DESCRIPTIVE SPEECH

FOR

CORI LARDY

Hello ladies and gentleme- (**stop dead in your words**)….**WAIT!**! What’s that I hear? What was that Tooooooot!!! Tooot! Was that the conductor announcing, “All aboard for the **OREGON EXPRESS**!!!“ Yes!! I think it was!! **WOW!!!** How exciting!! Let’s grab our tickets and take a trip of a lifetime and explore this beautiful state together! Our state motto is, “She Flies With Her Own Wings” and as we take this little trip, let’s enjoy the bird’s eye view of some of the sights, sounds and tastes that make Oregon so special. We will discover so much to be proud of, right here in our home state. Our natural resources are breathtaking, with places like Crater Lake, the Oregon coast, Smith Rock and Mt Hood. Talk about the great outdoors!! Our culture is rich and diverse with plenty of room to exercise our horses, and let’s face it…. who doesn’t love Wallowas and the Pendleton Rodeo?

As we travel along our route, luckily we’re right near the “snack car….” serving the best Oregon has to offer!! Do you know that because of our climate and rich soil, our sweet berries are considered some of the best in the country-and what’s even MORE exciting is that because they’re so special they’re mostly reserved for us!! They really are “picked at the peak of perfection!” Our hazelnuts are also delicious and by the way, did you know they are our official “state nut?” Who needs pistachios? Dungeness crab is a local favorite and of course we can be proud of the worldwide popularity of Oregon’s great coffee brewers!

This whistle stop may be too brief, but it wouldn’t be an official tour of Oregon without visiting the amazing Crater Lake-have you ever seen a blue that deep?, the majestic Mt Hood, whose highest peak is 11,239 feet, or over two miles tall? …And we’re blessed to have the spectacular Columbia River right here, in our beautiful home state. And don’t forget our 363 miles of incredible Pacific coastline!!

We have a wonderful history too… Oregon has been inhabited for the past 15,000 years! Lewis and Clark built Fort Clatsop as their winter lodgings as they explored the Pacific Northwest, and of course we have the one hundred year old tradition of the Pendleton Rodeo… Looks like this is where I’ll want to get off!!

We’re about to pull into the station, but before I go, I want to thank you for sharing our vision of the beautiful state of Oregon. From our forests to our lakes, from our hills to our rivers and ocean, we truly are blessed to live in this very special place…..

Uh oh… I just heard the hiss of the steam engine and the wheels chugging to a halt…Here we are at our whistle stop.. Thanks for the ride!