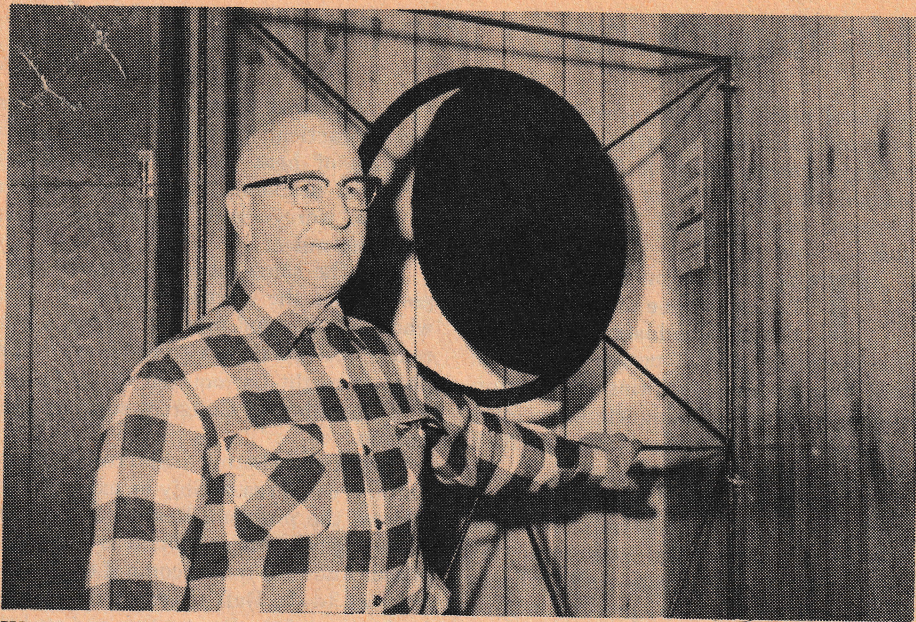




Warren L. Harter's Circle Moon registered cattle brand is now the symbol of the popular resort.

by Charles and Elizabeth Sowder

With another successful snowmobile season fading, Sacheen lake, and particularly the sprawling Circle Moon Ranch and resort complex of Warren L. Harter and family have clinched the label of a "four seasons" recreation area.

There's something to do spring, summer, fall and winter in Sacheen lake country: fishing for eastern brook trout, swimming, water skiing, big game hunting and now, more so than ever, engaging in the sport of snowmobile trailing that attracts the young and old.

Hub of much of this recreation activity is the Circle Moon ranch encompassing 1,200 acres of forest-type and meadow land plus shoreline and the Harters' latest acquisition, the purchase in August, 1970 of the Sacheen lake resort comprising lodging units, trailer park, store and a sweeping greensward bordering the sandy beach. The resort is perhaps a mile distant from the main ranch.

Main building for the Circle Moon business is the restaurant and cocktail bar with Western accent. Nearby is a highly-developed campground. Here, snowmobile enthusiasts find such accommodations as electrically-heated restrooms with shower facilities and hot and cold running water, as they live in their trailer units. Mr. Harter heats his home electrically. He has 28 meters in all on Inland Power and Light company's system.

"People come here, 36 miles from Spokane, because of the open spaces where they can go and not get kicked off," Warren Harter said. He works toward a

dream of retaining the scenic-recreational appeal of Sacheen lake.

Harter has an overall plan of operation. Already he's consulted with development planners in Seattle about the best way to allow use by the public of his area, realize revenue, yet preserve the environment. They recommend building up, rather than out, to use a smaller part of the land for housing with high-rise condominiums rather than the division of land into small parcels, each with its own house or the clutter of cabins on the lakefront in close proximity to each other.

Harter reasons: were a major developer to move in, he could add adjacent lands to that of Circle Moon and come up with perhaps 4,000 acres. The ski lift, not operating this season, could be revived or relocated for this property lies in a snow belt. Too, there could be stepped-up use of a 2,500-foot airstrip which the state may conceivably take over this year.

But more about snowmobile fun. A year ago the Circle Moon Snowmobile club functioned, with 50 members vying in races and trailing into the hills and across the snow expanse of the former cattle ranch. This past winter witnessed large numbers of men, women and children on snowmobiles streaking across the meadows, on logging roads and more than 20 miles of woodland trail.

For Warren Harter, the resort and campground venture climax a life of occupational variety in which he has farmed extensively, carried on lumbering until his sawmill at Kettle Falls burned, built up a cattle herd, and even quarried rock.

A large barn constructed in '41 and

used with his cattle operation for which Circle Moon was registered as the livestock brand, was remodeled into the restaurant. (The cattle had been sold in 1953). The nearby campground of 43 units has restrooms and other structures built of Hartstone, a building material that is manufactured by Harter Enterprises at E. 1225 Marietta in Spokane. Harter is quick to list qualities of these blocks manufactured from cement and wood fiber or chips. They are lightweight; they 'breathe', allowing passage of air through; they provide insulation and are fire resistant.

Harter recalls that he initially came to Sacheen lake to hunt and fish. Exploring the bottom land along Moon creek he decided that he would like to have it. He bought it in 1936. Meanwhile he built a log cabin across the lake.

Presently the Circle Moon business is operated on weekends. A packed house might add up to 135 for meal service, and up to 200 for a fun night. It's a family operation. Son, Dale E. Harter, has helped clear much of the acreage and in construction of the snowmobile clubhouse and other buildings. Daughter, Jeanne, is key person in operation of the restaurant. Mrs. Harter maintains her home and cares for the two grandchildren.

Sacheen is one of the cleanest lakes in Panoramaland, Harter points out. Most of the homes were built within the last 10, or at most, 15 years and so are pretty much modern. He notes the general goal of the Sacheen Lake Betterment association is improvement of conditions around the lake.

Circle Moon Ranch — hub of recreation activity



Sacheen lake resort with summertime bathing throng.



Photo to right — typical of women snowmobile enthusiasts who own Sacheen lake cabins on IP&L lines are Tomme Edge, federal employee at Fairchild AF base, and Vera Lee, nurse.



Horseback group in hills at Sacheen lake.