

Petersen Rock Gardens were started in 1935 by Rasmus Petersen. Mr. Petersen was born in Denmark July 21, 1883, and came to Central Oregon in 1906.

Here he built his home and began farming, gradually buying land until he had nearly 300 acres under cultivation. By 1935 he had time to devote to his own back yard, and began by building a small rockery a few feet west of his house.

As his friends came and admired his work--and brought their friends--he continued to build. He learned where to find the various kinds of rocks that he eventually came to use as he covered four acres with castles, ponds and bridges.

Almost all the rocks he used came from within an eighty-five-mile radius of the Gardens. Included are petrified wood, agate, jasper, thundereggs, malachite, lava and obsidian.

Evidence of his love and respect for God and his adopted country is seen in the numbers of miniature churches, the flag of the United States and the magnificent Statue of Liberty, which a sculptor carved from a local boulder. Mr. Petersen was a friendly man, hard working, and interested in community affairs.

Shortly before his sudden death of a heart attack, August 3, 1952, he was heard to say that if anyone had told him he was going to build these Gardens, he wouldn't have believed it. He maintained that handling all those stones and boulders was nowhere near the work he did in farming, year

after year, plowing the fields and hauling off tons of rock.

Now, nearly 50 years later, his work has been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people. The Gardens are nationally famous and have had visitors from almost every country in the world. Everyone, young and old alike, cannot help being amazed by this one man's talent and ambition.

The Gardens are located $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Highway 97, between Redmond and Bend, Oregon. There are directional signs to guide you.

OPEN 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR, the hours in summer are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and from 7 a.m. to dusk the balance of the year.

Admission is by donation at the gate, as this is the way Mr. Petersen operated it. A gift shop is located in the museum to help with the expense of maintaining the Gardens. The museum also houses thousands of the more unusual rock specimens, as well as a fine fluorescent display.

There is a picnic area with tables, fireplaces, and free-roaming peacocks, ducks and a variety of chickens to help you with your lunch.

Come for a day or an hour, but plan to enjoy yourself.

Our address is:
PETERSEN ROCK GARDENS, INC.
7930 S. W. 77th Street
Redmond, Oregon
Phone: (503) 382-5574