



Harriett lake in the Mountain Lakes primitive area is a jewel among lakes. Its water is clear and cold and it appears exceptionally deep where a huge rock slide meets the water's edge. It is seen here from the ridge on the south entrance trail.

# W i l d e r n e s s



From Horseshoe lake, Mt. Luther appears to be not much more than a hill of rock. Several years ago a group of girl scouts reported that they had hiked to the top of the mountain to watch the moon rise. They returned to their camp at lake Margaret by moonlight.

## in Southern Oregon

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Although there is still much snow in the Cascades east of Medford, the host of tiny mountain lakes from Seven Lakes basin south to the Mountain Lakes primitive area are now open for fishing.

This also marks the beginning of the "season" for back packers and nature lovers who make use of this scenic back country. It is a world apart from traffic lights, television and the complexities of civilization.

There are no roads, just trails. There is no roar of a diesel engine or chain saw. Here is ultimate quiet. At night perhaps the coyotes will serenade you as you lie in your sleeping bag or the call of an owl will echo across the lake.

In this unspoiled land you will see grouse, deer, chipmunks, pica and other wildlife. Eagles are known to live in the rocky cliffs above one lake. There are bear, too, but you are not apt to see one . . . just his tracks.

Many people have not visited this pleasant country and probably don't want to because they feel they wouldn't appreciate it. But to thousands of others it offers an escape, a chance to enjoy and observe nature in its primitive form.

One man expressed it this way: "I have never been up in that country, but when my three boys are old enough I want to take them there. I would like to show them some real camping . . . not the kind we have done in public parks and recreation areas."

A wilderness bill, now being studied by a committee of the house of representatives in Washington, D.C., would permanently set aside a good part of this country as wild, primitive or limited use areas. There are those that object to "tying up" so much timberland for recreation use. Many of the trees are ripe for cutting and, in time, will be overripe and will go to waste.

Our lumber industry depends on a continued supply of timber and must reach further and further into the virgin stands for prime saw logs and peckers. Roads, one by one, are being "punched" into new areas in order to get logs out.

Is this good or bad? The roads aid in fire control. Economically, it is practical to harvest the timber. The industry provides huge payrolls. It supplies the lumber with which America can build and grow.

Let us hope that we can appease both causes; but that there will always be enough unspoiled land for future generations to enjoy.

Features

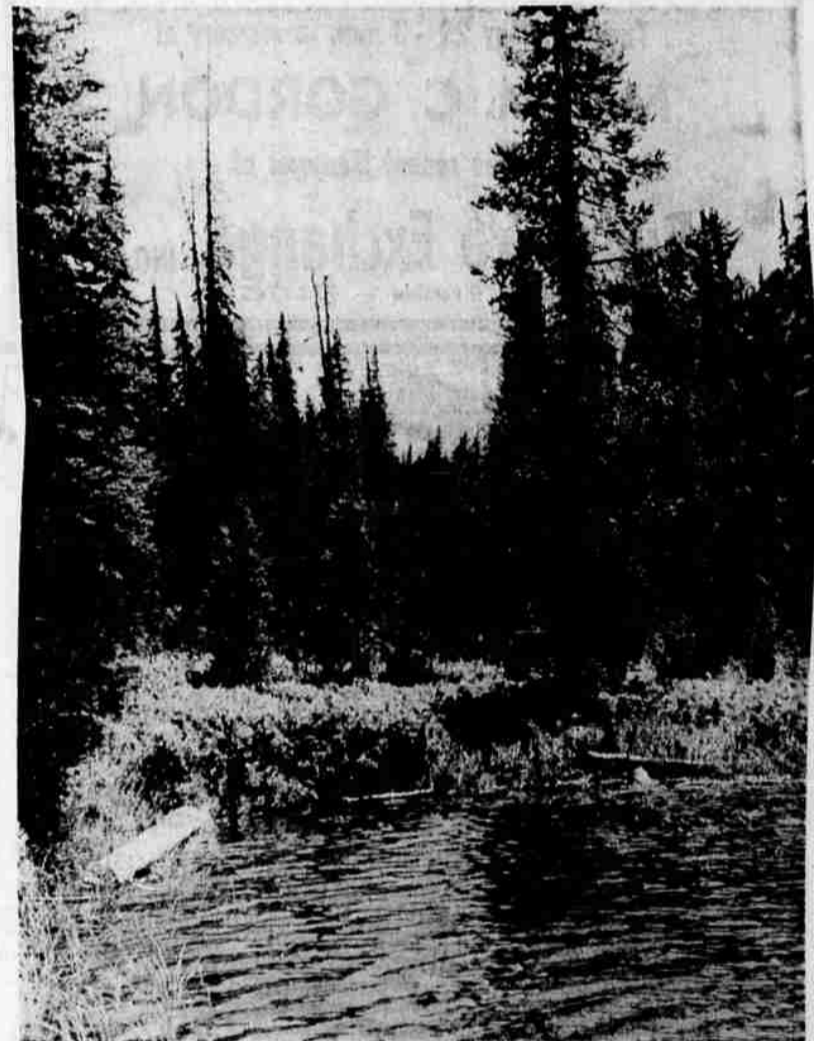
Sports

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Located in an area that is more remote than most, Tsuga lake in the Sky Lakes group is the home of at least one pair of eagles. Mountain lakes are often fed by underwater springs and have no outlet except for seepage.



The shores of Island lake are fringed with huckleberry bushes, which bear about the middle of August. It would be difficult to find a tastier breakfast than pancakes covered with hot huckleberry sauce. This lake is fed by a small stream which has a temperature of about 34 degrees, even in late summer.



A young fisherman, above, displays a catch of pan-sized eastern brook trout taken from Blue lake in Blue canyon. The use of motor boats is prohibited in these areas—



This picturesque cabin on the Skyline trail near Horseshoe lake makes one wonder who built it, and for what reason. It withstood many winters of deep snows and now seems to blend into its wilderness setting.



Along the Skyline trail south of Seven Lakes basin one comes upon many pleasant surprises. Here a small pond, covered with bright yellow blooms, is observed by two young hikers.