IDAHO'S LARGEST RIVER

takes its name from the Indians who painted snakes on sticks to mark territory and frighten their neighbors. These people, according to legend, had an unusual way of greeting strangers: a sinuous, outward motion of their hand that signified "People of the Snake." In 1811 or 1812, British and American trappers applied the name to the Lewis Fork of the Columbia, the Nile of Idaho's flat, crescent-shaped prairie or high desert— the Snake River Plain.
PHOTOS

p. 1: pictograph at Danskin rock shelter;
pp. 2-3: canyon lands, East Fork of the Owyhee River;
pp. 4-5: highway through the upper Snake country;
pp. 6-7: Craters of the Moon lava flows;
pp. 8-9: southern Idaho farmer;
pp. 10-11: postcard of lava terraces along the Snake River, about 1942.