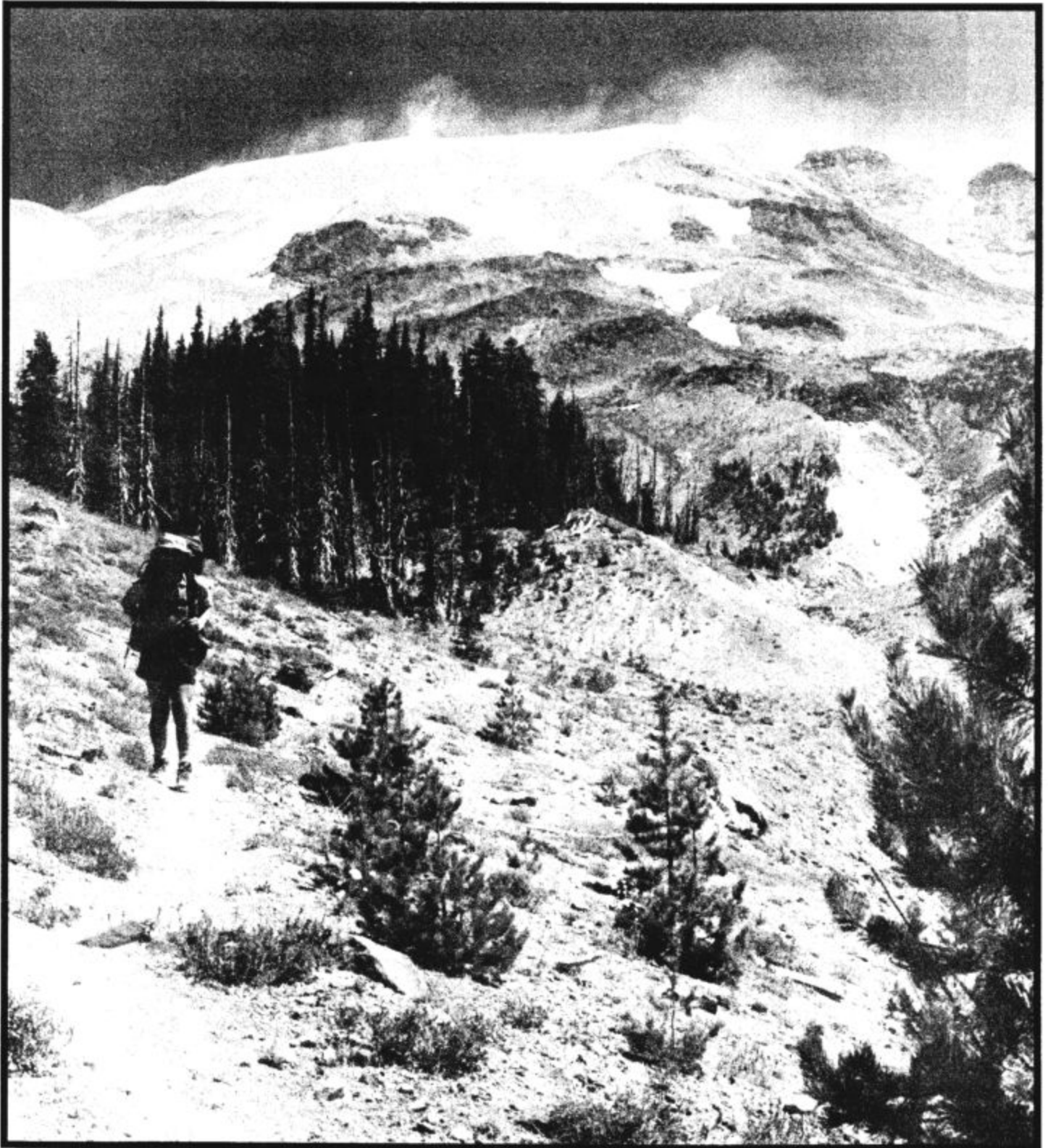


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Pack & Paddle

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 9



RANDOM VIEW—

Ann Marshall / Lee McKee

Mike Aken (left) and his hiking partner on the Loowit Trail.

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Lee hikes the Loowit Trail around Mount Saint Helens. Photo by Ann Marshall.

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SHELTER ROCK, WHEREFORE ART THOU?

Many times while reading *Pack & Paddle* the name "Shelter Rock" appears. Seems like there are two "Shelter Rocks."

My first knowledge of the "Rock" was back in 1923 when I camped there with the Boy Scouts from Camp Parsons.

We took what they called the "Three Pass Hike." It was led by Chuck Hartnett and we had to hike from Parsons to Rainbow Trail.

There we picked up our packs and headed up the Big Quilcene trail. First stop was the "Forks" Tunnel Creek joined the Big Quil, next stop "Bark Shanty," then on to "Poop Out Drag." The older scouts called it "Ass Breaker Hill." That was where we came to "Shelter Rock" Camp. Never did see the rock.

Pack & Paddle August report from Abbot and Gilles also mentions "Shelter Rock" on the Quilcene trail.

Also in *Pack & Paddle* from Don Abbot (7/14) he mentions "Shelter Rock." I know what he is talking about. It's a big chunk of pillow lava that Bob Wood called "Big Rock." You can camp a dozen underneath.

My first sight of that rock was back in the thirties. Royal Creek was called Roy Creek and there was a cabin where the creek joined the Dungeness river. At Royal Basin the old timers called the rock "Robbers Roost."

When I took my two boys up there in the fifties they renamed that big old hunk "The Tilton Hilton." So, I guess "Shelter Rock" is still apropos for the "Big Rock." It's a beauty and joy forever, especially if it is pouring rain!

Robert Marriott
Port Townsend, Washington

TRAILHEAD VOLUNTEERS

Last summer the Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, employed a trailhead ranger at the Pamela Lake Trailhead because of the high usage of this area. (They also had wilderness rangers in at this lake and several other places around.)

This trail is one of many leading into the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area. The usual funding problem meant that they could not afford the trailhead person this year.

The Chemeketans Club offered to take this on as a volunteer effort in 1994. We have tried to put someone at the Pamela trailhead as many Saturdays and Sundays as possible during the summer.

The purpose of a person being there is to make sure permits are filled out (information gathering only; no limits on number of groups entering; no cost) by day use groups and that backpackers and climbers already have permits which are issued either at Ranger Stations or at selected sporting goods stores.

If an overnight group does not already have a permit, forms are available here for them to fill out. Our volunteer talks casually with the hikers, answers questions, briefly discusses regulations if it seems advisable, but generally plays the low key role of being a greeter. Pamphlets are available about wilderness ethics if the people wish to have them.

How useful is this? We're not sure, but we do know that some people seem appreciative that there is someone knowledgeable there to talk with.

Most of the backpackers and climbers feel they know the rules already, and some seem less eager about someone being there.

One thing I know that has come out of this is that we can see some flaws in the system of permits, including how to handle the late arrival of a member of an overnight group which has gone in several hours earlier, with permit in hand.

Part of the purpose of the permits and volunteers is to get an idea of how the situation of too many people being in certain parts of our Wilderness Areas can be handled in the future, especially in an area with numerous entry points.

Paula Hyatt
Salem, Oregon

ANOTHER TRAILHEAD BREAK-IN

It happened between July 4 and 6 this year at the parking lot of the Squaw Lake/Cathedral Rock trailhead.

My friend and I were to climb Mount Daniel. When we returned to my minivan after a successful summit we noticed something was not right.

My locked vehicle had been entered. No windows were broken. No doors or keyholes were forced open. Yet there were distinct incisor bite marks on a

pair of nectarines my partner had left on the rear cubbyhole of the van.

The only telltale clues were bits of plastic that the tiny, four-legged intruder(s) had partially chewed on the edges of the front center air vent louvers: it (they) crawled in through the ventilation systems rain gutter outlet underneath the car!

Led Kabigting
Seattle, Washington

WHEN THE PARK WAS UNDISCOVERED

Your publication is most interesting as I read the accounts reported by hikers. But what were conditions like in the 1940s? As a Hoquiam High School Junior, I back packed in the Olympic National Park on numerous occasions.

Those included the Low Divide, the Elwha basin, North Fork of the Quinalt, the Hoh Basin, Graves Creek trail and others. In those days, there were almost no hikers on the trails. The Park had not yet been discovered.

I have fond memories of the shelters—O'Neil Creek, Enchanted Valley, Anderson Pass, the Dosewallips, Three Prune shelter on the Hoh, Camp Chicago, Mary Falls shelter, Lillian Creek shelter and others I visited.

The fare was simple—bacon and eggs for breakfast, fried potatoes and Spam for lunch and then fresh trout for dinner along with "Cambridge Tea" (boiled water, sugar and condensed milk). For dessert there was always huckleberries in front of a campfire fueled by brilliant pinecones. Then a good night's sleep under the stars.

At age 64, I can no longer enjoy the rigors of long hikes. But as an environmentalist, I can caution those who are able to take care and preserve what is left of a pristine park for future generations to enjoy.

Milton H. Towne
Westport, Washington

STEHEKIN CHANGES PROPOSED

The draft general management plan for the Stehekin Valley proposes to make the Stehekin road from High Bridge to Bridge Creek into a 4-wheel-drive road accessible only to government shuttle

continued page 7

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

See "How to be a *Pack & Paddle* contributor" 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



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Roads and trails open and snowfree; fire danger extremely high.


 **MOUNT TOWNSEND / SILVER LAKES** (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Townsend*)—My daughter and I drove to the upper trailhead on road 27 in the middle of the week for an overnight trip. When we got back to the car the next day, both my car and the other one in the parking lot had been broken into.

On my car, the locks on the trunk and the passenger door were broken. The other—a new pickup—had a window broken. From my car they took our two Polartec jackets but left the Gore-tex rain pants (we had left the gear in the car because it was such hot weather).

As we were driving down, we found a

box of audio tapes in the road. Our guess was that they had belonged to the pickup and were tossed by the vandals. We collected them and took them on down to the Ranger Station, where we left them on the porch with a note describing the incident.

I was surprised this trailhead would have such a problem in the middle of the week. It sure was a bad way to end a nice trip.—Craig Meklenberg, Bremerton, 7/20.

 **OBSTRUCTION POINT TO DOSEWALLIPS** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Maiden Pk, Wellesley Pk, Mt Deception, The Brothers*)—A group of seven of us from Weyerhaeuser hiked from Obstruction Point to Dosewallips by way of Grand, Cameron and Lost Passes.

This is a beautiful area. It's quite dry in Grand Valley, but as you head south it gets greener. The passes are easy and by the time this goes to print, there will be no snow.

The trail drops steeply from Grand Pass to the Cameron Valley trail. From there it's an easy (albeit hot for us) climb to Cameron Basin and beautiful camps. Cameron Pass is an easy climb and the views are excellent.

From there it's a downward traverse to Lost Pass which is meadowed and full of life. (Grand and Cameron Passes are high and dry). The trail from Lost Pass to Dose Meadows is very steep but short. From Dose Meadows the trail climbs easily to the Hayden Pass area which is gorgeous meadow country.


We advise side trips to Thousand

Acre Meadows, Sentinel Peak and Mount Fromme. We climbed Fromme (an easy scramble) and the view from the top is one of the best Olympic panoramas I've seen including Olympus' summit.

We saw a bear at Hayden Pass and another big guy in Thousand Acre Meadows.

I'd highly recommend this trip in the fall as the colors turn, the high berries are ripe, and there are fewer bugs!

The hike out from Dose Meadows is fast and pretty. This trip is best from north to south and requires a car shuttle but you see a lot of beautiful high country with lots of diversity.—M. Hamilton, Kent, 7/21-25.

 **WONDER LAKES** (*Wonder Mountain Wilderness; USGS Mt Olson*)—This is a fragile, lonely area. The entry is strenuous and route-finding is devious. The reward is to be away from the crowd in a pristine alpine area. I did much soul searching before deciding to give a route description to this area. I think that the rather difficult access and steep terrain will help to bring only those people who respect the fragility of the area.

Decided to enter the Wilderness from Four Stream on the North Fork Skokomish, instead of the usual rather difficult route from the South Fork Skokomish. Parked at the hairpin where the road makes the final crossing of Four Stream. Follow the left side of the stream up the hogback. There is a good boot-beaten path taking you right up to the divide overlooking McKay Creek basin.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: September 20

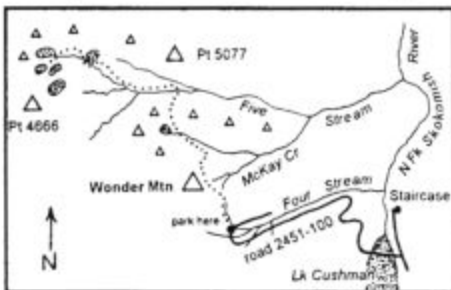
Submit your trail reports by this date for the next issue. (Deadline for other departments is earlier, check with us for details.)

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Drop into the basin, bearing left to stay just under the face of Wonder Mountain. Aim for the timbered rib which divides the branches of McKay Creek. The way becomes brushy and steep across this rib. Just keep patiently traversing until it becomes feasible to shoot straight up the drainage to the little lake in the basin.

From the lake, bear up and right (north) over the ridge which divides McKay Creek and Five Stream. Drop



down, using "thank God" holds and "green belays" until you reach Five Stream. Follow up the drainage in mixed open terrain until you reach the triple confluence of the streams draining the basin. Follow the right side of the drainage from the larger Wonder Lake, staying just out of its canyon until you reach the lake. From this lake, follow the stream on its right side to reach the upper basin and lakes.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 6/26-27.

APPLETON / CAT LOOP (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Carrie, Bogachiel Pk*)—John and I started up the Sol Duc at 12:45, breezing the first 4 miles before the trail goes up.

From there it was slow but not the fault of the trail. No water from shortly after the junction to Heart Lake. Limited views until almost to Appleton Pass where we met up with Lew and Lisa. We got to Oyster lake about 5:45 and enjoyed the views both ways.

Ample water from snow melt just east of the pass. The next morning a goat came over the ridge from the east, then another, and eventually a total of eight including two kids. They and three deer wandered about camp then wandered off.

The next morning the four of us headed up the way trail bound for Cat Basin. The trail was distinct most of the way and the views were spectacular. We lost the trail just coming into the third cirque surrounding Cat Basin but found our way using goat trails with no great problem.

Saw marmot and one lone elk. Ample water en route. We got into Cat Basin about 2pm and spent a pleasant mostly

bug-free afternoon and evening there.

The next morning I counted 46 elk on the slopes above us. John and I headed out about 7am up the 300 feet to the Cat Walk and on 500 feet up to a junction with the High Divide Trail near Heart Lake. Views were again spectacular with the Bailey Range and Mount Olympus to our left and the Seven Lakes Basin to our right. We started to meet other hikers at this point and the numbers grew as we neared Deer Lake. First water at Deer Lake.

Spoke briefly with a young single woman backpacking with her 9 year old son. Very good to see them enjoying the experience together.

Overall a pleasant, somewhat vertically challenging hike with excellent views. Probably about 25 miles total with 5000 feet total elevation gain over the three days.—Tom Karasek, Stanwood, 7/28-30.

APPLETON PASS (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Carrie, Bogachiel Pk*)—Concerns about elevation gain, trail length, and pack weight were quickly replaced with concerns about where to park as Ann and I arrived at the Sol Duc trailhead parking area shortly after noon. The huge lot was totally full with overflow parking on the road sides.

Backcountry permits must be picked up at the Ranger Station before you reach the trailhead. Appleton Pass, where we were heading, is outside the reservation-only area of Seven Lakes Basin so obtaining a permit was not a problem.

The first .7-mile of the trail is hard-packed; past that point the next 4 miles are very pleasant.

The trail that branches off to Appleton Pass climbs until levelling off just before the pass—gaining about 1900 feet in 2½ miles.

The Olympic Mountains Trail Guide by Robert Wood gives a good description of this trail. The only stream for water is crossed within ½-mile of starting up.

Appleton Pass is a very popular stopping point. Five established campspots begin just before the junction with the Cat Creek waytrail and continue up the waytrail by Oyster Lake. Past the lake the waytrail continues climbing to an upper meadow with one established spot, plus other level areas. We found water in the upper meadow from a melting snow pocket in an indentation at the northeast edge. We also had great views from the upper meadow.

A sign warns of bear activity and a bear wire is installed by the lake. We

saw one bear grazing in a lower meadow. Of more concern during our stay were the deer and goats that brazenly search through your camp.—LGM, Port Orchard, 8/10-12.

WAGONWHEEL LAKE (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Skokomish*)—Having not reached the lake back in March 1993, I decided to try again.

The sign at the trailhead forewarns you: "TAKE WATER ... trail climbs 3000 feet in 3 miles," yet I saw people unprepared, dragging their tongues, turning back before getting past the first mile.

Well, here I am at the lake—I made it! My legs are rubber bands so have sat down on a flat rock and am looking down into Wagonwheel Lake. It's a sunshine day, with a single wispy white cloud in the distance. The light breeze causes the water to ripple and the sun shining down on it gives it that twinkling-star effect. I'm alone up here for the first ½ hour before the first hiker comes up. He looks like he might jump in.

Eating my hard-earned sandwich and saving some of my ice tea for the trip back down, I watch a hummingbird, butterflies and bees checking out the flowers, too busy to bother me—but the mosquitoes make up for it.

Forgot my bug-lotion—remembered my sunscreen. The shrubbery around the lake looks like its closing in, but it is possible to hike around the lake. Another solo hiker arrives but after being bitten one too many times he heads back and I pass him on my way down; his knees are hurting. There are several tent sites available.—Kerry Gilles, Westport, 7/8.

THE NEEDLES (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Deception*)—Left the Dungeness trailhead at 8am for upper Royal Basin and the Needles. Made a right turn at Royal Creek trail and started the steady climb to the basin. Seafoam green, Royal Creek was galloping full bore with glacial flour.

Four hours later we were standing in the upper Royal Basin, surrounded by fresh terminal moraines. Nearby were two terminal tarns, colored blue-gray by the ice melting under the gravel.

No living ice is visible now, which is quite a change from my first visit in 1958. I was only 10 at the time, but I do recall distinctly the active, exposed ice, complete with minor crevasses. Now the area serves as a sort of time machine, as I can see all the fresh gla-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

cial evidence without the ice cover. What a wonderful outdoor museum.

Ray and I set up camp away from the green meadows, pulled our smaller packs out of the heavy frame packs, and started our evening scamper up the Sundial. We pulled into Surprise Basin about an hour later.

We traveled the stagnant glacier up toward the pass for about 400 yards, then made a right turn up a shallow, loose gully toward the summit of Sundial. After some scary looseness and a Class 3 unexposed scramble, we were on the summit, soaking up the last rays of the last day of July.

Next morning, we climbed the moraine to the notch between Royal Basin and the hanging valley of Deception Creek. We climbed the left side of the Mystery Glacier to the col. We traversed about 200 yards into the Heather Creek basin, then did a hard right, up loose scree to the summit block of Mystery and one of the best views in the Olympics, with nearly every major peak in the range visible.

Back to camp near dusk, with an inquisitive, almost aggressive goat sniffing for food. We threw pebbles near him and jumped around stupidly until he got disgusted and sauntered away.

Final full day, and here we are back at the head of Surprise Basin, stashing our ice axes for the scramble up Mount Clark. This is the best climb in the Needles, and still pretty loose. However, the upper climb is definitely a solid and enjoyable Class 3 with exposure. We didn't use the rope, but it was borderline as to whether we should. The final 50 feet to the summit was airy, solid, and bombproof. We spent about 3 hours on the summit to avoid the heat. Back to camp again in the evening, after much meandering and marveling.

Packed up the huge packs at daybreak and ambled back to the concrete. —Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 7/31-8/3.



SQUAW CREEK MEADOWS

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Bunch Lk)—I drove to the Irely Lake/Three Lakes/Skyline trailhead on

Saturday evening, hiking on a moonlit trail to Big Creek.

Sunday morning hiked to Reflection Lake and headed north a couple of hundred feet to the crest overlooking Elip Creek basin (3600 feet), then contoured northwest toward Peak 4185. Watched Mr. Bear for a while, and had a snack at the little tarns at the head of Elip Creek. Retraced my route to the Reflection Lake/Elip crest and traversed to the east-trending ridge emanating from Peak 4400 which divides Elip Creek and Squaw Creek. Contoured at the 3900 foot level, on the Elip drainage, through wild and lonely meadows.

Followed the broad, easy divide between Squaw Creek and Elip Creek down to the North Fork trail. Ate my afternoon snack at Wolf Bar, right by the river. I followed the river down to the trailhead to relive my days of steelhead fishing with my grandfather in the late '50s and early '60s. —Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 7/94.



MOUNT CARRIE

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Carrie, Bogachiel Pk)—Many vehicles at the Sol Duc parking area, but most of the people were returning to their cars since this was a Sunday.

Pulled up on the High Divide about 4 hours later. Avalanche lily bonanza! Established camp about 1 mile out the Divide, on the ridge above the trail with a postcard view of Mount Olympus, Bailey Range, and Hoh Valley.

Next morning, broke for the Cat Walk, Mount Carrie, and the glaciers for some skiing. The skis did not agree with the Cat Walk, and we were forced to do some amazing contortions to squirrel through the thickets.

It was worth it, though, when we stood on the summit of Carrie, looking down a perfectly smooth ski run on the William Fairchild Glacier. Schussed down the left (north) edge of the glacier on crevasse-free corn. Clambered back up the glacier to the summit of Carrie again. We were feeling particularly snappy, so we also skied the smaller, but spectacular Carrie Glacier, skirting

some crevasses by a wide margin for safety. All in all, an exhilarating run.

Left High Divide camp the next morning through Seven Lakes Basin. Still about 50% snow in the basin, so my partner took a couple of runs while I ate my cheese and crackers. —Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 7/10-12.



TUBAL CAIN MINE

(Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Deception)—Bill and I hiked part way up to Buckhorn Pass on the Tubal Cain Mine trail. We encountered horses on the trail for the first time. It wasn't too dusty so they didn't bother us.

This was the latest we'd ever done this hike. There wasn't much snow left on the surrounding peaks. The flowers were a little past their prime but so were the bugs! —Jane Habegger, Olympia, 8/14.



TUBAL CAIN MINE

(Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Deception)—My oldest son, Eric, his two sons, Seth and Drew, and I arrived at the trailhead at about 10:30.

This is a very popular trail but there were still a couple of parking spots left. This trail (which is like a super highway) has a very mild grade as far as the Tubal Cain Mine and goes through dense evergreens which tower over wild rhododendrons. We covered the 3.5 miles to the mine in an hour and 15 minutes and ate lunch in the meadow which is almost at the base of the mine tailings.

After lunch my son and two grandsons explored the mining area, then made a steep scramble up about a hundred feet of tailings to the mine entrance.

We left the mine and headed back down the trail. After about .1-mile we turned right up another miner's trail to check out the wreckage of a twin engine B17 that went down in the 1940s. In only twenty minutes we were on a large bench where we started seeing remnants of the crash.

As we progressed up a small stream, we came upon one of the engines and then found the other nearby. But the bulk of the wreckage is located in or

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 4

buses, and to convert the remaining road from Bridge Creek to Cottonwood Camp into a hiking trail.

If these changes are made, day hikes from the Cascade Pass trailhead to the current shuttlebus terminal at Cottonwood camp will no longer be possible. Day hikes from Cottonwood to both Horseshoe Basin and Cascade Pass will

no longer be possible.

If this proposal concerns you, consider the following: 1) obtain a copy of the Plan from the North Cascade National Park office, 2105 Highway 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284; 2) attend the hearing at the Seattle Center at 7pm on Monday Oct. 3rd; 3) write a letter to the park superintendent no

later than Oct. 31st opposing the above road changes; 4) write me for additional information (SASE appreciated).

Fred Darvill, M.D.
1819 Hickox Road
Mount Vernon WA 98273

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

near a small mountain tarn. Seth and Drew thought they were in heaven as they tried to figure out how the pieces fit together and the direction of the plane at impact. They both decided that this was the most interesting hike they had ever taken.

We returned to our car to find the trailhead parking lot now overflowing.—BN, Bainbridge Island, 8/6.



BEACH 78, VASHON ISLAND (NOAA Chart 18448)

—South Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat identifies Beach 78 as “across Colvos Passage from Olalla, just south of where Green Valley Creek empties into salt water.” Since the NOAA chart doesn’t identify this creek, an alternate way of finding the beach is by following the cable crossing which is designated on the chart.

Launching from the boat ramp at Olalla on the west side of Colvos Passage, we paddled southeast across the passage toward Vashon Island. There was very little boat traffic and only minor wind-generated waves during the less than 1½-mile crossing on this Tuesday evening.

Beach 78 is bounded by private property on the north and south, has several picnic tables, an outhouse, and a sandy beach. Camping is not allowed at this time. The area is relatively small but appears to be a nice alternative to larger, more accessible spots.—LGM, Port Orchard, 8/9.



DUCKABUSH TRAIL (The Brothers Wilderness; USGS Mt Jupiter)

—I wasn’t surprised to find only 3 or 4 cars in the trailhead parking lot when I arrived around 10:30. I was soon on my way up a very easy grade (an old logging road) toward what is known as Little Hump.

After reaching the top of Little Hump,

the trail goes back down to the river and parallels it for over a mile of basically flat terrain. The trail then moves up steeply and away from the river on about 30 switchbacks to the top of Big Hump with several excellent view points.

I turned around at the top of Big Hump (4 miles according to the ranger’s trailhead map but 3.5 miles according to Robert Wood’s *Olympic Trail Guide*) and headed back to my car.

On my way in I had noticed a 3-inch gray meadow vole (mouse) scurrying along the trail and I encountered this same fellow on my return. He seemed oblivious to me so I decided to find out what he was about.

He continued to scurry down the trail, going from side to side and stopping frequently to nose under a bit of forest debris until he pulled out some sort of insect larvae about ½-inch long. I observed his feeding for awhile and finally left him still munching on this delectable tidbit.—BN, Bainbridge Island, 7/30.



TUNNEL CREEK TRAIL

(Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Jupiter, Mt Townsend)—This trail starts about 9 miles up the Dosewallips River road at 600 feet, goes over a long east ridge of Mount Constance (elevation at the top of the ridge is 5050 feet) and comes out on the north side at 2600 feet.

My wife dropped me off on the Dosewallips River side at 9:30. I was anxious to check out my birthday present—a watch that measures altitude including total ascent (or descent if desired)—and therefore carefully set the altimeter at 600 feet at the trailhead. I observed my progress often as I climbed this very steep trail.

At about 4500 feet the trail finally leaves the forest and enters a rolling meadow with patches of subalpine firs and huckleberries. The huckleberries were unusually large and sweet and I helped myself to them as I gained the ridge crest.

At the crest of the ridge I had lunch as I viewed Mount Constance. The altitude gain is supposed to be 4450 feet to this high point but my new watch cheated by only showing 4400 feet gain.

I then proceeded down the new trail toward the first lake. The trail was built last year to bypass a gully that was rapidly eroding. While this portion of the new trail is pretty good, there are a couple of very short steep pitches where you could easily slip.

The trail continues past the highest lake (Harrison) then skirts Karnes Lake (which is no more than a tarn) and crosses Tunnel Creek.

I decided to use the new route to see if it was better than the muddy mess I had encountered last year. Fortunately, it was too dry for any mud but this new section of trail is still very rough and treacherous. I’m at a loss as to why it was built since the old trail was well drained and in excellent shape.

The remaining 2 miles from the shelter are of very moderate grade. I arrived at the trail head at 2:15, 15 minutes later than the estimate I had given my wife.—BN, Bainbridge Island, 8/14.



LAKE OZETTE (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Allens Bay, Ozette)

—The boat launch at the Ozette Ranger Station was a busy place with groups both arriving and departing.

Stashing gear into our kayaks, Ann and I and two other members of the Port Orchard Paddle Club were soon heading down the lake into wind and rain. Fortunately, the weather improved as we paddled out of the North End and entered the main lake.

Lots of people were enjoying the lake this weekend in canoes, kayaks and motor boats. Several groups were camped at Ericksons Bay, Tivoli Island, and Allens Bay. We chose a spot in the vicinity of Cemetery Point and spent time seeing if we could locate any remnants of the old cemetery. We were only able to find what appeared to be the outline of a small log building. Hard to say what it was.

The next day we day hiked to Kayostla Beach on the abandoned trail from Allens Bay. The condition of the trail varied from excellent to not so good.

Allens Slough at the south end of Allens Bay is also a great place to explore by canoe or kayak. The hardest part is a log-brush obstacle at the start. Susie and Bert in singles were able to work around it, and with some maneuvering Ann and I were even able to get by in our long double.

Later, exploring the south end of the lake, we found a nice established campsite opposite Baby Island on Birkestol Point. There is a site on Baby Island, too, but it is small and rocky.

Sunny days and full-moon nights gave way to showers on the third day as we loaded up and headed home. Sounds of ocean surf accompanied us up the lake as we paddled back to the boat launch.—LGM, Port Orchard, 8/20-22.



DRY CREEK TRAIL (Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Lightning Pk)

—Nancy and I left the trailhead about 10am and enjoyed hiking up the trail past the summer homes. We had lunch by Dry Creek just across

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

the log foot bridge. After lunch we continued, planning to go as far as the pass. Nancy was in the lead and we had been chatting as usual.

Just before 1pm I heard what sounded like a small twig break and a rustle of dry leaves. I turned, looked up the hill just above the trail, and saw a cougar. It was not more than 7 or 8 feet from me. I planted my feet firmly on the trail and started talking.

"No, don't come any closer. No, go away. Please go away, I don't want to hurt you. No, go away." He hissed and opened his mouth.

I asked Nancy if she would take a picture (feeling he would just turn and go down the trail into the woods). She took a picture while we continued to talk to the cougar, repeating the same message.

At one point I asked Nancy if she felt we should retreat. She confirmed that we needed to just stand our ground and not let the cougar think we were afraid.

The cougar continued to move toward me. I continued to talk to it, at about 4½ feet I hit it in the jaw with my walking stick. At 4 feet I hit it again a little harder on the shoulder.

It growled again and turned slowly, glancing back once, then slowly walked up the hill back out of sight into the woods. We watched our backside and the upper side of the trail all the way out. Our challenge by the cougar lasted about 2 to 3 minutes. I never go into the woods without my walking stick!—Melodie Gates, Nancy Sjoblom, 8/14.

FLAPJACK and BLACK AND WHITE LAKES—Open to camping, but only when Backcountry Ranger is on duty. Bear encounters are less frequent now as campers learn proper food handling, but plenty of bears are still around. Call the Hoodsport Ranger Station for current information if you plan to hike in this area: 206-877-5256.—Ranger, 8/23.

LAKE CONSTANCE—Closed to overnight camping 9/10-30 due to re-vegetation work.—Ranger, 7/31.

SAND POINT / CAPE ALAVA—Overnight camping quota in effect from 7/15 through Labor Day. For reservations call 206-452-0300.—Ranger, 8/23.

CABINS FOR RENT—The Hamma Hamma Cabin and the Interrorem Cabin are available to rent. The fee is \$25 per night.

For information, contact the Hood Canal Ranger Station, 206-877-5254.



Bill Lynch crossing the suspension bridge on the Park Butte trail.

Jane Habegger

SOUTHWEST



LONG ISLAND (Willapa Bay NWR, USGS Long Island)

—One part of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is Long Island, with its grove of ancient cedars. Anyone interested in ancient forests should buy, beg or borrow a canoe and visit the island.

To get there from Olympia, go west on Highway 8 to Montesano. Take Highway 107 southwest to Highway 101, and follow it through Raymond and South Bend. South Bend is a good place to stop for a roll and a cup of coffee.

Twenty-five miles south of South Bend are the Headquarters for the Refuge. Launch facilities (a gravel ramp) are across from the Headquarters and you are asked to move your vehicle after you have unloaded your canoe or kayak. It is no more than ten minutes of canoeing, and you are at the Island's ramp downriver. Pull your canoes up on the island.

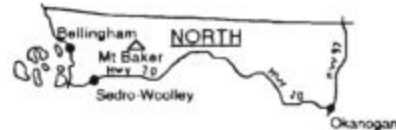
The hike is about 3 miles along a logging road to the loop trail in the forest; and the loop trail is about ¾-mile. Small signs are on the logging road. Plan to spend at least an hour on the loop marveling at the size of the trees and the giant stumps. Sharp eyes can spot climbing ropes left by the Fish and Wildlife Service for gaining access to

nests for banding birds.

On our way back we hiked down to the beach and checked out one of the several camping sites. Camping is allowed, but the only access is by water at high tide. Any other time the island is surrounded by acres of mudflats.

It is helpful to check the tidebook, go over on an outgoing high and return to mainland on an incoming tide. But we visited the Island three times this spring and tides were no problem at other times.—Olive Hull, Olympia.

NORTH



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Roads and trails open and snowfree. Biting insects are ferocious.



RUTH MOUNTAIN (Mt

Baker Wilderness; USGS Mt Shuksan)—Our party of four enjoyed a climb of this popular peak located south of Hannegan Pass. The view of Mount Shuksan's northeast flank is spectacular.

From the Mount Baker Highway, take the Nooksack River road and the Hannegan Pass road branch for 5.6 miles to the Hannegan Pass trailhead at 3100 feet. The 5-mile trail leads to the pass at 5100 feet.

A climbers' trail climbs south of the pass up a steep heather slope to a bench, where a traverse east over scree reaches a minor ridge. The trail continues southwest to the open broad ridge that leads to the Ruth Glacier.

We camped on the ridge in a small grove of trees at about 5600 feet. It took about 4 hours to reach this spot. For hikers this is an excellent destination; open meadows, excellent views, and easily a day hike. The climb of Ruth is easy, taking less than an hour and half to reach the summit. Water is scarce this time of year.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 8/15-16.



"DAMFINO PEAK" (Mt

Baker Wilderness; USGS Mt Larrabee)—I climbed this unnamed, virtually unknown peak located about 2 miles southwest of Tomyhoi Peak.

Marked as 6157 feet on maps, a friend who climbed it from Canyon Creek road suggested the name "Damfino Peak."

My approach was from Welcome Pass. About 12 miles east of Glacier, take road 3060 and drive 0.6-mile to the trailhead. The road is narrow and

rough in a few places; there is a good parking spot on a grassy area a hundred yards before the trailhead (2200 feet).

The trail follows an old road for about ¼-mile and then heads directly up with numerous short but steep switchbacks. The trail gains about 2800 feet in 2.5 miles to the 5000 foot pass.

From the pass, the trail continues west over beautiful alpine meadows staying just below the forested ridge at about 5600 feet. There are fantastic views of Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan.

To climb "Damfino Peak," I hiked about 2 miles west, then traversed and descended to a broad ridge leading north to the peak. The cross-country travel is easy and the climb of the peak from the west is Class 2. It took 3 hours up from the trailhead.

This area would be a beautiful fall hike, but bring plenty of water as well as insect repellent for the horseflies.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 8/11.



PTARMIGAN RIDGE (Mt Baker Wilderness; USGS

Shuksan Arm)—We drove to the trailhead on an absolutely beautiful sunny day and headed out. We've done this hike before but I'd forgotten how incredibly scenic it is, and the views begin the minute you leave the car.

Drive to the Mount Baker Ski Area, and continue on a good paved road beyond the ski area to the road's end. There begins the trail.

We crossed a small snow patch right away but then the trail is in terrific shape, well kept and very "level" by Cascade standards. We made it to the turn-off to Chain Lakes before Mr. Maphead needed to turn around.

A great trip and the first real hike for Mr. Maphead this season! YES!—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 7/7.



PRICE LAKE (North Cascades Natl Park; USGS Mt

Shuksan)—For mountaineers and serious hikers, the ridge east of Price Lake offers one of the most scenic alpine areas in the Cascade Range.

I first hiked into this area in 1972 to climb Nooksack Tower. Returning this year in July for two trips, the Price Lake region is a wild, spectacular area dominated by the north faces of Shuksan and the Nooksack Tower.

From the Mount Baker Highway, take Hannegan road 32 which leaves the highway 13.3 miles east of Glacier. Drive about 1½ miles then take a right branch, road 34, which is narrow and deadends in 1 mile at 2200 feet. The old bridge is out so cross the North



At the Tungsten Mine foreman's cabin: Art Henderson, Norton Smith, Bunny Henderson, Wendy Simmons (left to right).

David Hoppens

Fork Nooksack River on logs just south of the parking area.

Follow a waytrail to the main trail (680) which is followed for about 2.5 miles. To find the "mountaineers' trail" to Price Lake, look for an old growth area at 2.5 miles or just northeast of Price Creek.

The mountaineers' trail leaves the main trail here (pretty obvious) and descends to the river where you can cross on an old but large log. Once on the opposite side of the river, look carefully for the trail heading south on the east side of Price Creek.

The trail is not marked and this section is sort of brushy. In a short distance the trail ascends steeply into forest and is easily followed with the exception of a few spots. Once you reach the moraine on the northeast side of Price Lake, hike on the crest of the moraine as it curves east. From the end of the moraine, traverse east well below the forested ridge above and then make an ascending traverse to the heather slopes below the ridge at about 5000 feet.

Camping spots are either on the ridge or a couple of hundred feet below the crest. Watch out for ravens as they got into our food bags on our first trip this year. The hike in took 4½ hours with heavy packs on July 6 and 4 hours on July 26.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 7/6 and 7/26.



PARK BUTTE (Mt Baker Natl Rec Area; USGS Baker

Pass)—Warm sunny days over-filled Rocky Creek with runoff from Easton Glacier. The bouncy suspension bridge (missing a few planks) bridged the

deepest of many channels spread out over the mud flow. Water deeper than ½" was opaque, and depth could only be judged by the character of the turbulent surface, or by probing.

Three of the reflecting ponds just east of Park Butte had water, possibly from rain earlier in the week.

"Trail Closed" signs have been placed at the start of all waytrails to campsites in Morovits Meadows (off the trail to Park Butte). Cathedral Camp is located on the col immediately south of Cathedral Crag. A new trail to Mazama Park descends from this col also.

In Mazama Park is a recently built log shelter with a crushed rock floor and a bench for sitting, but no bunks. It looked like an attempt had been made to revege the old trail to Baker Pass (near junction with new trail), and a rough trail going north was brushed and ribboned from near the bottom of the trail that now comes down from south of Cathedral Crag. Supplies for a trail crew have been left near the shelter.

Composting toilets are being installed in the area. They are for feces only, no urine, please, and are being fed sphagnum moss (bailed peat moss). The one in Mazama Park was unsigned, west of the shelter in brush. It is a black box nearly 3 feet high.—Ramona Hammerly, Anacortes, 8/11-12.



RUBY CREEK TRAIL

(Ross Lk NRA; USGS Crater

Mountain)—We parked our Subaru at the trailhead for the Canyon Creek and Jackita Ridge trails, about 3 miles upstream from the East Bank trailhead on Highway 20, and about 11 miles east of Colonial Creek campground.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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Having read of other hikers putting cryptic information on the sign-out forms to keep vandals from knowing when to expect their return, I elected not to fill in the form at all just then, but to do so on my return.

I "beeped" the alarm on the station wagon and we set off downstream. The plan was to hike together to the bridge across Ruby Creek near Panther Creek, where Jo Anne could wait for me while I retraced my steps and drove back to get her.

Jo Anne has a fused left knee (the result of a 1964 automobile accident) and an artificial right hip and right knee (replaced more recently due to arthritis stemming from the same accident) so we thought this much of a hike would be about right.

The trail is in good shape. Jo Anne is a bit leery of exposure but she watched my feet instead of the stream while going across the footlog over Canyon Creek (it has good hand cables) and once that was over I knew she wouldn't have too much trouble. About 2½ hours later we got to the bridge and the stub trail leading to the East Bank trail parking lot, and I turned around and headed back.

An hour later as I approached our car I "beeped" the alarm. Normally it goes "beep" when you arm it, and "beep-beep" when you disarm it. But if it has gone off in the meantime, it goes "whoo-oo-beep" when you disarm it. And from 50 feet away, that's exactly what I heard. I ran to the car and it was clear that nothing had been disturbed. The alarm had done its job. I doubt that it would have scared anyone away in a more remote area with fewer cars coming and going, however.

There were maybe 6 or 8 other cars in the parking area, most of which had been there when we left several hours earlier. (I did not see any other people there when we left.) A couple of backpackers were preparing to leave for the Devil's Dome area and I told them what the "whoo-oo-beep" meant. I then filled out the trailhead form, including the information about the alarm having been set off and I told a NCNP ranger about our experience.

Jo Anne said I was right on time when I drove up to the East Bank parking area.—David Ryeburn, Lynden, 8/1.

ROSS LAKE (*Ross Lake NRA; USGS Ross Dam, Pumpkin Mtn*)—We had a fine paddle trip on Ross Lake. The wind comes up every day in the afternoon, and on the last day it blew in the morning, too!

At the base of Ross Dam, just use the

telephone there to get the "taxi" service for you and your boats up from Diablo Lake to Ross Lake.

The weather was good and there were throngs of people.—Roger Johnston, Kirkland, 8/94.



TUNGSTEN MINE / CATHEDRAL LAKES (*Pasayten Wilderness; USGS Horseshoe Basin, Rimmel Mtn, Bauerman Ridge*)—

Weather was really good, but lotsa bugs everywhere. The second day I made it to the Tungsten Mine.

Art and Bunny Henderson are with the Friends of the Tungsten Mine and they are doing maintenance on the buildings to keep them intact. They even packed in two homemade wood stoves, one for the bunk cabin and one for the foreman's cabin. The Forest Service was going to tear them down but the FTM accepted the responsibility for maintenance at their own cost and time. Art said the day before I got there he counted about 30 travellers through the area.

I did a day hike into Cathedral Lakes and there I noticed a solo hiker off in the bushes. I asked if he was camping and he said no, just making lunch.

He came out from behind a cloak of trees and I said, "You're Norton Smith, aren't you?"

I had met Norton a couple of years ago at Hidden Lakes in early May. Norton has to go solo now as all his hiking partners got too old and quit on him. Norton is 70 and does over 400 miles a year in the North Cascades, and is a member of the Hi-Lakers.

Most frequent travelers of the Pasayten know Norton. His trademark is the Derringer he carries (which has also

been known to provide fresh blue grouse for dinner). Norton was headed for Tungsten and when we all arrived at the cabin things got quite lively.

Art had never met Norton and since they had been travelers of the Pasayten for 30 years or so they had a heckuva lot in common. Norton recalled 3 years ago over the 4th of July that there was 8 inches of new snow on the roofs of the cabins and barely room on the floor for him to pitch his sleeping outfit. The place was packed with backcountry travelers due to the cold and snow.

Norton naturally pitched in cleaning the cabins—wielding two brooms with lotsa stories to tell. Walter and Wendy, two other backcountry travelers, really enjoyed Norton and the Hendersons. Wendy had several blisters which limited her hiking. She passed several hours visiting with Bunny. We all got out just in time for all the dudes who invaded Horseshoe Basin on the 4th.—David Hoppens, Malo, 7/1-3.



ANDREWS CREEK / TUNGSTEN MINE (*Pasayten Wilderness; USGS Coleman Pk, Mt Barney, Rimmel Mtn*)—

Our trip started at Andrews Creek trail 504. Take the Chewach road out of Winthrop for 20 miles to the trailhead. No reports of vandalism here. Elevation is 3000 feet.

I was just a kid when I last made this trip some thirty years ago, and could never quite forget the beauty of these magnificent mountains. Now, at last, I was back again, anxious to show my brother Bill what I had been raving about all these years.

The 13 mile ascent to Andrews Pass, an elevation gain of 3300 feet, was



Rimmel Mountain, with Cornwell Lake in foreground.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

mostly through timber with no views, but we welcomed protection from the noonday sun. Another 2½ miles and the terrain had opened to glorious alpine meadows bursting with colorful wildflowers.

We had arranged for a drop camp with a Winthrop outfitter who arrived at our Spanish Creek base camp around 7pm. He unsaddled his weary mule string and soon they were grazing nonchalantly alongside several deer in the meadow. That night we slept under a diamond studded sky, the stars so big and glorious it looked as if we could reach out and touch them.

The next day we hiked about 2 miles to Rimmel Lake on trail 510. Mosquito repellent soon became our main essential for survival. We saw more deer grazing and lots of small varmints. Only one other party of 5 was at the lake. Another day took us to Cornwell Lake at the base of Rimmel Mountain, about a 3 mile hike. The trail is not maintained, but the view of this majestic mountain from the lake far outweighed our efforts—and we had it all to ourselves.

The next morning we packed provisions for two days and set out east on Boundary Trail 533. Our first stop was the Amphitheater and upper Cathedral Lake, 4½ miles from our base camp, 7600 feet at Cathedral Pass.

The next morning we broke camp and proceeded 6 miles on the Boundary Trail over Apex Pass, 7800 feet, to Tungsten Mine. It was windy at the pass, the terrain changed to a more barren look, but there were still signs of a few hardy varieties of wildflowers and vegetation. We enjoyed panoramic views of the back side of Rimmel Mountain and the Cathedrals. At

Tungsten, remnants of the old mine are still visible.

As we returned to our base camp the next day, reluctantly preparing for our departure, we agreed the clear blue skies for eight straight days had been a definite plus. And if I had to choose one thing in my pack I value the most (besides the bug juice), it has to be the portable solar-heated shower I brought on a whim.

A footnote to your August article on walking sticks: Bill uses a pair of old poles and finds them an invaluable aid for stability over rough terrain. By the way, Bill celebrated his 73rd birthday this spring and is looking forward to our next trip to the Pasayten.—Carol Plumlee, Renton, 7/6-14.



MUCKAMUCK MOUNTAIN 346

(Okanogan Natl Forest; USGS Conconully West)—The trail has been abandoned for some time, but is mostly passable. From Conconully, drive north on road 38 3 or 4 miles, turning left onto road 25, following it to the end. A parking area which holds 3 to 4 cars shares space with grazing cows. A sign indicates this is the Muckamuck trail.

Follow the trail ¼-mile up through a recently logged area, until you cross a logging road. Here the trail is scantily marked. Look for the resumption of the trail about 150 feet down the road to the left of where you stumbled upon it.

From here the trail climbs through pine forest another 1½ miles, then enters a meadow as the trail now climbs steeply up. Fight the tall grass, and don't worry about losing the trail—just head straight up.

At the summit is an old corral, and the remains of a lookout. Views are ex-

pansive, and include panoramas of Old Baldy, Granite, Starvation and Funk Mountains. We estimated mileage to be about 2½ miles one way.—Laura, Ken and Emmett Wild, Marysville, 7/21.



TIFFANY MOUNTAIN

(Okanogan Natl Forest; USGS Tiffany Mtn)—A fairly gentle climb 3 miles to the summit of an 8200-foot peak, with views to the North Cascades and across eastern Washington.

Drive to Freezeout Pass, 6500 feet, with parking space for 4 to 5 cars. From Winthrop, it is approximately 20 miles on the Chewack River and 39 roads, and approximately 19 miles from Conconully on the 39 road. The first 1½ miles of trail climb through trees, opening out into meadows. The trail is boot-worn. Half-way through the meadows the trail divides. Don't worry—all trails lead to the summit.

The last mile is straight up, ending at a former lookout site. The bottom half of a flagpole stand and bits of glass are all that remain.—Laura, Ken and Emmett Wild, Marysville, 7/22.



LEMANSKY (AENEAS) MOUNTAIN

(DNR; USGS Blue Goat Mtn)—On our way out of Conconully, we decided to stop at this still-working lookout. The road is gated 2 miles below the summit, making a short hike out of the event.

The neighbors do not mind an occasional car parked alongside the road. Climb the 3 foot fence, and proceed up the road to the DNR-run lookout, built in 1980. It is the most modern lookout we have ever seen, complete with carpeting, microwave, and CD player.

The lookout, Rex, seldom receives company, and enjoyed chatting with us

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.

INTERESTED IN HIGH LAKE FISHING? Washington State Hi-Lakers meets third Wednesday of each month at Mercerview Community Center, 7:30pm. For information, call George Bucher, 206-821-5752 (Kirkland).

WANTED—Would like to locate copy of Packrat Papers, Part 2, published by

Signpost in 1977 and out of print. Please call 206-338-3315 (Everett).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—to help maintain the Park Butte and Hidden Lake Lookouts in the North Cascades. Carpentry skills desired; porters also useful intermittently. Contact Dr. Fred Darvill, 1819 Hickox Road, Mount Vernon WA 98273; phone 206-424-5854.

FOUND—Sleeping bag at Maverick Saddle. 206-789-8660.

TREK CZECHOSLOVAKIA—Join a small group of Pacific Northwesterners going on a two-week trek of this

formerly Communist nation in late September. The group is open to six more participants. Call Jack or Donna Melill, 206-232-8936.

OSAT—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 206-236-9674.

CABIN—Secluded seaside housekeeping cabin on Orcas Island available for weekly rental May-October. Hiking, fishing, beachcombing, wildlife viewing. Rustic, comfortable accommodations. Sleeps eight, reasonable rent. Contact 14338 Wallingford Ave N, Seattle WA 98133.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

about his job. We could see fires burning in Canada, just 40 miles away.—Ken and Laura Wild, Marysville, 7/23.

STEHKIN—Shuttle bus service is running all the way to Cottonwood. See page 23 for fire closures. For Chelan-Stehkin ferry service, call 509-682-2224.—Ranger, 8/17.

NORTHEAST



MOUNT BONAPARTE

(Okanogan Natl Forest; USGS

Mt Bonaparte)—We hiked to this operational lookout the day after a major thunderstorm had passed through the area. The lookouts, Wanda and Jim Dixon, were busy sighting and reporting fires, but found time to give us a tour of their "home."

The trailheads (3 altogether) may be reached with directions in *100 Hikes in the North Cascades*; we chose the shortest route, up Meyers Creek. Some of the mileage has been cut off due to some recent logging.

Follow the 300 road past the original trailhead sign 1¼ miles to a new trailhead. A pull-off exists to the right, with space for 2 to 3 cars. Signs have been tacked to the trees (hard to read from the road) which say, "Bonaparte Mountain Lookout." Follow the very steep trail through the logged-off area ¼-mile, then ascend through lodgepole pine and spruce another 3 miles, passing the junctions of the Southside Trail and the Antoine Trail (¾-mile before the summit).

At the summit, pass through a gate to find a 1914 lookout cabin still standing, a 1930s foundation, and a 1961 lookout tower, manned. Views were limited, due to lots of smoke. Distance up the Meyers Creek Trail is 3.7 miles.—Ken, Laura and Emmett Wild, Marysville, 7/23.



STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN

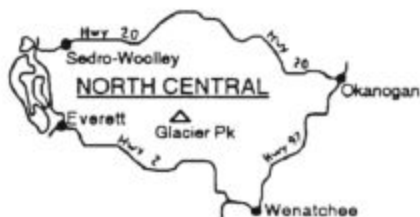
(Okanogan Natl Forest;

USGS Mt Bonaparte)—The trailhead to this former lookout site begins at Lost Lake, just at the lakeshore, ¼-mile from the campground (signs abound).

The trailhead sign said it was 1 mile, our Forest Service Guide said 1.7 miles, and the sign at the summit said, "Lost Lake, 2 miles." We estimated the latter was the most accurate.

The trail climbs, crossing three roads, through pine and spruce forests, summiting in a meadow. Views are expansive, and we could see swimmers in Lost Lake.—Ken, Laura and Emmett Wild, Marysville, 7/24.

NORTH CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Roads and trails open and snowfree.



LOST CREEK RIDGE

(Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS

Glacier Peak West, Sloan Peak)—

Harry Engles, Kathe Stanness and I had tried to hike up this trail a few years ago but were turned back by snow. This time we weren't anticipating snow.

About ¾ of the trail is in deep forest and the trail is steep. From Bingley Gap the trail follows beneath or at the ridge line another mile or so before breaking out into awesome meadows. The view of Sloan Peak from these meadows is breathtaking.

We had lunch on the high point overlooking Round Lake. We saw only one other couple the whole day. This trail does not seem to get a lot of use. To the viewpoint above Round Lake was 10 miles round trip with an elevation gain of 3550 feet.

To reach the trailhead, drive from Darrington on the Mountain Loop to the North Fork Sauk River road 49. That's about 17 miles. Turn left and drive 3 miles to a parking area.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 7/10.



SULPHUR MOUNTAIN 794

(Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS

Lime Mtn)—This trail goes up steeply from the very beginning.

Steve and I encountered five trees down across the trail that were easy to get over. The tread is in good shape and the grade is actually not bad. The elevation gain is 4200 feet in 5 miles.

The view from the meadow top is worth the hike up. Spire and Dome to the north and Glacier Peak to the south are impressive. From the summit, we followed a ridge trail south to a saddle, then we dropped down steep heather slopes to Lookout Lake.

It is in a pretty basin beneath Sulphur Mountain with lots of mosquitoes. We followed a trail north toward Sulphur Mountain Lake that took us back up to our trail. Parts of this trail were as steep as the heather slopes we came down. It doesn't look easy for someone with a full pack to get to either lake. That must be why most of the campsites we

Pack & Paddle Photo Event



Sharing photos of backcountry trips is always a pleasant pastime. This year *Pack & Paddle* readers have a great opportunity to do so in our first Photo Event.

Here are the details:

THEME: Backcountry travel—any outdoor scene relating to hiking, backpacking, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing or kayaking.

CATEGORIES: Initially all photos will be grouped together. Subsequent breakdown into specific categories may be done depending on the types of photos received.

FORMAT: Any color slide, color print or black-and-white print is acceptable.

RECOGNITION: A portfolio of photos will be selected and published in a fall issue of *Pack & Paddle*. Also, several photos which best typify the theme will be chosen to receive \$25 gift certificates at a local outdoor store.

ENTRIES: Include your name, address, and scene description for each photo. If you want us to return your entry, please include a self-addressed envelope with correct return postage. Send entries to Pack & Paddle Photo Event, PO Box 1063, Port Orchard WA 98366.

DEADLINE: To let you take advantage of trips this summer, entries can be submitted anytime until September 15, 1994. Call if you have questions: 206-871-1862.

HANDLING: While *Pack & Paddle* will handle all submissions with care, we are not responsible for loss or damage.

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

passed were higher up on the ridge.—
Linda Rostad, Bothell, 8/4.

PASS LAKE and beyond
(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Silverton, Bedal*)—Mr. Maphead and I headed out to do a “not too strenuous” hike in our backyard (the Mountain Loop area.)

We had always been curious about Pass Lake and if the trail connects with the Fall Creek road. The trailhead is a little tricky to find. Drive the Mountain Loop to the Coal Lake road; turn left onto it. Drive to the end of the road and the trailhead to Independence and North Lakes. Walk back down the road a short way till you see a faint tread off to the left, just opposite of a very small turnout. That’s the trail.

It’s unsigned but in good shape and it’s a pleasant, short walk to the lake. We made our way around it and found a trail heading toward the Fall Creek road. This must have been a good trail at one time but is now rough in spots though marked by orange tape and not hard to follow.

We explored it for a mile or so but never did connect with the road. We plan to drive around and attack it from the other side one day.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 8/16.

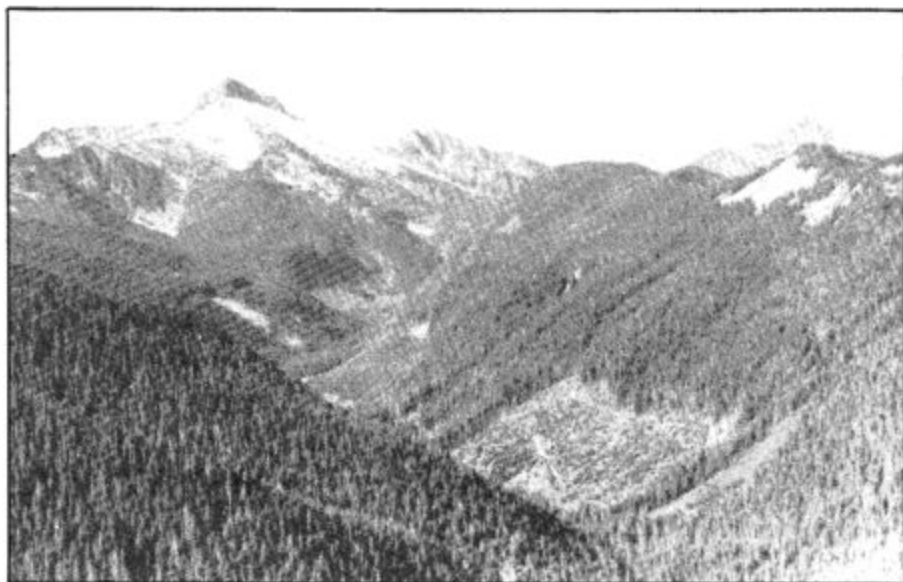
GOthic BASIN (*DNR; USGS Bedal, Monte Cristo*)—Mr. Maphead left on a business trip so I decided to use the opportunity to hike! I couldn’t remember a hike I’d ever done alone and have to admit I was a little apprehensive. I’m not sure why, but somehow being out there entirely on your own is a little more exciting!

I have two favorite hikes near home and chose one of these, Gothic Basin. Drive to Barlow Pass, walk the closed road to the river. The trailhead is on the right just before you cross the river. It’s 6 miles (round trip) on the trail, about 2 miles (again, round trip) on the road, for a total of about 8 miles.

And except for the road it’s a lot of work! This is an old miners’ trail and it’s rough—lots of roots to stumble over, lots of loose rocks, and steep, steep, steep the entire way.

The thing is, once you make it over the rim into Gothic Basin it is wonderful! Very dramatic views, lots of exploring to be done, nooks and crannies, lakes and rocks. Probably best done as an overnighter.—Mystery Hiker, Granite Falls, 8/14.

TWIN LAKES, SILVER LAKE (*Henry M Jackson Wilderness; USGS Monte Cristo*)—I gave



Looking west from June Mountain on the Bald Eagle trail to Sloan Peak.

myself 12 hours for this long, hot hike into Twin Lakes in the Monte Cristo area. It’s 17 miles with 3600 feet gain.

The first part of the hike is on the 4-mile closed Monte Cristo road. I don’t have a bicycle nor do I possess a key to the gate, so the road walk simply had to be endured. But it had been a long time since I had walked the road and it was pleasant.

Reached the Silver Lake/Twin Lakes trailhead in good time and started up the old miners’ trail. Though it was a very hot day the trail didn’t seem as bad as it had been the last time I was there. The awful stretches seem to be shorter and some work has been done on the trail.

I caught up to three Scout Masters and their Scouts, some of whom were having a miserable time. They were going to camp at Silver Lake.

The trail is in good shape with just a few snow patches along the crest. One short mini-scramble is pretty simple, but some might not like it. It’s where the trail seems to stop—actually it doesn’t—you climb a short rock face with good holds. Not scary. A side trail goes to Pearsall Pass. I had my lunch on the ridge that overlooks Twin Lakes.

After lunch, the return trip to Silver Lake was uneventful. I successfully fought the desire to drop off the ridge and descend into 76 Basin. I knew John would send out a search party if I didn’t get back that night and I didn’t have the guts to take off cross-country into the unknown, so took the hiking trail back.

At Silver Lake I saw I was well within my 12 hour limit so spent an extra hour at the lake, cooling off in

the water and finishing my cherries. The Scoutmasters were amazed that a middle-aged person such as myself could hike 17 miles in a single day!

As I was cooling my feet in the lake I noticed a couple of young men coming toward the trail carrying a dog. I asked what had happened to the dog and they said he had hurt his feet on the sharp rocks on the trail and would have to be carried down.

They had tried to make a litter but it hadn’t worked. They explained he was a city dog and wasn’t used to such rough terrain. I advised them to stop at Monte Cristo and ask for a ride out to Barlow Pass rather than try to carry the dog the whole way.

It’s something for people to keep in mind when traveling with dogs—if dogs have spent their lives in the city they are not going to be able to handle these old trails with their sharp rocks.

I said goodbye to the Scout troop and headed back down. The road walk out *did* seem very long, my feet *were* tired, but I was happy to see the young men and the dog go past in a vehicle so I can report that the dog made it out okay.

Incidentally, the berries are at their best. Good grazing along the way.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 7/16.

NORTH FORK SKYKOMISH LOOP (*Henry M Jackson Wilderness; USGS Blanca Lk, Benchmark Mtn*)—Sister Meg and her two kids, Linden and Tyler, joined us on this five day backpack trip. Our dog King carried clothes in his pack, so the kids had to carry only their sleeping bags and a few treats.

Under cloudy skies, we started up the North Fork Skykomish trail. Lunch was

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at the old log crossing over the Skykomish River on the Pass Creek Trail. The log was gone so we went back to the ford on the trail and waded across.

Next was the boardwalk through a marsh, where we took time to look at tadpoles and other fun things.

Our first camp was along Pass Creek where the trail used to cross the creek again. The trail was in good shape with a few places chewed up by horses. A trail crew had been through to fix drainage and cut out downed logs.

Day two was bright and sunny. We hiked up to the PCT and headed north with only a few grumbles because of the heat and flies. For their first backpack trip, the kids were even enjoying themselves. A snow patch after we had started down from our high point of the day was just what we needed for a break.

We made camp in a basin partially filled with snow about a mile from Lake Sally Ann. Kids and dogs were able to run free without disturbing others.

On the third day Steve and I took the dogs up Skykomish Peak. We climbed the steep heather slopes north of our camp to an east running ridge. Here we picked up a trail that took us to the top.

The view was worth the effort and a cool breeze kept the bugs away. The descent was easy down the east side. We dropped onto an old section of the PCT, which took us back to camp.

The next day we hiked over to Lake Sally Ann. Every time I come here, I see improvement in the restoration efforts. We continued to Dishpan Gap crossing a short, steep snow patch with care. The kids were glad to get across.

We had lunch just west of the Gap and said goodbye to the high country. We descended the North Fork Skykomish River trail to a campsite about 6 miles from the car. While in camp, we watched a young hawk get some flying lessons.

Our last day was hot and tedious. We got to ford a branch of the river that cooled us off for a short time.

Trail work has greatly improved drainage in a couple of bad spots. Two new bridges have been built and rotten boards have been replaced on other bridges. About 2 miles from the car we met a group with two llamas.

The llamas had stalled in a creek crossing. We passed with care, and then talked with the handlers. Our dogs made the llamas nervous, even though they were on leash, so the llamas decided it was time to continue. At last we reached the cars, much to the relief of the kids. Given time, they will have fond memories of this trip.—Linda Rostad, Bothell, 7/18-22.



MEADOW CREEK TRAIL

1057 to Pear Lake (Henry M Jackson Wilderness; USGS Captain Point, Labyrinth Mtn)—A late start had us walking up in 90° weather. Luckily, the trees are getting taller and now provide some shade on the steep, rocky trail. The first 1000 feet is the worst. Four hours later we crossed Meadow Creek and made camp 3 miles from the car. Two hours later we were in out of the rain listening to distant thunder.

Low clouds and cooler weather made the hike to Fortune Ponds pleasant. We had lunch at the lower pond before going up to Frozen Finger Gap above Pear Lake. From the pass we saw a big white thunder cloud to the east. We later learned it was smoke from the Tyee Creek fire. Our camp for the next two nights was next to a huge rock, well away from the lake and other campers.

Our intent on this trip was to finish a section of the PCT to close the gap between Snoqualmie Pass and White Pass. We took fanny packs and headed south on the PCT to Glasses Lake. South of Wenatchee Pass we found several trees down across the trail. All were easy to get over or around.

From Grizzly Peak we had spectacular views of the smoke from the fire to the east. At Glasses Lake, we took a short break before returning to camp. This is a very up-and-down section of the PCT, but the well-graded and maintained trail makes it easy.

Day four we returned to the car. At Frozen Finger Gap, we noticed a new plume of smoke to the south from another fire. We were glad to be going home. The heat and bugs were horrible all the way out.—Linda Rostad, Bothell, 7/24-27.



LICHTENBERG MOUNTAIN

(Henry M Jackson Wilderness; USGS Labyrinth Mtn)—Using friends Loren and Margaret's cabin near Stevens Pass as our starting point, Loren and I got an early start for a climb of the southwest side of Lichtenberg Mountain (5844 feet).

There is no trail to the top so our route was cross country on this beautiful, cloudless, sunny day. For the first hour we fought through brush which eventually gave way to open terrain.

We reached the summit in two hours and ten minutes and were greeted with spectacular views, including the ominous clouds of smoke from the forest fire raging out of control near Leavenworth. It was very strange and unusual to see virtually no traffic on Highway 2 due to the fire-induced road closure at Stevens Pass.

After a leisurely and enjoyable hour-long stay on the summit, which we had to ourselves the entire time, we descended to the cabin.

This was a nice day hike, just strenuous enough for a good workout, but not too strenuous to completely exhaust us.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 7/31.



BONANZA PEAK

(Glacier Peak Wilderness; USGS Holden)—Jim came in on the early bus from the port of Lucerne on Lake Chelan and helped me escape from a week's vacation with wife, child and in-laws, if only for overnight.

It wasn't a clean get away either, as everyone waved and videoed us as we headed down the dusty road.

We left Holden Village and the mining remains behind. The road became a path and we soon turned up the Holden Lake trail.

After a mile or more of gentle uphill traverse, the trail breaks out and begins to zig and zag steeply up a dry, dusty south facing slope. The views up Railroad Creek toward Lyman Lake, Dumbell, Cooper, Fernow, North Star, and our personal favorite, Bonanza Peak, helped to cool the midday heat.

Eventually the trail reentered woods and gentled and wandered to beautiful Holden Lake, 5400 feet. Its basin is cradled between Bonanza and Martin with ribbons of water coming from the Mary Green Glacier on "Mr. B."

A 4 o'clock start up the scree cone led to a way through the lower cliff band and we quickly moved up the slabs to the glacier.

Jim sniffed out a good route up the Mary Green and on the final 1000 foot rock scramble to the summit. This portion was mainly an enjoyable go-where-you-please Class 3 with some areas of loose stuff.

Beautiful day, summit was comfy and the views, oh so nice. We spent an hour and a half on top; only 5 to get there.

We descended north across the top of "Miss M.G." and down to Holden Pass. A trail from there led back to the lake.—Mountain Goat and Jim H, Seattle, 7/18-19.

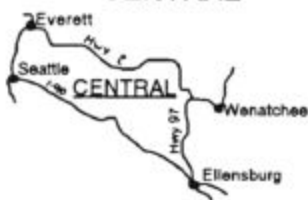
PCT—Repairs to the bridge at the White Chuck crossing will be completed by 9/1.—Ranger, 8/17.

BIG FOUR ICE CAVES—Avalanche debris is still melting out in the basin.—Ranger, 8/17.

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CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Roads and trails open and snowfree.

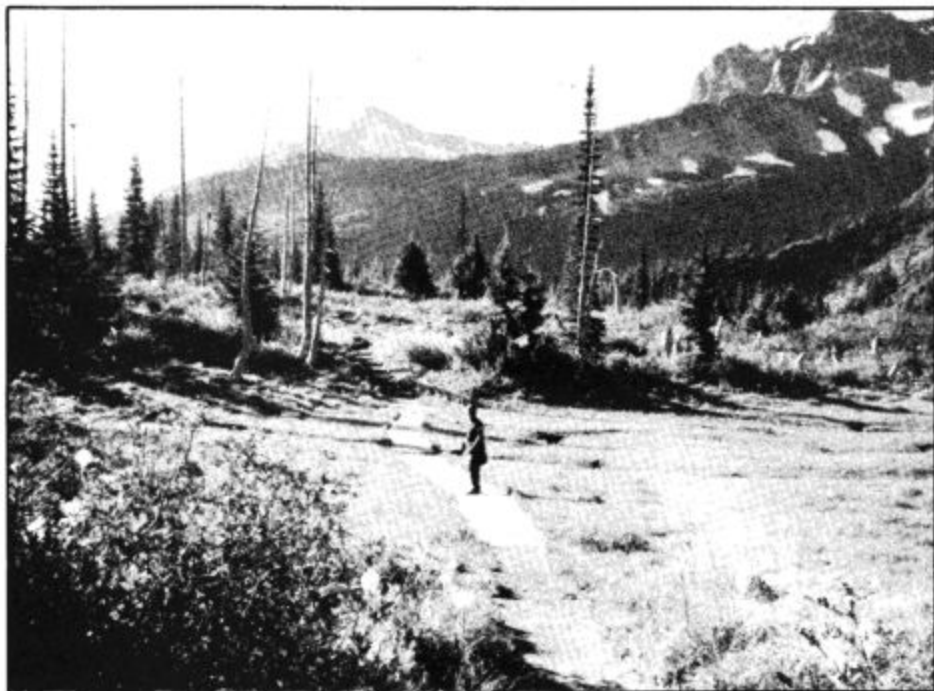
TONGA RIDGE (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Skykomish, Scenic*)—We drove right to the trailhead thanks to Peg Ferm's instructions (*July, page 21*): Just east of the Skykomish Ranger Station turn south on Foss River road 68, then left onto 6830 and right on 310. 310 was not marked at the junction but it was obvious to us which way to go (up!).

This was indeed a beautiful easy hike. It started out in the trees but soon broke out to good views to the south and east, the Necklace Valley being just a ridge or two to the south. Pretty much a cruise, exactly what we've been looking for this summer! Very nice.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 8/12.

SWIMMING DEER LAKE (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Stevens Pass*)—My good friend Kelly and I headed out together on this hike on the hottest day ever recorded around here! We soaked our heads at every opportunity.

We decided to drive to Mill Valley and hike the gated logging road up to connect with the PCT. To do this turn off Highway 2 at Stevens Pass Nordic Center and drive on that road till you hit the gate and a small parking lot. The road splits right away; go left.

After crossing Mill Creek on a large concrete bridge we saw a rock arrow pointing out a trail to the left. We took it and soon hit the PCT just before Lake Susan Jane. We hiked on till the trail began to drop down off the ridge to Mig Lake. You could see beautiful Lake Josephine and Swimming Deer



Mystery Hiker

Mr. Maphead on the Bench/Snow Lakes trail, Mount Rainier National Park.

Lake down below the trail several hundred feet. There's a good trail to Lake Josephine and a good bushwhacking adventure down to Swimming Deer Lake. We didn't do either.

No water on this portion of the trail except at Mill Creek and at the lakes. Lots of good views and several wonderful camping spots scattered along the way.—Mystery Hiker and Kelly, Granite Falls, 7/20.

QUARTZ CREEK TRAIL (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Lake Philippi*)—This was another hike for exploring the geology of the area. Follow I-90 east and exit at Ken's Truck Stop. Follow the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River road to its end. Take the left trail up Quartz Creek. This is an abandoned road.

It was a drizzly day and the brush on the trail was a pain, but periodically we had great views back to Mount Garfield. About 3 miles up the traverse along the ridge we stopped and ate. Coming down we took a side trail down to an old mine shaft. There had been activity at one time at one of the sites, but the other hole looked as though it had never been mined.

It was a great hike for a rainy day.—Olive Hull, Olympia.

RACHEL LAKE (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Chikamin Pk*)—The trail starts out with a good steady climb, but levels out somewhat as you reach a valley full of wildflowers and berry bushes. Box Canyon Creek

follows the trail much of the first 2½ miles, with many good rest stops and a lot of black flies.

After reaching the 2.5 mile point, the trail starts to climb upward, with a steady increase in elevation, approximately 1300 feet in a 1 mile, a bit of a workout!

Rachel Lake is in a beautiful alpine setting. Plenty of nice spots to just relax and enjoy. Elevation is 4700 feet here. Approximately 4 miles from trailhead, a gain of approximately 1900 feet.

The trail continues up and around the north end of Rachel Lake, and in ½-mile offers a choice: either right to Lila Lake (1 mile), or left 1½ miles to Rampart Lakes and over to Rampart Ridge, elevation 5800 feet.

To get to Rachel Lake trailhead, take Exit 62 (Lake Kachess) on I-90, go over the freeway, and follow signs for 5 miles (paved road) to the Kachess Lake Campground, but at the junction, turn left (opposite of campground entrance gate) on a dirt and gravel road 4930, staying on this for approximately 4 miles, and enter the huge parking area on your left. Trail 1313 starts on the right side of the parking area at the sign and permit location.—Rick Eisen, SeaTac, 7/28.

NORTH FORK ROAD—The Lennox Creek bridge is closed. Repairs are scheduled.—Ranger, 8/17.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN—Berries are scumdidlyumptious. No water.—Ranger, 8/17.

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SOUTH CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Roads and trails snowfree. Some fire closures; see page 23.


 **RATTLESNAKE RIDGE** (*USGS North Bend*)—The window of our car was shot out in the Rattlesnake Ridge parking lot earlier this summer. It is a very visible lot, right along a pretty busy road.


I recall thinking as we walked away that we were parked in a safe spot for a change!—Marita von Michalofski, Bellevue.

 **GREEN RIVER GORGE** (*USGS Cumberland*)—The resort is closed. I suppose I must have read this somewhere, but forgot.

Not only is the resort and its trails closed, but the area is patrolled by unfriendly types who will appear, obtrusively, if one is so imprudent as to pull off to the side of the road to consider one's alternate plan for the day (some with cars bearing Oregon plates, adding insult to injury, somehow).

So mark your maps, mark your *Footsore 1* books, scratch it off your list. Cherish photos from days gone by.—Peg Fern, Monroe.


 **NOBLE KNOB** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Noble Knob*)—The group decided to take their time and “smell the flowers.” We checked out all the views and flowers. It was one of the best hikes as it was clear with lots of blooming flowers. Mount Rainier was at its finest. We spent two hours dozing at the Knob. The road to Corral Pass just opened so few people were there.—James Hatfield, Sumner, 7/9.

 **SUMMIT LAKE** (*Clearwater Wilderness; USGS Bearhead Mtn*)—We had a delightful trip to Summit Lake, driving slowly up road 7810 to dodge the protruding rocks. One other car was at the trailhead, and the “no campfires at Summit Lake” sign was up.


The avalanche lilies were gone with only their acres of seedpods remaining, but we feasted our eyes on lupine, tiger lily, penstemon, gentian, and valerian, to name only a few.

The directions in *102 Hikes in the South Cascades and the Olympics* are very clear. We hiked all around the lake in a clockwise direction to avoid jarring the knees coming down. The deep blue hues of the lake are most vivid from the high point on the left, and the meadows above the lake were lush with flowers.

The hike is about 6 miles round trip if you circle the lake.—Olive Hull, Olympia, 7/28.

 **SUMMIT LAKE** (*Clearwater Wilderness; USGS Bearhead Mtn*)—We saw a new logging spur road on the road approaching this hike. Maybe that explains why the Forest Service has filled a number of the pot-holes we remember on the road in years gone by.

The hike to Summit Lake is a short one, 5 miles round trip with a gain of 1200 feet. The view of Mount Rainier from the lake is really beautiful. The biting flies were quite noticeable.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/16.

 **MOUNT RAINIER** (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East, Mt Rainier West*)—Our annual Mount Rainier summit attempt looked very promising. We pared down the usual group to 3—Henry Durham (our leader and at age 62 our voice of wisdom), brother Terense and myself.

The weather forecast looked excellent and our chances of getting Terense to the top (he being the only one to have not set eyes on Columbia Crest) seemed a sure bet.


We set out early from Paradise with Ingraham Flats as our goal. We lugged the heavy packs past Pebble Creek,

rested at Camp Muir, and continued to the flats, 11,000 feet. All things considered, we felt great, although the gathering clouds had us nervously eyeing the skies. We planned to wake at 12 midnight and start our climb soon afterward.

The mountain had other ideas, however, as a tremendous wind storm ensued overnight and pushed back most rope teams. Henry and Terense had decided to bivvy out and I must admit I enjoyed popping my head out of my secure 1-man tent to see them buffeted by the natural forces.

Seeing some headlamps on Disappointment Cleaver and not wanting to waste our chance, we finally emerged from camp around 3am. We made good progress over the Cleaver but found the winds to be very strong at the 12,500 foot level. Henry made the prudent decision to turn around and not risk our young lives.

Upon returning to Paradise we found a steady drizzle and realized that the unthinkable had occurred: amid the perfect summer weather we have enjoyed for three straight weeks (and counting), we had been weathered-off Rainier!—Douglas Cuneo, Seattle, 7/17-18.

 **COWLITZ PARK** (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—Although the Mountain was clear above Louise Lake, Box Canyon was fogged in. Was in fog all the way to camp. Wasn't sure where camp was until next day.

Lupine-bistort meadows were at their peak. Object of this trip was to locate Margaret, Basaltic and Trixie Falls to see if it would be worth hauling in the 4x5 camera. Dense fog second morn-

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9/94

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ing. Found goat trails to everywhere I wanted to go.

At 2am of third day stars are out and I am happy! Cowlitz Park area is a series of descending basins with many streams that are a continuous series of cascades and minor waterfalls. Glacial polish on bedrock. Miniature rock gardens with meadow spirea, paintbrush, lupine, veronica, saxifrage, eriogonums and lots more.

I follow a goat trail down steep meadow to a view of Margaret Falls. Both Margaret and Basaltic Falls are actually a series of waterfalls and cascades for several thousand feet. Barely able to get falls in frame with 28mm lens on 35mm camera. Scramble upward through cedar, hemlock, white-bark pine for more views. A mistake—what looked like an easy scramble turned out to be mostly portable hand holds.

I see Trixie Falls so plot course to them. Another delightful basin with Trixie Falls and a companion falls to east at the head. More rock gardens and meandering streams. From south end of basin I follow a goat track to upper cascades of Basaltic Falls. Rest obscured in tree lined gorge.

Out by noon on day four to escape heat. Many thanks to Melanie at Longmire for all the help in locating the falls.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 7/29-8/1.



SHRINER PEAK LOOK-OUT TRAIL

(*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Chinook Pass*)—I used the old 50 Hikes in Mount Rainier National Park. Intimidated by the admonition to start early because of over-exposed slope, I arrived at the trailhead at 6am. Sign sez 4.2 miles one way, elevation gain 3400 feet.

This turned out to be a really pleasant trail. Very good grade for the most part and steps were almost absent.

Left the trailhead 6:45am and in 20 minutes was into the sun. Water internally and sunscreen externally. A little after 7:30 I reached the ridge crest and the first view of Rainier, also of Adams and Saint Helens.

The trail from here on was mostly on the shady side of the ridge (before noon). Neat rock outcrops festooned with penstemons. Scared up ruffed grouse. He sounded irritated! Reached the lookout at 8:45. Building in disrepair. Toilet sign will last 50 years but the toilet has already joined its ancestors.

Tatoosh range looks quite different from this perspective. Indian Bar visible. Nice big waterfall in Ohanapecoh.

Leisurely trip down for photos of flowers and an extended lunch before I dropped off the ridge. Met three per-

sons on way down. All amiable.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 7/12.



OWYHIGH LAKES

(*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS White River Park*)—Bill and I hiked to Owyhigh Lakes from the White River entrance.

Although the small parking area near the trailhead was full, everyone was headed down as we hiked up and we had the lakes to ourselves. We'd forgotten what a beautiful setting this is. The flowers, especially pasqueflower and magenta paintbrush, were beautiful.

The hike is 7 miles round trip, and gains 1350 feet in elevation.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/2.



CRYSTAL PEAK

(*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS White River Park*)—Steve Lundin joined Bill and me for a hike to Crystal Peak. We'd never seen anyone else on the former lookout trail when we'd hiked it before. This time we saw two small groups coming down and a volunteer Park Ranger at the top.

There are always plenty of people going to Crystal Lakes and this day was no different in that regard.

The trail to Crystal Peak splits off the Crystal Lakes trail at a well marked junction about 1¼ miles up the trail. Steve had never seen mountain goats and really enjoyed seeing a couple grazing near a steep rocky moraine visible from the top.

We had a glorious day with views from Mount Baker to Mount Hood and everything in between. We also hit the wildflower display in the open meadows at its peak. What a day! The hike to Crystal Peak is about 7 miles round trip and gains 3100 feet.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/9.



BENCH and SNOW LAKES

(*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—This was one of the short, not too strenuous hikes suggested for Mr Maphead this summer. It was indeed very beautiful. He didn't do the entire trip, but did enough to soak in some really wonderful alpine scenery.

It's 1½ miles to Snow Lake; Bench Lake is probably a mile out. The most spectacular part of the hike was a meadow we passed through early on with the most incredible display of bear grass blooming I have ever seen. Very, very nice. Good view of Mount Rainier, all in all a great hike.—Mystery Hiker and Mr Maphead, Granite Falls, 7/11.



MOUNT BELJICA

(*Glacier View Wilderness; USGS Mount Wow*)—Although this is a short

hike it is quite steep both at the beginning and end. The bugs were out—biting flies, mosquitoes, and bees. We sprayed ourselves with Cutters and managed to only get a few bites but were circled the whole way up!

It was a beautiful, clear and hot day. From the top we could see Mount Adams, Saint Helens, and down to Hood in Oregon, as well as the super close view of Rainier.

The hike to Mount Beljica is 4 miles round trip and gains 1078 feet.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/31.



HOWARD PEAK

(*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mowich Lk*)—By most criteria, Howard would not qualify as a separate mountain, but would be regarded as a northwest point of Tolmie Peak. However, it has its own name and therefore merits individual recognition despite the fact that it is only 160 feet higher than the col separating it from nearby Tolmie.

Regardless, it is trail-free (except for an intermittent climbers' path) and therefore affords peaceful freedom from the mobs adorning Eunice Lake and the Tolmie Lookout. It also has two high points, nearly 0.2-mile apart, and good views of "the other side" of Tolmie (which few ever see).

Drive to Mowich Lake, preferably on a weekday, and park near the Tolmie Peak trailhead where the road first reaches the lake (elevation about 4950 feet). Follow the trail along Mowich Lake, past Ipsut Pass at 1.25 miles. Drop a bit, then climb past lovely Eunice Lake at 2.25 miles (5355 feet) and continue up to or nearly to the lookout on Tolmie Peak (5939 feet).

Clamber north-northwest down pumice and heather to a climbers' path which begins in a lupine field well down the slope. Follow this path (or forge cross-country) farther down to a col between the Tolmie and Ranger creek drainages (about 5540 feet). Then ascend a gentle ridge to the broad flat main summit of Howard Peak (5683 feet). From here, drop slightly to a pumice ridge leading northeast to a rocky but walkable subsummit at about 5660 feet.

Look northeast down cliffs into the deep valley of Ranger Creek, and north along Rust Ridge to the rugged slopes of Point 5380 and Arthur Peak.

Look farther north to the Clearwater peaks, and westward across the Puget flats to the Olympics. Look at the interesting northwest face of Tolmie Peak and, over its shoulder to the southeast, Mount Rainier. Enjoy the quiet and solitude.

The entire route is Class 1. Even counting the climb back up Tolmie

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(which you can minimize by intercepting the trail south of the lookout) the total elevation gain is only about 2200 feet with a round trip of 8.5 miles.—Mick Campbell and Vic Sparks, Puyallup 7/24.

▲ SPRAY PARK, Observation and Echo Rocks (*Mt Rainier Natl Park, USGS Mowich Lk*)—Mark and I could not have timed this hike and scramble any better. We reached the trailhead at Mowich Lake and the crowded campground just as people were stirring.

There were only a few people, at this time of the morn, on the well used trail and the same in the meadows.

Spray Park was at its peak! With a good number of flowers in bloom and the lower morning sun, the blue sky and shinning white crown of Rainier, the scene was a visual symphony. We lingered long before heading south on the trail to Echo and Observation.

The trail wanders up through the alpine/arctic-like meadows, miniatures of the lower flowers growing nestled among the rock and heather.

From Observation we observed. What really caught our attention was the large brown cloud to the east and a boiling column of smoke rising beyond Mount Stuart—the fires of '94.

We headed down late in the afternoon feeling like fish swimming against the current of people moving up to the meadows.

We were only slightly surprised to see that the parked cars ran all the way back up the hill around the corner and an 1/8-mile down the other side!—Mountain Goat and Mark, Seattle, 7/30.

▲ OBSERVATION ROCK (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mowich Lake*)—My old college friend Larry, who has been exiled on the east coast for many years, brought his son Tom west to introduce him to the Olympics and Cascades. As one of their objectives was to give Tom some experience with an ice ax, I suggested camping near Spray Park and climbing Observation Rock.

The day before we left, *Pack & Paddle* arrived, and I read the report of Ann and Lee's trip (*August, page 17*)—I hadn't considered a limit on cross-country camping. We lucked out, however, and obtained permits for two nights in the area between Ptarmigan Ridge and Spray Park.

We hiked in Thursday afternoon, visiting Spray Falls on the way, and found a nice camp site. We were too close to Ptarmigan Ridge to see Rainier, but there was an hourglass shaped snow-



Carl Nyberg

Time for huckleberries on Huckleberry Mountain, PCT.

field just above camp which was perfect for some ice ax drill.

After supper the clouds rolled in, then in about half an hour they settled to about 5000 feet blotting out every thing between us and the Olympics. When the stars came out Larry remarked that it was the first time he'd been able to see the Milky Way since the last time he'd been home.

In the morning we again went up the "hourglass," jogged right along some moraine, and climbed another steep snowfield. We could see tracks here where someone had been on it the day before without ice axes—there were finger marks where one slid down. An easy 1/4-mile traverse brought us to Ptarmigan Ridge.

Here the other tracks wisely turned back. If Tom hadn't done so well in yesterday's practice we too would have turned back. But after negotiating some steep snow above a remnant of the Flett Glacier, we gained the ridge crest. From there it was just a stroll to the top of Observation Rock.

It is a fine viewpoint; we could see from Mount Saint Helens to Mount Baker, from the Olympics to Mount Stuart, with all the lowlands below the clouds. We could also see some ominous smoke billowing up beyond Mount Stuart; the start of the Rat Creek fire, I suppose.

On the way back, getting down from the ridge crest required even more tedious step kicking than on the way in.

On the next steep snowfield Larry demonstrated he still was proficient with a standing glissade. Tom and I proved we could do unplanned arrests, then glissaded down the easy way—on the seat of our pants.

That evening the clouds rolled in, and it was cool enough that we hit the sack early. But by 10:30 the stars were out again.

In the morning we broke camp and headed up the "hourglass" again, mainly to satisfy my curiosity. It is very hard to relate the jumble of moraine we were in with the map's contours. If I'd figured out where we were a left turn would bring us out above a large tarn. Somewhat to my surprise it did. After dropping to the tarn we had a pleasant walk down to the trail, which we crossed, then hiked out by way of Knapsack Pass.—TG, Skyway, 7/28-30.

▲ LITTLE TAHOMA (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS White River Park, Mt Rainier East*)—The Summerland trailhead was a busy place on this warm afternoon. People were parking up the road and wherever they could on the side.

The trail was wide and pleasant going through beautiful forest, then climbed a little with looks at Fryingpan Creek tumbling and leaping down its rocky course.

The trail breaks out of the forest with Goat Island towering on one side and Summerland high above on the other.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



Ken Hopping

Climbers on the lip of the Saint Helens crater, Mount Adams in distance.

and traverses through a beautiful meadow with flowers abloom and bees abuzz.

We didn't stop for long. Our goal was a camp on Meany Crest. After a climb up steep snow we found our nest—a basin with running water, sandy beds, and a view at about 7000 feet.

Away at 3am in eerie light for a pre-dawn Fryingpan Glacier traverse. I led to the notch at 9000 feet arriving just before the sun broke above the eastern skyline.

We made good time across and up the steep upper Whitman Glacier and the rock scramble to the terrifying notch (rope advised) 15 feet from the summit!

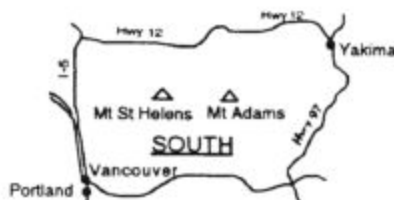
There was barely enough room for this sixum of One-Step-At-a-Timers to maneuver for photos and a place to sit on this broken summit.

Views were some of the clearest I have seen in some time. A fine and worthy summit.

We all made it back and had a great time. I would do it again.—Mountain Goat and friends, Seattle, 7/9-10.

SUNRISE ROAD—Will close September 6. See "Panorama" section for details.

SOUTH



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Roads and trails are open and snowfree.

Permits are required to enter Wilderness areas. No fires.



GOAT RIDGE LOOKOUT

(Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Walupt Lk)—The trail to this former lookout site at 6240 feet originates next to the Snowgrass Flat trailhead.

Sam Thompson joined Bill and me for this hike during the recent heat wave. The hot weather made this short hike plenty of activity for me.

Take trail 95 to an unmarked junction about a mile from the trailhead. Go left for about a mile to another unmarked junction near the summit. Go right at the second junction and climb a short distance to the former lookout site.

Although the Snowgrass Flat parking lot was full we had the lookout site to ourselves. It provided a fantastic panorama of Mount Adams, Saint Helens, the Goat Rocks, and Mount Rainier. The wild flowers were fantastic—especially the huge fields of lupine in bloom.

This hike is about 5 miles round trip and gains 1640 feet in elevation.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/23.



COWLITZ RIVER / PCT LOOP

(Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Old Snowy Mtn, Packwood Lk)—On a moment's notice, with weather uncertain, my friend Mountain Man Bill decided to accompany me.

From Highway 12, 2 or 3 miles west of White Pass, we turned off on the shoulder where the road bends, and followed the short dirt road behind the guardrail to the trailhead. No signs are visible from the highway.

We took the Clear Lost trail 76 west to the Cowlitz River, crossed on a fallen

log upstream, and continued to the junction with the Clear Fork Trail at Skeeter Shelter.

From there it's a long, long way up past pretty Lost Hat Lake (with campsite) to the high point, a 3200-foot gain from the river. We continued to Lost Lake and spent the night, expecting but not getting rain.

The next day was mostly cloudy as we took Coyote trail 79 through beautiful high country (with mountain goats), hit the Crest Trail at Elk Pass, and camped just below the pass in a pretty valley with great views. Thick fog rolled in that night and again we expected rain, but again we stayed dry.

The next morning was clear and glorious as we took daypacks south on the Crest Trail through exceptionally spectacular high country, with an easy scramble up Old Snowy Mountain. Incredible views. In late afternoon we returned to camp, packed up and headed down the Crest Trail past McCall Basin to Tieton Pass.

There we turned onto Clear Fork trail 61 and hiked down a couple of miles to camp at the crossing of the Cowlitz River. The next day was an easy hike back to Skeeter Shelter and to the car. Bugs were surprisingly insignificant throughout the hike but water was scarce on some stretches. Bring plenty of film. It's definitely one of my five top hikes.—Rod, Seattle, 8/15-18.



SHEEP CANYON TRAIL


(Mt Saint Helens NVM; USGS Goat Mtn)—We saw not another person on this visit to a little-used trail into the Monument.

Drive I-5 south to Woodland and take Highway 503 toward Cougar. Just before Cougar turn left on road 8100, which continues past Merrill Lake. At the junction with road 8123 turn left and follow 8123 to the end of the road and ample parking.

Hike to the head of Sheep Canyon where two possibilities await. For one, cross the bridge and drop down to the South Fork Toutle and ford the river. Switchback up the other side to the pumice fields above and great views of the destruction.

Or, two, go right and follow the trail up to timberline and great views of the mountain itself. We did both and were back at the car at 7pm.

The geologist with me was very much interested in the area, although he complained that his mother was getting to be an "old lady," even though we gained a total of 5500 feet during the day!—Olive Hull, Olympia, July.

 **LOOWIT TRAIL** (*Mt Saint Helens NVM; USGS Spirit Lk West, Mt St Helens*)—No camping is allowed in the Restricted Zone on the north side of the volcano. Lee and I found it was a long, hot 12 miles from Windy Ridge to the South Fork Toutle and legal camping at a small clear stream on trail 238.

No water the next day from that small stream to June Lake, unless you count Swift Creek which was running silt. Lots of level camping sites at June Lake.

Between June Lake and Windy Ridge, water was available at two trickling streams.

We had a spectacular circumnavigation of the volcano with good weather.—Ann Marshall, 7/29-31.

TRACT D—The Yakama Nation has closed Tract D until further notice because of fire danger. This includes Bird Lake, Mirror Lake, Bench Lake campground and Bird Creek Meadows.—Ranger, 8/8.


RANDLE ROAD 23—The reconstruction work is finished and road 23 is now open the entire route. The road is paved except for 12 miles of gravel. Expect some log trucks on this road.—Ranger, 8/8.

THOMAS LAKE TRAIL 111—Closed for reconstruction and relocation until further notice.—Ranger, 8/8.

SAINT HELENS—Permits are required from 5/15 to 11/1. Call 206-750-3900 for permit information. The Monitor Ridge route is snowfree.—Ranger, 8/8.

APE CAVE—The Lantern Rental Station is open daily from 10am to 5:30pm. Remember to bring warm clothes.—Ranger, 8/8.

OREGON

 **SILVER KING SADDLE** (*Bull-of-the-Woods Wilderness*)—The best map is the one which came out of the "Hidden Wilderness Guide" put out by the 4 Cs—the Central Cascades Conservation Council—a few years ago when that group carefully mapped the whole area. The organization no longer exists, its sole purpose being to get this area designated as Wilderness, and the booklet is no longer in print.

This is an easy and fun backpack, especially for early season and for beginners. Elevation centers around 4500 feet and there is less than 500 feet gain and/or loss during the trip. All the trails we traveled on were in good condition though a bit brushy in a few spots.

The BOTW area has many entry points but I like this one because the distance to a good camp is short and it's a not-so-heavily-used area. To get to this north entry point, travel on the Clackamas River road 46, then roads 63, 70, 7030, and then right on 7020. Signs on the last part will read for the Whetstone Trail. The trail number is 546. There are a couple of junctions, but keep on 546 and at about 4.5 miles you will top out at the saddle.

There is nothing to indicate that this is Silver King Saddle, but we recognized it anyway. We found nice camping spots off to the left. We knew there was supposed to be a spring a short way down on trail 544 so I followed it, sort of off to the right, and just about 100 yards down I found it, beautiful clear water coming right out of the hill.

Back at the saddle I looked around to find the other part of 544 going down to Silver King Lake and Bagby Hot Springs. It was hidden behind some bushes but was clear enough once found. There are no destinations stated

on the 544 sections, only the number, and the signs are small and not very obvious. This is a Wilderness.

After breakfast the next morning we day-hiked to Twin Lakes then, back at camp, two of the fellows went off to see Silver King Lake.


Our beginner backpacker learned that it is well to look around carefully upon entering a well-used camping area. Things look different when it's time to find the trail again.

We got rain that night but it ended about 7:30am, just right for breakfast, packing up, and the hike out.—Paula Hyatt, Salem, 6/24-26.


FOREST SERVICE CABINS—Mount Hood National Forest has two cabins for rent.

One is at Lost Lake; call 503-386-6366 for information. The other is at Olallie Lake; call 503-637-6340 for information (leave message).

IDAHO

 **SAWTOOTH WILDERNESS** (*Stanley/Atlanta*)—Very dry and smoky from fires in nearby forests. No open natural fires allowed so be sure to bring your portable stove.

Trails are well maintained and despite dry conditions, the area is breathtaking. Forest Service considering disallowing ALL open flames, period. YIKES!—Allen Jones, Seattle, 8/1.

 **SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS**—Seemed like everything was on fire in Washington so headed toward the Lochsa River, Lolo Pass and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area in the Clearwater National Forest. I have heard of the Lochsa Lodge for a number of years and wanted to check it out.

Took 8+ hours of driving time and

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

definitely the best route is from Spokane to Missoula, then drop down Highway 93 to Lolo and go west 50 miles over Lolo Pass to the Powell Area where the Lochsa Lodge is and also the road to Elk Summit and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Powell Campground is within walking distance of the Lodge. The Lodge has really good food, cabins, a tavern, store, showers, fish licenses, etc. The people are friendly and pleasant.

I headed the opposite way from the local fires and went to Big Sand (also called White Sand) Lake. The trailhead is at Elk Summit, where there is also a campground. Took about 4 hours to get to the lake including a layover while an especially fierce thunder-hail storm passed over.

I had heard that there were lotsa moose at the lake and it was true. In fact one was swimming in the middle—took a minute or so to figure out that those were antlers sticking out of the water. I really tried to get a close up picture but the moose complicated things by getting out of the water about 50 feet from me so rather than have a confrontation I retreated to the campground at the west end of the lake. Went back down and camped along Big Sand Creek.

The Selway-Bitterroot forest is mainly cedar, spruce, and alpine fir. It gets 10 feet of snow a year and usually about 3 inches of rain per month in the summer. While I was there it was especially hot and dry. Made hiking miserable to some extent.

The Lochsa River itself is really pretty. Some biologists in the tavern said the fishing was poor because due to the extreme warm temperature the water had warmed up so all the fish had migrated up the creek to find cooler water. The little tavern at the lodge was especially lively at night, and a must for the visitor.

Maps and info on the Selway-Bitterroot may be obtained from: Powell Ranger Station, Clearwater National Forest, Lolo MT 59847; 208-942-3113. —Dave Hoppens, Malo, 8/94.

SAWTOOTH NRA—For road information in areas where there are fires, call 800-70-IDAHO. This covers not only Idaho, but also Wyoming, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

Smoke from the fires in the Boise and Payette Forests is carried by the wind over the mountains and settles in the Wilderness, and Sawtooth Valley and Stanley Basin. The fire hazard here is high; please report any suspicious smoke. For information call the Sawtooth Visitor Center, 208-726-7672.—Roma Nelson, Sawtooth NRA, 8/15.

ALASKA



ALASKA MARINE

"TRAIL"—We explored the marine trail aboard the Alaska State Ferry system. We "camped" on the deck with our tent; travellers can also sleep under the solarium. Showers are available; hot water is free for freeze-dried "cooking." (Use of stoves is not allowed on board.) Coffee is 75¢ with one free refill and beer runs \$2.25 to \$2.75, just to name two more "essentials."

Weather dictates the tone of the trip. We had the full range from rain and wind to blue skies and sun. Wildlife viewing included whales, eagles, seals and, in Glacier Bay, brown bears.

Ketchikan provided a whole day of a walking tour (in the rain—average annual rainfall 160 inches!).

Petersburg was a nice morning walk to town. Sitka requires a bus ride from the ferry. Wrangell has a great walk out to the petroglyphs beach, then back to town.

Juneau requires a bus ride into town—go hiking around the Mendenhall Glacier; around town—up hills and out of town.

Haines requires a ride into town. We camped at Bear Creek Youth Hostel there. They picked us up at the ferry.

Skagway is an easy walk into town. The train up to White Pass will drop day or overnight hikers off and pick them up for hiking on the Chilkoot Trail. There are Forest Service cabins (and a caboose) to stay in (maximum of 3 nights) with prior reservations.

Glacier Bay is a must-see when visiting Alaska. We went on the *Spirit of Adventure*. The boat drops off and picks up hikers and kayakers in three spots in this National Park. Be sure to get a ride all the way up to Martha and Grand Pacific Glaciers to watch the glaciers calving! We were truly blessed with a rare sunny day—could see peaks to 15,000 feet high, including Fairweather.

For more information, contact these resources:

Alaska Marine Highway

Box R
Juneau AK 99811
800-642-0066.

Glacier Bay National Park

Gustavus AK 99826
907-697-2230.

Klondike National Historic Park

PO Box 517
Skagway AK 99840.

Tongass National Forest

Federal Building
Ketchikan AK 99901
907-225-3101.

The Alaska Wilderness Milepost, \$14.95, from Alaska Northwest Books, 800-331-3510.

We had a wonderful and relaxing trip. We'd be happy to answer questions from other readers planning a trip on the Alaska ferries.—Nancy and Jerry South, Brier, 7/15-29.

ELSEWHERE



MOUNT YALE, Colorado—

This is one of the Collegiate Peaks. My two older sons (Eric who is 36 and recently returned to the US after four years in the Philippines and Scott who is almost 33 and is now in Italy for three years) talked me into meeting them and their families at the Collegiate Peaks Campgrounds (ten miles from Buena Vista) this summer to reminisce over some of their boyhood experiences in Colorado.

Anytime I go to Colorado, I become concerned about getting acclimated to the altitude which, according to researchers at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, takes the human body from 3 to 7 days. By the time we arrived on Sunday afternoon, I had already spent two days above 7000 feet but my sons and their families had not. On Monday morning six of us (Eric, Drew, Hannah, Audrey, Sarah and I) decided to assist with our acclimation by hiking part way up Mount Yale on the Delaney Gulch trail which begins on the south side at Denny Creek at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

We ate lunch just above tree line and everyone seemed to be feeling good at this point. Drew, my 8 year old grandson, had led most of the way and continued to do so after lunch as we moved up through high alpine meadow. At about 12,700 feet, I thought we had gone far enough and suggested we turn back. Drew wasn't happy about this as he was determined to reach snow. He agreed to turn around only after I pointed out a patch of snow just off the trail and about 500 feet below us.

It was on our way down that mountain sickness (severe headache and upset stomach) really hit Drew who vomited several times and had the urpies the rest of the way down.

I kept coaxing him down by telling him that within five minutes after we returned to camp he wouldn't even know he had ever felt bad. He, of course, didn't believe me but sure enough, he was riding his grandmother's bike within few minutes after we returned to camp.—BN, Bainbridge Island, 7/18.

Fires

—A RUN-DOWN OF CURRENT FIRE-CAUSED CLOSURES—

The following areas have some kind of closure or restriction in effect due to the fires. It's always a good idea to call before you go to get current information.

Okanogan National Forest

509-826-3275.

These trails are closed:

- Hidden Lakes trail
- South Creek trail
- Easy Pass trail
- War Creek trail
- Reynolds Creek trail
- William Lake trail

North Cascades National Park

206-856-5700.

Travel in these areas is closed:

- Purple Creek drainage
- Boulder Creek drainage
- McAlester Pass south to Stehekin
- Rainbow Pass south to Stehekin
- Easy Pass to Junction Camp.

Chelan District, Wenatchee National Forest

509-682-2576.

These trails are closed:

- Lower Railroad Creek
- Domke Lake & Domke Mountain
- Lucerne trails
- and all trails in the 25-Mile Creek area.

Entiat District, Wenatchee National Forest

509-784-1511.

Everything is closed! No hiking, driving, camping, fishing, sightseeing, picnicking or *anything*.

Lake Wenatchee District, Wenatchee National Forest

509-763-3103.

The following are closed:

- All roads and trails leading off the 6100 road (goes to Maverick Saddle).
- All roads and trails leading off the Chiwawa road 6200. (Although the Forest Order closes all trails off the Chiwawa road, the District says they don't mind if you hike on the west side, like up to Shafer Lake and Buck Creek Pass. But definitely trails like

Rock Creek and Basalt Peak are closed. Fires are still burning on that side.)

All roads and trails off Highway 209 (Plain) and south of Highway 2, including Mill Creek, White Pine, Lake Ethel, Loch Eileen, Lake Julius.

Open areas include the White River, Little Wenatchee and Rainy Creek roads and trails.

Nason Ridge is open from Alpine Lookout west; closed east of there because of the Round Mtn fire.

Leavenworth District, Wenatchee National Forest

509-782-1413.

All roads are closed; therefore trails are also closed. Active fires are burning in the Enchantments, at 8-Mile, Caroline Lakes, Hatchery Creek, Icicle Ridge

("The trail is toast."), and Cabin Creek.

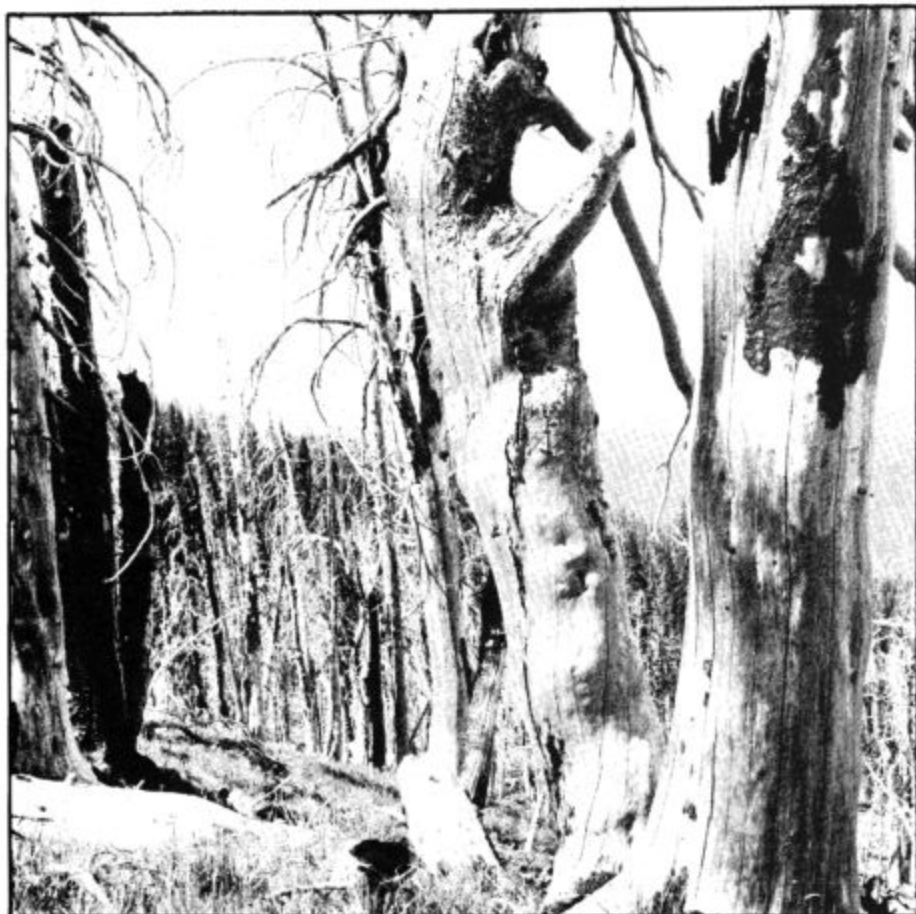
The trail closure will probably last longer than the road closure. Specific trails that are closed include Hatchery Creek, Augusta Lake and the Badlands, Blackjack Ridge, all Enchantment access trails, Icicle Ridge.

The backcountry is dangerous because of spot fires, rolling debris, and dead snags that will topple. Fire travels underground and can come up through stumps and roots, starting new fires.

Cle Elum District, Wenatchee National Forest

509-674-4411.

The PCT is closed from Lemah Meadows to Waptus Lake. If you're a through hiker, you can bypass the closure by detouring on the Waptus Pass trail. △



The silver forest from the 1970 Entiat Fire on Tyee Ridge, Entiat Ranger District.

JOHN ROPER

SALMO-PRIEST WILDERNESS

—REMOTE CROCODILE OF NORTHEAST WASHINGTON—

On the Colville National Forest map, the outline of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness in farthest northeast Washington looks like a big green crocodile about to eat Sullivan Creek.

Actually, the ravenous croc here was the logging-beast eating up Sullivan Creek into the core of this wilderness. Happily, conservationists convinced Congress to rectify the situation in 1984 when a nearly 40,000 acre wilderness was created with the Washington Wilderness Bill.

The land here is fairly typical of the mountainous upper third of far eastern Washington—wooded, glacially-smoothed high ridges that offer solitude not seen in the west.

We saw no people, nor vehicles, on our early June trip. But we also did not see any grizzly bear, moose, caribou, elk, gray wolves, or rocky mountain bighorn sheep either, although they have been reported in the area.

Whitebark pine and skinny alpine fir are the predominant evergreens in the high zone. The summits are in the

6300- to 7300-foot range.

GYPSY PEAK

The main attraction is 7320+ foot Gypsy Peak, "The Highest Peak in Eastern Washington" (east of the Columbia and Okanogan Rivers). Still, it wasn't that title that chased us all the way over there, but rather Gypsy's distinction of being the highest point in Pend Oreille County.

Although Gypsy is the highest peak in the "East," it does not qualify to be on the list of *Washington's 100 Highest Mountains with 2000-Foot of Prominence above Ridge Level* by Steve Fry, when 14 other lower summits east of the Columbia/Okanogan do. The ridge leading from Gypsy to the next higher peak (Snowy Top, 7572 feet, in Idaho) drops only to 5560+ feet, giving Gypsy a prominence of just 1721-1799 feet.

My old Navy buddy, Mickey Newhouse, flew up from San Diego to accompany me on this venture. We drove off from Sea-Tac at 3:30pm on June 8, "climbing" the "High Point of

Adams County" (a 2100+ foot wheat field near Ritzville) along the way, as we positioned ourselves for the next day's exercise. We spent the night in Newport, population 1750 and the county seat of Pend Oreille County, north of Spokane, right on the Idaho border.

Pend Oreille (pronounced pon-der-ay) was the name given to the Indians of the area by the French-Canadian fur traders for the "pendants hanging from their ears."

David Thompson, of the Northwest Fur Company, was the first white man in the area as he explored down the Pend Oreille River in 1809-10. A local pamphlet reported that this river is one of only two north-flowing rivers in North America.

Driving up the east bank (Highway 20 goes up the west side), we passed through the tiny Kalispell ("camas-root eaters") Indian Reservation and made a brief stop at Manreso Grotto, a cave once used by the Indians and settlers for ceremonies. A dirt path led up to the cave which had a crude altar and pews carved in the rock.

We visited the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station to inquire about the snow and mud conditions on our approach roads, and were fortunately tipped off to the route on Gypsy. The sky was full of high clouds with a forecasted promise to clear as we drove up the main Sullivan Creek roads 22 and 2220 about 7 miles above the lake to road 2212 (good surface).

This looped up Gypsy and Copper Creek to join spur 200 (tippy, but navigable in a Honda Accord) which we followed past Bear Pasture to a 5520+ foot pass above Leola Creek and the north end of the Crowell Ridge trail.

The mosquitoes jumped for joy at the sight and taste of the first soft flesh of the season as we packed up. We hiked the trail a half-mile to its crossing of Gypsy Creek, then left the trail for good, angling up to the main ridge crest of



Watch Lake and "Huppah Peak 7177" from Gypsy.

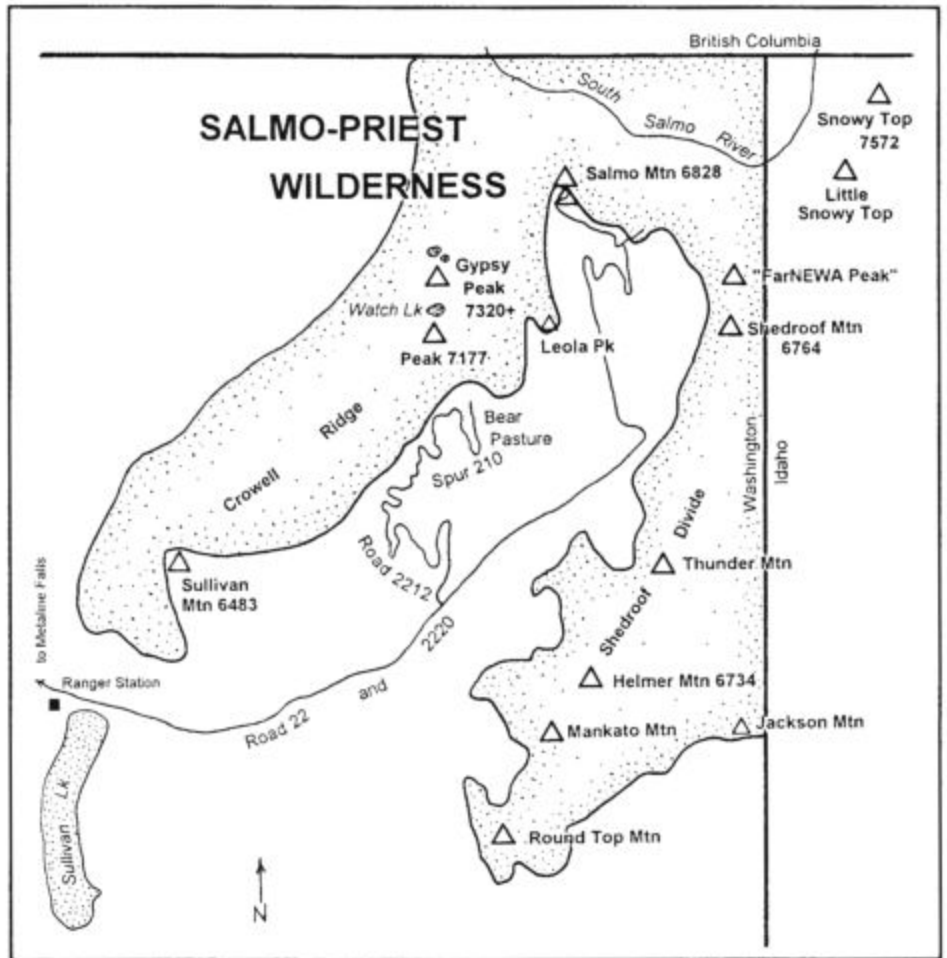
John Roper

the wilderness cirque. Much of this area was burned in the late '20s, long enough ago to have recovered some greenery, while leaving picturesque snags and big views. Bunch grass and glacier lilies were plentiful.

We followed the crest north over peaklet 6853, around the left side of peak 7177 to a pass above Watch Lake and our first view of Gypsy. From this south side, Gypsy is a bulky, gentle talus pyramid, but from the north, its steep walls drop 1000 feet down to Gypsy Lakes, making it not only the highest, but also the most visually impressive mountain of far eastern Washington.

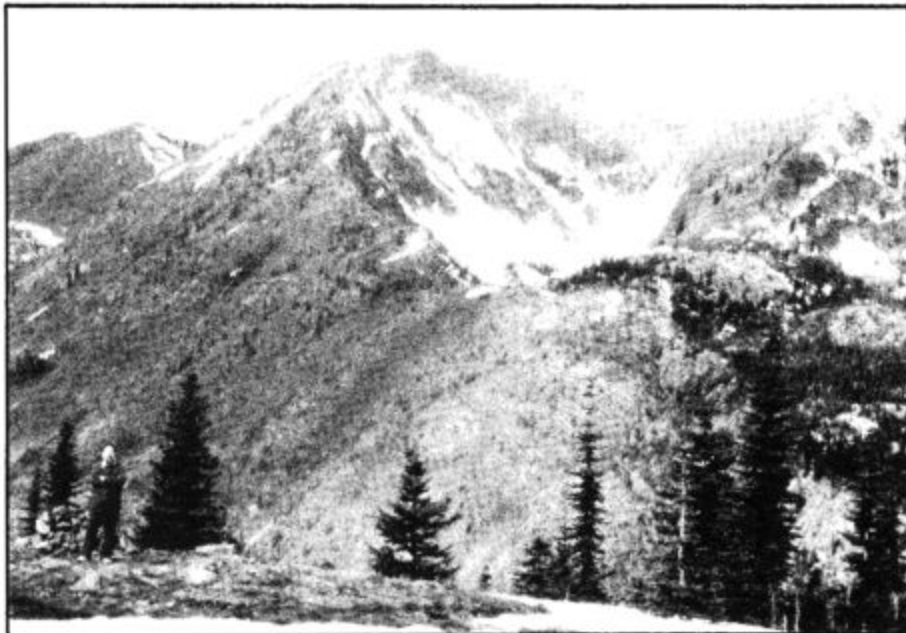
Just shy of the summit was a 1925 General Land Office Survey benchmark which locates a witness corner (WC) on a section line. This is the 7309-foot point which is the usually-quoted height of Gypsy Peak, but this point is actually a little south of the true summit, which keen-eyed map readers will discover as the 7320+ contour. There was lots of limestone exposed on the south ridge.

The other summits—there are 10 named peaks and ridges in all—are all small potatoes, though Helmer Mountain, 6734 feet, is a little meaty. Actually, the second best looking peak in this area is the unnamed 7177-foot peak above Watch Lake we'd just side-hilled around to get to Gypsy. From Gypsy, its impressive north face, laced with snow couloirs, and the calculation that it has about 400-feet of prominence above the low point between it and Gypsy, made it a necessary objective for us to do on our return to the car.



And so we did. It offers a straight-shot view down to Watch Lake with Gypsy right behind on the skyline. Peculiar tracks of white loops on the frozen surface of Watch Lake made us wonder if snowmobilers had snuck into

the Wilderness over the winter. Our personal reference name for Peak 7177 was "Huppah Peak." It took about 3 hours to get to Gypsy, and a little less to come back. Nice trip, with views most of the way.



Gypsy Peak from Salmo Mountain; Mickey Newhouse dwarfed by it all.

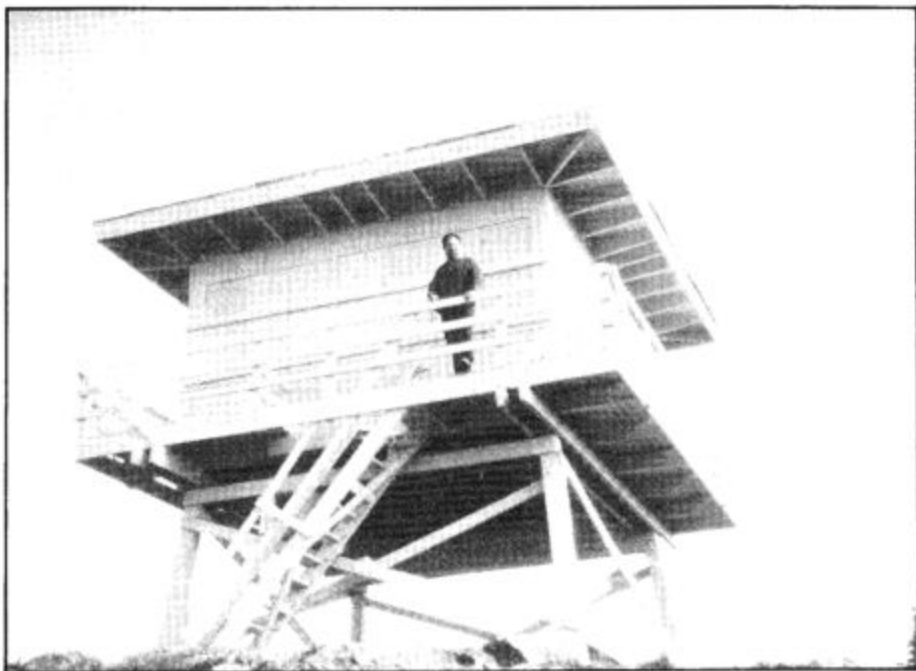
SALMO MOUNTAIN

With the long June 9 summer day, we had time to motor back down to Sullivan Creek and up its headwaters to Salmo Mountain. The road goes all the way to the slightly lower south summit of Salmo which sports a lookout, but this road was blocked by snow at the ridge crest about 0.4 mile short of the lookout.

We carried our tent and gear up to near the summit for a great overnight camp—the "Sal-Motel." Just before sunset, I walked the few hundred feet to the true north summit, 6880+ feet, returning to trade old Navy stories with Mick as the sun went down. The Milky Way was radiant that night.

The next morning, June 10, we wandered up the last bit of frozen snow-covered road to Salmo Lookout, 6828-feet, and snapped the 360-degree views.

John Roper



Mickey Newhouse at the Salmo Mountain Lookout.

The robin's-egg-blue lookout was still boarded up from the winter. This is an excellent viewpoint for the area and is easily drivable all the way probably by early July. From here you get the best look at the north wall of Gypsy and "Huppah." They look like real mountains.

Salmo shares the distinction of being "Washington's Northeastmost Named Peak" (see *Pack & Paddle*, August 1993, page 20) with Shedroof Mountain—our anticipated next goal. From Salmo Lookout, however, a small but more distinctive 6682-foot rock crag north-east of Shedroof caught our eye.

This summit was truly the *FAR*thest *NE* peak in *WA*, and cried to us to be climbed.

"FARNEWA PEAK"

It was a short drive back down the lookout road to a spur that took us to the Shedroof Divide trailhead. On the way, we had to make a quick stop on the road to let a doe and her twin fawns pass. They must have just been born—they could hardly walk.

When we stood up beside the car to take their picture, the fawns flattened down with their chests to the ground, then realizing we were friendly and not coming any closer, rose and wobbled over to their mother to nurse. Very cute. Very dear. Very deer.

The spur road to Shedroof Divide is gated just beyond a trailhead that drops into South Salmo River, the start of a

locally classic loop trip. We walked up the gated road (the other end of the loop) for a mile where it ended and became a trail.

The ridge here is about 6300 feet and the wooded trail was still largely snow-bound in early June. There was one nice opening though where a field of glacier lilies and mertensia gave us a good look at the entire Sullivan Mountain-Crowell Ridge-Gypsy-Salmo Divide, and in the other direction, from Shedroof down to Helmer Mountain.

We left the trail before it split to go into Idaho or down the Shedroof Divide and kicked steps in the snow over to the base of "Farnewa Peak," 6682 feet.

Mickey's knee was bugging him, plus the summit block appeared to be a class 4 climb, so he stayed behind to photograph my attempt. The summit rocks were really more class 3 and quickly done.

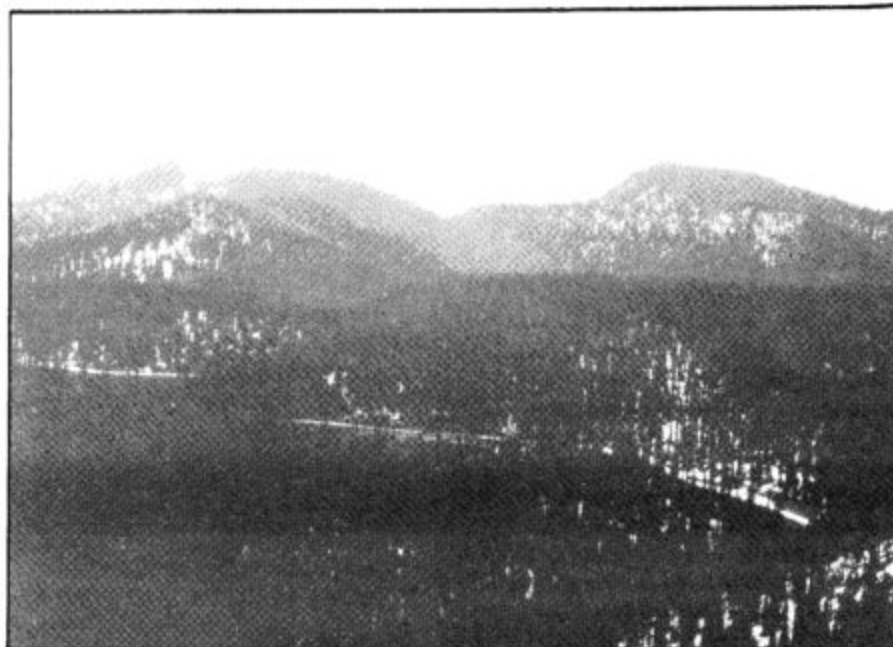
From the top, the treed, humpy Shedroof failed to inspire. Another goal we'd considered—Snowy Top, in Idaho—lost a bit of esteem in real life, alongside two equally high summits jammed right up next to it across the border in Canada—a surprise, and not shown on our US maps.

Idaho's Priest Lake glistened to the south, and to the north, we spotted the absolute northeast corner of Washington on a gentle, nondescript ridge above Crutch Creek where Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia meet.

Someday, perhaps we'll return to do the east (Shedroof Divide) and west (Crowell Ridge) jaws of the Salmo-Priest crocodile, but on this trip we were happy to have tickled the throat of this remote Wilderness.

△

John Roper, of Bellevue, grew up in the lap of the North Cascades. He is an inveterate mountain collector.



"Farnewa Peak" and Shedroof Mountain (right).

John Roper

John Roper

KAREN SYKES

Bedal Basin

—THE SPIRIT OF HARRY BEDAL LIVES ON NEAR HIS OLD CABIN—

Mary Ann Leberg and I set off in the Oldsmobile to do an exploratory trip into Bedal Basin. The late Harold Engles had told me enough about Harry Bedal and his adventures that I wanted to seek out Bedal's trapper cabin beneath Sloan Peak on this old trail.

As we drove up the steep, dirt logging road to the trailhead on July 24, we imagined that Harry must be sitting on a cloud somewhere chuckling at our antics in the car. This was a road designed to keep city people away! In fact, this road was so unfriendly to the Olds that the Olds will have to retire from such roads altogether.

Harry's road was also presenting problems for another car driven by the only other hiker we saw all day. His vehicle had to stop to "rest" many times before reaching the trailhead.

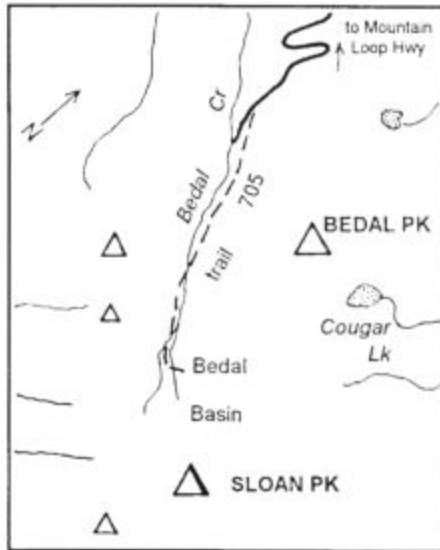
So there we were, two ailing cars and three hikers about to set foot on the Bedal Basin trail. We let the young man start ahead.

At first it didn't seem much worse than any trail in the Monte Cristo/Darlington region. Steep, uneven, rooty, and rocky, but we had to admit that Harry's plan to keep people out of his basin was working—the trail was by far the worst I have been on in a long time.

It is the middle of summer and, of course, all the brush is at its peak. Nettles, devil's club, slide alder, salmonberry have all mingled together in an almost successful attempt to completely obscure Harry's trail.

The trail passes through several patches of brush 8 or 9 feet high that completely cover the ground. You feel your way along with your boots because you can't see. The only thing that kept us going was our desire to fool Harry's ghost and get to the basin. We were occasionally rewarded by fat, sweet salmonberries that grew at mouth level. The tunnels of brush are occasionally interspersed with brief respites of good tread through old growth. Here the undergrowth is gentler with ferns and wild flowers.

100 Hikes in Glacier Peak mentions



a good campsite near the creek that the climbers used to use but we never found it. The campsite we did find was rather dour and unpleasant. The trail crosses the creek a couple of times and the book warns that tread is sometimes non-existent past these initial crossings.

At either the second or third crossing a red and white ribbon seems to announce the end of the trail. That ribbon is where the young man turned around. He said he couldn't find the trail beyond that point. We wondered—could we? When we reached the ribbon that heralded the end of true hiking, we just kept going.

The guide mentions several crossings of the stream so we followed the streambed and it turns out the streambed IS the trail! We bumbled around through the slippery rocks and slide alder and found the trail again.

We followed the trail to the edge of the basin and just stood there with (I imagine) stupefied looks on our faces. Bedal Basin is *paradise*. I wondered why anyone would ever want to spend time anywhere else (though there are several places in the Monte Cristo area that give Bedal Basin a run for its money).

House-sized boulders, yellow and scarlet monkey flowers, clumps of hem-

locks, and above all, the stern beauty of Sloan and off to the left, the rather dangerous-looking Bedal Peak, named after Harry, of course.

Harry had some other tricks up his sleeve today, including clouds of black flies that hardly paused at our arsenal of bug juice.

We soon found the remains of the cabin. There's not much left but I swear I felt the place had a spirit. We talked in whispers.

A few rotted timbers, some old pots and pans, even a piece of crockery, part of an old cup, an old frying pan, an enamel basin—we left everything as it was. As it should be left. We sat for a while in the solitude and the beauty of the basin wishing we had more time, like maybe a few years to spend there, like maybe the rest of our lives.

We left the basin finally and I wondered, as I do sometimes, would I ever come back to this place? Or will Harry finally shut the door on this old trail by letting the brush grow another foot or two? Or will enough lunatics like us continue to return, just enough to keep the trail barely open, making it just difficult enough that most hikers turn away so only a few will return each year.

Flowers and butterflies all the way down the streambed, then the battle with the brush. Finally emerged from the forest, sweaty, hot, fly-bitten and stung by nettles but happy. Thank God the Olds started and we got all the way back to Seattle without any vehicular catastrophes. It's been a week now since I visited the basin, but I still feel the place.

It's about 6 miles round-trip with 2200 feet gain. The road to the trailhead is okay for the kinds of cars most Mountaineers seem to have these days, but if you've got an ailing Olds try calling a friend with a Jeep or a Bronco. The Olds hasn't recovered from that trip yet.

△

Karen Sykes, of Seattle, is a member of The Mountaineers and a frequent contributor to Pack & Paddle.

MAURI S. PELTO

Where Have All the Glaciers Gone?

—RECENT RETREAT OF NORTH CASCADE GLACIERS AND CHANGES IN NORTH CASCADE STREAMFLOW—

The North Cascades has the largest concentration of glaciers in the lower 48 states—but no North Cascade glacier can be reached without significant effort.

In Alaska, Europe's Alps or Canada's Rocky Mountains a number of glaciers can be reached by road or ski lift. Driving on any of the three highways that cross the North Cascades, you will obtain only occasional glimpses of a glacier. In contrast, standing upon a North Cascade peak a sea of snow covered summits dominates your view. North Cascade glaciers are a world apart, remote yet vital to us.

The North Cascade Glacier Climate Project was established in 1983 to monitor the response of North Cascade glaciers and glacier runoff to changes in climate. As director of the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project since 1983, I have had the opportunity to visit 136 North Cascade glaciers.

The North Cascades currently support approximately 725 glaciers (Post and others, 1971; Pelto, 1993). North Cascade glaciers attract our attention because of their beauty, power, and inaccessibility. But more importantly these glaciers store as much water as all of the states' lakes, rivers and reservoirs combined, and provide 25% of the North Cascade region's total summer water supply.

During the dry months of June through September, North Cascade glaciers release approximately 230 billion gallons of water annually. Today this water is nearly fully utilized for irrigation and power generation, and still our demands on North Cascade streams are ever increasing.

All too often we take our natural resources for granted. From 1944 to 1976, North Cascade glaciers were in good health providing consistent runoff

(Tangborn, 1980).

Today, after several decades of stability North Cascade glaciers are in retreat. Between 1978 and 1987 Lewis Glacier near Rainy Pass shrank from 90 to 17 acres in size. The summer of 1987 proved to be too much for the Lewis Glacier and by 1989 it was non-existent.

The following examines how climate warming is affecting our glaciers and alpine streamflow in the North Cascades.

RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE

In the North Cascades a comparison of the long term (1950-1980) and short term (1985-1993) mean monthly temperature and monthly precipitation from the eight North Cascade mountain weather stations illustrates three important climate changes for the 1985-1993 period:

- 1) That the ablation season mean temperature has been 1.9°F above the long term mean;
- 2) That winter precipitation has been 9% below the long term mean;
- 3) That mean April-June temperature is 2.3°F above the long term mean.

What has the effect of this climate change been on North Cascade glaciers and streamflow?

RETREAT OF NORTH CASCADE GLACIERS

From 1944-1976 glaciers in the North Cascades experienced a period of slight growth (Tangborn, 1980).

In 1973, of ten North Cascades glaciers observed by the USGS, nine were advancing and one was retreating (Pelto, 1993).

By 1985, of 47 glaciers observed by NCGCP, 41 were retreating (Pelto, 1993).

In 1993, all 45 of the remaining same 47 glaciers were retreating; the other 2 had disappeared—David and



The Lynch Glacier early in the study. The terminus fills the basin and has much morainal material on it.

Lewis Glaciers had completely melted away by 1990 (Table 1).

Examining the recent past in the Mount Stuart area, 15 glaciers existed in 1969; today 12 are left, and of these 4 are on the verge of vanishing.

At the turn of the century, Snow Creek Glacier comprised three ice masses separated by narrow bedrock ridges and covered 2.0 km². Today, there are nine ice masses covering just 0.4 km² (Pelto, 1993).

In 1958, Hinman Glacier on Mount Hinman was the largest glacier between Mount Rainier and Glacier Peak with an area of 1.3 km² (Post et al, 1971).

By 1992, the glacier had separated into three masses with a total area of 0.4 km² (Pelto, 1993).

In 1965 Lynch Glacier on Mount Daniel had an area of 0.9 km². In 1992 the glacier had shrunk to 0.5 km² (Pelto, 1993). The former location of the termini of the Lynch and Hinman Glaciers are now occupied by significant lakes.

Between 1984 and 1993 Lyman Glacier on Chiwawa Peak shrank from an area of 0.4 km² to 0.25 km².

Whitechuck Glacier on Glacier Peak had an area of 2.7 km² in 1969. By 1992 its area had been reduced to 1.9 km².

In 1974 all seven Mount Baker glaciers observed by the USGS were advancing. In 1993 all eight Mount Baker glaciers observed by NCGCP were retreating, average retreat being 62 m.

Measurements of changes in the volume of snow and ice conducted each summer by NCGCP on 10 North Cascade glaciers indicates that between 1984 and 1993 the average North Cascade glacier lost 3.0 m of ice thickness.

Given a mean thickness of between 33 m and 50 m this represents a 5% to 8% loss in volume of North Cascade glaciers in the last decade. This loss of volume will ensure continued retreat in the near future.

CHANGES IN ALPINE STREAMFLOW

New hydroelectric projects are being proposed and some started, higher streamflows for salmon are being required, and water usage by the growing population of the Puget Lowlands is tapping additional water flow.

Yet, there has been a recent decrease in summer streamflow in alpine watersheds in the North Cascades.

Examination of runoff records from

Table 1. The change in terminus position of 47 North Cascade glaciers between August 1984 and in August 1992 (*) or August 1993.

| Glacier | Terminus Change (m) | Latitude | Longitude |
|------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Bacon Creek | -27* | 48 40 | 121 30 |
| 2. Black | -18* | 48 32 | 120 48 |
| 3. Cache Col | -33 | 48 27 | 121 03 |
| 4. Chimney Rock | -21 | 47 30 | 121 17 |
| 5. Colchuck | -34 | 47 29 | 120 50 |
| 6. Colonial | -43 | 48 40 | 121 08 |
| 7. Columbia | -38 | 47 58 | 121 21 |
| 8. Daniels | -51 | 47 34 | 121 10 |
| 9. David | Gone | 47 55 | 120 55 |
| 10. East Curtis | -27 | 48 49 | 121 37 |
| 11. Eldorado | -29 | 48 31 | 121 08 |
| 12. Fischer | -45 | 48 33 | 120 51 |
| 13. Foss | -48 | 47 34 | 121 12 |
| 14. Hadley | -29 | 48 49 | 121 49 |
| 15. Hidden Creek | -24 | 48 44 | 121 30 |
| 16. Ice Worm | -56 | 47 34 | 121 10 |
| 17. Isella | -52 | 48 14 | 120 52 |
| 18. Johannesburg | -26 | 48 28 | 121 06 |
| 19. LeConte | +10* | 48 22 | 121 05 |
| 20. Lewis | Gone | 48 31 | 120 48 |
| 21. Lower Curtis | -16* | 48 50 | 121 37 |
| 22. Lyall | -44 | 48 29 | 120 45 |
| 23. Lyman | -81 | 48 10 | 120 54 |
| 24. Lynch | -46 | 47 34 | 121 11 |
| 25. Mazama | -51* | 48 48 | 121 48 |
| 26. Mid Cascade | -48 | 48 25 | 121 03 |
| 27. Mixup | -36 | 48 27 | 121 02 |
| 28. Mutchler | -22 | 48 24 | 121 15 |
| 29. Noisy Creek | -29* | 48 40 | 121 32 |
| 30. North Watson | -38 | 48 39 | 121 34 |
| 31. Overcoat | -31 | 47 30 | 121 18 |
| 32. Hinman | -202 | 48 04 | 120 59 |
| 33. Ptarmigan | -39 | 48 49 | 121 45 |
| 34. Quien Sabe | -59 | 48 30 | 121 03 |
| 35. Rainbow | -73 | 48 48 | 121 46 |
| 36. Ruth | -19 | 48 52 | 121 32 |
| 37. Sahale | -34 | 48 49 | 121 02 |
| 38. Shoales | -40 | 48 29 | 121 46 |
| 39. Sitkum | -51* | 48 06 | 121 07 |
| 40. Snowking | -12 | 48 25 | 121 17 |
| 41. Spider | -8 | 48 10 | 120 53 |
| 42. Stuart | -36 | 47 12 | 120 54 |
| 43. Walrus | 0* | 48 03 | 120 58 |
| 44. White Chuck | -32* | 48 13 | 121 25 |
| 45. White Salmon | -24 | 48 50 | 121 37 |
| 46. Wilman | -23 | 47 58 | 121 22 |
| 47. Yawning | -25 | 48 27 | 121 02 |

nine North Cascade streams indicate three significant changes in alpine runoff in the North Cascades for the 1985-1993 period (Table 2):

1) A 30% increase in mean November runoff primarily reflecting two large storm events in 1990 and 1991, in 1991 causing extensive erosion and

flooding in the North Cascade region.

2) An increase of 16% in February-April runoff, despite below average precipitation in the period, thus reflecting increased early season melting.

3) Decreased June-September runoff. Annual runoff has changed only moderately due to a slight drop in annual



The Lynch Glacier in 1987.
The glacier has retreated out of the basin now filled by "Pea Soup Lake," just visible at bottom.

precipitation but the aforementioned changes in the timing of the runoff are important.

Increased spring flow raises flood and erosion potential during an already high water period. Reduced summer runoff stresses aquatic ecosystems during a low flow period.

Changes in North Cascade streamflow in November and from February-May are similar in glaciated and non-glaciated basins. However, there is a significant difference in the change in summer runoff.

The reduction of runoff from July-September has averaged 36% in Newhalem Creek Basin and Skykomish River Basin, each with less than 1% glacial cover.

The reduction for the July-September period has ranged from 12% to 14% in Thunder Creek, Stehekin River and North Fork Nooksack River basins, the three basins with more than 3% glaciated area.

This illustrates that a significant change in late summer runoff has occurred in the North Cascades and that

this change is less pronounced in glacier basins, demonstrating the critical role glaciers play late in the summer in moderating late summer low flow periods (Table 2).

Total summer runoff in the North Cascades is best predicted by winter precipitation (Rasmussen and Tangborn, 1976). This reflects the fact that 80% of the annual precipitation falls during this period, that much of the summer precipitation is lost to evapotranspiration, and that most of the winter precipitation which falls as snow is retained until May (Rasmussen and Tangborn, 1976).

Because winter precipitation has declined, and the higher spring runoff indicates an earlier onset of snowpack melting, non-glacier snowcovered areas during the late summer have been significantly reduced during the 1985-1993 period.

Since precipitation is low during the late summer, streamflow has declined substantially in non-glaciated and lightly glaciated basins, as the extent of snowpack has declined.

THE ROLE OF GLACIERS IN LATE SUMMER ALPINE STREAMFLOW

Fountain and Tangborn (1985) documented the ability of glaciers to store meltwater in the spring, delaying peak spring runoff by 2 to 6 weeks.

Glacier runoff peaks in the late summer because melting is highest during this period. This is a low flow period for North Cascade streams; thus, glaciers buffer low flows in North Cascade streams (Pelto, 1992).

The buffering capacity of glaciers is demonstrated by comparing runoff from heavily glaciated Thunder Creek and the adjacent lightly glaciated Newhalem Creek during drought periods.

During drought periods stream flow dropped by only 18% in Thunder Creek Basin versus 34% in Newhalem Creek Basin (Table 3).

Just how crucial even a small glacier can be to streamflow is illustrated by comparing streamflow from non-glacier and glacier covered areas.

Measurement of streamflow by the USGS in August from three unglaciated North Cascade basins—Newhalem Creek, Wallace River and North Fork Snoqualmie River—indicate that mean runoff from non-glacier alpine areas in the North Cascades is 24 gallons/m² a month.

Measurement of runoff at the termini of ten glaciers by NCGCP indicates glacier runoff is 316 gallons/m² a month. This is a 1316% increase versus non-glacier areas (Pelto, 1993).

During August droughts mean non-glacier flow is 18 gallons/m² month and glacier ablation and consequent runoff is 360 gallons/m² month, a 2000% increase for glacier areas.

A small area of glacier cover is then important to total basin runoff. In Stehekin Basin even though the glaciated area is only 3.1%, based on runoff measurements conducted from 1985-1989 below Yawning and Cache Col Glaciers, glaciers provide 35% to 40% of the basin's total late summer runoff.

The loss of glacier area is unlikely to actually result in a 1333-2200% decline in late summer runoff, because the formerly

Table 2. Percentage change in mean monthly discharge on five North Cascade streams gauged by the USGS from the 1950-1980 period to the 1985-1993 period.

| | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Annual |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Newhalem | - 3 | +46 | -17 | - 8 | +16 | +15 | +29 | + 8 | -17 | -33 | -37 | -37 | - 2 |
| Skykomish | -14 | +41 | -32 | - 1 | + 4 | + 4 | +18 | - 8 | -25 | -37 | -35 | -36 | - 8 |
| Stehekin | - 8 | +56 | - 9 | -22 | + 5 | +28 | +20 | - 3 | -19 | -21 | - 9 | -13 | - 6 |
| Nooksack | - 6 | +26 | -25 | - 6 | + 7 | +19 | +34 | + 9 | - 5 | -12 | - 6 | -18 | 0 |
| Thunder | - 9 | +37 | -16 | - 2 | + 2 | +19 | +31 | +12 | - 6 | -13 | - 7 | -20 | - 1 |

glaciated area is still a high alpine basin that will retain greater late summer snow pack than most non-glacier areas.

How much is the decline in the short term? Changes occurring due to glacier retreat have been observed in the Lewis Glacier Basin. NCGCP emplaced a stream gauge during the summers of 1985-1990.

In August 1985, Lewis Glacier had an area of 22 acres and released 40 million gallons of runoff. By August 1990, Lewis Glacier had disappeared, runoff from the former glacier basin was 10 million gallons, only 27% of the glaciated flow. This is despite the fact that some relict glacier ice still existed, and that monthly precipitation was the same.

As glaciers retreat their area exposed for melting declines, and summer glacier runoff will decline. The loss of glacier area has accounted for a portion of the drop in total summer runoff in Skykomish Basin and Stehekin Basin.

The South Fork Skykomish River Basin has lost through the retreat of the Foss, Lynch and Hinman Glaciers 42% of its total glacier covered area since 1958, most of this loss occurring since 1985.

The result has been a substantial decrease in late summer streamflow. The loss of glacier area has been rapid in many cases. This loss has been partially masked by net volume loss of the glaciers.

Today our demands on North Cascade streams are ever increasing, yet our summer supply in the North Cascades has decreased.

Given the current climate, glacier retreat will continue leading to greater decreases in summer streamflow. The recent changes in runoff for North Cascade streams emphasize the futility of managing our water resources without



Hinman Glacier in 1992 and the new unnamed lake. In 1958 photographs used to make the current USGS maps, Hinman Glacier terminated at the far end of the new lake.

considering the changing influence of glaciers.

Whether packing or paddling you are likely to notice the changes in glacier size or the consequent changes in alpine streamflow.



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Mauri Pelto is originally a cross-country ski racer from Michigan. He became interested in glaciology because of his interest in skiing, but eventually he dropped the racing and kept the glaciers.

He now lives in Dudley, Massachusetts, where he is director of the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project at Nichols College.

GLACIER PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED—

NCGCP is establishing an archive of photographs of North Cascade glaciers, to serve as a present and future historic record of glacier variations.

Because NCGCP cannot observe most North Cascade glaciers, it needs your help to document their fluctuations.

The collection will be duplicated and housed both in Sedro Woolley and Seattle under the aegis of the National Park Service.

Photographs are valuable if they show either the entire glacier or the terminus of the glacier. Though the project cannot compensate you monetarily for the picture, you will be properly credited in the archive.

Please send contributions, with as much documentation as possible, to

**North Cascade Glacier
Climate Project
Nichols College
Dudley MA 01571.**

Table 3. Stream flow during drought conditions in unglaciated Newhalem Creek Basin and glaciated Thunder Creek Basin (Pelto, 1992).

| Date | Newhalem m ³ | Thunder m ³ |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Aug. 1969 | 2.0 | 20.1 |
| Aug. 1970 | 1.7 | 23.4 |
| Aug. 1979 | 1.8 | 27.3 |
| Aug. 1985 | 1.8 | 22.0 |
| Aug. 1987 | 1.9 | 22.6 |
| Aug. 1992 | 1.7 | 28.9 |
| Mean Flow | 2.8 | 28.1 |
| % Depletion | 34% | 18% |

RAMONA HAMMERLY

the West Coast Trail

—STILL ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING TRIPS AROUND—

I spent some time in July hiking the West Coast Trail, in Canada's Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

Here are some notes and information that may help you if you are planning the same trip.

Long Beach Unit—This portion is accessible by auto and easy trails; including Schooner Walk-in Camping and an 0.8 km boardwalk through a shore pine bog. A \$5 daily parking fee is charged—government money for parks is short.

West Coast Trail—This is wildly dissected country with lots of mud, slippery logs and roots, and (thankfully) boardwalks.

By comparison, the Olympic beach strip is a cake walk. I added caulks to my vibrams (see "Ice Points," page 30, July 1993 *Pack & Paddle*) and found them very fine on wet wood, but mud tended to ball-up on the deeply incised soles. People with shallow tread patterns left clean footprints.

Starting from Pachena Bay (free trailhead camping) and walking the beach where advisable, I found the trail arduous and muddy, but reasonably good, as far as Walbran Creek (53 km).

Then the "how-the-heck-do-I-get-over-this?" confrontations began with various undescrivable gaps in the "trail."

The section from Walbran Creek to Cullite Creek struck me as the worst. It did have its high points: a pine bog, a cedar bog—and looking at sundews from the comfort of the boardwalk (when it existed) was cool. The suspen-

sion bridge over Logan Creek looks like a Nepalese should be leading a yak across it, except that a ladder provides access at one end.

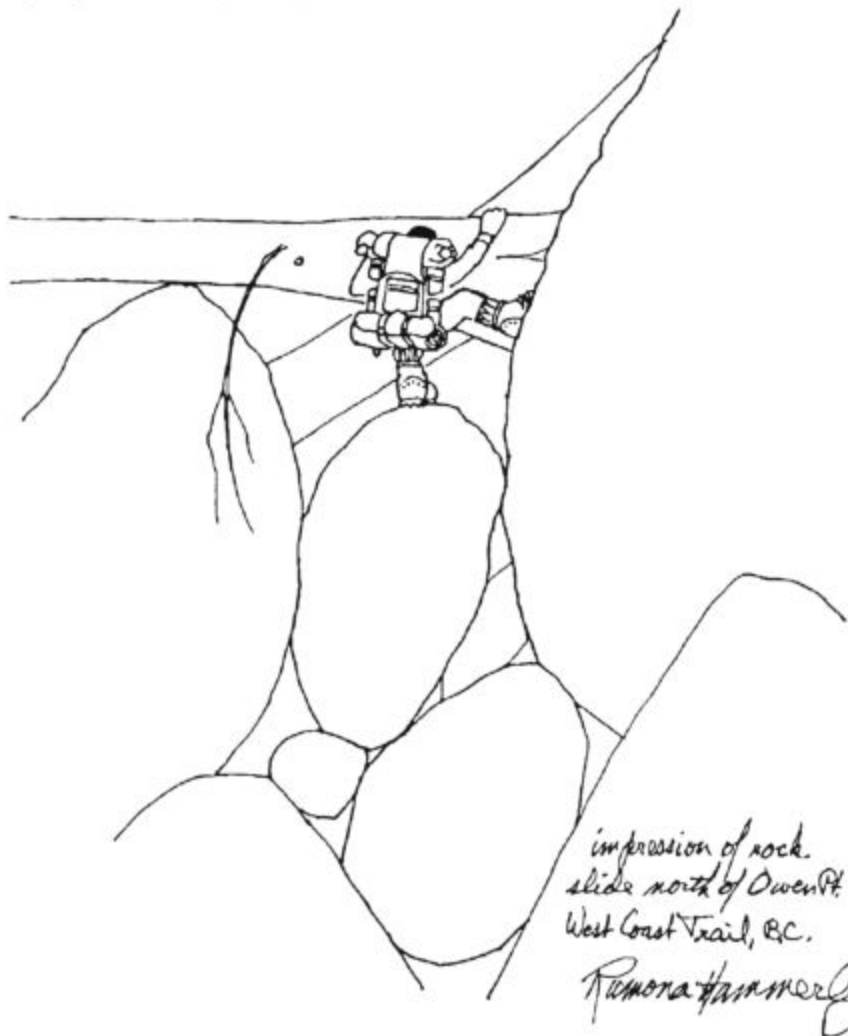
Five of the six cable cars were functioning. One had only recently been redone—a tree had fallen on the car.

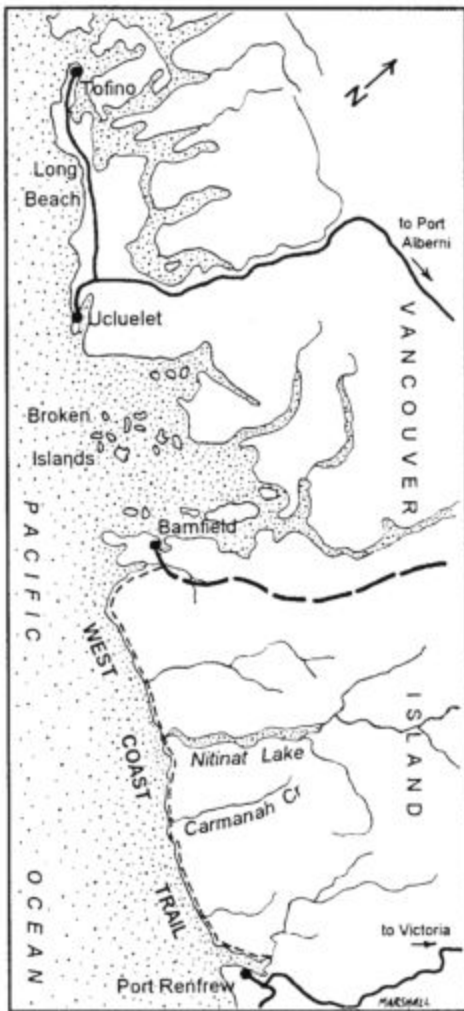
There are so many bridges (over 100) and groups of ladders (over 30) that the

Park numbers them to keep track. Some of each were out—from winter storm damage (wind falls, slides, and flooding).

Handlines sometimes provided an assist, and water levels were low the second week of July, so I had a relatively easy time of it. Had fog, but no rain.

The official map indicates which





routes are normally "passable" and marks impassable headlands.

The ferryman checks every hour or so between 11am and 5pm at Nitinat Narrows (\$5/person). A boat runs 4 times a day in a loop from Port Renfrew to Thrasher Cove (fair weather) and Gordon River (\$10/person).

The bus was going from Port Renfrew to Bamfield and back every afternoon and occasionally made a morning run (\$40/person, minimum 4 people, maximum 8).

Transportation is available from both Victoria and Port Alberni to both ends of the trail.

BC ferries run from Tsawwassen (just across the border) to Nanaimo as well as the route from Horseshoe Bay that is shown on road maps.

Canadian tide tables use a different reference level and are not corrected to daylight saving time. The Ranger has a supply to tape to your map.

The West Coast Trail is a social experience and a physical challenge.

Streams are named on bridges, there are two light stations (one included a small gift shop), and km markers provide orientation.

Indian Reserve 6 (half hour west of Carmanah Creek) invited camping and offered cold drinks and home cooked breakfasts (a stream provides refrigeration).

Carmanah Creek (46km) is considered the half way point time-wise. Trail is 75km.

The standard guidebook is *The West Coast Trail* by the Sierra Club, just released in a 7th edition by The Mountaineers (800-553-4453).

Another guidebook is *Blisters & Bliss*, by D. Foster and W. Aitken (4081 San Capri Terrace, Victoria BC V8N 2J6). I only got a glance at it, but it has cartoons and is said to offer a lighter approach than the Sierra Club guidebook.

To make reservations, call 800-663-6000 (Canada and the US); 663-6000 (Vancouver only); or 604-387-1642 (outside Canada and the US). I got through to the reservation desk last March first on the eighth call. (March first is the first day of phone reservations; 27 operators were on duty.) The reservation fee is \$25 per person and group size is limited to ten people.

Each day 52 people are allowed to start the trek, half from Bamfield and half from Port Renfrew. Twenty spots per day per approach are reserved in advance, leaving the remainder for drop-ins at each end in addition to no-shows.

Rumor is that the reservation fee will be higher next year to raise funds for the Park (\$65 per person was mentioned).

For general information, write:
Pacific Rim National Park
Box 280
Ucluelet BC V0R 3A0
Canada
 or phone: 604-726-7721.



Ramona Hammerly, of Anacortes, is an artist whose work has appeared in many books and galleries. She has been hiking and mountaineering for over twenty years.

DEBORAH RIEHL

RESCUE EPICS

—IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, GET OUT OF THE HILLS—

I've been in rescue in one form or another since 1969. But July and August 1994 is the first time I've been called to a forest fire.

Mountain Rescue has assisted in mopping up spot fires in cliffy areas in the past but the magnitude of the fires in the Entiat-Chelan-Leavenworth area seemed to hold no promise of any work for us.

As I surfed the ham radio short waves the weekend of July 30-31 the fires in Washington were the topic of discussion all over the world. When I got home Sunday a message on my answering machine asked if I knew any hams who would like to serve as communicators over on the fire line. Sure—me, for one.

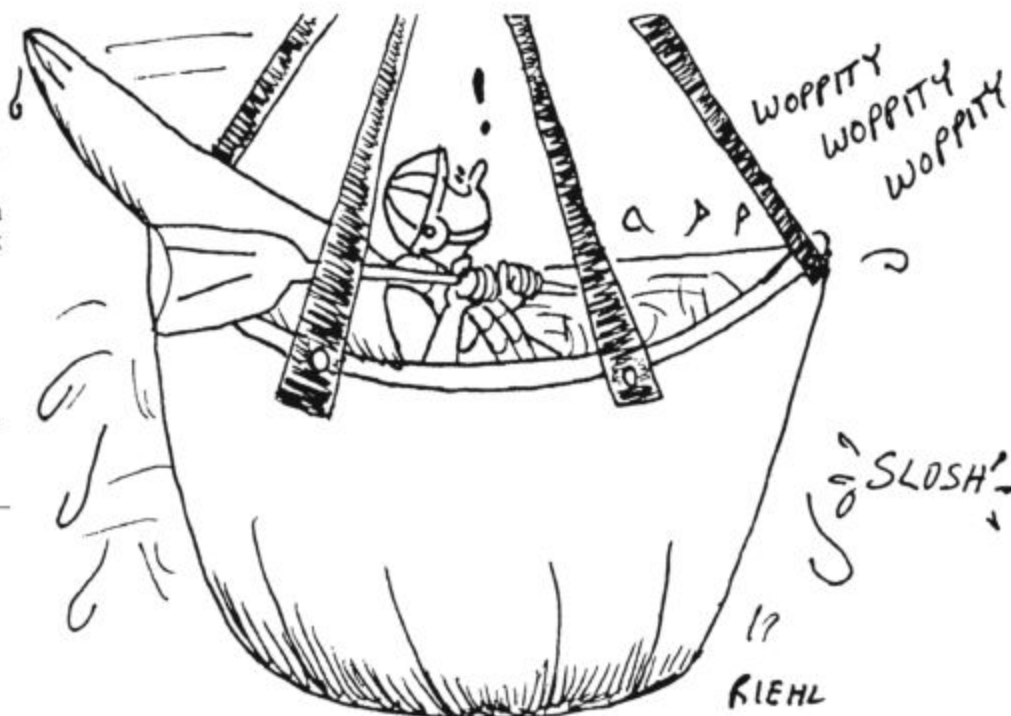
I was assigned to Entiat Fire Base. Driving over Blewett Pass I encountered the first smoke and devastation. The sun turned from copper to blood red, then disappeared behind a pall of smoke.

On arrival I was issued flame-proof Aramid clothing, goggles, a canteen, gloves, first aid kit, head lamp, batteries and an emergency fire shelter.

There were 3500 fire fighters and support personnel based at the fire camp. Hams were assigned to all the fire camps, staging areas, shelters, and fire lines and the headquarters at the Chelan County Courthouse.

Over and over I had fire chiefs and smoke eaters say, "You're the only folks who can talk to *everybody*."

It was a microcosm of America at the camp—Marines, National Guard, Department of Natural Resources, Forest



Service, urban firefighters and wild land "hotshots." The Strike Team Leader of one Blackfoot Indian fire-fighting team was named Crazy Mule. The structural (fire engine) teams were from all over the middle and western United States.

The appreciation of the local communities was gratifying. "Thank you!" signs were everywhere. People walked up to us to thank us personally.

One person delivered homemade free bandannas to the fire camp which helped screen out a *little* of the smoke.

One couple showed up at the camp with a homemade pie and stood staring at the multitudes. I'm not sure who got

the pie!

When I got home my brother reported the Chelan hydroplane at Seafair had "Thanks, Firefighters!" painted on it.

The capriciousness of the fire was amazing. One house would be burned to the ground and the one next door would be untouched. Many homes I saw were spared but the fire had burned right up to their back doors—saved by the Herculean efforts of firefighters.

One afternoon I got off at 4pm so I drove up the Entiat River Road to the "town" of Brief, where there is a big open field from which I could look

MARIAN HELLING

Wilderness Education: How You Can Help!

How was your wilderness trip this summer? Did you camp on a blue-green glacier at 9,000 feet? Swim in a pure, mountain lake underneath snow-capped mountains? Meditate on a rock at the edge of a wildflower-filled meadow? The warm memories you keep from your summer trips will carry your spirit forward through another Northwest winter.

The things you will try not to remember are litter on the trail and in fire rings, branches cut off trees, toilet paper in the bushes, purifying the "pure" mountain streamwater, the noise and sight of numerous hikers on the trail and at campsites.

Those memories conflict with our idea of wilderness. As the Puget Sound region becomes more populated and interest in outdoor activities grows, the inevitable result is more people using a limited resource—wilderness.

Education plays a major role in reducing human impacts. Teaching visi-



tors about wilderness values, philosophies and skills will benefit wilderness as the instruction is passed on from generation to generation.

The challenge of reaching every visitor before they arrive at the trailhead is enormous. Many users are not members of clubs or organizations. The majority

of visitors pick up a guidebook and head out to the mountains with very little knowledge about how or why they should treat the wilderness gently.

Efforts are underway to form an independent, public group that would develop and coordinate a wilderness education program for the Puget Sound region. The group will have equal participation from organizations, agencies and individuals interested in helping to preserve wilderness through education.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, to hear your concerns and ideas about wilderness education. We want your involvement in the new wilderness education organization!

The meeting time is 7pm to 9pm at the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office at 21905 64th Ave West in Mountlake Terrace. For more information, please call Marian Helling at 206-744-3281. △

RESCUE EPICS from previous page

across the river to the south. I could see several burned-over swaths still smoking.

In some places the trees had burned; in some just the undergrowth. In other areas everything was incinerated down to the rock.

After a spectacular smokey sunset little lights winked on all over the mountainsides—they looked like campfires ... some looked like lava flows. They were still-flaring stumps and coals.

Sooty chipmunks ran back and forth between the remaining patches of green. A sow bear and her cub wandered through the Leavenworth fire camp. A rattlesnake was relocated to a safe area (for all concerned) from the same camp.

We "wet-siders" suffered in the 90° heat. The first morning I awoke covered with a fine layer of grit and ash—

shades of Mount Saint Helens in 1980!

Another bit of Americana—t-shirts. T-shirt hawkers arrived simultaneously with the first firefighters. The shirts are a favorite souvenir of the crews.

On my way over Stevens Pass I finally got to rescue someone—a group of firefighters on their way home, too.

They were stranded on the side of the road with an engine with a blown tire. They had no spare, and couldn't get the old tire off the rim anyway, and they couldn't raise Leavenworth firebase on their radios.

Once again, enter ham radio. A call from me to the ham back at Leavenworth brought a mechanic with hydraulics and a new tire.

The firefighters suggested I paint a fire truck on my side window in commemoration of my "save." Their engines were all decorated with miniature houses. △

Many hiking areas have been closed due to the fires. Fire danger is going to remain high, and wildland fire season has just begun. Best to call ahead and check on conditions.

Some backpackers in the Enchantment Lakes had to be led out by way of Aasgard Pass when the Snow Lakes route was cut off by fire.

Also, you kayakers watch out for the helicopter-cranes dipping water with their huge buckets ... △

Debby Riehl, AA7RW, lives in North Creek and is a member of Seattle Mountain Rescue's Board of Trustees and Ski Patrol Rescue Team Board of Directors.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

MOUNTAIN GOAT CENSUS—A census of the mountain goat population in the Olympic Mountains was conducted at the end of July. A current estimate of the mountain goat population is needed to assess the effects of previous management programs and to accurately complete the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding management of the population. The last census of mountain goats in the Olympic Range was completed in the summer of 1990.

Information obtained through this census operation will be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The DEIS, previously scheduled for release in mid-August, is now expected to be complete in the fall. A longer than anticipated internal review process in Washington, DC, has caused this most recent delay.

SNOQUALMIE PASS EXPANSION

—In response to the public input from the various Scoping Meetings and letters received, Ski Lifts Inc has modified its proposed Master Plan in an effort to avoid or lessen potential impacts. The changes include:

- Moving the proposed Creek Run Lodge (between the Silver Fir Chair and Hyak) to the base area of the Silver Fir Chair.

- Elimination of the proposed parking lot near the base of the proposed Creek Run Lift. Instead, additional parking is proposed in the immediate vicinity of the Silver Fir base.

- Realignment of the base of the proposed Creek Run Chair lower lift terminal to mitigate wetlands issues.

- Elimination of the Frog Lake Chair.

- Both the Radio Mountain and Lodge Lake areas are no longer proposed for immediate expansion, but may be considered at a future date.

DISTANCE HIKERS' GATHERING

—The 1994 Distance Hikers' Gathering will be held at the Big Lake Youth Camp, just off the PCT at the base of Mount Washington, from October 21 through 23.

An equipment and sewing seminar will be held on the afternoon of the 21st, and the main gathering will begin the morning of the 22nd. A hike on the PCT is scheduled for the 23rd.

Cost for the Gathering is \$60 for all three days; \$35 for the Saturday/Sun-

day session; meals included. Reservations are required.

For information, write American Long Distance Hikers Association, Box 804, LaPine OR 97739. Or phone Joris Naiman and Leysa Struz (503-636-5094), or Brice and Margaret Hammack (503-292-3707).

SUNRISE ROAD CLOSURES EARLY

—At noon Tuesday, September 6, the Sunrise Road will be closed at the White River Campground junction.

The closure will allow the contractor enough time to repair road damage located approximately 1 mile above the junction before winter.

During the closure, all visitor access to the Sunrise area by way of the roadway (including hiking and bicycling) will be prohibited. Hikers may pass through the area on the Wonderland Trail, however.

The 1995 spring opening of the road will depend on how much work is accomplished this fall, which is largely weather determined.

FIRE LOOKOUT SUMMIT MEETING—An important meeting on fire lookouts is scheduled for November 11 through 13 (Friday through Sunday).

It will be held at The Mountaineers Lodge at Stevens Pass. Anyone interested in lookout buildings, restorations, and history is welcome to attend.

Registration will open at noon on Friday with a display of lookout models, photos and memorabilia. Workshops and seminars on lookout restoration are scheduled for Saturday. On Sunday, two tours of local lookouts will be conducted.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Stevens Pass Mountaineers Lodge, the Evergreen Mountain Lookout Restoration Team, Friends of Heybrook Lookout, and the Skykomish Ranger District.

For more information, contact:

Forrest Clark
PO Box 43
Snohomish WA 98291
206-487-3461.

ROADS TO BE ELIMINATED

With the decline of timber sales, roads in the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest cannot be maintained without additional funds to make up for the loss of contributions from logging.

Since many of the roads follow what

were trail corridors, it is apparent that road construction was a factor in reducing the Forest's trail system from 3000 to its current 1400 miles.

Over the past several months, the Forest has evaluated the changes in management—less emphasis on timber and more on watershed, fisheries, habitat and recreation. The initial assessment proposes changes that will eliminate about 670 miles of forest roads, about 22% of the total. Most of these closures would be on the less-used parts of the road system.

By district, here is the breakdown for the proposed mileage:

Mount Baker District: 300 miles proposed for closure out of 774 total.

Darrington District: 160 miles out of 809.

Skykomish District: 72 miles out of 368.

North Bend District: 64 miles out of 493.

White River District: 71 miles out of 466.

A series of open houses at each District office were held at the end of August. Unfortunately, the Forest Service did not give *Pack & Paddle* enough notice to let readers know about them.

After September 1, however, readers may stop at any Baker-Snoqualmie office to review the initial assessment and closure plan. Your comments are invited.

LONG ISLAND—The little ferry linking Long Island in Willapa Bay with the mainland was removed in early August, ending many years of logging there and marking the beginning of nature's long process of restoration.

Transfer of all ownership rights to the Fish and Wildlife Service was accomplished sooner than it might have been, thanks to cooperation by Weyerhaeuser.—*excerpted from an article in the "Chinook Observer."*

SEA KAYAK SYMPOSIUM—The 11th Annual West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium is scheduled for September 16-18 at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend. The 2½-day event is an ideal time to attend lectures and classes about all aspects of kayak touring and is the best place to shop for and "test-drive" all kinds of kayaks.

Registration is \$80 per person for the full Symposium; space is limited. For in-

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

formation contact the Trade Association of Sea Kayaking (TASK), PO Box 969, Mukilteo WA 98275; 206-348-4912.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL SOCIETY—This long-standing but low-profile group has a new address. It is:

CDTS

3704 North Charles St #601

Baltimore MD 21218

The new phone is 410-235-9610.

WANDERING WINSTON LOST—Wildlife technician Mark Pimlott fears the worst—Winston the wandering grizzly bear might have died last fall.

The 200-kilogram Winston became a celebrity last year by walking 250 kilometres back to his Pemberton home after being relocated to forests near Manning Park.

He had crossed the Fraser River, stumbled his way over several mountain ranges, passed through farms and even dealt with highways to get home.

"The first worrisome sign was in March when I expected him to be denned up so I would be unable to receive his signal," said Pimlott.

"I didn't expect to hear the signal but I did. There is a chance he ... possibly

died before the denning season."

But Pimlott isn't yet writing off Winston, now 12 years old. He said it is also possible the bear has simply shed his radio collar. His signal is coming from about 600 metres up a mountain from a logging road in the Pemberton Valley.—*from the Vancouver BC "Sun."*

[Ed. Note: *Pack & Paddle* began following the "Winston story" in spring of 1993 (see the *April 1993 issue*, page 18). So many readers have expressed an interest in the bear that we will continue to bring you news of his journey, wherever it leads him. See also *June 1993*, page 17 and *November 1993*, page 29.]

CASCADIA MARINE TRAIL—The Water Trail Advisory Committee has met several times to develop recommendations about the Cascadia Marine Trail permit system for submission to the State Parks Commission in September.

The design of the permit will consist of two parts: a wallet size identification card, and a display part that will attach to the shelter (tent or tarp) while camping. The permit will be sold through vendors and by State Parks.

Accompanying the permit will be a brochure describing the trail, the list of

trail sites, and a summary of the Trail Ethics.

The Advisory Committee, after a great deal of thought, discussion and research regarding the legal effects of Initiative 601 has decided to recommend that the cost of the permit be set at \$35 a year. (Don't stop reading now!)

As we all know, however, the current trail system is a lot more vision than reality. Because the trail system is in an early and mostly incomplete stage of development, the Advisory Committee feels the permit should be deeply discounted to somewhere in the \$10-\$15 range and then as the system grows over the next several years the discounts would be reduced commensurately. The permit will be required in 1995.

For more information on the Advisory Committee and the Cascadia Marine Trail, contact Washington Water Trails Association, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N #345, Seattle WA 98103.

NEW RANGER—Terry Skorheim (a *Pack & Paddle* reader) is the new Darrington District Ranger. He comes to Darrington from the Mount Hood National Forest and replaces Fred Harnisch, who retired last spring.

ISSUES

A LISTING OF CURRENT BACKCOUNTRY ISSUES OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

SNOQUALMIE PASS—Questions regarding the Ski Lifts, Inc. proposal to expand facilities at Snoqualmie Pass should be directed to:

Larry Donovan, EIS Coordinator
Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest
21905 64th Ave W
Mountlake Terrace WA 98043
206-744-3403.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT—The Forest Service is extending its comment period on proposed rules for grazing and livestock management regulations.

Comments now must be received in writing by September 9, 1994. Send to: Rangeland Reform 94, PO Box 66300, Washington DC 20035.

For more information contact Dave Stewart in the Range Management Staff at 202-205-1746.

ROAD ELIMINATIONS—Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is considering eliminating 670 miles of forest roads. Stop at the Mt Baker, Darrington, Skykomish, North Bend, or White River Ranger Stations to see and comment on the plan during the month of September.

WILDERNESS EDUCATION—Public meeting October 12, 7pm to 9pm, to discuss forming a new organization to promote wilderness education efforts.

Location: Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest office, 21905 64 Avenue West, Mountlake Terrace WA 98043. Information: 206-744-3281.

STEHEKIN MEETINGS—Public meetings on the Draft EIS for the Chelan Recreational Area (the Stehekin valley) are scheduled for:

Seattle Center, Monday, October 3, 7pm
Campbell's Resort in Chelan, Wednesday, October 5, 7pm
Golden West Lodge in Stehekin, Friday, October 7, 7pm.

SAVE CRYSTAL SPRINGS SNO-PARK—Meridian Minerals is willing to sell the Crystal Springs Sno-Park to State Parks BUT Kittitas County has an 80-acre minimum limit on purchases in this area.

Write Director, Kittitas County Planning Commission, 5th and Main, Ellensburg WA 98926 and Chairman, Kittitas County Commission, 5th and Main, Ellensburg WA 98926 in support of a zoning variance for a smaller State Parks purchase of the Crystal Springs Sno-Park. It is located at Exit 62 on I-90, east of Snoqualmie Pass.

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

ANOTHER BAKERY—Each time I've read about *Pack & Paddle* readers stopping at the Red Barn or Sultan Bakery on Highway 2 I've meant to tell you—there's another in the area, the **Skyriver Bakery** on Main Street in Monroe (the old part of town, turn at the smoke stack and it's on the right several blocks down).

It is an award winning bakery and the very, very BEST! Yummy!—*Mystery Hiker, Granite Falls*

HORSES—Meeting horses or other stock on the trail calls for following some rules of backcountry etiquette.

Horses have the right of way. Those on foot should move off the trail, on the down-hill side if possible, to let the animals pass. If there is no good place where you meet, hikers should go back down the trail until you find a good spot.

Sing out "Hello; how ya doin'?" as soon as you're in voice range. An exchange of words between you and the riders helps reassure the horses that you are just people, not goblins.

Ask the riders if you are far enough off the trail. They may have a novice or skittish animal in their party that needs extra room.

September is a wonderful month for backpacking but it is also the month for the openings of some hunting seasons and you are likely to see more horse parties out this time of year. Hunting is allowed in Wilderness Areas, but not in National Parks.

MAP ACCESSORIES—Green Trails has three new products in addition to their topographic map series.

The first is a map case. Called the Map Sack, the case is a 13"x10" clear plastic pouch with a "zip-lock" type zipper to keep maps dry. It is designed to carry a once-folded Green Trails map so you can see both sides. The case can be rolled or folded for storage in your pack, or can be tied on the outside of your pack (hole for tying provided) and tucked under a strap for quick reference.

The second is a directory for trails in

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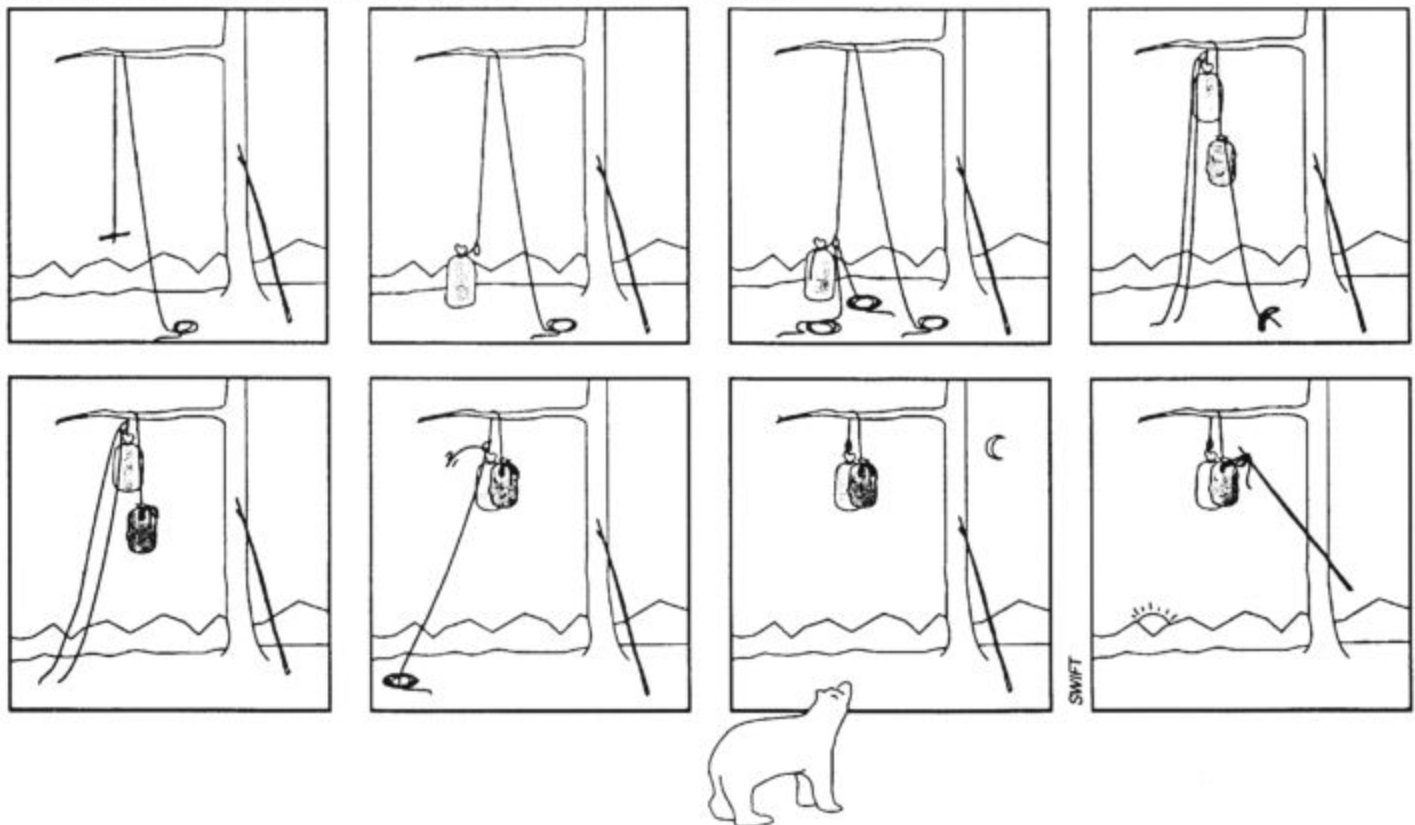
Washington, cross-referenced to Green Trails maps and The Mountaineers guidebooks. It lists over 1500 trails and shows all the Green Trails maps for Washington.

The third product is a "Placemap." (This one is the most fun.) It is an actual GT map laminated in 10 mil plastic to be used as a placemat. The series includes GT's ten most popular maps. *Caution:* if you use these placemaps for your fall pot luck, you'll have people shoving their plates to one side to plan next summer's trip!

See all the new things at your local outdoor store.—YC

ROPELESS BEAR BAG

The notice about the Flapjack Lake camping closure due to bears reminded me that I don't see people using the "ropeless bear bag." It takes a couple of light-weight cords about 40 feet long and two food bags of nearly-equal weight. Of course, you need to find a tree limb at least 12 feet off the ground and find a stick long enough to make the little coil of cord tumble down into your waiting hands!—*Betty Swift, Seattle.*



EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Hiking the Loowit Trail on the north side of Mount Saint Helens, Spirit Lake in the background.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"Your *Pack & Paddle* is the best because it just fits my speed."—*Marysville*

"As my job is in New York City, *P&P* keeps bringing me back to Washington every time I pick it up! I have spent many days on the trails out there doing a lot of hiking."—*Andover (New Jersey)*

"I have enjoyed *Pack & Paddle* since its birth and Signpost almost from its beginning as well, thanks to you and your family."—*Renton*

"Would like to see more on easier hikes and backpacks for those of us who are getting old and out-of-shape."—*Spokane*.

ANOTHER BIG ONE—We said last month that we would return to *Pack & Paddle*'s normal 32-page size this month. We certainly tried to cram it all into 32 pages, but with all the good weather, we have so many reports for "Backcountry News" that it just wouldn't fit.

So here's another 40-page issue and *this one will be the last of our big issues for the season!*

MEETING READERS—On our recent trip on the Loowit Trail around Mount Saint Helens, Lee and I were pleased to meet two *Pack & Paddle* readers.

We ran into Mike Aken, of Everett, and his hiking partner as we were climbing up Crescent Ridge on the morning

of our second day. They had been to the top of Saint Helens the previous day and were doing the Loowit Trail in two days.

When we returned to the Windy Ridge parking lot on the afternoon of our third day, we met Tim, who was staffing the Rescue van for the day. Tim came over to talk about packs—he had read about McHale packs, but never seen one—and we discovered he was a reader too!

FIRE STORIES—Were you in the backcountry during a fire this year? Do you have a "fire story?" Send it in to us sometime soon to share with *Pack & Paddle* readers.

LAST CHANCE—The *P&P* Photo Event closes for entries on September 15. This is your last notice to send in your great photos. See page 13 for details.

SNOWMOBILE COMMITTEE—As a member of the State Parks Snowmobile Advisory Committee, I attended the funding meeting in Leavenworth the week before The Fires.

Don't get the wrong idea—I'm not a closet snowmobiler. I am one of three skier/snowshoer representatives on the Snowmobile Committee.

One of the most important things we learned at the meeting was that ALL users will probably lose the gigantic Crystal Springs Sno-Park east of Snoqualmie Pass that provides access to

miles of trails. Since Meridian Minerals will no longer be using this land as a gravel pit, they are willing to sell it to State Parks. It could then be used year around as an all-purpose access for the Iron Horse trail.

The glitch is that Kittitas County requires an 80-acre minimum purchase here. State Parks can't afford to buy 80 acres; the leased Sno-Park was about 30.

I know we all hate writing letters, but this is a good cause. Send a brief letter in support of a zoning variance and the State Parks purchase to the Kittitas County addresses on page 37. If you want more information, call the Winter Recreation Office of State Parks, 206-586-1253.

FAST FABRICS—We bought a new tent recently. We wanted a nylon ground cloth for it, but there are no outdoor fabric stores near us.

We didn't want to wait because we wanted to use the tent in two days and we didn't have time to drive in to the city to go to Seattle Fabrics. So I called them on the phone, told them what I wanted, and we had our ground cloth the *next* day!

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall



Yellow Cat is proud of the new sign for her office door, courtesy of reader Erl Syverstad of Spanaway. You can see redwood signs made by Erl at the State Fair in Puyallup.



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