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The Cover

The majestic calm of Oregon's Crater Lake in the Cascade Range belies its fiery beginnings in eruptions of the parent volcano, Mt Mazama. These destroyed much of the 3,600-meter mountaintop, the collapse of which created the caldera containing the 589-meter deep lake, known for its brilliant blue color.

This week's cover also shows Wizard Island, one of the cinder cones rising from the caldera floor. Although these probably were created by later eruptions, Indian legend holds that the island—named by early explorers—is all that remains of the god Llao, devoured by lake monsters.

Crater Lake National Park surrounds the site, about 200 km inland from the Pacific Ocean in southwestern Oregon. Snow like that pictured on the cover is falling on the park about now, but the lake rim is accessible until the snow accumulation becomes heavy.

It was not snow, however, but a toxigenic strain of *Escherichia coli*, that closed the park a few weeks ago. Medical epidemiologists tracked down the renegade strain and its unusual mode of transmission, as reported in the MEDICAL NEWS section on page 1106. (Photograph by Ed Cooper © H. Armstrong Roberts)—PHIL GUNBY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATE—The subscription price per year for members of the AMA is \$2, included in the annual membership dues. The subscription price per year for nonmembers is \$30 in the United States and US possessions; \$50 in all other countries, payable in advance. Price to medical students, interns, and residents, \$10 in the United States and US possessions.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago and additional mailing office. Address all subscription communications to Circulation Department.

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