

Weather now intermittent sun, fog and snow. At 4:30 P.M. left the Arnolds and in the face of a threatening storm cloud left the peak. Had not descent over 300 until a blizzard and a driving wind presented itself and accompanied me the complete descent to divide. Surprise to find 2 deer on lee of exposed ridge lying in open among grasses about 1 foot high. I do not see how they could withstand the rigors of the storm. Continued down to divide arriving at 5:30 P.M. This divide is rather peculiar in that it is not as low as most divide for the topography adjoining surrounding. It continued across the canyon and directly up to Larch Mt Peak. The ascent of Larch was easily negotiated because of the deep snows that covered the east exposures allowing one to escape the brush and fallen logs by walking upon the supporting crest. Nice timber on this slope and have wondered how it escaped the fires. Can see the possibilities of studying this country in respect to manner in which a large fire of this kind sweeps across the country. Noticed considerable mute evidence in the form of isolated groups of conifers and particularly the way the fires approach a ridge and the manner that they sweep up a canyon proper. The evidence is there and all one need do would be to put the story together. Such information would apply in dealing with other fires of more recent occurrence. Continued up ridge to divide just south of the peak of Larch Mt. and can truthfully say that I was very glad to see a tree stump with an angle indicative of human workings. Being 6:30 P.M. when I arrive and not acquainted with the country was wondering if I would possibly be spending the remaining night among difficult and snow bound country. If I had not contacted this logging operations on Larch I had planned to hole-up because I was fully aware that to descend from Larch Mt at night would be somewhat impractical if not impossible, at least I was not going to take chances in the dark and alone. Continued down logging road to Bear Prairie, while on ridge near terminal heard a deer call much like the mule