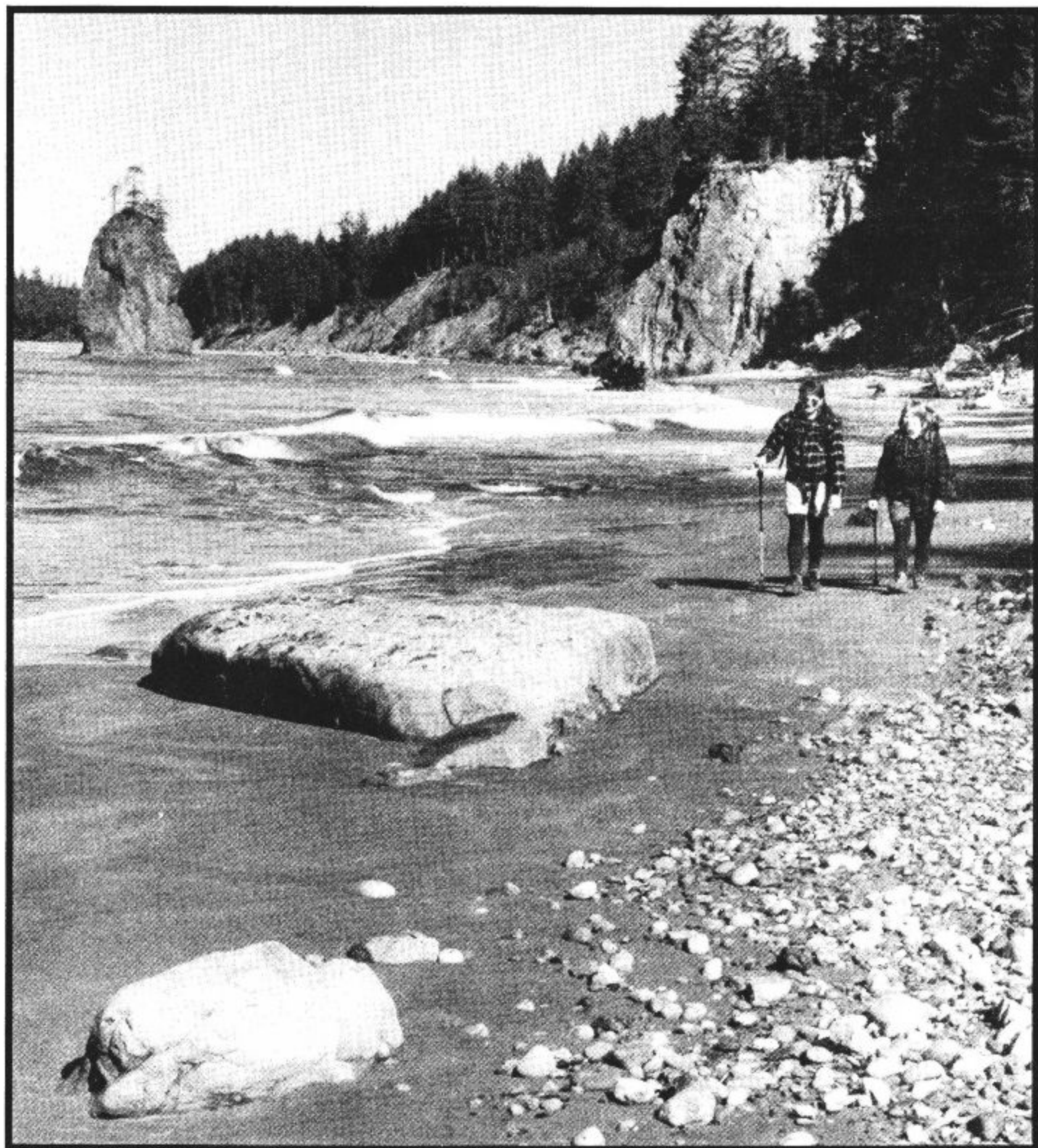


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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 12

RANDOM VIEW—



The Five Backpacking Grannies on the Lena Lake trail, Olympic National Park.

Mary Watson

Features

- 19 Pyramid Creek Loop
Peg Ferm
- 22 Global Positioning
Lee McKee
- 24 Hiking with Crutches
Suzanna Follis
- 25 Mountains for Women
John Roper

Departments

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

COVER PHOTO:

On a winter backpack, Gary and SB walk along the Wilderness Beach north of Cape Johnson, Olympic National Park, Washington. Photo by Lee McKee.

HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

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THOUGHTS ABOUT TRAIL FEES

Well, the word is out. On January 1 we (in the Portland area) will be required to pay \$3/day or \$25/year just to go out and walk through the forest, taking nothing away, leaving only foot-prints.

Doesn't sound like too much, does it?

But think about it this way: Suppose you bought a country home. You don't get out there often, so you hire a caretaker (Mr. USNF?) and pay him good wages to manage your property. Everything is fine until one day you get a notice informing you that your trusted caretaker is now going to charge you every time you visit your property!

If you are a Mr. Niceguy or Ms. Nicelady, you might say, "Oh well, I don't want to be a troublemaker; he's a good worker and it's not very much, and I'm sure he won't raise the fees every year until it's highway robbery ..."

Well, fellow hikers, most of you really are Mr. and Ms. Niceguy, because that seems to be the current reaction. It makes the rest of us, who would rather maintain the trails ourselves than be dunned, appear to be cheap-skates. But it's more than that; there's a principle here:

It is an outrage that we, who are Americans with a tradition of freedom, who pay our taxes, who are not serfs or peasants, cannot walk through our own forest without someone there with his hand out demanding money.

It seems to me that we the hikers, and every one else who loves to walk in the outdoors, should be hitting Congress with a blast that would knock their socks off.

Jim Miller
Portland, Oregon

A LOT OF MONEY FOR AN EXPERIMENT

In early October we stopped at the PCT Snoqualmie Pass trailhead to count cars and found a Ranger ticketing cars. We stopped to chat and were amazed when she said she spends 10 hours a day issuing parking tickets.

The group thought that was a waste of a \$30,000 to \$50,000-a-year Ranger's time. To show how much of a waste of time it was, there were 11 cars at the PCT and 33 at the Snow Lake

trailhead. There was activity at the Alpental Ski Area so we did not know which cars belonged to hikers and which did not. To me, that is hardly worth a paid Ranger's time issuing so few tickets and wearing out a Jeep Cherokee driving around to remote trailheads on a rainy day at the end of the hiking season.

Could you request and print the stats covering the number of all year permits sold and the number of day permits sold in all forest regions of our state? Also ask for the cost of collecting those funds. Senator Gorton, in his letter to me, implied that the information should be available to the public and the USFS is accountable for the use of those funds.

I was speechless when I saw some of the "Parking permit required" signs. Some are so big they require two posts to support them.

A sign man told me that with planning, design, construction, materials, and installation, signs of that size probably cost about \$250 each. Aren't they spending a lot of money for a pilot/experimental program?

Robert DeGraw
Kirkland, Washington

Ed. Note: See page 28 for some answers on trail fees.

THE TEN ESSENTIALS ARE ESSENTIAL!

It was a beautiful August day for a Mountaineer hike, sunny and warm. We had finished lunch and were enjoying lying around at the lake when the leader said, "I don't feel well." It was the start of a heart attack!

While some of us made him comfortable and warm with borrowed clothing and a space blanket, others hiked out to summon help. After waiting several hours a helicopter took our fellow hiker to a hospital.

An outing can change to a life threatening situation in a matter of minutes. If the victim lacks the essentials to sustain life, then others must give up some of their gear, thereby putting themselves at risk. It can take hours for help to arrive. After the injured or sick have been evacuated, it's up to the others to get themselves to the trailhead. Follow-

ing a trail at night is tough without a flashlight! When you lose your way and must spend the night out, it gets cold without your warm jacket.

Is saving a few pounds on your back worth risking your life or someone else's? The Ten Essentials are essential or they wouldn't be called essential. I have one more to add—a good quality space blanket.

Dick Searing
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Ed. Note: In a conversation with Dick, I learned that he had given up his extra clothes to the victim, which left him with no warm clothes for the hike out. Of the party of five who made the return trip in the dark, Dick had a headlamp and only one other hiker had a flashlight.

Luckily, everything turned out okay.

ABOUT THIS FISHING STUFF ...

Hey, wait just a minute now. I just read the "Paddling Yellowstone Lake" story (*November, page 24*) and about how Bob McBride caught and released five beautiful cutthroat trout. There was even a picture of him fishing. And then I read a small piece about how you carefully edit out all references to fishing (*November, page 30*). I think you should make up your mind.

I understand your reasoning, but fishing isn't the only thing that attracts people to a certain spot. When I hear people tell of beautiful waterfalls, meadows, lakes and valleys, I want to go there.

I just ordered some fly fishing gear and have reservations for Yellowstone Lake next September ... no, not really. I'm just poking a little fun at your viewpoint on fishing reports.

Don Abbott
Hiker, backpacker, mountain climber
—and fisherman
Aberdeen, Washington

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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.

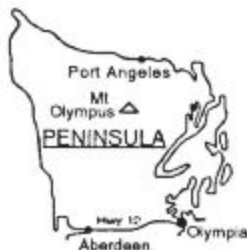
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PENINSULA



MUNCASTER BASIN (USGS Mt Christie, Mt Steel)

—A nice high pressure system settled in, and I had Monday off, so I motored up to Quinault early Sunday morning.

The sun was just starting to light the tops of the ridges as I pulled into the Enchanted Valley trailhead. I put my pack together with the intention of going as lightweight as possible. But my haste to get going from home quickly backfired on me this time ... no food! I could picture the goodies sitting on the kitchen counter at home.

I contemplated driving back to Quinault, but decided that I could do without for a couple of days without dying or anything. The bright side to this was that I could *really* go lightweight ... no stove, no food, no utensils.

This was a crispy and sunny fall morning. The low sun finally slanted through the forest just past the Pony Bridge, producing the "lantern effect" of backlighting the yellow and red vine maple leaves. The elk were milling around at the flats before Fire Creek, and they splashed across the river, sending up diamonds of spray.

I turned left just past Fire Creek and

climbed steeply up through cool forest against a very cold zephyr coming down the valley. Although I was sweating from the exertion, I still needed to put on liner gloves. There was a beautiful orange herd of bracken ferns at the point where the ridge starts to ease off. I angled into the creek bed and the start of crimson meadows. The huckleberries were sparse and overripe, but I gorged on them anyway. Bad choice, Larry! My stomach paid the price about an hour later.

I startled two bears right at the notch above Muncaster Basin. The cub bawled and screeched as it made a fresh trail through the dusting of snow. Mama Bear just sauntered up the ridge toward the "Eagle" peaks, looking like she had just about enough of the young bear's complaining.

I dropped down through about 3 inches of snow into the bare meadows of the basin. The black rocks of Muncaster were nicely laminated with silvery rime. I lamented not bringing my skis, as the two small glaciers on the Eagles were smooth-coated from the recent snowfall.

I set my bivy camp on the crest of one of the small knolls that inhabit the basin. Bonsai hemlocks grew through cracks in the rock, miniaturized by the elements. The north wind blew shimmering droplets off the tips of the limbs, providing a nice shower for a wayward chipmunk.

I grabbed my camera. I flipped the lever to advance the film. The film snapped, breaking apart inside the camera. I was being punished for leav-

ing that luscious, calorific, delectable and scrumptious food bag on the stupid counter.

The moon rose in the early evening, spotlighting Muncaster Mountain with a cold chromium glow. I slept well until about one o'clock in the morning. I cranked one eye open and momentarily froze with bafflement. The Aurora Borealis was gleaming over the top of Olympus! What a show! Magenta, red, and orange, with a touch of green! The sky-curtains ebbed and flowed in ionic splendor for about a half hour before dissipating in a northerly rush.

Oh, for a cup of morning coffee! I decided I might as well start back out.

I drove back to Quinault. Of course, one might think that I should eat slowly and wisely after quite a few hours of strenuous activity and an empty stomach. Do you think I did? Or do you think I stopped at the mercantile to throw down a couple of huge burgers and fries?—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 10/19-20.

DYES INLET (NOAA 18449)

—After spending an entire morning watching whales from shore, a few days later Lee and I decided to kayak out to watch from the water.

If you are from Kitsap County, you

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: December 16

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

know which whales I mean. They are orcas, the L-25 subgroup of L pod, visiting from their usual territory in the San Juan Islands. They arrived in Dyes Inlet, along with members of the J and K pods, on October 22. Although the other orcas left, the 19-member L-25 subgroup has remained, dining on the chum salmon run up Chico Creek.

We picked a foul day, weatherwise, but it was all the schedule would allow. Stopping to pick up fellow paddler Ron Oswald, we arrived at the Tracyton boat ramp about 9:30 and were on the water shortly after that.

The wind was blowing from the south at a steady 10 knots, with gusts to 15, measured by Lee's wind meter. We saw the orcas as soon as we got out to the middle of the inlet.

It was difficult to hold our position in the wind. We tried rafting up with Os, but found it was easier to stay put if we controlled our boats separately. When the orcas came to the surface to breathe, we could hear their exhalations as clouds of vapor rose from their blowholes. Their dorsal fins sliced silently through the water, and we were awestruck when we could see how large their bodies were.

About noon I was ready for a potty stop, so we paddled to Anna Smith Park nearby for a stretch and a bite to eat. By this time it was doing a good job of raining, although the wind had died some, and I was ready to call it a day. Standing on the shore in the rain, Lee and Os agreed, but once we were tucked snugly back in our cockpits, the weather didn't seem so bad.

We headed back to the middle of the inlet again. By this time, several other kayakers had arrived, and we drifted together so the orcas wouldn't be constricted by scattered boats. The orcas made several passes in front of us, then made a slight alteration in their course.

Suddenly we realized that their large black dorsal fins were heading directly for us. I took a deep breath and prepared to brace. Lee tried to get a snapshot

as they approached.

The whales swam toward us on the surface but as they neared us, a couple of them dove. We looked over the side to see a white saddle patch just below us. Whales passed us on both sides, very close. We turned to watch as they passed and saw Os and the other kayakers surrounded by orcas.

We stayed in the inlet for two or three more hours, but they never came that close again. That was the highlight of the trip. About 3pm we headed back to the boat ramp, thrilled we had the chance to whale-watch right in our own backyard!

No one knows how long the whales will stay in Dyes Inlet. For whale information, you can call the Sun's info-line: 360-405-9177. A Fish and Wildlife boat is stationed on the water to make sure they are not harrassed.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 10/28.

Post script: On a subsequent kayak outing, 11/10, we noticed that boats were scattered, not grouped, on the Inlet and that although several boats seemed to chase the whales, no action was taken by the F&W boat. In fact, the Sun reports that no tickets at all have been given to any boaters, even though an uncontrollable mob of boats cornered the whales in Chico Bay on 11/9.

As of press time, the orcas have headed for open water. We were relieved to see them go because of recent concerns about their health.

❄️ **LAKE OF THE ANGELS** (USGS Mt Skokomish)—Parked at the berm up the road from Lower Putvin trail, I loaded up the bargain Karhu Kodiaks (now is the time to buy those skinnier skis that are not in style any more).

The boot track is in very good shape. There are, however, a lot of leaves and mashed-down vegetation which make things a little slick. I found a total of six blueberries still hanging around.


There are still nice bunches of beautiful peach-colored foliage. The meadows

around the first lakelet are sheathed in gold and rust. The new snow reflecting into the water made a wonderful scene. The snow quickly increased in depth as I climbed the little headwall before the lake. I stopped for a snack by the shore, then climbed into the upper basin below Mount Skokomish.


There was just barely enough snow to provide a few turns, but it was nice and powdery over the older base. I had a good time getting back to some telemarks. The salesman at the store had told me the Kodiaks were "lacking in sidecut" for nice turning, but I felt smug as they swished around with hardly any effort. A very nice ski, with great flexing properties and a partial metal edge.

I carefully descended the steep trail in gathering clouds, jumping over the trenches of water in the meadows. I still wonder how these little water-courses form such a deep ditch with the meadow stopping abruptly on both sides. I do see that that soil is very fine there, so maybe they form only in deposition zones of soils.

I descended through the mushrooms and rotting leaves and mildew smells of late fall.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 11/1.

✓  **MOUNT ELINOR** (USGS Mt Skokomish)—We can see Mount Elinor and Mount Washington from our home. About a month ago they were covered in snow. But come the end of October, there was not much snow left on either peak.

Bill and I hiked up the new trail to the summit. It was a sunny, warm fall day. Quite a few people were on the trail. We had a nice view from near the summit where we stopped for lunch.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 10/26.

✓  **HOH LAKE** (USGS Bogachiel Pk)—Three weekends in a row of beautiful weather. Wonderful chance for three friends to go hiking. We chose to start from the Sol Duc



A rainy day of whale-watching in Dyes Inlet. From left: An orca surfaces; kayakers watch dorsal fins go by; an orca dives.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

trailhead as the elevation gain is less and mileage is less. The Hoh River trail is smoother, but longer, more elevation gain, and no views.

It was cold and frosty as we left the trailhead at 8:15am after a 3-hour drive from Aberdeen. In an hour or so, we had removed extra clothes as the temperature warmed and the trail went upward. The first 5 miles are rough and rocky. Then the trail smooths out and we were on a ridge for most of the rest of the way. Forest-to-sky views of Mount Olympus, Mount Tom had a fresh coat of snow, and the sky was a bright blue with not a wisp of a cloud. We passed lakes and lakelets, saw the surrounding mountains with tops frosted with fresh snow.

As so many times, when you do a hike, you find out that the guidebook does not allow for ups and downs in elevation gain. Our mileage was 19, total elevation gain 4600 feet, high point 5500 feet. You lose 900 feet down to the lake from the ridge and have to regain it on the way back. Constance and Judy had not done Bogachiel Peak so they took a quick stroll up there, also. I had a couple of tender toes from my new boots so passed on that one.

On the trail on the north side of the ridge were several spots of hard snow/ice. Two short patches of trail had slid out. No blown-down trees. Otherwise the trail was in its usual good, but rough state. Frosty logs and rocks did not thaw out on the north side even when the day warmed.

We needed flashlights for the last 1½ miles and the going on the rocky trail was slow. It took us almost 10 hours round trip. We saw three other people the whole day. Trail scale: 2+—Edythe, Constance, Judy, hikers from Aberdeen and Olympia, 11/9.

POINT 5345 (USGS Tyler Pk)
—Only 1.7 miles southwest of Mount Constance, this walkable summit is just 15 minutes above the apex of the Tunnel Creek trail. There are expansive views, as well as a mixed feeling of both accomplishment (for the long trek) and insignificance (compared to anyone who might be atop rugged Constance). The round trip is about 9 miles, with a total gain of about 3200 feet counting ups and downs.

As advised by Robert Wood in his *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide*, the easiest approach is from the Tunnel Creek side rather than from the Dosewallips. From just south of Quilcene, follow the initially paved forest road to left branch 2740; take this, at first descending into the Tunnel Creek valley, then gradually climbing along the north side of Tunnel Creek and the west side

of its south branch to the obvious trailhead, elevation about 2400 feet.

The trail along the west side of the creek reaches a fine shelter, kindly rebuilt by Boy Scouts, at 2.7 miles, 3800 feet. Just past here the trail divides; a new route to the right climbs a while before crossing the creek, then ascends roughly east. The old trail (which I think is better) crosses the creek just past the shelter. Both join after a half-mile or so.

Continue to the north end of Harrison Lake at 3.7 miles, 4750 feet. Your craggy objective is just across and well above the lake. Proceed to the high point of the trail (Wood's "Fifty-fifty Pass") at 4.1 miles, 5050 feet.

Just before the high point, find a path that heads southwest into the trees, up the ridge, and onto the open east slope of Point 5345. Soon comes the narrow rocky top, still only a Class I walk. Take off your pack, have a bite, and enjoy the views.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 9/10.

MARMOT PASS (USGS Mt Townsend, Mt Deception)—

Looks like one more five-star day in this string of great November weather. I finished my morning household tasks and drove up to the Big Quilcene trail. The shady spots on the road were icy, and I experienced my first sideslipping of the year. Pulled into the lot at about 10am. The trail was in fantastic shape, and the side streams were running nicely from the melting upper level snows.

The promise of sunshine kept me moving briskly up the hillside. I broke out into full sunshine at the first meadows, looking across to the fantastic spire of The Minaret and the black and brooding hulk of The Castle. There was a light smattering of snow at the pass. Sunshine lit up the brownish rocks with a warm glow. I hung around to soak up the great view. The cruise back down the trail was a joy, and I was

back at the car before dark.

This is always a wonderful hike, coupled with a relatively short drive.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 11/16.

MOUNT TOWNSEND, north route (USGS Mt Townsend, Mt Zion)—On my drive from Bainbridge to Quilcene, I could see some snow on the east side of Mount Townsend's long ridge. I arrived at the Little Quilcene trailhead a little after noon. No other cars were at the trailhead and the ground was still frozen as I started my hike.

Four trees were across the trail between 5000 and 5400 feet. As I came out of the trees onto the north ridge, I enjoyed a spectacular view of Mount Mystery which was already loaded with a lot more snow than the surrounding peaks. As I neared the summit at 6280 feet the wind picked up but not enough for me to retrieve the parka from my pack. There were several patches of crampon-hard snow above 5500 feet.

As I headed back down the trail clouds began to form and spit three or four small snow pellets at me.

Interestingly, I saw no one anywhere on the mountain or on the drive in or out.—BRN, Bainbridge Island, 11/14.

HEATHER PARK (USGS Port Angeles, Mt Angeles)—

We camped at Heart o' the Hills campground Friday night and started up at 8:15am on Saturday.

The forest kept us shaded for awhile, but most of the climb gave us views through the sub-alpine terrain. A chipmunk dropped cones on our heads.

We passed the remains of an old homestead fireplace. If you don't look closely, you'd think it was just another clump in the woods. We came to a sign not often seen in the Olympics: LAST WATER 100 FT. I believe it was on



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REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

switchback 8, where we stopped to gather air.

Elkhorn moss, my favorite, lines the trail. Halfway Rock has been there since the Ice Age and allows an almost aerial view of Port Angeles, Mount Baker and Dungeness Spit. Wood mentions a shelter, but it's gone.

We reached Heather Park at 11, close enough to "do lunch." There are five spread-out camp spots here with a stream. Half a mile farther up the trail is Heather Pass, where I became very excited by the rock columns. I used up most of my film here.

Not having time to do the side peak trips, we settled for a quick snack and stupendous views. We descended the scree slope, traversed beneath the pinnacles on the west side, and made our way to the HEATHER PASS sign.

The Klahane Ridge trail twists and turns to avoid cliffs and chasms. As we ascended the rocky slopes we hiked back and forth, east and west.

We started down toward Lake Angeles, one of the largest high-country lakes in the Olympics. It is tear-drop shaped with a tree-studded isle in the middle. We sat atop a big rock by the water and watched people swimming, log-rolling, and setting up tents—a most popular place!

The rest of our hike was on a broad, smooth trail, with extremely dense firs. It was a 12.9-mile dayhike and we were two happy, wobbly-legged hikers.—KG and DA, 9/20.

MOUNT ANGELES (USGS Mt Angeles)—Starting from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, we hiked with our ice axes along the paved trail, getting a few stares, until we joined the Sunrise Ridge trail. Coming down off this trail we followed it until we came to the Hurricane Ridge trail sign.

We stayed to the left and climbed the very steep .2-mile to Mount Angeles.

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



Kerry Gilles

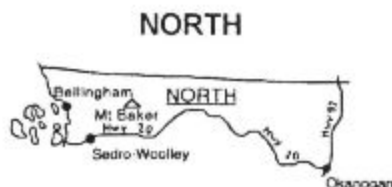
Sedimentary rock tilted sideways on Mount Angeles; Olympic National Park.

Many different trails from goats, climbers, hikers and short-cutters made it difficult to stay on one path. Naturally, as is our custom, we managed to pick what I considered the hardest route up.

After getting on top I said to Don, "I think we're supposed to be on *that* top." We dropped down, scrambled over and climbed the correct one. We were lucky to have a day with great views.

Getting down was a little tricky. We used the rope once just to make it easier. Of course we found the correct and, yes, easier route back. We connected with the Switchback Trail and followed it down to the Hurricane Ridge road, and then walked the 3 miles back up to the Visitor Center. A loop hike of 6½ miles.—KG and DA, 9/21.

BEACH FIRES—A ban on all beach fires from Sand Point to Yellow Banks continues.—Ranger, 11/19.



SQUIRES LAKE PARK (USGS Lk Whatcom)—This is a new day-use area less than a mile from I-5 on the Skagit-Whatcom county line. Take exit 242 (Nulle Road) and drive east on Nulle Road to a parking lot, complete with sani-can, which is very visible from the road.

A ½-mile trail climbs vigorously to the lake which has a level trail along its north side. Other trails continue to a beaver-made bog and alongside the ridge south of the lake. There is a map at the trailhead. Trees are alder, western hemlock, cedar, big-leaf maple and Douglas-fir.—Ramona Hammerly, Anacortes, 11/12.

TIFFANY MOUNTAIN (Tiffany Mtn)—Woefully out of date were my USGS map and *100 Hikes* guidebook, but with a current Okanogan Forest Service map to assist, the trip went pretty much as it would have 25 years ago.

The road to Freezeout Pass (over 6500 feet elevation) is on my 1956 quad. Perhaps it is smoother and wider than in the past, but the trailhead is in the same location as described in my old guidebook (1972) of the North Cascades region. The guidebook has been updated several times since then.

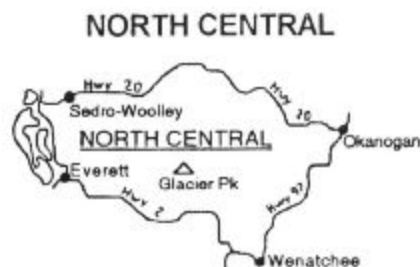
The old 15-minute *Tiffany Mountain* quad was updated into four 7.5-minute maps a number of years ago. The current Forest Service map shows a proliferation of roads in this area not shown on the old quad, but the area between Freezeout Pass and Lone Frank Pass known as the Tiffanys has escaped road building alteration.

The trail has a few blowdowns, but is generally in fine shape. It suffers perhaps from underuse in the high meadows, where it mostly disappears and route finding is done mostly by map work and cairns. Mileage round trip to the summit is a modest 6 miles, with 1700 feet of elevation gain. The extensive meadows above timberline promise a grand flower show perhaps in late June or early July.

Janet Stanek and I imagined we might be one of the last ones on the summit for the year, with snow projected for the high country the next day and the trailhead being a long uphill pull from any plowed areas.

Clouds to the west blocked the more spectacular summits of the area, but the former lookout site still provided inspiring views. We hope to come back for the flower show next summer.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 10/25.

NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY—Still open, but may close at any time.



CRYSTAL LAKE (USGS Pugh Mtn)—We took advantage of today's lack of rain to explore a small lake on the edge of the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Spring and Manning's

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

100 Hikes series—although I own all of them, and consider them valuable resources—tend to exaggerate conditions and descriptions. I was expecting a very brushy trail but I was surprised how pleasant this hike is. The end of the road-trail is muddy as described, but I don't believe it was quite as long as the authors claimed it to be.

The lake is nice, situated in a semi-open basin at about 4500 feet. There was about one inch of new wet snow on the ground and we were the only ones out there. Very peaceful. The roundtrip is about 8 miles. I want to return and make the traverse over the ridge down to Meadow Lake and then back on the Meadow Mountain road-trail.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 10/25.

Ed. Note: In defense of guidebook authors, conditions frequently change in the two years it takes to bring a guidebook from manuscript to bookshelf. Not only that, but authors must do their best to interpret perceived conditions for Joe Hiker, who may have no idea what "brushy" really is.



LOST CREEK RIDGE

(USGS Lime Mtn, Pugh Mtn)

—Took advantage of the good weather provided by El Nino. The trail was snow-free until after I got up to the tree line. The day was glorious, the sky blue, the glaciers blindingly bright, etc., etc.

On the way down I was about half a mile from the car, stumbling along in my usual style, when a grey-brown shape appeared on the trail below me about 50 feet away.

It took a second to snap to the fact that it was a large mountain lion looking back at me. We had a stare-down for a few seconds—or rather I should say that the cat stared at me, flapping my arms up and down and shouting.

I'm sure he was thinking, "What the heck...?" Finally he twisted around and jumped off into the brush. I expect he still has a puzzled look on his face.

Let me tell you, there's nothing in the world like watching a large carnivore decide whether to take you home for lunch. This is the first time in 35 years of climbing and hiking in the Cascades that I've seen one this close and all I can say is that I'm glad I had made a potty stop a short time before.—Bruce Bagley, Seattle, 11/15.



KENNEDY HOTSPRING

(USGS Lime Mtn, Glacier Pk West)—I had heard that this spot was very popular, and Manning describes it as "cruddy, rusty waters." I finally decided it was time to see for myself. Heather and I hiked in on a very rainy Halloween to have the hot spring all for

ourselves! The spring is actually only warm (94 degrees), but it still felt great as it poured and at one point snowed on us! We spent two hours soaking at Kennedy and although the water is a little slimy it isn't that bad.

The hike to the spring is wonderful—gorgeous old-growth forests and the White Chuck truly is a spectacular river. We saw only two passing backpackers.

It stopped raining for our return hike, and we made it out just before dark. We'll probably return some time this winter. Let the crowds continue to come here when the weather is good—I'll take the rest of the year!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 10/31.



MOUNT PILCHUCK (USGS

Verlot)—It was a nice weekday

with nothing to do, so Nimka and I decided to hoof it up Mount Pilchuck. We hadn't been there since the trail work was done. The lower part of the trail, though still muddy in places, is much improved.

Now we came to the upper end with its boardwalks, wood-and-stone staircases (what! no railings?), graveled pathways, and that new section blasted through the boulderfield. This trail is totally defined. Unmistakably unlosable. Incapable of misguiding a single "sole."

Of all the tens of thousands of people who went up Pilchuck a year, SAR would always have to find two or three. Now what are they going to do? No one will ever get lost up there again!

But then, I felt that way about the old trail, too.—David MacFarlane, Lake Stevens, 10/16.



CUTTHROAT LAKES, Walt Bailey Trail (USGS

Mallardy Ridge, Wallace Lk)—Trail is not on any maps but deserves to be. Not nearly as bad a trail as we expected from the hike description. It starts from the Mallardy Ridge road off the Mountain Loop Highway. (Hike 33 in third edition of *100 Hikes in Washington's Glacier Peak Region*)

The gang decided that since Bald Mountain was nearby and it would probably appear "on a list" sometime, they wanted to climb it. We proceeded up a trail to the ridge and then right on another trail to the base of the rock. We squeezed through a hole between rocks to avoid exposed slab. A tight fit for some!

Found a better route, through a cave, on the way down. There appear to be much better routes than the one we took. It was an easy stroll on good granite slabs the last 50 feet or so. It took us about 6 hours with a leisurely lunch and lots of exploration of the many lakes.

The uppermost lake had ¼-inch of ice covering it. A few patches of hail remained in pockets on Bald Mountain and in a few places along the trail. About a 12-mile round trip including Bald Mountain and about 2600 feet of gain. Lots of uphill on the way back to the car.

Trail scale: 2.—Edythe, Judy, Connie, Darlene, Robert, Rick, from Aberdeen and Olympia, 11/2.



WALT BAILEY TRAIL

(USGS Mallardy Ridge, Wallace Lk)—The Walt Bailey Trail in the Verlot district proved both challenging



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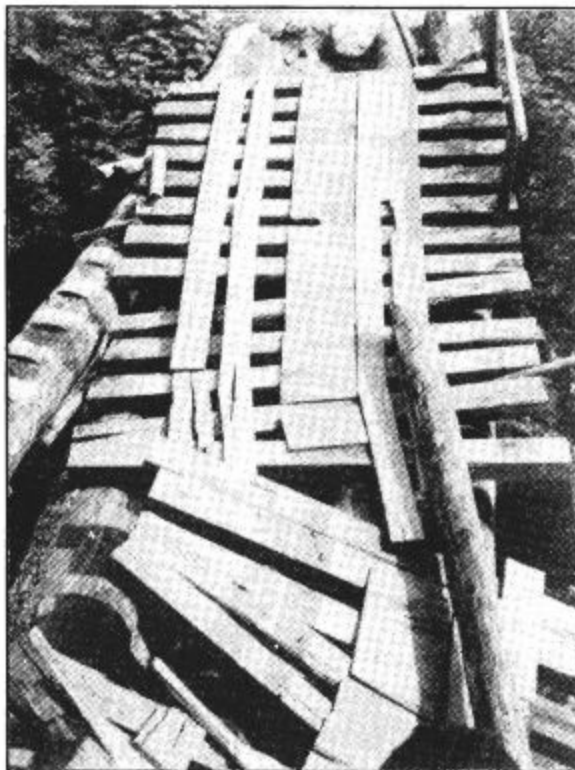
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12/97



The dangerously damaged bridge at Monte Cristo.

and enjoyable as the premier hike of the Meadowdale High School Outdoor Club.

This relatively new trail leads to the Cutthroat Lakes, running past other lakes and crossing several streams along the way. Though on this El Nino Saturday the path was in good condition, rains and snow later in the season will make it very muddy.

The trail itself crosses rockslides, switchbacks, and meadows dotted with frozen lakes. Just over 3 miles in, we came to a saddle with gorgeous views to the north and south, and four primitive camping sites. This spot is great for overnight camping or a lunch stop for day hikers. —Katie Dizard and Sierra Peterson, founders of the MHS Outdoor Club, Lynnwood, 11/15.

✓ **MONTE CRISTO** (USGS *Bedal, Monte Cristo*)—A rainy backpack into Monte Cristo found the rangers warning people of the dangerous bridges. The first one near the Gothic Basin trail is no problem and quite safe for foot travelers.

The one crossing into the actual townsite is something else! It is broken near the center and creates a sharp V to negotiate on both sides. Some of the boards are loose enough to move in the turbulence of the water. It was scary with just a daypack, but many are crossing it with backpacks.

Both the rangers and Preservation Association members say there are no

plans to repair the bridge which is part of the county road.—Käthe Stanness, Marysville.

✓ **BASALT RIDGE** (USGS *Saska Pk, Chikamin Creek*)—I like steep trails that get you to the high country fast, and I like ridge walking with great views off both sides.

This hike has these two features in abundance. The Basalt Pass trail 1530 shoots up a quick mile and a half from its head on Chikamin Creek road to a junction with the Basalt Ridge trail.

Unlike a boot-built scramble path, this trail actually appears to have been intentionally graded at such a stout angle. It caused me to laugh out loud several times as it veered crazy-steep up the slope.

But once that stretch is done the ridge trail takes off north, climbing the ridge-crest. At treeline great views to the west open up across Rock Creek, sharply below.

On this fine October day, Clark and Glacier and all the others were sporting fresh winter coats. Above 7000 feet I was walking in some of that coat, still frozen firm in the weak afternoon light. In the high Chikamin Creek basin the larches were on the fade, their needles browned and lying on the snow beneath near-naked limbs.

About 5 miles from the car Basalt Ridge meets the crest of the Entiat Mountains atop a mound of pumice, and a big eastern view to the North Fork Entiat country opens up.

Below the feet is the main stem Entiat. Farther north up the crest is Maude. Looking back at the direction of approach, the little thread of trail snakes its way up from the dark forest.

The descent goes steadily, closing down each of the views that were opened on the way up. The sky hazes over with a ring around the sun. Back in the woods I scamper the steep track to the car. Not another soul about this day.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 10/18.

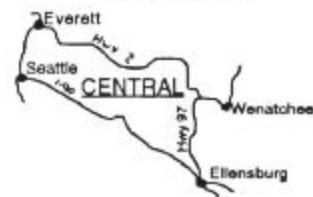
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CENTRAL



✓ **MOUNT SAWYER** (USGS *Scenic, Skykomish*)—Goran and I stopped at the Skykomish Ranger Station to ensure the road was open to the trailhead and we were on our way.

The Foss River road 68 is about 1/2-mile east of the Ranger Station on the right. Then left on road 6830 after passing under the railroad bridge. About 3 more miles farther turn right on road 310 to the trailhead.

The trail was in excellent condition and pretty soon we had gone about 2 1/2 miles and started to look for a good spot to head up to the summit. We chose a location just before the trail started to lose elevation and before entering the trees again. Straight up, toward the rocky summit visible from the trail.

We had scrambled up about 300 feet when we spotted a solitary hiker traversing the slope above us. We shouted greetings and I asked, "Where did you cut up from the trail?"

Response: "On the trail."

"What trail?"

"The trail to the summit." By this time we had reached him and there was this trail that is just as good as the main trail. We followed the trail to the summit, 5501 feet. The views are incredible: south, on the horizon, Daniel, Hinman, Summit Chief, Chimney Rock, Overcoat Peak, Rainier. To the north we could see Baker, the Monte Cristos, Glacier.

After spending an hour on the summit we followed the trail down to its intersection with the main trail. For those who don't know the location, this should help you locate it. At about 2 miles from the trailhead is a meadow between the first peak (5258 on the map) and Mount Sawyer. At this point one can clearly see the summit of Sawyer. Just after this meadow the trail starts to climb and enters the trees again.

Total elevation gain was 1580 feet in and 360 feet out and about 6 miles easy hiking.—Fred Redman, Woodinville, 10/20.

✓ **MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE** (USGS *Lk Philippa, Snoqualmie Lk*)—We had not been in the Middle Fork area for more than 10 years, but the *P-I's* article about it last month sparked our interest.


BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Take exit 34 off I-90 to the Middle Fork/Lake Dorothy road. Our destination was the Dingford Creek bridge intercepting the Hester/Myrtle Lake trailhead (you can drive this distance on a washboard road 1003—about 5 driving miles). A sturdy bridge leads over the clear Middle Fork to the trailhead. The trail condition is very good following close to the river or meandering deep into the forest. Moss decorates the trees and carpets the forest floor like green velvet. A Snoqualmie Rain Forest?

About ¾ of the way we passed over another large bridge. Just beyond the bridge we encountered the only other people on the trail—two mountain bikers. After a loong 5 miles (seemed like 6 miles) we reached the Dingford Creek bridge.

We ate our lunch while visiting with a friendly volunteer Ranger who encouraged us to return and continue on the last part of the trail to Goldmeyer Hot Springs—another 5 miles. At this point all we could think about was the loong 5 mile trip back to the parking lot. The North Bend Dairy Queen was a welcome stop on the way home.—J and D Swaisgood, Bellevue, 10/5.

 **GOLDMEYER HOT SPRINGS** (USGS Snoqualmie Pass, Snoqualmie Lk)—We decided to take a late fall hike and complete our journey up the Middle Fork making Goldmeyer Hot Springs our destination. We were apprehensive because of hunting season but proceeded with caution. We had a good laugh while driving outside North Bend when a large elk jumped out twenty feet in front of our vehicle—not a hunter in sight.


The trail starts downhill to the bridge about ¼-mile crossing the Middle Fork. We continued toward Goldmeyer without seeing or hearing anyone. We climbed over many downed trees, two huge slides (one contained more than 50 trees) and crossed several creeks on slippery rocks. This trail comes up the valley behind Snow Lake, Red Mountain and the Kendall Catwalk, continuing to La Bohn and Dutch Miller Gaps. We stopped for a snack at the Rock Creek/Snow Lake trail. It was obvious these trails are seldom used.

The area was abundant with a variety of fungus and mushrooms in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Deep in the forest we walked on an old logging road passing second growth and many old growth trees.

We continued for another 1½ hours only to have the trail come to a complete deadend at Burntboot Creek. The information we had indicated that we should be right at the Hot Springs;

however, it was nowhere in sight. We returned, disappointed to have gone so far and yet not located Goldmeyer Hot Springs.

I later searched the Internet to find not only information on Goldmeyer Hot Springs but also a picture. This information will lead to a return visit.—J and D Swaisgood, Bellevue, 10/22.

 **GREEN RIDGE LAKE** (USGS Snoqualmie Lk)—This secluded lake is one ridge east of the Garfield Lakes and lies 2500 vertical feet above the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. If you are looking for solitude and a steep, steep waytrail, then this is the hike for you.

Follow the Middle Fork road 4.6 miles past the Taylor River bridge to where you cross Green Ridge's outlet stream. You will see two huge, rusty culverts lying on both sides of the road. There are two small parking spots on your left. Walk back over the outlet stream on the road 150 yards and locate the trail on the north side.

The trail eases up to the base of a ridge that borders the outlet stream's west side. Although it is hard to follow in spots, just stay on the ridge and as you climb it will become more apparent. Fortunately Margaret brought some leftover Halloween candy that made the steep trail bearable.


At about 2000 feet a quick view of Garfield's summit and Little Flat Top can be seen to the west. At 3600 feet the trail will leave the ridge and contour through a talus field and drop down to the outlet stream. Simply follow it without crossing it and you will go directly up to the lake.

We were more adventurous and crossed the stream, but we found on the way out we didn't need to. We ate a quiet lunch in a sunny spot by the lake. You would be hard pressed to find a nicer Veteran's Day, weather-wise. It was warm and beautiful the whole day!

On the way out we got high-centered and had to move some rock to get going again. The Middle Fork calls for high clearance vehicles, not the small Toyota we had!

Three hours up; two hours down.—Mark Owen, Ron McMullen, Margaret McMullen, Shoreline, 11/11.

PS: If you continue up the ridge at 3600 feet instead of following the trail you have access to the Garfield Lakes, Garfield's East Peak, and Treen Peak.

 **POINT 5598** (USGS Big Snow Mtn)—This is a formation of four closely spaced peaks, all roughly of the same height. They lie just to the southwest of the two Hardscrabble


Lakes.

Drive the Middle Fork Road to its very end. Boulder-hop Hardscrabble Creek (the bridge is out) and then head straight uphill on the east, staying above the creek. This is an old clearcut, somewhat brushy but not too bad at this time of the year. At the 4200-foot level we turned up and northeasterly, emerging from the woods at a large talus field. Ascend this and take the obvious ridge to the first of the 4 summits. No difficulties. The next summit over was a triangulation site (embedded pipe in the rock and a large timber in a cairn). The other summits are equally easy.

This is a great viewpoint, the vistas to the south of the northerly aspects of the crest peaks being particularly impressive.

Warning: The Middle Fork Road from the "turn at the Taylor" is worse than ever: We made it with a high clearance 4-wheel drive truck but a Hum Vee would have been preferable. In addition, the river is now running right next to one section of the road and, in flood, will probably take it out.

Time: 7 hours round trip.—Garth, Judy, Rodger, Carnation, 11/9.

 **CANOE and KAYAK PEAKS** (USGS Grotto)—

Johnny and I met Mitch, Grant, Annette, and Cec at the Bare Mountain trailhead, up the North Fork Snoqualmie/Lennox Creek roads. Unfortunately, the day before, the latter 4 had battled the Lennox Mountain brush and decided to forego any more Home Court misery. This day, they opted for a brushless hike to Bare Mountain; but with very little effort, Johnny and I were able to coax Mitch into coming with us.

We hustled up the trail to the first serious switchback at 3480 feet. Here an overgrown miners' track goes right up Bear Creek, while the regular trail switches left to Bare Mountain.

We got sidetracked by some mining ruins, then found a substantial road up the valley in the woods. The cabin shown on the map at 3840 feet is either long gone or we simply missed it, but the number of abandoned rusted relics we ran across far exceeded any we'd ever seen before.

Along the way, we explored the highest mine shown on the map at 4000 feet. We walked back by headlamp into solid granite 100 feet before it angled left for another 100 feet or so. The very end of this branch was not explored, for fear of boxing in any animal(s) that might have preceded us.

Above the mines, open slopes through wilted ferns and talus led to Bear Lake at 4700 feet. Nice flat on the

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS


north side. We marched by the shallow upper lake then cut north, doing some bushy cedar pull-ups to the west ridge of Canoe (peak 5706), 1.2 miles south of Lennox. No real problems. The top offered wonderful views to more than half of Jeff Howbert's *100 Home Court Peaks* (P&P, July '95) and down to Seattle's skyscrapers.

Canoe Peak's name was derived from nearby Lake Kanim (the Chinook word for canoe) which is perched just north of this summit. A mile south of Canoe was another good-looking granite tuft that we came to call Kayak Peak, in keeping with the theme here.

The ridge leading south off Canoe started as a granite cockscomb, forcing us right onto the steep west slope to traverse to the 5280+ low point between the two summits, where miners had cut down the biggest trees. We bypassed good-looking little Peak 5616 (The Dinghy) in the interest of time, then worked our way up the frosted rocky northwest slope of Kayak.

Atop we found a barely readable wet register left by P&P exploring luminaries Mark Owen and Garth Warner on 5/8/94. (Hey, guys, give us a call—let's do a trip this winter.)

Mitch needed to catch his ride back to B'ham, so we looked for the fastest way home. We dropped into Lennox Lake and had an uneventful old growth return to the multi-bermed Lennox Creek road, following it to the main road for 3-mile return to our car (thankfully shortened by a ride from a kind young lady in a Subaru). 3:40 to Canoe, 1:40 to Kayak, 1:40 to road.—John Roper, Bellevue, 11/9.

 **MAILBOX PEAK** (USGS *Bandera*)—We used Ann's instructions (July, page 27) to locate the trailhead. We found the "4841" sign, walked a bit, and said, "This can't be." The trail was supposed to be pleasant, and this trail was very steep.


When we hit this stretch on the return, we considered it level. We just hadn't understood the meaning of steep. This hike is a real knee cruncher. At one point, someone had hammered pegs into a downed tree beside the trail so you could pull yourself up.

The track is always there, going upward, but we still found the flagging helpful. I said "no" to the boulder field and skirted it by following flagging that took me to the left and up, rejoining the main trail in the meadow below the summit.

From there, it was straight up. There really is a mailbox on top, as well as nice views of Rainier and peaks to the north.

We didn't linger because of a cold


southeast wind. As we left the summit, Sparky had a nice visit with PC Packer, whom we had just read about the night before in the November P&P, page 30.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, with Sparky the Hiking Bouvier, Edmonds, 11/2.

 **MAILBOX PEAK** (USGS *Bandera*)—As described in the November issue (page 10) this is a really relentless trail. It is shown on recent Green Trails maps (206 *Bandera*) and is described in Manning's *Hiking the Mountains to Sound Greenway*.

The yellow gate is marked Weyerhaeuser Gate 19. The trail starts near the culvert creek drainage. After going 2 miles and gaining almost 3000 feet in two hours, the trail crosses a fern-covered slope and the tread bypasses the talus slopes through the trees to the left, breaking out on the ridge below the summit.


This summit is usually free of snow and has fine views. There were about ten people on the trail on this warm, sunny Sunday.

Harvey is right—this trail is not for everyone. It gains 4000 feet in 3½ miles and takes about 3 hours to the summit.—Seppi & Art, North Bend, 11/9.


 **DIRTY HARRY'S BALCONY** (USGS *Bandera*)—I checked out what appears to be a "maintained" trail heading west from the Mason Lake trail at the first switchback after the parking lot. After about 20 minutes I came to a trail junction with nice signs—one points to the right and is the "unofficial" flagged trail leading to the ridge west of the Mount Defiance trail.

The sign to the left says DIRTY HARRY'S BALCONY and the easy-to-follow flagged trail traverses without gaining or losing much elevation and takes you to the area near Dirty Harry's Balcony where the abandoned logging road goes up to Dirty Harry's Peak.


This is probably a shorter and easier route to Dirty Harry's Peak than from the Fire Training Center.—Art & Seppi, North Bend, 10/10.

 **LAKE ANNETTE** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—There were quite a few recent blowdowns as we got close to the lake. We were surprised to encounter a cold, 15mph east wind at the lake. It had been very calm down below.

We decided to scrap our plans for a leisurely lakeside lunch and retreated farther down the trail and out of the wind.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Sparky the Hiking Bouvier, Edmonds, 11/9.

 **PRATT LAKE** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—The streams were high, and we hit our first snow patches at 3800 feet. Soon after we came to the big bog. I had a choice of ankle deep mud or slippery, snow-covered, seesawing planks.

The hillsides above Pratt Lake were a nice Halloween orange, and Pratt Mountain had a light dusting of snow. After lunch at the lake, we headed back to the intersection with the Mount Defiance trail and hiked toward Rainbow Lake. We enjoyed the late afternoon sun and views. We decided to turn back when the trail dropped toward Rainbow as the shadows come early at this time of year.—Ben and Nancy Brodie with Sparky the Hiking Bouvier, Edmonds, 10/25.

 **KALEETAN PEAK** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—On Saturday, Doug had opened his pack on the summit and spilled his pager and wallet. He picked up the pager, but didn't miss the wallet until he reached the trailhead. He wanted a partner to go back up Sunday to see if he could find it.

We arrived at the Denny Creek trailhead at about 8 and prepared to set off up the trail. A beautiful husky dog came over to check us out and her human companion called, "Sasha!" I shouted across the parking lot, "Is this THE Sasha?" It turned out it was. Sasha and companion were off to conquer Low Mountain.

It was a cold morning but very pleasant in the sunshine once we broke out of the trees. At Hemlock Pass the wind hit us, whistling through the gap. Some bad ice on the trail down from Hemlock to Melakwa and some big trees blocking the trail causing minor detours.

We went up the right side of Little Melakwa following the route over the talus until we veered left to the main gully route.

Once on the ridge the solar energy of the sun started to warm us again but the wind did its darndest to keep us cold. The ridge is a pleasant climb until one gets to the summit peak. Then it's a full blown scramble again to the top, 6259 feet.

Doug went directly to the spot where his pack had burst open—YES! There was his wallet.

Descending from Hemlock we found Sasha and her companion having a lunch break; they had made it to the top of Low. As we talked it started to snow, a fine powder. It was 2pm by this time and we were amazed how many people we passed, as we headed out, still on their way in to Melakwa, many in tennis shoes and very small packs. Arrived back at the car with about 5000 feet

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

gain for the day and 7¼ hours of hiking, about 12 miles.

Doug was a happy guy having found his wallet, but for the first time ever he said he was tired after doing Kaleetan twice in two days.—Fred Redman and Doug Caley, Woodinville, 11/16.

▲▲ **LOW MOUNTAIN** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—This 5400-foot mountain is on the list of 100 highest Home Court Peaks. The trail starts at Denny Creek at 2300 feet.

On this, our second, attempt, Sasha and I left the trail at the first rock slide beyond the creek crossing, climbing up a dry creek bed to the first cliff, where the going got tougher, with leafless brambles and devil's club. The pitch was steep, and the worst feature was a thick coat of pine needles frozen by a thin layer of frost. I envied Sasha's built-in crampons, while I had to rely on the pick of my ice ax to keep from sliding back down into the rocks.

We were forced farther and farther south, but finally emerged on the ridge top, with a view of Granite Mountain lookout and Denny Lake. The ridge was definitely easier, but there came a series of small rock formations, each of which appeared to be the summit until the next one appeared.

After 3 hours and 45 minutes, we finally reached the summit, at about the time a very cold wind hit, accompanied by a thick black cloud, threatening to

rain or even snow. Thinking about what we had come up, and what it would be like with some snow on it, I decided to traverse the ridge north toward Hemlock Pass, a route that looked feasible on the map—but my map was a 15 minute series, with 80-foot interval contour lines, which hide a multitude of ugly details.

We contoured down from one rock slide to the next, working toward the Melakwa trail just above the two long switchbacks, arriving at the same time as snow began falling. The round trip took 7½ hours.

I can't decide which route was the worst; perhaps the best advice is simply "don't."—Warren Guntheroth and Sasha, Seattle, 11/16.

✓ **GEM LAKE** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—I estimated 150 cars in that Trail Passes Only lot as I started up the 4 mile trail to Snow Lake from Alpentel at noon.

Nice trail on the 1300-foot climb to Snow Lake saddle, but ice on the 400-foot descent to the lake invites extreme caution. Icy trail continues for the .5-mile to the outlet and the 900-foot climb a mile farther to Gem lake. The section from Snow to Gem is the most aesthetic and challenging part of the 11-mile roundtrip hike, although I met very few people up there.

After lolling above Gem Lake a half hour for lunch in sunshine, albeit encased in fleece and windbreaker, I headed on down. Arriving at the parking lot at 4:45 in deepening dusk, I was surprised to see a couple of dozen cars still there. No doubt all trying to get in that last good day of hiking!—WEB, Seattle, 11/15.

✓ **SNOW LAKE** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—Lee and I took advantage of the blue sky to hike this trail that we would never consider in August. We encountered a few small patches of ice in the trail going up to the ridge, but once we dropped down the other side, we had to skirt many large sheets of ice. At the lake, an icy breeze was uncomfortable, so we crossed the inlet stream and headed up cross-country to the little lake half a mile away. It was frozen solidly over, but was very pretty, in an Arctic sort of way.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 11/13.

▲▲ **GUYE, North Peak** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—This is a good "half-day" hike starting from the Snow Lake-Alpentel parking lot. The unsigned trail starts from the service road about 70 feet before the Snow Lake trail behind a pile of gravel and

crosses the open slope before entering the woods. After about 35 or 40 minute, this well-used trail breaks out at the base of a boulder field where a nice sign points to Snoqualmie Mountain and Guye Peak.

Follow cairns and beaten path to the right and in 20 minutes you are at the saddle between Cave Ridge and Guye. A beautiful pond and meadow near the saddle invite camping.

The well-beaten path takes you directly to Guye's North Peak in another 35 minutes. The summit is a short, easy scramble and well worth the views and one of the few summits that can be gained in less than 2 hours from the car.

The parking lot was full of cars and a ranger volunteer was busy putting yellow payment envelopes or green "thank you" cars on cars.—Sappi & Art, North Bend, 11/2.

✓ **PCT, Stampede Pass to Windy Pass** (USGS *Stampede Pass, Lost Lk*)—When we hiked to Mirror Lake one afternoon in August, my friend Paul and I decided to hike more of the PCT. Due to difficulty coordinating our schedules, today was the day. The weather wasn't great, but not bad either.

We left Stampede Pass (3700 feet), finding about 2 inches of snow on the trail. Midway to the Meadow Creek area, the trail was clear of snow, but about this time we started having some mist. By the time we crested the ridge (4000 feet) just south of Yakima Pass (3600 feet), it began raining. Mirror Lake (4200 feet) found us in winter conditions with 6 inches of snow on the ground. Upon descending to Windy Pass, we were surprised to find the trail clear of snow.

It was a wet but scenic 12 mile hike. The snow scenes this early in the season were inspirational. Solitude was certainly obtained; we met only two others, both hunters.—Don Potter, Bellevue, 10/12.

✓ **TUCK LAKE** (USGS *The Cradle*)—Drive from Salmon la Sac to the Deception Pass trailhead. (Turn off Salmon la Sac road onto the road which is signed Tucquala Lake). At the end of the road is the trailhead.

We left the trailhead at about 8am in freezing temperatures. The trail is gentle (but muddy in places with frequent creek crossings) past large and beautiful Hyas Lake and smaller Upper Hyas Lake. Then begins the uphill. At 4.5 miles a sign directed us to Tuck and Robin Lakes. Watch for the sign.

We dropped into the forest and then started up with a vengeance. What



Don Potter

On the PCT below Tinkham Peak, in October's early snowfall.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS


REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

seems so awful on the way up is really great on the way down.

Tuck Lake is a small jewel surrounded by rock slabs overlooked by a rock and heather hillside, with a rocky island in the middle. The small amount of vegetation on the island had turned fall colors and was a delightful contrast to the green evergreens and glacier-smoothed rock.

We arrived at the lake a few minutes after 11am and enjoyed lunch and visiting until a slight, but very cold, breeze came up. We decided to go a few minutes back down the trail to a viewpoint and enjoy the sun some more. After removing all our extra polypro, jackets, and gaiters we returned to the car. We met several people on the way down.


Back to the car by 2:30 much to our surprise as we weren't in much of a hurry. The hike has a distance of 12 miles round trip, 2200 feet elevation gain and a high point at Tuck Lake of 5268 feet. We had hard, crunchy snow at the lake but not on the way up. The views on this hike were probably the prettiest we've encountered in a summer of many miles of hiking. Trail scale from the Hyas Lakes is 2+. —Edythe, Jennifer, Connie, Lynn, Robert, Rick, Aberdeen area, 10/18.

 **LITTLE KACHESS TRAIL 1312** (USGS *Kachess Lk, Polallie Ridge*)—Thanks to El Nino, there is still no snow on many of the mid-elevation trails. I am preparing for a lousy ski season, but an extended hiking season will compensate.

Heather and I tried out the Little Kachess trail along the shore of Lake Kachess to its junction with the Mineral Creek trail 1331.

The campground was closed so we hiked through it to the trailhead. The rain soon stopped and we were left with a warm afternoon. The first 1.5 miles of this trail are deeply eroded in spots and quite steep where the trail goes up and over the many ledges along the lake. The remainder of the trail is quite nice—better tread and better grades on the ledge obstacles. The last ½-mile of the trail goes through a lovely forest on a very old abandoned road to Mineral Creek. Mineral Creek was flowing out of its channel but still very easy to cross.

This is a nice "low-country" hike of 9 miles total out and back; however, for a shore trail it is anything but flat. Almost 1000 feet of elevation will be gained and lost.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 11/7.


 **HYAS LAKE** (USGS *The Cradle*)—The hike into Hyas Lake is an easy 2-mile stroll but for our

eight new Scouts it was a challenging affair to carry heavy packs with overnight gear for the first time!

Once at the lake we set up camp and ate lunch. Realizing we were short a tent, Jace hiked back out to retrieve his two-man North Face. After Eric fell in the lake and soaked his new boots and his only footwear, Jace's trip also would mean dry shoes for Eric.

With Jace and Larry heading back to the car, I led the new boys on an adventurous hike around the lake. At first they balked at the idea of leaving the security of the trail, but eventually the call of the wild beckoned. We saw great blue herons and a beaver dam walking around the north end. Our greatest find, however, was a spring bubbling up blue water from underground.

At night we had a campfire with a native legend about the mighty Raven. The stars and planets came out to greet us. Sunday morning drizzled on our tents before we could pack them away. Our last activity was a church service at the lakeshore. It was a swift walk out as many of the new boys had a soccer game to get back to.—Mark Owen, Shoreline, with Larry Rudolph and Jace Fischer, Seattle, and Boy Scouts from Troop 85, 10/25.

 **COLCHUCK LAKE** (USGS *Chiwaukum Mtns*)—My friend Bob (a rock climber who began his climbing career in this area) and I arrived at a relatively empty trailhead (3540 feet) on this spotlessly clear mid-week day. We followed the standard trail—up the well-maintained trail along Mountaineer Creek, crossing the creek on the nice bridge part-way up. Stone and timber debris pushed off the trail provided evidence of a winter avalanche off the nearby slope.

At the trail junction at 2.5 miles (the main trail ahead goes to Lake Stuart), the trail to Colchuck Lake crosses the stream at a well-marked log jam. Newly cut logs forecast an updated stream crossing soon. Part way up the ascending switchbacks, we hiked in about 2 inches of snow, although the rough trail remained quite passable.

The pleasant sound of the cascading waters of East Fork Mountaineer Creek greeted us, and the numerous open granite knolls along the trail provided scenic vistas to the north and west. Colchuck Lake (5570 feet) was magnificently beautiful, what with the snow covered peaks of Colchuck Peak, Dragontail Peak, and Cannon Mountain reflecting in the quiet waters. A few larch trees near the far end of the lake provided some additional color.

We met only two other hikers. The

return hike was uneventful.—Don Potter, Bellevue, 10/15.

 **ENCHANTMENTS** (USGS *Leavenworth, Blewett, Enchantment Lks*)—After a late 2:30 start I arrived at Nada Lake at 6pm. No one was camped here on this Saturday night but I decided to push on to my favorite "low camp" near the inlet of Snow Lake. A short way up I saw a twosome scrambling down boulders—they informed me a rockslide had obliterated the trail! It was almost dark but I wanted to keep going so I followed the trail to what seemed like close to the last switchback of this section, and here the trail was gone.

I headed straight up boulders with headlamp and sure enough, there was the trail again. This rockslide probably just happened in early October. So for now you have to cut off the last switchback (about 150 feet). Irritating but not too bad.


I made it to my desired camp at 8:15 after a spooky nighttime crossing of the dam (1 to 4 inches of water flowing over) and what seemed like an endless journey around Snow Lake. It was cold (24 degrees) until the sun finally arrived at 9:45!

I quickly dayhiked up and explored the major lakes and ridges above them. About 70% was covered with 1 to 12 inches of crusty snow. Needles were falling off the larches and Leprechaun was frozen already so the area was a little past its October prime.

Near Viviane Lake I had a nice visit with a mother and son pair I've seen up here four years in a row.

After another 24 degree night (this is the coldest I've ever camped and is about my limit), I took another trip up and hiked around Lake Viviane, passing wonderful Excalibur Arm.

From here I headed for the car, seeing only one dayhiker all day. As always it seemed like a long way back.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 10/18-20.

 **LAKE SUSAN JANE** (USGS *Stevens Pass*)—On the way home I wanted to scout the shortcut to Lake Susan Jane. Drive up the Mill Creek road about a mile farther than the 1986 Green Trails map shows the gate.

It was 5:15 when I left but I made it to the lake and back before dark (6:20)! The bootpath is excellent and connects the road switchback to the PCT.

As you walk back down the road, Rock Mountain is in plain view and you can see the trail below the saddle (Snowy Creek approach).—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 10/20.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

JOLLY MOUNTAIN, SASSE TRAIL (USGS Cle Elum Lk)—Follow I-90 to exit 80. Go northeast on Bullfrog Road for 2.6 miles to Highway 903. At the corner and on the right is a Texaco station (their gas is cheaper than in Cle Elum). Turn left and drive about 15.7 miles north to road 4315. Turn right and drive 2.5 miles to the gate (3300 feet). Parking across from the meadow.

Put on your boots and hit the road. We had good views and then broke out into a clearcut. This road did not go as far as it does now several years ago. Not having time to follow it to the end, we surmise it goes almost to the top of Jolly Mountain. It follows trail 1340 northeast, which at 5080 feet is the trailhead to Sasse Mountain and the trail south. The trail south is now closed due to logging, unfortunately.

If you are trying to find a fine dining spot, you just better pack your best sandwich and invite your best friend, because this dining spot is second to none. It is only 9.2 miles round trip and 1780 feet gain.—Wanderbuns & Shortstop, 10/18.

IRON BEAR (USGS Liberty, Red Top Mtn)—I chose the easternmost Mountaineers hike of the weekend to give the best chance of escaping the clouds and rain forecast for the Cascades. I had three wishes after collecting my carpoolers on a dark foggy morning: (1) no rain; (2) fall color; (3) views of Mount Stuart. All three wishes were granted.

After our group met at Mineral Springs Resort we consolidated into fewer vehicles and drove to the trailhead. The access road had one big mud hole but all cars made it through easily. Otherwise it was an excellent road.

The trail starts up from 3600 feet in ponderosa pine forest and is in good condition. There is one minor creek crossing at about a mile and no water after that. I was expecting snow on the high ridges but we had none. We stopped, lunched, and turned around at the 5500-foot vista point on Teanaway Ridge described in the trail book. Mount Stuart was sharply outlined to the north and Mount Rainier was a little hazy to the south about 100 miles, and the top of Mount Adams was more hazy about 140 miles south-southeast.

The larches were all golden in clusters and singly in the high forests. The brush and little maples were also bright yellow and golden. There was also a little orange and rose red. No wildflowers but a very beautiful, colorful day. We met no other hikers, two mounted hunters, and two motorcyclists.

To get to Iron Bear take I-90 through Cle Elum and then go north on highway 97 to Mineral Springs Resort. From there it's 3 more miles north on 97 and then left onto 9714 for 3.5 miles to the trailhead; 2¼ hours from Seattle. See *100 Hikes in the Alpine Lakes* for more details. 6 miles.—Robert Michelson, Seattle, 10/18.

INGALLS, North Peak, South Face (USGS Mt Stuart)—We left Shoreline at 3:30pm hoping to beat downtown Seattle traffic. We lucked out and arrived in Cle Elum at 5:15 in time for dinner.

The stars came out in force as we arrived at the parking lot. Only one car was there. Its occupants had a huge bonfire blazing as we headed up the trail with our headlamps shining brightly. We found it easy going, walking in the cool dark night and we quickly made it to the upper basin where the Longs Pass trail veers to the right.

A nearly full moon greeted us at Ingalls Pass (6500 feet), and also a fierce wind, so we retraced our steps below the ridge and found a nice campsite where we bedded down for the night. The moon rising over Mount Stuart was truly spectacular. Paul called home on his cell phone, as I looked down the Teanaway valley to see the lights of Ellensburg.

The next morning was beautiful, but cold, as we left camp about 7 for Ingalls south ridge. We found 2 feet of snow in

the basin below the South Peak of Ingalls. Unfortunately the snow had a light crust and we ended up postholing most of the way to the col next to the Dogtooth Crags. We dropped over the col between the North and South peaks, traversed behind the crags and climbed an icy gully to the start of the climb.

The rock was cold but free of snow. Paul led all three pitches with the second pitch having a fun 5.4 move. On top we could see a great view of the Dutch Miller Gap peaks.

We made two single-rope rappels to the base of the climb and quickly made our way back to our camp. Two or three more groups of climbers and dozens of hikers were headed up the trail as we cruised back to the car. Needing to get to town for Mom's birthday dinner, we raced back to Seattle.

The next climb will be a slower pace, but it was a thrill hiking in the dark!—Mark Owen, Paul Cho, Shoreline, 10/17-18.

SOUTH CENTRAL



MOUNT WASHINGTON (USGS Chester Morse Lk)—

For a belated 72nd birthday hike on a crisp fall day, this 6-hour partial loop trip had woody trails, waterfalls, Rainier view, healthy 3700 foot gain, and close to Seattle—right off I-90's exit 34.

From Twin Falls State Park trailhead (700 feet), I went up to the old Milwaukee RR grade. There I went left .2-mile to find Mount Washington trailhead on the right beneath a small wooden sign high on a tree—the *only* trail sign I saw from here on.

After several small waterfalls and long switchbacks, I came to two soccerball-size rocks placed at the left edge of the trail. Here I accessed an overgrown logging road cutting back left, and becoming easy trail as the road curved to the right around a hill.

Where the trail met a less-overgrown road on which sat two rock cairns, I went left up this bush-strewn way to a broad, graded road where stand two larger cairns. Here, left again, a half hour road walk open to sun, wind, and Snoqualmie views. Then I climbed a boot track between a Y in the road, up a ridge to Washington's summit rock (4400 feet) where I sat for a quick, windy lunch.



Paul Cho rappelling the South Ridge of North Ingalls.

Mark Owen

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Returning to the two lower cairns, I bypassed the overgrown road and continued on the bushy road to a section of galvanized waterpipe standing at the right edge of the road. Here I descended right on a rocky old road.

Continuing down this old roadbed, I followed the trail as it hooked right, crossed a stream, and became my original route, which I retraced to the Twin Falls trailhead. I'd say six hours is about as quickly as anyone should want to travel this route (unless running) in order to enjoy the hike and views.—WEB, Seattle, 11/13.

✓ **SILVER PEAK** (USGS Lost Lk)—Trip 3 in *100 Hikes in South Cascades & Olympics*. This was a rerun of a 1992 Scout trip where I hiked the lower PCT loop route with the younger boys while our Climbing Leaders took the older boys, including my Richard, up Silver Peak.

The trailhead is just a wide switchback on the road with a hard-to-spot little sign. It's an easy ¾-mile to pretty Twin Lakes (where our Scout troop camped) at 3200 feet. Then a tough 1¾ miles up many switchbacks to the PCT at 4500 feet.

The cool forest was welcome—we were working hard on this clear, warm day. Right down the PCT (north) 1 mile to the Gardiner Ridge trail junction at 4300 feet. Some trail maintenance is obvious (WTA?).

Left onto Gardiner Ridge (an abandoned trail with no sign; it had one in '92). It's very steep going again through open forest and meadows with another little waterfall. Then up 30-foot cliff—challenging but not dangerous.

Seattle Water Department signs mark the watershed boundary, in meadows on the shoulder of the ridge between Silver and Abiel peaks. We follow the ridge line north through meadow and open forest to the saddle just below Silver Peak. We go up a very rough steep scree slope to the false summit at 5300 feet. The views are fantastic and the breeze has changed to a strong wind from the southeast. Now up a much steeper scree slope to the summit at 5605 feet. Hands are required on the last ¼-mile. It's easy to take the wrong path with big time cliff exposure.

Distant haze and smog limited visibility to 80 miles or so. But we got Rainier, Baker, Stuart, the Alpine Lakes peaks, and lakes Annette, Twin and Keechelus. Ravens soar below us. And I am anxious to get down below the summit exposure. Richard and I descended on a more difficult but safer line to the false summit and more food.

Not in a Wilderness, but my best wil-

derness hike of the year. Solitude all but 5 minutes.

3½ hours up, 3 hours down. About 10 miles, net elevation gain 2600 feet, gross elevation gain 3800 feet (lots of little downs and ups).—Robert Michelson with Richard, 9/23.



HUCKLEBERRY CREEK

(USGS Clearwest Pk, Sunrise)

—We have hiked this trail several times before, both from the top down and from the bottom up. It makes a great early and late season hike, especially after hunting season starts.

We parked the car near the Huckleberry Creek bridge which is now the new trailhead. It is about 12 miles on a good trail to reach the Park boundary. Shortly thereafter is an old patrol cabin surrounded by big trees.

It didn't take long before we came across our first blowdown. We became concerned about the trail's state of disrepair after we encountered more and more blowdowns. Some were enormous and difficult to get over. We kept going in spite of the difficulties.

The trail goes through beautiful ancient forest always within sound of the rushing river or in view of it. The first several miles past the Park boundary are relatively flat. Once the trail starts to go uphill the trees become somewhat smaller but are still beautiful.

We started to run into snow after we crossed several creeks coming from the left, the first couple on bridges, but the others were rock-hops. At 5400 feet, in deep snow, we finally decided to turn around shortly before Forest Lake. It was a long hike back to the car with all

the downed trees. I counted nearly 80 on the way out.

Mount Rainier National Park will have a lot of work ahead of them to get this trail back in shape.

We were the only ones out hiking on this day.—Jim & Madeline Beaty, Federal Way, 10/13.



MILDRED POINT

(USGS Mt Rainier West)

—A round trip of approximately 7½ miles with 2700 feet of elevation gain. It's about an hour to Comet Falls and 3 to Mildred Point. Include a leisurely lunch and it's a 6 hour round trip. Plan on hitting Comet Falls around 9am for full sun on the falls, including sunbow.

Chill wind, ice crystals on trail. We drop below and west of Mildred Point for lunch, birthday celebration for two members of the party and to absorb sunshine. A beautiful day.

The trail is imbedded rock but solid tread to Comet Falls, scoured out in places between the falls and the junction to Van Trump Park. Fair, with good footing on Van Trump Creek, from there to the junction to Mildred Point. The upper section below Mildred Point is a deep ditch. Some snow from last winter with a coating of new snow remains in a hollow.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 11/11.



COMET FALLS

(USGS Mt Rainier West)

—Although it was raining, we decided to do a hike anyway. We knew that the trail to Comet Falls was fairly protected by a forest canopy. We were not the only crazy people out hiking on this soggy day. We saw several other people. I carried an umbrella instead of my hiking stick. Even though I was dressed for the weather, it was really nice to have the umbrella to shield me from the rain.

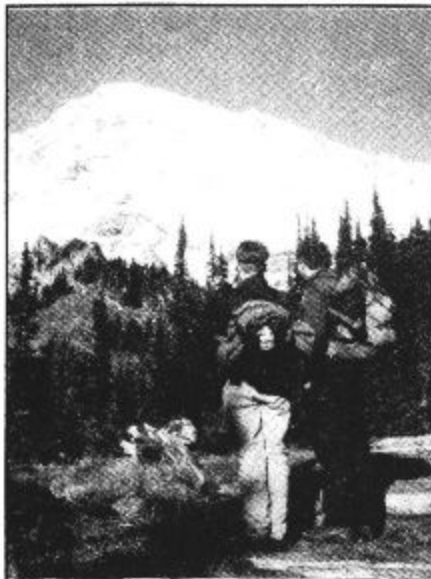
It felt good to get out in spite of the rain. We stopped at the falls rather than going on to Van Trump Park. We were just too wet to continue and there was no view of the mountain on this day!—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 11/2.



VAN TRUMP PARK

(USGS Mt Rainier West)

—We returned one week later to hike to Van Trump Park. Coby Farnham joined Bill and me. It was a fantastic super clear day. It was cold though; the wind was blowing. We were amazed to see one couple hiking in shorts with bare legs and cotton t-shirts and just a fanny pack—I would have frozen! I had on lightweight long underwear and lined wool pants, a polypro top, wool shirt and took along a sweater, hat, gloves



Coby Farnham and Bill Lynch watch mountain goats at Van Trump Park; Mount Rainier National Park.

Jane Habegger

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

and Gore-tex coat.

We stopped briefly at Comet Falls before continuing to Van Trump Park. It was so clear and beautiful at the park. Coby spotted several mountain goats. We enjoyed watching them through his binoculars the whole time we ate our lunch. The mountain was so pretty and there were very few people above the falls. Most stopped at Comet Falls, including the people dressed for a summer hike.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 11/9.

UNICORN CREEK (USGS Mt Rainier West, Tatoosh Lks)
—Originally intended to hike Mazama Ridge for fall foliage photos but lingering snow above Stevens Canyon Road forced detour. On previous hikes I was impressed by the views of the summit block on Unicorn Peak and of Foss Peak and Mount Rainier from near the saddle at the head of Unicorn Creek.

Headed there with 4x5 camera on frame pack, not a good scramble pack. Icy trail tread rested on top of 3 inch ice crystals, like walking on egg shells. Edges of Snow Lake, 4679 feet, frozen. Unicorn Creek is mostly subsurface from near Snow Lake to about 5600 feet.

The grade on unstable rock rubble gradually steepens from Snow Lake until it is nearly vertical just before entering the basin at the head of the drainage. The basin is snow covered, new snow on a remnant snow pack, icy, ice axe recommended. Stiff cold wind at 6100-foot saddle. Up ridge toward Foss Peak a few hundred feet to camera point with good views of Foss, Rainier and Unicorn. Then to sunny warm west slope to open meadow and views of "backside" of The Castle and Pinnacle, also Wapenayo and points south.

Trip up took 4 hours (about 2.5 miles) back down about 2½. Very cautious with awkward pack on unstable rock and traveling alone. None of the above recommended.—Paul G. Schaulfer, Olympia, 10/20.

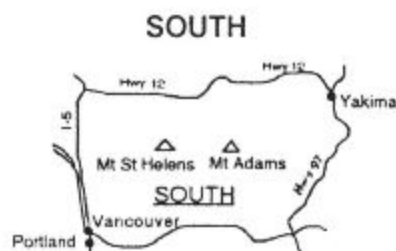
NACHES LOOP, SHEEP LAKE (USGS Chinook Pass, White River Park)—To our surprise, Naches Peak had only a dusting of snow from the October snowfall. We wanted to bag some miles to help finish our 500-mile goal for the year so we set out with that in mind.

We left Tipsoo Lake going counter-clockwise and soon encountered superb scenery. It was quite cold. The trail was a bit icy in places and the trees had a faint dusting of snow. Soon we got onto the huckleberry slopes which were fiery red with backlighting and the trees on the upper slopes of Naches Peak were almost white with new snow. A bit of

fog drifted in and out, adding to the grandeur before us.

We continued our hike past Dewey Lake overlook, encountering several other parties. We soon crossed Highway 410 on the footbridge and headed out to Sheep Lake. There was a bit more snow in that basin. It made for a beautiful setting around the lovely lake.

We had lunch on some rocks, trying to stay warm with the aid of our inflatable sit-pads (they are dandy!). We headed back to the overpass, this time making the Naches Loop clockwise. We never did see Rainier on the way back due to fog.—Jim & Madeleine Beaty, Federal Way, 10/5.



MUDSLIDES—Saint Helens sent three mudslides down its slopes during the week of 9/17. Portions of some trails were closed for safety reasons.

The largest wet debris avalanche was 50 to 80 feet thick and slid down the north slope over Loowit Falls and into the North Fork Toutle. Some material entered Spirit Lake, washing out one hiking trail in at least two locations. Another slide deposited 3 to 4 feet of material over an area 125 feet wide near the Blue Lake trailhead. A third slide occurred in the same area.

Mount Adams sent its first slide down the slopes on August 31 (see *October*, page 23). The massive, 3-mile-long slide, apparently triggered by rockfall at the head of Avalanche Glacier, tumbled about 6000 feet to just above the Round-the-Mountain trail, which was not damaged (hikers are advised to avoid this area, however).

Another slide on 10/20 sent as much as 5 million cubic yards of rock and debris down from the mountain's upper elevations, leaving a 3-mile-long swath on the southeastern flank.

The US Geological Survey noted that the mudslides are most likely a result of a combination of weakened rock in the upper elevations, and the heavier-than-normal rainfall and snowpack of the last two years.—Ranger, 11/97.

INDIAN HEAVEN TRAIL 33 (USGS Sleeping Beauty)—Started from south Seattle at 5:30am. Down I-5 to Woodland, longer but

easier pre-dawn driving. At the Cultus Creek trailhead at 10:30, sunny and cold! We have the trail to ourselves, shared the roads with the elk hunters.

Lots of "frost heave" ice on the trail. Patches of October's snow near Cultus Lake (frozen). Had lunch here in warm sunshine. Deep Lake (not Frozen) was windy and cold. Continued down the PCT about 1 mile from Deep Lake, out of wind. Decided not to do a loop past lakes because of snow patches and ice. Thought there might be more meadows near lakes, trail mostly in the trees. Clear view of Mount Adams 1 mile from trailhead.

Back at trailhead at 2:30pm. Great views of Rainier and Saint Helens from approach roads, and a good cold-day weather test of our gear and ourselves.—SHA, Seattle, 11/15.

CANADA

PEAK 6600, "Clarinet" (map 92 J/2)—One of the few easily-accessible alpine areas in Garibaldi Provincial Park is the series of "Musical Bumps" just southeast of Whistler Mountain. The official bumps are Piccolo (6600 feet), Flute (6550 feet) and Oboe (6350 feet), the high points between Whistler Mountain and Singing Pass. Just to the east of Singing Pass is a large but gentle 6600-foot promontory which is unnamed on the maps; I've dubbed it "Clarinet" in keeping with the musical theme of the area. I recommend it as a destination because of its solitude and fine views.

The shortest approach to Clarinet is the Singing Pass trail, which begins at 4000 feet at the end of the 3 mile Fitzsimmons Creek road from Whistler Village. The pass is reached 4 miles up the trail through deep dark woods; continue in more open country toward Russet Lake, 1.5 miles ahead. Anywhere between Singing Pass and the high point near the lake, leave the trail and hike leftward uphill through meadows to the broad top of Clarinet. By this route the round trip is about 10.5 miles with a gain of 2600 feet.

Better by far is the longer trek from the Whistler Mountain gondola. The glorious scenery along this entire route is well worth the costly gondola ride. From the upper gondola terminal (6030 feet) follow the trail southeast over Harmony Ridge, over the Musical Bumps, and down to Singing Pass (5650 feet). Then, as above, turn right toward Russet Lake and ascend left anywhere along the way to Clarinet.

If you return to the upper gondola station (be sure you get there before it

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

shuts down) the round trip is about 14 miles with a gain of 4200 feet. If you descend on the Fitzsimmons Creek trail, you must walk the road to the village unless you have arranged alternate transportation at the trailhead; by foot alone, this loop trip is 14 miles with a gain of 2400 feet.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 9/17.



PEAK 6300, "The Reed"

(map 92 J/2)—If you find yourself amid a throng atop Flute at 6550 feet and seek a bit of seclusion, consider wandering .5-mile away to Flute's northeast ridge; at 6300 feet and out of sight of most trail walkers, this little top is not only quiet, but also affords lovely views down into the alpine valleys at the heads of both Flute Creek and Oboe Creek. The nearby high peaks to the north and east are close enough to touch. The woodwind theme of this area compelled me to call this special place "The Reed" because of its thin fin-like shape.

From the upper gondola terminal follow the Singing Pass trail southeast to the broad summit of Flute; leave the trail and head northeast along cliff tops about .3-mile to the edge of Flute, drop to a narrow col at 6250 feet (passing a large memorial cairn with crossed skis) and continue hiking to the top of "The Reed." Returning to the gondola by the same route yields a round trip of about 8 miles with 2100 feet of gain.

For a more sporting route, leave the

trail near Symphony Lake and contour to the headwaters of Flute Creek (elevation about 5700 feet); then walk up steep talus and heather slopes to The Reed's summit. As with all hikes in this area, other peaks and points can be included and several loop trips are possible.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 9/21.

OREGON



MUNRA POINT (USGS Tanner Butte, Bonneville Dam)

This unique little jaunt is perfect if you have just a half-day for a quick hike, but still want to get some exercise and great views. The trailhead is 40 minutes east of Portland on I-84. Take a right at the bottom of the ramp at Exit 40 and immediately park in the small lot at the fork in the road.

Walk west, crossing an original Columbia Gorge Highway bridge, past a Gorge Trail 400 sign, and up the hillside to your left. The route follows the Gorge Trail west, just above the Interstate. After a mile, just before the next major creek drainage, a small path turns left up the hill.

The trail, advertised to gain 1900 feet over a 2.5-mile length, has just squandered the first mile with no net elevation gain. A small TRAIL NOT MAINTAINED sign is quickly passed, and then up it goes.

The way is not bad at first, with real switchbacks and all, but then it gets

rough. There is a bit of a scramble straight up the hillside, a few more switchbacks, then another scramble up a little gully, followed by a few more switchbacks. At the ridge crest is an open area of scrub oak, with a viewpoint looking down to the highway down a short side-path.

The route now stays on the quite narrow ridgetop, mostly in trees but with a few openings for breathers. There are a few steep steps that require very short scrambles. Just before the top is a final 20-foot stretch of steep rock that looks much more intimidating than it is.

Once past this gully you are at what makes the excursion so unique. Munra Point is the centerpoint of three radiating ridges. Each ridge is grassy and open, but very sharp-crested. The final 50 yards of the trail follows the crest of one of these fins (it is perhaps three feet wide) and then traverses 50 feet on airy little ledges before climbing the last ten feet to the summit.

The summit has room for just a few people, but is quite a perch. It has nice views of the whole western end of the Gorge, but the position, held up high in the sky by those three delicate spokes, is what makes the trip. After a spell we went down, and were at the bottom in thirty minutes.

I would not do this hike when it was wet, and I would not take anyone that is spooked by a little exposure.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 10/26.

BULLETIN BOARD

Notices on this Bulletin Board are free to subscribers and may be "posted" for up to three months. You may list your used equipment for sale, post lost-and-found announcements, locate partners for trips, or other non-commercial items.

Commercial advertisers are welcome to contact the Pack & Paddle office for ad rates.

FOR SALE—Camp Trails Vagabond pack in new condition (used on four urban hikes). The pack converts to a suitcase with a zippered flap which can be used to enclose the hip and shoulder straps. Will not fit a person over 6 feet. Perfect for carry-on air travel and light mountain hiking. Original price was \$150. Will take \$50. 206-644-4007 (Seattle).

FOLBOT KAYAK FOR SALE—two person folding kayak with sailing rig. Very stable, good condition. Paddles, spray skirts, cushions, etc., all included, \$850.

Also very strong kayak or canoe portage carrier, \$100. 360-385-0202 (Port Townsend).

FOR SALE—Koflach plastic mountaineering double boots. Excellent condition, used on two climbs. Men's size eleven. Vibram soles. \$175 new. Pack & Paddle reader can have for \$15 to cover my postage and packaging. Larry Smith, 360-895-4710 (Port Orchard).

FOR SALE—Two trained pack llamas with great pack system. 360-425-6495 (Kelso).

FOR SALE—Book: last 40 copies of *North Cascades Highway Guide*, 2nd edition. 63 pages; 30 trail descriptions. \$4.50 (includes postage and handling).

Fred Darvill, 1819 Hickox Rd, Mount Vernon WA 98274.

FOUND—Camera at the toilet at Snow Lake trailhead in October. Identify to claim. Call Art at 425-888-6518.

FOUND—Tent fly on Mildred Lakes waytrail, 9/21. Identify to claim. Call Joe at 360-871-0291 (Port Orchard).

FOUND—Jacket near Ingalls Lake. Identify to claim. Call 360-754-7203.

WINTER CLIMBS—The 2nd edition of *Winter Climbs: One Day Ascents* is now available. This paperback guide covers mountains for the climber, snowshoer and skier from the Canadian border to Snoqualmie Pass area.

The revised guide has over 160 peaks with info on location, access, route(s), time, and avalanche hazard. The cost including mailing is \$12.00.

Write to: Dallas Kloke, 4012 M Ave, Anacortes WA 98221-3350.

PEG FERM

Pyramid Creek Loop

—EXPLORING THE CHELAN MOUNTAINS—

Monday, August 19

The Pyramid Creek trail 1439 is an easy access route into the high country. The North Fork Entiat is all motorcycle-free now, though my hike book is too old to know that. The road in is so easy—30 miles of paving, compared to the Chiwawa River road which is 25 miles of dust-sucking washboard.

Pretty country. Dry side. Trail starts at 4000 feet, and we're probably up around 6000 feet or so at our first camp.

The trail is easy. As the book says, the steep parts are very short. Most creek crossings have, just within the month, been improved by flat-topped log bridges. Mostly the trail is in forest, but at about 3 miles or so is one camp, and little meadows and views start to appear. There aren't really any other camps until 5 miles.

We're in the second of two very horsey and much "improved" camps, with log rounds for sitting, and hitching rails. And a pile of sawed rounds for firewood, not that we'll have a fire. And garbage, too, sorry to say.

The bugs really have not been too bad,

compared to elsewhere this year. There were only a few black flies and mosquitoes in the woods. Here at this camp are mostly mosquitoes, but we have parked in the only boggy area (probably) in the entire Entiat drainage.

The meadows are very beautiful—paintbrush (a nice pink type), asters (three kinds), columbine, campanula, lupine, potentilla, gentians, penstemon, larkspur, some kind of lousewort, shooting star, a small buttercup, and some I can't name. There was buckwheat in a dryer area, and twinflower and Jacobs ladder in the forest.

We've seen no one at all, all day. Pyramid Mountain is off to the east, still catching sun. It's cooling down fast.

You could make a longer loop out of this than we're going to, by taking the Butte Creek trail to Pyramid Mountain and Pyramid Mountain trail to here, the intersection of Pyramid Creek and Pyramid Mountain trails.

Tuesday, August 20

More flowers for the roster: red and white paintbrush, another lousewort,

phlox, another buckwheat, some kind of lewisia (not Tweedy's), scarlet gilia, Queen Anne's lace, heather.

Wildlife: lots of coyote scat and tracks. Deer prints. Heard marmots, pikas. Only a few squirrels and chipmunks, odd (what do the coyotes eat?).

Birds: warblers. Clark's nutcracker. Two hummingbirds, mistaking my red camera case for a mother lode of nectar. Nuthatches. Chickadees, feeding babies. Juncoes. A small hawk, sailing out over the rim, 20 feet or 400 feet, what does he care? Feathers on the trail—someone's moulting.

Pyramid Mountain trail 1433 climbs from our meadow camp, steeper and steeper toward Grouse Pass. Right before the pass it relents, breaking out into lovely gentle switchbacks, which are nice because you get to look in all directions; worthwhile at this point.

Dramatic scenery all around—rocky ridge of Pugh Mountain, Pyramid Peak (you can see why it's so called from here), and the long valley of Pyramid Creek. Larch are the dominant tree here; what a show it must be in fall!

There's an extremely cute and cozy camp inside a natural wall of rock, but no water.

The trail drops like a stone down the other side, no fiddling around with switchbacks here. Down, and down, finally two creek crossings and more up-up-up and over a rocky knee of the mountain (Cardinal Peak) we're side-hilling.

You can see why at the top, it's quite precipitous for hundreds of feet below.

The book says go on past the intersection of the North Fork Entiat trail (our route down) for nice camps. True, I guess, if you don't mind horsey camps. There are some non-horsey ones in trees, and one across the meadow from the horse camp. It's buggy here too. Pretty, but buggy and not nearly the flowers.

The creek here seems to be quite a major one yet doesn't show up at all on the map. I wonder if it dries up, some years? We have seen no one all day. Again.



Greg at Buck Camp, on the Pyramid Mountain trail.

Peg Ferm



Fern Lake.

At Grouse Pass, the rock is granite. Miles along, it gets to be a mix: granite, probably diorite, a lot of striped metamorphic-looking stuff, and finally, in the meadow, a lot of *pumice*! Who burped that up, I wonder? I've been complaining I haven't seen a *single* volcano this trip; I've come to expect, at 6000 and 7000 feet, a view of *some* volcano or other, as part of the natural order of things.

The pumice floats, by the way, although some pieces seem to become waterlogged quickly!

Wednesday, August 21

Well, Glacier Peak, or course. It's due west of here, and I imagine we'd have had a fine view of it today from Saska Pass if it hadn't been socked in.

At 7400 feet, it's the high point of this trip and was certainly impressive even in cloud and drizzle. It's a short 2 miles from this camp, winding around the basin that is the headwaters of the North Fork, full of chubby marmots. Toothed peaks ring the basin: Cardinal, Emerald, Saska, and the wildly striped Gopher Mountain.

From the pass, west facing, we saw what I think are the lower snowy slopes of Glacier, and the rugged line of peaks that must be the Entiat Mountains. The day dawned gray, but we went off anyway, and were sprinkled on most of the way, but never very hard. In this light rain, the air between drops still feels dry.

At the pass, we could see it was wetter in the next valley west. And prob-

ably wetter still the next valley west, and so on.

The valley we're in—the North Fork Entiat—is the last one before Lake Chelan. Next west is the Entiat proper, then what? Mad River? Then the Chiwawa, then Lake Wenatchee. I bet it's good and wet there.

I was glad to be there, at Saska Pass, with the fanged summit of Saska Peak grinning over at us. This is such spectacular country, and so empty.

Finally, this afternoon, while holed up in our tent in more rain, another two

people came into the meadow to camp, soggyly.

For the flower list, swamp laurel growing about 1 inch high here, and about 6 leaves per "bush," and two charming miniature flowers each! Marvelous.

Looking at the map, all the area between Pyramid Mountain-Cardinal Peak-Emerald Peak and Lake Chelan is unmarked by trail or road. It looks precipitous. Peaks are about 8k-plus, dropping in 3 or 4 miles down to Lake Chelan. No-man's land, not even Wilderness. I wonder if you could find a way from Grouse Pass, where we were yesterday, into the headwaters of South Fork Bear Creek, running straight down into Lake Chelan.

Ah well, imaginary journeys.

This is such dramatic country and so easy to get to, I am amazed at how lightly used it is. The trails are in good shape, too. Maybe everyone has old hike books, like me, that say it's motorcycle country. But clearly it hasn't been for years.

I am easily amused; I am quite entertained by chucking these pumice pebbles in the creek and watching them float downstream.

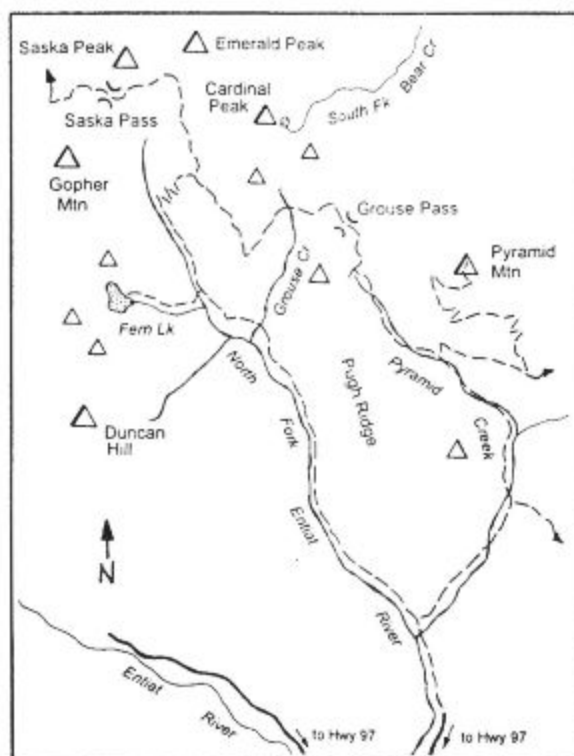
Thursday, August whatever

We saw two more people, early, as we damped packed ourselves up in the morning. Early birds, just passing through.

The weather closed in last night and really gave us a true rain. Everything wet, air wet, ground wet. In the early morning I saw the moon and stars through a rack of drifting high cloud, but when we got up the clouds had lowered and we were well socked in. It began to break out around midmorning and was bright and beautiful the rest of the day.

We climbed a steep mile down from our meadow to the valley of the North Fork. Agree with the book: it would be unpleasant to climb up in full pack. Found a camp at the Fern Lake trail intersection. There are several, two are trashy. A log 200 feet upstream from the ford at the trail crossing is the best bet, this year anyway.

Wildlife day—a deer wandered into our meadow camp this morning, and another deer (presumably!) wandered into our riverside camp this evening. We saw a mama spruce grouse and two fuzzy baby





Peg Ferm

Larch at Fern Lake.

grouse in the woods on the way down.

We had lunch and dried things out in the sun by the river, then headed up to Fern Lake (6900 feet). This is a mean trail, pleasant the first ½-mile, then shoots up nearly 1500 feet in the last mile. We were delighted not to have on full packs.

No ferns at Fern Lake, not likely at that elevation. No ferns down here either; what on earth were they thinking of, those lake-namers?

It's beautiful though, tucked in an unlikely hollow in this jagged spiked ridge. Almost entirely rock, with a few stubby and wind-bitten larch. Ice scouring visible near the outlet. Spectacular, remote-feeling, though it shows signs of heavy use. I bet it's crowded on weekends, but we had it to ourselves today.

There are some places to camp, for the iron men and women, and for fools, for helpless lake-lovers. The best-looking ones are on the high rim of the lake, south of the outlet. Too cold for me to get into, even colder than those tarns up above Necklace Valley. That was where Gregg said that if he'd had the camera ready, he could've gotten me going in and coming out all in the same picture.

Strange sight at the lake: a spurt of wind on the water surface that sent up a spray of water as if someone had blown hard upon a basin of water with a straw. Saw an ouzel in the river, coming down.

Friday

Out-day is always so different in attitude. Much less present, as I begin thinking about hot showers, my house sitter, clean clothes, salad, the cats, potato chips. Not necessarily in that order.

But we had deer diversions to begin the day. Another doe (not the same as last night's) came nosing around, obviously very tame. Came alert and came forward like a dog when I opened a ziplock baggie! Later on, tried to steal a dishcloth off a line. We couldn't turn our backs on the kitchen.

Another smaller doe came up later, only to be repeatedly chased off by the first one. Doe #1 concluded her visit by licking the outside of a water jar left unattended. We debated—will a little deer spit hurt anything?

The trail out is a cruise. Six miles of up-down-mostly level, very pleasant but non-dramatic forest. Met three parties heading in. I bet they were all going to Fern Lake, too. It's the only lake in the whole North Fork drainage, I think.

So if you want lonesome, skip Fern Lake and go up to the high peaks, passes and meadows in the area east of

the river—solitude abounds.

Reading material this trip: *The Beginning Place* (sci-fi) by Ursula K. LeGuin, and *The Religions of Man* (non-fiction) by Huston Smith. Recommend both.

Kept feeling the ghosts of both dogs accompanying us. Little fierce Bandit, nosing the back of my knees, sitting (but quivering) in the presence of deer at the command "NO CATS" (given for anything he'd like to chase), folding himself up small in the tent. Earlier times, Meatball frisking, hardy athlete until her final illness, making friends with everyone, carrying sticks from the woods or even rocks from the river in her mouth. A long time ago, now.

So now I sit, showered and soaked and washed and fed, at the poolside of a mid-grade Wenatchee motel, listening to the city's dull roar, instead of the multiple voices of the river. Wild kids in the pool instead of ouzels and deer. The places man creates are very strange. It's another country.

25½ miles, 5700 feet, in a leisurely five days.



Peg Ferm, of Monroe, is a landscape designer. She has been hiking ever since she arrived in Washington in 1976.



Nosy deer at Deer Camp.

Peg Ferm

LEE MCKEE

GLOBAL POSITIONING

—TOY OR TOOL: ONE HIKER'S OPINION—

Boy, this is tough—writing an article 79 feet *under* Puget Sound! But that is where my fancy Global Positioning System 38™ Personal Navigator™ by Garmin says I am.

At least that is what it said a few minutes ago. Now it says I am at an elevation of 129 feet. Funny thing, though, I haven't changed my position at all! That's just one of the things I've learned since becoming an owner of the GPS38—altitude measurement is *not* one of its strong points.

In fact, in his book *GPS Made Easy* Lawrence Letham states, "If you really need to know your altitude, use an altimeter; the GPS receiver's altitude measurement is not good enough."

So what good *is* a GPS? Ever since they came on the market I have wanted one. I'm a sucker for advertising hype, and ads I read made a good case that a GPS was another "essential" for back-country travel. Expense and weight of earlier units kept my desire in check. But they have both been coming down, so earlier this year, with a few extra dollars in my pocket, I took the plunge.

A number of brands are on the market. I went with the GPS38 by Garmin because of its light weight—and it was available in the store I happened to be shopping in at the time. So much for comparison shopping!

After spending a few hours getting acquainted with it, I tried to demonstrate its abilities to Ann. Her reaction was, "This is just another Cracker Jack box toy!"

I had to admit that it really wasn't behaving like the ads had led me to believe. In fact I was starting to think that I would have to be the one to lead *it* out of the woods rather than it leading *me*.

The temptation was to set it on the shelf and chastise myself for once more falling prey to hype.

The Global Positioning System concept is simple—circle the Earth with a bunch of satellites emitting position signals, then use a special receiver to pick up those signals and convert them to your position. How can it not work

well? So I went back to the instruction booklet to try again.

I have a degree in engineering and years of experience deciphering instructions, but the owner's manual was a big stumbling block for me. It's not that it's technically challenging, but it is difficult to understand. I spent an inordinate amount of time over a number of days reading and rereading the various steps. More than once I came close to chucking the whole thing, but finally got the hang of how to operate it.

Any GPS unit has to be able to receive satellite signals in order to determine position. It needs to be able to "see" a minimum of three satellites to function—things like forests, valleys, or buildings potentially block the signals so its ability to work under those conditions is extremely hampered.

Knowing that, I decided to give it its first big test at Long Beach, where the unobstructed view of the sky and miles of flat sandy beach would not detract from its performance.

One of the basic claims of GPS receivers is that it can tell you your position to within 15 meters (49 feet)—a claim that is accompanied with an important footnote.

That footnote clarifies that the accuracy is subject to signal degradation by the Department of Defense of up to 100 meters (328 feet). This is called Selective Availability.

Over a period of several hours of using the unit at the beach, the horizontal accuracy it showed varied from 80 feet to 197 feet. At no time then, or on a number of occasions since, has the accuracy even come close to 49 feet.

As a side note on the accuracy issue, what it really means is that you are somewhere *within a circle* whose radius is 49 feet at best or 328 feet at worst. That can be a pretty big circle!

If I'm standing at one end of a football field, what I'm trying to find can be within a circle whose outer point is 28 feet *past the other end* of the field. That's a lot of area if I'm trying to find my tent in a whiteout.

Still, as Lawrence Letham states in his book: "A civilian GPS receiver will get you within sight of your destination, which is better accuracy than most outdoor enthusiasts have previously enjoyed."

Another thing I noted is that without moving a step, my calculated position would change. Over a nine minute period my east-west position changed 48 meters and my north-south position changed 40 meters.

In other words, if I didn't like where I was now, just wait a minute and I'd be somewhere else! Still, all this is within the defined accuracy. You just have to get used to not having an absolute value for position. Apparently that's the result of Selective Availability.

Another "changing" value I noted was the bearing the GPS said I was travelling. While walking with the unit on and held straight out in front of me so that it had a clear view of the sky, it said I was walking at a bearing that changed between 10° and 344° when in fact I was walking a straight line at 9° by compass.

If I had been using the GPS to guide me to a point, I would have arrived there (within a radius of up to 328 feet, that is) but it wouldn't have been a straight line path!

And, if I was using the GPS to be my guide, as the hype says I can, I have to walk while holding the "receiver at a comfortable height, at arm's length from your body, with the internal antenna parallel to the ground." To me that sure isn't a practical way of travelling.

As far as finding my way back to a specific point, the GPS's ability was again a variable. Ann, sitting on the beach and entertaining herself with a book, simulated my campsite so I would have a positive known position.

Marking that position with the GPS, I then started walking down the beach. In about a quarter mile, I used the GPS to determine the bearing back to Ann. Over a nine minute period that bearing varied between 134° and 145° while I determined the bearing was 144° by

compass and not changing. So, depending on when I read the GPS, I could have been right on or been off by as much as 10°.

In a mile I repeated the process. This time the bearing was 177° and steady and agreed exactly with the one I determined by compass. Correct or not, my conclusion is that at close distances the basic inaccuracies of the GPS result in greater errors than at longer distances, something to watch out for if travelling when sight is limited, as by weather.

Having found my way back to "campsite Ann" I mulled over my observations while watching the waves break on shore. I still thought the GPS had some practical benefits, but it sure wasn't living up to the visions I had of it from the hype I had read. Ann was even less convinced and still thought I got cheated because I didn't get any Cracker Jacks with it.

So, another test, a real-world one this time. The plan was to pick a trail for an overnight backpack, enter coordinates for various points on the trail, and see how well the GPS got me to those points. Picking the trail was easy, but determining the coordinates for various points wasn't.

Coordinates are the east-west and north-south positions of a particular point on Earth. I was familiar with latitude and longitude, but trying to determine the exact latitude and longitude for a point on a topographic map isn't easy because it isn't set up with a convenient scale to use.

Back to the drawing boards—or in this case, *GPS Made Easy*. While latitude and longitude are great locators for NOAA charts or if you have a minute/second calibrated ruler, I learned from the book that "eastings" and "northings" are more convenient to use with USGS topographic maps.

These strange terms are what east-west and north-south coordinates are called in the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid system.

The grid system lays out blocks that are 1000 meters on a side and have coordinates like $^{52}50^{0000m}$ N and $^{6}69^{0000m}$ E. It's pretty convenient to determine coordinates with this grid system, as I learned.

If you've got one of the newer USGS maps you'll find lines for *this* grid sys-



My tools for backcountry navigating, from left: compass, notepad and pencil, GPS, and altimeter, along with maps in a waterproof case.

Lee McKee

tem on the map. And Green Trails is in the process of updating its maps to make them more GPS-friendly.

So now I had the trail and I had the UTM coordinates for the points I was interested in. I just had to get them entered into the GPS.

Here's where I got my next lesson. I had to make sure the GPS and I were talking the same language. That meant entering the set-up menu for the GPS and telling it I wanted to use UTM coordinates, what the map datum was for the map I was using (you can find that in the general note area of maps/charts), how I wanted to measure distance (statute, nautical, or metric), and in what format I wanted it to give me bearings—like true north or magnetic north.

So with the two of us speaking the same language, I entered the coordinates for a number of points. When I finished, it told me the straight line distance for my trip was 17.3 miles—strange, I thought it was closer to 5 miles.

Another lesson! The GPS can't tell if you miskeyed an entry. In this case I had transposed several numbers. Correcting the entries, the two of us finally agreed the distance was around 5 miles!

Now the fun part—the trip itself. The trail climbed up a valley to a high meadow, with a mixture of trees and occasional clearings.

At various points I turned on the GPS when I reached open areas and it usually was able to get a fix. Transferring that fix to the map, it generally agreed with the position I determined

from taking compass fixes and using my altimeter.

After reaching camp and setting up the tent, I was surprised that I could obtain a fix even though I was inside the tent. So light tree cover and tent fabric are not obstacles to getting readings.

As a final test, I convinced Ann to carry the GPS with her on her trip over the Alpine Lakes High Route. Although she didn't use it to navigate by, she did enter the locations at specific points along the cross-country route.

When she returned home I transferred the coordinates for the points to a topographic map and thereby laid out the basic route she had followed. Except for one, the points agreed with the route she determined from altimeter and visual bearings.

The exception was a known point at the beginning which was obviously in error since it was on the opposite side of a lake than she was physically on. Ann's recollection is that the GPS took longer than usual in getting a fix at that point. My conclusion is to take any reading the GPS gives me with a grain of salt—especially one where it struggles to figure out the position.

Since the "tests" I've had two other occasions to experiment with the GPS. The first was on a paddle outing in the San Juans. With nothing blocking the view of the sky, the unit had no trouble determining a fix (within its accuracy). I used it to determine the coordinates of several public shores we visited so I could mark them on my chart. And I simulated being caught in the fog and used it to figure out where I was and the compass bearing to where I wanted to go. The bearing I came up with visually matched what it determined.

The second was on a snow-shortened outing in the Pasayten. In spots there was more tree cover than I had previously encountered, and the GPS could not get a position fix.

On the plus side, Ann and I did find an abandoned trail to follow that was not shown on the map. The GPS was able to get fixes at several points as we followed the path. Transferring those points to the map let me roughly lay out the route we were following. How-

SUZANNA FOLLIS

HIKING WITH CRUTCHES

Over the years my knees have suffered overuse and repeated injuries. About three years ago, my surgeon told me he had done all possible, and I now must wait until I was ready for a knee replacement. He went on to explain that everyone differs in their ability to tolerate pain and reduced activity, but since an artificial knee lasts only about 20 years, it would be best for me to wait as long as possible for this step.

I have been physically active throughout my life. As a young woman I was a professional ballet dancer. Later, I took up backpacking with a vengeance and eventually climbing. Mountains were always where I wanted to be. Life in the flatlands was inconceivable and unbearable. It was a rough time for me.

One day an old mountain partner told me about a friend of his, Hille Boulton, with a similar problem, who was now hiking on crutches. "You should see Hille go," he said. "She just flies down the mountain on those crutches. You should try them."

I was skeptical but our mutual friend persisted and I was taken to see Hille and her crutches. Hille is from Germany and on a trip back home she happened upon these unique crutches manufactured in Frankfurt. Suffering at the time from severe, unexplainable knee pain, she found they could help her

move about mountainous terrain more easily.

These crutches are nothing like the contraptions you may be familiar with. They are aluminum and plastic and weigh less than one pound each. They reach only to the elbow where a comfortable smooth plastic cuff holds them close to the lower arm. The hand grasps them via a handle extending forward.

The tips are wide and seem to clutch every type of terrain (except ice and deep snow) firmly—sand, gravel, granite, mud, you name it. Of course, they are adjustable. Hille let me borrow hers to try out on a hike.

The hike turned out to be a short climb up Goat Peak in the Methow Valley. Since only down-climbing was difficult for me, I stowed them on my pack on the way up. After receiving lots of positive strokes from the ranger in the lookout, I started down knowing I had 2.5 miles and 1400 feet to go, and if the crutches didn't do their job, I would be in big trouble.

But as I got the hang of using them, my confidence grew and soon I was swinging down the trail, hopping boulders like a kid. My husband couldn't keep up! The next week I gave Hille a check and she sent to Frankfurt for my very own pair.

Three years later, my knees are worse

than ever, but thanks to Hille Boulton, I'm still hiking! (Hille, by the way, has recovered from her mysterious malady.) Now I must use the crutches going up as well as down the mountain. Uneven terrain and steep steps are impossible without them, but since I've added wrist straps, I can even do some scrambling.

Am I embarrassed to be seen on the trails with these contraptions? At first, yes, but my desire outweighs my shame. However, the reaction I get from passersby surprises me. Most people just don't notice. My husband hikes with fancy adjustable Leki poles and he gets more comments than I do.

On the rare occasion I am asked about them, I gladly share their benefits. Once in a while, some young hiker tells me I'm an inspiration. They, too, find comfort in knowing that where there is a will, there is always a way to get up and down the mountain.

Do you have old knees? Would you like to try out these crutches? I have an extra pair I can lend. Call me at 206-523-2902. If you want your own, I may be able to help you order a pair. When I ordered mine in 1994, they cost \$80 including postage.

△

GLOBAL POSITIONING *continued*

ever, like the Alpine Lakes High Route experience, one point was obviously in error—it had us on the wrong side of a creek that was below us in a valley.

So—a Cracker Jack toy or not? Here's my opinion. Specific hyped features are generally not practical to backcountry navigation. But I think it is a good tool for telling me where I am if I can't figure it out because of terrain, visibility, or snow. It also can tell me a bearing to follow if I can't figure it out from a map or it can provide a backup to the bearing I do determine.

It is straightforward to use once you get used to it, but you do need to have an understanding of map coordinates and general map use. It is an electronic

device so is subject to failure. It also isn't foolproof, it's only good if it can obtain a satellite fix, and you shouldn't take what it tells you as the absolute truth—as we experienced, it can tell you that you're on the opposite side of a fixed point, like a lake or a stream, than you really are.

Basically it is another tool in navigation. My "arsenal" now includes a compass, map/chart, altimeter, GPS, and a waterproof tablet with pencil for recording waypoint information as I obtain it in case the GPS fails during the trip.

If I'm planning to do cross-country travel, travel in snow conditions, or travel on the water where navigation can be hampered by fog, islands, or

non-descript land masses, I'll be taking my GPS along to help me find my way.

But I'll not venture out in conditions where I'm relying *solely* on it to get me to my destination.

If you are interested in learning more about GPSs or are thinking of buying one, I would highly recommend obtaining *GPS Made Easy* by Lawrence Letham. Another good book that is new on the market is *GPS Land Navigation* by Michael Ferguson (see review on page 29, this issue).

△

Lee McKee, of Port Orchard, is Pack & Paddle's business manager.

JOHN ROPER

MOUNTAINS FOR WOMEN

—WASHINGTON MOUNTAINS WITH A WOMAN'S NAME OR LINK—

At a recent slide-show reunion with fellow climbers, amid discussions about how we were all doing on various "mountain lists," Lela Dawkins posed an interesting question: "Is there a list of peaks in Washington named for women?" None of us knew of one, but it sounded like an entertaining project to research.

With the Geographic Names Index System (GNIS), now on CD-ROM, sorting can be done by state, then by peaks and mountains to identify the state's summits. The elevations (sometimes in error), counties, maps, and latitude-longitude coordinates are given. Then it's just a matter of going down the list and picking out the ladies.

At first I was going to include only names that officially appear on Wash-

ington's 7.5-minute USGS quads, and thus in the GNIS. However, a number of equally important, even popular peaks with "unofficial" feminine names have appeared in the Olympics and Cascades climbing guides, *Pack & Paddle*, and my own mind. These unofficial names are marked with an asterisk on the list. Summit names without asterisks are printed on the maps.

Originally, for the sake of completeness, all names that had even a peripheral connection with women or female animals via their names, moods, looks, activities or anatomy were included. The list was then distributed and reviewed. As a result, for this family magazine, several names that had possibly unflattering, chauvinistic, or anatomic tones were dropped.

Some names listed are not necessarily women's names, but are often the last names of men that sound enough like women's names to be included, e.g. Carrie, Annie (actually an Indian chief), Christie, Courtney, Kelly, and Morgan.

So, Lela, here they are, most of them anyway. My work is done, and I'm not in the race. Will a woman be the first to complete the list? Guys looking to spend another enjoyable day in the mountains with a woman companion might look here for ideas.

Scheduled "Ladies Days" could be fun, with several parties working on different peaks until all of these Washington mountains for women have been climbed by at least one Washington lady!

WASHINGTON SUMMITS WITH A WOMAN'S NAME OR LINK

by John Roper

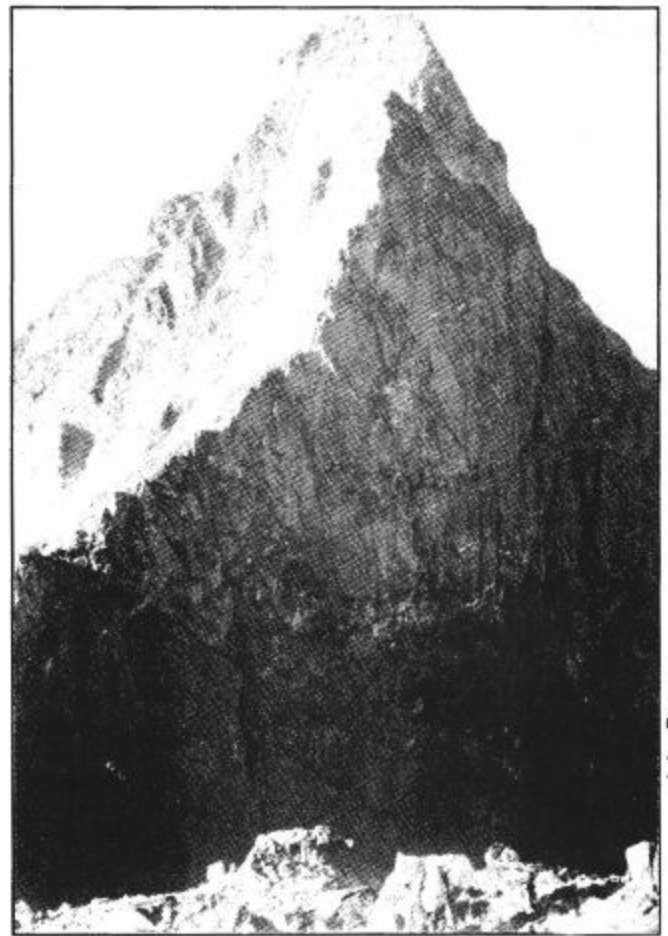
NAME	ELEV	COUNTY	USGS MAP	NAME	ELEV	COUNTY	USGS MAP
Adelaide Peak*	7300	Jefferson	Mount Deception	Christie, Mount	6177	Jefferson	Mount Christie
Agnes Mountain	8115	Chelan	Agnes Mountain	Cinderella Peak*	6480	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Alice Mae Mountain	4037	Stevens	Onion Creek	Constance, Mount	7756	Jefferson	Mount Deception
Alrac (Carla) Peak*	6720	Whatcom	Damnation Peak	Courtney Peak	8392	Chelan	Oval Peak
Alta Mtn	6250	Kittitas	Chikamin Peak	Crystal Peak	6896	Jefferson	Chimney Peak
Angel Butte	3131	Whitman	Viola (ID)	Dana, Mount	6209	Jefferson	McCartney Peak
Ann, Mount*	5840	Whatcom	Shuksan Arm	Davis Peak (Lucinda)	7051	Whatcom	Diablo Dam
Annie, Mount	6054	Okanogan	Mount Annie	Doe Mountain	7154	Okanogan	Doe Mountain
Aphrodite*	6254	Jefferson	Mount Olympus	Dot Mountain	8220	Okanogan	Mount Lago
April Peak*	6350	Jefferson	Mount Townsend	Elizabeth Ridge	5480	Pierce	Mowich Lake
Athena*	7365	Jefferson	Mount Olympus	Elizabeth, Mount	4349	Ferry	Karamin
Aurora Peak	6094	Pierce	Mount Rainier W	Ellinor, Mount	5920	Mason	Mt Skokomish
Barbara Peak*	6000	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn	Fay Peak	6492	Pierre	Mowich Lake
Bette's Butte*	6103	Skagit	Illabot Peak	Flora Mountain	8320	Chelan	Pinnacle Mtn
Big Sister*	7160	Chelan	Goode Mountain	Florence Peak	5508	Pierce	Golden Lakes
Blair Hill	410	Pierce	Fort Lewis	Gladys, Mount	5589	Mason	Mt Skokomish
Camp Nurse (Virginia)Mtn*	4680	Whatcom	Mount Triumph	Glory Mountain	7228	Chelan	Goode Mountain
Candy Mountain	1391	Benton	Richland	Haley Mountain	5112	Okanogan	Burge Mountain
Caroline Peak*	5885	King	Bandera	Happy Hill	2390	Stevens	Ford
Carrie, Mount	6995	Clallam	Mount Carrie	Heather Ridge	7928	Chelan	Mount Lyall
Cassidy Hill	430	Pierce	Fort Lewis	Helen Buttes	5560	Skagit	Marblemount
Catherine, Mount	5052	Kittitas	Lost Lake	Helena Peak	5401	Snohomish	Helena Ridge
Ceres Hill	740	Lewis	Boistfort	Hurley Peak	7820	Okanogan	Hurley Peak

NAME	ELEV	COUNTY	USGS MAP
Inner Constance*	7667	Jefferson	Mount Deception
Ione Hill	3360	Stevens	Spirit
Irene Mountain	4715	Okanogan	Bodie
Jackita Ridge	7350	Whatcom	Shull Mtn
Jans Hill	410	Pierce	Fort Lewis
Jennies Butte	6410	Yakima	Jennies Butte
Joan Firey Peak*	8200	Skagit	Forbidden Peak
Josephine, Mount	3956	Skagit	Hamilton
Joy Mountain	1780	Lewis	Pe Ell
Judi Peak*	6560	Kittitas/Chln	Enchantment Lks
June Mountain	5946	Snohomish	Benchmark Mtn
Kay Hill	350	Pierce	Steilacoom
Kay Peak	7555	Okanogan	Coleman Peak
Kelly Mountain	6780	Chelan	Silver Falls
Kelly Mountain	5420	Ferry	Bodie Mountain
Kloochman (wife) Rk	3356	Jefferson	Kloochman Rock
Kloochman (woman) Rk	4522	Yakima	Tieton Basin
Ladies Peak*	7708	Chelan	Chiwaukum Mtn
Last Sister*	5562	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Laurel Hill	4260	Lewis	Ohanapecosh HS
Laurel Hill	3765	Chelan	Malaga
Lee, Mount	4422	King	Mount Phelps
Lena, Mount	5995	Jefferson	The Brothers
Leola Peak	6380	Pend Oreille	Salmo Mountain
Leona, Mount	6474	Ferry	Mount Leona
Lillian, Mount	6140	Kittitas	Blewett Pass
Lindsay, Mount	4380	King	Cougar Mountain
Little Sister (Marina)*	6785	Chelan	Goode Mtn
Lorena Butte	2290	Klickitat	Goldendale
Luahna Mtn*	8400	Chelan	Clark Mountain
Maiden Peak	6434	Clallam	Maiden Peak
Mallory Ridge		Asotin	Mountain View
Mamie Peak*	6108	Whatcom	Mount Sefrit
Margaret, Mount	5858	Skamania	Spirit Lake West
Margaret, Mount	5580	Kittitas	Chikamin Peak
Mary Jane Hill	2170	Douglas	Coleman Hill



A women's group atop Mount Maude, Glacier Peak Wilderness. Front to back: Bettye, Manita, Lindy, Linda.

Ann Marshall



John Roper

Agnes Mountain—the most difficult mountain in Washington named for a woman.

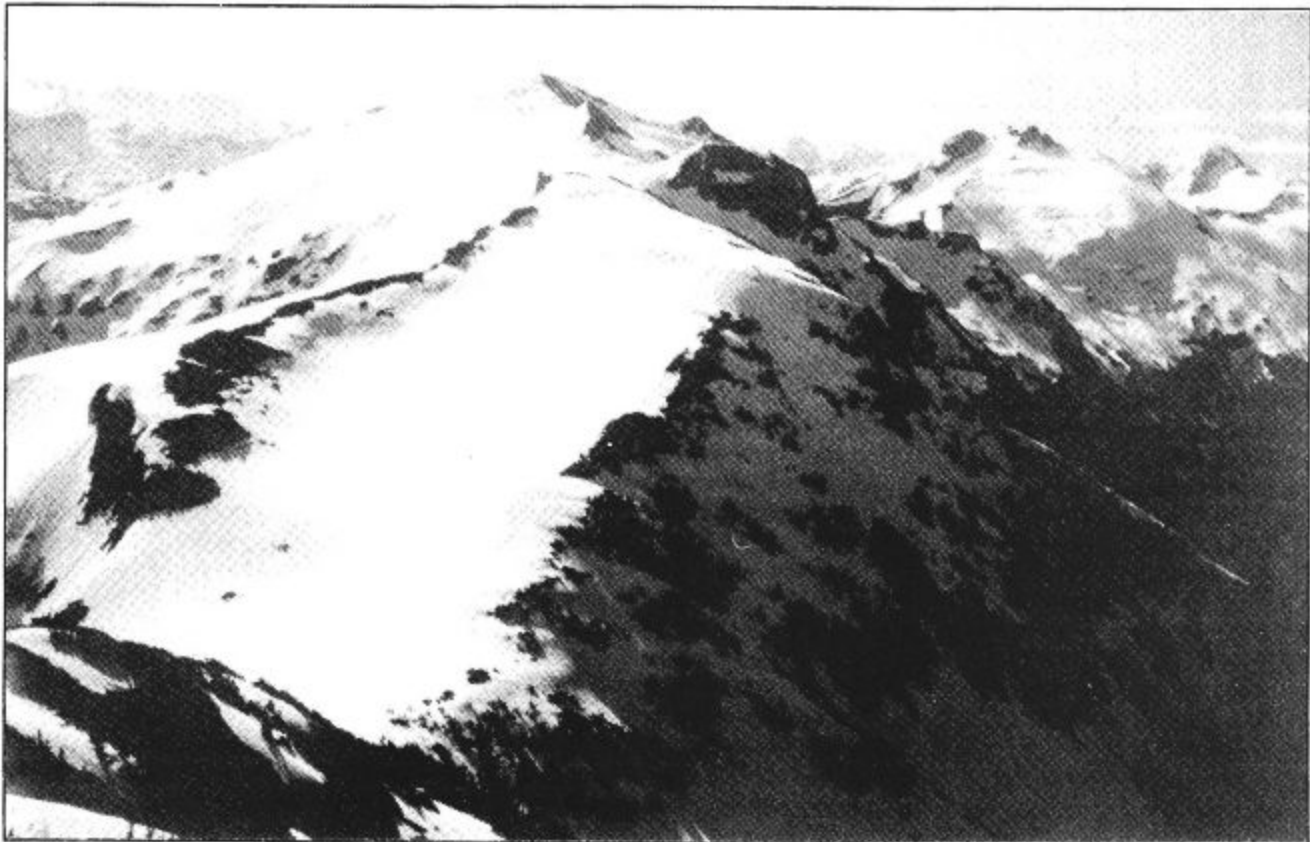
NAME	ELEV	COUNTY	USGS MAP
Mary Peak*	6680	Kittitas	Enchantment Lks
Maude, Mount	9082	Chelan	Holden
Maurine Peaks*	6772	Skagit	Big Devil Peak
May Hill	2425	Stevens	Springdale
Middle Sister*	7340	Skagit	Washington Pass
Mildred Point	5935	Pierce	Mount Rainier W
Minnie Peak	5619	Skamania	Spirit Lake West
Moe Hill	980	Wahkiakum	Skamokawa
Molly, Mount	1180	Thurston	Littlerock
Monette Hill	380	Thurston	Nisqually
Morgan Hill	270	Jefferson	Port Townsend S
Mother Mountain	6375	Pierce	Mowich Lake
Myrtle Park Butte	2315	Klickitat	White Pine
Nadine Spire*	5600	Kittitas	Mount Stuart
Nancy Peak*	5960	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Nannie Peak	6140	Lewis	Walupt Lake
Nella Hill	394	Pierce	Fort Lewis
Nun, The*	5450	Jefferson	Mount Townsend
Old Maid Mountain	7882	Chelan	Prince Creek
Olive, Mount	1544	Okanogan	Omak
Pandoras Box*	8720	Chelan	Enchantment Lks
Pearl Hill	2330	Chelan, Dgls	Bridgeport Pt, Co
Penny Ridge	3296	Klickitat	Northwestern Lk
Phoebe, Mount	5814	Okanogan	Havillah
Queen Anne Hill	450	King	Seattle North
Queen of Sheba	3933	Stevens	Echo Valley
Red Head*	6840	Whatcom	Copper Mtn

NAME	ELEV	COUNTY	USGS MAP
Rennie Peak	7742	Okngn, Chln	Gilbert
Robinette Mountain	3997	Columbia	Robinette Mtn
Rosa Butte	2746	Spokane	Spokane SW
Rose, Mount	4301	Mason	Mt Skokomish
Ruby Hill	4957	Okanogan	Ruby Hill
Ruby Mountain	7408	Whatcom	Ross Dam
Ruth Mountain	7115	Whatcom	Mount Shuksan
Ruth, Mount	8690	Pierce	Sunrise
Sacajawea Rock		Skamania	Bonneville Dam
Saint Helens, Mount	8365	Skamania	Mt Saint Helens
Sandy Butte	6072	Okanogan	Mazama
Seven Sisters Ridge	7160	Chelan	GoodeAgnes Mtn
Shelley Mountain	1936	Cowlitz	Georges Peak
Shirley Peak*	5800	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Silver Queen*	6960	Pierce	White River Park
Sisi Ridge	7109	Chelan	Mount Lyall
Sister Divide	5005	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Sister Habiba*	7160	Chelan	Goode Mtn
Sister Katy*	7080	Chelan	Agnes Mountain
Sister Reenie*	7203	Chelan	Goode Mtn
Sister Rocks	4261	Skamania	Bare Mountain
Sister Sarah*	7000	Chelan	Agnes Mountain
Sister Sue*	6809	Chelan	Goode Mtn
Skadulgwas Peak	4983	Skagit	Mount Higgins
Sleeping Beauty	4907	Skamania	Sleeping Beauty
Sluiskin Squaw*	6960	Pierce	Sunrise
So-bahli-ahli Spire*	6630	Snohomish	Whitehorse Mtn
South Dana	5636	Jefferson	McCartney Peak
South Twin (Sister)	7000	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Squaw Butte	2552	Clark	Dole

NAME	ELEV	COUNTY	USGS MAP
Squaw Butte	4565	Skamania	Lone Butte
Squaw Mountain	3430	Okanogan	Armstrong Creek
Squaw Peak	5976	Columbia	Deadman Peak
Starlet Peak*	8040	Okngn, Chln	Prince Creek
Step Sister*	5120	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Storm Queen*	8520	Chelan	Goode Mtn
Tara Peak*	6723	Skagit	Downey Mountain
Three Aunts*	7760	Whatcom	Skagit Peak
Three Queens	6687	Kittitas	Chikamin Peak
Three Sisters, The	4076	Pierce	Old Baldy Mtn
Three Wives*	7450	Chelan	McAlester Mtn
Tillies Towers*	8260	Skagit	Forbidden Peak
Tracey Hill	2077	Klickitat	White Salmon
Twin Sisters	600	Walla Walla	Wallula
Twin Sisters	5818	Lewis	Blue Lake
Twin Sisters	6019	Ferry	Jackknife Mtn
Twin Sisters Mtn	7000	Whatcom	Twin Sisters Mtn
Vasiliiki Ridge	7920	Okanogan	Silver Star
Venus, Mount	5807	Skamania	Spirit Lake West
Virginia Peak	4900	Pierce	Golden Lakes
Whistlers Mother*	7720	Skagit	Washington Pass
Witches Tower*	8520	Chelan	Enchantment Lks
Xor Peaks*	7326	Chelan	Mount Lyall
Zillah Peak	2186	Yakima	Granger NW

*Unofficial Name

△



John Roper

Lovely Ruth Mountain, Mount Baker Wilderness, named for Grover Cleveland's daughter.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

FEES CONTINUE TO SPREAD—

On January 1, Trail-Park permit fees will be charged on the Mount Hood and Gifford Pinchot National Forests, and the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. Previously these sites were not part of the Trail-Park permit program.

EXHIBIT—Photographer Don Paulson (a *P&P* contributor) will exhibit his beautiful outdoor photographs in December.

The exhibit, "Images of the Natural World," will appear at the Artist's Edge Gallery, 2009 Harkins Street, in Bremerton (east end of the Manette Bridge). Hours are from 10am to 5pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10am to 3pm on Saturday.

The exhibit opens Friday, December 5th, with a reception from 5pm to 8pm, including live music and hors d'oeuvres. For more information or directions, call 360-377-2930.

SWEETWATER FILTERS—Cascade Designs, makers of Thermarest and other neat things, has announced its purchase of SweetWater filters.

Manufacture of SweetWater filters and water treatment products will re-

main in Colorado until late 1998, at which time the manufacturing operation may be moved to Cascade Designs' facilities in Seattle.

MOUNT RAINIER PLANNING—

The public input period for Rainier National Park's general management plan has been extended.

Unfortunately, *Pack & Paddle* was notified of the extension just *after* the last issue went to press. The extension date is November 30, which doesn't give you much time.

The general management plan will address congestion from vehicles, road and campground closures, parking problems and heavy backcountry use.

A display of alternatives for managing these concerns is available for review at libraries around Mount Rainier, including: Tacoma, Yakima, Olympia, Eatonville, Enumclaw, Packwood, and The Mountaineers library in Seattle.

ALASKA VOLUNTEERS WANTED

—If you've always wanted to experience Alaska, a volunteer job with Alaska State Parks is what you've been looking for. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and US citizens, and you

have to get yourself to and from the state. Sometimes you'll get a little allowance to offset living costs; sometimes housing and/or food is provided.

Here's a sample: At the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve north of Haines, a volunteer caretaker is needed for a minimum of 8 weeks. The volunteer would assist the Ranger in daily operations including visitor contact, eagle observation, janitorial and light carpentry work.

Must have a driver's license, be physically fit and willing to work in rugged terrain in cold and wet conditions; be able to work independently with little or no supervision; be able to operate and maintain a variety of power tools (chain saw, snowmobile, jet boat); have survival skills and experience with glacial-outwash rivers.

This volunteer will get to live in a spiffy new log cabin with propane heat and cook stove. Water within walking distance.

For details on this and 174 other great positions, request a catalog from:
State Parks Volunteer Coordinator
3601 C Street Suite 1200
Anchorage AK 99503
 907-269-8708
 volunteer@dnr.state.ak.us.

Trail Fees: Where is the money going?

Ever since trailhead fees arrived, *Pack & Paddle* readers have asked me to please find out where the money is going. On November 1, The Mountaineers Club sponsored a Trail Fee Conference at the REI meeting rooms.

Representatives from the state, National Forests, and National Parks were present to discuss how the first year of Trail-Park fees went, and what might be new in the future. Here's what I found out.

Since the program began on July 12, it has generated \$300,000 for Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Wouldn't you think it would generate something similar for the east-side forests that are so popular with the west-side folks?

Here's a surprise: Okanogan National Forest got only \$47,700. Wenatchee National Forest got a paltry \$22,000.

What most of us did was buy our permits in the Puget Sound basin, then drive over the pass to hike. Baker-Sno-

qualmie got to keep the money.

WNF's Vladimir Steplina said there's not a whole lot that can be done with \$22,000, although Cle Elum district did put in a new bridge. Most districts will wait for the money to build up.

Next year, he said, they will do more enforcement (the ticket will cost \$30 but WNF doesn't get to keep that money).

In the Okanogan, Jim Archambeault explained that they did not spend any of their permit money in '97; it is all being rolled into '98.

What has BSNF done with their pot of gold? Gary Paull said the forest spent \$130,000 for seasonal and contract crews who logged out 275 miles of trail and brushed 175 miles of trail, \$40,000 for four people to update trailhead information, clean toilets and maintain parking lots, and \$25,000 for administration (pass sales, extended office hours, printing). The remaining funds will be carried over for '98 projects.

Although Gifford Pinchot did not

participate in the Trail-Park permit program this year, their Visitor Permits generated a whopping \$2,168,000! (The Saint Helens climbing pass contributed \$131,490 of that.)

GP put their funds to longer operating hours for the visitor centers, patrols by climbing rangers almost daily during the peak season, and a desperately needed 5-person trail crew, among other things.

Olympic National Park collected about \$500,000 from their fee program. Their list of proposed projects appeared in *P&P*, August '97, page 6.

At least one additional fee is planned for the future: a Volcanoes Climbing Permit, which would be used for peaks in California, Oregon and Washington. Also planned is a move to shift the Forest Service's cabin rental program to the Fee Demonstration Project so the money generated from cabin rentals will stay in the area.

—Ann Marshall

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

CALENDAR—The 1998 Women Climbing calendar is out. It is produced by a local club, Women Climbers Northwest, as a volunteer project to raise funds for promoting women's leadership in the outdoors. The project began as a memorial to Kathy Plubbs and Hope Barnes, two of the founding members of WCN who died in a climbing accident on Dragontail in 1991.

The calendar is engagement-style and measures 7¼x5 inches, with dozens of beautiful color photos featuring women climbing worldwide.

You can order the calendar by mail by sending \$13.95 plus \$2.75 for shipping (plus 8.6% sales tax for Washington state orders) to:

Women Climbers Northwest
PO Box 31223
Seattle WA 98103.

ORCA KIT—Long before the orcas ever came to Dyes Inlet (see report page 6), the Tandy company had planned their series, "Learning with Leather," which features four marine mammal "sculpture" kits: walrus, blue whale, dolphin, and orca. As one of those who has succumbed to orca-mania, I recently acquired the orca kit and put it together (it's for age 7 and up and is the easiest of the four kits).

The "sculpture" part happens when you wet the leather, then shape it with your hands to form the round body and

graceful tail. A little glue, some black-and-white paint, and you've got a neat-looking killer whale. I'm going to hang mine from the office ceiling.

The kit includes absolutely everything you need—leather parts, tiny vials of glue and paint, paintbrush, and directions. The orca is about 11 inches long. The price is \$14.99.

Tandy has three stores in the Puget Sound area: Seattle (20003 Aurora Ave N; 206-542-1677); Burien (14611 1st Ave S; 206-244-0351); and Tacoma (5429 S Tacoma Way; 253-474-1777). You can order the "Learning with Leather" orca kit by phone, or visit the store nearest you.—Ann Marshall.

New Books

SEA KAYAKER'S DEEP TROUBLE, by Matt Broze and George Gronseth. Edited by Christopher Cunningham. Sea Kayaker, 1997. \$16.95.

This book is a compilation of more than twenty sea kayaking accidents that have appeared in *Sea Kayaker* magazine over the years. Each chapter details the events that led up to the accident and has an analysis of the lessons learned. There are also extensive sidebars that provide more detail about specific safety issues raised by the accident.

In case you're not familiar with sea kayaking, Matt Broze is co-owner of Mariner Kayaks in Seattle and is a past safety columnist for *Sea Kayaker* magazine. George Gronseth is the founder of the Kayak Academy in Seattle and is the current safety columnist for *Sea Kayaker*. Christopher Cunningham is the editor of *Sea Kayaker*. Together, they have many years of sea kayaking experience.

In the words of Matt Broze: "The purpose of *Sea Kayaker's* accident reports is to convey important safety information to new and experienced sea kayakers. This book gathers some of the most compelling of those reports, outlining the circumstances of each accident and providing detailed analyses: What did the paddlers do wrong? What did they do right? Most importantly, how might the accident have been prevented."

The book is especially good for the sea kayaker who—like me—has taken up the sport in the past several years and has missed the lessons to be learn-

ed from prior years. I really liked the style of writing with the information given in a straightforward manner with specific conclusions and the reasons for those conclusions.

I also found the sidebar discussions very valuable because they delved concisely into specific issues such as kayak flotation, rudders, paddling the open coast, and hazards of rip currents and breaking waves, to name a few.

Again, using the words of Matt Broze: "Safety is a personal issue. Each of us must decide what level of risk we are willing to accept, what compromises we are willing to make, and what dangers we most want to guard against. . . . Our goal in this book is to provide information that can serve as a sound basis for making your own choices."

I think that goal was met, and I think you will agree. The book costs \$16.95 and can be purchased directly from *Sea Kayaker*, PO Box 17170, Seattle WA 98107 (206-789-9536).

GPS Land Navigation, by Michael Ferguson. Glassford Publishing, 208-343-9205. 1997; \$19.95.

If you've added a GPS to your tools for backcountry navigation, or if you're considering doing so, you should check out this new book. I've been using a GPS for six months or so and recently acquired the book. I found it useful in broadening my knowledge as well as clarifying a number of concepts that were still a bit fuzzy.

If you're just thinking about getting

a GPS, *GPS Land Navigation* will provide good background information on how the system works, what to look for when buying a GPS, a detailed appendix comparing the receivers on the market today, and how to use your GPS.

I found the book both easy to read and easy to understand. It's written so that each chapter can stand alone. Chapters cover the GPS system, GPS hardware, maps, coordinate systems, directions, and GPS skills. An extensive glossary helps you understand the terminology, and if you're into lists, you'll find the coordinates for the highest peak in every county in the US, for every Interstate/Highway intersection, and for all the state capitols!

Besides GPS information, the book provides good information on the features and use of compasses and altimeters, how to read topographic maps, and how to prepare maps for use in the backcountry.

In the words of the author: "This book is a practical guidebook for anyone who uses, or wants to use, the Global Positioning System for backcountry and off-road land navigation. It doesn't presume or require that you have any prior knowledge of GPS, cartography, orienteering, or any other traditional route-finding skills."

If you can't find *GPS Land Navigation* at your favorite book or outdoor store, you can contact the publisher directly.

—Lee McKee

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Late-fall / early-winter in the Pasayten Wilderness.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"Have been a subscriber since you were in the barn at Lynnwood. Hope to run in to you on a hike someday."—*Yakima*.

"Congratulations on your outstanding outdoor publication."—*Kent*.

"We love to see *P&P* in the day's mail. It's a pro magazine with a personal touch. Annie says HI to Yellow Cat."—*Edmonds*.

"Didn't do too much this year thanks to a mis-timed knee surgery (July 9). Hope to be back at it next season."—*Bothell*.

Fire Relief Fund

A fire relief fund has been established for *Pack & Paddle* subscriber Jim Drannon, whose apartment was destroyed in the huge Kona Apartment fire in Bremerton on November 13.

Jim is a member of the Olympic Kayak Club and the Peninsula Wilderness Club, among others, and has skied every single month of the year for many years now. He was not home at the time of the fire.

Donations may be made for Jim in account #0357627652 at any Seafirst bank branch, or mailed directly to:

East Bremerton Branch
Seafirst Bank
PO Box 2187
Bremerton WA 98310.

"I would like to hear from your readers on their experiences using a GPS."—*Woodinville*. [Ed. Note: See Lee's article on page 22. And let us know what you think of GPS.]

"I thoroughly enjoy your magazine and read it from cover to cover."—*Hoquiam*.

PC PACKER—Our story about PC Packer, the abandoned dog rescued by Connie and Jo (*November*, page 30), brought several comments from approving readers.

From Noel McRae: "Georgia and I were packing our llamas into Norse Peak Wilderness when we were beckoned over by two ladies who had noticed we had a dog with us. They told us the story of their little Lab they had picked up at Sheep Lake. We could only find our dog's biscuit treats as her other food was deep within the panniers. They gladly accepted that and we were on our way.

"These ladies certainly saved the dog's life. Glad to hear more of the story."

Nancy and Ben Brodie and their dog Sparky also report meeting PC Packer on the summit of Mailbox Peak in early November. Sounds like PC is going to be a great hiking dog in spite of his harrowing abandonment last summer.

E-MAIL—It has been fun to get e-mail messages—and reports—from some of you. We are getting better at it and hope those of you who are so inclined will take advantage of our e-mail capability. Please send attachments in text (.txt) files. The address is:

pack&paddle@visnetinc.com

TRAIL FEE CONFERENCE—Many of you have asked me to keep track of how the money we're paying for our Trail-Park permits is being spent. To do that, I attended a conference in November to listen to Forest and Park Service representatives explain the details to a group of clubs and organizations. A brief report is on page 28.

SUBSCRIBERS—It was a delight to meet subscriber Edythe Hulet at the Trail Fee Conference. Edythe is the chair of The Mountaineers' Olympia

branch and her ambitious reports appear frequently in *Pack & Paddle*. I was surprised that Edythe's outward appearance is normal; I had imagined Wonder Woman.

My car chose that day to quit on the freeway. Triple-A and a cell phone made it fairly painless, but did leave me without transportation. So special thanks to subscriber Doug Savage, of the Peninsula Wilderness Club, who, with his friend (whose name I've forgotten), provided me a lift to the ferry dock after the conference.

PHOTOS—Everyone seems to be busy this time of year, but try to make time for a trip to Bremerton to see Don Paulson's photo exhibit (see page 28).

The best time to go will be on opening night, December 5, when you can meet Don and listen to a live band while you enjoy his photos.

Lee and I have it on our calendar.

TRAIL REPORTS & THE WEATHER—The spooky weather of November has postponed rain and snow and continues to bring Indian summer and good hiking days.

And you continue to send in lots of trail reports, just like it was August.

This means that my careful planning of winter articles has gone out the window, and I am making room for whatever trail reports you send in.

Since trail reports are your absolute favorite feature in this magazine (that's what you keep telling me), I will give them the room, and postpone until later the articles that would have run.

INDEX—It's Index time again. I haven't started it yet, but it should be done by the end of the year.

You can send in your requests any time, and as soon as it's ready Yellow Cat will mail them out.

The Index lists all trail reports, feature articles, and major topics for the year. It is free; all you have to do is request it. (But we sure appreciate self-addressed long stamped envelopes, or even just a couple of stamps.)

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall

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✓ Easy to Get

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