



(8) COOL PARKS ALONG THE ROAD offer a welcome to the traveler. Here is a portion of Casey State Park on the Rogue River above Trail where you are offered access to the river, a tree shaded picnic area and plenty of tables, stoves and all the other paraphernalia necessary to a picnic stop.



(2) TOMAHAWK SKI BOWL offers excellent skiing as well as a lodge, rope tows and ample parking during the snow season. The recently opened winter area lies at the Lake of the Woods junction on the Westside Highway north of Klamath Falls. A matter of only a few minutes drive for those who are ski enthusiasts.

Over The Hill . . . And Back Again

By BIL JENKINS

For anyone wanting a change of scenery while at the same time not taking an extended trip we might suggest a quick trip to the Rogue River Valley and back—over by one route and back by another.

One such trip is the loop consisting of a trip up the Westside road along the Upper Lake, a quick visit to Lake of the Woods and then on over the divide and into Ashland on the Dead Indian grade. From Ashland you can turn north on 99 to Medford, through that town and on to Eagle Point where you veer off again on Highway 62 and make a long, looping curve that will carry you up from the floor of the valley, across the Rogue when it is a tiny little stream and to Union Creek, Crater Lake, Fort Klamath and home.

For newcomers to the area, particularly, this trip will show about as much of the different topographical and climatic features to be found in a relatively close-in area as any we can think of.

Let's take a look. From Klamath Falls you head for Lake of the Woods via the Westside Highway. This gives you an opportunity, on a clear day, to drive along the shore of the lake with its waters lapping at the roadway, the bare hills looming on the opposite shore and, in the fall, the bands of ducks spotted on its surface. You also get a glimpse of timbered hills as you cut through them, fertile farms and ranches and the woodland clearings of the Rogue National Forest which you enter well before you hit the Lake of the Woods turnoff. This area is rapidly becoming the summer home area (See picture 1) closest to town.

Here, too, is Tomahawk Ski Bowl, recently developed winter sports area, crowded after snowfall with enthusiastic skiers from all over the area. (Picture 2)

Here, too, is the Pioneer Guest Ranch and its extensive resort and summer facilities. It was the first recreational site to be started this side of Harriman Lodge, further up the road by a few miles. (Picture 3)

At the ski bowl site you veer off the Westside road, keeping to the blacktop, and head for Lake of the Woods. The highway bends around the lip of the mountain and heads straight for Mt. McLaughlin, commonly known hereabouts as Pitt, and affords the driver and his passengers a splendid view as they speed toward it.

Lake of the Woods, nestled at the foot of the mountain, is one of the better developed summer home and resort areas during the summer months. Heavy snow prevents year-round use at the present time. A pause here is well worth while. When we made the trip we took time out for a breather at Rainbow Camp where you get a good view of the lake. (Picture 4)

You skirt Lake of the Woods, going above the summer home sites at the edge of the lake and then climb up again toward the summit of the Cascades. We found the road good although you leave the pavement at the lake and go on a gravel road for about seven miles to the Jackson County line. Crews from the Klamath County road department were busy widening the road (Picture 5) for future work.

After you cross the divide you

start an abrupt and winding drop from the high country to the soft and fertile stretches of the valley. The road leads you down through the logged over remains of a fir forest, the bleached and whitened skeletons of the remaining trees sticking up starkly against the green backdrop of reproduction. This is soft country and is strictly the land of the rail fence. (Picture 6) You can find the remains of these old fences on every side, many of them winding across lovely little mountain clearings, mute evidence of early day ranching activity.

Logging is still being carried on, and there are cattle grazing on the high meadows, along with a few sheep. All in all a pretty sight. If you drive over in the summer months you will drive down into the heat. There is a certain place on the road, varying from day to day, where you drive out of the comparative cool of the higher altitudes into the hot air of the valley just like going through a door.

Once you hit the floor of the valley you turn north for Ashland. A pause here at Lithia Park, one of the prettiest in the Northwest, will be welcome. You'll find sheltered retreats from the sun, cool ponds, deer pens (Picture 7) and lovely gardens for your enjoyment.

From Ashland head on to Medford, go on through and head for Eagle Point, keeping an eye peeled for the Highway 62 sign. This road is easy to find as all you have to do is look for the signs indicating you are on the right road for Crater Lake.

This road takes you to Trail and then up through Prospect and on to Union Creek. Along the

Rogue River you will find pleasant stopping places, such as Casey State Park (Picture 8) where you can pause for any number of things from eating a basket lunch to fishing or just enjoying the scenery and maybe taking a few color pictures. As you climb higher on the road you cross the Rogue where it is a small and seemingly insignificant stream. Pleasant pools (Picture 9) call to you to pause on your way. At least one point you can walk a few paces from the highway and look down into a rocky, boulder strewn gorge with the river winding and twisting its way down through the tall pines and firs. Really pretty country.

Another stop is called for at Union Creek, one of the prettiest and best kept of all the spots along the road. Here you are deep in the heart of the national forest. All around are the trees and rivers and open spaces of the outdoors with all its clean smells and timbered vistas. You can find practically all you need at Union Creek (Picture 10) for the average stop. Good food, a store and service station and the rest of it.

A short hop up the road from Union Creek you will find a sign directing you to the gorge of the Rogue. Walk a couple of hundred yards from the off-highway parking site and you can see the river tumbling out of the rocky cleft (Picture 11) it has carved out of the living stone over the years. It is a sight guaranteed to take years off your life and take at least some of the pressure off that ulcer.

From Union Creek you climb rapidly, cross the line into Crater Lake National Park and again

cross the Cascade Divide, this time at an elevation of 6,225 feet. The first time the old hill is a little lower. Around 5,800 or something. At any rate you are on top of the hill (Picture 12) when you get here.

Long vistas of road open up, one spectacular stretch showing Union Peak looming above the road. You come down off the summit into Annie Creek at the check station, now being remodeled under Mission 66, and then, if you are in a hurry to get home, turn right and head for Fort Klamath and home. Or, of course, you can spend a little more time and go on up to the lake itself.

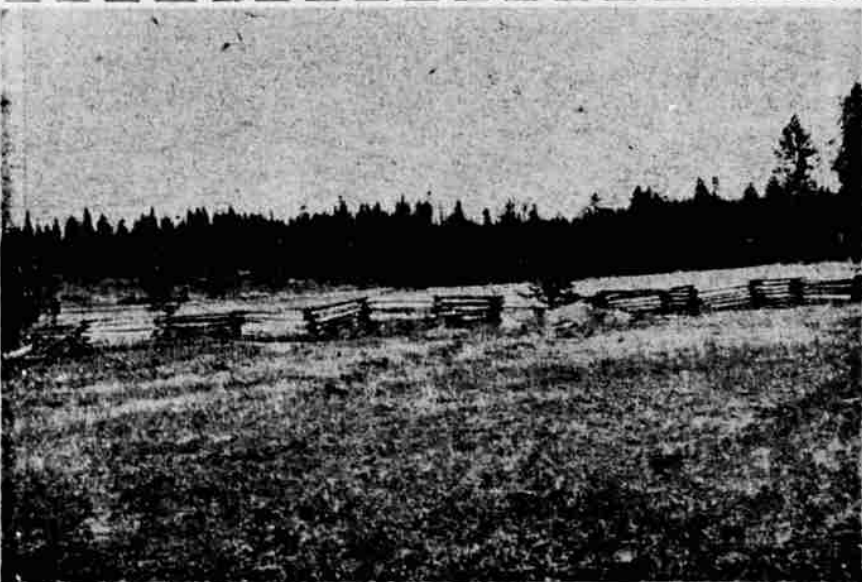
On the way from the lake home you come through the Wood River Valley, the loveliest valley in the world. Through Fort Klamath, across Fort Creek and Crooked Creek and past the Indian Agency. Then the long run down the Upper Lake and you're home again.

We have run so many pictures of Crater Lake and the Wood River country that we shall forego any more here. Lack of space, only.

You might also consider, here, another side trip. You can veer off just before hitting Fort Klamath and pay a visit to Kimball State Park at the head of Wood River without much loss of time. Well worth it.

The whole trip can be made in a matter of five or six hours comfortably and it makes a suitable all-day trip if you take your time—and a flock of pictures.

You are on blacktop roads all the way except for that one little stretch out of Lake of the Woods. And that is a perfectly good road.



(6) RAIL FENCES wandering over mountain meadows are a sure sign of early day occupancy in any country. This picture was snapped on the Rogue side of the mountains about half way down to Ashland from Lake of the Woods. There are many such pretty little clearings on the trip, particularly beautiful in the spring.



(12) THE TOP OF THE HILL. Here, in Crater Lake National Park, is the sign denoting the summit of the Cascade Divide. The elevation is not enough to take your breath away but it does knock the edge off the heat on a summer day and put a certain nip in the air during the fall.