OREGON'S RAIN FOREST

The PREHISTORIC GARDENS are located in a small coastal valley, surrounded by hills; and in these valley pockets, protected from the fierce winter storms that sweep in from the Pacific, the temperate zone Rain Forests of the Oregon Coast have developed.

These Rain Forests are different from other forested areas, and are due to several localized conditions: a mild climate, protection from the prevailing winds, rich soil and an exceptionally heavy rainfall. In this area the temperature seldom drops below freezing, and our average rainfall is over 61/2 feet per year, and some years the total rainfall is nearly 10 feet. This heavy rainfall makes it possible for the Rain Forest vegetation to grow so abundantly; here the ferns grow to gigantic size, many types of mosses hang from the trees, and even the common skunk cabbage develops huge tropical leaves. Trees live for hundreds of years and when they fall their rotting trunks furnish additional compost for the young seedlings, and thru the centuries this cycle of growth and decay has carpeted the valley with a rich soil that holds the moisture and enables the Rain Forest to flourish even during the dryest seasons.

The Rain Forests of our Pacific Coast are found in isolated areas extending from Northern California to British Columbia, but very few are accessible to the main highways. Here at the PREHISTORIC GARDENS you may see this lush jungle-like growth only a short walk from the parking area adjacent to Highway 101.

AN EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

The PREHISTORIC GARDENS is an educational exhibit recommended by LIFE and many other nationally known magazines, and offers a variety of entertainment to the traveler. Anyone who appreciates the beauty of a rain forest will enjoy a stroll thru the GARDENS, and anyone interested in prehistoric animals will find our reconstructions both entertaining and educational. Adequate parking has been provided, and visitors go directly thru the exhibit. There is no waiting and no guides are necessary. A paleonologist is available, on appointment, to lecture to students and other groups, and special rates are given school groups accompanied by their instructors. Science teachers of many schools are finding the PREHISTORIC GARDENS a valuable teaching aid, and parents will find the PREHISTORIC GARDENS not only visual education at its best; they will also find that a trip thru the GARDENS will be one of the highlights of their visit to the Oregon Coast.

UNUSUAL GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

A gift and souvenir shop is located just outside the GARDENS area, featuring agates and other gem stones, sea shells, myrtlewood, driftwood, and distinctive items in keeping with the prehistoric theme. Postcards and other mementos of your Oregon Coast trip are available, and visitors are always welcome.

THE PREHISTORIC GARDENS
PORT ORFORD, OREGON

5 K. AND CARL NELSON