

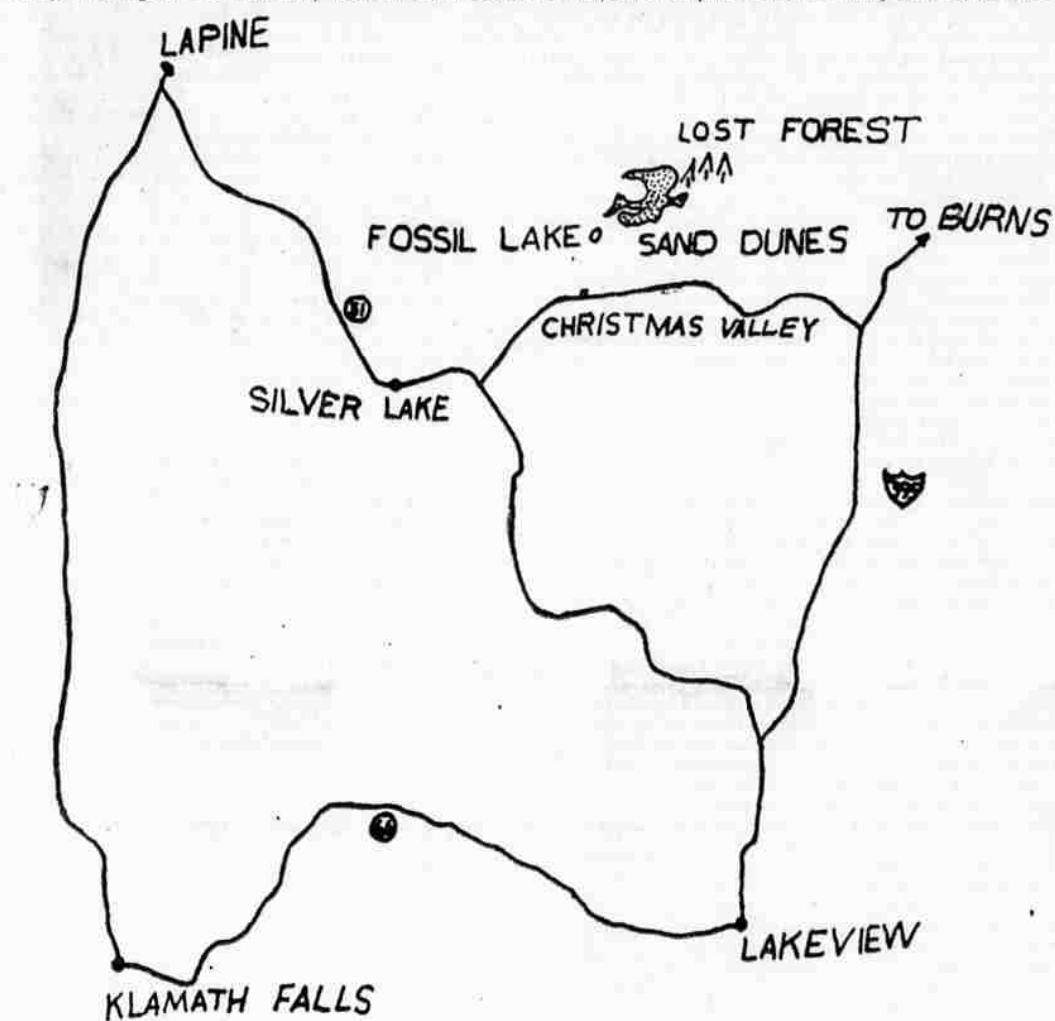


LOST FOREST AND SHIFTING SANDS — The Lost Forest of Northern Lake County, long regarded as a true oddity by foresters and geologists, is a relic of a larger forest which once covered a large area, according to conclusions drawn by Dick Wallace Berry. Working on his Ph.D., Berry made intensive studies of the ponderosa pine trees,



shrubs, sands, and soils of the 9,100-acre area during 1959 and 1960 when he camped there with his family. Pictured on the left is his determination of a favorable site for pine reproduction. The western and southwestern end of the Lost Forest is bordered by shifting sand dunes, shown at right. One of the dunes is encroaching upon a part of

the forest, burying many standing pine trees. However, the dunes may have recreation potential as consideration is currently being given to setting aside the region encompassing the forest, dunes, and Fossil Lake for primitive camping.



DIFFICULT FOREST ACCESS — Access to Lost Forest from the south is by three rather primitive roads as compared with highway travel. Or from Highway 20 it is possible to travel from a point between Brothers and Hampton, past Frederick Butte. The U.S. Army Map

Service Crescent Quadrangle is the best available map of the area. The scale — one inch equals five miles. A stop at Christmas Valley Lodge or its offices might provide a visitor with further orientation.

Two Summers In 'Forest Island' Puzzling But Interesting Study

By HELEN PARKS

Is your modern vision of research one of individuals surrounded by complicated and costly equipment, those experimenting with the atom, or others probing the secrets of outer space with the price tag in the millions? Then you should know the Dick Berry family who savored each moment of living in a "forest island" for two summers while searching out some answers.

From early explorers to present day tourists, nearly everyone who has found the Lost Forest in the Christmas Lake Basin of North Lake County has asked, "Why?" How can pine trees survive and even reproduce where apparently the dryland junipers can barely make it?

This puzzled Dick Berry, too, as he stood amidst this seeming phenomenon some 15 years ago. He began to lay plans for further study, study which would soon be pertinent to the consideration of this very forest as a primitive recreation area. In April of this year the initial visit to the site was made by state and federal park planners.

Long Study Trail

By the time we met this fascinating family, they were well along the trail toward fulfillment of Dick's academic goal, the Ph.D. For 15 years director of the Forest Lands Research Center at Oregon State University, Berry was majoring in forest management, seeking his degree from the School of Forestry. A money grant from the Weyerhaeuser Company helped finance the research.

The purpose of the study was dual: Determining the nature of the community or communities constituting the forest and determining how it was able to survive under conditions which normally do not permit the growth of ponderosa pine.

He titled his dissertation "An Ecological Study of a Disjunct Ponderosa Pine Forest in the Northern Great Basin in Oregon." It would take more than a few weekends to gather accurate, thorough data of several types from which to make comparisons and to show relationships. So plans were laid. Field study would precede lab study. This, he felt, could be accomplished in two summers if he lived in the forest.

Being together as a family was important. Fortunately, camping out was a summertime tradition and a tent part of their equipment. Deciding what must go and what they could do without in transplanting a household some 225 miles and providing a certain essence of comfort along with the bare necessities took some doing.

Located exactly 30 airline miles due east of the town of Port Rock, their forest island covered 9,100 acres, extending approximately six miles in length east to west and 2 1/2 miles wide. This was 35 miles from the nearest ponderosa pine forest at an altitude of 4,300 feet above sea level. Here the mean annual rainfall is 9.5 inches, the humidity low and summer nights cool following hot days.

Woodland Home Site

On an overnight outing our-

selves three summers ago, we chose early morning to call on the Berrys. We had heard about the professor who was doing research and wondered if we would feel like intruders.

We wound around over the few miles that separated our camp from where we understood their camp would be. And there it was, nestled among the pines at the foot of the slope leading to a large rock outcropping which afforded a panoramic view of the forest.

Stepping out to introduce ourselves, we were greeted as cordially as if they had been expecting us. Breakfast nearly over, Opal Berry was just turning the last hotcake. Before we knew it she was pouring lemonade for her dozen visitors. Realizing that it was made from their precious stored water supply made it all the more refreshing.

Like any family enjoys showing friends their home, still quite new, they gave us a tour of their open-air dwelling now in its second year of occupancy, the summer of 1960.

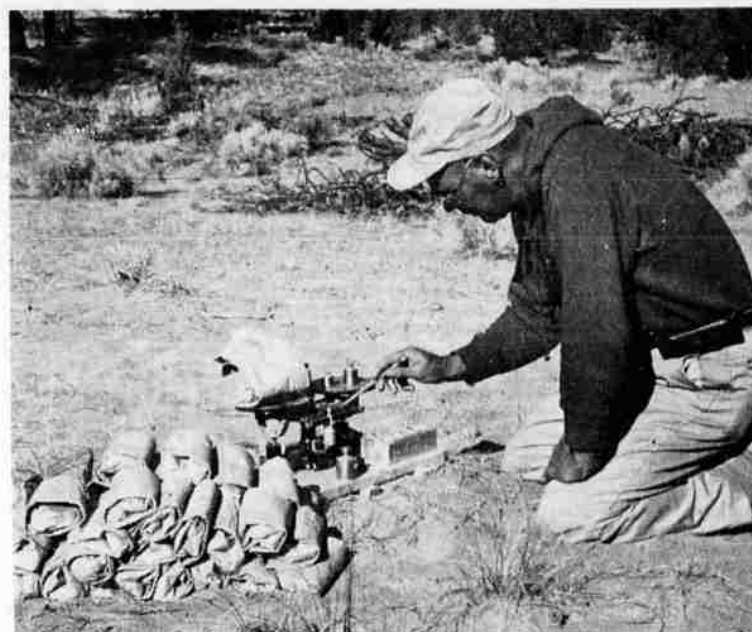
Combining the scientific and the artistic, their home in the woods was complete with laboratory and library, cooking, dining, and sleeping areas. The sky and pine branches canopied this summer home, with changes of sunlight and shade automatically controlled by Mother Nature. Their tent provided protection for clothing and lent family comfort to chillier nights and the occasional rainstorm.

This year's innovations were pointed out with pride. The lat-

est in outdoor kitchen drainboards was one of Dick's inventions. Still, wire netting permitted draining dishes without any wipe-up problem and should the dishwasher spill, so what? The sandy soil beneath was a handy sponge.

For young Dickie, then 4, a workshop with fallen tree limbs

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ACCURACY THE WATCHWORD — Soil samples taken for Berry's project were promptly weighed and labeled as to site. Laboratory analysis later provided additional information needed for comparison. Following completion of his graduate work, Berry joined the staff of the University of Arizona at Flagstaff as an assistant professor of forestry.



SEEDLING DROUGHT RESISTANCE STUDY — Seeds from the Lost Forest germinated quicker than seeds from other sources in lab tests. Sunflower seeds were planted in pots six weeks after seedlings were started as part of the drought resistance study. Here they have reached the wilting point while the seedlings are still healthy. Temperature, light conditions, and moisture were controlled for the study. Results showed that Lost Forest seedlings do not appear to show superior survival ability under high soil moisture stress.



PICNIC EVERY DAY — Lost Forest research was a family affair. Dickie and Mary Pam had their own activities while Opal Berry recorded data for her husband. Wearing Dad's "tin" hat looks like a special privilege for the young forester. The hat and a shovel, Dick Berry feels, seem far more fitting symbols of completion of requirements for his Ph.D. than the usual academic regalia.



WATER IN THE WASTE — Surface water is very scarce or totally lacking in the Lost Forest area except during the winter or early spring. But in the Fossil Lake area, approximately a mile from the western end of the forest, are two springs — Sand Spring and Mound Spring. A stock watering tank shows use of Mound Spring water for cattle during the grazing period.

Features

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, JULY 14, 1963



SCENIC CONDITIONS — Park planner Victor Ecklund of Portland, associated with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Interior, right, and Paul Arrasmith, recreation specialist with the Portland office of the Bureau of Land Management, left, viewed Lost Forest under a light snow cover in mid-April. The party did reconnaissance for recreational possibilities.



BREAKFAST TIME — The dolls must be fed and the kitchen's the coziest place for the job. The Berrys established a spacious but compact campsite for two memorable summers of forest living. Over Mary's shoulder may be seen the fireplace which served as a kitchen range and sometimes as a heater. A Coleman gas stove was handy for a meal in a hurry.