

4/16/44

made the Hamilton mt. ascent today. This mt is gained by graded trail from Beacon Rock Park in Columbia River Gorge. The trail traverses typical forests and steep slopes, culminating at a sky meadow and vantage point wherein one can observe the full length of the Columbia gorge. The top can be gained in another short jaunt but there is really no advantage of continuing on beyond the sky meadow as all views can be received from the lower elevation. The top has an advantage in that it allows one to see farther to the north. The bald and precipitous lava cliffs add to the charm of the surroundings. The ascent was via the west ridge thru the burnt over area. The <sup>flat lying</sup> logs were so covering the ground that one found extreme difficulty in traversing the area. The logs were peculiar in that they all trended north south. To make the going even more difficult was the complete entanglement of underbrush, dense enough to cause one to fight and swim as if in water. Few deer in this area but mainly no ridges where <sup>natural</sup> trails had been exposed. Discovered a lizard that was lying in plain view and completely numbed by the changing cold weather of the morning. After having been carried in the hand for 15 minutes was able to regurgitate in a labored manner. Outstanding birds were raven, golden eagle and pileated woodpecker. The latter bird calls exactly like the flicker but with added volume and slightly more deliberate quality of tone. The picture (page 22) faintly indicates the bird perched at the upper-most reaches of the centrally placed conifer. It remained here for a few minutes and then continued on its way. During the course of the day had another most unusual experience with this bird and the raccoon. First observed the bird to fly into the top of an old Douglas fir tree, one of those trees which has had freedom of development with lateral outreach - <sup>any</sup> branches, whereupon it commenced to call and drum upon an old limb. My next moment was favored with the slow and deliberate movement of the raccoon as it worked its