

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK'S MANZANITA LAKE: A BRIEF HISTORY

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Some three centuries ago (c. 1660), a gigantic mass of dacite lava broke away from the northern side of "Chaos Crags," the series of lava plugs that lie northwest of Lassen Peak in north central California. The huge avalanche swept down the Crag's western slope, crossed two miles of relatively flat land, and came to rest against the side of Table Mountain. The rock debris ("Chaos Jumbles") diverted Manzanita Creek from its original course and dammed it up. This created Manzanita Lake — a mountain jewel that was eventually to become a lodestone for visitors to Lassen Volcanic National Park.¹ The story of this lake from its geologic origins to the present day is an interesting chapter in the history of northern California.

At the time of the massive slide, when this short history begins, the Atsuge Indians of the Shastan-speaking Atsugewi inhabited the area. Their permanent camps were several miles to the northeast in Hat Creek Valley, but in the summer they would move up into the mountains for a change of scene and to escape the valley heat.² Fat, eighteen-inch trout abounded, and the Indians dried much of their plentiful summer catch for winter consumption.

When white men entered this mountainous region in the middle of the 19th century, they found Atsuge Chief Shavehead in control of the southern half of Hat Creek Valley, the area around Manzanita Lake, and the northern slopes of Lassen Peak.³ Shavehead and his band usually got along peacefully with their Indian neighbors and the early white pioneers, but in the 1850's hostilities broke out along the Pit River, and the Atsuge were among many Indians removed to the Round Valley Reservation across the Coast Ranges in Mendocino County.⁴ For most of the Atsuge this was a temporary dislocation only. They were soon back in home territory, and Shavehead and his small band (perhaps fifty had survived the encroachment of the white man) fished in Manzanita Lake for many years and sold their catch to ranchers and lumbermen in the foothill country. Old Shavehead died in the summer of 1900, but a few Atsuge, principally those known as the "Brown families," continued to use the Manzanita Lake fishing grounds, probably as late as



Lassen Peak over Manzanita Lake

Courtesy Park Service

1914 and 1915 when the Lassen Peak eruptions muddied the water and killed the fish.⁵

The Lassen Peak country remained largely unknown to white men until the gold rush. Pierson B. Reading, prospecting in the foothills, was among the first to see Manzanita Lake. He reported stocking it with "fierce-eyed silver-sided fish" by carrying them in buckets from Lost and Hat Creeks.⁶ The real opening of the region came when Nobles Trail became a popular route for crossing the mountains. The trail ran half a mile north of the lake and connected the Big Bend of the Humboldt River with the northern Sacramento Valley. It provided an easy mountain crossing via Nobles Pass, just two or three miles east of Manzanita Lake, and was widely publicized by William H. Nobles of Shasta City.⁷ In 1854 alone, over 3,200 men, women, and children with 33,000 head of livestock passed Roop's Fort (Susanville) on the trail bound for the Sacramento River.⁸ The following year, Sam Lockhart established a Yreka route that branched from Nobles Trail near Manzanita Lake and added to the traffic.⁹ Nobles Trail, or Nobles Road as it was sometimes called, remained a major thoroughfare

until the Central Pacific Railroad reached the Humboldt in 1867 and diverted travel farther to the south.

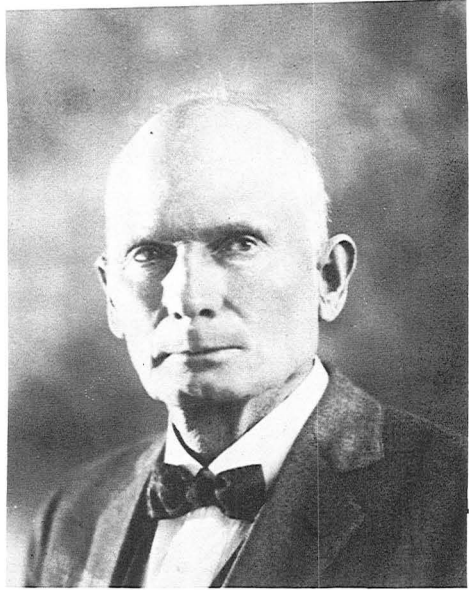
The Nobles route was so popular that it had long been considered a possible right of way for the first transcontinental railroad. To investigate this possibility, in July, 1854, Lieutenant E. G. Beckwith led a reconnaissance party from Fort Reading via Canoe Creek (Hat Creek) to Nobles Pass and back. After looking over other possibilities as well, Beckwith concluded that the best route for a railroad from the Humboldt to the upper Sacramento was via Nobles Pass.¹⁰ The following year Lieutenant Henry L. Abbot also investigated possible railroad routes from the Sacramento Valley to the Columbia River and reported his preference for the Nobles Pass crossing. From the pass he noted the fine view of "Lassen's Butte" to the south.¹¹

Despite the real advantages of the Nobles Pass route, however, Donner Pass far to the south was selected for the Central Pacific Railroad.¹² Local people in the upper Sacramento Valley were disappointed to be by-passed, but at least Manzanita Lake was spared the loss of its peaceful mountain atmosphere.

For the remainder of the 19th century, the lake remained primarily a retreat for local citizens. Residents of the lumber mills of the Shingletown area fished the lake and hunted in its vicinity; sheepmen and cattlemen drove their stock up the Manzanita Chute (a narrow trail through the thick manzanita) past the lake and into the high summer grazing range beyond; and sportsmen from the Sacramento Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area sometimes visited the slopes of Lassen Peak and camped by Manzanita and other entrancing lakes of the region.

One visitor, Benjamin F. Loomis, decided to build a shelter by Manzanita Lake. As a child in 1857 he had come west in a covered wagon. Then, in the summer of 1874, he camped by the lake in a temporary hut and began cutting shakes for a living. A few years later he built a substantial cabin along the Emigrant Road below Manzanita Chute and continued his occupation as a shake maker.¹³ This man was later to become one of the most influential figures in the history of the lake, and indeed of the whole region.

About 110 yards north and slightly higher than Manzanita Lake lay another lake about one-third as large.¹⁴ It had been formed when water filled one of the major depressions in Chaos Jumbles. Known at different times as Stockton Lake, Mud Lake, Catfish Lake, and Mirror Lake, it finally received a name that stuck: Reflection Lake. In 1857, Dr. John E. Stockton, a prominent local



Benjamin Franklin Loomis
Courtesy Park Service

citizen, physician, and surveyor, stocked it with minnows from Hat Creek, and two years later he and William H. Coffey began the development of "Little Manzanita Lake" (at *they* called it) for "fish culturing purposes."

Stockton and Coffey filed on water rights in Manzanita Creek so that they could divert it for use on their fish farm and for agricultural purposes.¹⁵ Stockton planned also to cut ice from the lake in winter, store it in an ice house, and sell it during the summer to people in the valley below. A stranger visiting the region in 1878 found Stockton living on the banks of the small lake. The minnows, now grown to nearly a foot in length, could be seen jumping from the water, and the enthusiastic visitor felt that "some enterprising man should build a hotel on the banks of Manzanita Lake and invite people to visit this truly romantic and pleasant summer retreat."¹⁶

In 1883 Coffey acquired a patent to forty acres of land that included the southeast corner of Reflection Lake. He apparently did little more to develop the property, however, which twenty years later (in 1904) passed into the hands of the Herbert Kraft Company Bank of Red Bluff. Later that same year, Walter Armstrong bought the property for an estimated eighty dollars, not because he wanted it but because the bank sold it along with 360 acres elsewhere that he really did want.¹⁷



Shake-making, Shingletown, 1877

Courtesy Park Service

In the last years of the 19th century, the country near Manzanita and Reflection Lakes, especially the Viola-Shingletown area, prospered from lumbering, grazing, and farming, but by 1910 the growth of these homeowned and operated businesses had been curbed. By acquiring water rights, the power companies acquired control of the land as well, thereby eliminating many local ranches; and the United States Forest Service, which had jurisdiction over Lassen National Forest (established in 1905), placed restrictions on sheepmen and cattlemen, thereby greatly reducing grazing, while at the same time it controlled large tracts of timber.¹⁸ Moreover, T. B. Walker, a Minnesota timber magnate and owner of the

Red River Lumber Company, after buying up much of the privately owned timber lands in the Viola-Shingletown area, decided not to develop them.¹⁹

Between 1901 and 1906, Albert (Bert) W. Smith, a prominent Shingletown lumberman, dominated developments at Manzanita Lake. He acquired title to 120 acres of select state land, filed for a 160-acre homestead, and filed for rights to water from Manzanita Lake and its outlet for use on his homestead and on property farther downstream. He then hired a man by the name of Thad Webb to build a cabin and "prove up" on the claim for him.²⁰

In 1902 Webb built a one-room 12 x 12 foot cabin near the inlet, and later moved it across the lake next to the outlet. Here he grew a small garden of radishes, onions, cabbage, turnips and lettuce and started a diversion ditch westward from the right side of the outlet. He lived at the cabin until Christmas, 1902, and again for six months in the following year. When Smith made a cash entry and received a patent to the homestead in July, 1904, he virtually controlled Manzanita Lake.²¹ But two years later, in November, 1906, he sold his 280 acres to H. H. Noble of San Francisco, for an undisclosed amount.²² Noble in turn deeded the land to the Northern California Power Company. With this transfer of property and with the gradual closing of the old timber mills below Manzanita Lake, a new era dominated by the power companies was ushered in.

As far back as 1893 the Shasta County World's Fair Committee had noted optimistically that various speculative proposals had been made to take water from Manzanita Lake and from major rivers such as the Pit, for the purpose of providing irrigation and hydroelectric power for farms and towns of northern California.²³ In 1900 Noble had initiated the first such project when he organized the Keswick Electric Power Company, primarily for the purpose of supplying power to the Mountain Copper Company. The Keswick Company, which completed its first power house at Volta in 1901, became the Northern California Power Company in 1902, and rapidly absorbed a number of smaller power companies.²⁴ By 1906 it already owned so much land that it had itself gone into the cattle and lumber businesses.²⁵

On acquiring the land around Manzanita Lake from Noble, the company set about clearing the brush and debris from the natural channel of Manzanita Creek. This increased the flow from the lake across National Forest land to one of the company's reservoirs which had previously not received any flow except during

high water.²⁶ Next the company proposed to utilize Manzanita Lake as a reservoir to help produce power at the Volta Power Plant. It planned a dam 500 feet in length, ten feet high, and eight feet wide at the top, with timber sheeting on the inside surfaces.²⁷

When actual construction began in 1911-1912, however, the volcanic rock in the area proved so porous that it was impossible to raise the lake's level more than two feet. The company, unable to discover where the water disappeared, abandoned the project.²⁸ This was the second time in its history that the lake region was saved fortuitously from serious depredation. The first time was when the Central Pacific Railroad chose Donner instead of Nobles Pass for its right of way. This time the porosity of volcanic rock proved to be its salvation.

Thus it was that when Lassen Peak erupted in 1914, both Manzanita and Reflection Lakes were still undeveloped except for a couple of cabins and a useless dam. The eruption had far-reaching effects on the whole region. Silt and ash significantly reduced the size and depth of Manzanita Lake, and the mud flows from the 1915 eruptions brought such muddy water down Manzanita Creek that the trout died and the lake remained a milky color for two to three years.²⁹ One immediate effect was that tourists, newsmen, and scientists poured into the area to observe the volcanic activity. Benjamin F. Loomis, for instance, who had by this time moved to Viola, practically commuted between his home and the Peak, as he compiled a photographic record of the intermittent 1914 and 1915 eruptions.³⁰

The widespread publicity in newspapers and magazines across the country, coupled with the active efforts of such men as Arthur L. Conrad of Red Bluff, M. E. Dittmar of Redding, and especially Congressman John E. Raker of Alturas, led to the creation of Lassen Volcanic National Park in 1916.³¹ The new park, however, did not include Manzanita and Reflection Lakes, although they had been a way-station for the many visitors to the area during the eruptions. There were two decisive reasons for this restriction of the park boundaries. In the first place much of the land around the lakes was privately owned. In the second place the Forest Service opposed the inclusion of the area around the lakes, which was under its administration, as had been the area from which the park was created. Naturally, the Forest Service was loath to lose control of any more territory.

The first major development of the lake region was initiated by

Loomis when he employed his sawmill crew of about ten men, headed by Fred Hootman, to build a road from Manzanita Lake up the creek to Crescent Meadows at the foot of Lassen Peak. From there they constructed a trail to the summit. This was the principal route for hikers for many years. Loomis also had Hootman complete a road from Manzanita Lake across the Devastated Area, the land covered by the mud flow of May 1915.³² Then in 1916 Loomis established a hotel at Viola, providing the earliest accommodations for park visitors on the west side of the mountain, and together with Dittmar worked for the development of the western approach to the park.³³

While the lakes eventually gained importance because of their location at what became the west portal to the park, they were largely neglected during the first fifteen years of the park's existence. Most tourists in the 1920's visited the resorts on the south side of the park because the easiest approach to the park was via an improved road from Red Bluff to Susanville. The road from Redding to Manzanita Lake remained barely passable, and there were as yet no facilities at the lake except for campers.

Active development of the park itself began only after the mid-1920's when the Lassen Volcanic National Park Association, headed by Conrad and Dittmar, succeeded in getting Congress to



Hauling logs to Loomis saw mill at Viola.

Courtesy Park Service

appropriate funds for the project. Even then the initial appropriations were spent principally on the south side to begin construction of the loop highway into the park. Dittmar, who knew the area well, proposed extensive road construction within the park, which would have extended the roads begun by Loomis and Hootman.³⁴ His proposals were not acted upon, however.

In 1924, Dittmar also proposed an extension of the park's northwest boundary to include Manzanita and Reflection Lakes.³⁵ Both Dittmar and Loomis stressed that Manzanita Lake was obviously the site of the future major portal to the park, and therefore the best site for a permanent park headquarters. But in 1928 Mineral, on the south side, was selected instead, for several reasons. Mineral was already the temporary headquarters; it was situated along the only improved road near the park; and the Forest Service offered to turn over to the Park Service eighty acres of its land for the purpose.

Proposals for a major extension of the park boundaries met continued opposition despite the fact that the existing boundaries were obviously unsatisfactory. The Forest Service objected strenuously to transferring to the Park Service any extensive tracts of land of potential economic value. A. E. Weislander of the Forest Service specifically opposed adding the Manzanita Lake region to the park. He pointed out that more than 75 per cent of its area was capable of producing good timber, that it provided forage for eighty-two cattle, and that the lake, the principal scenic attraction outside of the park, was in private hands. He was satisfied that the existing park boundaries separated everything that was truly important to a park from land whose chief value was economic, and therefore should not be changed.³⁶

In the summer of 1927, a joint field investigation headed by S. B. Show of the Forest Service and Thomas C. Vint of the Park Service led to a legislative compromise. Vint pointed out in his report that Manzanita Lake, the one area suitable for tourist use near the northwest boundary of the park, was visited by as many people each year as visited the park, that the lake shore was used as a campground, picnic area and starting point for hiking to the summit of Lassen Peak, and that the privately owned lands, which fortunately had not been commercially developed, were used freely by tourists. He contended, on the basis of these facts, that the Manzanita Lake region should be part of the park.³⁷

Dittmar actively supported Vint's proposal for an extension of the park boundaries, and was anxious to include the "volcanic

... ultimately the park Service is aware of this danger. It is one that confronts it everywhere. The situation at Manzanita Lake is a

phenomena associated with Chaos Crags eruptions and the Pioneer Emigrant Road" which skirted Manzanita Lake to the north. He pointed out that the Emigrant Road would provide the best approach from the west via the Manzanita portal. He kept in close touch with Congressman Harry Englebright, who introduced a Park boundary extension bill in March, 1928.³⁸ The Forest Service was opposed to the boundaries as set out in the bill, and offered a compromise which, Dittmar felt, set the boundary too close to the lakes. He feared that hunters would be a danger, and that there might be unsightly developments nearby.

With perserverance Englebright succeeded in formulating an acceptable compromise. Although the settlement left the boundary close to the lakes, it did include the Chaos Crags area and part of the Emigrant Road and excluded a Forest Service proposal that part of the original park be returned to its control. On January 19, 1929, Englebright's bill became law, and Manzanita and Reflection Lakes were finally brought within the boundaries of Lassen Volcanic National Park.³⁹

Now the problem was how to acquire the lands in the lake area that were still privately owned. Some time earlier Loomis had volunteered to buy the forty-acre tract that included a corner of Reflection Lake, still owned by Walter Armstrong, and to turn it over to the National Park Service for building and administrative purposes, retaining for himself only the right to ask later for certain concessions. In 1926, after being warned that Armstrong might increase his price of \$1000 if he discovered the federal government's interest in the area, Loomis hastened to make the purchase.⁴⁰ In the following year he directed construction of the Mae Loomis Memorial Museum, dedicated to his only daughter who had died seven years earlier. With the passage of Englebright's park expansion bill in 1929, the Loomises lost no time donating their property to the Park Service.⁴¹

This left Manzanita Lake, the key piece of privately owned property, still in the hands of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which had owned it since 1919 when P. G. and E. acquired control of Northern California Power Company. Horace M. Albright, Director of the National Park Service, met with two P. G. and E. vice-presidents in May, 1929, and suggested that the land be donated to the government as a public gesture. He explained how important this area was to the park and that the government currently had no money for the purchase of private lands. The officials cooperated by holding the property off the market al-

though they had received three separate offers from private parties who recognized its potential as a resort.⁴² After further negotiations Albright and A. F. Hockenbeamer, president of the company, agreed on a price of \$30,000, half of which the company donated as a gift.⁴³ Early in 1931, P. G. and E. deeded its 280 acres, which included Manzanita Lake, to the United States government.

That same year Lassen Volcanic National Park was officially dedicated with the opening of the Loop Highway connecting Manzanita Lake with Mineral via the slopes of Lassen Peak. On one day alone, July 25, over 15,000 people visited the park. This event marked the coming of age of the park, which ever since has had increasing numbers of visitors each year.⁴⁴

Now that Manzanita Lake was part of the park, the Park Service could proceed to develop the area for public use. First it tore down three or four old "nondescript" buildings which were not in accord with national park standards.⁴⁵ With this step, all evidence of the pioneer cabins was gone. Construction of a campground began right away, and the Civilian Conservation Corps added many improvements. Manzanita Lake became the "education headquarters" of the park. By 1933 park rangers offered nightly campfire programs, museum talks, automobile caravans, and nature walks around Reflection Lake.⁴⁶

Late in 1932, two park rangers, Don Hummel and Charles E. Keathley, applied for and received concession rights in the park. With the financial backing of Dallas Dort, they formed Lassen National Park Camp, Ltd., and in 1933 completed an attractive lodge building and nine cabins at Manzanita Lake. Here, during the summers, they offered meals and cabin accommodations, grocery supplies, gasoline, oil, and boat rentals on Manzanita and Reflection Lakes. Business prospered despite the depression, so that two years later they constructed a large dining room, ten double housekeeping cabins, and an addition to the lodge.⁴⁷ New facilities were added as necessary: a cafeteria and tent cabins in 1946, a new store in 1956, and in 1966 the Park Service completed a camper service building. Thus Manzanita Lake became and has remained the center of park visitation and public accommodations.

Although the beauty of Manzanita Lake and the Lassen Peak region has enriched the lives of many people, its very beauty has now become a danger to the lake itself. In the early years, through various fortunate circumstances, the lake was spared the environmental damage incident to railroad construction, and escaped being used for water storage or for private resort development. And until

fairly recently, its relative isolation and lack of good roads have combined to keep down the number of visitors. Today, however, because of better roads into the area, and an ever increasing number of vacationers and tourists everywhere, the lake's beauty and the quality of its environment are threatened by overuse.⁴⁸

Fortunately the Park Service is aware of this danger. It is one that confronts it everywhere. The situation at Manzanita Lake is simply one example of a very pressing conservation problem—how to determine for each national park, on the basis of its size and nature, the amount of use it will sustain without permanent injury, and without ultimate loss of its esthetic and recreational values. It is to be hoped that a method of appraising the capacity of individual park areas will have been devised, and a program predicted on such appraisals put into effect, before time runs out on beautiful and vulnerable Manzanita Lake.

- 1 Paul E. Schulz, *Geology of Lassen's Landscape* (Mineral, Lassen Volcanic National Park, 1959), pp. 52-54. Many early pioneers recounted how they could look down through the clear water and see the tops of tall trees which had not yet decayed beneath the surface. For example, see B. F. Loomis, "The Noble Pass," typed manuscript in 101-06.4 The Noble Trail, Lassen Volcanic National Park Headquarters. The Park collection is cited hereafter as LVNPH.
- 2 The Indians' permanent camps could air out before another season of winter confinement. Adan E. Treganza, "An Archaeological Survey of Aboriginal and Early Historic Sites of Lassen Volcanic National Park, California," typed manuscript, LVNPH.
- 3 Thomas R. Garth, *Atsugewi Ethnography*, Anthropological Records, XIV, No. 2 (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1953), pp. 129-176; Carmen Schuler, "George Frederick and Elizabeth Schuler and Early Days in Eastern Shasta County," *Covered Wagon* (1962), 29; and B. F. Loomis, "The Noble Pass."
- 4 Asa Merrill Fairfield, *Fairfield's Pioneer History of Lassen County* (San Francisco, H. S. Croker Co., 1916), p. 180. Also see *San Francisco Bulletin*, September 1, 1856, and *Sacramento State Journal*, September 6, 1856.
- 5 *Shasta Courier* (Redding), December 15, 1877; Mrs. Emma Wilcox, "Charles Winthrop Wilcox," *Covered Wagon*, VII, No. 5 (1950), 51-52; and an interview of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Armstrong of Deer Flat by Park Naturalist Harry Robinson, August, 1944, typed notes in 101-06.2 Local Indians, LVNPH; and interview of Leo McCoy by Douglas Strong, June 18, 1969. McCoy drove sheep past the lake between 1895 and 1913. Also see Anna Scharsch DeBow, "This and That About Lassen Park," 1965, typed copy at Kraft Library, Red Bluff. DeBow spent her childhood at Scharsch Meadows.

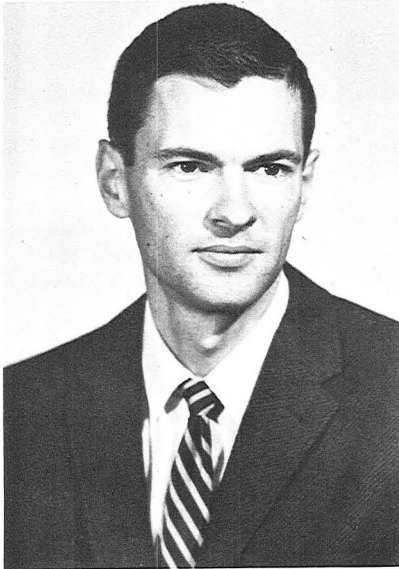
- 6 As told by J. E. Stockton in "Snowy Shasta," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 13, 1887.
- 7 Mrs. Carl Swartzlow, "The Noble Trail," *Covered Wagon* (1957), 21-22. William Asbury who traveled Nobles Trail in 1852 claimed that he was the first white man to see the lake.
- 8 *Shasta Courier* (Redding), October 21, 1854.
- 9 Interview of Leo McCoy.
- 10 Lieut. E. G. Beckwith, Report of Explorations for a Route for the Pacific Railroad on the Line of the Forty First Parallel, in the United States War Department's *Reports of Explorations and Survey . . . 1853-54*, II (Washington, Beverly Tucker, 1855), pp. 54-58, 62.
- 11 Report of Lieut. Henry L. Abbott . . . upon explorations of a railroad route from the Sacramento Valley to the Columbia River, 33rd Cong., 2d Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 91, VI (Washington, 1857), p. 60.
- 12 For the advantages of Nobles Pass, see "Pacific Railroad," *Red Bluff Semi-Weekly Independent*, September 26, 1862. Also see Robert Amesbury, *Nobles' Emigrant Trail* (Robert Amesbury, 1967), p. 36.
- 13 Estella M. Loomis, notebook on the life of her husband, B. F. Loomis, written in pencil, n. d., in "Loomis Family General file, LVNPH.
- 14 Reflection Lake is 14 acres, Manzanita Lake 53 acres.
- 15 *Shasta Courier* (Redding), July 7, 1877; and Recorder's Office, Shasta County Courthouse, Misc. Records Books I, p. 295. For a time they raised timothy hay and vegetables.
- 16 "A Trip To Manzanita Lake," *Daily People's Cause* (Red Bluff), September 18, 1878.
- 17 Assessor's Office, Shasta County Courthouse, Shasta Land Office Transcript-East, p. 263. Also see the interview of the Armstrongs. Coffey sold this and other land to Francis Harris, August 2, 1902. The bank gained control of the property early in 1904.
- 18 Interviews of Leo McCoy and the Armstrongs.
- 19 B. F. Loomis, "The Shingle and Shake Business in the Shingletown Country," typed manuscript in 101-06.9.3 Shingletown-Viola Area file, LVPNH.
- 20 Recorder's Office, Shasta County Courthouse, Water Rights Book I, pp. 264, 337-38, 469, 526; Assessor's Office, Shasta County Courthouse, Shasta Land Office Transcripts-East, p. 263; and interview of Thad Webb by Harry Robinson, Fall, 1945, typewritten notes in 101-06.6 The Manzanita Lake file, LVNPH. Webb received thirty dollars per month for residing at the cabin.
- 21 Recorder's Office, Shasta County Courthouse, Patents, Book 6, p. 159.
- 22 Webb estimated that Smith sold out for \$14,000. Interview of Webb.
- 23 *Resources of Shasta County, California* (San Francisco, A. J. Leary, 1893), pp. 8-9.
- 24 Interview of G. R. Milford by Douglas Strong, June 17, 1969. Milford joined Northern California Power Company in 1903 and spent 45 years in utility development. See Charles M. Coleman, *P. G. and E. of California* (New York, McGraw Hill, 1952), pp. 288-89.
- 25 Interview of McCoy. For evidence of the Company's lumber interests, see *Pacific Coast Wood and Iron*, LII, No. 11 (December 1909), 13.

- 26 Letter from F. E. Olmsted, District Forester, to the Forester, April 22, 1909, in National Archives, Record Group 95, Forest Service Records, Division of Recreation and Land Use, Box 1701.
- 27 Frederick Hall Fowler, *Water Supply Paper 493*, Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey, Hydroelectric Power Systems of California (1923), p. 227, as quoted in a letter from W. G. Vincent, vice-president of P. G. and E., to Superintendent John C. Preston, July 26, 1938, LVNPH.
- 28 Interview of Milford. Anna Scharsch DeBow, a teenager at the time, saw the effects of a flood which tore out a 30-foot section of the dam. Interview of DeBow by Douglas Strong, June 20, 1969. Apparently the flood came after the company abandoned the project.
- 29 As the results of efforts by William Rice of Anderson, thousands of young rainbow trout were transplanted from the state hatchery to the lake in 1918. Interview of Wm. Rice by Harry Robinson, August 26, 1943, typewritten notes in 101-06.6, LVNPH.
- 30 B. F. Loomis, *Pictorial History of Lassen Volcano* (San Francisco, California Press, 1926).
- 31 39 Stat., 442.
- 32 Interview of Fred Hootman by Douglas Strong, June 20, 1969. The road to Crescent Meadows undoubtedly is the present fire road which starts at the top end of the Manzanita Lake campground.
- 33 Anna Debow, "This and That About Lassen Park." Mrs. Ignatius Scharsch began taking boarders at her home in Scharsch Meadows in the summer of 1917. Also see Loomis, *Pictorial History*, p. 129.
- 34 Letter from Dittmar to W. B. Lewis, September 2, 1924, in National Archives, Record, Group 79, National Park Service Records, Lassen Volcanic National Park, File 602 Boundaries.
- 35 *Ibid.*
- 36 Letter from Stephen Mather, Director of the National Park Service, to W. B. Greeley, Chief Forester, February 28, 1927, in National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 602-1, Lands-Boundaries Extension.
- 37 Letter from Vint to the Director, January 10, 1928, in National-Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 602 Boundaries.
- 38 For example see letters from Dittmar to Englebright, April 21 and 23, 1928, in National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 120-01 Legislation HR 11719.
- 39 45 Stat., 1081. See letters from Stephen Mather to Horace Albright, April 23, 1928; to Englebright, April 26, 1928; and to Dittmar, May 1, 1928, in National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 120-01 Legislation HR 11719.
- 40 Memorandum for the Director by Bert H. Burrell, Acting Chief Civil Engineer, December 16, 1925, National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 601-01 Lands-Administrative Sites.
- 41 Estella Loomis, story of her life, in pencil, n. d., in "B. F. Loomis Writings" file, LVNPH; letter from A. E. Demaray to the Commissioner, General Land Office, July 9, 1929, in 604-Donations file, LVNPH; B. F. Loomis, "Why We Built The Museum," typed manuscript attached to a letter from Loomis to the Director (NPS), May 28, 1935, in "Loomis Museum Gift" file, LVNPH; Letter from Loomis to the National Park

Service, November 16, 1932, in National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 900-05, Public Utility Operators-B. F. Loomis, Misc.

The museum, built of native rock by Rollo Arbuckle, housed Loomis's fine collection of volcanic eruption photographs. The exhibit, combined with a seismograph building and an annex devoted to wildlife displays, proved so successful that visitation passed 16,000 in the summer in 1932. The Loomises lived in a residence on the property and sold post-cards and film until the death of B. F. Loomis in 1935.

- 42 Carl Bachem, Memorandum for the Director, May 20, 1929, National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, Lands-F. J. Solinsky file.
- 43 Confidential Memorandum of Albright, August 15, 1930; and letter from Solinsky to Director, November 14, 1930, in National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, Lands-F. J. Solinsky file.
- 44 Letter from L. W. Collins to the Director, July 29, 1931, National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 100-01 History Dedication.
- 45 Letter from Superintendent Collins to the Director, September 4, 1931, in 101-06.6 The Manzanita Lake Area, LVNPH.
- 46 Annual Report of the Superintendent (1932), copy at LVNPH.
- 47 "Report" for LVNP-1933, in National Archives, R. G. 79, LVNP, File 207-001.4 Reports Annual; and Annual Report of the Superintendent (1935), LVNPH, cellar files.
- 48 A Park Service master plan study (1965) revealed another serious problem, the possible extinction of the lake from silt. Data from "A Summary of Park Lakes (From Moffet's Report of 1942)," in 101-06.6, LVNPH, revealed that the maximum depth of the lake was 32 feet. Early pioneers estimated the depth at 100 feet. Most of the silt has accumulated since the eruptions of 1914-15.



Douglas Hillman Strong

Native Californian, born in San Francisco in 1935.

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