SPORTS

Scenery enlivens Dead Mountain



The trip to Dead Mountain via the Flat Creek trail can be deceiving. By the time you get to the top, it doesn't really feel like you've come four miles and gained 2,100 feet of elevation.

The main reason for the trip's apparent ease is that the Flat Creek trail follows a very consistent, gentle grade. Combining that with the thick, nearly viewless forest along most of the trail, there is little sense of elevation gain. Nevertheless, the trail is anything but flat despite its name — and when you get to the summit, you'll appreciate how far you've actually come.

To get to the Flat Creek trailhead, drive south of Eugene on 1-5 five miles to the Highway 58 junction. Take this highway 35 miles east to Oakridge, and in the middle of town turn left at a sign pointing to the high school.

Follow this road about a quarter of a mile and turn right onto the Salmon Creek Road, following signs to Salmon Creek and the Rigdon ranger station.

Just after passing the turnoff to the ranger station, look for an unmarked road on the left side. This road takes off directly opposite a sign reading "Camping Limit 10 days next 4 miles." Take the right hand road, ignoring the left fork, which is almost grown over.

About a half-mile from the pavement, bear left at a "Y" junction, ignoring the right fork that leads steeply uphill and is barricaded with a metal gate and "road closed" sign.

About one-quarter mile past this junction, look for a hikersymbol sign on the left side of the road, adjacent to a small turnout for parking. A sign marks the beginning of the Flat Creek trail and reads "Road 2066 2 miles, Dead Mtn. 4."

The trail heads off to the west, crossing a tributary of Flat Creek in about 100 yards and then winding above the main creek. The forest here is thickly overgrown secondgrowth Dougles Fir, interspersed with many young, five-



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.

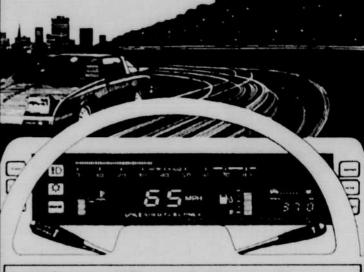
When the trail ends at the road, turn right. Follow the road about 200 yards to a twoway junction and take the left fork. Follow this road another 200 yards — passing the rusted remains of a 1940s era car — to a "Y" junction. Turn right here, following the uphill fork (the left fork goes downhill following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

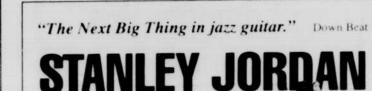


Plan Ahead For Your Summer Road Trips With Preventative Maintenance At...

EURO Asian 485-8226 1917 FRANKLIN BLVD. Close to Campus



TOP 5 ACADEMY AWARD WINNER! 95.3 The KAVE Presents: Iho cilonoo





Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 7& 9:1 Sat: 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Sun: 2:00, 4:15, 6:30

Only \$2.50 for Adults, \$1.50 for Students (any agr), Seniors (35+), and Alter able, and Kide (9.6 Under) \$1.00 Back for a limited engagement at the **MCKENZIE THEATRE** 630 Main St. (downtown Springfield) 747-8349

When Stanley Jordan plays two guitars at once, jaws drop. The young "phenom" works his wizardry on bop, blues and the Beatles in this one-man jam session!

Friday May 1 8 pm HULT CENTER Tockets 687-5000

HILTON BALLROOM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: EMU MAIN DESK, WOW HALL, CD WORLD, RECORD GARDEN, HOUSE OF RECORDS, FACE THE MUSIC • FOR INFO CALL 346-4362 • TICKETS SUBJECT TO SERVICE CHARGE AND/OR USER FEE



Need a break? Check out the ENTERTAINMENT section in the ODE classifieds.

Wednesday, April 22, 1992 Oregon Daily Emerald 7