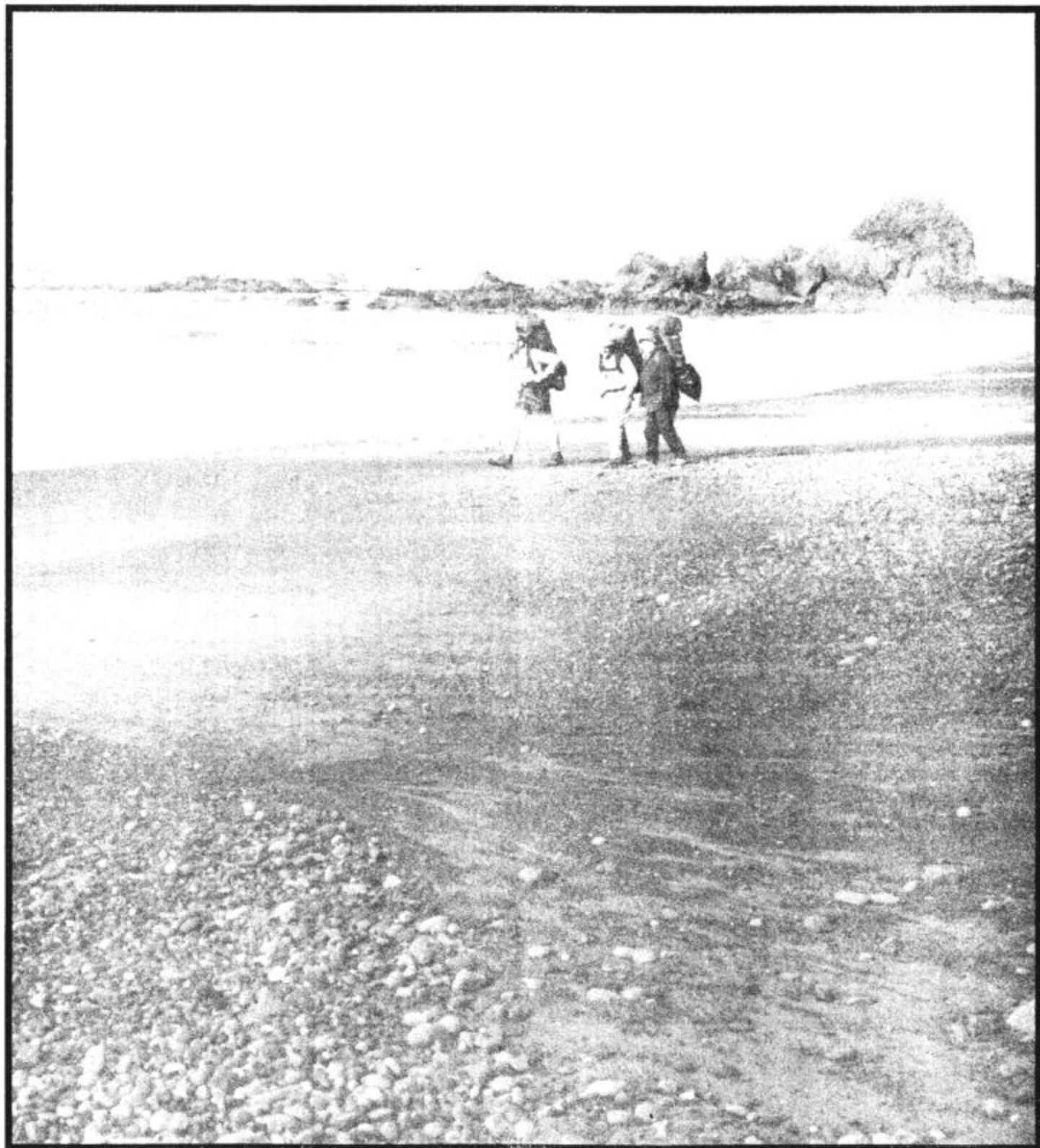


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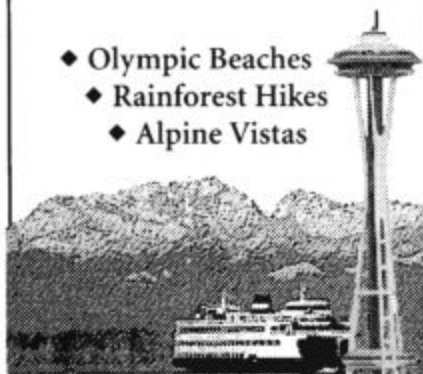
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Pack & Paddle

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4

Features

- 14 REMEMBERING GENE PRATER
Dee Molenaar
- 17 SAUK: A MOUNTAIN FOR ALL SEASONS
Dallas Kloke
- 18 LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBEAR
Mark Hume
- 20 RESCUE EPICS
Deborah Riehl

Departments

- 4 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- 5 BACKCOUNTRY NEWS
- 21 PANORAMA—News from All Over
- 22 REST STOP—Equipment, Recipes, Tips
- 23 EDITOR'S JOURNAL

RANDOM VIEW—



A pack-with-legs on the Wonderland Trail (that's Jack Kendrick underneath).

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.

• • •

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Lee McKee, Phil Glass and Robin Glass hike on the Wilderness Beach between Yellow Banks and South Sand Point. Olympic National Park, Washington. 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.

LOW AND EASY MOUNTAINS

I applaud Fred Beavon's and Pack & Paddle's efforts to develop a list of "Washington's 100 Lowest and Easiest Peaks" (*December 1992, page 4*). However, I would like to separate the tabulation into two parts: (1) Washington's 100 lowest peaks with at least 250 feet prominence of ridge-level; and (2) Washington's 300 easiest mountaintop hikes.

My former, somewhat strict, mountain definition (published in *Signpost, The Mountaineer 1983-1990 Annual and Summit*) required a mountain to have at least 1500 feet of local relief in 5 or less horizontal miles, on two separate sides.

I am willing to change that local relief requirement to 1000 feet in 4 or less horizontal miles. Therefore, someone wanting to determine Washington's 100 lowest mountains needs to study USGS 7.5-minute maps and apply the prominence criterion (250 feet above ridge level) and the 1000-foot local relief requirement, and the answer will be had.

Some of Washington's 100 lowest mountains will not be easy to ascend due to logging, brush, and lack of trails. Furthermore, most of these low landforms will be much less impressive than their high mountain counterparts.

Preparing a list of Washington's 300 easiest mountaintop hikes should begin by defining the word "easy." For example, easy may require a trail or road, and also involve the trail's length, elevation gain and condition. Trails full of roots and rocks (such as Mount Pilchuck) shouldn't be rated as "easy" as a trail that is smooth and well-maintained.

Of course, mountains with roads to the summits will be the easiest (such as 5883-foot Mount Spokane). But most of these very easy, road-shortened walks wouldn't attract hikers. Instead, people are probably interested in somewhat easy/somewhat difficult day hikes. In fact, a collection of these latter hikes could be assembled, without bothering to rank which one is the "somewhat easiest."

Steve Fry
Edmonds, Washington

WILDERNESS SHOULD WIN

Being a concerned Wilderness user, I have followed the Alpine Lakes Management process with interest. I have also been in contact with the Gifford Pinchot and Willamette National Forests on the

Wilderness processes.

It appears that the Alpine Lakes Management is going about things in a backward fashion. For instance, both the Gifford Pinchot and Willamette Forests have mandatory non-regulatory permits to gather information on amounts of use, types of use and other demographics. In both cases the amount of use was not anywhere near what they were reporting before that had the quantifiable numbers that they have now under the permits.

What studies have been done at Alpine Lakes to tell them what the level of use is? I am not saying they do not have heavy use and impacts. However, before a mandatory regulatory permit system is put in place, numbers will need to be determined on how many permits will be available per season, week, and day.

If those numbers are based on someone's "professional judgement" instead of data collected, then those numbers may only further the impacts and abuses of our Wildernesses.

What will happen down the road when they find that the number of permits they have been issuing is twice or three times as high as what it should really be? Will they lower the number and say, "Well, what we were doing before was wrong and these are the real numbers." Who would believe them?

We need to hold resource managers accountable. Maybe it is time for all Wildernesses to have permits (mandatory, non-regulatory ones) so we can give the managers the information they need to come up with the best set of alternatives for the public to decide on.

And if regulatory permits are then determined to be needed, so be it! The Wilderness should win in whatever decision is made or else it will not be Wilderness.

KTC
Seattle, Washington

REMMEL MOUNTAIN AND OTHER PASAYTEN TRAILS

Our thanks to Fred Darvill for his continued interest in Pasayten Wilderness trails. In a January 1993 letter to the editor (*page 4*), he commented on not receiving information from the Winthrop Ranger District on a trail to Rimmel Mountain.

I dug out Dr. Darvill's original letter requesting information on "an abandoned trail to the old lookout site on Rimmel Mountain," along with five other main-

tained trails located within the Pasayten Wilderness.

Abandoned or user trails are not shown on the Okanogan National Forest map, nor on the recently updated Pasayten Wilderness map. Information Receptionists work with a complete Recreation Opportunity Guide series describing all maintained trails on the entire Winthrop District. They are available to anyone who inquires.

Only a few people working on the Winthrop District have first-hand knowledge of any of the hundreds of miles of abandoned or user trails. I apologize that some of these people were not queried and a good trail description given to Dr. Darvill.

Wilderness management is an on-going controversy. Do you sign trails? No signs? Is one person's idea of Wilderness different than another's? You bet it is.

The Forest Service has Wilderness guidelines to go by and maintains certain trails to specific width and brush height clearance. Other trails we leave for the more adventurous.

Again, my apologies to Dr. Darvill. The Winthrop Ranger District prides itself in offering excellent, reliable customer service and regrets that someone came away disappointed.

Joni Quarnstrom
Winthrop Ranger District
Winthrop, Washington

USE, NOT RESTRICTIONS

I would like to express my very strong convictions that user groups and their organizations and publications should remain dedicated to use, not restrictions.

We users want to conserve what attracts us in the first place—our rivers, trails, and mountains. But such concepts as "solitude standards" used to keep us out of the backcountry are unacceptable to many of us who use the backcountry frequently, over 50 days each year in my case.

In my opinion, the Park and Forest Services would both rather spend money keeping us out than provide for better access, which would at least distribute impact better.

Warren Guntheroth
Seattle, Washington





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.

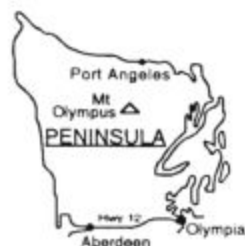
Space is limited; we may have to cut your report to fit available space. Typing is not necessary; we can read just about anyone's handwriting. We're interested in ALL trips, easy and hard, ordinary and exotic.


We use the following symbols to help you plan your trips.

-  —Climbing, scrambling, mountaineering, off-trail and cross-country travel.
-  —Hiking, backpacking on trails.
-  —Canoeing, kayaking and water trips.
-  —Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.




PENINSULA



 **ELWHA RIVER** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Hurricane Hill, Mount Angeles*)—Took 8:30pm ferry and arrived at Whiskey Bend trailhead at 11pm. No other cars in lot. No snow on road.

Hiked to Humes Ranch area. No snow in sight. Beautiful weather. Lots of places to explore. Camped on "island" northwest of Humes Ranch; requires short but cold ford. Saw deer and grouse. Great early season hike/backpack. I suspect the trail is clear for miles.—Chuck Pettis, Bellevue, 2/12-14.

 **THIRD BEACH to MOSQUITO CREEK** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Toleak Point, Hoh Head*)—We decided a trip to the beach was in order to take advantage of good daytime tides and a good weather forecast.

Only a Park Service truck was at the trailhead Friday morning. In the past,

the Third Beach trailhead has had a lot of vandalism of vehicles, but a merchant in La Push told us it hasn't been a big problem for a while.

This stretch of Olympic National Park Wilderness Beach has several points that cannot be rounded at one tide, and must be crossed over. Because of the eroding nature of the land above the beach here, trails don't want to stay in place, and the Park Service has built rope-and-cable ladders in several places.

We quickly arrived at Jackson Creek, about 5½ miles in, and set up our camp. We were the only ones around. On Saturday, we dayhiked another 5 miles down the beach to Mos-

quito Creek. By the time we arrived back at our camp that afternoon, several groups of people had arrived. Though we had enjoyed the solitude of the day before, it was also good to see so many people out backpacking in February.

The scenery here is fantastic. The sea stacks loomed offshore and the sun shone brightly. We saw several eagles and sea lions.

The throttle handle on our little Hank Roberts stove that we have used for over 10 years broke on us the first night, and we could not turn the stem by hand. We thought we were going to have to cut our trip short. Wilma remembered a "survival tool" our son had given us years ago had a wrench on it, and dug it out of our emergency bag. It worked!

We had a birthday party to attend Sunday afternoon, and as a consequence started our hike out early on Sunday morning. High tide was 6am and it soon was obvious we were pushing our luck. We dodged waves for the first 2 miles, and when we came to a small point south of Scotts Bluff that we had easily rounded two days earlier, we were faced with either a 30-foot scramble and rappel over sheer and rotting rock, or wait for a lower tide.

We did neither. We put on our "river crossing shoes," got down to our shorts and waded around the point. Fortunately it wasn't deep and we were quickly around.

We saw numerous groups at Scotts Bluff and many more dayhikers near Third Beach. There were over 35 cars at the trailhead when we got back.—Fred and Wilma, Sequim, 2/12-14.



Joey Paulson observes layers of sedimentary rock on the Olympic coast.

Don Paulson

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: April 20

Submit your trail reports by this date for the next issue. (Deadline for other departments is earlier; check with us for details.)

LOWER GRAYWOLF (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Tyler Peak*)—This is not only the closest trail to our home, but also one of our favorites, especially this time of year. The trailhead is only 950 feet, and the route stays below 2300 feet for the first 15 miles. We have found it snowfree even in January before.

On this wonderful sunny day, we set out to do a "trail reconnaissance" as volunteers for the Quilcene District of Olympic National Forest. We have done volunteer work on this trail before, with VOW and on a Boy Scout project. It was very satisfying to see the various work we have done is holding up well.

The profusion of old growth found on most of the other lowland Olympic hikes is not apparent here, but there are a few beautiful specimens. The Greywolf River is gorgeous. It flows clear and makes beautiful turquoise pools along the way.

At about 4.5 miles the trail crosses the Graywolf on a sturdy bridge. For the next ¼-mile, the river flows through a very narrow canyon and forms one of the most picturesque scenes of flowing water we know of. Past here, the trail climbs above the river and affords some occasional fine views of snowcapped peaks of the Upper Greywolf and Cameron Creek drainages, arriving at Slide Creek Camp at about 8 miles and the National Park boundary at 8.5. This was the end of our reconnaissance.

The trail on this date has numerous small blowdowns, none difficult. The

trail has a 150-foot section washed away just inside the Buckhorn Wilderness boundary that's easy to detour around. Two other small washouts a bit farther on are also easy to detour around. If you're looking for a great warm-up while waiting for the snows to melt, we heartily recommend the Lower Greywolf.

The Quilcene District is very short on funds for trail maintenance. Last year, they had a one-man trail crew for the entire district! If you would like to give them some of your time, call Scott Burgwin, Trail Foreman, at the Quilcene Ranger Station, 206-765-3368. He would be glad to hear from you.—Fred & Wilma, Sequim, 3/13.

GOLD CREEK (*Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Mount Zion*)—We chose this trail because I wanted to hike up off the river. It turned out to be a great choice. The weather was pleasant with temperatures in the 50s, and partly sunny.

We encountered a massive blowdown about 5 minutes in. It was easily negotiated and the rest of the trail was in fine shape. The trail soon leaves the river, but the sounds of the water persist for some time. It then traverses slopes high above the Dungeness River through a broomstick forest interspersed with old fire-scarred giants.

The trail gives numerous picture-window views of Tyler Peak and the upper Dungeness Valley. We stopped to look frequently. Toward the end of the trail we noticed a few whitebark pines.

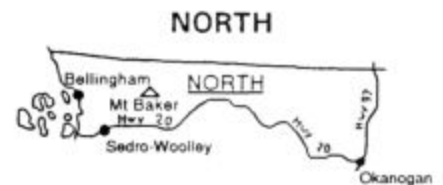
At the end of the trail we ate our

sandwiches and headed back down to enjoy everything 180-degrees differently.—Matt, Snohomish, 3/13.

OLYMPIC NATL PARK—The Sol Duc road is scheduled to open the first weekend in April. The Resort will also begin limited operation that weekend but won't be in full operation until mid-May.

The Dosewallips road may open in April, but it depends on funding, which is really tight this year.

The best guess for the Hoh River trail is that it's snowfree maybe 12 miles. Call the Park for current information on road and campground openings—everything hinges on money this year: 206-452-0330.—Ranger, 3/24



SLATE MOUNTAIN and MOUNT HERMAN (*Mount Baker Wilderness; USGS Shuksan Arm*)—Mark DesVoigne and I made the ascent of these two peaks located northwest of the Mount Baker ski area. Because the snow was well-consolidated, we decided to climb these peaks from the southeast, crossing slopes that normally have a high avalanche risk.

From the ski area parking lot (4400 feet), we made an ascending traverse to the north over two prominent ridges. From the last ridge, we descended about 200 feet to a basin at around 5400 feet below Slate Mountain. Using crampons, we climbed the southeast flank through scattered trees and snow sections of up to 45° to the summit (6250 feet). Time up from the car was 3 hours.

Descending the south side of Slate (rocky face), we made one rappel to reach the basin and the saddle between the two peaks at about 5800 feet. From the saddle, it is an easy climb of snow up the north side to the summit of Herman (6285 feet). It took it a little over one hour to climb it from Slate.

Our descent route off Herman was down the east ridge and into a basin that leads back to the ski area. The views are spectacular; Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan dominate the scene.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 2/12.

DIOBSUD CREEK (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Marblemount*)—No signs announce your arrival at the trailhead, just a 2 to



Don Paulson

North Fork Skokomish

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

3 car pullout on your right 1.2 miles from Highway 20. An unmarked path (trail 631) begins just across the road.

Marked an "other" trail on the Green Trails map, this delightful trail is very hikeable in its present state. The only signs present are the signs of neglect. Vegetation is closing in on the trail on both sides, making for a narrow hiking path which later in the year will be harder to follow. A carpet of growth over the trail in the upper reaches obscures the trail further.

The tread remains in fairly good condition, however, and there are only a half-dozen or so easily negotiated blowdowns to go over or under (chain-saws needed to clear).

The route climbs moderately as you remain above Diobsud Creek for most of its length. I encountered snow patches near trail's end (about 1000 feet). Overall a very enjoyable dayhike if you're cruising the North Cascades highway. A little TLC and it'd be back in top form.

The most astonishing part of the hike was seeing how dry things were. Downed branches snapped when I grabbed them, moss was bone-dry to the touch, and leaves crinkled underfoot. With a snowpack only 56% of normal in the North Cascades, coupled with the effects of last year's drought, I think the watchwords for this year will be "Let's be careful out there!" The forest fire threat will be very real. —RD Payne, Renton, 3/13.

ROSS LAKE WOLF CLOSURE—

Last year the upper east side of Ross Lake at Hozomeen was closed to entry for wolf studies until early summer. We checked with North Cascades National Park to see what the schedule was for this year.

We found there is no set closure schedule. "If we find current evidence of wolves in the next month or so," said Tim Manns, NCNP Naturalist, "then there will be a trapping program [to radio-collar a wolf]. If there is no wolf evidence, no closure."

The closure, if any, would begin on May 25—the day after Victoria Day—and run for a maximum of 30 days, he said. "Closure" means that the Hozomeen road would be gated at the BC/Washington boundary, with no pedestrian access allowed. On the US side, the East Bank trail would be open only to a certain point. A notice would be posted at the trailhead explaining the access limits.

Paddlers would be able to put in at either the BC or the Washington side, but would not be allowed to take out on the upper east side of the lake.

For more information, Tim says to give him a call. He'd be happy to send a map of the closure boundaries for those planning a spring trip in the Hozomeen area. He can be reached at the Park Service office in Sedro Woolley: 206-856-5700 (leave a message if he's out).—AM

HIGHWAY 20—Looks like an early opening this year. Check your local paper for exact date—may already be open now! Call 206-455-7900 for state pass conditions.

MOUNT BAKER DISTRICT—Cascade River road is plowed 5 miles; snowcovered beyond.

Snow level permitting, the East Bank Baker Lake trail and the Baker River trail are good low-elevation spring hikes. Call the Ranger Station for trail details: 206-856-5700.—Ranger, 2/22.

OKANOGAN NATL FOREST—Signs of spring are slowly approaching as daytime temperatures reach the low 50s (temperatures at night are still in the low 20s). South slopes are mostly bare of snow and patches of snow on north slopes are receding.

A few buttercups have been sighted along the Columbia River on south slopes. Flocks of robins, blackbirds and flycatchers are now in residence throughout the lower elevations. Swallows have been observed along the Okanogan River but have not yet moved out to their nesting sites on farms and ranches. A few meadowlarks are warbling their arrival. Several mountain bluebirds were spotted over the weekend and groundhogs have been seen sunning themselves.

Bird- and wildflower-watchers are already getting out their guidebooks in anticipation of spring.

Skiers seeking an extended season can head for Harts Pass and the Cutthroat areas. When the North Cascades Highway opens, the meadows at Washington Pass will be available for skiing.

Speaking of the North Cascades Highway, road crews began clearing snow on 2/24—about 3 weeks earlier than normal because of lack of snow and little danger of slides. Currently, there is 30 to 36 inches of snow on the highway this side of Washington Pass (usually there is 50 to 60 inches). The crew reports about 5 feet on the snow stake at the top (usually 8 to 12 feet). The highway is gated at Silverstar and will open depending on weather.

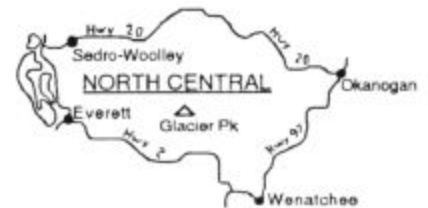
North Cascade Heli-Skiing is in its fourth season, operating under an exclusive permit from Okanogan National

Forest. The company has 80 different runs ranging from 1500 to 4000 vertical feet, at elevations from 2000 to nearly 9000 feet.

Helicopter skiing is not for beginners, but advanced downhill skiers and strong intermediate nordic skiers will find it challenging and fun. The season runs into April.

Call the Forest headquarters for more information: 509-826-3275.—Ranger, 3/10.

NORTH CENTRAL



SKYLINE RIDGE (USGS Stevens Pass, Labyrinth Mountain)—It was time for another snow cave field trip with The Mountaineer Snowshoe Course. It's a good excuse to go out and dig a snow cave and sleep in it, otherwise I probably would never get around to doing it all winter.

The students have all levels of experience—one lady announced that it was her first backpack trip! Fortunately it is a short walk—2 miles and a little over a thousand-foot gain to the ridge—so even the less-than-in-condition people were able to make it with energy to spare for digging their caves.

I purposely picked an experienced group of students to work with so I could concentrate on digging my own cave. Soon we were all spread out digging tunnels like moles, throwing debris down the slope. In my area we all started hitting rock walls, altering the shape and size of our caves. My students had evergreen boughs in their caves and some had to give up and move to a new spot.

Everyone finished before dark. We started cooking dinner and went on the tour of the "Ridge of Dreams." It was fun crawling into everyone's caves and seeing how they had overcome their own obstacles (and also what they were fixing for dinner).

I passed out Dove chocolates in commemoration of Valentine's day the next day, and even got a few treats myself. Tom Morgan was the only leader brave enough to build an igloo. It looked real cozy.—Sara Matoi, Kent, 2/13-14.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

NORTH FORK SKYKOMISH (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Monte Cristo*)—The road is plowed just over 10 miles from Highway 2. We crossed over the Skykomish River and parked the car. The first 200 feet we had to cross a sheet of black ice across the road. Then we were on solid snow through a beautiful forest that we normally drive by in a car.

At times the wind got to us—and it was very cold. Just after noon we stopped for lunch in a sheltered, sunny spot where the new part of the road goes left up the hill. We took the old road down by the river, passing some mineral springs. We met up with the main road again and continued up to the bridge across the river.

Here we took a break before hiking out. In places the snow was so icy we could have used crampons. We had the road to ourselves. On the weekends, snowmobiles probably rule the road.—Linda Rostad, Toibell, 2/18.

ROBE GORGE (*USGS Verlot*)—We left the trailhead, approximately 6 miles east of Granite Falls on the Mountain Loop Highway, about 8am with fabulous weather and high hopes of getting to Tunnel 1 somewhere downstream of the old townsite of Robe.

The trail to Tunnels 6 and 5 was in great shape. The trail to 4 and 3 only called for stepping over some blow-downs. We went into Tunnel 3 for a look around—the other end is blocked off.

The trail gets a lot harder from there on as we encountered no less than seven slides to cross—some that I wished we had ropes for! Saw many signs of the former rail line: tracks, spikes, bridges.

The river is magnificent through this area. After three hours we made it to Tunnel 1—it is also blocked on one end.

Saw tracks from a bobcat or small cougar. We decided to go crosscountry north from here to the main highway rather than relive our ordeal across the slides. 35 uphill minutes later we were back on the Mountain Loop Highway, 1½ miles by road from our car. I videotaped the trip so we can relive the adventure. I sure hope the current attempt to add this area to our park system (*March, page 20*) is successful.—J W Bingham, Marysville, 3/14.

ROUND MOUNTAIN (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Fortson, Mount Higgins*)—This was a very enjoyable trip. The weather was warm, snow conditions were solid, and the approach and route were straight-

forward.

Mark DesVoigne, Gail and Suzy Pritchard and I left Highway 530 5 miles west of Darrington, taking the Swede Heaven road for about 4½ miles to the turnoff for Road 1890. We followed this road about 2.4 miles, parking at the second clearcut at around 2200 feet.

We headed directly up the forested slope which leads to the forested ridge and the east ridge of the East Peak of Mount Higgins. Staying lower and to the right, we climbed to another ridge that parallels the ridge going to the East Peak. We followed this ridge to its end at around 4500 feet, then made a gradual descent of the broad ridge leading to the south side of Round.

The ascent of Round is easy on snow with a few rock outcrops on the route. The time up from the car was 3 hours.

The summit is a large flat area with excellent views of Whitehorse and the Higgins peaks. This route would be especially safe from avalanches.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 3/13.

DARRINGTON DISTRICT—206-436-1155. The county crew plans to start plowing the Mountain Loop Highway from the Verlot side 4/1.

The District's 800 number for winter recreation reports was very successful, but has been discontinued for the season. Verlot will open for 7-days-a-week operation 5/22.

Good spring trails are Boulder River and White Chuck Bench. The trails to Heather Lake and Lake 22 are very popular right now, even though they are covered with snow and the lakes are frozen. The trails are easy to find because they're so well packed down, but be prepared for winter conditions.—Ranger, 3/24.

SKYKOMISH DISTRICT—206-677-2414. Not much snow has melted.

About the only trail suitable for spring hiking is Heybrook Lookout. The Foss River road is still snowbound at the trestle.—Ranger, 3/24.

CENTRAL



ARROWHEAD MOUNTAIN (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Wenatchee Lake*)—Park at maintenance building driveway. Walk west on

Highway 2 across bridge. Go up to railroad tracks and walk east on tracks 1/4 to 1/3 mile (to east of a prominent gully).

Ascend gentle ridge, then moderate slopes to ridge east of summit. Follow ridge to top. *Terrific* views in all directions. Better do it now! We saw timber sale signs in the woods.

There are no roads on this side of Arrowhead, so I guess the Timber Barons will be building some. The signs said WHITE PINE 16 & 17 TIMBER SALE. Lots of beautiful old growth Doug firs about to become victims of the chain saw. Happy trails.—Sally Pfeiffer, Seattle, 3/7.

Don't believe everything you see! We talked with Jim Furlong, Resource Manager for the Lake Wenatchee District and he said the signs you saw were left over from a timber sale that is now finished. The part that was cut is lower down near the confluence of Whitepine and Nason creeks. An owl nest was found in lots 16 and 17 of the sale and logging was cancelled there.—AM

PRATT LAKE TRAIL (*Alpine Lakes Wilderness; USGS Bannock*)—Kenny and I drove up road 9030 with the idea of climbing the trail to Talapus and Olallie Lakes. A crew of loggers and all of their equipment had the road completely blocked. We changed plans and drove over to the Granite Mountain/Pratt Lake trailhead.

When we were about ¼-mile from the junction of the Talapus-Olallie trail with the Pratt trail that we were on, we met a well-equipped young man hiking out and we talked with him for some time. I asked him if he had heard about the person who had recently slid down the avalanche gully on Granite Mountain, and it turned out he was the first one to give aid and comfort to that person.

He said that he and a friend had just returned to the trailhead from a hike when two people came up to them and asked for help. They were poorly dressed for hiking with light clothes and tennis shoes. This young man and his friend hiked back up the trail. His friend stayed put on the trail to guide rescuers while the young man ascended the gully to the injured person, who had severe head injuries from hitting a tree.

The young man said he feared having to spend the entire night on the mountain with the victim, trying to keep him alive and not knowing when help would come. Rescuers soon arrived, however, and evacuated the injured person, whose body temperature had dropped to 94 degrees by the time

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

they reached the parking lot. The young man talked with the victim later at Overlake Hospital.

Shortly after our visit with him, we arrived at the junction, had our lunch and coffee, and started our slippery hike back out. Although the day was fine and bright, the air tended to bite at one's ear lobes.—Maurice Dick, Seattle, 2/26.

▲ DENNY CREEK (*Alpine Lakes Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—We were stopped by deep snow, so parked about ¼-mile from the trailhead and walked the road in. All of the foot bridges across Denny Creek had snow, usually very deep and icy. Later we crossed several slopes that appeared to us to have very high avalanche potential. Not too far above the upper bridge, Kenny, Pat and I stopped for lunch and coffee in the warm and pleasant sun.

We hadn't gone much farther when we could see the debris of a recent avalanche obliterating the trail ahead. We turned around and started our descent. We were all very cautious and apprehensive as we crossed the long cirque high above Keekwulee Falls in the heat of the afternoon sun. We appreciated its potential to slide.

With the extra distance on the road, we estimated that we had hiked about 7 miles round trip. The elevation gain was 1700 feet.—Maurice Dick, Seattle, 2/28.

❄️ RED TOP (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Davis Peak, Pollalie Ridge*)—It is Saturday, February 20. Alice and I are skiing to Red Top Lookout, our last training trip before Colorado. We are enjoying at least 40% sun, moderate wind, and 2" of powder covering the old ice crust. This is 180 degrees from the forecast of storm warnings for the east slopes of the Cascades, although it looks mean to the east.

We are about 4+ miles into the trip when Alice tries to get my attention. "Move over, move over!" What? A snowmobile? I glance behind and see a pickup truck. The cab is packed with four, a man driving and three passengers. The truck bed is filled with camping equipment, two or three gigantic inner tubes and an ATV.

As he passes we briefly talk. I mention that the road is closed to motorized vehicles and that he is damaging the groomed snowmobile track.

"What, closed? I never saw a sign. I've come up here frequently to camp." Politely we mention that we've never seen a vehicle on this road and that he

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

will probably get stuck if he keeps going. He replies, "I plan to go camping somewhere past Red Top and am doing fine in 2-wheel-drive with chains.

Guess I'll keep going and if I have trouble I'll turn around."

About 45 minutes later the ATV comes careening down the road. He got stuck trying to turn around and is going to get a come-along and help. Eventually we ski to the truck, now surrounded by a gaggle of unsympathetic snowmobilers.

It turns out the truck doesn't have 4-wheel drive. It is sloughed off the road on a steep south slope with the left two wheels buried to the axles. As we leave, a mechanic roars up on another snowmobile.

On the way down from Red Top we pass the empty and forlorn-looking truck. We continue skiing down a slick from the giant inner tubes pulled by the ATV. Suddenly, around a corner roars a tow truck with flashing lights, followed by the ATV. We must have strayed onto I-90.

As we pull out of the parking lot at 5:30 there is no sign of the pickup truck or the rescuers. Later, while eating an excellent dinner at Mineral Springs Resort, we listen to the scuttlebutt (and put in our two cents) about the now famous "truck getting stuck" incident. It seems the tow truck is also now stuck up to its axles. Bets are the pickup will be out by April.—* Chuck Gustafson, Seattle, 2/20.

▲▲ BALDY/DOMERIE (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Kachess Lake*)—Meeting in Easton at 8am, we were off to a good early start until the point where we turned off from the main road. It was not plowed beyond room for vehicles to park. In the past we have always been able to drive at least to the power lines or beyond.

But Chris had a high clearance 4WD vehicle and volunteered to ferry the packs and as many people as could pile in. We weren't more than a few hundred yards down the road when we could tell that this wasn't a good idea as the machine was slipping around quite a bit. We could see that those who were walking were postholing up to their calves if they got out of the main track.

We decided to bail out and let Chris turn around and back up when almost immediately the vehicle became mired up to the hub caps and stuck good.

It took almost an hour of winching and digging to get him back to the parking lot (sure am glad I didn't have to walk that couple of hundred yards!).

Now we are off to not-so-early a start, and soon are making the tricky crossing of Silver Creek. The spindly logs from last year are still there—they are better than nothing, but not much. Hope they stay intact for a few more crossings.

There is recent logging activity after the creek. It has obliterated the trail—or at least with the new snowfall we couldn't find it—so we put on snowshoes and headed straight up until we gained the ridge and the trees and the trail. It was nice to be back in the forest again. We followed the trail to the watershed boundary and used it as our guide to head up to the summit of Baldy.

These were the views I had been looking for. I had previously done Baldy, but on an umbrella day—what a difference. After a rest on the top the peak-baggers among us had that urge to conquer another summit and we were soon heading over for at least five first ascents of Domerie. Views about the same. Headed back to Baldy and hiked out.

We got a couple of good glissades in and were back to the cars in plenty of daylight.—Sara Matoi, Kent, 3/6.

▲▲ DENNY MOUNTAIN (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—Our party of three left the last parking area of Alpentel Ski Area (3200 feet) and climbed west, staying to the far right to avoid the main ski slopes. Ascending through trees and up a shallow, steep gully which splits a cliff band, we reached the large, open area to the northeast of the mountain.

We left our snowshoes in the car, hoping the snow would be consolidated. It was solid in the areas where skiers were making their runs, but in most of the other areas we broke through a crust up to our shins. We en-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

countered a foot of powder snow above 4000 feet.

We headed directly to the summit which meant we had to climb along the right edge of the main ski slope coming off the chairlift. A few Ski Patrol people gave us the "eye" but didn't say anything. We climbed to the ridge just north of the summit. It took us 3 hours from the car and what a beautiful, warm day! The top of the chair lift is only a couple of hundred feet below the summit.

Our descent route is probably a good way to ascend the peak and thus avoid most of the skiers. We traversed the rocky ridge north for about 1/8-mile and then downclimbed a 300-foot snow gully (35- to 45-degrees) to the open area below. Avalanche hazard is high in this area but *should* be safe because of the control by the ski operators.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 2/27.

LEAVENWORTH DISTRICT—509-548-4067. The Ice road is open to the Snow Lakes parking lot.

Reservations for the Enchantments are filling rapidly with more than half the days taken. August is full. Seasonal day-hike permits will be mailed out after 6/1. You can get on the mailing list by calling the Ranger Station. A day-hike permit is necessary from 6/15 through 10/15. Call the day before your hike for your permit or stop by on the day of your hike. Seasonal permits must be returned by 10/25.—Ranger, 3/16.



SOUTH CENTRAL



CABIN CREEK (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Stampede Pass*)—Finally the promised good weather arrived. We decided to take the kids out skiing to Cabin Creek. It's our favorite place to go with the kids—not too long a drive and nice flat, groomed trails.

It's hard to get the concept of skiing

across to the kids. It's their second year at it, but they still don't understand that we want to put skis on and go somewhere. They are just as content playing on the snow bank in the parking lot. Why do you have to go any farther when the snow is right here?

Eventually we prevailed and got them across the overpass to ski down the road to the large meadow. There we pulled off the trail and let the kids play while Tom and I took turns doing the groomed loops.

We had just come back from digging snow caves with The Mountaineers over the weekend and I was motivated to try to build an igloo after seeing one built there. The snow was not very deep, but I was soon getting some good blocks out and arranged them in a circle.

I added a second row and sliced a slant to the blocks. Tom was sure it would not work and only started lending a hand when it began to take shape.

Soon we had a crowd of people watching us, expecting to see us finish the job. I think we were the more surprised that we actually got it capped off and that it stood up by itself!

With an entrance tunnel dug it was a real tourist attraction. The kids all had great fun crawling in and out. We let everyone enjoy it till it was time to go and then the kids had just as much fun tearing it down.—Sara Matoi, Kent, 2/15.

MOUNT KENT (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest, mostly; USGS Bandera, Chester Morse Lake*)—My first new summit in '93. Don Goodman was the leader for this trip. He had never been there but a couple of other people had.

We carried our snowshoes and several of us carried crampons as the snow was very hard. You want firm snow for this trip as you must cross those avalanche chutes coming off McClellan.

The trip starts off by going up the McClellan Butte trail to about 4800 feet where the summer trail would turn to go on the north side. There you drop down to the saddle between Kent and McClellan and traverse south around to Alice Lakes, then gain the ridge that runs to the summit.

It was a wonderful day for lounging around on the summit—sunshine and no wind and views all around. And best of all we had Keith with us who can name all the summits. We kept him busy for most of an hour. When people started to get restless we headed down.

We made a loop out of it by going down the ridge to the south, then glissading off the ridge toward the Alice Creek drainage. Glissading in February made it feel like a spring day. We

dropped a little too low and ended up bushwhacking a little to get back to the road that crosses the McClellan Butte trail to close the loop.—Sara Matoi, Kent, 2/6.

MOUNT KENT (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Bandera*)—Mount Kent is located southeast of McClellan Butte. The easiest routes up the peak are from either the west or east slopes. The broad 1200-foot north face is characterized by numerous ribs, gullies and cliffs interspersed with trees.

Chris Weidner and I climbed the north face by a route in the center of the face. Access to the mountain is on the McClellan Butte trail and a spur road which leads close to the peak. After 3 weeks of good weather and little snow, the snowpack was hard and we used crampons on the entire route up the face. The route has variety involving a lot of steep snow, some ice, and a little brushy rock.

It took about 2 hours to reach the face and 5 hours to do the climb. We descended by the open snow slope on the east flank.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 2/16.

MOUNT WASHINGTON (*DNR and private land; USGS Chester Morse Lk*)—Kenny and I parked in the Olallie State Park lot and were soon on the trail. The steepness caused many brief stops for me to get my breath.

A short distance above the "safe drinking water" sign we encountered our first snow which deepened as we ascended. Shortly after we crossed Washington Creek by hopping from stone to stone, we decided that the snow was getting much deeper and would make the trip to the summit very tedious. After a brief rest, we started our descent.—Maurice Dick, Seattle, 3/93.

TIGER MOUNTAIN (*Issaquah Alps; USGS Hobart, Fall City*)—Kenny and I started at the High Point trailhead a little before 9am. When we got to the power lines, we saw several vehicles and some construction equipment adjacent to the beginning of the trail up West Tiger 3.

Shortly we came upon several men working at building some trails that are wheelchair accessible. At the next junction we took the Bus Road trail—it has already been completed for wheelchair use to the first bridge across a creek. We explored a little in the Talus Caves, then started the long steep climb on a trail I hadn't hiked before.

When we reached the railroad bed, we flipped a coin to decide whether to

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

go straight up to the top or go around to the main trail. Heads meant we had to go straight up. We spent 10 or 15 minutes on top, then started down. A trail crew is building a new trail to replace the overly-steep existing trail.

Quite a few cars had parked back at the trailhead while we were on our hike.—Maurice Dick, Seattle, 3/93.

❄️ OLD BALDY (*Clearwater Wilderness; USGS Old Baldy Mtn, Bearhead Mtn*)—Aaron Shaw was the leader for this Mountaineer snowshoe trip. We had to hike from the Carbon River road where road 7810 crosses the Carbon River, making a 14-mile, 4100-foot-gain day (I would have liked an earlier start).

We headed up the road on a sheet of ice covered by a few inches of very slick, fresh snow. We gained elevation quickly and were soon at the old 4WD road at 3200 feet. We hiked up it to the end of the second switchback at about 3950 feet. There we left the road and headed up the ridge cross-country. Tom had done this trip last summer and it was a real bushwhack; with the snowcover he found a rather pleasant

route for us to the open ridgetop and false summit.

After a much needed rest we headed down the saddle through a thicket of young firs to gain the final summit ridge. The ridge was extremely difficult. The fresh snow on top of loose rock made every footstep tenuous and very slow going. After a couple of hundred feet of this we decided to traverse high on the open snow slope just below the ridge. There was some concern for avalanche because of the fresh snow, but by staying high we felt it would be okay.

It turned out that our problem was extremely hard snow—all the fresh snow had either been blown off or sluffed off, and we were left with a traverse on the hardest slope I had been on for a long time.

I was number four in line and found it hard to follow in the little bit of a step left. I had to repeatedly kick in a step to stand on. (Found out later that I cracked the nail on my big toe kicking in so hard.) In some spots I resorted to chopping a couple of steps with the ice axe.

Finally we made it to the ridgetop

that had a nice arête of snow. Everybody was so tired Aaron considered turning the trip around at that point. But when Tom got to the ridge and heard this he reminded Aaron that we still had 45 minutes left until our turnaround time of 3pm, and with leader permission he proceeded to kick all the remaining steps to the summit with 15 minutes to spare.

We actually had some views this time. The cloud deck was at about 8500 feet and we could see just about all of the Irish Cabin peaks, and even straight down to the bridge across the Carbon River that we crossed so long ago. Not a whole lot of time to spend on top so we soon headed down—getting some glissades out of it, too.

When we got to the road some of us with instep crampons put them on to walk the road. I never fell on my rear once, like most of the others. We got to the cars just at dark so we never had to get out our headlamps.—Sara Matoi, Kent, 2/20.

❄️ COPPER CREEK ROAD (*Mount Tahoma Trail System; USGS Mount Wow*)—Sally and I met in

Ski-tour the Alpine Meadows

△
FROM A REMOTE
RESORT CAMP HIGH IN
THE SUNNY
EASTERN
CASCADE
MOUNTAINS



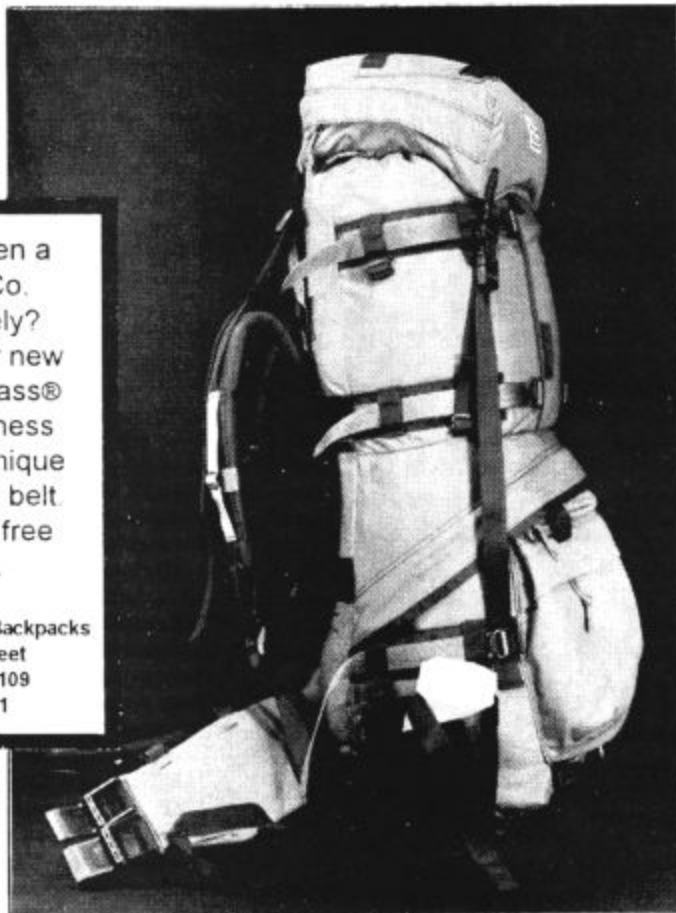
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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

Elbe and drove together from Ashford to the Sno-Park on the Copper Creek road, just outside the Nisqually entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, for a fine day of skiing.

There was about 3 inches of new light snow covering the ice, and the sun was shining. It was a beautiful day! The Sno-Park has been moved to about 4 miles up the road and is plowed to that point. Snowmobiles are no longer allowed on the road. The view of Mount Rainier from the top of this road is one of the most spectacular that I know of.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 2/15.

❄️ SNOW BOWL HUT (*Mount Tahoma Trail System; USGS Sawtooth Ridge, Anderson Lake*)—The day had finally come. Months earlier, at the annual season kick-off for the Mount Tahoma Trail Association, I had made a reservation for a night in the hut.

Eight of us first met at The Bunkhouse in Ashford, then drove to the Sno-Park on road 1. After an hour delay for one of us to replace forgotten ski poles, we started walking—but only for half a mile of spotty snow until a continuous white carpet led 4 miles and nearly 2000 feet up to the Snow Bowl Hut.

Aptly named, it sits at the end of a ridge above a very nice snow bowl—perfect for steep, right-from-the-door skiing in better snow conditions. With no new snow for awhile, the skiing was okay but a little crusty away from the groomed road.

The hut is pretty well stocked, comfortable and snug. Unless we looked out the window to see the loose snow flying by we would not have known it was gusting to 50mph.

The next morning we woke to several inches of new snow, clear skies and an incredible view of The Mountain. The new snow was a big help as some of the group were new at cross-country with packs and the going a little slow.

I can't say enough good about the hut! Everyone agreed it was a sweetheart of a deal and we made only one mistake: we went for only one night!—OSAT and friends, 2/14-15.

YAKIMA RIM and FRENCH MAN COULEE (*Wildlife Recreation Areas; USGS Selah and Evergreen Ridge*)—This is the latest spring since CAT and I started our sagebrush hikes. Not only was the Yakima Rim covered with snow in mid-March, but at Frenchman Coulee there were snow patches clear down to the Columbia, and some streams and ponds were frozen.—TG, Skyway, 3/9 & 16.



Jane Habegger

The Copper Creek Hut on the Mount Tahoma Trail System.

WHITE RIVER DISTRICT—206-825-6585. Cayuse and Chinook Passes are not scheduled to open until 5/28 due to construction of the Deadwood and Laughingwater bridges.

Trails are still snowcovered, but a few of the low-elevation ones have only patchy snow and are suitable for spring hiking. Try Snoquera Falls 1167, the lower Greenwater 1176, White River 1199, and Skookum Flats 1194.—Ranger, 3/19.

RAINIER NATL PARK—The Carbon River road reopened to Ipsut Creek campground on 3/8. Most of the campsites are snowfree, but bring your own water and haul out your own garbage. Snow starts on the Green Lake trail a bit before the lake. The Carbon Glacier trail has 2 feet of snow at the suspension bridge.

The Mowich Lake road is closed to all motor vehicles at the Paul Peak gate, 1 mile inside the Park boundary and 4.5 miles from Mowich Lake, until 7/93. Snow is 1 foot deep at the Paul Peak gate; 5 feet deep at Mowich Lake. Four-wheel-drive may be needed for the last part of the road.

Highway 410 is closed at the North Park Arch, just beyond the Crystal Mountain turnoff. Snow is patchy and not more than a foot deep now, so is better suited for walking and bicycling than skiing. Cayuse Pass has 8 feet of snow.—Ranger, 3/16.

NACHES DISTRICT—509-653-2205. Recent warm days and cold nights have allowed the surface snow to undergo melt-freeze cycles. Excellent spring skiing conditions have developed with good corn snow during

the early afternoon hours.

Spring avalanche conditions, however, are also developing. Surface snow melts and weakens in the afternoon sun, causing increasing hazard. Even small slides can be dangerous.

The North Fork Tieton trail off road 1207 has excellent spring skiing, with some icy spots in shady areas. Elevation runs between 3100 and 6000 feet.

The Bear Canyon road 1301, off Highway 12, is a good area for experienced skiers or snowshoers. This road is a 10-mile round trip from 2000 to 4200 feet, with stream crossings.

Many people do not realize it, but the FAA requests all aircraft to maintain a minimum altitude of 2000 feet above Wilderness Areas administered by the Forest Service. This request was initiated to reduce the impact of aircraft noise in Wilderness. For more information, see FAA Advisory Circular 91-36C, VFR Flight Near Noise-Sensitive Areas. For questions concerning Wilderness boundaries, contact the Wilderness staff, phone number above.—Ranger, 3/16.



PETERSON PRAIRIE—We got a call from Linda Turner of the Mount Adams District about the information

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

we ran on the Peterson Prairie cabin (*March, page 11*). The Ranger District is renting out the old guard cabin for \$20 per night for a party of two until May 1st (then it's used as quarters for summer volunteers). It makes a great ski or snowshoe destination.

Unfortunately, our information included some errors, which Linda corrected. The cabin does NOT have running water; you have to melt snow or pack in your own. The distance is NOT 4 miles in from the Sno-Park, only 2½.

We got the rest of it right: an outhouse, wood heat, propane cooking, and space for six total (\$5 for each additional person over the first 2).

Call the Ranger Station for details on renting the cabin: 509-395-2501.—AM

MOUNT ADAMS DISTRICT—A contract to pave Road 23 from the 8810 junction to the 90 junction will continue as soon as the contractor can begin work. Gates will block this portion of the road until the work is finished in November. Plan for a detour this summer.

Because of the fragile environment, campfires are no longer allowed in elevations above the trails that encircle the mountain. These include Round-the-Mountain trail 9, PCT 2000, and Highline trail 114.—Ranger, 3/5.

SAINT HELENS—Permits required for climbing beginning 5/14. Call the Climbing Hot-line for info: 206-247-5800.

The Coldwater Johnston Visitor Center will have a Grand Opening and dedication on 5/15 at 1pm. Take I-5 to Exit 49 at Castle Rock. Go east on Highway 504 to milepost 47.5.—Ranger, 3/5.

MONTANA

EAST FORK GUARD STATION—This rustic old cabin is equipped with a

snug wood stove and wonderful scenery. It's available to rent year round from the Forest Service, and can be reserved six months in advance.

Its location is the Bitterroot National Forest. For information, write or call the Sula Ranger District
7338 Highway 93 South
Sula MT 59871
phone: 406-821-3201.

IDAHO


PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST—Warm weather has softened everything but the skiing is still good.

For Hell's Canyon information, call 800-422-3143 in Idaho, or 800-521-9102 outside the state.—Ranger, 3/15.

SAWTOOTH NRA—Call 208-622-8027 for daily updates on avalanche hazards. Don't press your luck in the backcountry with spring avalanche conditions.

The NRA headquarters office can give you suggestions and xeroxed maps for backcountry and tracked skiing routes. Address is Star Route, Ketchum ID 83340; phone 208-726-7672.—Roma Nelson, Sawtooth NRA, 3/15.


CANADA

 **BOWRON LAKES** (*Bowron Lakes Provincial Park*)—The 70-mile paddling loop has some new twists this year. Because of the increasing popularity of the loop, the Park has begun a reservation system.

Departures are limited to 50 people a day. This is nothing new, but up to now it's been on a first-come, first-served basis. To make reservations for a particular departure, call **604-992-3111** for any date this calendar year.

The circuit fee is \$52.50 CDN per boat so far, but we're told it may go up to \$60 CDN this summer. Be sure to call before you go to avoid unpleasant surprises.—AM

ELSEWHERE

 **BAJA**—On February 13, we crossed into Baja at Tijuana after purchasing Mexican auto insurance and exchanging currency. A quick stop at Mexican Immigration to validate our Tourist Permits, and we were off for a 3-week kayaking and camping adventure.

Our first major destination was Bahia de los Angeles, 12 hours south, on the Sea of Cortez. Guillermo's Trailer Park provided a storage spot for our vehicles while we explored the nearby islands. We chose Isla Coronado as our base camp, pitching our tents on a lovely lagoon complete with tidal rapids.

The 3-mile crossing from Punta Gringa to Isla Coronado was complicated by the strong, unpredictable winds generated by the rainstorms up north. We observed pelicans, oyster catchers, ospreys, porpoises, finback whales, sting rays and various fishes. The sparse island vegetation was interspersed with large cactus.

Next stop: Bahia Concepcion, south of Loreto on the Sea of Cortez. We paddled around the nearby islands, snorkeled for delicious shellfish, and dined on large prawns sold by local fishermen.

Magdalena Bay, one of the Pacific Coast calving lagoons for grey whales, was our next stop. A day spent with the whales is an almost spiritual experience! At one time we counted four grey whales cavorting underneath our boat.

La Paz, near the southern tip of Baja, also offers several paddling and camping opportunities. We camped on a lovely beach 20 miles north of La Paz, amid old fishing camps and long stretches of desolate shoreline. The sea was warm, almost 75 degrees.

The desert was in bloom throughout Baja due to the unusually heavy rainstorms in prior weeks. The road conditions varied from good to poor, with some bridges being in varying states of repair.—Bill & Nancy Ermert, Duvall, 2/13-3/6.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

LLAMAS—Two young male llamas (8 months old; born a few days apart)—best friends; we don't want to split them up. Ready to start training as packers. *Andy* (spotted and very friendly) and *Aff Alpha* (all brown ... curious, but more reserved). \$1000 for the pair. 206-255-5274 (Issaquah).

WANTED: Male companion with weekday availability for technical climbing (practice and moderate rock climbs to 5.7 level). Experience good; motivation to learn okay. Call Gene on 206-746-6690 (Bellevue). Prefer fellow retiree.

DEE MOLENAAR

remembering Gene Prater

JANUARY 8, 1929—FEBRUARY 2, 1993

I first met Gene and Bill Prater in July 1957, more than 35 years ago. A lot of irrigation water has gone through the sprinklers and down the ditches since then—and also a lot of camaraderie has evolved over the years, both in the mountains and here in the beautiful Kittitas Valley.

As seen here today, Gene Prater had many friends and touched many lives—and we all have many fond memories of Gene. Though farmers by profession, Gene and his brother Bill were mountaineers at heart and in their avocational deeds.

They were among the founding members of the Sherpas Club, a small group of local friends who in the 1950s began exploring around the central Cascades—much in the nearby Mount Stuart area. The Sherpas began rewriting Mount Rainier climbing history—and *they did it all without going through the Mountaineers Climbing Course or being members of the American Alpine Club!*

The club soon became outrageously disrespectful of Northwest mountaineering tradition, for these upstarts from the farms and orchards of eastern Washington came over to *our* Mountain and did routes nobody in the Puget Sound country thought feasible.

In 1955, twenty years after the fabled first ascent of Ptarmigan Ridge by Seattleites Wolf Bauer and Jack Hossack, it took Gene and Bill Prater, farmers from the Kittitas Valley, to make the second ascent. And two years later, in July 1957, a group of Sherpas ignored all dire warnings from the West Side



Bill, left, and Gene with one of their homemade ice axes; 1957.

and successfully scouted an intricate route up the long-sought Curtis Ridge, with Gene Prater and Marcel Schuster achieving the summit.

As it turned out, it was providential that on the same day that Gene and Marcel were topping out on Curtis Ridge, Pete Schoening and I were doing a new route up the opposite side of the mountain. Upon our return to Paradise to proudly record our climb up the Wilson Glacier Headwall, our effort was deflated by the news that a couple of climbers from eastern Washington had just done Curtis Ridge.

Being a hobbyist custodian of the Rainier climbing record, I immediately got their names and addresses. The next day, while on a field trip to eastern Washington, I visited Gene and his brother Bill on their alfalfa farm near

Ellensburg.

I was immediately impressed by these two rugged, blond, blue-eyed youths—and I was especially enchanted by the display of their home-made ice axes and hardware. I began learning more about the Sherpas and the Yakima Cascadians when, over the next few months, Gene began mailing me copies of the mimeographed annual reports (*The Cascadian*), with its many contributions by the Sherpa clique of the club.

It was well illustrated by the artistry of Sherpa Dave. (That was Dave Mahre, a mountaineering legend in his own right, but to later generations better known as “the father of the Mahre twins”.) Here were documented the many ascents the Sherpas made in the Mount Stuart area and on their side of

Mount Rainier.

The Cascadians' journals were a valuable source of information in my research for what eventually became the book *The Challenge of Rainier*. But the Praters and their Sherpa buddies—Jim Wickwire, Dave Mahre, Fred Stanley, and Fred Dunham—really “wrote the book” on the more challenging routes up the mountain's north and east sides.

These Sherpa buddies were later able to join mountaineering expeditions to the far-off Himalaya. But the farming lifestyle of the Praters precluded their participation in anything so exotic; they had to settle for a couple of mini-expeditions to Alaska and the Yukon—Gene on the Mount McKinley rescue in 1960 and Bill on the Mount Kennedy expedition in 1965.

Over the years since our first meeting in 1957, I made many trips across the Cascades to visit Gene and Bill Prater in Sherpa Country, and our paths joined on numerous mountain trips. Whenever in the Ellensburg area I would often drop in on the Praters, often finding them off in the “back 40.”

My first outing with Gene Prater was during the construction of the stone hut at Camp Schurman at Steamboat Prow on Mount Rainier. I recall joining Gene and many others hauling lumber, cement, and sections of curved steel culverts, each over 40 pounds—sometimes two at a time—from the White River road at 3600 feet to the hut site at 9500 feet. But it was not all heroics—we could always dump our loads halfway and prolong the carry to another weekend. This was a good way to extend the beginning of a lifelong friendship ...

In May 1960, during the mass transport of Northwest Mountain Rescuers to Mount McKinley to rescue some of our buddies after an accident high on the peak, Gene Prater, George Senner and I were among the first load of climbers to be carried by giant helicopters to a gravelly river bar on the flats far from the south flanks of the massive peak.

Not really knowing what was going on, we all set up our tents and sacked out, awaiting further signals. Then suddenly we heard the hum of approaching aircraft, and soon three small, ski-equipped planes landed nearby in a cloud of dust.

Gene, George and I were roused

from our sacks and virtually ordered to quickly get aboard, one to a plane. When we questioned the pilots about the route and landing area, only Don Sheldon seemed to have landed a ski plane on the mountain before.

Gene quickly put all his gear into Sheldon's plane and squeezed aboard, while George and I did likewise in the other two planes, wondering if we'd ever see our families again. But soon we were airborne and winging our way over the passes and up the Kahiltna Glacier. Within an hour we were all having rice and sake with some Japanese who were camped near the landing site at 10,000 feet totally unaware of any accident on the mountain high above.

The next morning about fifty others were carried by giant choppers to the camp—members of Mountain Rescue Units from Seattle, Portland and Everett. In the meantime, two of the injured party (Pete Schoening and John Day) had been brought to the mountain's base by helicopter from 17,000 feet—at that time a world record for chopper landings. But Jim and Lou Whittaker, somewhat battered and shaky from the fall, were still up at 16,000 feet, and over the next couple of days we accompanied them down to 12,000 feet, where we were storm-bound for another two days.

Many of those who were there will recall that for 36 hours, eighteen of us were jammed inside a five-man Army hexagonal tent. I recall that Gene and I spent much of the time trading off the duty of standing and trying to keep the

flapping tent and center pole upright. In the meantime, Dr. Otto Trott was trying to keep a stove from tipping over and spilling tea and soup over everyone lying around the center pole like spokes in a wheel.

On our return flight from Anchorage, I remember Gene and I discussed our prayers while in that flapping tent, and the power of prayer in resolving many tight situations in the mountains. Gene had a quiet and sometimes roguish sense of humor, but he was also a deeply religious person, as are so many who make their living from the soil—and who, besides just hard work, must often rely on favorable conditions of weather and climate beyond their control.

We shared several other memorable trips into the mountains, sometimes trips spoiled by the weather—including winter attempts on Rainier, a climb of the east ridge of Ingalls Peak, up Chimney Rock, and in 1966 a new route up the Mowich Face on Rainier, with Jim Wickwire and Dick Pargeter. (The highlight of that trip was Gene's efforts to cook up a good broth for supper, and having it tossed out among the rocks, unappreciated.)

And I'll never forget a gathering at the Wickwire home in Seattle, where Gene surprised me with a small document signed by all those present, celebrating our mutual efforts in publication of *The Challenge of Rainier*. Gene had prepared a special little poem, illustrated by a photo of me wandering *au naturel* into a pond at Moraine Park—to avoid the mosquitoes. I still



Gene on the way to the Mowich Face, Mount Rainier; 1966.

Dee Molenaar

have this prized document as a framed memento on my den wall.

I recall the Ingalls Peak climb as the one time that Gene had a cold and couldn't join us. Yet, just as we were nearing the summit via a new route up the east ridge, here comes Gene, shortcutting up another approach; he didn't want to miss out on a first ascent. Of course, it didn't help matters when we learned later others had already done the route.

The Praters are also widely known for their custom design and manufacture of snowshoes. We've all become acquainted with and most of us own a pair of the now world-famous Sherpa Snowshoe, which was manufactured and distributed commercially on a big scale by Bill for several years.

It is now the most commonly used snowshoe among the world's top mountaineers. In the meantime, Gene continued to run the farm and, through his home workshop, he continued to put out custom-made snowshoes for his friends.

With a degree in history from Central Washington College (now University), Gene enjoyed writing and documenting many of his explorations and ascents in the local hills.

His articles on snowshoe design and techniques appear in many issues of the old *Summit* magazine and in several books published and widely distributed by The Mountaineers Books. But Gene was never one to rest on his laurels, and he was always expanding his experiences.

In recent years he made several winter visits to the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where he taught snowshoeing to members of the Appalachian Mountain Club—and where he gained first-hand appreciation of the rigors of winter travel in the snow and winds of the Mount Washington area.

Life hadn't always been easy for Gene and Yvonne Prater, but through much adversity they continued to smile. And I cherish being invited to a surprise 60th birthday party arranged by Yvonne for Gene at the local Red Lion Motel, about 4 years ago. It was therefore a shock to me a year later when Gene wrote me that he and Yvonne had divorced, after their 38 years together.

After a couple of years of soul-searching and self-analysis, Gene bounced back and found a nice lady-friend. One Saturday morning last March, I found in my mail a card from Gene mentioning he was getting married that afternoon in Ellensburg. He didn't really give me much warning, but it was a beautiful day so Colleen and I headed across the mountains.

There, with several of Gene's "old faithful" Sherpa friends, we really enjoyed sharing with Gene and Jeri Barkley the beginning of their new life together. Gene was again his happy old self, dancing with his bride to the music of a small combo group. Jeri readily took to Gene's lifestyle and over the past year they shared several local hikes and auto trips farther afield.

Their last climb was up 10,800-foot San Jacinto in early December—partway by the teleferique above Palm Springs. It was during the climb to the summit that Gene first noticed an unusual tiredness, and on the way home by way of Death Valley he decided against their plan to climb Telescope Peak there.

Gene and I occasionally talked about making an overnight snowshoe trip together, up Manastash Ridge to the west of his farm. There we would enjoy the wintry landscape—the snowladen trees and the panorama of the Stuart Range off to the north. We would sit around a

fire and reminisce about past trips and our climbing cronies.

I now must regret that somehow I was never able to rouse myself enough to make it over the mountains for the trip. But on such a happy occasion as Gene and Jeri's wedding last March, I never thought about it being a last visit.

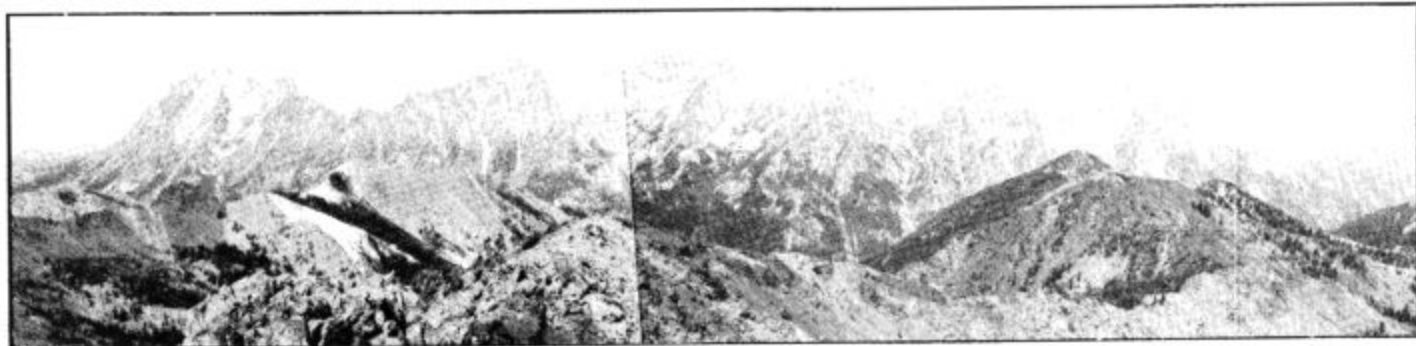
Among my thoughts of Gene Prater is that of the close camaraderie among the Sherpas. It has been a true comradeship of sharing in climbs—and in occasional efforts to save others' lives in the mountains. Their camaraderie is both a love of being in the mountains and the enrichment of friendship through sharing in the mountain experience.

In mountaineering, we take turns kicking steps and scouting the route ahead. Gene Prater is now out in the lead and checking the route.

Berg heil, Gene—he seeing you ...

△

Dee Molenaar, of Burley, is a noted artist, mountaineer and author. He originally wrote this piece for distribution to Gene's family and friends as a remembrance.



The Stuart Range where Gene did much of his climbing, as seen from Earl Peak in this composite photo.

DALLAS KLOKE

SAUK: a mountain for all seasons

Sauk Mountain provides a recreational playground for outdoor enthusiasts in all four seasons of the year. During the summer and fall it is used by hikers, hanggliders and runners; in winter by cross-country skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers; and in spring by climbers.

I first visited the mountain in May of 1966, climbing the northwest face by way of a steep snow gully. Since that trip, Sauk has been one of my favorite areas to visit. I've made about twenty ascents during the winter and spring. Some of these ascents were solos, and moonlight climbs. One climb was a 6-hour ordeal where a companion and I had to start from Highway 20 and hike the road for 7 miles, gaining 5000 feet in elevation.

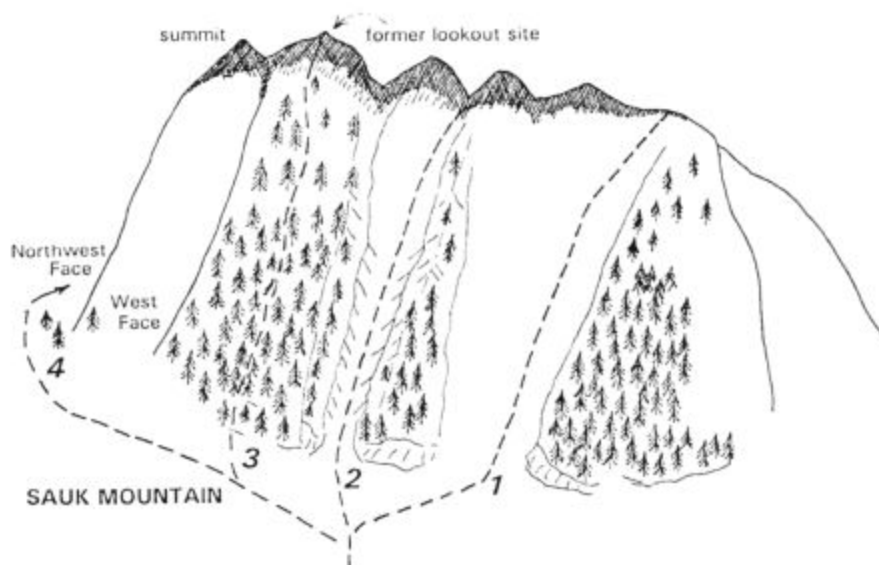
A second sport of mine was road-running, so in 1978 I organized a "race" up the mountain. The run was up the gravel road 7½ miles to the parking lot, then along the 2-mile switchbacking trail to the old lookout. This run lasted for 8 years, with the fastest time for the 9½ miles and almost-mile of elevation gain being 1:26:46, by Chris Soler of Mount Vernon.

Sauk, at 5537 feet, is the prominent mountain viewed when looking east up the Skagit Valley from Sedro Woolley. The mountain is located about 7 miles east of Concrete and directly north of Rockport State Park.

Access to the mountain is on Sauk Mountain road 1030; the turn-off on Highway 20 is just before the entrance to the State Park. Sauk is on National Forest land but has been logged extensively on the south and west flanks.

The gravel road switchbacks up the south and west sides of the mountain to the parking area at 4300 feet. From here the trail makes numerous switchbacks up a steep open slope to the summit ridge southeast of the former lookout site.

The trail continues northwest on the



north side of the rocky summit ridge. The highest point is north of the lookout site. To reach it you can descend the lookout site and climb over one hump, then make an exposed traverse to the base of the highest point, which is an easy scramble.

The views from the top are spectacular. The panorama includes the Twin Sisters range, Baker, Shuksan, the Pickets, Whitehorse, Glacier Peak, and Snowking, to mention only a few.

Fall is a great time to hike it, especially in late September and October. The autumn colors and crisp cool air provide a real "mountain high."

For the mountaineer, winter and spring are the most challenging times for climbing. Under normal winter-spring conditions, you can drive from the highway up the road to about 4 miles (2500 feet).

Most ascents start at the 6-mile mark (3500 feet) on the road, with a large open snow slope on the southwest flank being the beginning of the routes. This slope is prone to large avalanches so make sure snow conditions are stable.

Here are brief descriptions for four popular ascent routes (a rope and crampons are advised on *all* these routes):

1. Trail route (southwest face). Ascend the 35° to 45° degree slope to

the ridge at 5300 feet. Stay on the right side of the ridge and follow it to the former lookout site at 5500 feet. To reach the highest point, (A) descend from the lookout site and climb over a rock hump, then make an exposed traverse to the base of the final rock summit—Class 3 or 4 depending on snow conditions, or (B) before reaching the lookout site, traverse north below a rock outcrop and then up steep snow to the summit.

- 2. Southwest face direct.** Ascend a shallow gully between trees which leads directly to the ridge. A short rock pitch needs to be negotiated at the top to reach the other side of the ridge.
- 3. Southwest corner.** Follow the trees which lead directly to the former lookout site. Safe from avalanches.
- 4. Northwest face.** Traverse below the west face to a ridge; cross this ridge to a basin on the northwest side of the mountain. Several steep route possibilities exist.

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Dallas Kloke lives in Anacortes.

MARK HUME

Looking for Mr. Goodbear

—WINSTON LEADS BIOLOGISTS ON MERRY CHASE—

Winston is not a killer. He hasn't even broken the law so far as anyone knows.

But when you're a rogue grizzly weighing 200 kilograms, with big canine teeth, enormous claws, and a mind of your own, people tend to think the worst.

Wildlife technician Mark Pimlott calls it the "18 feet of sheer terror" syndrome, in which people get this Hollywood image of a rampant killer bear as soon as they hear the word "grizzly."

So when Winston started wandering around the Fraser Valley last winter, practically shuffling through backyards in Chilliwack, biologists knew they had a big problem on their hands.

Winston, a radio-collared coastal grizzly bear from the Pemberton area, was relocated to Manning Park last summer, in a BC wildlife project aimed at re-introducing the mammals to habitat they historically occupied.

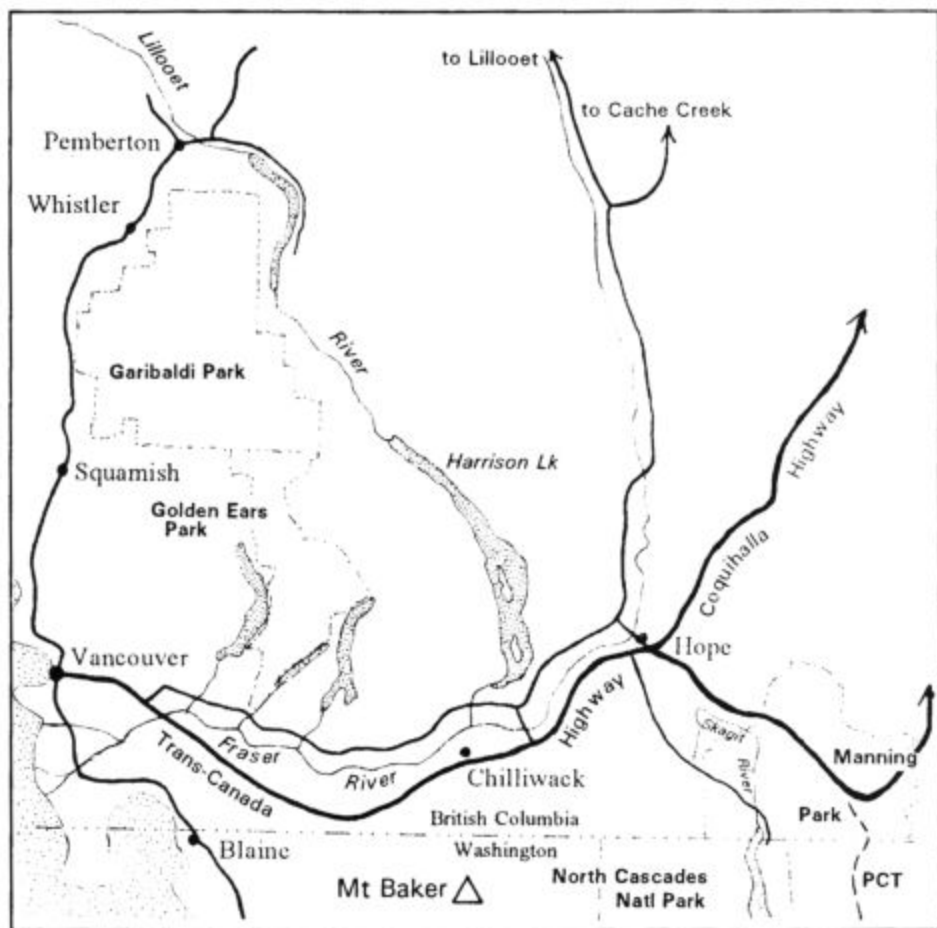
The North Cascade Mountains that extend from the US into Canada should be home to 250 grizzlies. Instead, because of over-hunting, there are less than 20 in the mountain range, and all of those are in Canada.

Winston was one of four bears dropped off in the park over the summer. Biologists thought he'd stick around in the remote valley they chose for him, find a female and start rebuilding the population.

But Winston had his own ideas. Either he didn't like the valley he'd been given, or he just got homesick and lit out for Pemberton, about 300 kilometres to the northwest.

"We don't really know what he's up to," said Pimlott, as he adjusted his radio telemetry equipment in January and tried to get a signal from Winston.

"But it strikes me that the last read-



ing we had on him was right here, in the narrowest part of the Fraser Valley, directly across from the Harrison River. You couldn't pick a better route back to Pemberton."

How he found his way this far, about 100 kilometres from where he was dropped off, is one of those wonderful mysteries of the animal kingdom.

Winston was taken to Manning Park by helicopter when he was heavily sedated. Nobody can explain how he'd know where Pemberton is, but he ap-

pears to have figured it out.

"Basically he just has to cross the valley floor now. Then he can follow the Harrison up and over to Pemberton. Right here, he's less than 20 miles from the mouth of his home watershed."

He's also perilously close to getting shot.

The last radio contact, made December 30, located Winston in a hilly area along Allan Road, near Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park.

From where the distinctive "pip, pip" signal was picked up, you can look down at farms and rural houses and the busy Trans Canada highway.

"My worst fear is that somebody walking out to the horse barn at 4:30 in the morning will bump into Winston. Then who knows what might happen? He's not an aggressive bear, but he might get scared," said Pimlott.

Biologists will shoot Winston if he is tracked into a populated area.

The other possibility is that the first person to see Winston might simply shoot him, thinking he's the 5.5-metre, 900-kilogram bear featured in the 1976 Hollywood classic "Killer Grizzly!"

The fact is, Winston has never attacked anyone. The only time he ever showed his fangs to humans was when a bunch of wildlife biologists reached into his mouth to yank out a maximal tooth, so they could figure out his age.

At the time Winston was so doped up from drugs shot into his shoulder, he couldn't even sit up.

The terror of the woods, say those who know him, is really quite timid.

"But he's got a big mouth, big teeth, I can tell you that," says wildlife biologist Bob Forbes, who is working on the North Cascades grizzly relocation project.

Forbes said Winston became part of the program by mistake, when he blundered into a snare that had been set to catch a problem bear in Pemberton.

It was actually the second time Winston had set a foot wrong. He'd been caught by mistake earlier, too. The first time they dropped him off to the north, in Toba Inlet, but he followed a river system home.

The second time he got caught, they

looked at him as a candidate for the North Cascades grizzly project, and liked what they saw. He was in good breeding shape, 15 years old, and he had never caused any trouble in all his years around Pemberton.

"He seems to have a real aversion to humans," said Forbes.

Because of that, Forbes selected Winston for the North Cascades project, which got going last summer.

The bears in the Manning Park region are a remnant population that has only survived by shunning human contact.

"What has probably happened is that the bears have evolved to co-exist with humans," says Forbes. "The bears that didn't run away from humans have been killed over the last 200 years, so that type of aggressive bear has been removed from the gene pool. They've been wiped out."

But the bears that are left in the North Cascades aren't numerous enough to keep the population going. Without some new blood, the isolated population will fade away within 50 years.

"It's an island," said Forbes of the 15 or so bears left in the Manning Park area. "If we do nothing they will go extinct."

Which is where Winston was supposed to fit in. As a breeder. Instead he walked away.

"We don't know what's going through his mind," said a frustrated Forbes.

"I'm disappointed he moved. But I'm not ready to issue a death warrant for him yet. I'm hoping he'll learn the errors of his ways and return to where he was put."

He said that if Winston starts show-

ing up in farm fields or backyards, wildlife officials will immediately order the bear killed.

"Our first responsibility is to public safety," said Forbes.

As soon as weather permits, wildlife technicians plan to start flying over the Fraser Valley, searching for Winston.

Loss of his ground signal in recent weeks indicates Winston has either started to hibernate—which is something he should have been doing months ago—or he has hiked out of the region.

If he's hibernating he probably has snuggled down under a log or a rock outcropping, which would make it difficult to get his signal. An aircraft might be able to locate him.

If they don't get a signal around Chilliwack, they're going to fly to Pemberton and look there.

"There's a great deal of interest among biologists in this bear," said Pimlott. "Even veteran grizzly biologists are curious about him. Whenever you walk into a meeting, everybody wants to know: 'Where's Winston?'"

△

Mark Hume is a reporter for the Vancouver Sun in British Columbia. This article has been reprinted with his permission.

When we spoke with Mark Hume at press time, he said that temperatures have remained cold in the Fraser Valley, and that Winston is generally assumed to be hibernating still.

We thank our Cougar Reporter David Ryeburn, of Vancouver, for bringing this story to our attention.

AND SOME RELATED INFORMATION . . .

BC BEARS

Pack & Paddle talked with Jon Almack, the state bear biologist, about British Columbia's bear program.

"BC does things a little differently than we do," he explained. "BC agencies have decided to augment the population by bringing in bears from other areas, and to do it now before the existing bears become extinct.

"They have moved a total of four bears so far to the Cascade ecosystem: three in the north, near Merritt, and this bear [Winston] in the south. Actually, he was released just outside Man-

ning Park, in the Pasayten River drainage. He meandered south into the Pasayten Wilderness, where he was spotted by a biologist who happened to be there on vacation, and then turned around and headed back into Canada.

"As suitable bears are located, BC plans to keep moving them into the Cascade ecosystem."—AM

UNPREDICTABLE AND

DANGEROUS (humor department)

National Park Service officials today confirmed reports of the shooting of

two tourists in Yellowstone Park early this season under a new policy to protect bears. Sources said both tourists had been relocated the previous season to what were believed to be their home ranges, New York City and Austin, Texas. Despite the distance, both managed to return to Wyoming this year.

"Some may think tourists are cute or interesting," said one official, "but they can be very unpredictable and dangerous."—by Mark Flower, from *High Country News*.

DEBORAH RIEHL

Rescue Epics

—GRANITE MOUNTAIN STRIKES AGAIN—

Granite Mountain, like Mount Si, is a very popular hiker's mountain due to its proximity to Seattle. Consequently, it provides more than its share of "business" for the rescue community.

On Presidents' Day weekend I was skiing at Red Mountain in British Columbia. On Sunday, Valentine's Day, I climbed to the summit of BC's Granite Mountain to try a radio experiment. I planned to raise a repeater on Stranger Mountain in north Washington, link it to one in Spokane, which is linked to Seattle, then call my sweetie by ham radio. Unfortunately, Spokane was down.

So when I got back to the hotel, I called him on the telephone. He wasn't home. As it turns out, he was on a rescue at Granite Mountain—again.

An inexperienced, poorly-equipped man was hiking with some friends. He had no ice axe or crampons. Just below the summit he slipped on the crusty snow and fell 2500 to 3000 feet—all the way down one of the avalanche chutes.

His friends followed the "yard sale" (scattered equipment) down to where he lay, just short of the waterfall. If he'd cleared the waterfall, he would have gone to the highway.

(About a year ago, another hiker took a similar fall under similar circumstances, and crawled the rest of the way to the freeway.)

The injured man's friends ran to the trailhead and called 911. A group of well-equipped climbers in the parking lot went back in and stayed with the victim, rendering what aid they could.

State Patrol and Fire Department personnel responded and went into the

field in their street clothing—not a good idea! When it got dark they had one failing flashlight among them, and no extra warm clothes. All they had to help the patient was a tarp and an advanced life support kit. This was "overkill" for someone who was "peripherally trashed," as the patient was described to me.

Coming behind them, however, were a large number of Mountain Rescue, Ski Patrol and Explorer Scout rescuers. They packed in a backboard, oxygen, a wheeled litter ... and lots of flashlights.

In addition to being peripherally trashed the victim had a broken nose, concussion and possible back and pelvic fractures. As one rescuer observed: "Everything that stuck out on that guy was damaged."

A short belay was set up to raise the patient back to the trail where it crossed the bottom of the avalanche chute.

There a huge mass of rescue humanity waited to pack him out (strong back, weak mind syndrome).

The Bellevue Fire Department medic on the scene (KA7UPH) radioed down a complete report to a Ski Patrol doctor (N7IEE) by way of their ham radios.

The patient didn't enjoy his wheeled litter trip down the trail. But it was slower and gentler than his express trip down the avalanche chute.

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Deborah Riehl, AA7RW, is a member of the board of trustees of Seattle Mountain Rescue. She lives in Bothell.



Linda Rostad

The summit ridge of Granite Mountain drops into several avalanche chutes on its south side.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TAT—In the nick of time, the World Heritage Committee has named Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve a World Heritage Site. Presumably, this declaration will end the catastrophic development of the Windy Craggy open-pit copper mine above the confluence of the Tashshini and Alsek Rivers just north of the Park (see *December 1992*, page 21).

Because Canada is a participant of UNESCO, which sponsors the World Heritage Committee, it is obligated to protect cultural and natural heritage sites. The BC government is conducting its own study on whether to approve, delay or deny permission to develop the mine. The government is accepting public comments through July.

For more information, contact Tashshini Wild, 604-886-4632.

BOUNDARY WATERS RESTRICTIONS—A new Forest Service management plan for the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Wilderness is proposed to go into effect in 1994. With 200,000 visitors a year, Boundary Waters is among those areas that are being "loved to death."

The new restrictions would reduce group size from ten to six people. Overnight paddling starts would be reduced from 382 to 276 per day. Another option being considered is permits for day use.

Although outfitters and Scouts are complaining, the Forest Service maintains that quota levels would still be greater than the actual average use.

If you have comments, direct them to: Superior National Forest, PO Box 338, Duluth MN 55801 (218-710-5324).

ADIRONDACK RANGERS—In 1992, the proposed New York state budget completely eliminated the ranger program for Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Mountain Club played a singular role in persuading the legislature to restore 19 wilderness rangers in the '92-'93 budget.

No such battle was necessary this year. The 1993 budget continues this valuable program at approximately the same level of funding as in 1992.

The Club also lobbied for funds to replace the rangers' dilapidated fleet of trucks, over 50 percent of which have mileages over 120,000. In 1993, the governor proposed \$300,000 to replace these vehicles.—*excerpted from Adir-*

ondac, the magazine of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

GUIDE SERVICE FINED—Wikinger Reisen of Hagen, Germany, became the first company prosecuted for ignoring a federal regulation requiring registration to lead tours in National Parks.

Last summer on the Chilkoot Trail, rangers encountered two groups of German nationals whose Wikinger Reisen guides didn't have permits. A plea bargain was negotiated before the case went to trial that set a \$10,000 fine for both charges with \$6500 suspended, providing Wikinger Reisen follows the rules for the next two years.—*excerpted from an article by Susan Brewton in the Skagway News.*

ICICLE RIDGE TRANSFER COMPLETED—The remaining two sections of Longview Fibre land on Icicle Ridge have been purchased by the Forest Service.

According to Wenatchee Forest Supervisor Sonny O'Neal, the purchase concludes a process begun more than a decade ago. The ridge provides a key part of the scenic backdrop for Leavenworth.

At one time, the Forest Service attempted to acquire the Longview Fibre land through an exchange, but suitable exchange property could not be found. Support for public ownership of Icicle Ridge was strong enough, however, that the Washington Congressional delegation made it happen, said O'Neal.

The money for purchasing the 1491 acres was appropriated by Congress from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Trust for Public Land and the Alpine Lakes Protection Society worked closely with Longview Fibre and the Forest Service to make the acquisition possible.

HEADWATERS OF WEST FORK TEANAWAY LOST—In spite of the efforts of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society to preserve the headwaters of the West Fork Teanaway (*June 1992*, page 22), Plum Creek Timber went ahead with its plans to build roads and log the northern half of section 23 last year.

Because the land has been altered so much, ALPS feels that their efforts should now be concentrated on places that can still be saved in their natural condition.

Lands that are still top priority for ALPS are Scatter Creek, Boulder

Creek and Mineral Creek, all in Kittitas County.—*excerpted from Alpine, the newsletter of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society.*

PLUM CREEK RESORT—Plum Creek Timber told the Cle Elum city council that it would like to develop a resort on 7000 acres of its prime timberland near Cle Elum and Roslyn. Much of it is located along the Cle Elum River.—*from Alpine, the ALPS newsletter.*

GOING-TO-THE-SUN RESTRICTIONS—To protect Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, vehicles longer than 24 feet and wider than 8 feet will be banned from the steepest 24 miles of the road, starting this June. Beginning next year, vehicles longer than 20 feet or wider than 7½ feet will be banned.

For more information, call the Park headquarters, 406-888-5441.

DENALI RESCUE COSTS—Almost half a million dollars was spent last year rescuing climbers on Denali (\$206,000 by the Park Service and \$225,000 by the military). The Park is considering some kind of user-fee program for climbers to help pay for rescues, to go into effect for the '94 climbing season.

NEW DATA BASE—The Forest Service's computerized trail information system—TRIS—has not kept pace with technology, according to a letter sent to various outdoor people from the Regional Office in Portland.

In order to improve its trail and recreation information systems, the Forest Service is developing a data base called Recreation Resource Information Systems-Trails.

Until the RRIS data base is developed and implemented, the Forest Service needs an interim option for providing trail information through the electronic medium. One option, says the letter, is to continue to use TRIS in its current form. Another is to suspend the program entirely until the new one is ready. A third is to use a commercial program such as "Best Foot Forward."

If you have any thoughts on electronic trail information, send them to: Wendy Herrett, Director of Recreation, USFS, PO Box 3623, Portland OR 97208.

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

SUMMER SCHOOL—The Heritage Institute of Antioch University offers many courses of interest to hikers from May through August. The classes are college-level and are aimed at teachers, but are open to the public. You can take them for credit or just audit.

Some course titles are: *Birds of the Columbia Gorge*; *Olympic Wildflowers of Seashore and Forest*; *Introduction to Mountain Sports*; *Natural History of Mount Baker*, among many others.

For a Continuing Education catalog, contact The Heritage Institute, Box 99272, Seattle WA 98199 (206-282-2301).

SEMINARS—Pacific Northwest Field Seminars begin at the end of April and run through October. The seminars are open to the public, are all conducted in the "field" (outdoors), and some may involve moderate to strenuous hiking.

More than four dozen seminars cover topics that include nature study, geology, and backpacking. Prices are reasonable for the one- and two-day sessions.

For course listing, contact Pacific Northwest Field Seminars, 83 South King Street #212, Seattle WA 98104 (206-553-2636).

PADDLEFEST—April 24 and 25 is the 4th annual Paddlefest weekend at Stan Sayres Memorial Park on Lake Washington. Activities run from 9 to 5 both days and include on-water test paddling, demonstrations and lectures on all types of paddling topics. Admission is free.

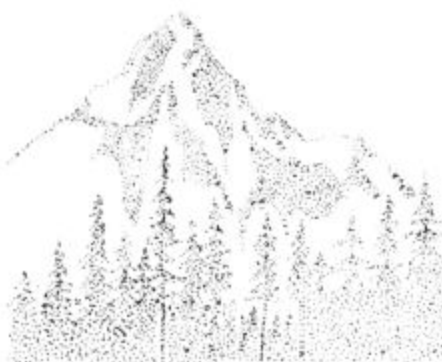
On Saturday you can try out solo and tandem canoes. On Sunday you can test a variety of kayaks. For more information, call Pacific Water Sports, 206-246-9385.

OLYMPIC VIDEO—Some friends loaned us a video the other day about hiking in the Olympics. It's put out by Sabo Productions, is about an hour long, and is beautifully done.

WIN FAME & ADMIRATION!

Send us your favorite recipes for hiking and paddling; a review of your newest (or oldest) piece of gear; a safety tip; or tell us about modifying or making your own gear.

PACK & PADDLE
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The video highlights several trails in the Olympics and takes you there with excellent photography and narration. Included are tips on equipment and safety. Besides being fun to watch yourself, this would be good to show non-hiking friends and relations, or for youth groups who plan to hike in the Olympics.

Cost is about \$20. For ordering information, call 800-525-HIKE.—AM

REGIONAL HAZARDS—Now that we're all aware of giardia, there are some other strange bugs in the outdoors we should know about. These lurk in the western states:

Coccidioidomycosis: common in California, Arizona and New Mexico. Caused by a fungus that lives in loose soil. When blown by the wind, it can become inhaled and cause lung infection.

Bubonic plague: found primarily in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California. Transmitted by fleas that have fed on an infected rodent.

Lyme disease: found all over the west. Spread by tiny ticks that are very difficult to see.

ALASKA ATLAS—Delorme, publisher of the popular Atlas & Gazetteer maps, has a new one out for Alaska. Shows back roads, trails, airfields, water access and topography.

Price is \$19.95 plus \$3.75 shipping. Order with a bank card by calling 800-225-5669, or by mail from DeLorme Mapping, PO Box 379-1160, Thomaston ME 04861.

COCOON-4—I am a 64-year-old retired teacher with a lifetime of outdoor experience. Through the years I have seen many improvements and innovations in equipment, but nothing is equal to the sleeping bag I have discovered.

It provides the perfect sleep from room temperature down to minus-45 degrees. It is a down-filled, inflatable bag known as the Cocoon-4 and is manufactured by Envirogear of New York.

Helen Thayer used one on her solo ski to the magnetic pole, and it has been used by the Iditarod racers. I have personally used the bag 126 nights within the last two years, from central Mexico to northern Canada; from the seashore to the high country, with never an uncomfortable moment.

I can state, unequivocally, that the bag is more comfortable than my own bed. It is totally waterproof and has its own canopy/fly, thus eliminating the need, in most cases, for a tent. Cold from the ground is prevented from reaching the sleeper by a 3½" mattress of down and air.

The only drawbacks are price and weight. The price is about \$600 and the weight is close to 10 pounds, but this is offset by the elimination of tent and sleeping pad. In essence it allows me to awake each morning totally refreshed no matter what the conditions.

For information, write Envirogear, 127 Elm Street, Cortland NY 13045.—*Jack Kendrick, Edmonds.*

TOTAL IMMERSION—The Northwest Outdoor Center offers a summer class called "The Total Immersion School of Sea Kayaking." The class is a week long and begins in Lake Union, moves to salt water, and ends up in the ocean surf on the Pacific Coast.

Meals, camping fees, transportation and kayaks are provided. The cost is \$425 (\$50 less if you have your own boat and gear). The goal is not to make you an expert in a week, but for you to learn the necessary skills, learn your limitations, and have fun!

Dates are 7/26-30. For more information, contact NWOC, 2100 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, 98109 (206-281-9694).

METEORS—The Lyrid meteor shower peaks this year on April 21. It is not as spectacular as the Perseid meteor shower in August, but worth looking for if you're on a dark ridgetop that week.

LOST—Of course you always leave word with someone at home when you're in the backcountry, don't you?

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Warming up by a beach fire.

ADVERTISERS—I hope you all have noticed our bunches of new advertisers. These folks run the businesses that help our backcountry travels go smoothly, and we appreciate their sup-

port. When you visit their stores, use their products, and order their maps, please mention that you saw their ad in *Pack & Paddle*.

NEWSSTANDS—If the person next to you in your carpool van keeps swiping your *Pack & Paddle*, tell him to go buy his own copy.

It's for sale on the following newsstands:

Cafe Revista, Silverdale
Sports Replay, Lynnwood
Marmot, Bellevue
Powell's Books, Portland

INDEX—Yes, I still have copies of the 1992/Volume I Index. Use the order form in the January, February or March issues, or just call (206-871-1862) and Yellow Cat will send you one. They're free.

FLYERS—*Pack & Paddle* has now produced two hiking flyers, partly to provide introductory material to folks who call for information. So far I've only offered the flyers to the general

public—I figure you readers don't need this basic stuff; you already *know* where to go!

But recently I've gotten a couple of comments from readers saying, "Hey! Why didn't you tell us about this flyer?" Well, okay. If you want one or both of them, just call or write. They're free (29-cent stamp much appreciated, however), and they can be photocopied for your friends or Scout troop.

Loop Trips in the Cascades: six backpacks that use the Pacific Crest Trail as one leg of the loop.

Ten Good Hikes for Spring: trails in both the Olympics and Cascades for day-hiking and backpacks.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall

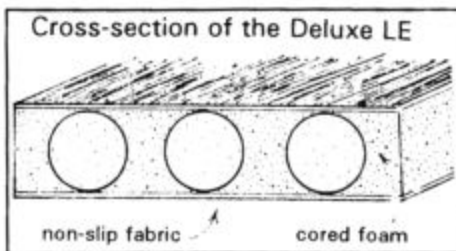
REST STOP — continued

(Photocopy John Roper's trip form, *November 1992, page 24*, to provide complete information for your contact.)

Gifford Pinchot National Forest has some tips if you are that contact person and your hiker doesn't return on schedule. Call the sheriff of the county in which the trip takes place *unless* the trip is in a National Park: then you call the nearest National Park office.

When you report a person overdue, you need to provide this information: (1) where the person was going; (2) when they were due back; (3) the route they were taking; (4) what gear they have; (5) their level of expertise; (6) who you are and why you are reporting; (7) telephone number where you can be reached.

NEW THERMAREST—Cascade Designs came out with its revolutionary Thermarest mattress in 1973, 20 years ago. Now the company is presenting a new design, the Deluxe LE Thermarest, the "first radical improvement in



sleeping pads in 20 years," says Kitty Graham of Cascade Designs.

The Deluxe LE has a foam center a full 2 inches thick. The foam is cored horizontally to reduce its weight as well as its packing size. A non-slip polyester fabric is bonded to the foam. The long size is 20"x72" and weighs 2½ pounds; price is \$104. The three-quarter size is 48" long, 1½ pounds, \$82.

If you can't find the Deluxe LE in your local store, call Cascade Designs' consumer information line (not for ordering) for information: 800-531-9531.

NEW ALPINE LAKES MAP—Pic-Tour Maps has just released a new map

of the Alpine Lakes. Pic-Tour specializes in aerial and scenic photos keyed to vantage points on a topographic or planimetric map. The Alpine Lakes map includes 44 color photos keyed to a topographic map on several 8½" x 11" sheets. Many of the photos are of rarely-visited areas.

The price is \$13.50 plus 10% for WSST and shipping. Order from Pic-Tour Maps, 29118 23rd Avenue South, Federal Way WA 98003.

NOTE CARDS—You may have noticed some excellent photos by Don Paulson in these pages recently. Don has developed a series of note cards using these (and other) photos. If one strikes your fancy, you can order it from Don for \$2 each. They are beautiful in color!

Contact him at PO Box 782, Bremerton WA 98310.

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R.A. Pargeter, POB 844, Kent, WA 98035. Thank you!

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