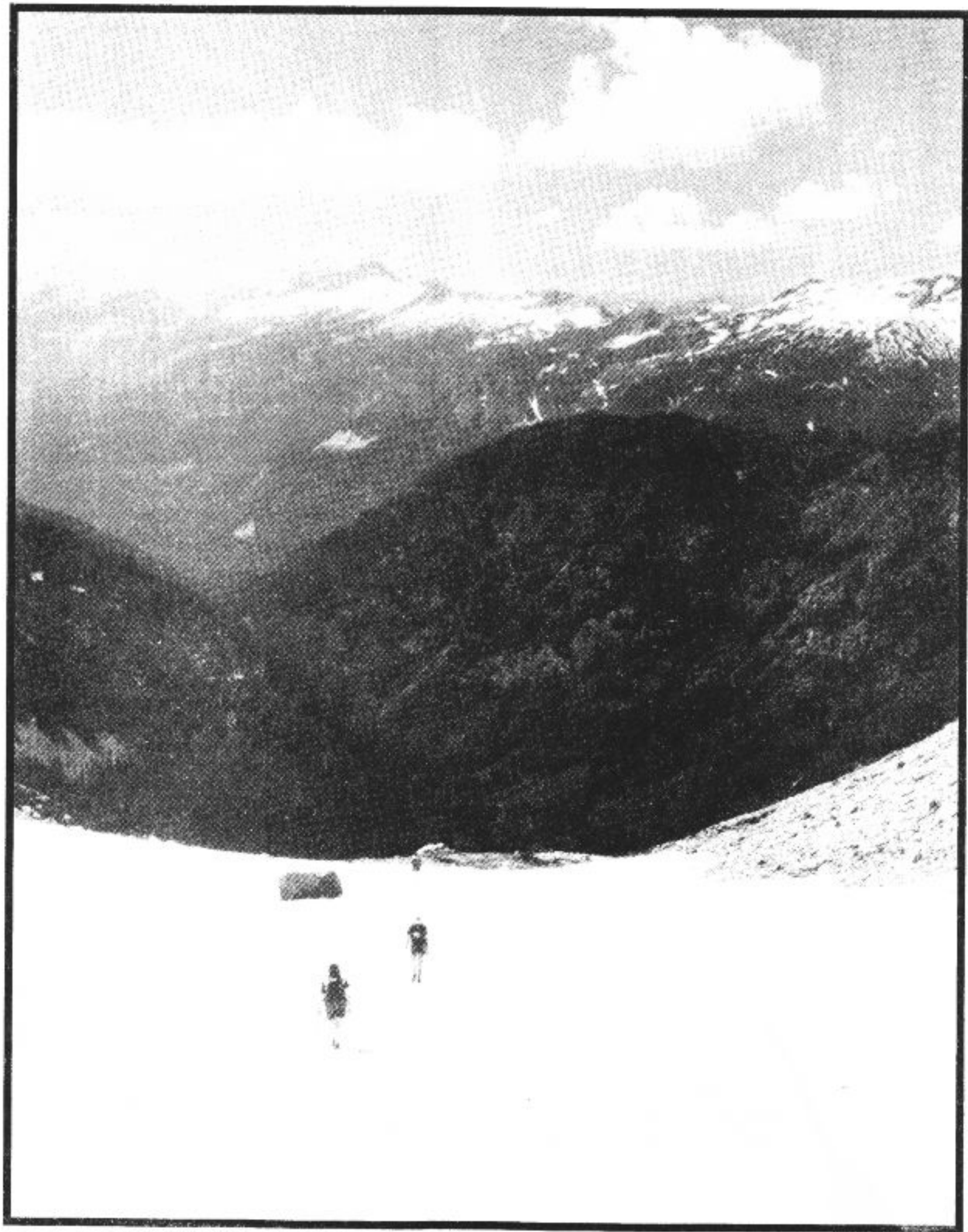


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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 9

RANDOM VIEW—



Fred Redman

Guardian of the trail—a marmot at Cascade Pass, North Cascades National Park.

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Manita Nery, Bettye Hensel, and Lindy Bakkar ascend a snowfield in upper upper Leroy Creek basin. Glacier Peak Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

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CAR BASHING

Arrived 6:30am at the Perry Creek trailhead, off the Mountain Loop, on July 20. We drove past a car with the trunk open along the road in, but didn't think much of it since it was an extremely busy weekend and people were camped and parked everywhere.

We were the first at the trailhead and noticed some "trash" in the bushes and trees overhanging the edge of the road. Looking closer, we found ID cards, driver's licenses, credit cards, a backpack, empty CD boxes, a flashlight, lots of pictures, a large set of keys. We had to crawl down the slope to pick up much of it.

Also about six empty wallets, check books, pictures, bank statements, books, a pager and clothing. We filled a large grocery sack in addition to the backpack. Nothing was even dusty, probably dumped Saturday night or Sunday morning. We dropped everything off at the Verlot Ranger Station.

This was a reminder that trunks aren't secure, and some folks aren't in the mountains for scenery. This kind of success encourages thieves. Carry your wallet with you. If it's so heavy you're tempted to leave it in the car, plan ahead. A colorful fabric wallet is lightweight and visible. We take a couple of credit cards, a blank check, driver's license, insurance card, and a car key (not the whole ring), cash as needed, phone coins.

Photocopy registration/insurance for all cars on one sheet of paper; keep in the wallet (you're supposed to have originals but we've never had a problem with a copy).

Keep the car empty of things that are a headache to replace if stolen, such as bank information, check books, and every key you own.

You leave an incredible amount of information to a thief, including where you live and the fact you aren't home.

VB/MA
Arlington, Washington

TRAIL-PARK PERMITS

Every trailhead I have seen this summer has had the new trail fee signs installed ... even the ones that have missing trailhead signs. It is interesting that they have the money for these obviously costly signs but they don't have

money for trail clearing.

Every trailhead has had someone checking for trail passes and every car has had a message either thanking you for buying your pass and welcoming you or one asking you to be in compliance by buying a pass at your nearest Forest Service office.

I have never seen a Forest Service person on a trail and I have seen a ranger only twice on a trail in 15 years! I am wondering if the trail fees will go to hire people to check to see if all the cars have stickers. (About 50% of cars seem to have the stickers.)

Edythe Hulet
Aberdeen, Washington

PLAYGROUND FOR THE RICH

In this once mighty nation, land of the free, is it not a shame that our two most common signs seem to be PAY HERE and NO TRESPASSING? Our Forests and Parks have already been hit with the first, and for us old outlaws, the second as well.

It is said that the new fees are being raised for trail maintenance even as they close roads leading to the trailheads. No money for trails but \$300,000 to study if wolves should be returned to the Olympic Peninsula?

On some trails—Tunnel Creek for example—inside the register box is a plaque listing the known groups who have done volunteer work on that trail. What is not known is the hundreds of hours of volunteer labor done by the common folks who keep these trails open—the rock rollers and stick flippers, runoff diverters and brush nippers. To these unknowns who I believe to be the backbone of the trail system, thank you.

I'm 31 years old with multiple injuries and a round with cancer. Now I've got something wrong with my spine. I may not have many years left and I plan to spend them doing what my heart desires: running ridges and backcountry travel. I would prefer to do this without playing tag with a bunch of overzealous forest rent cops who seem bent on turning our national heritage into a rich man's playground.

I know first hand how far the Forest Service can go. I remember as a little kid in Alaska my parents losing their homestead claims and I myself have faced two years in prison for staying in

a campground longer than three weeks, a campground no one else was using.

In the backcountry I go by the name of Farwalker, wear old pattern Nam tiger stripe fatigues with matching pack cover and carry a large first aid kit. Many is the time I've gone above and beyond to aid and assist those in trouble.

Now the tables are turned. I, and others like me, need your help. Please, don't let them shut us out of the one place we have left, the Forests and Parks. They are ours as much as yours. The difference is, we can't afford to buy our freedom.

Farwalker
Hadlock, Washington

USER FEES

I'm concerned that good people like Robert DeGraw feel the way they do about the permit system being implemented (more or less) by the Forest Service (*July, page 4*).

Apparently Mr. DeGraw is unaware of the Forest Service backlog of deferred trail repair and construction work that permit revenues are intended to address. If everyone who volunteers to work on trails chose to follow Mr. DeGraw's example, trails and those who use them would be in an even bigger world of hurt.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association is working hard to increase the number of volunteer trail maintainers. While supporting the concept of user fees to generate revenue foregone (reduced timber harvest fees, for example), the Association believes that efforts by the Forest Service should not create disincentives for volunteers to give of their time and energy.

The Association strongly urges the Forest Service to exempt all individuals who are organized and certified by a recognized nonprofit organization from payment of user fees during a volunteer work project.

Annual exemption from user fees for recreational pursuits should be granted to those exceptional individuals who volunteer significant amounts of time to accomplishing the agency's mission through a nonprofit organization. It appears that Mr. DeGraw would qualify if the Forest Service honors our request.

The Association endorses the concept

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

that all user fees collected stay with the jurisdiction in which they are collected and that 80% be used for projects that directly enhance the outdoor experience of those who pay them—trail maintenance and support for nonprofit groups that organize volunteers for such projects—and 20% for administration and overhead. Violations of user fee rules should be enforced with appropriate penalties. Fines should be split between enforcement costs and projects for which the fees are intended.

As one of the persons responsible for increasing the PCTA's corps of trail maintainers, I extend an invitation to Mr. DeGraw and his group of maintainers to join us in our efforts.

Information about the PCTA can be found on the Internet at www.gorp.com/pcta or at our toll-free telephone number: 888-PC-TRAIL.

Robert S. Ballou
Executive Director, PCTA
Sacramento, California

TRYING AN END RUN

It was wonderful to hear that old mountain goat Bill Fessel is still hiking (*August, page 5*). He was a hero to my two boys and a great friend to me.

I met Bill way back when there was controversy about the formation of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Unfortunately, that which I objected to has come to pass. The Forest Service is trying to end-run their mistake with different programs like Trail Permits.

[The current permit system] will carry more consequences than that of the Wilderness Act problem. In fact, I contemplate devastating vandalism by

ticketed hikers. Any bets? And by the way Bill, I still won't pay to work!

Robert DeGraw
Kirkland, Washington

WOLF REPLY

Erl Syverstad wrote (*August, page 6*) that Marv Chastain makes a good point about the National Park Service working on "wolf production" and requesting Congressional appropriations for this effort.

Marv Chastain, of Port Angeles, is a member of the Clallam Citizens' Coalition and is an outspoken opponent of wolf reintroduction to Olympic National Park. Marv's and Erl's statements that federal monies can be better spent on other programs than on wildlife enhancement are part of the public input that Congressional representatives must juggle in deciding how best to spend federal tax dollars.

While I agree with Erl on the sad lack of funding for trail maintenance, especially in Forest Service lands, I disagree with him completely on his wish to see nothing spent on wildlife "enhancement." This is especially true for reintroducing gray wolves to ONP.

Wolves are the only major species missing from the park that was there when the peninsula began to be settled in the latter 1800s. The early settlers, with the aid of government, systematically set about to wipe out wolves by any means.

By the 1930s, the wolf was effectively eliminated. While sporadic observations were reported over the next two decades, the ability of wolves to effectively reproduce and repopulate penin-

sula wild lands was destroyed.

Wildlife biologists and environmental scientists have learned how valuable top predators are for ecosystem health and stability during the last three decades of studies worldwide.

Throughout North America, deer and elk co-evolved with wolves over tens of thousands of years. While we know that the Olympic ecosystems functioned well with wolves for these eons, opponents of wolf reintroduction cannot guarantee that these systems will remain healthy and vital as they continue to evolve without wolves.

If we wait until we can measure dysfunction, it will be too late. Many scientists and citizens are not willing to take such large scale risks with the only planet we currently inhabit.

The Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service are just beginning the biological and background studies that are required in a full EIS process before a decision can be rendered whether or not to proceed with reintroduction of wolves to ONP.

My hope is that these studies will confirm that ONP provides sufficient habitat and prey to support four or five wolf packs (30 to 50 wolves). Olympic National Park is an incomplete temperate rainforest ecosystem without the wolf, a true symbol of wild nature.

Wolves cannot recolonize the peninsula on their own, like they can in the North Cascades. They will need our help. It is time to bring wolves back to the Olympics!

Gerry Ring Erickson
Washington State Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
Shelton, Washington

Vandalism Watch

After a summer of relative quiet last year, car break-ins seem to have increased this year. DO NOT leave valuables in your car—put wallets, purses, cameras in your pack, or leave them home.

Here is a partial list (just the ones we know about) of trailheads or areas where car break-ins have been reported this year:

Norway Pass—Near Mt St Helens. One incident in early August.

Schreibers Meadow—Near Mt Baker. One incident in early August.

Skykomish District—Barclay Lake and Blanca Lake trailheads.

Mountain Loop—This has been a horrible year on the Mountain Loop from Robe to Barlow Pass. In the last month there have been about 60 car prowls. Just about every trailhead has been hit, except Big Four, where an interpretive ranger is on duty.

Thieves are getting CD players, cell phones, wallets, cameras, backpacks, cash cards with PINs, Gore-tex clothing, you name it. Extra sheriff's patrols are on duty.

Report break-ins or suspicious behavior at the Verlot Ranger Station during business hours, or call 911 from the public phone there if the office is closed.

North Cascades—East Bank trailhead at Ross Lake. PCT trailheads at Bridge Creek and Rainy Pass. Cutthroat Lakes. And in the

Methow Valley, along the Chewuch road above 8 Mile.

Olympics—Historic risk spots are Third Beach trailhead, and along Hamma Hamma and Duckabush roads, but only "normal levels" of break-ins this year.

Cle Elum—Practically all trailheads here have been "hit." The most frequent are Rachel Lake, Salmon la Sac, and PCT at Snoqualmie Pass.

Highway 2—Merritt Lake; and Tumwater campground at the river put-in.

Columbia Gorge—Break-ins are a continuing problem for most trailheads in the Gorge, especially at Beacon Rock State Park.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

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

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


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

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




PENINSULA



 **SILVER LAKE** (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Townsend*)—This was a moderate 5.8 mile hike to the lake. There was no snow or blowdowns. Last June I hit snow at Silver Creek and turned back.


The wildflowers were at their peak. I hiked to the ridge above the lake, but the view was obscured by fog. There was a big mayfly hatch at the lake.—Cindy Notown, 7/16.

 **WOLF CREEK** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Angeles, Hurricane Hill*)—This trail has an easy grade from top to bottom. The trail is snowfree with a few trees down near the top. The bottom has been cleared. It took three hours to hike down. There was no one on the trail. I finished the day by hiking out to Humes Ranch and back via Krause bottom.—Cindy Notown, 7/19.


 **HURRICANE HILL** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Angeles, Hurricane Hill*)—This trail had

approximately 25 blowdowns. Most were easy to get over. It took four hours to hike to the old lookout from the Elwha. No one was on the lower trail. Elwha overlook made an excellent lunch stop with views into the Bailey Range and Lake Mills.

The upper meadows are free of snow and have an overlap of spring and summer wildflowers, each meadow having a unique combination of dominant flowers. Lots of Indian pipe are under the forest canopy.—Cindy Notown, 7/20.


 **DEL MONTE RIDGE** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS The Brothers, Mt Deception*)—From the Dosewallips trailhead it took about four hours to get to the top of the ridge. There were good views up main and West Fork Dose, but Mount Constance was in the fog. Wildflowers and views from Sunny Brook Meadows were great.

I did not go to Constance Pass, but turned around at the ridge crest, which seemed a logical place to end the hike. This was a good hike to strengthen those legs. The trail is in good shape.—Cindy Notown, 7/23.


 **MOUNT TOWNSEND** (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Townsend*)—Coby Farnham joined Bill and me for our annual hike up Mount Townsend. We stopped by the Quilcene Ranger Station and purchased a day pass en route. Then we headed for the upper trailhead. We had a beautiful hot sunny day to do this hike. We were glad to have insect repellent for the bit-

ing flies on the trail.

The wildflowers on the upper slopes were magnificent! They provided a gorgeous display. The snow had all melted. We had a fairly clear view out toward Mount Baker, Shuksan, Rainier and Glacier Peak. We could also see the Seattle skyline. We went to Victoria's in Union for dinner on our way home.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/19.

 **SOL DUC** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Bogachiel Pk*)—We walked the 6½-mile river loop trail with Larry and Nancy. The trail passes the campgrounds, the Sol Duc river shelter, Sol Duc's striking sideways waterfall, and long woodsy areas with acres of ferns. We saw two deer.

The next day we hiked from Sol Duc Hot Springs to Mink Lake, on a 2½-mile trail that gains 1500 feet. The walk is a steady climb through Doug-fir and then western hemlock to a pleasant lake bordered by grassy damp holes (careful, they're hiding) and purple aster, bistort, and spent beargrass. In the woods, we saw western coral root and pinesap.—Susan Wineke, Bellevue, 7/25-26.

 **RICH PASSAGE** (*NOAA 18449*)—For a leisurely evening paddle our local group in 2 doubles and 7 singles launched from Manchester State Park (see *Middle Puget Sound Afloat & Afloat*) on the Kitsap Peninsula side of Rich Passage a little after 6pm. There isn't a formal launch site—you just pull down into the picnic area, unload your boat and carry it a short way

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

to the beach, then park your car.

We paddled along the shore toward the southeast end of Point Glover then waited for the 6:20pm ferry out of Bremerton to pass before crossing Rich Passage to Bainbridge Island.

The predicted current in the middle of the Passage off Pleasant Beach was about one knot flood but there seemed little evidence of current until we were fairly close to Pleasant Beach where we encountered a counter-current pushing us southeast.

Paddling southeast along the shore of Bainbridge Island, we stopped to check out the launch area at Fort Ward, then continued to the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The site is in a nicely protected area and would be a good place to spend the night if you were kayak camping, but it is a ways to the out-house in the nearby picnic area.

Continuing, we drifted in the area of Orchard Rocks waiting for the 7:30pm ferry out of Seattle and the 7:40pm ferry out of Bremerton to pass before heading back across the Passage.

Before long the two ferries approached from opposite sides and from the perspective of the water it looked like they were speeding directly toward one another. The wakes from the two ferries traveling in opposite directions made for a surprising wave pattern when they collided. Ann said it reminded her of the rolling land she saw during the '65 earthquake.

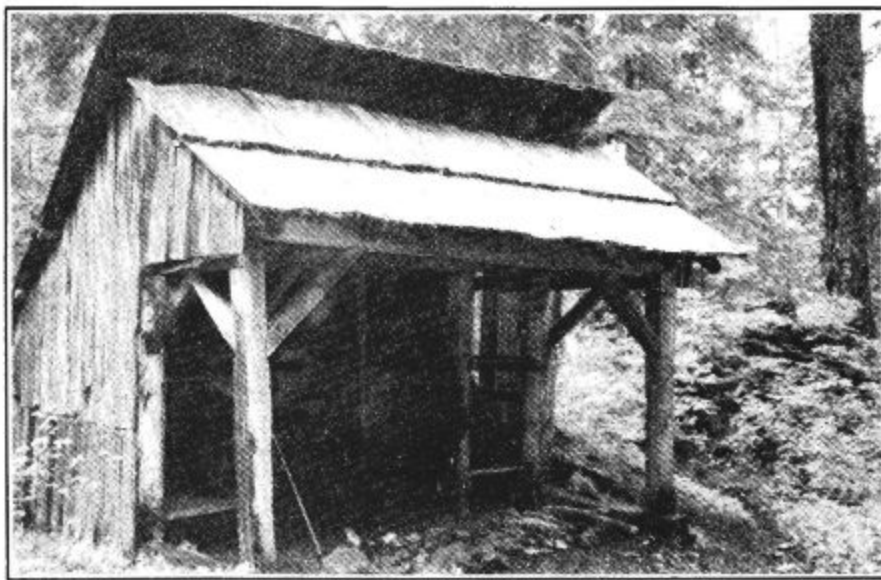
With the excitement over, it was calm paddling back to Manchester State Park. The Park closes to non-campers at dusk, and it was approaching that as we loaded our boats and headed home. —LGM, Port Orchard, 8/5.

SUNNYBROOK MEADOWS

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Tyler Pk, The Brothers)—On the driest weekend of the year on average, Doug and I decided to do a two-nighter to Sunnybrook Meadows. We took it easy after waiting almost two hours for the Bainbridge ferry and camped the first night at Dose Forks; mosquitoes and flies were tolerable.

On the second day we started early, and huffed and puffed our way about 5 miles which was entirely uphill to the meadows. With packs and a few breaks, figure on five hours. There is no water from the trail junction with the Hayden Pass trail until crossing the tributaries that make up Sunny Brook.

The trail briefly becomes less steep in the meadow. We passed a small tarn and chose a campsite just off to the right of the trail before it began climbing again. Another campsite is available



Kerry Gilles

Mulkey Shelter, Colonel Bob Wilderness.

on the western edge of the meadow.

Just before sunset we climbed packless another 500 feet or so to Del Monte Ridge, an alpine plateau 6000 feet in elevation with views up the West Fork Dosewallips to Mount Anderson, as well as The Brothers, Mount Constance, Mount Mystery, and a small stretch of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Clumps of phlox and other wildflowers were in peak bloom.—Jack Lattemann and Doug Johnson, Seattle, 7/26-28.

MOUNT STONE

(Mt Skokomish Wilderness/ONP; USGS Mt Skokomish)—Putvin Trail was in great shape up to the meadows above the first headwall, then marshy. A small area of avalanche debris covers the route and one snow slope covers the trail on the final climb to Lake of the Angels.

Saturday evening after dinner we ascended Mount Stone. Beautiful views and a herd of elk on a snowfield on the ridge running north.

Sunday morning after four goats passed through camp, we went up to Saint Peter's Gate for the view and to plan a return trip to ascend the Frumious Bandersnatch.

The highlight of this OSAT trip came on Saturday afternoon when a dog and companion came to our camp and stopped to chat.

It was Warren Guntheroth and Sasha returning from a foray in the clouds on Mount Skokomish! My having just read his article about adventures on Mount Olympus in the August *Pack & Paddle* made the timing good.

Flowers and mosquitoes were in abundance.—Dave N., Merry, Carrie, Pete and Rod, Tacoma, 8/2-3.

MOUNT ELLINOR

(Mt Skokomish Wilderness; USGS Mt Skokomish)—A sunny Saturday provided this group of seven and what appeared to be thousands of others sweeping views of the Olympics, Hood Canal, Puget Sound and hazy Cascades.

Wildflowers in the upper meadow are nearing prime with a wide range of species. Anemones were in all stages of maturity, from bud to shaggy mane. This is a fairly rough trail in spots and on hot days sunscreen and plenty of water (like at least two quarts) are essential.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/9.

TUNNEL CREEK TRAIL

(Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Mt Townsend)—The long drive from Highway 101 on narrow, dusty and sometimes washboard roads may discourage use of this interesting trail.

The first segment after leaving the 2400-foot trailhead (9:50am) is within sight of Tunnel Creek. There are many cascades, pools and moss-covered boulders. The next segment moves up the hillside away from the sight but not the sound of Tunnel Creek. Old growth hemlock, true firs and more large moss- and fern-covered boulders, often capped with mature trees. Soil creep is evidenced by the hockey stick shape of the lower boles of many large trees.

The trail drops back to the creek

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: September 20

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

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

level near Tunnel Creek Shelter at 3680 feet (11:15). The shelter was reconstructed in 1994 to historical standards. Just upstream is a wet crossing to the south side of Tunnel Creek.

A new segment of trail leads to a bridge just below the confluence of two cascades. This new segment of trail, from the bridge to where it rejoins the original, has been roughed out but not finished, rough but passable.

Up switchbacks past Karnes and Harrison Lakes to a 4920-foot lunch spot (12:30) and what Wood calls "the most spectacular view of Mount Constance to be had in the Olympics." This hiking party agreed.

About a 15 minute uphill scramble beyond where the trail drops over into the Dosewallips brings you to the top of a 5230-foot rock knob with a 360-degree view. Cascades indistinct in haze but Glacier Peak and other prominences dimly seen. Bear grass, penstemons, paintbrush and Olympic onion decorate the slope leading to the rock point. Left the lunch spot at 1:50pm.


At the shelter at 2:45 after brief stop at Harrison Lake for photos. 4pm at the trailhead after a delightful 8½ mile round trip.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 7/27.

ADDENDUM—Liked the view so much I hauled the 4x5 camera up there. On the way back I decided to check out the trail signed **STOCK**. Found it to be the original trail, easy grade, nice long switchbacks, ties back into the main trail between the bridge and the shelter.

Stream crossing sans bridge no problem with current water level. This route is much to be preferred over the steep, rocky, muddy, rooty roughed out connection from the bridge to the original trail. Also safer and just as fast.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/5.

ALWAYS CARRY THE TEN ESSENTIALS


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

 **KLAHANE RIDGE** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Hurricane Ridge*)—My Robert was off again to the top of the mountain, or so it seemed! Since having knee and foot surgery, I have not been hiking, so I ride along in the car. This time, we stopped in Port Angeles to get a friend of mine, whom I had not had a chance to visit with for months.

We rode up to Hurricane Ridge and parked the car to enjoy the view. But, alas, there was no view! Just socked in and blowing. But we enjoyed our visit anyway. We had seen acres of avalanche and glacier lilies, 7 deer, and patches of snow.

Bob went up the trail visiting with 20 deer, 3 marmots, and scrambling over patches of snow. He went to just beyond the junction with Switchback trail below Angeles Mountain, then trail up and down on the ridge top, with a few ocean views between the showers. Most mountains except the tops were in view when we arrived, but became more invisible as the day progressed.

Bob did a 6-mile hike with 1500 vertical feet at 50 degrees F. He was prepared with camera, Ten Essentials, good rain gear and well-oiled boots.—MM, Seattle, 7/7.


 **MADISON FALLS** (*USGS Elwha*)—Located just outside Port Angeles on Highway 101 is a small park on the Elwha River. It has a wonderful waterfall just .2-mile from the car.

Even with my sore back, foot and knee, it was a do-able walk; also wheelchair accessible! And well worth the effort. There were even benches to sit on, if one wanted, and in the heat of the day (supposing the day was warm) one could sit and enjoy the cool moisture from the falls and the music of its dance. My elderly friend also enjoyed seeing it, not knowing that it was so close to her home!

See *Waterfall Lovers Guide to the Northwest*, page 46. Two stars; 50 feet drop; classic horsetail shape.—MM, Seattle, 7/7.

TRAIL PARK PASSES ARE HERE!

Passes are **NOW REQUIRED** at many (but not all) Forest Service trailheads in Washington and Oregon. Ask your nearest Forest Service office or outdoor store.

 **LACROSSE PASS** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS The Brothers, Mt Steel*)—Mom, Tim and I hiked this lovely trail on a flawless summer weekend. The elevation gains were moderate as we followed the West Fork Dosewallips River. Our goal was higher country so we passed by the evenly-spaced backcountry camps.


Eventually, at about 9 miles, we reached the junction of the Anderson Pass and LaCrosse Pass trails. We chose LaCrosse, mostly because far more people were heading the other direction.

After gaining elevation in long switchbacks and crossing some beautiful open meadows, we were tired and needed to find a camp spot. Just short of the pass, we scrambled down a steep slope and established camp in a recently thawed-out area with nearby snow and good water source.

Plenty of bugs kept us hopping all evening. Marmots whistled away as night came around with a great starry display.

We were awakened by a particular marmot whose short, regular whistle was not unlike a car alarm. We packed up and visited LaCrosse Pass, partially wooded but with impressive views to LaCrosse and Anderson peaks.

Tim stayed up at Anderson Pass for another night, while Mom and I headed back to the distant car. I saw a large black bear in a high meadow, and other delights included dipping our sore feet in the frigid river during our walk out.—Douglas Cunco, Seattle, 8/9-10.

 **NORTH FORK CALAWAH** (*Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Deadmans Hill, Lk Pleasant*)—The Forest Service has closed Klahanie campground 5 miles up the "A" road outside Forks so I couldn't park there. The only place to park off the main road was at the gravel pit across the "A" road from Klahanie.

Shouldering the pack I started up the old railroad bed that wanders along the south side of the north fork of the Calawah. Many piles of blowdowns to crawl through. Made camp in a vine maple patch about 3 miles in above where the old roadbed crosses the river.

Had breakfast with a magnificent adult bald eagle gliding by just overhead. Left late morning to check out horse tracks.

There's one road that takes off near the crossing and parallels Fahnestock Creek which I've never followed to its end, and it was up this road the tracks go. Good trail, follows an old roadbed all the way through that's not on any map I've seen, and somebody's gone to a lot of trouble keeping it open and

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passable for stock.

Trail follows creek steadily upward until it tops out on the ridges between the Calawah forks then follows the ridges until it intersects the 2923 cross-over road at about mile post 9 (counting miles from the "A" road to Highway 101. (Spur road 050 on current maps is the upper end of trail on 2923.) Since I had a pretty good idea where I was, I headed for the highway instead of back tracking and came out where expected, at Klahowya on 101.

Hitchhiked back to Beaver where friends gave me a lift back to my vehicle. Here things went badly. Someone had smashed out most of the glass and slashed the tires before trying to torch the car. It took two days to clean it up and limp on home and this was only through the generosity of time and money from my friends.

This is a good trail, not on any map, and I suspect a loop trail from the crossing to maybe the 060 spur off of 2923 but I haven't checked on this yet. Just leave your vehicle at home or with friends. The sheriff says this is a common occurrence with kids trying to outdo each other in damages.—NMH Farwalker, Hadlock.

BEACH FIRE BAN—A 3-year campfire ban is in effect now from Wedding Rocks to Yellow Banks.

OLYMPIC NATL PARK—A Wilderness Permit fee is charged for all overnight backcountry stays. Fee is \$5 plus \$2 per person per night ages 17+.

Overnight use limited at Flapjack Lakes, Lake Constance, Grand Valley, Seven Lakes Basin, Alava to Sand Point beaches. For Park information call Wilderness Information Center: 360-452-0300.

High bear activity reported at Diamond Meadow, Honeymoon Meadow, Upper Lena Lake.—Ranger, 8/15.

river loop trail, and the kids loved skipping rocks. We hiked the wooded .8-mile trail up to the North Cascades Interpretive Center. The realistic exhibit on how lightning strikes a forest captivated the kids.

A ranger told the campfire gathering that a cougar had stalked a young girl in camp that day, a rare incident in a camping area. We kept the kids and dog closer.—Susan Wineke, Bellevue, 7/19-20.

MOUNT BAKER, Easton Glacier (Mt Baker NRA; USGS Mt Baker, Baker Pass)—After getting a very late start I finally made camp at the upper end of Morovitz Meadow, just off the Railroad grade, at 8:30pm.

Finding that I couldn't pressurize my fuel bottle meant dinner would consist of gorp and snow, which I melted by pouring fuel in the tray around the burner and using a lot of matches.

About 2:30am the climbers in the tent ahead of me (who had been asleep when I arrived) were getting ready to head up. After explaining my fuel bottle problem they told me to feel free to use their stove.

So after another 1½ hours of not-quite-sleep, Nimka (my Siberian) and I had oatmeal and hot chocolate. And I filled my Gatorade bottle.

The mountain, which had been covered in clouds down to the 7000-foot level, now stood out among the stars in a cloudless sky. By 4:30 we were off. At various places along the mountain, I

could see dots of light representing other climbers who had more ambition than I.

The snow had frozen quite hard which made for fast and easy travel. By sunrise I was a third of the way to the steam vents. The dots of light gave way to moving dark spots all heading up.

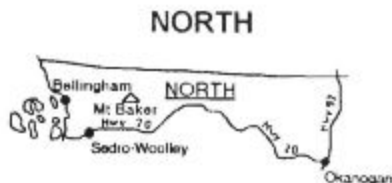
About this time two fellows who had been resting, way ahead of me, got up to go. One of them dropped a Gore-tex glove which came rushing down the still-frozen snow. I yelled that they had dropped something, but by then it was too late.

So I started running to intercept that glove. After about 30 feet I lunged for it, just barely grabbing it. When I reached them they thanked me. And then they said, "We tried to tell you it was okay—we were turning around anyway!"

By 10 I was at the steam vents enjoying my first real break. And listening to the vents roar. Fortunately the wind was out of the west which kept the rotten-egg smell away. There I met the kind folks who allowed me a warm breakfast.

After about 25 minutes Nimka and I got in line for the final 100-foot trudge to the summit. This was my sixth summit (Nimka's third) of Baker. But this was the first time I did it packing skis. After four attempts in 5 years I was ecstatic to be there knowing I would ski off the top.

After an hour, I, and five other mountain skiers, were at the crest of the Roman Wall. As we stood there



NEWHALEM (North Cascades Natl Park; USGS Mt Triumph)—We camped and hiked the easy trails of the Newhalem Creek Campground with John's grandsons, Ben and Derek, and our dog, Yogi. The campground, just south of the Skagit, offers an easy weekend destination for a family. We walked the mile

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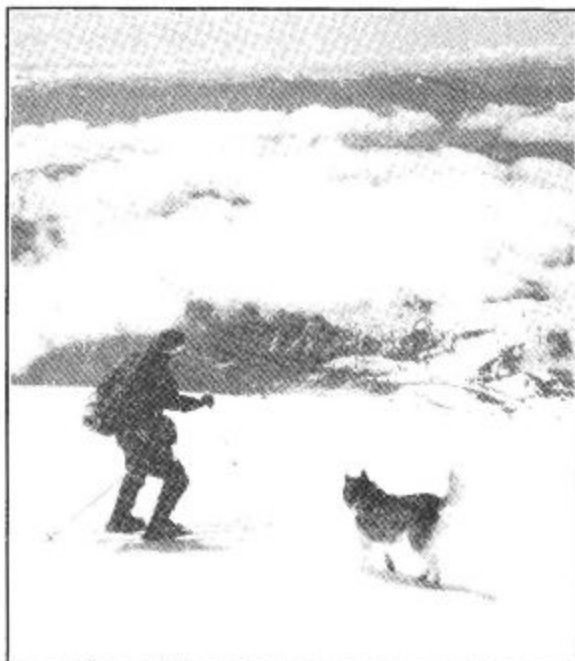
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David MacFarlane and Nimka head down from the summit of Mount Baker.

waiting for some rope teams to descend, one tall fellow stated, "Okay, let's remember to take it easy. The Wall is steep and there are a few crevasses just starting to show. If we go one at a time and play it cool, we should all get down safe. Watch for the crevasses." It was nice to hear him say that. It was a good reality check.

Skiers and rope teams took their turns and we all got down safe. After passing the steam vents, Nimka and I were once again alone.

The two weeks of rain we had down here made for knee-deep snow up there. Which had now softened and made skiing impossible. After my third face plant I packed the skis and plunge-stepped on. It was even too soft to do a sitting glissade.

As I was stowing my skis, two other skiers heading up started chastising me for being alone. "How much thought did you give it before going alone? How do you know you're not going to fall in a crevasse?" And the like.

This was in total contrast to what the other climbers/skiers had said to me. What I heard from them was: "We'll try to keep on eye on you as you cross the crevasse fields" and other supportive statements.

When I go alone (I never actually go alone; I always have the dog(s)), I expect to take care of myself. And I fully accept and take responsibility for whatever happens to me.

Two hours after leaving the top I was crashed out in the tent. That was short-lived, for I had to pack up and

head back home. Something about Mondays and work.—David MacFarlane, Lake Stevens, July.



RAINBOW RIDGE

(Mt Baker Wilderness; USGS Shuksan Arm)—This is a very short hike to excellent views of the southeast side of Mount Baker and the south side of Mount Shuksan.

The trip is well described in the new book *Don't Waste Your Time in the North Cascades* (Wilderness Press). The trail is short, but it is steep, muddy, rooty, and generally very difficult.

If this were a three-hour hike, instead of 45 minutes to the ridge top, it would be serious misery. But since the difficulties only last for less than an hour and the views are great (Baker, Shuksan, Pickets, Blum, Baker Lake,

Glacier, Whitehorse), it is a satisfactory trip. It is not suitable for small children, however, even though it is only a couple of miles.

It is still winter out there! The ridge crest is fairly open and ranges in elevation from 4200 to 4700 feet, but there were several feet of snow over 80 percent of the ridge crest. There was a lot of snow covering the trail beginning barely above the 4000-foot level.

It looks like there could be some tent spots on the ridge crest, with great sunrise and sunset views, but once the snow melts, there may not be any water on the ridge. Eat an early dinner, hike up in the evening for sunset and sunrise; and hike back out for a late breakfast.—Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 7/27.



ELBOW, DOREEN LAKES

(Mt Baker Wilderness; USGS Baker Pass, Twin Sisters Mtn)—A Mountaineers party of 11; young group. Started out down a little and crossed Middle Fork Nooksack on good bridge.

Plunged into deep old forest. Many giant old cedar. Gradual grade; steepest in middle with a few switchbacks. Views of South Twin Sister at 2 miles. Many big trees: cedar, fir, hemlock, some silver fir, and some silvered cedar at 3000 feet. Spring flowers: bleeding heart, Canadian dogwood, queens cup.

Snow at high point just before Elbow Lake; a few large patches. *Snow at 3200 feet on 8/3!*

Very brushy around lake to campsites. I scouted up to Lake Doreen. Good tread, only a few roots, a few little rock

falls, mostly dirt, a little mud. No outlet stream from lake basin, and no mountain views. Two groups coming up as we were leaving. Saw *big black bear* on road 38 on way out.

Hard to find road 38 off Mosquito Lake road and then we went wrong way at unsigned fork. No sign or facilities at trailhead; just gravel parking spot.

Saw bear, deer, two rabbits. 8+ miles; 1400 vertical feet.—RLM, Seattle, 8/3.



TRAPPERS PEAK

(North Cascades Natl Park; USGS Mt Triumph)—This scramble awards spectacular views from atop a peak which is challenging and fun. The road to the trailhead, about 11 miles east of Marblemount, is steep in sections and a bit rough—not recommended for low clearance, nicer cars.

The first several miles of trail gain little elevation and pass good water sources. Soon the switchbacks start, but even these are mild in comparison to many Cascade trails.

The forest canopy was a welcomed sun blocker on this hot July day. Tim and I took only one rest stop and reached the Thornton Lakes trail junction in about two hours.

From there the route up Trappers Peak passed through snow patches and headed up to what looked like the summit. It's a bit deceiving, though; we crested more than one rocky outcrop, thinking we'd reached the top, only to see we weren't even close.

The true summit soon became evident, and to reach it involved a few scramble section where handholds are required. Well worth the effort.

From the 6000-foot summit Tim and I enjoyed hours of solitude and superb views of the Pickets, Mount Triumph, and many more unnamed. We explored around a bit and eventually found ourselves descending. About 3 hours up and 2½ down.—Douglas Cunco, Seattle, 7/26.



TATOOSH BUTTES

(Pasayten Wilderness; USGS Billy Goat Mtn, Lost Pk, Ashnola Mtn, Tatoosh Buttes)—The only word for my 10 days in the Pasayten Wilderness is *enchanting*. This was my 9th annual hike with Backcountry Burro Treks, a low impact, independent, pack-free way to go on foot into country unavailable to some of us more mature hikers. I recommend it and will write more about it for *P&P* this winter.

There were 6 of us plus our packer and his 6 donkeys (7 if you count the one-year-old Sasha who just came for the walk). We left Eight Mile Corral on


July 13 expecting the usual parties of horse people heading for Hidden Lakes. Evidently everyone expected lots of snow because we saw only a minimum of folk and had the lakes and the buttes to ourselves.

All those acres of green, wildflower carpeted hills and valleys which make up the Tatoosh Buttes and only our small band to enjoy it!

The trail is excellent with one long pull up to Lucky Pass and the 3000-foot elevation gain in 5 miles up to Tatoosh Buttes. We had fine campsites, one about 2 miles beyond Lucky Pass, the shelter at First Hidden Lake and the view-of-a-lifetime camp just below the crest at Tatoosh Buttes.

On the way out we slipped, slid and cursed our way down the steep path leading to the Lost River meadow camp ½ mile below Diamond Creek. The tranquil beauty of that spot helped us actually enjoy a whopper of a thunder, lightning and hail storm during our layover day.

Pure enchantment! I'm already looking forward to next year's trek.—Mary Watson, Gig Harbor, July.

 **DOLLAR WATCH MOUNTAIN, WHISTLER BASIN, CROW LAKE** (Pasayten Wilderness; USGS Sweetgrass Butte, Billy Goat Mtn, Ashnola Pass, Ashnola Mtn)—Our first day in the Pasayten was breezy and cool—perfect for the 11-12 mile walk to Tony Meadow camp below Dollar Watch Pass.

The second day we left our packs at Dollar Watch Pass and wandered up to Dollar Watch Mountain. Great views to everywhere but especially to the areas we were headed (McCall Gulch and Crow Lake junction).

Back at the pass we picked up our packs and headed up the south ridge of Two Point Mountain. What a lovely, long, open ridge! From the top we ran the east-northeast ridge to Larch Pass and caught the trail to Crow Lake.

Crow Lake was warm, shallow and quiet. There was no one around but us—not even bugs to speak of. The following day we packed over to Whistler Basin. What a beautiful place, but unfortunately the main camping area is full of human and horse feces, plus toilet paper everywhere.

I wrote a letter to the Winthrop Ranger Station asking if perhaps the money we spent on an Okanogan parking pass could be spent on putting a toilet in at Whistler Basin. What an improvement that would make.

On our way out (after five beautiful days in the high, open meadows of the

Pasayten) we took the old trail from Larch Pass over to the Dollar Watch trail. We didn't have any difficulty finding it. From Larch Pass we just turned the corner and looked up.

It goes up steeply but was very usable (not for horses). From the 7600-foot pass the trail drops steeply down to upper Tony Meadow. Thanks to all the cairns that Lee McKee and others have left (see *April, page 22*), we had no trouble wandering along the old sheep trail back toward the Dollar Watch trail.

We came out on a Thursday but still met numerous large horse and mule parties headed toward Corral Lake.—Reebach, Mukilteo, 7/26-31.

NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK

—Permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits are free and available at offices in Marblemount, Sedro-Woolley, Newhalem, Glacier and Chelan. Call the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount: 360-873-4590. The center is open at 7am every day through the summer.—Ranger, 8/15.

BIG, LITTLE BEAVER—Downed trees removed and trail brushed to Whatcom Pass. Water over trail at Perry Creek; follow flags through braided channels. Bears active; hang food.—Ranger, 8/15.

CHILLIWACK—Windfalls every 100 to 150 feet between Park boundary and Brush Creek; 1000+ windfalls beyond to Bear Creek!

Trail to Hannegan Pass is snowfree with patchy snow to Park boundary.—Ranger, 8/15.

THUNDER CREEK—Downed trees removed to Skagit Queen. Junction stock camp bridge is out.—Ranger, 8/15.

BRIDGE CREEK—Maintained from Highway 20 to Stehekin Valley road. Ford North Fork at Grizzly Creek; use shallows 150 feet downstream.—Ranger, 8/15.

MT BAKER DISTRICT—360-856-5700.

PASAYTEN—509-996-4060. A few snow patches here and there but nearly all trails snowfree now. Trail crews have been busy and many trails are maintained.

Robinson Pass trail is snowfree through the pass (lots of flowers), but trail is blocked by avalanche debris between pass and Pasayten River. Limited camping at Black Lake. Some sites

WATER TREATMENT—OR NOT?

Due to the interest generated by Dan Vorhis' two-part article on backcountry water treatment (see *page 27*), we took an informal poll of the backcountry people we talked to over the course of a week to see just what folks use.

LESLEY WEINBERG, West Seattle: I use a Sweetwater filter. My friend Dennis uses a First Need filter.

ELFIE VOGT, Forest-Park Information Center, Seattle: I have always used tablets.

KIRK STEPHENS, Supervisor, Lynnwood REI: I've used the MSR Waterworks filter for the last 3 or 4 years.

YELLOW CAT, Port Orchard: Prefers untreated rain water. Does not boil, filter or treat with chemicals.

FRANK SINCOCK, Bellevue: I carry iodine but never use it. I continue to drink untreated water.

SONNY O'NEAL, Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor: I can't remember the brand, but I've used a filter now for the last 15 years.

VB/MA, Arlington: We don't treat or filter water. We drink surface water with caution—choosing clean water, going upstream from heavily used areas, etc.

KARLYN BLACK, East Wenatchee: Gary and I use a Pur filter. We used to use a Sweetwater.

FRAN TROJE, Bellevue: I've used a filter for years; don't remember the brand.

RICH HAYDON, Wilderness Ranger: After three bouts with giardiasis, I use a filter religiously. My current one is a Sweetwater; I have also used Pur, First Need, Katahdin.

MARY SUTLIFF, Arlington: We use a Pur Explorer filter in camp, but we stow it away on the pack horse for traveling. During the day we use our iodine crystal solution—this is what we used traveling through Nepal, and I trust it.

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Ann Marshall

Corral Lake, from small campsite at south end; Pasayten Wilderness.

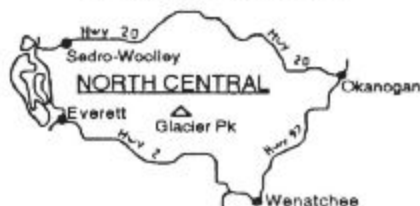
closed for restoration.—Ranger, 8/15.

PCT—From Highway 20 south to Bridge Creek, trail is open and maintained. From Highway 20 north to Harts Pass, avalanche debris between Methow Pass and River. Maintained from Methow River to Glacier Pass.

From Harts Pass to Canada, mostly snowfree, but not maintained yet. Last 3 miles before border has many downed trees and a large avalanche site obscures trail near border.—Ranger, 8/15.

REYNOLDS CREEK—Open 1 mile. Lots and lots of trees down. Won't be maintained this year.—Ranger, 8/15.

NORTH CENTRAL



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Big Devil Pk*)—I needed to get in a good, strenuous hike before backpacking in the Sierra the following week. Jess and I chose the Lookout Mountain trail. *100 Hikes in the North Cascades* refers to this hike as a steep climb gaining 4500 feet over 4¼ miles.

From Marblemount take the Cascade River road east for 7 miles. A turnout on the right provides parking for prob-

ably 10 to 12 cars. The trailhead is across the road. The trail begins steeply and stays that way for most of the way to the summit.

We wanted to test our stamina so kept hiking at a steady pace. The first half of the hike is in forest, eventually breaking out in the open through about 100 yards of brush laced with thistles and devils club, ouch!

After this the trail stays in the open, climbing toward the lookout at 5719 feet. A few hundred yards from the summit we encountered snow—an ice axe is helpful here. We lost the trail but the route is obvious. We reached the lookout in 3 hours and 5 minutes, averaging 1500 feet an hour. Not bad for two old men of 39.

The lookout provides an incredible panoramic view which was stunning on this beautiful, sunny day. Volunteers have done an admirable job of keeping the lookout in fine shape. They ask only that you leave it in as good or better shape than when you arrived.

We spent a leisurely, relaxing 1½ hours on the summit. We were absolutely amazed to have the summit to ourselves the entire time.

On our descent we encountered a solo hiker nearing the summit. Where the trail crosses a stream we paused to drink and dunk our heads in the cold water—very refreshing! Here we encountered a volunteer ranger on his way to the lookout. A solo hiker we met on the way up was the only other person we met this day. We were on the trail for over 7 hours and encountered only three people the entire day. We are still amazed by this considering that

many other trails were probably “free-ways” on this day.

This was an enjoyable and memorable hike with a minimal amount of biting insects and people, and a good strenuous summit under our belts.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 7/26.



SQUIRE CREEK PASS

(*Boulder River Wilderness; USGS Whitehorse Mtn*)—Road 2040 is rough and I finally came to the washout ½-mile before the trailhead. Twenty cars were already here. I was amazed to see that four more cars had made it over the washouts and they weren't all trucks. I didn't want to do it in the Cherokee.

The trail was much rougher than I expected and one area about ¾-up I found very unpleasant!

It doesn't get any hotter than this in the mountains (80 degrees) and I doused myself with a quart bottle at every opportunity (about five creeks this time of year).

The pass is lovely, with some of the prettiest snowmelt streams I've ever seen. I found one 3-foot pool and plunged in—great! Of course, like Dickerman, this place also dries up and in many years would be this day.

In my explorations I met a nice couple who had been here a lot. We were the last ones. When they left, I was alone. This would be a marvelous place to spend a night, but I doubt I'll haul my gear up this tortuous trail.

At the trailhead I met the couple again. They had driven past the washout in their little Honda sportscar and were stranded—but not because of the rocks: they left their lights on!

So I ended up driving past the washout to give them a jump just before dark, thus saving them a long, late walk to Darrington.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 7/20.



SQUIRE CREEK PASS

(*Boulder River Wilderness; USGS Whitehorse Mtn*)—I don't know if this trail ever did quality as one of The Good, but it is now certainly among the Bad and the Ugly.

Don't be fooled by the first mile: after that you have to focus on each placement of boot, on rock and root, in bog and creek. Other than that, it's a great hike ...

Squire Creek road is “Darrington Ave” where you find it in Darrington, a few blocks south of Highway 530. Most of the cross streets get you there. The unpaved portion of this (about 5 miles) is pretty hairy, and the last ½-mile not at all suitable for passenger vehicles. Most people walk that part.

Other than *that*, this is one of the

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most incredibly beautiful hikes you can do in a day.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 7/20.



MOUNT DICKERMAN

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Bedal)—I picked the perfect time for a "little" backpack to this fairly popular place. This is one of the smoothest trails in the Monte Cristo area and there were no problems.

We had been here only once a few years ago on a dayhike so I was a little apprehensive about camping locations and water but at 5300 feet we came to the point I remembered. Here were places for a tent, and snowmelt water all over the place.

We enjoyed a magnificent evening watching the peaks from Three Fingers on the right to Hall, Big Four, Vesper and over to Sloan. There were just enough clouds for a good sunset. I stayed up until 11:30 for the moonrise. The next day we went up to the top and explored the ridge northeast. The weather was cool and clear with no bugs to speak of.

This place pretty much dries up after the snow melts except for the pond at 4500 feet, which had just melted, so for a good backpack, sometime in July is the time.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 7/23-24.



MOUNT FORGOTTEN

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Bedal)—This route starts on the Perry Creek trail off the Mountain Loop highway. It gradually ascends, passing delightful streams and good views of waterfalls from across the valley. At about 2 miles the trail crosses Perry Creek, a great place to stop, splash around, and hydrate for the climb ahead.

Mom—this being her birthday—was happy to join Tim, me, Wiley and Minto. We slogged up the switchbacks to the meadows, which is a good turnaround spot with great views of Baker. Better to continue to Mount Forgotten, about 1 mile farther and 1000 vertical feet higher. Ice axes were helpful going across the snowy meadows and needed while ascending the last steep section. The top is partially treed, so the views may not be as panoramic as neighbor-

ing Dickerman, but it's awfully close. Not as crowded, either.

We dozed in sun and shade and chatted with others sharing the top. Mom's birthday celebration hastened our trip back to the car. We did stop for a quick dip in the Skykomish on our drive out.—Douglas Cunco, Seattle, 7/19.



MOUNT PILCHUCK, BATHTUB LAKES

(State Park; USGS Verlot)—Trail up Pilchuck vastly improved, especially the lower portion. A lot of work has been done. It makes the trip up to the lookout much quicker; it also allows people to run on the trail, which I find unappealing.

The trail is snowfree. The route (not a trail) to Bathtub Lakes is not snow-free. There were several big snow patches to cross. The lakes themselves are about half snowed-in, and "omigod" beautiful.

One stream coming into the first lake was warm (okay, tepid), which allowed a (very) brief swim with the icebergs.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 8/3.



HEADLEE PASS and beyond

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest & DNR; USGS Bedal, Silverton)—

We used the Green Trails maps for Silverton and Sloan.

The exit to Sunrise Mine road off the Mountain Loop Highway is on your right not long after passing the trailhead for Mount Dickerman. The road extends about 2.5 miles and ends with a parking lot (2400 feet), complete with signs demanding money for the impoverished Forest Service.

(Yup, they ticketed my car; I have three now, and I calculate that they are spending more on warning signs and ticketing than they could possibly take in, even if all the tickets were paid.)

The road and the trail are in reasonable condition, but the 3 miles up to the pass are hot and steep; the stream crossings were okay. Across the pass (4700 feet), the trail is still good, and drops down a hundred feet and crosses a large boulder-scare field, and reaches the delightful outlet of the lake in ¼-mile. The lake was still mostly frozen over.

A couple of nice campsites are a hundred feet higher on the ridge toward Vesper. The trail continues up the ridge across patches of snow, and eventually disappears into a large snowfield (steep; ice axe advised), and finally the easy rock summit of Vesper (6200 feet) a

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little over an hour from the stream. There are excellent views on this ridge, even if you don't go all the way.

We spent the night, but used up a lot of mosquito repellent. The next morning, Sasha and I circled past the lake on snow on its east margin, and ascended to the headwall on boulders and heather, to a trail running along the ridgecrest east toward Sperry.

The trail was faint in several places, and Sasha assured me that it was at least class 3 in a couple of spots. We reached the summit (6000 feet) by a little after 8am. I picked up my backpack at the stream and got down to the car by noon, avoiding the worst of the heat.

One of our best hikes of the year for views—and moderately vigorous exercise.—Warren Guntheroth and Sasha, Seattle, 8/10.


 **JOHNSON RIDGE, SCORPION MOUNTAIN** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Captain Pt*)—Take Highway 2 .7-mile past Skykomish and turn left onto Beckler River road. At 7 miles (just past the end of the pavement) turn right onto road 6520, take the left fork 1.7 miles from the Beckler River road and turn right 3.9 miles later onto road 6526. Trailhead is at road's end.

The 4.5-mile hike begins on an abandoned logging road before the easy-to-follow path winds through the shade of a tree-lined ridge and into a small meadow (with a good campsite). The 2300-foot elevation gain begins to become noticeable just past the meadow as the trail begins a steep ascent and continues to climb steadily to 5056-foot Sunrise Mountain.

With Glacier Peak to the north, Mount Fernow to the south and a sprinkling of wildflowers, the campsite on Sunrise Mountain is a perfect place to catch your breath and wish you could stay longer—but don't dawdle; the best is yet to come.

The trail is dry, dusty and rock-free as it descends steeply and levels off near the top of a meadow on a narrow ridge. Here Rainier competes with Glacier for the most impressive volcanic view before the trail ducks back into the shaded forest to come out into the middle of a large meadow just below 5540-foot Scorpion Mountain.


At the edge of the meadow you have a choice of taking a trail up a few hundred feet to Scorpion's summit, or down to Joan Lake. We enjoyed lunch at the lake accompanied by the whistles of a family of hoary marmots.—Roger Kelley, Marysville, 8/17.

 **COPPER PASS** (*Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness; USGS Gilbert, McAlester Mtn*)—Heather and I set up base camp at Blackpine Lake in Okanogan National Forest to do some hiking in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.

Sunny over the campground—but clouds were forming over the mountains near Copper Pass. Nevertheless we drove to the end of the Twisp River road and started out on trail 432, the Twisp Pass trail. Easy hiking to its junction with trail 426. The trail to Copper Pass is not as traveled as the one to Twisp Pass but it is well maintained. We were right behind a trail maintenance crew today.

Beautiful old-growth forests and a difficult (although not impossible) creek crossing were part of the fare. The last mile to the pass was completely snow-covered. Axe was handy although not totally necessary. Weather was tough at the 6000+-foot pass—we actually got caught in some July snow!


Hike out was fast—promise of sun back at the campground kept us trekking. About a mile from the trailhead in some dry forest we spotted a western tanager, perhaps one of the most beautiful residents of the Okanogan country. A great hike! Check it out!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/11.

 **LOUIS LAKE** (*Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness; USGS Gilbert*)—We were greeted with a beautiful sunny and warm day, the kind that makes the Okanogan cherished by wet west-siders.

Louis Lake is truly a gem in the vast Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness. On this particular Saturday we shared the lake with only four other people and a basin teeming with frogs!

We followed South Creek trail 401, a major horse thoroughfare, for 2 fast but warm miles to Louis Lake trail 428. The trail drops to cross South Creek and then heads for 3½ miles to the Lake. Lots of switchbacks, sometimes steep but good tread. Before approaching the lake you cross some massive avalanche zones complete with lingering snow and debris but not an obstacle for travel.

Lots of snow in the basin—that along with the lake's sparkling waters will keep you cool on a hot day (and it can get hot here). We had lunch and napped on the log jam at the lake's outlet. Incredible view—reminded me of Montana. Lots of frogs, lots of biting flies—lots of encouragement to the frogs to eat the flies. Louis Lake would make an incredible destination for backpackers.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/12.

 **HEATHER LAKE, GLASSES LAKE** (*Henry M Jackson Wilderness; USGS Poe Mtn, Labyrinth Mtn, Captain Point*)—This trail is only 3½ miles, elevation gain only 1300 feet. Only problem is that most of the elevation gain is in a single painful mile, made much worse by the flies, which are—this year and particularly here—Truly Dreadful.

Heather Lake is perfectly okay, woody, subalpine, (ho-hum) nice. Some nice camps, and so good to take off the packs! (Horrible bugs, horrible. They try to crawl in your eyes.)

The first real treat for this hike is Glasses Lake. (Cross the outlet from Heather Lake and go around the south side.) The Forest Service doesn't recognize the route up to Glasses Lake as a trail, and there were times I didn't recognize it, either.

It is hard to follow in places. It's about ½-mile along the lakeshore, then another ½-mile and 700 vertical feet to Glasses. Toil, toil, swat bugs, toil. Keep the sound of the creek in earshot as you go up.

Glasses Lake is very very beautiful, and catches the breeze in a wonderful way. Many fewer bugs! Glasses is cold; snow still lingers in patches, obviously only recently melted out. There are some truly great campsites here, for those who want to do that scramble up in full pack.

We had the place to ourselves all morning, until some folks came up from Heather and another group down from the PCT up above. We found a terrific view of Glacier Peak from the first rock pile around to the right. You can't see Glacier at all from the outlet.

It was hard to leave the bug-free gorgeous scenery, but we did. Down we went: slither, slip, swat bugs, slither. (The bugs really are about as bad as they get in these parts.)

Heather Lake had one last surprise for us, though. We sat by the shore, putting boots on for the trek down. A snarl of fishing line at the water's edge caught my eye, and like a good responsible person I pulled it out and put it in my pocket.

And noticed that the sparkly schist on the lake bottom was studded with garnets. That there were garnet chips everywhere. That the sand was pink with garnet. We picked up a handful of whole, loose, crystals, my biggest being about ¼-inch in diameter. *Cool.*

I'd seen garnet in schist before—there's a whole mountain of it over in the Lake Mary area. But never such big chunks! It's not worth anything—not gem quality—but oh so fun to find

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and hold!

Schist is a metamorphic rock, with a fine textured streaky look. This schist is rather sparkly with some mineral besides garnet, and medium to dark grey.

I've been told metamorphic rocks tend to be striped or streaky looking because the minerals in them tend to sort of "line up" under the intense pressure that creates metamorphic rock. This schist is speckled with dark spots like a raisin cookie, which under closer examination turn out to be garnets. Wow! —Peg Ferm, Monroe, 8/10.

IRVING PEAK (*Glacier Peak Wilderness; USGS Poe Mtn*)—Irving Peak (5862 feet) is the lowest of the named "poet peaks" on Wenatchee Ridge.

It is 2.5 miles southeast of Poe Mountain, and directly across the valley of the Little Wenatchee River from Labyrinth Mountain. Not truly a peak by the 400-foot rule, it rises about 240 feet above the low point in the ridge north to Peak 5937, the latter only .5-mile away.

The drive is described in *100 Hikes in Washington's Glacier Peak Region: The North Cascades* by Ira Spring and Harvey Manning under "Poet Ridge, Irving Pass." From the trailhead at the end of road 6504 (4200 feet) follow trail 1545 for .7-mile to the crest (4900 feet).

Leave the trail and head east through dark forest, dropping a bit to a wide col. Then begin climbing southeast, keeping at or near the ridge top, through considerable brush and around or over several small rocky outcrops.

Above about 5600 feet stay to the right of the ridge to avoid cliffs, and traverse a very steep rocky meadow until south of the summit. Then pick any of several ways up through rock and scrubby conifers to the upper east ridge just a few yards from the top. Easy slabs on the northeast side lead quickly to the summit.

Beware the precipice off the northwest side as you gaze at nearby peaks including Mastiff, Howard, Labyrinth, Whittier and David, as well as the Wenatchee Ridge east as far as Peak 6292 and northwest to Longfellow. Glacier Peak is not far off, and Sloan, the Monte Cristo peaks, and even Rainier are visible.

This route is mostly a walk, with some class 2. You'll see occasional ancient blazes on the lower half, and faint intermittent remnants of an old climbers' path higher up. I did not find a summit register, but there was a small cairn. The total gain (with ups and

downs) is about 2000 feet, and the round trip distance is 4+ miles.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/9.

CASCADE PASS—Road is open to trailhead; some potholes and washboards. Slippery when wet.

Trail is snowfree to pass except for two moderate sections; please follow flagging across snow. Sahale Arm has snow above 6400 feet.—Ranger, 8/15.

DARRINGTON DISTRICT—360-436-1155. Blue Lakes are not melted out as of 8/3; two steep snow fields require ice axe on the Bald Eagle trail.

Big Four Ice Caves can be very dangerous; please don't enter caves. Guided interpretive walks on weekends at 11am and 2pm.

Downey Creek trail is cleared of trees for about 1¼ miles. Trail is lost in large slide at second creek crossing at 2½ miles. Past 5 miles trail is overgrown.

Mount Pilchuck trail will be closed Monday through Thursday through late October due to construction work.

Sniattle trail is maintained 11 miles. The Canyon Creek bridge will be **CLOSED** for reconstruction from 9/26 until the middle of next summer. There is no good or safe place to ford once the bridge is closed. Until closure, do not exceed six hikers (or one horse) on bridge at a time.

Three Fingers/Goat Flats trail is snowfree to Goat Flats, then patchy to Tin Can Gap, then solid snow to the lookout as of 8/8.

Glacier Peak camp at Boulder Basin is snowfree; solid snow starts at 6000 feet as of 8/4. Black flies and mosquitoes are bad.—Ranger, 8/15.

STEHEKIN—Shuttle bus runs daily service from Stehekin Landing to High Bridge; no reservations required. Daily service from High Bridge to Bridge Creek, reservations required—call 360-856-5700 x340 x14.

Call the Lake Chelan Boat Company for Lady of the Lake fares and schedules: 509-682-2224.

CHELAN DISTRICT—509-682-2576. Roads are open, but dusty. Watch for snakes, ticks and mosquitoes. Most trails are snowfree and many have been maintained.

These trails will NOT be maintained this year: Indianhead Basin, Horton Butte, North Fork Prince Creek, Devore Creek, Mirror Lake, Domke Mountain.—Ranger, 8/13.

ENTIAT DISTRICT—509-784-1511. The Entiat road is open to end. The En-

tiat trail is snowfree and maintained for 10 miles. Beyond that point, many trees are down and snow remains. There is no footlog at the Snow Brushy Creek crossing; it is very hazardous!

Generally, most trails are snowfree and many have been maintained.—Ranger, 8/13.

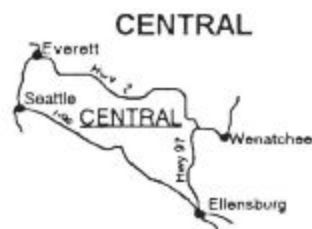
LAKE WENATCHEE DISTRICT—509-763-3103. Little Wenatchee road 6500 will be closed just past Soda Springs campground for two weeks starting 8/15. Check with ranger station for details.

Other repair projects will also start in mid-August on Lost Creek road 6702, Scars Creek road 6404, Chiwawa Valley road 6200, Little Chumstick road 6106 and road 6103-315.

The bridge over the Little Wenatchee on the Cady Creek trail collapsed under snow last winter. Trail access is dangerous and the ford is difficult. Cady Ridge and Creek trails are not yet maintained and have many logs down.

The bridge 2 miles up the Indian Creek trail was badly damaged by snow, but is still passable to hikers. There are lots of trees down, an avalanche debris pile at 7 miles, and brush over the trail all the way to the pass.

The White River trail has been maintained for 2½ miles, beyond that 300 trees are down, and much avalanche debris.—Ranger, 8/13.



MOUNT SI (*DNR; USGS Mt Si*)—On the way up, 49 people passed me. On top everyone spread out so it was not too bad. On the way down, 121 people passed me.—George Gromer, Vancouver BC, 7/20.

CHAIR PEAK LAKE (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—Fifty cars at Snow Lake trailhead on a sunny Friday. Trail in fine shape to Gem Lake. I was amazed to see ice still on about 20% of Snow Lake and many snow patches going to Gem.


From the saddle above Gem is a boot path going southwest along the ridge. This is a beautiful area. Then comes the ugly part—traversing steep talus over to the lake. The last section was a

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little unstable for my tastes. I was so hot after all the nervous scrambling that I took a quick swim in Chair Lake even though it was 98% frozen.

Met four parties of backpackers headed for Snow on way out. Almost no bugs after Snow. A great day trip.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 8/8.

 **SNOW LAKE** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—What do you think of when you think of Snow Lake? How about the biggest trailhead parking lot (It was constructed and maintained by the Alpentel Ski Corporation. They get none of the money from the Parking Permits.), the uneven gravel steps at the trailhead, the dangerous creek crossings when the water is freezing?

Oh, but there is beauty, too! Flowers, waterfalls, and the snow-dappled grandeur of Chair Peak, The Tooth, and other "ten-million-year-old" peaks.


Sitting at a vantage point on the ridge, it was a thrill to listen to children who were too tired to make one more step squeal with delight as they discovered the trailside snow at the pass.

Our destination was Eagles Porch east of the pass. The faint trail goes up through heather. Glimpses of the lake, bear grass in bloom, the breeze in the alpine firs and heather makes the steep trail a joy.

Then before us was the deep blue lake half covered with great floes of ice, glittering snowfields and mountain peaks as far as the eye can see, silence, disturbed only by the breeze whisking away the flies and mosquitoes, and the warm sun casting shadows.

Below and north in the grand meadow are Snow White Lake and the Seven Dwarves tarns. Due west of the Porch are three other small tarns: Mickey, Minnie and Donald.

I have traveled to many places and none matches the splendor and beauty of Snow Lake from Eagle's Porch. I think it is the most beautiful place in the whole world.—Robert DeGraw, Kirkland, 8/10.

 **RED MOUNTAIN** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—Trailhead is off road to Alpentel, exit 52 from I-90. Left the PCT parking lot at 8am, 3040 feet.

Left Crest Trail after a few hundred feet to follow old road and abandoned trail up Commonwealth drainage. First section very brushy and wet. Large patches of Canadian dogwood in bloom.

At 3500 feet, following boot tracks in snow. On trail for brief periods, mainly at stream crossings. There are three


crossings before beginning the ascent toward Red Mountain. Footlogs are available but they are slick. Marsh marigolds cover the snowfree areas.

Cross stream for the third time at 3900 feet. Break before beginning ascent of the snowfree trail leading to the saddle between Red Mountain and Lundin Peak.

Scramble up southerly face of Red Mountain through alder and elderberry brush for several hundred feet. From there on it's on rock, much of it loose. Occasionally on vague boot track.

At summit, 5890 feet, for lunch. Emulate marmots in sun. Begin descent after long break for views.

While we had kept largely to the valley bottom on the way in, on the way out we kept more closely to the partly snowfree Commonwealth Basin trail. That is the old Pacific Crest Trail. When we intersected the PCT it was mostly snowfree to the trailhead. About 14 blowdowns on this section, some large.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 7/20.

 **WILDHORSE TRAIL** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Mt Howard, Chiwaukum Mtns*)—I had been intrigued by the Wildhorse trail for some time because of its unusual design. After reading the report in the July issue I decided to give it a go. A return home to check the coffee pot and road work on Highway 2 delayed my start. I didn't set boot to trail until 6pm. The reader board informed me that the trail had been brushed to Frosty Pass as of the day before. I was delighted. Later I would be grateful.

As the sun was sinking behind the canyon wall I became increasingly anxious to find a campsite. I chose possibility #2 at about 2 miles. It was on a rocky cliff high above the Whitepine. The torrent roaring hundreds of feet below provided perfect camping ambiance.

The morning was overcast. The air was hot, humid, and dead still. I trudged up the side of the valley through dark forest, the featured guest at a mosquito rendezvous. My right hand slapped five at a time and my left flailed a pine bough.


As I plodded in near-delirium I dreamed of forcefields and SDI in miniature. Eventually horizons were revealed and a breeze picked up. I noticed I was nailing only 1 or 2 per swat. I slowly recalled what I was doing there as rocky summits and alpine tundra appeared near and far.

The trail from this point rolls along above timberline the length of the valley through a sea of wildflowers. Wooded Frosty Pass is visible in the

distance. Nice camps are in the upper basin and I had my pick. After siesta I hiked up to the lovely (and deserted) Lake Mary.

That evening the mosquitos caught up with me and I was driven into my tent for the night. I awoke at first light. It was cool and clear. The bugs were gone to wherever they go when it's too chilly for them. I hiked back out at a leisurely pace.

The "abandoned" side trails to Deadhorse Pass and Grace Lake are clearly visible and looked to be in good shape. I was severely tempted, but I stick to my itinerary when hiking solo. I had the valley to myself for two days, as I saw no others. I think the trail would make a great exit on a one-way trip from Icicle country.—Matt Masterson, Snohomish, 7/28-7/30.

 **MARY [or JUDI] PEAK** (*Teanaway country; USGS Enchantment Lks*)—Mary Peak (6680+ feet) is on the crest between Ingalls Creek and the North Fork Teanaway River, interposed between Beverly Creek to the west, Fourth Creek to the north, and Bean Creek to the east and south. Bill's Peak (6917 feet) is 1.3 miles northwest, and Bean Peak (6743 feet) lies .6-mile northeast.

Mary has a subsidiary top (6560+ feet) .4-mile south-southeast with a col (6480+ feet) between.

[*Ed. Note:* A up-coming article by John Roper lists Mary Peak as 6560 feet, and Judi Peak as 6680 feet. We'll try to clear this up.]

Unlike Bean, Mary has little of the iron-rich red rock, and offers no more than class 2 scrambling. Its upper slopes are mostly a talus or snow walking ascent. But just like Bean, the summit views are magnificent.

Drive the North Fork Teanaway road to Beverly Creek. Take the Beverly Creek road 1.3 miles to its end and the trailhead at 3600 feet. The hike will gain about 3100 feet in a 7-mile round trip.

For the easiest route, walk .5-mile up the Beverly Creek trail 1391, and turn right onto the Bean Creek trail 1391A. The latter climbs gradually but steadily to the high valley draining the east side of Mary Peak, the south side of Bean Peak and west side of Earl Peak.

Leave the trail and keep to the west of Bean Creek, sometimes on a climbers path, until well up the valley where two streams come down from Mary's. Ascend between these streams until near timberline, staying atop a minor ridge or in the northern stream drainage.

Then head up toward the col between Mary (on the right) and the southern

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top (on the left). Once above any obstacles, head directly to the summit. Visit the subsidiary top as well.

There are other possible approaches. One could easily ascend the north slope from trail 1226, but this would be a longer trip. The south slope could be climbed from the lower Bean Creek valley, shortly after the stream crossing, if you like lots of steep forest and talus. The west slope looks like a very long, loose talus climb from the Beverly Creek valley.

I've heard of people attempting the ridge from Bean Peak, a nasty prospect indeed.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 7/4.



BEVERLY TURNPIKE

(*Teanaway country; USGS Mt Stuart*)—Hike with Mountaineers; party of 11. 8+ miles, 2200 vertical feet from the base at 3600 feet to 5800-foot Beverly Turnpike Pass.

Started up from trailhead at 10:20, weather clear, temperature in low 70s. Lunch at 1pm. Took an extra c-mile scramble to view of Mount Stuart. View south over Teanaway basin and Wenatchee Mountains. Iron Peak to west with snow cornice.

We saw only five other hikers in two parties the whole day. Mile 1 was the steepest. Wet meadows above 5000 feet crammed with Jeffrey's shooting star! Glacier lilies poking through the snow patches; gilia in profusion on dry slopes about 4500 feet. Snow was in the shadows at pass and in patches down to 5200 feet.

One major creek crossing; one 1-star waterfall. Few bugs, even at lunch! On way down, dtopped for foot freezing in cool creek at 2.5 miles down. Vast fields of yellow buckwheat and blue lupine on mountain slopes.

Carpoled with two others. 120 miles to trailhead from North Seattle (7am to 9am; took 2 hours, 40 minutes to make the climb; 2:16 to come down. (Did that include feet washing in the creek? Yes!)—RLM, Seattle, 7/19.



BEAN PEAK (*Teanaway country; USGS Enchantment Lks*)

Bean Peak (6743 feet) is one of many tops on the divide between Ingalls Creek and the North Fork Teanaway River. From Bean the main ridge passes southwest .6-mile (very rugged) to Mary's Peak (6680+ feet), and southeast 1.1 miles to Earl Peak (7036 feet). A subsidiary ridge leads north .4-miles to cliffy and rotten Volcanic Neck (6600+ feet) and another .5-mile to more gentle Peak 6666.

Bean qualifies as a true peak, having just over 400 feet of prominence above

the low spot in the ridge to Earl Peak.

Most of Bean is composed of orange-brown to reddish rock, with occasional blue-green inclusions. Knowing nothing of geology, I would be interested in a scientific description of this attractive stone. Replete with fissures and cracks, the mixture of cliffs, ledges, slabs and boulders making up the 350-foot summit block is generally very sound and affords good grip and traction.

An occasional shrubby tree grows near the summit. Many wild flowers bloom on the slopes and among the crags, including the sweet-scented yellow mountain wallflower. Several alpine ferns also reside here.

Drive the North Fork Teanaway River road to Beverly Creek. Take the Beverly Creek road 1.3 miles to its end and the trailhead at 3600 feet. Your hike ahead will gain 3200 feet with a round-trip distance of about 7 miles.

Walk .5-mile up Beverly Creek trail 1391, and turn right onto Bean Creek trail 1391A. The latter climbs gradually but steadily to the high valley.

Leave the trail and follow a climbers' path to the valley head, stopping to enjoy the numerous wildflower species along the way. Bear to the right to hike up talus to the ridgetop east of the peak, or clamber directly up red rock to the summit block. Pick your way up the final 100-200 feet, the various routes ranging from class 2 to 4; the rock is solid and great fun. For the easiest way, traverse under the steep south gullies to the southwest side, then up easy ledges to a notch leading to the northwest side and the top.

One can also continue on the Beverly Creek trail to a junction at 5200 feet east of Iron Peak. Take the right branch to the col between Bill's Peak and Mary's Peak, then bear right on trail 1226 to Bean's north ridge near Volca-

nic Neck. An easy scramble south leads to the summit.

I first learned of Bean Peak in Mary Sutliff's fine 1980 book *Teanaway Country*. Her promise of great views holds true, with a nearby Enchantment peaks panorama to the north, and with Adams, Rainier, Daniel and many more to the south and west.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 7/12.



COLCHUCK, ENCHANTMENTS, HORSESHOE LKS

(*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Enchantment Lks, Mt Stuart*)—Stopped at the Leavenworth Ranger Station around noon for a permit for Lake Stuart, but ended up with one to camp anywhere (no place was full).

I encountered the first significant bugs of '97 at the trailhead (black flies). The heat had them worked up into a frenzy all the way to the junction. Because of this, I decided to head for Colchuck (higher).

I forded Mountaineer Creek (barely), but most people used a jogjam downstream. A bridge might be put in here this year. Found a great campsite on a knoll at Colchuck, had a wonderful swim (warm!) and the bugs were much better (used a little eucalyptus).

On Tuesday I dayhiked over Aasgard Pass—no significant snow and the "uppers" had snow only in gullies and north-facing slopes. I would say this area is *not* late like the west side.

I went up the easy-roaming south-facing slopes to about 8300 feet—incredible views of the entire area. The goats like it here too, and they were contentedly lying in the sand. Saw only one party all day but the weather was unsettled with a few sprinkles in morning. Got back to camp in time for an hour of rain—then it cleared.

On Wednesday it was total sun again



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but cooler. I packed up and headed for Lake Stuart. Left backpack there and went "the long way" to Horseshoe Lake. I had tried last October but didn't make it—went up wrong drainage. Anyway, the lake and basin are gems with many larches.

Didn't get back to Lake Stuart until 6:30 so camped here. This was pleasant but mosquitoes were out til 9.

Thursday got up early and went the same route to Horseshoe—had more time to explore and thus found an easier way back down (the "correct" way).

On the way out met three parties headed for Stuart overnight. Flies were voracious last couple of miles. A marvelous four days.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 7/28-31.

 **ENCHANTMENTS, Aasgard Pass** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Enchantment Lks*)—We had made this back-door entry into the Enchantments before but this trip was the most exciting.

We were camped at the last camp in the rocks at the beginning of the boulder field at Lake Colchuck when we had a rude awakening at 11pm on the first night out.

Two climbers came out of nowhere walking around our camp with their headlamps shining right into our tent, waking us up from sound sleep. One climber put down his pack and then they left. They came back 15 minutes later and set up camp right in front of our tent. They didn't ask if they could stay there, they just did.

They overextended themselves by climbing 17 hours, they said, they were tired and hungry and didn't feel like looking for another camp, although Jim told them of one a short ways down the trail. They proceeded to cook and eat and talk until nearly 1am. Fun night!

We got up early the next morning and left camp by 7am to start up Aasgard. The trek up there seemed harder than before. Maybe lack of sleep, our age (past 60) or the size of the packs had something to do with it. It took 4 hours from camp to reach the top.

We barely started down the other side where we heard screaming and shouts: "Get away from here—leave us alone—get out of here!"

A few steps farther brought us to a point from where we could see below us and the reason for all this commotion. Two young girls were confronting two nice-sized mountain goats who obviously got too close for comfort. Right about then one girl said to the other, "Hold on. I will take care of that goat."

She picked up a good-sized rock to

throw at the goat. I called down, "Stop! What are you doing with that rock?"

She said that the goats came right up to them and scared them and wouldn't go away. I told them that the goats may act obnoxious at times but they wouldn't attack if the girls would just ignore them and walk away. But if they throw rocks at the goats it could make them really mad.

It must have worked because the next day the girls were still camped above Lake Brynhilde and the goats were elsewhere.

The Enchantments were as beautiful as ever. There was still quite a bit of ice on the upper lake but it was breaking up fast. We roamed the ridges, climbed Little Annapurna and visited some nooks and crannies we hadn't been to before. We saw hummingbirds, ptarmigans and a goat family daily near camp. We were in heaven.

One day we were sitting on the ridge above Crystal Lake enjoying the scenery when the stillness was broken by the whirr of a helicopter. He was coming over Prusik Pass, barely clearing the ground. Then he flew straight toward McClellan Peak. We thought he might crash right into the mountain when he made a sharp right, circled over Crystal Lake and left by way of the Lower Enchantments. We question if this was a sightseeing or an official trip.


The night before we left we heard some shouting around 9:30pm. We couldn't make out what they were saying, except at one point I heard "Dragon-tail" mentioned. Jim went outside to figure out what was going on. He saw two people walking up toward Aasgard Pass but only one seemed to have on a headlight.

The next morning we left camp by 7am. The snowfields we crossed on the way up to Aasgard were frozen hard as a brick. The lakes had a new, thin sheet of ice on them. It was still quite cold out. We expected some activity on top of Aasgard but all was quiet so we headed down toward Colchuck.

We talked to a backcountry ranger we saw at the boulder field at Colchuck and told him about the strange activity the night before. We heard another helicopter as we were hiking out. Found out later that two climbers were stranded on a shelf on Dragontail. One fell onto a ledge causing an injury to his arm. The other climber went down to help him but was unable to bring him down. So they both had to spend a very cold night on the ledge until the helicopter plucked them off the next day.

The fellow or fellows who hiked out down Aasgard Pass in the middle of the

night to get help were truly heroes.—Jim and Madelaine Beaty, Federal Way, August.

 **YAKIMA RIVER**—Hot, clear and little wind. My kayaking begins at the Fish and Wildlife ramp near Teanaway. The ramp is just north of the junction of old Highway 10 and the Bluett Pass highway, a few miles from Cle Elum.

The river was high and fast. Other drifters said to stay to the right of the big log jam just downstream from the ramp. That jam claimed one of my kayaks in 1994, probably still down there. (That's the beauty of making your own; the replacement cost me less than \$100.)

This was a solo, so I dropped the kayak at the ramp and drove to the railroad bridge near Thorp. This would give me about a 12-mile trip through the beautiful Ellensburg Canyon. I was picked up by the third car on the highway for the drive back upstream. With a paddle and life jacket it's pretty obvious what you need when you stick out your thumb.

The first mile downstream from the ramp are where the hazards are. Numerous logs and other debris may be avoided with little effort. I put in just ahead of a group of about 50 teenagers being guided by a professional outfitter.

For a weekday quite a few people were on the river. The many islands and rocky beaches usually encountered in August were under water.

This drift is particularly fun for me, as I am a kayaker, railfan and mountain biker. The old NP mainline, now BNSF, is running trains through the canyon. The west bank is the Iron Horse State Park trail on the roadbed of the former Milwaukie Railroad. Bikers there enjoy the same sights as kayakers, plus they venture through two ¼-mile curved tunnels in mid-canyon.—Gary Ostlund, Wauna, 8/13.

LEAVENWORTH DIST—509-548-6977. Most trails are snowfree and many have been maintained.—Ranger, 8/13.

ENCHANTMENTS—Call 888-953-7677 to reserve permits.

CLE ELUM DIST—509-674-4411. New bridge should be in soon at the Cathedral trailhead. Call ranger station to check.


Most trails are snowfree and many have been maintained.—Ranger, 8/13.

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SOUTH CENTRAL



 **CRYSTAL LAKE** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS White River Park*)—The trail was snow free and in excellent shape all the way to the lake. Flowers were beginning to come out (lots of anemones), but it was clear that the area had only melted out recently.

There were several parties on the trail, but it did not seem crowded. It was a very satisfactory trip.—Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 7/19.


 **THE PALISADES, MARCUS PEAK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS White River Park*)—A well graded, defined and signed trail leaves the 6080-foot Sunrise Point parking area and drops to 5732-foot Clover Lake.

Two ridges later an obvious trail tends westerly to 5915-foot Hidden Lake. A boot track continuing beyond leads to the 6500-foot saddle between the Palisades and Marcus Peak. An easy scramble through brushy mountain hemlock brought us to the 7040-foot high point.

Several varieties of penstemon en-route, including little flower and scorched. The columnar basalts on the north side of the Palisades are impressive. Rainier partly obscured by clouds at the time.

Left summit and dropped back to saddle and then up a moderate rock scramble on the northeast ridge of Marcus Peak to the 6962-foot summit. Left summit and scrambled the ridge toward Dege Peak on unstable rock, talus and steep side slope to a point where we could drop to intersect the trail near Clover Lake.

Followed trail to Sunrise Point, arrived at 4:30pm. A return by way of Hidden Lake and the main trail used on the way in is a much preferred alternative.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/2.

 **SUNRISE, YAKIMA PARK, MOUNT FREMONT** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Sunrise*)—Based on snow reports we decided Mount Fremont was the best bet with its south-facing, totally exposed slope. There was one snow patch to cross before Frozen Lake.

At the Frozen Lake trail junction (Fremont to the right, Burroughs to the

left, Berkeley Park straight ahead) were warning signs for Burroughs ("Ice axe recommended").

We had the trail to Fremont all to ourselves. Good flower show along the way including Davidson's penstemon (no relative).

Within a few minutes of our arrival at the lookout cabin other hikers started to arrive. With other trails having various amounts of snow the Mount Fremont trail was a first choice.

Mount Rainier with its heavy snow-pack is spectacular. We picked a good breezy spot for lunch but the breeze stopped and the small but voracious "mozzies" were after us.

On our return to the Frozen Lake junction a park ranger was packing out the Burroughs Mountain warning signs. A sizable crowd of hikers had gathered, apparently trying to decide about the Burroughs trail. There were still several snow patches on that north slope. Third Burroughs is all snow.—H & A Davidson, Medina, 8/4.

 **CAMP MUIR** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)

—Had to carry my skis over bare ground from Panorama Point a little ways, then it was snow all the way up. It was beautiful skiing.

The ski route to Sluiskin Falls is still very nice right from Paradise Lodge, but all others are bad for skiing and still too much snow for hiking.—George Gromer, Vancouver BC, 7/18.

 **VAN TRUMP PARK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier West*)—Snow continues to

dominate the landscape but flowers are gaining a foothold: Rein orchids, mercurialis, columbine, false Solomons seal.

Van Trump trailhead to Comet Falls. High water, especially out of Falls Creek. Lush shooting stars just past first view of Comet Falls. Open slopes from the falls to the junction with the trail to Rampart Ridge ablaze with avalanche lilies.

Snow patch at that junction becomes almost solid snow cover by the second bench (about 5800 feet) in Van Trump Park. The footlog across Van Trump Creek on the trail to Rampart Ridge appears to be in place; some rotten snow to cross to reach it.

Overall trail condition, where snow-free, is basically unchanged. Rocky and rooty but stable. Parking lot overflows even weekdays.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 7/29.

 **TOLMIE PEAK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mowich Lk*)

—Mowich Lake road is rough and washboard but no worse than usual, probably even better than usual. Nobody stays home because of the road.

Trail to Eunice Lake and Tolmie Peak is in good condition. With the late season caused by the heavy snow there are a lot of mosquito ponds near Eunice Lake and on the other side of Tolmie Peak. A couple of park rangers were working on the lookout cabin. They were working inside.

As always, Eunice Lake from Tolmie is a beautiful sight and Tolmie Peak with its vertical cliffs is an inspiring sight. And then there's Mount Rainier with Liberty Cap making the mountain look sharply pointed instead of the rounded shape that Seattle sees.

On the way to Tolmie we saw two people (the rangers). On the way back we met 33 people; now that's more like it for a weekday in high season.—H & A Davidson, Medina, 8/13.

 **GLACIER VIEW** (*Glacier View Wilderness; USGS Mt*

Wow)—Ted had wanted to do this hike for a couple of years. He and Martha spend most of the summer each year in her native Austria and this trail is not snowfree before they leave.

This year they went to Europe a little earlier than usual to celebrate Ted's 80th birthday there in May. They returned to the Northwest earlier than usual, in July, and we finally got a chance to do Glacier View together!

We met Ted and Martha in Elbe and drove together to the trailhead for the hike. It is located off the Copper Creek road just outside the Nisqually entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

We had a great sunny, warm, clear day. There were bugs on the way; repellent gave us a fighting chance against them. There were also five or six blowdowns along the trail including a large one less than ¼-mile from the top. This former lookout site provides a beautiful close-up view of Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, St. Helens, the Goat Rocks and a faint and distant Hood were also visible. The hike is 6 miles round trip and climbs 1100 feet.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 8/9.

 **CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Norse Pk*)—There were confusing stories about snow conditions and we decided that Crystal Mountain should have a number of good choices. If nothing else we could try the ski slopes.

When we arrived there was no snow problem anywhere. Fortunately we were too early for the ski lift. Ann de-

cided the service road up the beginner ski run would give better views than the trail. More flowers too.

Had the slopes to ourselves except for a couple of service trucks before we got to the steep slopes.

Our lunch stop was Elizabeth Lakes, a beautiful setting with Crystal Mountain peaks as a backdrop. Then, up the trail came a group of about 30 high school-age boys on an outing for lunch at the lake. Lots of noise but well behaved (well supervised), and when they left there were only footprints left behind.

We returned by way of Henskin Lake. Quite a bit of snow in the tree shade. Met the trail down from Bear Gap. This stretch of trail is showing signs of wear and treacherous (slippery) footing for traveling downhill.—H & A Davidson, Medina, 7/5.



HIGH ROCK LOOKOUT

(Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS Sawtooth Ridge)—Splendid short hike, 1.6 miles each way, 1400 feet elevation gain, with views of Mounts Rainier, Adams, St. Helens and, if you are lucky, Hood.

Lots of people on this hot day. Too many dogs off leashes, but all were well behaved. The Forest Service has the route to the trailhead well marked.

Take Highway 7 to Elbe, 706 past Ashford, turn right at forest road 52, cross the Nisqually River and follow the "High Rock Lookout" signs.

The road was in moderately good shape and very dusty. Parts are one lane and watch out for the road hogs like the one who nearly ran me off the road. A ranger is on duty at the lookout. I was eaten alive by bugs as I hiked through the forested area of this hogback trail.—Gordon McDougall, Olympia, 7/27.

GREENWATER ROAD 70—No vehicle access past the washout at 7 miles from Highway 410. The road relocation should be finished by this fall.—Ranger, 8/18.

CLEARWATER WILDERNESS

There is no vehicle access to the Summit Lake/road 7810 entrance to the Wilderness as the Carbon River bridges were washed out in the winter floods.

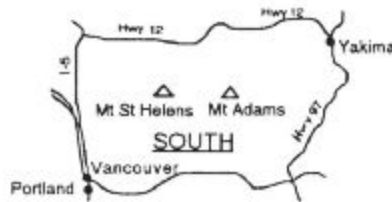
Access is not expected any time soon.—Ranger, 8/18.

MT RAINIER NATL PARK—Backcountry permits are issued only at MRNP ranger stations or the Longmire Hiker Center; they are not available at the Enumclaw Ranger Station any more.

Carbon River entrance to Ipsut is

closed to vehicles due to road damage. You can park at the entrance, then bike or walk to Ipsut.—Ranger, 8/18.

SOUTH



PACKWOOD LAKE, LOST LAKES

(Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Packwood Lk)—We decided that since it was just the two of us, we'd do a 17+-mile round trip hike instead of 9 as planned. So we added Lost Lake to the Packwood hike.

The trail into Packwood has lots of gentle ups and downs gaining about 1000 feet overall in 9 miles. The lake is huge with an island in the middle. We did not see Johnson Peak or Mount Rainier until the way out when the fog lifted. We figured fog kept the bugs down and kept us cool. Hooray.

From Packwood Lake, the trail steepens but is still very good. There were 8 trees over the trail but evidence suggests that blowdowns are being removed. We hurried past Mosquito Lake as we did not want to wake the bugs. Just past Mosquito Lake, we saw a lovely alpine setting with lupine, daisies, lush beargrass above and below the trail for about 1/2-mile.

We started a bear digging in a rotten log for grubs. By the time I found my camera, he was long gone. Our second bear sighting this summer. About 3/4-mile before Lost Lake we encountered our first snow on the trail. The patches were short, but hard snow, and the trail was easy to follow.

When we reached the lake, we could not see it 100 feet below us because of the fog. We just dropped down and there it was. All melted out, no bugs. Logs firmly jammed in outlet afforded an easy crossing. Lots of chirping birds.

The fog lifted and we were able to see the waterfall across the lake. I shared my apple with the birds and off we went for the car. The trip totaled 8 hours, car-to-car. Trail scale: 5.—Edythe and Robert, Aberdeen, 7/21.



BLUFF LAKE (Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Ohanepcosh Hot Springs)—Bill and I had passed this lake on our way to Lost Lake Lookout. We thought it would make a nice hike with kids.

Jenni (41), Chuck (42), Sarah (10) and Cole (5) joined Bill and me for the hike. We had a nice, sunny clear day. The bugs were out and hungry. We used lots of bug juice but our best strategy for avoiding getting bitten was to keep moving!

Unfortunately the bugs made it hard to enjoy the lake so our plan to have a nice leisurely stay at the lake with a chance for the kids to get in the water was foiled. The only one who got to swim in the lake was Sarah and Cole's dog, Abby. This is a good hike with kids: 3 miles round trip and 800 feet gain.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 8/3.



TWIN SISTERS LAKES, BLANKENSHIP LAKES, APPLE AND PEAR LAKES, PEN-OYER LAKE, JUG LAKE (William O Douglas Wilderness; USGS Rimrock Lk, Spiral Butte, Bumping Lk)—Six people had signed up but for various reasons, only 2 actually went. We parked at Deep Creek Campground at the end of the Bumping Lake road and carried full packs to the first Twin Sisters Lake. It was a warm and buggy day. I was drenched in 100% DEET Off.

Six large trees over the trail made for more difficult travel. There were several short patches of hard, icy snow also. When I called the Naches Ranger Station before leaving on the trip, the lady said that someone had been sent in to remove the trees on July 7. I guess he got lost because the trees were still there.

Without the trees, or with a small pack, this trail would be a dream. It's only 2 miles to the first Twin Sisters Lake. We quickly set up camp at the lake and I put on mosquito netting pants, jacket and hood. We transferred necessary items to day packs and off we went to Blankenship and Apple and Pear Lakes.

The lakes we hiked to these 2 days will be very easy when the snow is gone. As it is now, we used map, compass and altimeter to find Blankenship. There was too much snow to follow the few bits of trail here and there. One of the trail intersection signs on the way was in snow so deep that you saw it at your feet, not at shoulder level where it should be.

We saw tracks early on, but people had turned back when they did not know where to go. We saw one couple looking for Tumac mountain. We showed them our map and they realized they were going in the wrong direction. They decided to forget it.

After reaching Blankenship Lakes, the way got better as there had been more snowmelt on that side. We were

able to find the trail popping up here and there in the snow which made travel much faster. Pear Lake was all melted out and beautiful. Apple was mostly swampy. Back we went to the camp, ate dinner and escaped the bugs into the tent.

The next morning we left camp at 5am to escape bugs and heat. I used the rest of my Off, dressed in mosquito suit and we set off to the big Twin Sister Lake, angled left and, frequently using map and compass, found the intersection to Penoyer and Jug Lakes. Penoyer was fairly easy. A horse had been through and its track was easy to follow. Also, the trail was more melted out.

We found that the horse had been tethered 20 feet from the lake and had left a real mess. There was a dangerous creek crossing at the lake outlet. You cross slabs of rock with knee-high water rushing down and a waterfall just below. I refused to go back that way and we found a log farther up.

It is possible to stay on the left of the creek and in 100 feet of easy travel access the left side of the lake. In low water it is probably not a problem.

We had two other creek crossings on this day. Once I removed my socks and waded in my boots, the other I scooted across a small log. The normal crossing rocks were under a foot of rushing water. Not for me. I insisted on finding alternative crossings on the way back. They weren't as bad.

From the intersection with PCT and Penoyer and Jug, we went straight ahead to Jug Lake. Map and compass were again needed. A quick bite of lunch and we were out of there. My bug repellent had given up and I was getting eaten up, even through my netting.

I ended up with over 100 bites just on one leg. Gave up counting. I figured I'd need a transfusion if I stayed any longer. Sure enough, when I got home, I was 1 pound lighter. That means the bugs got a pint of blood!

It was almost 90 degrees when we got back to camp just before noon. We packed up camp quickly, put heavy packs back on and back to the car. What a relief to get back to cool drinks and bug-free transportation 26 hours after we left.

Trail scale: 5 (after the bugs and snow and high water are gone—probably early October this year!) The lakes were all melted out, beautiful, and elevation gain was minimal.—Edythe and Robert, Aberdeen, 7/19-20.

NANNIE PEAK (*Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Walupt Lk*)—Bill and I had not hiked to Nannie



Jane Habegger

Jenni and Sarah Creveling at Spirit Lake on the Harmony Trail; Mount St Helens NVM.

Peak for years. We remembered a great view at the site of this former lookout. The last time we tried to do the hike it was September and hunting season had begun. Seeing hunters on the trail with rifles bothered me so much that we aborted our trip.

The trailhead is located at Walupt Lake. The mosquitoes were biting at the lake when we stopped to put on our boots. So we sprayed on the repellent and off we went.

Boy, were the bugs terrible. They got worse as we climbed so that it was unbearable at Nannie Peak. The view from Nannie Peak is really nice: Adams, Rainier and the Goat Rocks surround you.

On the trail we met some people who had lived in Switzerland for three years before moving to Olympia, our home! He was from New Zealand and she was British. It was fun talking to them briefly.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/26.



BEAR CREEK MOUNTAIN

(*Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Pinegrass Ridge*)—Bear Creek Mountain (7336 feet on the USGS map, 7337 on Green Trails) anchors the end of the high 4-mile ridge trending east-northeast from Mount Curtis Gilbert (Gilbert Peak), the 8184-foot high point in the Goat Rocks.

Yellow-red and gray-black rock of volcanic origins are found at the top. A few knee-high shrubby pines and many

wildflowers (especially phlox and lupine) adorn the uppermost slopes.

For a road and route description, see *100 Hikes in Washington's South Cascades and Olympics* by Ira Spring and Harvey Manning. Many reports have advised a four-wheel drive vehicle for the last stretch of road; this is not essential, although desirable.

Because of the heavy snowpack this year, the summit trail 1130A was almost completely buried in late July until near the top where it moves onto the sunnier south slope.

The views of the Goat Rocks are awesome. Seldom can one get to such a high aerie with such little effort. The round trip is 7 miles and the gain 1400 feet according to the book; the map suggests 7.8 miles, and I estimated the ups and downs along the way to add to the gain a bit for a total of about 1600 feet.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 7/29.



HARMONY TRAIL

(*St Helens NVM; USGS Spirit Lk East*)—Jenni, Chuck, Sarah and Cole were camping at Iron Creek Campground off Highway 25, 8 miles south of Randle. It is a great campground—lots of huge old trees and privacy and a creek running through to cool off in on this hot weekend.

Bill and I met them there for a day exploring Mount St. Helens We took Highway 25 south to the fork with Highway 99, then took Highway 99 southwest to Windy Ridge. No matter how many times we do this drive we are struck by the scale and magnitude of the devastation on the east side of the volcano.

We took the stairs up to the viewpoint at Windy Ridge and listened to an informative lecture by a ranger, then drove back to the Harmony Trail.

The Harmony Trail drops to the shoreline of Spirit Lake. It is 2 miles round trip and drops 572 feet. Although short in length this trail is hot and dusty. Take water. It provides a great close-up view inside the crater and of Spirit Lake.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 8/2.



CULTUS, WAPIKI LAKES

(*Indian Heaven Wilderness; USGS Sleeping Beauty, Lone Butte*)—It was a hot, hot day. We left the trailhead at 6:20am in an attempt to beat the heat and bugs. It didn't work.

These lakes are north and west of Trout Lake or south of Randle. Either way you go it's a long drive. The drive from Randle is shorter but has 12 miles of washboard gravel between two strips of blacktop. We camped at Cultus Lake campground on a Monday night and it

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was nearly deserted.

It was a cloudless day and since the trail starts out in the forest, not too hot early on. Maria and Anna didn't want to use DEET so fed the local mosquito population all the way. I used Off and Jungle Juice plus net mosquito pants. They pretty much left me alone.

The hike to Cultus Lake is about 2 miles and 100 feet of elevation gain. It's a pretty little lake but swarms of mosquitoes inhabit. We took a detour to the left of Cultus for a few minutes and visited Deep Lake with its beautiful view of Mount Adams. Then it was upward and downward to Wapiki Lake, another 3½ miles and 700 feet.

The elevation gains in the hiking book are not accurate. When you reach the ridge above Wapiki, you have to go around and down to the left, losing 600 feet, which puts you below the lake.

We were questioning map and altimeter when finally we reached a signed intersection, turned right and gained 200 feet to the lake. After a picture, we went back down and then up to the ridge, then back down to the car.

There was no snow on the trail, no trees down either. Since we were back before noon, we decided to check out the local area. We visited the Natural Bridges just west of Trout Lake and the Ice Caves, which really have ice and you can go in once entrance and out the other. It was my favorite place.

I told everyone if I had a book and pillow I'd stay there until it cooled down. We stopped at the Ranger Station where we found out it was 93 degrees. By 5 in the afternoon it was 96. We headed for Walupt Lake to camp and I spent a lot of time in the lake to cool off. A nice hike, but wait until the bugs are gone. Trail scale: 5.—Edythe, Maria, Anna, Robert, Aberdeen, Seattle and New Jersey, 8/5.

SHEEP LAKE (*Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Walupt Lake*)—We camped at Walupt Lake. The shallow part is not too rocky and great swimming. It is about 24 miles from Packwood.

We left camp at 6am. We were all drenched in DEET but didn't see many mosquitoes anyway. The flies were out, though.

The trail is nice underfoot but the two small streams mentioned in the book are tiny trickles. We hit three small patches of snow on the trail. No trees over the trail. There was not a breeze for the first 2 miles but as we reached the alpine ridge we got a cooling, refreshing breeze the rest of the way.

It was beginning to cloud up and that

kept the temperature pleasant. This area apparently received a lot of ash from Mount St Helens as it is still visible alongside the trail in many places. The trail has a nice grade with just a couple of rocky places.

We reached Sheep Lake in 2 hours, 45 minutes. Just beyond the lake, the trail meets the PCT and if you follow the trail around the left side of the lake and up the ridge, you get great views of the Goat Rocks Wilderness.

After lunch and a visit with campers at the lake, we were back to the car in just two hours. The good trail made the 11½-mile round trip an easy and pleasant one. Back to Walupt Lake for a swim and then home. Trail scale: 5.—Edythe, Maria, Anna, Robert, Aberdeen, Seattle, New Jersey, 8/6.

MT ADAMS DIST—509-395-3400. Mount Adams South Climb is very busy on weekends; climb during the week if possible.

Tract D is open. Roads are rough and dusty. Indian Heaven Wilderness trails are maintained.—Ranger, 8/5.

MT ST HELENS NVM—360-247-3900. Permits are required above 4800 feet and are limited to no more than 100 climbers daily.

Applications and a list of filled dates are available from Monument Headquarters. A minimum of 40 unreserved permits is available daily at 5:45pm at Jack's Store. Fee for a one-day permit is \$15. For climbing info, call 360-247-3961.—Ranger, 8/5.

OREGON

STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN (*Strawberry Mtn Wilderness*)—Six members of the Oregon

Native Plant Society, plus Connor (age 1½) started up the trail from road's end (elevation 7800 feet) to the summit of Strawberry Mountain.

After two hours at a botanist's pace, Connor grew restive and his father turned back with him. The rest of us continued to botanize and list plant names, and made the 9038-foot summit at 4pm.

The trip down was considerably quicker, as we had already seen all the plants. On a sunny Sunday in early August, there was only one other car at the trailhead and we met its two occupants on the trail. Many eastern Oregon Wildernesses are even *less* crowded than this one!—Jennifer Stein Barker, Canyon City, 8/2.

SNOW DOME (*Mt Hood Wilderness; USGS Mt Hood North*)—This skier-friendly destination on the northeast side of Mount Hood appears prominently in the much-photographed view of the mountain as seen from Hood River.

The Elliot Glacier, while primarily a jumbled icefall, possesses on its western margin a large, smooth, crevasse-free snowslope reaching to the 9500-foot level. This feature is known as the "Snow Dome" and sports a nice pitch for turns and a skiable season that extends well into July even in average snowfall years.

From the Cloud Cap Saddle Campground I hiked the Timberline Trail a few hundred yards west into the ravine that drains the Elliot. After boulder-hopping the muddy creek I scrambled upstream a ways before climbing onto the sharp-crested moraine ridge farther to the west.

This moraine (with an obvious boot track) provides a pleasant approach



The north side of Mount Hood from the PCT.

Lee McKee

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route up the lower flanks of the mountain with great views in all directions. Near 7200 feet the moraine blends into the peak.

From here the route continued up snowfields away from the Elliot to the true foot of the Dome near 8300 feet. I plopped my pack on the last rocks and continued up. The Dome proper ends where the slope angle increases significantly and crevasses begin.


I skied to my pack once, and since it was only 10:30am I went up for another run. Linking turns through the warm air and gazing out over the baking hot orchards of the Hood River Valley defined this as true summer skiing day.

After lunch I began my descent. Trying to avoid having to take the skis off for a brief stretch of rock I skied through a small gap to the west of my approach and saw what was clearly a better way down.

A long series of bowls continued all the way to timberline, where I could just make out the Timberline Trail crossing a gully. This turned out to be some of the best skiing of the day, with good corn the whole way to the trail.

On the USGS map these bowls were marked as "Langille Glacier," and lay west of "Langille Crags." Both on the map and from Hood River it was clear an even better line lay farther west, descending directly from the western edge of the Snow Dome. Now I have a good reason to return.

A half-hour walk back along Timberline Trail returned me to my car.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 7/20.

 **RUCKEL CREEK** (*Columbia Gorge*)—One of the toughest hikes in the Gorge, this trail climbs over 3500 feet from the Eagle Creek Campground (Exit 41, I-84 eastbound) to the Benson Plateau in 3.3 miles, a total of 7.7 miles round-trip. Park at the campground headquarters, follow sign to "Buck Point" on Trail 439 (which initially runs east), skirt the north side of the campground, then turn south up the ridge. Very steep and airy in places, including a "catwalk" about two-thirds of the way up.

My friend, who is an alcoholic in his mid-40s, and I got a late start on a hot, windy day. We had only 2 quarts of water each and I had forgotten my water filter. My friend had no liquids or breakfast earlier, and he drank little out of his water bottles going up.

We reached the top about noon (3.5 hours up), had lunch, crossed Ruckel Creek without refilling our water bottles, then headed down the Ruckel

Creek Trail 405.

About halfway down, my friend started to get cramps in his right leg muscles. His cramps just got worse as we descended this steep trail, despite his drinking the rest of his water. After his whole body was wracked with cramps, I gave him the rest of my water and headed down with the empty bottles to refill in the creek, 1600 feet below, meeting him back up the trail at about the 1200 foot level.

He consumed 1 to 2 more quarts of water; and in great pain, he barely managed to get back to the car where he had another quart. We then drove to Cascade Locks, where he collapsed in the car; and I gave him a half-gallon of Gatorade, a couple of bananas, some Triscuits, and cheese.

We drove back to Portland in two cars, and he went home. His wife told me later that he collapsed in a spasm of cramps at home and was rushed to the hospital, where he was in intensive care for 5 hours with IVs replenishing lost fluids.

The doctors said it was the worst case of severe dehydration they had ever seen! He came close to suffering a total kidney failure, and apparently his other organs were starting to shut down.


My friend had taken an alcoholic recovery program last year, but had resumed drinking moderately. He runs fairly regularly and is just a little overweight. About 5 years ago, he ran up to the summit of Mount Defiance (4960 feet) from the Columbia River in less than 2 hours.

This near-disaster was a real eye-opener for me, and I definitely learned a lesson or two—even with over 45 years of hiking experience!

P S—No symptoms of giardia yet from drinking unfiltered Ruckel Creek water 11 days ago... Darvel Lloyd, Portland, 7/20.

Ed. Note: A phone call from Darvel in early August brought the news that his friend had developed a horrendously bad case of poison oak from collapsing at inopportune spots on the trail.

And Darvel did develop giardia-like symptoms which are now easing with prescribed medication. Yikes!

 **WELCOME LAKES to TWIN LAKES** (*Bull of the Woods Wilderness*)—For my first trip in over two years, this was a strenuous, yet magnificent, 3-day return to the backcountry.

The Bull of the Woods Wilderness is about 10 miles north of Detroit—4 miles on road 46 along the Breitenbush River, then 6 up road 2209 (the last 4

of which go from difficult to ridiculous as the entrance road to Elk Lake is full of huge rocks and potholes!). An extensive trail system is available with lakes, peaks and even a hot springs to visit.

Deciding that I might start and end the trip with downhill, I went out trail 559 which contours a ridge before losing 600 feet at the end to meet Elk Lake Creek. From there I followed trail 558 to trail 557 which took me straight up the ridge—I do mean straight as the trail gains nearly a thousand feet in the first ¾-mile.

After another 1.5 miles along the ridgeline, trail 554 drops down the northeast side to Welcome Lakes. A longer route to the lakes is possible which swings around the ridge instead of going over. Along the ridge some views can be seen if you peek out through the trees. Welcome Lakes rest on small shelves at the head of a valley and possess tremendous north-eastern views.

The second day took me to the top of the intersection of three ridges. The trail up is magnificent, some parts steep, but not so absurd as trail 557. Back on the southwest side of the ridge, the trail descends to another intersection heading down into Mother Lode valley and over to Big Slide Lake. From the top of the ridge at the intersection are views to Mount Jefferson and beyond.

The Mother Lode trail descends to the head of the valley, then drops to the floor. After 1.5 miles or so of open forest, the trail works back up to the junction with trail 573. This trail bends up around the ridge, then drops until meeting Twin Lakes. Being too tired, I enjoyed only one of the lakes, but it was a picture-perfect mountain lake.

The last day I continued on the trail which wraps around the lake and then takes off along/up the side of the ridge, bending back toward the head of Battle Creek valley.

After another junction and some ridgeline walking, the trail ducks under the shadow of Battle Ax Peak before descending to the road that heads back to the car. It's possible to detour up to the top of the peak, but I was too exhausted from the previous two days to try.

All told, this route is over 20 miles and displays both sides of at least three ridges. There are plenty of steep ups and downs and numerous types of forest terrain scattered among the predominant fir trees and rhododendrons.

One important note for this trip is that I advise taking two water bottles, especially in the hot summer months as


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there is no water on the trail past Battle Creek/Elk Lake Creek; the map shows water crossings but they are all dried up! A lot of downed trees cover the trail, some of which are not easy to go over/under/around. In many places the trail is also overgrown, although one form of overgrowth was ripe blueberries!

I saw four other groups and one other soloist on my trip, as well as plenty of evidence of horsepackers. No permit is required for trailhead parking or for overnight stays.

For more information see the Green Trails Battle Ax map, consult *100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades*, by William Sullivan, which describes the first and last parts of the trip as well as driving instructions (hikes 7 and 8), or call the Detroit Ranger Station, 541-854-3366. Be advised, though, the road into Elk Lake is hard to handle for any type of vehicle.—Darren McKee, Salem, 8/2-4.

 **WALLOWA MOUNTAINS** (*Eagle Cap Wilderness; USGS Enterprise, Eagle Cap, Cornucopia*)—Four of us (three Anacortesans and a Bendite) took a week for a loop trip in the Wallowas. Although I have spent lots of time up there, some of the route was new even to me.

Ranger on the phone indicated mucho snow, passes difficult. By the time we got there, they were singing a (slightly) different tune—still lots of snow but people getting through. Expect plenty of mosquitoes.

Actually, the bugs were only real, real bad in a few places. Like our first night at Wilson Pass on the Bowman trail out of the Lostine River. Absolutely fabulous campsite with a great view of Twin Peaks and the Lostine Canyon, but it was hard to see the view through my bug net. The next day I broke down and juiced up (DEET).

We did encounter plenty of snow, notably above Swamp Lake in Cindy's Granite Desert (it was more like Antarctica when we were there), on Carper Pass between Minam Lake and Lake Basin, and on Glacier Pass.

Bugs were worst at Wilson Pass, Steamboat Lake, and Lake Basin (duh). Curiously, bugs nearly absent at North Minam Meadows and we spent a very pleasant evening there. So the trip went as follows:

Day 1: Up to Wilson Pass, 6 miles, 2600 foot gain. A real grunt with full packs (mine weighed 60 pounds). Sunny and warm.

Day 2: Down to North Minam Meadows, 5 miles, 2400 foot loss. Excellent flower fields (*calochortus*, *gilia*, *pen-*

stemon) on the slopes. Dips in the North Minam River. Some showers around noon, then sunny afternoon.

Day 3: Up to campsite between Steamboat and Swamp Lakes, 6 miles, 2600 foot gain. Another grunt delivered us to a fantastic campsite with 360 degree view. Mixed sun and clouds. Bugs ferocious in meadows by Steamboat Lake. Met a solo hiker from Tennessee (Jed?) who had been out 8 days, with 3 to go.

Day 4: Intended to dayhike/peakbag, but mostly stuck in tents or under white-bark pines—rain, hail, etc. Hailstorm that night extremely loud on tent.

Day 5: Over Granite Desert, down to West Fork Lostine, up to Minam Lake, most of the way up Carper Pass, 12 miles, 2300 foot gain, 2100 foot loss. A hard day with quite a bit of snow. Granite Desert, Copper Creek basin gorgeous, meadows on West Fork Lostine quite nice, log over Lostine quite tricky. Sunny most of day, then evening t-shower. Bugs worst at Minam Lake.

Day 6: Over Carper Pass, down to Lake Basin, up Glacier Pass, down to Avalanche Valley on West Fork Wallowa, 12 miles, 1700 foot gain, 3400 foot loss. Hordes of bugs and people in Lake Basin, quite a few from Wilderness Ventures Inc on Glacier Pass.

Clear and sunny most of day, then evening shower. Avalanche Valley earned its name this year. Mike discovered missing Berkies near Moccasin Lake and had to backtrack 1.5 miles to find them.

Day 7: Day hike to Polaris Pass and peaklet above it (Point 9395), 10 miles, 3200 foot gain and loss, then load up and pack out, 8 miles, 1600 foot loss for a day total of 18 miles and 8000 feet of elevation change. Great alpine flowers (*aster*, *erigeron*, some unknowns) at and above Polaris Pass, excellent views up there as well. Dips in the West Fork. Made the last 8 miles in 2:15.

We arrived at The Embers Brew House in Joseph in time to watch a cracking t-storm with Sawtooth Peak taking several highly visible direct hits to the summit. Inhaled refreshments and lasagna, headed for the other car up the Lostine, more refreshments, and crashed happy at 1am.

Another excellent week in the Wallowas, maybe the best flower trip ever—at least 5 species *penstemon*, a new kind of *Zygadenus* (death camas), *Calochortus* (cat's ears or mariposa lily) by the acre, scarlet *gilia*, elephant head, parrots beak, monks hood, delphinium monardella, pink and yellow *mimulus*, asters, fleabanes, and those are just the ones I can immediately re-

member.—Rick Haley, Anacortes, 7/26-8/1


MONTANA

 **BLODGETT CANYON** (*Bitterroot Range*)—Sporting six major cliff faces within the first 3 miles, Blodgett Canyon has become a rock climber's favorite. It is also a major trailhead into the Bitterroot Range, with Blodgett Lake being about 12 miles from the trailhead. Many horse riders use the trail.

With brothers Gary and Paul, I recently visited the area. We packed in a few miles to put us closer to our objective, Shoshone Spire, a cliff face with a height comparable to the Space Needle. As we moved toward its summit on a technical climbing route, we had nice views upvalley towards the backcountry. An extensive upland above timberline looked enticing at the valley head.

To reach this area, drive south from Missoula on Highway 93. Just before reaching the town of Hamilton, turn right at the cement plant and follow signs toward the trailhead. A small but pleasant campground exists at the trailhead.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 8/3-4.

CALIFORNIA

 **YOSEMITE**—Linda and I, driving from Reno, chose the Tioga entrance. Having not been successful in securing reservations at the Tuolumne high camp, we chose to stay at nearby Tuolumne campground.

Upon our arrival, we did the short hike up to Lambert Dome just to stretch our legs. The views from the top give one a good perspective of the expansive Tuolumne Meadows and the major peaks of the eastern park.

With half a day remaining, we did the obligatory drive to the Valley, where parking was a challenge but stunning granite domes and waterfalls made up for it.

Next day, we set out for Mount Dana, about 6 miles round trip with 3000 feet elevation gain. This is the second highest peak in Yosemite, topping out over 13,000 feet. Linda, still recovering from broken bones, was content to go part-way and sun herself on the rocks with the marmots.

I followed the trail via cairns to the rocky summit, took a few photos and ate lunch sheltered from the wind. This is a strenuous hike but definitely within the reach of any fit hiker.

We got an early start on Sunday because Clouds Rest was the goal, pur-

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portedly 14 miles round trip but that estimate seems long to me. Linda stayed back, spoke with the local rock climbers and rested on the shores of Tenya Lake.

The Clouds Rest hike involves about 1000 feet elevation gain in each direction and the miles go by very quickly. The rocky outcrop known as Clouds Rest, the turnaround point on the hike, offers commanding views of the park in general, and is actually higher than super-popular Half Dome.

We spent the next day taking it easy by exploring lovely Tuolumne Meadows and keeping cool by the riverside. On our last full day I did the hike up to Mono Pass. It was extremely buggy on the lower section; however, the upper meadows were tremendous and this was quite possibly the favorite of my Yosemite hikes.

Again, the mileage estimate given by guide books seemed on the long side. They say 10 miles round trip; I say about 8. In any case, it was a fitting end to our vacation.

The Tuolumne high camp, a collection of rustic tent cabins, serves breakfast and dinner in its main lodge. We employed this often. The conversations among the tables of mixed company were always interesting and a nice social tonic to the solitary hikes. The food was quite good.

Among the most noteworthy of events during our vacation was the campground's handling of bears. Their process is to capture the bear in a cage, wait for the tranquilizer to wear off, and release the animal in the campground.

At this point, the idea is to harass the bear by a variety of efforts, includ-

ing specialized Karelian bear dogs. Apparently these dogs have been used extensively in Finland and Russia but they were new to us. We saw the whole process unfold right next to our campsite.—Douglas Cuneo, Seattle, 8/1-6.

NEVADA

BOUNDARY PEAK—Since we were feeling acclimatized to altitude, if not exactly fresh after our 200-mile backpack of the John Muir Trail and ascent of Whitney, we decided to pop over the border at Bishop, California, to pick up the high point of Nevada (13,143 feet) while we were in the neighborhood. Kathy K., who joined us for the Whitney portion of our trip, hiked with us.

The Ranger station in Bishop had limited information about the route into and up the peak. We were given a handout of a trip log done recently by the Sierra Club but found it bore no resemblance to the road we actually drove.

We wound up relying on Don Holmes' *Highpoints of the United States* for directions which are still accurate, although the mileages didn't quite match ours. The USGS maps of the area listed in the book helped us confirm which road we were on when we were in doubt, which was often. We recommend using the book's directions as your basic guide as well as the USGS maps.

Our rental car made it to the trailhead, albeit with some white-knuckle driving. The road is rough, narrow, and rocky, but do-able in a sedan if you're used to crummy mountain roads. It took us an hour and 15 minutes to drive the 14.5 miles. It IS slow. All the other vehicles we encountered were 4x4s having no difficulties at all.

There is no sign marking the turnoff from the paved highway, just a washboard dirt road. A sign a little way in told us we were on private property for the next 5 miles. The first useful landmark was a beat-up sign at an intersection at 7 miles pointing the way to Middle and Trail Canyons. This finally confirmed we were on the right road.

Take the Trail Canyon route. The cattle guard and the reservoir mentioned in the book are both there; it just took forever to get to them.

We camped in a small level field next to Trail

Creek just before road end. There's also room to camp about 100 yards up the trail. We slept under a starry sky.

We were up at daylight and on our way at 6:20am to get a jump on the 90+ degree temperature expected that day. The trail winds its way through thick brush along the creek for the first mile or so. Then it disappears in sagebrush. No matter. The way to the saddle is obvious, just hot and slow through the sage. You gain about 2000 feet in the 2.4 miles from the trailhead to here. The saddle is wide and flat and breezy at 10,800 feet. There were signs of a previous camp, but water would have to be carried.

A short rest and now the work really began: 2400 verts in 1.4 miles. Try to follow the main boot path up the ridge (there are branches going everywhere). It is very steep and slow going. Stay near the ridge until close to the top of the false summit for the "easiest" traveling. You don't actually go over the false summit. The track takes you over the right shoulder of the knob and traverses behind it and back to the main ridge. This track keeps you from having to lose altitude dropping from the false summit. From this point the route is obvious—straight in front of you and straight up.

The final ridge (1000 verts) involves some genuine class 2 scrambling. There are some boot paths through the loose talus, but a lot of the time you're on your own. Just below the summit is a rocky outcrop. Pass it on the right through the boulder field. No track here. The other side of the ridge is nasty. Don't go that way.

As we finally came up on what we assumed was the summit, we were a little disconcerted to see what appeared to be a still higher peak a quarter mile farther along the connecting ridge. Out came the maps! It was indeed 300 feet higher, but not to worry. Our work was done. This second summit is Montgomery Peak and it's in California. The state line goes right through the col.

It took us just under five hours up and about three hours down. There's a benchmark on Boundary and a summit register with lots of highpointers signing in. Two young women from Reno joined us after about half an hour on the top.

They made it up in four hours, without a map, totally off route, but looking about 22 years old. They literally ran down the mountain in front of us after we pointed out the route down. Were we ever that young?

A strong breeze kept the temperature cooler than anticipated for most of the



Fred & Wilma

Fred & Wilma at Kearsarge Pass, Kings Canyon National Park, California.

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way up, which was a considerable help. August is probably not the best time of year to be doing desert climbs.

Black-bottomed clouds built up all morning into thunderheads by early afternoon. Lightning flashed and thunder boomed as we descended, but the rain held off until we were back at the car. We were delighted to spot two wild mustangs grazing on top of a ridge across the valley on our way down.—Dennis & Pat, Olympia, 8/3.

CANADA



CALCHEAK TRAIL

(Brandywine Falls Provincial Park near Whistler)—Heather and I camped at the small Brandywine Falls Provincial Park (only 15 sites—get here early) as a base for exploring nearby gigantic Garibaldi Provincial Park. To our surprise we found a 5-mile loop trail in the park. We set out on it for an early evening hike and were given a few surprises.

Cross Brandywine Creek to see the falls—they are impressive—then spot the trail loop—it is well marked. The trail passes several small “lakes” that have formed from depressions in the ancient lava flows that cover the area. Several of these little lakes offer openings in the forest for viewing Garibaldi’s Black Tusk (a great hike/scramble itself).

The trail goes to a suspension bridge on the Cheakamus River, then uses a cross-country ski trail to complete the loop. On the way back we spotted not one, but two black bears. One fled

rapidly while the other stared us down as if to say that s/he was more interested in us than we were in her/him. Needless to say, our bruin friends made the hike!

Check out Mary and David Macaree’s *109 Walks in B.C.’s Lower Mainland* for more info on this pleasant little trail.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/17.



HELM CREEK TRAIL

(Garibaldi Provincial Park near Whistler)—This is a classic hike through miles of old growth forests, miles of alpine meadows and culminating at a large alpine lake at the foot of the Black Tusk.

You can also reach Garibaldi Lake by this trail; although longer, the lack of crowds make it even more appealing.

Start by hiking 1 mile up the Cheakamus Lake trail, a very popular path for both hikers and mountain bikers. This trail also passes through some of the finest old growth fir and cedar in the Whistler area.

The start of our hike began with yet another bear. This one also a black bear, but a brown one! S/he couldn’t have cared less about our presence and we had to walk around him/her.

Sad to report but the old cable car crossing over the Cheakamus is now a thing of the past. A brand new steel bridge has replaced it. Easier crossing at the expense of a Garibaldi legend. The trail up Helm Creek, however, with a few new relocations, is not any easier and 3000 feet of elevation must still be gained.

After about 4½ miles you begin to reach the sub-alpine country. Lots and

lots of snow remaining but route finding was not a problem. At 7½ miles we reached 90%-frozen Helm Lake. What a sight! No one around except for us and some bonafide whistlers (marmots) from Whistler!

This area calls for future exploring—lots of easy and not-so-easy scrambles abound. Lots of great views of Black Tusk reflected in the alpine lakes call for a trigger-shutter finger. Definitely check out this classic hike!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/18.

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FOUND—A pair of sandals at the Mailbox Peak trailhead. Call 206-363-6978 (Seattle) to claim.

FOUND—On 8/14, a roll of exposed slide film alongside creek, about 12 miles up from Laughingwater Creek trailhead, Mount Rainier Natl Park. Identify to claim. 425-481-8139.

FOR SALE—McHale Inex Bayonet backpack. Paid \$660. Sell for \$330. Ex-

cellent condition. Call Jeff at 253-850-2856 (Spanaway).

FOR SALE—Two large Gregory Soft Packs, \$75 each. Also misc. day / climbing packs. Crampons, etc. Call Mary at 360-435-9574 (Arlington) for more info.

HIKING PARTNER—Woman, 46, interested in locating friends for hikes, canoes, Washington. Fransine, 206-216-0962.

GROUP—I’m interested in starting a small, loosely-structured group of hiking/backpacking companions from the Olympia/South Sound area.

Dayhikes to several-day walks (or

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

Bailey Range Redux

—YOU DON'T DO THE BAILEY RANGE ... IT DOES YOU—

Late September in the high country of the Olympics. The crowds and haze of summer are gone now.

Clearer, cooler air moves in and makes breathing easier. Huckleberry and ash show their true colors as they spread shades of red and yellow across the mountainsides.

Stillness reigns, and one feels an overall sense of well-being. The weatherman says a big, fat high pressure system is settling over the Peninsula. It's time to do the Bailey Range.

Actually, it's the other way around—the Bailey Range does you. I almost scared off my friend Steve by recounting the nightmare of my first time on the traverse. But he's into the "journey" concept of life and won't be deterred.

After all, Steve did walk from New Orleans to Cape Flattery and then completely around the state of Washington (chronicled in his book *Washington Walkabout*).

DAY ONE

All six days of the trip were sunny and warm. We started at Olympic Hot Springs and spent the morning hiking to Appleton Pass. Just before getting there, Steve experienced a tightening in his left knee. Our plan was to take the Cat Creek Waytrail and camp in Cat Basin, but we decided to play it safe and stay on the more established trail.

We made it to Sol Duc Park by early evening and camped on a knoll above the other sites. Steve's knee had held up well, and as he erected the tent, I went for water.

While filling the bladder I felt a twinge of regret about not being able to take the waytrail to Cat Basin. For months I'd been telling Steve about Herb Crisler and wanted him to see "Hotcake" and "Castle-in-Cat" shelters.

DAY TWO

After passing Heart Lake Mall we soon found ourselves above Ocarina Lake where we got our first postcard view of Mount Olympus. Hiking the Bailey Range as it fishhooks around

Olympus is like slowly walking around an 8000-foot-high statue. Each day we get a new perspective of the massif and its glaciers.

There's iffy water between this area and Boston Charlie's Camp so we filled up before heading for the Catwalk. Conversation between us dwindled as an air of uneasiness set in. Steve has heard all the warnings about the Catwalk. Just before the trail ended, we climbed a sidepath leading to the ridge crest.

"You gotta be kidding," Steve said as his eyes traced the fiendish arête before us.

"It's really not as bad as it looks and certainly not as far," I lied. I hate the Catwalk. Been here three times before and it never gets any easier.

For top-shelf hikers the Catwalk probably isn't much of a challenge. But Steve and I are a couple of bottom feeders and this is about our limit. After a lengthy break, we cautiously began to descend.

Halfway across we became separated. But the sound of our packs scraping against the rocks and trees kept us within carshot of each other. There are a few abrupt edges along the Catwalk that might terrify people (like me) who suffer from acrophobia and vertigo.

My advice is to move fast and never look up. The sight of Mount Olympus spinning sideways can be unnerving.

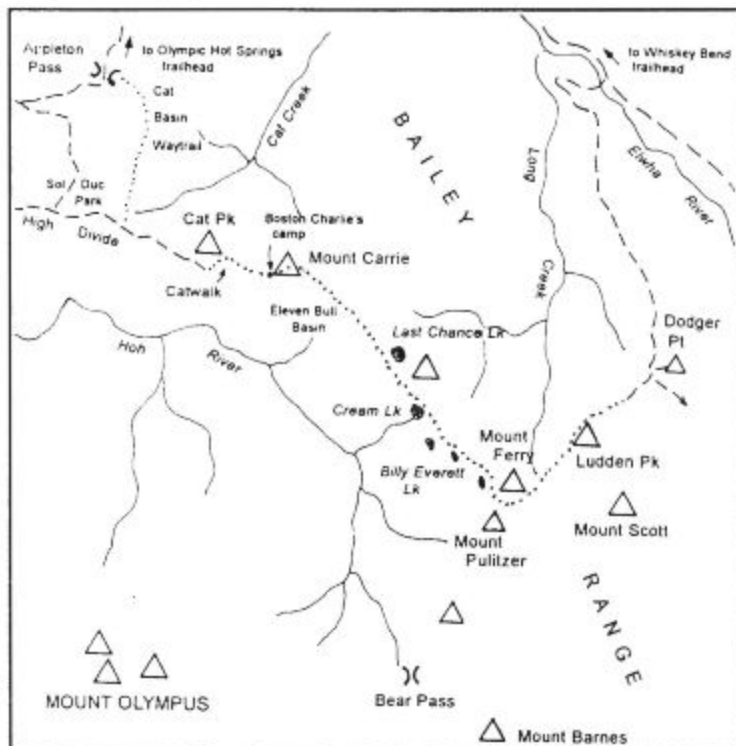
I reached the tiny pool by Boston Charlie's first. While looking back for

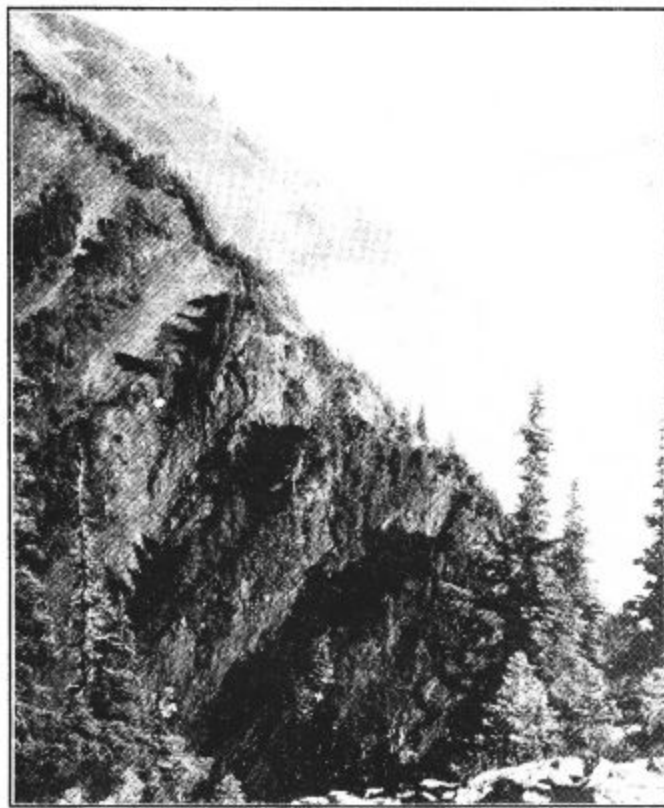
Steve, I saw a man just beginning his approach onto the Catwalk. He was tentatively skidding down the incline on his rear and toting a smallish backpack.

A few minutes later Steve arrived. I could tell by the look on his face and scratches on his knees that it didn't go well. At one point, evidently, he rammed the top of his pack into an unseen tree limb and the sudden reversal of momentum almost yanked him onto the scree slopes below.

The tread from here to Cream Lake is more clearly defined now than it was back in the early '80s when I first did the route. But it is still a waytrail, sketchy in places, that's rarely more than ten inches wide and mostly ankle-crunching uneven. Foot placement requires constant, fatiguing attention.

Less than a mile from the Catwalk our first strategic decision of the traverse was made at the prominent spur coming down from Mount Carrie. We correctly went up and across, then were shortly confronted by the first of





The knife-ridge of the Catwalk, leading to Mount Carrie.

the notorious gullies.

We crossed easily, and when doing so, I could see a hiker about three hundred feet below us. It was the guy I noticed on the Catwalk and he made the classic error warned about in the Climber's Guide. At the spur where Steve and I ascended, he went down and around. The gully is much wider and steeper at his elevation and he would pay for the mistake.

By late afternoon we reached Eleven Bull Basin. Not a true basin but rather a way to define an area where reliable water can be found. Sixty yards or so before the first watercourse we angled up to a reasonably flat area and set up camp.

What a spot! This was our first chance of the day to relax and enjoy the staggering panorama surrounding us. The star of the show, obviously, is Olympus. Its dominating presence as the geographic and spiritual center of the Olympics transcends language.

Over 3000 feet below, the restless Hoh shifts and sorts the gravel bars in its braided channel. Westward is the curving arm that cradles Hoh Lake. The ridge and adjacent slope are shaded gray by lingering snags from the Hoh Lake burn of 1978. To the south-east we could identify Mount Ferry and

the icefields of Bear Pass.

I slept outside this night and watched Olympus morph into a giant orange from the alpenglow. In the gloaming, still hundreds of feet too low, our fellow Bailey Ranger was directly beneath us spreading out a nylon sheet on which he laid his sleeping bag, without even a foam pad.

Somewhere nearby, just into the trees, the decayed remains of a Crisler lean-to lie scattered on the forest floor.

DAY THREE

The first gully we encountered today was one I distinctly remembered. It's only about 25 feet

wide but very steep and sheer. My tactic last time was to dig out footholds and inch my way across. This time I decided to defy gravity and run diagonally up and across. It worked.

Steve, however, chose to go slowly. About 10 feet out, one of his feet slipped, but he recovered quickly. I was concerned but not alarmed. But then he slipped again and this time his body went rigid as he desperately reached for a handhold. In that awful moment the unthinkable was becoming a reality—he was really falling!

I raced over and lowered my stick to him but he would not take it. Miraculously, Steve was able to brake his slide by pressing his whole body against the ground. He then made a frantic dash with arms, hands and legs clawing and flailing until he reached me. We clasped hands and I pulled him to safety.

"Why didn't you grab my stick?" I demanded.

Pointing to his hat, he shouted back, "How *could* I with this stupid thing in my eyes!"

In the confusion I had failed to notice the bill of his cap dangling cockeyed over his face. He looked ridiculous; I was in shock. All we could do was fall into a fit of laughter. After spending a minute to collect ourselves we contin-

ued, a little shaken and a lot thankful.

From the spur coming off Point 5978 (see the Custom Correct map), we peered down on a forest-rimmed jewel with the curious name of Last Chance Lake. I wondered if the name had something to do with first-timers mistaking it for Cream Lake and then making the regrettable descent.

We reached a point directly above Cream Lake, then heeled down one of the two grassy chutes leading to its shores. (Be sure you have the USGS Mount Queets 7.5-minute topo sheet for the basin traverse.) The steep grade had taken its toll on Steve's big toe. After wrapping it, we inspected the remnants of Crisler's old shelter and the nearby cache tree. Then lunch.

A seething resentment was starting to build inside me. This happens on most long trips I've ever taken. The object of these feelings was lying right next to me, a dirty, vile creature I wished would just go away—my backpack. It wasn't so much the weight but the pack itself. Whatever possessed me to buy such a monstrosity? I've never even come close to filling it. And if a trip ever does require 6000 cubic inches of backpack space, I'm not going.

The hike from Cream Lake to the upper basin can be a headache. A dense forest masks the slope and makes route-finding difficult. The likely result is a miserable bushwhack, through areas peppered with slide alder, where one may be forced to change course by an impassable cliff. This would be our destiny as we headed east from Cream Lake. Another *Pack & Paddler* has since described to me a better way.

We reached the upper basin, then traveled south a short distance before finally dropping southwesterly to Lake Billy Everett. This beauty lies in a protected hollow and we camped on the adjacent flats it once occupied. Nearby, set in a rocky alcove, a little waterfall splashes into a crystalline pool before becoming the lake's inlet stream.

DAY FOUR

There are a couple of routes to Mount Ferry from here. We chose to contour along the west, then south side of the point separating two major drainages of Ferry Basin. This is a glorious hike through meadowland with ever-expanding views of Hoh Glacier. The way is dotted with luscious pads of lime-green moss adorned with monkeyflowers and

bog gentian.

Ferry Basin is one of those special places that justifies all the hard work needed to get there. This multi-level, undulating parkland is one big flower garden and wildlife haven, though, strange to say, we neither saw nor heard a single elk during our sojourn. They are more often seen resting on snowfields during July and August.

Hikers could significantly enrich a trip by spending a layover day in the basin following the network of cascading streams leading to, or spilling from, the many lakes scattered throughout the area. Also, tucked away in the extreme southwest corner of the basin (near Point 5204), a collection of pocket tarns provides wonderful places to visit or camp.

I sometimes wish there was an easier way to reach this mountain paradise. It's at least two strenuous days of backpacking no matter which direction you come from. But then again, like the mystique of a rare wildflower, maybe one of the reasons Ferry Basin seems so special is precisely because there is no easier way.

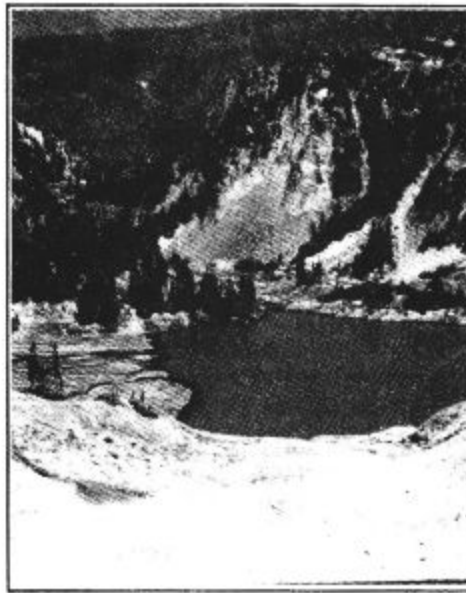
We passed the large lake at the foot of Mount Pulitzer, then wound our way up through a wasteland of twisted and shattered sandstone. Upon gaining the summit plateau of Mount Ferry, we faced another decision. The original plan was to camp at Lone Tree Pass, then dayhike to Queets Basin. But time, fatigue and deep-dish pizza were conspiring against us and we chose to head for Dodger Point a day sooner.

With the issue settled, we kicked back on the shoulder of Mount Ferry and soaked in the grand views, which now included the eastern half of the Park. I used my map and compass to sight distant peaks as Steve rested.

Our lounging was short-lived. The clouds that had been boiling up over Olympus during the morning were now headed our way. So we packed up and hustled over to where the steep descent to Ludden Ridge begins.

The first pitch off Mount Ferry is short but *exposed*. One misstep here and you'll be doing a 1500-foot chin glissade into Long Creek. Steve went first and I gave him plenty of time to make his way down.

In the gathering fog, I looked back toward the Ferry-Pulitzer saddle and once again saw that other hiker. He was sitting on his pack consulting a Park



Last Chance Lake.

brochure map. Three or four times he looked up, glanced around, then back down at the map with increasing bewilderment. He then turned the map 90 degrees and tried again before finally disappearing in a whiteout.

We camped at the tarn located where Ludden Ridge first levels out. Steve was noticeably limping by the time we got there. He said he felt like a wounded animal and later showed me a blackened chip that used to be his big toenail.

DAY FIVE

One more grind to go. We followed the path as far as possible before dive-bombing straight down to Scott Saddle. The route then swung beneath the cliffs of Ludden and ended ten feet above a gully. I can attest to an absolute certainty that the way from here to the official trail above is much harder to find when coming from the opposite direction. We scrambled up the defile a short distance then veered to our right before reaching paydirt. What a relief! A well-earned celebration was capped off with the last of our brownies.

We sailed into Dodger Basin and established camp in the meadows above Dodger Lakes.

During dinner Steve and I had a provocative conversation about people who are too accepting of an unhappy life. The many opportunities to have this type of in-depth chat, unhindered by time or any other distraction, is one of the best parts of backpacking.

Later we watched the profile of the Bailey Range fade into the night.

DAY SIX

We were eager to get home today and got an early start on our 13-mile trudge down to Whiskey Bend. Hours passed before we reached the bridge over the Elwha. We paused for a moment and looked up canyon at the huge scar on the west wall caused by a landslide.

With only a few miles left to go, our pace quickened. Finally, the clearing in the trees announcing Whiskey Bend came into view. I turned to Steve and we congratulated each other for having such a great hike. As we shook hands, our eyes exchanged an unmistakable look of acknowledgment. We'll never forget this trip.

Waiting for us in the parking lot was our sweet friend Janet who brought chocolate milk, Coke, cookies, tostidos and bean dip. The ceremonial feast ensued as we entertained her with the details of our trip. Then it was time to leave.

As we pulled away, I could see that other hiker for the last time. He had just arrived and was sitting by the trail-head sign with his arms folded over his knees and head bowed. He is completely exhausted. Because his ride won't be here for another two hours there's plenty of time to contemplate the disaster of his first Bailey Range traverse.

Lost twice, scared senseless and physically overwhelmed, he's disappointed and angry and blames the guidebook for not supplying enough information. But deep inside he knows the truth—an inexperienced backpacker has no business hiking the Bailey Range alone.

So in the following weeks and months he learns how to use a compass and read a topographic map. He buys better equipment. Even gets a fancy backpack. He spends many hours at the library researching the traverse, Herb Crisler and other aspects of the Olympics. Every door he opens leads to another and his fascination grows. And though he once swore never to return, he one day comes to realize that the Bailey Range has got him now ... and he'll be back.

△

JQ lives and works in Port Angeles. He loves hiking the Olympics and is a big fan of Herb Crisler.

DAN VORHIS

Portable Water Filters: a designer's perspective

—PART TWO—

Last month Dan described the different types of microorganisms and contaminants that can make us sick in the backcountry

Here's the second and final installment: how different water treatments work for hikers. ...

PORTABLE TREATMENT OPTIONS

Boiling. The most effective way to kill bugs in water is to boil it. Boiling doesn't make water clear if it is muddy, of course, and it removes only those "dissolved" contaminants that evaporate or break down at temperatures below 212 °F, such as metals.

To kill all known waterborne pathogens, the CDC recommends bringing water to a rolling boil for one minute or, at altitude above about 6000 feet, bring to a rolling boil for 3 minutes.

The kills occur as a result of the *temperature and the time at that temperature*, so don't cheat. Let it boil and cool before drinking.

Iodine tablets. Will protect against bacteria and viruses if manufacturer's instructions regarding water temperature and turbidity (cloudiness) are followed.

Two iodine tablets in one liter of water were shown to kill almost 3 log (99.8%) of *Giardia* cysts in a lab brew of cold, somewhat turbid water. However, *Cryptosporidia* oocysts are not killed under realistic contact times and exposures to the iodine.

Iodinated Resins. Iodinated resins look like tiny black beads, about the size of fine sand. Microorganisms in the water are killed by passing contaminated water through the beads and, under some conditions, by allowing the water to sit for a period of time so that iodine in the filtered water can kill bugs that didn't touch the beads.

Several US companies are now making some form of iodinated resin beads, with variations in quality of the finish-

ed product depending on the method of manufacture.

Because protozoal cysts are resistant to iodine, resins must be used in combination with a filter to insure protection against cysts.

A device that allows water to be pushed through iodine beads too fast, especially in cold water, or a device that removes the iodine too soon (with activated carbon, for example), can allow pathogens through.

Stuff in water like silt or organic molecules are an additional load on the iodine—the iodine can't tell the difference between a soil mineral particle and an organism.

Microorganisms from fecal material also tend to clump together, or clump with the junk in the water, shielding the organisms in the center of the clump from the iodine.

You can see why clumping (also called "agglomeration") is an enemy of chemical treatments, but a friend of filtration technologies.

The EPA recommends that devices which add iodine to water be used for short periods of time only—2 to 3 weeks max, according to the late Ruth Douglas at the USEPA.

Pregnant women, hyperthyroid women (about 1% of women in the US) and others with thyroid problems should avoid drinking iodinated water.

These recommendations are based, in part, on tests which indicate that certain individuals can develop sensitivity to iodine after prolonged exposure even to relatively dilute concentrations.

Filtration. Looking through a microscope, most water filter media resemble a sponge more than a window screen. Clogging particles—mostly soil mineral particles—are either stopped near the surface of the filter or migrate deep into the media and stop there.

If particles like bacteria are stopped simply because they are too big to fit through a hole, we call that "sieving."

When a particle or molecule sticks to the filter media like a ball bearing sticks to a magnet, that is called "ad-

sorption."

All filter media rely on some combination of sieving and adsorption to remove stuff from water. Some filters (ceramic filters, for example) are heavy on the sieving; others (carbon block filters) are heavy on the adsorption.

Remember the filter controversy in the past ... "nominal" vs "absolute"? Certain companies tended to blur the distinction.

"Nominal" usually means 98% (1 log) of a certain size particle is retained. "Absolute" means 100% of a certain size particle is retained.

This is a BIG difference when you are talking about 500,000 to 5,000,000 or more of a potentially health-affecting bacteria per liter. 98% retention of 500,000 still leaves you with 10,000 bacteria per liter.

Well, you don't have to worry about "nominal" anymore; few use it. Now, you have to ask for a definition of "absolute."

Occasionally I will get a call from somebody making a "water filter comparison" chart for a store or magazine. One question that eventually gets asked is, "What is the micron rating on your filter?" To answer this, I painfully ask the following questions:

- Are you referring to nominal or absolute retention?
- How do you define absolute? Is it 2 log (99%), 4 log (99.99%), or 7 log (as per Health Industry Manufacturers Association definition)?
- Are you testing at maximum flow rate? Minimum wall thickness? Bacterial challenge or solid particle challenge? How are you feeding the bacteria? Has the media been exposed to all the gunk in surface water to use up adsorptive capacity?

Of course, the person on the phone trying to put together a simple water filter comparison chart is usually not thrilled with this gibberish. When deciphered, it implies that an accurate comparison is impossible unless all the devices are tested the same way.

"Can't you please just give me a

number?" I will hear.

Here is one definition of "absolute". Don't nod off:

Let's say we want to show that a window screen keeps out 100% of house flies—that is, that the window screen is an "absolute filter" for house flies. In order to prove this, we would have to test with an *infinitely large* number of house flies which is, of course, messy (not to mention impossible).

Organizations have come up with tests to deal with the "infinitely large" problem. In the pharmaceutical industry, when they want to insure that absolutely no bacteria get into something, a filter media is tested according to a HIMA (Health Industry Manufacturer's Association) standard.

The standard specifies that a filter must be challenged with a high concentration of a certain .3 micron bacterium (*Brevundimonas diminuta*). Even what these bacteria eat is specified, because people had figured out a way to fatten them up!

If the filter media retains greater than 99.99999% (seven log) of the organism, it is called a "sterilizing", or ".2 micron absolute" filter.

SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FILTERS:

"A .2 micron filter protects my health better than a .3 micron filter."

Based on the discussion above, you can see why that is not necessarily true. Here's why:

- Some manufacturers base their claims on testing done with test dust or latex beads. Others use actual bacteria to rate their filter. Bacteria can squeeze through a hole half their diameter, so the test using bacteria is tougher.
- Some manufacturers do their tests when the filter is brand new, others do it after the filter has been used a lot in the field. Factors that come into play here: wall thickness and adsorptive capacity.

A filter that has been abraded away is less effective. A filter whose adsorptive capacity has been exhausted is not as effective.

- Some manufacturers run water through their device at low pressures, so bacteria don't blow through. Others test at maximum pressure to mimic a realistic, worst case.

In our last field comparison of portable filters, for example, one filter listed

as a ".3 micron" filter on the magazine charts removed 100 times more bacteria than two filters rated as ".2 micron" devices.

"A filter should have a pre-filter."

Pre-filters seem to make sense at first glance. Here is a closer look:

a) Most clogging occurs when particles in the water are very close to, or smaller than, the pore size of a filter media. Usually, particles that are much larger than the media don't restrict flow much. So, for example, a bowling ball would not clog a window screen.

Many pre-filters currently sold are of relatively large pore size. These pre-filters will clog, but they are clogging with particles that are larger than the particles that would clog the main filter media.

So, now you have two filters that are clogging, and the first filter isn't necessarily making the second one last longer.

b) There is one pre-filter currently offered which does have a pore size that is fine enough to make a difference. If you find yourself with a device that clogs quickly, this accessory is one answer.

However, as with any set of "in-line" filters, you now have two clogging filters to deal with. And replacing pre-filters that clog quickly can be a nuisance, and more expensive than alternative technologies.

c) The concept of a pre-filter has some other weaknesses. When a filter is placed downstream from the pump, as in most portable devices, water is pushed through the filter.

A pre-filter is typically placed *upstream* from the pump, which means water is *sucked* through the filter. A phenomenon called "cavitation" (gases getting sucked out of the water in the form of bubbles that interfere with pumping) occurs at a vacuum of only about 8 to 10 psi. Not much pressure to work with.

d) In a partial vacuum, hoses have to be beefy or they collapse as the pre-filter clogs.

CERAMIC FILTERS

Ceramic filter media is made from diatomaceous earth that has been heated to a point where it just begins to melt ("sintering"). Quality cartridges made from sintered diatomite catch most particles within about .005 inch of the surface.

When the ceramic filter clogs, you abrade away these clogged pores and

begin anew. Flow rate recovers almost 100% after each abrasive cleaning. The entire depth of the filter media is effectively and systematically used, 5 thousandths of an inch at a time. A gauge supplied with the ceramic cartridge lets the user know when it is time to replace the cartridge.

Ceramic cartridges last longer than other filters of similar overall size, although they usually require more frequent cleaning. For example, one pleated fiber cartridge has a surface area of about 130 square inches, a filter wall thickness of less than .015 inch, and an average pore size of 3 to 5 microns or so.

This filter will produce high flow rates and require very little maintenance for many liters, and then it will clog. A ceramic cartridge, in comparison, begins with only 19 square inches of surface area, a filter wall thickness of .250 inch, and an average pore size of about 1.8 microns. The ceramic will clog more frequently, but is capable of being cleaned at least 30 times, so effective surface area is

$$30 \times 19 \text{ square inches} = \text{over } 500 \text{ square inches.}$$

The ceramic does not reach the end of its life without warning. And when the ceramic is used up, it still has about .150 inch of filter media left—at least 10 times more than the other filter media. According to our tests, these factors of wall thickness and pore size, coupled with pressure, translate directly to microorganism retention.

Ceramic cartridges are more fragile than the plastic or glass fiber pleat packs. Care should be taken especially when the ceramic cartridge is out of its housing during cleaning or drying.

ADSORPTION

The "ball-bearing/magnet" analogy is a reasonable model to understand the concept of adsorption. All kinds of filter media have some adsorption capacity. So, not only are particles strained out of water because they are too big (sieving), but all kinds of things in water stick to a filter media or resin bed.

Bacteria, viruses, chemicals, organic molecules that add color or taste to water—if they come into contact with the surface of the filter media and the water doesn't hold tight, they take up residence in the filter.

Activated carbon is very good at grabbing things (like hydrocarbons, pesticides, taste/odor compounds, some

metals, iodine) out of water. This is not because carbon has any special surface chemistry, but more because it has a lot of surface area—850 to 1400 square meters per gram, or about one football field per teaspoonful!

If the pesticide molecule, viral particle, or taste/odor compound gets close to the carbon surface, it jumps out of the water and

grabs on to the carbon. When the surface of the "magnet" is filled, incoming "ball bearings" don't have any place to rest, and they go on through the media.

"Granular" carbon (little loose grains of carbon) is the inexpensive form, and permits much of the water to flow through the channels between the grains.

"Block" carbon (looks like a black porous brick) eliminates the large channels, forcing the water into closer proximity to the carbon. As a result, "block" carbon is much more effective than granular carbon at removing the things carbon removes.

Activated carbon that has seen a lot of use one day may recover a great deal of its adsorptive capacity if given a chance to "rest" for a few hours. Many adsorbed molecules will, over time, vibrate deep into the recesses of the carbon structure and re-expose adsorptive surfaces to passing water.

Bacteria will grow in any damp media, including activated carbon, iodinated resin beads and silver-impregnated media. While most studies have failed to find disease-causing bacteria colonizing damp filter cartridges, this is certainly a possibility.

Drying the cartridge thoroughly between uses will reduce bacterial growth. Where that is impossible (on the trail for a week or more), a device may give you the option of boiling the cartridge to kill the bacteria growing within. Most cannot be boiled.

Device No.	Cost per liter filtered, based on replacement element cost. (U.S. currency)	Lab challenge results: Average concentration of living, non-pathogenic bacteria that got through a device. (challenge water: <i>B. diminuta</i> @ 4.8×10^8 / Liter, average)
		(gray block indicates device is marketed as a "purifier")
Device No. 1	\$0.37	about 11 bacteria/liter
Device No. 2	\$0.60	about 1,600,000 bacteria/liter
Device No. 3	\$0.60	about 7,000,000 bacteria/liter
Device No. 4	\$3.09	about 1,300 bacteria/liter
Device No. 5	\$3.28	about 11,800 bacteria/liter
Device No. 6	\$0.75	about 10,800,000 bacteria/liter
Device No. 7	\$0.65	about 12 bacteria/liter
Device No. 8	\$0.34	about 90,000 bacteria/liter
Device No. 9	\$0.45	about 15,600,000 bacteria/liter
Device No. 10	\$1.92	about 73 bacteria/liter

"Use Cost" and Relative Bacterial Retention Capability of 10 different portable water treatment devices in one test conducted by MSR, Inc. (January 1997)

HOW LONG BEFORE IT CLOGS?

Not as long as you think. We have performed over a dozen comprehensive field water clogging trials over the past six years, filtering from a variety of water sources.

Most devices never come close to delivering as many liters as advertised. Typical filter element life (total life to replacement, following manufacturer's instructions for cleaning, etc.) is 20 to 100 liters in water with a visibility of 1 to 4 feet.

There are a few notable exceptions. Ceramic filters usually provide the longest life, according to our tests.

Gradually, these "field water" comparisons have become more sophisticated. For example, several years ago we began challenging these portable devices with a microorganism after the clogging test.

The purpose of the organism challenge is not so much to determine if a device gives adequate protection against a pathogen—you would need to use the actual pathogen for that. But it is a way to compare the devices relative to each other.

The organism we chose is a bacterium called *Brevundimonas diminuta*, the HIMA bacterium mentioned above. *B. diminuta* is a tough challenge for a filter because it is so tiny. The results of both the clogging comparison, what we term "cost per liter," and the bacterial challenge have been startling.

The chart above is a summary of the results of our most recent comparison, performed early 1997. The water we chose this year was fairly cloudy—visibility of about 1 foot.

It wouldn't have been the greatest water to filter from if clearer water were available, but certainly wasn't as bad as most mid-western streams and rivers.

I have taken the liberty of distinguishing with a gray-colored block those devices that are currently being marketed as purifiers to make a point—"purifier" status does not necessarily guarantee superior performance.

There are many details left out of this chart. For example, one device broke during the microbiological challenge, which, in a perverse sort of way, had the effect of making that device look better in the organism challenge (less challenge water was run through it).

A couple of devices were not tested at the end of their useful life, making them, perhaps, look better than they would have otherwise. All devices were pumped at normal flow rate—no double passes, etc.

Notice that two of the top three devices in terms of bacteria removal/kill were *not* purifiers, yet all three devices which cost more than \$1.00 per liter were purifiers.

"PURIFIERS"

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed a "purifier" standard in the mid-1980s to help regulate por-

table water treatment devices. The standard has not yet been officially adopted due, in part, to variability in the test method.

Usually, a standard is written so any lab can follow the testing guidelines and come up with similar results. If the standard is unclear, results can come in all over the place. Such has been the case with the "purifier" protocol.

But that isn't the only problem. Lack of rigor in the standard—loopholes—have permitted devices to enter the market as "purifiers" that would not pass a more stringent standard.

Some requirements in the current version of the "purifier" standard are very rigorous. For example, 4 log (99.99%) reduction of viruses is required—not an easy task for most technologies. However, other areas are less well defined.

For example, health-related filter test standards typically require that a media be tested at its maximum flow rate. Multiple passes of the challenge water through the filter would be totally unacceptable, and the device which failed on the first pass would fail the test. The current EPA "purifier" standard takes no stance here, and so these decisions are left to the discretion of the lab and manufacturer.

Another example: Certain iodinated-resin "purifiers" are sold with a carbon accessory to remove the iodine and make the water more palatable. But this accessory reduces the device's ability to kill bacteria and viruses. One manufacturer chose to have their device tested with the carbon accessory removed. The device passed the "purifier" requirements and is now marketed as a "purifier"—with the carbon accessory.

SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT "PURIFIERS":

"A filter is different from a purifier."

This is a false distinction. According to the section 1.3.1 of the "Guide Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbiological Water Purifiers," revision 1987: "... A review of treatment units that might be considered as microbiological purifiers discloses a number of different types covering treatment technologies ranging from filtration and chemical disinfection to ultraviolet light radiation."

There is no requirement for chemical treatment in the standard.

"A purifier kills viruses; a filter doesn't remove viruses."

Not necessarily true. High quality microfiltration has been shown to remove 2 to 3 log (99 to 99.9%) of viruses on a single pass. This is not enough for the EPA "purifier"—99.99% of specified viruses is necessary.

However, no iodinated resin-based portable water treatment device passes the EPA "purifier" standard without pumping the water through the device twice and/or reducing the flow rate to a fraction of the normal flow rate of the device.

"A purifier protects my health better than a non-purifier."

Things would be simpler if it were so, but it is not necessarily true. Some companies, as an ethical stance, refuse to test their devices using multiple passes of a challenge water, refuse to test using slower flow rates than used in the field, refuse to test in ways other than are used under realistic, worst case conditions in the field. And so their filters face a self-imposed hurdle that is very much higher than is required by the current version of the "purifier" standard.

The "purifier" standard addresses strictly microbiological risks—it doesn't deal with pesticides, industrial chemicals, mercury, bacterial toxins. Many "purifiers" currently sold come ill-equipped to deal with this class of contaminant.

CARE AND FEEDING OF ONE "PURIFIER"

A quick read, recently, of the instructions in one device marketed as a "purifier" turned up some noteworthy tidbits. Toward the back of the instruction booklet was a little note describing exactly what steps had been necessary for this particular device to pass the "purifier" microbiological reduction requirements.

- Remove the carbon cartridge that is provided with the device to remove iodine taste.
- Pump water at a rate of no faster than about 6 minutes per liter into a container.
- Re-filter that liter of water again, at the same flow rate (total time per liter: over 12 minutes).
- Wait 20 minutes before drinking the water (total time: 32 minutes).
- Don't filter more than 2 liters at a time. Wait 2 hours between pumping

sessions so the resin beads can re-charge.

Does anyone do this? These instructions are couched in such a way to make it seem that such remarkable advice need rarely, if ever, be followed.

Meanwhile, the consumer may be tempted to believe they are getting superior health protection while pumping at the approximately 40 seconds per liter that the device can deliver, rather than 32+ minutes per liter necessary to get the protection defined under the conditions of the standard.

STANDARDS-WRITING PROCESS COULD USE YOUR HELP

Water treatment can be complicated. It is not fair to expect people, who may be expert in their own field, to also be an expert in the field of water treatment before making an informed buying decision. That is what good standards are for.

The American Society for Testing and Materials is an (almost) 100-year-old, not-for-profit organization that helps manufacturers, buyers and sellers write good standards such as standard test methods.

By requiring input from everybody involved in, for example, the portable water treatment industry—manufacturers, sellers and users of the equipment—it is believed that all needs will be met and a solid standard will result. It is very difficult, through the ASTM process, for one powerful interest to exhibit undue influence over the outcome.

The negative side of a good standard is that it takes a long time to create. I do not expect to see an ASTM standard covering health and health-related aspects of portable water treatment devices before the year 2000.

The current ASTM standards-writing process could use your help. There are equitable ways that can be arranged to help defray travel expenses in return for committed service to the process. If you are interested, please contact:

ASTM
attention: Bob Held
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken PA 19428-2959
tel: 610-832-9719
fax: 610-832-9666
email: rheld@astm.org

△

Dan Vorhis, of Freeland, is a water-filter designer for MSR, Inc.

BETTYE HENSEL

How to Extend Your SUMMER

—SPEND A WEEK ON THE GREEN RIVER—

Thanks to my good friends Bill and Nancy Ermert, kayaking Utah's Green River was possible for me last year. Bill made all the reservations for six of us through Tex Riverways in Moab (801-259-5101). We drove down, kayaked the river and drove back during the first two weeks of October.

The outfitter rented us the kayak-sized commercially manufactured "Porta-potties" all parties must have to do the river and took care of our cars for us while we were on the water—8 days, 7 nights. At the end they picked us up at the Confluence, where the Colorado and Green Rivers join. In their big jet boat we rode some 70 miles back to Moab, 4-plus hours up the Colorado, in itself an exciting, scenic trip through the canyons.

While kayaking 100 miles of calm river through and beneath some of the most extraordinary sandstone walls in the world, we also hiked into canyons, saw Anasazi Indian ruins, cliff dwelling homes, and Pueblo Indian ruins dating back to early times, about AD 1000 to AD 1300.

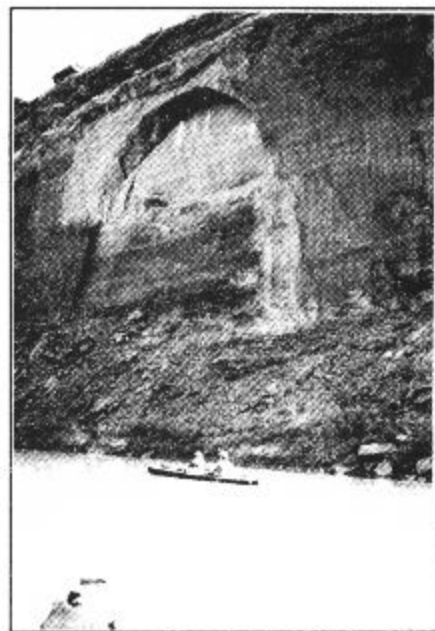
We spent each evening on different

white sandbars or beneath cliffs with no other campers. Hiking into the Canyons was exciting to see beautiful jasper, fresh water falls, cool grottoes, intricate stone carvings done by natives who passed through this area some 8000 years ago.

The petroglyphs and pictographs were so real, telling stories we wished we understood. Many lizards scurried out of our way; the deer and antelope looked at us, but ran the other way. The many bats kept the bugs down. Wild rabbits and coyotes caught our eye with their movement.

Our weather was great, with temperatures in the high 80s. Rain fell one night. The wind blew the fine soft sand all over everything, but only twice and at night!

Coming off the river we spent four days sight-seeing the Arches, the Needles and some of the wonders of Mother Nature in the Canyonlands, hiking into Landscape Arch, one of the longest Natural Rock spans in the World—a 306-foot span that is 96 feet high, and a true piece of heaven. We sat under "The Delicate Arch" as the



Denny and Mary Jo on the Green.

sun set. This arch is Utah's logo on the new license plate.

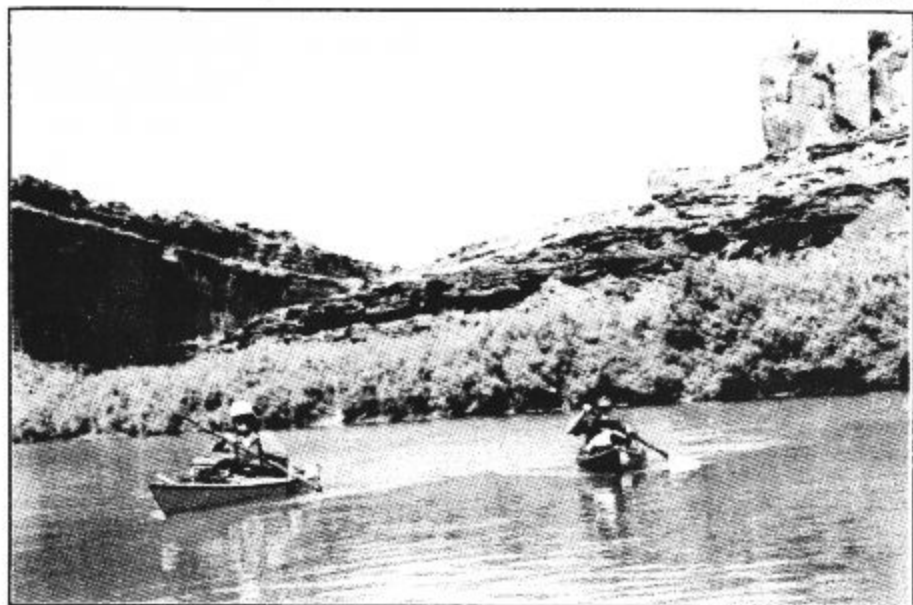
A good book to read about the canyons is *Stone Desert*, by Craig L. Childs, a naturalist's exploration of canyons and National Parks. We met him on the river with a group of people from Colorado. The book is a really good intelligent guide.

We stopped for lunch in Price, Utah, and visited Dinosaurland, the College of Eastern Utah's prehistoric museum, where we saw the largest collection of dinosaur tracks and six complete dinosaur skeletons! What a wonderful job has been done restoring this piece of history.

Yes—extend your summer and do this trip! We ended in the Yakima Valley picking peppers (did you know there are over 50 different kinds of peppers?) and touring the wineries.

△

Bettye Hensel, of Edmonds, is recently retired and plans to spend her free time finding the very best places to explore.



Nancy and Marion enjoy a calm river and sandstone cliffs.

Bettye Hensel

Bettye Hensel

DEBBY RIEHL

RESCUE EPICS

—“LASSIE, COME HOME!”—

On Sunday, June 8th, Ralph and I were returning from a family gathering in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. My niece was graduating from high school, and my folks were here “vacationing” from their home in Hawaii.

Our pagers went off at about 2pm as we were traversing the Skagit Flats near LaConner. A man had taken a long fall down one of Granite Mountain’s infamous snow chutes. We called in by cell phone from our remote location and headed south.

It took us two hours to get to the Melakwa trailhead. I was wondering where we were going to park the various rescue rigs, and assumed that the parking lot would be full since this was one of the few nice summer weekends we had had to that point.

Not to worry this time. The Department of Transportation had opened their gravel pit next to the trailhead. We had lots of paved parking on the access road. This pit is also a very nice helicopter landing zone.

There is no place to land a helicopter on Granite Mountain itself except on the summit ridge. People usually come to grief in the steep avalanche chutes below. The MAST helicopter had been called in for its winching capabilities.

At 4:30pm we could see MAST nosing around the opposite side of I-90 apparently looking for us. They did not answer us on the prearranged radio frequency when we called them.

Fortunately, Guardian II, the lime-green King County helicopter, was there and had already dropped our rescue team at the top of Granite Mountain. The team had climbed down to the accident site.

Guardian II launched from the gravel pit and went after MAST. They got in

front of MAST and danced around and waved their arms out the windows until they got the attention of the MAST crew. Then they led them across I-90 as though MAST were on a leash or Guardian II was using a Star-Trek-style “tractor beam” on them.

One rescuer on the ground said that it looked like Lassie going to the townspeople, running back and forth, barking desperately. We could imagine the townspeople (read MAST) asking: “What is it, Lassie? What is it, girl? Is little Timmy in trouble?”

At 4:34pm MAST dropped off their litter and their medics. The medics were not comfortable on this steep terrain. The rotor wash from the Blackhawk helicopter was so strong that it blew packs and rocks down the mountainside, including one of the medic’s medical packs. Helmets and eye protection were highly desirable!

At 5:11pm MAST winched the injured man and the medics back into the bird and made a beeline for Harborview. The rescue team on the mountainside was instructed to climb back to the top of the ridge to be picked up by Guardian II, or they could hike back down to the trailhead. They opted to climb back up and get a ride.

The injured man was found to have head, neck, back, and chest injuries. He had punctured a lung and “Fergie,” the rescue doctor on the scene, had come very close to putting in a chest tube right there in the field.

The man had been scrambling up one of the snow chutes with his son. The snow was described as beautiful spring step-kicking snow. The son was in the lead and had topped a ridge. He looked

back and saw his father’s head pop up over the ridge.

The son looked away. When he looked back, his father was gone. He ran back to the ridge and saw his father lying in the rocks below. The son did a wild, mostly out-of-control glissade down the slope. He was using an ice axe. The son’s resulting injuries were just abrasions and gashes this time.

His seriously injured father had the presence of mind to come to a halt almost at the feet of a nurse climbing in the area. He also selected this particular nurse who had a cellular telephone in her pack. After calling out for help, she was put into contact with Fergie, who consulted with her until he could get to the site himself.

This one turned out to be a time when everything fell into place the way you would like: A medically trained person was near. A cellular telephone or other communication device, with charged battery, was available. Access to a cellular site was there. The weather was good for helicopter flying.

Other than not falling, what more could you ask?

△

Debby Riehl, of North Creek, is a member of Seattle Mountain rescue.

ERL SYVERSTAD

Hooked on Hiking

—IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT M. KINZEBACH—

Robert M. Kinzbach, meteorologist, founder and publisher of PIC-TOUR GUIDE MAPS, and hiker, died October 21, 1996. He was 81.

Bob was known in *Pack & Paddle*, *Signpost* and other publications for his innumerable reports, comments, pleadings, feature articles and scientific papers.

He was born in Waterville, near Wenatchee, in 1915. As a boy, he got hooked on Washington lakes and peaks, flyfishing with his father. He served a stint in the Army during WWII as a weather officer, attaining the rank of Major. Afterward, Bob never stopped writing, mapping or taking pictures.

Bob was a robust hiker. He made 13 trips into the Enchantments, the first in 1950—and most since—in and out in a day. He was fast and liked shortcuts. At 70 he could still leave most youngsters in the dust.

He was one of the first to pioneer and popularize the common route up the cliff to Earle Lake, which is still in use today. The *Wenatchee World* published his "Backdoor Route to the Enchantments" by way of Wedge Mountain in July, 1985.

Bob retired from regular work in Civil Service in 1972 and the Military Reserve in 1975. He had been Chief Weather Officer at McChord AFB since about 1952 and attained the rank of full Colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

About this time, he started a full time map and publishing business specific to the Washington backcountry.

He was a member of The Hi-Lakers, The Military Order of the World Wars, and of course, the American Meteorological Society.

Of special note is his paper (AMS, Kinzbach, 3/55) on summer coastal weather patterns specific to the pressure gradient in millibars of mercury between North Bend, Oregon, and Sea-Tac and the Puget Sound Convergence Zone. His theory set the standard for weather forecasting in the Pacific Northwest. The North Bend millibar readings can still be heard on weather



Bob Kinzbach in the Cascades, 1979.

radio channels today.

As a busy meteorologist most of his adult life and in retirement, he never failed to monitor NOAA Weather Radio KHB 60, Seattle, broadcasting on 162.55 MHz, to pick nice days in the mountains.

His forecasting sense should be legend. One group leader, after chatting with him the morning before a day trip into the Olympics completed the 20-mile High Divide Loop from Sol Duc Hot Springs ... but it was nip and tuck! Bob had said "You should be able to stay ahead of the front."

Another party not too far behind got socked in at Heart Lake and wisely turned back on a compass heading to walk 24 miles this day.

I don't think Bob liked to get wet and cold, and he enjoyed seeing safe bets play out successfully. It never rained on any hike I did in his company. George Bucher, a strong and experienced Hi-Laker, said the other day that Bob did Alaska weather better than the locals there. You might want to read why, in *White Winds* (page 231), by Joel Wilcox. This book details an ill-fated assault on Mount McKinley.

Bob was first to publish a fine set of

7½-minute topo maps of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. They are still in print.

Bob scouted regularly, sometimes as much as 3000 miles a month on 100 or more trips a year. He wore out three VW Beetles and a Subaru, going many times where one would expect to see only 4x4s or 3-wheelers. I am not aware that he ever walked out because of car failure.

He seldom took much more than himself on hundreds and hundreds of day trips. Bob's version of the "10 Essentials" was an overcoat with lots of pockets, about ten cans of Pepsi and a Thommen altimeter. He walked and climbed as much as 27 miles a day.

A 1941 WSC (now WSU) graduate, with a MS in forestry, Bob joined the Army, completing meteorological training at UCLA, in 1942, with subsequent and commended service in Italy, where he married.

He is survived by his widow (separated), the former Olga Maria Pica, and four children: Jim, Kay, Marcia, Wayne and their children. An older brother Bruce lives in Wenatchee.

A resident of Federal Way much of his adult life, he produced, in addition to numerous maps, about 20,000 3-D lake and peak photos. Bob also compiled ten books of notes describing mileage, landmarks, intersections and other details of roads and trails in the Washington Cascades.

In typical tongue-in-cheek fashion, Bob suggested once that, "retirement is not the beginning of the end; rather it is the end of the beginning."

As a keen routefinder, practical scientist and soldier, he helped us all.

△

Erl Syverstad, of Spanaway, was one of Bob's regular hiking partners.

Erl Syverstad

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

ROBE CANYON PARK—Snohomish County has approved the purchase of almost 800 acres to add to Robe Canyon Historic Park on the Mountain Loop Highway just east of Granite Falls.

The purchase will make the park five times larger. It includes land along the South Fork Stillaguamish from the existing park to Hubbard Lake, and also 18 acres on Mill Road in Granite Falls for a future trailhead.—*from information in the Everett Herald.*

STEENS MOUNTAIN—An outfitter guide on Steens Mountain wants to build a 25-room lodge, 15 cabins, a full-service restaurant and gift shop near Fish Lake. Someone else wants to put rental cabins at the bottom of Keiger Gorge, and another person is considering a hunting resort.

The Fish Lake lodge proposal has been submitted to Harney County for approval. The county is expected to decide in September.

SCOTTISH LAKES OPEN FOR FALL—For those who have always wanted to visit High Camp but "don't do snow," now is your chance.

The Scottish Lakes High Camp will be open for the fall season from Labor Day weekend through mid-October. Use High Camp as a base for dayhikes in the McCue Ridge and Chiwaukum areas.

Lodging is \$30 per person per night for one or two people. For three to six people, \$25. For seven to 11 people, \$20, and for a group of 12 or more, \$15. Kids 4 to 12 are half price, and on the first weekend of October, kids 4 to 12 are free! Bring your own food.

Transportation up the private, 8½ mile road is \$20 per person, round-trip.

For information, reservations or a brochure, call 888-9HI-CAMP.

CASCADE ALPINE GUIDES—For years there were only two ways to get to the top of Mount Rainier—do it yourself or go with RMI. But this summer, Cascade Alpine Guides was given the opportunity to guide on the mountain.

The Bellevue-based guide service was one of several companies chosen to guide on the Emmons route. Visible from Seattle, the Emmons Glacier is nearly 5 miles long, the largest glacier in the lower 48 states.

This year, guide services underwent a

selection process through Mount Rainier National Park to ensure that only the most qualified and experienced guide companies lead climbs to the summit of Rainier. Says Cascade Alpine Guides' Steve Guthrie, "We are extremely pleased that the National Park has allowed climbers a choice in who they decide to climb with."

The guide service also offers climbing in the North Cascades and many other adventures. For more information, contact

Cascade Alpine Guides

PO Box 40563

Bellevue WA 98015

206-688-8054

www.cascadealpine.com

MOUNT TAHOMA TRAILS—The MTTA Gala is scheduled for October 11 at 1pm at the South Tacoma Way Community Center.

The Gala is the Association's main social event, fundraiser, and is also the best opportunity to make hut reservations for the time you want. (The "good dates" fill up fast.)

For more information on hut reservations, or how to volunteer to help maintain the trail system, write

MTTA

PO Box 206

Ashford WA 98304.

SYMPOSIUM—The West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium is scheduled for September 19 through 21 at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend.

A one-day registration is \$47 for adults (\$10 child 6-12) and allows you to attend all seminars and classes and browse the displays of boats and gear until you drop. Or go for the whole three days: \$120 (\$10 child 6-12). Lodging and meals are available for additional fees.

You can register by phone with a bank card; call 888-732-8275.

If you're in the market for gear, the silent auction is a lot of fun and benefits the Washington Water Trails Association. Stores and manufacturers have good deals on boats and equipment (Marmot Mountain Works, for example, will be selling a good portion of their rental fleet here). Classes, slide shows and on-the-water demos will keep you busy—guaranteed.

MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL—October 3 through 5 is the Methow Valley Mountain Bike Festival. Fall is a wonderful time to go to the Methow, but perhaps not when hundreds of mountain bikers are out.

Most events will take place at Sun Mountain, Arrowleaf, and Rendezvous, so the backcountry should still be bike-free. Plan accordingly.

Of course, if you're a mountain biker, you may actually want to be there. Call 509-996-3287 for festival info.

LYME DISEASE—The first confirmed case of Lyme disease contracted within North Cascades National Park was reported earlier this summer.

A North Cascades Institute employee was bitten by a deer tick in the vicinity of Newhalem campground and was infected with the disease.

NEW OWNERS AT FLYING L—It's official: The Lloyd family has sold the Flying L Ranch.

The new owners are Jacquie Perry and Jeff Berend. Although Jacquie and Jeff moved to Glenwood from Seattle, they both grew up in small rural communities and plan to continue the operation of the Flying L essentially unchanged.

Nancy and Darryl will stay in their house near the ranch; Darvel has moved to Portland, and Ilse will remain on the ranch in her cottage (although there is some talk of her going south for the winter—to White Salmon).

For information about staying at the Flying L, call 509-364-3488.

SEAL ENCOUNTERS—Eddy is a juvenile harbor seal who lives in the Fidalgo Bay area. He frequently bow-rides and makes leaping dives in front of kayakers, but he is best known for boarding a kayak, staying for a minute, then diving off. With his superb sense of balance, Eddy can jump on a kayak without tipping it over. Nevertheless, be prepared to brace when this happens.

Eddy has grown increasingly bold since his initial appearance three years ago. Attempts to lose him once he starts following kayakers have been futile. It may help train him not to board kayakers if kayakers slap the water with their paddles and shout "No!" at him.—*excerpted from Washington Water Trails' Easy Current News.*

YUCKY SKIS—In response to "Yucky Skis" (*July, page 30*), I too had the exact same problems when I skied Pilchuck in early May.

As a toxicologist I doubt that it was any sort of natural occurrence. More likely it was air pollution which had condensed and settled in the troughs and pockets of snow.

Pilchuck is the only place where this happened to me. Persis, Vesper and Baker all skied clean.—*David MacFarlane, Lake Stevens.*

UNIVERSAL FOOD—Have any *P&P* readers experimented with universal foods? Many years ago a magazine carried such a recipe.

The trekker/explorer who developed it claimed that it had all of the essential nutrients for extended trips, and could be eaten dry or reconstituted, hot or cold, in a bowl or dribbled out of a bag directly into the mouth. That is as much as I can remember about it.

Do foods such as nut breads, fruit-cake or pemmican qualify as universal foods? (Those who rely only upon fancy freeze-dried meals need not try to answer this question.)—*Gordon McDougall, Olympia.*

WICKING FABRIC—T-shirts, sport bras and briefs of wicking fabric cost more than cotton. Are they worth it? We've tried these garments made from Coolmax and MicroClimate. Both are "moisture-wicking" and advertised as ideal for strenuous exercise because they keep you "dry and comfortable," don't get cold and soggy like cotton. We found them very temperature dependent.

I (VB) liked them very much for skiing and hiking in very cool to cold conditions, similar to the polypro/capilene we've used for years. MA found them too warm even then. Cotton gets damp from perspiration, and feels cold especially when you stop moving. However, we found these garments, like polypro/capilene, way too warm for ongoing

strenuous activity in pleasant weather. This seems to conflict with how they are advertised.

We cannot imagine hiking uphill with a pack in 80 degrees covered with Coolmax. The fabric doesn't get wet and cold like cotton, but apparently cotton plays a big role in dissipating extra heat. The effect is additive, so a combination of wicking fabric bra, t-shirt and brief is much warmer than any one piece alone.

I didn't realize how essential this was until an ordinary hike in pleasant 65 degree conditions in a "wicking" short sleeve t-shirt. Fine at first, but in half an hour I was way overheated. Switched to cotton and was immediately more comfortable.

Tried another hike in Coolmax briefs, again had to switch mid-hike back to nylon. The sports bras seem to be less troublesome but depend on how much skin is covered.

These fabrics are showing up everywhere in t-shirts, shorts liners, sports bras, briefs and more. Our opinion is they may be perfect for "stop and wait" sports where high exertion is followed by standing around, for cold wet conditions, or as backup in case conditions change. But in nice weather hiking they're way too warm. If you have a problem staying warm these may be just the ticket. But don't leave your cotton t-shirt at home until you are sure these work for you in nice conditions as well as adverse.—*VB/MA, Arlington.*

PEDOMETERS—Pedometers (*July, page 30*) work by responding to shocks, such as those produced when we step. Each shock is transformed from a moving pendulum, piston or similar device to a scale in miles. To work accurately, the device has to be set to your exact step length (for that day) and you must maintain that length for the entire trip.

Any extra shocks, such as when you "hump" over and under downed trees, will cause the mechanism to chock up additional steps, and your trip "mileage" will therefore be off.

Another device was on the market a number of years ago for runners. Carried by the Yak Works (now out of business), this pedometer/wrist watch counted arm swings, again through a pendulum or piston and sensor. Careful calibration was also important.

The theory sounded good in the catalog writeup. However, I could never match my running arm swing with that which the designers had in mind. It seldom registered for me while running, and never while walking.

There is another approach to distance measuring. Rather than using strides (or arm swings), runners have watches which can emit pacing "peeps" for each step or stride to be taken. Distances are a part of the read-out. There are also optical devices called range finders, often used by hunters, to estimate distances as the crow flies. With a topographic map, compass and inclinometer, one can think out a 3-D route and estimate the distance.

However, there is also the old "Zen" method: if you are about half tired, turn around and go back to the car; or, at the end of your energy, set up camp. Oh, yes, trail signs and guidebooks are useful too, and especially trail reports from *P&P* readers.—*Gordon McDougall, Olympia.*

VISORS—These are a great alternative to hats, but they have been hard to find in recent years. They're cooler than ball caps, don't destroy your hair, but still protect your face and eyes from direct sun. Columbia Sportswear makes very nice ones, and REI will order them for you. They come in lots of colors, about \$10.—*VB/MA, Arlington.*

PCT INFO—While I was on the PCT I was always asking about conditions ahead of me. The users give the most reliable and timely reports.

My request is for *Pack & Paddle* readers to take advantage of the PCTA toll-free number (888-PC-TRAIL) or email (71204.1015@compuserve.com) to report PCT conditions so through-hikers can get up-to-date info when they call in.

Brush, landslides, downed trees and snow are of great concern. If you can be specific about the location using the *PCT Volume II Oregon & Washington* maps, it would help.

The PCTA has a Washington trail coordinator, Rick Johnson, who needs good reports and could use some trail work volunteers as well. His phone is 360-263-4620.—*Ben York, Alpine, California; past president PCTA.*

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EDITOR'S JOURNAL



In the Glacier Peak Wilderness

FROM THE MAILBOX—"Would like to see more descriptions of new gear."—*Poulsbo.*

"I look forward to *Pack & Paddle* every month and read it cover to cover."—*Port Angeles.*

"My favorite magazine! Your paddle reports inspired us to buy a kayak. Now we hike and paddle. My aging knees appreciate the rest every now and then."—*Seattle.*

PHOTO—Usually it's Lee who takes the photos of me that appear on this page. Occasionally, though, one of my friends will pass along a picture that I use here.

This one was taken by my hiking pal Bettye Hensel of Edmonds as we toiled up to Mount Maude a while back.

Bettye, who retired last spring, just returned from a 3-month trip to Kazakhstan and elsewhere, ending in Europe. I'm looking forward to hearing about her adventures.

JETS—VB writes: "Would like to second the worst experience with the jet (see August issue, page 39). It's happened to us several times, the worst in the middle of the Napeequa Valley—yep, we ended up flat on our faces. Makes you happy you weren't in the middle of a shaky log crossing."

Madeleine and Jim Beaty write: "We were hiking up the narrow Spider Glacier a few years back when a jet broke

the sound barrier right above the gap. He was flying low and came right over us. We ran over to the side and hung onto the rocks for dear life, expecting the glacier to split apart or something worse. The noise was horrendous making it a very frightening experience."

TRAIL-PARK PERMIT—Grumbles a reader: "Like everyone else we are upset with the new Trail-Park Permit system. It was supposed to be easy and simple like the Sno-Park system. I don't mind paying my share—for one pass, good for the whole state."

We hope the Forest Service is paying attention to these comments. Surely there's an easier way.

TANAGER—A yellow flash past the office window caught my eye recently. I grabbed the bird glasses—always ready on the counter—and ran to the hall window to find the bird.

As I suspected, a brilliant red, yellow and black western tanager sat in one of the fir trees. It's one of my favorite birds because of its wonderful plumage, but I haven't seen one at sea level for years and years.

Since that sighting I have seen the tanagers a couple of more times.

KNEE—Thanks for all of your encouraging words about recovering from injuries! My knee is much improved and I'm looking forward to hiking in September.

ROAD TRIP—Since I have been taking a vacation from hiking, Lee and I spent a few days driving down the Washington and Oregon coastlines.

We picnicked at Kalaloch, visited Aunt Margaret in Astoria, spent fascinating afternoons watching whales, elk and seals, and finally turned around at Coos Bay.

WINTER RECREATION—State Parks runs two different winter recreation programs. One is for snowmobilers. The other is for cross-country skiers.

Both programs have citizen advisory committees. The Snowmobile Committee has three cross-country skiers on it, and the Sno-Park Committee has three snowmobilers on it. This "cross-over" provides some balance and a way to see the other sport's point of view.

For the last six years (two terms) I

have been one of the skiers on the Snowmobile Committee. This has been a very interesting experience. Although the snowmobilers haven't always agreed with what I said, they always listened. The July meeting in Wenatchee was my last; now it's someone else's turn.

Interestingly, the snowmobile program has sufficient money to run their groomers this year and still tuck a little aside for a rainy day. In contrast, the Sno-Park program is strapped for funds.

I've heard that the Sno-Park Committee is considering adding a "surcharge" to some of the heavily-used skier Sno-Parks (such as Lake Wenatchee and Mount Spokane) to help cover expenses.

We'll keep you informed.

SPIDER MEADOW—We first reported the threat to Spider Meadow about 2½ years ago, when the owners of the private land along the trail began applying for permits to log. Although the Forest Service had long wanted to purchase this land, it was not able to stretch its limited funding far enough.

In stepped (drum roll, please) the Trust for Public Land. This organization worked with the Friends of Spider Meadow Committee to raise enough money to purchase the land outright. Then it worked with the Forest Service to find the funds so the Forest Service could repurchase the land.

Early this year the transfer was completed, and in mid-August I went to a celebration of the purchase at Trinity. The weather was good, the mood was festive, and the speakers were entertaining—especially Joyce O'Neil, who led us in a rousing version of "America the Beautiful." The audience then burst into a spontaneous rendition of "This Land is Your Land."

Trinity is itself a special place. The former mine site is private land and its use for the celebration was kindly allowed by co-owners Reid Brown and Bruce Butts. After lunch Reid gave us a fascinating tour of the historic buildings and mine site.

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Ann Marshall

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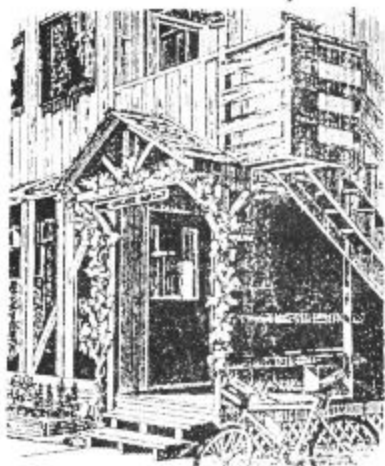
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