

# SPORTS

## Scenery enlivens Dead Mountain



**INTO THE OUTDOORS**  
BY JAYSON JACOBY



Photo by Jayson Jacoby

*By the time you reach the top of Dead Mountain it may not seem like you've gained 2,100 feet of elevation, but the spectacular bird's-eye view will tell you otherwise.*

foot maple trees.

Just after crossing another small tributary on a wooden bridge, the trail begins climbing a ridge in a series of switchbacks. The trail steepens somewhat for a short distance, but it is never discouragingly difficult.

After about a dozen switchbacks, the trail crosses another creek draining a small swampy area and then begins a long eastward traverse up the ridge. A short distance past the final creek crossing, the trail enters a small, rocky meadow, offering just a glimpse of Hills Creek reservoir to the south.

For the next 1.5 miles, the trail gradually ascends a ridge, changing direction every so often, but always climbing at an extremely gradual grade. After the final switchback, the trail parallels a logging road for a short distance before ending at the road's edge.

From this point the trip is entirely on logging roads, and because it is necessary to negotiate four — count them, four — unmarked junctions that aren't on most maps, pay attention

carefully.

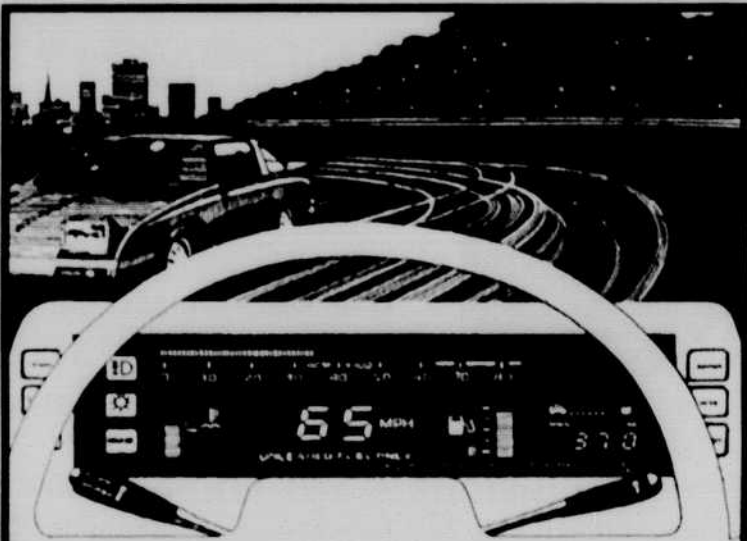
When the trail ends at the road, turn right. Follow the road about 200 yards to a two-way junction and take the left fork. Follow this road another 200 yards — passing the rusted remains of a 1940s era car — to a "Y" junction. Turn right here, following the uphill fork (the left fork goes downhill following the edge of a clearcut).

Take the uphill road about a quarter-mile to yet another junction, again taking the right, uphill fork. Now that you've made it past three of the four problem spots, take some time and enjoy the beautiful forest along this road, which is carpeted with soft green clover and golden buttercups.

After another quarter-mile and just past a green road gate (that will probably be open), turn sharply right at the final junction, avoiding the road to the left that heads downhill.

This final road, No. 212, leads a few hundred yards to the summit of Dead Mountain, and a small clearing with a

Turn to DEAD, Page 8



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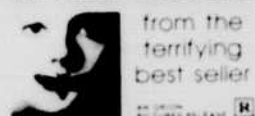


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