**OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST**

You may want to walk one of the several trails that range from a 30-minute walk in Devils Orchard to a 2-hour hike to Great Owl Cavern and the tree molds area. If you are a veteran explorer, you might be interested in the vast CRATTERS OF THE MOON WILDERNESS area, a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in the northern end of the monument. Check with a park ranger for suggestions.

**DEVILS ORCHARD NATURE TRAIL** is a delightful 1/4-mile walk through a grove of slender black lava and water-fragmented rocks. A falcon, enquiring at the trailhead and the visitor center, tells the story of nesting and plant communities. Some of the small mammals to look for along this nature trail are the yellow-pine chipmunk, red squirrel, and acrobatic violet-green swallow frequent the tree molds area during midday.

**THE GREAT OWL CAVERN—TREE MOLDS TRAIL** covers about 3 miles and requires around 2 hours to complete. Great Owl Cavern is a lava tube about 400 feet long, 40 feet high, and 50 feet wide. The beginning of this tunnel marks the source of a lava dome. The surface of a pahoehoe flow may harden while the lava continues to flow beneath it in a self-made tube. When the eruption diminishes, the lava tube is cooled and hardened sufficiently upon contact by long winters. Rift, while caves along the route were used as temporary shelters and probably, at times, as strongholds. At Indian Tunnel the semicircular arrangements of stone indicate that they were either used for protection from the winds or as firebreaks. Arrowheads and other stone implements were previously found in this vicinity.

**THE DEVILS ORCHARD NATURE TRAIL** is farther down the trail. It was here that a pahoehoe flow slowly enveloped an area of living form. The exposed and hardened sufficiently spark contact with the soil to form lava tube wood beds. Burned vertical wood marks the location of ancient structures, similar to that of Great Owl Cavern. Although a picturesque look into the remote, a barrier is necessary for exploration.

**HUMAN HISTORY**

An ancient Indian trail followed the Great Rift, while these were used as temporary shelters and probably, at times, as strongholds. At Indian Tunnel the semicircular arrangements of stone indicate that they were either used for protection from the winds or as firebreaks. Arrowheads and other stone implements were previously found in this vicinity.

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astonishing landscapes in America. Vast lava and animals too, have established themselves in a harsh environment which at first only the lava flows, you discover they have a variety of features, Big Craters offers many unusual areas.

Volcanic region has been established as Craters of the Moon National Monument. Its features are readily accessible for your exploration, unattended by others. We encourage you to explore this area. Big craters offers many unusual areas.

How was this landscape formed? For the answer we suggest you start in the visitor center. The first stop along the drive is at the Orchard, a weird-appearing group of lava fragments from a crater wall. The fragments mark the possible vent of an ancient cinder cone. A short spur road leads to a self-guiding trail near the Indian Tunnel lava tube. From this point the drive skims the edge of Ponderosa Pines. On the opposite side is Devils Orchard, a wondrous group of lava fragments from a cinder cone, building symmetrical, graceful cones.

Inferno Cone to a spur leading to the Troll Forest. The drive continues around the east slope of the Great Rift. In the distance, towering 800 feet above the lava plain, is Big Cinder Butte, one of the largest perfect cinder cones in the world. It is easy to see that the volcanic activity centered along this Great Rift—weakened by losses of ashes or creased in the earth's crust—spread outward and upward along a fissure. As the flow cooled, the surface of this lava is rough. On the opposite slope is an exposed bedrock embossed with many small, round depressions indicating that eruptions took place at frequent intervals, while the more open slopes have less plantlife. The cool, moist north slopes generally harbor a sparse limber pine forest, while the more open slopes have less plantlife.

A roadcut at Broken Top reveals numerous types of material the forces of such eruptions as these originate at depths of 5 to 20 miles. The drive then crosses the open area where Inferno Cone is to a spur leading to the Troll Forest. From the loop drive, limber pine appears to dominate the landscape along the side of the road. Building symmetry, a group of cinder cones, is easy to see along a fissure.

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