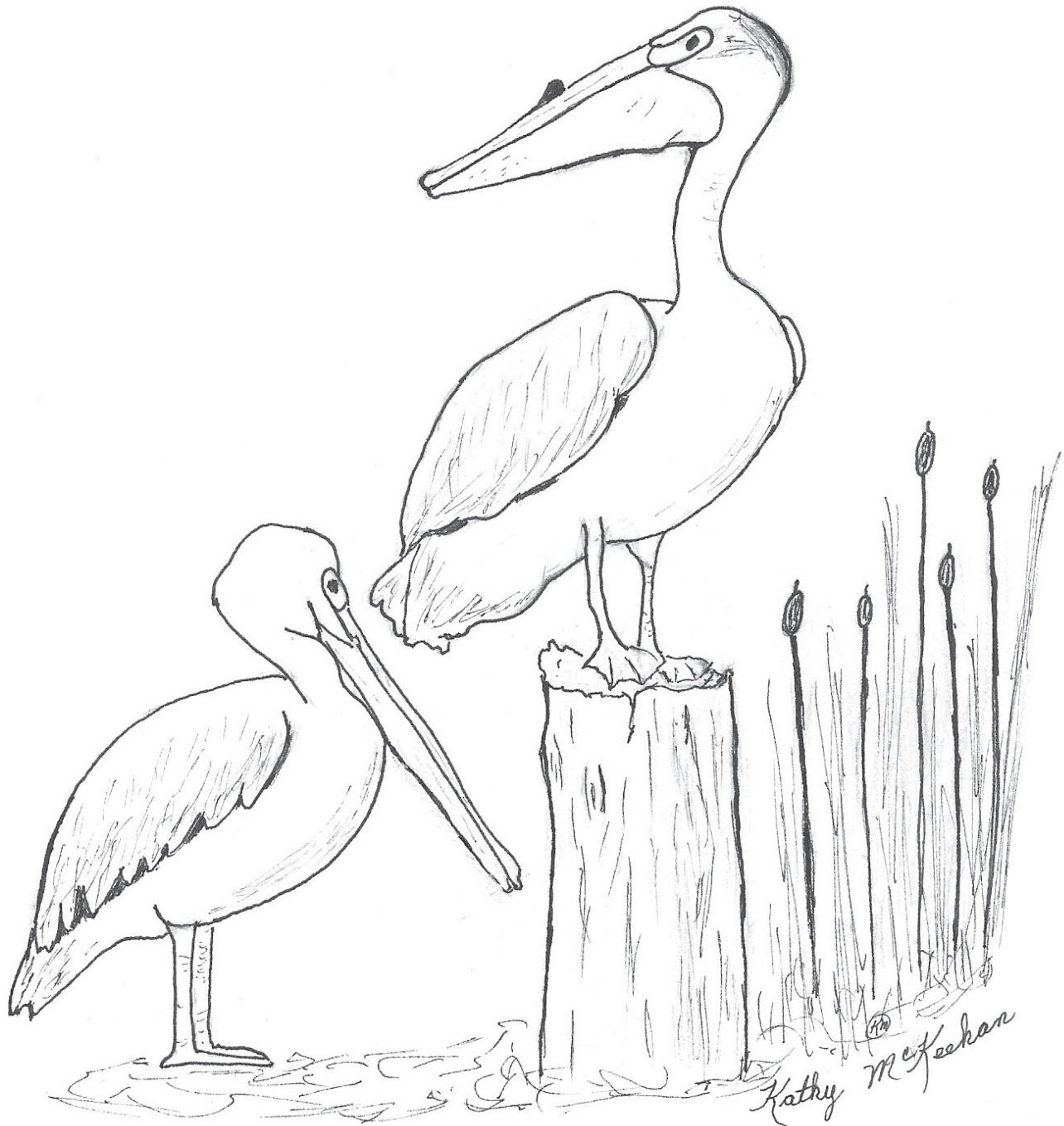
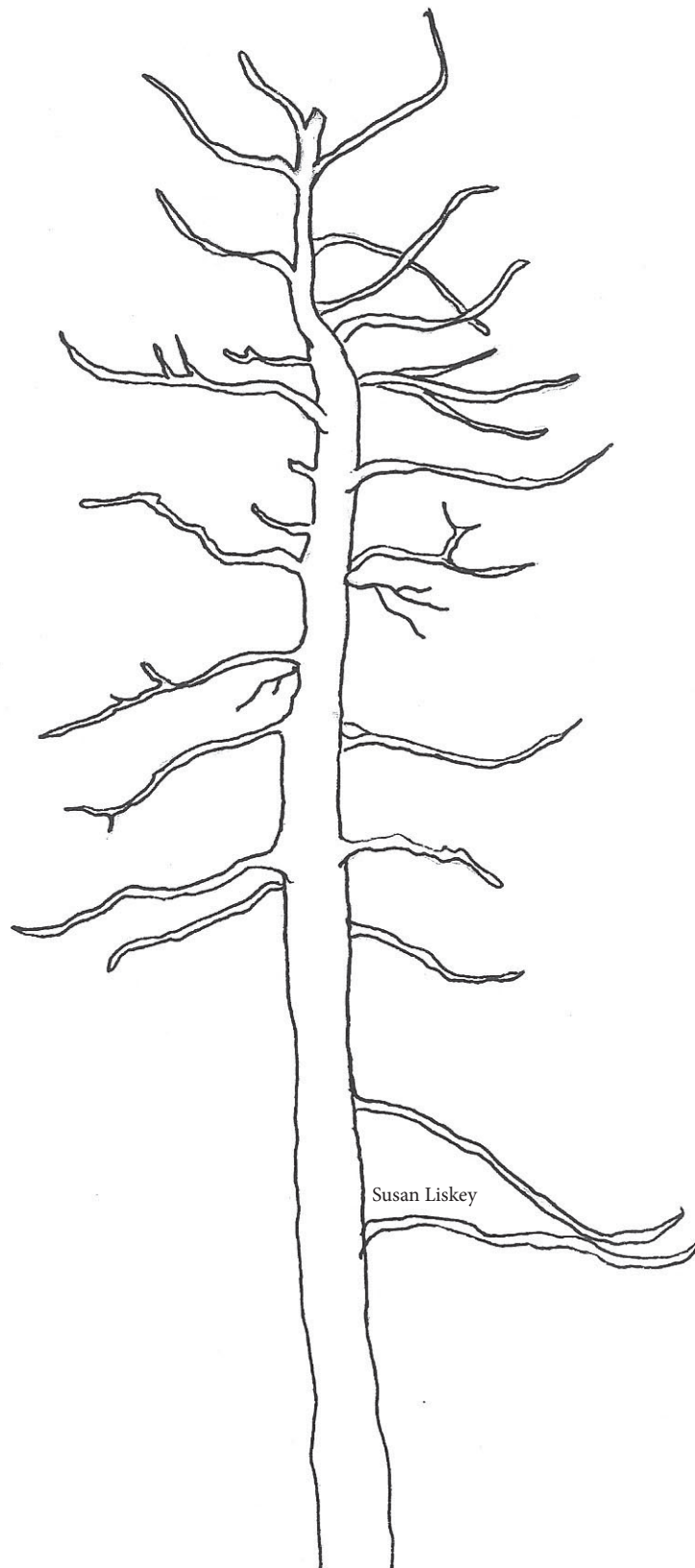


An Interpretive Guide to the Link River Trail



Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc., Klamath Falls, Oregon



Susan Liskey

Partially Funded by a grant from
Pacific Power Foundation

An Interpretive Guide to the
Link River Trail

An Update to *A Child's Guide to Link River*

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Dedicated in 2011 to Dave Menke

History By

Jim Spindor

Yulalona, A Report on Link River

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Authorization and Permission of Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc.

Dedicated To

Claire “Bunny” Browne,
Originator of *A Child’s Guide to Link River*
In Conjunction with the former Klamath Basin Nature Society



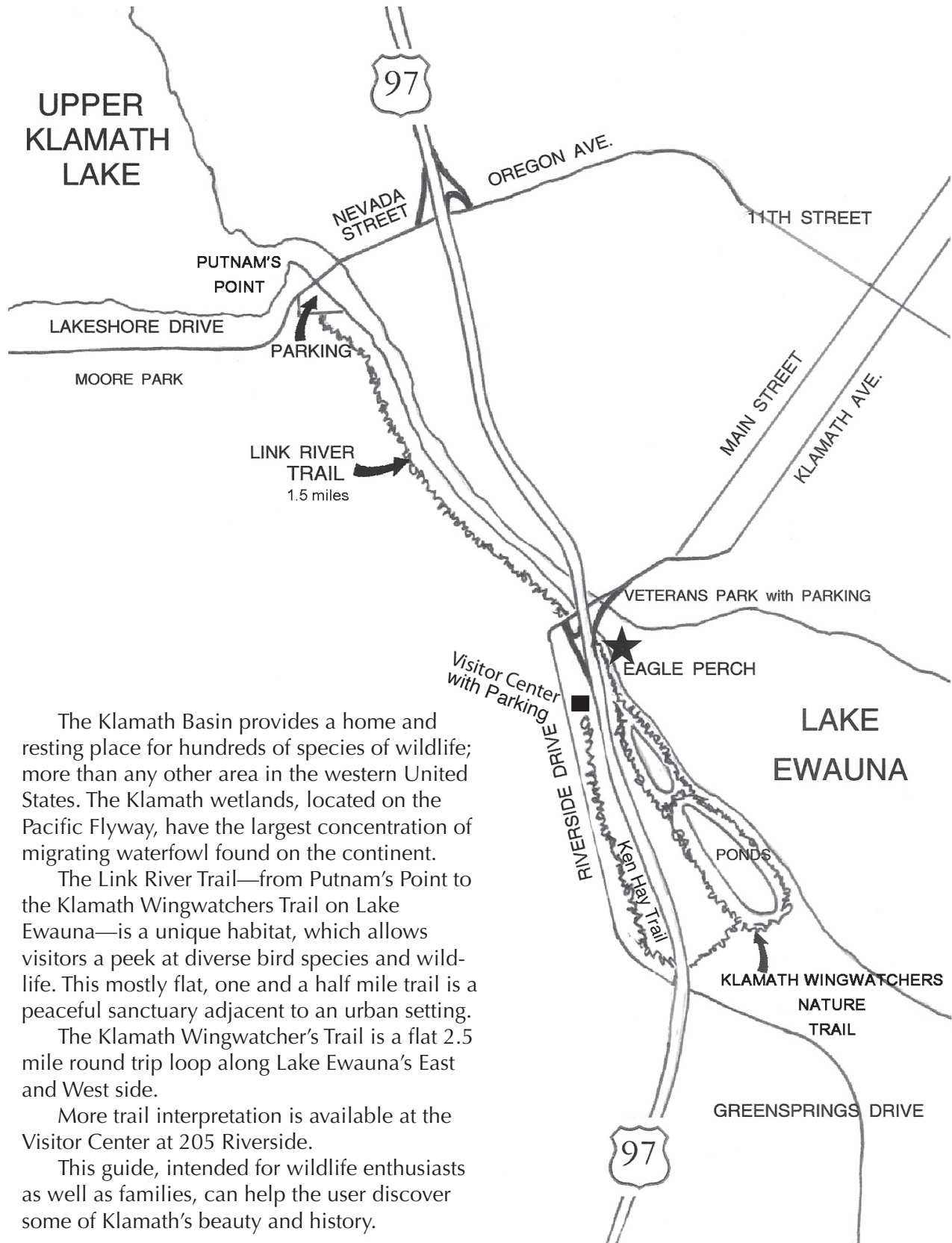
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An Interpretive Guide to the

Link River Trail



The Klamath Basin provides a home and resting place for hundreds of species of wildlife; more than any other area in the western United States. The Klamath wetlands, located on the Pacific Flyway, have the largest concentration of migrating waterfowl found on the continent.

The Link River Trail—from Putnam's Point to the Klamath Wingwatchers Trail on Lake Ewauna—is a unique habitat, which allows visitors a peek at diverse bird species and wildlife. This mostly flat, one and a half mile trail is a peaceful sanctuary adjacent to an urban setting.

The Klamath Wingwatcher's Trail is a flat 2.5 mile round trip loop along Lake Ewauna's East and West side.

More trail interpretation is available at the Visitor Center at 205 Riverside.

This guide, intended for wildlife enthusiasts as well as families, can help the user discover some of Klamath's beauty and history.

TRAIL GUIDELINES

This is a wildlife area and there are certain activities that are not compatible with the wildlife and others using it. To maintain maximum protection to wildlife and for your safety and enjoyment, please observe this trail etiquette.

- Motor vehicles are prohibited
- Camping is prohibited
- Put litter in appropriate receptacles at trailhead
- Respect wildlife
- Respect other hikers or bikers
- Dogs must be on leashes and waste bagged



Black-billed Magpie

Additionally, use good judgment on all Trails.

- Look at bird nests from a distance—do not disturb—frightened parent birds may abandon young.
- Many wild plants are poisonous. Do not eat any part of a plant unless you know its identity.
- Stay away from nettles. They will sting you.
- Historical items and artifacts may not be removed.
- Walk lightly—leave plants and rocks as you found them.
- Stay on the trail close to your leader.
- Do not walk on the dam or go near the fast water in the spillways.



Stinging Nettles

Remember...use your sense of wonder.

- Keep your eyes open. Look all around, up and down, to discover new things.
- Listen...many surprises await you.
- Smell...you'll uncover new aromas.
- Touch...but leave it behind.
- Follow the maps. They will show where other people have discovered many things.

The Link River Trail is a one and a half mile trail (one way) on flat terrain. Expect to take at least two hours to enjoy the round trip leisurely. Picnic areas and restrooms are available in Moore Park and Veterans Park in summer. There are no picnic facilities or restrooms on this trail.



Garter Snake Track, moving leisurely

Perhaps you won't ever see a snake or other wildlife, but you might see their tracks in the dirt.

Use the following tips to help identify the maker of the tracks:

- Pay attention to the size of the track.
- Count the number of toes if possible. Look for claw marks at the end of the toes.
- Observe the pattern of the track.
- If the track is fork-shaped, it is probably a bird.
- If the track is paw-shaped, it is probably a mammal.



Dog



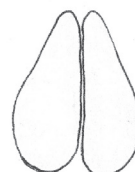
Raccoon



Canada Goose



Eagle



Deer

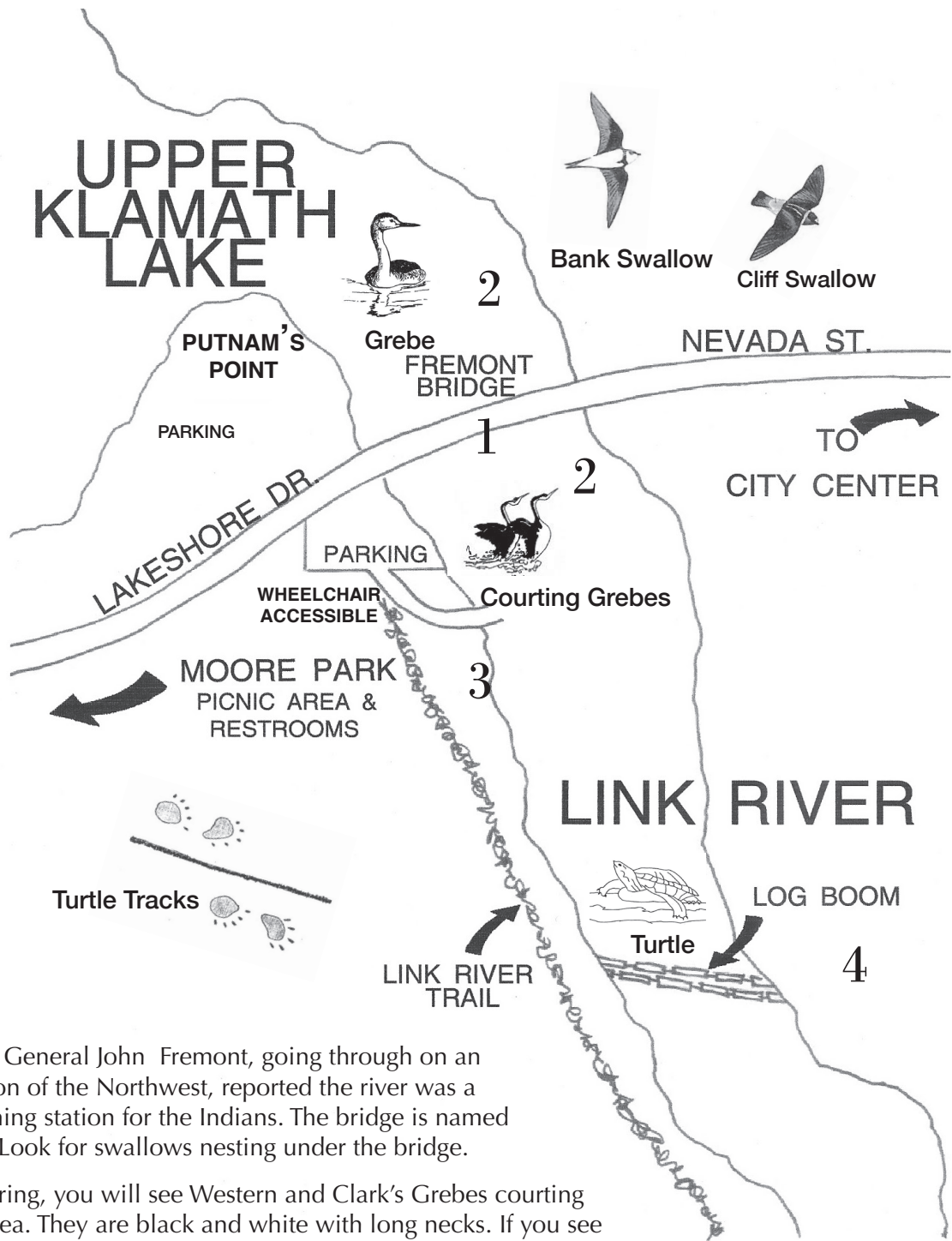


Front

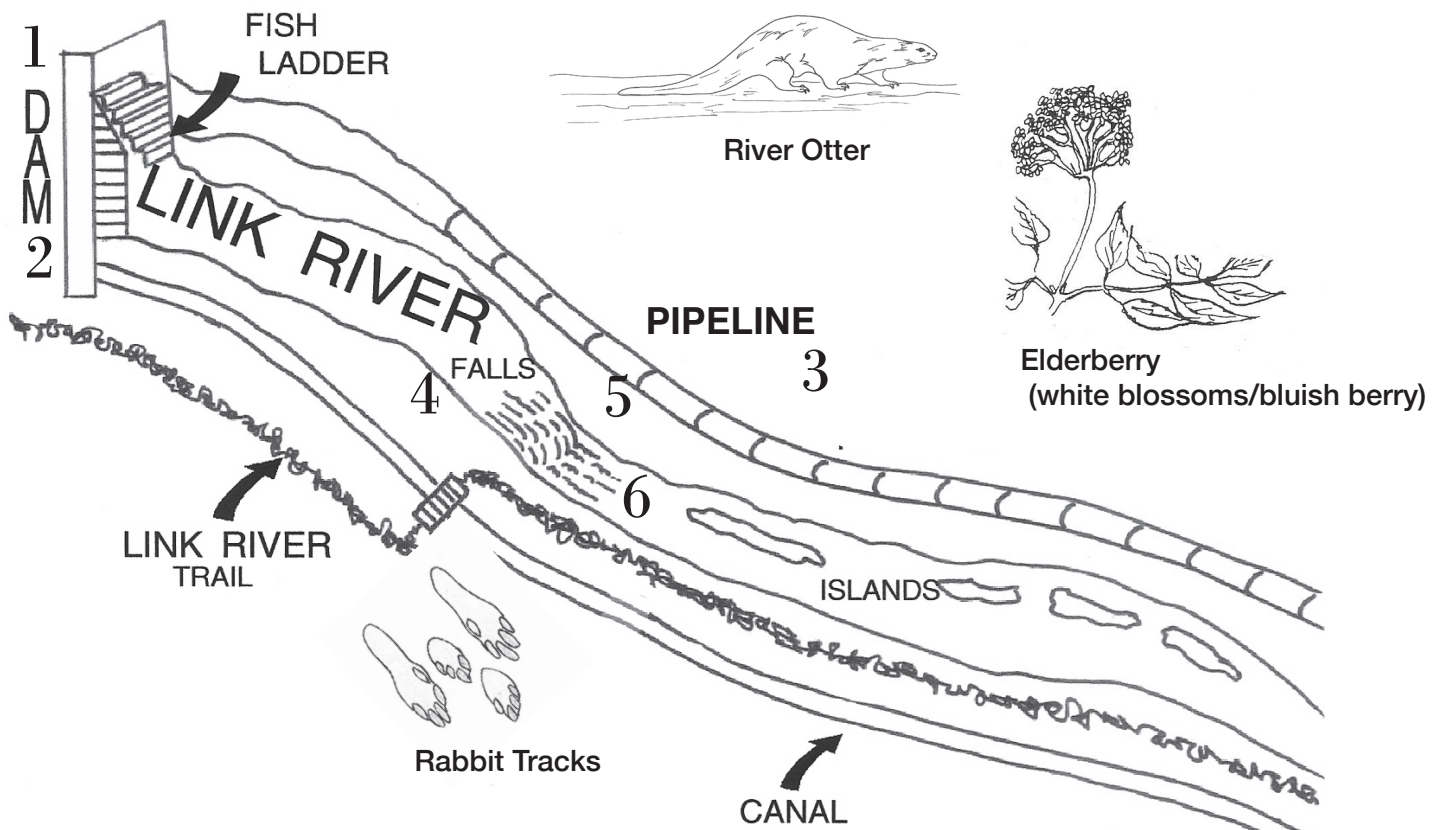


Back

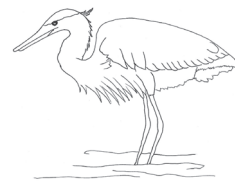
Skunk



1. In 1846, General John Fremont, going through on an expedition of the Northwest, reported the river was a great fishing station for the Indians. The bridge is named for him. Look for swallows nesting under the bridge.
2. In the spring, you will see Western and Clark's Grebes courting in this area. They are black and white with long necks. If you see two running on the water or wiggling their necks, they are courting. In late spring, look for a bump on the adult's back. It will be a chick hitchhiking a ride.
3. Stay away from the stinging nettles plant. They have small hairs which cause an intense burning rash.
4. Turtles use the log boom to sun themselves, and birds use it to stand on and preen. But the log trash-boom was built across the river to catch large pieces of debris and keep them from floating into the screens on the dam.



1. **DANGER: NO TRESPASSING.** For your safety the Pacific Power Company does not want you to walk on the dam or go near the fast water in the spillways.
2. Screens are installed on the dam to protect fish.
3. The large round pipeline carries water down to the surge tank (a vessel placed in a flowline through which liquids or gases are allowed to neutralize sudden pressure) and generating plant.
4. It is hard to find any evidence today that in the late 1800's a sawmill was just about here on the river.
5. This is the section of the river where you will see the "falls." They are the rapids—the swiftly moving water over the low, rocky ledges in the river. You may spot someone fishing for Rainbow Trout down along the river, or you could spy a Great Blue Heron fishing for minnows and frogs in one of the shallow pools.
6. In the late 1800's, down river from the sawmill, a gristmill used the running river water for its power. A gristmill is a building where grain is ground into flour.




Great Blue Heron

The Klamath and Modoc people once lived all along the river. One of their favorite fish was the salmon that used to make spawning runs up here from the ocean. To catch salmon, they built dams of rocks strung out into the water. The fish would pile up behind the rocks to be caught. These traps can still be seen when the water level is low.

7. Long ago several homes with orchards and gardens were on this stretch of the river. Almost all that remains are the trees and shrubs.
8. Look for Black-crowned Night-Herons in the trees near the houses.
9. Before the white settlers, the two larger Indian villages of iwau'wonE and iu"lalonE were on this end of the river. By 1870, all the villages were gone, but for many years the Klamath Tribes (a confederated tribe that includes members of Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Paiute ancestry) often returned to camps along the river to fish.




Black-crowned Night-Heron



Wild Rose
(pink blossoms)

Native Remedies Using Wild Roses:

- Tea from root shoots for colds
- Cooked seeds for muscle pains
- Brew of hips and leaves for colic

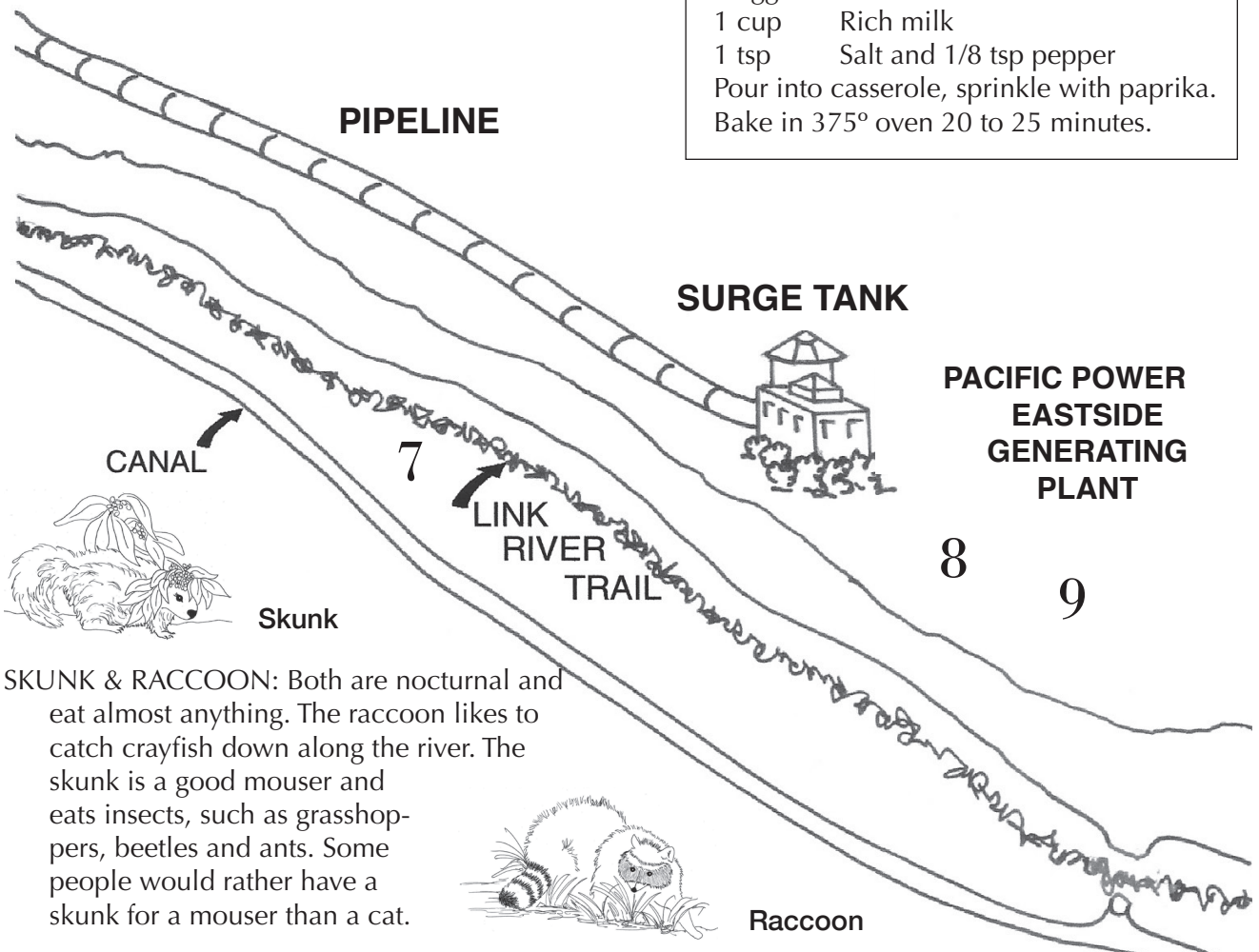


Rose Hip
(bright orange)

Cattail Casserole

4 cups	Scraped flower buds from cobs of boiled cattails
2 cups	Buttered bread crumbs
2 eggs	Well beaten
1 cup	Rich milk
1 tsp	Salt and 1/8 tsp pepper

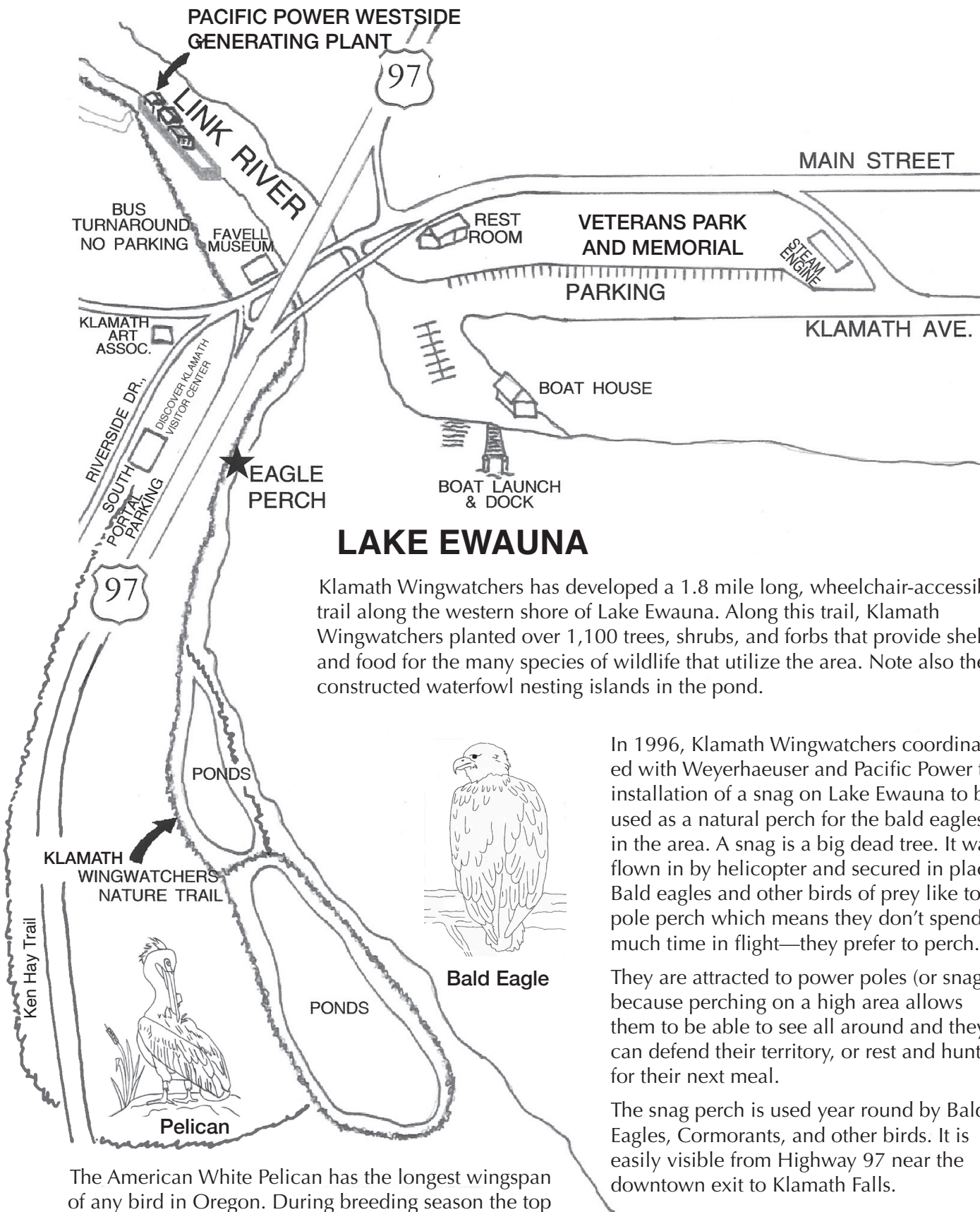
Pour into casserole, sprinkle with paprika.
Bake in 375° oven 20 to 25 minutes.



SKUNK & RACCOON: Both are nocturnal and eat almost anything. The raccoon likes to catch crayfish down along the river. The skunk is a good mouser and eats insects, such as grasshoppers, beetles and ants. Some people would rather have a skunk for a mouser than a cat.



Raccoon



LAKE EWAUNA

Klamath Wingwatchers has developed a 1.8 mile long, wheelchair-accessible trail along the western shore of Lake Ewauna. Along this trail, Klamath Wingwatchers planted over 1,100 trees, shrubs, and forbs that provide shelter and food for the many species of wildlife that utilize the area. Note also the constructed waterfowl nesting islands in the pond.

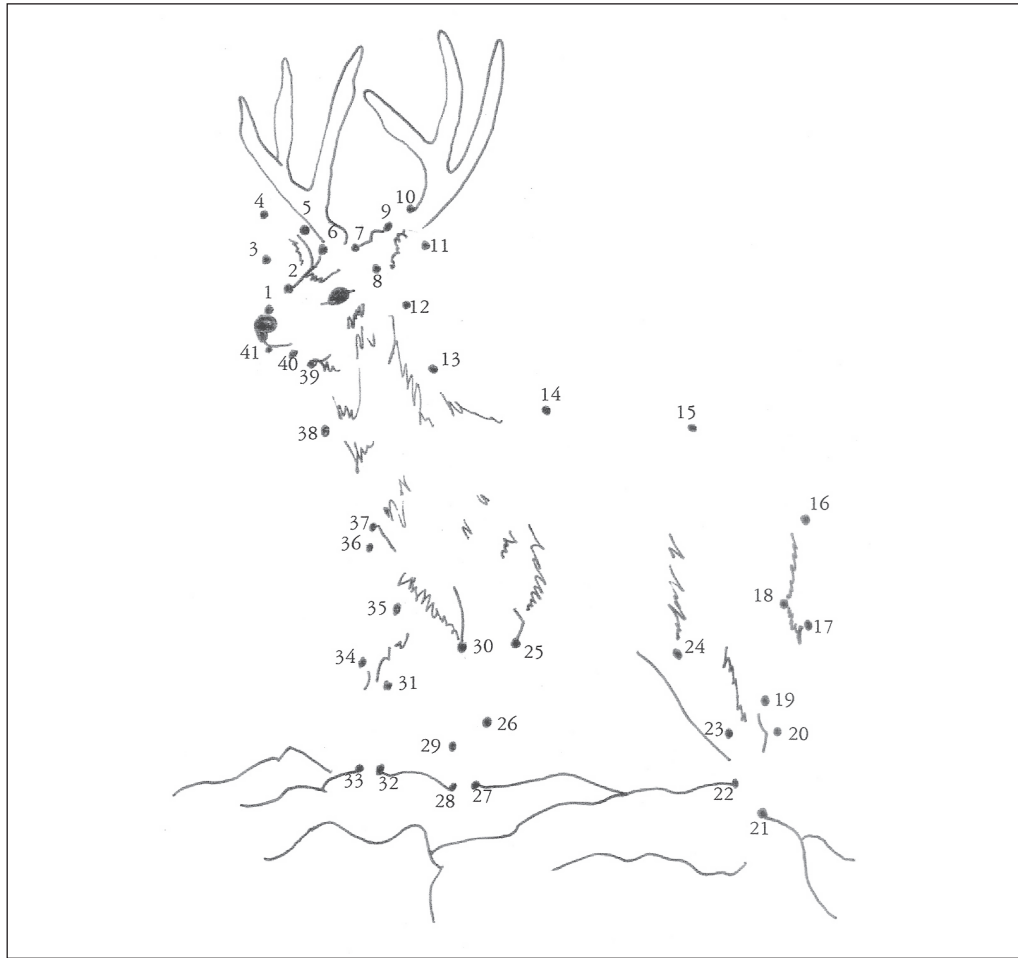
In 1996, Klamath Wingwatchers coordinated with Weyerhaeuser and Pacific Power the installation of a snag on Lake Ewauna to be used as a natural perch for the bald eagles in the area. A snag is a big dead tree. It was flown in by helicopter and secured in place. Bald eagles and other birds of prey like to pole perch which means they don't spend much time in flight—they prefer to perch.

They are attracted to power poles (or snags) because perching on a high area allows them to be able to see all around and they can defend their territory, or rest and hunt for their next meal.

The snag perch is used year round by Bald Eagles, Cormorants, and other birds. It is easily visible from Highway 97 near the downtown exit to Klamath Falls.

The American White Pelican has the longest wingspan of any bird in Oregon. During breeding season the top of the bird's head becomes dusted with black and a keel-like plate or horn grows on the upper mandible. This horn drops off after breeding season.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES (Answers on page 18)

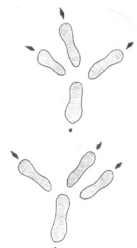
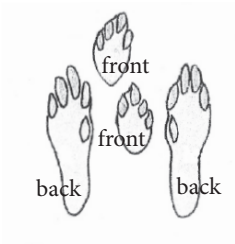
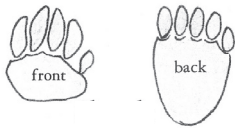
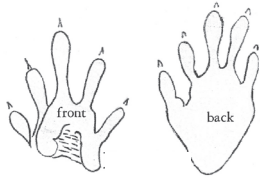
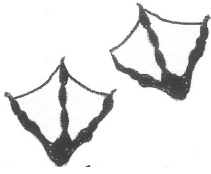


Who Am I?

1. Connect the dots: What am I? _____
2. I am a mammal.
I am a good swimmer.
I am very playful. _____
3. I am a raptor.
I have a white head and tail.
I like to sit on power poles. _____
4. I am a bird of prey.
I have ear tufts.
I hunt at night. _____
5. I am a reptile.
I don't have any legs.
I like to eat mice. _____
6. I have fur.
I am black with a white stripe.
People think I stink. _____

- | |
|-----------------|
| Owl |
| Snake |
| Fence Lizard |
| Bald Eagle |
| Deer |
| Otter |
| Raccoon |
| Red-tailed Hawk |
| Skunk |
| Beaver |

MATCH THE TRACK TO THE CORRECT ANIMAL OR BIRD.
 (Answers on page 18)



Deer



Skunk



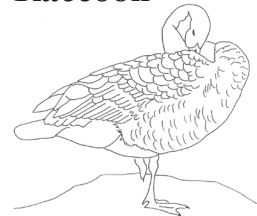
Eagle



Turtle



Raccoon



Goose



Rabbit


Word Search

(Answers on page 18)

B	Y	O	B	A	L	D	E	A	G	L	E	T
H	E	S	Y	T	O	L	P	R	Y	T	G	N
S	W	P	A	L	L	T	R	E	A	G	R	L
W	A	R	B	L	E	R	Q	E	R	T	E	U
A	R	E	S	D	F	O	G	H	J	K	T	L
L	X	Y	C	B	M	B	V	T	U	L	E	P
L	E	R	E	Y	V	I	G	T	P	M	M	R
O	W	E	R	T	Y	N	U	I	M	M	G	B
W	S	H	U	M	M	I	N	G	B	I	R	D
T	U	R	K	E	Y	V	U	L	T	U	R	E

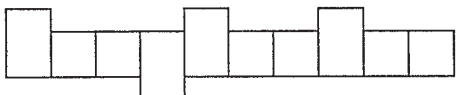
- BIRDS**


 - Bald Eagle
 - Osprey
 - Swallow
 - Warbler
 - Turkey Vulture
 - Egret
 - Hummingbird

1. leerklid 

2. licpena 

3. aiulq 

4. shingkifre 

5. luhreonbe 

What did you see on your hike?

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS THAT MAY BE FOUND IN THE AREA DEPENDING ON THE SEASON

Ducks, Geese and Swans

- o Gadwall
- o American Wigeon
- o Mallard
- o Cinnamon Teal
- o Northern Pintail
- o Green-winged Teal
- o Canvasback
- o Redhead
- o Ruddy Duck
- o Common Goldeneye
- o Common Merganser
- o Hooded Merganser
- o Bufflehead
- o Canvasback
- o Lesser Scaup
- o Northern Shoveler
- o Canada Goose
- o Greater White-fronted Goose
- o Snow Goose
- o Ross' Goose
- o Tundra Swan

Other Swimming Birds

- o American Coot
- o Eared Grebe
- o Pied-billed Grebe
- o Clark's Grebe
- o Western Grebe
- o Double-crested Cormorant

Aerial Waterbirds

- o American White Pelican
- o California Gull
- o Ring-billed Gull
- o Forester's Tern
- o Caspian Tern
- o Black Tern

Birds of Prey, Owls, Vultures

- o Osprey
- o Bald Eagle
- o Northern Harrier
- o American Kestrel
- o Red-tailed Hawk
- o Rough-legged Hawk
- o Turkey Vulture
- o Barn Owl
- o Great Horned Owl

Upland Birds

- o California Quail
- o Ring-necked Pheasant

Wading Birds

- o Black-crowned Night-Heron
- o Green Heron
- o Great Blue Heron
- o Great Egret
- o Snowy Egret
- o Whitefaced Ibis

Shorebirds

- o Killdeer
- o Black-necked Stilt
- o American Avocet
- o Greater Yellowlegs
- o Willet
- o Western Sandpiper
- o Least Sandpiper
- o Long-billed Dowitcher
- o Wilson's Phalarope

Medium-Sized Land Birds

- o Belted Kingfisher
- o Northern Flicker
- o Mourning Dove

Swallows, Hummingbirds

- o Barn Swallows
- o Cliff Swallows
- o Tree Swallows
- o Calliope Hummingbird

Flycatchers

- o Olive-sided Flycatcher
- o Western Kingbird
- o Say's Phoebe
- o Western Wood-Pewee
- o Loggerhead Shrike

Typical Songbirds (perching birds)

- o Black-billed Magpie
- o Scrub Jay
- o Steller's Jay
- o European Starling
- o Common Raven
- o Horned Lark
- o Warbling Vireo
- o Mountain Chickadee

- o Oak/Juniper Titmouse
- o Bushtit
- o House Wren
- o Winter Wren
- o Bewick's Wren
- o Marsh Wren
- o Western Meadowlark
- o American Robin
- o Townsend's Solitaire
- o Cedar Waxwing
- o Golden-crowned Kinglet
- o Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Warblers

- o Yellow-rumped Warbler
- o Orange-crowned Warbler
- o Nashville Warbler
- o Hermit Warbler
- o MacGillivray's Warbler
- o Wilson's Warbler

Sparrows, Towhees

- o Brewer's Sparrow
- o Golden-crowned Sparrow
- o White-crowned Sparrow
- o Savannah Sparrow
- o Song Sparrow
- o House Sparrow
- o Spotted Towhee
- o Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon form)

Finches and Buntings

- o American Goldfinch
- o House Finch
- o Black-headed Grosbeak
- o California Towhee
- o Spotted Towhee
- o Lazuli Bunting

Blackbirds and Tanagers

- o Western Tanager
- o Yellow-headed Blackbird
- o Brewer's Blackbird
- o Brown-headed Cowbird
- o Red-Winged Blackbird
- o Bullock's Oriole

CHECKLIST OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

*WARNING—BECAUSE MANY WILD PLANTS ARE POISONOUS—DON'T EAT ANY PART OF A PLANT UNLESS AN ADULT SAYS IT'S OKAY

TREES

- o Willow
- o Western Juniper
- o Poplar
- o Box Elder

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS *

- o Cattail (See recipe on Page 5)
- o Horsetail
- o Salsify (Oyster Plant)
- o Dandelions

FRUIT BUSHES

- o Chokecherry
- o Currant
- o Blue Elderberry
- o Gooseberry
- o Serviceberry
- o Klamath Plum

WILDFLOWERS

- o Buttercup
- o Filaree
- o Indian Paintbrush
- o Oregon Sunshine
- o Penstemon
- o Queen Anne's Lace

HOME ORCHARDS

- o Apple
- o Plum
- o Pear
- o Raspberry
- o Blackberry

WILD GRASSES & PLANTS

- o Nettles
- o Rabbitbrush
- o Sagebrush
- o Giant Wild Rye
- o Squirrel Tail Grass
- o Cheat Grass

- o Bull Thistle (purple)
- o Peregrine Thistle (white)

MEDICINAL PLANTS

- o Balsam Root
- o Dock
- o Mullein
- o Wild Rose Bush (See Native American remedies on Page 5)

ROCKS

- o Basalt (fine grain lava, dark gray)
- o Breccia (cemented fragments)
- o Sedimentary (white)

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

- o Green Turtle
- o Tree Frog
- o Fence Lizard
- o Gophersnake (Bullsnake)
- o Garter Snake

INSECTS

- o Midge
- o Monarch Butterfly
- o Water Strider
- o Dragonfly

MAMMALS

- o Mule Deer
- o Muskrat
- o Beaver
- o Gray Fox
- o Jack Rabbit
- o Western Cottontail
- o Yellow-bellied Marmot (Rockchuck)
- o Raccoon
- o Ground Squirrel
- o Meadow Mouse
- o River Otter
- o Skunk

The following information is reprinted from Jim Spindor's, *Yulalona, A Report on Link River, 1993*. The complete work can be located at the Klamath County Museum.

Origin of Link River

Long ago, the entire Link River area was under water, a part of pluvial Lake Modoc, a giant lake consisting of several connected arms with an overall length of nearly 75 miles. Lake Modoc existed in Pleistocene time (1.8 million to 10,000 years ago). The northern end was near Fort Klamath in west-central Klamath County; the southern end was in California, south of Tulelake. The old pluvial lake had an area of more than 1,000 square miles, and a shore line of over 400 miles; the shoreline was at the nearly uniform elevation of 4,240 feet (the 1985 elevation of Upper Klamath Lake was about 100' lower, at 4,139 feet).

The lake basins of Lake Modoc were formed by block faulting and igneous activity, and partially filled by sediment-cinders, ash, and pumice carried by meltwater from the Cascade Range to the lake. Eight major basins are included in the bed of the old lake. The largest are Upper Klamath, Lower Klamath and Tulelake; the smaller basins, called valleys, are Spring Lake, Poe, Swan Lake, Yonna and Langell Valleys. At the present time, only Upper Klamath Lake has a large body of water. After the close of the Pleistocene, around 10,000 years ago, the climate gradually settled into its present semiarid, fluctuating and unpredictable state, and Lake Modoc began to shrink. The decline of Upper Klamath Lake was accelerated by the entrenchment of Link River, and that of Lower Klamath Lake, by the down-cutting of Klamath River.

Today Link River has as its source an outlet on the southern shores of Upper Klamath Lake. This lake, with a surface area of 61,543 acres (over 70,000 acres including Agency Lake), is the largest freshwater lake in Oregon and one of the largest in the United States. It is a natural body of water lying in the structural valley known as the Klamath Graben. Including Agency Lake and its connecting channel, Upper Klamath Lake is

about 25 miles long and ranges in width from 2.5 to 12.5 miles; it has a shoreline of approximately 130 miles.

Upper Klamath Lake lies east of the Cascade Mountains at an elevation of 4,139 feet. The drainage basin is about 3,800 square miles, much of it a mountainous volcanic area covered with pumice deposits derived from the Crater Lake caldera. Elevations in the basin range from the level of the lake to over 9,000 feet at some of the higher peaks in the Cascade Mountain range to the west.

Link River, a little more than a mile in length, flows from Upper Klamath Lake to Lake Ewauna, with a drop of approximately 55', depending on the variable levels of the two lakes. The channel of the river is entrenched in resistant basalt, which accounts for the rapids in much of the lower half of the river. The channel is in a straight line, running southward, the result of a fault which produced a line of comparative weakness. At the upper end, a ledge of basalt holds up the channel and prevents rapid down-cutting.

Link River has a drainage area of 3,800 square miles. Sixty-six years of records, from 1904-1968, show the average annual runoff of the river to be 1,153,000 acre-feet; with a maximum annual runoff of 2,030,000 acre-feet and a minimum of 639,000 acre-feet.

There are two ridges, with basalt cores, on each side of Link River. The summits of the ridges reach 4,320' and the slopes on each side of Link River are steep. The only developed street on Link River is Conger Avenue, on the east side at the southern end.

Native Americans and the Link River

In *The Indian History of the Modoc War*, Jeff Riddle describes the river and its significance to the local Native Americans:

“On the east side of Link River near its upper end, there are streams of hot water bursting from the depths of the earth in continuous flow. These springs are said to possess wonderful healing properties. When the winds blow from the south, the waters of Upper Klamath Lake are forced back like a great tide, leaving Link River almost dry, save the deep holes and pools left in the channel.

In the middle of this channel water has cut in the stone, curious holes, said to resemble the feet of a large man. Near the footprints, another wondrous work of nature, wrought in the image of a man. The ragged size of the cleft mountain; the stream jets and hot springs; the foot prints and the great stone image in the middle of the river; the effect of the south winds upon the lake above, altogether, have furnished this singular spot of the earth with unusual requisites for Indian sacred lands. Here for untold generations have they come to worship the great Ka-moo-kum-chux (god); to fish and hold council; believing, as they do, that the holes in the rock are the footprints of god, and the rough shaped stone in the river, is His image."

The Link River Valley and the river itself were sacred to certain Native Americans. The largest Native American village in the basin was located at the south end of the river where the town of Klamath Falls is now. It was a natural crossroad where the north-south and east-west trails met and was primarily Modoc. The Klamath Tribe also had villages on Link River. The largest of these was Yulalona, the same as the name for the river. (Other spellings for this village are I-ulalona and Eulalona). This village was located on the banks of Link River, immediately below Upper Klamath Lake, near the present day Fremont Bridge. The village Yulalona is described in Ancient Tribes of the Klamath Country:

"Next in size to the Williamson River village was Eulalona, on the south end of Klamath Lake, where Link River leaves the lake. Eulalona extended on both sides of Link River for over a half mile. A major cremations site existed on the edge, extending along the west bank of the river. Eulalona was also a favorite place for trading, since it was located within traveling distance of many Indians on both sides of Upper Klamath Lake. It was only a short distance from the encampments on Lake Ewauna and the north shore of the Klamath River."

There was also a village on the southern portion (east side) of the river, known as I-uauna, near or at the site of the town of Linkville (now Klamath Falls).

The Native Americans knew Link River as Yulalona. Yulalona, the Klamath Indian name for this river, embodies the river's most unique feature. Yulalona means to move back and forth, to rub, to make the motion of rubbing. With regard to the river, Yulalona means "receding and returning water"; for the waters of the river would periodically retreat into Upper Klamath Lake under the pressure of strong south winds, to return afterwards.

This amazing phenomenon of the river "blowing dry" has been described as follows:

"Several times in the memory of man the wind has so completely checked the flow of water down the narrow gorge and 'backed it up' over the surface of the lake that persons have been able to walk across the river dryshod. The last occasion on which this happened, I believe, was July 15, 1918, when the riverbed was dry for six hours.

Most of the trout escaped to the upper lake before it was too late; the mullet, being less agile or less intelligent, died by the thousands; water snakes crept out of their hiding places along the banks and regaled on small 'bullheads' that were unable to swim away to places of safety.

The scene was visited by hundreds of Klamath Falls people, to whom the riverbed appeared a deep rocky gorge with occasional coffin-like holes twenty feet deep." (History of Klamath County, Applegate-Good, p. 173, 1941).

Note: July of 1918 was likely the last, or one of the last times, Link River "blew dry", as construction of a dam on the upper portion of the river began in 1919, ending this phenomenon.

Non-Natives Arrival

As early as 1827 explorers from the Hudson Bay fur brigade entered and camped in this area. John C. Fremont visited Upper Klamath Lake in May of 1846. "He found Link River 'unfordable' but crossed it anyway and traveled along the west side of Upper Klamath Lake. Fremont described the variety of timber trees on the west side of the lake and determined the latitude and longitude of several points around the



California Quail

Prior to the arrival of George Nurse in 1867, and the establishment of the town of Linkville, several non-native persons temporarily inhabited the Link River neighborhood. The first of these was Wallace Baldwin, whose stay is described in History of Klamath County: "The first man to make use of land of what is now Klamath county - the true forerunner of settlement - was Wallace Baldwin, afterward a prominent citizen of Klamath Falls, who in 1852 as a youth of 19, pastured here fifty head of horses belonging to himself and a Mr. and Mrs. Stone of Talent." He camped for six weeks on the site of the Riverside School and often, no doubt, gazed across the river and watched the sun rise over Top-plumne (Hogback Mountain) just as we do today. For nine months he was the only person of his race in this trackless wilderness, and his horses had free access to all the grass from here to Keno.

A second man to make Link River his temporary headquarters was Mart Frain, trapper, trader and early settler of the Klamath River canyon country near the California-Oregon line. An Illustrated History of Central Oregon has the following about Mart Frain on Link River:

"Thirty-five years ago last Saturday night, April 30, 1857, Mr. Frain camped out under the big ledge of rocks on the Link River bank near which Reames, Martin & Company's store now stands. He had journeyed from Yreka with five mules laden with beads which he intended trading to the Indians for furs. He arrived on the west bank of the river in the afternoon and on the opposite side - the present town site of Linkville- were camped bands of Modocs, Klamaths, Snake, and Cayuse Indians, who had assembled to trade their furs. It was 'barter day' - the natives never failing to congregate at certain times of the moon, as it was a popular belief that the fish would not come up the river if the formal gathering were not held at the regular period.

Frain swam his mules across the river and a squaw conveyed his beads and saddle over on a tule float, which had in the center a hole through which she thrust her limbs, using her feet as paddles. By sundown the beads were in the hands of the Indians and Frain was in possession of 1,200 skins. The night was devoted to gambling for the beads at an 'odd or even' game, and, as

there was an element of science as well as luck in the transactions, it was not long before a dozen of the most expert natives owned the greater bulk of the ornaments."

When George Nurse established his trading post, named Linkville, in 1867, he could not have chosen a more favorable site for a town. The town began on a low terrace well above flood level, on the shore where Link River flows into Lake Ewauna. In 1867 the first small buildings were constructed in Linkville; the lumber having been rafted down Upper Klamath Lake from Fort Klamath.

It was on May 1, 1867, that Mr. Nurse applied to the Jackson County Court "for a license to establish a ferry on Link River on the route or trail from Fort Klamath to Henley, Siskiyou County, California." The following rates were requested: \$2 for one wagon and one span of horses, mule or oxen; 50¢ for a man and horse; 25¢ for a person on foot or one pack animal, and 10¢ for each head of cattle. (Note that Linkville was at the time in Jackson County.) The application was granted, and a ferry was constructed by a carpenter named Nelson Stevenson under the supervision of Edgar Overton. Upon completion, Edgar Overton became the operator of the ferry.

The ferry seems to have operated until on or about July 1, 1869, when it was replaced by the first wooden bridge which was built over Link River. The lumber for this bridge was furnished by the mill at Spencer Creek. The bridge was in all likelihood a toll bridge which probably repaid its original cost (\$1200-\$1500) to George Nurse in a few years, because in 1875 he gave a warranty deed to the bridge to Lake County (Linkville was then located in Lake County. which was created in 1874; Klamath County was created in 1882). The bridge was constructed of hewed timbers and roughed planking, with corduroy approaches; it served until it was replaced by a new bridge in 1888.

Link River has provided the names for the town site presently known as Klamath Falls. First was Linkville: "Appropriately enough the town was named Linkville by Nurse because of its location on Link River, the stream which connects Upper Klamath Lake with Lake Ewauna."

The town of Linkville was granted a city charter in 1889, and the name was changed to Klamath Falls in 1893, in honor of the original Klamath Falls formed by a natural basalt dike in the Link River. The Klamath people's name for the falls was "Tiwishkeni" which means "rush of falling waters place." It was in the Klamath County Star of April 10, 1891 that Ira Leskerad suggested the name of Linkville be changed to Klamath Falls. It was felt that Linkville, although not objectionable, conveyed an idea of smallness not in keeping with the ambitions and hopes of the citizens. Note: In 1899 Klamath Falls had a population of 447.

Early Enterprises on the River

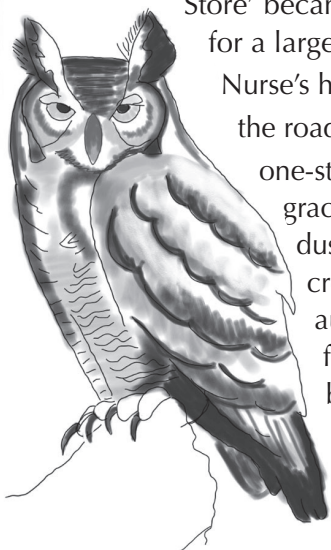
Link River was the site of several early enterprises after the establishment of Linkville:

A. GEORGE NURSE'S STORE

George Nurse's store was the shopping center of Linkville during all its early years. The earliest settlers remember this little one-room building with its trinkets, furs, tobacco, and the ruder necessities of life. This store was located on the east side of Link River, near to where the present day Link River Bridge crosses the river. An article in Klamath Echoes states as follows:

"Of all the frontier stores established in Oregon this was, undoubtedly, the most picturesque and primitive. The 'trade' at first was almost exclusively with Indians; the 'stock' carried consisted largely of articles that appealed to the natives. These were exchanged for furs. Gradually, however, as settlers flocked into the country Nurse added to his stock until in time the store assumed fair proportions and 'Uncle George's Store' became a distributing point for a large territory."

Nurse's hotel was located across the road from his store. The few one-story framed buildings gracing each side of the dust road at the Link River crossing were gradually augmented until within a few years a dozen or more buildings lined the streets.



Great Horned Owl

B. THE CONGER ORCHARDS

In 1876, Joseph Conger purchased his 120 acre farm in the Link River canyon. Mr. Conger was successful in raising a wide variety of fruits, berries and vegetables on this farm.

Mr. Conger died February 1, 1908, at the age of 76. A bachelor, Joseph Conger left his modest fortune of \$14,000 to the school district; in consideration of this gift, the city school building nearest his holdings bears his name (presently Conger Elementary School).

C. FISHING ON LINK RIVER

The Native Americans were obviously the first to fish Link River; at this time the river abounded with fish, including salmon that made the long journey from the ocean.

To catch salmon, the natives constructed fish traps: dams of rocks strung out into the water; fish would pile up behind the rocks to be caught. Fishing must have been incredible before the Link River dam (and the dams on the Klamath River). An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, published in 1905, described it as follows:

"In Upper Klamath Lake and Link River, seven varieties of the steelhead trout have been caught, ranging in weight from a few ounces to sixteen pounds, which raise to the fly readily during the summer months, take the spoon in the spring and fall, and the minnow at all seasons of the year." It is told that one young man, Lester Leavitt, loved to fish for salmon in the tail race of the Moore sawmill on Link River. After a "whopper" pulled him into the river, dousing him thoroughly, Judge A.L. Leavitt ruled that henceforth the fishermen on the river must be tethered to a stout willow; no tethering, no fishing.

Note: "Shooting at ducks and other wild bird fowl off the bridge that spans Link River in the very heart of the town of Klamath Falls was a common practice in early times." (From a 1924 article by Captain O.C. Applegate)

D. THE MOORE SAWMILL

William S. Moore, one of the most prominent pioneer lumberman of Klamath County, built a sawmill on Link River. Prior to this, Moore had moved to Klamath Agency in 1868, and in 1870 built a sawmill for the government at that location. The Link River sawmill is described in *Lumbering in Klamath*, Lamm, p. 9-10, (1957): "In 1877 Mr. Moore constructed a sawmill on the west side of Link River, about halfway between Linkville and Upper Klamath Lake.

A canal was built from the lake to the mill to provide water for the turbine and also to float the logs to the mill. This was the finest site in the county since ample waterpower and an unlimited supply of timber were available.

The mill equipment consisted of a water turbine, circular head saw, friction-driven carriage and a push-feed rip saw to edge the lumber. The capacity of the mill was 8,000-10,000 feet per day with a crew of ten to twelve men.

E. IRRIGATION AND LINK RIVER

Soon after Linkville was established, irrigation projects began:

(1) In 1868 George Nurse and Joseph Conger built a ditch to irrigate gardens on the east side of Link River. This later became part of the Steele-Ankeny ditch.

(2) The Ankeny Canal. (The intake to this canal was located on the east side of Link River.) The creation of this canal was the introduction of large scale irrigation in Klamath County. In 1878 the Linkville Water Ditch Company built a canal from Link River to irrigate town lots in the city of Linkville, known as the Ankeny-Henley Canal. This was a small ditch heading at the lower reef in Link River with a capacity of about forty miners'-inches.

In the spring of 1884 William Steele enlarged this ditch and extended it into Klamath Valley for a distance of 15 miles. After leaving Klamath Falls, it went in a generally southeasterly direction along the foothills for about eight miles, where it was divided into two branches: the south branch went to some of the best lands in Klamath Valley (including the Ankeny Ranch), and the east branch went towards Olene and into Poe Valley.

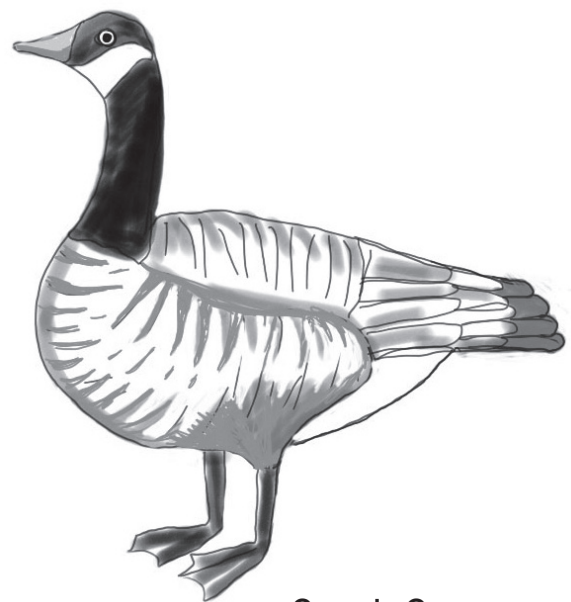
After Mr. Steele died in 1888, a new company, incorporated under the title of "The Klamath Falls Irrigation Company" was formed. This company took over the Steele rights and enlarged the canal to a capacity of 50 second-feet. The maximum acreage irrigated was probably never greater than 4,000 acres, although the system commanded a much larger area. This canal was purchased in 1905 by the Reclamation Service. It was developed into the "A" Canal and the first water was delivered from this canal on May 17, 1907. The complete A-Canal system now delivers irrigation water to the Klamath and Poe Valleys plus portions of the northern and eastern Tulelake area.

F. POWER PLANTS ON LINK RIVER

The first power plant was constructed in 1895 for the purpose of providing Klamath Falls with electric lights. It was in 1895 that the Klamath Falls Light and Water Company was formed after H.V. Gates received a franchise for the town's first water and electric light system.

This first plant, the East Side No. 1 power plant, was located in an old wooden building on the east bank of Link River at springs near the north end of Conger Avenue.

The building was 12' by 9'. This power plant combined with the Klamath Falls Water System Pumping Plant for the supply of domestic water. The water for running this plant was taken from the Ankeny Canal via a two-foot square closed box about 250 feet long, to a waterwheel.



Canada Goose

This plant turned on the first electric lights in Klamath Falls on November 1, 1895, and continued to operate until 1908. The plant had a capacity of 360 sixteen-candlepower lamps, about what would be required for a hotel with 100 rooms.

The second power plant, was the East Side No. 2 plant, built in 1905-06 by the KFL&W Company on the east side of Link River. This complex consisted of a low diversion dam, turning the waters of the river into a 3,000 foot wooden flume supplying water to a 500 horsepower Victor turbine, driving a 200 kilowatt General Electric 60-cycle generator.

The East Side No. 2 plant was housed in a "L-shaped" building with a wooden floor, shingle roof, and was approximately 20-by 40' by 40-by 14'. The plant had a rated capacity of 4,800 sixteen-candlepower lamps; it operated until June 24, 1917, when it had deteriorated sufficiently to need rebuilding.

In the fall of 1907, C.S. Moore withdrew from the Klamath Falls Light and Water Company, and in association with his brother, R.S. Moore, began the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the west side of Link River.

This plant took water from the canal built by the U.S. Reclamation Service; it had a 600 kilowatt Westinghouse 60-cycle generator driven by a secondhand Victor turbine. Power lines were erected from the plant to various places, including the towns of Merrill and Bonanza. For the first time, two separate power companies were actively competing in Klamath County.

The final power to be constructed on Link River, the East Side No.3 plant, was put into commercial operation on August 22, 1924. This plant is connected to the Link River dam through a one-half mile wood stave pipeline 12 feet in diameter, 40 feet of steel penstock and surge tank, 42-inch diameter and 30 feet high. The powerhouse contains a generator connected to a 4250 vertical shaft, 3200 KW Allis Chalmers turbine together with governor and accessories.

In 1976, there were three hydroelectric plants in Klamath County: John C. Boyle plant, which generates 79,990 kilowatts of power, and the East Side and the West Side plants on Link River, which generate 292 and 419 kilowatts of power respectively. [As of this publication date, 2008, the Eastside and Westside Generation Plants may be decommissioned in the future.]

G. RIVERSIDE SCHOOL:

This school is located on a high hill overlooking Link River; it has also been called the West Side School.

Riverside was opened near Thanksgiving time in 1910. Miss Edna Adams was the first principal; she was paid \$85.00 per month. Upon the opening of Riverside, the local newspaper, the Klamath Republican, stated: "Slates bound in red velvet and scratchy slate pencils were used for sums." Riverside was the oldest building in the Klamath Falls City School system. It was used as an elementary school until 2003 when it closed and was sold to a private citizen a few years later.



Great Blue Heron

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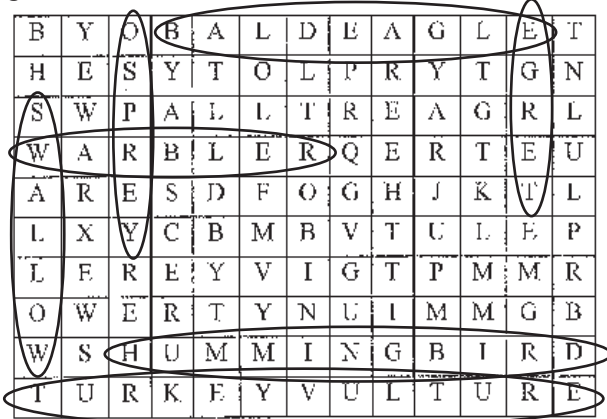
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ANSWERS TO CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

page 7: deer, otter, bald eagle, owl, snake, skunk

page 9:



Word Scramble: killdeer, pelican, quail, kingfisher, blue heron

page 8:

- goose
- raccoon
- turtle
- skunk
- deer
- rabbit
- eagle

