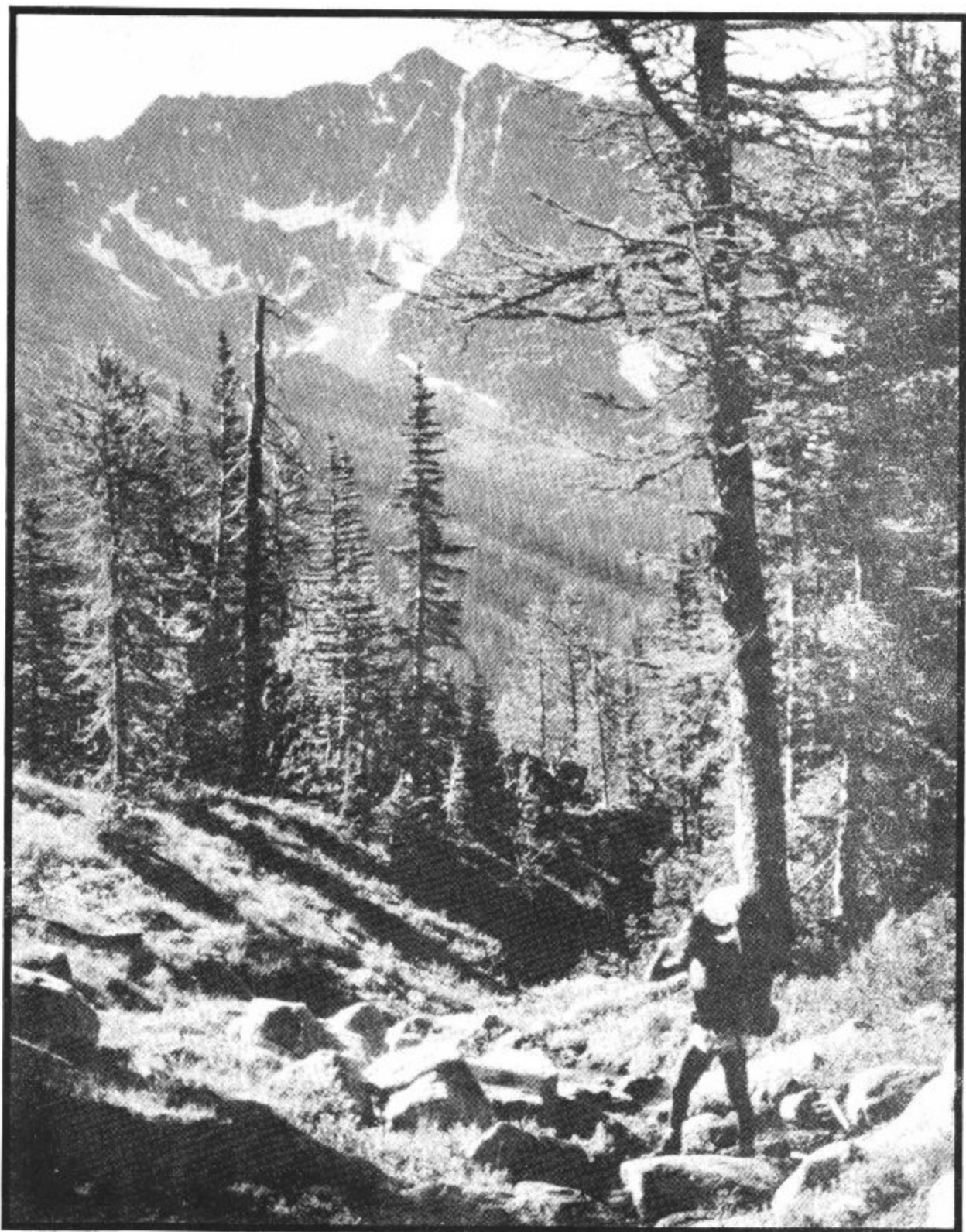


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VOLUME 7, NUMBER 8

RANDOM VIEW—



Phil Evans

Zach Evans (8) and Sarah Evans (9) on Park Butte trail at the end of June. Mount Baker in background.

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COVER PHOTO:

David Singleton stops for a drink under the north side of Robinson Mountain. Pasayten Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Steve Fry.

HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

Send us your stories, reports, and photographs. *Pack & Paddle* is written by its readers and we welcome your ideas, input, and material. Submissions are considered contributions—if payment is requested it will be a modest amount. We take great care in handling your work, but we cannot guarantee against damage to or loss of materials. Please don't be offended if we can't use your stories or photos.

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TRAIL PARK PROGRAM EXPLANATION

Recent articles and letters have prompted me to write in an effort to strive for an increased understanding of the Trail Park fee program in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. I would appreciate your sharing the information in this letter with your readers.

The Trail Park program was specifically developed to help fund the maintenance of trails and trailheads. Last year, about \$195,000 of the \$250,000 collected by the MBSNF was immediately put back into maintenance needs. The balance, plus collections expected this year (about \$400,000), is already being spent on trails.

So far this year, Forest managers have:

- Hired about sixteen trail maintenance workers who will be working on the trails all summer.
- Hired about six trailhead maintenance workers who will manage trailhead bulletin boards, clean toilets, maintain parking spaces, perform compliance checks and provide some security.
- Awarded two contracts for a total of \$53,669 which will remove fallen trees from 123 miles of trail, brush 81 miles, and repair drainage on 3 miles of trail.
- Contracted with the Northwest Youth Corps for four 12-person trail crews to each spend a week working on trails.

Additional trail projects to repair trail tread, reconstruct boardwalks and turnpikes, and do additional log removal and brushing are expected to be contracted out during the summer. Without the Trail Park program, none of this would be done, and maintenance of the trail system would rapidly dwindle.

We have been able to leverage trail work through a special agreement with the Washington Trails Association. This program turns a \$20,000 investment of Trail Park dollars into over \$200,000 of trail improvements through the use of volunteers.

With the assistance of Washington Trails Association, the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Volunteers for Outdoor Washington, the Volunteer Trailwork Coalition, The Mountaineers, and many other groups, the MBSNF has one of the nation's most enviable volunteer trail programs.

The Trail Park program returns at

least 95% of all the funds collected to the local area. Eighty percent of the funds are being spent on trail and trailhead maintenance. Fifteen percent is used for local administration of the program. This includes commissions to private businesses and non-profit organizations for selling Trail Park Passes.

It also covers expanded Forest Service office hours and staffing to supply visitor information on trails and the Trail Park program. (The administrative funds collected allowed the addition of five seasonal positions to sell passes and provide information to the public.)

Processing and tracking of remittance envelopes is also covered within this fifteen percent. The remaining five percent is reserved for trail and trailhead construction projects within Washington and Oregon.

Our Ranger Districts have been directed to spend their Trail Park dollars where user demand and maintenance needs are the greatest. Local District Rangers have the final call on where the dollars are spent. We continue to encourage trail users to voice their preferences on where these funds should be spent. Suggestions should be directed to the local District Ranger.

The Trail Park annual pass (\$25) is good for one calendar year, regardless of when it is purchased. Passes are required year-round and are available at Forest Service offices and 42 community retail vendors on the east side of Puget Sound and 20 others west of the Sound. The passes are also sold at numerous locations on the east side of the Cascades.

A pass can also be awarded to volunteers in recognition of two days of maintenance work done on National Forest trails as part of an approved work party.

Passes are required for parking at trailheads on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Olympic, Wenatchee, Gifford Pinchot and Okanogan National Forests. Trail Park passes are not required for day trips on the Okanogan National Forest.

The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is committed to running the Trail Park program as efficiently and fairly as possible while getting the dollars turned into needed trail maintenance work as rapidly as possible.

Please feel free to contact Gary Paull, Forest Trails Coordinator (425-744-

3407), or the District Rangers with your thoughts about any aspect of the trail program on the Forest.

Your ideas will be considered. Whether you buy a pass or receive one through your work as a volunteer, thanks for supporting your trail system.

Terry L. DeGrow
Public Services Staff Officer
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest

PROTEST

I was delighted to see the letter protesting access fees from David MacFarlane in your May issue (page 4). Too often the position on this issue from the west-of-the-Cascades-based hiking crowd is, naively I feel, supportive of this program. The rationale most often cited is providing an alternative to the influence of the timber industry.

Given the relative dollar amounts involved that is not likely. The fee program itself is so insignificant in scope as to be almost absurd. Consider the \$60 million congress appropriated last year to subsidize logging road construction. Add the \$80 million in annual road subsidies that the Government Accounting Office recently reported the Forest Service "hides" in its capital revolving fund.

Now compare that to the \$45 thousand that this incredibly annoying demonstration program brought back to the Okanogan National Forest last year. It's no wonder that groups like Free the Forests are crying conspiracy. This program certainly doesn't hold a realistic hope of solving the trail maintenance backlog.

I just completed a protest action that I can heartily recommend: Do a day of labor on trail maintenance to get a parking pass. Then cut it up and send it to your congressman with a letter of protest.

This will eloquently affirm both your desire for trail improvement and your opposition to turning our national treasures into theme parks. If nothing else you'll do some much needed trail work!

John E. Morgan
Bellingham, Washington

LETTERS to the EDITOR

DICKERMAN PARKING LOT

Deep in the heavy forest of the Verlot Ranger District along the Mountain Loop Highway, the Forest Service has carved out an area where the trees were cut, the ground was flattened, and many loads of gravel were dumped, smoothed, and stored.

At present it has no name and no one will admit its function. Those of us who can guess at reading the Forest Service's mind know it is the new Mount Dickerman trailhead and parking lot.

The good news is that the lot is in, the trail is almost completed, and it is a wonderful job. It has glamor, it captures some eyecatchers along the trail, and it gives hikers a nice grade up to the old trail.

My guess is that as soon as a privy is in place, the old trailhead bulletin boards will be removed, no parking signs will be installed along the highway, a ribbon cutting ceremony will ensue, the barrier will be removed, and you Parking Permit buyers will enjoy a beautiful, well-built lot and trail.

I have hiked the new trail and it is an example of good planning, it is well placed, and it tells me there are still fine trail builders left in them thar hills.

Wanderbuns
Kirkland, Washington

UNEXPECTED BONUS

Being a *P&P* contributor has caused an unexpected consequence: I was in the grocery store the other day when a lady stopped me and said she has enjoyed reading contributions by me and other acquaintances of hers.

She was my boss's secretary years ago. I had not seen her for years and had no idea she was a subscriber, much less a snowshoer, cross-country skier and backpacker.

A group of us will get together and swap tales and show pictures and slides sometime soon.

Gordon McDougall
Olympia, Washington

WINTER PLANNING

Readers may be interested to know that on April 22 the Cle Elum district of Wenatchee National Forest con-

ducted a meeting to discuss the preparation of a long-range winter recreation plan for the district. Similar planning was said to be underway in other WNF districts.

About 35 people attended the three hour meeting. Fifteen of them represented snowmobile interests. Other attendees were five people representing cross-country skier interests (Kongsberger and Ellensburg cross-country ski clubs), representatives from the Forest Service, Washington Winter Recreation Commission, Washington State Parks, Kittitas County and Plum Creek Timber and other. Tim Foss, Forest Service, presided.

The major issues under discussion were the expansion of existing Sno-Parks, new Sno-Parks, additional snowmobile grooming and a Salmon la Sac cross-country ski zone.

The sense of the meeting was one of cooperation and the recognition of many shared interests among winter recreationists. Everyone agreed that the spillover from Puget Sound was only going to increase.

Interestingly, I-90 corridor user data presented by Washington State Parks showed that the total number of winter recreationists in 97-98 declined 32% from 96-97, the peak year. Non-motorized users accounted for most of the decline. Skiers were probably the most affected by the lateness in the start of the 97-98 snow season.

I am retired and able to enjoy cross-country skiing during the week, but I also ski during weekends. Most of my skiing is backcountry in the Swauk corridor and the Teanaway. I have been cross-country skiing in Kittitas County for more than 25 years and have witnessed the explosion in winter recreation. It has been particularly evident relative to snowmobile use which, by its very nature, is likely to be very intrusive for non-motorized recreationists. Intrusiveness presents a problem for non-motorized users. It is important for non-motorized winter recreationists to be heard and to participate in long-range winter recreation planning.

There is room for both motorized and non-motorized use, particularly if they respect each others' interests. With that in mind I have submitted the following thoughts to Tom Foss:

1. Shared winter recreationists' ob-

jectives:

- a. Parking areas near trailheads.
 - b. Relatively efficient access to desired use areas.
 - c. Skiers are willing to share access but when access results in convergence on the same play area the skier is disadvantaged.
2. Differences:
- a. It is far easier for motorized snow users to ruin the non-motorized experience than vice-versa.
 - b. Snow quality is more significant to the backcountry skier than the snowmobiler.
 - c. The backcountry skier seeks untracked snow, relative solitude, and silence.

General observations:

1. Distances accessible on skis are much more limited than for snowmobiles, hence snowmobiles have far more area available that is suitable to their wants than do skiers.
2. Snowmobilers may operate after dark, but skiers seldom can do so.
3. Set-asides for skiers need not be very large so long as they provide the desired solitude and a variety of terrain and elevations, preferably in relatively compact areas.
4. Where snowmobile grooming occurs, snowmobilers should not be permitted to detour off route within the first few (2 or 3?) miles from trailhead.
5. Grooming some routes for snowmobiles may offer snowmobilers opportunities to impact skier country that would otherwise not be visited by the machines.
6. Snowmobiles have become so powerful that they now intrude on areas formerly inaccessible to them but often used by skiers. They now are likely to discover places previously unfamiliar or inaccessible to them.
7. Snowmobilers can ruin skier tracks but not vice-versa.
8. Costs to satisfy skier desires are far less than costs to satisfy snowmobiler desires.

I urge other non-motorized backcountry winter recreationists to let their views be known to Tom Foss, Cle Elum Ranger District, 803 West 2nd St, Cle Elum WA 98922 (509-674-4411).

Martin Kaatz
Ellensburg, 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.

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

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



PENINSULA



MOUNT TOWNSEND

(USGS Mt Zion, Mt Townsend)

—The Penny Creek road was blocked by a big pile of gravel about 3/4 of the way to the trailhead. The workers told us the road was impassable, and we would have to return to Quilcene and enter by the Lords Lake Loop road. Oh, for a warning sign at the beginning of the Penny Creek road.

From Quilcene, you go north 2 miles on 101 and turn left at the Lords Lake Loop sign. At 3.3 miles you take the left fork and proceed uphill with Lords Lake on your right. Continue until you come to a junction with road 27/28. Turn right and pass the signed Mount Zion turnoff.

Keep straight and in .2-mile take the left unsigned fork and go about 2.8 miles to the trailhead. Parking is along the side of the road in a big turnout and the trail is signed Little Quilcene.

The rhodies were in bloom below and the rock gardens filled with flowers above. There were several easily-climbed-over blowdowns, but no snow on the trail.

For once we had sunlight, warmth,

and views on top instead of the usual blowing fog.—Ben and Nancy Brodic and Sparky, Edmonds, 6/29.

[Ed. Note: Road construction is now completed on the Penny Creek road.]



MOUNT TOWNSEND

(USGS Mt Zion, Mt Townsend)

—Stopping at the Quilcene Ranger Station we found out there was a detour to the trailhead due to a road resurfacing project. We drove around on the Lords Lake Loop to the upper trailhead.

The trail immediately started climbing through hemlock, silver fir and Douglas-fir with a heavy understory of rhododendrons. The rhodies were past bloom.

Once the country opened up, the meadow flowers started. As we climbed, the trees shrank to ever more diminutive, conical forms until they were small wind-torn clumps on the rocky heights.

On top, the views and the flowers were astounding. As we arrayed ourselves for lunch on the summit rocks, the valley cloud cover began to break up and views opened from Vancouver Island to Mount Rainier.

On the trip down, we passed numerous dayhikers and some doughty backpackers heading for Silver Lakes. It is a popular trail for obvious reasons. The

flowers last all summer. Go in the fall for color from the huckleberry, thimbleberry and mountain ash.—Liz Escher, Seattle, 6/24.



NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH

(USGS Mt Olson, Mt Skokomish)—Entered at Staircase with Bruce Neuman and a party of 14-year-old boys fresh from 8th grade graduation.

Wonderful hike up to Nine Stream. Well-sited campsite with fixed bear wires. Next day ascended Skokomish River with intent of going over the pass and descending the Duckabush.

Snow began at 3100 feet, complete snow coverage by 3500 feet. Terrain passable but no landmarks visible for compass fix. With snow, no visible trail, and a foggy drizzle, we opted to turn around at 4500 feet. Trail in good shape up to snowline.

Spent the next four days in Skokomish drainage. Saw nobody until the day we walked out.—Jay Farrer, Olympia, 6/17-22.



BROWNSVILLE BRIDGE

(USGS Poulsbo)—Looking for a place to practice kayaking in currents and eddy lines? Try the creek that flows under the bridge on state road 303. The bridge is located about 300 yards west of the Brownsville Marina. There is public access to the beach just to the south of Brownsville. Plenty of parking.

Three of us were practicing there on June 25, when there was a -2.6 foot tide at 1227 at Seattle. Low water is about 9 minutes later at Brownsville. We put in

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: August 20

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

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

at Brownsville around 1600. At this time we had a tide height of about 5 feet. If the tide is lower there is not enough water flowing under the bridge to prevent the kayaks from scraping rocks.

The flow on this day was approaching 6 knots and we had some great practice in paddling our kayaks in the currents and the eddy lines. The current lasts only about an hour.

We also practice solo rescues and rescues with another kayak. Kayakers practicing in this area need to wear a wetsuit or drysuit and be prepared to get wet. Before paddling, arrive before a 4-foot tide and check the area out.—Bob McBride, Silverdale, 6/25.

PORT TOWNSEND (NOAA 18471)—Ann and I, and Ron and Carolyn launched our sea kayaks from the beach adjacent to the boat launch ramp at Fort Worden for a leisurely round trip paddle to Port Townsend. The tide was in the minus range and there was lots of exposed shoreline. Because it was a minus tide we could see how the sandy beach drops at a fairly steep angle then becomes flat. The steep portion probably got that way due to the currents created here by Point Wilson and Point Hudson.

Being on the water shortly after 11:30, we decided the first priority would be a lunch stop at one of the shoreline spots in Port Townsend. There was a fog bank off shore, and we could hear the horns of the vessels that were making their way in the gray.

Just past the entrance to Point Hudson Harbor we passed close to an old pier jutting out into the water. Near the end of the pier was a pole and on top of that was a large bald eagle. The eagle totally ignored us as we floated on the water just below it. A seagull was less than happy with the eagle, though, and harassed it, making swooping dives and passing within what seemed to be inches of the eagle's head. Finally the eagle had enough and flew off.

Pulling ashore in the area of the town's Tidal Park we had a quick lunch, with Ron treating Ann to an ice cream cone at a nearby ice cream shop—one of the advantages of urban paddling!

Back in the boats we continued along the city shoreline down to the Port Townsend Boat Haven. I enjoy paddling around marinas and seeing all the different boats, so we headed in and circumnavigated the marina. This is a quite large one with separate sections for working boats and pleasure boats.

On the inside edge of one of the floats as we passed by a sailboat a cat stuck its head out of a porthole to see



Jay Farrer

The 8th grade flexes its muscles after a high mountain swim.

what was going on. I struck up a conversation with it, but it wasn't in much of a talking mood—it just listened and watched us intently. We bid it good day and headed out of the marina.

When we got back to Fort Worden we continued up to Point Wilson to see what the current was doing. During certain periods of the flood/ebb there can be quite a rip/eddy line here. We were on the low end of the flood and there was little action on the water. We spent a few minutes floating off the Point looking at the traffic out in the main channel before heading back and calling it a day.—LGM, Port Orchard, 7/8.

TAHUYA RIVER (NOAA 18476)—Our party of four paddling two "divorce boats" (double sea kayaks) went looking for an easy paddle on Father's Day. We launched at the ramp at Twanoh State Park on an incoming afternoon tide, and paddled southwest along the south shore of Hood Canal, marveling that so many waterfront homes could be packed into such a small space. We cut across the Canal at Sisters Point, and continued west to the mouth of the Tahuya River.

We had timed our paddle to arrive at the river mouth shortly before high tide. As we moved upstream, we lost the powerboat traffic and shoreline development of the Canal, and entered a quiet world where birdsong was the loudest noise.

We explored stream channels and sloughs, searching for the main stem of the river. The tide conditions let us push up into some small passages, and

we got plenty of practice making tight turns in 21-foot boats! We finally came to the head of navigation in several sloughs without ever finding a downstream current.

Did we even go up the main channel? We're still not certain, since the weather turned a bit threatening on us and we decided to head for home. But the lower Tahuya is a delightful place to explore at high tide.—Cleve and Marty Pinnix, Olympia, 6/21.

STAVIS BAY (NOAA 18458)—We called for a campsite reservation (800-452-5687) at Scenic Beach State Park, west of Silverdale, for the last weekend in June. After setting up camp and having an early supper, we drove about a mile to the public boat launch near Misery Point, since access to the state park beach would require a steep carry. Our party of two double kayaks headed south along the east shore of the canal in early evening.

After a couple of miles' travel, we came to the opening of a small bay, unnamed on the charts. The Scenic Beach park manager had told us this is locally called Clark's Lagoon. As we coasted just offshore along an impressive sandspit, we heard the sound of rushing water. At about an hour and a half before a higher-than-mean-high tide, the lagoon entrance was a narrow tidal raceway, complicated by an overhanging downed tree that further obstructed the entrance.

We went for it, shot through the entrance with our rudders ping-pong on the bottom, but cleared the passage into

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



Karen Sykes

Goat on Mount Gladys; Olympic Mountains.

the lagoon. This place is a delight, completely undeveloped, heavily forested, and hidden from the canal. We cruised slowly around for a time, exploring the small coves of the lagoon, birdwatching, and allowing the tide level to come up. Within half an hour, we approached the entrance with more water under our keels, and by paddling furiously were barely able to overcome the incoming flow and exit the lagoon—what a delightful spot!

We cruised a short distance farther south and entered Stavis Bay. Huge sandspits guard the entrance, making for an enjoyable, winding paddle into the bay as we rode the cresting high tide. This is another lovely, quiet place, occupied mostly by bald eagles and great blue herons. We followed the creek channel under a low bridge at the head of the bay, and continued a short distance upstream, where we found the channel blocked by fallen trees.

We turned north to paddle back to our launch point, and watched the last of the sunset display over the Olympic Mountains. We reached the ramp just before dark. This area is a lovely, easy summer paddle—but get there at high tide!—Cleve & Marty Pinnix, Olympia, 6/27.

[Ed. Note: It's nice to know that even the Director of State Parks has to phone for a campground reservation like everyone else!]



CAPE ALAVA (USGS Ozette)

—The teenage young women at our church wanted to go backpacking. Somebody had to take them!

Although I've probably been to Cape Alava dozens of times since the '60s, I

always enjoy seeing the coast through fresh eyes: the incredible spirit that exists at the site of the old Makah city and at Wedding Rocks; the tall ship's anchor and chain in the intertidal; the sea otter nursery just off Cannonball Island.

In season, the huge combative northern sea lions on the white rock to the north. The incredibly red bill of an oystercatcher. Whales spouting near the mouth of the Ozette river. The yellow-orange glow of a driftwood campfire. The dark form of Ozette Island brooding in the mist. Midnight raccoons fighting to the death over a forgotten crumb.

The quota system seems to be working to decrease the crowds. Is it my imagination, or are the raccoons a bit more desperate now that buckets are required for food storage?—Dave and Wendy Parent, Freeland, 7/9-11.



JUPITER LAKES (USGS

Brinnon, Mt Jupiter)—The long, dry ridge up to Mount Jupiter has not gotten any shorter over the years. The rhodias and mountain azaleas were still in bloom at the upper elevations.

We left the main trail at about 4500 feet and dropped over the ridge and down 1000 feet to upper Jupiter Lake. The trail hasn't improved since our last visit about fifteen years ago. Fortunately, it is mainly hemlock, fir and azaleas for handholds on the direct route down; there are few opportunities to inadvertently grab a salmonberry.

There were still snow patches in the avalanche chute and in a few areas around the upper lake. Although one other party day-hiked in on Friday, we

had the lakes to ourselves the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday we dropped down to two of the lower lakes. The second lake has one campsite at its upper end, while the third lake has a site along the creek just before the final drop to the lake.

After we regained the ridge on Sunday, we dropped our packs and switchbacked up through the flower garden to the foggy summit of Jupiter. The fog lifted enough so we were able to look down on the other lakes below the summit; one was still partially covered with ice.

Saturday had been clear and the views would have been great, but my body did not feel up to hiking out of the lake twice in one weekend!—JLP, Port Orchard, 7/17-19.

LONG RIDGE, DODGER POINT—

The Long Ridge trail is in good shape. Water from snowmelt is available at higher elevations but may not remain for much longer. When the snow finally does melt off completely, there will be no water from the Elwha on up. Several trees over the trail beyond the 2-mile mark.

The lookout at Dodger Point will be undergoing extensive reconstruction in early August. Helicopters, generators and power tools will be used and therefore the hike is not recommended at that time.—Ranger, 7/21.

HOH LAKE—The trail up to Hoh Lake from the Hoh River is in good shape to the top of the 22 switchbacks. There are 6 trees down along the ridge below CB Flats. One of the trees is very large and difficult to crawl over but a

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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route around has been flagged for hikers. The campsites at Hoh Lake are melted out and in good shape. The composting toilet has been opened for use for the season. The trail has a couple of snow patches up to High Divide. On one patch an ice axe is still recommended.—Ranger, 7/21.

HOH RIVER—The Hoh River trail is wet and muddy. The low water route around Five Mile Island is the recommended route, as the high water route has a large tree down and is unbrushed at this point.—Ranger, 7/17.

NORTH FORK QUINAULT to LOW DIVIDE—The Wild Rose, Elip, and 16 Mile stream crossings can be very hazardous this time of year as there are no bridges or footlogs across these streams and they are frequently flooded during the snowmelt runoff season. The 16 Mile stream crossing is approximately three feet deep. The trail has been cleared of windfall all the way to Low Divide.—Ranger, 6/25.

SKYLINE TRAIL—The Skyline remains covered with patchy snow in places, making route finding difficult. Map and compass essential. Please remember that the Skyline is a route only and not a maintained trail, with many difficult places. In some places, even when snow free, the route requires good navigation and route finding skills. It is recommended as a late summer or early fall hike.

Wilderness Use Fees of \$5 per backcountry permit, plus \$2 per person per night are now required for all overnight use, and are payable by mail for all trailheads in the Quinault Valley. Payment instructions are posted at the trailhead.—Ranger, 7/14.

MOUNT OLYMPUS—The trail is snowfree to Glacier Meadows. Above Elk Lake, one 3-foot diameter tree is down. All tent pads are free of snow at Glacier Meadows. Both the moraine trail (climbing access trail) and the terminus trail are partially snow covered; both are wanded to the edge of the glacier.

If you are climbing Mount Olympus or any other peak in the area, do not forget to register at the Glacier Meadows Ranger Station before your ascent and sign back out after your return.

The route to Olympus is in good mid-season condition; however, due to a light snowpack all the early season routes ("Autobahn" and "Early Season") are out of shape and impassable due to an enormous bergschrund.

The "Fourth of July" route has not been climbed this year and is probably out of condition. The "Crystal Pass" route was last climbed by the Glacier Meadows rangers on June 30th and is the recommended route to the summit. Many snowbridges over crevasses were crossed on the lower and upper Blue Glacier including on Snowdome.

With this season's uncommonly warm weather, snow conditions deteriorate rapidly as the day progresses leading to postholing and an increased chance of falling through a weakened snowbridge. Start early to arrive back at Glacier Meadows in the morning hours to avoid these soft and dangerous afternoon conditions. The average round trip time to the summit and back is 10 hours.

Loose rock on the summit block makes a helmet required equipment. Parties may also wish to bring long slings to back up the dubious rappel anchors on top of the West Peak.

Blue Bags: Take blue bags from the register in front of the Glacier Meadows Ranger Station. Deposit used bags in the receptacle on the top of the lateral moraine when returning from your climb. DO NOT bring them back to the Ranger Station. DO NOT throw them into the privvies. Remember, don't pollute the route.

Wands: The placement of wands is encouraged, especially considering the quick moving clouds and fog that the Olympics are famous for. However, please take them out on your descent. Once left behind they are considered litter and may lead others off course. Pack it in, pack it out.—Ranger, 7/10.

RUGGED RIDGE ACCESS—The Calawah road has 2 holes about 100 feet deep and there may be more. There is no sign of any preparation for repairs, so it is unknown when access to the Rugged Ridge Trail will be open.

There are no signs anywhere along the way indicating that the road is closed ahead. There is not even a warning sign approaching the dirt barricade before the first hole.—ONP Ranger, 6/26.

GRAY WOLF RIVER—The combination of the blown-out bridge across the Gray Wolf and rock slides along the trail have made the it impassable past about 4 miles. Likewise, the Slab Camp trail across the Gray Wolf is gone, so all access to the Upper Gray Wolf is only from Deer Park.—ONP, 7/6

ELWHA BASIN—The Basin trail is clear and snowfree to the crossing of the Elwha River at 2650 feet. The trail is not maintained beyond that point.—ONP, 7/6.

QUEETS RIVER—From the trailhead to Tshletshy Creek is in fairly good condition though muddy. The trail has been brushed and cleared of downed trees for the first 4 miles. Areas past this are still in good condition with only two downed trees that can be climbed over or walked around.

From Tshletshy Creek to Bob Creek on the Queets trail is in fair condition. The trail has not been brushed and has not been cleared of 15 to 20 downed trees. Trail in several spots has been washed out and other areas are challenging but all still passable.—Ranger, 7/4.

ELWHA BEAR CLOSURE

Mary's Falls and Canyon Camp on the Elwha River trail have been closed to camping due to a recent bear incident. Camping remains open at both Lillian Camp (4.7 miles south of the trailhead) and Elkhorn, (11.4 miles south of the trailhead).

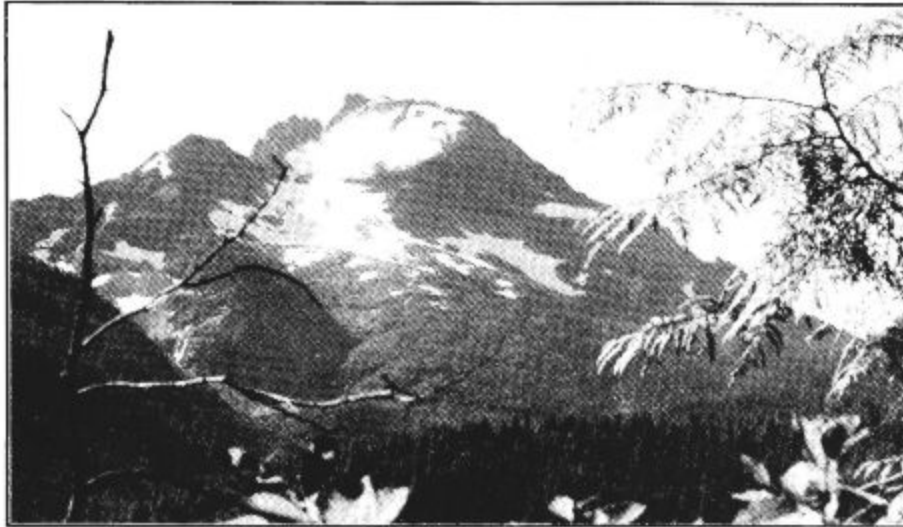
The incident occurred on July 3 north of Mary's Falls. A party of three was camped when a bear came into their camp late in the evening. The party's food bag was hung from a tree so that the bear was able to reach the food bag from the ground.

The reporting party described the bear as young, maybe two years old, and weighing about 150 pounds. The bear jumped from the ground and tore a hole in the stuff



Robert Hulet and Penny on Colonel Bob.

Edythe Hulet



North Twin Sister; Mount Baker Wilderness.

Robert Michelson

sack. The food fell out of the bag and the bear started eating it. The campers made lots of noise, including banging pots, yelling, and blowing a whistle, but the bear kept eating the food.

The bear knew where to find their food and acted familiar with people. The bear was not easily scared off, but they persisted with making noise, and the bear left only after completely eating their food.

To be effective in keeping bears away from your food, it must be hung at least twelve feet off the ground and ten feet from tree trunks.—Ranger, 7/10.

SOL DUC RIVER—The snow is rapidly melting in the Sol Duc high country. One tree down on the trail near Sol Duc Park and one tree down on the High Divide east of Bogachiel Peak. Both are easily bypassed.

Most campsites in the Sol Duc high country are now free of snow. Lakes are partially or totally thawed. The footlog at Bridge Creek crossing (Sol Duc Park) has broken and is unusable. A ford across the creek is now required and may be difficult if snowmelt is high.

The trail on the High Divide has patchy snow. Bypass dangerous stretch of trail on west side of Bogachiel Peak by using the Y Lakes alternate route unless you are experienced with an ice axe. The Y Lakes route has recently been wanded.

The steep climb up to the High Divide from Round Lake/Lunch Lake area is now rapidly melting snow that has been wanded. It can now be travelled without an ice axe unless conditions are icy. The trail up to Appleton Pass has several trees down and there is still snow up on the pass.—Ranger, 7/9.

BOULDER LAKE—Streams are running low, water is available only near Boulder Lake. Boulder Lake sites are completely free of snow. Deep snows remains on the cross country route to Mount Appleton.—Ranger, 7/14.

HAPPY LAKE RIDGE—The trail is completely snowfree but has a couple of trees down between the junction of the Aurora Ridge trail and Happy Lake. These trees are easily crossed on foot but may be difficult for stock. There are no water sources available except Happy Lake. Nice wildflowers.—Ranger, 7/13.

EAST FORK QUINAULT—The East Fork trail up to Enchanted Valley has been cleared of windfall as far as Enchanted Valley. Expect muddy conditions and hazardous creek crossings during the snow melt runoff season. The Pyrites Creek footlog has been replaced.

Enchanted Valley to Anderson Pass: Two slides across the trail are passable on foot, but rough. Several trees are across the trail. The White Creek footlog handrail is down. Anderson Pass has patchy snow cover.

O'Neil Pass reportedly still has extensive snow cover and difficult route finding conditions.

Backcountry permits are available at the self-registration box at the trailhead. Wilderness Use Fees of \$5 per backcountry permit plus \$2 per person per night are now required for all overnight use, and are payable by mail for all trailheads in the Quinault Valley. Payment instructions are posted at the trailhead.

The Chalet in Enchanted Valley is a ranger station only and is not available

for visitor use except in an emergency. Poor weather is not considered an emergency.—Ranger, 7/14.

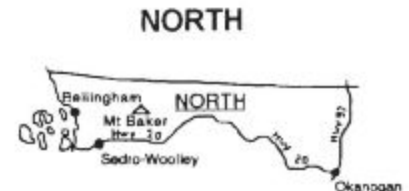
SOUTH FORK HOH—The South Fork Hoh road is scheduled to close on 8/10 for 28 days for a bridge project. DNR may or may not provide a way around the construction ... sounds like they are more open to that idea now than they were awhile ago, though.—Ranger, 7/21.

WILDERNESS BEACHES—The campfire ban continues. No beach fires or campfires from Wedding Rocks headland to Yellow Banks.

Raccoon-proof containers are now required from Strawberry Point to Second Beach, and from Rialto Beach to the Ozette River.

Reservations for camping are in effect. Call 360-452-0300 for more information.

OLYMPIC NATL PARK—Call 360-452-0300 for information on permit fees, reservation areas, and other regulations.



PARK BUTTE LOOKOUT (USGS Baker Pass)

—The kids and I hiked 3.5-mile trail 603 up to the lookout on this gloriously sunny day.

Mount Baker looms large most of the way and many other peaks are seen from the top, including Glacier Peak. The lookout is restored courtesy of Skagit Alpine Club, and is open to visitors.


The lower trail is wet and muddy in places. The footbridge has not been placed yet, but curiously the stream where the bridge goes was the easiest to cross of the five or six we encountered. They could all be crossed with boots on.

Snow started in the switchbacks and ski poles were helpful. Routefinding in the snow from the Railroad Grade over to the lookout was challenging as there were no markers and all the bootprints were headed up Baker.

But visibility was good and we easily made our own trail across the snow.

About 2200 feet of gain; 7½ hours with the usual stops for the kids, and

30 minutes at the lookout. Full parking lot at 10am. Driving directions in *100 Hikes* and other books. Good early season snowslog with kids!—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 6/28.

 **GOAT MOUNTAIN** (USGS *Mt Shuksan*)—Needing to get a hike under my belt in preparation for a 27-mile loop in the Olympics the following week, Jess and I headed to the Goat Mountain trailhead near the Mount Baker Highway in less than promising weather. This was to be our first hike of the year, and our first as 40-year-olds.


The trail is in great shape. For the first hour or so we ascended through forest before reaching timberline. Near timberline we passed a hiker on his way down who claimed to have seen a large black bear on the slopes above the old lookout site. We decided to talk and clap our hands occasionally to warn the bear of our presence.

The lookout is no longer standing and we didn't quite make it to the site, electing instead to stop at a rocky area for lunch and rest. Here we got a brief, partial glimpse of our beautiful surroundings, but before long the clouds totally obscured the view and it began to rain steadily.

The chilly, wet weather forced us to change into warmer clothes before beginning our descent.

The return hike was wet though uneventful until we reached the car, whereby we were greeted by a yellow envelope on the windshield warning of our failure to pay the required \$3 hiking fee. The rain had sealed the envelope shut.

In spite of the weather and lack of views, we accomplished our goal of some strenuous exercise in preparation for more summer hikes. One hour forty minutes up, about 1 hour ten minutes down. Only two cars at the trailhead when we arrived, and one when we left.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 7/11.

 **HANNEGAN PASS** (USGS *Mt Sefrit*)—Took my mom for a short walk up this very flat trail on a fine sunny day. We went only about 1½ miles, but that was enough to net us some very fine views.

Lots of flowers! And some odd combinations of plants—Douglas maple and vine maple growing cheek by jowl—not that you normally think of maples having jowls, twinberry and mountain box, parsley fern and mimulus, stonecrop and swamp gooseberry!

This is a *brushy* trail. Also full of nettles; don't even think of wearing

shorts! It's hot and pretty dry—very little shade and only a few small trickles of water. The creek is well below the trail—you can hear it but not see it. (And to get to it you'd have to do some real bushwhacking.)

I think I've read that this trail is good for kids, but I can't think why. The brush is head high for anyone 4 feet or under, so there'd not be much to see. The trail never goes down to the creek, and there are few stopping places. The brush crowds the trail in many places, so kids would encounter those nettles at face height.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 7/9.

ROSS LAKE—My wife Lauren and I hiked the Beaver Loop trail at Ross Lake and returned to find our new car christened with a smashed window.

We had left everything open so "they" could see there was nothing to steal, but "they" wanted the car. We wouldn't have paid extra for the alarm, but it came with the car, and boy, are we glad. Be careful at the trailhead.

If anyone wants to trap these sub-humans, we'd offer our car as bait.—Jonathan Mannheim, Gig Harbor, 5/23-25.

 **CUTTHROAT LAKE** (USGS *Washington Pass*)—


Bob and I had intended to do a quick afternoon hike up to Blue Lake on the south side of Highway 20. The ranger in Winthrop told us the lake was snowbound, the trail had snow patches but was open, however the parking lot was closed for construction of new toilets.

We found the parking lot not only open, but full of cars. The trail, however, was too snowy and muddy for any real hiking pleasure. We decided to cross the highway and hike to Cutthroat Lake instead. We'll return to Blue Lake next month.

At the trailhead a sign read "Bridge Out—2 miles." We remembered the bridge was collapsed last year, but was easily crossed, so we cruised up the easy trail through mixed conifers, glorious views, and scads of wild flowers. Oliver, the mountain climbing Pomeranian, skipped along happily, frolicking in the one patch of snow we encountered.

We arrived at the bridge and saw it had been removed! A pile of new lumber indicated that construction was soon to begin. We could easily cross the stream but the water was too swift and deep for Oliver. We stuffed him into Bob's rucksack, and with his little black nose and paws peeking out, he got a ride across.

We arrived at the lakeshore within an hour, had a nice rest, and poked around a bit. A nice easy hike for an afternoon in the sun.—Suzanne Follis, Twisp, 6/28.

 **CUTTHROAT PASS** (USGS *Washington Pass*)—One of the nicest hikes I've been on!

A late start and showers at Washington Pass convinced us to head a little east to the Cutthroat Lake trailhead. It cleared and we headed out. Easy trail leads, in 2 miles, to little Cutthroat



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Jack Mountain from Ross Lake.

Lake. Lots of skeeters.

The trail then climbs in lazy, long switchbacks to a beautiful bench of larch and then continues. Trees shrink and thin. Views appear. You climb up through a beautiful rock garden with views to the south and east.

One final traverse brings you to Cut-throat Pass and a junction with the Crest Trail. We climbed up the little knoll to the west and tried to name the peaks while the thunder and black clouds rolled to the south.

Later we traversed to the east and a saddle that allowed views of Tower Mountain, among others, and the Crest Trail headed off to Harts Pass.

A sign said that there was a bridge out but it wasn't a problem to cross.—The Postman, with Dave P., 7/10.

BLUE LAKE, South Early Winter Spire (USGS Washington Pass)—The trail to little Blue Lake and access for a lot of the rock climbs in the Liberty Bell group will be a little harder to reach for a while. The trailhead is closed for repair and upgrading, but the trail itself is open. Park half a mile west on the wide shoulder, and walk back to the trailhead, where a cut-off will take you to the trail.

We went in about 1½ miles to the climbers' cut-off and ascended South Early Winter Spire by its South Arete route.

Access for rock climbs in from the hair-pin east of Washington Pass up a long rock slope to the ridge south of

South Early Winter Spire.—The Postman with Dave P., 7/11.

NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK

—Summer has arrived here in the North Cascades. Most of the winter snowpack has melted but streams are still running high. Be aware of TICKS in brushy, forested areas.

Snowline is generally above 6000 feet, but will vary depending on slope and aspect. Higher elevation trails may continue to have snow patches and require snow traveling skills. Because several North Cascades trails begin in National Forests, you may need a Forest Service parking pass.

The Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount (360-873-4500 x37 or 39) is open daily at 7am. 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.

Permits are required year-round for overnight stays in the backcountry. Free permits can be obtained at the Marblemount Ranger Station or other NCNP offices.

There has been LOTS of bear activity in the Park—hang food 15 feet up and 5 feet out from tree, or otherwise secure from wildlife.

Big Beaver/West Bank: Clear, snow-free over Beaver Pass. Suspension bridge at junction with Little Beaver trail is unstable, use caution, consider fording.

Chilliwack: Logged out from Cana-

dian border to junction with Copper Ridge trail and from Brush Creek to Hannegan Pass. Brushy and rough in several spots from border to Easy Creek.

Copper Ridge: Snow on upper ridge and around camps; Silesia and Egg Lake camps partially melted out. Copper Lake snow free.

East Bank: Snowfree, clear and maintained to Lightning Creek. Bears seen in camps; store food properly and keep camp clean!

Easy Pass/Fisher Basin: Difficult log crossing at Granite Creek (not a bridge). Lower trail muddy in sections, snowfree.

Pyramid Lake: Snowfree and clear.

Thornton Lake: Road open to trailhead but rough, use caution. Camp and lower lake snowfree. Scattered snow patches on trail.

Whatcom Pass: Snowfree.

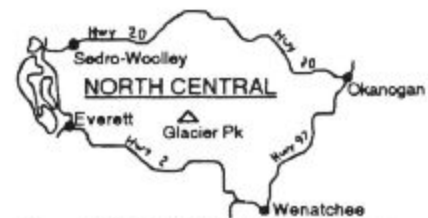
Logged out from the west. Brushy on Brush Creek trail below Graybeal camp. Hazard tree reported at Graybeal camp, use caution.—Ranger, 7/20.

METHOW VALLEY DIST—509-996-4000. **Andrews Creek** trail is snowfree and cleared of logs. **Chewuch River** trail is snowfree and logged out to Spanish Camp. **East Fork Pasayten** trail is snowfree and cleared of logs from Pasayten River to McCall Gulch junction.

Monument Creek trail is snowfree to north side of Pistol Pass; logged out to Eureka Creek bridge; a lot of trees down past Eureka Creek. **Peepsight** trail has 80 trees down; several are very difficult to cross.

Boundary trail from Irongate to Pasayten River has snow hanging in at Cathedral Pass. Cleared of logs from Tungsten to Pevee Pass. From Pasayten River to PCT has been cleared of logs.—Ranger, 7/14.

NORTH CENTRAL



CURRY GAP (USGS Sloan Pk, Blanca Lk)—What a hike! It starts up the Sauk River at road 4920

Lee McKee

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and turns into trail 650. From the large parking lot we crossed a steel/wooden bridge. From there on the old logging road is doing its best not to become a trail, but nature is winning.


There were flowers in abundance. We marveled at the tiny mushrooms that gentled the moss- and grass-covered road. Most of the way up to 3000 feet, two people could walk side by side.

We could see only across the valley to the array of tumbling waterfalls in the morning. We passed three fine specimens of free-falling water right at the side of the trail.

At 4300 feet and 2pm, we ran out of time. By then the clouds had lifted and a royal blue sky was speckled with pieces of cotton. On the way down we could see Monte Cristo and Goblin Mountains, Cadet and Foggy Peaks, and lots of lesser rocks dressed with glaciers and snowfields. Below that jagged ridge, Pride Basin amplified the many waterfalls cascading down its massive walls.

Thundering booms sounded throughout the valley as glaciers cracked and avalanches crashed. Cornices hung between several of the peaks. As we descended even farther, wisps of clouds that were hiding Sloan Peak scampered off, leaving an almost perfect cone of bare rock.

The trail was clean, well manicured, and pleasant to hike. We arrived at the car at 3:50 and drove the 88.5 miles back to Kirkland. A beautiful early season hike.—Wanderbuns, Kirkland, 6/27.


 **GREEN MOUNTAIN** (USGS Downey Mtn, Huckleberry Mtn)—On July 1 we drove up to Green Mountain, one of our favorite uncomplicated day hikes. The flowers were great, and we briefly glimpsed a cinnamon colored bear just as we were exiting the lower band of trees.

It was a lovely day, and we went on to the top with only patchy snow except for around the lake. We were disgusted, however, when we reached the lookout. Someone had camped there, and built a fire with wood from the lookout, only a very few feet from the lookout itself. The lookout is frail as it is!

Not content with this, they had brought a gun and shot to bits a number of glass bottles and a gallon plastic jug. Broken glass, candles, and a few bottles scattered over the summit.

It is bad enough to trash a beautiful spot, but to shoot bottles into bits makes it very tough for anyone else to clean it up. We used the plastic jug, filled it up with the bulk of the broken glass, bottles, and shell casings. But it was a sad note in an otherwise lovely day.

We called the ranger station in Darlington to report what we found. It makes you wonder about what kind of jerks would spend the time and energy to hike up to a beautiful spot, and then try to ruin it. Please be alert, report unusual activity to the ranger station or sheriff.—VB/MA, Arlington, 7/6.


 **CUTTHROAT LAKES** (USGS Mallardy Ridge)—We wanted to go to Cutthroat Lakes by the southern route described in Joan Burton's book, *Best Hikes with Children*, taking Road P 5000 out of Granite Falls. (She comments that this road connects with a road out of Sultan Basin.)

We tried to ask in Granite Falls about the latest conditions, but no one who lives there seems to hike, so we called the ranger station in Verlot from city hall. The ranger said, "Don't follow that book! That road is DNR and it's now gated and locked." We hiked to Perry Creek falls instead.

Today I called DNR for information, and I was told that Road P 5000 is now permanently gated and locked because they have had so much vandalism and garbage strewn in that area, and they didn't think there was any other road that would lead to the Bald Mountain trailhead from that side. I guess Walt Bailey's trail is now the only way in. The ranger said most recent reports were that there is still lots of snow at the lakes.

About Perry Creek Falls—a lovely hike—there were waterfalls cascading from both sides of the valley. Some of the streams were a little bit tricky to cross. We didn't go beyond the falls, but some hikers coming down said there was still lots of snow in the meadows below Mount Forgotten.—Goldie Silverman, Seattle, 7/2.

Ed. Note: *Best Hikes with Children* is now out in a second edition that does not mention the DNR road. Everything else in the book is updated as well.

 **WEST CADY RIDGE** (USGS Blanca Lk, Benchmark Mtn)—Steve and I had a very wet three-day hike. I have never been so wet without being in a rain storm. We got to the trailhead just after 11am. There was a horse trailer and one other car—oh, and lots of mosquitoes!

A short way up the trail, Steve realized he had left his glasses behind, so he made a quick trip back. We had the dogs on leashes because we knew the horses would be coming down. We had just sat down for lunch, well off the trail, when the two horseback riders came by.

After lunch, we continued with the dogs running free. We met one lone hiker heading down. He had turned back at the first serious snow. We found that it didn't last long and the trail was snowfree beyond.


We of course went to our Fourth of July spot, at about 4800 feet in a clump of trees. They "rained" on us the entire three days. I wanted to be in the trees for wind protection and to have a place to set the tarp. We were in misty clouds and the trees collected the moisture which then rained down onto us. Walking under trees was like walking in a rain shower.

The next day a few sucker holes enticed us out. Just out of camp we encountered several deep snow patches over the trail. This is where the horses had turned back. The trail was soon bare again. The new switchbacks sure make the up and down parts much easier and there is less erosion.


There was one more extensive bit of snow and then the trail was clear all the way to the top of Benchmark Mountain. Still no sun or views. We had lunch on top in a sheltered spot just west of the summit.

Met a ranger on the way down. It was his first time up and he seemed to be from out of the area. We told him about the various campsite options he had above. Just before camp, it started to really rain.

More of the same on Sunday. We left for home at 10:30. Everything was wet. Just before the bridge we caught up to the ranger on his way out. He did not go to the top. We found two streams near our camp that will probably run another two weeks. By then all of the snow will be gone on the ridge.—Linda Rostad, Redmond, 7/3-5.

 **HEATHER LAKE** (USGS Labyrinth Mtn)—The trail was in good shape; there was only one log for the vertically challenged hiker to belly over prior to the lake. It was probably snowed in when the trail crew did the initial clean up.

A few snow patches remained on the trail and around the lake. Hiked into Glasses on Saturday. Most of the route was over snow. Glasses was just beginning to thaw around the edges. Glasses is beautiful and well worth the climb.—JLP, Port Orchard, 6/19-21

 **ROCK MOUNTAIN** (USGS Mt Howard)—We drove over Stevens Pass about 4.5 miles. A short, unsigned road to the left connects west-bound and east-bound highways. Take this exit from east-bound highway,

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cross west-bound lanes and straight ahead on Smith Brook Road. Follow signs to Snowy Creek Trail.

The trailhead is well-marked. Only two blowdowns on trail, probably recent as there was evidence of trail clearing this year. Still need to get rid of overhanging greenery which slaps your legs.

Trail is nice, continuous uphill til you get to long switchbacks on meadow below lookout when it gets more gradual. Lots of small stream/trickle crossings and two serious slimy rock-hopping crossings over swift water. We were in fog (cloud?) the last 1000 feet. Rest of day was overcast with sun breaks.

A few small, hard-snow patches still on trail. Can go around if desired. Mosquitoes were awful. 3100-foot gain and 9 miles round-trip.—Edythe, Robert, Maria, hikers from Aberdeen and Seattle, 7/3.



SPIDER GAP-BUCK CREEK PASS LOOP (USGS

Trinity, Holden, Suiattle Pass, Gamma Pk)—The Phelps Creek trailhead that leads to Spider Meadow can get jammed with cars on summer weekends.

The trail is easy and pleasant although we took boots off for the Leroy Creek crossing. When we got to Spider Meadow we again did a boots-off ford to reach a pleasant, secluded (sort of) camp. Here we were visited by an aggressive marmot who nosed around our food bags and decided to haul Joan's boot off to his lair. Lindy shouted at him and he dropped the boot, but left a nice set of tooth punctures in the leather. We made sure camp was clean and everything put away.

In the morning we headed up to Spider Gap. At the upper crossing of Phelps Creek we met Marie Mills and her party who were coming down from a climb of Dumbell.

Snow started at the top of the waterfall, and was of just the right consistency for walking up to the gap. On the other side we stayed off the trail and on the snow until it disappeared. We found a camp in the flats below Lyman Glacier.

On Day Three we dropped to Lyman Lake (bugs!) and climbed to the meadows near Suiattle Pass. We found a great camp below Cloudy Peak with a terrific view of the country we'd just crossed. Since the sun was out, Lindy, Linda and I grabbed daypacks and headed for the top of Cloudy Peak.

That night it began to rain, and we packed up in the morning between showers. We scrapped our planned scramble of North Star and instead headed for Miners Ridge on the short-

cut trail, which had several large snow patches on it.

Setting up camp near the PCT junction, we again took daypacks and headed out to Image Lake, 3½ miles away. The long ridge ramble was beautiful even with no views of Glacier. The flowers were glorious.

Nancy and Joan were content with seeing the lake from above, but Linda, Lindy, Manita and I dropped to the shoreline and circled it. No camping is allowed at the lake; several parties were at the designated camps.

On Day Five we again headed out in rain and clouds, dropping to cross Miners Creek, climbing to Middle Ridge, dropping to cross Small Creek, and climbing one last time to Buck Creek Pass. The camps at Middle Ridge and at the Flower Dome junction were dry except for snowmelt, which is going fast.

At Buck Creek Pass we dropped into the large designated camp area and picked a spot big enough for our three tents. In the morning the rain had stopped and with blue sky and sun Linda, Lindy, Manita and I headed for Liberty Cap and the waytrail to High Pass. Joan and Nancy rested in camp.

We crossed many snow patches on the way but the only one that was challenging was an old cornice, although we could have gone around it. Linda and Lindy got all the way to High Pass; Manita and I lazed in a meadow overlooking Triad Lake. When we returned to camp, Nancy and Joan said they had been over to Flower Dome and had wonderful views of Glacier Peak.

To make the trip out easier on aging backs and knees, we headed down Buck Creek at midday on Day Seven. Lindy and I took a quick trip up Flower Dome in the morning before we left; it's an easy trail with a great panorama. On the Buck Creek trail, the afternoon sun on the open hillside did a good job of frying us and we were glad to find a camp at the switchback where the trail meets Buck Creek, just west of the avalanche track.

We were up early on Day Eight to get a jump on the heat. There is plenty of water on the Buck Creek trail, and about half a dozen camps between the switchback and the Chiwawa River crossing. Just before we got to Trinity, we ran into *P&P* readers Lindy (the other Lindy) and Jay Bruce and their party, out for an 8-day trip.

At Trinity, Joan and Lindy shuttled cars while the rest of us cooled ourselves in the river. A stop for lunch at the '59er Diner at Cole's Corner was a great finish.

From no point on this entire route were we able to get cell phone reception.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 7/11-18.

STEHEKIN—Excellent hiking! The Stehekin Valley road is open to Flat Creek (20.1 miles). The trail crew has cleared the road all the way to Cottonwood for hikers and bicyclists. Footbridges over washouts above Flat Creek make hiking easier, but they're difficult to cross with a bicycle; expect to cross shin-deep water for twenty feet.

Shuttle Service: Shuttles make four trips daily to High Bridge, and three trips between High Bridge and Flat Creek. Call to reserve seats on the small shuttle between High Bridge and Flat Creek (360-856-5700, x340, then x14).

Please be prepared to quickly reduce the weight of your pack or other gear and remove sharp or protruding objects; this is necessary to avoid injury when you lift packs up to the van-top carrier.

Boulder Creek trail is clear of logs and snowfree. Expect lots of brush above Rennie Camp, beautiful fireweed in the path of the Boulder Fire.

Cascade Pass trail is cleared and brushed to Pelton Basin from Cottonwood. Pelton Basin and Sahale camps are snowfree. Patchy snow starts at 5200 feet, still patchy on Sahale Arm. Please stay on trail. Stehekin Road is closed at 20.1 miles.

Goode Ridge trail crew has cleared trail to 4 miles. New 24-inch-diameter tree at 1½ miles. Some snow patches along the ridgeline, before the lookout. Great wildflowers!

Horseshoe Basin trail is snowfree and cleared up to Horseshoe Basin. Beware of thin snowbridges over snowmelt creeks in Horseshoe Basin.

High Bridge to Bridge Creek via Coon Lake has been cleared of fallen trees. North trailhead is on Stehekin Road just below Bridge Creek Camp. Black bear with cubs sighted on this trail. Please give her lots of room.

PCT south from High Bridge to Suiattle Pass, along Agnes Creek, is clear. Railing is unfinished on footbridge over Agnes Creek at Hemlock; use caution. Some snow remains at Cloudy Pass and on the hiker trail between Cloudy and Suiattle. South Fork Agnes trail is under construction; use upper PCT.

PCT north from Bridge Creek Camp to Highway 20, along Bridge Creek, has been cleared by trail crew except for one new tree down near Rainy Pass. Maple Creek Bridge is installed.—Ranger, 7/20.

CHELAN DIST—509-682-2576. Snowline for most of the district is at the 6000 to 7000 foot level. Several of the north-facing passes in the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness are still snow-covered but passable to experienced hikers.—Ranger, 7/14.

ENTIAT DIST—509-784-1511. The Entiat River trail 1400 has been maintained to Entiat Meadows. The North Fork Entiat trail 1437 has been maintained to the Fern Lake junction; snow beyond.—Ranger, 7/14.

LAKE WENATCHEE DIST—509-763-3103. Cady Creek trail 1501 has not been maintained since 1996. The bridge is out at the trailhead and the Little Wenatchee must be forded, difficult at this time of year.

Indian Creek trail 1502 is maintained for 2.5 miles to where the bridge is out. Forging Indian Creek is difficult at this time of year.

White River trail 1507 is maintained for 4 miles to the Boulder Creek junction. The trail has not been maintained beyond this point since 1996; expect many logs and brush beyond.

Carne Mountain trail 1508 is snow-free to the basin; about 20 logs across trail. Phelps Creek trail 1511 has a few small tress across trail. Creek crossings are high. Campsites are snowfree.

Little Giant trail 1518 has not been maintained since 1996. Over 150 logs are down in the first 1.5 miles.

Schaefer Lake trail 1519 is maintained and snowfree for 4 miles. The logjam crossing of the Chiwawa is not recommended for inexperienced hikers! Cross at your own risk. The bridge at 3 miles has collapsed.

Little Wenatchee trail 1525 maintained for 3.5 miles and snowfree to Meander Meadows. Boulder Creek trail 1562 is not yet maintained. Snowfree to Boulder Pass. Water deep at ford of Boulder Creek.

Fees are required 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. Camping fees are \$4 per vehicle per night. The camping pass is also valid for parking at trailheads in the Upper Chiwawa that would otherwise require a Trail-Park pass. But a Trail-Park pass is not valid for camping.

Smoky Bear comes to the Lake Wenatchee State Park amphitheater every Saturday morning at 11am for fire truck demonstrations.—Ranger, 7/14.



Grant Myers

Climber on Luahna Peak; Clark Mountain in background, Glacier Peak Wilderness.



LAKE SERENE, BRIDAL VEIL FALLS (USGS Index)

—By the time you read this the parking lot and restrooms will be completed for the new Lake Serene trailhead.

Take the Mount Index road off Highway 2 just before the bridge and go right ¼-mile and there you are.

This long-awaited new trail is now complete. It follows an old road the first mile then the new trail takes off to the left. In about ½-mile you'll find the junction leading up to Bridal Veil Falls in a steep ½-mile. Better do it first, if you plan to, when your legs are fresh. Combining the two gives you over 2500 feet of gain in about 4 miles.

Reaching Lake Serene resembles the "stairway to the stars" as you climb what seems like hundreds of steps on the stairways that go up the switchbacks.

You will be rewarded with a pretty mountain lake nestled at the base of Mount Index. Our Renton Women's Hiking Club appreciated the trail being shady as it was one of our hottest days.—Shirley Lindahl, Kirkland, 7/16.



COMMONWEALTH BASIN (USGS Snoqualmie Pass)

—This was Loretta's first hike with a pack. We took the PCT north to the Commonwealth Basin trail. I left King at home and only had the two dogs, Jenny and Sammy. (It was very hard to leave old King, but I know he slept all day while we were gone.) Let the dogs off their leashes once we left the PCT.

We had the trail and basin all to ourselves. It took us just under three hours to get to the lake. The trail is in excellent shape. There is one large tree down across the trail, but it was easy to get over. We sat on damp grass on the northwest shore of the lake for lunch. No bugs! Still some snow patches around most of the lake.

After lunch, we left our packs under a tree and went to the pass. Great views at the top, though Glacier was under a cloud. From the pass it took us three hours to get back to the car. We took the old Commonwealth Basin trail. We forded two streams and climbed over lots of logs.

The brush is overgrown and I'm sure the trail is being left to disappear. It was very steep going down. It did make a nice loop trip and the water scenery is nice.—Linda Rostad, Redmond, 7/6.




ALASKA LAKE (USGS Chikamin Pk)

—The PCT to Kendall Katwalk has about a dozen blowdowns, some are big. About five hard-snow patches on Katwalk.

From PCT to Alaska Lake is a scramble, not a hike. Ice axe recommended to slow yourself down when you slip—and you will.

We found a ridge to follow on the way back out which had a trail that did not go all the way to the lake (at least we didn't find it). I never plan to go there again. Wasn't even a very pretty lake once you got down there.—Edythe, Connie, Maria, Rick, Robert, Douglas, Richard, Ellen; hikers from Aberdeen and Seattle, 7/8.

 **ESMERALDA LOOP** (USGS Mt Stuart)—11 miles, 7 rolls of film. Took my Texas nephews Brad, age 12, and Ryan, age 9, on a three day backpacking loop trip around Esmeralda Peaks.

The bridge has not been rebuilt across the North Fork Teanaway headwaters, so prepare for a cold creek crossing near the De Roux trailhead. We found acceptable logs and step stones to cross DeRoux creek at 1.25 and 4 miles. The 1800 feet of elevation gain on this trail is mostly concentrated in short stretches. The upper valley was very wet, but the Gallagher Head lakeshore was clear of snow at 4.5 miles. Unfortunately, motorheads built a bridge, which has encouraged vehicles to chop through the meadows to the camp at the south end of the lake. Needless to say, the meadows are torn up badly.

The wind was chilling, so we retired early to the comfort of a warm tent, after the traditional macaroni and cheese dinner.


The second day, comfortable sunshine and very little wind. We scrambled up the Gallagher Head to play in the snowfields. Snow seems to have a special fascination for Texas kids used to 100 degree June temperatures.

Ryan aggravated an old ankle injury. We elected to continue the loop trip anyway, which meant two days of travel but shorter and easier distances each day. Going north and downhill on the accursed jeep track, after two creek crossings, we found unmarked trail 1394. It initially angles uphill in a northerly direction, almost parallel to the road, but soon swings east and directly uphill to regain about 400 feet.

After easing to a gentle traverse in open terrain, switchbacks begin, gaining another 600 feet at a sensible rate. Open views at the pass to Mount Daniel. The grade was easy down the last 1½ miles into Esmeralda Basin.

Day 3 was an easy hike out down to the Ingalls Lake trailhead and beyond. At the Eldorado Creek trailhead, we took the convenient horseman's way trail on the opposite side of the road, to an old jeep track that returns to the DeRoux Creek trailhead. That saved us


about ½-mile. Much appreciated by a little guy with a sore foot.—Larry Trammell, Issaquah, 6/26-28.

 **ESMERALDA BASIN** (USGS Mt Stuart)—A name change for one of the exits on I-90 caused me to miss it and go nearly to Snoqualmie Pass. "Edgewick Road" is now called "468th." The person I was to meet there also missed it—twice: once going east, and again coming back west.

We eventually connected and drove east to the Teanaway. The Esmeralda trailhead was jammed because it is also the parking area for Ingalls Lake, Longs Pass, and even climbers heading for Mount Stuart by way of Headlight Basin. But once on the trail we saw few others.

It was a gorgeous walk. The flowers are fully out and I saw every meadow flower listed in my little identification book. It was rainy and gray on the west side, but here it was bright sun and very windy, which kept the bugs away.

In my edition of *100 Hikes* (1985), the little sketch map shows a way-trail going north from the pass to a little local prominence. There was no track to be found; however, an established track did lead to the south of the pass for good views. An absolutely wonderful trip, and an easy trail.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 7/19.

 **HAWKINS MOUNTAIN**

(USGS Mt Stuart)—The weather necessitated choosing a peak from the "Eastside list" and a report from the July *P&P* about the DeRoux Creek trail led me to pick Hawkins Mountain.

Sarah, Ihab, Kaya and I escaped wet Puget Sound and drove to the DeRoux campground, near the end of the Teanaway River Road, to sunny and warm conditions. As reported, the battered bridge over the North Fork (the July report erroneously called it the Middle Fork) was crossable, as well as a log downstream. Travelling up DeRoux Creek brought back memories for Sarah from her days at Camp Wahoo, an overnight horse camp a few miles down the road. The trail is still used by horses and avoiding their "evidence" became an eleventh essential of sorts.

The path is fairly flat for the first 1.6 miles, gaining only 300 feet, while crossing flower-filled meadows basking in the sun. Shortly after rock-hopping over the creek, a spur trail ascends to Koppen Mountain and the Middle Fork. We stayed on the main trail and hiked up the switchbacks, passing a waterfall, where we reached a long

stretch of lush green meadows.

The trail strangely traversed ¼ mile to the southeast, before righting itself and leading to Gallagher Head Lake, a superb scenic spot set immediately between the Esmeralda peaks and Hawkins.

After a break with the bugs at the lake, we headed off in the direction of a 4WD road that begins in the Fortune Creek drainage. Unfortunately, we ran into a lower road and descended a bit to the Big Boulder Creek trail. Realizing our mistake, we then went cross-country until we bisected the higher road, which traversed west, then north, to a basin below the two main summits.


The West Peak is higher and we set off for the saddle (6800 feet) up scree slopes. Clouds had blown in by now and while no precipitation occurred, our views were restricted. We climbed from near the saddle to the ridge and continued north to the rocky summit (7160+ feet).

We signed the register and ate lunch, imagining what a clear day would show, and enjoying our limited, but tantalizing, views of Ingalls, Esmeralda, Koppen, Stuart, and Jack Ridge. The scene to the west was completely veiled by clouds.

After an hour up top, we headed down the scree and chatted at the basin with a friendly guy on a 4-wheeler. He mentioned an alternative route that would probably save a bit of time: drive up past Salmon la Sac to the Big Boulder Creek trailhead, follow the trail a couple of miles until exiting to gain the west ridge to the summit (can be seen on the Davis Peak quad).

On the way back, we found an old abandoned trail that avoided the needless side traverse and instead led to the main trail near the meadows.

3400 feet elevation gain, 4½ hours up.—Eric Keeler, Seattle, 7/11.

 **TURQUOISE LAKE** (USGS Jack Ridge, Chiwaukum Mtns, Stevens Pass, The Cradle)

—Drive the Icicle Creek road to the end and start walking. Trail branches off in 1.5 miles. Here you can choose to take French Ridge or French Creek trails. I don't think there is an easy way. The ridge trail does not have water when the snow is gone. This would be a very difficult 1-day hike.

We went in on the French Creek trail to 3½ miles and camped along creek. Chipmunks were in attack mode so you had to hang everything. One leaped from tree to Connie's hanging food in the night and ate a sandwich, leaving behind a reminder of his presence.

You follow the trail along and above the river to about 5 miles, take a right at the intersection. You don't see the Turquoise Lake sign until after you leave the main trail.

The trail along the river had been cleared but the trail from here to the lake was brushy, rocky, buggy, boggy (one big bog), dry, hot, etc. Flowers were beautiful on the open area just before the lake.

We stayed at the lake long enough for the mandatory photo and vacated the area as fast as our legs could go due to swarms of mosquitoes. Had lunch in an open area where we found a little breeze to keep the bugs down. Lots of repellent used this trip but they still went for eyes, nose, mouth.

You lose significant elevation on bottom trail (400 to 500 feet loss, gain, many times) so the elevation gain in the guidebook is not correct. The guidebook is accurate except for that. The guidebook also says "One can only hope it is worth it." The jury is still out on that.—Edythe, Connie, Rick, Robert, hikers from Aberdeen, 7/14-15.



INGALLS LAKE (USGS Mt Stuart)

The clouds were not forecast to break up in Seattle until mid-day and it was drizzling when I got up, so we decided to head east of the mountains. We wound up at the end of the Teanaway Road in a minor traffic jam. We were not the only ones who had thought of Ingalls Lake.

We had never been to Ingalls Lake before and were very impressed. The wildflowers were spectacular, with a greater variety and diversity than you see most places. Even on the lower part of the trail the flowers were very good, and the lake had one of the best displays I've ever seen. This is an excellent destination for photography, in part because Mount Stuart was in good light the entire time we were there.

The trail was in excellent shape to the pass and was quite good until the last hundred yards or so before the lake. It then goes steeply up over a rocky rib to reach the lake. There were a few small snow patches around the lake, some of which made circling the lake a bit difficult, but the lake itself is completely melted out.

We tried to work our way around the lake, clockwise, and made it 98% of the way around, but were stymied just a hundred yards or so short of success. My advice is to proceed clockwise until you reach the outlet, and then go back the way you came. Getting around the lake requires good boots, because you are scrambling over some very



Ann Marshall

Alaska Lake and Chikamin Ridge from the PCT north of Snoqualmie Pass.

large boulders. This is no place for running shoes.

The signs at the pass direct you down into a basin north of the pass for camping, but the main trail toward Ingalls Lake traverses the basin to the left at about 6400 feet. There were a number of excellent campsites within the first fifteen minutes along the main trail, so you do not have to go down into the basin if you want to camp. No camping allowed at Ingalls Lake itself, however, and a self-issued permit is required (and available at the trailhead), even for day use.

All in all this was a great trip. We'll return some time when the larch have turned, or another year during wildflower season, even if the weather is good west of the crest.—Dave, Sue, and Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 7/19.

LEAVENWORTH DIST—509-548-6977. All trailheads are accessible now. Snow levels vary depending on trail location.

Ingalls Creek trail 1215 is snowfree to Ingalls Pass but has not been logged out; rock debris from winter avalanches is across the trail in places. Icicle Creek

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

trail 1551 is maintained to the French Creek junction.

Snow Lakes trail 1553 is logged out and snowfree up to the Lower Enchantments. Debris from a landslide crosses the trail about 4 miles up. Follow blue flagging across the slide.

Icicle Ridge trail 1570 is maintained for the first 5 miles, with some snow patches before the 4th of July junction. Still snow from Lake Augusta all the way to Frosty Pass.

Chiwaukum Creek trail 1571 has no bridge at the North Fork crossing. Trail is very brushy above the crossing.

Frosty Pass trail 1592 is maintained with some snow patches above Lake Margaret. Lake Mary has lots of snow but is slowly melting out. Lake Margaret has dry camps and the lake is icefree.

Permits are required for the **Enchantments** from 6/15 through 10/15. The price is \$3 per person per day. In early July, Lake Viviane was snowfree, and Leprechaun was still 75% snowcovered. All other lakes were 100% snowcovered. Only one-third of the cairns in the upper Enchantments were showing.

The snow is melting rapidly, however. Call the Leavenworth Ranger Station for the most current conditions.—Ranger, 7/14.

CLE ELUM DIST—509-674-4411. **PCT** north from Waptus to Deep Lake is snowfree. Deep Lake is thawed. The Upper Park Lakes section still has snow.

The **Waptus Lake** trail has been maintained. At the end of June, there was still 6 feet of snow on **Waptus Pass**.

The **Sasse Mountain** trail 1340 is closed until 9/1 due to Plum Creek logging. **West Fork Teanaway** trail 1353 is closed until 9/1 due to Plum Creek logging.

Many trails have been maintained already.—Ranger, 7/14.

SOUTH CENTRAL



GRASS MOUNTAIN (USGS Greenwater, Cyclone Cr)

Warren Jones led the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club on this very interesting hike east of Enumclaw. I was there

about 20 years ago; it was in the process of being logged so the trail was messed up in places.

Well, it is *really* messed up now. If I had to go back there and lead that trip myself, I'd probably never find it again. Warren led us on a maze of trails, logging roads, and more trails through overgrown clearcuts.

About ½-mile below the summit, we entered an enchanting old growth forest. The forest soon gave way to a delightful brilliant green meadow. We climbed to the top of the meadow and had lunch overlooking Mount Rainier.

Grass Mountain consists of a long ridge with many summits. Part of the old trail is shown on the 15-minute USGS Greenwater quad, dated 1956, and Jim figured the mileage to be around 7 and the gain is 2900 feet.

In the spring, we bought the Topo! maps CD-ROM for the Central Cascades and have used it extensively. After our Grass Mountain trip, Jim drew in the route we took and made a copy. Now we have our own map with the Grass Mountain "trail" shown on it.

However, if you really want to know how to get to this place, ask Warren Jones.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 6/28.



BOUNDARY PEAK (USGS Mt Rainier East, Tatoosh Lk)

—Party of seven departs Snow Lake trailhead for Boundary Peak at 9am. Avalanche lilies greet us immediately; trail is now partly bare from trailhead to Snow Lake. A week ago it was almost completely snow-covered. Start and end trip in persistent fog and fog drizzle. Enough radiation penetrates to provide severe burns to exposed skin.

Trudge up Unicorn Creek to the upper basin and then hang a left to ascend the permanent snowfield between Unicorn and its unnamed companion to the west.

At this point party member number 8 joined us. He had been delayed by the almost-routine rollover-semi accident.

Leave the snowfield at the saddle for a short rock scramble to the south-facing slope leading up to the summit block. Visibility rarely exceeds a hundred feet. We stop briefly at the summit block of Unicorn at 1pm to view the climb and 3.9 scramble route.

Then we set a compass bearing to the southeast on firm snow and rock to Boundary. Can't really see, but map measurement is less than ½-mile from Unicorn. We encounter a difficult rock point and in attempting to find a route around it discover that we are in fact trying to find a way around Boundary Peak.

Lunch at 1:45 in a protected little bench on the north side. Treats include brie on a French loaf acquired earlier at the Ohop Valley Bakery in Eatonville, a great bakery full of mouth-watering goodies.

We follow our footsteps back to the saddle, plunge-step and glissade back to the upper basin of Unicorn Creek. Plunge-step through the gorge to Snow Lake. That part of the trip out had been a great glissade nine days earlier, but enough melting had occurred to expose rock at the bottom and we hold to the rule, "No runoff, no glissade." Reduces both fun and casualties.

Back at the trailhead at 4:45, well dampened. Driving to, from and during trip we see deer, grouse, marmots, and about ¼-mile below Narada Falls, several foxes. In addition to avalanche lilies on the trail, trilliums and, in the marsh, marsh marigold.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 6/30.



CRYSTAL LAKES (USGS White River Park)

—This easy, nicely-graded trail was great for a spur-of-the-moment day hike.

With a round-trip of 6 miles and elevation gain of 2300 feet, it allowed time for roaming the meadows. Lee and I climbed above the lakes toward Sourdough Gap and the PCT, but steep snow turned us around below the ridge.

I saw a flower I had seen before only in books—steer's head (*Dicentra uniflora*). What an unusual plant!

Black clouds moved in rapidly, after we ate lunch, so we hustled down the trail under claps of thunder and rain.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 7/3.



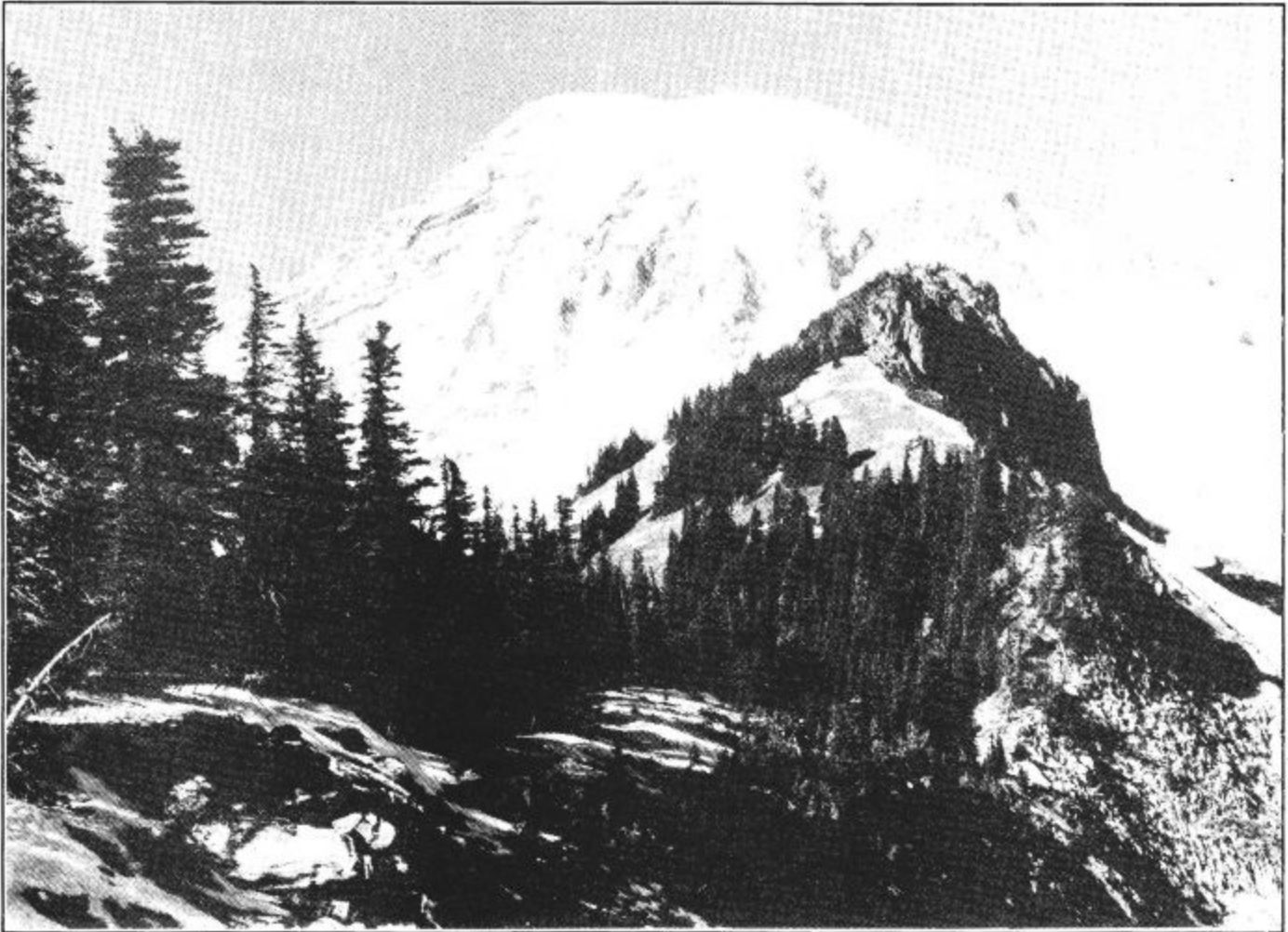
PUYALLUP TRAIL (USGS Mt Wow)

—Drive 8 miles up the 59 road, off Highway 706, on the way to the west entrance of Mount Rainier National Park. I started out on the trail by 9:30. Clouds low. Listened to the camp robbers echoing throughout the woods. Especially nice at Goat Lake as there was a breeze and no mosquitoes.

Paradise here. The meadows have the appearance of a manicured park. Avalanche lilies grow like a prairie throughout the forest with spots of shooting stars here and there. Easy trail to Goat Lake.

Lots of heavy game animal scents, but I had my three dogs (including the St. Bernard) with me, so no chance of seeing that kind of wildlife. Saw a flock of tiny baby ducks and hurried past that spot so the dogs would miss them.

Hiked an hour past Goat Lake; steady, moderate incline. Bearing tree half an



Paul G. Schaufler

Mount Rainier, with Foss Peak in front.

hour up trail: T15N, R7E, Sec. 9—entering Mount Rainier National Park. Darn mosquitoes! You either gotta keep moving and wear a scarf around your neck, or have repellent on you! Rich noble fir woods. Incredible rock formation cliffs, like a fortress. The high country: trilliums still blooming with yellow violets and Columbia Lewisia. Pika whistling.

The climax to this trail is how close you can get to Mount Rainier. I was stopped by snow and I didn't trust myself not to get lost. Gorgeous enough to make me not want to leave. Pure goodness.

Five hours round trip.—Sigrid Hechinger, Cinbar, 7/1.

▲▲ **MOUNT RAINIER, Kautz Glacier via Camp Hazard** (USGS Mt Rainier East, Mt Rainier West)—Going for an early start up to Camp Hazard we left Shoreline at 4am and made it to Paradise by 6:45. The climbing ranger was not supposed to open until 7:30 but we got lucky and he

showed up early.

We were told the condition of the Kautz Glacier, our intended ascent route. Fortunately it was still climbable, in spite of the many crevasses opening up on the middle section. With two days of stable weather ahead we should be able to pull it off. After last year's failure due to weather we were excited about redeeming ourselves.

We left Paradise at 7:30 and made our way up to the crossing point for the Nisqually Glacier and roped up. With the Nisqually also breaking up we did not want an early end to our trip. After getting around several narrow spots and crossing an interesting snow bridge we started up the fan gully that leads to the Wilson Glacier.

About half way up the Wilson we found some water and took a break. Soon we reached the lower Hazard camps on the rocky ridge and pitched our tent at about 10,000 feet.

We went to bed after melting snow, filling our water bottles and eating dinner. Unlike last year we were go-

ing to get up early and not miss our chance at the summit. It was easy falling asleep after climbing 4500 feet in sunny weather and soon we drifted off.

We awoke at 1am and prepared for a long day. After a breakfast by headlamp we started up with crampons on. We were climbing under a full moon and most of the early morning hours we did not need our headlamps on. It was beautiful!

The only real difficult section is right above Camp Hazard where the Kautz Glacier funnels into a narrow chute with two very steep spots. Paul placed his ice pickets to protect any possible falls.

The sun was just coming up as we crossed two more snowbridges before crossing over to the Nisqually for the finish. There is a gap at about 12,800 feet that allows nice access.

Ron experienced some altitude sickness here and threw up. He amazed us with a quick recovery, however, and wanted to continue.

The final slope seems to go on forever but at last we made it to the sum-

mit rim. I wanted to see all the rim high points so I dropped my pack and walked over to Point Success.

Then we all climbed the final 400 feet to the Columbia Crest for a grand view of all views in the Cascades. We took several pictures and were lucky to find another party on the summit who came up from Steamboat Prow who got some group shots of us. It was now noon and time to return before things below got too soft. We were a little late for that however and struggled over a snowbridge that had no right still being there.

The initial narrow chute required careful face-in backing down which took a long time. Finally we were back at camp 15 hours after starting up. Ron had a meeting to get back to but we were all too tired to pack up camp, so he called his wife on the cell phone and took care of it.

Our sleep was a restful one and the descent down the next morning uneventful except for the fresh elk tracks we found. Three hours later we were back at the car after telling the ranger we had returned. Surprisingly he told us that most parties don't check back in!

Several climbers were curious about the Kautz route because the guided climbs aren't allowed on it. It is one of the least used and most direct approaches, but best done in early season when the Nisqually and Kautz are solid.—Mark Owen, Paul Cho, and Ron McMullen, Shoreline, July 8-10.

MOWICH LAKE ROAD—Entrance fees will again be collected on the

Mowich Lake road this summer. Until last season, the Mowich Lake road was the only entrance of the Park where entrance fees were not being charged.

An honor system fee collection station is at the Paul Peak trailhead, ½-mile inside the Park boundary.—Ranger, 6/25.

CARBON RIVER BRIDGE—On Highway 165 above Carbonado is now open to traffic.—Ranger, 7/20.

RAINIER NATL PARK FEES—Entrance fee is \$10 per vehicle (bicycles, \$5).

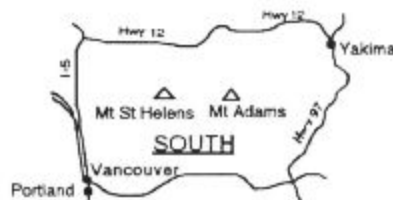
Wilderness permit fee is charged between 6/1 and 9/30: \$10 fee for the permit, plus \$5 per person. Permits are issued at Longmire Wilderness Info Center, Paradise Visitor Center, Ohanape-cosh Visitor Center and Ranger Station, and Carbon River Ranger Station at Wilkeson.

WHITE RIVER DIST—360-825-6585. Chinook Pass has full road closures in effect Mondays at 5am to Thursdays at 5pm. Weekends will have two-lane, two-way traffic. Cayuse Pass is open.

Greenwater road 70 remains closed at milepost 6.9 to all traffic. The Plum Creek bypass is closed and gated. The new road 70 is under construction and is expected to be finished late this summer.

No vehicle access to Summit Lake via road 7810 (Clearwater Wilderness). No access expected any time soon.

SOUTH



SODA SPRINGS (USGS Old Scab Mountain)

—This trail is in the Bumping Lake area of Wenatchee National Forest. For 2½ miles, we struggled over, under and around more than 70 logs across the trail, before we decided it wasn't worth it and turned around.

We wondered if this is an example of how our trail fees are being used to improve trails.

This trailhead starts at Soda Springs campground, where they are now charging a \$5 "day-use" fee, which I thought was deplorable.

Things have changed a lot from the good old days, and not for the better.—Merle Gors, Puyallup, 6/13.



PEAK 5227 (USGS Tower Rock)

—Peak 5227 lies 1.2 miles north of Juniper Peak (5611 feet) and 1.9 miles south of Tongue Mountain (4838 feet).

It has a prominence of just 419 feet, though it towers 3800 feet above the Cispus River. The principal drainages are Lambert Creek (north), Juniper Creek (east) and Kidd Creek (west).

A long ridge trending northwest from the top presents a steep north face above the valley of Lambert Creek and road 2904. The upper east side is also cliffy. The west slopes are heavily forested to the top.

The easiest access is the Juniper Peak trail 261 from the end of road 2904, elevation 3600 feet. In about 2 miles the trail reaches a broad col at 4808 feet just south of the peak. An old intermittent climbers' path and numerous game trails on the south ridge assist passage through brush and trees.

Halfway up, a short open slope leads to a brushless rim above the eastern cliffs. When the rim narrows uncomfortably, forest and shrubbery on the left provide a safe access to the summit. Here an open rocky platform above the cliffs affords a 200-degree view from northwest to east to south. The west and southwest are blocked by trees.

This easy class 1 ascent can be linked with a hike to Juniper Peak and its southeast points (5526 and 5480+ feet) for a total gain of about 2900 feet in an



Bill Lynch examines logging equipment abandoned after the Saint Helens blast on the South Coldwater trail.

Jane Habegger

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

8 mile round trip.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 6/29.



OLD SNOWY MOUNTAIN

(USGS *Walupt Lk, Old Snowy*

Mtn)—With my children, Sarah and Zach, I left Snowgrass trailhead 96 at 10:30am on a weekend the weathermen promised would be sunny.

Trail is in good condition with a bridge over Goat Creek at 2 miles and a waterfall just beyond to watch while lunching. All the other creeks were easy to cross without getting wet.

Snowgrass Flats is (are?) about 4 miles in and the PCT is reached about 1 mile later. Snow has melted on these trails except for a few short patches. Trails are well marked but the signs prohibiting camping at various areas in the flats are not always easy to see.

Split Rock, a 40-foot boulder that split in two and now has trees growing in the middle, is near the PCT just after trail 96 joins in. We left the PCT the next morning and travelled low-angled snowfields with some talus up to the col between Old Snowy and Ives.

From there it's scrambling to the summit with little exposure if you pick the right route (I didn't). We were short on time so we settled for a false summit maybe 15 feet lower than the true one to the north. Mounts Adams and St. Helens were in full view and almost all of Rainier was visible, the remainder being hidden by the true summit.

And yes! the weatherpeople were right; for the first time since buying my tent 2 years ago it didn't get rained upon!

Total mileage round trip probably about 14 with about 3500 feet gain. A good trip although a long second day for the kids. But they liked the snow and seemed to really enjoy scrambling up the rock leaving dad behind.—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 7/18-19.

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



GREEN RIVER TRAIL

(*Mount Saint Helens NVM*)—I

always wanted to hike this trail—old growth forest hikes are my favorites—and this one ranks right up there. Another wet day in the northwest, a perfect day for hiking in an ancient forest.

Heather and I headed for the Green River trail in a part of the Mount St. Helens Monument that sees very little visitation. We had no company all day, unless you count the 50+ elk we encountered in the transition zone between standing and fallen timber. Elk everywhere!

The forest is beautiful, the river lovely, and the scenery fascinating. A great place to appreciate the contrast between post and pre-eruption forest dynamics. We hiked as far as the Vansen Ridge trail junction for a 10-mile round trip.

The trail is extremely muddy and wet, slowing down your pace. Nothing wrong with that—enjoy the forest even more!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/26.



BOUNDARY TRAIL (*Mount St Helens NVM*)—Heather and

I along with a friend from Portland, Juliette, set out for an all day 15-mile hike on the Boundary Trail from Mosquito meadows to the Norway Pass trailhead. Juliette and I had plenty of time to talk about our pasts growing up in New Hampshire and working for the White Mountain National Forest—a great place to hike!

This particular hike allowed us to see various aspects of the St. Helens area. We started at Mosquito meadows (appropriately named) and ascended the main ridge that the Boundary Trail follows. We hiked through miles of beautiful old-growth forests, crossed Badger Pass and then onward to Bear Meadow.

The next section of trail was the highlight of today's hike. We climbed higher on the ridge which provided sweeping views, passed several small cascades, and then entered the blast zone. Wildflowers in full bloom and views of the devastated landscape were a constant on this section of trail.

We made a small side trip to Ghost Lake and then descended to the trailhead to complete this glorious hike. We made this 15-mile hike on a beautiful Saturday, yet only encountered 6 people on the trail all day.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/27.

INDIAN HEAVEN—The Indian Heaven Wilderness is now nearly snow-free and most lakes are free of ice. For a nice hike, consider the Thomas Lake Trail. This trail takes you

into the heart of Indian Heaven, which provides many excellent hiking trails and camping locations.

Moderately difficult, the trail includes some wet area crossings. Summer flowers are blooming now, including Indian paintbrush and tiger lily, commonly found in all areas of the forest.—Ranger, 7/14.

MOUNT ADAMS DISTRICT—509-395-3400 or 509-427-3200.

Divide Camp trail 112 is snow-covered at the PCT junction. The wildflowers on **Dog Mountain** trail 147 are past their prime; watch for rattlesnakes. The stream crossing on **Lava Butte** trail 200 is a challenge. **Stagman Ridge** trail 12 is snowcovered at Bottle Camp. **Thomas Lake** trail 111 is snowfree but not maintained past Wilderness boundary. Many trails have been maintained this year.—Ranger, 7/15.

COWLITZ VALLEY DIST—360-497-1100 or 360-494-0600. **Goat Creek** trail 205 is 3 miles longer due to a slide on road 2750.—Ranger, 7/15.

MT ST HELENS NVM—360-247-3900. A portion of the **Loowit Trail** 216 north of Mount St. Helens remains closed since 9/97 when portions of the trail were destroyed by a nonvolcanic, storm-generated debris flow from the crater. Expect the trail to be closed until 1999.

A permit is required to climb above the 4500-foot level on Saint Helens. For permit information, call the Climbing Hot-line: 360-247-3961.—Ranger, 7/15.

OREGON



TIMOTHY LAKE (*Mt Hood Natl Forest*)—Located south

of Mount Hood, Timothy Lake is a wonderful recreation area. It is extremely popular, but if you come mid-

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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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week, you'll have some respite from the crowds.

There is a great, virtually flat 12 mile hiking trail around the lake. Heather and I combined this hike with side trips to Little Crater Lake and the historic Clackamas Meadows Ranger Station for a 16 mile hike.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/12.

TWIN LAKES (*Mt Hood Natl Forest*)—Here is another area close to Mount Hood with lots of trail options for short or long loops. Most of the area is above 4000 feet with small lakes and peaks offering grand views.

Heather and I began our 12 mile loop at the Frog Lake Sno-Park off Highway 26 near Wapinitia Pass. We hiked to the Frog Lake campground and then up to Frog Lake Butte. We then hiked to both the Lower and Upper Twin Lakes and onward to Palmateer Point.

The view here of Mount Hood is breathtaking. We finished the loop by hiking back to our start via the Pacific Crest Trail. A neat area, but don't expect to be alone.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/13.

IDAHO

STANLEY HOT SPRINGS (*Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Clearwater Nail Forest*)—Heather and I headed out for a 4 day trip to explore

the hot springs of Clearwater National Forest and to check out the historic and cultural sites of the Nez Perce National Historic Park. We set up camp at the Wilderness Gateway Campground right on the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River. Halfway between Lewiston and Missoula, this is a wilderness lover's heaven.

We got our first taste of the huge Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness by hiking trail 211 out of the campground to pristine Stanley Hot Springs. The hike is 5.5 miles one way up the beautiful, rugged, and wild Boulder River valley. The trail is in very good shape except for one short horse-beaten section of mud. The log crossing over Boulder River is sturdy and it is your entrance to the old-growth forests that surround Stanley.

I spooked a "brown" black bear on the way up and we shared the hot springs with a lone moose cow. The pools are large, clear and refreshing—perhaps a little too warm for this 80 degree day. We were joined by two other hikers—and it was just us four, a moose, and all the wilderness you can imagine!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/18.

JERRY JOHNSON HOT SPRINGS, WARM SPRINGS CREEK VALLEY (*Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Clearwater Nail Forest*)—Heather and I originally planned for today a much longer hike, but the low

front didn't move out, and we had one incredibly wet day.

We hiked up the Warm Springs Creek Valley in the pouring rain to a rugged spot overlooking a series of falls and rapids. Far enough, we thought—let's head for those hot springs we passed earlier.

Evidently, the rain kept the soakers away—we had the entire main pool for ourselves. After 7 soaking miles of hiking it was time to soak in the 105 degree pool. What a spot! Old-growth cedars surrounded us with a roaring river right in front.

Avoid the crowds—pick the absolute worst weather you can hike in and head for this spot. You'll leave with a wonderful memory and a special appreciation for nature's beauty.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/19.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CROTCHED MOUNTAIN (*USGS Francistown*)—Went "Out East" for my nephew's wedding. After the wedding we went to my sister's lake cabin in New Hampshire. I needed to stretch my legs after loading up on airplane and reception food. Checked out a county map and located the highest point within easy driving distance, Crotched Mountain!

After numerous false starts and advice from the friendly locals we located the Bennington Trail. This old path begins in mixed hardwood forest and ascends to the windswept subalpine summit. Passed ancient stone walls covered with moss.

The forest floor was littered with hundreds of red efts, surreal red-orange juvenile salamanders with bright red spots. Frogs and toads were also abundant. Most of the birds in this area would be recognizable to western Washingtonians. From the summit, about 2500 feet, we could see a great distance, even up into the White Mountains. Several turkey vultures rode the thermals.

Even though there are towns about every 5 miles in New England, only an occasional church steeple broke the continuous sea of forest greenery. Not a clearcut in sight although considerable logging does occur.

We followed the summit ridge to the lifts of the abandoned Crotched Mountain ski area. Travel was slow due to large numbers of ripe blueberries, raspberries and strawberries. We then followed the overgrown ski trails down to a parking lot where we had arranged a pickup.—Dave Parent, Freeland, 6/29.




South Sister from the PCT. Three Sisters Wilderness.

Lee McKee

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

SWITZERLAND

 **ZERMATT**—Bill and I are hiking in the Alps for 5 weeks: the first three weeks in Switzerland and the next two in Austria. We did a similar trip nine years ago and we've been anxious to return.

For Switzerland, our primary hiking guide is *Walking Switzerland, the Swiss Way* (second edition, 1997), by Marcia and Phillip Lieberman.

Our first hiking stop is Zermatt, a wonderful little town without cars at the foot of the Matterhorn. We were here also nine years ago and it is the one place from our previous trip that we had to return to. So far we've done four hikes—here they are:

(1) **Trift.** The hike to Trift is 4.5km round trip and climbs around 2200 feet. You start the hike right from town, initially going by the picturesque older buildings as you climb.

So we were in steep pastures looking down at Zermatt. In half an hour to 45 minutes we reached the Edelweiss Hotel, which sits on a rocky perch, visible from town. We stopped to get a cold drink and sat on their terrace enjoying an excellent view of the Matterhorn and Zermatt.

From the Edelweiss, the trail climbs steeply up a rocky gorge, eventually reaching the Hotel du Trift. Both the Hotel du Trift and Edelweiss are accessible only by foot. Provisions are flown in by helicopter. Our innkeepers' daughters, Stephanie and Fabienne, were staying at Trift. It was fun to meet them.

(2) **Findeln.** The largely abandoned village of Findeln is northwest of Zermatt. The old wooden houses and mazots with slate roofs provide a wonderful foreground for the classic view of the Matterhorn which can be seen from here. There were a lot of people on this trail, but more coming down because you can take a chairlift to Sunnegga, which sits above Findeln.

The hike to Findeln is 7km round trip and climbs around 1400 feet. We stopped for rosti and a cold drink at one of the three restaurants open in Findeln. Not bad—a hot lunch sitting on a deck on a beautiful sunny day with an unobstructed view of the Matterhorn in all her glory!

After lunch, we continued climbing up the trail beyond Findeln to a little lake called the Grindjesee. This added another 900 feet of climbing and 4km to the trip. It was well worth it. With each step, the views got better.

(3) **Hörnli.** One of the great things about hiking in Switzerland at a ski resort like Zermatt is that you can take a gondola, train or chairlift to get to high country.

This day we took a gondola to Schwarzsee on a gloriously clear day. We were absolutely awestruck when we arrived ... 360-degree views of mountains, from the Mischabel chain to Monte Rosa, Dente Blanche, Breithorn, Pollux, the Matterhorn, and much more.

We hiked by the Schwarzsee, a little lake with a tiny chapel at its edge. The chapel was built by a group of Italian

climbers who were lost in a snowstorm on the Matterhorn. They vowed that if they survived they would build a church to the Virgin Mary. Shortly after, the storm lifted. They returned to build the chapel.

We continued toward Hörnli hut, which is used by climbers before their ascent of the Matterhorn. We stopped at Hörnli, which sits at about 8300 feet on the Matterhorn. We both think it is the most breathtaking and fabulous view we've ever experienced! Superlatives don't do it justice.

To top off the experience, a herd of goats was grazing in the high pasture near where we stopped. Listening to their bells ringing added charm to the experience.

(4) **Schönbielhütte.** Our luck ran out in the weather department after three days of hot, clear sun. We awoke to clouds and drizzle. We decided to hike anyway—with umbrellas!

We got to a waterfall about ¾ of the way to the hut before we decided to turn around. It was raining steadily and clouds were rolling up the valley, obscuring what we could tell would be a fabulous view of the west wall of the Matterhorn. We will do this again on a clear day.

We stopped on the way down for a hot meal at Zmutt, about 1 hour from Zermatt by foot.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 7/4-8.

BULLETIN BOARD

Notices on this Bulletin Board are free to subscribers and may be "posted" for up to three months. You may list your used equipment for sale, post lost-and-found announcements, locate partners for trips, or other non-commercial items. Commercial advertisers are welcome to contact the Pack & Paddle office for ad rates.

FOUND—A pair of glacier glasses side shields on Granite Mountain (I-90). Call Jason at 253-529-7443.

FOR SALE—1990 JanSport D-Series frame pack. Good condition, used four times. Wide adjustment range, great hip belt system, 5000+ ci. Black over dark grey. \$35 plus \$9 for me to pack and mail in Northwest. Call Larry Smith, 360-876-7788, days and leave message (Port Orchard).

FOR SALE—Double sea kayak, Destiny Kestrel, with large center compartment for gear or child. \$900 or best offer. Phone 253-752-7160 (Tacoma).

FOR SALE—Early Winters Omnipotent, a classic in excellent condition. Storm-proven design. Integrated fly (no flapping). Yellow and orange. Gore-tex doors at each end. Asking \$495. Call and make offer. Robert Kisch, 425-747-8583 (Bellevue).

FOR SALE—Sierra West "Mobile Dome" two-person tent. 3½ season, 3 pole, free standing. Well ventilated, very sturdy. 32 square feet. \$75.

Two Feathered Friends "Puffin" down sleeping bags. Three season: fall-winter-spring. EXTRAS included. Please

call for details by 6/21. Rob, 206-783-2558 (Seattle).

FOR SALE—Men's hiking boots. One Sport Moraine, size 10. Excellent condition. Cost \$145 new. Sell for \$50. Call Larry at 425-337-1773 (Everett).

OSAT—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 253-236-9674.

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).

MARY M. WATSON

Packless in the Pasayten

—THE BURRO BONANAZA—

It was in August of 1989, at age 63, that I made my first Back Country Burro Trek after a friend saw an ad in *The Mountaineer*. Hiking high in the Pasayten Wilderness was a long-time dream which seemed beyond our back-packing abilities, but with the prospect of pack animals we decided to try this new adventure.

It didn't begin well! We spent two days of a five-day trip in heavy rain, walking from Slate Peak through soaking brush down the West Fork Pasayten valley, then up to Goat Lakes where we set up tents in a downpour.

The next day we stayed put, huddled around a fire until about 3 in the afternoon when the rain changed to mist which the sun whisked away. It was then that I had my epiphany: a view of pointed crags, long sweeping meadows, dense green pockets of alpine evergreens dotting the seemingly impassable slopes.

This really was the Pasayten! We were there! We were high! Oh, yes indeed!

Our new adventure ended magnifi-



Mary at Silver Pass, 1995.

cently! We returned to Hart's Pass along the PCT in clear weather, passing the awesome Devil's Backbone and camping beside Tamarack Peak. There was never a moment without enjoyment, from the first donkey's bray as the sun came up to the evening campfire. All I could think about was coming back for more.

In each of the eight summers since I've spent from 7 to 14 days hiking packless in the Pasayten, going farther and higher than I could ever have done without those sturdy burro backs.

We hikers are dependent on our own resources except for weight-bearing. We divide our food, clothes and other gear into duffle-type bags and are responsible for getting these to a large tarp for loading. We are shown the next campsite on the map and walk there at our own pace.

We put up our own tents, do our own cooking and must see to our own protection from whatever weather this wilderness provides. It is an opportunity combined with challenge, not a catered vacation.

Pack animals are not often mentioned lovingly in *P&P*, so it needs to be said that *Equus asinus* (ass, donkey, or burro—not mule) may be the most un-

derrated creature on earth.

Burros are low-impact, carrying weights comparable to horses while only half the size. They are not shod, so trails are little damaged. They are hard, willing workers when trained and treated well.

There is a mellowness and calm about them that is most endearing. Children love them and may ride or lead them safely. I feel most fortunate to have made their acquaintance, especially because, thanks to them, I am now looking forward to my tenth high Pasayten hike as I approach my 72nd birthday.

On the third day of that first trip we walked in the new sunshine along the PCT as it proceeded from our Goat Lakes camp.

We came to what seemed to me a dead end, but it was only the Devil's Staircase, a narrow, exposed track going steeply down into the Rock Creek valley. It looked terrifying! How could I have imagined that the very next September, in 1990, I would be one of the demons descending it, then climbing on up to Woody Pass and the most spectacular vista I've ever seen: the North Cascade range, including the tip of Mount Baker and 8900-foot Jack Mountain, extending to forever and demanding to be admired.

Here are some details from those trips, for those who are interested in traveling the Pasayten.

THE BOUNDARY TRAIL September 6 to 20, 1990

Route: From Harts Pass along the PCT until the turnoff to the Pasayten River via Frosty Pass, trail 533. This is the Boundary Trail which ends at Iron Gate where we had cars waiting.

This was a 100+ mile one-way trip with no easy road access after leaving Hart's Pass. The variety of scenery made every step a promise, the weather over the whole 14 days was mild and mostly sunny, and the views from high places held us spellbound.

We were a group of six: Mary Jane



Three Fools Peak and "Two Fools Lake," 1990.

and Bob from Olympia, Kris and I, who were casual friends, Winnie, who had been on two previous burro treks, and Birch, our packer-guide. Cooperative, fun-loving, supportive relationships were established early, which added much joy to the package.

(Winnie and I and Kris, joined by his bride Sylvia in 1991, have become the core group of four who have scheduled a Pasayten adventure each summer.)

Highlights: The return to Goat Lakes in full sun and a camp high in a meadow where I could repeat my epiphany ... Winnie's first skinny dip ... Kris and Bob's perilous descent to the lake below Three Fool's Peak (we now call it "Two Fool's Lake") to fish ... Mountain Home Camp which seemed like Shangri-La in its beauty tucked down beneath the stark, rocky cliffs ... Frosty Pass and the camp we used which was perched on a plateau high above Frosty Lake and featured blueberry-filled meadows and a magnificent, dashing creek ... Fall colors provided by orange buckwheat, yellow larches and the red berries of mountain ash ... Cathedral Peak glimpsed in ever-changing perspectives from the trail traversing the bowl on the way to Tungsten Mine ... Bob's 67th birthday celebration held just beyond Scheelite Pass as we began our descent into Horseshoe Basin.

After many fond pats of farewell for the burros, and the inevitable rough drive from Iron Gate to Loomis, we

gathered for pie and real ice cream with Winnie's husband Bob. We released her to him only after her commitment to another trek the following summer.

CATHEDRAL LAKES I July 21 to 27, 1991

Route: This was a 40 mile loop beginning at Thirty Mile trailhead on the Chewuch River with the return down Andrews Creek.

The first day was an easy 8 miles, the second a horrible 10 miles featuring a steep, rocky uphill followed by endless meadow walking. We then spent three days taking day trips from our scenic meadow camp a mile from Upper Cathedral Lake. The trip out was broken into two uneven mileage days: 6 miles to a camp below tiny Airview Lake, then 13 miles to the Andrews Creek trailhead.

There were 10 hikers, including newlyweds Kris and Sylvia, married just three weeks. Birch, the donkey-master, made it 11 people. Then there were Angelica, Petunia, Trust, Dewdrop, Isaac, Tallulah, and Jacob, comprising our burro bonanza.

Highlights: Wildflowers! ... The grueling "granite staircase" leading to miles of alpine meadow and views of Rimmel and Amphitheater Mountains ... Day trips to Cathedral Pass, Bald Mountain, Lower Cathedral and Rimmel Lakes ... Those fresh trout dinners ... Sunsets over the North Cascade Range as seen from the high ridge behind our camp ...



Wee Willie and friend, 1992.

The sudden, brief but heavy, soaking thunderstorm which was evidently the tailend of the tempest that closed the Andrews Creek trail with blowdowns for a day just before we went over it on our way out ... Watching the full moon rise over our final campfire in our heavenly meadow camp.

LAKE CHELAN-SAWTOOTH WILDERNESS

August 16 to 22, 1992

Route: (Our one trek outside the Pasayten Wilderness.) Up the Eagle Creek trail out of War Creek campground on the Twisp River, over Eagle Pass to a camp below Star Lake, then through the Prince Creek valley, across the ridge above Surprise Lake and into Indian Head basin where we spent two days. The route out was on the Oval Lakes trail.

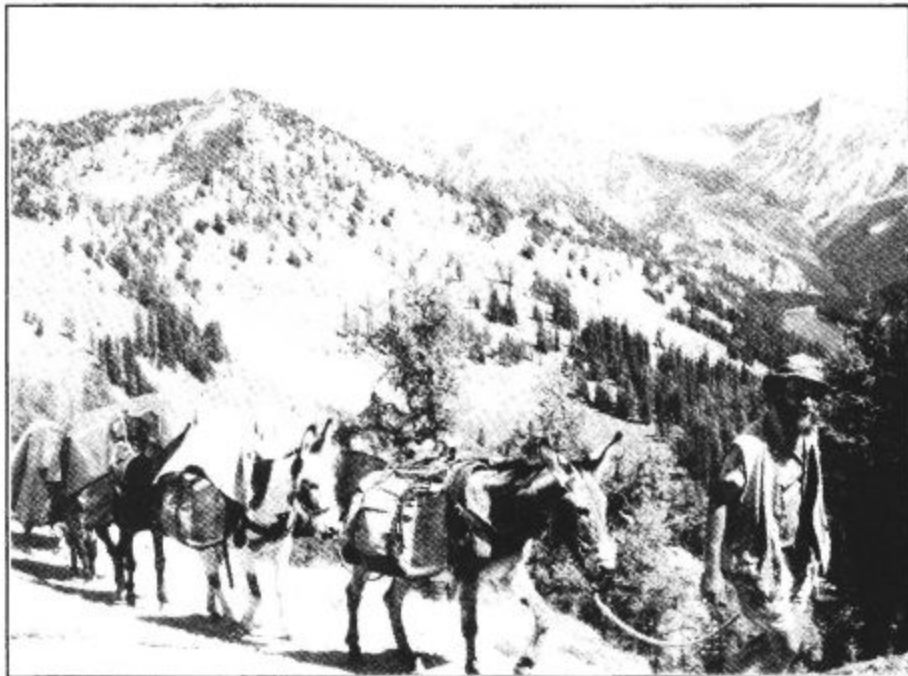
The core four (Kris, Sylvia, Winnie and I) were joined by six others. Birch brought along a new, young burro, a true comedian we named Wee Willie.

Highlights: Kris, tee shirt inscribed "I FISH therefore I am" ... Swimming! In Star Lake, and two small nameless lakes above our Indian Head basin camp. Warm, clear, private. Drying off in just the warm air... Peek-a-boo views of Lake Chelan far below with tiny boats zipping about ... Weather: Intense dry heat, then a thunderstorm, then snow!

SHEEP MOUNTAIN

August 10 to 17, 1993

Route: Twelve people and seven donkeys trudged out of Billy Goat Corral on Eight Mile Creek, over Eight Mile Pass, then NE on Trail #502 through Larch Pass and Peeve Pass to our old friend the Boundary Trail and a camp in the meadow below Sheep Lake



Birch and burros above Surprise Lake, 1992.



Mary rejoices upon reaching the cairn that marks the entrance to the Tatoosh Buttes meadows, 1997.

where we stayed for three days. On the return we camped at the Dollar Watch Trail junction and climbed over Billy Goat Pass and back to the Corral.

Highlights: The first four days were picture-perfect-Pasayten for weather and wildflowers; the last four featured wind, rain, fog and cold, together and/or intermittently ... The second night out we saw the peak performance of the meteor showers from sleeping bags out in the meadow ... Neither Sheep nor Quartz Lakes yielded fish, but we hiked to them and around them gleefully ... Side trips also to Park Pass and along the Boundary Trail ... The final day over Billy Goat Pass was gorgeous!

HART'S PASS, FROSTY PASS, WEST VALLEY

August 22 to 30, 1994

Route: This was to have been Kris-the-Fisherman's dream trek with three guaranteed fish-filled lakes to make up for last year's poor catch. Unfortunately, we didn't get to either Buckskin or Silver due to sheer cowardice on my part when told about the steep, exposed talus slope, "not recommended for livestock" which was a part of the original route plan.

We ended up going from Hart's Pass on the PCT, turning up to Frosty Pass as we had on the 1990 trip, then down Chuchuwanteen Creek, staying in the deluxe guard station camp at the old airstrip, then back to Hart's Pass on the

West Fork Pasayten River trail. This gave us two full days at the incomparable Frosty Pass camp and Kris was richly rewarded by the fishing at Heather Lake.

There were six hikers who had three new donkeys to meet after hearing the sad news that funny Wee Willie and elderly Dewdrop had been killed in a fall in 1993.

Highlights: No campfires! This was the year of the drought when severe forest fires raged in spite of restrictions and constant helicopter patrols ... The perilous traverse of an abandoned trail by three (not me!) members of our party. It had been dynamited in places to prevent its use. ... Meeting Michelle, the solo backpack beauty heading to Ross Lake, who had been lost for almost two days before getting back to the trail where we found her ... Fresh trout for dinners and breakfasts ... The mystical combining of so much that is wild and beautiful about the Pasayten Wilderness making this the most blissful of trips for me.

FRUSTRATION WITH A SILVER LAKE FINALE

August 15 to 24, 1995

Route: This was to have been my dream trek to Tatoosh Buttes which I'd read about, talked about, and planned for a year. We made it from Slate Peak down the Middle Fork of the Pasayten River about 15 miles, then went back

the same way to drop 4 of our party of 10 hikers at the trailhead 4 days early. There were 6 of us remaining who wanted to stay the full time we had scheduled so we took off on the Buckskin Ridge trail and camped a mile south of Silver Lake for 3 days taking day hikes to the lake and Silver Pass.

Low Points: Cold nights, with several hikers under-equipped ... Rain and mud ... One person panicked by bronchial problems ... An unnecessary wading of a very cold creek ... A sick donkey ... Snow reported at Tatoosh Buttes ... The decision to turn back.

Highlights: Sun, flowers and the panorama to be seen only when coming down from Slate Peak as we did on the first day ... Wonderful camaraderie in spite of weather and other woes ... Finding a well set up camp site when we needed it most just before we turned back ... Sun, fish and a marvelous vista overlooking the Middle Fork valley which made the Silver Lake sojourn a great success.

CATHEDRAL LAKES II

July 10 to 18, 1996

Route: Up the Chewuch River from Thirty Mile trailhead, turning up along Tungsten Creek, past the old mine, through Apex Pass and Cathedral Pass to our camp a mile beyond Upper Cathedral Lake. The return was down Rimmel Creek until it joined the Chewuch which we followed back to the trailhead. About a 40 mile loop.

There were 11 hikers, our wonderful packer-guide-friend Birch and the burro train: Angelica, Jacob, Isaac, Trust, Alma, Tallulah, Too Sweet, Peg AND her 3 month old baby, Sasha. There can be no more endearing creature than a baby donkey!

Highlights: Charmed weather, temperature perfect, no bugs, skies blue ... Bright flowers among the snow patches ... Apex Mountain, a walk-up to the 8300 ft. summit providing a view of just about everywhere we had ever been ... Crossing the snowfield just before Cathedral Pass when baby Sasha took off to cavort happily and perilously while we all held our breaths. She made it, but I roped up ... Bathing in a tiny lake I spotted from high on the ridge observed only by a young doe ... Finding that a third stay at Cathedral Lakes only made us see more beauty there.

TATOOSH BUTTES!

July 13 to 22, 1997

Route: From Billy Goat Corral over Eight Mile Pass and Lucky Pass along Lost River to the Hidden Lakes, then up the 3000 foot climb to the cairn which marked the beginning of the incredible Tatoosh Buttes—acres of meadows with Tamarack Ridge and Ptarmigan Peak beckoning at the far end. We six hikers, seven donkeys and Birch had it all to ourselves

Highlights: Just getting there, being there, in perfect weather with dear friends and experiencing an endless feast for the eyes, for all the senses ... A great layover day at Hidden Lakes ... Discovering a restful campsite on Lost River which was needed after a 14 mile day on the way back ... Watching the full moon rise on one side of the ridge and the sun set on the other—pure enchantment.

TIME TO GO AGAIN

The remote areas of the Pasayten Wilderness can only be experienced by those willing and able to do without motorized conveniences. There are many miles to cover, much elevation to gain and lose, streams to cross, weather of many kinds to contend with.

I would hate to have missed it, all of



Bob's 67th birthday party below Teapot Dome camp, 1990.

it, the uncomfortable as well as the enchanting, and I would have without the small pack animals that carried our necessary supplies. It has been a bonanza for me! Soon it will be time to go again. Blessed be!

For more information, contact:
Backcountry Burro Treks
 Box 246
 Winthrop WA 98862
 509-996-3369.

△

Mary Watson, a retired nurse, has been hiking and backpacking for over 35 years. She lives in Gig Harbor.

The Good Old Days

—REMEMBERING THE DAYS BEFORE GORE-TEX—

Dale Graves
 Kent, Washington

In June of 1966, Round Mountain in the Goat Rocks Wilderness was one of the first day hikes we did as a family, using Clear Lake as a base camp.

The trail number was 1116 back then, and the road to the trailhead was much shorter and it was about a 2-mile hike. Near the summit the trail was lost in a maze of bulldozer tracks that I trust nature has overcome by now; route-finding was not difficult at this point, however, as the lookouts and the lakes below were in sight, and the views were tremendous in all directions, including a grand view of the east side of Mount Rainier that we "wetsiders" are not used to.

Notice I said lookouts, plural. You can see both in the photo. I find it a bit sad that some of these old lookouts could not have been saved and rented out, as is being done with the Peterson Prairie cabin.

The children are, left to right, daughter Patti, age 9 (now Patti Fusch of Arlington); son Steve, age 6 (now living in North Bend), and daughter Lori, age 10 (now living in Federal Way). All the kids were veteran hikers and backpackers even at their tender ages.

Readers are invited to send in "good old days" stories and photos.



Dale Graves

LINDY BAKKAR

Dancing on the Rock

—LEARNING TO CLIMB—

My first rock climb was May 23, 1998. It was South Early Winter Spire, South Arete. I am a student in the Seattle Mountaineers' Basic Climbing course and South Early Winter Spire is one of the basic experience climbs.

Our leader was Art Freeman, a skilled and capable climber with patience and a gentle, friendly personality. With him were rope leaders Glenn Glover and Bob Geiger, and three basic students, Chris Kilmer, Dana McLendon, and me.

On the spur of the moment, feeling courageous, I had decided to call the clubhouse to see if any climb was open for the coming weekend. Leonard told me all the climbs were full, and there was a waiting list for every climb.

The next day, I again dialed the clubhouse. This time, Leonard gave me Art's phone number, because someone had cancelled from his climb. I called his number immediately and left a message. He called me that night and said, "You're on the climb." At that statement, the butterflies began to hatch in my stomach.

The next day, I could not decide if I had the flu or if I had a bad case of nervous jitters. I could not eat for the three days before the climb. I began to worry about my strength. Dizziness washed over me. Would I be up to the climb? Should I cancel?

As the weekend came closer, I knew that I would go. Complicated by more butterflies, though, my nerves were stretched tight. I would have to drive four hours to the trailhead and camp there alone.

I had never met any of the climbers who were to be my companions on that Saturday. Our very lives would be in each other's hands. It is something to think about.

On Friday after a full day of work, I drove north to Highway 20, then east for two more hours to the Blue Lake trailhead.



Chris Kilmer

On the summit—I could get to like this!

The parking lot was a small clearing surrounded by snow banks and forest. Only two other vehicles were there. Stepping out of my car into the fresh mountain air, I was greeted by the song of a woodland thrush welcoming me back into the high country. Otherwise, all was silence.

I began to fill my empty time with small chores. I dinked around with my pack, checked my climbing gear and runners, and had dinner. While I was waiting for my water to boil, three climbers came down from a successful climb of North Early Winter Spire. They told me the weather had been perfect. I was hoping it would be the same for our climb the next day.

Then I sat in my car reviewing belay techniques, rappelling set-ups, and all the knots. When the light faded, I went to sleep. I heard other cars come in during the night, but nothing disturbed my sleep very much. I was quite comfortable.

By 4:30 in the morning, I was wide-awake. I had no time for butterflies now. I had to face the day.

I noticed several others up and about. People began to greet each other, determining who was with our climb and who might be there for another outing.

We discovered that all six of us had spent the night there, so we could get an early start.

Around 6:45am, we gathered in the center of the parking lot and formally met each other—stating our names and trying hard to remember the others'. Art asked if this was the first climb for any of us. Dana and I were both first-timers. Chris had done rock climbing with other groups before.

With positions aligned and determined, we were ready to set out. The atmosphere felt very congenial. I was content to be "just a student."

We approached our climb by the Blue Lake trail. It was snow-covered, so we headed toward our goal by whatever snow route looked easiest and safest. Soon the way became steep. The snow was hard, and only a tiny edge of our boots cut into the snow. My recent lack of exercise and food caused me to feel weak and slow. But I still carried one of the ropes. That is the job of the basic student on these climbs.

Climbing steep, hard snow, we made it to the rocky saddle leading up to the arete. At the base of the arete, we took off our packs and put on our climbing helmets and harnesses.

I was amazed at the racks carried by the rope leaders. They would be using a wide array of cams, chocks, and hexes, connected to runners and carabiners. The butterflies stirred in my stomach again. But I would do this!

Here, we divided into three rope teams. I would carry a light pack with lunches, water, and jackets for Art and me. He would carry the rack. Art set the first anchor while I tied into the rope.

I set up the belay, and Art was satisfied that I had done it correctly. As he began to ascend the rock, he turned back and asked me to give slack and then pull it back in. He wanted to make sure I could handle the rope correctly. He was satisfied, and with a grin, he turned his attention to the route. While

still within my sight, he explained each piece of rock protection he placed.

Soon, he came upon a problem. The guidebook had said that the beginning of the first pitch was the hardest. Being leader, he wanted to make sure all three teams would be successful. So he set a runner from a tree where people coming up that way could reach it. The last person through was supposed to remove it.

I paid the rope out to Art as he needed it, trying not to let it get too tight. He had requested that I give him enough slack to allow him to work without feeling like I was holding him down. He moved gracefully up the rock and out of sight. I was fascinated (and heartened) by his competence.

And then I heard his words, "OFF BELAY!" from far above. My turn was next. I disassembled the anchor and stowed it over my neck and one shoulder. I called out, "Belay off," and the rope began to pull upward until it pulled against my harness.

"That's me," I shouted. The rope became still. Me: "On belay?"

The answer came: "Belay on!" I replied with this heart-stopper (for me): "Climbing!"

And then ... I touched the rock. It was comfortable in my hands. It felt solid, eternal, ancient. My feet found the footholds and were secure. I began to move. Someone down below said, "She's smokin' it!" I concentrated on the rock.

Soon I came to my first piece of pro. Easily I took the piece out of the crack, unfastened the 'biner and placed the runner over my neck and shoulder.

Proceeding, I came to the tiny chock Art had placed in the difficult first pitch move. I had to remove it without using it to get around the hard part. But my reach was long enough to find a tiny protuberance with my left hand, and using boot friction against the face, I shifted my weight to move over and found another good hold. I had made the crux move!

From there I found solid holds for my feet and hands—some in a small crack, some on the face—until I could see a white helmet and Art's beaming face as he belayed me up. Yeesss! I could do it.

Art had me set up the next anchor. He called it good and prepared to climb again. As Art took the runners and pro from my neck, Bob came up from the

second rope team. It was time to begin the next pitch.

Art disappeared from my sight almost immediately. He shouted down that he was entering a chimney. Several times I felt the rope stop moving while he placed pro. In the meantime, I had an enjoyable visit with Bob. I found out that he is a ski instructor from Lyons Ski School. He does have that enthusiastic ski-instructor attitude. He said, "This is COOL! Isn't this great?" I could only agree!

Bob observed that since men have more upper body strength, they could muscle their way over the rock one hand at a time. Women, with lesser upper body strength, tend to use both hands at the same time and use their legs more. He said it is like watching someone "dance on the rock."

"Off belay!" It was my turn again. I disassembled the anchor, called out the proper words, and began to ascend, removing the pro as I went. Then I got to the chimney. Here, I had to think. My pack was in the way. Although it padded my back on the wall, it also provided friction to keep me from moving up. The chimney techniques I had used in previous field trip climbs would not work for me here.

How was I going to get up the chimney? And there was a chockstone to get around as well. I tried several ways and finally—very ungracefully—inched my way up. Legs cramping and hands



Looking up at the South Arête.

shaking, I ascended to a point above the chockstone. There I pressed my head against the rock for a moment, catching my breath and resting. I still could not see Art, but I knew he was there and he would not let me down.

When I was ready, I began to scramble up an easy sloping stairway of jumbled rocks. As I neared the top of the pitch, there was that smiling face inside the white helmet, hands competently keeping slack out of the rope as I ascended. By this time, over my neck were many runners with pro attached. I must have looked like a hardware store.

We both rested here for awhile, taking our time to set up good anchors for the next pitch. The process was becoming familiar to me now. I was starting to know my job, and Art expressed confidence in me.

As Bob came into view, Art checked the progress of the others below. He had Bob, who was roped to Chris, call down to Glenn, who was leading for Dana. All was well. Dana was up to the beginning of the second pitch. We began again.

I belayed Art up an easy pitch this time. And he belayed me as I ascended. It was a sandy ramp with only a few little places that required holds on rock. Mostly it was a staircase at this point. Art and I waited a long time at the top of that pitch.

When Bob came up, he said all was well, so we ascended a fourth pitch. This section involved more climbing interspersed with scrambling. It felt secure to be belayed, though. Some places were harder than others, but none as hard as the chimney had been. At the top of that pitch was a good area to rest and wait for the others.

Our next section was a short, exposed, unprotected ridge. Art climbed across it while I belayed him. On the other side, he fixed the rope to a solid anchor. Now, the rest of us could clip into the rope with our personal anchors and feel some degree of safety as we moved across.

After he put in the fixed line, Art became worried about the climbers below. Why had they not come up yet? He disappeared (unroped) from my view and I was alone to admire the beauty of the snowy North Cascades. High clouds shielded us from the hot sun but did not obstruct the view.

As Bob came up to our perch, and as Art returned from his mission of check-

ing on the others, we watched a huge avalanche fall down a distant slope.

When we were ready to move on, Art sent the other two rope teams across the exposed ridge, connected to the fixed rope. He then sent me across. I hooked into the anchor on the other side while he dismantled the one on his side. I then belayed him across.

From there, we each coiled part of the rope, leaving about 10 or 15 feet of rope between us. Art showed me how to place the coils over my neck and shoulder and tie them so they would not come loose. He also showed me how to tie a figure eight out of a bight of the rope and hook it on my harness carabiner. That way, if one of us fell, the rope would pull on the other person's harness and not tighten around the other person's neck.

In this manner, we ascended the final blocks to the summit. Every so often, he would place a runner for a running belay. Going up this final pitch, we were passed by a lone climber—unroped—who was very agile on rock. Art told me that the really good climbers could do that route unroped with total confidence. But I was a beginner and I was very happy to be roped.

At the top we had lunch and scrambled among the summit rocks. There was barely enough room for us all, but we fit.

Chris was the only one with a camera, so he took all the pictures. A raven landed on North Early Winter Spire and talked with us for awhile, its piercing voice intermingling with our own happy chatter. We tried to identify the peaks we could see all around us. Having Glacier Peak so far to the south was a new experience for me.

When it was time to descend, we gathered our things and started a cautious down climb. I faced out for some of it, but I faced in for the steeper sections. Then we came to the exposed ridge. The fixed rope was re-set and the ridge crossed in the same manner as we had done before.

After dismantling the fixed rope, Art took my pack, all of the hardware, and two ropes. I tried to take some of it, but he insisted. So I was able to descend the last of the top scramble free of any weight on my back.

After that, we descended to our first



Chris Kilmer

All of us on the summit: in front, Chris Kilmer; behind Chris, Bob Geiger; back row, Glenn Glover, Art Freeman, me, and Dana McLendon.

rappel point, where Glenn and Bob had rigged the rope. I asked that an instructor *please* inspect my rappel set-up when it was my turn. All three of them grinned and said that that was definitely in the plan.

Art rappelled first so that he could make sure the rope was not caught on anything below. I was next. Bob and Glenn watched me set up. I made a couple of mistakes. For one, I had the carabiners set up with the bottom one having its gate on the outside—the side my braking hand would be on. I had to switch the carabiners so the bottom one would have the straight back on the braking side.

My next mistake was to begin to unhook my anchor without having the rope in my braking hand. The two instructors were encouraging and told me this was still a learning situation and that they had confidence I would be able to do it well. So I rappelled down from the first rappel point.

Our second rappel point took us down the chimney. At this point, the rappel anchor was set around a sturdy tree trunk. The area was tight, but I was able to set up under the close scrutiny of Glenn. I was mortified to see him reach over and lock my harness carabiner. ALWAYS, he said, re-lock a locking carabiner as soon as you have finished whatever clipping-in job you are doing.

As I was rappelling down I found a safety pin on the floor of the chimney. I must have lost it off my gaiter during my ascent. I stopped to pick it up. They asked from above if I was tying off, but I said no. I was able to retrieve the pin left-handed, never taking my braking hand from the rope.

From this last rappel point we could see the gear we had left behind at the base of the arete. Soon we would be down. Art set up and descended the last rappel. But then he shouted up that he had forgotten my pack. It was sitting on some rocks nearby. So I put the pack on and prepared to rappel. This time I did it right.

When all were down, we sorted through our packs and made sure everyone got back his or her own gear. By this time, the gear had been mixed up and everyone had things that belonged to someone else.

Art realized that one of his best pieces of gear was still on the face of the first pitch. Dana, who had been last, had gone up a different way and was not close to the special running belay. She thought we would be passing back by it on the way down. Glenn offered to climb back up and get it. I was awed to see his expert moves on the rock—setting his own protection while Art belayed him. Who said men don't dance on rock?

Finally, we were ready to descend the snow to our waiting cars. I had a four hour drive ahead of me, so after heartfelt good-byes and good wishes all around, and a hug for Dana, I left the parking lot.

Art and Glenn had both encouraged me to take the intermediate climbing class. They both could see my joy in climbing, and they both expressed confidence in my ability.

I felt great! I had done something I never dreamed I would do. It is just a beginning—but I could get to *like* dancing on rock!

**For The Mountaineers club class or membership information, call:
206-284-6310.**

△

Lindy Bakkar, of Lynnwood, is a skier, hiker, and climber and is on the Board of Directors of Edmonds Ski School. She works at Meadowdale High School.

MITCH BLANTON

Mount Prophet

—A RARELY-VISITED MAJOR MOUNTAIN IN THE NORTH CASCADES—

I suspect that Mount Prophet is one of the least climbed major mountains in Washington.

You may decry my use of the term "major" for a mountain only 7640 feet high, but I believe it warrants this moniker because it is one of only nineteen peaks in the state that rise more than 4000 feet above their surrounding saddles.

That it is rarely visited is indisputable. It lies at the center of a large, rugged massif which is bounded by Ross Lake, Little and Big Beaver Creeks and has not a single trail that penetrates even its lower flanks.

I'd long wanted to visit this mini-range, so when John Roper asked me if I'd like to accompany him on an unusual adventure in the region, I jumped at the chance.

On June 13, the trip got off to a flying start when we were conveyed many miles up-lake by the Ross Lake Resort boat taxi service. We were dropped off at an indeterminate point where the Arctic Creek/No Name Creek ridge divide splayed out as it reached the lake.

As I watched the boat retreat in the distance, and as the primeval silence returned, I felt much like a latter-day Robinson Crusoe. The entire hillside behind us sported signs of the 1926 fire, the devastation of which led to the naming of nearby Desolation Peak.

To all appearances, our prospect was close-packed trees for many hours. However, as we dove into the curtain we were pleasantly surprised to discover that the spacing, though tight, generally allowed for even "rhino" passage, and we made good time to the ridgetop.

The weather was delightfully cool with scattered high clouds and good visibility. One of the benefits of John's presence became evident as he blithely named every peak in sight and recounted tales of his first hand experience with all of them.

Our first objectives were two peaks with more than 700 feet of prominence that dominated our ridge. The first one,

dubbed "Nameless Mountain," 6616 feet, bore signs of a possible (USGS) helicopter landing and aerial survey (plastic marking).

The next one, "Montana Sin Nombre," 6688 feet, bristled with enough defenses that we elected to drop our packs, and ascend the elegant northeast ridge unencumbered, there to discover no evidence of a previous ascent.

This was my first "first ascent" and I was somewhat dumfounded that a few such opportunities are still to be found in the North Cascades. We forgot ourselves enough to relax and enjoy the grandstand view of the north face of Mount Prophet and the Arctic Glacier route pioneered by John in 1978.

Eventually, we turned back to our task, dropped back to our packs, and

continued toward Prophet by skirting left around the aforementioned peak and its next neighbor, then regaining the ridge and on to a ridgetop camp at 8:30pm, making the day's elevation gain something like 7700 feet.

The next morning dawned with more serious cloud development but still with promise of a dry day. The plan called for each of us to go our separate ways.

John dropped 1200 feet into the headwaters of No Name Creek, then gained the ridge divide above Skymo Lake, and on to another ridge peak, "Skymo Mountain," 6582 feet, where he found a register left by friends Don and Natalia Goodman.

I climbed Prophet and Genesis, a big thrill that was mitigated by a persistent cloud deck down to 6500 feet which de-



nied me what must be a fabulous view of the Picket Range.

We rejoined forces at about 5pm and discussed our exit route for the morrow. Fatigue and the force of gravity overcame any amount of reason that we collectively possessed, and we plunged easily down the path of least resistance to a horizontal oasis at the head of 39-mile Creek where we made camp and were early to bed.

It rained lightly all night and all the next day. Our exit options were now few to none (awful to terrible?). My perversity was such that I imagined wading downstream, but an up-close

inspection revealed a torrent racing down a long chasm. That route was obviously a "no go."

We chose the next, most direct solution, sidehilling through 1½ miles of every variety of "green jungle" inherent to the Cascades. The obstacles were such that it took 3½ hours to cover that distance.

Though it was the longest stretch of barely penetrable brush that I've ever traversed, it lacked heat, bugs, stickers, and time pressure, thus rating only moderately on the misery meter. Still, it was an experience I'll not soon forget.

We had a leisurely afternoon on the

Big Beaver trail and at the landing waiting for the arranged 5pm boat pick-up. A few sunbreaks revealed glimpses of the towering walls that now seemed to hem us in. It had been a great adventure.

△

Mitch Blanton is a gardener at Western Washington University in Bellingham, and a dedicated peak-bagger.

Washington's 4000-Foot Prominence Peaks

Peak	Elev	Prom	Next Higher Pk	Pass El	Pass Name
Rainier	14410	13210	Massive (CO)	1200-	Enderby, BC
Baker	10781	8881	Little Tahoma	1900-	Silverhope-Klesilkwa, BC
Adams	12276	8116	Rainier	4160-	Carlton Pass
Olympus	7969	7829	Rainier	140-	Black Lake
Glacier	10520	7480	Little Tahoma	3040-	Snoqualmie Pass
Stuart	9415	5359	Glacier	4056x	Stevens Pass
Abercrombie	7308	5168	Pk in ID	2140-	Newport
Round	5320	4780	Whitehorse	540-	Darrington
Spickard	8979	4779	Shuksan	4200-	Chilliwack Pass
St. Helens	8365	4605	Adams	3760-	Bismark Pass
Three Fingers	6850	4489	Columbia	2361x	Barlow Pass
Shuksan	9131	4411	Baker	4720-	Austin Pass
Rommel	8685	4376	Lago	4309x	Middle Hidden Lake
Jack	9066	4211	Logan	4855x	Rainy Pass
Deception	7788	4186	Olympus	3602x	Low Divide
Hozomeen	8066	4026	Castle	4040-	Lightning Lake
Prophet	7640	4000	Challenger	3640-	Beaver Pass

Nineteen peaks, actually, if you count Copper Butte which surely makes it, and Mount Bonaparte which probably qualifies, as well. Precise prominences of these are to be determined.

The "prominence" of a peak or landform is figured by imagining the

ocean rising to the contour ("Noah's Saddle") where this peak is entirely surrounded by water, creating an island where the peak is the highest point on the island, and its height is the same as its prominence.

- —This contour, "-", is taken as the one just above the imprecise saddle

separating the peak from its next higher point.

x—If this saddle is precisely shown on the 7.5 minute USGS map, it is shown as an "x."

—John Roper

LEE MCKEE

Practicing Navigation

—CORNET BAY TO HOPE ISLAND—

This was a part work and part pleasure paddle. The pleasure part was being out on the water—the work part a field trip for a navigation class I was taking through The Mountaineers club.

The class was being taught by Bob Rock who has done a number of these classes and really enjoys on-the-water navigation. During three evening classroom sessions he had covered all the basics of navigation using David Burch's *Fundamentals of Kayak Navigation*. This July 11 field trip in the Deception Pass area was designed to practice some of those fundamentals.

In preparation for the paddle, Bob had us individually work out the currents in the area, decide the skill rating of the paddle, and determine things we would need to take into consideration.

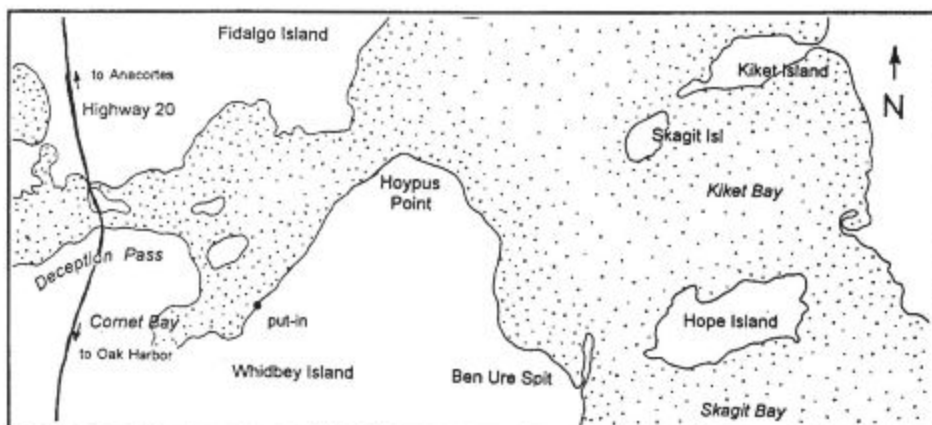
Five of us had signed up for the field trip this Saturday and at 9am we met Bob near the boat ramp at Cornet Bay on the east end of Deception Pass (see *North Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat* for directions). Before setting out, we went over the information we had each worked out concerning the paddle.

The current was ebbing and would be switching to a flood shortly before noon. That meant the current would be opposite to the direction we intended to travel during the day. Using the chart, Bob described how we would look for eddies at various places to help us and where we would use the technique of ferrying to cross one of the channels.

The tide was going out and exposing a lot of mucky shoreline we had to plod through when we launched at 10:15. We headed northeast, hugging the shoreline as we headed toward Hoypus Point. In mid-channel the current was ebbing at about 2 knots, but close to shore we found a small current going in our direction from a back eddy formed by the point.

We lost that benefit momentarily as we swung around the point, but picked up another favorable current from a back eddy caused by Ben Ure Spit as we turned to a southerly direction.

As we paddled along Bob had us ob-



serve such things as kelp, floating debris, and foam to help discover where favorable current was. He also demonstrated the use of a kamel (see Burch's book) for determining distance off from an object

At Ben Ure Spit, Bob discussed the use of ranges when ferrying across current, then we set a ferry angle and crossed to the west end of Hope Island by the navigation light. Floating here, we observed several different current and eddy lines, before setting off clockwise along the shoreline to the bay on the north side of the island where there is a primitive picnic area and an outhouse.

By now it was 11:30 and the tide was in the minus range and still going out. That left us with a lot of muck to make our way through after our kayaks touched bottom. On hindsight we should have searched out a better landing spot with the tides this low.

After lunch we continued clockwise around Hope to explore. By now the current had changed to a flood and was starting to pick up speed.

A pretty good rip forms off the west tip of Hope on a flood. With the current flowing in the channel now around 2.5 knots we decided we would be better off not crossing it and instead turned around and headed to the passage on the east end of Hope. Here the current was also moving right along—in the opposite direction we wanted to go.

An eddy line was off the end of

Hope, and after crossing it we fought the current as we headed northwest toward Skagit Island. The current eased as we got farther out into Kiket Bay, and as we approached Skagit Island we picked up current going in our direction from a back eddy formed by the main current as it swung around the west end of Skagit.

We soon reached the eddyline where our favorable current met the main flooding flow. Our plan now was to ferry across to Hoypus Point. Setting a ferry angle, we were on our way. As we approached the point we once more found a favorable back eddy flow close to shore carrying us toward the point.

Our free ride was about to end and the hardest part of the day to start. The current off the point in mid-channel was at max flood—about 2.7 knots. The current next to shore was not that strong; however, it was definitely not going in our direction! It was time for some determined paddling to get us around the point and into the slower moving water by Cornet Bay. It was a bit of work, but before long all of us had made it, and we were back to easy paddling to our takeout.

After loading our gear and cleaning up, we all headed off to the Anacortes Brew Pub to critique our field trip. A nice ending to an enjoyable and educational paddle. △

Lee McKee is a member of The Mountaineers Sea Kayak Committee.

LIZ ESCHER

A Week on the Elwha

—WHISKEY BEND TO LOW DIVIDE—

Pat, Hugh, Brad and I met on a warm late-June morning at the Olympic National Park Information Center in Port Angeles to pick up our backcountry permits. We were off for a week long backpack up the Elwha River to Low Divide and back again.

The weather was promising, with clouds lifting off Hurricane Ridge. We soon arrived at the Whiskey Bend trailhead and finished putting on boots and arranging packs.

Earlier in the year, a camping ban along 8 miles of the Elwha trail had been implemented because of bear problems related to improper storage of food by campers. The Thursday before our trip started, the camping ban had been lifted. The original plan was to hike to Lillian Camp the first night, only 4.6 miles in, and I saw no reason to change our plans at this late date.

DAY ONE

Whiskey Bend to Camp Lillian

The trail started well maintained and wide. In the first couple of miles, side trails branched off to Rica Canyon, Krause Bottom and Humes Ranch before reaching the junction with the Lillian River trail.

Then the trail dropped to Lillian Camp, situated in a cool, moist canyon. We found a large campsite located across the river. We hung our food on newly-installed bear wires on the north side of the river. We ate lunch, made camp and decided to go on a day hike up the Lillian River trail.

This trail was brushy and somewhat steep for the first 2 miles. It traversed a dry rocky slope well above the river, passing through salal, a few scraggly madrona trees and manzanita clumps. The rest of the trees were mostly thin hemlocks growing back after an ancient fire.

After about 2 miles, the trail crossed a couple of streams and dipped toward the river, ending abruptly in a small stream-side campsite. We had glimpses of Hurricane Ridge rising steeply above the Lillian River headwaters and the

heavily forested slopes rising to the west of the Elwha.

DAY TWO

Camp Lillian to Elkhorn

The first obstacle of the day was Difficulty Hill, so named by the Press Expedition, a 700-foot rise out of the Lillian River canyon. The trail climbed in a series of switchbacks, traversed to the highest point and then began a gradual descent.

Below, the river roared through its Grand Canyon, none of which could be seen from the trail. Near Marys Falls, the trail reached the flats along the river and passed through an open forest of huge trees and sunny openings. Tiny grassy meadows shaded by cot-



Pat hiking through Press Valley.

tonwoods, vine maple, big leaf maple and large conifers alternated with mossy, fern-filled glades. We reached Elkhorn in mid-afternoon.

Elkhorn is a large pleasant meadow spotted with huge Douglas-firs and tiny hemlock seedlings. Here is a shelter, stable and Ranger Station, as well as two good-sized camps. We set up camp on the north end of the meadow after locating the bear wires at the southern camp.

We spent the afternoon relaxing, reading and enjoying river and sunshine. After eating dinner, we all took a stroll over to the vacant station and sat for a while on the porch overlooking the meadow. It was a pleasant, warm and cloudless evening. A young doe, which had previously paraded her spotted fawn for us, ate quietly below, giving us little regard.

At one point during the night, I woke to see the stars shining above, huge and bright.

DAY THREE

Elkhorn to Camp Wilder

The third day of the trip dawned bright and cloudless, promising to be even warmer. We were headed to Camp Wilder, a spot on the map. This portion of the trip was a bit longer, about 9 miles. We started about 9am.

After leaving Elkhorn, the trail wound past Stony Point, then went up and down crossing various benches created by the ancient glacier that carved out the deep valley. It crossed Lost River on a sturdy stock bridge and soon reached Remann's Cabin, a pre-Park summer cabin located on a wooded bench above a bend in the river. Beyond the cabin, we soon passed the intersection with the trail and difficult ford leading to Dodger Point.

We had now entered the Press Valley and easy hiking. We quickly reached Hayes River Guard Station and stopped for lunch. Here we came upon a group of four heavily-tanned, hairy, disreputable-looking men. When I had called the Information Center the previous

Liz Escher



Liz Escher

The Ranger Station at Elkhorn.

week, the ranger mentioned that a trail crew was working on the Elwha.

This friendly bunch cheerfully told us they had just completed clearing out the trail up to Low Divide, and had also cleared the Elwha Basin trail of major blow-downs, something that had not been done in years.

They also advised us of a tricky "bridge" over the upper Elwha crossing above Chicago Camp.

They wished us a good trip. We thanked them for their hard work.

We enjoyed lunch and did a quick survey of available campsites. There was a bear wire, a toilet and about five roomy camps in the vicinity. The ranger was not at home, but we got a peek into the cabin with the trail crew there. They showed us some mice cans filled with live morsels for a spotted owl study being conducted in the area, which I had heard of from another friend.

Lunch finished, we had to get back to work and hike the remaining 4 miles to Camp Wilder. Just beyond the intersection to the guard station was the junction with the Hayden Pass trail. Shortly after that, the trail crossed Hayes River on a wide bridge. A small camp is located near the bridge.

The trail was pretty level after climbing from Hayes River, crossing over ten small streams before reaching the open wooded flat where Camp Wilder was located. A sign indicated the trail to the camp that is located on the river. We passed by a dilapidated shelter and crossed a pole bridge over Leitha Creek to reach the camp.

Brad was waiting for our arrival and had claimed the best camp. We were content to have reached another good camp after another day of excellent weather.

DAY FOUR

Camp Wilder to Low Divide

The fourth day would be the hardest, thus far, of the trip. There were several stream crossings, with at least one on an "interesting" bridge and the ascent to Low Divide itself, for about 8 miles and 1800 feet gain.

The day promised to be really warm when we started out. Sunscreen was hardly needed on most of the trip since we were in the trees so much, but today I put some on anticipating exposure on the slope climbing out of the valley.

We reached the beautifully bridged crossing of Godkin Creek shortly after leaving Camp Wilder. The trail was relatively level during this entire stretch and there was evidence of recent tread work done by the trail crew as well as several huge freshly-sawn logs. We thanked them in absentia every time we didn't have to climb over, under or around one of those logs.

At Buckinghorse Creek, the bridge was a long, huge, flat-topped log approached by another log, creating a large step down, an uncomfortable move for some backpackers but not a real problem.

Then there was the crossing of the Elwha, the first along the entire trail. This log bridge was very sturdy, complete with railing and zigzag in the middle. Then we raced along the flats, crossing two or three other small creeks on logs or splashing through the shallow horse fords. There were areas of mud- and water-carved trenches along this stretch.

Finally, we reached Chicago Camp and the junction with the Elwha Basin trail. The camp was uninviting. It looked like it had been subjected to a flood and was covered with a thick layer of hard-packed and uneven sandy gravel. We pushed on to the next Elwha crossing and discovered the "bridge" of which one of the crew had warned us.

At this point, the Elwha had divided and diminished in size, but was still a swiftly flowing mountain stream. It was nothing you would care to fall into, even on a warm day. The bridge consisted of an old, heavily scamed dry log that was stuck in the gravel at the far side of the river.

To cross the log from the east, one approached it over a heavy plank, casually propped up by two large flat rocks on the shore and resting on the log midstream. Crossing the bridge involved traversing the plank, stepping down onto an uneven surface and finishing with the log.

After looking at the affair for a moment, I gathered myself up and carefully inched along the plank. Unfortunately it bounced underfoot, momentarily causing me to hesitate, but I quickly recovered my sense of balance and upon reaching the step down to the log, scrambled quickly across.

Pat, however, completely lost her confidence and froze on the plank. She indicated she needed help. Our other companion, Hugh, looked dismayed that he had to cross again, but he finally did and shouldered Pat's pack. Without the heavy burden, she had no problem getting across.

We agreed it was just one of those times when fear overcomes and you just have to respect it. We all calmed down by having lunch on the gravel beach and then prepared to climb to Low Divide.

Hugh went on ahead for the next section of trail. As Pat and I passed through a level area, the forest was very still and quiet in the heat. In a few openings were huge purple larkspur coming into bloom, some of the plants standing over six feet in height. For a moment, Pat could not believe they were larkspur until she recognized the delphinium leaves.

Before long, we had begun the long traverse that starts the climb of the headwall of the valley. An unnamed branch of the Elwha crashed down the slope in a spectacular series of cascades and waterfalls to the southwest of the trail.



Hugh Hoppe

I pause in the dappled sunlight at Chicago Camp.

We emerged from the forest cover to find the first openings and views overlooking the valley east toward Hayden Pass, Sentinel Peak, Mount Fromme and Mount Claywood. Beautiful flowers occupied our minds and conversation while our bodies struggled up the steep trail, finally reaching a short series of switchbacks and then, at last, a pass before Lake Mary. Not realizing we were so close to the lakes, we collapsed in a heap and took a break. Getting out the map, I figured out that we were quite close to Low Divide.

When we started on, we reached Lake Mary almost within feet, and shortly thereafter, Lake Margaret. Camping and fires are not permitted at either lake. We spotted a stuff sack belonging to Hugh, an indication he was nearby, next to a footpath leading to rock outcroppings, so we left our packs just off the main trail and went in pursuit.

We found him sprawled happily in full sunshine soaking up the views of water and sky and mountains after almost a week of staring at tree trunks. We joined him for awhile and then decided it was time to find Brad and a camp.

We ran into Brad just the other side of the lake, near the junction with the Martin Park trail. Soon after we reached Low Divide itself, rather anticlimatic after Lake Margaret, but pleasant nonetheless.

Brad had found a good campsite in the woods at the edge of the Low Divide meadows, complete with bear wire and toilet and stream. We even had a sunny spot for cooking meals, a little gravel bar on the edge of the meadow with a beautiful view of a snow-covered peak.

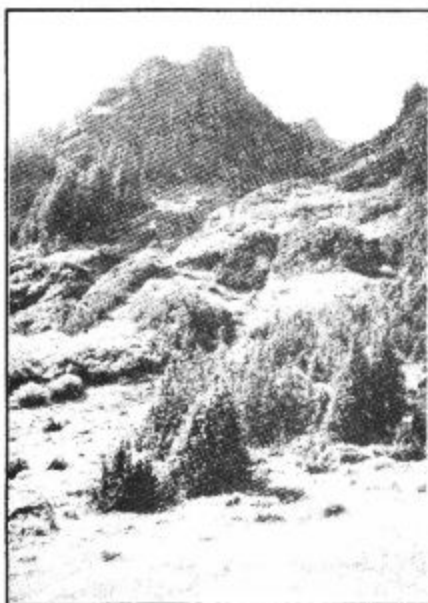
Ranger Adam came by that evening and advised us that there were five adult black bears in the area and for us to practice the usual cooking and storage precautions. He told us about some possible day hikes in the area.

DAY FIVE

Low Divide layover

The next day was a layover, but I was up before 7am. A doe bounded from some willows just feet from where I was sitting and began to browse in the meadow. Pat and I were planning a luxuriously lazy day of washing hair and clothes and then reading books near Lake Margaret. Brad and Hugh decided to explore the vicinity near Martin Lakes.

I was waiting near the trail for Pat to gather her stuff when a lone man came



Low Divide Meadows near the junction with the Skyline Trail.

Liz Escher

striding down the path from Low Divide. A lanky fellow with a beat-up old backpack and scratches on his legs, he introduced himself as Tim from Richland.

Tim had just finished a traverse of the southern half of the Bailey Range by himself, from Dodger Point to Elwha Basin. Only that morning he had left Happy Hollow and had climbed up to Low Divide. He was planning to stay overnight at Low Divide and day hike to Martin Lakes.

I told him about our two fellows and mentioned that Hugh had grown up in the Tri-Cities also. When Pat came up, she happily reminisced about the Bailey Range traverse, having done it several years earlier.

Tim had, apparently, spent two weeks during each of the last twelve years traveling around the Olympics solo.

Pat and I spent a quiet day. Hugh and Brad returned in mid-afternoon. We all wandered back to camp together and then strolled through the meadows toward the ranger station and beyond. The meadows of Low Divide were lovely, filled with flowers and wild grasses, shrubbery and singing waters.

Having been told about the bears by both the ranger and fellow campers, we were on the lookout for the black beasties. We soon found the first bear, a moving black speck in the high greenery above the junction with the Skyline Trail. Later that evening we saw another bear on the slope above the trail, comfortably distant.

Number three we spotted in the mead-

ow near the shelter. As we approached it on the trail (our camp was located in that direction!) the bear disappeared behind some willow brush. We all began to talk loudly to let it know where we were. Then the creature broke across the trail about 50 feet ahead of us and loped out of sight up the slope. We made sure our camp was extra clean that night!

DAY SIX

Low Divide to Camp Hayes

We decided to hike out to Camp Hayes the next day, about 12 miles. The weather continued hot and beautiful, but more clouds were beginning to build up in the evening. We reached the Elwha crossing mid-morning. Without the slightest hesitation I marched across the log and its plank and waited for Hugh and Pat. Pat made it carrying her pack with just a little assistance from Hugh holding my walking pole out to help her balance during the big step up.

We made all the other crossings without problem. We had a lunch stop at Godkin Creek and camped at Hayes Guard Station, a very pleasant place, next to the deep green river.

DAY SEVEN

A Rainy Marathon

A 5am the next morning, the rain began as a soft pitter-patter on the tent. By the time we broke camp, it was a steady downpour. We had breakfast on the porch of the vacant ranger station.

We were going to hike out that day, 16 miles, and I wasn't looking forward to it. We started off and became swiftly separated. As usual, Brad hiked alone. The rest of our group, Pat, Hugh and I, had agreed on meeting points during the day.

Hugh and I waited for Pat at Elkhorn. When she arrived, she told me that she wasn't feeling well. I decided to stick with her the rest of the day. It was a long day, but Pat and I finally arrived at the trailhead around 5pm, tired, foot-sore and damp, where the guys were waiting for us.

Pat and I gave each other a hug. Although it had been a grand trip, we were glad to be going home!

△

Liz Escher, of Seattle, is a wild-flower enthusiast who has been hiking for 20 years.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

RAMONA HAMMERLY—Artist Ramona Hammerly will have a show of watercolors during August at the Pacific Marine Art Gallery, 700 West Holly in Bellingham.

The show will open at noon August 1. For directions or other info, call the gallery at 360-738-8535.

Ramona is known for her beautiful mountain scenes (she is also a *P&P* reader).

SEA KAYAK SYMPOSIUM—The 15th West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium will be held at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend September 18 through 20.

Classes, demos and presentations about all aspects of sea kayaking will fill the three days. The most valuable part of the weekend, if you are in the market for a boat, is the opportunity to tour manufacturers' displays and paddle many different types of kayaks. Bring your own PFD and paddle for the most efficient use of your "test drive" time. Some boats and gear will be on sale. On-water classes have been increased. Kids' programs are available.

Cost for adults is \$125; kids 6 to 12 are \$10; kids under 5 are free. Lodging and meals are also available at the site for an additional charge.

Pick up a registration form at your paddle shop, or phone 888-732-8275 to register by phone.

SNO-PARK PROGRAM CUTS—

The state Legislature has decided that \$20,000 of your Sno-Park funds should be shifted from the Sno-Park program to help fund the Northwest Avalanche Center.

To come up with that money, the Winter Recreation Advisory Committee is proposing three changes:

- Close five Sno-Parks for non-motorized users: Satus Pass near Goldendale; Swauk Campground at Blewett Pass; one of the two at the Mount Tahoma Trails System; Scatter Creek near Newport; and Silver Springs near Greenwater. The dollars saved would be \$3000.
- Shorten the trail grooming season by three weeks. Dollars saved: \$4500.
- Delay replacement of trail grooming equipment in the Lake Wenatchee area. Dollars saved: \$14,000.

The Sno-Park program provides more than 90 parking lots, groomed trails, bathrooms and signs for both

snowmobilers and non-motorized users, which include cross-country skiers, snowshoers, dog-sledders and others. Half the areas are funded by snowmobilers, half by non-motorized users. Six areas share funding.

The program is funded solely by user fees. Cross-country skiers and snowshoers pay \$20 per vehicle for a season permit. Snowmobiles register each sled for about \$35, of which \$20 goes into the snowmobile Sno-Park program.

The snowmobile and non-motorized programs have supported the Northwest Avalanche Center for more than five years, paying about \$6000 a year, with \$2500 coming from the non-motorized program and \$3500 from the snowmobile program. The center is funded by multiple state and federal agencies but recently lost funding when some of those agencies scaled back their contributions

The state Legislature ordered snowmobile and non-motorized programs to raise their support to \$40,000 a year—\$20,000 from each program.

The Sno-Park Advisory Committee will next meet from August 7 to 9 in Wenatchee. The public is welcome to attend the sessions and to let the committee know how you feel.

The Friday night session will be held at 7pm at the PUD building in Wenatchee, at 327 North Wenatchee Ave. If you can't attend the meeting, write to your legislators or Gov. Gary Locke, asking that the non-motorized fund be reimbursed the \$20,000 given to the Northwest Avalanche Center.

If you have questions about the meeting or about any facet of the Sno-Park program or its funding, you are welcome to call Colleen Maguire of Washington State Parks: 360-902-8581 (Olympia).

Beck Weathers

Dr. Beck Weathers is coming to Green River Community College in Auburn as part of its Artist and Speakers series on Thursday, October 8, in the Lindbloom Student Center at 7:30pm.

Weathers is a survivor of the 1996 Everest storm in which eight people died. It was the worst one-day loss of life in Everest climbing history. Among



Dr. Beck Weathers

the climbers severely injured, Weathers, a 49-year-old amateur climber from Dallas, lay unconscious on the mountain, having been left for dead 300 yards from camp. His wife and family were notified of his death.

Miraculously, he awoke the morning after the storm to find himself barely alive. His hands were severely frostbitten; he had no feeling left in his feet; his vision was so impaired that he could see only three or four feet.

Thoughts of his family, and the knowledge that he would never see them again unless he saved himself, gave him the will to stand. He struggled back to camp, where he was helped by his astonished fellow climbers.

Weathers' positive attitude has inspired many. He says, "My story is not that of a world-class mountain monster. I am an ordinary person with just slightly exaggerated dreams. And if I can survive the unsurvivable, so can you. Inside each of us is a well of strength that you could call upon if you're only willing to reach inside and get it."

You are invited to hear his story of survival. For more information call Green River Community College ticket office at 253-833-9111 x2404. Cost of tickets is \$17 reserved and \$14 general admission.

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

TRAILHEAD SHUTTLE—We mentioned Bledsoe's Northwest Excursions in the last issue, but we now have more information about their trailhead shuttle service.

Jim Bledsoe told *P&P* that his service is prepared to drop off and pick up hikers at any trailhead in the state. Of course, trailheads off I-90 will cost less to reach than a trailhead at the end of the Chewuch River road.

Cost varies with number of hikers and distance driven, but as an example, four people could be dropped off at the PCT trailhead at Snoqualmie Pass and picked up at the PCT trailhead at Stevens Pass a week or so later for a total of \$70 each—or \$280 total.

Jim will give each party a digital cell phone to use in case the party is early or late getting to the pick-up point. (The digital phones, he says, have a better range than the old ones.)

This service would be handy for those

coming from out-of-state—no rental car sitting at the trailhead—or for hikers who can get a ride to the trailhead but can't get anyone to come pick them up, or vice versa.

Call 206-526-7996 for specific pricing and details.

SWAUK PINNACLES—Between Leavenworth and Cle Elum on Highway 97 is a climbing area known as Swauk Pinnacles. It became known in the mid-'80s when Peshastin Pinnacles (now a State Park) was closed for a time.

Dale Boyle, a climber from Bremerton, has recently released the second edition of his book *Swauk Pinnacles, a Climbers' Guide*. He has climbed in the area for about ten years and *Swauk Pinnacles* reflects his interest in and respect for the fragile sandstone ecosystem near Blewett Pass.

The guide uses the Yosemite Decimal System to rate the routes, includes sketch maps and brief descriptions, suggests protection and lists first ascents. Swauk Pinnacles is a much larger area than Peshastin and so far has had little development.

The author also mentions other areas for exploration in the vicinity—Tronsen Ridge and Mission Creek—that are mostly undeveloped. He has formed the Swauk Pinnacles Climbers Association which works in cooperation with the Forest Service to maintain access roads and trailheads. The SPCA has no dues and any climber willing to help maintain the area can contact the author.

Swauk Pinnacles, a Climbers' Guide is available for \$17.50 (includes tax and shipping) from

**Sandstone Press
PO Box 376
Bremerton WA 98337**

For "membership" in the SPCA, contact Dale Boyle at the above address, or phone 360-792-1714, or email dboyle@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us

QUESTION—I am about to make a batch of jerky in my smoker, and got to wondering how I could make it differently.

What are your favorite marinades or other additions to process meat, fish, or poultry for backcountry use? And do you prefer simple drying or

smoking as the process of choice?—*Gordon McDougall, Olympia.*

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING—With warm mountain weather comes the very real possibility of lightning storms. Lightning is unpredictable and dangerous. A 10-second count between lightning and thunder means that the lightning is 2 miles away (4 to 5 seconds per mile).

Here's some advice:

- Carry a 4-foot-square piece of polyethylene as an insulator; crouch down on it, knees and feet together. Crouching lessens your chances of becoming a lightning rod.
- Get away from each other. Groups attract lightning.
- Get away from rocks. Rocks don't hold much water and your body does.
- If your hair stands on end, spread out and crouch immediately.
- If you are on the water and the count is ten or less, get off the water.
- Stay in your protective stance until the storm has passed. It only takes once.—*Naches Ranger District.*

APPLE CHICKEN COUSCOUS—This recipe comes from the Peninsula Wilderness Club's cook-off earlier this summer. There's no name so we can't give the chef credit. It sure is good, though.

couscous mix (olive oil or chicken flavored)

1 apple per package of couscous (use a soft apple type)

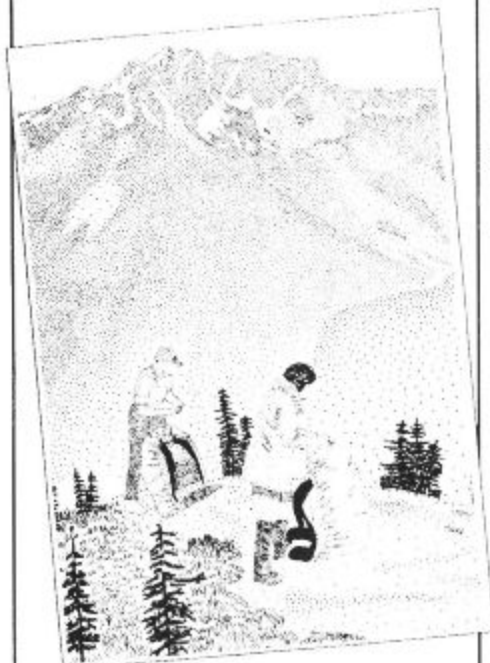
cooked, diced chicken (1 boneless breast per package of couscous)

Dice apple and bring to a boil in whatever amount of water is called for on the couscous package. Add couscous and bring to boil again. Stir in chicken. Cover and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes. Stir again and eat. Serves two.

You can use canned or freeze-dried chicken, or fresh chicken that you have cooked, diced and then frozen to carry on the trail.

BACKCOUNTRY NOTES

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EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Top-roping in Bean Basin.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"I send my copies of *P&P* to my son-in-law in Bosnia, and they get passed around the tent."—*Wauna*

"Would like to see fewer hike descriptions outside Washington and Oregon."—*Bellevue*

"I have subscribed for years—from when you were *Signpost* to the present. Your magazine is a great way to keep up with the changes in the Washington outdoors. Thanks for the good work."

—*Redmond*

"Enjoy your magazine so much. Thanks to Yellow Cat."—*Port Angeles*

"*P&P* is the best prescription for R&R."—*Seattle*

"Can't get out on the trails any more, so reading about others' adventures is next best."—*Seattle*

"*P&P* is the best thing I get in the mail after letters from faraway friends. There's no other magazine I have to sit down and read cover to cover right away."—*Renton*

"I enjoyed reading John Roper's report of The Rockies (*July, page 18*). I discovered them last year, just 20 miles up the forest road from my house."—*Cinebar*

NUMBER ONE—As some of our women's group were standing around near the upper Bean Creek crossing waiting for everyone to gather, a lone hiker crossed the creek and headed up the trail toward us.

As he got closer I thought I recognized him. Could it be ... ? Yes! It was

TG. With an old frame pack and wood-shafted ice axe, he looked just like the mountain expert he is. He was going up to Earl, he told us, to camp near the summit and run the ridges.

Knowing that he is a flower authority, I described a particular plant we hadn't been able to identify. A few days later, he sent me a photo of it and told me its name.

TG has the distinction of being *Pack & Paddle*'s very first subscriber. Number one. I still appreciate his willingness to hand over a check before he had even seen an issue.

TRIP LOCATIONS—Every once in a while a reader says they wish we would make trip locations more detailed.

The reason we don't give explicit locations in each report is that it takes up lots of room that we would rather devote to a greater variety of reports. Many trails and paddles already have detailed directions in the wide selection of guidebooks available now.

We *do* include an important detail for locating hiking trips, however, and that is the USGS 7½-minute quad. We use the USGS quads, instead of the excellent Green Trails or Custom Correct maps, because the quads cover the entire state.

If you don't have one, you should order the *free* "Washington Index to Topographic and Other Map Coverage." It will give you the location of any 7½-minute quad, and allow you to nail the position of almost any report.

Request the Index from:
US Geological Survey
Box 25286, Federal Center
Denver CO 80225.

BACKCOUNTRY BIRTHDAY—My friends sneaked in the ingredients for a fantastic backcountry dinner when I hit the half-century mark on a recent back-pack trip.

Smoked salmon and pasta with a pesto sauce and lots of extras made it a camping meal I'd never dreamed of.

Joan used the bag of pasta as her pillow for several days prior to the event and said that although the pillow was comfortable, she was glad to get rid of the extra weight from her pack.

Lindy hauled in fresh eggs to hard-boil and add to the sauce. She packed them in snow every morning to keep

them chilled but I never had a clue what she was doing.

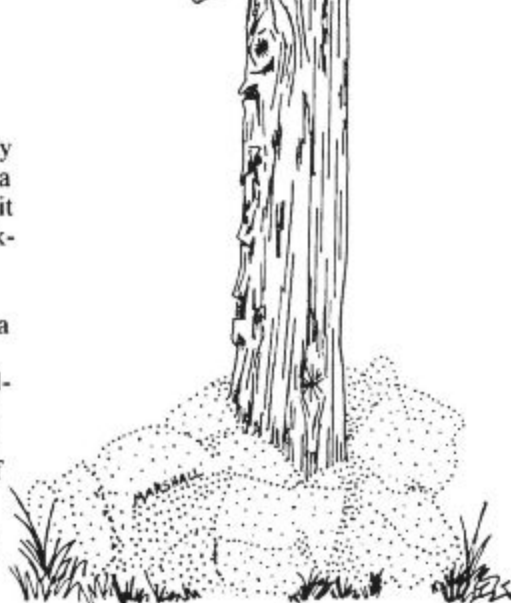
Oh yes, there were candles and desert, too. Good job, ladies. It was a real surprise.

SUMMER—Lee and Yellow Cat are efficient workers and have organized their time so they can be outside enjoying the garden during this nice weather. There are few things YC enjoys more than to have a brisk walk with Lee through our woodland trails.

When I get this issue finished, I too will head outside. Hope you're able to do the same.

See you in the back country,

Ann Marshall



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