

Diamond Lake Resort Continues To Be Popular Vacation Retreat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Diamond lake resort, nestled between two snow capped mountains, Mt. Bailey and Mt.

Thielsen, 85 miles from Medford, continues to be an ever popular vacation spot. Many long-time residents of the Rogue valley like to tell

how they used to rattle over a rutted road to the popular fishing spot in a Model T Ford. The first man to pioneer

this vacation land is today resting, reminiscing and retired. George Howard, 331 Crater Lake ave., Medford, recalls the year 1922 when he and his wife began the hard work of planning and constructing the first building, the lodge, mainly of logs.

Was Crude Affair
It was a crude affair compared to today's structure. Moss was chinked between the logs to keep out the cold, but even then it was drafty. About the same time five tent houses were erected. These were of all lumber floors and sides with tent tops. A natural spring supplied water. Gas lamps provided light.

In late 1929 a Kohler power plant was installed and served the resort until 1960. Then what was California Oregon Power company extended power lines to the area.

Each new resort addition meant clearing more land. Each year until 1948 many new ideas were incorporated in the resort. A crew cleared the original forest service lease of five acres and later expanded the area to 10 acres. The area was nothing but trees and brush when the Howards conceived their resort idea.

Two assets required to make a resort profitable are natural resources and people. The most prominent of these is Diamond lake.

In an early report to the shareholders of the Diamond Lake Improvement company, which he formed, former general manager Howard wrote: **Beautiful Water**

"Diamond lake is a beautiful body of water located 13 miles north of Crater lake with a wonderful highway connecting. The lake is approximately five miles long by two miles wide. Our resort is noted for its scenic beauty and outstanding fishing attractions. There are no severe storms on the lake. It is stocked with large rainbow trout. Oregon maintains a fish hatchery and egg taking station at the lake. This is known as the largest rainbow egg taking station in the world. They have taken as many as 18 million eggs in one season. They hatch and plant back into the lake from one to two million trout every year."

Three highways leading into the resort also help, one coming off The Dalles-California highway from the east, one connecting Crater Lake National park, and a third taking off the Crater Lake highway at Union creek.

People also make a resort pay. Thousands of them have visited the resort, rented fishing boats, motors and the horses kept there for the summer.

Former President
The people included former President Herbert Hoover, and former Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. Hoover fished all summer and was easy to get along with, according to the Howards. They don't remember much about Ickes, except that he enjoyed fishing.

One of the favorite guests was a George Burns, well-known movie comedian. He was a good fisherman and liked to visit with the Howards.

The Howards' son, Bill, or B. G., acted as fishing guide. Burns was amazed at the size of the 16-year-old boy. He weighed about 225 pounds. When Burns asked him why he was so large, B. G. replied, "You see, my mom always wanted 17 kids. She only got one. So, I guess, they put all 17 kids in one hide."

Another resort favorite was Andy Devine who spent several summer vacations at the resort with his family. He liked to visit with the resort operators, too, but would always sneak out when a large crowd gathered.

Resort Reserved
In 1946, the resort was reserved for a cast of 150 plus 300 extras who filmed the movie, "Canyon Passage." Just before the movie company arrived after that Labor Day, Andy Devine commented to the Howards, "You won't like it. We actors are a lot different on location than we are on vacation."

"I often thought of Andy's remark while those people were here," Mrs. Howard said. "Those actors and actresses were high strung due to their work. They partied a lot and tore the place apart. We had to make a lot of repairs later." Devine, who was as easy-going "off stage" as he was in his characterization as an easy going westerner, was amused as Mrs. Howard did her best to please one of the more difficult and snobbish actresses. It was an interest-

ing experience, but she wouldn't do it again, Mrs. Howard said.

Others Visit Resort
Other movie people who visited the resort were Fred MacMurray and Ann Sothern. The film actors and actresses liked to visit the resort

to get away from people and kept to themselves.

In his early report to stockholders, Howard mentioned possibilities of winter sports at the resort. He included possibility of "ski slides and toboggan courses and ice-skating." But these ideas were

never carried out. The Howards feel it would be too difficult to keep the ice swept of snow.

Since the resort is snowed in every winter, the former resort operators feel it would be too difficult to keep it open for winter recreationists.

Present general manager is John Koch, Myrtle Point.

In 1927 the resort had 11 feet of snow on the summit. Howard said he used skis to get into the resort in April and back out again.

When the Howards retired in 1948 they had seen their

ideas become reality. Now it has a number of modern cabins, ultra-modern lodge and a fleet of boats for fishing.

The resort has consistently been a money-maker. The only time a dividend was not paid was in 1932, at the height of the depression.



DIAMOND LAKE LODGE—Mrs. George L. Howard, wife of the original general manager, is shown striding down a path from the lodge at Diamond lake. This is how the lodge looked in its early days. The resort was founded by the Howards in 1922 and run by a stock company.

Officers Installed In Voiture Chapter

The Jackson County Voiture 185, 40 et 8 recently conducted installation of officers for the coming year at a garden party at the home of Col. H. J. Meiring.

Voyageurs installed were Clark J. Walker, Chef de Gare; Roland Smith, Chef de Train; Bruce Harper, Conductor; Bert Staats, Correspondant and Commissaire Intendant; Fred Luy, Garde de la Porte; Granville Brittan, Commiss Voyageur; Ralph Elliott, Lampiste; and Richard Smith, Aumonier.

Installed on the executive committee (Cheminois) were Meiring, Hugh McKenzie, Don Wilson and J. E. Russell.

At the Grand Promenade at Pendleton, Russell was installed as Grand Conductor Du Oregon and Eugene Orr was installed Grand Cheminot for district 11, which comprises both Jackson and Josephine counties.

The Promenade National will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 9 through 12.

Oregon State Fair To Open Friday

Salem—(AP)—Entertainment, exhibits, racing and displays will come to life Friday (Aug. 30) when the Oregon State Fair begins its 98th session, according to fair manager Howard Maple.

More than 300,000 persons are expected to visit the fair during its nine-day run, he said.

There will be agricultural exhibits, arts and crafts and hobby displays, commercial booths, carnival events and a myriad of other activities.

Johnny Rivers and his diving mule will give four free shows daily, Aug. 30 and Sept. 5 will be observed as children's days. Stan Kremien's circus will give two free performances daily.

Dean Melvin Geist's talent show, including 175 Oregon people in some 30 acts, will be staged daily, except Sunday and Monday, from 2 to 4 p. m.

There will be organ concerts and band concerts. In the revue to be held in

the armory auditorium, Jimmie Rodgers and the Fairmounts will be starred. Also on the program will be the Sylte Sisters, Lucho Navarro, the A r wood's dog act and Danny Welton, master of ceremonies.

Christensen Brothers Rodeo will stage a combined rodeo-horse show each evening from opening day through Sept. 5. On Sept. 6 the 4-H show takes over.

A special day for those over 80 will be observed Sept. 3, with free admission to the grounds and prizes to be awarded.

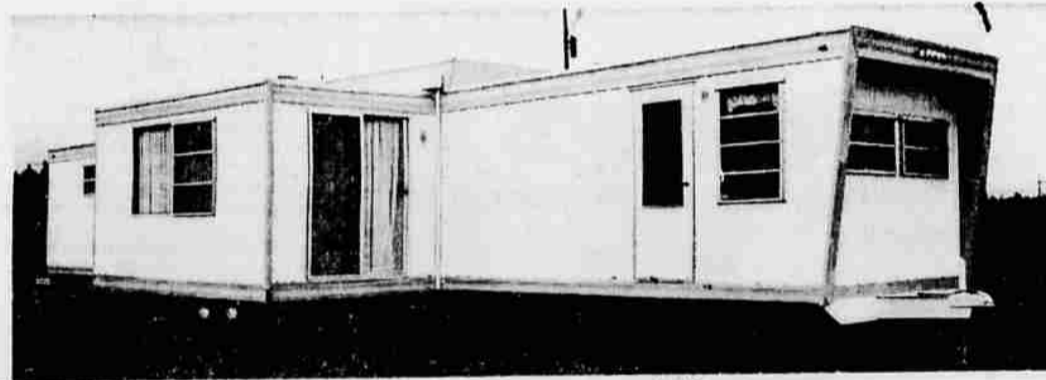
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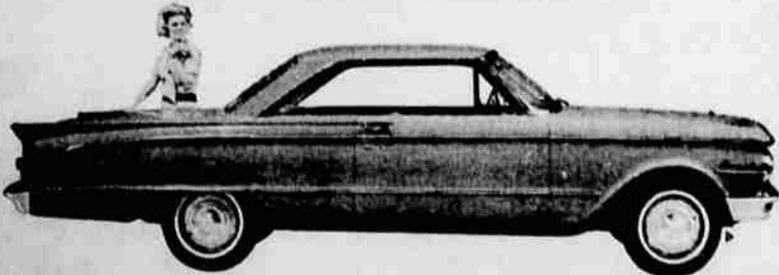
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CHECK BURGLARY

State police Saturday were checking on a burglary of a cabin on the Red Blanket rd. near Prospect. Lloyd Carl Hammer, 521 Beatty st., Medford, reported Saturday a hsp had been pried off the back door but nothing was found missing.