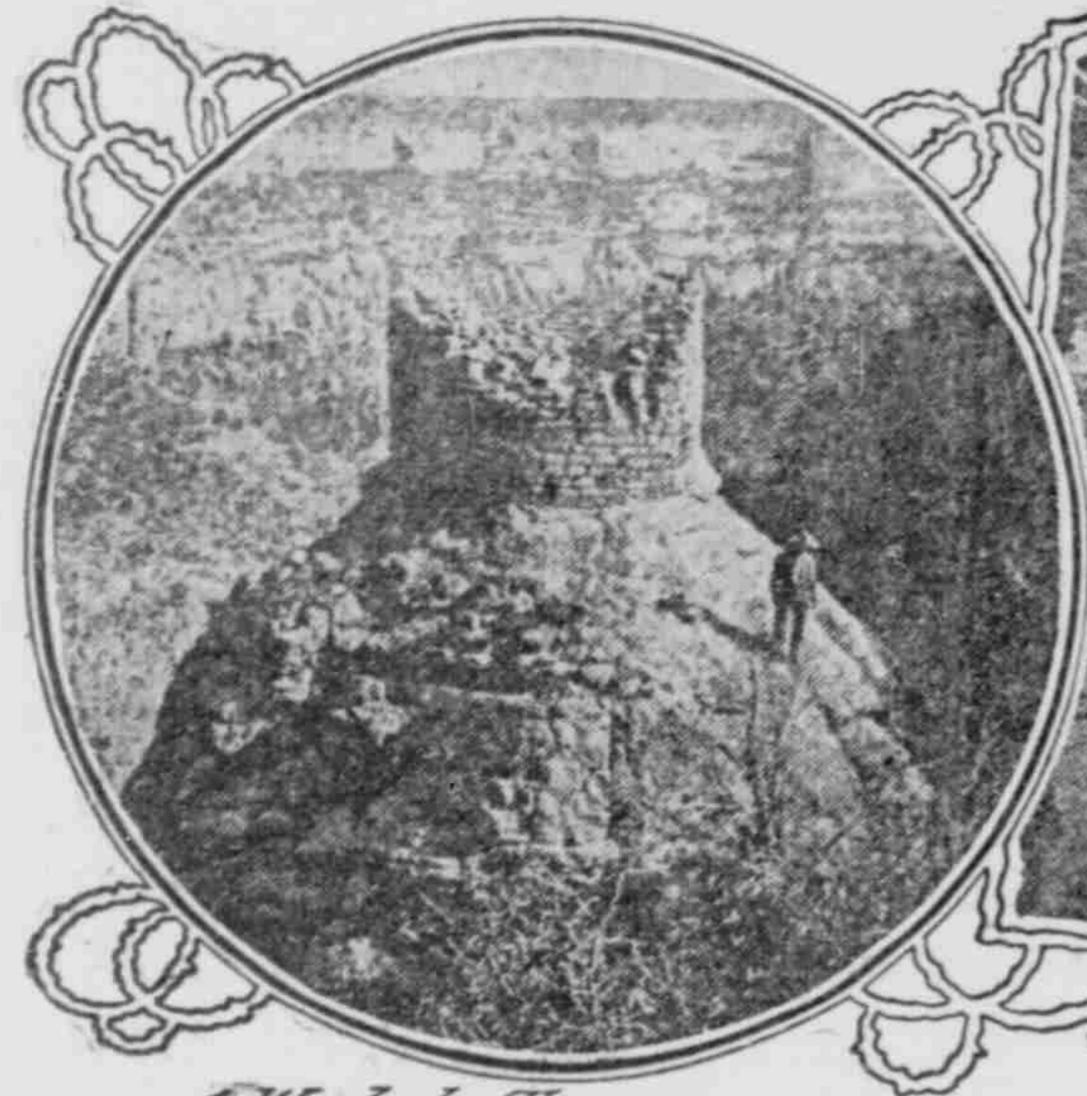


Where First Americans Dwelt



Watch-Tower

Uncle Sam Undertakes the Task of Patching Up and Preserving From Further Decay the Wonderful Rock Shelf Castles of the Prehistoric Folk of the Cliffs.

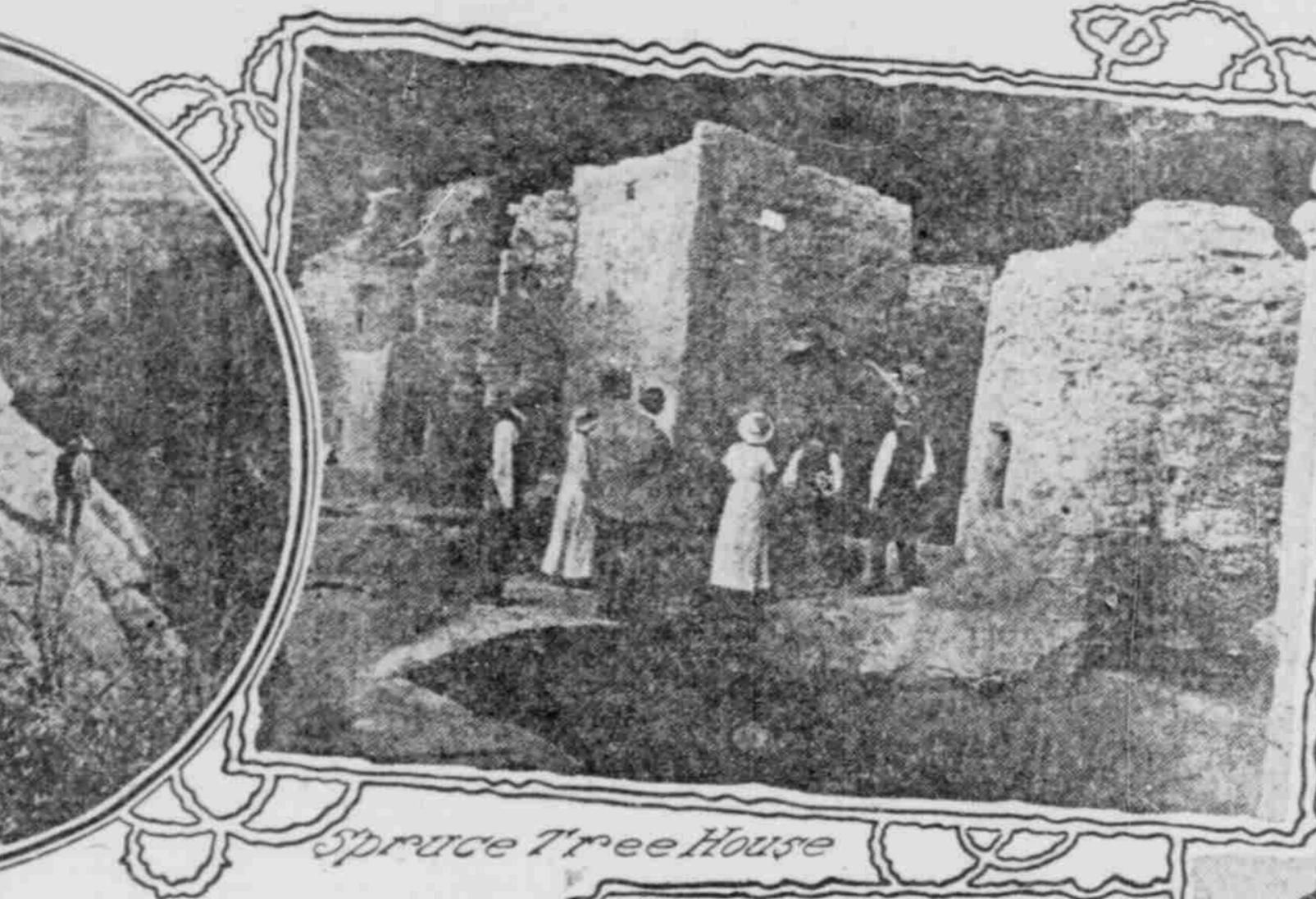
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Co put a fence around a prehistoric wonderland, and patch up the ruins of a bygone civilization within it so that they may not suffer further dilapidation, is a task which the Government has newly undertaken in southwest Colorado, where once upon a time, amid weirdly picturesque surroundings, flourished the Cliff-Dwellers.

The fence is nothing more than a line which Congress has drawn about an area of sixty-five square miles, embracing a plateau through which, from northeast to southwest, the Mancos River has cut a slice 2,000 feet deep. Into this canyon from both sides run lateral gorges of equal depth, breaking up the mesa into a labyrinth of narrow cliff-walled passages. It is in high and almost inaccessible recesses in the faces of these cliffs that are found the ruins of prehistoric villages.

Located in a wild and gloomy gorge is the so-called Cliff Palace, which occupies a shelf beneath overhanging rock 1,000 feet above the canyon's bottom, bears the aspect of an enchanted castle. Extending along the cliff nearly 425 feet, and in parts six, and seven stories high, with majestic towers round and square, it is to the eye far more impressive than any of the ruined castles of the Rhine.

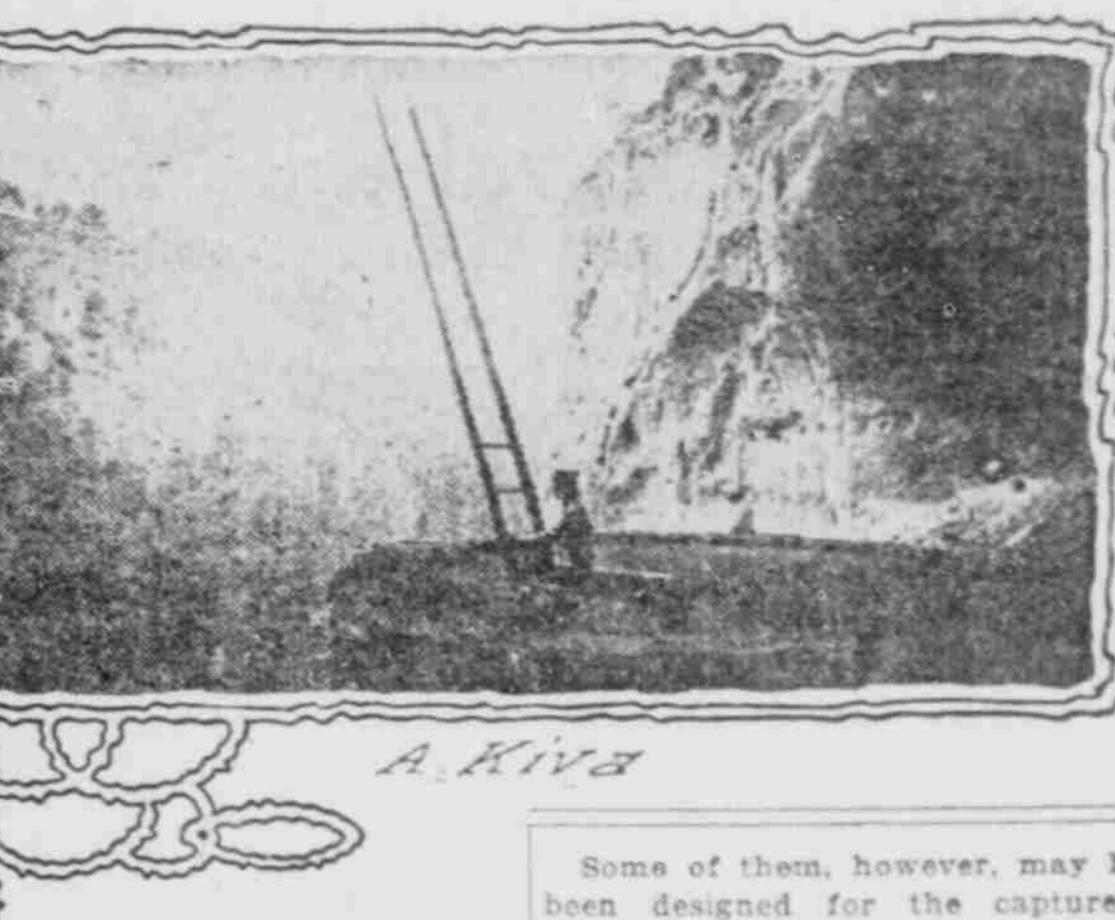
A Fortress On A Rock-Shelf
It never was a palace, and, though



Spruce Tree House



Remains of an Ancient Cliff Dweller



A Kiva



Entrance to an Underground Ceremonial Chamber



Altar Table Cage

while tilling their fields they must have been obliged to keep apprehensive watch for their savage enemies, prepared at a moment's notice to seek refuge in their rock-shelf fortresses.

They were of the Stone Age, knowing not the use of any metal, as proved by the implements and weapons found buried beneath the dust of ages in their ancient abodes. The dust is impalpably fine and poisonous, so that explorers while working in the ruins have been obliged to tie damp sponges over their mouths and nostrils. The air of that region is so dry that dead bodies undergo a natural mummification, and in this condition many have been found, remarkably preserved.

Nobody knows how long ago the dwellings of the precipices were abandoned, or why their inhabitants deserted them. Unquestionably they were vacated before Columbus landed on the shores of America, and it may have been 1,000 years or more earlier. One theory is that a change of climate, with diminished water supply, may have forced those prehistoric people to move out.

Quite thickly scattered over the top of the plateau are huge mounds which evidently represent the remains of buildings and groups of buildings, some of which must have been of great extent. A few of them have recently been explored by digging, and have revealed most interesting architectural remains. Presumably they represent a period later than that of the cliff dwellings; but, being unprotected by roofs of rock, they have undergone rapid disintegration.

A Prehistoric Flathouse

One of these buildings, of huge size and impressive architecture, stood on the edge of a cliff 1,500 feet high which is, so to speak, the west front of the great plateau here described. It was a prehistoric apartment house, containing several hundred rooms, and from its windows the occupants could look out upon a marvelous expanse of scenery covering parts of four States. For right there is the only place in all this country where four States come together at one point.

The repair work undertaken on the cliff dwellings makes no attempt at reconstruction. It aims merely to preserve from further decay, by reinforcement with concrete and other protective measures, these most valuable relics of American antiquity.

WINTER in Our NATIONAL PARKS



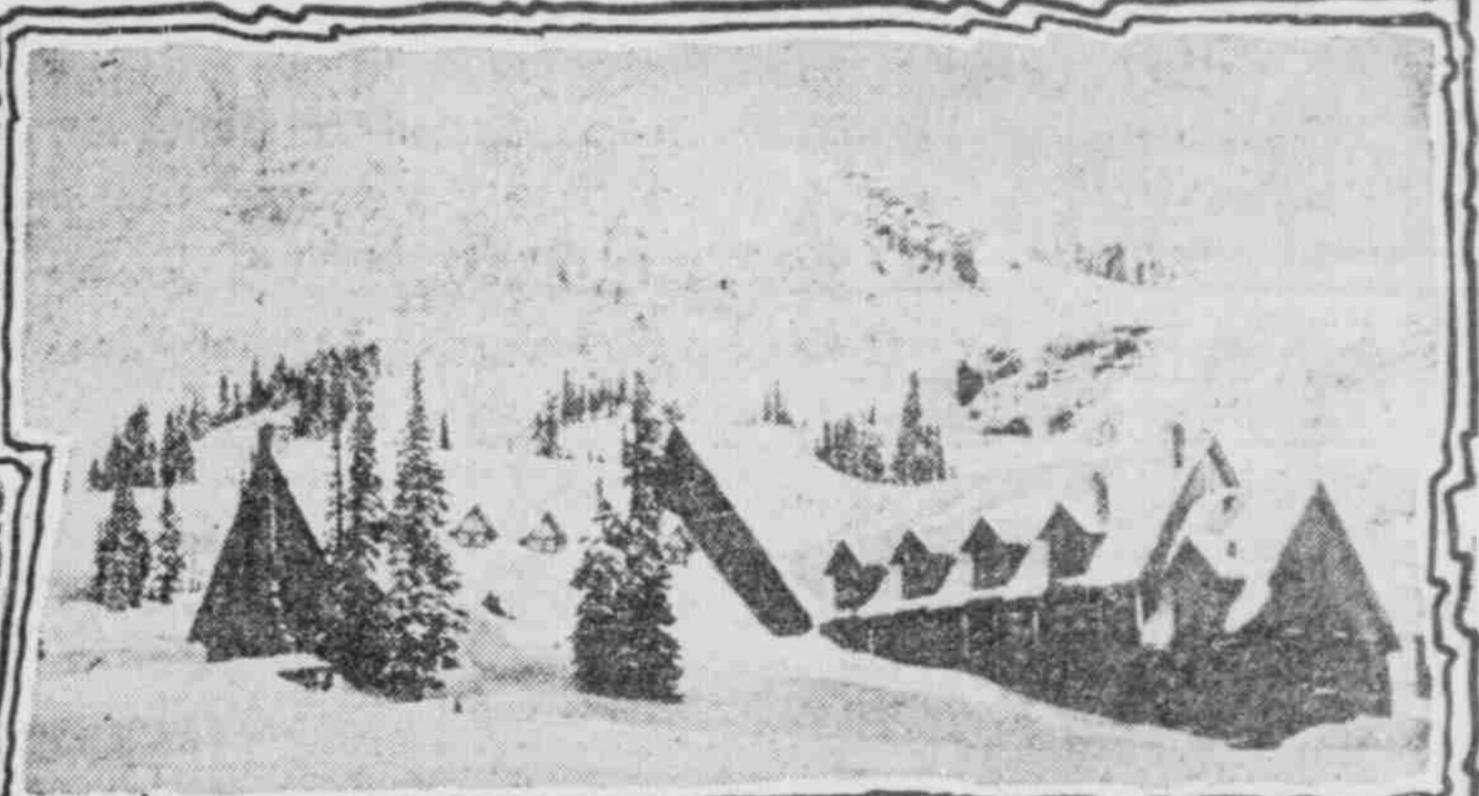
Pines on the Shores of Crater Lake-Crater Lake National Park



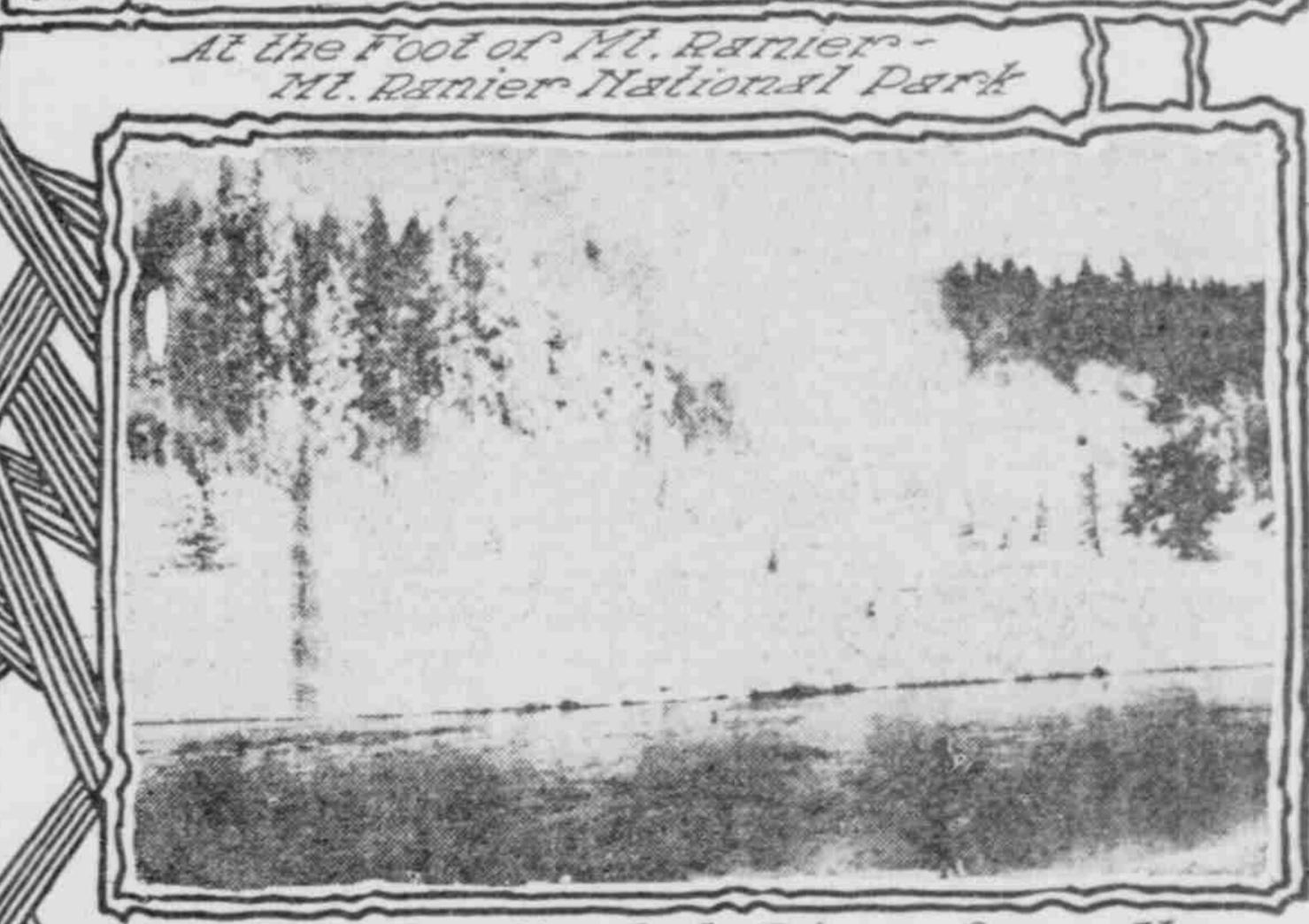
The Grand Canyon



Bridal Veil Falls
Yosemite National Park



At the Foot of Mt. Rainier-Mt. Rainier National Park



Across the Firehole River from the Giant Geyser-Yellowstone National Park



El Capitan in Winter-Yosemite National Park
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Along the Lake-Crater Lake National Park



A Scene in Glacier National Park



Snow Shoeing in the Rocky Mountain National Park