

Photo by PATRICK ROSENKRANZ

DRIVE CAREFULLY — This bridge in Mt. Hood National Forest ends rather abruptly.

## Out there somewhere Lonely bridge leads nowhere

Whoever said all roads lead to Rome didn't know about the overgrown dirt path that leads to a small bridge over the Collawash River.

It goes nowhere. The bridge is in the southern part of the Mt. Hood National Forest, just north of the Clackamas-Marion county line. On one side of the 126-foot span is a 10-foot embankment. On the other side is a four-foot drop.

Leading up to the bridge is an overgrown dirt road. According to Ken Roberts, a district ranger for the national forest, the road was cut by trucks driven to the site when the bridge was built in 1964.

"The original intent was to have a road that went through the Mt. Hood forest to Elk Lake," Roberts said.

Congress appropriated funds in the early 1960s for road projects in all national forests, he said. The first

step taken was the construction of necessary bridges.

But as the bridges were being built, the federal money must have run out, Roberts said. The bridge over the Collawash was left without a connecting road. Roberts said it is the only "nowhere bridge" in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

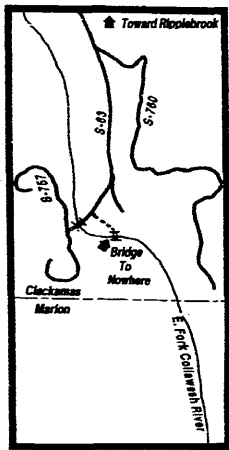
"The road was supposed to have been for logging trucks," Roberts said, adding that if it ever is opened it will be for that purpose.

Since 1964, however, land-use policies have

changed and the future of logging in the national forests is being questioned.

Roberts said the proposed Mt. Hood Plan will determine whether there will be logging in the Collawash River area. If it is approved, a road connecting to the bridge may be built.

"But that won't be for a while," he said. "Those plans take a long time to put together."



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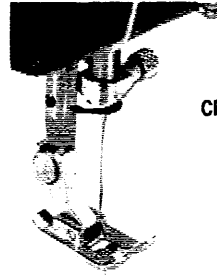
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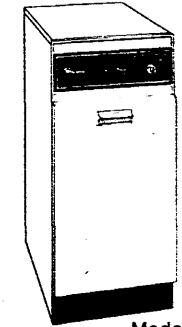
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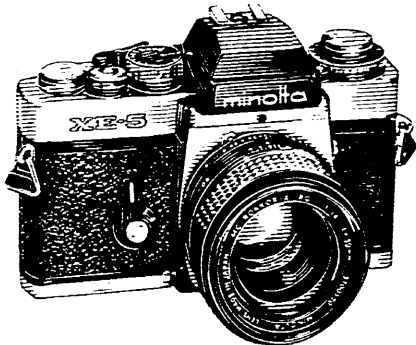
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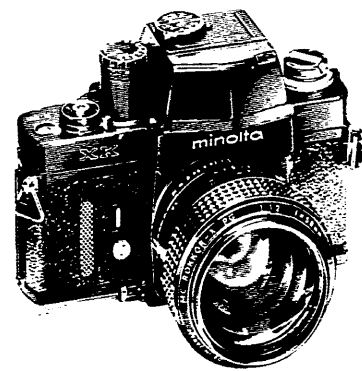
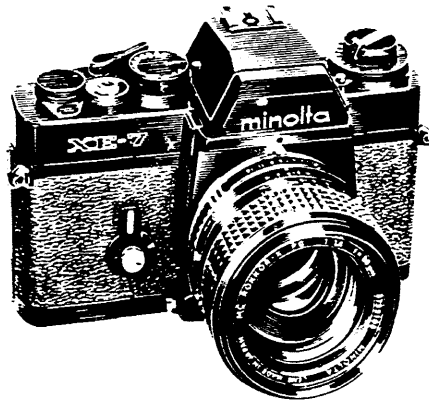
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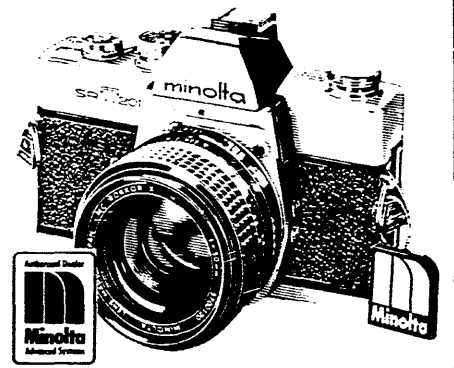
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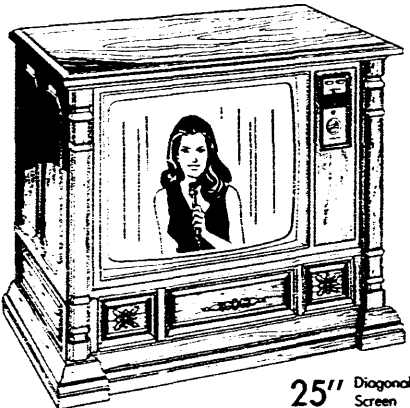
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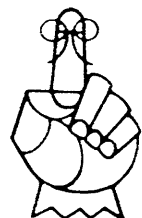


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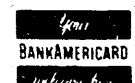
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