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Fish Hatchery Is Attraction At Marblemount

An interesting side trip when visiting Marblemount and the Cascade highway is a visit to the Marblemount Fish Hatchery, just a short distance off the main road and over the Cascade river bridge. The visit will be a surprise in that after driving into what looks to be a primitive area, you suddenly behold an unusually attractive group of buildings in the midst of the wilderness.

The Skagit River hatchery was built by the State Department of Fisheries in 1946 and 1947 at a total cost of \$293,830. The purpose of the hatchery is to offset somewhat the inroad of the upper Skagit dams on the salmon run in the Skagit River.

Installations consist of a hatchery building, complete with apartment, hatching troughs, refrigeration, feed room and shop, 20 outdoor rearing ponds 20 feet by 80 feet, two fine residences and two water systems one from Jordan Creek by gravity and one from Clark Creek by a pumping system.

Operations began at the hatchery in 1948 when 586,900 Chinook fingerlings and 220,900 silver fingerlings were planted. The plantings have increased year by year until the 1950 planting totaled 1,344,000 fingerlings and 400,000 yearlings. The returns so far have been gratifying in that a run of more than 3,000 silver salmon put in their appearance in Clark Creek as a result of the 1948-49 plant from the 1947 brood fish. This was the first time more than 400 silvers had appeared in the creek. Big increases are expected in the future

in all streams now being planted.