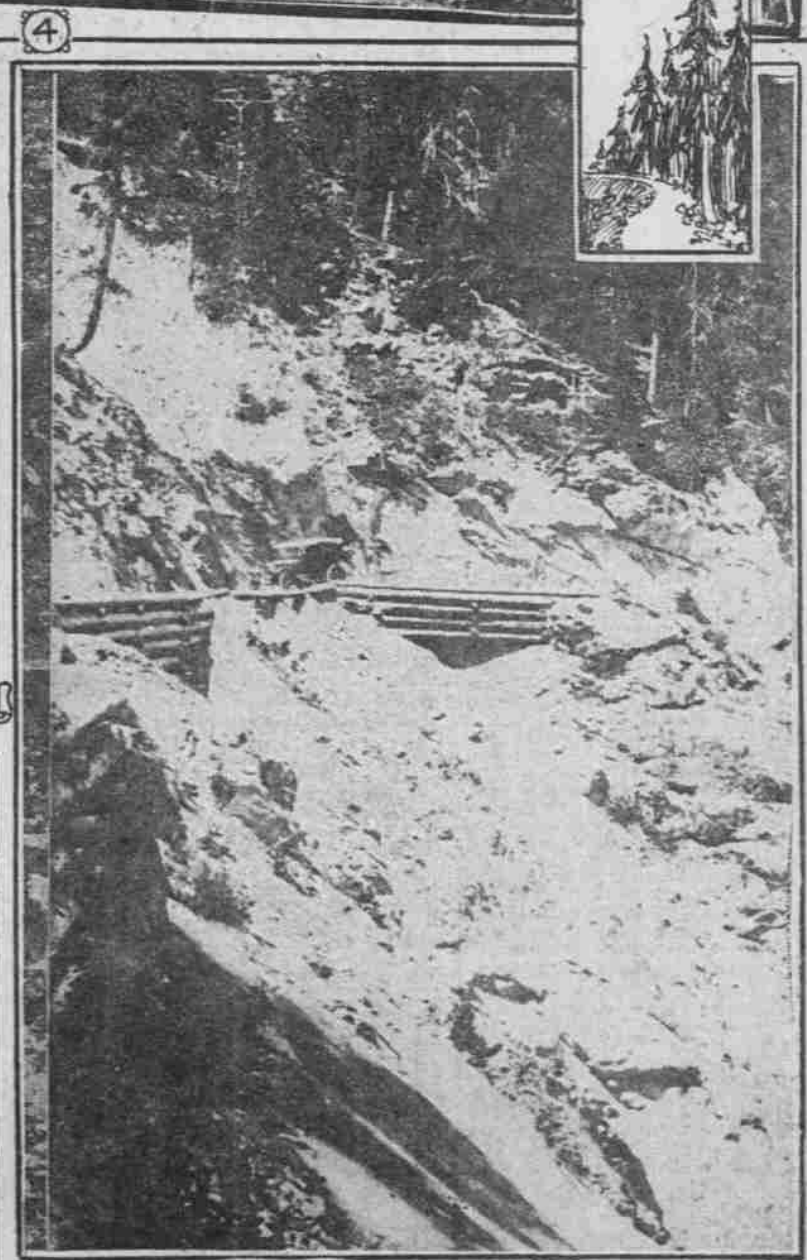
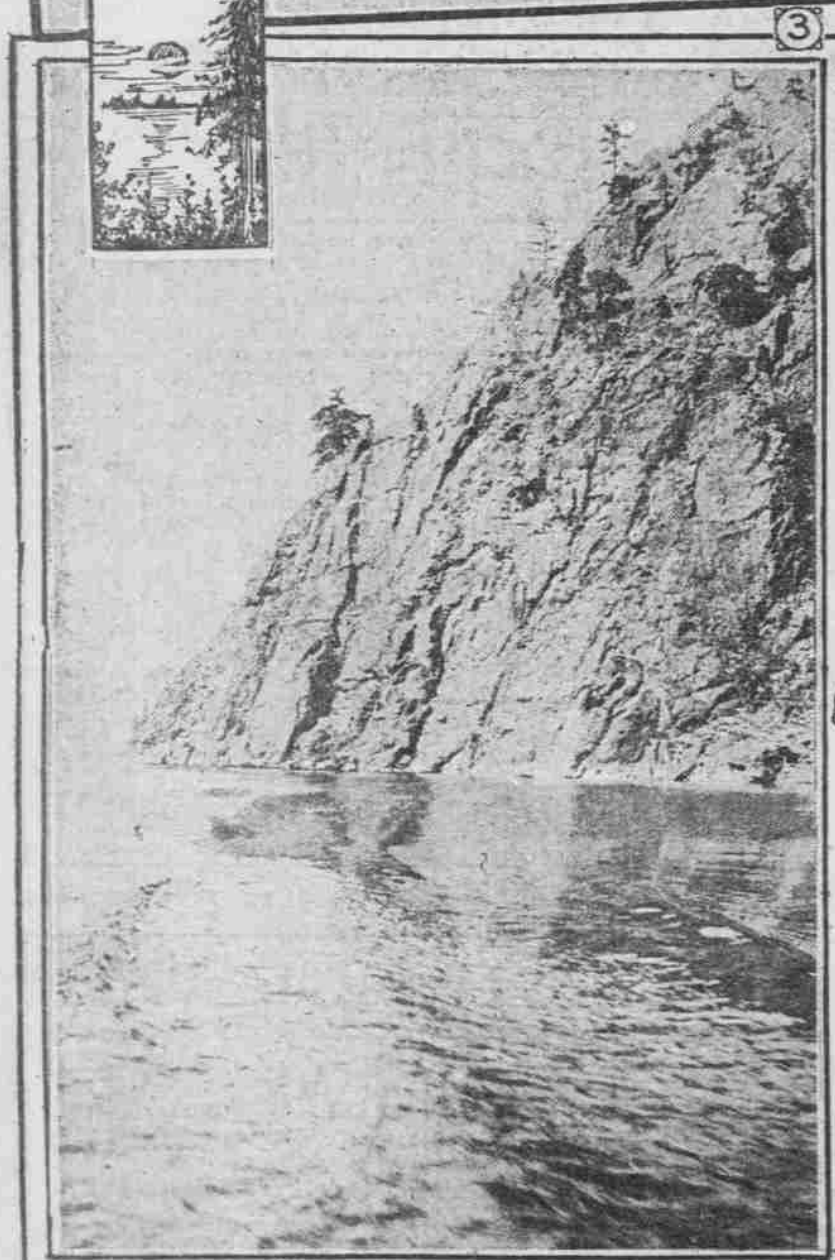
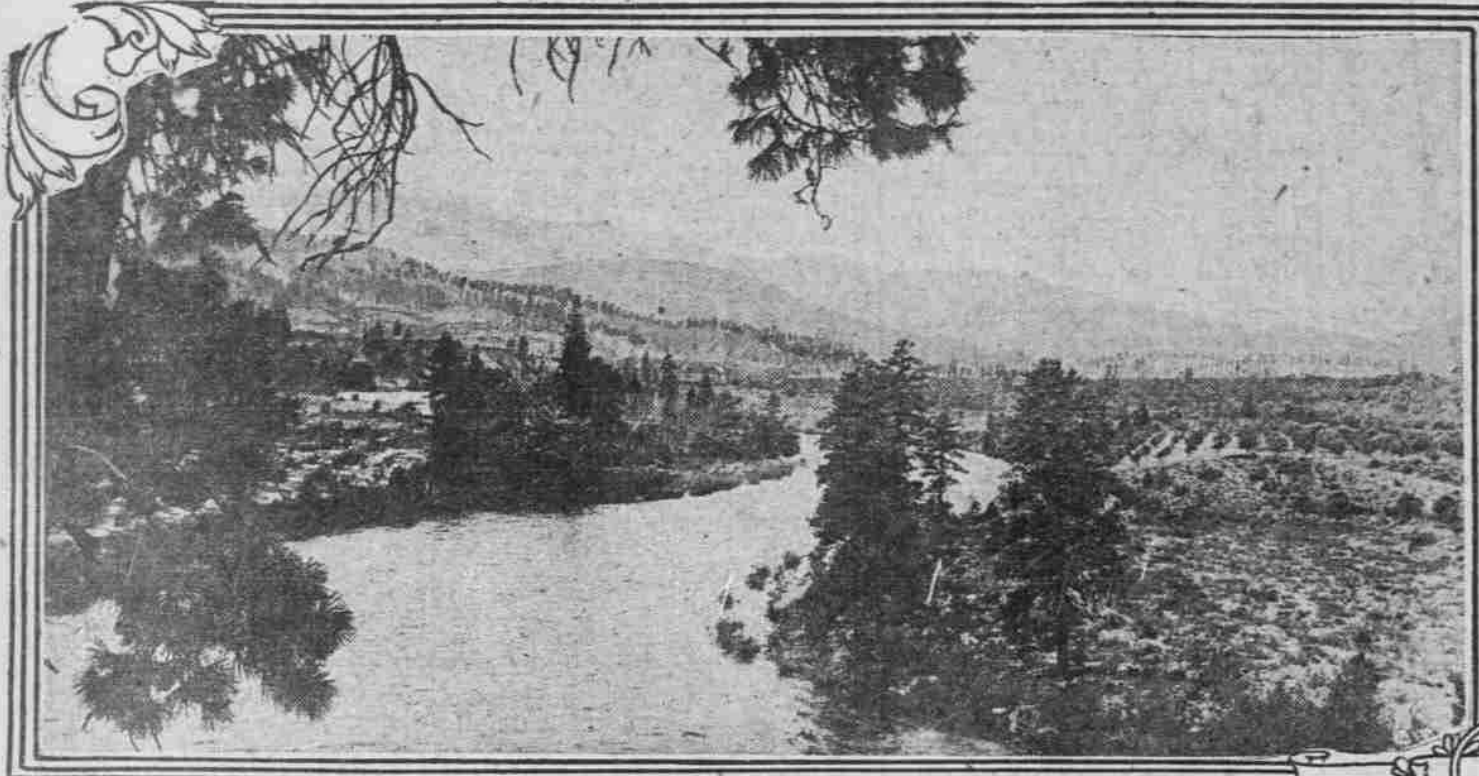


DRIVE TO LAKE CHELAN A GREAT TOUR FOR THE MOTORIST

Forest Service Man Writes Entertainingly of Scenic Trip to Beautiful Washington Lake via Pacific, Sunset and Blewett Pass Highways.



1—Wenaschee river and valley from Sunset highway. 2—On Sunset highway near Snoqualmie pass. 3—Here's the summit of Blewett pass, with "Betsey," faithful 1914 Ford of Alexander G. Jackson, forest examiner, in foreground. 4—Entrance to Denny creek camp grounds, Snoqualmie national forest, on Sunset highway. 5—Near Goat mountain, a scene characteristic of wild and rocky shores of Lake Cheelan. 6—In the yellow pine, Blewett pass highway, en route to Lake Cheelan. 7—Blewett pass highway near Blewett. Several miles of ticklish road to be traversed.

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The Portland auto tourist seeking a week-long trip nearly every mile of which is interesting, the possibilities presented by an excursion to Lake Cheelan, Wash., should not be overlooked. The round trip covers about 800 miles of road, which for the most part is good.

Accompanied by Dr. John T. Farris of Philadelphia the writer recently left Portland by the Pacific highway, which crosses the interstate bridge at Vancouver and runs north on the Washington side of the Columbia. Most Portlanders are familiar with this portion of the trip, which leads through La Center, Woodland and Kalama.

Considerable new construction work

is going on along this section, especially on both sides of La Center and near Martin's Bluff. This does not add much to the joys of motoring. Suffice it to say that over much of this section few motorists exceed the legal rate of speed. Part of the roadbed is bumpy and part is merely rough, with occasional smoother stretches between. While bumping along this rough road the optimistic motorist tries to forget present difficulties and travel mentally over the excellent highway of the near future which will replace the present thoroughfare.

Fir and Cedar Forests.

North of Kalama the roadbed becomes somewhat better, with rough sections near Kelso and between Castle Rock and Toledo. The route traverses several miles of wonderful fir and cedar forests along the Cowlitz river before crossing on the old bridge

by a small rock thrown up by the wheels. This necessitated temporary repair, which was made by inserting a piece of putty board cut from a candy box found along the roadside.

This road enters Seattle on First avenue South, crossing dozens of service tracks leading from Seattle factories on the tide flats. Like other coast towns, Seattle is full of transients, and some difficulty was experienced in finding hotel room for the party, and also a garage stall to house Betsey, the faithful Ford.

It is not necessary to enter Seattle in making the trip to Lake Cheelan, as the Pacific highway may be taken from Tacoma to Renton, where connection is made with the Sunset highway for North Bend. However, few drivers care to pass so close to the sound metropolis without visiting it and partaking to some extent in the spirit of bustle and enterprise of this typical western city.

Seattle may be left by several routes leading into the Sunset highway. The one carried the tourists north through the beautiful campus of the University of Washington and along the west shore of Lake Washington to within one-half mile of Bothell, where a road, turning sharply to the right, led across the Squak slough down the east side of the lake to Kirkland.

Snoqualmie Valley Rich.

Kirkland might have been reached by ferry directly from Seattle, but this would have prevented the travelers from enjoying the beautiful scenery of the road around the lake.

On through Redmond to Falls City, where the Snoqualmie river was crossed on a beautiful low-arch concrete bridge to Snoqualmie Falls, where the party stopped long enough to admire the splendid cataract plunging 265 feet into the canyon below.

The lower Snoqualmie valley is a rich dairying region, and cattle grazing in the fields seemed well content with their surroundings. The highway con-

tinues through North Bend and along the south fork of the Snoqualmie, through stretches of virgin forest, which should be preserved along the roadside for the benefit of tourists, who seldom have opportunity to see such timber along main traveled highways. About ten miles out of North Bend the highway enters the Snoqualmie national forest, following closely along the course of the tumbling waters of the south fork.

Forest fires have left their scars on the mountains in this region. The extensive slopes of Granite mountain, near Rockdale, which formerly bore a splendid stand of timber, have now a desolate appearance, due to the ravages of fire. Practically all the government land on this mountain has been restocked with trees by the forest service and will be green and attractive again in a few years if fire is kept out.

A lookout man stationed on the summit of the mountain keeps constant watch over the region during the fire season and immediately reports to the ranger in the valley any suspicious smoke he discovers.

Fiesty of Side Trips.

At Denny creek camp grounds the tourists drove through a neat log arch and stopped long enough to sign their names in the travelers' register, which is kept in an attractive booth constructed for the purpose. A good road winds through the camp grounds, passing numerous camp sites fitted up by the rangers for the free use of the public. Concrete stoves and water piped to various parts of the grounds add to their convenience, while a modern rest station is open for use. These camp grounds are much used by tourists.

Several forest service trails lead from Denny creek camp grounds and offer interesting side trips for tourists who care to leave their machines and penetrate further into the mountains on foot.

A hiking trip over Pratt river trail

leads the traveler by easy grades along the slopes of Granite mountain and over the ridge between the south and middle forks of the Snoqualmie; thence down the Pratt river valley to its junction with the middle fork, at the Halfway House. This trail passes two series of lakes, one on each side of the divide; and trout fishing is said to be excellent in Pratt river.

By a short side trip from this trail the tourist may climb to the summit of Granite mountain, which is 5820 feet high, and visit the fire lookout station, with its interesting equipment of fire detection and weather bureau instruments; for the Forest service co-operates with this bureau, making possible the securing of weather information at various points where otherwise a weather observer would not be stationed.

From the lookout station wonderful mountain views open to the tourist in all directions. Mount Rainier dominates

the landscape to the south, and numerous lower peaks rise on all sides.

At Halfway House, the traveler takes the trail up the middle fork to the junction with Snow lake trail, which leads back over the ridge into the south fork watershed and down to the camp grounds, making an interesting trip through a scenic region. Not far from the Denny creek camp grounds, on land leased from the Forest service, is located the forest lodge of the Seattle Mountaineers. Here these hardy lovers of the trail frequently assemble during the colder months for enjoyment of winter sports.

The climb to Chair peak from the camp grounds offers another trip of special charm to lovers of the high places.

Perhaps the most hazardous trail trip from Denny creek leads the traveler up the highway to Lacombs; then by trail up Commonwealth creek, past Guye

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