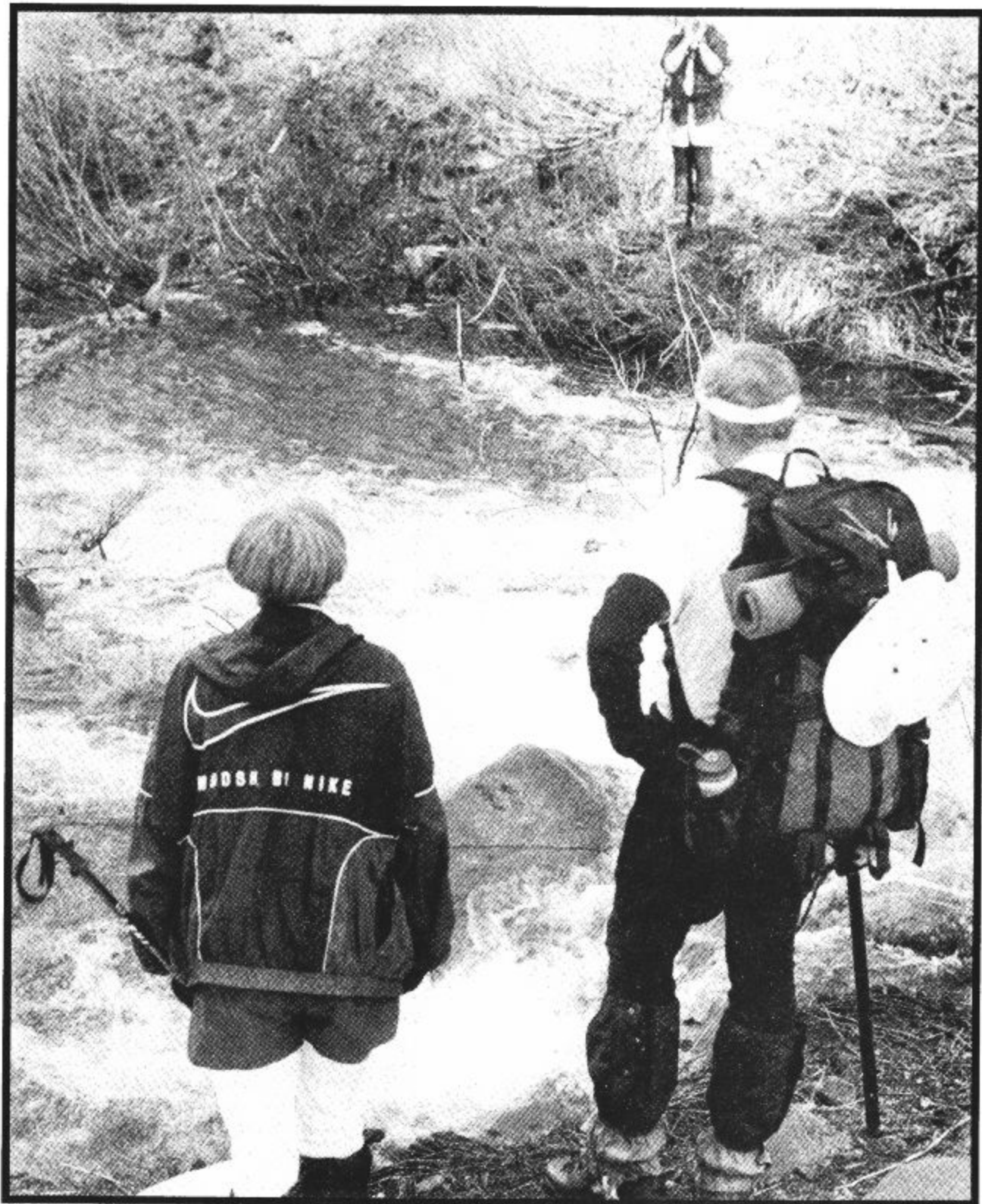


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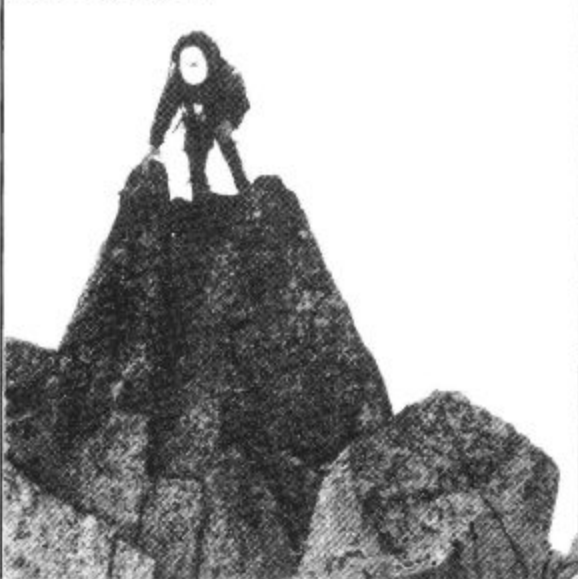
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VOLUME 7, NUMBER 6

RANDOM VIEW—



Linda Rostad

Lindy Bakkar's goal in life is to stand on every rocky spire she can see. This one is in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, near Mount Hinman.

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COVER PHOTO:

Wally White shouts to be heard over the torrent of Bean Creek. Karin Ferguson and Al Riech study the crossing. Teanaway valley, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

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• • •

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TRAIL-PARK PERMIT

I hate to say it but I cannot renew my subscription at this time. For me to do what I do every summer (hiking and camping), I now have to use money allocated in my budget for outdoor magazines, new equipment, maps and such to pay the outdoor fees I am charged.

Even after I do this I will only be able to buy my Trail-Park permit and be able to go camping a few times, and buy a fishing license. I almost feel like I am slowly being locked out of the country I live in.

I'm not against paying my share, but am I being told to get a third job?

I thought about not paying at all and just continuing as always. I'm not sure how they are going to enforce the new rules, but if I don't pay I'm a criminal.

For the people who don't pay, will they be ticketed and fined, and be prosecuted if they don't pay the tickets?

I just hope others even less fortunate than I can find a way to continue to enjoy what they always had.

I hope to be able to renew my subscription as soon as I can, maybe in 2000, providing the cost of living doesn't increase more than my salaries.

A. Frechette
Silverdale, Washington

RAINIER PERMIT FEES

(The following letter was sent to William Briggie, Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park.)

Dear Mr. Briggie,

The Mountaineers is the oldest and largest conservation and outdoor recreation organization in the state of Washington, with over 15,000 members.

Since the club's inception in 1906, The Mountaineers has worked on a number of issues affecting the health of and recreation opportunities afforded by Mount Rainier National Park. Indeed, as several members of your staff can attest, since April 1996, The Mountaineers has engaged in continuing efforts to maintain open communications between park staff and recreational users with regard to implementation of the user fee demonstration project law.

It was therefore with dismay that we read the April 20th press release describing the implementation—effective June 1st—of the latest user fee demon-

stration project in Mount Rainier National Park. We are of course referring to Wilderness Permit Fee Program.

Two areas concern us: first, the lack of public involvement in decision making on the matter, and second, the fee structure itself.

Public User Involvement: We are disappointed that you are instituting the Wilderness Permit Fee program with little to no public input related to program specifics. We and other participants sincerely appreciated the participation of park staff member Uwe Nehring at the second annual conference on user fees organized by The Mountaineers (November 1, 1997, at REI). At that event, there was preliminary discussion of the park's plans for the institution of new fee demonstration projects and that a Wilderness Permit Fee was under consideration.

However, there were no details on what such a program might look like, or, indeed, whether such a fee system was likely to be adopted. ... Furthermore, we were told by a member of your staff as late as the end of March ... that such a program would most likely not be put into effect in 1998.

The Mountaineers has engaged and will continue to engage in efforts to bring federal agencies and recreational users together to discuss the proper implementation of the user fee demonstration law. We strongly believe that such interaction will help to ensure that those fee demonstration projects that are adopted are workable for users and agencies alike.

In leaving users out of this discussion, we are therefore afraid that Mount Rainier National Park staff has produced a fee demonstration project open to severe criticism, as we will discuss below.

Fee Structure: ... In November 1996, The Mountaineers outlined considerations that agencies should address when implementing user fees. We noted that fees must be reasonably-priced and not create an economic barrier to the enjoyment of our nation's wild places.

Fees should likewise be imposed in an equitable and broad-based manner, be simple for the user to comply with, and have a low cost of administration for the agencies so as to maximize the amount available for resource restoration and trail maintenance. However, we feel that the practice of double-

charging visitors as proposed here and as currently implemented in Olympic National Park is unreasonable.

A simple example of the new Mount Rainier program in action will indicate the problems associated with the fee structure. Two people must spend \$30 in fees to camp at an undeveloped site for one night—a \$10 park entrance fee plus \$20 backcountry permit fee.

If that same couple wishes to climb Mount Rainier, they will be subject to an additional \$15 per person climbing permit charge, raising the overall fee paid to \$60. We question whether such rates will constitute an economic hardship for many users, especially those who spend one or two nights in the park.

... While The Mountaineers supports your decision to refrain from adding a per person/per day charge on top of the cost of a Wilderness Permit, we also believe that a fee of ten dollars per permit and five dollars per person listed on that permit is too high a price for a one night stay in an undeveloped site within the park.

... We ... urge you to reconsider charging such high permit fees for a one night stay. For instance, the park staff might consider introducing cheaper 1-day or 3-day wilderness permits for those planning a short stay within the park.

... On a final note, The Mountaineers supports all efforts to return as much of fee revenues as possible to Mount Rainier National Park for the purposes of enhancing the visitor experience and protecting natural resources, as required by law. As always, we look forward to working with you and your staff on such issues that affect the recreational experience and precious resources within Mount Rainier National Park.

... We also renew our request that you and your staff keep The Mountaineers and other recreational user groups better informed on continuing development related to this user fee demonstration project.

Bill Maxwell, President
The Mountaineers
Seattle, Washington

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

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

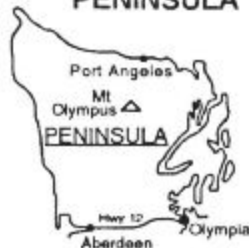
Space is limited; we may have to cut your report to fit available space. Typing is not necessary; we can read just about anyone's handwriting. We're interested in ALL trips, easy and hard, ordinary and exotic.

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-  —Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



PENINSULA



HOOD CANAL (NOAA 18476)—Our party of two double kayaks took advantage of a mostly sunny spring day to try a paddle on Hood Canal.

We drove north from Olympia on Highway 101 to launch at Triton Cove State Park, just north of the Jefferson County line. This small access point has a good concrete ramp that's usable at all tide levels.

We launched on an incoming tide and paddled north, exploring the western shore. The shoreline character is similar to the San Juan Islands, mostly rocky, steep banks. The water here is also stunningly clear; no wonder SCUBA divers flock to this area. We paddled north about four miles, helped along by a following breeze.

Our objective was the mouth of the Duckabush River. After a bit of explor-

ing along the edge of the delta, we found the main channel and paddled upstream, passing under the highway bridge. Since we arrived shortly before high tide, we were able to continue upriver for nearly 1/2-mile, before being stopped by a shallow riffle. The lower river is lovely, green water flowing over bright clean gravel bars. We drifted back downstream and turned south for our return paddle.

By the time we rounded the first point south of the Duckabush, the breeze had freshened into a stiff wind right in our faces. Three- to four-foot swells were coming at us, and the rebound from the rocky banks made for rough, confused water.

We got all the aerobic points we wanted and then some as we cranked hard to make headway. We pulled into Triton Cove after about an hour and a half of constant hard work, with (barely) enough energy to get the boats hoisted into their saddles for the ride home.—Cleve & Marty Pinnix, Olympia, 4/24.

PORT MADISON (NOAA 18473)—Eight of us set off from the boat ramp at Suquamish (see *Middle Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat*) in sea kayaks for this Mountaineer Club paddle to Fay Bainbridge State Park and back. The tide was at its high of 8.5+ feet and the currents in Agate Passage were just starting to ebb.

We paddled a short way southwest along the shoreline of Kitsap Peninsula to check out the location of Old Man House State Park before crossing the passage to Agate Point on Bainbridge

Island. There was little current, no wind, and only a couple of power boats on the water, making for an easy crossing.

Just after rounding Agate Point we stopped for a minute to look at the petroglyphs on Halcets Rock. The rock is about six feet long, five feet high, and has a brass Coast and Geodetic survey marker on its top. The tide was high so only a few feet of the rock stuck out, but the petroglyphs were quite visible on its north face. At low tides the entire rock and surrounding shoreline are uncovered.

Continuing we passed old piling that was once the Agate Point Steamer Landing in days gone by. Soon we saw the large 18th century French country style house up on a bluff that marks the location of the Bloedel Reserve. The reserve is 160 acres of horticultural gardens which can be toured but there is no beach access.

We took a right turn at the entrance to Port Madison Harbor and paddled the shoreline of this sheltered harbor. There are a couple of street ends and one small section of shoreline being developed for a park which would provide public access, but trying to find them from the water is next to impossible unless you know what to look for. I didn't, so I missed them entirely.

Back out in Port Madison we headed toward Point Monroe, then into the shallow lagoon formed by the hook of the point. The tide was quite high so there was plenty of water for paddling around the lagoon before heading off to Fay Bainbridge State Park and lunch.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

DEADLINE: June 23

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

By the time we had finished lunch a 10+mph northerly wind had come up forming wind waves and some white caps out on the water. Our plan was to paddle the shoreline back to Point Monroe, then head across Port Madison to Indianola. A short way into our crossing, though, it was decided that conditions were such that it was better to forego the crossing and instead head back to Suquamish along the shoreline of Bainbridge Island.

By the time we reached Agate Passage the current was ebbing at about 1.6 knots. That combined with wind in the opposite direction created a short distance of wave action that we had to paddle through before reaching the boat ramp at Suquamish.

Since it was only mid-afternoon and the sun was out, four of us opted to continue the day's paddle by heading northward into Miller Bay. The tide was about 3 feet and still going out as we entered the bay. This is a mostly shallow-water bay so we were limited in the amount of exploration that we could do. There is no public shoreline along the bay but there is a boat launch at a marina on the west shore.

By now it was getting to be late afternoon so we headed back to Suquamish. Before taking out three of us decided to complete the day with some roll/rescue practice. Although this was the middle of April, it sure seemed like a summer day.—LGM, Port Orchard, 4/19.



OZETTE TO RIALTO

(USGS Ozette, Allens Bay, La Push)—I hiked the puncheon trail in the mist to Sand Point, arriving at

high tide, and headed south with the outgoing tide.

Past Yellow Banks I saw nine deer, seven of which were sick and losing their hair. Two were too ill to get up when I walked past them. [Ed. Note: Ozette Ranger Dan Messaros tells P&P that the disease seems to be affecting last year's yearlings. It is not fatal and they seem to be recovering. The deer normally shed at this time of year, but the disease causes great chunks of hair to come out and they look "pretty nasty," he says. Biologists are studying their condition but don't know yet what it is.]

The bank at Norwegian Memorial has been eroded about ten feet back from the first time I saw it. The memorial is in one piece again (*February, page 5; March, page 6*).

I camped at Cedar Creek and went on down to explore Starbuck Mine remains in the evening. I found remains of the yarder that was used to dredge gravel from the ocean. There certainly is a big berm of gravel on the beach. I watched an eagle dive bomb a river otter in the surf. The otter came up the beach pretty fast.

The next morning I got to sleep in and wait for a receding tide again. This time I went over "Coastie Head" to see the old cabin. The weather so far was clear. Cape Johnson had a strong wind and I was glad it was at my back. There were many oystercatchers there. I didn't feel like stopping at Chilean Memorial so came all the way out. There were a lot of people on Rialto Beach.

I hiked the nature trails at Mora. They had many (the most I've ever

seen) beautiful trilliums. James Pond had a pair of wood ducks and a hooded merganser. The alder leaves were just about fully open.—Cindy Notown, (4/21-23).



THE NARROWS (NOAA 18474)

—What better way to celebrate Earth Day than to drift, pollution free, down the Tacoma Narrows. The temperature was about 65 when I put in solo at South Wollochet. This ramp is reached by travelling south on Point Fosdick Drive and right on 10th Street. The road ends at the ramp, (a South Sound "best kept secret").

At 4:30pm the temperature and weather had peaked. A light breeze from the southwest was no match for the outgoing tide. By the time I turned the corner and faced the Narrows Bridge, however, the wind had shifted to a faceful out of the north. I had to make my irreversible turnaround decision at Point Evans.

As I passed under the Narrows Bridge I was pretty smug, in my cozy kayak, drinking my cool water, having already had my supper, enjoying the remainder of the day, knowing that the commuters above were still sweating bullets, stressfully wishing for a second bridge. (You never realize how noisy the bridge is until you drift under it.)

Rounding Point Evans the wind disappeared, and it was flat pretty much all the way into Gig Harbor. To take advantage of the current on an outgoing tide you let your boat drift into the middle of the Narrows for a mile or so then work your way back to the west side.

Sightings included numerous seals, including one pup that appeared to be dead, just floating along. I touched it with the paddle and it jumped to life and disappeared. I've never seen one just drifting with its eyes closed.

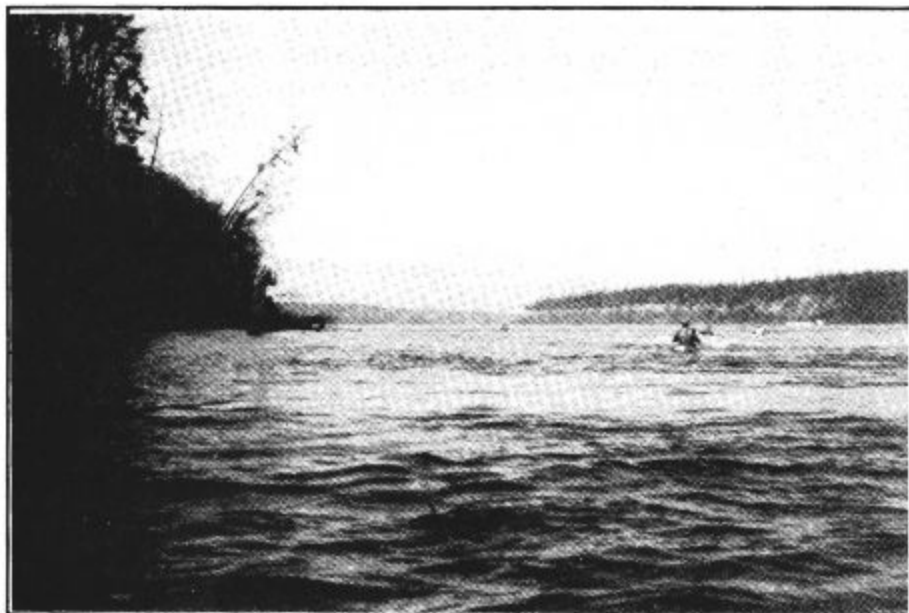
I reached the entrance to Gig Harbor just before the tide had turned, so I had to paddle in. This was my first outing this year so the muscles were talking back some. The drift was about 8½ miles.—Gary Ostlund, Wauna, 4/22.



FOULWEATHER BLUFF (NOAA 18473)

—Had this piece of land been named today it could have well been called Fairweather Bluff with temperatures in the mid 60s, sunny, and light wind. The bluff is at the extreme north end of the Kitsap Peninsula and forms the east entrance to Hood Canal. Currents can run quite strong near the bluff so it is best to time your paddle accordingly.

After setting up cars for the return



Lee McKee

Paddling through the Narrows, at Point Evans.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

shuttle on this one way paddle, our group of 10 single sea kayaks set out from Salsbury Point County Park just north of the Hood Canal bridge (see *Middle Puget Sound & Hood Canal Afoot and Afloat*). It was 9:15 with the tide about 2 feet and still dropping—low would be around 11:30 at a level of -1 foot so lots of water was flowing out the Canal.

Based on past experience under similar tidal conditions we knew a big back eddy can form to the east of the Point so we initially kept off shore, heading northeasterly, more or less aiming for the shoreline about a mile north of the entrance to Port Gamble.

After reaching the shoreline, we followed it up to the entrance to Coon Bay. The shoreline of the bay is lined with houses and contains a small private marina. We continued to our lunch stop at the Nature Conservancy's Foulweather Bluff Wildlife Preserve. It was just after 11am and based on current predictions at the two stations near Foulweather Bluff we had about an hour to spend on lunch before we needed to be paddling again.

The preserve offers the opportunity for beachwalking and birdwatching and several groups of people were doing just that on this beautiful day. There are no facilities here, though, so you must make do.

Just after noon we were back in our boats to continue our paddle. The tide was now coming in and the current was beginning to flood. An eddy can set up in the small bay by Twin Spits so you can save yourself some paddling effort when the current is flooding by paddling a little into the bay.

On a flood the current coming down Admiralty Inlet basically splits in the area where the bluff shoreline goes from north/south to east/west—one arm going into Hood Canal and the other into Puget Sound. Two of our group were paddling in front of the main group, and it was quite obvious from their increased speed when they reached the area where the current split.

It was around 12:45 when we rounded the end of the bluff and could see the Point No Point lighthouse in the distance. A short way off shore to the northeast a tide rip, shown on the NOAA chart, had formed. We had done this trip last year under similar tide/current conditions and had also noted a similar rip.

The water surface conditions had changed since going around the bluff. Smooth surface had been replaced with small wavelets with an occasional larger wave set thrown in. A slight

wind had come up too.

After a brief stop along the shoreline to stretch our legs we were soon at our takeout at the boat launch/marina about ½-mile west of the lighthouse. The end of a perfect day to be out paddling around a bluff named Foulweather!—LGM, Port Orchard, 4/26.



LENA LAKE (USGS Mt Washington)—We arrived at the trailhead about 11am to find many cars broken into. Needless to say we didn't stay but found a logging road nearby to hike up. How disappointing to see such destruction!—Sue Felix, Port Orchard, 5/3.



NORTH FORK QUINAULT, THE RUSTLER (USGS Mt Christie)—Started off this very warm day by stopping near Neilton to let a small herd of elk cross the highway. Although this wasn't a huge snow year, there is still plenty of white ammunition up there, ready to swell the river with snowmelt. And, with this kind of weather, I am betting the yearly frenzy of foam will start soon!

The East Fork Quinault road is still closed at the main bridge, but it looks like they are hauling the final loads of debris out of the valley. One of the road crew said it will be open "real soon."

Drove up the North Fork valley through the incredible sword fern displays to the trailhead. The old Ranger Station and stock area is a springtime treasure chest of wildflowers. The old corral fence is a photographer's delight, with the sun angling into the mossy old fenceposts. I lingered a while with the camera.

New green grasses, mosses, epiphytes, and even saprophytes hug the bottoms of the posts. Spring beauties, starflowers and yellow and pink violets peek out through the greenery. It was

such a quiet and peaceful morning that I couldn't resist having a picnic of my favorite smoked salmon and leek pie right on the spot!

I packed up the 3-man rubber boat and headed for The Rustler. I planned on making a nice dry crossing of the river to get over to the Rustler Valley.

The trailsides are starting to explode with greenery, and I fully expected to see some sprites and faeries at any moment. I did see a fat bear at Wolf Bar (no wolves, of course), and numerous deer all along the river bottoms.

I cut over to the river about a mile and a half upstream from Wolf Bar. I had to walk downstream for a ways to get below the mouth of The Rustler, as I wanted to travel up the right side of the creek. I am glad no one could see my look of surprise when I tried to paddle across with what I thought was plenty of room!

I made it across, but just barely before being caught and deposited downstream by the next set of rapids. My masterful paddling technique quickly deteriorated into a floundering, splashing windmill of arms, legs and paddles. It was not a pretty sight. Of course, stepping out of a squirming rubber raft while trying to keep my feet dry was another example of grace. I found that the telemark position was the most expedient, with the back foot steering the raft while the front foot searched for purchase on the slimy rocks.

The bottomland at the confluence of the Rustler was extravagantly lush. Big Doug-firs and cedars counterpointed the green glow, and the creek itself sparkled with dazzling motes of brilliance. I traveled about 2 miles up the creek, enjoying the fizzing and foaming riffles. Mr. Water Ouzel did the usual high-speed tricks up and down the creek.

As I thought about the last time I was here, I realized that it has been thirty years! Time flies when you are having fun.

Back at the river, I decided to try to travel downstream with the raft. I scouted out about a quarter mile downstream. I had a life preserver, so resolved to give it a shot. Believe me, being alone, I wasn't about to run any "big water." The rubber boat turned out to be quite seaworthy, and I was able to get down to the final scouted point with relative ease.

I just did the same yo-yo procedure down to Wolf Bar. I stopped here, as I knew there was a small canyon with blind corners ahead. Also, the river was rising rapidly from snowmelt. Altogether, a nice run and a good time to quit while I was ahead.

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

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

It was such a beautiful evening that I couldn't resist stopping at the Rain Forest Nature Trail near the lodge. I put on my jogging shoes and had a most exhilarating run along Willaby and Falls creeks. The trilliums were unbelievably dense, and there were many hundreds of them in bloom!

I looped on down to the Lakeshore Trail. The sun was very warm so I just jumped in the lake. The lake was NOT warm, but certainly gave me the impetus to speed up my jogging back to the car.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 4/28.



WAGONWHEEL LAKE

(USGS Mt Skokomish)—An excellent description of this trail is in Robert Wood's *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide*. Briefly, the trail gains about 3200 feet in approximately 2.9 miles.

The first two-thirds consists of steep switchbacks. Then it quits fooling around and goes straight up the ridge. When it reaches the required elevation it traverses off to the west nearly level. On this segment it crosses an opening covered with slide alder, most easily crossed when snow-covered, as it was on this date. Earlier, the avalanche danger can be high; later, crossing the

slide alder is like crossing bear traps.

We left the trailhead at Staircase at 9am and reached the lake at noon. Right on the 1000-foot elevation gain per hour that appears to be a good average pace. Under a tree canopy all the way except for the slide alder patch.

The trail is in good condition consistent with the steep grade. Although sun breaks were predicted we were under or in fog all the way. Wagonwheel Lake is still largely snowcovered with a narrow band of ice showing around the perimeter and about 150 square feet of open water at the outlet.

Fog was dense enough to obscure the opposite shore. Brief lunch and a 2½-hour trip back down to the trailhead.

Takes almost as long to go down as to go up. Hard on knees. Good conditioning hike. Weather and time permitting a side trip to the ridge above the lake is well worth it; great views.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 5/10.



MOUNT ELINOR (USGS Mt Washington, Mt Skokomish)

A sunny Thursday hike. Road had impassable snow just short of the spur road to the high trailhead.

Solid snow from 3400 feet to sum-

mit. The chute was a deep rut in two places but still a great slide. Views greatly diminished by the Great Asian Dust Cloud.—David Nordstrom, Tacoma, 5/7.



MOUNT TOWNSEND

(USGS Mt Townsend)—Glenn Smith and Lance Black embarked from the Tubal Cain trailhead for a dawn assault up the west side of Mount Townsend. Through streaming northern jungle, swirling fog and drifting rain, into the snows of Townsend they went, hampered by limited visibility and vanishing trail.

When I arrived I ambled up the trail, taking time to note early spring flowers and enjoy brief vistas as the clouds danced along the ridges and peaks. Heavy snows start at Sleepy Hollow and I wandered the trail into camp just below Townsend where they regaled me with tales of high winds and horizontal ice sheets on trees when they first arrived.

I risked death that night by preparing a dinner of venison steaks with most of the trimmings, including dinner rolls, while these two intrepid mountaineers choked down their freeze-dried specials. They risked worse, however, when they



In the Valley of Silent Men. The Brothers Wilderness, Olympic National Forest.

Karen Sykes

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

offered me a Power Bar for dessert!

Later that night the poems of Robert Service about the early Alaskan pioneers took on new meaning when read by the light of the moon, in the freezing night, while huddled in a parka.

Next day involved minor rock climbing escorted by chipmunks who seemed bent on reaching terminal velocity. The sun blessed us with a brief appearance and the Olympics arose in bold snow-capped outline above the mist, the teeth of a slumbering land: Maynard, Tyler, Baldy, Greywolf, Buckhorn, Walkinshaw, Deception, Constance, and Anderson.—Farwalker, Hadlock, 5/9.

OZETTE—Restrictions on overnight camping along the coast from Yellow Banks north go into effect 5/22. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 360-452-0330.

The beach is "full" for Memorial Day weekend, and will probably be full for the Fourth of July and Labor Day as well. Latest report is that weekends in June are almost gone.

Says Ozette Ranger Dan Messaros, "Plan ahead!"—5/14.

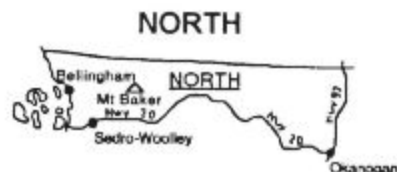
OLYMPIC NATL PARK—A Wilderness Permit fee is charged for all overnight stays in the park. Fee is \$5, plus \$2 per person per night ages 17 years and older. A \$10 per vehicle fee is also collected at Park entrance stations.

At Ozette trailhead parking lot, a \$1 per day fee is charged.

The gate on the Dosewallips road is schedule to open mid- to late-May. The Graves Creek road is open but construction is continuing.—Ranger, 5/12.

GRAY WOLF—Slide damage at 3.9, 4, and 4.5 miles; damage to gorge bridge. Trail closed from 3.9 to 4.5 mileposts. Footlog from Gray Wolf River at Slab Camp trail is out.—Ranger, 5/12.

DUCKABUSH—Trail is snowfree for about 10 miles.—Ranger, 5/12.



NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK—Spring is in full swing here in the North Cascades, as the abundance of wildflowers blooming at lower elevations shows. Given recent warm weather, streams are running especially high with snowmelt.

Ticks are abundant in brushy, forested areas; hikers, be aware and check yourselves carefully.

Current snowline is generally 4500 feet, but will vary depending on slope and aspect. Higher elevation trails are still snowcovered and can be difficult to find. Travelers in the high country should also be aware of potential avalanche hazards. Remember spring weather is especially unpredictable in the mountains, so come prepared for rain, cold temperatures, and possibly snow at the higher elevations.

The Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount, 360-873-4500 x 37 or 39, is open weekends only in May, 8am to 4:30pm. It is open daily 8am to 4:30pm beginning Memorial weekend (Friday, May 22). Self-issue backcountry permits for MOST camps and voluntary climbing register are available at an after-hours outdoor registration station located outside the Wilderness Information Center.

Highway 20 is open. Use caution in potential rockfall and avalanche areas. Thornton Creek road is open to the trailhead, but rough. Okay for 2-wheel-drive, high clearance vehicles. Road is steep and narrow.

Cascade River road is snowfree and open to Boston Basin trailhead. Snowcovered beyond to Cascade Pass trailhead. Scheduled to be gated and closed at MP 19.9 for repairs from 5/26 until early July. Potholes and washboards. Sibley Creek road 1540 is rough and snowfree for 3 miles; snowbound beyond to Hidden Lakes trailhead.

Gate on Hozomeen road opens 5/15; road is rough. Shuttle service to High Bridge on Stehekin Valley road begins 5/22.

Ross Lake campsites: please be flexible with your itinerary as sites often fill quickly. Lake level should be 1568 feet by 5/31, still too low for campsite docks to float. Full pool is 1602.5 feet.

Permits are required year-round for overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits are free. Contact Wilderness Info Center (above) for details.

Trails—Baker River: snowfree and passable to Sulphide Creek camp. Lots of wildflowers.

Big Beaver/West Bank: clear and snowfree to within 1/2-mile of Luna camp. Diablo Lake: snowfree and clear, with wildflowers in bloom. East Bank: snowfree, clear and maintained to Lightning Creek. Bears seen in camps; store food properly and keep camp clean!

Fourth of July Pass: trail in good shape. Some patchy snow at the pass. Camp mostly snowfree. Monogram

Lake and Lookout Mountain: snow-free to trail junction; snowbound beyond. Punccheon bridge at 2 miles is hazardous.

Panther Creek: Only 2 or 3 downed trees before camp. Access to camp is by way of minor stream crossing. Thick brush and downed trees between Panther and the pass. Lots of wildflowers.

Thunder Creek: clear and snowfree to just beyond Skagit Queen camp for hikers and stock. Junction Stock camp bridge is out; inaccessible to hikers and stock.—Ranger, 5/13.

OKANOGAN NATL FOREST—

Twisp River trail is snowfree for 8 miles; 13 trees across trail. Twisp River road is open to War Creek.

Andrews Creek trail snowfree for 3 miles. Driveway Butte snowfree to first ridgeline. Lake Creek trail has patchy snow for last mile; some ice still on lake. Monument Creek trail is snowfree to Eureka Creek.

Robinson Pass trail is snowfree for 3 miles. Wolf Creek trail is snowfree for 5 miles.—Ranger, 5/10.

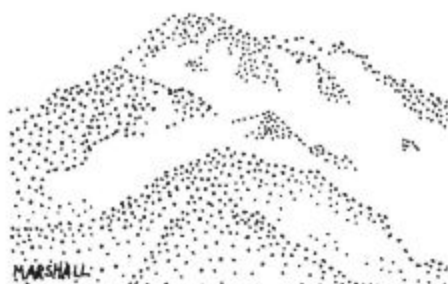
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Glacier Peak from Nason Ridge.

NORTHEAST



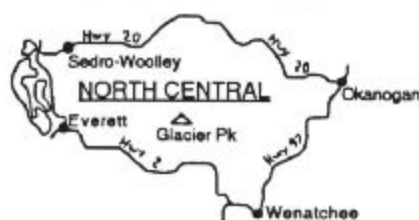
SHERMAN PASS (USGS *Sherman Pk*)—Eastern Washington has many great uncrowded areas for outdoor recreation. One location is Sherman Pass located between Kettle Falls and Republic which offers several peaks above 7000 feet just south of Highway 20. The Snow Peak Shelter Alliance has constructed a cabin here and a volunteer yurt is also located just south of Sherman Peak.

Not letting winter slip back without a few more ski days, we left the highway on Friday evening for the 3-hour ski into the Snow Peak Cabin. Arriving at sunset we spent a restful evening as the wind howled outside.

By Saturday morning the weather front had moved through the area and the sun was out turning the hard crust into fresh corn snow. We skinned up and climbed to the top of Snowy Peak for great views and to look for an incoming party of friends. By afternoon thawed surface snow made for many great runs on the west side of the peak. Our friends arrived and completely wore themselves out enjoying the ideal snow conditions.

On Sunday morning we headed back out to the highway. Stopping en route, we dropped our packs and climbed to the top of Sherman Peak for a ski run off the summit. Back at the cars by late afternoon we were thankful for the use of the cabin and the wisdom of our friend who reserved it so late in April. This is an often overlooked time when skiing is at its best.—Randy Knight, Spokane, 4/24-26.

NORTH CENTRAL



PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN (USGS *Prairie Mtn*)—Climbed this 5678-foot mountain northeast of Darrington, staying directly on or just south of the steep but very short direct northeast ridge, which leads straight to the summit. Anyone know Rick Green who had a plaque in memory of him on the summit, placed there by six Prairie Mountain boys who were also named?

I accessed the ridge by going south on overgrown logging road when the main road turned north (all shown on USGS map), crossed a stream, then fought second growth from a clearcut to ridge. There's an impressive view of the summit from Point 4734, and summit area and beginning of ridge can also be seen from start of overgrown logging road.

Lots of soft snow requiring snowshoes made traversing the steep south side of the ridge challenging. It's steepest right before the summit, so on descending I had to anchor my ice axe and downclimb backwards a ways.

It's easier to ascend the open snow slope directly north of the northeast ridge, wind over the north ridge, go south, then scramble the west side, but I really enjoyed the ridge route. Great views of Darrington and farmlands below from west of the summit.—Fred Beavon, Edmonds, 4/22.



BEAVER LAKE TRAIL

(USGS *White Chuck Mtn*)—

Tried one of the trails listed in Sterling's *Best Short Hikes*. We drove the Mountain Loop Highway 10 miles south of Darrington, found the bridge Sterling refers to, parked the car and were off. The trail's foundation is an old railroad grade with a one-foot-wide path beaten through the flowers, brush, and nettles. It is long, has few curves, and is a "green sky" walk.

When you arrive at the beaver pond, the foot bridge would scare the wits out of a turtle. It is rickety, and rotten, with missing boards. The foot bridge beyond is even worse. This is a common family outing and should not be a dangerous hike. The Forest Service desperately needs to put some of our \$25 trail permit income into replacing those two

bridges or remove them completely.

We passed four families. One had seven kids, none were much over three feet tall, and another had five children the same height. The poor little tykes were badly stung by nettles. I showed them the old Indian trick of rubbing the stings with bracken fern until the area turns green. The sting goes away but the uncomfortable feeling remains until the acid is neutralized by the body. The children were happy to get rid of the sting. The kids were so cute—even those without stings wanted me to rub their "stings."

The trail ends, for all practical purposes, about 1/2-mile past the pond. It seems that the river wanted the trail more than the railroad grade did, so it took it. At the washout is a great place to eat lunch. It provides an unobstructed view of the surrounding snow-capped peaks and the murky river. By the way, the trail has shortened to 2.5 miles instead of 3 miles noted in the book.

It was unfortunate that we couldn't see very well. It seems that China is throwing a lot of dust at us with the jet stream causing poor visibility in the mountains. Good thing it wasn't raining. We might have been pelted with mud balls (chuckle).

After our hike, we drove up road 49 which passes the trailhead to Sloan Peak. We had an interesting encounter with a backcountry ranger. We came around a corner and he was stopped in the road talking to another person. Both trucks were blocking the road. We passed with caution. Up the road about 1/4-mile I looked in the rearview mirror and all I could see were two big headlights, he was that close. It was about 1/2-mile before we found a place to pull over to let him pass. When we did, he went speeding past us like a bat out of you-know-where. I see no excuse for rangers driving that fast on back roads.

Incidentally, at 8.5 miles along road 49, we were stopped by snow on the road. Deep, too!—Robert DeGraw, Kirkland, 5/2.



WHITEHORSE MOUNTAIN

(USGS *Whitehorse Mtn*)—Whitehorse Mountain is a popular early season climb—deservedly so. While not technically demanding, it is, with a vertical gain of 6400 feet, a good test of conditioning, route-finding, and avalanche awareness.

Later in the season, the notorious summit rock moat adds some technical challenge and a bit of rock climbing. The route description in Beckey also adds some challenges and could use an update.

From the intersection of Highway 530 and Swede Heaven Road (5 miles west of Darrington), you turn south at the Texaco station/store and drive south for 2 miles to the trailhead. Unfortunately, we found a car parked in the middle of the road after a mile. The occupants had car-camped right there, thinking that the road was totally washed out just beyond them. And so it was, but in the dark, they had not seen the deep, muddy ruts bypassing the washout.

With a high clearance vehicle, and some caution, we were able to drive the second mile to the trailhead, marked "Niederprum Camp," at about 1000 feet. We hiked steadily uphill on a good climbers' trail until we lost the trail in the snow at around 3500 feet.

Contrary to the description in Beckey's guide, we went straight up from here, keeping to the right of a rocky pinnacle and ascending out of the trees. Soon, we could see a small saddle connecting the top of the pinnacle to the mountain. A leftward, ascending traverse through the saddle leads to open snowfields. The ascending traverse continues another 1/2-mile across the open slope and up a wide gully to Lone Tree Pass.

From the forested pass, we followed the ridge east for about 1/4- to 1/2-mile, until the ridge started rising to a steep, rocky buttress. Here, we turned right (south), and gradually descended about 200 or 300 vertical feet to bypass the base of the buttress. It was not necessary to drop all the way to the small pond and meadow mentioned in Beckey, although we could see it below us through the mist.

After rounding the buttress, we started ascending on an eastward traverse for another 1/2-mile or so. Traverse too low (or too high) and the hillside can get quite steep, or rocky. The slope leading to High Pass is big, and wide open. About 30 feet wide at the pass, the slope fans out to more than 1/4-mile wide and roughly 1500 feet of vertical—a fine place for an avalanche or a fast glissade.

We heard the steep north face of nearby Three Fingers explode, like a sonic boom, as a big avalanche brought down part of the summit cornice and swept half the face clean.

From High Pass, the glacier marched right up to the summit. Our early season reward was that there was no nasty moat, no rock climbing, and no rappel was needed. The price one pays, however, is hours of step-kicking. We were fortunate to have lots of strong step-kickers, especially Gary V. and Ed P.,

who seemed to revel in it. It was a good group and a good route. The fact that the other parties on the mountain followed our footsteps in the fog—up and down—seemed to validate our route.—Dale Flynn, Seattle, 5/2.



BARLOW POINT, GOVERNMENT TRAIL (USGS

Bedal)—After reading about the Government Trail in Karen Sykes' hiking column in the P-I, Jerry and I drove to Barlow Point. The Government Trail travels west along the sidehill. It is a very pleasant hike, but the road is in sight most of the time.

In 2 miles we reached a wonderful waterfall and decided this is a great lowland, rainy-day hike!—Jerry and Nancy South, Brier, 5/15.



WALLACE FALLS, WALLACE LAKE LOOP

(USGS *Gold Bar, Wallace Lk*)—We arrived at 7:20, only to find the entrance gate closed and a sign telling us the park didn't open until 8am. We wondered if they didn't turn on the falls till then or something. NO PARKING signs lined the road almost back to Highway 2, so we ended up waiting. The ranger appeared promptly at 8 to unlock the gate.

The trail was in excellent shape, but it was very muddy. The road/trail above the falls was free of blowdowns, and there were no flooded sections like last year. About a mile from the lake the trees on both sides of the road were marked for an upcoming timber sale. This continued almost to the lake.

Lots of new logging on the return leg of the loop. At one point there were cables across the road attached to pulleys high up on the trees. We were glad the logging trucks weren't running, otherwise this stretch would be unpleasant.

One enterprising homeowner was offering parking in his front yard for two dollars, thus answering my question of where does everyone park after the 20 or so spaces in the official lot are full.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, and Sparky, Edmonds, 5/10.

SUIATLE RIVER—The Canyon Creek bridge will be closed from 5/11 to 7/3 for reconstruction.

Canyon Creek flows through a narrow gorge at the bridge site and there is no alternative crossing, so the Suiattle trail will not be accessible beyond the bridge. Forging is *not* recommended.—Ranger, 5/6.

PCT, Milk Creek to Mica Lake—Currently very difficult for hikers due to snow pack and flood damage. Re-

pairs are scheduled for summer and fall.—Ranger, 5/6.

MOUNT PILCHUCK—Due to ongoing reconstruction, the trail will be closed periodically during the week from July to September. The trail will be open Fridays through Sundays. Call Verlot for details: 360-691-7791.—Ranger, 5/6.

HEATHER LAKE—A 1-mile loop trail around the lake will be built this summer. Construction should start 6/1 and be finished by mid-July, depending on snow melt. Hikers should expect delays of 1 to 2 hours during the week.—Ranger, 5/6.

ELLIOT CREEK—This trail will be reconstructed beginning in June. The work should be finished by September. Most work will be done on weekdays, but hikers should expect brief delays.—Ranger, 5/6.

STEHEKIN—Shuttle Bus from Stehekin Landing to High Bridge begins 5/22. For schedule and fares, call the Wilderness Information Center, 360-873-4500 x 37 or 39.

Boulder Creek: clear and snowfree to 2 miles past junction with Rainbow Loop. Bridge Creek: no shuttle service to Stehekin. Snowy with some downed trees; Maple Creek bridge installed.

Company Creek: open and clear for first 2 miles. Not maintained beyond, with trees, brush, and debris on trail. Devore Creek: open and snowfree for first mile. Not maintained beyond. **McGregor Mountain**: cleared with patchy snow to the rock outcrop (for 7 miles to Heaton Camp). Technical snow climbing higher up.

Purple Creek/Juanita Lake: trail cleared for first 3.5 miles. Hazardous stream crossing at 2 miles. Snowbound beyond.—Ranger, 5/13.

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

LAKE WENATCHEE RANGER

DIST—Starting this year, a fee will be charged for overnight use of all campgrounds and undeveloped areas in the Upper Chiwawa Valley from the end of the pavement on road 6200 to the road-end (including spur roads). The fee is \$4 per vehicle per night.

You can self-register at Finner Creek campground. If you have questions, call the ranger station, 509-763-3103.

The Chiwawa road is currently closed at the end of the pavement. Little Wenatchee road is closed 2 miles from Highway 207. White River road is snow-covered beyond Tall Timber Ranch.—Ranger, 5/12.

CENTRAL



EAST FORK FOSS RIVER

(USGS Skykomish, Scenic)—

The first part of this little used trail makes a great spring hike being one of the few relatively undisturbed lowland valleys entering the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The trail follows the East Fork of the Foss River upstream for 5 miles and then crosses it, climbing steeply and rapidly to the isolated Necklace Valley and La Bohn Gap. The high country is not normally open until late July and August.

The trail starts at the trailhead approximately 4 miles from Highway 2 on the Foss River road. The trail follows an old road grade the first couple of miles through mature second growth forest. At 1 mile, the trail abruptly climbs a short way to cross foaming Burn Creek on an old bridge. Then it dips down again to rejoin the grade.

Evidence of early logging can be seen in the gigantic cedar and Douglas-fir stumps scattered along the grade. The Alpine Lakes Wilderness boundary is soon reached. At approximately 2 miles, the trail edges along the water meadows of marshy Alturas Lake.

When our small party of Mountaineers visited the area in early May, the canyon was literally glowing with new life. The forest trail was lined with a vibrant under-story tapestry including red huckleberry, elderberry, wood violet, twinflower, assorted saxifages, baneberry and sword fern.

There was an outstanding array of

native lilies including trillium, *Smilicina racemosa*, *Smilicina stellata* and fairy bells (*Disporum hookeri*). Tiny pink calypso orchids could be seen peeking up through the thick greenery.

In marshy spots, we spotted skunk cabbage (*Lysichitum americanum*) and devil's club. Farther along the trail were colonies of deer fern, bunchberry, western bleeding heart and burgeoning clumps of mertensia, growing out in the open with huckleberry, salmonberry, thimbleberry, elderberry, vine maple and slide alder.

Since it was still spring, we were only hiking the first 5 miles of the trail. It was reported to be open and snow-free. Only in the last mile or so did we see patches of squashed vegetation where snow had recently melted.

Since clouds were draping over the heights, we could not see the canyon walls until later in the day. There were slick rocky cliffs coming off Tonga Ridge, with huge boulder fields plunging into the canyon. Forest and avalanche vegetation alternated in the upper reaches of the canyon. Huge old cedars, hemlock, silver fir and Douglas-fir soared above the canyon floor in beautiful groves.

In the background, the roaring stream dominated the sound of birdsong as it slipped and crashed around boulder and log, plunging through narrow gaps and widening briefly into soft curves.

Just short of 5 miles and the river crossing, there was a large campsite where we had lunch sheltered by thick overhanging branches. While eating lunch, we gazed over the wreckage of an old logjam. The river bank had been gouged and cut by the strength of wild waters. Less than a ¼-mile farther we found the river crossing. The log over the river was intact after another winter.

We enjoyed our spring trek through the forest on this little used trail. Out of the three people we saw during the day, one was a ranger from the Skykomish District out on an early surveying trip who we met near Alturas Lake.—Liz Escher, Seattle, 5/12.



WEST TIGER MOUNTAIN

(IATC Tiger Mt)—My hiking

buddy Charlene and I hit the trail one morning in late April to conquer West Tiger ... or at least to explore. Since moving into the area again and rejoining the Mountaineers, I have developed an insatiable appetite for "new" trails. Yes, I realize Tiger Mountain is nothing new to local trail hounds, but I hadn't hiked there much since the early '80s. Needless to say, the trails have changed considerably (for the better!)

since then. So anyway, after perusing Bill Longwell's Tiger Mountain map, I had decided on a loop trip to West Tiger 2 and 3.

Charlene and I set out on a warm spring day. The lack of clouds in the sky and the heat radiating off the gravel in the parking lot at 8:30am promised fair weather for the day. We started out from the "new" Tiger Mountain Trail trailhead at the DNR parking lot.

The TMT climbs up through open woods and soon meets an old, very steep road. First confusion of the day. A couple of people were laboriously climbing the old road (the abandoned power line road which ascends West Tiger 3, I found out later).

None of them were very clear as to the name of the trail. No, that wasn't a proper intersection. We set out again on the TMT, which had leveled off a little. I kept looking for the crossing of High Point Creek and the intersection with the old High Point trail. Eventually we made it to the junction, passing through delightful forest and softly tinted green glades. A very sturdy new bridge crosses High Point Creek.

From there the TMT becomes steeper for a short way, paralleling the old power line from High Point. Charlene pointed out an old power pole still standing in the woods. The forest there is mostly alder that was just beginning to bud out. Even though Tiger Mountain is not very high, the shady reaches of the mountain were sometimes chilly. There were lots of spring flowers to view, especially giant trilliums and coltsfoot, both growing next to the trail.

Soon we came to the intersection with the West Tiger Railroad grade. I didn't realize then that by taking the left-hand turn, we could have ascended West Tiger 1 (another trip!).

We continued following the TMT toward West Tiger 2. The TMT left the Railroad Grade and began to seriously ascend the east side of West Tiger 2. Through breaks in the trees we could catch glimpses of West Tiger 3. We came out into some open areas and could see out toward Mount Si and the Cascades.

The air quality puzzled me. It had a gray look to it, not the normal hue of local air pollution or even marine haze. Later I found the haziness was due to a Chinese dust storm, which had sent millions of tons of fine dust particles up into the atmosphere to be lovingly set down in the Puget Sound basin. The mountains weren't as distinct as I had hoped, but the views were still pretty wonderful.

We came to the side trail that leads

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

up to the summit of West Tiger 2, climbing up through stunted hemlock and andesite outcroppings. Coming out of the woods, we skirted the communication facility's fence until we found an open site above the road in which to sit and have a snack and to enjoy the views.

We could see over to the Olympics, most of southern Puget Sound and down to Mount Rainier. The mountain was curiously chopped off by the high level dust. Closer by, we could see the summit of West Tiger 1 with its towers and Poo Poo Point (see Bill Longwell's great trail book for an explanation on the origin of that strange name).

What next? We wanted to find the trail connecting West Tiger 2 and 3 across the saddle, but missed it. So, rather than getting lost, we exercised caution by backtracking down to the intersection with the West Tiger Railroad Grade. We followed the Railroad Grade 1 mile to the intersection with the trail (highway?) to West Tiger 3 and laboriously climbed to that summit, along with the multitudes.


We made our way up the new trail that crisscrosses the steeper and badly eroded power line road. Eventually, we made the summit and discovered what looked like a major sun-worshipping and view-gawking party.

Seating ourselves on a gravelly bench, we promptly began eating our second lunch and enjoying the views. Off to the southwest, we could see parachute gliders and one hang-glider circling in the thermals. They looked like giant colorful birds.

The summit was filled with an assortment of hikers, two-legged and four-legged. West Tiger 3 is easily one of the most popular summits I have been up, with the exception of Mount Si and Dog Mountain (in the Columbia Gorge).

The trip going out was quicker. The West Tiger Trail is steep, though well maintained and quickly loses elevation. We descended, passing probably fifty people who were still heading for the summit, even though it was almost three o'clock.

For future trip planning, I think I would still use the TMT. We saw perhaps six people all morning until we reached the first summit. There is plenty of solitude, views, and interesting nooks and crannies of the forest, canyons and creeks. For those who are in a hurry and like crowds, they can stick to the West Tiger Trail.—Liz Escher, Seattle, 5/5.

 **SQUAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK** (USGS *Issaquah*)—The May Valley road is a trail shared with horses. We found it a

pleasant walk and a fine workout.

There is a hiking sign on the south side of the road across from the nice parking lot. Start up the trail, come out at a road, turn right and go up the road. A sign marks where the trail goes into the woods. There are a lots of paths and loops. A good early- and late-season lowland hike.—Jerry and Nancy South, Brier, 5/8.



PREACHER MOUNTAIN

(USGS *Lk Philippa Bandera*)

—Because it's "way back in there," this peak is seldom climbed. One approach would be by way of the Snow Lake trail and its extension to the Wildcat Lakes and beyond. But this would make for a long day. The approach we chose is somewhat shorter and comes in from the north by way of Rainy Creek.

A scratch trail to Rainy Lake follows the creek on its right as you head upstream. We eventually lost it in the snow but the travel to the lake is straightforward: just resist the temptation to stay close to the creek and as you near the lake, swing up high to avoid the waterfall and nearby cliffs.

Now drop to the lake, cross the outlet stream, and head uphill. Note: the jagged peak overlooking the lake on the southeast is not Preacher Mountain. However, easy travel with minor detours will bring you to a col immediately to its north and this can be taken to the ridgecrest.

From here, you still can't see the

Preacher. Still, head due south and in short order your destination will appear above you on the right. Ascend moderately steep snow to the summit. No problems (but this is definitely avalanche-prone terrain). Great views of the Garfield massif to the north and the Snoqualmie Pass peaks to the southeast.

Time: Allow 4 hours to the lake and another 2 1/2 hours to the summit (expect to pull about 5500 feet of gain).—Garth and Rodger, Carnation, 4/30.



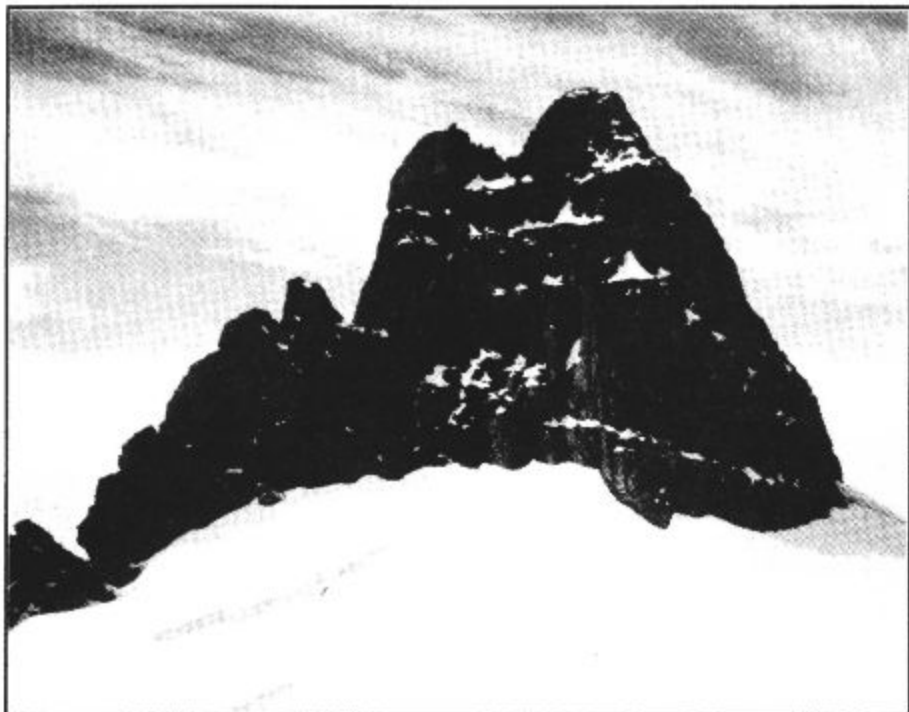
SNOQUALMIE MOUNTAIN

(USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)

—Five of us (Linda, Manita, Sharon, Nancy and me) parked at Alpentel and set off on snow right from the parking lot. We slogged up to Cave Ridge on snow that was alternately soft in the open, and icy under trees. Falling snow turned to rain, and finally we got sun breaks at midday.

The thought of postholing the last 1500 feet to the summit was not appealing, so we had lunch at the ridge and watched another party reach the summit of Guye. We noticed a nice line of tracks heading up Snoqualmie not far from where we sat, and after lunch decided to follow them up.

These tracks were firm and easier to walk, so we continued, and shortly below the summit met and thanked the party of Mountaineers that had made them. (Among the group was *P&P* reader Ron Raff.)

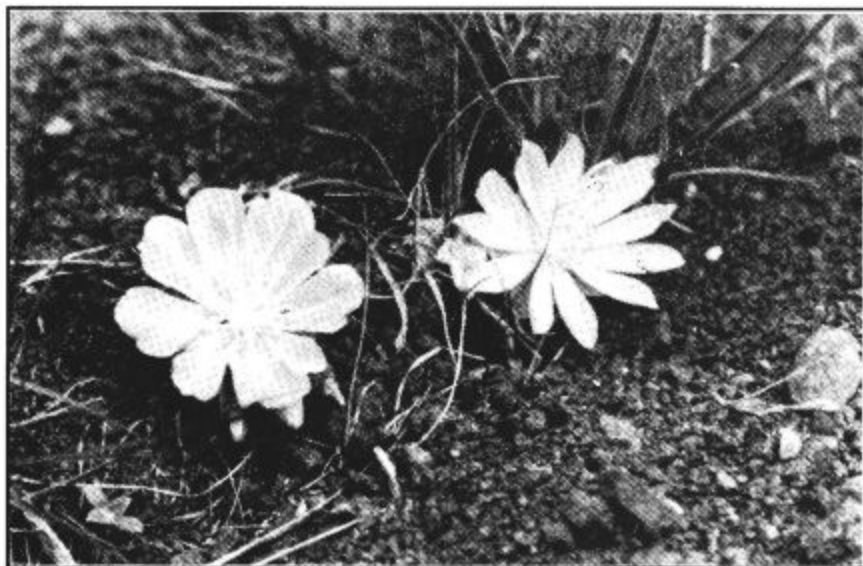


Overcoat Peak, Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Larry Smith

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



The vivid glow of bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) at the end of June in the Teanaway country is always a treat.

Ann Marshall

Low clouds prevented good views from the summit, so we didn't linger. Heading back down, we glissaded where we could and postholed through knee-deep slop the rest of the way.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 4/25.

▲▲ DENNY MOUNTAIN (USGS Snoqualmie Pass)—Six of us (Linda, Lindy, Nancy, Bettye, Manita and me) again parked at Alpentel and headed up, this time on the other side of the valley from Snoqualmie Mountain. The lower slopes are starting to melt out, but the top of the first chair is still solid snow. We took the "scenic route," following the chairlift southwest to the pass, crossing under the second chair into the bowl, and following that up to the lift terminus just below the summit.

Nancy, who had to get back to town for a wedding, stopped here to eat lunch and watch us ascend before she turned around.

The rest of us continued to the end of the snow below the summit rocks, where we dropped our packs. Linda and Lindy found a charming Alice-in-Wonderland slot that led to a slab and a little scramble to the very top.

Here we met a friendly party of Mountaineer Scramblers enjoying the view with their lunch. After photos, we headed down. Linda and Bettye decided not to go back through the Alice-in-Wonderland slot, but instead walked around on an easy ledge. Manita, Lindy and I stemmed our way back through, and back at our packs we all ate lunch and watched skiers and snowboarders play below us.

Although wet and not very fast, the glissades back to the car were quite satisfactory.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 5/16.



NORTH FORK TEANAWAY (USGS Enchantment Lks)

The old 29 Pines campground is closed to the public after last year's wind storm.

The Beverly Creek road is snowfree and in good shape. Our Mountaineer group of six found the upper Bean Creek crossings too high and fast for safety. We went back down to look at the crossing at the Beverly Turnpike junction. When some in the party didn't like this one, either, our leader Karin scrapped the planned scramble of Bean and we headed for Stafford Creek.

On the way, we detoured up the North Fork road to see what the snowline was. About a mile past Beverly campground we ran into a patch of soft snow with tracks through it, but it was enough to stop the two-wheel-drive cars in our group. Wally and Lavita's Explorer could have gone through it with no problem, and there was bare ground beyond, but we turned around there.

The Stafford Creek road was in its usual rocky and potholed state, but completely snowfree.

We hiked up the Stafford Creek trail for a couple of hours, found some nice rocks in the shade (it was a hot day) and enjoyed lunch and views. Snow began about 4000 feet on both this trail and Bean Creek. Even the little creek crossings on this trail required some careful stepping. The snow is going very fast with these temperatures.

Back at the trailhead, we discovered

two of the three cars in the party had flat tires. The cars were not damaged, so it appeared to be just coincidence and not intentional.

Balsamroot was already blooming along the lower North Fork road, and we also saw fields of glacier lilies, trilliums and spring beauties where the snow had recently melted.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 5/6.



STANDUP RIDGE, POINT 5195 (USGS Enchantment Lks)

Beginning at the top of Earl Peak (7036 feet), "Standup Ridge" drops to the south for about 4 miles to end at Stafford Creek (at just under 2800 feet).

It is defined by Standup Creek to the east and by Bean Creek, Beverly Creek and the North Fork Teanaway River to the west. Its crest is partly open rock and partly broken forest and light brush. Just over halfway up, Point 5195 is a distinct rocky "top" clearly visible from the road and an ideal destination for a conditioning springtime scramble.

I am grateful to TG of Skyway, who described this enjoyable route (*Pack & Paddle*, March 1992, pages 6-7). This is a "traditional spring hike" with TG because "it is the first interesting Teanaway ridge to become accessible" in the spring.

On April 25th I ascended the lower west side of the ridge, parking along the North Fork Teanaway river across from cabins, about .6-mile north of the Stafford Creek bridge. Heading a bit north to avoid steep forest, I found an old logging track up through the trees that quickly led to open slopes, avoiding much of the brush farther south described by TG. This route continued up fairly steep gravelly talus, cresting the ridge two bumps north of the old lookout site. That day I only made it to Point 4298.

On May 1st Greg and I started farther south, about .2-mile north of the bridge. We encountered substantially more forest and brush here than I had farther north, but the open slope was a bit more gradual and led quickly to the old lookout site (3784 feet).

From here an intermittent faint path led over naked bumps and through light forest to an enjoyable series of rock crests which could be negotiated mostly by carefully walking along the apex. Beyond Point 4298, more open trees and brush led to a series of rocky buttresses which could be circumvented on the west or scrambled directly. Soon, a final walkable rocky ridge ended at Point 5195.

A few snow patches were present on

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April 25th, but these were practically gone by May 1st. The vistas from the top were pleasant, although ironically Earl Peak was obscured by trees. On the way up, a few early flowers were blooming, including yellow bell (Liliaceae, *Fritillaria pudica*), glacier lily (Liliaceae, *Erythronium montanum*) and spreading stonecrop (Crassulaceae, *Sedum divergens*).

Round trip: with the ups and downs, the trip is about 6 miles with 3000 feet of total gain, Class 2.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 5/1.

ENCHANTMENTS—For permit application, call the ranger station: 509-548-6977.—Ranger, 5/12.

LEAVENWORTH DIST—The Snow Lakes parking lot is closed until 5/31 for helicopter use.

Icicle Ridge, Fourth of July, Snow Lakes and Ingalls Creek trails are mostly snowfree for the first 5 to 6 miles. Devil's Gulch and Mission Ridge are snowfree except at the upper end. Snow covers trails at higher elevations.—Ranger, 5/12.

SOUTH CENTRAL



YAKIMA RIM SKYLINE TRAIL

(Kittitas and Yakima county maps)—We drove from Ellensburg on the Jacob Durr Road to the ford at Umtanum Creek, intending to start at the north trailhead. The creek was a little too deep to ford, so we drove the Yakima Canyon Road to Selah to the old south trailhead. After a false start and a very bumpy road, we came to a nice grassy area with an outhouse. We camped there for the night.

The trail started up steeply and was very rocky. It followed the rim of the canyon with one false summit after another, to a view of Rosa Dam on the Yakima River, 1500 feet below, and a long train snaking its way through the canyon. The trail improved after this point and was marked with tall posts, clearly visible in the distance. There was water for the dog at Twin Springs at 2525 feet.

We continued to the high point at 3208 feet and started down in pursuit of

Rosa Creek. After much downhill, we had a pleasant lunch across the river from a recreation area. It was getting late, so we abandoned our quest for Rosa Creek and returned to the truck. The rocks were treacherous going down. We had a report of a rattlesnake near the trailhead, but no sight of it. After 12 or 13 miles of hiking, the campsite was a welcome resting place before heading home.

We later discovered a new south trailhead not far from the old one, but bypassing the trailhead and intersecting the trail up near the viewpoint of Rosa Dam. We later found several ticks on the dog.—Eva Storm and Steve Tyler, Kirkland, 4/26.

MOUNT RAINIER FEES—See page 29, this issue.

RAINIER NATL PARK OPENINGS

—Stevens Canyon road opened 5/8, two weeks ahead of the scheduled Memorial Day weekend date. An average snowfall and a mild spring allowed park road crews to clear the remaining snow faster than usual. The opening of Stevens Canyon allows visitors to make a loop around the park.

Paradise still has over 10 feet of snow.

The road from White River to Sunrise is scheduled to open 7/1. A construction contract to repair road damage on the Sunrise road will be ongoing until mid-August; expect delays from 10 to 30 minutes in this area.

The Carbon River road remains closed at the Fairfax Bridge on Highway 165. A portion of this bridge is being reconstructed due to damage from an accident. Bridge repair is expected to be complete sometime in June and visitors will then be able to drive to the Carbon River entrance.

Access from the entrance to Ipsut Creek will be limited to foot and bicycle traffic throughout the summer. Repair work on this road is scheduled to begin in fall.

Paradise Inn opened for the season on 5/15 and will be open daily through 10/4. The Longmire Inn is open year around. For reservations at either of these inns, call 360-569-2275.

Sunshine Point campground is open now. Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh campgrounds open on 5/22. From 7/1 through Labor Day, these two campgrounds will be on a reservation system; call 800-365-2267.—Ranger, 5/10.

NACHES DIST—Trailheads along Highways 410 and 12 are accessible, but trails that go above 3700 feet are snowcovered; snow patches start about 3400 feet.

Expect the snowfree zone to rise by about 200 feet a week through June. After that time, the remaining snowpack above 4500 feet is what is left of huge snowdrifts that will not melt out until late July, regardless of elevation.—Ranger, 5/12.



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Jane Habegger

Bill Lynch hikes through fields of balsamroot on the Dog Mountain trail. Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

SOUTH



WOODS CREEK (USGS

Greenhorn Buttes)—Six miles

south of Randle is a great place to visit. The Woods Creek Watchable Wildlife Trail and Picnic area consists of two 1-mile loops.

The first loop meanders through meadowland, past the beaver dam and lodges. Many different bird songs and a lovely frog chorus. The second loop is through old growth forest and I was treated to elk both young and old, and black-tailed deer.

A highlight for me on this early morning frosty trek was a huge owl. I believe it was a short-eared owl, but also saw marsh hawks and red-winged blackbirds. From Poulsbo this area is a 3-hour drive but there are numerous other short treks in the Randle area: Iron Creek, Cispus River, Laysen Cave, Burley Mountain, Quartz Creek, Big Trees, to name a few.—JP Williams, Poulsbo, 4/23.



MOUNT SAINT HELENS

(USGS *Mt St Helens*)—This

trip was a special reward for the older scouts in our troop who have worked long and hard this past year with all the new scouts. As Scoutmaster Jace

said, "It was time for the big dogs to go and play!"

Zach and I left town early afternoon Friday so we could purchase the \$15 climbing permits in Cougar before Jack's Restaurant closed. We were able to buy the six permits we needed and then registered the group and had dinner while the rest of the group caught up with us. They finally arrived at 9:30 and we quickly headed up to the Monitor Ridge trailhead.

The road was closed 3 miles before the Climbers' Bivy so we hiked by headlamp until 12:30 at night. With 5 feet of slushy snow on the ground this was no easy walk. We rejoiced every time we were able to walk on the side of the road where the snow had melted out.

Finally we reached the Bivy and set up our tents for a well deserved rest. Unfortunately it rained hard most of the night and the next morning, so we stayed in our bags until 9:30. Finally it cleared enough for an attempt on the peak. The first 2 miles are all woods and then you break out into the open.

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The sun greeted us where the slopes began to rise.

We followed the track up through more woods until we finally left the last trees and could see the mountain in all its glory. The climb is really no more than a steep hike. The ropes we brought were unnecessary, as were the crampons. However, if it had been icy higher up, they would have come in handy.

Five hours from camp we reached the summit rim, 8365 feet. Stephen, Spencer, Zach and Donald did a great job and earned the tremendous views of Adams, Hood, Rainier and of course the crater of Saint Helens. Jace, as is his custom, gave us all Snicker bars for a job well done. We toasted Troop 85 and wished more older kids had come.

The best part of all is glissading back down! We took turns plowing out the old runs that others had made ahead of us as we joyfully dropped down 4500 feet in less than two hours.

Zach rode his snowboard down, along with many others we didn't know who brought skis. One family even brought up a six-month-old baby and dad skied back down with the little girl on his back!

Dinner was delicious and well deserved after plodding through all that soft snow. The next morning we hiked back out and visited the Ape Caves on the way home.—Mark Owen, Shoreline, with Jace Fischer (Scoutmaster) and Zach, Stephan, Spencer and Donald, 5/1-3.

PCT—Snowfree in the Columbia River Gorge.—Ranger, 5/5.

MOUNT ST HELENS—For permit information, call 360-247-3961.

OREGON



TUMALO MOUNTAIN

(*Deschutes Natl Forest*)—

Heather and I went down to the Bend area for four days of hiking, bicycling, skiing, and snowshoeing. Hey, Central Oregon is perfect for us!

Across the road from Mount Bachelor is 7775-foot Tumalo Mountain, a perfect destination for backcountry skiing or snowshoeing. We chose the latter and began our ascent from the Dutchman Flat Sno-Park. You begin at an elevation of 6250 feet so there isn't much of a climb. However, what climb there is you do fast!

The summit of Tumalo is all open with views that extend from the Three Sisters to McLoughlin in the south.

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There are no avalanche dangers as long as you stay away from the north bowl. Snowmobilers have free range in this area—but there is a lot of space to roam so don't be discouraged.

We descended along the northwest ridge attaining two sub peaks and then headed off into the beautiful old growth forests that adorn this peak. Nice views and big old trees all along the way. We came out on the Flagline snowmobile trail and followed it back to Dutchman Flat to complete our loop of about 5 miles. A great outing!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 4/16.



PAULINA CREEK (*Deschutes Natl Forest*)—The

Peter Skene Ogden National Recreation trail runs for 9 miles from its origin at the Ogden camp all the way to Paulina Lake in the Newberry Caldera. The trail follows beautiful, sparkling Paulina Creek all the way.

This trail is extremely popular, especially with equestrians, but that should not discourage you from hiking it. Heather and I followed the trail for 5.3 miles to a beautiful twin waterfall. There are several falls, cascades, and rapids along the way. Much of the trail passes through open ponderosa or lodgepole pine forests.

The trail was snowfree to the falls and I imagine that by the time you read this it will be almost entirely snowfree.

Our hike out to the falls was pretty quiet, but we encountered a lot of people on the way back. The trail is easy to hike and traverses some lovely terrain. It is no wonder why it is so popular. Check it out!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 4/18.

HAWAII



KILUEA CALDERA

(*Hawai'i Volcanoes Natl Park*)

—Starting from the Crater Rim road we took the Devastation Trail through a landscape of pumice past Pu'u Pua'i, a cindercone, then descended to the Byron Ledge Trail.

Making a change in plans we turned left on the BLT instead of right. Hoping to not have problems since we did the no-no of changing plans, we made our way down the forested BLT.

The trail started descending from the "ledge" and views of the expansive caldera opened up. The trail hits the caldera floor and shoots off arrow-straight toward Halema'u ma'u. It's a wonderful perspective from the caldera floor. The high forested rim runs most of the way around, then opens to the southwest, where the lavas flowed away toward the sea.

We crossed many different lava flows, each a different shade—black, grey, brown, and reddish.

We hit our trail junction next to the chaotic lava rim of Halema'u ma'u crater. From this point we had another straight shot toward Volcano House sitting atop the caldera rim 2 miles distant.

A strong headwind and mist kept us chilled as we followed cairns through that fantastic place of broken lava and steaming fissures.

At last we were back at the BLT junction and a short up-rim hike brought us to Volcano House.

This was a great one-way hike that sampled a variety of terrain and was only about 5 miles long.—David and Erik Nordstrom, Tacoma, 4/7.

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FOUND—A camera in the Stampede Pass area. Identify to claim. Call Fred at 425-885-3749 (Woodinville).

WANTED—Boots: men's Raichle Montagnas, 10½ or 11. Andy Studebaker, 509-634-4926 (Keller).

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Also have one ski. Karhu XCD GT

Kinetic, 210cm. Free to good home or I would like to find a mate for same.

Call Bruce Candioto, 206-842-6351 (Bainbridge Island).

FOR SALE—Leather mountaineering boots made by Scarpa/Fabiano. Men's size 10½-11. Good condition. \$25. Call Roger, 360-373-6642 (Bremerton).

OSAT—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 253-238-9674.

INTERESTED IN HIGH LAKE FISHING? Washington State Hi-Lakers club meets third Wednesday of each month at Mercerview Community Center, 7:30pm. For information, call George Bucher, 425-821-5752 (Kirkland).

WINTER CLIMBS—All copies of Winter Climbs: One Day Ascents are sold. The author hopes to have additional copies available in November.

CONNIE MCLAUGHLIN

Pacific Crest Trail: Piecemeal

—PART II, IN WHICH WE MEET PC PACKER—

After having such a hard time enduring our trip in 1996 (*May issue, page 23*), my daughter Jo Marie Flannery and I wanted to be in better shape and condition for our '97 PCT trek.

We actually went out with our heavy packs on 3- to 6-mile treks around town. We may have looked odd but it did pay off. Earlier in the season we were getting in shape to climb Mount Adams which also helped.

Jo and I decided on the section of the Crest Trail between White Pass and Stampede Pass, just over 80 miles. We hoped to have better traveling weather and fewer bugs by going a month later than last year and we decided to add a day as we were going 10 miles farther.

"DON'T YOU HAVE A MAP?"

Our start date of September 6, 1997, finally arrived and we were let off where the PCT crosses the highway just east of White Pass. We walked the short distance up to the large parking lot where we used the outhouse and signed the register.

Soon we were ready—only we couldn't find where the Crest Trail left the lot going north. After walking around for awhile we finally found a ranger to ask.

He first said, "Don't you have a map?" Of course I had a map! I had even looked at it! It just did not give enough detail. He graciously gave us directions.

It would have taken us a while to find it as it goes out of the Leech Lake parking lot instead of the one we had walked into. A little signage at the point we entered the large lot would be in order, I would think. It was about 2:25 when we finally got under way on our new adventure.

After very carefully weighing almost everything I put in my pack, it was a whole 1.5 pounds lighter than last year, weighing in at 50 pounds and with the trip one night longer.

Well, it was still too heavy! Maybe next year I can get it under control. The difference this year with the trail was that flat stretches alternated with eleva-



A Passing Hiker

Connie, left, and Jo on the only snow of the trip. tion gain.

Again this year we traveled through some extremely beautiful country. We passed several lakes and ponds in the first few hours on the trail, and again the next day.

We cruised right on by where we were going to spend our first night as it was still early enough and we had not worked hard enough. We only went about a half mile farther and found ourselves on the trail between two ponds where we decided to spend the night instead of trying to find something else.

As it turned out, about a half hour farther were some small pristine lakes with good sites. We could hear elk bugling during the night. The grass around the pond where we camped had many tiny frogs to keep us company. The next morning we had light frost, the only time during the trip.

The trail was great and again through pristine country. After a long descent we crossed the Bumping River and had a lunch break at Fish Lake, where we had planned our next camp. We decided to continue and climb the 1000 feet up to Crag Lake.

Crag Lake, nestled in a high valley, was beautiful and we had it all to ourselves. We washed ourselves and some clothes and read to each other from a very lightweight book I had brought.

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

Got up at 6:45am—Jo had heard something in my pack so I went to investigate. Gray jays!

A cool morning. The sun slowly made its way up the lake to our camp. It was going to be another beautiful day. We finally left camp about 9:50am and climbed back up to the PCT where we filled our bottles from a spring that ran over the trail.

Again we covered some very beautiful country this day. After climbing to the gap above Crag Lake we rolled up and down through the high country. We descended the pass where the American Lake trail came into the PCT and took our lunch break above a pristine meadow.

After dumping my pack I scrambled down to a little creeklet to wash and enjoy the meadow. We then continued to our evening destination of Anderson Lake only to take a short break and then shoulder our heavy packs to get in a few more miles before we stopped for the day.

We arrived at Dewey Lake about



Jo and PC Packer at Sourdough Gap: our first photo of him.

5:15 to find the mosquitoes and flies were the worst we had had on this trip. (This was also the last of them for this trip.) Many of the campsites were closed for revegetation. We finally found a great site on a peninsula near the north end of the lake.

ON TO SHEEP LAKE

The following day was our shortest day of travel. We climbed up about 700 feet and then around Naches Peak and down the open meadows toward Chinook Pass. After a short lunch break we continued to Sheep Lake about 2.2 miles farther.

We met a man and his 16-year-old daughter who were doing the trail in its entirety and also traveling about 25 miles a day. Here we were stopping for the day and they planned to go another 14 miles!

Sheep Lake is very cold and very refreshing. Again we sneaked in a dip between visitors at the lake and also washed some more clothes. Are we the only ones who like to put on clean clothes on the trail? One man said he was wearing the same clothes he had on since sometime in Oregon when he had gone swimming in them!

THE ABANDONED DOG

Sheep Lake is where PC Packer came into our lives quite unexpectedly. I had already hung our food for the night when this very charming pup came into our camp and made himself right at home.

I thought he belonged to some fellow campers who had arrived while we were eating as they had a dog with them. We decided that the trail must really be hard on the dog as he was very skinny!

When our visitor would not leave I went down to let our neighbors know where their dog was. They came up later to tell us this was not their dog, Joey, who followed them up and was large and very healthy looking. Putting it together we decided that this dog had been abandoned and probably had been mooching from hikers maybe for as long as two weeks. He was slowly starving to death! CC and Laura, our neighbors, fed the dog some of Joey's food which he just gulped down, then he curled up to sleep.

The next morning he was still in our camp. After talking over the pros and cons of taking him with us or leaving him for someone else to take out if they would, we decided to try to take him



One of PC's many naps.

Connie McLaughlin

with us. We were, after all, traveling slow enough and not too many miles a day, so that he might have a chance to make it out with us.

SHORT RATIONS

Now, neither Jo nor I are "dog people" and we had five days yet to go, so we knew we were really taking a chance that we were doing the right thing for the dog. Also we knew we would have to share our carefully rationed food with the third member of our party.

Besides the small bag of regular dog food, CC gave us some of Joey's large bone treats with I carried in my front pouch. We decided to call the dog PC, for "Pacific Crest."

As we left our camp PC happily followed right along, only to the edge of the camping area at Sheep Lake. Then he laid down and would not be coaxed any farther. What to do? I had two short pieces of nylon line in my pouch (for just such a need?), so I tied them together and made a loop at one end and tied the other to PC's collar (that had no tabs).

I now had a leash with a dog attached who seemed to know what was expected. With a little tug up he came and followed right along, even though rather reluctantly.

We had to climb up to Sourdough Gap, a rather pleasant ascent of about 650 feet. We soon realized we were going to have to slow our already slow pace to accommodate our new compan-

ion. At the gap he just curled up to take a nap. I did not want to take off my heavy pack so fed him a half bone treat and after about 5 minutes we continued on our way.

The previous night we had had our first rain which had settled the dust on the trail. It was a high overcast day, not as warm as it had been but still a very pleasant morning.

We started our descent on a long contour that would eventually take us to Bear Gap and along the ridge above Crystal Mountain ski area. After only another half mile PC just laid down and would not move. I had the feeling this was going to be a long day! There would be no water until we got to the spring above Big Crow Basin, our destination for the night.

I went back and, with some difficulty, scooped PC up in my arms and began carrying him down the trail. Jo followed saying, "I can't believe you are doing this! I can't believe you are doing this!"

I carried him as far as my arms would allow then I turned around and put him in Jo's arms and continued up the trail. I could then hear, "I can't believe you did this! I can't believe you did this!"

When she could carry him no farther, she put him down and he continued with us. Now you have to realize we had probably 45 pounds or so in our packs at this time and PC weighed maybe close to 35, so carrying him was no easy task.

After that every time we came to very rocky places on the trail, PC would just lay down and not go on. He did have a sore on one paw which was probably the cause.

So I would get him up and into Jo's arms and she would carry him across the rocky area on the trail. This happened about three more times that day.

We had not gone very far past Bear Gap, to the sign that said "Pickhandle Point 6000 feet," where a little way-trail turned off. Even though it was not noon, we knew we had to stop for our companion's sake. This time he collapsed and would not eat or drink. We figured we had probably killed him with the exertions of the day.

THE MCRAES HELP OUT

After eating we read to each other for awhile then made motions to leave. PC got up and ate and drank so we decided to take him farther.

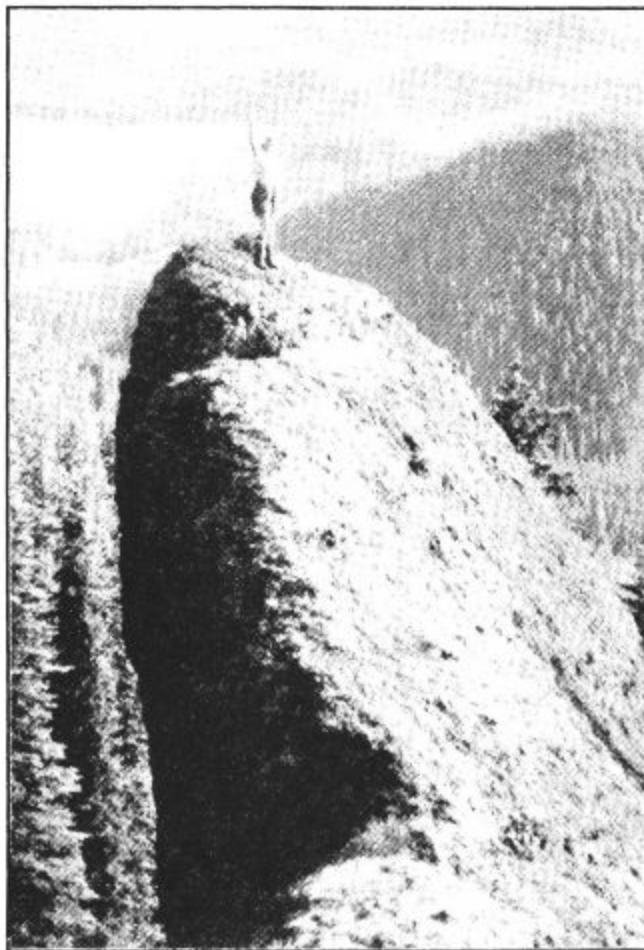
It was a good day weather-wise for traveling but the farther we went the more threatening it became. At one of our many stops for the day, a couple from Kelso caught up with us. They were traveling with two llamas and a dog, so we begged food for our dog (we became pretty good moochers!)

Noel and Georgia McRae (who are P&P readers) were very gracious and gave us Molley's treats as they were easy to reach. That was very helpful and we were very grateful as we could give PC more food along the trail.

Although we made more stops than usual even for us, we had to get to Big Crow Basin for the night. A wonderful spring is just below the trail as you start into this basin, so we took enough water for the night and for the next day and continued.

We could hear the approach of a thunder storm and although it wasn't coming fast, we did not want to get caught not having our camp set up.

There was a large shelter down in the basin which we could not use because some thoughtless person had spread their gear over the entire space so no one could share the shelter. They did not return that night! I wonder how many other through travelers could not make use of this shelter during the



Connie drops her pack for a "photo opportunity."

with people food to make sure he got enough. We realized we would have to ration carefully in order for all of us to have enough calories.

DAY SIX

The morning of Day 6 was overcast and foggy. I got up about seven and PC came to join me for breakfast. All of a sudden he pricked his ears and went over to the edge of the knoll. So, curious, I followed.

To my great surprise horses were grazing out across the meadow not more than 500 feet away in a portable fence. Not far from them were two women. So PC and I went out to meet them. As was his habit, PC was looking for a handout. I told the two Lindas our story and they shared some of their food with us.

We were finally on our way on our second PC day. He did much better. We had to assist him over a few logs, but he mostly went under the blowdowns.

We did a lot of contouring, then climbed upward to Martinson Gap where we took a longer break and PC had one of his many naps; he still shivered whenever he lay down. We traveled through some beautiful country, and now had to look back south to see Rainier. We finally moved off the Bumping Lake map which had been used the most so far, and onto the Lester map.

Our destination for the night was Arch Rock (which we never did see) and the springs there. At 2pm we took our lunch break with less than 2 miles to go. Here we met Chris, another through hiker who was traveling loosely with two other men. He gave us a spare Cliff Bar, which we later split three ways.

When we arrived at Arch Rock, it was early so we decided to go a little farther. As it turned out we went farther than we intended and pulled into Government Meadows about 6:30. Water was nearby, and the new Ulrich Camp building was on the other side of the trail than what the map says. This is quite a large new building, with access not far away on logging roads.

Chris, Tom and Wayne were bunking inside and although they offered to let us stay inside also, we choose a spot at the edge of the woods overlooking the meadow. Jo and I ate one half of a

week. I wanted to leave a sarcastic note but Jo wouldn't let me.

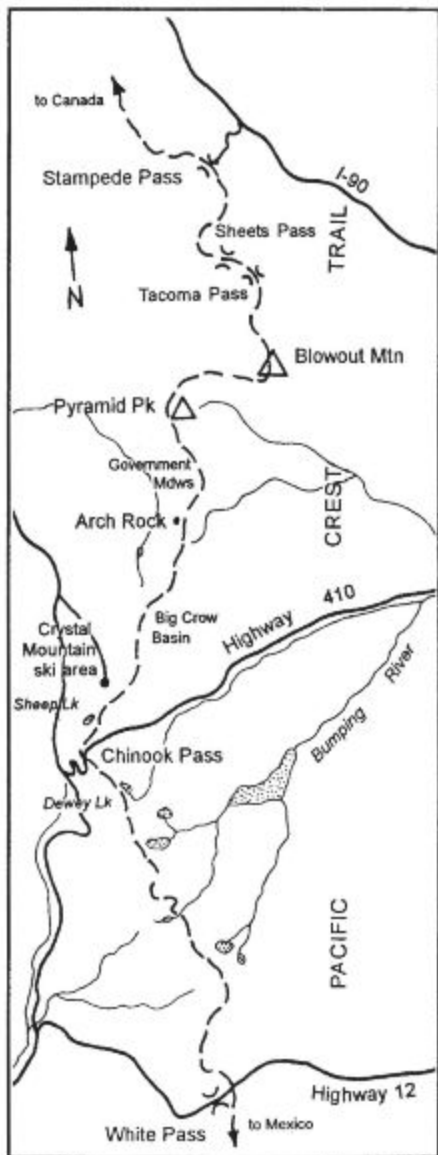
SHELTER FROM THE STORM

By this time the storm was fast approaching and we needed to find a campsite. Across a meadow we could see a small knoll with trees. Thinking that would be a good spot, we went to investigate. Perfect!

We let PC off the leash and he toured about the knoll then promptly went to sleep. We got camp set up and were just finished eating when the rain started. I hung the food and headed for the tent. PC came over and laid right next to the tent about half under the little fly. Poor guy, he was shivering.

After about two hours the storm passed and we were out for awhile before turning in for the night. PC ended up on an extra plastic garbage bag I had brought and had left near my pack. I think that it was warmer for him than being on the ground. This became his "dog blanket" for the rest of the trip.

PC ate fast and well what ever we gave him. We would put dog food in



freeze dried meal at a time—they ate a whole one and sometimes two!

A NAME CHANGE

Jo was not satisfied with PC's name. During the day she had mulled it over and PC became PC Packer. Her reasoning: we found him on a backpack trip, we had packed him a few times, and someday he will pack his own supplies. So "Pacific Crest Packer" he became.

Our third PC Packer day we crossed several logging roads. In about 2.7 miles we had circled around Pyramid Peak and up to Windy Gap where we took a break in the sun shining through a cloud gap.

We had passed a marked trail to Pyramid Peak on the south side shortly after leaving one of the many logging roads that crisscross this part of the trail. As we left the ridge we entered a silvered forest from an old burn. Al-

though the fire had done a lot of damage, the years had made it quite lovely to walk through.

Many blowdowns across the trail made our going slow. We finally arrived at the springs we were looking for a little after 1pm where we took our lunch break.

The views were out over a very large clearcut valley. Originally this was to be our camp for the night, but since we were so far ahead of schedule, we had decided to load up with water and continue to a dry camp. This would make the next day not so long. Because of weather falling on us our lunch break turned into two hours!

We had to carry enough water for both camp use and for the next day. We did some contouring leaving the spring and went fairly rapidly for the next hour. When we came upon a prominent rock formation that I had seen in a book, we stopped long enough for me to carefully walk out on it so Jo could take my picture. I sure hated to put back on my heavy pack!

When we finally went over a crest before descending toward Green Pass we were in the huckleberry bushes which would have been more enjoyable if I hadn't been so tired. From here we got our one good view of Blowout Mountain which we would be going around tomorrow.

As we entered the woods again we started downhill and finally came to the campsite my notes had made vague ref-

erence to off the trail. It was a large area that several groups could camp in just before Green Pass.

While deciding on our site and in the process of setting up camp we noticed that Packer was doing some exploring and actually doing some running. He was definitely improved and seemed to be enjoying life all of a sudden.

Our breeze became a wind during the night. I did not sleep well and when I got up I chilled easily from the wind which was quite cold. So after getting my gear ready to go, I crawled back into the tent to get warmer. We usually left the tent as the last thing to do in the mornings so it would have a chance to dry out as much as possible.

PC LEARNS TO GRAZE

Our seventh day out we started by ascending the ridge to Blowout Mountain. On the way we grazed on the huckleberries loaded on the bushes along the trail.

At first PC would not eat them, but after watching us for awhile decided to try it on his own. It didn't take him long to figure out how to get them off the bushes for himself. It was fun to watch. He ate his share on the rest of the trip.

We stayed just below the summit of Blowout Mountain and on the north end when we came out on the open ridge again we just about got blown off the ridge. Jo said, "Now I know why they call it Blowout Mountain!"



Jo and PC Packer graze on berries along the trail.

The strong winds continued all morning, although we were somewhat protected from them when on the west side of the divide and in the trees. We had a long, gentle descent to Tacoma Pass. A woman at the camp there had a young dog on leash with her.

While the two dogs got acquainted we told her our story. Lisa was very generous with Mack's food and all of a sudden we had plenty for the rest of the trip—Jo and I would be able to eat a full meal that night. We felt very fortunate to have met so many generous people to share food along the trail.

It made a big difference in how much we could feed Packer who now was showing so much more energy. Jo and I were a little short on calories the last two days but now we would all have enough to eat.

We climbed up about 500 feet out of Tacoma Pass and over the hill and down into Sheets Pass, our destination for the night. We could have camped at a spring about a quarter of a mile farther up the trail but did not know there were a couple of campsites there.

After setting up camp we went up the trail with water bottles. This water supply dries up some summers so we were fortunate that we did not have to go farther off the trail for water. It was not flowing very fast and was almost stagnant, but it was wet! We brought back only what we needed for our cooking that night and let it boil well.

LAST DAY OUT

The next morning we stopped at the "spring" and pumped our water for the day from a shallow pool with a frog in it. We had seen many frogs of all sizes on this trip. We left the water supply about 9:30 and started our second most serious climb of the trip.

We climbed steadily for an hour and about 1000 feet, around one butte and then another. We were more generous with our feeding of Packer and he was eating more slowly when fed. He also had a lot more energy.

Since this was our last day out we did not put the leash on him. When we took a break he would go exploring but always came when called and stayed right with us on the trail. He was turning out to be a great trail dog and was fun to have along. He sure made our trip much more interesting. Jo kept hoping her husband Cary and son Christopher would like him.

This day we spent very little time in



The finish at Stampede Pass—Jo, Connie and PC Packer.

Cary Flannery

the woods as it was mostly logged off. Of course this made for great grazing along the trail. We walked along and/or crossed many roads as we made our way toward Stampede Pass where we were going to get picked up.

At our lunch break we were right on the trail and promptly took a food gathering time. In about 45 minutes we each had a quart of berries. I took a picture of Jo's "purple tongue" syndrome.

The trail was up and down with some contouring this day. We finally came to an outhouse in a large parking lot. We never saw any buildings but figured it was related to the Stampede Pass weather station. Since we were ahead of schedule we stopped and read some more in our sci-fi book; we were getting near the end.

We then continued, mostly contouring, to our destination, and walked out

a half hour early at 3:30! We had time to finish the book before Cary and Chris arrived. They brought clean clothes and warm water to wash with. Cary liked PC Packer and agreed to add him to the Flannery household.

REFLECTIONS

On reflecting on this trip, it was easier and with a more pleasant grade to the trail than the year before. Water was more of a problem this year where we always had enough last year.

If I were to plan this trip again I would take one less day to Sheep Lake. There are good watered campsites to this point, but water guided our stops after Sheep Lake.

We got sunned on, rained on, hailed on and thundered on, but never really got wet.

We were very grateful to the people who shared their food and/or dog food. I walked out with one tea bag, a fruit leather and about one half cup of dog food left over. I had saved one treat for Packer at the end of the trail.

As some of you have read in *Pack & Paddle*, Packer is out on the trail with us still. He goes every time Jo goes on a trip. Doesn't matter if it's a hike, a climb, ski or snowshoe trip. What is really fun is to watch him when he gets in the snow. He runs and leaps with sheer dog joy!

I now have two granddogs (daughter Robin has the other). My hunch is that PC Packer will be on the rest of our PCT trips.

△

Connie McLaughlin lives in Edmonds where she has sold real estate for 20 years.

White Pass to Stampede Pass

Route	Miles	Gain	Loss
Day 1 to a pond	6.5	1100'	436'
Day 2 to Crag Lake	10	1000'-	1000'+
Day 3 to Dewey Lake	9	1200'	1000'
Day 4 to Sheep Lake	5.5	1150'	520'
Day 5 to Big Crow Basin (1st PC Packer day)	8.5	1650'	?
Day 6 to Gov Meadows	13+	1000'	?
Day 7 to near Green Pass	9+	1100'	?
Day 8 to Sheets Pass	10	1470'	2625'
Day 9 to Stampede Pass	9.3	1450'	?

WARREN GUNTHEROTH

Baldy and Domerie

—PEAKS ON THE SUNNY SIDE—

Beginning about two years ago, Ed and Tom Emery, Sasha and I started "working" the area between Lake Kachess and Cle Elum, particularly on days with marginal weather on the west side of the Cascades.

Thomas Mountain was the first one. Although we did that on a very warm day, we had no difficulty fording Silver Creek, approached from FS Road 203.

Last fall, we tried to approach Domerie Peak and Mount Baldy via the start of Trail 1308 at the dam forming Cle Elum Lake, and ran into various signs and warnings to cease and desist, but unlike John Roper, we gave up. (See the *May P&P*, page 12, for his directions).

In early November of 1997, we tried Baldy from the Kachess side. There was about 3 inches of snow, and Silver Creek was high enough that we chose not to ford it, but I found a fallen tree about 30 degrees from the horizontal, and started across.

I got to the other bank, and was at least 10 feet above the rocks when I reached forward for a branch. My rear foot suddenly let go, and simultaneously the branch broke; I wind-milled onto my back onto the rocks. It hurt, but I didn't break anything. Nevertheless, I lost interest, and limped back across on another tree with less of an angle.

Two weeks ago, we returned to Silver Creek, and found it was very full and very fast. We then tried to find a road to the other side, and finally found an open gate just above a quarry. Driving up an unmarked road for a couple of miles, we found the Easton Ridge trail at a spot corresponding to the green mile marker on the map, ".8" (Green Trails).

That day we had planned to climb something on the western side, and had no map of this

area. Accordingly, when we got to the first branch point at 3400 feet, I assumed that this would lead to Mount Baldy.

It was a pleasant trail, and in less than two hours we reached a summit, and in another half hour we reached the second summit. Sasha and I had lunch, feeling very smug about having climbed Baldy and Domerie in one-half the time it had taken Roper and crew to do them from the Cle Elum side.

When I got home and looked at the map, I realized our two summits were the summits of Easton Ridge, and not Domerie Ridge! One week later, we once again returned, but found the quarry gate locked. The following are the driving directions for a road that does not appear on the map:

Leave I-90 at exit 70, cross back over the freeway, turn right on Sparks Road, drive one mile, and take the first left after Country Road. This should lead to

the power line and as it jogs right to the quarry, turn left over a rough road for a half-mile to a logged area (2400 feet). Park and walk ahead to an abandoned road paralleling Silver Creek.

This continues up as the trail to Easton Ridge at 3600 feet, (the map says 3400); keep left and ascend to 5000 feet (the map says 4800, but my altimeter had been reading very exactly all day). Turn right on to Domerie Ridge trail 1308.

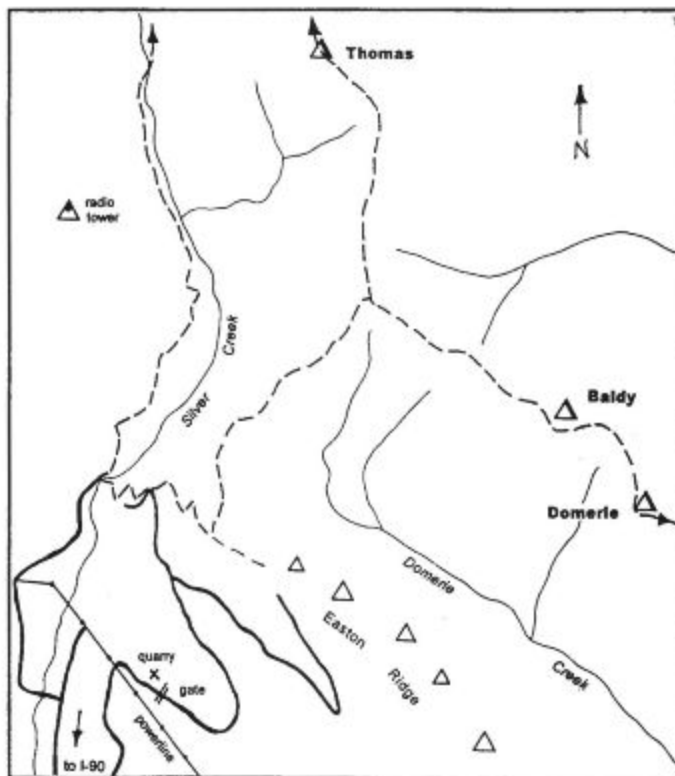
There is no trail sign, but there are hundreds of signs on trees that tell you to keep out of the Domerie Creek drainage—the water supply for Roslyn. You do not have to cross this boundary, since the trail stays on the ridge top.

On May 10th, there was still a lot of snow, and the signs worked like blazes. The summit of Baldy (5107 feet) is indeed bald, and offers good views of Lake Cle Elum and Kachess, not to mention Easton Ridge.

It required 3 hours and 20 minutes. We were running out of time and did not continue to Domerie, persuaded in part by a 600-foot drop before the ascent to Domerie, although the contour map suggests that there is almost no altitude loss between the two peaks.

Our round trip was 6 hours, and we escaped the west side drizzle. A final warning: the trail frequently is quite steep, and consists of shale at times, making an ice axe or walking stick useful.

△



Warren Guntheroth, of Seattle, is a cardiologist at the University of Washington. His climbing companion, Sasha, frequently accompanies him to summits.

CHARLES and NANCY BAGLEY

Mediterranean Hiking

—TWO HIKES ON THE FRENCH COAST—

COTE VERMEILLE

On the French Mediterranean coast just south of Argeles Plage, the seemingly endless sand beaches abruptly cease, to be replaced by a coast of cliffs, points and inlets with coves containing gravel or sand beaches, continuing southward to the Spanish border. This is the Cote Vermeille.

Of the many beautiful points extending into the clear blue-green waters of the Mediterranean, Cap Béar with its lighthouse near the end is the most prominent and highest. Happily, there is a pleasant hiking route over the crest of the cape and back around its shores.

In October 1997, we started on foot from our hotel, St. Elme, in the harbor of Port Vendres, which lies at the north base of the cape. We headed southeastward on the principal road that leads from the harborfront to the main regional highway. Everywhere are great views over the harbor and the sea.

We had to walk the edge of the major highway (N114) for about a half km until we reached the small pass, the Col de les Portes, elevation gain all of 77m! From here one also has views to the south over the Pyrenees.

The "tired" hiker can take comfort from knowing that he is hiking the same route that Hannibal followed, leading his African troops and elephants as he headed from Spain through France and over the Alps to attack Rome in 218 BC. Later Caesar himself marched with his troops southward here to attack the forces of Pompey stationed in Spain.

Other hikers will take comfort at the wine tasting shop of Cave Tamboor, conveniently placed at the pass for motorists to stop and sample their wares!

Just south of the pass, we turned left onto a gravel road with a wall on the south side. There are no signs marking this road. Do not take the earlier road marked "Route Militaire."

The gravel road curves first eastward, then southward and down through vineyards with views at all times. It passes the Mas Pams Vineyard offices and rejoins the main highway. We followed this another quarter km to the beach access for Plage de Bernardi.

A small sign says "Acces Plage," and a much larger sign announces the presence at the beach of the "Sole Mio" Restaurant. Surprisingly, this access road is not shown on the topographic map, but is immediately north of a small creek.

At the end of the road by the beach is public parking, although the restaurant does its best to obscure this fact. This is the best place to swim, but although our day was sunny, there was a strong breeze from the north with temperatures in the mid-60s. No swimming for us that day, but great wading. At the north end of the beach a prominent sign says

"Sentier Littoral," the start of the trail along the shore.

Hereafter we found the trail wandering up and down above the cliffs, especially with prominent ups and downs as we traveled farther east. There are wonderful picnic spots and several places to wade and even swim en route. Although we were there on a weekend, we saw relatively few other people.

In the bay marked Ansa Santa Catarina are several private homes. Here one can turn uphill on a prominent trail to reach the parking lot next to the lighthouse. We, however, continued on a trail that edged along the cliffs, passing the lighthouse, and went on to the very tip of the cape where one can admire numerous military fortifications dating from the turn of the century to World War II.

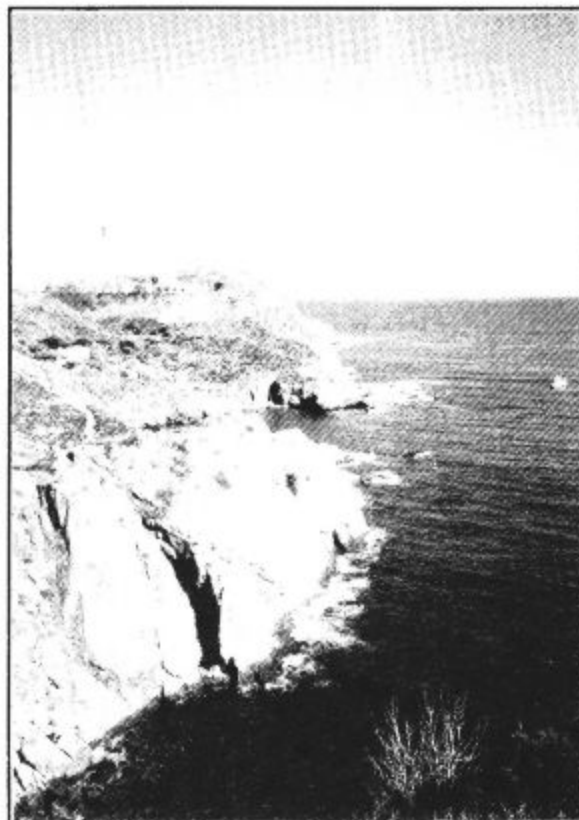
A north wind was really howling across here, which did not seem to bother the several boatloads of skin-divers who were enjoying themselves in the waters off the cape.

We headed back to Port Vendres, leisurely following the access road of the lighthouse which ambles along the north side of the cape above the cliffs.

At elevation marker 65 m on the road, the hiker then has three choices. Continue on the main road which leads back into town in about 1 km. Or, turn sharply right on a gravel road which passes two private homes and becomes a trail that continues to the south base of the breakwater of Port Vendres.

The final stretch has about 20 feet of high class 3 (class 4?) rock down-climbing. A rope would be valuable here, but as we didn't have one, we chose the third option, continuing on the road to where it curves into a minor gully.

Here a pretty good trail leads straight northward without difficulty to the harborside road. Do not fail to walk out to the end of the breakwater! A splendid sand beach is, surprisingly, marked "no swim-



Cap Béar and the Mediterranean.

Nancy Bagley

ming."

On the hike back to town along the south side of the harbor, we didn't follow the main road, but instead took trails out around the minor points with their formidable arrays of harbor fortifications, most probably never used. Finally, back to the hotel and another wonderful French dinner in town.

The whole circuit could easily be hiked in about four hours, but with our leisurely lunch and stops for sight-seeing, naps and wading in the crystalline blue water of the Mediterranean, we managed to extend it to an eight-hour day. Heavenly!

The topographic map for this route is published by the Institut Geographique National, map #2549 OT-Banyuls, at a scale of 1 to 25,000, and is widely available in souvenir or newspaper shops.

Port Vendres is an exceedingly charming and active fishing port town with wonderful seafood meals of every variety available in all the restaurants. We loved it.

Farther to the south is the town of Banyuls, totally given over to tourism, and Cerbere, a rather dull town at the border. North of Port Vendres is the very attractive town of Collioure, with its picturesque churches, fortifications and breakwaters which drew Derain and Matisse to relax and paint there, year after year.

Collioure also has an attractive swimming beach right in town with free fresh water showers. Next trip to France we're coming back here again!

PROVENCE

We started from the charming hillside town of Saignon, located on a cliffy ridge. With a population of some 300 souls, one small hotel and two guest homes, it is an intimate and quiet place.

The day before, we had gone down to the larger regional town of Apt, about 3 km downhill to the valley bottom to purchase a topographic map published by Institut Geographique National. Their topographic map number 3242 OT, with a scale of 1:25,000, was perfect for the trip.

It shows virtually every building in the region, and in addition has purple markings showing the major, nationally sanctioned hiking trails (Grandes Routes) as well as markings for minor trails. This region, like most of France, is riddled by small roads, both paved and dirt, as well as traditional paths. The hiking

routes follow these roads and paths.

We headed westward downhill to the major road junction just west of town (elevation 448 m). Here we picked up a minor route of dotted purple lines and followed the highway southwestward, shortly reaching the Grande Route (solid purple on map).

On the ground the trail is marked periodically by short bars of paint a few inches long, a white bar over the red. These markings generally are on telephone poles, posts or rocks, but occasionally on trees or even on private property structures.

Shortly, as shown on the map, the route leaves the road and zigzags south on a very pleasant trail up a minor cliff. Here are beautiful views over the valley. We continued southward. Near the area marked Bories the route got fairly vague, but with the help of a compass there was no chance of getting lost.

The bories are stone huts built many centuries past by shepherds. There appears to be no difficulty with walking into them, even though some are clearly on private property. One farmer has even made an attractive pathway to the boric on his property just a few yards off a local road.

Picking up the road and going to an intersection marked 586, we then headed more or less due east. Here we departed Grand Route 92 as it headed southward over the nearby mountain pass and instead continued straight east on a horse trail that seemed to follow property lines until we hit the next road, less than 1 km away.

Now following the minor route (dotted purple lines), we continued generally eastward and then took a side trip to the charming town of Auribeau, with its 15 or 20 homes, classic architecture

and great views. Not a tour bus in sight, and no bars!

Shortly, we headed back northwestward on D48, with splendid views, past a picnic table (marked on map), heading toward a field called Cigale downhill to the north. We soon picked up a trail slanting downward and zigzagging as shown by purple lines again on the map. "Cigale" proved to be nothing but an empty field.

Shortly, we came upon a farmhouse named "la Fourmi," a delightful reference to La Fontaine's fable about the grasshopper and the ant.

The trail continued on down to a paved road at elevation 506 m. Here, we then followed the road northwestward to "Lauroi," where we dropped downhill and went to look at the Abbaye St. Eusebe. This giant old abbey has been reconditioned a bit and somewhat commercialized.

Then, straight westward to Saignon following the purple lines on the map again. The terraces on both sides of the road and the ancient cobble beneath our feet indicated that this must be the traditional medieval route into town from the east.

Overall hiking time for this circuit was about four hours, although we managed to spend enough time picnicking and sight-seeing to stretch it out a few hours longer.

△

Charles Bagley is a physician at the Northwest Cancer Center. He and his wife Nancy live in Seattle.



Charles with a view over the town of Saignon from the cliffs.

Nancy Bagley

DAYTON CURTIS

A Spring Hike on the Lakeshore Trail

—TICKS AND SNAKES AND BEARS ... OH MY!—

"I will not go backpacking again," I told my wife. "I am too old, too arthritic, and can't bend over to get into one of those little backpacking tents. My knees and back just won't bend enough to do that."

Although my wife is a dedicated backpacker, she was very understanding. She agreed, and even pointed out how much money this would save us. Since I couldn't get into a tent, or down into a sleeping bag on the ground, then I certainly couldn't get into one of those little sports cars that old men sometimes buy in a pathetic attempt to relive their lost youth.

Well. Hummm. ... Ah, well, shoot. Hummm. ...

NOT A FAIR TRADE

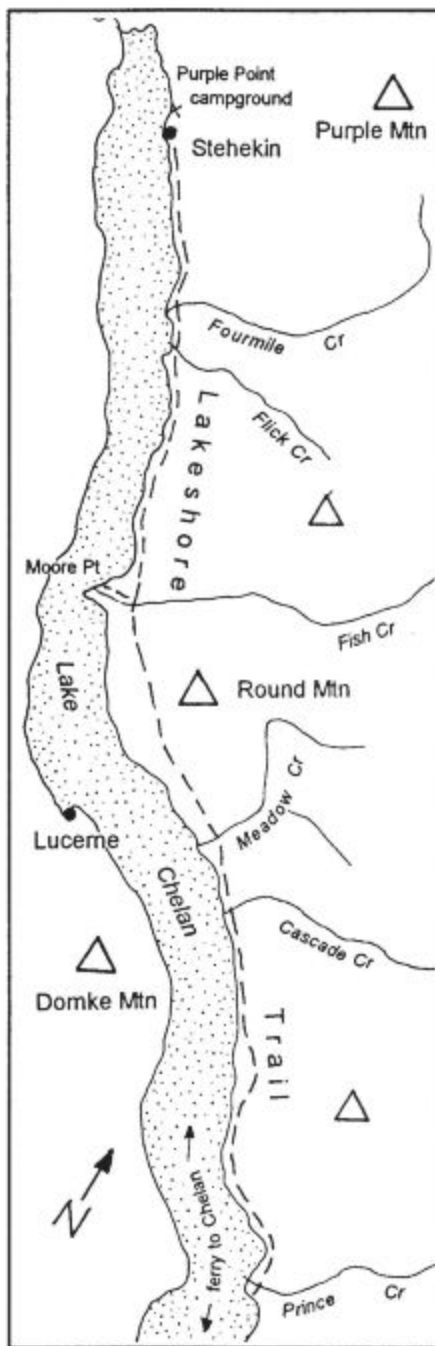
So we compromised, and now I have a sports car and my wife has a backpacking companion. It wasn't exactly a fair trade, though. I got a perfectly gorgeous 1999 Miata and all she got was a grumpy old man to go backpacking. Well, life's not fair, I thought. What I didn't know was that Mother Nature would try to even the score on this hike on the Chelan Lakeshore Trail.

Doris got off work at 7pm and we headed east, spending a very nice night in Lake Chelan State Park. The next morning, April 21st, we boarded the *Lady Express* at Chelan in brilliant sunshine at 10am and were dropped off at Prince Creek at 11:45am in cloudy weather, 17.2 trail miles from Stehekin. We were the only hikers, so we spent a few minutes just enjoying the solitude after the boat left.

The last words we heard were to watch out for ticks (really bad) and bears. "And rattlesnakes," I added.

No, they assured us, the rattlesnakes wouldn't be out yet. In the first mile on the trail I had already picked off the first tick and we had encountered the first rattlesnake.

The tick, a big wood tick (the only one of that kind we saw) was quickly



plucked off, but the rattlesnake was not so easy to move. The trail was traversing a steep hillside at this point, and none of us wanted to get off.

Eventually we compromised and the snake went a little way downhill, while we struggled to get as far uphill as possible. We got past okay, but were within easy striking distance. Not my favorite thing to do.

RARELY LEVEL, BUT NEVER STEEP

At one point, the trail had slipped off the hillside, but the Forest Service had repaired that to accommodate one hiker at a time, which was very much appreciated. Other than that, the entire trail was in good condition, but like so many Pacific Northwest trails at this time of year, it had a good many step-overs, crawl-unders, work-arounds, or push-throughs.

For one section, the trail was a running stream, and so overgrown I thought we'd lost it entirely. But it was still perfectly hikable, and some friends of ours were going to work on it the following weekend, so it may be great by now.

There are also a few good bridges on this trail, which were very welcome. Stream crossings are always a problem for me because I've lost my sense of balance (and I can't find it anywhere). So I use a hiking pole, which, with care and a little extra time, made all of the many non-bridged crossings possible, despite high spring runoff.

We spent the first night at about the half-way point, on a bluff looking back down-lake at Lucerne. No water, but great views and nice weather. This was when the mosquitoes came out. Nasty, but not nearly as many as later in the year.

Doris slept out under the stars, while I covered in the tent. I sleep cold, but the temperature never got much below +50, and I had a good Eddie Bauer "Karakoram" bag supposedly good to minus-30. So I managed to get through with just a few extra clothes, socks, hat, etc.

Next day we took a side trip to Moore Point to see the old resort site

and current campground. Going on past Fish Creek on a magnificent bridge, we did finally lose the trail. Earlier, the trail had joined an old road and used it briefly. So when we came to another road, and the trail blended right into it, we did not hesitate to take it. It went downhill past a horse camp, and ended on a dock. Shoot.

Back at the trail/road junction we explored a little, and finally found the trail. The mistake was helped along by leaves and some windfall which covered the trail and made the road the obvious choice. So I moved some of the windfall.

Of course a sign would have helped, and we did discover a sign, but only after we were on the right trail. It was one of those signs that trail folks love to put up—an old weathered piece of wood mounted parallel to the trail so that you have to be on the trail to see it.

Ironically, at the one place where we lost the trail it was level. This trail is rarely level, all the way into Stehekin. It is never steep, but it almost constantly goes up or down. No wonder we missed it. We never thought to look on the level.

A TICK TAKES HOLD

Tick and rattlesnake encounters continued. I can't hear rattlesnakes, and depended on Doris to alert me. At one point she was pushing me to get going as a snake was slithering down the hillside right into our path. I'd passed it at about shoulder height and never saw it.

The ticks were easier to handle, but far more numerous. All of the ticks after the first one were the little deer ticks. Harder to see, but more troublesome, because they can carry some nasty diseases.

We also encountered very fresh bear droppings. In Stehekin the next day, a boater told us he'd seen a bear foraging on the trail. Apparently the bear heard us and wanted nothing to do with old city folks.

One of the many lessons learned on this hike is that ticks greatly prefer hairy legs. Doris got not one single tick on the entire hike, and I was picking them off regularly. By the time we got into Stehekin I found that one deer tick had found a home just above boot level, and would not come out.

On the advice of Park Service personnel, who live with these buggers daily, I pulled it out with tweezers, try-

ing to get the head. It seemed to work, and I put on Neosporin afterward as a further precaution.

We took advantage of the free shower in Stehekin, set up camp in Purple Creek Campground, and dined at the lodge. Ah, civilization! Again, Doris chose to sleep under the stars, even though there weren't any. The weather was changing. At 4am the rain began and Doris reluctantly came in the tent. Her reluctance went away when the thunder and lightning came, and it began to pour.

The rain continued until about 8:30am, and then let up just in time for my walk to the lodge for breakfast (Doris was already there, waiting).

We made a trip to Rainbow Falls that morning, and visited the old schoolhouse, now a museum. Then back aboard the *Lady Express* for the 55-mile run down lake to Chelan. Although we had managed to keep most of our stuff dry through the rainy night, it now got wet on the Express as we went through a fairly severe rain squall.

TO THE DOCTOR

The tick bite that looked so good yesterday had now turned red, with a black center. It hurt to the touch, so I figured I must not have gotten the head out. After removing the tick I'd accidentally dropped it through a grating and could not check its condition. Now I had an infection to deal with.

Back in Seattle the next day, the infection had developed a neat little bulls-eye pattern that I'd heard was typical of Lyme disease, although this bulls-eye seemed pretty small. It was also way too early for it to have reached that stage, but I felt lousy, and managed to get in to see a doctor who is also a hiker. He looked at it and said he needed to remove the head, or whatever was causing the infection.

After poking around in my leg he changed his mind, gave me more anesthetic, and had me sign papers for a minor operation. A small chunk of my leg is now off to the lab for a biopsy. It is probably just an ordinary infection resulting from my clumsy attempt to remove the tick. But if it's something more interesting I'll let you know. The stitches come out on May 5th and I'll get a full report then—I hope. Lab tests are often unreliable when the little critters you're looking for need to be cultured.

The Lakeshore Trail has great views, is not crowded, is never steep and provides a welcome dry-side early spring hiking experience for us wet-siders. But I would stop short of recommending it. My unqualified recommendation is for the '99 Miata!

POSTSCRIPT

The biopsy showed that I really did get the tick head out, as well as any other tick parts that were big enough for a lab to identify.

So where did the bad infection come from? Maybe the tick, maybe the shower, maybe dirt contact later? Or maybe it really was something like Lyme disease. I certainly had a neat bulls-eye infection pattern when I saw the doctor. And I've had other symptoms, especially the joint pain, but it's far more likely to be old-age-related rather than Lyme disease.

Nevertheless, the doctor was concerned enough about the appearance of the infection to prescribe a tetracycline antibiotic for 10 days. So for now, I'm back among the living. If things take a turn for the worse, I'll have my widow contact you.

△

Dayton Curtis is a retired aerospace engineer. He goes on day hikes, weather permitting, and folkdances in the evenings.



Trail Work Opportunities

Since many of you have commented about the opportunity to get a season Trail-Park permit in exchange for volunteer work, but said you didn't know where to start, here is a brief listing of volunteer opportunities.

IRON GOAT / VOW

Every Wednesday, every Saturday, and some Sundays from now through October, work parties will head out on the Iron Goat Trail near Highway 2. Volunteers will receive a free parking permit for the work day. Spend two days and you'll get a free annual Trail-Park pass.

The Iron Goat Trail follows the abandoned route of the Great Northern Railway for 6 miles. The goal is to continue the trail to Wellington, another 1½ miles, by 2000, while maintaining the trail already constructed.

For all work parties in June, call Herb Schneider, 206-322-1191. Sign up at least two days prior to the date you want. Car-pooling is available from the Bothell Park & Ride (the trailhead parking lot holds 20 cars).

For more information, call the Iron Goat information line maintained by Volunteers for Outdoor Washington at 206-283-1440.

WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION

WTA seems to be the state's busiest trail work organization. In 1997, their volunteers put in 27,000 hours. They have even more projects scheduled in 1998. For the end of May and into the first few days of June, here's what they will be working on:

Wednesday, 5/27 through Sunday, 5/31—Surprise Lake near Skykomish. Come for one day or all five.

Friday, 5/29—Mount Dickerman, Mountain Loop Highway near Verlot.

Saturday, 5/30—Squak Mountain, I-90 near Issaquah.

Sunday, 5/31—Mason Lake, I-90 at exit 45.

Wednesday, 6/3 through Sunday, 6/7—Murhut Falls and Lena Lake trails, on the Hood Canal Ranger District.

"Trails Day is June 6th, so WTA will be everywhere," says Greg Ball, WTA's

Director of Operations. "We have work parties that day on Mount Dickerman, Cougar Mountain, Lookout Mountain, Colchuck Lake and Barclay Lake, and the next day at Tiger Mountain and Denny Creek."

For a recorded message listing work parties, call 206-517-7032 (or 800-587-7032). You can also sign up for work parties by calling that number.

Greg knows his way through the Trail-Park permit labyrinth. "Each person in a family gets a one-day Trail-Park permit for a day of trail work," he explains. "So a family of four would get four day-use permits. They can either use those on four separate hiking trips, or they can turn in two of them for an annual pass. And they can save the remaining two for next year!"

For more information about WTA, call 206-625-1367.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

ONP schedules a variety of volunteer projects. The Park's volunteer coordinator is Ray Lovely; call him at 360-452-4501 x394 to discuss how you can help.

Olympic will dispense a *limited number* of season passes (covering entrance, camping and backcountry fees) for participation in its 16-hour Short-Term Volunteer program. The pass is good only at ONP.



Lesley Weinberg, Lee McKee and Susie Gilles help to construct the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite on Blake Island.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

NCNP's volunteer coordinator is Tim Manns. If you have a few days you'd like to spend in the North Cascades, trail maintenance projects are scheduled as the need arises and the season allows.

For information on trail work or other long-term volunteer positions, call Tim at 360-856-5700 x365.

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Dixie and Clay Gatchell are the Volunteer Coordinators for MRNP. Call them at 360-569-2211.

WASHINGTON WATER TRAILS

Although you won't get a free pass for working on Cascadia Marine Trail sites, WWTa has a lot of opportunities for volunteers.

WWTa is the organization that is developing and maintaining the marine trail system from Olympia to the Canadian border. Work parties are scheduled all summer long. If you are interested in a particular area, give the office a call and they will notify you when they will have a project in that area.

On June 13, WWTa will be working at Meadowdale Park in Snohomish County from noon to 4pm. A new marine trail campsite will be located here.

Call the WWTa office for information on this or other projects: 206-545-9161.

NATIONAL FORESTS

Generally, trail maintenance projects are routed through volunteer organizations such as WTA, and the best way for a group or individual to do trail work on a National Forest is to go through such an organization, says Karen Craig, Volunteer Coordinator for Olympic and Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests. And that way you'll be assured of getting a free Trail-Park permit for your work—not all volunteer work qualifies for the free pass!

For a volunteer brochure and application form, call Karen Craig at 360-956-2384, or pick up the material at any Forest Service office.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

EASTERN SIERRA VOLCANIC ACTIVITY—Volcanic activity has recently occurred in the Long Valley Caldera, near Mammoth Mountain.

This valley was the source of a massive eruption 760,000 years ago that scattered ash over what is now the entire US. As much as 10 inches of ash from that eruption was found as far east as Nebraska.

Just left of center in the caldera are some hills that collectively are called the resurgent dome. This is an uplift that has been taking place since the eruption. Two periods of activity have been measured by the uplift in this dome as well as by the number and intensity of earthquakes in the area. The most recent was this last winter.

Although hikers don't need to cancel backpack trips to this area, there are a few things to be aware of. First, earthquakes are frequent, and often cause rockfall; to determine the hazard, look up when you feel the ground shaking, especially in canyons or other areas where rockfall would normally occur.

Second, the temperature of Hot Creek can go from pleasantly warm to scalding very quickly because of seismic activity, again often signaled by earthquakes. Use caution.—*excerpted from information given by Dave Hill, USGS, at a meeting of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, and reported by Mike Zensius in "Living It Up!" the chapter's newsletter*

NEW FEES AT MOUNT RAINIER—Starting June 1, fees will be charged for Wilderness permits at Mount Rainier National Park, in addition to the entrance fee for the Park.

The Wilderness fees will be in effect from 6/1 through 9/30. The fee will be \$10 for the permit plus \$5 for each person in the party, regardless of age. The permit is valid for up to 14 days. (A \$40 annual permit is also available.)

The fees will go to staffing the permit issuing stations for 90 additional hours per week. Fees will also be directed toward rehabilitating trails around Paradise; rehabilitating backcountry camps; and rehabilitating and completing the Wonderland Trail system.

As an example, two people on a 3-day backpack would pay a \$10 entrance fee (assuming they were both in one car), a \$10 wilderness permit fee, and \$5 each, for a total of \$30.

CHAINSAW USE APPROVED—The Forest Service has announced that chainsaws will be used to clear portions of several Wilderness trails on the Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts. These trails were covered with an unusual number of trees brought down by winter storms in 1997.

The decision provides for a one-time authorization for chainsaw use to remove trees and debris from six main trails and three side trails. The use of primitive tools such as handsaws will continue to be the primary method of clearing trees from Wilderness trails.

The trails to be cleared with chainsaws are White River 1507; Indian Creek 1502; Cady Creek 1501; Little Giant 1518; Ingalls Creek 1215; Icicle Creek 1551; Frosty Creek 1592; Square Lakes 1567; and French Ridge 1564, which amounts to 66 miles of the 482 miles of Wilderness trails on the two ranger districts.

Public response to the issue of chainsaw use in Wilderness was mixed, said Wenatchee Forest Supervisor Sonny O'Neal. That response ranged from full support for using power tools at all times and on all trails, to the response that power tools are never acceptable in Wilderness.

Most chainsaw use will occur on weekdays; however, the occasional weekend day may be needed. Trailheads will be posted when chainsaw work is scheduled.

CARBON RIVER ROAD—Since the flood in early 1996, the Carbon River road into the northwest corner of Mount Rainier National Park has been closed. The Park has announced that a draft environmental assessment for management of the road has been released.

The EA lists two options. The first, required by law, is no action. The road would remain in its current condition. Access to Ipsut campground and the backcountry would continue to be by foot or bicycle.

The proposed alternative would repair the road to its previous standard and character, and vehicles would again have access to Ipsut campground. Construction would begin 9/15 and be complete by the end of this year or early next year.

If you would like to comment on the EA, copies are available on request by

calling 360-569-2211 x2301 or by writing to Superintendent, MRNP, Star Route, Tahoma Woods, Ashford WA 98304. The deadline for comments is Tuesday 6/9.

METHOW VALLEY STREAMS—Streams in the Methow Valley quadrupled their volume in May during the spell of hot weather early in the month.

Daytime temperatures of 10 to 15 degrees above normal, and nighttime freezing levels up to 10,000 feet caused the rapid rise in water to just below flood stage on major rivers, and caused a little overflow on some of the tributaries.

DUST CLOUD—A three-day dust storm in Xinjiang province of China caused haze and poor visibility for mountain travelers in Washington at the end of April and early May.

The dust cloud, tracked by meteorologists, crossed the Pacific Ocean on the prevailing winds. When it "landed," the resulting haze caused a lack of mountain views. It also caused the Forest Service to put a halt to its controlled burn program in the Methow Valley until the atmosphere cleared out.

REORGANIZATION—Mount Hood National Forest has consolidated its seven ranger districts to four.

The Columbia Gorge district was absorbed into the Zigzag district; the Estacada district was absorbed into the Clackamas; and the Bear Springs district was absorbed into the Barlow. The Hood River district was unchanged.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest has also consolidated its ranger districts from five to three.

The Randle and Packwood districts have joined and are now called the Cowlitz Valley district. The Wind River district was absorbed into the Mount Adams district. The Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument will take over parts of the former Wind River and Randle districts.

NEW NAME—The Trade Association of Sea Kayaking and the North American Paddlesports Association have merged to form the new Trade Association of Paddlesports.

TAPS will continue the programs of both organizations, including the West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium. For information, call 414-242-5228.

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

TENT CARE—Of course you know you should never, never leave a damp tent in a corner even for a day. Mildew will attack.

If it's too late and your tent has mildewed, maybe you can save it. Mix ½-cup household cleaner (like Lysol) in a gallon of hot water. Sponge the tent with the solution and air dry completely.

Once dry, use a mix of 1 cup salt and 1 cup concentrated lemon juice in a gallon of hot water. Sponge the tent with this mix, air dry again, then store.

If this doesn't work, your tent is in trouble. Go to Swallows' Nest or Marmot and start shopping.

For tents still in good condition, dry them thoroughly after each use, even if you didn't get rained on—the tent still gets damp just from your breathing.

If the tent is used infrequently, or for winter storage, place in a cotton sack (like a sleeping bag storage sack) and store loosely. Storing a tent tightly folded or stuffed will cause the water-

proof coatings to crease and eventually to crack.

SIDE-LOADING ROOF RACK—

The "Talon" side-loading rack has been developed by Top Technologies, a BC company. The Talon rack can be used with Thule and Yakima accessories, and will hold kayaks, bicycles, surf boards, skis and snowboards.

The rack slides off the roof and lowers to a comfortable height on the side of your car or van for loading, then raises to roof height and locks for travel.

The rack is available at GI Joe's for \$379. Phone Top Technologies at 604-532-9414 for more information, or on the web: toptech@bc.sympatico.ca

SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR

BREAKFAST—You don't have to eat instant oatmeal for breakfast. Try these for something different:

- Instant rice pudding.

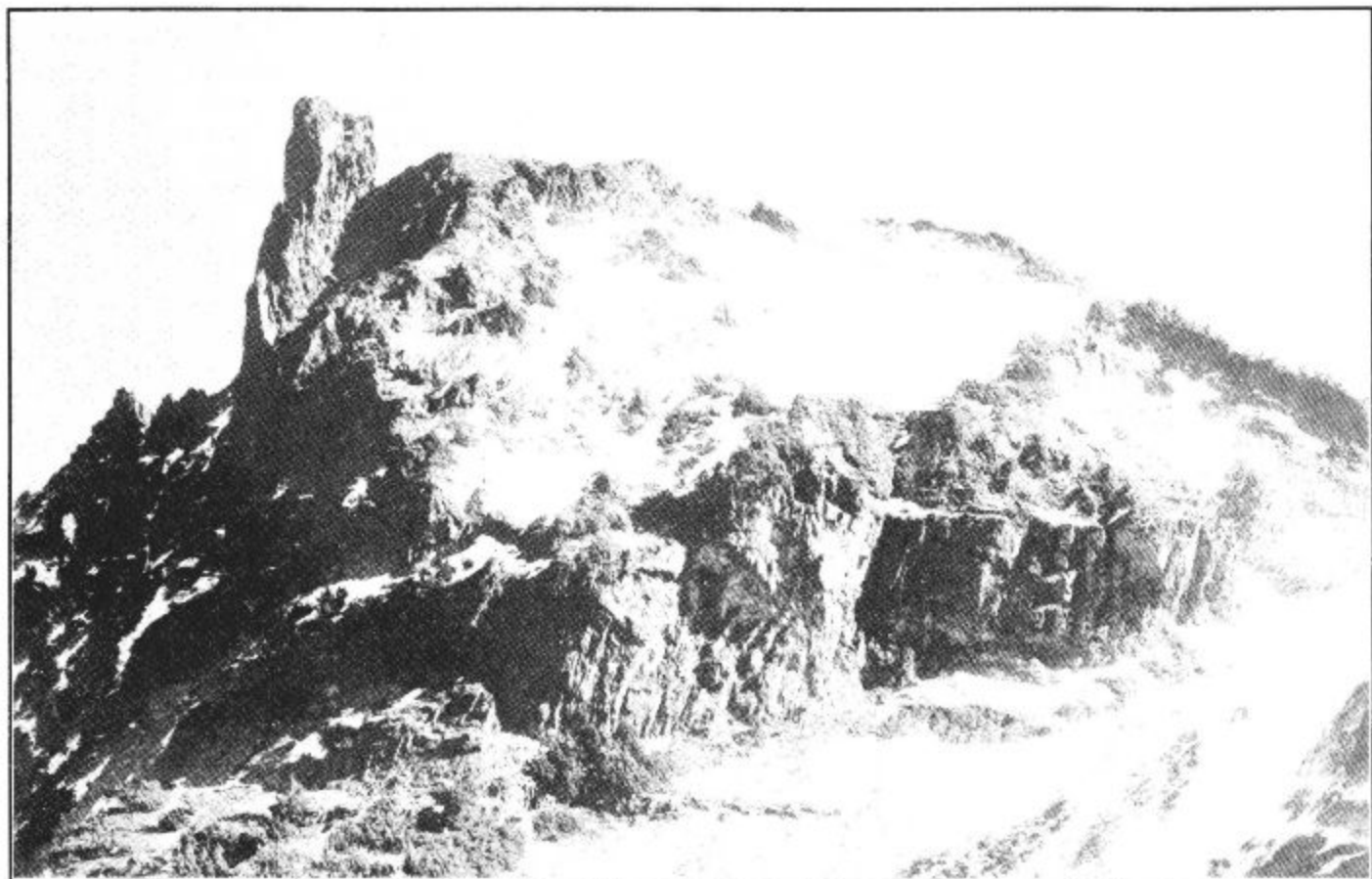
- Nile Spice or Fantastic Foods soup-in-a-cup; corn chowder is particularly good for breakfast.
- Fig Newtons; excellent for a no-cook start.
- English muffin with cream cheese; prepared at home and wrapped in plastic, this will keep several days in your pack.

VAPOR BARRIER—To help keep your socks dry when hiking all day on snow or in rain, try a simple vapor barrier using lightweight plastic grocery bags.

Put your socks on as usual, slip your foot inside the plastic bag, then into your boot. Try to evenly distribute wrinkles in the bag.

At the end of the day, even if your hiking boots are saturated, your socks should be only damp from sweat. Your feet will stay warmer, too.

This works best for folks whose feet don't sweat a lot.



Unicorn Peak in the Tatoosh Range, Mount Rainier National Park.

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Backpacking in the Teanaway, on the Beverly Turnpike trail.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"After I saw the notice for Mike Cobb's repair shop in the May issue, I called him, and he is going to fix my old pack. This is the kind of information I read *P&P* for!"—*Vancouver*

"*Pack & Paddle* is a great publication which we enjoy immensely. It's a 'must read' for area hikers."—*Shelton*
"Would like to see more on climbing and route info."—*Seattle*

CLIMBING CLASS—As I have mentioned before, Lindy, Manita and I are students in this year's Basic Climbing class. Several of you readers have expressed surprise and said, "You've already taken Basic! Why are you taking it again?"

Because when I first took the class, we were still tying in with bowlines, and using Goldline rope and hip belays. There were no such things as climbing harnesses, locking carabiners or belay and rappel devices. I don't even want to tell you how long ago that was!

It's great to get caught up with the modern—and much safer—ways of doing things.

SNOW 1 FIELD TRIP—It seems that on every Basic Climbing field trip and lecture, I meet someone who is a reader.

At the last lecture I met Derek Wilson, a fellow student. And at the Snow

1 field trip I met Don Schaechtel, one of the field trip leaders, and enjoyed visiting with instructor Marie Mills, whom I hadn't seen in a long time.

The field trips are a great way to practice the techniques we learn about in the lectures. Snow 1 included various types of ice axe arrest, team work while roped up, crampon practice, snow anchors, and some fun glissades.

KAYAK PRACTICE—While I was practicing in the snow, Lee was out at Pacific Beach surfing in a kayak. He took another class from George Gronseth's Kayak Academy to gain additional experience in handling wave and surf conditions.

If you're interested in a developing skills for handling surf and waves, you can look up Lee's article in the June 1997 issue, page 24.

He also spent a morning recently doing a saltwater rescue practice with fellow Olympic Kayak Club members Joanie, Charlie, Paul and Bec. They were getting ready for a class at Deception Pass, where the possibility of a capsized is very real.

I relaxed on the beach with the latest Joe Simpson book.

EVEREST EXPEDITION—The Everest Environmental Expedition, of which *P&P* Don Beavon is a member, is keeping an eye on the weather.

After sitting out nearly two weeks in base camp, on May 15 the team began moving up the mountain to be in place for a summit attempt if the weather holds.

At press time, the team has been at Camp II for two days after the weather service reported a developing cyclone off the coast of India. The cyclone is predicted to head north into the Himalaya accompanied by heavy rain and snow. But good weather is holding on the mountain, at least for the next few days.

According to information on the team's website, the climbing teams on Everest must decide whether they can move up and down the mountain in this weather window.

You can check their progress on the website:

<http://www.everestee98.com>

WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED?
—When Dayton Curtis sent me his

Lakeshore Trail story (see page 26), he said that being a "retired aerospace engineer" was not very exciting. But that his wife, Doris, was another story.

"Doris and I met folkdancing in Los Angeles," writes Dayton, "where Doris seemed to be just an LA kind of girl. Then we moved to Alaska, where we lived and raised a family (three kids) for 18 years, and this whole new side of Doris appeared.

"She is really a backpacking, mountain climbing, adventuring pioneer woman. None of us, especially Doris, would have ever have known that if we hadn't gone to Alaska.

"For example, I go hiking, weather permitting. Doris doesn't understand that. She goes hiking, and the weather just has to look out for itself."

CARPENTER ANTS—Spring would be wonderful if it weren't for the carpenter ants. Lee has just finished the annual battle with them, and he appears to have won. We don't mind them living in the forest; we just don't want them living in the house.

MICE—Spring is also the time that rodents become active. Yellow Cat finds them highly entertaining. It is impossible to hold a conversation with her when she is bewitched by a Douglas squirrel.

She does a fair job of keeping down the population of voles and field mice. I wish she were as skilled at hunting carpenter ants.

E-MAIL—A number of you are sending us reports by e-mail, which works just great. Here's our address:
packandpaddle@visnetinc.com

See you in the backcountry,

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