

Mt. McLoughlin Angel Indicates Fishing Time

By EVA HAMILTON
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The angel is clear on the mountain and its time to get out the rod and tackle. For newcomers, who do not know the meaning of this, oldtimers will explain.

The snow has melted on the Rogue River valley side of Mt. McLoughlin (affectionately known to early settlers as Mt. Pitt) to the point where the remaining snow takes the form of angel wings.

This is the sign, familiar to pioneers, that it's time to fish the mountain streams. The runoff from the snow crop is slowing down. The little streams fed by the mountain glacier are less full and crystal clear. The speckled trout is ready to rise to the fly.

John Ross of Central Point, son of Colonel John E. Ross of Indian war fame, passed the message on to many young fishermen during his years. His father had learned this legend from the Indians.

Flowers Are Blooming
This snow formation also means that wild flowers are blooming in abundance along tangled trails, known only to fishermen. The beaver has reconstructed his dam after the winter swell and it forms a bridge dependable for the most cautious of cross.

The region traversed by Mt. McLoughlin's gift of streams offers fishing for everyone. In the meadows,

where the lupine grows taller and bluer, there are currents so small that the very youngest fisherman can draw a fat trout from a deep pool, screened by rushes.

That is, of course, if the youngest fisherman has learned to approach the brook in such a way that he does not cast his shadow on the water. The native

mountain trout are wily. That is why they have escaped the army of early season fishermen, now moving on to more distant streams and lakes.

Rugged Trails
In this same area there are rugged trails for the hiker willing to stoop to the height of the first tiger lily or to break through hazel, alder and buck

brush to drop a line in good fishing water; or perhaps to crawl over a bank white with anemones, soon to be replaced by the waxier petals of the bunch berry.

There are many pursuits beckoning persons, who enjoy the great outdoors, in to Mt. McLoughlin's realm. The wild flower collector, the bird watcher and the animal lover will find a wealth of specimens on these trails from early summer into autumn. There are berries, too

for the epicure. Wild strawberries, black cap raspberries and native wild blackberries if the individual is faster than the birds in detecting their ripeness.

Sun Hot in Open
The sun is hot in the open where loggers and fires many years ago destroyed a giant forest. The dust is deep and so are the ruts in byways leading to the Old Military road.

Many, however, are the compensations for those who would fill their lungs

with pine scented air where there are no modern accommodations.

There is a challenge for the engineer in the beaver dams and a finished lesson in deception is offered by the little night hawk, who woos the passerby from the region of her nest, feigning a broken wing.

The chill descends as the sun goes down and wind from the snow mountain makes a campfire good for more than frying fish.

Sleep is Inescapable
Sleep is inescapable in

this setting but interrupted frequently by the barking of coyotes.

Morning comes to reveal a network of tracks in the soft dirt around the camp. The woodland creatures have found man interesting, too.

If the fisherman has not caught the limit he won't complain because of these other gifts surrounding Mt. McLoughlin. If he has, he will leave the sack at dawn to feast upon the best fish fry water has ever spawned.



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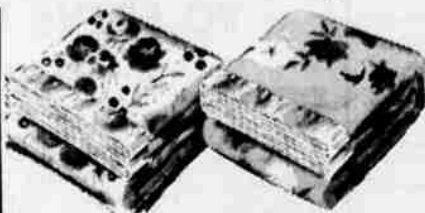
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