

The Snake River Country - by Don Moser 917.961
Forest Service
look-out Ranger dining college days - on Udall's Staff
M 8943

The American Wilderness - Time-Life Books N.Y.

Idaho - a guide to Words & Picture - Carlton Printers Caldwell, O. 1937 (over 100 pages)
Home Below Hell's Canyon - Grace Jordan - L. Y. Crowell NY 1952

Washington Irving (Astoria) " - the river was compressed into a gorge of less than 30' U. of Ida. Press 1964

It's never really quiet on this river - - -
Much of Snake R. country is federally owned 3x10⁶ acres is officially "wilderness"
another 1.5x10⁶ is legislated "Primitive Area" - Other's "Roadless"
Elev @ Lewiston 741' at Id. section is 13,766. the river just below it (@ 10,000'?)
Temp. in Hell Canyon in summer 120°F, ~ 45° in winter © J. of the Sawtooths

Basalt boulders in the Hell Canyon section of R. and @ peak. waves up to 12'
Snake center of fur trade - incl. Kit Carson - scalped and were scalped - fought
Grizzly bears, & trapped beaver - local Indian women said to be very beautiful
River name probably from the Indian sign for Shoshone: a wavering gesture like a swimming fish because
the Indians lived on Salmon & were called "Salmon people". Inconsistencies in maps weren't really
cleared up 'til 1970; a spring is the source of the Snake R.

about 100x10⁶ yrs ago an uplifting of metamorphic & granitic masses formed the mts
of central Idaho, the lava flows of the Snake R. Plain are much more recent,
More than 3x10⁶ yrs ago: an ocean of molten rock on all sides in S. Idaho - some
100' thick & 100 miles long from fissures making a crescent 300 mi. long, ^{13,000 mi²} 60 mi. wide; the Snake
R. plain. ? on the W. it abutted a r earlier flow: the Columbia plain: Total = 200,000 mi²
E. Oregon, E. Washington, S and W. Idaho. to depths of 5000' and more. Ashonout finds are
similar to some found on these plains. Soil grad. formed from dec. lava. Irigin makes it
usable. No tributaries through the lava bed coming from the N: this is the region of lost rivers.
Streams tumble into the porous rock - - ultimately feeding the Snake from underground.
The Big Lost R. vanishes near Arco and reappears at Thousand Springs, Twin Falls,
Two or three layers of different lava flows. Some ^{large} black boulders on the river floor - from a
flood of 30,000 yds. ago during a pd of glaciation; L. Bonneville lay S. of the River swelling
until it flowed N. into the Snake thru a 400' pass n. Pocatello; few 1000
Eruptions in the Craters of the moon occurred as recently as ²⁰⁰⁰ yrs. ago. & could happen
again anytime average hgt above Hell's canyon: 5500' - deeper than the Id. Canyon

W. severe erosion and a plateau built up fr. a deep basin the area fr. Twin Falls to
the Hagerman Valley 40 mi. west was unusually fertile paleontological area: cov'd anciently
by a great sea, later a tropical jungle: repository of dinosaurs, ammonites, coral, & sea shells
Twin Falls sometimes called the Magic City, & is a planned city
Among points of interest within the city are several small museums. The CRABTREE (Admission 25¢)
21 Addison Ave West: Indian artifacts coll'n incl arrowheads fr. all over the U.S.; a few fossils & archeo. artifacts

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2 skammers have passed thru Hell's Canyon
 & 5000 yr. old indian relics are known to exist on the River in Hell's Canyon 200 miles
 in the un-flooded pt. of canyon. - Canyon wall pictographs? See R. Mout & Sturgeon!
 1-1/2 long & 1500 ft. high in 1898.
 River of No Return means you can't go up it
 Buckskin Bill - wilderness - King of

Pf. Federal Writer's Project WPA, Idaho: a Guide to Word Picture Oxford U. Press 1950

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