4. The Cottage Grove Museum. You are in for a treat at the CG Museum. Their excellent collection of items shows what life was like in the early days of Cottage Grove when Opal was a child and young adult. The building used to be Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church built in 1897. There is a story that Opal visited the church as a young girl and fell asleep on one of the pews. The priest carried her to the house she was staying at nearby.

5. Cottage Grove Church of Christ. This is the church Opal attended when she lived in Cottage Grove. It was then called the First Congregational Church and there were many Christian Endeavor meetings held here. The building was originally wood framed but was rebuilt in 1947 after a fire.

6. Cottage Grove Library and Community Center. Be sure and stop by here to see the lovely bronze statue of Opal done by local sculptor, Ellen Tykeson. This statue was dedicated to the library by South Lane Mental Health in 1998.

7. The Gold Mining Museum and CG Historical Society are located at the newly refurbished red barn at 308 S 10th St across from Bohemia Park. The Gold Mining Museum has many artifacts from local historic mining claims. Opal’s Uncle Henry owned one of the first mining claims in the Bohemia area. The historical society is located inside the building. Their many files contain all kinds of historical information on early Cottage Grove and Opal Whiteley, too.

8. Row River Trail Head. If you are going by foot, bike or horseback, this is the place to start your journey out to the “Fairyland” where Opal wrote much of her childhood diary. Opal grew up in lumber camps all along the railway. (Cont. on inside)
9. If going by car, drive east down Main St. under the overpass. Just outside town, Main St. becomes Mosby Creek Rd. Drive approx. 2.5 miles to where Quaglia Road meets Mosby Creek. Quaglia runs south from Mosby Creek. The south hills you see were what Opal called "the far woods." This is the location of the lumber mill where the Man Who Wears Grey Neckties worked and where the home of Sadie McKibben stood. The tree farm on the west side of the road was once part of Opal's family farm. The only place where the singing creek can be seen on public land is where the small bridge crosses Quaglia Rd. However, be careful because many large gravel trucks use this road, too.

10. Continue to the intersection of Layng Road, Mosby Creek & Jenkins. This is Walden, where, as Opal says, "the road goes three ways." On the east side of the road is the Row River Trailhead, a lovely 13 mile bike and hiking path. It follows the old OP&N railroad line that Opal used to ride. Opal writes about the rail yard in her diary.

11. From the place where the road goes three ways, turn left onto Layng Road. You will soon cross the covered bridge over Mosby Creek itself. When Opal mentions the "rivière" she means Mosby Creek. Opal describes crossing this bridge on Page 178 (Chapter 14) of Benjamin Hoff's 1995 paperback. Or, you can follow the old railroad line from here. Continue 1 mile down Layng Road to the Carrin Covered Bridge. This one mile drive from "the place where the road goes three ways" to the Carrin Bridge over the Row River is where Opal takes her long ride on William Shakespeare, the old logging horse. This beautiful story is in Chapter 14 (Pages 177 to 183). Also, Opal noticed a meadowlark on her horseback ride. Keep a sharp ear because you just might hear one of their distinctive calls.

12. To find Harms Park, Dorena Bridge, and Star, go right on Row River Road at the Carrin Bridge. This is a beautiful drive that follows Row River Rd. eastward 4.4 miles to a resting spot called Harms Park. This is a lovely place to stop and enjoy the view of Dorena Lake.

13. Opal Whiteley spent her teenage years around Dorena. At that time the town of Dorena stood where the lake is now. The entire Row River Valley used to be called Star. The Star post office (where Opal's mother worked) was closed in 1923. The community of Dorena is now found where the village of Star used to sit. The newly restored Dorena Covered Bridge is a beautiful place to stop and enjoy the river at Rodey Point. Opal used to catch salmon here. Nearby is the Kirk Store, a good place to buy refreshments. You can learn more about historic Dorena at www.dorenahistoricalsociety.com.