely clientele. The widespread use of mobile-homes and campers also took business away from the hot spring and mineral spring hotels, especially since both catered especially to the elderly. The proliferation of both paved and unpaved roads into the forests has also permitted the extensive development of public campgrounds for outdoor recreation. Paradise Forest Camp, for example, located about a mile west of Belknap Springs, opened a less expensive camping alternative to vacationers.

It is not fair to lay the responsibility for the decline of spas in western Oregon squarely on the automobile, although many observers, particularly old-timers, tend to feel that way. It seems to me that the general loss of interest in the spring water itself, whether for drinking or bathing, for health or for pleasure, made the decline inevitable. Once the unique feature of a given place has lost its importance then it is not surprising that the place itself, no matter how pleasant, should eventually be forgotten.

CHAPTER IX

FUTURE PROSPECTS

A glance at the 1970 map of hot springs and mineral springs clearly indicates that the springs landscapes are, for the most part, in a state of decay. There is no chance far a return to the 19th century conditions which were conducive to the development of spas. What, then, can be projected about the future landscapes of these springs--continued decay, or redevelopment in a new form?

In Southern California, an area in which the hot mineral springs went through an early period of development followed by decay, there has recently been a trend towards redevelopment of the springs locations. They are being re-opened as recreation resorts for wealthy, which is what springs have always been, but today's recreational activities involve land subdivision and second-home development. At Suboba Hat Springs, for example, a health and cosmetic center, owned and operated by a medical doctor, has been established, and the adjacent property has a 27-hole golf course and a land-sales venture. However, unlike the health spas of earlier times, Suboba does not depend primarily on its hot mineral water; in fact, the surface flow has virtually ceased due to an area-wide lowering of the ground water table. The same situation exists at nearby Gilman Hot Springs, where a 27-hole golf course has also been developed. Another relict spa, Eden Hot Springs, has recently been purchased by the Rancho California Corp. (Dykman, pp. 16-19).

Kah-Nee-Tah, located on the Warm Springs Reservation about twenty miles east of Mt. Jefferson, has undergone extensive development in the last five years and is now a convention center with a nine-hole golf course, swimming pools, hotel, and restaurant facilities. Ironically, the springs themselves have played little part in Koh-Nee-Tah's redevelopment. Although the water is still pumped into the huge outdoor swimming pool, it is heavily chlorinated, and it is likely that the swimmers are not even aware that the pool has hot mineral springs water. The major facilities developed at Kah-Nee-Tah have nothing whatsoever to do with the place's cultural origin as a hot mineral bathing area.

Extensive developments such as those in Southern California and Kah-Nee-Tah are beyond the range of financial possibility for the present owners of the various springs in western Oregon. Most of the present owners of former spa sites are not particularly wealthy; furthermore, most of the old spas are found in remote and declining rural areas. Some, such as Johnson's Mineral Springs, Colestin, and Bybee, have been converted into permanent private residences; others are for sale, but without buyers.

There is some possibility that certain of the Cascades hot springs will some day be developed in the manner of the Southern California springs, with land subdivision and golf course development. Belknap Springs, in particular, is being sought after by presently unidentified business interests for a project of more than 160 acres: they are presently trying to have the proposed density limitation of four dwelling units per acre for that area waived. However, Belknap Springs is

situated on prime river front land in an area with good access to population and where property values are high and continuing to rise. This situation does not hold for many of the rural springs, particularly the mineral springs in the lowland valleys and foothills.

Another prospect that has been widely discussed in recent years is the utilization of hot springs sites for the generation of geothermal power. In many parts of the world, including New Zealand, Iceland, Italy, and California, thermal fields have been developed for this purpose, and Oregon's geothermal potential is considered to be high.

In order for a geothermal heat source to be economically viable, there must be a large reservoir of heated groundwater and a fairly permeable rock structure. Under such circumstances, the groundwater in close proximity to the heat source will be hotter and therefore less dense than the surrounding groundwater. The heated groundwater is thus forced by hydrostatic pressure upwards towards the surface, where it may emerge as hot springs water along a fracture zone. Although the presence of hot springs is a good indicator of geothermal potential, it is not necessarily the best indicator, for some intense heat sources have no surface expression and some hot springs derive from localized or very diffuse heat sources (Groh, Ore Bin, 1966, pp. 118-121).

The Klamath Falls area has considerable underground heat resources very near the surface, and these resources have been utilized for heating purposes since the early 1900s. At the present time, more than 450 residences are heated by some

350 hot water wells, and schools, business firms, and streets are also heated by hot water wells (Ibid.). In fact, the removal of underground water has been so extensive that the hot spring in Klamath Falls, which was once the site of a sonatorium, has dried up due to lowering of the water table.

In his examination of Oregon's geothermal potential, Groh identifies ten areas for possible study; none of these, including Klamath Falls, lie east of the Cascade crest, but number six, the High Cascades Range, falls within this study area. Of this area, Groh writes

> Extending the length of Oregon from north to south, this volcanic pile represents part of the largest and latest extent of volcanism in the conterminous United States. . . Obviously a great amount of heat has been brought near the surface by virtue of this activity.
>
> Numerous hot springs are present in and about the High Cascades, although no unusual indications of heat are displayed. Yet it is difficult to believe that there are not innumerable bodies of hot rock and magma at shallow depths. The segment of the Cascades running from Mount Jefferson to Crater Lake is particularly impressive, since so much late Quaternary and Recent activity centered here. Many of the large cones very likely are underlain by large magma chambers at no great depth. Before some of this heat can be utilized, further progress in geothermal exploration and development will be needed. The area remains one of great potential for the future. (Ibid., p. 132)

To my knowledge, there is at present no serious consideration of major geothermal development in western Oregon, although John Bigelow would like to explore the possibilities of such a generating station at Belknap Springs (Bigelow, personal communication). Portland Gas & Electric's property holdings at Austin Hot Springs may also bespeak of future geothermal development possibilities. In general, however, the heat reservoirs under the Cascades are not as attractive to

the utilities at this time as the very intense and shallow heat reservoirs of south-central and southeastern Oregon.

A resurgence of interest in hot springs is currently taking place, as manifested in the crowds of bathers who arrive every day at Rider Creek Hot Springs near Cougar Reservoir. Rider Creek seems to attract a lot of bathers because it has become well known, is easily accessible from Eugene, and it has a beautiful, "natural" setting. Other hot springs which are the sites of increased bathing activity include McCredie, Austin, Bagby, and Umpqua Warm Springs. All of these springs are undeveloped, located on public land (or other land open to the public at no charge), and they can all be reached with varying degrees of ease from major population centers.

Renewed interest in hot springs bathing is apparently not merely a local phenomenon. Place magazine, a widely-red quarterly publication, regularly features a "Hole Catalogue" to provide practical information about hot springs and swimming holes throughout the country.

The springs which are receiving the heaviest use today are precisely the ones which were not very heavily used in the past. The old spas are closed, privately owned, and have not as yet been affected by the current hot springs popularity. Neither has there been much resurgence of interest in the mineral springs: drinking the waters is not sufficiently attractive to draw many visitors.

The continued deterioration of former mineral spring spas seems inevitable, at least for the foreseeable future. Their medical attraction is past, and much

grander scenery is now easily reached from all of western Oregon's population centers. When the mineral spring sites have been put to human use in recent years, the springs themselves have generally been incidental to that use. While hot springs are still recognized as significant landscape features, mineral springs are for the most part forgotten.

Leland Robe, assessing the condition of mineral springs today, and looking back to his recollections of the same mineral springs in the past, puts it this way:

> The heyday of the mineral springs coincides with the horse and buggy, or I should perhaps say "horse and carriage" days, when living was on a more leisurely and gracious scale. I am reluctant to term them "the good old days," nevertheless they had their values.
>
> Our country is too young to have the sort of permanent development of mineral spas such as Europe still enjoys. The famous waters of Weisbaden and Lourdes, to name two, were discovered centuries ago when man attributed more value to such natural pehnomena and built permanent access and provisions for their enduring enjoyment. Possibly--someday--he will "discover" again some of these things and wonder why they were so long neglected. (Robe, 1970, p. 14)

CHAPTER X

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Local research involves seeking information wherever it can be found; in studying the landscape evolution of hot springs and mineral springs in western Oregon, the local store is in some instances just as valuable a resource as the university library. Specific information on springs is generally hard to find and is often found by chance, or serendipity, in unlikely places. Thus, the sources for this thesis vary greatly, from the scholarly evidence of books and maps to the unverifiable and quite possibly unreliable evidence of personal interviews and recollections.

The sources of information for this thesis can be put into ten broad categories: 1) general books; 2) specialized or regional histories; 3) magazines or journals; 4) newspaper orticles; 5) promotional literature (advertising and business); 6) ledgers and records; 7) maps; 8) written statements from knowledgeable persons; 9) verbal opinions gathered in the course of field interviews; and 10) visual observations by the author. A few statements about the sources in each of these categories may help shed some light on the information-gathering process which resulted in this thesis and may also help give perspective to an otherwise confusing bibliography.

There are no general books which focus on the hot springs and mineral springs of Oregon and not very many which focus on such springs at all. There were

many books written on the subject fifty or more years ago, but these books were not available to the author. By far the best general book on hot springs and mineral springs the author has seen is Medical Hydrology, an encyclopaedic collection of information on the physical, cultural, and especially medical status of springs throughout the world. It is written by several dozen specialists and edited by Dr. Sidney Licht. The chapter on the history of American spas, written by Dr. Herman Kamenetz, was particularly valuable because of its wealth of factual information and many literature citations. Medical Hydrology, unfortunately, is not available from the University of Oregon library, and the author's access to it was all too brief.

Cleveland Amory's ironic and amusing book The Last Resorts is a good source for the social aspects of American springs, particularly those of the eastern United States. Newton Chittenden's tourist book, published in 1883, is a useful record of the 19th century spa conditions of the Pacific Coast, but its emphasis is primarily in California.

"Specialized or Regional Histories" is a catch-all category which includes a variety of information sources ranging from scholarly writings (e.g. Holtgrive and Carson) to local anthologies (e.g. Golden Was the Past, Cottage Grove, Oregon, 1850-1970). The specialized histories were good sources for topical information, such as transportation patterns (Holtgrieve) and social conditions (Carson), which could then be interpreted and applied to the specific conditions of western Oregon's

springs. The local anthologies, of course, were good sources for historical information about particular places.

Scholarly journals had virtually nothing to offer this thesis, and general magazines had little more. Newspapers, on the other hand, were a particularly rich source of information, almost all of which was specific in nature. Old articles, such as Swope's in the Portland Weekly World (July 2, 1886) reveal the outlook of their times as well as specific information. Modern "reminiscent" articles, such as Marjorie O'Harra's about Jackson County springs and Corning's about Cascadia, often contain a mine of nuggets about particular places and events. The accuracy of newspaper information is not always guaranteed, but it is often the best source one can get when looking at landscape relicts.

Promotional literature includes advertising by railroad companies, Chambers of Commerce, and the spas themselves. It was written to sell rather than to tell the truth, and was not written with the historian in mind: most of it is undated and of untraceable origin. However, advertising and business literature turned out to be a good source, particularly for information regarding transportation conditions and services available at given spas.

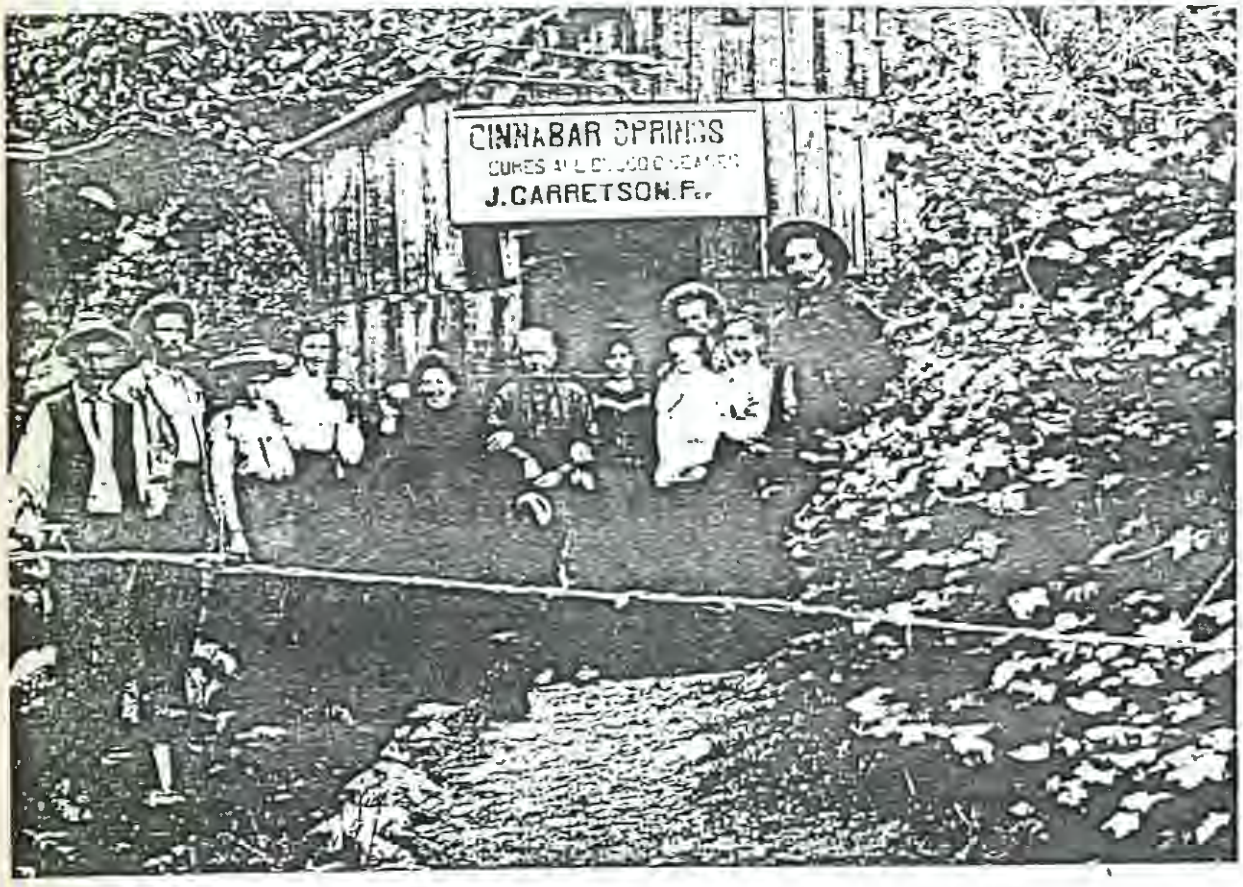
Ledgers and records are for the most part boring but accurate information sources. Spa records were generally not available for this thesis, with the exception of Wilhoit's ledgers, which are in the University of Oregon's Oregon Collection.

Certain maps were very useful, particularly early maps showing stage routes to the various springs. "Thermal Springs and Wells" (Misc. Paper #14) contains a

valuable map locating all of the hot springs in Oregon. The author knows of no equivalent map of mineral springs in Oregon; thus many mineral springs of minor cultural importance have probably been altogether omitted from this thesis.

Unpublished written statements are sometimes found in the files of county museums and historical societies. These are usually the recollections of long-time area residents and are therefore subject to error but still are often the best (or only) information available. The same holds true to oral statements obtained during personal interviews with residents, shop-keepers, and present or former spring property owners.

The bulk of the information underlying this thesis, then, comes from sources whose accuracy cannot be guaranteed. However, it is the overall cultural picture, as observed repeatedly in many places (with considerable local variation), which is the key to the general interpretation of western Oregon's hot spring and mineral spring landscapes. That general picture is very clear, despite the haziness of many specific sources.



Cinnabar Springs, date unknown
(photo from files of Jackson County Museum)

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