

# Trip #1 Bingo Clues: Waterfall Alley (Troutdale to Ainsworth)

## TRIP #1: ROW 1

### #1, 1B: VISIT HISTORIC TROUTDALE

Coined the “Gateway to the Gorge,” this city at the western boundary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area provides a great starting point for your road trip. The town was named in 1880 by Captain John Harlow, who had a trout-stocked fish pond in a small dale near his house.

### #1, 1I: SELFIE WITH SAM HILL

“Who in the Sam Hill was Sam Hill?” Sam Hill was larger than life. He was a businessman, philanthropist, and an advocate for good roads. Sam was the driving force behind the Columbia River Highway; in fact, it’s safe to say that without his influence, there would be no Historic Highway today. Stop at Portland Women’s Forum State Park and locate the profile of Sam Hill on a plaque on the big rock near the entrance to the park. I’m sure Sam will hold still for your selfie. Share your photo on Instagram at *#gorgebingo* if you want.

*Note: There is a new bronze statue of Sam Hill and Historic Highway engineer Samuel Lancaster at Visionary Park & Monument in Troutdale. Feel free to take a visit.*

### #1, 1N: HISTORIC ROUTE 30 SIGN

The sign reads “Historic Route” with “Oregon – US 30” on a shield in the middle located along the entire route of the Historic Highway. The Historic Columbia River Highway is a 73-mile section of the entire 3,073-milelong Route 30, which runs east-west between Astoria, Oregon, and Atlantic City, New Jersey.

### #1, 1G: LATOURELL FALLS LICHEN

This brightly-colored lichen on the basalt cliff face of 249-foot Latourell Falls uniquely identifies it among all other Gorge waterfalls. Rumor has it that back in the day someone tried to clean off the lichen, but that’s never been proven.

### #1, 1O: WHITE GUARDRAIL

Pay attention and you’ll see white fences along the sides of the highway. This was a key element when designing the highway. None of the original guardrails exist today, however. The ones you see today still have the same look as the originals: two wooden rails painted white. However, today these are reinforced with steel backing so they can pass the crash test required by safety regulations.

## TRIP #1: ROW 2

### #1, 2B: "MILLION DOLLAR outhouse"

Vista House was built for three purposes; a memorial to the pioneers who journeyed west to establish the Oregon territory, an observatory for the awe-inspiring views, and as a comfort station for travelers.

After the Historic Highway opened in 1916, women travelers noticed a profound lack of "comfort stations" along the route. On May 5, 1918, the Vista House on Crown Point opened its doors to a comfort station at the cost of \$99,148.05 – almost eight times the original estimate! "Million Dollar Outhouse" might sound like an exaggeration but in fact, according to the U.S. government's inflation calculator, the amount spent on Vista House in 1918 is equivalent to about \$1.6 million in today's dollars. That was one very expensive bathroom!

Say hello to the Friends of Vista House volunteers who are be eager to share historical stories, facts, and other information with you. Hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., seven days a week.

### #1, 2I: NATIONAL SCENIC AREA SIGN

After crossing the Troutdale Bridge you may notice one of the Historic Route 30 signs directly in front of you. Turning right, you will also pass a different sign. This one announces that you are entering the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This special land designation was passed in 1986 to protect the Gorge's natural, scenic, cultural, and recreational resources. Here, you are on the right track for Historic Highway.

### #1, 2N: HORSETAIL FALLS

Beautiful Horsetail Falls is a couple miles east of Multnomah Falls and can be seen from the Historic Highway. In fact, the highway comes so close to Horsetail Falls, its mist may cool you in summer, or make the highway icy-slick in winter. How do you think this waterfall got its name?

### #1, 2G: THOR'S HEIGHT

Named for Thor, the Norse god of thunder, today we know Thor's Height as Crown Point (where Vista House is located). The highway ascends more than 600 feet along sheer cliffs to this scenic viewpoint. This is a very windy spot in the Gorge with winds howling to speeds more than 100 mph. Hold your hats!

### #1, 2O: ONEONTA TUNNEL

Road engineers built a tunnel through Oneonta Bluff because the railroad tracks occupied the only stretch of dry land here. A beautiful 125-foot long tunnel came to be. Sadly, the tunnel was backfilled in 1948 when the railroad and the Historic Highway were moved to the north, and the tunnel was no longer needed. In 2006, the tunnel was reopened to pedestrian traffic as part of the Historic Highway State Trail. Oregon Geographic Names indicates that Oneonta may have been named after the steamboat *Oneonta*.

## TRIP #1: ROW 3

### #1, 3B: SIMON BENSON'S PLAQUE AT WAHKEENA FALLS

Visit the viewing plaza at Wahkeena Falls to find the plaque about Simon Benson. He was a lumber baron, philanthropist and another major force and financial backer of the Historic Highway. There is a second plaque at Multnomah Falls honoring Simon Benson. You may also be familiar with the bridge in front of Multnomah Falls which is called the Benson Bridge. The Benson Hotel, Benson High School and the famed Benson Bubblers (the water fountains found in downtown Portland) are the result of Mr. Benson's generosity.

### #1, 3I: SHEPPERDS DELL BRIDGE AND FALLS

George Shepperd owned the property including Young's Creek and the waterfall. He called this area Shepperds Dell. The beautiful setting served as a place of worship for him and his family. Samuel Lancaster convinced Shepperd to share that beauty with others. Therefore Shepperd donated the waterfall and land to the City of Portland (later to be conveyed to Oregon State Parks) in memory of his late wife. Walk the stairway down to the base of the waterfall of Young's Creek. Spend a moment in reverence. Read more:

<https://weeastblog.org/2014/03/16/the-farmer-and-his-dell/>

### #1, 3N: BEAUTY SHOT

The highway's engineer Samuel Lancaster looked for "beauty spots" in the Columbia River Gorge and found ways to take users to these waterfalls and scenic vistas. Find your own place along the Historic Highway that you find beautiful. Snap a photo and share it on Instagram (*#gorgebingo*) or any other way you prefer. Make sure you park your car in an official parking area and stay on the trail when selecting your "beauty shot."

### #1, 3G: ORIGINAL ROCK WALL

Italian stonemasons were hired and brought here to create a "poem in stone" along the Historic Highway. This nickname for the highway comes from the significant number of stone walls that were built at viewpoints. Samuel Lancaster believed these walls "added greatly to the charm to the highway."

Dry masonry rock retaining walls are a special type of rock wall. No mortar was used in the construction. Excellent examples of rock walls can be found all along the Historic Highway. An excellent viewing spot is at Crown Point. The rock wall below Vista House and above the roadway is amazing!

### #1, 3O: FERN

As he was building the Historic Highway, engineer Samuel Lancaster was careful to "not mar the natural beauty as best he could." To show off the "beauty spots," Samuel remembered his mother long ago warning him: "Be careful with my Boston fern, Samuel!" Lush examples of the variety of ferns can be found all along Waterfall Alley. Hike up any waterfall trail and admire the various types of native ferns. How many can you name? Hint: many ferns are identified in the landscaping in front of Multnomah Falls Lodge.

## TRIP #1: ROW 4

### #1, 4B: PORTLAND WOMEN'S FORUM

Many photographers, long before the Historic Highway was even built, took beautiful photographs from what is known today as Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint. Still today, this is one the most photographed spots in the Columbia Gorge. Looking east is Vista House atop Crown Point in the foreground and Beacon Rock in Washington state in the background. Give us your best shot and share it on Instagram at #gorgebingo if you want!

Portland Women's Forum is a group that has been active in the Gorge since 1946. The founding members were responsible for recognizing that this viewpoint was special and should be saved from private development and shared with Gorge visitors forever. The ladies had teas, sales and raised the funds to buy this viewpoint and eventually gifted the property to the Oregon State Parks who now take care of this beautiful spot for all to enjoy.

### #1, 4I: HIGHEST POINT

You may think Crown Point or Rowena Crest is the highest point along the Historic Highway, but it's actually just east of Corbett, near the intersection of Larch Mountain Road and the Historic Highway. Here you are about 1,000 feet above the Columbia River.

This is also the former location of the Summit Gas Station. In May 1914 the Ross family opened a small ice cream parlor at the Summit, managed by their daughter, Laura Ross. By May 1915, Jim Ross had added a gasoline station to the business complex.

### #1, 4N: OUT OF STATE LICENSE PLATE

Take a look around any Historic Highway parking lot and trailhead. Not just our Washington neighbors, but other out-of-state plates can be found here, as well as from Canada. It demonstrates the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is an international treasure. How far away of a license plate can you find?

### #1, 4G: WATER FOUNTAIN

In the early days of the Historic Highway, water fountains dotted the highway to quench the thirst of highway travelers and to cool down overheating Model T's. A few water fountains still can be found today. One is near Ainsworth State Park. It runs seasonally and has some of the best tasting water around.

### #1, 4O: BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

This waterfall looks much like a bride's veil as it cascades down its cliff face. This waterfall is unique in that it is the only waterfall on the Waterfall Alley that is *below* the Historic Highway. This park was acquired so one could

view the falls. Enjoy the short walk along a descending trail to a viewing platform. Before it became a state park this area used to be the site of an old motor motel and café.

For several years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge held work parties here clearing blackberry vines and other invasive plants. Lo and behold, once all the weeds were removed a beautiful view of the Columbia River – and beyond – was discovered.

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## TRIP #1: ROW 5

### #1, 5B: LATOURELL CREEK BRIDGE

Bridge engineer Karl Billner designed Latourell Creek Bridge and several other bridges along the highway. In 1914, Billner used a new material to build the bridge – reinforced concrete. The bridge deck was made in one continuous pour lasting 30 hours. One of the best views of the bridge is from below it - along the trail from Guy W. Talbot State Park. Pay close attention to the three 80-ft. tall arches on this 100 ft. tall bridge.

### #1, 5I: YELLOW STRIPING ON ROAD

There are a couple different stories of how the center stripe down the middle of a highway came to be. One version states it was first used on the Rowena Loops, to keep traffic on the proper side of the road. Another version indicates Multnomah County Sheriff Peter Rexford came up with this idea. Rexford paid for the paint and several locals *hand-painted* a center stripe down the highway east of Corbett to Latourell in 1917! Whatever version you go with, the yellow striping on the road was first used in Oregon.

### #1, 5N: CHANTICLEER INN SITE

Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint was the site of the Chanticleer Inn, built in 1912. Margaret Henderson's hospitality and chicken dinners earned a place in the hearts of the Portland elite, even before the Historic Highway was built. Early train travelers could take a shuttle and brave a winding road from the base of the cliff to the inn. Portions of that road still exist. The upper end of it can be accessed by hikers from the western side of the parking lot. Several vistas can be enjoyed by those taking the time to walk the existing portion of the road which is passable for eight-tenths of a mile from the parking lot.

Chanticleer Point was named by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Morgan who purchased the property in 1912 and built an inn on the point with "one of the most magnificent views in the world." They called their popular inn "Chanticleer" after the rooster in the story "Reynard the Fox." The area took on the name of the inn and is still known by some as Chanticleer Point.

Also to note, this location was as far east as one could go by road prior to the development of the Historic Highway.

## **#1, 5G: ROTARY WHEEL AT WAHKEENA**

This bronze, cogged wheel was dedicated by the Portland Rotary Club in 1916 at Wahkeena Falls as the centerpiece of a large fountain. In 1985, the artwork was installed at Horsetail Falls, without its fountain base. Sadly it was stolen from there. However, it was recovered! The Rotary wheel is now back at Wahkeena Falls in a different, less-prominent location so it is more difficult to steal. See if you can find it. Hint: it's on the opposite side of the highway from the waterfall.

## **#1, 5O: CROWN POINT FIGURE 8 LOOPS**

At Crown Point, road engineer Samuel Lancaster encountered a difficult section to build the highway. It was very steep, so he designed a series of loops to gradually descend the hillside. Making four turns, the highway parallels itself five times, keeping to a maximum 5% grade.