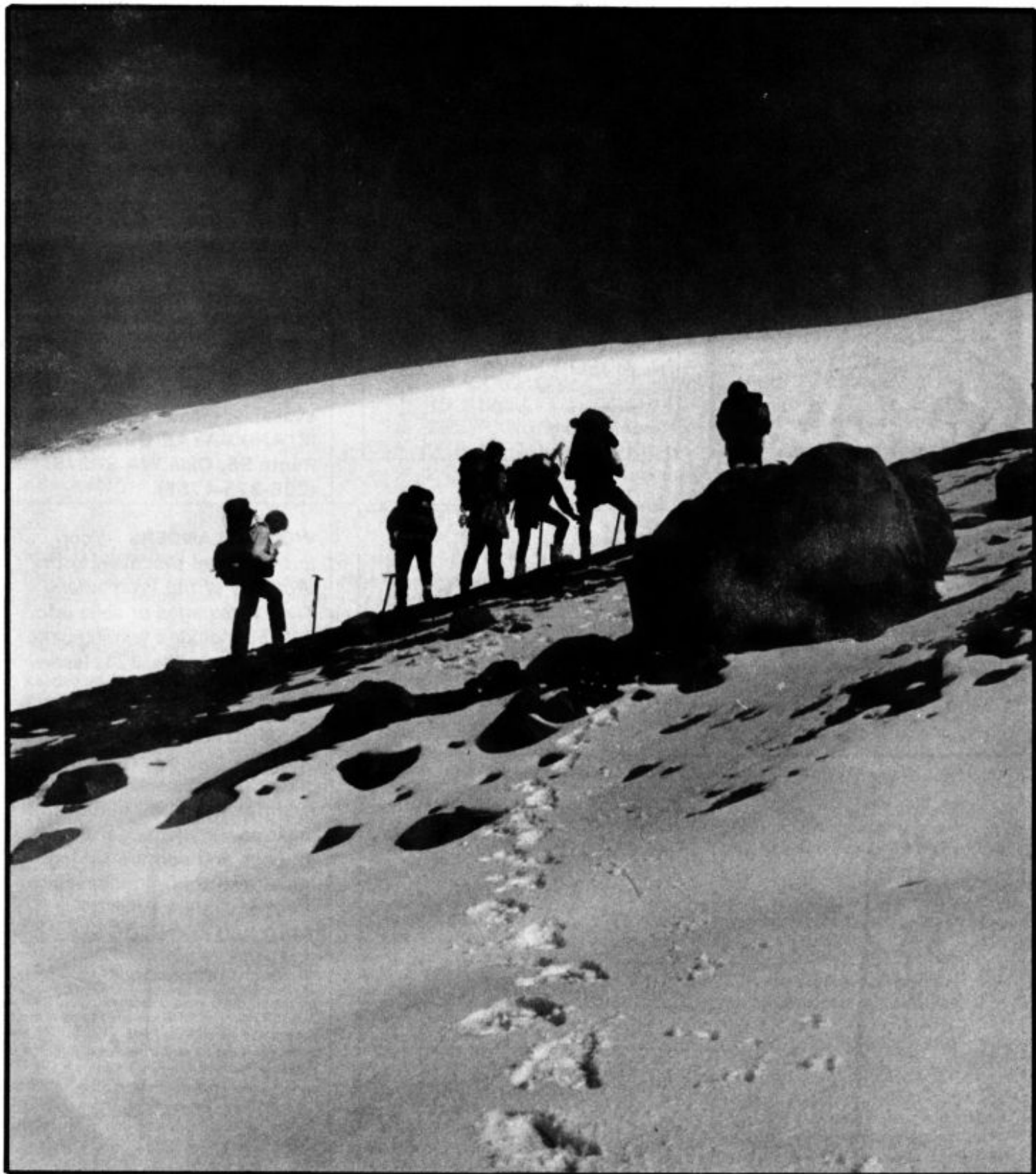


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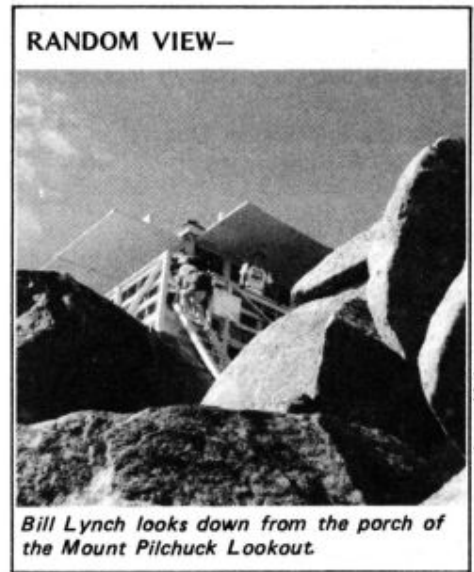
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RANDOM VIEW—

Bill Lynch looks down from the porch of the Mount Pilchuck Lookout.

Jane Habegger

SUBMISSIONS:

GENERAL: Readers are invited to submit material for publication; we accept these submissions as contributions—if payment is requested it will be a modest amount. Put your name on EVERYTHING. If you want your work returned, please include return postage. We cannot guarantee against damage to or loss of material submitted, but we take great care in handling all submissions. Please don't be offended if we can't use your stories or photos.

RANDOM VIEW: What catches your camera's eye? Send us a favorite backcountry snapshot—color print, transparency, or black-and-white.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS: See information on page 5.

FEATURE ARTICLES: 400 to 1500 words. Typed-and-double-spaced is a nice touch, but not required. Space is limited; we reserve the right to cut. Want to write but need some guidance? We'll send our Writers' Guidelines; just ask.

PANORAMA: 100 to 300 words. We welcome all sorts of backcountry news. Send us newspaper clippings, club bulletins, or a paragraph about an important issue.

REST STOP: 100 to 300 words. Send us recipes, do-it-yourself projects for making or modifying gear, minimum impact techniques, safety tips, equipment reviews, etc.

Hiking, backpacking, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking and related activities are potentially hazardous. It is the responsibility of the individual to learn and understand the proper techniques associated with safe participation in these activities, and to fully accept and assume all risks, damages, injury or death which may result from following route descriptions or other advice in this publication. This publication is not meant as a substitute for personal instruction by a qualified person.

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COVER PHOTO:

About 1500 feet below the summit of Mount Saint Helens, Washington. From left: Linda Rostad, Gert Graham, Bettye Hensel, Lindy Bakkar, Tameem Bakkar, and Ken Singleton. Photo by Ann Marshall.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

This is an open forum and does not necessarily express the opinions of the publishers.

KUDOS

Kudos to those responsible for brushing out Dirty Harry's logging road!

Sunshine the Wonder Dog
Seattle, Washington

COMMENT ON CONTENT

I particularly like Deb Riehl and her exciting and humorous rescue stories. What a gem she is!

Also that was a very funny story about getting lost on the slopes of Mount Shuksan. That very nearly happened to me once, in the same place, descending the mountain in a whiteout; the only thing that saved me was some sainted person had stuck a wand in the snow at a crucial turn.

Jim Miller
Portland, Oregon

WASHINGTON'S GRIZZLIES

I read Loren Foss' article "Washington's Grizzlies" (*June, page 19*) and will keep it to refer to before venturing into grizzly country. Kind of a scary article.

While I am very much opposed to intentionally fostering a larger popu-

lation on the land equivalent to the great white shark, I can somewhat understand permitting the natural increase that seems underway. So, while not excited about having to go to such lengths to avoid being mauled while backpacking, the article will help me do what I must if reason does not prevail and we do have to contend with grizzlies.

Jon Almack's statement that the public was not involved in the grizzly study and that the Congress requires grizzly recovery seems like our government. If true that we must tolerate recovery, I doubt that Congress requires we artificially increase grizzly population to 200-400 of the monsters in our mountains overnight.

Let's drag our feet a bit until we can get these undesirable animals off the endangered species list (and some undesirable politicians out of Congress).

Let those who want to rub shoulders with grizzlies hike in Canada with bear bells and all. Certainly that is not too far to go for such a wonderful experience.

Tom Karasek
Stanwood, Washington

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

We saw a large, tawny bear at Twin Lakes (near Lake Wenatchee) in late May. Unsure if it might have been a grizzly, we called the Woodinville office of the state Department of Wildlife after we got home.

That was a mistake. It was four days before they passed word to the office I would have called in the first place had I known.

Sightings of wolves or grizzlies on the east side of the Cascade crest should be reported directly to the Wildlife Department office in Yakima, 509-575-2740.

Incidentally, within an hour after receiving my delayed report, the Yakima wildlife biologist, Lee Stream, was on the phone to me. He asked a lot of questions and went to Twin Lakes the next day or so. On his return he called again to say he'd seen lots of black bear tracks, but no grizzly.

David G. Knibb
Bellevue, Washington

ROAD REPORT

Although road conditions this year are not nearly as bad as last, there are still some closures that may affect your travels. Here are the ones we could find—not guaranteed to be a complete list!

OLYMPICS:

old Portage Head Rd—no access to Shi Shi Beach from Neah Bay; will re-open when legal problems are solved.

North Shore Lk Quinault Rd—closed; but South Shore road is open.

WESTSIDE CASCADES,

North to South:

Canyon Creek Rd 31—closed at 10.5 miles.

Canyon Ridge Rd 3140—bridge out.

Twin Lakes Rd 3065—open; but very rough at site of washout.

Newhalem Creek Rd—closed to cars due to construction; open to

hikers.

Finney-Cumberland Rd 17—open but rough, with a detour at the slide.

Cascade River Rd 15—major repairs now completed.

Tenas Creek Rd 2660—washed out at 4 miles.

Suiattle River Rd 26—closed at 13 miles by washout; foottrail and planks allow hikers and bicycles to cross.

South Suiattle Road 25—closed by slide at 6.3 miles.

Mount Pugh Rd 2095—closed at Mountain Loop; 1 mile walk to trailhead; not open this year.

Beckler River Rd 65—under construction.

Evergreen Mountain Rd 6554—washed out, but will be fixed this summer.

Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rd 56—closed at 14 miles; rough at former washout at 9 miles.

Lennox Creek Rd 57—closed at Lennox Cr bridge.

Westside Road (Rainier NP)—closed 3 miles in.

EASTSIDE CASCADES, North to South:

Buttermilk Butte Rd—new bridge should be completed by now.

Cabin Creek Rd 41—closed at Cole Creek.

Round Mtn Rd 1200-830—closed during week for helicopter logging.

Naches River Rd 1704—closed between Boulder Cave and Halfway Flat.

Lone Butte Wildlife Area—just northwest of Indian Heaven; contains Lone Butte Meadow, Skookum Meadow, Cayuse Meadow and the Crazy Hills. Roads in this area are now closed.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Deschutes River—road between Slough Camp and Lava Island now closed to all motor vehicles.





BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

INTRODUCTION

See General Comments under Submissions on page 3. All readers are encouraged to contribute to Backcountry News. Information that is particularly helpful includes: distance & elevation gain, condition of trail or route, hazards such as tidal currents, rockfall, avalanche danger, washouts, bees' nests, etc, and pleasant or fun things you encountered.

Space is limited; we may have to cut your report to fit available space. Typing is not necessary; we can read just about anyone's handwriting. We're interested in ALL trips, easy and hard, ordinary and exotic.

The following symbols will be used to categorize trips. Let us know if you find this helpful.


-  —climbing, scrambling, mountaineering, off-trail and cross-country travel
-  —hiking, backpacking on trails
-  —canoeing, kayaking, and water trips
-  —snowshoeing and cross-country skiing



PENINSULA


 **HOH RIVER** (*Olympic National Park; USGS Owl Mountain, Mount Tom, Mount Carrie, Mount Olympus*)—We found the trail very dry—NO MUD! Only two spots looked a little damp. The plants were sagging. Seems like late August. There was no snow to Glacier Meadows, but from above the meadows to the glacier there was snow. We encountered many hikers for this beautiful holiday weekend. No new blowdowns. A couple of places where logs are not cut out are very easy to pass. Elk Lake is getting more overgrown due to the camping closure. The little trail out to the lake's peninsula is not maintained; only passing boots keep it visible.

Temperatures were in the upper 80s but an up-river breeze kept us cool at our riverside camps. On our last night out at Olympus Meadows, a party of three tired and grumpy hikers plunked down their camp right next to ours. Olympus Meadows was crowded that night, but there were alternatives. We spent the evening by the river to escape them. All in all, it was a delightful trip. —Rachael Black. Mercer Island, 5/22-25.


 **WEST BUCKHORN PEAK** via Tubal Cain trail (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mount Townsend, Mount*

Deception)—17 miles round-trip, with 3700 feet elevation gain. Sue Edson said she had been to Buckhorn Pass a couple of weeks before. I hadn't been out in several months, but I thought I could manage that. A very busy trail on this summery weekend; a number of families camped at Copper Creek.

The snow started just above the pass, but one look at the ridge and I knew I had to keep going. The entire ridgeline has melted out, and the view from the West Peak is sensational. The West Peak is very easy, but don't continue to the East Peak unless you're a climber.—John Walenta, Seattle, 5/17.

 **LAKE OZETTE to CAPE ALAVA** (*Olympic National Park; USGS Ozette*)—Lots of other hikers out. Six in my party—two men and four ladies. One young lady announced she was 5 months pregnant: that worried me; the trail is quite slippery when wet. She got by all right. We found a comfortable camp spot away from the crowds.

It rained all that night and next day, but it happens that way. We went out by way of Sand Point. The board walk from Ozette to Cape Alava was good, and mostly new. The board walk from Sand Point back to Ozette was older, with a fair number of broken boards.—Archie Wright, Seattle, 4/25-26.

 **BARNES CREEK** (*Olympic National Park; USGS Lake Crescent*)—Approximately 15 years ago I aborted a solo hike to the end of this trail, due to its poor condition, the fact that I was alone, and it was raining. Since then it has been on my "need to do" list.

This Memorial Day weekend I finally returned. Two friends and I, armed

with pruning shears, loppers and bow saws as well as extensive experience in route-finding, carved our way through the forest on what was originally a well-engineered trail.

Beginning at Storm King Ranger Station on Lake Crescent, the trail is in good shape for 3.9 miles to the junction with the Aurora Divide trail.

Unmaintained beyond this point for at least the last 2 decades, it becomes a struggle with a full pack, climbing over or crawling under logs and pushing through brush. Moss and evergreens (some 2 inches in diameter) growing in the tread indicate the amount of use this trail gets.

At the junction we broke out the "weapons" and hacked our way in to our camp at Happy Lake Creek (6.8 miles). The next morning we set out with day packs. Clearing trail for several hours we finally reached the end at Lookout Dome (9.4 miles; 5090 feet).

The excellent description of this trail in *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* states: "The eye is drawn to the rough cliffs of Baldy Ridge, where hawks ride the wind..." Sure enough, there was a hawk right where Robert Wood said it would be.

Monday morning we packed up and pruned our way back out to civilization. This was the first backpack trip I was ever on where I got sore arms and blistered hands.

This is a beautiful area and this trail deserves to be saved. I recommend it to anybody who can handle the logs. Route-finding won't be a problem now. The two most confusing stretches (where we didn't do much work) are flagged.

This trail needs traffic. National Park Service, are you listening? ONP

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

DEADLINE: July 21

Send in your trail reports by this date for the next issue. (Deadlines for other departments are earlier; check with us for details.)

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

needs more than just the main, people-clogged, corridor trails.—Joe Weigel, Port Orchard, 5/23-25.

LAKE OZETTE (*Olympic National Park; USGS Allens Bay, Ozette*)—Having been cautioned to be on the lake in early morning, we left home at the crack of dawn.

On the lake at 9am, we found the water smooth and calm. We meandered our way south, stopping at an old homestead site, at the Erickson's Bay campground, and finally—with a north wind picking up—at the trailhead camp at Allen's Bay. We set up camp and walked the 2.3 miles out to Norwegian Memorial on Kayostla Beach.

Ranger Kevin McCartney had told us this trail is going to be posted "closed" soon because of the hazard the rotting boardwalk presents. Hikers will still be able to use the trail at their own risk, however. We found the trail in reasonable shape considering its neglect. The only truly hazardous spot was a bees' nest located on the last switchback down to the beach (ouch!).

The next morning we paddled over to explore the Tivoli Island campsite which is very nice—a low sandy spit on the north end with an upper shelf in a grove of maples.

There are several established campsites on the lake besides the ones mentioned above: Eagle Point, Cemetery Point, 1 site on Baby Island and 1 site at the Erickson's Bay trailhead.

Although we were on the lake heading north by 8am, the "afternoon breeze" came up about 10 o'clock and we finished the last 2 miles paddling into a stiff wind.—Ann Marshall, 6/20-21.

HIGH DIVIDE LOOP (*Olympic National Park; USGS Mount Carrie, Bogachiel Peak*)—Arrived with son Kris at Sol Duc late at night. Partner Denny Zaborac, traveling light from Kent on his quiet motorcycle, arrived in t-shirt and windbreaker about 11:30pm.

Our chosen trail was by way of Deer Lake, Seven Lakes Basin, Heart Lake, Sol Duc Falls, and then out to close a 20-mile loop in a day.

We were up at 5:30 in the morning. Following breakfast, we had a short drive of less than a mile to the trailhead (1950 feet), and we were hiking by 6:45am.

Old sublimated snow here and there across Bogachiel Ridge and mostly across steep traverse above Heart Lake was very soft. Two of us had decided on no ice axes at camp, while an independent third fellow packed his. "What's I bring this for?" he was heard grumbling.

Avalanche lilies were approaching

peak bloom. The wildflower display was choice! Clouds were creeping into the lake basin as we rounded Heart Lake for the trip out and down.

Back home, a phone conversation with a Ranger noted they had sent a party a couple of hours behind us to Heart Lake and noted someone's barefoot traverse in steep snow above the lake. It was dutifully reported that one of us, after many years of specialized foot and shoe considerations, traveled 20 miles this day on a perfect trail in shower thongs—except for the barefoot snow traverse for which the thongs were unsuited.

These thongs had been specially modified with inner tube soles and a long break in. The sans-boot guy reported very happy feet back at the car.

Typical "beaver fever" warnings were adequately posted in this National Park. We chose, however, to drink the flowing water as individual experience and feeling suggested.—Erl Syverstad, Spanaway, 6/10.

DUNGENESS RIVER (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mount Deception*)—Lew met me at the Diamond Point airport at 8am and we got to the Dungeness River trailhead about 9:30.

The first 3 miles or so are a very easy and very pleasant walk and, therefore very popular. The next 3 miles climb over 3000 feet but the trail is still very good; steady and soft under foot. Views improve but are not really great until just past Boulder Camp where we stopped for lunch and turned around about noon. Good hike.—Tom Karasek, Stanwood, 6/11.

BLAKE ISLAND (*Puget Sound, NOAA chart 18449*)—This was a quick, fun trip with some folks from the Washington Kayak Club, the Paddle Trails Club, and Washington State Parks.

Lee and I had the only canoe among ten or so kayaks; we added contrast. The crossing from Southworth was calm and pleasant, and a sumptuous lunch on the island capped the trip.

The purpose of the trip was to show State Parks Director Cleve Pinnix and members of the Parks Commission a portion of the proposed Washington Water Trail (see *December 1991, page 15*). We hope they were impressed.—Ann Marshall, 6/6.

QUEETS RIVER—Road is open to trailhead; river is 2½' deep at ford.—Ranger, 6/8.

NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH—Bear causing trouble at Camp Pleasant. Avoid camping here. Patchy snow starts at 12 miles. A foot of snow at Home Sweet Home.—Ranger, 6/18.

NORTH

SAHALE MOUNTAIN (*North Cascades NP; USGS Cascade Pass*)—This was the second day the Cascade River road was open following repair work. Arrived at the trailhead at 8:45am and reached Cascade Pass 2 hours later. The trail is in excellent shape with not much snow left at the pass.

After a short break, Tara and I began the steep hike up Sahale Arm, where we got the first glimpse of our 8680-foot destination.



Washington Water Trails' Fran Troje paddles with Parks Director Cleve Pinnix near Blake Island.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

We arrived at the glacier about 2pm and proceeded with ice axes to the rocks below the summit. Here we encountered a somewhat tricky rock scramble. Tara decided this was far enough for her so she waited while I proceeded slowly to the summit. Tara was hit by a few loose stones, one of which cut her head. Fortunately she was not seriously hurt.

The summit is small and uneven and several other people were already there. What an astounding, panoramic view! Many Cascade peaks and several lakes were visible. On the way down I cut my leg on a sharp rock. Soon I rejoined Tara. Bloodied, but together, we descended. Two nice glissades got us to the edge of the glacier very quickly.

This was a long and arduous day hike (about 13 miles and 5000 feet elevation gain), but very enjoyable.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 6/20.

SULPHIDE CREEK (*Baker-Snoqualmie NF & North Cascades NP; USGS Mount Shuksan, Bacon Peak*)—Quite a number of other people on the trail. Only four people in my party.

Spent our time exploring and walking upstream on Sulphide Creek gravel bars. Spectacular views of that side of Mount Shuksan and the Sulphide and Crystal Glaciers.

Was awakened in the night by an owl calling.—Archie Wright, Seattle, 5/16-17.

GOAT MOUNTAIN (*Mount Baker Wilderness; USGS Mount Larrabee*)—This hike provided some of the most beautiful views we have ever seen in the Cascades. The pay-off is fantastic for a relatively short and easy hike!

As we were heading up to the views, we heard a very loud boom that sounded like an explosion. We guessed it was an avalanche on Mount Baker. Views of Baker and Shuksan are spectacular.

The hike is 5 miles round-trip to an old lookout site and gains 1500 feet. There is the option of continuing 2 more miles to the top of Goat Mountain.

The directions in *100 Hikes in the North Cascades* contained one error. The trailhead is 2.5 miles up Road 32 from Highway 542 (the Mount Baker Highway).—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/26.

ROBINSON CREEK (*Pasayten Wilderness; USGS Robinson Mountain*)—The Robinson Creek trailhead is nearly four hours from Seattle, just off the Harts Pass road at Robinson Campground, elevation 2500 feet.

I encountered 4 or 5 blowdowns, one of which was positioned in such a way that I had to get down on all fours and crawl under so my pack

would clear it. The creeks that cross the trail were also running high with snowmelt, and I was forced to do some fancy stepping to avoid wet feet.

About 5 miles in, 4500 feet or so, I started running into snow patches on the shady portions of the trail as it followed the southwest bank of the creek. I floundered through the snow for another mile or so, nearly losing the trail several times.

I finally spotted the log that makes the third and final crossing of Robinson. The log was broken in the middle, so I had to walk down nearly into the water and then back up the other side.

The trail passes through a couple of avalanche meadows at approximately 4900 feet, and I found a snowfree campsite with a great view of Devils Peak at the edge of the second meadow, about 6½ miles in.

Something got into my pack as I slept. In the morning, I found it knocked over with a hole chewed into an empty pocket (I had foolishly left the zipper shut). There were little teeth marks at various points on my pack, but no other major damage—I got off easy.

I saw a baby rattlesnake on the way out the next morning (actually a sharp-eyed fellow hiker pointed it out to me; I would have never seen it otherwise).—Tim Davenport, Bellevue, 5/23-24.

EAST BANK TRAIL, Baker Lake (*USGS Welker Peak*)—Starting just above the dam, this trail runs for 4 miles along the east shore of Baker Lake all the way to the Maple Grove campsite.

The route is mostly in a lovely forest with glimpses of the lake every once in a while. About 2 miles up is a side trail out to a point with a small campground. At 4 miles is the large Maple Grove campsite with picnic tables, out-houses and a dock.

The day our Mountaineer group was there, it started to rain as we ate lunch on the boat dock, and the beautiful views of Baker and Shuksan were gone.

Work is being done to improve the existing trail to horse standards. A huge party was working on the trail the day we were there. They said the plan is to eventually complete the trail to the upper end of the lake, across the inlet, and down the other side.

My map shows the trail going only 2 miles uplake. Is there a more recent map showing the full 4 miles? [*Pic-Tour and Green Trails both show the full 4 miles. For Green Trails, be sure to get the up-dated 1988 edition of No. 46. The Pic-Tour map, called "Southern Mount Baker," also shows trails along the upper end that go into the Wilderness, and that intersect the north end*

of Road 1107-012.—AM]—Ginny Evans, Renton, 5/28.

HANNEGAN PASS—Closed to camping due to bear problems.—Ranger, 6/21.

NORTH CENTRAL

BARLOW POINT (*Baker-Snoqualmie NF; USGS Bedal*)—The trail is only a mile up to a fine viewpoint. We had the top all to ourselves for almost an hour on a sunny Sunday. I guess it is too short for people looking for a hard hike and too steep for those looking for an easy hike.—DLR, Burien, 6/7.

PEAK 5242 (*Baker-Snoqualmie NF; USGS Bedal*)—Peak 5242 is 1 mile southeast of Mount Dickerman. It is a modest peak that offers a splendid panoramic view without requiring a heroic approach. It would be a nice stop on a cross-country trek from Barlow Pass to Perry Creek by way of Twin Peaks. Peak 5435 appeared to be easily accessible on the east side.

This was my fourth attempt at the summit. 1989: cliffed out north of Barlow Point; did Pilchuck. 1990: snow blocked the last 3 miles of the highway; did Pilchuck. 1991: got sick; cancelled trip. This year I got revenge.

From the "2205-foot" highway curve it was a straight shot uphill in easy open forest to the ridge at 3030 feet. Here we rested near huge cedar (?) blowdowns, listening to the croaking of frogs.

Travel from here to Point 4442 was mostly hiking and easy scrambling in trees, thin brush, and minor rock outcrops. A mossy rock plateau at 3500 feet offered a limited view of Barlow Point and environs.

Point 4442 was a small plateau with small evergreens and about 3 feet of snow. From there we had a view of our goal and the ridge to the north.

We descended northwest in thick forest, then angled north until due east of the summit, then ascended between cliff bands to the top. Only bothersome brush of the trip was between Point 4442 and the lower east slope of the summit, but it was tolerable.

As the map suggests, the summit is a huge plateau with a sheer drop-off on the west. A walk to the southwest end yielded a dramatic view of all the Monte Cristo peaks and the highway far below.

On the way down the ridge terrain sure looked different. Missed the point (about 3500 feet) where we should have angled left (southwest) and got cliffed out at 3300 feet.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

Made a big mistake by hiking all the way back on the trail; should have dropped down to the railroad grade to avoid needless elevation gain.

Four hours up; 3.75 down (leisurely pace).—Dave Beedon, Renton, 5/20.

MOUNT DICKERMAN (*Baker-Snoqualmie NF; USGS Bedal*)—Jess and I got an early start; only two other cars were at the trailhead, located less than 60 miles from Lynnwood. The trail begins climbing immediately through deep forest, gaining nearly 4000 feet in about 4¼ miles.

100 Hikes in the Glacier Peak Region says that this trail is hikable in late July; however, because of the low snowpack, we didn't encounter any snow until the upper portion of the peak.

The view from the summit was spectacular, with Baker, Glacier, part of Rainier, and numerous other peaks clearly visible. We spent two hours on the summit, encountering only 6 other people the whole time. We met many people on the descent and arrived back to a trailhead overflowing with cars.

Considering that it was still early and we did not feel too tired, we drove the short distance to the Big Four Ice Caves trailhead which was packed with cars and people. We left without even getting out of the car.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 6/6.

SQUIRE CREEK PASS by way of Squire Creek (*Boulder River Wilderness; USGS Whitehorse Mountain*)—Drive to Darrington, turn right just about anywhere in town, and you'll end up on the Squire Creek road. Follow it to its end and there's the trailhead.

It's not a long hike (one way is 4.5 miles) but it is rugged. The trail is clear and snowfree but there's roots, rocks and a full quota of mud to deal with.

The pass itself is a large, open, rock expanse with spectacular views of Three Fingers, Whitehorse and Mount Bullon. Very few bugs and, at this point, plenty of water.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 6/1-2.

MINERAL CITY to Twin Lakes (*Baker-Snoqualmie NF; USGS Monte Cristo*)—Once again we decided to try to reach Twin Lakes by way of Index and Silver Creek. We headed up the North Fork Skykomish, found the proper turnoff with no problem, but were stopped ¼-mile off the main road. The old road does some major dipping and is finally washed out altogether.

We decided to walk the road about 5 miles to the trailhead. The road turns into a fairly nice, well-kept trail, crosses the washout and goes on to the site of

Mineral City.

We passed several mines, completely open to exploration if you're comfortable with dark, drippy holes in the ground, and many beautiful waterfalls and gorges. All together this was a very pleasant walk, plenty to see and not too difficult.

We had lunch at Mineral City where a stream crosses the trail, then decided to turn back, never making the trailhead.

Does anyone know if the trail still exists and what kind of shape it's in? We plan to try, try again.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 6/16.

For those interested in doing some exploring: the old Silver Creek trail, along with most of the road, has disappeared from current maps. It is still shown, however, on the "Cascade Mountain Foothills 3B" map published by Pic-Tour, 29118 23rd Ave S, Federal Way WA 98003.—AM

LOST CREEK RIDGE (*Glacier Peak Wilderness; USGS Sloan Peak*)—Headed up the hot, dry switchbacks, reaching Bingley Gap in 4 miles. The ridge is gorgeous and blooming with early flowers.

Round Lake still partially frozen, but once you get down the snowy north slope, the shore is melted out, camps open. We perched on the ridge for lunch.—Gail Roberts, Snohomish, 6/20.

BALD MOUNTAIN (*DNR; USGS Mallardy Ridge*)—From Highway 2 just east of Sultan we turned north onto the Sultan Basin road to Spada Lake. Go left at the fork just past the registration booth—this is the P-5000 road (also known as 6126). When you come to the SL-S-6100 road, follow that to the trailhead (3000 feet). Check your maps.

The first part of the trail is an abandoned road with lots of ditches and mounds. When the trail goes into forest, we had to scramble over two large downed trees. We decided the "2 miles" in was the longest 2 miles we ever walked. I think 3+ miles is closer.

We arrived just in time to set up camp near the top of the ridge just as the sun set—what a view.

The next morning we climbed to the summit of Bald Mountain (4851 feet). It's a fairly easy scramble with lots of nooks and crannies to snoop around in and great views.

Then we explored some of the many (over 16) lakes in the area. An 11-mile trail also comes in by way of Ashland Lakes. If you come this way bring lots of water and energy.

The second morning we left early for more exploring—lots to see in this beautiful area.

Next morning we woke up to fog and decided to pack up and head for the truck. We later found out there is a new trail to this area from the Mallardy Ridge road on the Mountain Loop Highway. Check with the Ranger at Verlot for specifics.—J W Bingham, Marysville, 6/12-14.

[Glad to see word of the "new trail" is getting around. This is the one we call the "Walt Bailey Trail," after its builder. Although the WBT was completed last year, there is still plenty of maintenance to be done. If you'd like to give Walt a hand, call him at 206-659-2788.—AM]

LAKE VALHALLA (*Henry M. Jackson Wilderness; USGS Labyrinth Mountain*)—On our way to do a different hike, we decided to drive a little farther to see the fire. Once up Highway 2 that far, we decided to just go on up to Stevens Pass, visit friends working up there, and hike the Crest Trail north to Lake Valhalla. We both firmly believe it's okay to change your mind.

This is a beautiful 5.5-mile (one-way) hike. The trail has not been maintained yet but has only a couple of blowdowns (easily gotten under) and is really in excellent shape. Some snow patches still exist, but nothing major and the path is clearly defined.

The lake itself still has snow on one side and around the edges. It's a great hike. Few bugs; plenty of water.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 6/7.

ENTIAT RIVER TRAIL (*Glacier Peak Wilderness; USGS Silver Falls, Pyramid Mountain, Saska Peak*)—Seemed more like 4th of July weekend! Hiked up the hot and dusty trail, meeting and passing others on the way. At Myrtle Lake junction, encountered snow. Trail was snowfree and maintained to that point. Intermittent snow and some blowdowns as we hiked along. Streams were rushing with snowmelt.

At 8 miles the snow was more or less solid, though only a foot deep, and easy walking. Then—we got a surprise. We learned a secret. At the 10 mile point, the snow vanished and *the meadows are open!* Not only are they open, they are abloom with glacier lilies, spring beauties, and tiny bleeding hearts. And there are marmots and deer! It is spectacular and all ours. The whole valley is ours. We saw no people until we got back out to the Myrtle Lake junction.

This has got to be the best Memorial weekend trip yet, both for weather and for distance into the Wilderness.—Gail Roberts, Snohomish, 5/23-25.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

▲ PEAK 5002 / PEAK 5113 (*Baker-Snoqualmie NF; USGS Silverton*)—

These neighboring peaks lie between Coal Lake and Stillaguamish Peak and appear at the east edge of *USGS Silverton*. Both are largely forested and are joined by a saddle. The upper east side of 5113 has downsloping slabs. 5113 offers a good view of the impressive north side of Stillaguamish peak.

Due to last-minute cancellations, only three of us were on this Mountain-eers scramble; my companions were John Roper and Bill Duvall. After breakfast at the Maltby Cafe and signing in at Verlot, we were off to Coal Lake, where we parked.

The Pass Lake trail took us quickly to the pass. Here we left the trail. After an easy ascent on a steep forested slope we gained the crest of a curving ridge which eventually brought us to a saddle northwest of Peak 5002.

We ascended south to the saddle between the two peaks, from which 5002 was an easy scramble except for some exposure on the final animal track to the summit (it spooked me so bad I didn't go to the summit).

In about an hour we reached Peak 5113 by descending to the saddle, then following the ridge to the false summit. This route included a tight squeeze through tree trunks. To avoid, go south to a draw on the west side of main ridge leading to 5113. At top of draw, cross ridge onto east face.

I settled for the false summit, but Bill and John went on to the true summit. Sunny and almost no clouds around the peaks!

On the descent of the east face I was so busy worrying about the exposure that I forgot to look at Stillaguamish Peak again. We descended north, then turned west and descended on the steep slope into Coal Lake valley: spooky descent with serious brush belays! We encountered lots of prickly brush (wild rose?) in the valley bottom and some trash at the campsites near the lake.

Three hours to first summit; 45 minutes to the second; two hours back to the cars.—Dave Beedon, Renton, 5/27.

CENTRAL

▲ GRANITE MOUNTAIN (*Alpine Lakes Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—

Gene Frazier, of the Hi-Lakers Club, planned to open up the Granite Mountain lookout and check on its condition before the club's summer maintenance work parties. Juel and I joined him. We picked up the keys from Steve Bucher and headed to North Bend to rendezvous with Jim Smith from the Trailblazers. Wilma Boyd and Art

Semple also joined us over breakfast.

Loaded with carbohydrates and fruit juice, we headed up I-90 to the Denny Creek exit and the large trailhead parking lot.

Distance and elevation gain are about 4.5 miles and 3650 feet so this hike is a challenging early-season leg-stretcher.

The lookout survived the winter in pretty good shape. Needs a coat of paint everywhere, as usual. No sign of vandalism (thanks, everyone!).

Gene, Jim and I opened the shutters and bolted them securely against wind. Gene then took a detailed survey of work to be done. The next work party is planned tentatively for 7/18. If you are interested in visiting the lookout when it is open, check with the North Bend Ranger Station (206-888-1421) to confirm when it will be staffed.—Gerry Erickson, Seattle, 5/30.

▲ RED PASS (*Alpine Lakes Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—

Four of us met early Saturday morning and piled into Bettye's Toyota.

Although creeks were low and some small drainages were dry, many wildflowers were out. A couple of downed logs had to be crawled over or under, and one huge uprooted tree in Commonwealth Basin required a brushy detour.—Ann Marshall, 6/7.

▲ PCT, Silver and Tinkham Peaks (*Wenatchee National Forest; USGS Lost Lake*)—

Take the Stampede Pass exit from I-90, then northward past Lost Lake to signed trailhead for Cottonwood and Mirror Lakes. Road is in good shape, with minor washboarding.

Cottonwood Lake is reached in about ¼-mile with only 200 feet elevation gain. Mirror Lake is about 2/3-mile farther, and another 500 feet. At the junction with the PCT at Mirror Lake, we turned north, aiming for the saddle between Tinkham and Silver. PCT is in good shape through this stretch, but could use some re-hab in the wetter portions.

Shortly past a meadow stream and pool below the saddle area, a way-trail (signed "abandoned trail") takes off westward. This switchbacks fairly directly to the saddle.

From the saddle, continue north on the obvious ridge and way-trail up the southern flank of Silver as far as time allows. The views keep expanding, except on cloudy days such as this one.

We turned around after lunch at the broad hump about ½-mile south of Silver Peak summit. This route makes a nice, moderate day hike, about the same distance as Granite Peak but only half the elevation gain.—Gerry Erickson, Seattle, 6/14.

▲ EASTON RIDGE (*Wenatchee National Forest; USGS Cle Elum Lake*)—

We stopped on the way to Richland to explore approaches to the ridge as described in Signpost articles of recent years.

We first probed the powerline road and rock quarry described by Robert Kinzebach in 6/87 and 8/88 issues. The logging road is now gated, locked, and bermed just beyond the quarry.

We then drove back through town and up the Kachess Ridge trail access roads. We found the ORV crossing mentioned by TG in the 4/89 issue, but the bridge is gone. A two-limb alder is down across the creek, about which Patti looked none too pleased.

We then drove to the road-end and signed Easton Ridge trailhead. Again, an alder provides a precarious crossing for the sure-footed.

We returned to the rock quarry and walked the road into the upper basin clearcut, finding the side road leading to the trail intersect. Worsening weather and time constraints called a halt to our wanderings at this point—we'll finish the route next spring.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 6/4.

▲ INDIAN CREEK / INDIAN PASS (*Glacier Peak Wilderness; USGS Poe Mountain, Mount David*)—

Steve and I enjoyed four days along Indian Creek.

The trail starts at the end of the White River road. It follows the west bank of the White River for 2 miles through big timber. A nice bridge crosses Indian Creek and the trail starts to climb on the other side to the valley above.

About 4 miles in from the car we came to a stream which we forded then, because of our late start, decided to camp on the other side.

Day Two found us hiking through patches of trees and meadows. As we got higher, we had to look for the trail under lots of snow. At about 3600 feet we entered a large snowfree meadow with a scenic campsite. Instinctively, we set up camp here.

The next day, overcast and cold, we hiked up to Indian Pass. Much of the route was on snow and as we got closer to the pass we lost the trail a couple of times. At the pass, it was snowing lightly and 35 degrees. There was close to 3 feet of snow at the pass. A few tree wells were melted down to bare ground, and we huddled in one of them for a quick lunch.

Back at camp, the sun was out and it was warmer. When we got up on our final day, we found the ground covered with frost and a thin layer of ice in our water bucket. On our way out we surprised a black bear in one of the meadows. He took off as we passed below on the trail.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

Overall we found the trail in good shape. Some trees are down, but only a few are a challenge for hikers with full packs.—Linda Rostad, Bothell, 5/18-21.

DIRTYFACE LOOKOUT (*Wenatchee National Forest; USGS Lake Wenatchee*)—The trail starts behind the ranger station from the upper parking lot. The book says this steep trail has 81 switchbacks—we didn't count them, but there were a lot!

Surprisingly, most of the trail is in trees all the way up. There was a cool breeze, so when we stopped, we got cold. The trail is in good shape, with a few trees down across the trail, but all are easy to step over. The wildflowers will be peaking soon.

We crossed several streams in the first 2 miles. Near the top we found some snow patches on the north side, but no snow on the trail or on the top. The views from the top were great.

About ½-mile down from the top we found a trail going north. We followed it a short way. It looked like it may go over to Dirty Face Lake and from there to Dirtyface Peak. We hope to come back some day to find out.—Linda Rostad, Bothell, 6/4.

THORP MOUNTAIN (*Wenatchee National Forest; USGS Kachess Lake*)—A short, uncrowded hike to grandstand views, 5854-foot Thorp Mountain hosts an unused lookout and a panorama of the Cascades from Adams to Stuart.

Plum Creek Timber Company has roaded and logged most of the close-in checkerboard land it owns, but the trail atop Kachess Ridge and No Name Ridge remains undisturbed.

We used the Knox Creek trail, which switchbacks up through south-facing meadows of ferns and wildflowers, climbing 1100 feet in 1.3 miles. With two cars, you could make a loop using the Thorp Creek trail in the next valley to the north.

It's only 2.5 miles from the Knox Creek trailhead to the top of Thorp Mountain. The distance up Thorp Creek would be about the same, not counting a side trip to Thorp Lake.

The USGS [and Pic-Tour] maps correctly show two trails up Thorp. The southern approach is the maintained and used trail. The eastern approach, the only one shown on the Green Trails maps, is steep, abandoned, eroded, and overgrown. Somehow it scratches its way up through the rocks.

After soaking up the scenery and a browse through the summit register, we took the abandoned trail down and rambled north on the Kachess Ridge trail for another 2 miles. No spectacular views but pleasant country and plenty of solitude. The last snowbanks were

SEASONAL HAZARDS

JULY and AUGUST—Backcountry roads are rough and dusty. Mosquitoes. Biting flies. Yellow jackets. Fire danger extremely high. Don't build fires; use a stove. Seasonal water sources dry. Glaciers broken up. Lightning strikes along exposed ridgelines during storms. Heat-related illnesses and injuries. Carry plenty of water.

melting fast. Mosquitoes kept us moving.—David Knibb, Bellevue, 6/20.

ESMERELDA PEAKS (*USGS Mount Stuart*)—Near the start of the De Roux Creek trail the North Fork Teanaway River still goes around the bridge; however there is a good footlog 400 feet downstream.

A warm, sunny day and many flowers contributed to an enjoyable hike. When we reached the top, however, CAT did have a problem beating off the ladybugs.—TG, Skyway, 6/18.

IRON BEAR / TEANAWAY RIDGE / COUNTY LINE TRAIL (*Wenatchee National Forest; USGS Enchantment Lakes, Blewett*)—I got on the wrong trail! I had planned to go to Miller Peak but here's what happened. I drove to the Miller Peak / Iron Bear trailhead which is at the end of the Stafford Creek road. The parking lot was full of horses, bikes, and RVs. Wanting to escape, I headed up an unsigned trail.

As I hurried along I kept waiting for the steep switchbacks that would take me to the 5000-foot point along the ridge, but they never materialized. I began to get that uncomfortable feeling that I was on the wrong trail. Soon I came to a familiar junction and discovered I was on the Iron Bear trail. From there the Teanaway Ridge trail climbed upward so I kept going. Ridges and more ridges came into view and the Stuart Range appeared.

Now hiking off my map, I came to a junction with the County Line trail to the right and took it. I soon came to a short ridge of crumbling pinnacles festooned with wild daisies. This was a magnificent spot and I resolved to have lunch there on the way back. I continued about another mile before turning around.

The hiking guides tell us this is motor-cycle country but I didn't run into razzers until the very end of the trail. I

mostly had the area to myself.

When I got back to the trailhead I saw where I had made my mistake. The Iron Bear trail is unsigned but the Miller Peak trail a few yards away is clearly signed. An RV had been blocking my view and I hadn't taken the time to look around.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 5/24.

MILLER PEAK (*Wenatchee National Forest; USGS Enchantment Lakes, Blewett*)—Still determined to get to Miller Peak, I was at the trailhead by 7:30am to get an early start. I wanted to avoid the holiday mess on I-90 on my way back to Seattle.

This time I started off on the right trail. After a couple of stream crossings I encountered the steep switchbacks which ended on the ridge about 5000 feet. The Miller Peak trail contours below the ridge. In *Teanaway Country*, Mary Sutliff writes about a tree growing out of the rock and I wanted to find it. It was easy enough to recognize: the tree's root system clings to the rock in a fantastic manner, seeming to barely perch there yet it is surely rooted.

I came to an unsigned junction for the Teanaway Ridge trail and continued another ½-mile to the peak. Miller Peak wasn't as big as I remembered from before but last time it had been covered with snow.

I had the whole place to myself and after lunch dashed back down, making a 4½-hour round trip. Even with the early start, I still got caught in the traffic outside Cle Elum.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 5/25.

BEAN PEAK (*Wenatchee NF; USGS Enchantment Lakes*)—Went up Bean on a Mountaineers' Scrambling Course field trip. The peak (6743 feet) is interesting because it is made of several different types of rock. The dominant type is an orange-colored rock having very high friction.

Noticed that new houses are being built—apparently on former farm land—in the Teanaway River Valley.

Dirt roads leading to the trailhead are in good shape. The trailhead (at the closed bridge) now has a rough parking area bulldozed out of the hill with room for about 7 cars.

The Bean Peak trail and its log crossing of Bean Creek are in good condition.

Marvelled at the many butterflies on the summit. Magnetic disturbance on Bean produced compass readings that were about 23 degrees too far east.—Dave Beedon, Renton, 6/6.

NORTH FORK SNOQUALMIE ROAD—Now closed.—Ranger, 6/24.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

SOUTH CENTRAL

COLLAPSED ICE CAVES (*Mount Rainier National Park; USGS Mount Rainier East*)—Karla and I hiked to the site of the collapsed Paradise Ice Caves. The ice walls are continuing to shrink due to melt. We could not find any openings to any side caves.

We did notice, however, that the snowfield below the caves appears to be crevassed and they are starting to open up. Hikers should be cautious around this potentially dangerous situation. Depending on which route you take, you may encounter weak snow bridges over streams which are creating another hazard.

We saw thousands of ice worms on the ice caves spur trail. If you haven't seen them before, this is an excellent opportunity.—Margaret Yates, Longmire, 6/6.

SPRAY PARK (*Mount Rainier National Park; USGS Mowich Lake*)—We found the road closed just inside the Park boundary at Paul Peak trail. After parking the cars, we were hiking by 8am. Mike helped out by spotting the beginning of the Grindstone trail, shortening the road walk by a mile. Although snow remained on the road, Mowich Lake was snowfree.

We hiked past the Ranger Station and picked up the trail to Knapsack Pass, mostly on snow and following the tracks of an earlier party. We dropped our packs for a quick scramble to the top of Fay Peak.

On the traverse to Knapsack Pass, we were surprised to find the slopes had a lot of ice just under the snow, making the traverse exciting. We dropped into a beautiful basin above Mist Park and considered camping here for its central location, but I promised the group we would be able to see the lights of the city if we camped high.

We dropped our packs again on the shoulder of Mount Pleasant, and took our lunches to the summit.

Even though there is snow in most of Spray Park, regulations require that we camp above the meadow which means a climb to 6800 feet. We reach our campsite around 3pm. Everyone is really worn out, but we pitch the tents, then quickly head out to climb Echo and Observation.

We summit on Observation just after 5pm and enjoy the views from what will be our high point for the weekend. We can see the Liberty Ridge climbers making camp at Thumb Rock—we imagine how tired *they* must feel!

Then we're off for the scramble of Echo Rock. It's really just a loose pile

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY—High country accessible earlier than usual. Delta Aquarid meteor shower 7/28; best 2am; lasts several days.

AUGUST—Perseid meteor shower entire second week; best 4am.

of garbage rock and about now I wonder why I'm climbing it for the fourth time. The view is great and with a small party it's not hard to keep the group together to minimize rockfall.

Back to camp before 7pm—a great day. I reward the group by serving strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream that I have packed in. Yes, we can see the lights of the city.

The next morning we scrambled to the top of 1st Mother, had lunch on the summit of Castle, then climbed 2nd Mother. I spent the whole time on this summit drying out my socks and retaping my feet that were being consumed by boot-burn. Finding ticks on the rocks, however, was the signal to head down.

The next day we headed out on the Wonderland Trail through Spray Park. Hesson Rock was the only thing left to climb. We dropped our packs at 5700 feet, but I had had enough and turned the trip over to Tom to take Liz and Mike up to the summit.

It takes them about 2 hours round trip and then we head down the mostly snowfree trail. We have to take in the tourist sights of Spray Falls and Eagle Cliff since it's Liz and Mike's first trip here.

We are back to the cars at 3pm. I estimate 30 miles and 10,000 feet gain for the weekend.—Sara Matoi, Kent, 5/23-25.

GOBBLER'S KNOB LOOKOUT (*Glacier View Wilderness & Mount Rainier NP; USGS Mount Wow*)—This trip required two cars. We parked one 3 miles up the Westside Road at the barricade. We drove the other car west on Highway 706 and just after the Copper Creek Inn turned north on the Copper Creek road. We stopped about ½-mile from the trailhead where two large trees were blocking the road.

The parking lot has some broken glass from car clouts that happened last fall during hunting season.

The main trail divides after a couple of hundred feet. We took the trail to the right to beautiful Beljica Meadows where we were rewarded with wildflower displays of shooting stars, avalanche lilies and paintbrush.

Past Goat Lake the trail enters the National Park and climbs an open slope

covered in wildflowers. We took the side trail to the lookout and were rewarded with wonderful views. It was on this section of the trail that we encountered the most snow, just small patches less than 30 feet wide and no more than a foot deep.

From Lake George to the trailhead is a gradual downhill to the Round Pass area, then about 3 miles on the Westside Road to our car. We did not encounter any other hikers. The trail was in very good shape.

We counted 25 different types of wildflowers and we were most impressed with the rhodies, avalanche lilies and the shooting stars. We guess that the distance was about 9 miles. For children, you may want to make Gobbler's Knob your turn-around for a 6 or 7 mile hike.

When we arrived at our second car on the Copper Creek Road we found that the trees had been cleared and the road had been graded. Hope you enjoy this hike as much as we did.—Margaret Yates and Karla Tanner, Longmire, 6/1.

GLACIER VIEW (*Glacier View Wilderness; USGS Mount Wow*)—Bill and I had one of the clearest views of Mount Rainier on this sunny Saturday. It was also clear to Mount Adams though hazy toward Saint Helens. The lighting on the mountain is more interesting in morning and late afternoon. It was also perfectly timed for dinner at the Copper Creek Inn!

There's a large tree down across the trail approximately 2 miles up; it's passable. No snow on the trail—more than a month early. The bugs weren't too bad but can be pretty bothersome at the marshy trailhead.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 6/6.

HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN (*Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; USGS Greenwater*)—We used the Pic-Tour / Naches map to find our way above Greenwater to the start of the Bone Lake trail amid clearcuts.

This trail follows the ridge line and is sometimes steep, otherwise quite pleasant and in good shape. The forest has a lovely hue and plenty of shade-loving spring flowers. Two miles in, we skirted a smoking-new clearcut on the left, above Slippery Creek. It has obliterated the Divide Trail 1170 west of here.

We followed the contouring trail east to meadows and ridgetop views. A 7-mile round trip.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 5/17.

MOUNT WOW (*Mount Rainier NP; USGS Mount Wow*)—With the kids safely stashed at Grandmother's, Maria and I headed for Mount Wow.

The map showed a road near the

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS


Park boundary on the west of Mount Wow in the Goat Creek drainage. We left the main highway on the road to Glacier View and Lake Christine. In a mile or so we turned off on the rough but passable road to Goat Creek. We were able to drive nearly to the crossing of Goat Creek, just outside the Park. Great!

Starting 1300 feet higher than the Boundary trail route, we walked the spur road up Goat Creek to the end, then dropped to cross the creek and headed up the far side. The first couple of hundred feet were in thick brush and trees. The brush disappeared as we climbed. We stayed more or less on the ridge which curves to the northeast and becomes Point 5722.

By then we were in meadows and open forest; nice travelling. We stayed on the ridge, and yelled, "Wow!" as we first glimpsed Rainier from the summit. The ascent had been an easy 3 hours.

We retraced our steps, following the ridge down the hillside until it faded into the slope of the hill. We dropped the last few hundred yards to the creek (through the brush, yuck!) and walked the road a few minutes to the car.


It had been a great day exploring a new route.—Jim P, Federal Way, 5/23.

 **LANE PEAK** (*Mount Rainier NP; USGS Mount Rainier West, Mount Rainier East*)—After the last month of great weather, we could hardly believe it as we huddled around our cars at the trailhead—it was snowing! We fumbled around waiting for some sensible person to suggest we go home, but no one did. So we shouldered our packs and left the cars at 7:45am.

The trail was at least half snowfree, a good month earlier than last year. At the saddle where the official trail ends, we hid behind a few trees to watch the snow change to rain and back to snow again. We were starting to enjoy ourselves.

We followed the way-trail over the shoulder of Plummer Peak and down to where it disappeared in the saddle below Lane. We headed for Lane's main gully, briefly visible during a rainy period, and went straight up the gully over loose, icy rock.

Reaching the top just before 10, we imagined for a couple of minutes what the view must be like, and then we headed down. We were back to the cars by noon. Another adventure survived.—Jim P, Federal Way, 6/13.

 **CRYSTAL LAKES** (*Mount Rainier National Park; USGS White River Park*)—As Bill and I began it started to rain. We had all our rain gear

so we didn't let it stop us. Most of the first 1½ miles is protected in the trees. By the time we reached an open area, the rain had stopped.

When we reached the lower lake the rain hit again and we took shelter under some trees to eat lunch. We then headed to the upper lake. This portion of trail climbs a couple of hundred feet in ½-mile through meadows with abundant wildflowers. The upper lake has at least two campsites, which were both occupied this Sunday night. We both expected a nice hike to a pretty lake, but nothing spectacular. We *really* enjoyed the beautiful scenery at Upper Crystal and feel fortunate to have hit it at the perfect time—the snow on the surrounding peaks made it a gorgeous site, the wildflowers were just beginning to pop out, and the bugs hadn't hatched yet! The hike to the upper lake is 6 miles round-trip with 2300 feet elevation gain.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 6/14.

BIG CROW BASIN / NORSE PEAK

(*Norse Peak Wilderness; USGS Norse Peak*)—This is high on our list of alternatives for mid-June, when the trail is snowfree but enough patches remain near the ridgetops to provide a source of water.

Access is off Crystal Mountain highway, about 2 miles from the ski area, just before the highway crosses to the west side of Silver Creek. Park near the grassy verge on the west side, across from the gravel road (see *100 Hikes in the South Cascades & Olympics*). Trail starts about 1000 feet up the gravel road (no parking) at 4000 feet.

Trail has been rebuilt over the last 5 years, shorter and steeper, but a good pitch for hiking. Carry lots of water. Statue Camp is passed at 2.5 miles (6200 feet) and the trail begins to pass through high level meadows.

At 6400 feet watch for a trail branch switching back to the right, just where

an old, abandoned trail comes up from the front (left). The trail to Big Crow Basin continues ascending straight, but the trail to the peak is to the right

We set up camp on the ridgetop above Big Crow Basin, then descended to the basin to intersect the PCT. We followed the PCT toward Lake Basin, but just before reaching the basin, we heard shots. Not knowing if this was target practice or poaching, we decided to turn back, and scrambled to the top of Norse Peak from the PCT.

After soaking up views from Mount Adams to Mount Daniel, we headed back to camp to watch mountain goats and elk.

In the morning we packed up and headed back. Snowbanks in Big Crow Basin should last until mid-July for water, but the western flanks may be dry by the end of June. Total elevation gain directly to Norse Peak is about 2850 feet from trailhead, which is less than Mount Si with better views. Driving distance from Seattle is about 80 miles. Likely to be plenty of mosquitoes by mid-July.—Gerry Erickson, Seattle, 6/6-7.


TAMANOS MOUNTAIN (*Mount Rainier NP; USGS White River Park, Chinook Pass*)—It's easy to see

why this trip is one of the more popular scrambles. The trail in is well graded with few rocky areas. The elevation is gained in the trees to start with and then the trail traverses a mile to the meadows around Owyhigh Lakes. A way-trail, sketchy in parts, leaves the main trail about ¼-mile beyond the lakes and climbs to the ridge through fields of avalanche lilies.

The view gets better with each step and when you reach the ridge you have to stop to admire the Mountain and the Cowlitz Chimneys. Follow the ridge up and out to the summit at 6790 feet.

The nice weather forced us into a long lunch and a nap. Finally we dropped back to the lakes and the trail out. The snow around the lakes should be gone in a couple of weeks. Then the goats we watched will have to travel farther for a break from the midday sun.—Jim P, Federal Way, 6/6.

SOUTH

 **INDIAN ROCK** (*Yakima Indian Reservation; USGS Indian Rock, Stagman Butte, Hagerty Butte*)—5823-foot Indian Rock is the apparent crest of the Simcoe Mountains, west of Satus Pass. Indian Rock rises 4000 feet above Goldendale and is Washington's 96th highest mountain with ≥ 2000 feet prominence above ridge level.

From my limited observations, In-

ALWAYS CARRY THE TEN ESSENTIALS


1. extra food
2. extra clothing
3. map
4. compass
5. knife
6. matches
7. fire starter
8. first aid kit
9. sun protection
10. flashlight

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

dian Rock appears to part of a huge, basaltic shield volcano—a scaled-down version of Mauna Loa.

John Roper, David Singleton and I drove a rough dirt road west from Satus Pass following the crest of the Simcoe Mountains. We followed a make-shift road up the north rib to about 5750 feet, then hiked to the famed top. The true Indian Rock is a 15-20-foot outcrop that provides dramatic views of Goldendale, Mount Hood and eastern desert land. It was easy to imagine ancient people enjoying this wonderful vantage.

Perhaps the most beautiful feature of the Indian Rock area is the 5500-foot Lakebeds Valley. This huge, high basin is surrounded by several small summits, was decorated by a trillion yellow flowers, and rivals nearly any meadow in our state.—Stephen Fry, Edmonds, 6/6.


 **LEMEI ROCK** (*Indian Heaven Wilderness; USGS Lone Butte*)—Our Indian Rock crew continued our adventure in "Volcanoland" by driving to Cultus Creek campground and scaling 5925-foot Lemei Rock. This also appears to be a shield volcano, consisting of mostly low-sloping basalt lava flows.

The trail from the 4000-foot campground rises fairly directly to "Cultus Lake Pass" (5100 feet), where heather meadows and gurgling streams reside nearby. From the pass, we followed a trail southeast toward Lemei Rock.


We left this trail at about 5340 feet and followed Lemei's northwest ridge up to the north-south crest. We then scrambled along the ridge (Class 1.5 to 2) over and around little outcroppings to Lemei's apex. If you keep your eyes open you can follow a faint path around and over all the difficulties.

Lemei is perfectly positioned between Adams, Saint Helens, Rainier and Hood, and because it is prominent and higher than all but the four giants, Lemei offers perhaps the best multi-volcano view in the Cascades.

Hiking/climbing time was 2 hours. We stayed on the crow's-nest of a summit for an hour.—Stephen Fry, Edmonds, 6/7.

 **TOMBSTONE and BLUE LAKES** (*Indian Heaven Wilderness; USGS Gifford Peak*)—Patchy snow on the Pacific Crest Trail near Blue Lake in the central IHW, primarily on those portions of the PCT on the eastern flank of Gifford Peak. All snow should be gone by now. Snowmelt is about 3-4 weeks ahead of schedule. Blue Lake had about 20% ice cover. Tombstone Lake has only about 10%. No mosquitoes yet, but they will be


rampant throughout June and July.—Gerry Erickson, Seattle, 5/24.

 **APE CANYON** (*Saint Helens NVM; USGS Mount Saint Helens*)—We stayed Memorial weekend Sunday night at the Scandia Motel in Woodland, a cheap, clean and quiet place despite its midtown location.

Monday morning brought high clouds and mild temperatures. The Ape Canyon trail skirts the Big Muddy mudflow for 2 miles, then climbs over an old moraine in deep old growth firs.

The trail is well graded and gains only 1200 feet over 5 miles; not surprisingly, we met two pairs of mountain bikers (despite the hiker-only trailhead sign).

Ape Canyon is a deep gash of multi-colored rock. We lunched near the junction of the Round-the-Mountain trail. Rainier, Adams, and Hood were all visible.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 5/25.

 **MOUNT SAINT HELENS** (*Mt St Helens National Volcanic Monument; USGS Mount Saint Helens*)—We arrived at the Climbers' Bivouac in late afternoon to find Lindy and Adnan already there setting up base camp.


Our party of eight left before first light the next morning, leaving Adnan and Rasheed to take care of camp.

We had a beautiful morning—sunrise

over Mount Adams, with Mount Hood in the distance—but as the sun warmed the valley clouds, they rose to engulf us in swirling mist. Our views at the summit were limited to a few glimpses down into the crater with its steaming lava dome.

With most of the snow gone, we slipped and slid on loose volcanic muck. We stayed slightly west of Monitor Ridge on as much snow as we could find. The crater rim was muddy and slippery.

Back at camp, we found Adnan had been busy. One of his many talents is Dutch oven cooking, and with a small pile of charcoal he had slowly simmered a pot of chicken, one of vegetables, and one full of peach cobbler!—Ann Marshall, 6/13-14.

 **JUNE LAKE** (*USGS Mount Saint Helens*)—My sister and I did an interesting loop hike starting at the June Lake trailhead on Road 83 south of Mount Saint Helens.

The grade was gentle and we hiked the 1½ miles to the lake in record time. June Lake is unusual in appearance, with all flat terrain on one side and a steep cliff with a beautiful waterfall on the other.

We continued on the trail above June Lake until it intersected the round-the-mountain Loowit Trail, where we

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

turned left. Lots of rock to hike over on this section and good views of Saint Helens. We hiked west to where the map shows a pink "Winter Recreation" trail and we turned south here. It wasn't as well-defined as the hiker trails but easy enough to follow. There were also blue diamonds on the trees to help keep us on track. We followed this trail to Road 83, about a mile from our car.

All along the way, other trails kept intersecting the one we were on, all labeled for either skiing or snowmobiling. When the trail we were on met Road 83, there was a brand-new log cabin warm-up lodge, an emergency phone, and a wonderful new-fangled, non-smelly outhouse. Two huge parking lots surrounded the lodge. We assumed this is for winter recreation use as all the pink trails seemed to converge on this area. —Ginny Evans, Renton, 6/9.

KILLEN CREEK (Mount Adams Wilderness; USGS Green Mountain)

—We four thought we would take advantage of early summer weather and visit the gentle northern slopes of Mount Adams. The trail was great until about 6000 feet where we hit snow. Some routefinding was necessary since it appeared that no one had been up the trail before us.

At 6500 feet we came to the first big meadow. It had a few open spots, and nothing but heavy snowpack ahead. So "Big Meadow" was quickly declared home base. We set up tents and dayhiked a short distance up to the PCT.

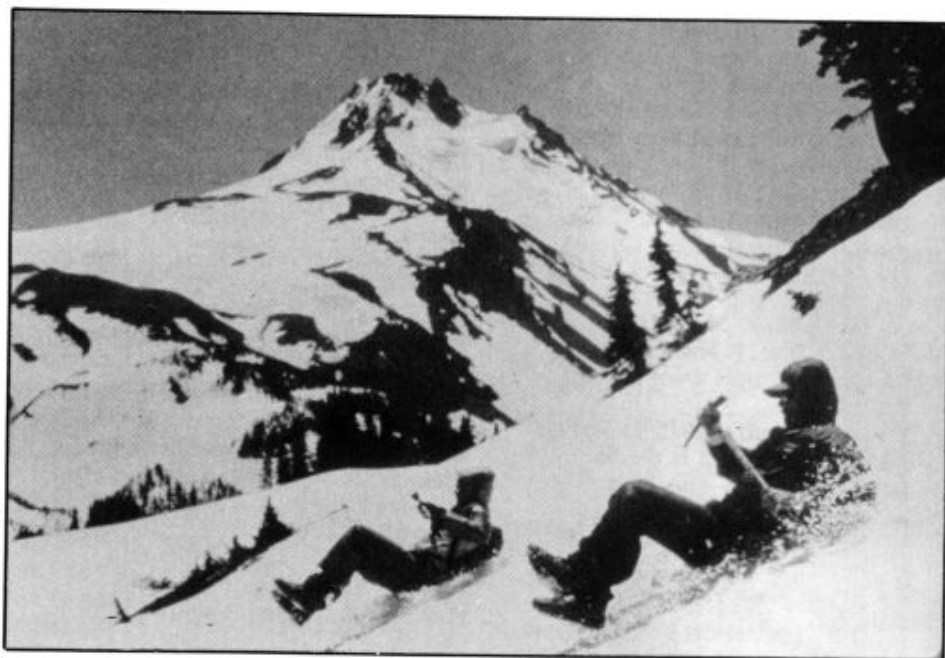
Next morning we dayhiked over the snow to Killen Creek basin. Routefinding is certainly different when all the old familiar landmarks are under snow. We were searching out an old favorite campsite and were on the verge of giving up when we realized we were standing on it!

Next day we kicked steps in the steep snow up to High Camp at 7000 feet. An alpine wonderland! Climbers bivouac here for the popular North Cleaver route. Part of the camp was snow free. We enjoyed the "krumholtz" (from German for "twisted wood").

These were gnarly whitebark pines, trunks horizontal, crouched behind boulders with branches pruned flat by winter storms. Our photographers had good light and a great shooting day.

We climbed up higher and "discovered" Moraine Lake, a frozen lake behind a moraine with about 2 square feet of open water. It is shown on the map with an elevation of 7505, but apparently it is not officially named.

When I bathed that evening I realized that old Sol had taken his toll for non-application of sunscreen. Meanwhile great gobs of climbers and hikers had



Glissading near Park Ridge, north of Mount Jefferson.

Terry Woodburn

clomped through our camp. They were off-trail, following our pioneering route right to our lair!

This 3½-day trip was an ideal early season backpack.—Jim Miller, Portland, 5/23-25.

LOOWIT TRAIL—This new trail around Saint Helens is open but has some major problems. Large portions of the trail have been washed out or sluffed off at Windy Pass and in the Muddy River area. Hikers heading south on the Loowit Trail from Windy Ridge can use the Abraham trail 216D as an alternate route.

The bad sections in the Muddy River area are south of the Ape Canyon trail junction and northwest of the June Lake trail junction. Major detours will be necessary and crossing the canyons can be difficult as footing is loose and grades are steep.

Contact the Ranger Station, 206-247-5473 for more info.—Ranger, 6/17.

PACKWOOD DISTRICT—Packwood Lake Resort is closed this summer.—Ranger, 6/17.

MOUNT ADAMS DISTRICT—509-395-2501. Cold Springs Campground will open 7/4.

Mandatory self-issue permits will begin 6/15 for both the Mount Adams and Indian Heaven Wildernesses. Permits available at trailheads.—Ranger, 6/19.

TRACT D—Tract D is on the Yakima Nation and will open 7/1. A permit to enter is required and may be obtained near Mirror Lake. Cost is \$5 for 24-hour use per vehicle of six people.—Ranger, 6/19.

OREGON

MOUNT HOOD (Mount Hood Wilderness; USGS Mount Hood South)

—Jess and I had been "pumped" for this climb for almost a year. We arrived on Saturday afternoon to hot, clear, sunny weather. The Ranger has been working at Mount Hood for 40 years and said she'd never seen a lower snowpack for this time of year, and that there were probably only 2 or 3 weeks of good climbing conditions left.

We set up camp near the mountain and tried to get some sleep, but we were so excited it was impossible. So we packed up and began climbing at 10:30pm. Snow conditions were good and we made steady progress under a sky full of stars and the lights of Portland shining to the west. At the Hogsback we paused to put on crampons. A good snowbridge over the bergschrund allowed us to cross.

From there we made the final climb to the summit, arriving at 5:30am. Due to some equipment problems that slowed our progress, we missed the sunrise but were still among the first ones on the summit, soon to be joined by several others.

We began the descent about an hour later. Soon after the Hogsback, we were able to glissade much of the way down for hundreds of yards at a time. Before we knew it, we were back at the parking lot.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 5/24.

WILDERNESS PERMITS—A Wilderness permit system is in effect for the Three Sisters, Mount Washington and Mount Jefferson Wildernesses. from 5/23 through 10/31. Permits for day use are self-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

issued at trailheads; permits for overnight use are issued at Ranger Stations, the Central Oregon Welcome Center, Lava Lands, Sunriver Sports, Tri Mountain Sports, Mountain Supply, the Powder House, and Lava Lake Resort.

Call the Bend Ranger Station for more info: 503-388-5664.—Ranger, 6/10.


IDAHO

SAWTOOTH NATIONAL REC AREA

—What about this change in weather? Now this area is getting the early spring rain showers and higher elevation snow. Every little drop helps the drought situation.

The area is slowly opening up. This is still early in the season for backpacking here. Keep in mind that some of the passes—like Snowside and Baron—still have snow. The weather is changeable; fire hazard is very high; mosquitoes and ticks are still around—and the country is absolutely beautiful!—Roma Nelson, Sawtooth NRA, 6/15.

ARIZONA

 **SIPHON DRAW TRAIL** (*Superstition Wilderness*)—After a short drive from Tempe, we turned right, driving 5 miles on Mountain View Road. We arrived at a subdivision edge adjoining Lost Dutchman State Park in early morning. As this neighborhood road ends also on the Wilderness boundary, Lex Holloway (today's trail guide), my son and I started on the trail. Towering saguaro cactus, sentinels several hundred years old, stood watch as we moved through the desert plants.


Yup, at this elevation (2160 feet) it seems each plant species has spines and most are cactus. I expected winds and chill here. Wool shirts came in handy, but alas, without a hard outer shell, each was damaged by sneaky plants!

Continuing a steep ascent through a presently dry water course which is best described as an established way-

trail, we reached The Flatiron (4000 feet), a desert alpine meadow with many accommodating cactus, and small boulders. While Lex wound his way to an easy summit and views expanding north and east in a great maze of Wilderness, I absorbed the panorama to the west. Subdivisions, towns and cities I saw, left and right, forward too; far as the eye could see until lost in the manmade haze beyond Phoenix.

Well, after a quick and easy descent (round trip 5 or 6 miles), back on the road, we dropped in at the Bluebird Mine and Gift Shop. The crusty proprietor, wearing a gun belt and six-shooter, volunteered that Arizona was one of two remaining free states. He further suggested that daily another freedom is lost forever with the passage of some new law in this land of superstition, myth and fact.—Erl Syverstad, Spanaway, March.


BRITISH COLUMBIA

 **RAINBOW LAKE** (*near Alta Lake; 92 J 3*)—The Rainbow Lake trail starts out in the trees alongside Twenty-one Mile Creek. Climbing steadily, it crosses an old logging road twice before it joins up with the road itself. Later the trail re-enters the forest and is blocked to everything but foot traffic.

The trail climbs steeply at times to a marsh with lots of little bridges and wooden walkways. We continued to the 4km sign; by then we were in deep snow and decided to turn around. Unlike our light snowfall in Washington, Western Canada had a larger-than-usual snowfall.


The views toward Whistler-Blackcomb and surrounding peaks are spectacular and sweeping. We returned to the best viewpoint (on the old road) for lunch after turning around. The trail is 11 miles round trip with 2700 feet elevation gain. Drive 1.5 miles beyond the BC Railway crossing approaching Whistler from the south on Highway 99. Turn left on Alta Lake road. The trailhead is 4.3 miles

down the road on the left.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/24.

 **VIKING CREEK LOOKOUT** (*Golden Ears Provincial Park; 92 G 8*)—This 3.2-mile hike in the Fraser Valley gains 720 feet. Bill and I wanted to do an easy afternoon hike. We thought from the description in *109 Walks in British Columbia's Lower Mainland* that we were going to get a lookout like the ones in Washington. We were disappointed to get to the top and find it had little view at all.

The best views on this trail were about half-way up, out over Alouette Lake and Mount Crickmer.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/25.

COLORADO

 **ANIMAS CITY MOUNTAIN** (*Durango*)—An outstanding viewpoint is reached at the top of an easy climb to Animas Mountain in Durango. I began at 6680 feet and in less than 2 hours gained 1482 feet through open groves of shrub oak, juniper, lodgepole and ponderosa pine.

From the 8162-foot cliff I looked out over the valley of the Animas River, north to the San Juan Mountains and west to La Platas. The largest peak on the north skyline is Engineer Peak, close to the ski area of Purgatory. In early May the sky was blue, the peaks still crowned with snow, but the muddy trail had dried, and golden balsam root and dark blue larkspur filled the meadows.

The meandering river oxbows through its valley and through the town. The hike is a year-round favorite for the local Durango population. In winter the summit cliff provides overviews of the elk herd which winters there.

In May I saw ravens, doves, a flicker, a mountain bluebird, and heard an owl. Sitting on the summit ridge with its scarp-like cliffs made me feel a bit as though I were looking out over the Great Rift Valley.—Joan Burton, Seattle, 5/92.

BULLETIN BOARD

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Notices on this Bulletin Board are free to subscribers and may be "posted" for up to three months. You may list your used equipment for sale, post lost-and-found announcements, locate partners for trips, or other non-commercial items. Commercial advertisers are welcome to contact the Pack & Paddle office for ad rates.

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WANTED TO BUY—Pre-1960 30-minute quads for the North Cascades in good condition. Phil, 206-842-7816 (Bainbridge Island).

ROBERT M. KINZEBACH

TRAVELING IN THE PASAYTEN

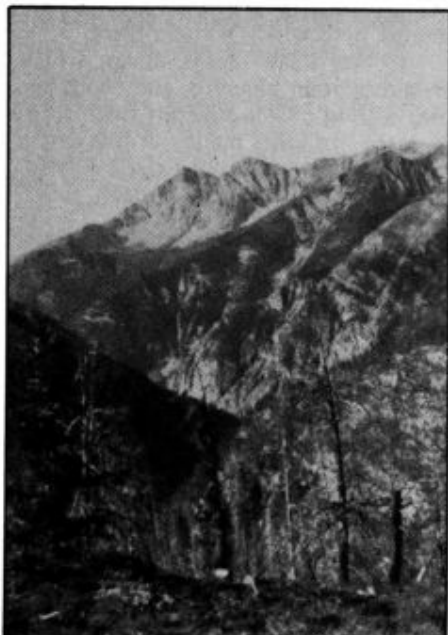
—SOME TRIPS REMEMBERED FROM THE "OLD DAYS"—

The notes that I wrote just after my second trip from Eightmile Creek to Hidden Lakes were faded. I had to magnify the words to decipher them.

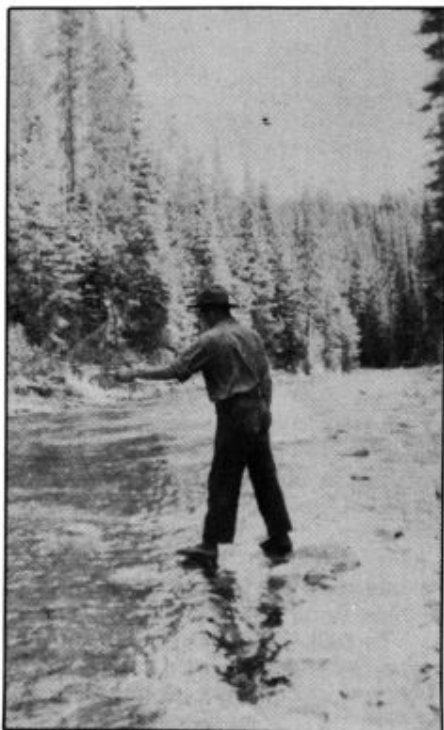
My first trip to this area of the Pasayten was slightly different from a trip today. Sometimes the main problem was just getting to the trailhead. Other times it was getting home again after car trouble. (Once, up the Little Wenatchee River, the car wouldn't start. We walked out to the Stevens Pass Highway, hitchhiked home to Wenatchee, and came back for the car the next day.)

I started hiking just after high school in 1933 because of an interest in fishing, and also as a relief from the apple- and cherry-picking days when I suffered from hay fever and later asthma. Once I headed to Winthrop with my eyes swollen almost shut, hoping that the clear air would fix them—it did, by the next morning.

In 1937, a neighbor friend and I drove from Wenatchee to the end of the Eightmile Creek Road, and slept at the car overnight. Here are some of those deciphered notes:



Lost River valley.



Robert M. Kinzebach

My companion on the Middle Fork Pasayten.

"Slept at car at end of the road. Frost formed during the night. We walked in to the cabin at Cougar, about 14 miles. Passed a party of three about midpoint who said they caught some fish. There were some big ones in the lake, but we couldn't catch any.

"Stayed one day, then before breakfast the next day hiked on to the Middle Fork Pasayten River. Walked down to the Guard Station, but boys did not appear sociable, so we walked up toward the airport and camped for breakfast. Lots of small fish in the river.

"We walked up to the airport, about 35 miles from our trailhead, and past the airport ran into a Forest Service camp. They gave us a complete meal. Met Bill there [was that fall to have him in same ROTC drill platoon at WSC].

"Camped on the Pasayten that night, and returned to the Lost River (it runs occasionally underground) the next night. We camped on a sand bar

on Lost River with a bright moonlit night. Hiked up to the trail the next morning and back to the car—3 nights out."

I spent World War II as an Army Air Corps weather officer, dreaming about the Pasayten. In August of 1954: "Drove from Wenatchee and hiked in to Cougar Camp by night. Caught no fish. Hiked up to Middle Lake after supper, but no luck. Next day hiked to Hidden (Long) Lake—no luck. Hiked on out to the car, a hard two-day trip."

I'll never forget that moonlit night on the Lost River in 1937. I think Three Fools Pass could have been named for us fishermen.

On that first trip in 1937, my partner complained about having the heaviest pack, so I picked up his as well and carried it on up to the trail. That solved the problem. △

Robert M. Kinzebach is the owner of Pic-Tour Guide Maps. He lives in Federal Way.



Robert M. Kinzebach

Crossing a creek on logs.

BILL C. DUGOVICH

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

—TO THE TOP OF DENALI—

Chip Faurot carried his backpack across the glacier landing strip and deposited it with gear left by two other airplane flights.

"Let's take a break," Faurot, our head guide, said as he stared at the large mound of gear.

It was a laid-back, if not unlikely, beginning to my third attempt to climb 20,320-foot Mount McKinley, North America's highest peak.

Like the other climbers in the 1991 Fantasy Ridge West Buttress Expedition, I didn't complain. The sun beating off the snow made it too hot to move. It was only 2pm on our first day. There would be plenty of time to climb during the next three weeks.

The cool of the evening was a welcome relief when we pulled out of Kahiltna Base at 7pm. During my second attempt last year at Denali (the name Alaskan Indians gave McKinley), we climbed during the day, and nearly sweated to death carrying 50-pound packs and dragging equally heavy duffel bags—fondly called "pigs."

The long days of the Alaskan summer meant it made little difference if we made camp at 5pm or 1am. It would be daylight all the same.

My friends and some family members say I had become obsessed with climbing McKinley. More than once a well-meaning sort asked why I didn't stay home and take care of my wife and two children. My wife, Cathy, never asked. She knew that if I gave up on McKinley, I would be giving up on myself.

Last year, after twenty days on the mountain with McKinley fixture Michael Covington, our team was stuck



Camp 1 on the Kahiltna Glacier; Denali in background.

by bad weather for eight days on an 8-by-20-foot ledge at 15,300 feet.

In 1986, pulmonary edema, a sometimes severe form of high altitude sickness, forced me down from the 15,300-foot level on the difficult South Buttress.

It was Faurot (pronounced fa-row), our calm and reassuring leader, who climbed down with me that year. Returning with him in 1991 felt right.

Faurot, of Talkeetna, Alaska—the jumping-off point for McKinley expeditions—has climbed McKinley seven times. It's an impressive record by any yardstick.

This year's team was much like the others—a diverse group of people from around the country: Jeff Russek, 27, of Connecticut, a recent business school graduate; Steve Kemp, 28, a

hospital administrator from St. Louis; Susan Whittaker, mid-30s, an urban planner from Irvine, California; and assistant guide Jose Bouza, 32, from Telluride, Colorado.

Rounding out our team was Taras Genet, a 4-foot, 11-inch, 70-pound eighth-grader from Su Valley High School in Talkeetna. If anyone was born to climb McKinley, Taras was.

Taras is the son of McKinley pioneer Raymond "Pirate" Genet. Genet was on the first team to scale McKinley in the winter. That was in 1967. He went on to start the first guide service on the mountain.

Tragically, Ray Genet died in 1979 of exhaustion and exposure while descending from the 29,029-foot summit of Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth.

Michael Covington, Ray Genet's friend and counterpart in McKinley guiding, abandoned his own climb on nearby Nuptse to break the bad news to a two-year-old boy waiting at Everest Base Camp. Cov carried Taras down from the 17,000-foot base camp.

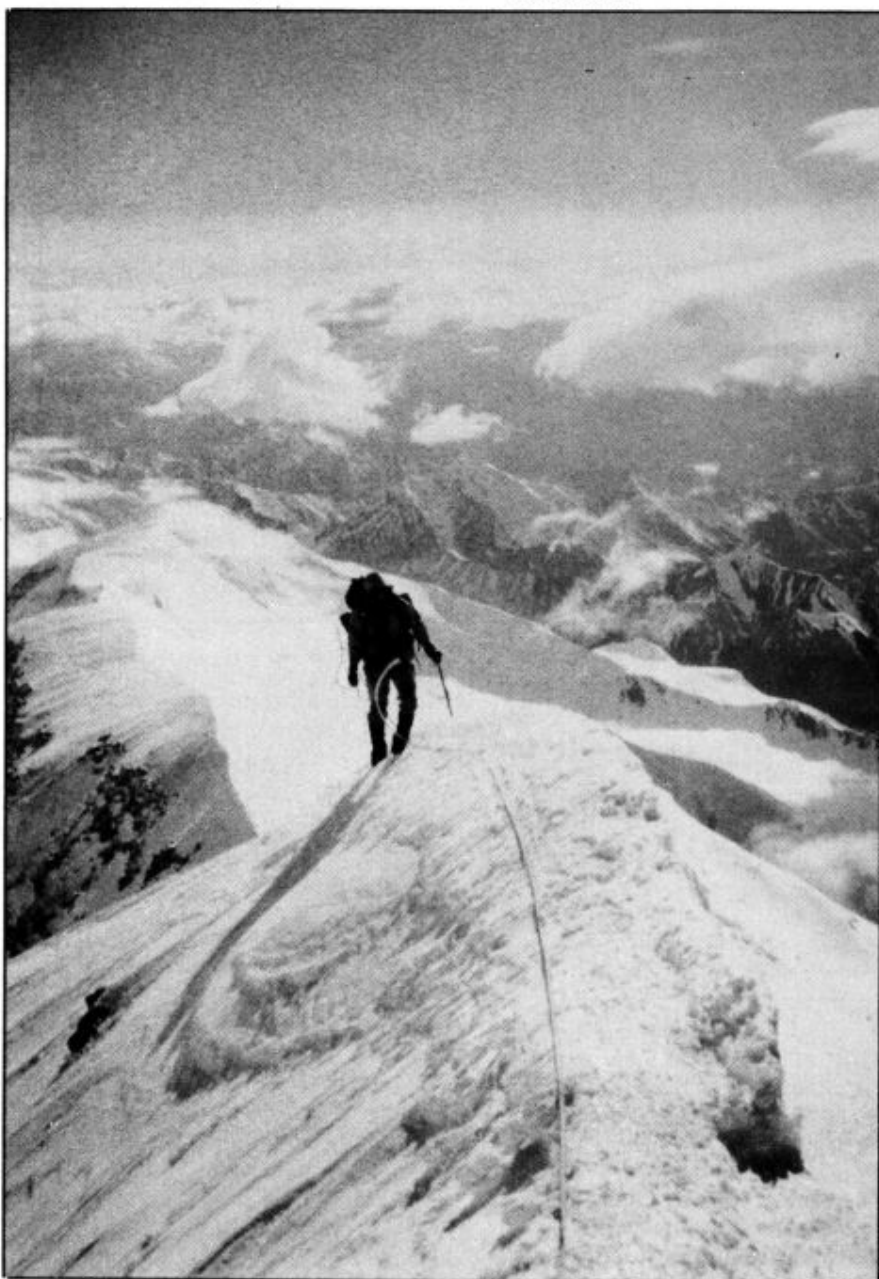
During the week-long journey, Cov promised Taras that someday he would make it possible for him to climb McKinley. Now director of Fantasy Ridge Mountain Guides, Covington was keeping his promise.

Our first week on the mountain ground away slowly as we ferried loads up the mile-wide Kahiltna Glacier. As on previous expeditions, we cursed the sun and heat during the day, and then cursed the cold at night.

Six days of work brought us to Camp 4 at 11,000 feet. A night of heavy snow prompted Faurot to call our first rest day. I welcomed the reprieve, but the snow reminded me that though this was my third attempt, my chance of reaching the top was still only 50:50 at best.

Bad weather wreaked havoc early in the 1991 climbing season, with several expeditions barely making it out of Kahiltna Base.

We slogged our way up to 14,300 feet and established Camp 5 during a spell of marginal weather. Again, falling snow and winds up high halted progress. This time we waited four days before moving up to 16,200 feet. Again, the move was in less than ideal conditions.



Bill Dugovich on the West Buttress at 16,600 feet.

The similarity between 1990 and 1991 was hard for me to ignore as we chopped a tent platform into the slope just below the crest of the West Buttress. This ledge was several feet smaller than we had had the previous year. Instead of food for 10 days, we had only enough for 6 days.

Then it happened. Within two hours on the afternoon of June 19, the snow stopped, the sky cleared, and the wind died.

"Who wants to make a carry to 17,200 feet?" Faurot said as he poked his head into our tent.

An hour later, Faurot, Russek, Kemp and I started up the narrow ridge with a few supplies to the site of our final high camp.

For the first time I was on new territory. We traveled up short sections of 45-degree ice, scrambled over boulders, and gingerly walked along the 1-foot-wide crest.

To the left the West Buttress dropped 2000 feet to the Peters Glacier. To the right, it was 2500 feet down to the big camp at 14,300 feet.

Spirits were high as we settled into Camp 7 on June 20—our 16th day on the mountain. Everyone agreed to forego a planned rest day and go for the summit the next day. No sense in wasting a clear day resting.

Some people say mountaineers who climb with their eyes and thoughts fixed on the summit will never reach it. Climbers must enjoy being on the mountain and coping with each day. Usually, I agree. But that night I thought of little else but the summit. Perhaps finally I was in the right place, at the right time.

"We're looking sharp. We're looking perfect," Faurot said as he tied into his rope under the cloudless sky on the morning of June 21. "This is about as good as it ever gets."

We left 17,200 feet at 11 in the morning and headed up the long arching traverse toward Denali Pass. The sky was a perfect deep blue.

The thermometer read 20 degrees—warm for a summit day on McKinley. On my back was the lightest pack I had carried in 17 days. Ahead of me on the rope was 12-year-old Taras.

During a break at 19,600 feet I hammered a rock out of the ice. The rock was going to the top, then home to a predetermined place of honor on my mantel.

At 6:30 in the evening we surmounted the final obstacle—a 400-foot 35-degree headwall. As I reached the crest, I heard Faurot talking on the CB radio to Kathy Sullivan, Taras' mother. She was heading for a trip around the summit in a small, twin-engine plane.

"Come on, Bill, we have to get to the summit," Tauras said as we started across the narrow summit ridge. "My mom's coming."

"Whoa, Taras," I shouted as the rope grew taut between us. "We'll make it. We'll make it."

I was about to be dragged to the summit of my dreams by a 12-year-old.

At 6:57 in the evening the seven of us walked the final few feet to the top of the continent together. The wind was negligible and the temperature stood at 5 degrees—balmy for the highest point in North America.

We shouted, shook hands, and congratulated each other. Faurot came over and grabbed my hand. A lump grew in my throat. Unable to speak, I pulled him close and engulfed him in a bear hug.

"You made it, Dugo," Faurot said. "The third time's a charm."

"We made it, Chip," I choked out. "We all made it."

As the airplane carrying Taras' mother drew near, we lined up on the summit and waved our hands and ice axes high above our heads.

"I made it, mom," Taras shouted into the radio. "I really made it."

"You look wonderful!" Sullivan said over the radio. "I love you, Taras. I'm proud of you."

Then, just like a mother, she added, "Remember, you have to get down now, so be careful."

We descended without incident, reaching 17,200 feet at 11 that night. As I dropped my pack, the sun slid behind a nearby ridge, sending camp into the evening deep freeze.

The sun was out again as we started down the ridge at 3 the next afternoon. Momentum, thoughts of showers and cheeseburgers, kept us moving through the night.

Faurot, Taras and I pulled into Kahiltna Base at 7 in the morning on June 23. What took sixteen days to climb, we descended in sixteen hours.

"You know, I've always talked about coming down from 17,200 in one push," Faurot said, before adding



Bill, right, and his rope-mate, 12-year-old Taras Genet, on the summit.

with a sly grin, "but that's the first time I actually did it."

The seven of us are among the 547 lucky climbers, out of 920, who succeeded in climbing North America's highest peak in 1991.

As I look back on the climb today a touch of sadness creeps through the joy. I'm thrilled to have finally reached the summit. But strangely, or perhaps understandably, it is not the summit that fills my mind.

It is the experience of living and working on a great mountain. I miss sharing a common goal with a small group of people—learning to like and dislike them simultaneously.

Three expeditions taught me the most important lesson of all. The ex-

perience *is* more important than the summit.

Trouble is, sometimes you just can't quit until you have both.

△

Writer and climber Bill C. Dugovich works for the public relations firm Dugovich & Associates. He lives in Kent.

MICHAEL D. MOORE

A STROLL ON MOUNT STUART

On the third weekend of September last year, in near perfect weather, four of us made an "alpine style" ascent of Mount Stuart.

Howard Young, Pat McCambridge, Chuck Thuot and I left North Bend at 4:30 Friday afternoon and headed for the Esmerelda Basin trailhead, 4243 feet. I had a few doubts about being able to keep up; Pat is pretty fast and Chuck has a string of world-class peaks to his name. Not to mention the nearly 8200 feet of elevation gain for the day!

We arrived at the end of the North Fork Teanaway road just as it was getting dark and rolled out our bags in the back of the truck.

Saturday morning at 5:30 sharp we headlamped our way to the Longs Pass cut-off, quickly stashed our lamps and went on up to the pass, 6300 feet. This is one of the most breathtaking views in the Cascades—the southwest face of Mount Stuart, almost a vertical mile of solid (and not so solid) rock.

The standard, or Cascadian Couloir, route was our chosen way, easily

visible from here but not so easy to find once we dropped 1500 feet to Ingalls Creek.

We topped off water bottles at the creek and after a little brush-beating headed up the couloir. It's hard to believe how big these couloirs really are until you are standing in one. I felt like I was climbing between skyscrapers of soaring rock.

We soon found out why Beckey recommends climbing early in the spring before the snow melts. It was two steps up and one step back on loose scree until about 8000 feet, where Cascadian Couloir intersects with the Variation 1 route.

There was a good-sized snowfield here so we topped off water bottles again, ate some gorp, and continued.

The next 500 feet or so is really open with great views to the south and west. The way was now blocked by the west shoulder of the false summit headwall, so we fanned out to locate the route.

I walked over to a notch I saw to the southeast and found myself looking 2000 feet straight down to

the Ice Cliff Glacier!

Meanwhile, Chuck had located the route to the west where we gingerly climbed up together, trying not to dislodge rocks and boulders. At the top of this pitch we stashed our ski poles and ice axes; it was obvious the last 500 feet would be Class 2 and 3 bouldering.

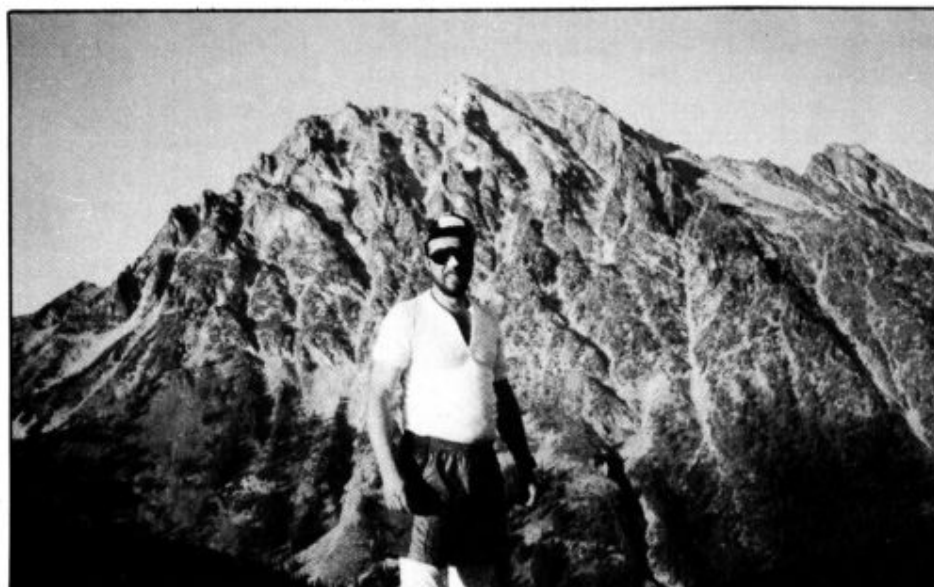
We threaded our way up, down and around to the summit at 9415 feet, at 1pm. The view was awesome: the Enchantments, Mount Rainier, Glacier Peak. I had Pat hold on to me while I took pictures of the Stuart Glacier and the northwest face, a very long way down!

After our summit pictures we traversed back across the upper face of Ulrich's Couloir to our gear and headed down. Pat and Chuck led off while Howard and I waited so we wouldn't knock anything loose on them.

Then it happened—without a whisper a boulder the size of a small car streaked by Howard and me right toward Chuck! It exploded into several large chunks when it hit another rock not 50 feet from where we were standing. We yelled "heads up" to Chuck and saw him dive behind a large boulder. When he re-emerged unhurt, Howard and I hustled across the "danger zone" before anything else happened.

We continued to the cars, arriving at 7pm, 13½ hours and 8150 feet after embarking on our stroll on Stuart.

△



Howard Young

Michael Moore at Longs Pass; Mount Stuart in background.

Climber Michael D. Moore is an employee of High Mountain Rendezvous in Issaquah's Gilman Village. He lives in Fall City.

DEBORAH RIEHL

Rescue Epics

—AN INCREDIBLE SURVIVAL STORY—

During these days of drought, I'll tell another storm-related survival story. Seattle Mountain Rescue was contacted by Mount Rainier National Park regarding two overdue climbers on November 30, 1975, in blizzard conditions.

The storm raged unabated and teams were unable to get above 7000 feet due to the intensity of the winds and snow.

On December 4 a Thiokol snowcat attempted to reach Camp Muir during a break in the weather. The Thiokol team met one of the missing climbers skiing down. He told the first of two remarkable survival stories.

On November 30 he and his companion had camped below Anvil Rock. On the following morning they became separated in the horizontal whiteout. That night he pitched his Omnipotent and crawled in to wait out the storm.

When he emerged on December 4, he had to tunnel up through 10 to 12 feet of snow, but the tent had held its form! When found, he was in very good condition. He had no idea where his friend was.

The next day was clear and a renewed effort was made to find the second man. Teams were helicoptered to Muir to work their way down. Rescuers from several units covered a lot of ground, but no trace was found.

At 11:50pm on December 5, the missing man walked out at the Ohanepecosh Ranger Station! He had frost-bitten feet, but recovered.

Following the separation from his partner, he skied down the ridge to McClure Rock. He then got turned around and went east. He lost his ski poles, ice axe and one ski in a fall. He later discarded the other ski.

The night of December 1 he dug a snow cave with his cooking pot. The next day he continued his descent to timberline, then down Williwakus Creek. He tried to build snowshoes from fir boughs without success.

He spent his third night out in a wet down sleeping bag inside a plastic tube tent. His socks and matches were wet. He spent two more days and nights descending the creek, then the Cowlitz River.

On the sixth day, when the weather cleared, he found the Stevens Canyon Road. He decided to walk to Ohanepecosh instead of Paradise because it was downhill and he was tired! Starting near Nickel Creek, the road was plowed, and his last 11 miles of walking were easier.

He credited his survival to experience, wool clothing (pile wasn't in use yet), insulated sleeping pads, the tube tent, and the fact the weather never got much below freezing once he got to timberline.

△

Deborah Riehl, KB7NFL, is a member of Seattle Mountain Rescue's board of trustees. She lives in Bothell.



PANORAMA

MOUNT BAKER USE UP—The south side of Mount Baker is seeing increased use, according to Leif Hazelet of the Mount Baker Ranger District, with upwards of 200 climbers a day using the Railroad Grade and Mazama Park areas.

The Forest Service is doing rehabilitation and revegetation work this summer in the overused areas. Eventually, some campsites will be "designated" and others will be closed. Down the road, these designated sites would be available by reservation.

"A permit system is under consideration," Leif told P&P, but it is not in the works yet.

The south side of Mount Baker is a National Recreation Area and is not protected by Wilderness regulations like the west, north and east sides.

COUGAR ENCOUNTERS—A 5-year-old girl was injured by a cougar at Lake Wenatchee State Park in mid-June. A cougar was spotted this spring on an Ozette trail. In May a cougar stalked a child on the Hoh River trail. On June 21, a cougar attacked a 2-year-old off Highway 410.

Wildlife agents speculate the big cats may be searching for water in this extremely dry year. Normally, the animals are very shy. If you've always wanted to see a cougar, this may be your summer.

Officials are not sure how to defuse a face-to-face cougar encounter. Some suggest talking in an aggressive

voice and waving your arms. In any case, keep a close eye on small children and dogs.

WENATCHEE PLAN AMENDMENT

—A third amendment to the Wenatchee Forest Plan has been released. It is called a "non-significant" amendment because it corrects errors discovered since publication of the Forest Plan, and makes two minor changes to the Plan.

Two more amendments are scheduled for the near future. For more information about the Wenatchee Forest Plan, contact the Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest, PO Box 811, Wenatchee WA 98807.

WILDERNESS PERMITS NOW REQUIRED IN GIFFORD PINCHOT

The Gifford Pinchot NF now requires permits for the Indian Heaven, Mount Adams, Trapper Creek, Goat Rocks, Glacier View and Tatoosh Wilderness Areas.

There is no cost for the permits, and they are available at trailheads to make registering as easy as possible. Wilderness Rangers may ask to see your permit, so carry your copy with you.

The purpose of the permits is to collect more complete and consistent user information. "We know that we have some problems in several of the Wildernesses, such as loss of vegetation at campsites and deeply rutted

trails," said Forest Supervisor Ted Stubblefield. "We also know that the number of people visiting Wildernesses is growing. To deal with these problems, we need to know about use."

The Forest Service will be developing a management action plan for each Wilderness over the next several years. The information collected through the permit system will be used to help develop these plans.

If you're interested in participating in the planning process, or would like to be kept informed, contact Doris Tai, GPNF's Wilderness Coordinator, at 206-750-5011.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION—The first-ever all-women's crossing of Antarctica, from October 1992 through February 1993 will be attempted by a team of five women led by Ann Bancroft.

Each member will pull a 200-pound sledge bearing food and equipment. This expedition will provide unique opportunities for medical and psychological research on women.

Support the expedition by making checks payable to AWE Foundation, 2356 University Ave, 4th floor, Saint Paul MN 55114, and/or by ordering short-sleeved t-shirts for \$12, long-sleeved t-shirts for \$18, sweatshirts for \$24, AWE buttons for \$1, and a book about Ann Bancroft for \$11 plus tax. (Add \$2 per order for shipping).—from "Trail and Timberline," the Colorado Mountain Club.

METHOW VALLEY TRAIL UPDATE

I was at the Winthrop Forest Service office the other day when a friend asked what I was doing.

"Doing trail work!" I replied. We both laughed. I was holding a briefcase in my hand, not the normal tools of trail building like polaskis and chain saws. This pretty much sums up where we are in building our dream trail along the Methow Valley from Winthrop to the Pacific Crest Trail—*paperwork!*

The Methow Institute Foundation (under the leadership of John Hayes, with help from John Sunderland and a number of others) applied for and received a grant of \$140,000 to build the Methow Valley Community Trail.

The state Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation granted the funds. But the funds must be granted to some public agency, like county or

city government. In this case the money will be officially granted to Okanogan County, which will contract with MIF to build the trail. MIF will then contract with the actual builders of the trail. The Methow Valley Sport Trails Association will assume the responsibility of maintaining the trail.

All of this is set out in two documents. One is a memorandum of understanding among Okanogan County, MIF, and MVSTA. The other document is the contract between Okanogan County and the IAC. At this writing the memorandum has been signed by all parties, and the IAC/Okanogan contract appears to be forthcoming.

The plan is to build a mostly primitive, single track trail, yet allow enough trail clearance for big snow cats to do winter trail grooming. This is not difficult to do, nor expensive. Most

of the trails at Sun Mountain are built like this.

But to connect all the pieces of the trail together, two bridges must be built across the Methow River—and that is difficult and very costly. An added difficulty in bridge-building is the number of permits required and the length of time it takes to process the permits.

But progress is being made. Calls for bids for surveying, bridge-building and surfacing are ready to go out. Eric Burr has marked with stakes and ribbons a major part of the trail route. In fact, some sections are already built!

With luck the trail will be open to hikers and mountain bicyclists this fall and groomed for skiing this winter. —Don Portman, Winthrop.

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



On Polallie Ridge.

HIGHPOINTERS—"A Highpointer is someone who has stood on the highest point of each of the fifty states," reads the material from the Highpointers Club.

We have an aspiring Highpointer right in our Pack & Paddle midst. Wayne Balcom, of Seattle, has decided to give several of the western high points a shot this summer, and—who knows—maybe move on to more of the high points next summer.

When Wayne called the office for information on the Highpointers Club, we were happy to do a bit a research to speed him on his way.

So let this be a reminder that if we don't know the answer to your trail question, we'll find out!

By the way, *you* can be a Highpointer, too. Write to:

The Highpointers Club
PO Box 327
Mountain Home AR 72653.

Dues are \$5 a year.

FIRE CLOSURES—Although at press time it was not official, we had heard through "reliable sources" that a backcountry fire ban was about to be announced for the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

It's a good bet that more fire restrictions are on the way this summer. Watch your local newspaper for the latest word. Resolve to give up campfires until the fall rains come.

BEAR PROOF—I talked with Richard Garcia, of Garcia Machine, the other day. His California company makes those bear-proof containers the Park Service is using now in places like Yosemite and Denali.

Richard said his containers are well-tested by some accommodating local bears. Apparently, the grizzly bear and the polar bear at the Fresno Zoo get the containers first. If they pass that test, the containers go to "a couple of huge Kodiaks" at the San Francisco zoo. These bears chew on them, swat them, and sit on them. These are tough containers.

"Bears tend not to carry the containers off," said Richard. "A bear won't waste his time on a non-productive task."

For a brochure, contact, Garcia Machine, 14097 Avenue 272, Visalia CA 93277 (209-732-3785).

LENGTH—This is the height of hiking season. Our post office box is stuffed with *tons* of terrific outdoor reports, so many in fact that we had to cut down most of them in this issue so they would all fit in these humble pages.

If *your* Backcountry News report was cut beyond recognition, it's not because we didn't like it—just that somehow everything has to fit.

We work on a very short deadline: from about noon on Tuesday to 9am on Thursday (press time) is less than 48 hours. Backcountry News is put together in that short period and there's not a lot of time to polish its contents.

TICKS—Linda Rostad brought home a tick from a trip to the Lake Wenatchee area. She was aware of a chafing sensation on her back, below her shoulder, but it wasn't until she got in the shower at home that she realized something was really amiss.

Steve took a look and found a thoroughly imbedded tick. They applied a piece of cotton soaked in rubbing alcohol to the spot, and waited. In a few minutes, the tick began to back itself out until Steve was able to grasp it with tweezers and pull—with considerable pressure—until the tick released its hold.

The next morning Linda went to her doctor, who said the wound was not infected. She said Linda should have kept the tick and brought it in

for examination, because without it, there was no way of knowing what diseases it might carry—unless Linda developed symptoms! She also said the chances of this tick carrying Lyme disease were slim, based on Linda's identification of the tick in the doctor's resource materials.

So the lesson is—bring the tick back, dead or alive, for identification and testing. A flip-top vial, a film canister, or a ziplock bag would all work for transportation.

I CAN'T GET much proofreading out of Yellow Cat during this hot weather. She crawls into the salal and says, "I ain't gonna work!"

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall

Contact us at
Pack & Paddle
PO Box 1063
Port Orchard WA 98366
206-871-1862

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS, ETC

EPINEPHRINE VIALS RE-

CALLED—Wyeth-Ayerst has recalled its batch of epinephrine manufactured between August 1989 and July 1990. This recall also involves the "Annagard Self-administration Kit," or Anna-kit, sold by Hollister-Steir.

For more information, call Wyeth-Ayerst at 800-879-9938.

BACKPACKING WITH BAGELS—

My standard lunch for years has been a whole bagel, beef stick and cheese. It's getting harder to find whole bagels that aren't already split. Whole bagels will last well over a week while backpacking; split ones tend to dry out and get stale.

So on this last backpack I just got split bagels, "sealed" the cut surfaces with cream cheese, wrapped them in plastic wrap and sealed them in ziplock bags. They still tasted fresh and good after four days.—*RB.*

BACKPACKER'S PANTRY—For ease and convenience, freeze-dried food can't be beat, but it is expensive and, as far as the taste goes . . . well, the best we can say usually is "it's not bad."

So it was a pleasure to find some offerings from Backpacker's Pantry that actually tasted good. Our favorite was Pasta & Vegetables Parmesan. Although it was too watery when prepared in the foil pouch, the water content was reduced when it was simmered in a pot.

Also sampled were Stroganoff with Beef, which needed more flavor; Louisiana Red Beans & Rice, the only dinner that needed to be prepared in a pot; a meatless Mountain Chili, with a mild and pleasant flavor; a very tasty but pudding-like cheesecake; and a disappointing Peaches & Cream Pie.

All the Backpacker's Pantry products tested had generous portions. The foil packets were easy to open and were large enough to blend the ingredients easily. With the exception of the red beans and rice, all could be prepared by adding hot water to the

ingredients in the foil package, thus making cleanup easy. (Of course, the foil package has to be packed out.) The instructions were clear and easy to follow.

Would we buy them again? Yes, except the desserts, which were little more than pudding mixes.

And for the final test: would we eat them at home? Well, they're not that good yet!—*Ed, Chris, and Eddie Walsh, reporting in "Trail Walker."*

SALT WATER SOAP—I had seen this stuff before but had never tried it until we spent 9 days in Barkely Sound this spring. I was surprised it really works. We washed ourselves and our hair with no salt water residue remaining; the soap is non-polluting.

A small bottle costs about \$7 at marine suppliers. I got mine at Mariner Kayaks on Westlake in Seattle.—*Loren Foss, Seattle.*

IN SEARCH OF A SHOVEL—On our last backpack outing, while removing snow for the tent site, we broke our 8-year-old plastic trowel that we use for sanitation (for digging "cat holes").

We stopped by the Bellevue REI store, where you usually can find anything you might need for backpacking. We looked all over and couldn't find them. When an employee asked if he could help, we had to think quick what to call it. "Do you have camp shovels?" we asked.

He led us to a collapsible shovel of the army surplus variety. "That's not quite what we had in mind—something for sanitation."

He looked around, checked in climb-

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ing gear, then asked another employee, who said, "Oh, those won't be in until June 15." So no one hikes or needs one until then, huh?

Since Fred was attending a meeting in Kent last week, my mission was to *find one*. I headed down to the Federal Way REI and, after looking myself, asked an employee who asked two other employees, none of whom had any idea what I wanted or even what a "sanitation trowel" was for. Their best suggestion was to try a toy store for a sand shovel.

At Big 5, the young clerk didn't have a clue. Next an Ernst; no. Payless; no.

As I was leaving the area I saw an Olympic Sports store, marched myself upstairs to the backpack section and there it was—one neon orange backpacking sanitation trowel: ours!

My question: where have all the trowels gone? How can hikers be environmentally correct if the trowels are not available at all outdoor stores?—*Wilma, Sequim.*

COOKING CONTEST—In June the Peninsula Wilderness Club of Bremer-ton had a backpack cooking contest at its monthly meeting. Seabury Blair, a "Sun" columnist, and I had the fun of judging the many entries. We considered taste, ease of preparation, weight and nutritive value.

The winning dinner entry tasted great, was easy to prepare, lightweight, and fairly nutritious. It was entered by Roger Gray (who borrowed it from Lloyd Willett); recipe follows.

Ramen Trail Dinner

bit of dried garlic flakes
bit of dried onion flakes
spoonful of freeze-dried corn
spoonful of f-d green beans
spoonful of f-d peas
bit of f-d green peppers
spoonful of f-d diced beef
1 package ramen noodles

Package together in a plastic cooking bag. In camp, add 1 cup boiling water; let stand 5 minutes. (Or simmer 3 minutes.)—*AM*