

PRIMITIVE FOREST AREA IS PICTURED AS AWE-INSPIRING

Mountain Lakes Region Is Found Abundant in Vistas of Regal Grandeur — Now Ideal for Riding, Hiking

The following description of a nearby recreational area was issued today by the Rogue River national forest service: "The Mountain lakes primitive area in the Rogue River national forest, just east of Lake of the Woods, holds many interesting features for those who care to hike or ride over

the 13-mile woodland trail into this unspoiled territory. Primitive areas in the national forests are set aside as tracts in which no roads or other improvements, except trails and crude shelters, will be constructed. They are areas which are to be kept as nearly as possible as God made them. This particular tract, containing mountains and lakes, holds attractions for practically everyone, regardless of what the individual is seeking in the way of recreation.

"For the hiker or rider there are woodland trails; for the fisherman well-stocked lakes; for everyone, the scenic marvels of the timber, lakes and mountains. The tract is easily accessible, situated only 13 miles by trail from Lake of the Woods. The area is particularly attractive during this season of the year as mosquitoes have disappeared and fish are rising to a fly. The weather is cooler and the visibility much better than during the summer. During the past week, two forest officers visited the tract and their impressions give some of the interesting features to be found in the area.

Buck Delays Start
"The trip was scheduled to start from Lake of the Woods before eight o'clock in the morning but Buck, the government mule which was to accompany the party, and the mountaineer, had a different idea. The plan was to haul the stock in a trailer from the lake to a point where the trail took off from the road. The saddle horse walked in the trailer with only a little coaxing, but Buck absolutely refused to be loaded. It may have been because it was cool and Buck felt it would be more comfortable to walk; at least he had a very definite notion that he wasn't going to ride. However, in about half an hour of concentrated effort on the part of four guards and the rangers, Buck was in the trailer sitting down with his four feet braced in front of him like a dog and looking very disgusted.

"About the time that everyone decided that there were no objections if Buck wanted to sit down, he had another brilliant idea. He got to his feet and then jumped out of the trailer without breaking his neck, both of which feats were a surprise. Anyway, Buck won. He didn't ride but trotted along behind the trailer and made no objections to being ridden when it came time for that. In fact he was a very well-behaved mule during the remainder of the trip.

"The weather was ideal, the air cool-crisp, was free from dust and smog but heavily laden with the fragrant scent of the forest. The trail gradually gained elevation, wound through the timber to the summit of the ridge east of the Lake of the Woods. Each open space in the timber offered a different scene: Lake of the Woods, surrounded by green timber, sparkled in the morning sunlight; Mount Shaala, with its white patches of snow; Mount McLaughlin, sprinkled with the first snowfall of the autumn; the broken line of Crater lake; and row after row of hills and lesser mountains stretching away until they were lost in the distance. No deer were seen but tracks were numerous along the trail and occasionally a grouse was flushed and flew out with a startling whir of wings.

Coyote Tracks Seen
"After reaching the summit of the first ridge, the trail dropped into and across the head of Wood creek. This stream heads in a basin formed by Graylock, Crater mountain and a number of high rocky ridges. It contains numerous beautiful small lakes and ponds. Patches of snow began to appear along the trail and in them

were occasionally the tracks of a coyote. After crossing the head of Wood creek, the trail rises sharply and was almost continually covered with snow. Here were the tracks of an old bear and three cubs who had followed the trail for some distance. Apparently they had been in Como lake country and were seeking a lower, warmer territory.

"At the point where the trail crosses the summit between Wood creek and Moss creek, it is necessary to stop because the vista here is one that cannot be covered with a glance. The pass is practically surrounded by mountains, all of which are over 7,000 feet in elevation. Some of the summits are covered with white bark white pine and hemlock, twisted and contorted by their eternal fight for existence with the wind and the snow. Other slopes have great masses of broken, jumbled gray and red rocks. On those the snow has melted on one side of the rocks, giving it all a salt-and-pepper appearance.

"Above the huge rock piles, perpendicular cliffs rise hundreds of feet to end in a jagged line across the blue sky. Between the peaks and to the east is an excellent view of Klamath lake and beyond, the pine covered hills and mountains extend until they grow dim in the haze of the distance. To the north are Mount Thielsen and Crater lake rim, and to the east, a divide of the Cascade range from Crater lake to the Sixti-timber, mountain peaks and lakes. To the south Mount Shasta and the surrounding hills form another interesting scene.

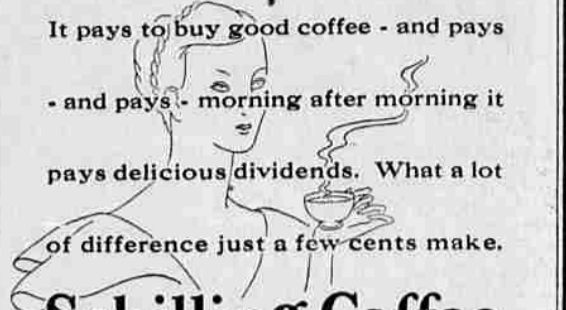
View Awe-Inspiring
"From here the trail drops down over rock slides into the timber and Como lake. This lake is only about five acres in size but in the evening the water is practically covered by ripples made by trout feeding. For several years the forest service has been planting eastern brook in these lakes and the result from either shore of a crude raft, an hour with a fly rod and a September evening, is all that is needed to catch the limit of six to 12-inch trout.

"Leaving Como lake, the trail continues to Lake Harriette, winding around through the hemlock and rock slides to a pass in the ridge. It zig-zags down into a basin surrounded on three sides by mountains. And here is a scene which, had the rest of the trip contained nothing of interest, would have made the entire

journey worthwhile: the sky broken only occasionally by wispy white clouds which served to emphasize by contrast its deep blue; the ragged, snow-capped rim of Mount Carmine and Whiteface peak terminating in masses of broken rock and fringes of dark green hemlock; through the trees, as though framed, is Lake Harriette, blue as Crater lake, its surface reflecting the sky.

(Continued on Page Nine.)

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