

Extensive Improvements Planned in Next 10 Years by National Park Service

Mission 66 Will Make Lake More Accessible For Visitor Increase

A young prospector named John Wesley Hillman, leading a party from Jacksonville in search of a lost gold mine in 1853, received what must have been one of the most impressive surprises in history.

Coming suddenly to the top of a steep mountain he saw below him one of the clearest, most vividly blue and beautiful lakes in the world. Crater Lake has been surprising millions of visitors ever since. Even those who have seen it many times still experience surprise at the always new discovery of a lake in the top of a mountain.

The U.S. National Park Service, as part of a 10-year park improvement program known as Mission '66, now has plans to make Crater Lake more accessible and enjoyable to more visitors than ever.

Under the Mission '66 program the park service hopes to improve all national parks and bring them up to standards felt necessary to preserve their beauty and handle the 80,000,000 visitors expected at the parks by 1966, the golden anniversary of the park service. There has been little improvement of national parks since the beginning of World War II although there has been a tremendous increase in the number of park visitors.

An appropriation of \$381,000 is now before the Senate for improvements at Crater Lake. It is expected that this will be the first of appropriations planned for use during the 10-year program of Mission '66.

Work Slated To Start This Year

Work which is hoped will start at the park this year and be completed by 1966, includes improving roads and trails to formerly inaccessible corners of the park, building new camp grounds, constructing a museum, development of information centers and small picnic sites around the rim of the lake, installing more comfortable facilities for winter visitors, and constructing comfortable winter quarters for employees and equipment.

"We want to make more of the park accessible," Park Superintendent Thomas Williams said recently, "to give people reason to remain longer in the park than they have stayed in the past, and give them a better opportunity to study and understand the formation of the mountain."

When Hillman first found the lake he named it Deep Blue Lake. In October, 1862, Chauncey Nye, leading a party from eastern Oregon to Jacksonville, happened on the lake and thinking he had made a discovery, named it Blue Lake. A third "discovery" was made in 1865 by two soldiers stationed at Fort Klamath who called it Lake Majesty.

Name Changed in 1869
In 1869 the name was changed to Crater Lake by visitors from Jacksonville.

Largely through the efforts of Judge William Gladstone Steel the lake was established as a national park in 1902. Steel devoted the remainder of his life to development of the park, serving as its second superintendent and later as park commissioner until his death in 1934.

Located on the crest of the Cascade mountains in northern Klamath county, the park includes 160,290 acres. The lake itself is about 20 square miles in area, 6 miles wide, and has 20 miles of shoreline. It is nearly 2,000 feet in depth, the second deepest lake in North America and the seventh deepest known in the world. The crater walls, which average about 7,000 feet above sea level, rise as much as 2,000 feet above the surface of the water.

About 60 species of mammals live in the park and deer, bear, martins, squirrels, golden marmot ground squirrels, chipmunks and many others are commonly seen by visitors. As trails and roads are advanced into now inaccessible sections of the park, visitors may become familiar with other, less well-known species.

120 Kinds of Birds

More than 120 kinds of birds have been recorded at the lake. Both golden and American eagles nest at Eagle Crag; California gulls are seen regularly flying over the lake, Liao Rock is the home of falcons, and several species of ducks and geese visit the lake during migration. The humor and tragedy of nature may be seen almost constantly at the park. Squirrels and chipmunks last summer consumed about 3,275 pounds of peanuts from the hands of visitors. Quick, grey camp robber birds not infrequently steal bits of food from picnic tables while visitors are in the process of eating.

Study Formation

About 10 naturalists from all parts of the United States come to the lake each summer to study plant, animal, fish and bird life, and the geologic formation of the mountain. This summer they plan to make a study of marine life at the bottom of the lake. It is expected that the studies will be valuable in determining the amount of feed existing for fish.

Rainbow trout were first planted in the lake in 1888, as no fish were native to the lake. Only rainbow trout and silver-side salmon have been planted in recent years and good catches are made. No fishing license is required.

One part of the program to

make the lake more accessible to visitors is the construction of a new trail from the rim to the edge of the lake. The present trail is narrow, steep, and dangerous in places, Williams pointed out. The new trail will be about 1 1/2 miles long and will cost an estimated \$50,000 to build.

Easier Grade

It will be constructed on an easier grade and will be wide enough so people can travel up and down it side by side instead of in single file as is now necessary. It will enable the park service to transport boats and equipment from the rim to the lake more easily and in case of accidents or sickness at the surface of the lake stretcher cases may be brought out more quickly. The high cost of construction, Williams said, is due to the rock formation and the necessity of screening the trail in such a way that it won't mar the natural beauty of park.

Improvements are planned on all major roads in the park. Entrance roads and the road from park headquarters to the rim will be widened, and restored to good condition. Some fire trails, one to Union Peak in the southwest corner of the park, that now are passable only by truck will be widened and improved for public use.

New Facilities

New picnic and camping facilities are planned at the park to provide more space for visitors and to encourage them to stay longer.

Funds for construction of a new camp ground at Annie Springs are now in the process of being approved. It will be located at the old CCC camp where there was a temporary camp last summer and will contain parking space, tables, fireplaces, restrooms and space for tents and trailer houses.

Picnic sites are planned at several places along the road that circles the rim of the lake, where the view is exceptionally good or there is an object of geological interest.

Construction of a museum where the community building now stands is planned to house the park's large collection of naturalist specimens and the story of the lakes geological creation.

New Museum

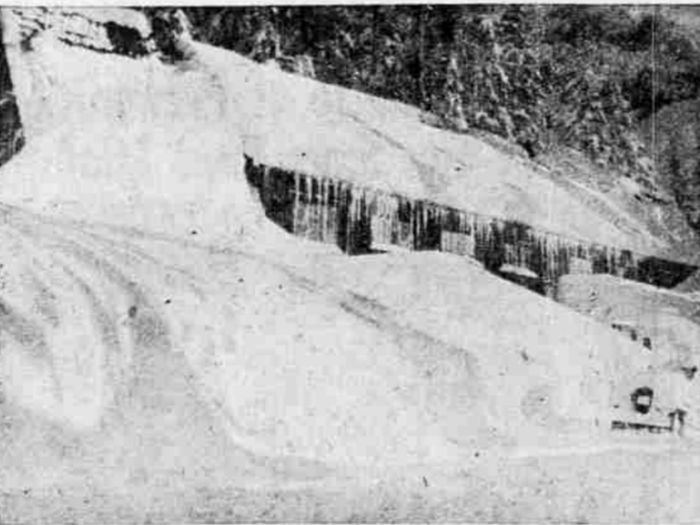
The new museum would house all the park service requirements such as display rooms for bird and animal skins and plant specimens; an auditorium where daily and evening lectures by naturalists would be held, an information booth, and in winter time, space would be available for warming but services.

The museum might also include diagrams showing the geological development of the lake from early Indian times to the



WINTER RESORT—Snow that commonly reaches depths of more than 10 feet at Crater Lake National park creates winter scenes like that shown above. Hundreds of visitors to the park each winter enjoy skiing, tobogganning and breath-taking scenery. Park supervisors plan, under the National Park Service's Mission '66 program, to make Crater Lake more enjoyable

for winter guests. A warm, glass enclosed building is planned on the rim of the lake where visitors can view the lake in comfort. A tunnel will lead to the view station from a new museum and warming hut located near where the present community building stands. —(Brainerd photo)



WINTER HOUSING—Crater Lake employees who work at the park during the winter live in one of the heaviest snowfall areas in North America. For more than six months of the year snow completely covers the lower story of housing originally designed only for summer use. Under a new building program it is hoped that insulated employee housing may be constructed with living quarters on the second floor. The building shown above has two stories.



EXPANSION PLANNED—more visitors are expected to view Crater Lake in the next few years. In order to make their stay in the park more enjoyable the park service plans to make more of the park accessible to them and to increase camping and picnicking facilities. It is expected that a new camp ground will be constructed at Annie Springs this summer. A new, wider and safer trail from the rim to the lake's edge is also planned.

present. A nearly innumerable collection of volcanic material is available for display.

A number of roadside exhibits pointing out objects of interest are also planned. For example, an exhibit on the north entrance road near the approach of the pumice stone desert might explain when and how the desert was formed and how plant life is gradually taking over.

Community of 48
The little community of 48 people who this year comprise the park's winter staff may well be subjected to greater snowfall than any occupied community in the United States. Annual snowfall at the park is 622 inches, or almost 52 feet. The record amount of snow on the ground at park headquarters was 18 feet, two inches in 1952. Depths of over 10 feet are common.

Highway 62 through the park and the road from Annie Springs to the rim are kept open all year long, however, with very few exceptions. Park personnel work 24 hours a day plowing snow out of the roads. Many visitors go to the park during the winter to ski, hike on snow shoes, toboggan and look at the lake.

In an effort to make viewing the lake more comfortable for winter visitors it is planned, if funds are made available, to enclose with glass Sinoth Memorial, which affords one of the best views of the lake from its location just under the rim.

The memorial will be insulated and heated and reached from a tunnel built under the road from the museum building. This tunnel will also allow visitors to travel from the museum or cafeteria in summer time without crossing traffic.

A park ranger would be stationed at Sinoth Memorial during the winter to provide aid and information to visitors.

Wooden Buildings

The 17 families who live at the park during the winter occupy wooden frame buildings which were originally erected only for summer use. Snow during the winter covers the first story windows and sometimes drifts to the eaves of the two-story park headquarters building. Snow, melting from the

roofs due to heat from inside forms huge, grotesque icicles along the eaves and over window ledges. All houses built back from the edge of the road must be entered by wooden tunnels covered over by the snow.

The biggest, single activity during the winter is the battle against the snow to keep roads open. Two big rotary snow plows and smaller, blade-type plows worked on a 24 hour basis much of this winter.

There is much else to be done, however, and rangers are occupied keeping records, aiding park visitors and preparing for the coming summer season.

Rescue Toboggans

Rangers are experts in first aid and rescue toboggans are kept in readiness for emergency use. Equipment includes basket-type stretchers laced to the toboggans, snow-shoes, skis, first aid kits, and mountain climbing equipment. An ambulance is kept in readiness.

Accidents this winter have been at a minimum but the am-

balance has been used twice, once when a car skidded into a snowplow and another time when a tobogganing party from Grants Pass got out of the regular tobogganing area and dropped ten feet into the road. In the latter accident five girls received serious back and pelvic injuries.

Rangers make park signs during the winter and repair equipment so it will be ready for the sudden burst of summer activity. The community fire truck was painted this winter, an aerial radio to supplement existing communications was installed and all hand tools were sharpened and repaired.

Wives are Busy

The wives of the men are also kept busy. Several are employed at park headquarters. One of the wives, Mrs. Jackie Pool, teaches the school.

There are 11 children at the school in grades one through eight. They take a full course of study and activities. Outdoor sports, however, are limited to

Constellation of Leo Has Mythological Background

By FAY VAN SCHOIACK

"If the star of the great lion is gloomy the heart of the people will not rejoice."

The "great lion" referred to in this inscription discovered on an old clay tablet in the ruins of ancient Nineveh, is the constellation or group of stars known as Leo, the Lion. This star group has been mentioned in the legends of many ancient peoples, and always as a lion.

The Greeks pictured it as the "Terrible Nemean Lion" and the Hebrews called it the "Lion of Judah." Many authorities believe that Leo, the Lion was so named because lions are symbolic of hot countries, and when the sun was "in" this constellation of the Zodiac the weather was extremely hot.

"What is the Zodiac?" someone may ask.

Path Divided

Astronomers have divided a path, 18 degrees in width and extending entirely around the sky, into 12 equal parts. In each division is a constellation and these 12 star groups, one for each month, are called the constellation of the Zodiac. The sun, moon, and planets apparently

travel in this same path but are really between the earth and the constellations.

When we read that the sun is "in" the constellation, Leo the Lion, it means that the sun is between the earth and this star group. Actually, the "Terrible Nemean Lion" is trillions of miles distant from our sun.

During a year the sun is "in" each one of the 12 Zodiacal constellations for approximately a month. This apparent movement of Old Sol is the result of the earth's yearly journey about the sun.

Locating Constellation
How can you locate this constellation? By 8 p.m. Leo, the Lion, is high in the southeastern sky. The identification point is The Sickle or a "question mark backwards," as students often say. Just to the west of The Sickle shines the bright twinkling planet, Jupiter, who will light the way for The Lion as he travels across the sky. However, Jupiter will not always be so near The Sickle, as planets move among the "fixed-stars."

The Sickle forms the forepart of the animal's body, while a right triangle lying to the east, or left, of The Sickle represents the hind quarters. Denebola, the outer star in this triangle is the tuft at the end of the Lion's tail. Regulus, a bright star at the bottom of The Sickle, is the heart of the fierce beast.

During the first part of February, Leo the Lion appeared low on the eastern horizon, and since that time has journeyed steadily toward the west, where he will sink from sight during the early part of August.

Mythology Background
In mythology, Hercules, to perform the first of his Twelve Labors, journeyed to the Nemean Mts. to destroy a huge lion that had been terrorizing the people. Hiding by the water hole he crept quietly upon the drinking animal which he hoped to kill instantly with a single sword thrust.

Just as Hercules was ready to attack, the beast lifted his head, jumped out of reach of the sword, and crouched ready to spring upon his attacker. Hercules threw the sword away, uprooted a tree, and using the trunk for a club subdued the fierce animal. Then, with his bare hands, grabbed it by the throat and strangled it to death.

Junio, who hated Hercules and sympathized with the lion, persuaded Jupiter to place the lion in the sky, where it is the most spectacular of the constellations of the Zodiac.

RECORD HAUL
Plain City, O.—(U.P.)—Burglars went to a lot of trouble to haul away a 400-pound safe from the Yoder Elevator here. After lugging it more than 50 miles they opened the safe. The charged robbers found no money, just company records.

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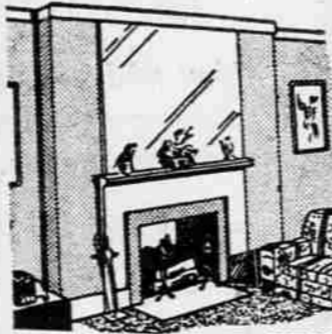
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