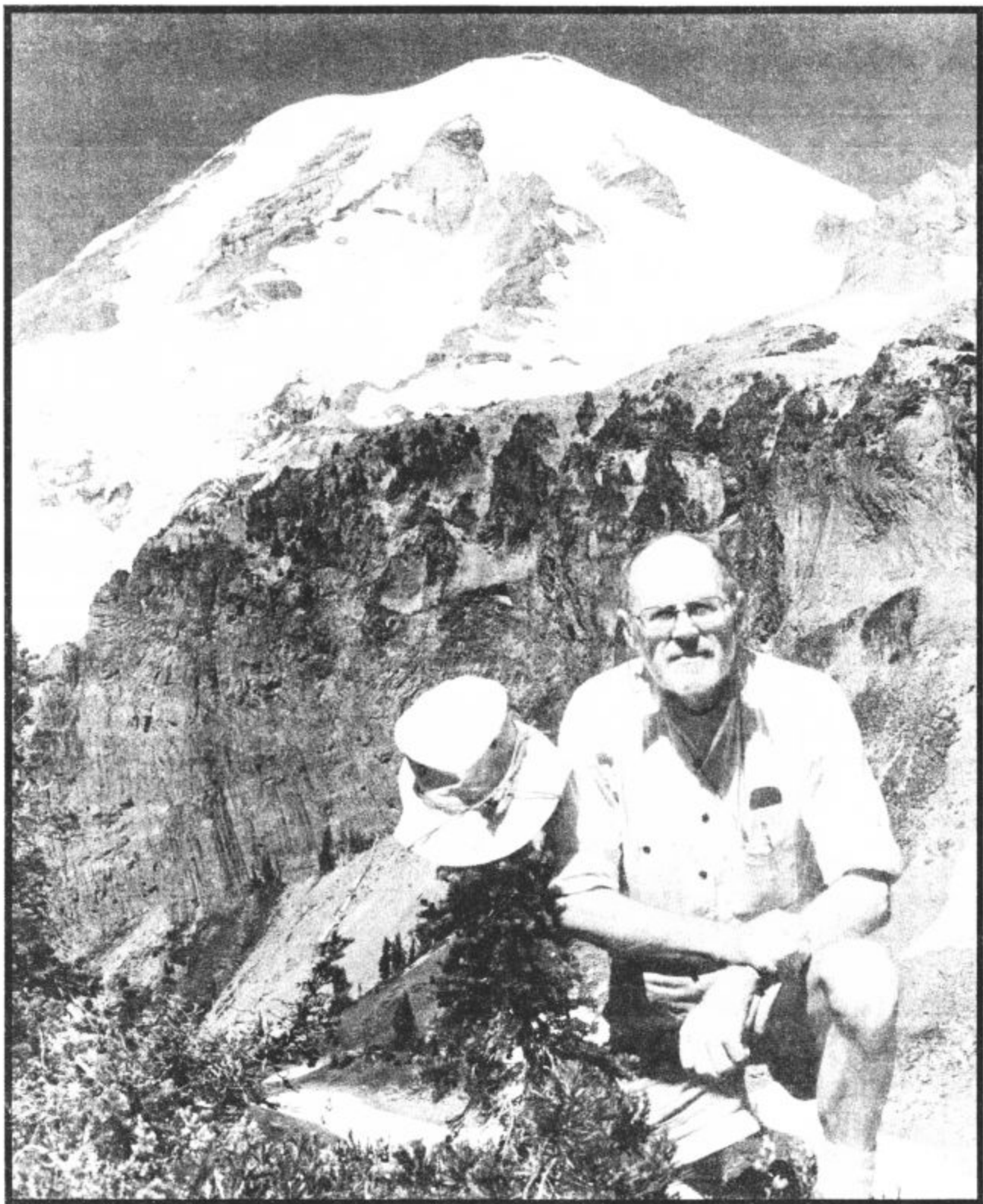


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COVER PHOTO:

Paul Schaufler and friend (with hat), in Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Photo by Paul Schaufler.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

WHEN MOUNTAINS AREN'T WORTH IT

Those of us who in the distant past pioneered the field of "things to climb when mountains aren't worth it," and wore with pride the Blob Peak Pin, have been thrilled in recent years to see John Roper carry the torch of insignificance to a once unimaginable apogee, following the maxim that only the summits not worth doing are worth doing at all.

It thus is a cause of dismay and disenchantment to learn that he has climbed a recognizable mountain above Burnt Boot Creek. Even Keechelus Ridge is, after all, noticeable. (*June, pages 11 and 12.*)

Keep going this way, Roper, and next you'll be climbing volcanoes.

Harvey Manning
Bellevue, Washington

IDENTIFICATION

I would like to see everybody identify themselves properly at the end of a trail report. It takes time and effort to write one and they deserve a proper name instead of some pseudo ID.

Also, will "Mystery Hiker" or "Mr. Maphead" identify themselves as such if we should ever meet on the trail?

Probably not, so I will never have a chance to personally thank them for the many fine, informative trail reports they have submitted over the years.

Madeleine Beaty
Federal Way, Washington

TRAILHEAD CONFUSION

With regard to "Backcountry News" in the May issue, page 7, Lower South Fork Skokomish trail, SB of Silverdale states her party started the hike "at the lower trailhead by the gate on road 2325," then states: "This trailhead must have been added after Wood's book as he only describes the upper trailhead off road 2325-012."

SB is giving the road numbers given in the first edition of my trail guide (1984). Shortly after that first edition appeared, the Forest Service changed many of the road numbers in the Olympic National Forest, confusing users of my book no end.

I convinced the publisher to issue a second, updated edition. The Forest Service changed Road 2325 to Road 2353; Road 2325-012 to Road 2353-120. These changes are reflected in the second edition (1991).

At no time when I have walked the Lower South Fork Skokomish trail have I been aware that there were two lower trailheads giving access to this trail. I saw no signs indicating another lower trailhead, and the Forest Service literature was silent on the matter.

SB, in referring to a lower and upper trailhead for what, in essence, must be two lower trailheads, unintentionally misleads the reader. The "true" upper trailhead is located almost 9 miles upstream, on Road 2361 (formerly road 2319).

Bob Wood
Seattle, Washington

ONE OF LIFE'S TRADE-OFFS

If Kit's Llamas and other commercial outfitters are to operate in any Wilderness Areas, it should be only in large-acreage tracts like the Bob Marshall. The last thing we need in the tiny Olympic Wilderness is commercial inducement to visit based on a promise to eliminate the traditional discomforts of roughing it.

If the scenery and chance to spend time in wild country are insufficient inducements to put up with zero-star cuisine and a pack that cuts a few miles off your daily log, there are worthwhile things to do elsewhere.

Those tears shed for the elderly and people with kids who "need" commercial services are 95% phony. Our boy, now six, has certainly meant the past few years have seen a general drop and many specific changes in our outdoor activities. One of life's trade-offs perhaps, but hardly a serious wilderness access issue.

I doubt wilderness has suffered any more from our absence than it will from Kit's Llamas'. Getting older does involve slowing down, but once again that's life and is facing every one of us, and is not a situation wilderness areas were created to correct.

Phil Leatherman
Bainbridge Island, Washington

FOR THE RECORD

Proper credit should go to Richard Buck for the Chicken Dinner recipe (*June, page 30*).

My contribution is to suggest pre-mixing and freezing at home.

And many thanks to Jim Miller (*June, page 20*)—I always enjoy his articles!

Dale Graves
Kent, Washington

CREDIT DUE ESAR

As a member of Explorer Search and Rescue I was disturbed by the "Rescue Epics" article in the May issue (*page 15*). The tone of the article is that ESAR members are just a bunch of kids who do nothing but the grunt work in a rescue.

Actually, we have the same status as the Ski Patrol and Rescue Team. We are connected to the Boy Scouts in only one way and that is the funding from the Boy Scouts Explorer program.

ESAR ran the evacuation and performed it with SPART giving the medical assistance. The article gives the impression that ESAR was assisting SPART.

In fact, ESAR carried out the most treacherous part of the rescue which was to carry the injured person across a small and slippery bridge with only four members on the litter.

I hope your readers realize that rescue missions are often hard work and require close teamwork by several organizations. Even those who are "just kids" have had proper training and have a lot to contribute.

A Member of ESAR
Seattle, Washington

TRAILHEAD ALERT
appears on page 12
this issue.

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.

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-  —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—Snow has retreated to 4000 to 4500 feet. Many trails are snowfree; most roads are open.

 **MOUNT ELLINOR** (*Mt. Skokomish Wilderness; USGS Mt Skokomish*)—Bill and I took the upper trailhead to Mount Ellinor for our first time.

We wanted to get in a short afternoon hike so we hiked only to the viewpoint at 4500 feet. Most of the people on the trail were hiking to the summit to glisten down the steep chute from the top. We even saw one person with a snowboard strapped to his pack!

We can see Mount Ellinor from our new home but we couldn't quite make out our house from the viewpoint.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/14.

 **PYRAMID MOUNTAIN** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Lake Crescent*)—Quite a few calypso orchids along upper 1/2-mile of forest. Flies bad all the way—worst at the top.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 5/26.



MOUNT MULLER-LITTLETON LOOP TRAIL

(*Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Mt Muller*)—I had spotted the new trailhead sign on Highway 101 between the Sol Duc Road and Klahowya Campground, so stopped at the ONF/ONP ranger station north of Forks to inquire. The friendly ranger provided me with a trail map and route information. Apparently the trail has been completed and open for less than a year.

There are several options. The complete 13-mile loop begins and ends at Littleton Creek trailhead, elevation 1000 feet. Climbing west of the creek, the trail reaches Jim's Junction in 3 miles, elevation 3200 feet. (A backdoor trail enters here from road 3040, the North Point road of Snider Work Center.)

The trail then traverses the ridge eastward 5 1/2 miles through meadows and over Mount Muller to Mosley Gap. The return leg descends by Charley Dean Creek and stays near the highway for the last few miles. The map shows several other features along the way.

The ranger said that he was recommending this trail to hikers with dogs (not allowed on Park trails), but that mountain bikers were finding it too rough for pleasant travel.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 5/26.



POULSBO TO FAY BAINBRIDGE STATE PARK

(*NOAA 18473*)—Poulsbo to Fay Bainbridge State Park is a round trip distance of about 18 nautical miles. To ease the distance Ann and I travelled on an outgoing tide and waited at Fay

Bainbridge while eating lunch for the tide to switch for the return trip.

This route involves going through two passages—one at the entrance to Liberty Bay and the other at Agate Passage. Agate Passage is the most significant of the two. On this day the maximum flood and ebb at Liberty Bay entrance was 1 knot while maximum at Agate Passage was close to 5 knots.

We launched at the public boat ramp at the south end of downtown Poulsbo by 7:30am. All of the nearby parking is restricted so we parked on a side street several blocks away.

Boat traffic was light this early in the morning. With current helping us we rounded Point Bolin and headed toward Agate Passage sooner than we had anticipated. Instead of going through the passage as the current approached slack, we would be travelling with a 4 knot ebb current. There was no wind and no other boat traffic to complicate matters.

After a short stop at Old Man House State Park at the north end of the passage, we continued to Fay Bainbridge State Park about 3 miles farther. At the park we had an hour and a half to wait before tide and current would be right for starting back.

Unfortunately, that hour and a half also gave more time for wind waves to

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

build and by the time we were set to go, there was a fair smattering of whitecaps on the Sound. It was also close to noon and the boat traffic was thick.

The effects of the wind had pretty much ended as we approached the north end of Agate Passage, but the boat traffic hadn't. We wanted to cross to the west side of the passage which meant crossing the main lane of boat traffic—kind of like being in the left lane of I-5 and having to get to the right lane for your off-ramp that is coming up in a half-mile.

Having negotiated that obstacle, the next one was going through the narrow Passage while dealing with the wakes from power boats. Most boaters were courteous by slowing down when they passed close to us. But the world is made up of all sorts. One person barreled through in a large power boat which generated enough of a wake to cause us a few moments of quick maneuvering to take it bow on.

Besides the usual seals and herons, we also spotted a bald eagle near the Suquamish Tribal Center, and a coyote beachcombing near Point Bolin.

Arriving back at the launch ramp shortly after 2pm provided a busy contrast to our early morning launch. Not what you would call a backcountry experience, but a good paddle nonetheless.—LGM, Port Orchard, 5/28.



DUCKABUSH TRAIL

(Olympic Natl Forest & Park; USGS Mt Jupiter, The Brothers, Mt Steel)—A three-day Memorial Day backpack through rhododendron forests under cloudless blue skies.

We seemed to beat most of the crowd to the trailhead on Saturday morning, with the exception of a 12-member youth group that arrived at the trailhead just as we did. We hit the trail as they sorted food.

A couple of the river campsites were already taken as we passed through, but the trail was relatively empty. We met six hikers all morning. We camped along the river at 7.5 miles.

The next day we day hiked the upper section of trail to the junction with the LaCrosse Pass trail. We found the youth group camped at Ten Mile Camp, which they turned into a small city.

The 5.3 miles between Ten Mile Camp and the LaCrosse junction were completely deserted. We had the trail to ourselves coming and going. No people, but no wildlife either.

There were a couple of blowdowns to get around, annoying but not difficult, and side streams were overflowing. Two required taking off our boots and wading. Should have done the same for

a third stream, since Pat slipped and fell in anyway.

There are a couple of beautiful campsites along this upper stretch of trail which stays close to the riverbank for much of its way. The Duckabush was in full spring runoff with lots of water going over the drops, and lots of snags and debris piled up. We were not surprised to hear when we got out that two people had drowned on the lower river on Saturday when their raft hit a snag and capsized.

Ran into lots of people on our return through Ten Mile Camp, and on Monday as we hiked out. Every riverside campsite was taken and day hikers were pouring in. Considering how popular a destination this river valley is, we were amazed at the utter solitude we enjoyed on Sunday.

Happy to report no vandalism at the trailhead. Dennis had been zapped here before, so it was always in the back of our minds. Passed the Search and Rescue crews on the way out, still looking for the weekend's victims.—Dennis & Pat, Olympia, 5/27-29.



GRAYWOLF TRAIL (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Tyler

Peak)—We started at the Slab Camp trailhead about 4pm on Friday and hiked down to Camp Tony for the night. The 3-mile hike took less than an hour and a half.

Saturday morning we packed up and headed up the Graywolf trail to Three Forks Shelter. We got there about 10am, set up camp, and had a bite to eat. The shelter is in very good condition and an outhouse is up on a rise behind it.

We decided to hike to Camp Ellis, a 6-mile round trip from the shelter. Thick green carpets of moss make some beautiful spots along the trail. My flower-observing partner brought to my attention some paintbrush and avalanche lilies.

Camp Ellis is a nice place next to the river with enough room for two separate camps. On our way back to camp we noticed quite a number of insulators hanging in the trees. Must have been a phone line up that way at one time.

After dinner we hiked up the Three Forks trail for about a mile. Along our way we saw a deer on the hillside giving us a careful inspection. We also noticed some stoncrop and a pretty looking flower called calypso.

The next morning after breakfast we headed back up the trail. At Camp Tony we stopped for a snack and to soak our hot feet in the river. Coming down the Slab Camp trail was nice but going back up was a real grind. Needless to say, our truck was a very welcome

sight. In spite of what the weatherman said, it was a gorgeous weekend.—Don Abbott & Kerry Gilles, Grays Harbor, 5/12-14.



RIALTO BEACH and SPRUCE RAILROAD

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS La Push and Lk Crescent)—Kathe Stanness and I put this Mountaineer trip together for our new Comrades group. It turned out to be an all woman outing and we ranged in age from 31 to 74. We rented two cabins at Three Rivers Resort near Forks.

Stashing our gear in one of the cabins we headed out to Rialto Beach. Most of the women had never been to Rialto Beach before—they were impressed by the artistic jumble of driftwood, the roar of the surf and islands in the mist.

We had a bit of trouble crossing Ellen Creek—it was deeper and faster than usual but we found logs to cross on. At Hole in the Wall we found tidepools with anemones and chitons nestled inside. We hiked back with the rain at our backs, a breeze pushing us. We had a Chinese dinner in Forks before returning to our cozy cabins.

The next morning we were packed up and on our way by 9am for our second hike, the Spruce Railroad trail. Kathe recommended breakfast at the Hungry Bear (between Forks and Fairholm) so we stopped there—the breakfast was hearty and reasonable.

We drove on, passed Fairholm, Lake Crescent and turned left onto Piedmont Road which leads to the trailhead. This hike is 4 miles one way with a car at the other trailhead (reached by turning off at Fairholm).

A couple of the group were only up to 2 or 3 miles of hiking so I made the "curved bridge" our destination. The trail begins by passing an old orchard then enters forest. It then descends to an old railroad bed which parallels the lake. We stopped frequently to enjoy the flowers. Coltsfoot, trillium, salmonberry, yellow violets and even a genuine orchid (Kathe knew the names of almost everything).

We passed one of the tunnels which has been closed in. Shortly beyond the tunnel we reached the pretty bridge which spans a bowl of deep water, sheer cliffs on the other side. On our way back Kathe spotted the semi-rare chocolate lily. We reluctantly returned to the cars.

While this is a very easy and scenic hike it is well worth doing and it can be hiked any time of the year. We had to wait at the ferry but ferry docks are good places for reading, napping and

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

people-watching and we really didn't mind.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 4/8-9.



MOUNT CONSTANCE

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS

The Brothers, Mt Deception)—After a failed attempt from the Tunnel Creek side a month earlier (too much snow!) with a couple of climbing buddies, I thought I'd take just a day hike up to Lake Constance to plan our next attempt.

I arrived at the Lake Constance trailhead 14 miles up the Dosewallips River road at 7am. This trail is serious from the start—you know you're gaining 3350 feet in the allotted 2 miles! The beautiful scenery never lets up, however, as you ascend almost entirely beside Constance Creek.

There was no snow until I reached the lake, where there was still 2 to 3 feet of snow. Since it was only 9am and half of a P & J sandwich, the serenity of the lake, and the surrounding grandeur having completely revived me, I decided to continue up Avalanche Canyon, which was still buried in snowpack.

It was easy going all the way up toward Crystal Pass, and more intriguing as I went. Lo and behold, at the base of the North Chute route up Mount Constance I couldn't help noticing the perfect steps kicked in earlier in the day.

The next thing I know I'm in the middle of the infamous Traverse, hoping that's what it was. (I didn't want it to get any worse without being on a rope!) By now, it's a done deal—I'm going to bag a summit! Around the summit, and a short scramble to the top, for my reward—one of the best views in the Olympics, including Hood Canal.

For the descent, I was invited to rope up with the two I had been following all day (although hadn't seen). On the rope, I was able to enjoy some of the downward views (on the Terrible Traverse, and down the North Chute) that I had intentionally ignored earlier! —Steve Gideon, Olympia, 6/3.



ROYAL CREEK

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Deception)

—Drove to the Dungeness/Royal Basin trailhead in the early morning. Started up the Dungeness trail with my new Osprey Impala pack.

Crossed Royal Creek at 1 mile up the trail and immediately angled to the right (west) up the start of the hogback that marks the Olympic Park boundary, aiming for the tempting basin below Peak 6981. Route finding was eased by the fact I was following the steep ridge. The weather was spectacular with a brisk wind and scudding clouds. The cool air helped ease the 4200 foot gain!



Don Abbott

Goats on top of Mount Ellinor, Mount Skokomish Wilderness

At about 5500 feet I dropped a little to the right of the first gendarme, then regained the crest and followed right up to Point 6981. Looked down to partially frozen Goat Lake, and across to the familiar panorama of Gray Wolf Ridge.

I pulled my skis off my pack and had a world class pristine run down to the basin north-northeast of 6981. Absolutely perfect ball-bearing corn snow with a skim of fresh snow on top. Kicked back up and did it again. Retraced my route down the ridge and had another fabulous run from Point 6600 clear down to timberline and down to the tip of the hanging valley.

Carefully downclimbed a steep section and got onto the talus fan leading down to Royal Creek. Found a crossing (wet/swift!) and picked up the Royal Creek trail. Sauntered back to the car. —Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 6/12.



VAUGHN BAY TO JOEMMA BEACH

(NOAA 18448)

—A car shuttle allowed us to launch at the access on Vaughn Bay and take out at Joemma Beach (formerly called RFK Recreation Area) for a one-way paddle of a good chunk of Case Inlet.

The mixture of wind and calm with regular rain squalls added variety to the paddling. Stretch, Hartstene and McMicken Islands all provide either DNR or State Park sites along the way for stopping and stretching your legs.

Our group of four kayaks (a NSSKA trip) opted for a lunch stop at DNR Beach 24 on the east shore of Hartstene Island. This is an area of 5400 feet of undeveloped public shoreline—we had it all to ourselves probably because of the weather. Several boats were anchored off McMicken Island which is almost totally a State Park.

The launch on Vaughn Bay is a street end ramp with limited roadside parking and no facilities. Joemma Beach, in contrast, is a fully developed State Park. —LGM, Port Orchard, 6/17.



THE BROTHERS

(The Brothers Wilderness; USGS

The Brothers, Mt Washington)—I have admired The Brothers when watching sunsets from downtown Seattle. Climbing buddies Jon and John (I always get a response) agreed to attempt a one-day ascent.

We started from the trailhead at 6:40am with heavy low clouds. When we arrived at Lower Lena Lake in an hour, we found the clouds lifting and lots of campers. We trooped quietly up the Valley of the Silent Men.

We stopped at The Brothers base camp for another break at 9am. I was somewhat disappointed to have gained less than 2000 feet in the first 6 miles. The trail was covered with snow at 3300 feet and our route took us to a scramble up a creek and onto a snow

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

field that was lumpy and dirty from an earlier avalanche.

Our last break was at 5000 feet and we arrived at the summit three minutes before noon to enjoy a tremendous leisurely lunch on the summit with fine views.

The glissade down was fast and fun although rocky in spots. We encountered at least 40 folks coming to the base camp for a Sunday ascent.—Mark Miller, Auburn, 5/27.



ENCHANTED VALLEY

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Hoquiam, Mt Olson, Chimney Pk)—

Every year for the past 9 years, I've been hiking in to Enchanted Valley on Memorial Day weekend with the Grays Harbor Olympians. This year I hiked in by myself, but I camped with the group.

I left the trailhead Friday morning and arrived at Pyrites Creek camp about 2pm. We usually base camp here and day hike to the valley. Just before getting to Pyrites Creek is a bad slide on the trail and Ranger Hanna Merrell was there trying to make a safe reroute for hikers. By Friday night we had 11 people in camp.

Saturday morning I teamed up with Al Gregory and we hiked toward Anderson Pass until we hit snow. When

we got to the Chalet, we helped the ranger take down all the window shutters before going on. The snow line came at the junction with O'Neil Pass trail. We had a bite to eat and enjoyed the scenery.

On the way back we crossed the Quinault river on a log and checked out a snow cave. The snow cave we found was too small to explore so we tried to work our way down river. Too much brush forced us to cross back on the next log we found.

Down near the Chalet we crossed the river again and found a much better snow cave. We walked back into it and took some pictures. You don't want to stay in there very long as it gets real drippy. On our way back to the Chalet we saw a big black bear eating grass. He saw us about the same time and headed for the brush.

On Sunday I spent the day scouting the Pyrites drainage as part of a cross-country route to the Low Divide. I'm planning on doing this trip later this summer.

Monday morning we packed up and headed back down the trail. Along the way we met Ranger Hanna again and found out she had an emergency call. Someone twisted their knee and had to be airlifted out. She also said that on

Sunday (which is when most people visit the Chalet area) she talked with 175 hikers and campers.

It was a beautiful weekend, the best we have had in years and it was really nice not having to hike out in the mud.—Don Abbott, Aberdeen, 5/26-29.

BEACH SHUTTLE—Last month, Neale Creamer wrote about a one-way hike from Third Beach to Oil City (*June, page 7*). He phoned to say he had forgotten to tell us about a car shuttle service they had located through the Forks Chamber of Commerce.

The shuttle operators picked up the hiking party's two vehicles, parked them on their private property for the duration of the hike, and delivered them on schedule to the end of the trail.

The best part, says Neale, was not worrying about their vehicles while they were hiking. (Third Beach has frequent break-ins.)

The Chamber of Commerce can supply the names of several shuttle operators. Call them at 360-374-2531.

OLYMPIC NATL PARK—Patchy snow at Low Divide. Solid snow at Glacier Meadows. Snow patches at Hurricane Hill; cougars and bears seen. Obstruction Point road still closed.



Pelton Basin, from Cascade Pass, North Cascades National Park.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

Aurora Ridge is snowfree to Eagle Lakes. Heavy snow at **Wynoochee Pass**. **Seven Lakes** are all frozen, except Sol Duc, and campsites are snowbound.—Ranger, 6/11.



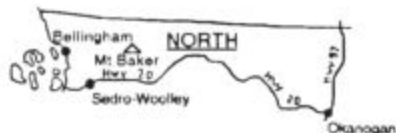
NORTH RIVER (USGS *Western, Aberdeen SE*)—My good friend and fellow hiker, Bob Jenkins, bought himself a canoe recently and invited me to go canoeing with him. It's been years since I've been in a canoe so I decided to give it a try. We put in at the mouth of North River in Pacific county. We were going up on an outgoing tide but the river was real calm. A little way up-river we started passing what Bob calls "float shacks." They look more like houseboats to me. As we passed one, a fellow came out and said hi, and it turned out to be someone Bob knew.

We paddled about 5 or 6 miles before we came to the first riffle where the water was too shallow. We got out and pulled the canoe up to deeper water and got back in again. A few minutes later we went through another one, then headed for a gravel bar for lunch.

Going back down, we were able to go right through the riffles and had a little fun going through the fast water. As we were heading back, a power boat pulled up alongside and it was another one of Bob's friends. Bob is 80 years old; I think he knows everybody in Pacific county and half of Grays Harbor county.

There were several ducks on the river and we spotted one bald eagle in a tree. It was an enjoyable trip and I look forward to going again.—Don Abbott, Aberdeen & Bob Jenkins, South Bend, 5/7.

NORTH



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level between 4000 and 5000 feet; some roads still closed.

BAKER LAKE (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Welker Pk*)—Paddled kayaks from

Horseshoe Cove to Maple Grove campground. The outhouses were in very poor condition, and one table is crumbling.

We learned that the Forest Service has abandoned this campsite, the only boat-in site on the lake. It can also be reached by trail. Perhaps volunteers could help with upkeep. We hope the Forest Service gets lots of protests.

Weather was perfect with great views across to Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan. This is a wonderful spot. We understand the trail is being extended along the east side of the lake.—Howard Shuman, Camano Island, 6/7-8.



BEAVER CAMP VIA ROSS DAM TRAIL

(*Ross Lk NRA; USGS Ross Dam, Pumpkin Mtn*)—After having been turned back from this hike (bad weather and road closure in March) this Troop 70 outing promised to be more successful. The road was open and the weather was good (at least, not raining).

This was an uneventful adventure as Troop 70 outings go but it is a wonderful early season backpack. The Ross Dam trail descends steeply from the parking lot to Ross Dam, which was being worked on as we crossed. At the end of the dam we turned right and followed the trail through the forest. The first couple of miles has an "Eastern Washington" aspect to it as the forest is open and not dense.

We found a few downed trees on the trail but nothing insurmountable. The trail and the terrain begin to change shortly past the Sourdough Mountain junction. The forest becomes deeper and the moss creeps in, turning the boulders into confections with dollops of green icing. Here the forest is quiet and muffled.

We crossed a couple of minor creeks (bridged or at least minor enough to take a giant step across), then reached a

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4. compass
5. knife
6. matches
7. fire starter
8. first aid kit
9. sun protection
10. flashlight

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gorge through which Pierce Creek tumbles in a dramatic waterfall. This was the scenic high point of the outing. We took a long break at this gorge before continuing. Shortly after leaving the gorge the trail descends to the shores of the lake. We crossed a large metal bridge over Beaver Creek and moments later were picking out our camp. One solo backpacker was camped at the lake. Hoping not to disturb his solitude, we chose sites far away from him.

Well, it just wouldn't be a Troop 70 outing without at least one glitch and this one was generously provided by Dave, our other adult, who kept following the trail rather than crossing over to Big Beaver Camp.

He hiked about a mile before realizing something was wrong. John, in the meantime, retraced our route in hope of finding Dave, not realizing that Dave had stayed on the Big Beaver trail.

John hiked all the way back to the gorge, no Dave. They arrived in camp about the same time. Dave embarrassed, John grumpy.

Evening in camp was cold but pleasant. It rained once during the night and we were happy to wake to a morning

without rain. We had 7½ miles to hike out so after our breakfast we broke camp and began to head back. We concluded the trip with the customary Troop 70 stop at the Dairy Queen.

The trail is snowfree to the lake most of the year. We were just beginning to hit a little bit of snow near camp and Dave said he was hiking in snow by the time he turned back. In the summer this is a boat-in camp and Pumpkin Camp is recommended for hikers.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 5/21.

MOUNT BAKER (*Mt Baker NRA; USGS Baker Pass, Mt Baker*)—The main concern on our weekend attempt of Mount Baker was the weather. The long spell of unusually pleasant May days was about to end, according to forecasts. Turns out they were right.

Our group of five followed the popular Easton Glacier route. We lugged the heavy packs from the 3300 foot trailhead to a high camp location at about 7100 feet. The camp was spectacular but what we saw on the horizon wasn't. I figured, "No reason to worry about a 3am wake up."

To my horror some rope teams passed our camp around 2:30am. Even though we were in a cloud, we realized that we couldn't sleep in peace while others marched past our camp and upward. So we roped up. Our leader, Dave, gently prodded us along, often saying, "Let's go a little farther and see how it is."

Talk of turning around surfaced frequently as snow swirled in the winds. Visibility was poor so we kept other rope teams within sight. Somehow, we found ourselves near the summit and pushed on despite the horrific conditions.

Our time on top consisted of a few quick pictures and an about-face. Back at camp, it was raining and dreary. We packed up, though, and the long walk out wasn't as bad as it could have been.

I must admit that rarely has my battered pick-up looked so good. On the drive home Linda and I sampled a decent Mexican restaurant in the Sedro Woolley area, I think called Casa Del Sol.

Mount Baker, on this route, is over 7000 feet of climbing and certainly doable in 2 days. One thing to be aware of is that this is a *Recreation Area*, not a National Park, and snowmobiles (yikes!) often provide company.

They weren't supposed to be there on this weekend because of decreasing snow cover, but the sign saying as much had mysteriously been uprooted and thrown aside. So our toil was often accompanied by the ultra-irritating sound of nearby machines.—Douglas Cunco, Seattle, 5/3-4.

HANNEGAN TRAIL—Road to trailhead is open; trail is snowfree 3 miles. No camping at pass.—Ranger, 6/9.

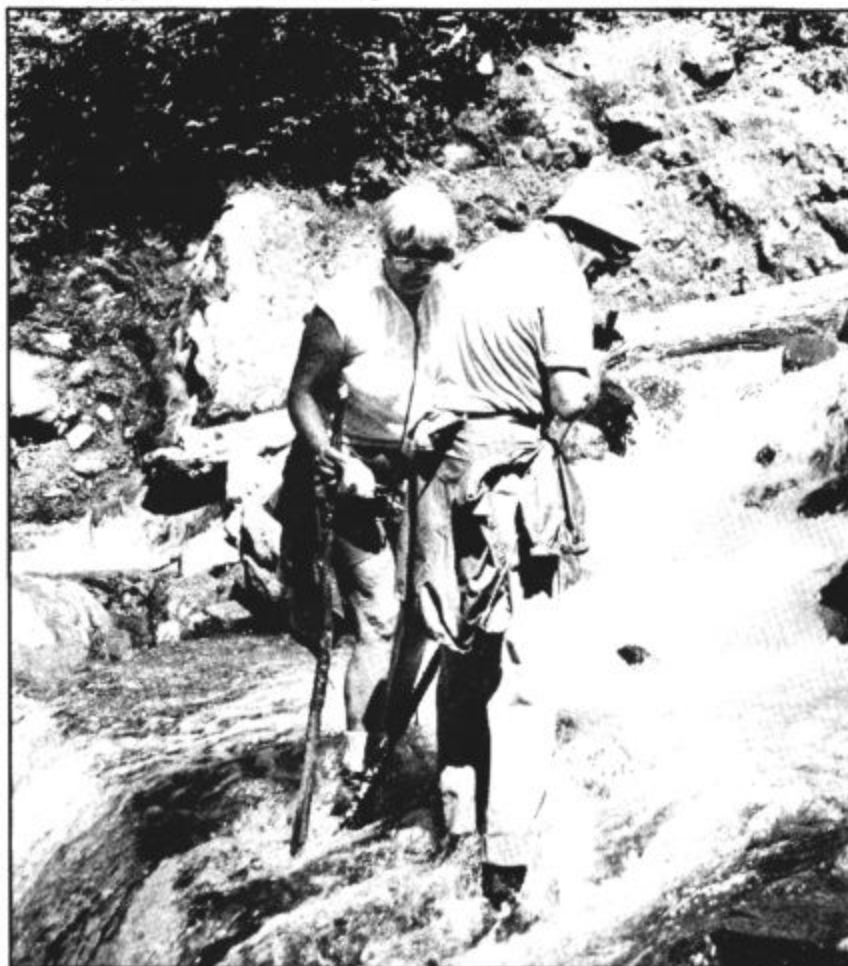
EASY PASS—Bridge is out over Fisher Creek 5 miles past Junction Camp. Lots of snow at pass.—Ranger, 6/9.

ROBINSON CREEK—Bridge out at 4½ miles. Crossing not possible with horses; hikers will get wet. Solid snow at 5½ miles.—Ranger, 6/16.

ANDREWS CREEK—Snow waist deep at 4 miles.—Ranger, 6/16.

HARTS PASS RD—Solid snow after Trout Creek trailhead.—Ranger, 6/16.

WINTHROP DIST—509-996-2266. There's still lots of snow in the passes and lots of downed trees. Trail crews won't be out until the end of June, and even then they may be stopped by snow. What with the deep snow and cool spring, the melt is real slow.—Jim Hammer, Winthrop Dist, 6/20.



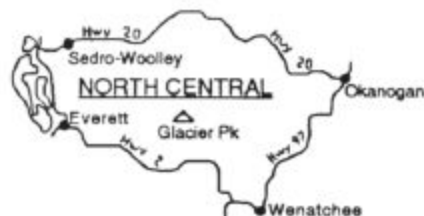
Shirley Haley

Crossing Kulshan Creek on the Heliotrope Ridge trail, Mount Baker Wilderness.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

NORTH CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level between 4000-5000 feet.



MOUNT PUGH TRAIL

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS White Chuck Mtn)—Did a jaunt up to Metan Lake on Mount Pugh. The embankment that holds the lake on the mountain looks almost like an old railroad grade along the west bank of the lake. There is no visible inlet nor is there an outlet.

The beauty of the lake is enhanced by Pugh Mountain visible through the tall evergreen trees. The mountain's meadows, snow fields and the rock formations add to the scenic awe.

South of the lake under age-old evergreens is one of the most beautiful places I have seen in a long time. A number of moss covered "benches" roll together as steps and are all covered with a lush green carpet of moss. Purple coral root orchids abound. It is quiet and most comfortable to sit upon the moss and listen to the breeze whisper. Glimpses of Mount Forgotten can be seen to the west by jiggling peep holes through the stately trees.

To get to the lake, the trail wiggles through all kinds of downed trees and trail sloughing gullies. Flowers such as spring beauties, ground dogwood, Queen's cup, and others abound along the trail.

The trail is good to the lake and so is the road to the trailhead. When the gate is open, drive carefully because the drainage ditches across the road are deep. If you can drive the road, there is only room for about 10 cars to park close to the trailhead. The trailhead is .8-mile from the gate.

You can't believe what we had to clean up at the campsites near the lake. The four of us carried out two plastic bags of garbage and there was more that we didn't have time to pick up.—Robert DeGraw, Kirkland, 6/12.



HALL PEAK

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Silverton)—This climb begins in the old mining town of Silverton on the Mountain Loop Highway east of Verlot. Turn south on Whitton Street, crossing

the river, then follow the dirt road .2-mile to an intersection. The trail is the road/path on the right.

I was able to park off the road here but it is not an official parking spot. The Silver Gulch Trail is unsigned. It gains about 1000 feet in 1.5 miles, ending in a beautiful, waterfall-adorned valley below Hall Peak. The trail was bushy in places. Winter windfalls have recently been cut.

The ascent from there became a vertical bushwhack. Four and a half hours later I found myself on the summit enjoying views only slightly diminished by the gathering clouds.

For variety I descended from the Hall-Big Four saddle to the Ice Caves. That, with a 3-mile road walk, made for a loop.

A new summit register and container are in order. The Tupperware container I found was cracked and the register ruined.—Dave Nordstrom, Tacoma, 6/9.



ASHLAND LAKES/TWIN FALLS

(DNR; USGS Mallardy Ridge)—Though I've known both Nancy and Lindy for a couple of years through Stevens Pass and skiing we had never hiked together till now! They very kindly included me in this day hike and we had a wonderful time of it.

The day was gray and cloudy with a little drizzle now and then. The trail is completely clear of snow and in good shape except for the mud. There's lots of mud, especially beyond upper Ashland Lake.

The boardwalks are very helpful till you get beyond the point that they've covered them with wire, then they're extremely slick. No bugs to speak of yet

in this boggy area!—Mystery Hiker, Granite Falls, 5/12.



LAKE 22

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Verlot)—We hadn't done this hike in years (10 or more) and I had forgotten how very, very beautiful it is. No wonder it's so popular.

The trail is in great shape with only one small blowdown which is easily gotten under and very little mud. A few patches of snow at the lake, no bugs yet.

If you have the urge to visit Lake 22 go on a weekday or very early in the morning. We shared this piece of paradise with one other soul but passed the masses coming up as we were going down.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 5/19.



BARLOW POINT

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Bedal)—We spent a very pleasant morning driving up to Barlow Pass and walking out to Barlow Point.

The trailhead leaves from the Barlow Pass parking lot and is a short (2 miles round trip) but nice hike through the woods to a large rock point with great views of the surrounding mountains and valley. No problems with the trail, no bugs and no people!—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 6/12.



WEST CADY RIDGE

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Blanca Lk)—A free weekend and the need to get high with spectacular views led us to climb the West Cady Ridge trail with a full overnight pack. We found much needed new switchbacks and trail erosion work in progress.



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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Serious snow began about 4000 feet and we soon lost the trail. We luckily found a bare patch of sort-of-flat land to camp on at the top of the west end of the ridge (about 4800 feet). Our view from camp encompassed 360 degrees of the Cascades.


The next morning under sunny skies we continued along the ridge to the Glacier Peak Wilderness boundary (5375 feet). Small patches of glacier lilies added to our enjoyment. Another two to three weeks and there will be meadows of them. We reluctantly turned back as we were running in the Sound to Narrows the next day and had to save some energy. Clouds rolled in as we broke camp and returned to the car.—Linda Rostad, Redmond, 6/8-9.

 **BARING MT** (*Baker Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Baring Mt*)—For the north side approach, Beckey's guide fails to mention a crucial detail.

The climbers' trail takes off about 100 yards from the parking lot, but not off the trail to Barclay Lake. It takes off the abandoned road that runs parallel to, and slightly higher than, the Barclay Lake trail.

It ascends very steeply, along a small stream for several hundred feet. It is reasonably distinct, although at times you must look carefully. It reaches the ridge at 4000 feet, and heads east more or less on the ridge top. On this day, there was no snow until the western crest of the cirque at 4800 feet.

The "V-gap" is straight ahead at 5500 feet, and the north summit is another 700 feet from that gap.—Warren Guntheroth, Seattle, 5/28.

 **"SECRET" TUMWATER CANYON RIM TRAIL** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest & private land; USGS Winton*)—Elaine and I decided to try Gail Roberts' spring flower hike (*Pack & Paddle*, July 1993). Directions are as she stated: park at the

Tumwater Campground off Highway 2 a few miles north (west) of Leavenworth. Cross the bridge along the highway and find the trail.

Unfortunately, someone has logged the 150-year-old ponderosa pine forest that once sheltered the slope. The trail is still easy enough to follow, despite this act, until the last bit of the cut.

Here finding the trail is difficult, although it will doubtless become easier once the needles all fall off the broken branches, which are green now. It's a case of the darkest hour being just before dawn, because after about 500 feet of really dreadful slash, the trail serenely proceeds onward through an uncut forest.

The tread is faint; but we lost it only once, next to a huge naturally downed log, only to rediscover it immediately when we decided to cut uphill to the ridge above.

Why bother, you might ask! *Clear-cut hike?*

Well, for one thing, the flowers are out of this world: a botanist's dream. Flowers of every color and size, including those you know and love, and some you never met before.

For another thing, this is a sweet and lonesome little trail on the east slopes, low elevation, that is not full of people and is not savaged by ATVs.

For a third thing, it leads up to a grassy rocky saddle, with VIEWS, and thence (for the hardy) a rocky knob, very visible from Highway 2, that provides a regular crow's nest from which to view the land about.

For icing on *that* cake, dozens of bitterroot flowers decorate that barren and rocky peaklet.

The trail goes on from the saddle (with side trip to knob), but Gail said it doesn't go far. The map shows checkerboard ownership there, and it seems likely the trail enters private land again, which has been cut: read it and weep. But it would be nice to be able to keep the trail open up to the knob at least,

and a few more boots would do that.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 5/20.

 **SNOWY CREEK** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Mt Howard*)

—The plan was for a quick morning backpack 2 miles up the Snowy Creek trail, with the afternoon spent exploring the rest of the trail up to Rock Mountain. The trailhead is located on road 6705 off Smithbrook road 6700 just east of Stevens Pass. As an afterthought Ann and I stopped at the Skykomish Ranger Station on the way to the pass to check on the forest roads and found to our dismay that Smithbrook road was blocked by snow before Rainy Pass.

On to Lake Wenatchee and up the "back way," on Rainy Creek road 67. We were again stymied by snow at the big switchback at the head of the valley.

Undeterred, we came up with a second alternate approach—start the trip from the lower Snowy Creek trailhead on the portion of road 6700 that was open! This lower trailhead is difficult to find, being unsigned and hidden in a clutter of roadside camps.

It was now early afternoon. We set off to bushwhack, if necessary, the mile or so to reach road 6705 and the upper trailhead. With a little luck we stumbled onto the trail and were soon making good time. The sharper-eyed may spot flagging and a "no motorcycles" sign that we missed going up.

The lower trail is probably not used much but was in good shape. We were soon at the upper trailhead. *100 Hikes* notes that a fine campsite can be found in upper Snowy Creek Basin at 3800 feet, so off we went. Even though it was mid-afternoon, we still had hopes of setting up a quick camp and exploring.

About half a mile from the upper trailhead we ran into small patches of snow that grew big enough to require route-finding. We finally reached 3800 feet, but no meadow and no campsite!

In search of a campsite we continued climbing, crossing Snowy Creek at

TRAILHEAD ALERT

LISTING OF TRAILHEADS WHERE VANDALISM HAS BEEN A REPORTED PROBLEM

Don't leave anything valuable in your car: no purse or wallet shoved under the front seat; no Gore-tex rain coat stashed in the trunk.

To help establish patterns for law enforcement personnel, report any break-in or vandalism, no matter how small.

LAKE QUINULT LODGE—Car break-ins at the lodge parking lot over Memorial Day weekend.

BOULDER CREEK (Hamma Hamma)—Cars at this trailhead were broken into in mid-June. The guys were caught.

RACHEL LAKE—One car break-in in the last month.

TRAPPER CREEK WILDERNESS—

Some damage to trailhead facilities.

COLUMBIA GORGE—Car clouting recently at Multnomah Falls, Eagle Creek and Oneonta Creek trailheads.

DARRINGTON DISTRICT—Some break-ins this month, but we weren't able to learn at which trailheads.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

4000 feet. At about 4200 feet, we decided to stash our packs, continue exploring, then retrace our path to a level and snowfree site close to the upper trailhead which we had noted on the way in.

Minus packs, we made good time and at about 4600 feet reached a large meadow, mostly snow covered and surrounded by the impressive slopes of Rock Mountain. In a couple of weeks this would be a great place to camp and look at wildflowers—but *not* this early.

After some looking around, we headed back down, picked up our packs, and finally made camp shortly after 5pm. With lots of mosquitoes, it was a quick dinner and an early retreat to the tent.

Sutliff's *Entiat Country* gives detailed descriptions of the Snowy Creek and Rock Mountain trails, with correct elevations.—LGM, Port Orchard, 6/9-10.

MOUNT PILCHUCK—Hikers are requested not to use the Mount Pilchuck trail Monday through Thursday from 7/15 to 10/31.

The trail is being reconstructed with the use of explosives, helicopters and other motorized equipment and hikers will be delayed or denied access during some of this work.

Call the Darrington office at 360-436-1155 for a trail update.—Ranger, 6/12.

BIG FOUR—Construction in parking lot. Follow signs.—Ranger, 6/18.

GOTHIC BASIN—Has solid snow last mile. Stream crossings dangerous.—Ranger, 6/18.

N FK SKYKOMISH—Road snow-free. Blanca Lake trail snowfree 1 mile. West Cady Ridge trail construction; expect delays.—Ranger, 6/5.

STEHEKIN—Shuttle bus fee is \$5/person/each way, reservations required; call 360-856-5703 x 14 for information.—Ranger, 6/9.

CASCADE RIVER ROAD—Gated at MP 21, 3 miles from Cascade Pass trailhead. Gate should be open by end of month.—Ranger, 6/9.

ENTIAT ROAD—Snowfree to Cottonwood. Trail snowfree about 3 or 4 miles.—Ranger, 6/21.

LAKE WENATCHEE AREA—Some roads are still closed. Call to find out status: 509-763-3103. Lots of snow above 4000 feet.—Ranger, 6/6.

CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow at 5000 feet.

TROUT, COPPER LAKES (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Skykomish, Big Snow Mtn*)—The trailhead is easy to find: leave Highway 2 on Foss River road 68 and go to the road end. There is indeed a host stationed here to watch over your car ... a very nice touch!

Kelly and I hiked the 1½ miles to Trout Lake and then another 2½ miles to Copper Lake. It was a great hike, very beautiful, even on this foggy, wet day. Lots of flowers. We passed one HUGE Douglas fir and had wonderful views of one of the most spectacular waterfalls I've ever seen around here.

The trail is in good shape though the bridge crossing the outlet of Copper Lake is gone. Lots of logs to get you over the creek though if you chose to go on to Little and Big Heart Lakes. We didn't. We huddled by the lake to eat a quick lunch and hiked out. It was snowing at the lake and very cold. We arrived back at the car, cold and soaked but happy! A super hike.—Mystery Hiker and Kelly, Granite Falls, 6/5.

MOUNT TENERIFFE (*DNR; USGS Mt Si*)—For this solitary hike-scramble I drove past the Mount Si trailhead and parked at the school bus turnaround sign about a mile farther. A gated road here is the

start of the hike.

The fresh green foliage and the dainty wildflowers that bordered the road made it seem more of a park than a road. However, despite the attractive flowers along the way the road is misleading and after an easy start along a level stretch it begins to switchback steeply up to a junction.

For Mount Teneriffe, of course, turn right, following the main road until its end with a good view down to Racher Lake. For Mount Si, obviously, one needs to turn left, following the obvious route. One can also approach Teneriffe from Mount Si (which I have done) but this makes a very long hike with one car. Also, I wanted a good work-out and didn't feel like running into hordes of other hikers.

I met very few people to or from Mount Teneriffe. The first people I encountered were a couple of fellows with llamas. They said they were training the llamas for high country pack trips. Then I ran into another couple of fellows who were coming down. And then ... no one.

From the end of the road a 1-mile unsigned way-trail goes the rest of the way to the summit. The trail is faint but if you stay near the ridge there shouldn't be a problem. I wasn't prepared for snow (no gaiters or ice axe) and found quite a bit still under the trees in dirty, icy lumps.

I ascended the final stretch by using handy trees as belays. The summit is broad and pleasant but I was disappointed to find no phlox on the summit. On the way back down I met a solo hiker coming up and then on the last mile or so where the road is flat and pleasant I met several people walking their dogs.

The book says it's 14 miles round-trip with 4000 feet gain. It sure felt like

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

it. At the trailhead there were 5 or 6 cars. When I drove by the Mount Si trailhead cars were parked all along the road as the parking lot was full. The same for the Little Si parking area. Why don't more people go to Tenneriffe? —Karen Sykes, Seattle, 5/21.

POINT 4200 (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Lk Philippa*)—This obscure summit is the high point on the ridge directly north of the ridge on which the west peaks of Garfield are situated. It is protected by formidable cliffs on all aspects.

Park at the Taylor River bridge. Hike along the river on the east side for approximately 20 minutes to a drainage. Ascend ever steepening terrain above the drainage (north side) to the entrance of a col. The summit lies atop the cliffs that you are standing under, while across the way (south) are the humongous slabs of West Garfield.

Climb up the col to where it tops out in a little basin. Drop down to the north for a hundred yards or so until you spot an obvious weakness: easy Class 4 gets you onto the ridge and then it's hands in the pocket to the summit. There was no evidence of a previous visit.—Garth, Mark, Rodger, Carnation, 5/29.

CHAIR PEAK, Snow & Gem Lakes (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—Four of us headed to The Pass: two to hike and two to climb. The Snow Lake trail was solid snow after the first ½-mile. Source Lake also was snowbound.

We parted ways below the saddle. Dave and I headed for Chair Peak's east face; Mark and Randy for Snow

and Gem lakes.

Our climb went well though slowly. Downward sloping rock and lack of cracks made for unprotected climbing. The crux move was exposed with loose rock. Several more pitches of loose stuff and the route ended on a sub-summit. We descended a gully then the south chimney. Moats at the chimneys had repelled several trying that route this day.

Meeting with Mark and Randy back at the car, they reported a great trip of snow, sun, and solitude, seeing no one till back near the saddle.

Snow, Gem, and Melakwa Lakes snowbound.—Dave, Mark, Dave P, and Randy, Tacoma, 5/28.

BEVERLY-BEAN CREEK TRAIL (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Red Top Mtn, Enchantment Lks*)—I hadn't been to this area in many years and wanted to scout it for an upcoming group trip.

The Beverly Creek road is washed out in 1 mile. The thundering creek did not look possible to ford so I tip-toed across on some scrap lumber balanced between the concrete bridge supports. It's ½-mile road walk to the next washout, with a good footbridge, and another ½-mile on old road to the real trailhead.

I turned up the Bean Creek trail. The path was dry and dusty, but a beautiful walk. On one side of the canyon balsamroot was blooming, on the shady side, snow was retreating and fields of trilliums and lilies were out.

I crossed Bean Creek and continued to about 4500 feet to my turn-around time. Lee, who had forgotten his hik-

ing boots, spent the morning at the trailhead. Fortunately, he had remembered to bring a good book!

Later, Judi Maxwell told me that a much better trailhead crossing could be found by bushwhacking upstream not too far. We'll try that when our group goes at the end of June.

The Cle Elum Ranger Station says the bridge will be replaced this summer.—Ann Marshall, Pt Orchard, 5/31.

TRONSON RIDGE (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Swauk Pass*)—Drive over Swauk Pass and turn on the signed Tronson Meadows road approximately 1 mile from the pass summit. In 2 miles from Highway 97 find a substantial parking lot. In the 2 miles one is forced to cross seven substantial berms apparently left from last year's logging.

A new trail leaves the parking lot and in ¼-mile comes to an unmarked intersection. Take the trail to the right which swings through a pleasant open forest with clumps of the rare *Lewisia Tweedyi* scattered sparsely through the lupines.

As we set off there were fresh motorcycle tracks on the trail and we hoped not to have the tranquility disturbed by the noisy machines. We were in luck on this fine day. The trail steepens very soon and maintains a very steep grade to the Haney Meadow-Tronson Ridge trail junction.

Go left at the intersection along Tronson Ridge. The trail swings around an open slope and joins the jeep road along the ridge. There is still lots of snow along this section especially in the woods. We saw many fresh elk tracks along here.

The rocky points and outcroppings are bare of snow and have varied rockery plants. From these sandstone cliffs is a magnificent view into the Teanaway Mountains and the Enchantments. We ate lunch at the sandstone spires and then reluctantly headed back to the car.

This is a very good early season and exercise hike due to the steep mid portion of the trail. Unfortunately the steep section has been damaged by motorcycle traffic that created trough-like ditches down the middle of the trail, which have been worked on by melt water running down the grooves.

Other cycles left the trail and caused further damage by cutting corners here and there. Some even rode through patches of blooming glacier lilies. Early in the year a couple of bikes did more damage to the trail and meadows in one day than a hundred hikers would do the rest of the year.—Madeleine Beaty, Federal Way, 5/28.



Ted Hueter, Bill Lynch and Martha Hueter pause on the Nisqually Delta trail.

Jane Habegger

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS


REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

NECKLACE VALLEY—Foss road snowfree. Trail snowfree 6.5 miles, then patchy. Hikers can get to Jade Lake.—Ranger, 6/6.

TONGA RIDGE—Road is snowfree. Patchy snow on trail.—Ranger, 6/6.

LEAVENWORTH DIST—Snow Lakes trailhead bridge will be replaced in late July or early August. Call Ranger Station for Enchantments information: 509-548-4067.—Ranger, 6/6.

NORTHEAST

 **DEVILS GULCH** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Monitor, Tiptop, Mission Pk, Swauk Pass*)—Loop distance 18 miles. The trail is snowfree and has been for several weeks. The creeks are running pretty high right now and you will get your boots wet. I have hiked this later in the year when you can practically step across the creeks.

At 2¼ miles is a nice camp on the east side of the trail, 2240 feet. I never did see Pine Camp. If it is there it is not maintained. Alpine Camp (3000 feet) doesn't appear to be maintained. You have to walk up into the trees about 100 feet to find a site.

At 7½ miles, 3500 feet, is the best campsite on the whole trail. It is on the west side of the trail, with access to water about 100 feet up the trail. This is the last water for the rest of the trip and it is deep this time of year. According to my altimeter, you gain 920 feet to the junction leading to Liberty-Beehive, and to complete the loop of Devils Gulch. This is half way (9 miles) if you are planning on doing the loop trip. From this point on is a whole new trail.

On this last 9-mile portion of the trail there used to be significant ups and

downs following the top of the ridge. The new trail now contours the east side of the ridge, staying a few hundred feet below the ridge. You still have nice views but with the shade of the trees and without the tiring ascending and descending, which makes it easier to do in one day.

Occasionally the new trail contours to connect with the original trail to the ridge tops, then makes nice gentle switchbacks down to the trailhead. The trail was in excellent condition and very pleasant to hike. There were a lot of mountain bikers on Saturday, so we had to keep our eyes open and be ready to step off the trail.


We didn't see any motorbikers although the sign said it was open to them, too. I don't think this place gets many hikers, but it is a really pretty spot and more hikers should try it.

The wild flowers were beautiful. I saw gentian, lupine, lady slippers, sun flowers, wild roses, and some I didn't know. A very beautiful time of year to be there. I really like this trail. It is a great early-season hike because it is snowfree so early in the year and it is so pretty.—Karen Sizemore, 6/10.

SOUTH CENTRAL




GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level about 5000 feet.

 **NISQUALLY NATL WILD LIFE REFUGE** (*Fish & Wildlife Service; USGS Nisqually*)—Ted and Martha Hueter came down

from Seattle to meet Bill and me for the 5-mile loop walk at the Nisqually Delta.

A group of Bird-a-thon participants from an Audubon club was here. We didn't spot as many species as they did but we did enjoy seeing eagles, herons, red-tailed hawks and baby geese, as well as the flora and fauna. It was a somewhat grey day and we sported umbrellas for insurance. In addition to people enjoying the area on foot we saw quite a few kayaks also.

The Refuge is located off Exit 114 on I-5, south of Fort Lewis and north of Olympia. There is an admission charge of \$2.00 per family. This was a great choice for this day in early May, which was too early for a snow free hike in the high country.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/6.

 **SILVER KING** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Norse Peak, White River Park*)—Led a Tacoma Mountaineers scramble to Silver King before Cayuse Pass opened, so I had to change the start from Crystal Lakes trailhead to the Crystal Mountain Ski Area (a plus was the open rest-rooms there).

Snow most of the way, but it is melt-



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Lee McKee

Toutle River Canyon from Crescent Ridge on the Loowit Trail.

ing fast. Followed the ski runs to Elizabeth Lake and then took the east ridge to the summit. Good step-kicking snow, but there could be a problem with icy snow near 6200 feet.

Views of everything, including Adams, Hood, Saint Helens, Glacier, Stuart and, of course, Rainier. To return, ran the ridge past the "Throne" to the "Throne-Silver Queen" saddle.

Dropped down from the saddle and then glissaded and walked back to the parking lot. A relatively short scramble from this side.—Tom Matoi, Kent, 5/20.

NORSE PEAK (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Norse Peak*)—The trailhead is just past the 4-mile marker on the Crystal Mountain Road. There's a small Forest Service sign with "410" on the side road.

They've re-routed most of the trail compared to the map to prevent "resource damage." Basically, the trail no longer crosses any creeks below 5800 feet. The trail was in good shape with no blowdowns until I ran into solid snow at 5700 feet.

After another 100 feet, I did a climbing traverse to the ridge line and followed the ridge to the summit. The summit is marked by a low rock-enclosed bivvy site. Saw a party with 4 horses and another with 2, but no other large animals.—Tom Matoi, Kent, 5/20.

WAHPENAYO PEAK (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier West*)—A Mountaineer scramble, conditioner, alpine whatever, very well organized and led by Edythe Hulet.

Left Longmire in light rain at 7:30am.

Up the wide, good trail toward Eagle Saddle. Rain quit after a half hour or so which was a nice surprise. Only a few small patches of snow before the end of the well graded portion of the trail. Fair accumulation in trees before the trail makes its final assault on the pass.

From there dropped across intermittent snow and nasty slippery beargrass to a notch just east of Chutla, then below on the north side of the ridge and atop the ridge on fairly good snow, both for plunge and kick steps. And, on the return, glissades.

Reached summit at 11:20. Snow free, even some moss campion in bloom. Lots of fog but some glimpses of parts of Rainier, a dirty Nisqually Glacier and beautifully sculpted snow. Short lunch at summit, back into raingear in anticipation of glissades (fearless leader checked them out before allowing us neophytes to go). Short lunch and back at Longmire at 2:15. A very pleasant trip, cool, no bugs, lots of fog and an amiable group of nine.

From the description of what lay under the snow it appears that this is the time of year to go.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 6/4.

MYSTIC LAKE, MINERAL MOUNTAIN (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS USGS Mowich Lk*)—Leaving Ipsut campground I had Mystic Lake as my destination on this sunny Memorial Day weekend. The snow covered the ground for good after the 4000 foot level. From there I slogged on into the afternoon, following tracks in the snow that hopefully led to the lake.

During a rest stop I finally spotted

the lake, though it was far below me and not worth the long descent. So I camped on an overlooking knoll with a noisy grouse as my only company. After a beautifully starry night, I awoke early and decided to scale nearby Mineral Mountain, which stands at 6500 feet. It took me about 45 minutes to summit, where I could see various groups of climbers on the Rainier glaciers.

Back down I broke camp and adopted a leisurely pace back. This hike is quite scenic, passing the Carbon Glacier and several waterfalls. Good camping spots abound. Total mileage to Mystic Lake is about 7 miles, within striking distance of several smaller peaks.—Douglas Cuneo, Seattle, 5/27-28.

GOBBLERS KNOB VIA WEST SIDE ROAD (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt. Wow*)—Trip to check out trail for proposed Mountaineer hike on 6/11. Hike cancelled as result of this excursion.

8:05am. Approximately 2900 feet at barricade, West Side road. Mertensia blooming. 8:40, Tahoma Creek trail (closed). Lots of old mountain bike tracks on road, squaw grass blooming.

9:00, Tahoma Vista, approximately 3450 feet. Yellow violets and waterleaf blooming. 10:00am, Round Pass—4000 feet, reset altimeter.

Sign to Lake George Trail notes Gobbler's Knob 2.4 miles. More trillium and yellow violets. At 4100 feet avalanche lilies. Steady uphill climb on good wide tread, lots of debris from winter storms. 10:32, Lake George, approximately 4300 feet, patchy snow over trail. Sign says Gobblers Knob 1.5, Goat Lakes, 3 miles.

11:00—4600 feet, 6 feet of snow in opening. Very few blazes, but recent pink ribbons help find trail. 11:40, pond or wet meadow under heavy snow pack. 1:00pm Gobblers Knob, 5485 feet, lookout sealed up and in good shape. Photo and lunch stop.

From 4600 feet on this has been mostly a snow scramble. Expect it will be a least June 15 before one can ascend the trail on snowfree tread.

Chipmunk chewed into my fruit leather while I was setting up the tripod for the 4x5. Those little hummers work fast! 2:15, leave summit. 4:00 Round Pass. 4:35 Tahoma Vista rest stop.

5:20 admire cascade off Mount Wow, WOW! 5:25, point of beginning. Tired.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 5/31.

NACHES WAGON TRAIL (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Lester*)—In 1853 David Longmire led a train of 53 wagons and 148 emigrants

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over lofty Naches Pass (4900 feet) down steep slopes—45 degrees and more—into the Greenwater River watershed, and the Puget Sound area beyond. But the wagon trail proved too difficult, and shortly thereafter was abandoned.

Initially, the Forest Service opened the trail for foot and horse traffic, but the trail as such was sacrificed when motorbikes and jeeps were permitted to maul its tread. Today, the trail remains steep, and downed trees and rocky terrain are the order of the day. The ascent to Government Meadow is 5 miles with an elevation gain of 2200 feet.

The Camp Ulrich shelter at Government Meadow was replaced in 1991 and is in good shape, according to the White River district. (The Arch Rock shelter, on the other hand, was torn down last year and was burned last month because of its location in a Wilderness Area.)

We hiked ½-mile east and topped Naches Pass whose ancient signboard tells of the perils that wagon train faced 142 years ago. We had the forest, the snow, and the wet all to ourself on Friday, June 9, except for a solitary trucker who was exercising his dog. When I asked him where we were, he said that he had no idea.—Jim Doubleday, Issaquah, 6/9.



GREENWATER RIVER, CORRAL PASS

(*Norse Pk Wilderness; USGS Noble Knob*)—After work on Friday, I drove to Enumclaw to meet my brother Don and son Kurt for our second "Trail Day" weekend.

After parking at the trailhead on road 70 we hefted our packs and headed up the trail at 8pm. Fortunately the weather was warm and skies pretty clear.

The trail is nice and the scenery in the forest beautiful and always the sound of Greenwater River rushing down from above. The devil's club was just getting started as was the vanilla leaf. The trilliums were out and very pretty also. The trail itself was in really good condition with not too many muddy places.

We arrived at the first Meeker Lake at 8:30 and found it filled with campers. We hurried to the end of the second little lake and found campers. I was getting a little anxious as I wanted to set up camp before dark. After crossing two bridges, we saw a gal coming down the trail and asked if there were any camping places ahead.

She told us of a nice spot 5 minutes up the trail. At 9pm we found the camp, set up quickly and then enjoyed the late evening. No bugs, a little breeze and so much peace.

Got up the morning of June 3 to a clear sky with a little fog up on the

hills above us, but a promise of a beautiful day. We decided since we couldn't do a loop trip this way because of the snow, we would get as far as we could. The snow hadn't been gone from this area very long.

We had to cross several small streams and found logs across the trail. It was a steady climb going up to Echo Lake. We started getting into a few patches of snow as we neared Echo Lake, 3819 feet. The lake is really very pretty and quite large; the area is well used. The west side of the lake is closed for revegetation. At the far (south) end of Echo Lake was more snow.

We rested a bit and snacked and then tried to find the trail to Hidden Lake and Corral Pass. The sign is hard to see as well as the trail, at least this time of the year.

From Echo Lake we hiked on snow for awhile and then found snowfree trail. This trail is nice but not used as much as the Echo Lake one. Lots of branches down which we cleared off the trail and more logs to get around.

We arrived at Hidden Lake just in time for lunch. A hummingbird flew around as we ate. After checking out the area we set up camp. Hidden Lake, 4000 feet, is very small. The lake had a lot of pollen floating on parts of it as well as downed logs.

At 2 o'clock, we put on our gaiters to see if we could get up to Corral Pass. The trail was actually dry for quite a way with lots of flowers. The snow is from 0 inches to about 4 or 5 feet.

Arriving at Corral Pass we found a beautiful meadow covered in snow with patches of green off and on. The meadow was surrounded with peaks with their tops dressed with snow. Corral Pass is a drive-in campground which is popular with the horse people.

The road was closed 5 miles below the pass so we could enjoy its beauty all by ourselves. We left Corral Pass at 4:15pm and headed back to camp. An elk came through the snow near our camp but we didn't see him. A beaver was out on the lake. A nest in a dead snag near camp is home to hairy woodpeckers.

On Sunday, June 4, we woke to clouds but no rain. We ate breakfast and cleaned up camp then headed off down the trail (with a lot of ups also) and back to the car. We stopped to eat lunch at our campsite of Friday night. The pikas across the way hollered at us and we watched them while we ate.

All of a sudden the peace was disrupted by the sounds of gun shots down toward the upper Meeker Lake. Ah yes, civilization. We found later it was a

group of young people. Wonder where their supervision was.

The bridges are really nice on the trail but the steps on them are too high for me with short legs. With a heavy pack it is up one and knee up with the other and then pull myself up.

A great trip, weather and companions. Now it is time to get ready for our nine-day trip this summer.—Bev, Chehalis, 6/2-4.



DIXON MOUNTAIN & HIGH ROCK LOOKOUT

(*GP Nail Forest; USGS Tatoosh Lks & Sawtooth Ridge*)—Took three Tacoma Mountaineers out for some exercise. Dixon is on the Tahoma Peaks List. This was my 4th time up here. The weather was quite warm and sunny. Bugs not too bad in this area yet. It's a nice early-season hike. Takes about 1½ hours up and 45 minutes back to car. About 1000 foot gain. We had snow much of the way.

At 2.8 miles east of Ashford Valley Grocery (great home-made cinnamon rolls) turn right on road 52. Road becomes Skate Creek road after a left turn. Drive 14.3 miles more, turn left at bridge over Skate Creek. You are now on Johnson Creek road. Go 5.6 miles and the parking area is on the right at a hard-left turn (near end of road). These mileages are according to my car; yours may vary.

A really good trail starts out at a hunters' camp. If you do this early, you will have snow most of the way. This prevents some bushwhacking where the trail gets faint for a while. Trail most of the way but hard to find after the pond. Go up over a hump. Trail easy to pick up again at base of Dixon. Goes to the right, past a hunters' camp and switchbacks to the top, 5134 feet. Took direct ridge route on the way down. Would not advise this route on the way up unless you can be on snow.

Alex, Ann, and Evan were ready for more exercise so we went to High Rock Lookout, 5700 feet. My second time here. About 1500 feet of gain in 1.6 miles. Road is signed off of Skate Creek road. Easy to find and great trail. Views are breathtaking. There were a lot of people up here. Alex said his map showed a shorter road back to road 52 and he was right. We even had some black top on the "back road."—Edythe Hulet, Aberdeen, 6/3.

HIGHWAY 410—Expect delays up to 30 minutes due to road work between MP 48 and 58. Cayuse Pass open. Chinook Pass open with 7 feet snow remaining.—Ranger, 6/20.

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SOUTH



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow above 4000 feet.

OLD SNOWY (*Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Hamilton Buttes, Old Snowy Mtn, Walupt Lk*)—Despite some navigation difficulties this was an excellent spring ski tour.

Mike and I parked where Johnson Creek road 21 was blocked by snow about 1/2-mile short of the saddle leading to the Cispus. We headed northeast from the road through the trees, taking the recommended 3/4-mile shortcut to the Berry Patch trailhead near Chambers Lake. Using a straight-as-a-Z line of travel we finally found the lake, and nearby the trailhead.

Momentarily sure of our position we put skis on and headed out past the Snowgrass Flats trail 96 signpost. We found and lost the trail several times in the next few miles, alternating between skiing the skis and carrying them at about the same rate as we encountered stands of dense young trees or bare ground.

From the Goat Creek crossing the final pull up to Snowgrass Flats went better as we managed to stay on the blazed trail, chanting our new mantra: "Life begins at treeline, life begins at treeline."

The entire approach was in mature forest, without even short-range views. The trail blazes are old. Many were just straight-line scars where the bark had sealed over, while others were on barkless snags, leaving just scratches in the silver trunk to identify the trail.

At the Flats we broke into bright sun and mountain views, and quickly found a scenic camp. Solitude was ours, with only a pair of old snowshoe tracks showing someone had been here earlier. The evening was pleasant and balmy, and my forgetting to bring any kind of hat was a non-event as the night was so warm.

We were on top of the mountain before 9am, pleased with the ease of navigation. We took a few runs from the summit on the sun-softened east slopes before making the final descent back to camp.

The return to the cars was much less interesting. We followed trail the entire distance, coming down to the Berry

Patch on the Goat Ridge trail 95. We were not sure how we managed the trick of swapping trails, but I suspect our maps were not up-to-date on the trail situation in this area. We decided to skip the shortcut to the cars to ski and walk the road back. It was a good 3-plus miles around, and we wished we had just taken the direct route.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 5/20-21.

DOG MOUNTAIN (*Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS Mt Defiance*)—A new trail has been built to Dog Mountain. It was signed but not open when we hiked this trail. There is also a new high-tech outhouse at the old trailhead that actually did not smell.

There must have been 80 to 100 cars at the trailhead to Dog Mountain, located right off Highway 14 and visible from the highway. It was a very warm day and there was not much wind.

The trail to the top of Dog Mountain starts with short steep switchbacks. Eventually you reach a view over the Columbia River and feel a breeze. About half of the route is in the shade.

The wildflower display begins at the start of the trail with lupine, wild roses and many others. In the forest the wood violets are prolific. At Little Puppy, the famous balsamroot begins. From Little Puppy, the summit looked golden from the balsamroot covering the mountain.

The display of these flowers at the summit was absolutely unbelievable, the best we remember ever seeing it. The conditions this spring must have been perfect for the flowers. They were everywhere! At the summit, it was hot and the wind was nowhere near the usual heavy gusts we've experienced there many times before.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/29.

DOG MOUNTAIN (*GP Natl Forest; USGS Mt Defiance*)—With its 3000 feet of elevation gain in 3 miles this is a wonderful conditioner. For the past few years Dog Mountain has gained fame for its fields of yellow balsamroot on the summit. In May and June the small parking lot is jammed with flower-seekers.

Recently something has been added—a new trail! This new track takes you around the west corner of the mountain with many views of Wind Mountain. An amazing thing about this trail is it gets you to the top with little steepness and only three short switchbacks. Many people like to go up one trail and down the other. The bad news is the new trail adds .5-mile to the old 3-mile distance. When complete it will also provide the option of connecting with Augsperger

Mountain, off to the west.—Jim Miller, Portland.

GRASSY KNOLL (*Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS Huckleberry Mtn, Willard*)—Bill and I hiked to Grassy Knoll on a warm clear day. This trail is short but quite steep in places. We liked having our hiking sticks along on the way down.

The cliff-top viewpoint of Mount Adams is quite nice at 1.2 miles. The view of Mount Hood 1 mile farther at Grassy Knoll, 3648 feet, is great and the wildflowers en route are also really pretty.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/30.

APE CAVE—The lantern rental station is now open weekends 10am to 4pm.—Ranger, 6/2.

WINDY RIDGE ROAD—Open all the way to end.—Ranger, 6/21.

MT ST HELENS—Permits required from 5/15 to 11/1. Call Headquarters at 360-750-3900 for information. Monitor Ridge still has snow.—Ranger, 6/5.

OREGON

SADDLE MOUNTAIN (*State Park*)—Saddle Mountain is the throne of the Oregon Coast. On a clear day you can see the Oregon shore as if from a plane—from Astoria to Cannon Beach. And with a good telescope you ought to even be able to see the people in these coastal towns!

Saddle Mountain trailhead is reached by a 12 mile paved logging road which begins 10 miles east of Highway 101 on Highway 26.

The trail reaches the 3000-foot summit in about 3 miles. The switchbacking trail is deeply eroded and even hazardous in some places just enough that parents need to keep careful watch over their children. Many wildflowers are seen along the trail.

A fenced area on top provides a picnic space for a dozen or so people, with are splendid views of Adams, Hood, Rainier and Jefferson. The other summit of Saddle Mountain is brushy, trail-less, and seldom visited.

I love this hike. I did it twice in May of this year.—Jim Miller, Portland, 5/95.

TOM MCCALL PRESERVE (*Columbia Gorge*)—Kathe Stanness and I planned a holiday weekend of hiking and photographing flowers in the Columbia Gorge. I couldn't pry John away from his work so he didn't get the pleasure of staying at the Carson Hot Spring Mineral Resort with

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its mineral baths, massages, and good food.

We checked into our cottage at Carson, and then drove to The Dalles to visit the Tom McCall Preserve (which has been written up in an earlier edition of *Pack & Paddle*; see *March 1994, page 16*). The preserve is on the Rowena Plateau and is famous for its display of wildflowers. The best time to see the flowers is from March through May and I suspect April would be the best of all.

It was a very hot day and we didn't even put on boots. We hiked up to Tom McCall Point which is the "high point" of this Nature Conservancy preserve with an elevation of 1722 feet. We don't know the elevation at the parking area but it felt like we gained about 900 feet.

We were worried about poison oak which is prevalent here and even though Kathe is an expert on flowers, she couldn't remember what the plant looked like so we were very careful and avoided anything shiny with three serrated leaves.

Poison oak is a real good reason to stay on the established trails (other than the fact that it is simply good manners). In addition to poison oak there are ticks though we never found any.

This is a short and lovely trail with patches of Garry oak and, of course, bunches of flowers. Good views up and down the Columbia River. We had the place to ourselves and used up quite a lot of our film.

To reach the preserve go east on I-84 from Portland. From Hood River take Highway 30 to the parking area. For more information on the Tom McCall Preserve contact the Nature Conservancy at 1205 NW 25th Ave, Portland OR 97210 (503-228-9561).

We got back to Carson in time for dinner. They serve until 8:30pm and are open by 8am for breakfast.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 5/26.



ANGELS REST/DEVILS REST (Columbia Gorge NSA;

USGS Bridal Veil)—If my write-up is confusing it is because I have the earlier edition of Don and Roberta Lowe's *35 Hiking Trails in the Columbia Gorge* which has the hikes listed separately. Kathe had the later edition in which the two hikes have been combined and written up on one page.

If I get you lost don't panic because if you just keep following a trail (any trail) downhill you will eventually reach the road and there is plenty of water around. To be on the safe side, though, I suggest you purchase the later edition of the book.

From the west drive I-84 to Bridal

Veil Exit 28 and follow the exit road .2-mile to its junction with the Old Columbia River highway. Drive west for about 7 miles to the parking area for Angels Rest.

The Angels Rest hike begins by traversing up a bank but we made very slow progress because of the flowers. We hiked through thickets of larkspur—we've never seen so many. There was lots of everything else, too: lupine, tiger lilies, columbine, and oddest of all, wild iris. When we saw the first iris we stopped for a photograph and then soon discovered they are everywhere.

The upper portion of the trail switchbacks through part of a burn. Eventually the switchbacks lead to a view of Angels Rest. The trail goes into an open, rocky area at about 2 miles then returns to vegetation and then a short stretch across loose slabs (it feels like walking on broken dishes) before reaching Angels Rest.

There is a junction at the ridge-top. To reach Angels Rest proper turn left, scramble over rocks and go along the crest to the summit area. The rock formations look like a giant piled slabs one on top of another.

It is possible from here to hike to Wahkeena Falls but I won't get into that. Things are confusing enough! To reach Devils Rest, from the junction follow a trail back into the woods for about a mile. The trail ends at a road which is signed "Foxglove Trail." Turn right and follow the road.

At the next junction we turned left on an unsigned trail to Devils Rest. We met a few other people with the hiking

guide in hand also looking for this trail. There is a wide place in the road (probably once used for parking), and the trail is to your right, across from the parking area. That trail is easily followed to Devils Rest. At the junction at the ridgeline turn left for Devils Rest.

We met a few other people who were trying to do the loop we were doing and our paths were to cross several times that day. We should have returned the way we came but we didn't. According to the later edition of the guide there is a trail marked "Primrose Trail" which descends from the summit and meets up with trails which return to Angels Rest. The more we looked at the book and at the rough map the more confused we got so we just decided to go for it and give it our best shot.

We figured the unsigned trail which descends the face of Devils Rest was Primrose trail so we took that and hoped for the best. We were following a flagged path which very steeply descended to the burn. We were soon begrimed by soot. Some people had gone before us and as we didn't see them returning we figured they must be doing the right thing too. We then hit a logging road. No signs, no markers.

Which way to go? Following our intuition we turned left and were relieved to reach the Devils Rest trailhead. From there we simply retraced our route to Angels Rest. We took a break and were surprised to see the people who had gone ahead of us approach us from behind. They had turned right on the logging road and were forced to retrace their route as the road gave up



North face of Mount Hood from Barrett Spur.


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and died.

We were happy to get back to the car and felt like we had hiked more than we actually did—about 8½ miles round-trip with an elevation gain of 2600 feet. It sounds so easy, doesn't it?

Back to Carson for cleaning up, a good meal, and good books to read. I almost forgot to mention what a hot day it was.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 5/27.

 **MOUNT DEFIANCE** (*Columbia Gorge; USGS Mt Defiance*)—Mount Defiance has long held the reputation of being the most grueling trail in the Columbia Gorge; the legend is that you should climb Mount Hood in preparation for Mount Defiance. Although the elevation gain for each is roughly 5000 feet the legend fails a reality check. But not by much!

The trailhead is Starvation Creek, about 50 miles east of Portland on I-84. The old Defiance trail 413 begins heavy-duty climbing about a mile to the west. The newer Starvation Creek trail 414 in conjunction with the Mitchell Point trail 417 also takes you to Defiance. The three trails together provide an 11-mile loop trip for masochists.

Rita Maupin and I began this hike at 8am accompanied by my dog-buddy Kojak, a Boston terrier. We turned up the Starvation Creek trail a hundred yards west of the parking lot. This trail swiftly lets you know it means business, climbing to an 1100-foot elevation lookout under the power lines in less than a mile.

Then it's into the woods for a long, long pull. The trail varies from steep to very steep with a few near-level places on a long ridge with an enchanting forest. But the uphill is relentless.

At about 3600 feet we hit the junction with the Mitchell Point trail. A trail-sign seems to indicate a left turn for Warren Lake (and hence Mount Defiance); but we knew better and turned right.

A half mile of blessedly level hiking brought us to pretty Warren Lake (3752 feet). Then we hiked onward and upward across the erupted lava fields of this shield volcano. At about 4200 feet we hit the T-junction and turned directly upward toward the summit over rocky trails and old snow.

Soon we crossed the maintenance road and not long after came out on the summit at 4960 feet. Several microwave towers stand here. We walked around the fence to some big boulders and a stunning view of Mount Hood. It had taken us 4½ hours.

After lunch and rest we descended. At the 4200 foot T-junction we chose to return by way of the old Defiance trail. We laced our boots tightly for the downhill, aware that we were in for 5 miles of unabated toe pounding. Below 2000 feet Rita donned gaiters to fend off the poison oak.

We were down in about half the time it had taken to get up. Kojak, the Boston terrier, did just fine. As we limped to the car we remarked that, save for the poison oak, Mount Defiance was not so terrible after all.—Jim Miller, Portland, 5/30.

PERMITS—In the June issue, page 15, we mentioned some new regulations for the Pamelia Lake and Obsidian areas. Paula Hyatt called to offer additional information (she is one of the volunteer trailhead information people).

For Pamelia Lake, day and overnight

Limited Entry Permits must be obtained only at the Detroit Ranger Station, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City OR 97360. Call 503-854-3366 for information.

For the Obsidian area, Limited Entry Permits are available only at the McKenzie Ranger Station, McKenzie Bridge OR 97413. Call 503-822-338.

The Limited Entry Permits are in effect from Memorial Day through 10/31. They may be obtained 30 days in advance by mail, phone or in person. There is no charge.

COLUMBIA GORGE NSA—All trails are snowfree and have been cleared of logs and debris. The flowers are at their peak.

The new trail on Dog Mountain is actually part of the new Augsperger Mountain trail that will eventually go all the way to Grassy Knoll. The new trail serves to disperse use in this popular area.—Ranger, 6/15.

IDAHO

SAWTOOTH AREA—Road 210 is open from Hell Roaring trailhead to Redfish Lake. Elk meadows west of Stanley is open. Livingston Mill is open to the trailhead.

The snow level is 7500 feet with a good 9 feet of snow on the ridges. Stanley Lake trail to Bridal Veil Falls is officially closed. Iron Creek is snowfree ½-mile. Grandjean trail has snow and is impassable below Baron Lakes. Farley trail still has snow. Stream crossings are high, fast and hazardous with floating debris.

For information, call 208-737-3200.—Ranger, 6/13.

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.

FOUND—Small camera in black leather case, on the Lower Big Quilcene trail near Bark Shanty camp, June 6. To claim, call 206-747-7388 and describe.

LOST—IQ Zoom 35mm camera, black, in black carrying case, probably within 10 miles north of south of Road 2000 (southern Washington) ON the Pacific Crest Trail. Reward plus shipping costs reimbursed, plus the good karma of re-

turning my camera. Lisa Darling, 206-325-3465 (7am to 7pm only); 952 24th S, Seattle WA 98144.

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

FOR SALE—Nice blue down sleeping bag, zips down side, can double as down comforter. \$20. Call Lisa Darling, 206-325-3465 (7am to 7pm only).

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.

Write 1819 Hickox Road, Mount

Vernon WA 98273 for more data; SASE appreciated.

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).

BOOTS—For sale: women's Gore-tex Vasque hiking boot, size 9. Low mileage. \$55. 206-823-6565 (Kirkland).

BOOTS—for sale: Merrill Mountaineer, women's size 6½, \$100, mens size 11, \$100; Alpina mens X-C, NNN, size 44, \$30. All boots barely used. 206-783-6625.

WALT BAILEY

Squire Creek Revisited

—GOING BACK AFTER 54 YEARS—

Back in 1939, when I was an enrollee in the Civilian Conservation Corps, I, along with three other enrollees and a Forest Service foreman, was working on the Squire Creek trail near Darrington.

We built a beautiful lean-to from Alaska cedar trees that we felled. We also felled a 5-foot red cedar tree to make hand-split shakes for the roof. And we also split 7-foot cedar boards for two double deck bunks inside the lean-to.

We moved the green cedar logs with ropes and pulleys to the lean-to site. Using a horse, the Forest Service packer brought cement mix and the metal top and pipe for the stove that was built in front of the lean-to. The Forest Service foreman and one of the enrollees slept in a tent which was also used for eating our meals and storing our food.

We had a garbage pit a short distance from the tent, and every morning we would find food scraps put back on a



Walt and the collapsed lean-to.

shelf inside the tent by the pack rats.

Two of the other enrollees and I slept



Stumps of the Alaska cedars that the crew felled are still visible on the Squire Creek trail.

under a huge rock.

In July 1993, after 54 years, I went back to the Squire Creek trail on a Volunteers for Outdoor Washington work party and Randy Patterson and I slept under the same rock for one night.

All that is left of the lean-to are some shakes and two logs. The mice were there that night, but I saw no sign of the pack rats.

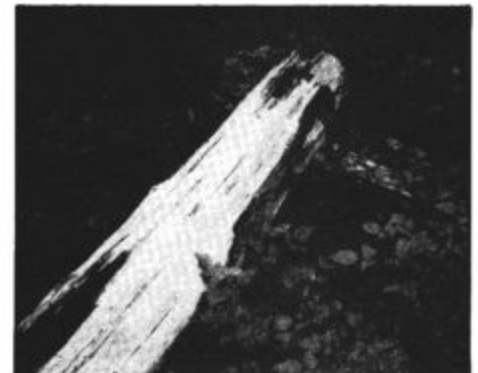
Only two of us who worked on this project are still living. This is probably the last lean-to built by the 3Cs in the Mount Baker National Forest.

△

Walt Bailey, of Marysville, is still hiking and building trails. His namesake, the Walt Bailey Trail, is located on Mallardy Ridge near Verlot.



The rock the CCC crew used to sleep under, and which Walt slept under again in 1993.



Remains of the lean-to.

JEFF HOWBERT

THE HOME COURT 100

—MOUNTAINEERS ARE COMPELLED TO DRAW UP LISTS—

Wherever there is an abundance of mountains to climb, mountaineers seem compelled to draw up lists of the highest or hardest in their area. Numerous such lists have been compiled for the state of Washington, but two stand out for their completeness and consistency.

Both are tabulations of the 100 highest peaks in the state, using somewhat different rules for what constitutes a summit.

The Bulger list, prepared in the late '70s by John Lixvar, covered mountains with 400 feet or more of prominence, with a few miscellaneous inclu-

sions that are well-known but lack prominence, such as Sahale. It was the first comprehensive, topographically defined list, and became the object of a fierce competition among the Bulgers to be first ascendant of the full 100 (achieved by Russ Kroeker in 1980, and 8 others since).

More recently, Stephen Fry published a scholarly summation of the 100 highest peaks in the state according to criteria of 500, 1000, and 2000 feet of prominence¹. Only one climber is known to have finished all the peaks on these three lists (John Roper, in 1993).

MAKING THE LIST

After returning to the Northwest and taking up climbing, I became aware of these lists, and gradually acquired the fever to tackle them. But doubting whether I'd ever possess the time or technical ability to complete these very serious groups of mountains, I considered inventing a more modest list to work on.

I wanted to retain the spirit of variety and challenge embodied in the original Top 100 lists, but somehow scale back the demands of logistics and technical difficulty. The result is described below—the Home Court 100.

The area chosen for the list was dubbed the Home Court because it represents that portion of the Cascades closest and most accessible to people living in the greater Seattle area, especially the Eastside (this includes myself).

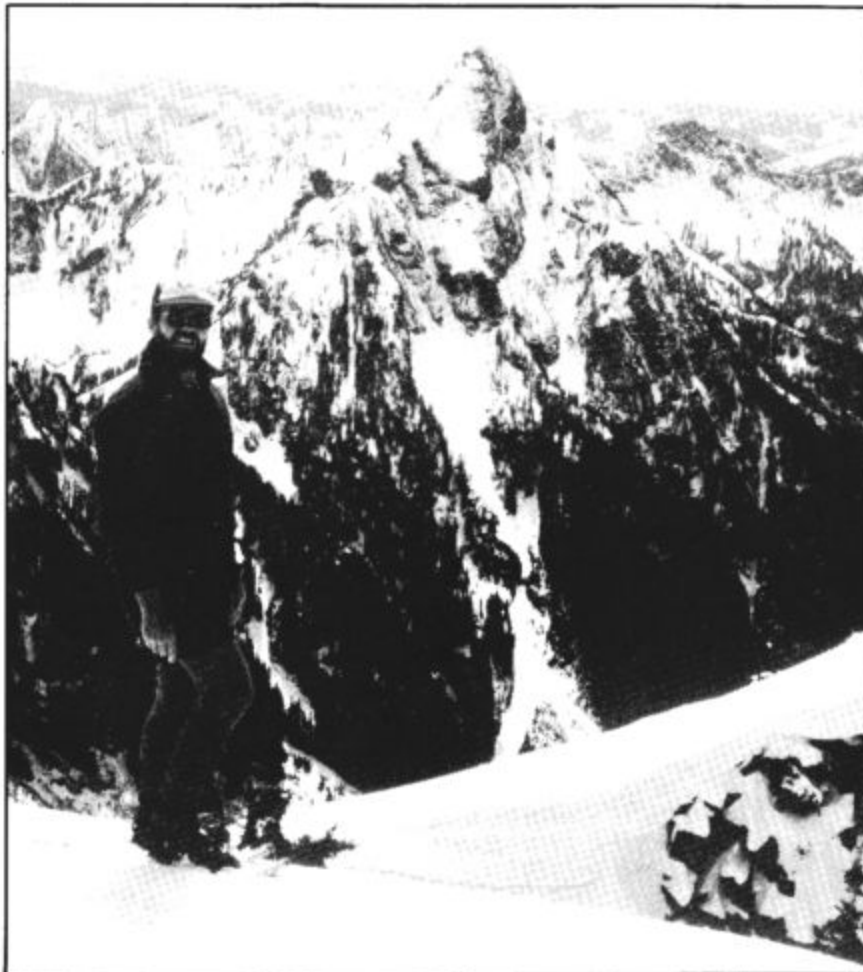
It lies between Highway 2 and Interstate 90, and west of Deception Pass, that is, west of Deception Creek and the Cle Elum River.

Although some neighboring areas of the Cascades are similarly accessible, I decided to limit the Home Court to these boundaries because they define a natural and well-delineated physiographic block of uplands, surrounded on all sides by deep, prominent drainages.

I analyzed a total of 19 of the current series of 7½ minute USGS quads² to find the highest peaks in the Home Court.

The primary rule for admission of a peak to the list was that it have 500 feet of prominence; that is, it rise at least 500 feet above the low point on the highest-running ridge connecting it to a higher elevation³.

Since topographic maps provide only a certain degree of resolution in their contours (40 feet on all the maps covering this area), some ambiguity usually exists on the elevation of connecting



John Roper

The author and Mount Thompson (number 18) from Burnt Boot (number 20).

ridges, as well as many summits.

For this list, the most stringent possible interpretation of prominence was taken. Low points on ridges were always rounded up to the next higher contour on the ridge, and summit elevations always rounded down to the highest contour visible, unless a surveyed value was shown⁴.

This ensured that all prominences were "clean," in the parlance of those who worry about such things, and could not be the subject of future quibbles over whether they belonged on the list (this has been a minor issue with the original Top 100 lists).

LET THE CHIPS FALL

So, enough of methodology—what manner of mountains did this exercise select? To no great surprise, they are much more accessible than the remote giants of the Pickets and the Pasayten.

There are probably none that could not be climbed in two days round trip from the trailhead by a truly motivated climber (though a few would be more comfortable in three).

There are also relatively few where the elevation gain from the trailhead much exceeds 4000 feet, whereas a number of the statewide Top 100s involve climbs of 6000 feet or more.

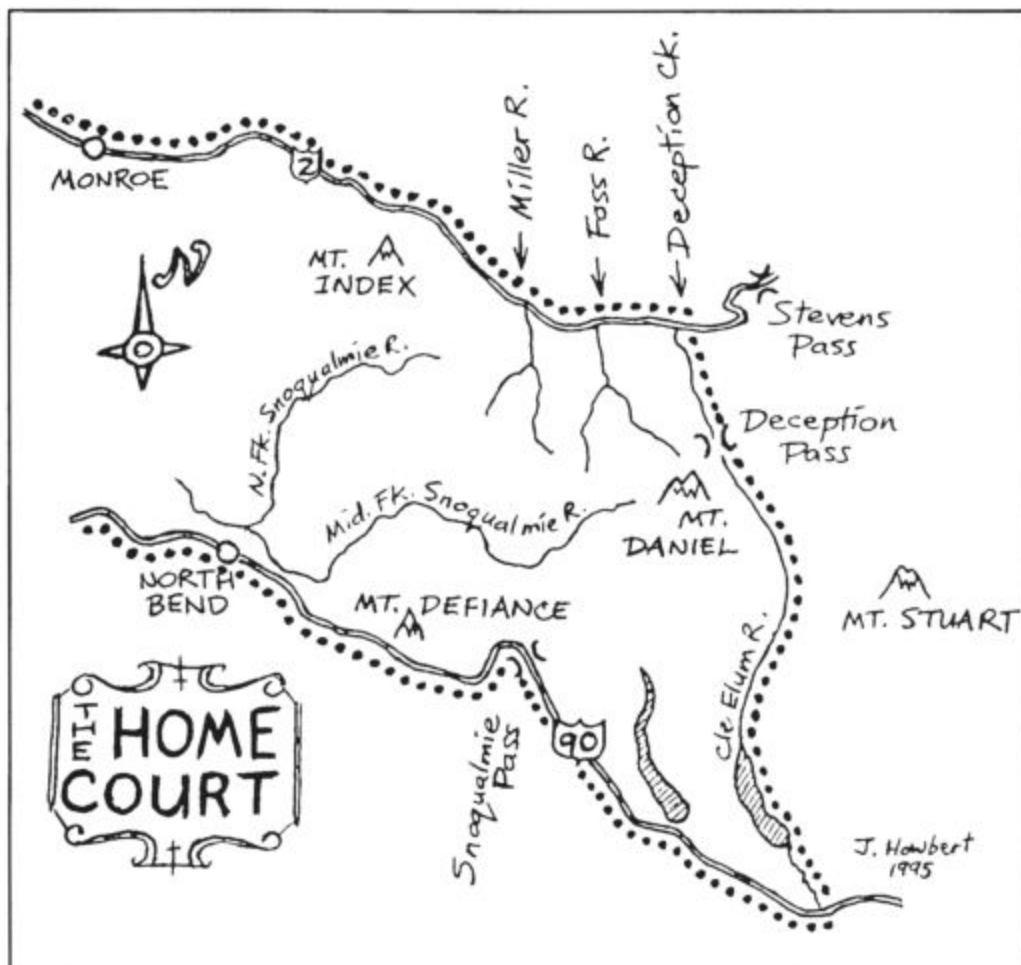
In addition, glacier travel can be largely avoided if desired, although good glacier climbs are certainly available (especially on Mount Daniel).

On the other hand, it appears that the overall technical challenge of the Home Court 100 may not be dramatically less than their bigger brethren.

The summits of Chimney Rock, Bears Breast, and the Middle Peak of Index cannot be attained except by multi-pitch technical routes, and there are plenty of Class 3 and 4 scrambles, such as Cathedral Rock and Garfield, that command respect.

Such was the outcome—I chose the area and set the rules for selection beforehand, then let the chips fall without any adjustments along the way. I'm actually quite happy that some truly difficult summits ended up on the list. It will oblige me to continue pushing my technical standard, even if I stay close to home.

Anyone familiar with the area will



quickly note that a number of popular and well-known named summits are missing from the list.

This is a consequence of using purely topographic criteria—no weight was given to whether a prominence had a name associated with it or not. The flip side is that a substantial number of authentic summits were found that are not named either on the map or in the *Cascade Alpine Guide* (about 25, or a quarter of the whole list).

To help in locating these more obscure peaks, a couple of aids have been employed in the table. Some have been provisionally named as subsummits of nearby named summits (for example, South Peak of Thorp), while others are identified by the names of two nearby lakes or drainages (these are enclosed in parentheses, for example: (Boomerang-Blethen)).

In a few cases, an informal name used by local climbers has been listed, such as Canoe Peak. For me, the discovery of so many poorly known summits adds greatly to the adventure of climbing the Home Court.

NOW TO EXPLORE EVERY CORNER

As I write this, I have only just begun my quest (17 climbed, 83 to go). It appears very unlikely I'll be the first to finish. To my knowledge, there are at least four climbers who have already done more than 40 peaks from the list.

One of them, moreover, has decided the Home Court is a worthy project, and is devoting a fair amount of energy to its completion. No matter. Like all mountains, they'll always be there.

But with the Home Court so close by, I can realistically look forward to eventually exploring its every corner. And I'll always have the satisfaction and enjoyment that came from researching the list—that was an adventure in itself.

References:

- (1) See *The Mountaineer Annual*, 1983-1990. Also appearing in the same article are two very interesting

continued page 26

HOME COURT HIGHEST 100 PEAKS

RANK	NAME	ELEV.	SADDLE	PROM.	USGS QUAD.	NOTES
1	Mount Daniel	7960+	4480	3480	Mount Daniel	CAG
2	Chimney Rock	7727	5000	2727	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG, 1
3	Mount Hinman	7492	6240	1252	Mount Daniel	CAG
4	Lemah Mountain	7480+	6520	960	Chikamin Peak	CAG
5	Summit Chief Mountain	7464	6140	1324	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
6	Overcoat Peak	7432	6800	632	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
7	Dip Top Peak*	7291	6280	1011	Mount Daniel	CAG
8	Lynch Peak*	7280+	6680	600	Mount Daniel	CAG
9	Little Big Chief Mountain*	7225	6720	505	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
10	Bears Breast Mountain	7197	6080	1117	Mount Daniel	CAG
11	Chikamin Peak	7000+	5920	1080	Chikamin Peak	CAG
12	Cathedral Rock	6724	5640	1084	Mount Daniel	CAG
13	Three Queens	6687	4920	1767	Chikamin Peak	CAG
14	Big Snow Mountain	6680	5320	1360	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
15	Goat Mountain	6600+	4520	2080	Davis Peak	CAG
16	(Venus-Spade)	6596	6000	596	Mount Daniel	
17	La Bohn Peak*	6585	5880	705	Mount Daniel	CAG
18	Mount Thompson	6554	5040	1514	Chikamin Pk.	CAG
19	Hibox Mountain*	6547	5520	1027	Chikamin Pk.	CAG
20	Burnt Boot Peak*	6520+	5520	1000	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
21	Terrace Mountain	6361	5640	721	Mount Daniel	CAG
22	Otter Point*	6359	5840	519	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
23	Iron Cap Mountain	6347	5560	787	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
24	Huckleberry Mountain	6320+	5600	720	Chikamin Pk.	CAG
25	Wild Goat Peak*	6305	5760	545	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
26	Camp Robber Peak*	6286	5080	1206	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
27	Snoqualmie Mountain	6278	5280	998	Snoqualmie Pass	CAG
28	Malachite Peak	6261	5000	1261	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG
29 @	Kaleetan Peak	6259	4400	1859	Snoqualmie Pass	CAG
29 @	Silver Eagle Peak*	6259	5240	1019	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG, 2
31	Terrace Mtn., West Peak*	6243	5480	763	Mount Daniel	
32	Bald Eagle Peak	6241	5320	921	Big Snow Mtn.	CAG, 3
33	Alta Mountain	6240+	5720	520	Chikamin Peak	CAG
34	Chair Peak	6238	5360	878	Snoqualmie Pass	CAG
35	Box Ridge, SE Peak*	6032	5240	792	Chikamin Peak	CAG
36	Mount Index	5991	3000	2991	Index	CAG
37	Malachite Peak, South Pk.*	5945	5440	505	Big Snow Mtn.	
38	Preacher Mountain	5924	5080	844	Bandera	CAG
39	Lennox Mountain	5894	3840	2054	Grotto	CAG
40	Red Mountain	5890	5360	530	Snoqualmie Pass	CAG
41	Caroline Peak*	5885	5280	605	Bandera	CAG, 4
42	Red Mountain	5880+	3320	2560	Polallie Ridge	
43	Rampart Ridge	5870	5080	790	Chikamin Peak	CAG
44	Thorp Mountain	5854	5000	854	Kachess Lake	
45	Thorp Mountain, South Pk.*	5841	5240	601	Kachess Lake	
46	Treen Peak	5763	4160	1603	Snoqualmie Lake	CAG
47	Alaska Mountain	5745	5240	505	Chikamin Peak	CAG
48	French Cabin Mtn., W Pk.	5724	4840	884	Kachess Lake	
49	Canoe Peak*	5706	5080	626	Grotto	5
50	Granite Mountain	5629	4480	1149	Snoqualmie Pass	CAG
51	Tonga Ridge	5596	4800	796	Scenic	
52	Cascade Mountain	5591	4560	1031	Snoqualmie Lake	CAG
53	Mount Price	5587	4120	1467	Snoqualmie Lake	CAG
54	Mount Defiance	5584	4160	1424	Bandera	CAG
55	Goat Mountain	5580	4520	1060	Lake Philippa	CAG
56	Red Mountain	5576	4080	1496	Mount Phelps	CAG, 6
57	Polallie Ridge	5560+	4320	1240	Polallie Ridge	

RANK	NAME	ELEV.	SADDLE	PROM.	USGS QUAD.	NOTES
58	Cascade Mtn., North Peak*	5553	4680	873	Grotto	
59	(Otter-Angeline)	5547	4920	627	Big Snow Mtn.	
60	Mount Phelps	5535	4440	1095	Mount Phelps	CAG, 7
61	Kachess Ridge	5525	4960	565	Kachess Lake	
62	Crosby Mountain	5520+	5000	520	Grotto	CAG
63	Mount Garfield	5519	4680	839	Snoqualmie Lake	CAG
64	Mount Sawyer	5501	4880	621	Scenic	
65	Mount Index, Middle Peak*	5493	4960	533	Index	CAG
66	Mount Garfield, East Peak*	5480+	4960	520	Snoqualmie Lake	CAG
67	Mount Persis	5464	4920	544	Index	CAG
68	Revolution Peak*	5454	4280	1174	Bandera	
69	Red Mountain, West Pk.*	5447	4720	727	Mount Phelps	6
70	(Dream-Anderson)	5432	4880	552	Snoqualmie Lake	
71	Dog Mountain	5408	4640	768	Snoqualmie Lake	
72	Low Mountain	5400+	4640	760	Snoqualmie Pass	
73	(Angeline-Heart)	5359	4840	519	Big Snow Mtn.	
74	The Ark *	5339	4600	739	Lake Philippa	
75	Twin Peaks	5325	4160	1165	Lake Philippa	
76	(Wildcat-Derrick)	5311	4640	671	Snoqualmie Pass	
77	Galleon Mountain*	5283	4160	1123	Snoqualmie Lake	
78 @	Cleveland Mountain	5280+	4640	640	Grotto	CAG
78 @	(Pugsley-Pothole)	5280+	4160	1120	Snoqualmie Lake	
80	Sorcery Mountain*	5273	4440	833	Snoqualmie Lake	
81	Thomas Mountain	5269	4600	669	Kachess Lake	
82	Bandera Mountain	5241	4280	961	Bandera	CAG
83	(Isabella-Boomerang)	5185	4600	585	Lake Philippa	
84	Floating Rock*	5174	4520	654	Snoqualmie Lake	
85	Guye Peak	5168	4640	528	Snoqualmie Pass	CAG
86	Bessemer Mountain	5166	3720	1446	Lake Philippa	CAG
87	McLain Peak	5162	4240	922	Mount Phelps	CAG, 8
88	Keechelus Ridge	5151	4520	631	Stampede Pass	
89	(Swan Lake)	5140	4520	620	Chikamin Pk.	
90	Russian Butte	5123	4600	523	Bandera	CAG
91	(Myrtle-Merlin)	5111	4480	631	Snoqualmie Lake	
92	Pratt Mountain	5099	4320	779	Bandera	CAG
93	Frozen Mountain	5080+	+4160	920	Mount Phelps	
94	Palmer Mountain	5043	4400	643	Grotto	CAG
95	(Boomerang-Blethen)	5013	4440	573	Lake Philippa	
96	Moolock Mountain*	4965	4040	925	Mount Si	
97	Mount Defiance, West Pk.*	4926	4160	766	Chester Morse	
98	Mount Teneriffe	4788	4160	628	Mount Si	
99	Hancock's Comb*	4680+	3920	760	Mount Si	
100	Quartz Mountain	4641	3760	881	Lake Philippa	

NOTES

- () name in parentheses identifies a pair of lakes or drainages near the peak
 * unofficial name (not on current USGS maps)
 @ where this symbol appears, two peaks are of identical height and are given the same number on the list
 CAG described in *Cascade Alpine Guide*, Vol. 1 (Beckey)
 1 Triangulated summit elevation from old maps. Name on map is at lower NE peak.
 2 Bald Eagle in CAG
 3 Silver Eagle in CAG
 4 mislabeled as Mount Roosevelt on certain maps (e.g. Green Trails Bandera quad)
 5 map shows south ridge connecting to a Point 5743, but this height appears to be in error, since highest enclosing contour is 5640 (5643 intended?)
 6 name on map is at lower West Peak
 7 McClain Peaks on map
 8 Mount Phelps on map; Little Phelps in CAG



John Roper

Big Snow Mountain (number 14) from Sorcery Mountain (number 80).

lists of the steepest faces on Washington's mountains.

(2) USGS quads used: Index, Mount Phelps, Grotto, Skykomish, Scenic, Mount Si, Lake Philippa, Snoqualmie Lake, Big Snow Mountain,

Mount Daniel, The Cradle, Chester Morse Lake, Bandera, Snoqualmie Pass, Chikamin Peak, Polallie Ridge, Davis Peak, Stampede Pass, Kachess Lake.

(3) This prominence-defining low point

appears in the table in the column titled "SADDLE."

(4) All data in the table is taken directly from current maps, with a single exception, namely the height of Chimney Rock.

The current quad curiously omits the triangulated elevation of 7727 feet for the main summit, which appeared on all previous USGS maps. This unfortunately leaves the impression that the northeast summit, triangulated at 7634 feet and clearly much lower in the field, is equal or greater in height.

The omitted value is used here solely to direct attention to the appropriate summit, and does not affect the rank of Chimney Rock in the list, or whether it has the necessary prominence.

△



John Roper

Mount Phelps (number 60) from the route on Lennox Mountain (number 39).

Jeff Howbert is a research chemist who lives in Bellevue. He recently returned to the Northwest after a long sojourn in Indiana.

DAN ROUSLIN
with JOE KUEHN

A PASAYTEN ADVENTURE

—A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP, FIRES AND ACHING FEET—

This was a Chemeketan Club (from Salem, Oregon) backpack with Dan Rouslin (leader) and Joe Kuehn, Salem and Irving Dayton, Corvallis.

DAY 1: Sunday, July 24. Slate Pass Trailhead to Silver Lake

On the trail at 6pm and a long 4 miles to Silver Lake (6256 feet) by 9pm. Thunderheads threaten with numerous lightning strikes, but only a sprinkling of showers occurs.

Eight Everett Mountaineers and a NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) group led by an English gentleman were also camped at the lake. The air heavily laden with fire smoke had cleared somewhat by nightfall.

DAY 2: Monday, July 25. Silver Lake to "Love Lake" via Buckskin Ridge

A 9am departure for Buckskin Ridge—the temperature rising rapidly under a hot sun. The 800-foot ascent below the ridge was straight up and painful under 60 pound packs.

A pleasant lunch rendezvous with the Everett Mountaineers gave needed rest. We topped the ridge at 2:30pm (7300 feet) and descended to a small lake (Love Lake) short of Buckskin Lake. Tent sites were sparse.

(Love Lake named—by us—for Pat Love, a Salem Chemeketan and Mountaineer formerly of Seattle, our trip advisor.)

Day 3: Tuesday, July 26. On to the Middle Fork of the Pasayten and Tatoosh Buttes

Out of the sack at 6am and on the trail two hours later. Progress slowed steadily although going mostly downhill. Joe's boots were causing considerable foot discomfort.

By noon we reached the river and lurching Mountaineers. They decided against Tatoosh Buttes because of reported blowdowns on the Monument Creek trail and opted for a more direct route through Shellrock Pass by way of



The Everett Mountaineers above Doris Lake. Top row: Dick Vasek, John Witters, Karen Eggimann, Kurt Munnich. Bottom row: Marty Pfefer, Mike Vercheak, Joe Kuehn (augmente), Sophie Malavoy.

Eureka Creek and Lake Doris. Joe decided to go with them after John Witters (leader) graciously consented.

Before Joe said goodbye we made written plans with contingencies to meet in two and a half days at Fred's Lake. Irving and I made good time down the east bank (Robinson Pass trail) of the Middle Fork Pasayten.

The trail to Tatoosh Buttes began the climb, and after an hour came to a three year old burn that was full of colorful pink fireweed. It made an eerily beautiful sight, but offered little shade in the growing heat.

The trail swung southwest of the ridge with a full view of the Lease Creek Valley, Mounts Osceola, Carru, and Lago all in a row. We noticed smoke coming from the valley—probably the beginnings of a small forest fire.

After a grueling ascent, we reached one of the meadows beneath the Buttes. Grazing horses indicated that a party was camped by a spring. We spotted a tent in the trees about 15 minutes above the horse camp, and learned from the couple sharing it that another spring gurgled nearby.

A second grove of trees provided a fine campsite. Bed about 9pm after 14 long miles of hiking.

DAY 4: Wednesday, July 27. Tatoosh Buttes to Dot Lake

We awoke at 6am to a partly overcast sky. The "cloudiness" was actually smoke. In addition to the smaller fire we noticed the day before, there was another to the east, besides a very large one still burning to the west.

With some misgivings about the fires we set off, leaving the trail and bushwhacking around to the south, across meadows (7000 feet) carpeted with lupine spreading toward the crest of Tamarack Ridge.

The ridge is complex, and we became a bit confused about the best way to proceed. Eventually, we identified two lakes by their shapes, the southernmost one being Ptarmigan Lake, then descended into the broad saddle directly above the latter.

From the saddle we climbed steadily to a spot between Peak 7748 on the USGS quadrangle map, and the top of the main ridge. From here we at-

tempted to stay at the 7800 foot elevation by making a traverse of the western slope of Ptarmigan Peak (8614 feet).

It was difficult and unnerving as with almost every step a miniature rockslide began. We tried climbing higher, to about 8000 feet looking for a more level route, but only partially succeeded. Later, talking with people who had come this way, they said that it would have been better to go over the top of Ptarmigan.

Beyond a spur the saddle between Ptarmigan Peak and Dot Mountain came into view with an inviting tarn just west of the crest. We clamored down the talus to the tarn's far shore and soaked our sore feet while we lunched.

The original plan had been to continue on or near ridge-top for another 5 miles over Mount Lago all the way to Shellrock Pass. We had heard of others who had done this, but hadn't actually spoken to them. However, a look at the sheer cliffs and Irving's voice of good reason made us descend to Dot Lake 800 feet below.

Emerging out of the saddle just east of the summit of Dot Mountain (8220 feet) we descended along its eastern ridge. A scramble over a talus field went down to the turquoise upper lake which spills into Dot Lake 124 feet below. Following the outlet stream and the northern shore of the main lake, we found several fine campsites near Dot Lake's own outlet about 3pm.

Dot Lake was absolutely beautiful, with its crystal-clear water, jumping fish, and talus slopes that spilled right in on two sides. Above rose craggy peaks and sheer cliffs.

Although the map showed no trail leading out of Dot Lake to the east, Irving felt sure that there would be at least a faint fisherman's trail along the creek, so I went out to find it.

What I found instead was a group of ten "Outward Bound" youths and their leaders camped all along the creek, completing the last of three days of individual solitude. I spoke with one who told me they had to bushwhack up all the way from Monument Creek trail, and that it was "sheer misery." Now we knew what lay ahead the next day; albeit only half the story. Bed at 8pm.

DAY 5: Thursday, July 28. Dot Lake to campsite NE of Shellrock Pass

Up at 5:30am and moving by 7:30. On the way down the lake, we stopped



Irving Dayton

Dan at Shellrock Pass with Blackcap Mountain in background.

to talk with the Outward Bounders who were planning to do in reverse the traverse we did the day before. We started off bushwhacking through clumps of alder and climbing over numerous blowdowns, crossing and recrossing the stream, looking for the best route.

Our position was pinpointed at a tributary that came in from the northwest. At this juncture we crossed to the south bank, left the creek, and headed east toward the Monument Creek trail only one-half mile away.

It was a long, difficult half mile, covered with almost as many blowdowns as the route just travelled—the trail had clearly been abandoned. Well-worn detours around the fallen trees proved that the trail received high use despite the lack of maintenance. It took two exhausting hours to negotiate the blowdowns.

After lunch we began the long, curving climb out of the valley. We crossed Ptarmigan Creek near its headwaters and ascended the ridge toward Butte Pass (6900 feet).

At this point there were enormous views of the Ptarmigan Valley to the north and the Monument Creek Valley to the southeast as well as the tall peaks to the west and south.

From Butte Pass the trail switchbacked down to the junction with the trail to Shellrock Pass, turned west, and began a long, hot climb. Tonight was the planned rendezvous with Joe at Fred's Lake, 6 miles and a considerable elevation gain to the west. When we arrived at a beautiful campsite on one of the tributaries of Monument Creek, east of Shellrock, we decided to call it quits for

the day. Our legs were tired and bleeding from gouges we received scrambling over hundreds of blowdowns; we had had it.

What also prompted us to camp here was the arrival of the Mountaineers group Joe had joined two days ago. We especially enjoyed our chats with Sophie, the French-Canadian woman from Quebec Province who had joined the Mountaineers' after failing to graduate from the waiting list of a Sierra Club backpack.

The campsite lay just below a glacial cirque which held a snowfield from which several streams fed. Up in the cirque, marmots posed near their holes, whistling as anyone approached. We thought of Joe possibly alone, waiting for us at Fred's Lake.

DAY 6: Friday, July 29. East of Shellrock Pass to Fred's Lake

We slept in until 6:15, had a final chat with the Mountaineers over breakfast (they were heading southeast out Monument Creek) and started up toward Shellrock Pass.

In the cool of the morning the climb was painless and exhilarating. There were phenomenal views especially to the west as we crested the 7500 foot pass. The trail descended on switchbacks past an idyllic campsite one of the Mountaineers had described to us the day before. With a snowfield to supply water, the site had a line of trees and was situated on a bench next to the trail overlooking the entire Eureka Valley to the west as well as the high peaks to north. Breathtaking!

At the bottom of the switchbacks we crossed Eureka Creek. Now we began to climb out of the valley as it swung around to the south. The scenery was absolutely stunning: meadows of wildflowers, sweeping mountainsides, distant peaks—it all looked very much like the Swiss or Austrian Alps.

After a steep climb almost to the pass, we found the side trail leading north and descending to Lake Doris. One backpacker was there when we arrived, and several others joined him later. They had camped at Fred's Lake the night before and reported that Joe had left (as planned) at 7:30 that morning. We were glad that he had had company. After lunch, we climbed back up to the pass (7100 feet) and descended to Fred's Lake 600 feet below.

At the lake we found a note Joe had left for us confirming his safety and de-

parture that morning. We also found another group of Outward Bounders—all male this time.

From the pass over Fred's Lake we had spotted yet another fire, this one only two ridges to the west, placing it above the West Fork of the Pasayten in the vicinity of Holman Pass.

The amount of smoke did not suggest a small fire, and strong winds appeared to be spreading it. We didn't feel particularly threatened, but in the middle of the night we were awakened by the boys. They had decided to bail out and not take any chances with the fire; they packed up and stomped off in the moonlight.

Groggily we figured that another three hours wouldn't make any difference and went back to sleep. During this time Irving was awakened by the sound of a heavy animal passing his tent. He called out to me, but I didn't stir.

When I emerged from my tent at 5am for our "evacuation," I discovered a large pile of fresh bear droppings about 15 feet away.

Day 7: Saturday, July 30. Fred's Lake to our trailhead at Slate Pass

We were on the trail by 7am and down to the Middle Fork 50 minutes later proceeding at a fast pace up the valley toward Robinson Pass.

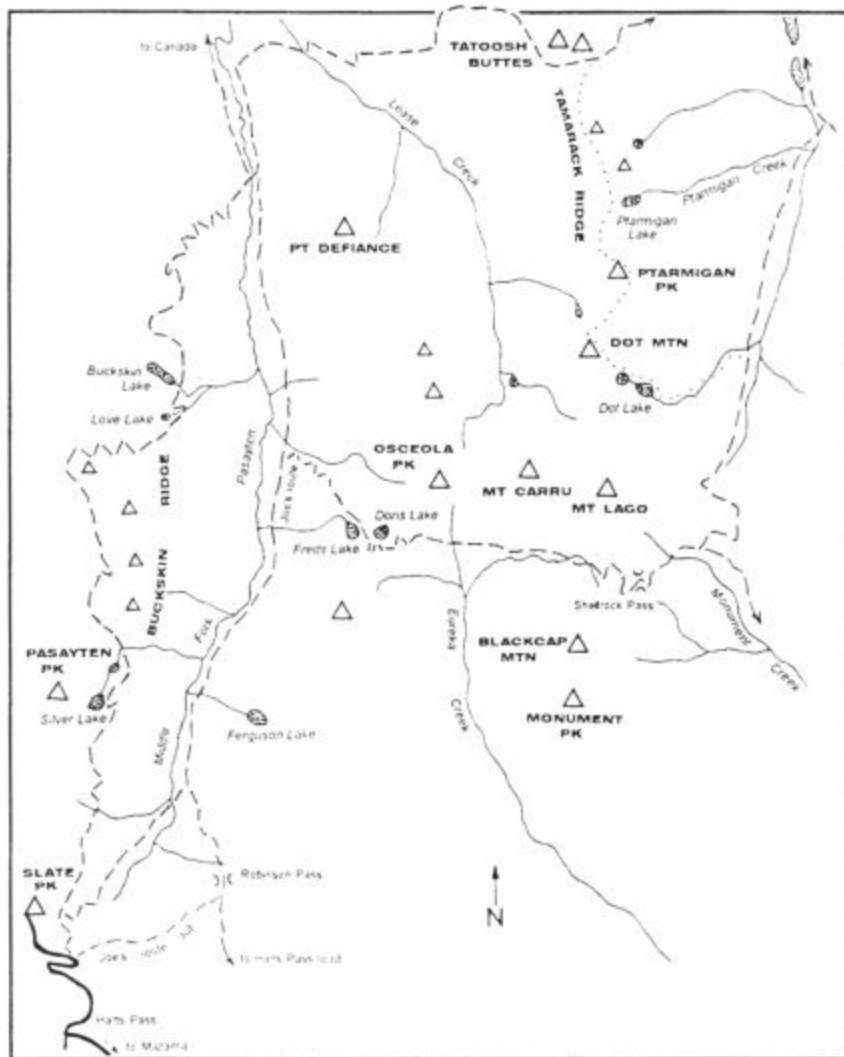
It was chilly in the valley, and I was glad when the sun finally broke over the high ridge to the east. A small plane and a helicopter circling in the next valley where we had spotted the fire seemed to be dousing it.

Later we learned that this had been a 20-acre fire which doubled to 40 acres in a very short amount of time, but relatively small compared with several



A rare photo of Irving, in the Wallows. (He had mastered use of his new stove by the time of the Pasayten trip.)

Mary Coleman



other fires raging in the area.

After 4 fast miles we arrived at the trail to Ferguson Lake and shortly afterward, near a horse camp, found the new trail which heads southeast up the side of the valley toward Slate Pass.

The scenery got prettier with gained altitude, and soon opened to the same views that first evening a week ago when it had rained and great tongues of lightning had flashed to the north.

Several switchbacks later we merged with our original trail (the Buckskin Ridge trail) and climbed to the pass and our car. Joe had left a note confirming his arrival the day before.

Driving out, we saw a Forest Service ranger stopping cars going the other way, discouraging backpackers from entering the area because of the fire danger.

In Mazama we learned that several roads between us and Oregon were closed because of the vast fires burning to the south near Leavenworth and Chelan. Irving and I considered our-

selves very lucky to have completed this beautiful 50 mile hike without incident.

POSTSCRIPT:

Joe reported that his adopted Mountaineers made him one of the family and their two day sojourn could not have been more pleasant.

He also emphasized that when the three of us split up the smartest thing we did (at Irving's urging) was to write two copies of our "Contingency Plan."

Oh yes, and he did enjoy his "Day 6" night in the relaxed atmosphere of The Mazama Country Inn—with hot tub and gourmet meals.

△

Dan Rouslin, of Salem, is a Willamette University Professor of Music (violin and viola). Dan is 51 years old and began his outdoor adventures at the age of nine.

PETER STEKEL

ST. ELMO'S FIRE

—A GLOWING BOLT OF ELECTRICITY PASSED THROUGH—

When I was a teenager I worked at a summer camp for the Boy Scouts. I remember how fun those salad days were.

The work was not easy, full of responsibility and a list of chores that never seemed to shorten. But the daylight hours were long, with plenty of free time to investigate the world around me and enjoy the company of friends. Summers off spoiled my adult life; how can anyone have a "real job" all year when there are mountains to explore?

Whenever I returned to Camp, high in the Sierra Nevada, it was like coming home. I may not have been there for a year, yet it was as familiar as yesterday.

I met the new staff. They weren't any different than me. Wilderness camping was all that mattered in life and there was no other cause more worthy than introducing others to our joy.

I learned early that what made the place so special to me was not the physical setting of the camp, but the special type of person who tended to drift there to work. More than anything else it was like an extended family. Summer camp was where I first came in contact with my own humanness.

During the seasons I lived there I became part of a small group of staffers who specialized in the natural history of the Sierra. Every free moment was devoted to learning about the plants, animals, insects, birds, geography, people, and weather of our mountain home. Every conversation centered on these themes. To the younger staff, and Scouts, we were "The Professors."

When we entered college, it was together. The Professors graduated with degrees in biology; one went on to medical school, two became "real" professors, and I became a teacher. I had three reasons for choosing my profession—June, July, and August.

Within a few more years, all were married with families but me. I was the only one of the group who still retreated to the mountains during the summer.

The Scout Camp facility dated back to 1939 when it was a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. The kitchen was the only building and was assembled in Los Angeles in 1957, disassembled for

the long drive up and then put back together on site.

To hold the building together during the heavy Sierran snows there was a roof with a steep pitch. The rafters floated above the main beam by about an inch. Steel truss rods were installed to keep the walls from bowing out.

The idea was that the snow load would push the roof downward and the floating rafters would absorb some of that weight. Once the load was on the main beam the truss rods would do their bit by using the downward force of the snow to pull the walls inward; a simple system which continues to work.

We didn't have electricity. We did, once, to run our refrigerators. But the generator was too noisy so we went to propane instead. All our lights were gas too.

For entertainment, someone always had a portable radio/tape player. We all chipped in to keep it in C cells. To improve radio reception we had rigged up a thin copper wire antenna that was looped onto the steel truss rods. No one in the Sierra got better reception for the whole building served as an aerial. At night, when the airwaves were clear, the AM dial would pull in broadcasts from England and even Japan.

California summers are pretty dry in the lowlands, but the high mountains make their own weather. July, in particular, is thunderstorm month. The clouds blossom instantly, it turns cool and dark, the sky cracks open with sound and, sometimes, it even rains. More than likely, though, the moisture is re-evaporated before it reaches the ground.

It is something to see. Tall trees get hit with electricity and wood flies everywhere. I was standing on the kitchen porch one day, during my second summer, watching a storm. The lightning strikes were coming a bit too quickly and a bit too closely so I started to move inside.

All of a sudden, one bolt hit a tree about 50 feet in front of me. The top of the tree shattered and a large chunk came sailing down and hit the spot I had just vacated.

I ran inside; my heart beating hard enough to burst my eardrums. One of the Professors was giving a discourse, reading from a reference work on the causes of electrical storms. My rude attempts to share what had just happened were waved aside by the speaker with a pause in the recitation and a dirty look.

In a moment it began to rain like we were inside a waterfall. It rained and rained. The lightning began again. Flash. Boom! Flash; Boom! Flash-boom. As it came closer and closer the intervals got tighter and tighter. Flashboom! When it passed, the rain sounds took over.

Then, it happened. We heard it first; or, rather, felt it; a humming in the ears and a tingling in the bones. The room took on a bluish tint like Captain Kirk was about to beam aboard.

Suddenly, all the truss rods in the building began to glow. The humming grew louder. With a snap, a glowing bolt of electricity passed through the rods, racing back and forth and chasing itself through the building. It cracked and the bolt disappeared into the ground via the radio. The radio never worked again.

Of course we all shouted and laughed. Such a strange sensation to be part of something larger than ourselves. Once, while caving, I sat down beside a little creek flowing through the earth. I contemplated what it was like to be part of the water table. Now, I had the distinct feeling of being part of the atmosphere for the first time in my life.

I don't want to be one of those people who put humankind down just because we think we hold dominion over Planet Earth. Except, I think it's sad we forget our place in the universe sometimes. I'm glad for those little quirks of nature which remind me that, intrinsically, I am not special. What is special is how I participate in and experience life. That is what makes all the difference.

△

Peter Stekel, of Seattle, is a freelance writer.

Mountain Gallery

by Dee Molenaar



Mount Rainier.

LEE MCKEE

A Puget Sound Paddling Sampler

PART II—PLACES TO GO WITH CANOE OR KAYAK ON PUGET SOUND—

Last month we covered things to know for safe paddling on the Sound, and trips 1 through 3. Now we continue with trips 4 through 12.

4. Duwamish Waterway and Kellogg Island

Access: There are several access sites along the waterway. The closest one to reach Kellogg Island is at a park at the end of Diagonal Street. The park has several signs explaining the history of the waterway. There are larger rocks and some hunks of cement to work around when launching at other than high tide.

Trip: This trip explores the industrial area of Seattle and undeveloped Kellogg Island. Crossing the Duwamish to the western side of the island takes you out of the main channel. It is best explored on other than low tide.

A short distance downstream from Kellogg Island is Terminal 105 Viewpoint which has a picnic table and shelter (no restroom). A beach of sorts on

the upriver side provides a protected landing spot.

Depending on your time and energy, continue down the waterway, out into Elliott Bay and along the shoreline toward Duwamish Head. There are two parks along this section of shoreline.

Or you can paddle up the Duwamish as far as your energy takes you.

Distance: To circumnavigate Kellogg Island and travel to the viewpoint and back is roughly 2 miles.

Cautions: Lots of boat traffic in the waterway. You should stay to the sides of the channel and watch for traffic when you cross. Don't get between a tied-up ship and its dock. Don't get caught under the sloping ends of barges.

On outgoing tide there is an ebb current to contend with. This can make paddling upstream somewhat difficult, and you need to watch what you're doing when going around pilings. Also you can get swung downstream quite quickly when entering the main flow on an ebb current.

Harbor, relatively protected. Paddle to the other launch points, paddle out to the mouth of the harbor, or paddle to the small beach at Manzanita.

The second is to launch from Portage and paddle around Tramp Harbor. Destinations could be Point Robinson or Point Heyer (where the KVI radio antenna is).

The third is to circumnavigate the island. This requires negotiating the isthmus at Portage (either portage over it, or launch from Portage to one side and recover from the other side). Quartermaster Harbor's north end turns to mud flats at low tide so plan carefully if you intend to portage at Portage.

Distance: Varies. To circumnavigate Maury Island is roughly 12 miles.

Cautions: The main shipping channel touches Point Robinson. Watch for large ships and their wakes when rounding the point or when ashore—pull your boat way up.

Tide rips can form at Point Robinson and at Piner Point.

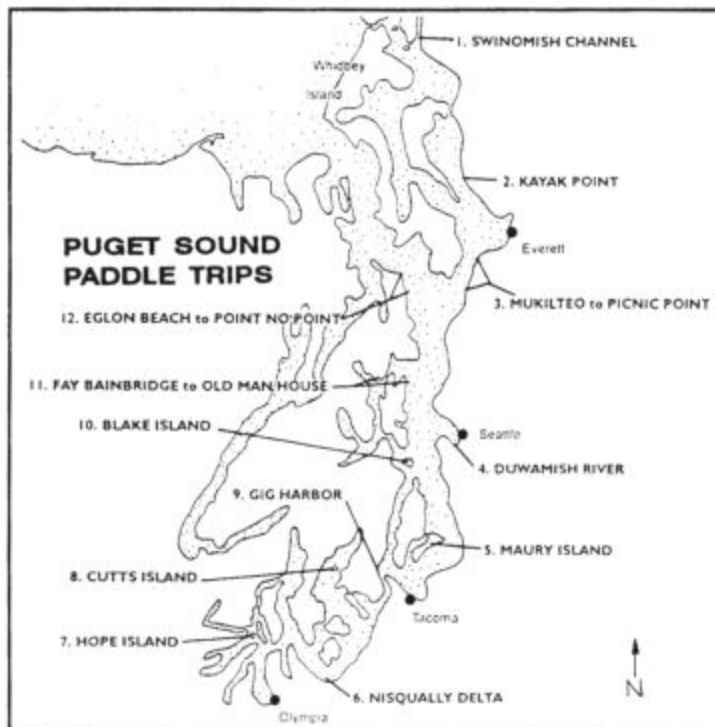
There is no official public beach access on the southeast side of the island—be prepared for a long paddle between official access points at Point Robinson and the small beach at the road end in Manzanita (roughly 6 miles).

There can be a lot of power boat action in Quartermaster Harbor on a nice day so paddle defensively.

6. Nisqually Delta

Access: Department of Wildlife's boat ramp at Luhr Beach. This ramp is on the west shore of the mouth of McAllister Creek. The Nisqually Reach Nature Center has a building adjacent to the ramp with exhibits, information about the area and other environmental topics. It is open on the weekends and possible other days depending on the season. Hours are noon to 4pm. The center is scheduled to be closed May through September for renovation.

Trip: This is an area for wandering and exploration. Possible routes are up



5. Maury Island

Access: Burton Acres County Park ramp, Dockton County Park ramp, or from roadside at Portage. Launching at low tide from Portage road is difficult because of the mud beach exposed.

Trip: Possibilities are exploring Quartermaster Harbor, exploring Tramp Harbor, or circumnavigating Maury Island.

The first is to stay solely in Quartermaster

McAllister Creek as far as it is navigable (which depends on the tides). Or over to the Nisqually River mouth and up the Nisqually as far as you want to paddle against the current. Or east along the flats to the northeast corner of the refuge to a beached barge. Or northwest along the shore about 2½ miles to Tolmie State Park. The sounds of waterfowl mix with the distant I-5 freeway noise. Canoes are quite suitable here.

Distance: Will vary with the trip you take.

Cautions: Exploration opportunities depend upon the tide. This is an area most suited for mid to high tide to take full advantage of possibilities.

Because of the shallow nature of the delta, wind can create choppy water.

There can be current to paddle against in both streams depending on the tide. Also watch for wood debris in the channels.

7. Hope Island

Access: Public boat ramp at Arcadia, east of Shelton.

Trip: Hope Island is an undeveloped, day-use-only State Park midway along Squaxin Passage. The direct distance from the launch to the island is about ½-mile. Bays and coves on nearby Squaxin Island invite exploration. Squaxin is an Indian Reservation and has no public access. (The state park land is no longer accessible; you cannot land on Squaxin.)

Totten Inlet and Hammersley Inlet can also be explored but watch for strong currents and tide rips at the narrow inlets to both.

Distance: Round trip to circumnavigate Hope Island is roughly 2½ miles.

Cautions: Travelling directly from Arcadia to the nearest shore of Hope Island is the best route to avoid tidal current and rip problems. Travelling close to the shore of Hope avoids the majority of the strong tidal current that can occur in Squaxin Passage but you will still get some effect on the very south end of the island.

Be aware of what tidal currents are doing before venturing into either Totten or Hammersley Inlets.

8. Raft and Cutts Islands

Access: (1) Public boat launch at the end of 36th Street NW on Horsehead Bay. This is the easiest put-in but makes for the longest paddle to Cutts. (2) Kopachuck State Park. Launching



Rounding Maury Island: the light at Point Robinson.

involves carrying or wheeling your boat down a gravel service road over a ¼-mile, then lifting over a wooden bulkhead. (3) The end of Rosedale Street NW in Rosedale. Boats need to be lifted over a bulkhead. There is very little to no shoreline at high tide and parking is limited.

Trip: The destination for this trip is Cutts Island which is a 5½ acre State Park less than ½-mile offshore in Carr Inlet.

The island has a 40-foot sheer cliff on one end and a spit on the other. You can reach an outhouse on the top of the island by a way-trail from the west side. How you get to the island depends upon your launch point.

With Cutts Island as the goal, paddling around Raft Island and exploring Horsehead Bay are added attractions. The shores of both are lined by a significant number of gorgeous homes and moored yachts. The only public access on either of these is the launch on Horsehead Bay. Kopachuck State Park, however, provides 2500 feet of public shoreline.

Distance: Will vary with the launch point and the amount of exploration. Round trip from Horsehead Bay to Cutts Island is 4 miles; add roughly 3 miles to circumnavigate Raft Island.

Cautions: This area is extremely popular on warm summer days, so watch out for boat traffic.

A long sandbar extends from the northeast corner of Cutts and reaches

almost to Raft Island at extreme low tide.

9. Gig Harbor

Access: Public boat ramp on Randall Drive on the north shore of Gig Harbor.

Trip: The trip can be limited to exploring just the harbor—or it can be extended to traveling the west shoreline of Colvos Passage to Sunrise Beach County Park.

The north end of the harbor is a shallow tideflat. Depending on the tide you can follow Crescent Creek a short way to where it flows through a culvert at 96th.

The west side of the harbor houses the majority of marinas, while the east side is mostly residential. You'll find boats ranging from working fishing boats to yachts.

The harbor enters Colvos Passage through a narrow channel. A small concrete lighthouse on a sandspit marks the entrance.

If you have the time and want to explore, head up Colvos Passage following the shoreline. In about 2 miles is Sunrise Beach County Park. This can be hard to spot from the water.

Look for a wooden shelter (roof on 4 poles) with a big log breakwater. It is just to the north of a number of private cabins on the water. The southern boundary is marked with two signs—one indicating the county park boundary and one indicating the private beach boundary. The park provides a spectacular

view toward Tacoma and Mount Rainier. **Distance:** Roughly 2½ miles round trip to explore the harbor; add roughly 4 miles round trip to reach Sunrise Beach. **Cautions:** In Colvos Passage the current ebbs most of the time so account for that on your return.

The entrance to Gig Harbor is constricted making for possible strong currents depending upon the tide changes. The harbor entrance is shallow; paddlers must yield to boats under power or sail because they need to stay in the middle where the water is deepest.

There can be a lot of marine traffic in the harbor depending on the season and time of day. When passing marinas watch for boats which may have a hard time seeing you, and won't be expecting you. Paddle defensively!

10. Blake Island

Access: (1) Harper County Park at the intersection of Southworth Drive and Olympiad Drive.

(2) The Port of Manchester boat launch in the town of Manchester. Either launch on the formal boat launch or carry your boat to the adjacent beach of Pomeroy Park on the south side of the boat launch. Parking is up the street in a lot by the library (no overnight parking).

(3) At the foot of SE Sebring Road to the north of and adjacent to the Southworth ferry. This is load/unload access only—no parking. This is a good launch site if you wheel your boat on

from West Seattle.

Trip: The destination of this trip is Blake Island, which is a state park so all of the beach is public. The island can be circumnavigated. Tillicum Village and its harbor area are at the northeast end and is a popular tourist spot during the summer.

Camping is available if you want to spend the night. There is a charge for the sites, and they can fill up during the summer months.

There is a special campsite designation on the northwest point for the Cascadia Marine Trail for human powered craft.

Distance: Will vary with the launch point. From the Harper site it would roughly be 2½ miles round trip. Add roughly 4 miles to go around the island.

Cautions: The route from Harper or Southworth is the most protected way of reaching the island but on a windy day expect waves—the most prominent midway through the passage.

There is also some current—remember that current going in the opposite direction of the wind will result in more wave action so consider when the current will be changing if making the trip in windy conditions.

11. Fay Bainbridge State Park to Old Man House State Park

Access: Public boat launch at Fay Bainbridge State Park.

Trip: The route follows the shoreline

of the island, then crosses Agate Passage to Old Man House State Park. Opportunities exist for side trips to extend the distance, or if you don't want to cross Agate Passage. The side trips are into the lagoon at Point Monroe (accessible at other than low tide) and the bay of Inner Port Madison. All the shoreline except for the two state parks is private. There are lots of exclusive homes to admire along the shoreline.

To reach the Old Man House State Park paddle in a northwesterly route once you've rounded Point Monroe. Continue until you reach Agate Passage. The park is almost directly across Agate Passage at the north end of the passage. A big weather worn sign saying "cable crossing" is on the shore in front of the park.

Fay Bainbridge State Park also has a Cascadia Marine Trail camp site.

Distance: Will vary with side trips taken; the round trip distance between the two State Parks is roughly 5 miles.

Caution: Currents can flow quite strongly in Agate Passage and there can be lots of boat traffic even on a winter day. If the wind is blowing be wary of when the current will change direction since wind blowing in the opposite direction as the current can create dangerous wave action.

12. Eglon Beach to Point No Point

Access: Public boat launch at Eglon Beach Park, north of Kingston.

Trip: The route follows the shoreline of the Kitsap Peninsula to the beach at Point No Point lighthouse. The shoreline is mostly bluffs; at high tide little beach remains exposed.

The beaches around the Point No Point lighthouse and for a ways south are open to the public. They are sandy, with driftwood logs to sit on, and make for a good lunch spot.

To extend the trip, paddle around the point to admire the village of Hansville, and even farther to Foulweather Bluff.

Distance: Roughly 6 miles round trip, Eglon to the Point.

Caution: The tidal current can flow quite strong around the Point so be aware of tidal current conditions if you venture around the Point.



Lee McKee

Launching at the north end of Gig Harbor at Randall Drive.

Lee McKee is Pack & Paddle's business manager.

LAURA WILD

A Letter from Bendigo

—SPENDING A YEAR IN AUSTRALIA—

Pack & Paddle readers—and frequent contributors—Ken, Laura and Emmett Wild are spending a year in Australia while Ken participates in a teacher exchange program.

The Wilds are continuing to receive *Pack & Paddle* during their year abroad, and share their copy with the local Bendigo hiking club.

This information from Laura Wild may be helpful to those planning to visit Australia. Laura has offered to answer questions from prospective travelers. Write to her in care of the *Pack & Paddle* office and we will forward your letter.

...

We arrived in Bendigo January 11, to extremely hot weather, with most days in the high 90s. It was a real adjustment for all of us, particularly as I was 7 months pregnant.

We found Bendigo to be a wonderful city full of history and beautiful architecture. Gold was discovered here in 1860, and the subsequent rush brought several thousand people here, similar to the California Gold Rush.

Gold is still being mined; we toured the Central Deborah Mine, located in the middle of downtown, and enjoyed it immensely.

Bendigo is the third largest city in Victoria, with a population of about 80,000 people. It's about a 2 hour drive from Melbourne, so it is the urban center of country Victoria.

Ken adjusted well to school. He is teaching 5th and 6th grade, and finding it to be more "laid back" than in the US. It is still a lot of work, though, and the teachers here are dealing with many of the same issues that teachers in the US face, such as larger class sizes, shrinking budgets, and trying to get parents involved.

We purchased a 1980 Holden station wagon which cost \$3700 US. Cars and petrol are very expensive (about \$3 US per gallon), so we try to limit our driving, and Ken commutes to school by bicycle.

Our house is adequate, although not as comfortable as most US homes. The

toilet is in a closet off the laundry room, and it took us all a bit to get used to this.

Emmett, at 3½, kept forgetting that the room with the sink and bath tub was lacking a toilet, and was quite confused.

The "water-closet" has a window which does not close, so in chilly weather, as we've had lately, it takes buns of steel to endure the seat. It reminds me of some out-houses I've experienced.

We had no air conditioning when we arrived, but borrowed a fan from friends, which helped us during those hot days.

Now that it's cold, we have one heater in the living room, which means we sleep in chilly bedrooms.

We've adjusted to all of this pretty well, and have even managed to collect some humorous stories out of the whole situation.

Eliza Jane Wild was born on March 19, weighing in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces. She is a very peaceful, undemanding baby, who has brought us much joy. We had a fantastic experience with the health care system, which was very hands-on and human, as well as inexpensive.

We have tried to do as much traveling and sightseeing as we could, with every weekend before Eliza's birth filled with trips. Our favorite outdoor weekend was spent at the Grampians



Emmett and Ken Wild at The Grampians.

Laura Wild

National Park, about 2½ hours northwest of us.

The Grampians are a relatively small mountain range which harbor a fantastic display of plant and wildlife. We saw koalas just a couple of feet from us, as well as kangaroos so tame they could be petted.

We hiked to McKenzie Falls, about 2 kilometers round trip, down a steep escarpment to the base of the falls. It was spectacular, and the whole park was reminiscent of being in parts of the US Southwest, particularly Zion National Park.

We had a two-week holiday April 8 through 23, during which we flew to Tasmania for a week, and visited the Victorian Alps, about 3 hours northeast of Bendigo.

Tasmania reminded us of the Pacific Northwest, with big, snow-covered peaks (most around 5000 feet), rushing rivers, rain forests, and picturesque fishing villages on quiet bays and inlets.

We stayed at Cradle Mountain Lodge in Cradle Mountain National Park, and saw more wildlife in one night than we'd seen since our arrival in Australia.

Wombats, quolls, numbats, bush possums and Tasmanian devils were all present, and looking for a handout. Wallabies and pademelons hopped in the roads.

Kookaburras laughed from the tree-tops, and wedge-tailed eagles soared overhead. It was amazing.

Emmett and Ken hiked around Dove Lake, a 6 kilometer circuit at the base of Cradle Mountain. The lake is in a cirque, above treeline. The park system has been very careful to protect the environment, and even though many visitors were present, everything seemed untrammeled and pristine.

We also visited Lake St. Claire National Park, and hiked a portion of the Overland Track, an 80 kilometer walk between Cradle Mountain and Lake St. Claire which has some of the most awesome mountain scenery in Australia. Overnight hiking requires a permit, and numbers of hikers are strictly limited.



Our final Tasmanian National Park was Mount Field, about an hour north of Hobart. A ski area is situated at the top, although it is tiny compared to the ski areas of the Northwest.

While there, we walked around Lake Dobson, about 2 kilometers round trip, another high alpine lake with fantastic views of snow gum trees below us. A couple of thousand feet below, we hiked to Russell Falls, about 4 kilometers round trip, through a beautiful rain forest, and saw old-growth eucalyptus trees which rivaled our redwoods in height and grandeur.

Several days later, on our trip to the

Victorian Alps, we visited Mount Buffalo National Park. Again, the peaks here are not high, most between 5000 and 6000 feet, but they are spectacular in their diversity and beauty.

We climbed "The Horn" of Mount Buffalo, about 2 kilometers round trip, and a scramble over boulders, to awesome views for 100 kilometers in all directions.

We have plenty of trips planned in the next 6 months, but we know we will only have touched the surface of this incredibly beautiful country. On our 2-week holiday in July, we'll fly to Darwin and visit Kakadu National Park, as well as Alice Springs and Uluru (Ayer's Rock). In October it is up to Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef.

What has most impressed us about our time here has been the people. We have had a very warm welcome from everyone in Bendigo, and have found Australians in general to be helpful, outgoing, and curious about us. We've made fast friends, and know that it will be difficult to leave in December.



In the US, Laura lives in Marysville. The family enjoys hiking to lookouts and lookout sites.

PANORAMA NEWS FROM ALL OVER

CLIMBERS KILLED ON MCKINLEY—Three members of The Mountaineers died on Mount McKinley at the end of May when a bergschrund collapsed. The team consisted of Thomas Downey, of Ephrata, Scott Hall, of Arlington, and Jim Hinkhouse, of Bellevue. Jim was also a *Pack & Paddle* subscriber.

Their expedition was from the OSAT club. Caught by bad weather, they descended to Windy Corner. Three other teams continued around an exposed corner, but the OSAT crew decided to wait out the high winds in a bergschrund. According to what other climbers and the Park Service guessed, the men were crushed when the 'schrund collapsed.

Jim Hinkhouse had started a manuscript about OSAT, climbing, and his battle with alcoholism. He had hoped to turn the story into a book. He had climbed Mount Rainier 12 times, as well

as peaks all over the world. His work with OSAT was inspiring to many.

A memorial service was held for the three climbers at The Mountaineers building. Donations to a fund to aid the climbers' families and continue OSAT's work may be sent to Denali Climbers' Memorial Fund, 1540 Palm Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.—*excerpted from "Cliff Notes" and the Seattle Times.*

HISTORIC GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT TO BE CLOSED FOR REPAIRS—The historic fire lookout on 6500-foot Green Mountain east of Darrington will be closed this summer while Forest Service officials take steps to make it safe for visitors.

Adrienne Hall, Darrington Ranger District wilderness specialist with the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, said the lookout has deteriorated under the stress of years of severe winter weather.

Forest Service engineers have determined the lookout's foundation, exterior catwalk and handrails are unsafe. Hall said signs posted at the trailhead and at the lookout will inform hikers of the closure.

The Green Mountain trail is hiked by 1500 to 2000 people during an average summer season, making it one of the more popular trails in the 1.7-million acre National Forest.

The 14-by-14-foot, window-lined lookout, built in 1933, was the remote summer home for a generation of lookouts who watched the surrounding peaks and valleys for tell-tale wisps of smoke from forest fires. The building contained little more than a table, a chair, a stove, a firefinder, and a radio or telephone to report the fire.

In 1942, after the United States entered World War II, the lookout was used year-round as a warning site for

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

enemy aircraft. After the war the Forest Service began relying less on lookouts in favor of aircraft for fire spotting.

The Green Mountain structure was routinely staffed by Forest Service employees until 1979 and then by volunteers and researchers.

It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

HANTAVIRUS—Information about hantavirus is available in "Taking Steps to Prevent Hantavirus," a free brochure available through your county health department.

Or contact: Washington State Health Department, PO Box 47826, Olympia WA 98504 (360-753-1945).

PADDLE SWAP MEET—Bring your old outdoor equipment and swap or sell at Eddyline's factory showroom on July 15. The swapmeet starts at 9am and concludes with a slide show by John Nelson at 5pm.

Admission is free; vendor space is \$5. Eddyline is located east of Burlington on Highway 20. For more information call 360-757-2300.

ALPINE LAKES PERMITS—The permit system will begin in 1996, according to the latest info from the Forest Service.

The full system will be phased in over five years. The first phase will limit the numbers of overnight and day visitors in three sections of the Wilderness.

PUMICE MINE—Great Pacific Pumice Inc has been granted approval to operate a pumice mine and treatment facility near Mount Meager/Pebble Creek in the Upper Lillooet Valley. The mine has an expected life of 20 years, at a maximum output of 50,000 tonnes

ISSUES

A LISTING OF CURRENT BACKCOUNTRY ISSUES OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

GOATS—The public comment period for the mountain goat management EIS in Olympic National Park has been extended to July 17.

Written comments should be sent to: Superintendent, Olympic National Park, 600 E Park Ave, Port Angeles WA 98362.

per year. That represents many truckloads for a long time, and only three permanent jobs.

The ACC Vancouver Section was denied a permit to build a cabin in the general area because use of the cabin might adversely impact goats. However, the mine was approved with little comment.—*excerpted from the BC Mountaineering Club newsletter.*

MOUNT HOOD HIGHWAY—The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mount Hood Corridor has been released. The Draft describes improvements to Highway 26 from Rhododendron to the Highway 35 junction.

For a copy of the Draft or to submit comments, contact:

**Mount Hood Corridor, ODT
Environmental Section
Transportation Building
Salem OR 97301.**

TIPTOP SALE STOPPED—A federal judge in Seattle has ruled in favor

of several organizations and private citizens who challenged the Tiptop timber sale on the Wenatchee National Forest southeast of Leavenworth. The ruling requires the Forest Service to complete a Supplemental Environmental Assessment before further action on the proposed sale.

The area is located northeast of Blewett Pass, south of Leavenworth, east of Highway 97 and includes all portions of the Camas, Little Camas, Ruby and Peshastin drainages.

The plaintiffs contended, and the court agreed, that the initial Environmental Assessment by the Forest Service failed to consider the impact of the project on bull trout, a sensitive species and management indicator species under the Forest Plan. Other concerns included watershed conditions, old-growth ponderosa stands, and soils.—*excerpted from "Alpine," the newsletter of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society.*

MOLENAAR

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Loaded with information for the motorist, cyclist, hiker, backpacker, climber, hunter and fisherman—and geology buff—most of the maps include bordering watercolors of selected scenic highlights. Available both flat (for the home and office walls) and folded (for the rucksack or glove compartment) our maps include the following:

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For detailed descriptions and prices, write
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PO Box 62, Burley WA 98322-0062, USA

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

GREEN TRAILS UPDATES—Green Trails Maps has reformatted and revised some of its maps. The following maps are 1995 Revisions or Reformats and will be available this spring:

- Map 111 Sloan Peak
- Map 132 Spruce Mtn
- Map 332 Spirit Lake
- Map 364 Mt St Helens

The following maps are 1995 Revisions or Reformats and should be available now:

- Map 239 Lester
- Map 240 Easton
- Map 241 Cle Elum
- Map 273 Manastash Lake

Additional maps will be updated in the next few months to include both Washington and Oregon.

Two new Green Trails maps are being produced for Washington. One map will include the area east of the Green Trails map 178 Leavenworth. The other map will be the area east of the Green Trails map 366 Mt Adams West.

ICE POINTS (logger's caulks) RE-VISITED—Recently I got a query about the short article I sent in about logger's caulks (also called ice points) a year or two ago (see *July 1993, page 39*). What happened was that I installed four caulks in a rectangular pattern on each of my vibram boots. They were much like tacks protruding beyond the soles.

I tried them out and they were truly wonderful for wearing on the wet boardwalk, steep muddy trails and wet logs. On wet wood they provided excellent traction and only caused a very slight sticking sensation when making a step. They would be great to have on the southern portion of the West Coast Trail, where a slanted and slippery log over a ravine often IS the trail.

And in that flush of enthusiasm I sent in the article.

But there is a problem (isn't there always?).

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

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The caulks must be mounted securely on the hard rubber soles. In my case they were drilled in and fastened with glue and screws. However, continued hikes on rocky trails **RIPPED THEM RIGHT OUT OF THE RUBBER**. It appears to me that even a commercially installed set of caulks would soon come to grief if used to hike over rocks.

But someday perhaps an innovative boot manufacturer will come up with caulks as a choice for heavy-duty hiking. In the meantime, it looks like the easier way to go is the instep crampon, with mounting straps, for that icy boardwalk hike.—*Jim Miller, Portland.*

CAVING—If you're interested in the underground version of climbing, check out caving. Southern Washington and Oregon have lots of caves, and the Oregon Grotto of the National Speleological Society is active in exploring them all.

In August are trips to Santiam Pass in Oregon and Trout Lake in Southern Washington. For information on the Grotto, the NSS, or other caving questions, call Libby Nieland, 360-231-4298 or Matt Joerin, 360-944-7017.

WHAT TO DO WITH BERRIES—Wild blueberries and huckleberries will be ripe soon. What do you DO with them besides eat them by the handful while hiking?

We like to bring home a cupful to add to pancakes. Here's a recipe from Dale Graves (from *Sourdough Cookery*, by Rita Davenport) that he says is "great" for waffles.

- 1 1/4 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup sourdough starter
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup milk

In large bowl mix dry ingredients. In medium bowl mix wet ingredients. Stir

into dry ingredients until just moist. Just before cooking, stir in generous amount of wild berries. Bake according to waffle iron instructions.

HOT WATER—The Primex catalog lists a "fire coil" that heats water using your camp stove. Tubing connects directly to your water bag and runs to a coil that can be heated by stove or even in a campfire.

The catalog does not list a weight, but it is probably not light enough for backpackers. Paddlers might find this a useful gadget. Cost is less than \$40.

To request a catalog (or to order a fire coil), contact Primex, PO Box 505, Benicia CA 94510 (800-422-2482).

LICENSES—Harvesting shellfish or seaweed on your outing? To meet state rules you need a Shellfish/Seaweed License.

Using a Department of Fish and Wildlife access for launching your kayak or canoe? To meet state rules you need either a hunting and/or game fish license or a Conservation License.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS—Consider this: sunflower seeds contain all the essential amino acids, vitamins A, B-complex, D and E, minerals and trace elements. They're also about one-quarter protein.

They make a great trail snack, either alone or mixed with GORP. If you choose the unshelled kind, don't strew the shells all over—that's garbage!

SUMMER SEMINARS—North Cascades Institute is offering several fascinating classes in July.

July 7-9 is "Marine Ecology" which is a study of the waters around Jones Island by kayak; \$295 includes kayaks.

July 7-11 is "Wildflowers Backpack," a trip to Sawtooth Ridge above Lake Chelan; \$180.

July 21-23 is "Columbia River Indians," a study of the natives taught by the natives; \$245 includes lodging and some meals at the Flying L Ranch (operated by P&P readers, the Lloyd family).

For information on these and other classes, contact

North Cascades Institute
2105 Highway 20
Sedro Woolley WA 98284
(360-856-5700 x 209).

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Summit of Carne Mountain.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"P&P is the most read publication at our house. We spread back issues around to friends to encourage the growth of your subscriber base."—*Olympia*.

"Would like added emphasis on trails that don't involve the upcoming Alpine Lakes permit system."—*Seattle*.

"I'm not a political kind of person and I burn out on 'the issues of the day' quickly. I just want to hike and read about hiking."—*Granite Falls*.

"Must tell you that of Backpacker, Outdoor Life, Outside, and Field & Stream, your magazine is always most eagerly anticipated and always read first, cover to cover!"—*Spokane*.

"My son loves P&P same as I do. In this respect, at least, he has acquired my good taste."—*note on a gift renewal form, Seattle*.

LAI D UP—It's always difficult for active people to spend the "down time" necessary to recover from injuries.

Last winter, Judi Maxwell damaged a knee ligament while snowshoeing. She grumbled, stayed off the knee a while, but went skiing in Europe for three weeks anyway (with the help of Advil, ice and a knee brace). Finally realizing how serious the injury was, she had surgery in June to repair the ligament. She'll lose this hiking season and have many months of recovery, but will be skiing and climbing again.

In the spring, Mary Sutliff fell while crossing a creek. Instinctively putting out a hand to catch herself, she thought

as she was falling, *Oops! Bad idea!* But it was too late and she broke her wrist. Luckily, she says, it was her left wrist but it still put a crimp in her activities. The cast is off now and after a few weeks in a brace, she'll be back to normal.

Judi and Mary are the people for whom "Judi Peak" and "Mary Peak" in Bean Creek basin are named.

ADVANTAGE—One of the (few) advantages to being laid up, says Mary, is the time it gives one to read.

She has spent a lot of time going through back issues of *Pack & Paddle* and *Signpost*. She has enjoyed reading reports from 15 years ago, comparing them with current reports, and observing how use patterns and trails have changed.

It also made her wonder, she says, where some of the old contributors are now. Whatever happened to Charlie Hickenbottom, Brian Kingsbury and Janet Garner? We'll have to see if we can find out.

UNDER THE WEATHER—Yellow Cat has also been feeling poorly lately. After a visit to the vet for what may be an allergy, she developed a cold, and spent several days sleeping and sneezing. Normally conversational, she has been glum and silent.

Needless to say, the mail has not been sorted properly nor has the desk been cleared off since she has been on sick leave.

After a second visit to the vet for antibiotics, YC is recovering. Almost her old self, she came into the office today to check her to-do list and found a nice pile of papers to sort.

LOOKING FORWARD TO STORM

—I spoke with Mauri Pelto, the glaciologist, a few days ago. His articles last year on our disappearing glaciers caused intense interest. (See *September 1994*, page 28, and *November 1994*, page 26.)

Mauri will be in the Cascades again in August, and is looking forward to skiing on what remains of our good winter snowpack as he studies this year's glaciers.

When I said I wished him good weather, he replied that he actually hopes for one good storm while he's out—makes him very aware of "being in the mountains," he says.

WATCH THOSE BATTERIES—I am a fan of the old-fashioned spring-operated altimeter. My mind reels when confronted with the modern battery-operated wrist models.

My opinion was reinforced the other day when I asked Linda Rostad how far she and Steve got up West Cady Ridge before they ran into snow.

She could only guess, she said, because the battery on her wrist altimeter had died. (Linda, I should point out, is able to command her altimeter to do many tricks, and I admire her ability.)

With a new battery installed, she is now ready for the rest of the season. And my confidence in my old-fashioned instrument is increased.

BIG ISSUE—It's that time of year when everyone is out hiking, climbing, paddling and enjoying themselves.

We've added 8 pages to this issue to accommodate all the extra reports. Just about everybody's report in "Backcountry News" was shortened this month so we'd have room for them all.

Keep sending 'em. It's this kind of first-hand information you keep telling us is the most important thing about *Pack & Paddle*. We depend on you to write it up and send or phone it in.

EXPERIMENT—I'm experimenting with some heat-sealable fabric (from Seattle Fabrics) to make waterproof booties for kayaking. This fabric can be used for drybags and spray skirts, but we don't know how well it will work for apparel. I'll let you know how it works.

See you in the backcountry.

Ann Marshall



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