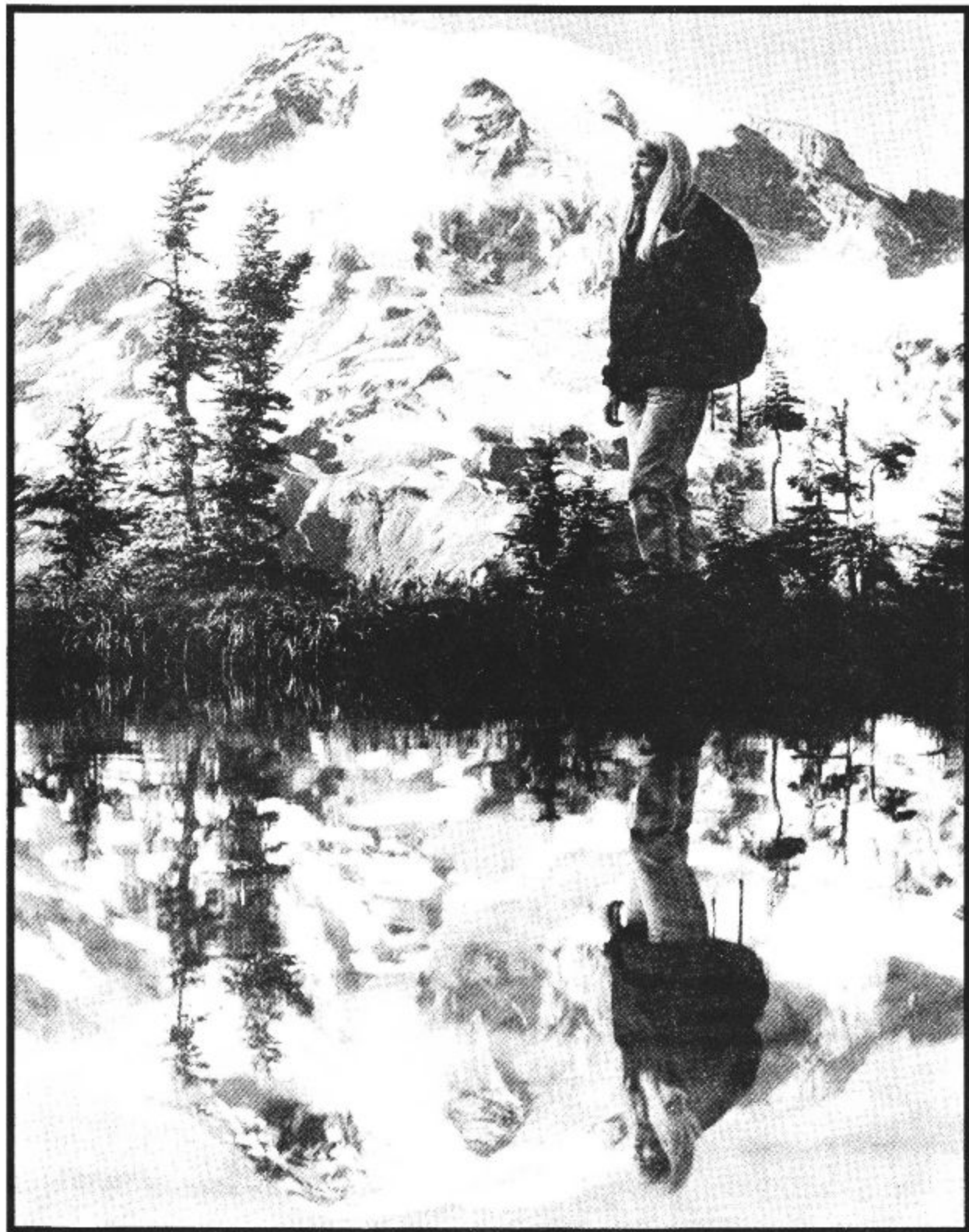


PACK & PADDLE[®]

... covering the backcountry in
Washington and the Pacific Northwest

SEPTEMBER 1998
\$2.00



North Cascades Basecamp



Join us at our family style inn for hiking, bicycling, fishing, or just plain relaxing in the heart of the Cascades. Hearty breakfasts and dinners. Hot tub. Families and groups welcome. No smoking. Reservations recommended.

Contact Dick & Sue Roberts
255 Lost R. Rd., Mazama WA 98833
(509) 996-2334

MOLENAAR LANDFORM MAPS

Educational Insights into various
geologic settings of the Pacific
Northwest—and beyond

These ARE NOT high-priced automated images "generated" by computer or through satellite imagery, but are aesthetically attractive, natural-color, shaded-relief "astronaut view" renditions of the landforms of areas of special scenic and geologic interest. The maps are all based on Dee Molenaar's personal visits to and flights over the areas—along with his background as geologist, mountaineer, and artist.

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

State of Washington—Mount Rainier
National Park—The Olympic Peninsula—Puget Sound Region—Mount St. Helens Country—Point Reyes National Seashore and the San Andreas Fault—Glacier Bay-Juneau Icefield Region—McMurdo Sound Area, Antarctica

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

Great Pack. Greatest Price.
*The smartest purchase you
can make this year.*



Contour ND II:
4200+900 cu. in.
5 lb. 10 oz.
Regular Price: \$239.00
Sale Price: \$174.98

The **Contour** packs are designed for people who demand a lot from themselves and from their gear. Some of the features are; APS Adjustment System, Pre-curved aluminum staves, Extendible top lid, Reinforced ice axe lashes, Double ice axe loops, Zip out horizontal divider...

Lowalpine
Packs & Apparel



Contour IV:
5500+900 cu. in.
6 lb. 1 oz.
Regular Price: \$249.00
Sale Price: \$179.98

**SWALLOW'S
NEST**
2308 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA
Phone: (206) 441-4100

Outdoor
Recreation



Information Center

books, maps,
and information

222 Yale Ave
(on the second
floor of the REI
building)
Seattle WA
98121



206-470-4060

Pack & Paddle[®]

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 9



Features

- 4 THE TOUGH BOOT STOMP
Mary Watson
- 27 A PACK AND A PADDLE
Kim Hyatt
- 31 HAMMERSLEY INLET
Lee McKee
- 32 HIKING THE HISTORIC CHILKOOT TRAIL
Madeleine Beaty
- 35 CABIN MOUNTAIN
Warren Guntheroth

Departments

- 5 BACKCOUNTRY NEWS
- 37 PANORAMA — News from All Over
- 38 REST STOP — Recipes, Equipment, Tips
- 39 EDITOR'S JOURNAL

COVER PHOTO:

Kathy Mahan and Mount Rainier are reflected in a tarn on Plummer Peak in the Tatoosh Range. Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Photo by Don Paulson.

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.

Need more guidance? We'll send our Writers' Guidelines; just ask. And we're always happy to discuss an idea with you on the phone: 360-871-1862.

• • •

Hiking, backpacking, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking and related activities are potentially hazardous. It is the responsibility of the individual to learn and understand the proper techniques associated with safe participation in these activities, and to fully accept and assume all risks, damages, injury or death which may result from following route descriptions or other advice in this publication. This publication is not meant as a substitute for personal instruction by a qualified person.

• • •

PACK & PADDLE (ISSN 1059-4493) is published monthly by Pack & Paddle Publishing, Inc. Office of publication is 4450 Lakeview Dr SE 98366 (do not send mail here). Mailing address is PO Box 1063, Port Orchard WA 98366. Telephone is 360-871-1862. Subscription rate is \$18 (US funds) for one year. Washington residents add \$1.46 state sales tax. Periodicals Postage Paid at Port Orchard WA 98366. Printed by Little Nickel, Lynnwood WA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pack & Paddle, PO Box 1063, Port Orchard WA 98366.

Staff

Publishers: A. Marshall and L. McKee
 Editor: Ann Marshall
 Business Manager: Lee McKee
 Administrative Assistant: Yellow Cat

With help from: All Readers

These nice folks have helped us by sending articles from their local papers and newsletters. Thanks to our "Clipping Service" this month:

Amber Bone
 Kerry Gilles
 Louise Marshall
 Debby Remmers
 David Ryeburn
 VB/MA



printed on recycled paper
 with soy-based ink

©1998 Pack & Paddle Publishing, Inc.
 All rights reserved.

MARY WATSON

the Tough Boot Stomp



Tommy Bennett, left, from Hiawassee, Georgia, and Mary Watson perform a rousing rendition of ...

We inspire those who aspire to be
Half as agile at seventy-three.
Our grey heads gleam as we show the way,
Our gentle wisdom will carry the day.

But when it's dark and the stars are out,
We need to holler, sing and shout!

And do the Tough Boot Stomp!
The Tough Boot Stomp!
We put one tough boot in,
We take one tough boot out.
We think of all the hills we've climbed
And turn ourselves about.
We do the hoochie coochie
For the miles we've tromped,
That's the Tough Boot Stomp!

△

Mary Watson, of Gig Harbor, is a retired nurse who has been hiking and backpacking for over 35 years.

Two ladies fair who hike are we,
Lovely in our maturity!
We roam the meadows where the flowers grow
And daintily sniff the bergamot.

But when it's night and the fire is lit,
We need to let ourselves go a bit!

And do the Tough Boot Stomp!
The Tough Boot Stomp!
We put one tough boot in,
We take one tough boot out.
We think of all the hills we've climbed
And turn ourselves about.
We do the hoochie coochie
For the miles we've tromped,
That's the Tough Boot Stomp!







... the Tough Boot Stomp. In camp, somewhere in the deep Pasayten.

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



 **TYLER PEAK** (*USGS Tyler Pk*)—Andy and I reached the takeoff near Maynard Peak's western drainage at around 8:20 (due to a slight miscalculation on my part, departure was delayed by about an hour ... the same miscalculation was responsible for neither rope nor harnesses being available on this particular adventure) and started uphill toward the saddle connecting the ridge system to Tyler Peak. The usual bushwhack ensued.

We rose a bit higher on Maynard's flank than intended, mainly to avoid the steeper drainage slopes and occasional outcrop of the moss-cloaked debris that passes for basalt on the lower forest slopes. Higher up the footing was more adequate but areas of aged talus camouflaged by low salal made traction dicey.

We eventually reached the saddle. At times I seemed to hear disparaging

comments about my routefinding skills, but I'm sure it was merely the buzzing of five hundred or so deer flies that had decided we would make a fine breakfast. We continued across the heavily wooded ridge, winding our way slowly through vicious rhododendron groves.

The slope of the ridge steepened, and the heavy underbrush became interspersed with more open areas. This terrain gave the flies much greater freedom to maneuver. We paused at one of the more open platforms on the slope, snacking on trail mix and gulping water.

After a few minutes, we continued climbing the ridge. We finally crested a rise and found ourselves walking into a small open saddle above Tyler's drainage canyon, directly in front of the northeast face of the peak.

It was nearing noon, so we downed more liquid and snacked a quick lunch. This also gave us a few minutes to inspect the face for routes. There were many, but no obvious continuums to the summit. We decided we would continue up the more obvious ascent chutes until it seemed prudent to turn back. Unfortunately, we had left prudence at home with the ropes and harnesses.

We crossed the saddle and began scrambling up the series of loose basaltic outcroppings that connected the ridgeline to the lower side of the peak. These led to a gully that climbed steeply upward over heather-covered scree and the occasional low outcrop of crumbling stone.

We angled into a larger gully to the left and after a few more yards of progress I looked down to notice a most

impressive runout, virtually all the way down to the distant meadow. At this point pushing upward became much more attractive than the downclimb, and lent new enthusiasm to my efforts.

We soon came to a division of the chute around a face. After a few moments of waffling, we took the right hand route up and around another high angle buttress of sorts. This brought us to a system of steep, brushy chutes and ledges interspersed with vertical rock walls, and a 5-foot section of what could almost be mistaken as path.

On this section, A. noticed an arrow constructed of small stones, which he took to mean that we were upon a viable route. As the arrow pointed downward, my opinion was that this meant we must go down or suffer a gruesome and untimely death. Reflecting on what we must go down, however, we continued upward through the maze of scrub and rock.

For awhile we climbed parallel to each other, and thus avoided dropping rocks on each other's skulls. Much of the climbing was kind of a continuous mantling: digging the fingers into chunks of heather, loose scree or soil, and pressing down with hands and feet. Pulling outward on most parts of Tyler would be suicidal, probably resulting in an airy backflip followed by a tumble down a couple of thousand feet.

We arrived on a sloping ledge about 80 feet long backed by a 30 foot wall. There were three apparent routes past this obstacle: a crumbly angled chimney of sorts, a series of thin, crumbly ledges, and a crumbly arete on the east-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

DEADLINE: September 22

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

ern buttress side of the peak. The arête we chose last, basically because I didn't want to go back over the ledge to one of the other choices. Within a short time, we had gained the summit.

After the too few moments of deep satisfaction (from having lived through another session of alpine foolishness), we started down Greywolf Ridge to one of the standard descent routes, where we continued the several miles to the access road and vehicle. Aside from the usual pummeled knees, the trip back was uneventful, and arrival at our starting point left us with at least an hour or two of light.—G. Smith, Sequim, 8/1.



SUNSET BEACH (NOAA 18474)

—When you're heading for Sunset Beach on Colvos Passage, make sure you have the right place. We hear that kayakers have been landing at the private park at Sea Cliff Estates by mistake.

Sunset Beach County Park is about ¼-mile south of SCE and doesn't have the obvious park amenities that SCE does. SCE members have said they will put up some PRIVATE PROPERTY signs to help kayakers recognize it.

You can recognize Sunset Beach by the little shed near the shoreline. And by careful navigation.



COLONEL BOB (USGS Colonel Bob)

—It was unusually hot this day but since much of the trail is in trees I decided to attempt this hike. We tried the Upper Pete's Creek trail which gains about 1750 feet in 2 miles to intersect the Colonel Bob trail at the 5.5-mile mark at 2850 feet elevation.

The trails are in pretty good shape. Blowdowns present one year ago are cleared but some thorny areas need brushing out again. The hike itself was miserable because of the heat, biting flies, and an incredible number of spider webs in the face.

At about 3600 feet, still a mile from the summit, I entered an area with a lot of berries and heard rustling in the bushes. The trailhead register had noted a bear sighting the day before and we'd seen scat on the way up.

The kids and I decided a milkshake at the Quinault Mercantile sounded better than continuing up so we headed to our prearranged pick-up at the Colonel Bob trailhead (230 feet elevation) about 6 miles away.

The kids enjoyed resting at the Mulkey Shelter again. Each had gotten sick there the year before when we attempted this hike, forcing a retreat. Maybe we'll try this in the spring next time.

We saw no other people or cars at either trailhead. They must have known better than us.—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 7/29.



MARMOT PASS (USGS Mt Townsend, Mt Deception)

Our group traditionally climbs Mount Townsend the end of June or early July to enjoy the wildflowers and rhodies as well as the great views. This year we got about halfway to the trailhead and found the road closed. It would have been nice if there had been a notice back at Highway 101. [Ed. Note: The road has been reopened.]

We hauled out our maps and decided to check out the Big Quilcene trail and Marmot Pass, a hike we had never done. The trail was in good shape; a couple of blowdowns but nothing serious. The wildflower show was spectacular. One of the best displays of glacier lilies we had ever seen in a high meadow just below the snow line. Snow the last half mile but not impassable.

Most of us made it to the pass. The views were peek-a-boo as clouds were hanging around Mount Constance. This was a wonderful alternative to Mount Townsend. It is on our list to do again! —Leigh Champlin, Seattle, June.



MARMOT PASS (USGS Mt Townsend, Mt Deception)

With a noon-ish start, Lee and I set out for a leisurely walk to Camp Mystery on a beautiful, deep-forest trail.

We found a little spot at Camp Mystery to tuck our tent into, and hoped for a clear sky and meteors. Instead we got cold, blowing fog.

The morning, however, was clear and blue so we took fanny packs and headed for Marmot Pass for the day. The pass is a beautiful spot with several choices for wandering. As we wandered we could see the marine clouds covering Puget Sound begin to lift and snake their foggy fingers toward us.

Soon Buckhorn Mountain was shrouded. We turned south and walked a ways along the ridge, where we still had great views to Constance Pass, Warrior Peak, and all the Royal Basin peaks. About midday we turned around and wandered back to the pass. On the way we talked for some time with a man studying the marmots. He explained interesting things about their social system and behavior.

Next we wandered north on the trail. Lee stopped on a rock outcrop to have lunch. I continued to the junction with the old trail, and followed that to the ridge overlooking the headwaters of Copper Creek. Enjoyed the flora, which I thought was very Pasayten-like. On a

clear day I would opt for the trip up Buckhorn, but not in fog.

Late in the afternoon we headed back to camp. We had seen many people during the day, but were surprised to find that there were still only three parties total at Camp Mystery.

The next morning on the way out we stopped at Shelter Rock to see if we could find the climbers' route to The Gargoyles. The answer is "yes, maybe."

We also found a large overhanging rock, which must be the "shelter rock." It is slightly downstream from the official camp, and right on the creek, which apparently has shifted in its bed to now come right to the rock. Still, it would shelter you from the rain.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 8/10-12.



MILDRED LAKES (USGS Mt Skokomish)

—Since the Colonel and Lorna had been able to visit Mildred Lakes on a day hike I knew it couldn't be too hard.

His ploy to persuade me to join him for four days of more thorough exploration was an old one, but it worked. He spoke in glowing terms of the three lovely lakes in a remote basin, but de-emphasized the challenge of the 4-plus-mile primitive trail, mentioning vaguely that it was "a bit of a scramble."

But in the last mile as I lay semi-comatose from exhaustion in a vertical tangle of roots which was supposed to be the trail, I barely managed to enjoy the Colonel's sense of humor.

I was surprised to find such a choice wilderness setting outside the park boundary. The struggle getting there enhanced the illusion of extreme remoteness.

But it came with a price tag—a very steep and strenuous trail sometimes hidden under a maze of exposed roots. We were not surprised to hear two reports of hikers unable to make the final grade with a pack, causing double-duty for their partners.

Curiously the "second" lake, a little westward from the trail between the other two, is really the highest of the three according to our map. But a drastic drop in its water level may have altered that condition temporarily.

We've learned in recent years that the Hamma Hamma watershed contains some of the worst trails in the Olympics. Maybe that's why we enjoy it so much.—Henry Wyborney, Cheney, 7/19-22.



HOO RIVER (USGS Owl Mtn, Mt Tom)

—Travis needed a 20-mile hike to fulfill a merit badge

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

requirement. On this scorching weekend, we opted for the relative coolness of the rain forest.

Arrived at the Hoh campground Friday night at 10pm. Bivvied out in the cool evening. A woman making a bee-line for the restroom at 2am almost stepped on my head!

Started hiking at 5:30 to get the first leg out of the way in the misty morning and to see what wildlife was active. Passed a large elk herd about 3 miles in. Ruffed grouse, hairy woodpecker and snowshoe rabbit kits are almost fully grown. Saw cougar tracks in the mud at about 7 miles. Partook of ripe black raspberries and red huckleberries.

The river at Lewis Meadow turned out to be a good turnaround point and an excellent spot for a siesta. Plunged our heads into the icy Hoh. Hunkered down to admire hunting tiger beetles on the beach. Slapped biting flies and fed them to the spiders. Craned our necks upward to the legendary Bailey Range. Took a nap in the shade of a driftwood pile.

The trip back to the trailhead seemed longer than the trip in. Even with the overhanging canopy, it was downright subtropical on the trail. Stopped in Sequim to phone in an order for a huge pizza at Waterfront Pizza in Port Townsend, ignoring this time the siren's call of Fat Smitty's.—Dave and Travis Parent, Freeland, 7/25.



GREYWOLF PASS (USGS

The Brothers, Mt Deception, Wellesley Pk)—The Dosewallips trail is in good shape to Greywolf Pass trail. Two go-around trees and several walk-overs on the Greywolf trail below the pass, otherwise good. Five or six snow patches to cross on the northside descent to Greywolf Basin. The snow was very hard in the morning despite moderate temps at night.

Traversed the meadows (in perfect bloom) of Mount Deception on south side of ridge. Scared up one bear and had a stare-down with a two-point buck.

Sleep was difficult as four deer liked my camp spot more than anywhere else in the basin. They appeared shortly after dinner, seemingly interested in my spicy peanut sauce Thai food, and stayed most of the night.

Did not see as many people as I thought I might, but was that Karen Sykes and husband John I saw Friday morning? Who else carries a lawn chair on their pack?—The Postman, Seattle, 7/31-8/1.



GRAND VALLEY LOOP

(USGS Maiden Pk, Wellesley



Shirley Haley

An action familiar to all hikers: Sarah Wilson puts on bug repellent.

Pk)—Uncle Gil from Florida and Cousin Doug from California joined me for our annual wilderness hike. This year we chose the 28-mile-long Grand Valley Loop in Olympic National Park.

After securing the required permit from the Ranger Station, we drove to Hurricane Ridge. From there we drove the scenic Obstruction Point road about 8 miles to the trailhead. We were on our way by 9:40am under clear, blue skies.

The trail began gradually, descending to Grand and Moose Lakes. At Moose Lake we paused for rest and pictures, then began the steep ascent to Grand Pass. There was snow near the pass but ice axes were not necessary.

Grand Pass (6400 feet) offered a spectacular view and we paused there for lunch and relaxation, then made the 2-mile scramble without packs to Grandview summit.

Returning to the pass we steered ourselves for the brutally steep (2200 feet over 1.8 miles) descent to Cameron Creek. Upon reaching the creek the route became brushy and hot, and at times was so overgrown that it was difficult to follow. Thankfully there were no biting insects to add to our fatigue.

We continued hiking for a long time but were unable to locate a suitable campsite. Plodding on and near exhaustion, we finally found a nice spot along the creek. Before long we had set up camp, pumped water, ate dinner and hung our food from a tree. Soon after, we were down for the night and slept

for 10 hours. We had been on the trail over nine hours and 10+ miles.

The next day we were on the trail by 9:30am, hiking through beautiful peaceful forest along Cameron Creek. Eventually the trail crossed, then re-crossed, Cameron Creek on footbridges, before crossing it a final time to the junction with the Deer Park trail (Three Forks).

Here we filtered water and relaxed in preparation for the dreaded 4000-foot climb over 4 hot, dry miles to Deer Park. The trail began climbing immediately. After an hour or so we paused for lunch, then continued to Deer Park, arriving about 4 hours later.

We were very tired and hot by now and contemplated camping there for the night. Doug persuaded us to continue for two more hours to shorten the following day's hiking time and to gain some solitude. After filling our water bottles at the pump, we continued onward and upward, very tired. The trail followed a ridge, eventually crossing wooded meadows filled with incredibly beautiful wildflowers.

We eventually broke out of the woods and ascended to a meadow near the summit of Maiden Peak, where we made camp. The view here was awesome in all directions, though the valleys were shrouded in clouds which obscured the views of Victoria and Port Angeles. During the night we were greeted by a spectacular star show.

On Day Three we awoke before 5am and while eating breakfast we watched a buck deer with velvet antlers stroll into our camp. Gil left early to gain a head start, and Doug and I were on the trail by 6am.

The trail climbed a bit, then for the most part levelled off somewhat. Early morning clouds obscured what must have been an incredible view. The trail followed an open, exposed ridge all the way back to the car, which we reached in about three hours. This was a great hike and we're already looking forward to next summer's adventure.—David Kissinger, Lynnwood, 7/17-19.



MOUNT HOPPER WAY TRAIL, PUTVIN TRAIL

(USGS *The Brothers, Mount Steel*)—Doug Johnson and I had planned to tackle the Mount Hopper waytrail and crosscountry traverse to Lake of the Angels last year on Labor Day weekend, but rainy weather intervened. This year we were determined to do it, and while the weather wasn't ideal, we had enough visibility at the right time to complete the trip.

We left one car at the Putvin trail-



Larry Smith

A summer ski run on the Humes Glacier of Mount Olympus; Circe on the right; Icarus on the left.

head on road 25 along the Hamma Hamma River, drove the other car to Staircase Ranger Station, and camped the first night along the North Fork Skokomish trail at Camp Pleasant, 6.7 miles. A Boy Scout party and a couple with a pair of llamas occupied the other available campsites. The trail has been recently maintained and brushed out as far as Camp Nine Stream, 9.6 miles/2000 feet.

On the second day, we hiked to the junction with Mount Hopper waytrail (12.7 miles/4540 feet). The tread of this 2-mile waytrail is discernible most of the way, but we lost it in a meadow after about 1.7 miles and followed a game trail going to the right when we should have stayed left. We realized our mistake, backtracked and climbed in a rain shower up an open slope to find the tread again and follow it to Fisher's Pass and the end of the trail (14.7 miles/5040 feet).

Elk Basin, just below the pass at the foot of Mount Hopper and the headwaters of Crazy Creek, provided a scenic camp under clearing skies that encouraged us to think we could safely take on the trailless stretch between Mount Hopper and Lake of the Angels the next day.

We awoke in the morning to a reddish dawn that later turned to blue sky with wispy cirrus clouds, and broke camp around 8:15. Bits of faint tread led us from Fisher's Pass to a burn area, where we climbed over, under, and around fallen trees on an upslope, keeping the main ridge to our left.

Eventually we picked up bits of tread

again, and followed a snow-filled ravine to a talus and heather-covered overlook. On the way we saw bear scat and elk droppings but no sightings of either animal.

In the distance we could see the saddle above Lake of the Angels between Mounts Stone and Skokomish, but were now presented with a choice as the faint path again disappeared: drop in elevation or climb a steep grassy meadow?

We chose to stay high, which proved the right choice when we spotted some cairns and a bit of orange flag on a tree. At the top, we encountered a steep dropoff, took our packs off to climb over yet another fallen tree, and then side-hilled down the steep heather/grass/rock slope to another bit of path below.

We began to notice the change in the weather. The sky made us nervous, as clouds had filled the sky and fog enveloped Mount Hopper while we were busy with our routefinding. Fortunately, the tread now was easier to follow, contouring gradually up through a dry slope, then in bits and pieces more steeply up a meadow to a stony plateau that then dropped gradually through snow patches to a saddle. Doug was excited about seeing the Great Stone Arrow, but the reality was more diminutive than what he had imagined.

We then descended to a traverse of very loose talus at the base of Mount Stone, and then three nearly vertical switchbacks requiring foot and hand holds on roots and rocks to scale the saddle above Lake of the Angels (about 18.5 miles/5300 feet).

We were beat, but had to drop only a quarter mile and about 400 feet to the lake, arriving about 2pm where we met three other hikers.

Originally we had planned to camp at the lake, but cold wind and fog creeping over the ridges (but still no rain!) made us decide after lunch to finish our trip by descending the Putvin Trail.

About the Putvin, I'll only say it's the most severe 3.7-mile trail descent my feet and legs have ever experienced. We reached Doug's car around 7pm (22.5 miles/1580 feet), happy that we had only gone down the Putvin and not also up it. —Jack Lattemann, Seattle, 8/15-8/17.



LACROSSE BASIN (USGS

The Brothers, Mt Steel)—No

views of much along the Dosewallips trail until Honeymoon Meadows where things open up. The meadows were buggy, so we continued up to Anderson Camp with its nice breeze for bug control. After setting up camp, it was up to Anderson Glacier and good views. Lots of nice camping here and we regretted not hauling the packs up a bit farther.

The next morning it was over Anderson Pass and on to the Marmot Lake trail, and a beautiful mostly level ridge hike. The trail was narrow, and I had to watch my step so as not to land on the Enchanted Valley chalet below.

There were several blowdowns to crawl over but the flowers in the basins compensated for that chore. About 40 elk were grazing in one of the lower basins, and Lake Quinault was visible in the distance. At O'Neil Pass, Mount Duckabush greeted us with a big avalanche display.

Two campers at Marmot Lake told us they were just getting ready for an afternoon swim, when a bear plunged into the lake from the opposite shore for his swim.

The next morning it was up to the alpine meadowland of Heart and La-Crosse Lakes. We spotted the trees that look like a bush that Robert Wood describes as marking the Heart Lake waytrail. It is easy going from the Heart Lake side but the other side looked steep and treed. Lake LaCrosse sits in its own bowl and was the prettiest. No campers at all in the upper basin and only two other parties besides us at Marmot. By this time, the flies were out. Originally, we planned to hike down to the Duckabush to complete a loop, but the views from the ridge were so good that we decided to return the way we came. There are several spots where you can see Mount Olympus. We saw a bear headed down toward the Enchanted Valley. My thermometer read

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

88 on the ridge, read 93 while we set up camp in White Meadow, and quickly dropped to 68 after the sun disappeared.

The next morning we returned to Anderson Camp, set up camp and dayhiked to LaCrosse Pass. Beautiful meadows with fragrant lupine and pink paintbrush. We enjoyed the views back toward O'Neil pass and of Home Sweet Home.

The next day it was back to the Duck-abush where we passed a guy who was backpacking in with his guitar.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/1-5.

HAYDEN PASS (*USGS The Brothers, Mt Deception, Well-lesley Pk*)—All of the stream crossings on the forested trail to Dose Meadow had name signs, so we amused ourselves by trying to recite them in the proper order. Amazingly, the campsites at Dose Meadow were bug free.

The next day we headed up to the pass with fanny packs. Another hiker spotted a bear in the upper basin. Hayden Pass basin was very broad and open. At the pass we headed up Sentinel Peak on an obvious trail. Good views of Olympus, Anderson, Rainier, and even hazy Mount St. Helens.

After returning to the pass, we crossed over and walked the mostly level but waterless 2 miles through hillsides of orange paintbrush and white daisies. Then we left the trail and ascended a steep talus ridge above Claywood Basin. We followed this arm up to the summit of Mount Fromme which overlooks the turquoise waters of partially frozen Claywood Lake.

The next day we dayhiked to Lost and Cameron Passes. The meadow grasses of Lost Pass completely obscure the trail and the huge marmot holes it contains. We had to gently explore with our boots to keep from falling in one. Grasshoppers were everywhere in the dried up meadows leading up to Cameron Pass.

From the pass it is an easy walk to the top of peak 6733 which has even better views than Mount Fromme for a lot less work. This time Mount Baker and the coastal peaks of Canada added to the view.

Day 3 was an easy backpack to Bear Camp, from which we dayhiked to Graywolf Pass. This trail had two huge blowdowns on it. One had its own trail being built around it, but the other we had to squirm our way underneath. Lots of south wind at the pass and close looks at Mount Mystery and Mount Deception.

The hike out was in fog which felt

good after all the heat.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/11-15.

MOUNT OLYMPUS—The trail is clear and open to Glacier Meadows. All tent pads are free of snow at Glacier Meadows. Both the moraine trail (climbing access trail) and the terminus trail are free of snow. If you are climbing Mount Olympus or any other peak in the area, register at the Glacier Meadows Ranger Station before your ascent and sign out after your return.

All routes to the West Peak except the standard Crystal Pass route are impassable due to enormous bergschrunds. The Crystal Pass route was last climbed by Glacier Meadows rangers on 8/13 and is the recommended route to the summit.

The crossing through Crystal Pass requires snow protection and belayed climbing due to a large crevasse blocking the pass. Cross the pass on the northeast side by descending into the moat and climbing on rock past the crevasse.

With this season's uncommonly warm weather, snow conditions deteriorate rapidly as the day progresses. Start early to arrive back at Glacier Meadows in the morning hours to avoid soft and dangerous afternoon conditions. The average round trip time to the summit and back is 14 hours. Current success rate for the West Peak is 60%.

Beware of a large moat forming on the snow slope which accesses the final summit block. Loose rock on the summit block makes a helmet required equipment. Parties may also wish to bring rock protection for the final rock climb to the top.

Recent accident: Mid-morning on 7/16 a climber fell 30 feet through a snowbridge and into a moat on the East Peak. The climber was wedged between the rock and snow walls of the moat and was subsequently buried by falling snow and ice blocks.

Until a member of his party rappelled to his aid and uncovered his chest and face, he could not breathe. Remaining team members constructed a z-pulley and extricated the climber, who was by then hypothermic. Fortunately, the weather was good and he was able to walk back to Glacier Meadows, re-warming as he went.

This climber owes his life to the quick actions of his partners. They were all trained in crevasse rescue and wilderness medicine. Is your party this well trained and self-reliant? Crevasse hazard is a serious threat to climbers on Mount Olympus. Take it seriously and BE PREPARED.

Blue Bags: Don't pollute the route.

Take blue bags from the register in front of the Glacier Meadows Ranger Station. Deposit used bags in the receptacle on the lateral moraine when returning from your climb. Do not bring them back to the Ranger Station. Do not throw them into the outhouses.

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.—Ranger, 8/15.

SOL DUC CLOSURE—In early August, three bear "incidents" caused the closure of camping in the Sol Duc backcountry. The closure is in effect until further notice.

Closed to camping are:

- all Seven Lakes Basin campsites
- all High Divide campsites
- Heart Lake
- the Potholes
- Cat Basin
- the northwest part of the Bailey Range, south to Seven Bull Basin

There are some exceptions:

1. Backpackers may camp at Lunch Lake and Sol Duc Park, but are required to store all food and food-scented articles in the metal cache boxes at the ranger stations;
2. Camping is still allowed at Deer Lake but all food must be properly hung from the bear wires;
3. Campers who have bear-resistant (not raccoon-resistant) canisters for *all their food* will be permitted to camp throughout the closed area.

Three incidents involved a bear eating campers' food at Cat Peak on 8/1, near Mount Carrie on 8/2, and at Heart Lake on 8/3. The Park doesn't know if the same bear or different bears are involved.—Ranger, 8/15.

ELWHA CLOSURE—Wilderness camps along the Elwha were reopened in early August after being closed for nearly a month. The closure occurred 7/9 after a black bear was able to reach and consume hikers' food that had been improperly stored.

The re-opened camps are Canyon Camp and Marys Falls. Other camps along the Elwha remain closed to overnight use.—Ranger, 8/6.

ELWHA RIVER—Beginning 8/22, expect heavy stock use on the Elwha River trail. Several large parties will be travelling through the Elwha to the North Fork Quinault in commemoration of the Press Expedition, which first

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

documented the route 100 years ago. Also, the trail crew will be doing work on the Elwha trail into the fall using mules for support.—Ranger, 8/12.

BOGACHIEL TRAIL—If a wilderness trail is cleared of 150 trees and no one comes to use it, was it ever really opened?

This is the question our Park Trail Crew is asking, having made heroic efforts to clear the trail all the way from the Park boundary (mile 1) to the Mink Lake turnoff. Trail Crew has opened and improved the 2-mile section of trail on the south side of the river between the two fords so that it is easily passable to stock.

The trail is badly in need of brushing from Fifteen Mile Shelter to Twenty One Mile Shelter. One 20" windfall blocks the trail a couple of miles above the Park boundary and a small 4" alder blocks the new stock bridge at Warkum Creek.

The Unde Road washout has been repaired giving access to old trailhead. The first mile (on USFS land) is still muddy and has several alder trees partially blocking the trail.—Ranger, 8/15.

HOH LAKE—The down trees have been removed. New bear wires have been installed at CB Flats and up at Hoh Lake. The CB Flats sites have been improved by leveling and upgrading the drainage. Wildflowers are out and abundant in the high country. Around Hoh Lake are bears a-plenty. If you don't see one up there, you aren't looking hard enough. Food storage is very important for that reason.

The reveg crew will begin work on the trail in the area of Hoh Lake the week before Labor Day, starting on 9/3. They will be camping at Hoh Lake during this time, so it will be closed because of the limited number of sites. During this time, CB Flats will remain open for groups and overflow camping.—Ranger, 8/15.

RUGGED RIDGE—Over 100 trees block this trail. It was partially cleared by volunteers from the Bogachiel across Indian Pass. This section needs brushing. Most of the windfall is from the Calawah ford to the trailhead. The trail is hard to recognize just north of the Calawah. The A Road is washed out adding a 4-mile hike to the trailhead. Forest Service has not set a date yet for repair.—Ranger, 8/15.

SOUTH FORK HOH—The latter half of this 3.5 mile trail has been brushed by Rangers and volunteers. There is no windfall on this maintained section.

The South Fork Hoh road is closed for repairs into early September. There is no vehicle access to the trailhead during the closure.—Ranger, 8/11.

GRAYWOLF RIVER—The footlog crossing the Graywolf River just downstream from Three Forks has been cut out by Park trail crew as unsafe for public use. As an interim measure the horse ford nearby has been flagged for hikers to use until the footlog can be replaced.—Ranger, 8/20.

SOL DUC—All trees have been cleared from the Sol Duc High Divide Loop Trail. The footlog at Upper Bridge Creek crossing (Sol Duc Park) has broken and is unusable. A ford across the creek is now required (should not be difficult at this time of the year). The footlog at Middle Bridge Creek crossing is broken but still usable with caution. Some of the closed campsites, such as Heart Lake, should reopen in the near future. Check the Eagle Ranger Station for updates.—Ranger, 8/19.

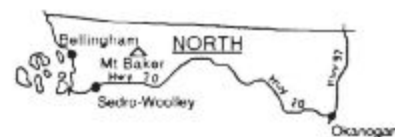
NORTH FORK SOL DUC—The trail has been cleared to the 5.25 mile mark, and is in good condition to that point. Many trees down beyond. The foot log at 1 mile has been signed as closed (the log is rotten, the walking surface is tilted, and the handrail is rotten and unsafe). The ford is thigh deep and swift. The last few miles of trail are almost totally obscured.—Ranger, 8/14.

OLYMPIC NATL PARK—Backcountry permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry. The fee is \$5 for the permit, and \$2 per person per night. Call the Wilderness Information Center at 360-452-0300.

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

NORTH



MOUNT CONSTITUTION

(USGS Mt Constitution)—As

part of a summer camp I took a group of 13 children ages 8-13 up the Mount Constitution trail on Orcas Island. We were camping at Moran State Park and had spent the two previous days swimming in Cascade Lake and bicycling around Lopez Island. Hiking up the mountain would be our last day before heading home.

The children were hesitant about doing the hike and grew very tired as we worked our way up the 4.3 mile, mostly uphill trail. We took a 5 minute break every 30 minutes for water, shoe tying, rest, etc. The trail was in good condition with no blowdowns and only a few mud pits.

The one repeated question from the children was, "Why are we doing this?" As we approached the top, though, they all got their answer with the spectacular views of Mount Baker, the San Juan Islands and the Bellingham area. They really enjoyed checking out the CCC building at the top of the mountain.

I gave all of them the choice of riding down in the van that had met us at the top or walking down with me and adding a few more miles to their collection for the week. Four children hiked down with me (they happened to be the youngest four of the group).

While it took us 4+ hours to hike up, it took us only 1 hour and 40 minutes down. All in all those four children ended up bicycling 17.5 miles and hiking 11.1 miles that week.—Ginger Preston, Tacoma, 8/6.



RIDLEY CREEK TRAIL

(USGS Baker Pass, Twin Sisters Mtn)—This remaining remnant of

the old Deming trail, used for the race to the top of Mount Baker and back, continues in poor condition in parts washed out by the early nineties Pineapple Express storms, but still provides in its greater extent wonderful hiking on cone-cushioned tread through old growth of the Mount Baker Wilderness to the lower Mazama meadow, from which one easily transitions across Baker Pass into the upper Schreiber's Meadow area. Allow around 3 hours, four to the pass.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

Though cool with low clouds, the trees exhibited a stark magnificence, more than offsetting the absence of view that so dominates on a sunny day once you arrive at Mazama. Be prepared for about an hour of rough trail, moderate mosquitoes in the rather wet lower meadow, many large windfalls in the lower section of the trail, and to our surprise, since we have been maintaining the trail for the last 5 years, washed out trail along the river to the west for about 50 feet, once you make the cedar log crossing of the Nooksack.

Care must be exercised in crossing, especially at this time of the year when the melt from the Deming Glacier presents an almost hypnotic mud-brown torrent you don't want to stare into as you cross.

The trailhead at the end of road 38, some 13 miles from the Mosquito Lake road turn, though not signed, is obvious. A new sign is now provided at the Mosquito Lake turn a few miles from the Welcome crossroads on the Mount Baker Highway.

In the future, accessibility may be considerably more limited, as the Forest Service has suggested closing road 38 some 5 miles back at Wallace Creek, where this is a seasonal habitat gate. There does not appear to be a good rationale for the road closure.

Additionally sections of the existing trail will likely be incorporated into the 19-mile loop horseback trail which is partially constructed.—J&D, Bellingham, 8/1.



EXCELSIOR MOUNTAIN

(USGS Mt Baker, Mt Shuksan)

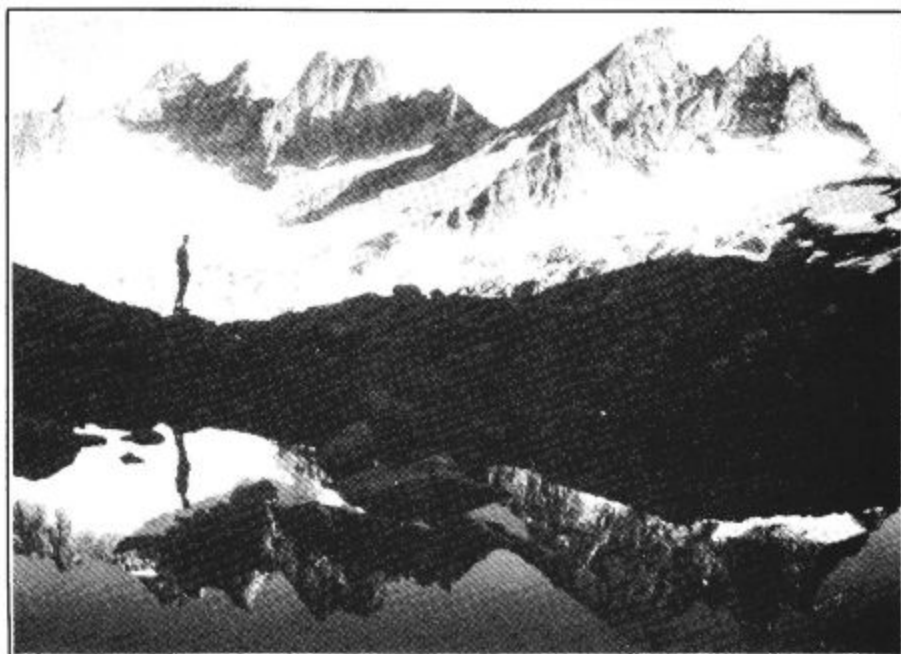
—This was intended to be an easy and relaxing backpack and it was. It is one of the most rewarding hikes for the least effort.

A 10:30 trail start still got us to Damfino Lakes in half an hour. The "lakes" are just a couple of small ponds in the woods that look like mosquito heaven. Another 50 minutes of moderate switchbacks through trees on good trail gets you to the meadow on the north side of the ridge, and 20 minutes more brings you to the top of the ridge with excellent views of Mount Baker.

The meadow still had some snow-melt for water, but it could easily be dry by the time you read this.

If the meadow is dry, then the ridge will definitely also be dry. We had to go nearly to Welcome Pass to find water, and that water was adequate for filtering, but not much more. In late August or September of a dry year it might be impossible to camp near the ridge.

We expected to camp on a 5500-foot



The southern Pickets.

shoulder that extends south from point 5797, but were unable to find a suitable campsite there.

The trail along the ridge toward Welcome Pass is one of the best ridge walks in the Cascades. It is nicer than either Pilot Ridge or Lost Creek Ridge (which we had been on a week earlier) and is at least as pleasant as Miner's Ridge. It is not quite as nice as the trail from Buck Creek Pass to High Pass, but very close.

The flowers are beautiful and the views of Baker and Shuksan are excellent. The lupine was a few days past its best, but still superb.

Although this is an easy day hike, photographers should plan to backpack. The morning light is wonderful on Baker until about 10am, but the light on Shuksan is poor until well into the afternoon. You won't get good pictures of both unless you spend the night.

A trail crew was camped near us and was working its way west from Welcome Pass. They are doing a great job and the trail is in excellent shape along the ridge where they have completed their work. Looks like our Trail Pass parking fees are doing some good.

This hike was also a great reminder of how lucky we are when we can hike in mid-week. We left on Friday, saw one couple at the trailhead as we left, and did not see anyone else (except the trail crew) for the rest of the day Friday and until nearly noon on Saturday.

By early afternoon on Saturday, however, dozens of people were enjoying the ridge. This is a deservedly popular destination for day hikers (and their dogs), so if you want solitude, go in the

middle of the week.—Dave and Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 8/7-8.



COUGAR DIVIDE (USGS Bearpaw Mtn, Mt Baker)

—Brad and I made a good afternoon sprint up Cougar Divide. The Wells Creek road has been recently brushed and graded all the way to the high (4700 feet) and unsigned trailhead.

The trail itself climbs to a viewpoint in 1 mile, then drops back into woods until it breaks into open meadow. The flowers were past their prime and clouds blocked out distant views, but Hadley Peak and the extensive meadows in the area were good enough for us. Occasionally a big crevassed chunk of glacier showed through the clouds high above the immediate horizon, a phenomenon which might surprise an unsuspecting walker.

We grazed fine sweet berries off the two-inch high plants at the 5800-foot saddle where the Divide ends at the base of Chowder Ridge, before turning back and scooting to the car.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 8/15.



YELLOW ASTER BUTTE (USGS Mt Larrabee)

—On Highway 542 going toward Mount Baker ski area, turn onto Twin Lakes road 3065 (at east end of highway maintenance buildings) and go 2.3 miles to wide area for parking. A narrow road goes .2-mile west with a slim parking area at the trailhead.

Trail switchbacks through a brushy clear cut, then it's up through old second growth (stumps are mostly de-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

cayed, but I spotted several, including one with a spring board notch) to a miner's trail. The miner went with the flow of the land, so the grade varies, but does not waste your time with switchbacks. The steepest part is the ascent from the lower meadows to the first tarn (about 500 feet). There were some muddy stretches, although it had not rained for a long while.

The trail gains about 2500 feet in 3 miles to the highest tarn. The boot-beaten track up Tomyhoi Peak was visible as soon as Tomyhoi could be seen.

A trail crew was at work on Yellow Aster! Our trail pass dollars at work? A fresh trail ascends slightly as it crosses the south side of the butte, and I managed to spot one switchback going down toward the east as if going to Gold Run Pass. I watched two people with a tape measure stake-out switchbacks across the boot worn tread that makes the final drop from Yellow Aster to the tarns.

My first backpack was to Gold Run Pass with the Everett Mountaineers (1960). We camped at the pass and hiked cross country around Yellow Aster and descended to the upper tarns. The cabin (on the ridge near the tarns) was intact, now the walls have collapsed. There was no boot worn path, but someone knew the way. The new trail looks to be on the route we followed. (Crew went east, out of sight, before I could ask questions.)

Looking at the trail register afterward, someone complained of their using jack-hammers. This may have been a tamping device that is used to pack trail tread. A jack-hammer with a pad about a foot square at the end of the rod, rather than a point.

Fine views of Shuksan, border peaks, etc. with Baker mostly behind a part of the ridge going to Welcome Pass, and plenty of room for roaming among the many tarns and lakelets.

Blueberries were just beginning to turn blue. Yellow asters, along with columbine and cow parsnip, were still blooming in the meadows in breaks in the forest below the tarns.—Ramona Hammerly, Anacortes, 8/11.



YELLOW ASTER BUTTE

(USGS Mt Larrabee)—Shannon asked for a "medium" hike, and this was my choice. Brad was disappointed because it is not listed in his *Hikes in Whatcom County* book, which he is ticking through this summer. We gingerly drove my car up to the Keep Kool trailhead on the Twin Lakes Road.

The trail starts in a brushy clearcut, wet after the previous night's rain

(Rain!). It then takes off steeply (and moderately rutted) up the hillside until it breaks out into pleasant westside heather-and-hemlock meadows.

We sat out a vigorous rain-and-hail shower in a clump of trees in the lower meadow, and then continued to the higher meadows and lunch on a rock hump at the Butte saddle. Our lunch started in the warm sunshine of a hole in the clouds and ended abruptly with brisk wind and hailstones.

Of course the weather relented once we descended. The clouds split nicely at the excellent viewpoint a mile from the car, providing a great look at Shuksan's rugged north face, complete with fresh snow. Then, as we entered the clearcut, the clouds opened and just drenched us.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 6/16.



PARK BUTTE (USGS Baker Pass)

—A wonderfully sunny and clear day so our group opted for the long drive to Mount Baker. Although a little early in the season, there were already some blueberries in Schreibers Meadow at the trailhead.

The trail is in great shape. The only problem seems to be crossing the stream which has two major branches, one of which has a foot bridge, the other not—you have to boulder hop and several people ended up with wet feet!

The wildflowers were spectacular in the high meadows; several large fields of lupine. At the trail junction in the upper meadow the left fork leads up to the 5450 foot summit of Park Butte.

The views were splendid—Mount Baker and the Sisters in particular. Several of the more energetic members of our group also went up the Railroad Grade to the snout of Easton Glacier at around 7000 feet All in all well worth the long drive.—Leigh Champ-lin, Seattle, 8/9.



SCOTT PAUL TRAIL

(USGS Baker Pass)—Grand meadow walk. Trail traverses gently north through forest for about 2 miles.



It then swings back below the moraines, sometimes where the meadows are growing onto the barren debris, but mostly through well established meadows. Young mountain hemlocks are growing in some of the older meadows. A walk through a dynamic area of natural change.

The tread is well built and has not been beaten (or washed) down to roots and rocks. There is one unpleasant section—the descent into the gorge that drains the melt waters of the Easton Glacier.

Once down and across the suspension bridge (necessary, and taken out at the end of the season and re-installed each summer) it is a short hike up the toe of the Railroad Grade to the trail to Park Butte Lookout, et al.

Next time I do the loop I will start with the trail to Park Butte, ford the branches of Rocky Creek (four this year) before the day's sun swells it with melt-water from the Easton, and hike up the moraine to the meadows of the Scott Paul trail. Possibly its a sign of age, but I'd rather go up trails with small loose rocks when fresh, than slip and slide down at the end of a hike.

Air was heavy with the aromas of Sitka valerian and lupine. Butterflies were nectaring on lavender daisies and red heather.—Ramona Hammerly, Anacortes, 8/5.



RUTH-ICY TRAVERSE

(USGS Mt Sefrit, Mt Shuksan)

—Our group of Mountaineers (leader Paulo, assistant leader Steve and five students: Trish, Shawn, Mary, Derek and me) hiked up to Hannegan Pass under a gray sky. The trail was in good shape, but very brushy in the lower part.


At the pass we turned south toward Mount Ruth and followed a decent track to the base of the Ruth Glacier, 6100 feet. Here we roped up and made an ascending traverse to the next ridge, which we crossed and descended into the basin to camp above the gully leading to Icy Peak. There was no water, so we melted snow on three stoves.

The clouds kept lowering until they were blowing through camp. At midnight it began to rain. At 3:30 Paulo bagged the trip. At 5am it began to snow. A couple of hours later we were heading back across the Ruth Glacier in a whiteout. Luckily we were still able to see our tracks from the previous day. Before noon we were back at the cars, soaking wet and muddy.

I have heard this is a spectacular trip. I'll have to go back.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 8/15-16.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

 **SHELLROCK PASS LOOP**
(USGS Slate Pk, Pasayten Pk, Mt Lago, Lost Pk, McLeod Mtn, Robinson Mtn)—Spectacular views await those who choose to make the climb to Shellrock Pass. The views of upper Eureka Creek and its surrounding peaks create lingering memories long after leaving this rugged place.

The complete loop including Pistol Pass provides additional vistas, but at a price. The trail between the Lost River/Eureka Creek confluence and Shellrock Pass hasn't seen maintenance in many years. I stopped the log count (those needing to be cleared from the trail) at about 160 and estimate the total at greater than twice that amount.

Janet Stanek and I hiked into the Middle Fork Pasayten area from Slate Pass, a shortcut of perhaps 6 to 7 miles when compared to entering via Robinson Creek. The Middle Fork Pasayten trail and the trail to Fred's Lake have been cleared of logs. Beyond Fred's Lake, no trail maintenance has occurred.

The route from Fred's Lake to Shellrock Pass has perhaps two dozen blow-downs and short sections in need of brushing. It is in good shape compared to the trails along Monument Creek and the section between Pistol Pass and the Lost River.

Osceola Peak is a class 2 scramble over very loose rock, but recommended for its excellent view. Nearby Point 7923 is easier, but several hundred feet lower. The route up Mount Lago's great central gully leads directly to the summit with outstanding views, but the class 3 loose rock won't appeal to many.

A class 4 route exists to North Pistol Peak from Pistol Pass, but also has lots of loose rock. I don't recommend it. Less treacherous routes exist from lower starting points below Pistol Pass on the south side.

Plan water carefully if traveling the complete loop. No water crosses the trail from near Lake of the Woods until reaching the Lost River, a distance of about 8 miles. We carried a full water bag up to our camp near Pistol Pass and made it last through part of the next day.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 7/10-17.

NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK

—Roads: Highway 20 open. Thornton Creek road is open to trailhead, but rough; okay for 2 wheel-drive, high clearance vehicles; road is steep and narrow. Cascade River road rough in sections with many washboards developing; open to the Cascade Pass trail-

head. Sibley Creek road (1540) open to Hidden Lakes trailhead; in good condition. Hozomeen road is 39 miles of gravel in good condition.

Ross Lake Resort: Call to arrange portage, water taxi, or overnight accommodations, 206-386-4437.

Permits: required year-round for overnight stays in the backcountry. Free permits can be obtained at the Marblemount Ranger Station and other NCNP offices. Call 360-873-4500 x 37 or 39 for locations.

Bears: There has been lots of black bear activity in the Park. Hang food 15 feet up and 5 feet out from tree. Free loan of bear-resistant food canisters are available at area ranger stations.

Big Beaver/West Bank is clear, snow-free over Beaver Pass. Suspension bridge at junction with Little Beaver Creek trail is unusable. Cross on log jam downstream.

Chilliwack is logged out from Canadian border to junction with Copper

Ridge trail and from Brush Creek to Hannegan Pass. Extremely brushy and rough in several spots from Hannegan Pass to Brush Creek and beyond to border.

Copper Ridge is mostly snowfree. The north ford of the Chilliwack River is approximately thigh deep.

Desolation trail is dry, but spring at 2 miles is a reliable source of water. Camp is dry, carry enough water. No trees to hang food, and bears around camp, so bear resistant food canisters are a must.

Easy Pass/Fisher Basin has a difficult log crossing at Granite Creek (not a bridge). Very brushy on either side of pass, snowfree.

Little Beaver has minor windfalls. Water runs over trail at Perry Creek and above Twin Rocks. Brushy sections cover trail periodically. Please follow trail even when under water.

Thunder Creek is cleared to just beyond Skagit Queen camp. Thunder



TRAILHEAD SHUTTLE SERVICE



Concerned about leaving your unattended car at the trailhead?



Not looking forward to a long drive back to town after being so long on the trail?



Ever wished you could get someone else to worry about the driving?



Then give Bledsoe's NW Excursions a call

We'll drop you off & pick you up at any trailhead anywhere in Washington State!

We offer:

- Trailhead pickup and delivery services
- Supply replenishment services
- Weekend, mid-week, overnight and day trips
- Group and individual rates
- Comfortable mini-coaches (with reclining chairs!)
- Digital cell phones to verify exact time of pick-up—no waiting around

Free coffee & ice cold pop ready and waiting when you come off the trail



MAKE YOUR TRAILHEAD SHUTTLE RESERVATIONS TODAY

(206) 526-7996



Bledsoe's
N.W. Excursions, Inc.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

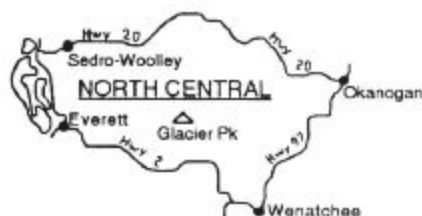
Basin camp is closed until further notice due to bear activity. Trail to foot-log crossing of Thunder Creek is easy to miss.

Whatcom Pass is logged out from the west. Very brushy on Brush Creek trail below Graybeal camp.—Ranger, 8/13.

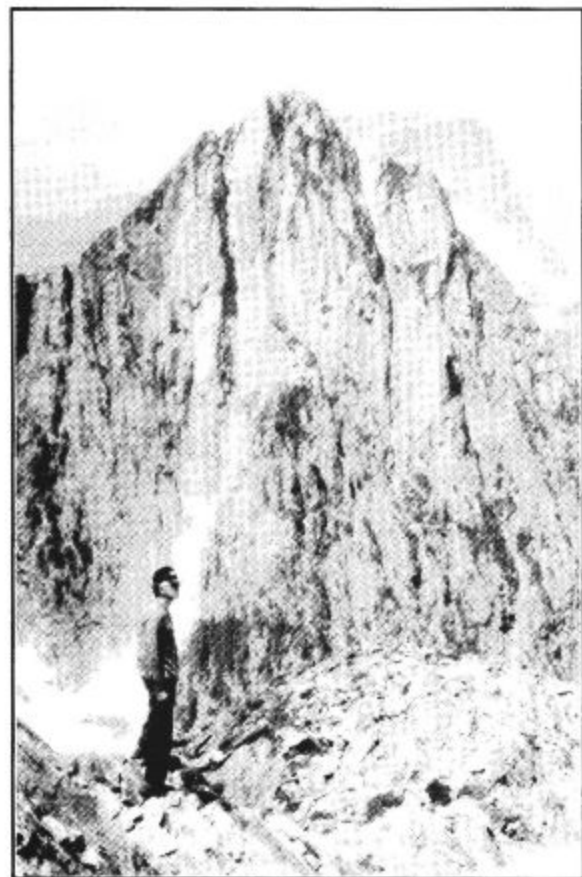
OKANOGAN NATL FOREST—

Most trails snowfree and maintained, but check with the Methow Valley Visitor Center, 509-996-4000, or the Twisp Ranger Station, 509-997-2131, for the latest details.

NORTH CENTRAL



NCNP CAMP CLOSURES—A black bear and her cub recently entered Upper Thunder Basin Camp, 17 miles up Thunder Creek from the North Cas-



Ken Hunich ponders the east face of Sperry. Near Monte Cristo.

cades Highway. They damaged a backpack and other equipment but did not get any food or cause any injuries.

In another part of the park, 2 miles by trail from the Stehekin Valley road, another black bear has been repeatedly entering Rainbow Bridge Camp.

To avoid the possibility of an adverse encounter between these bears and campers, both camps are closed until further notice.—Ranger, 8/16.



SHARKFIN TOWER (USGS Cascade Pass, Forbidden Pk)

—The weather was right for a nice rock climb, so we headed up to Boston Basin for a climb of Sharkfin Tower. The trail into the basin rates anywhere from terrible to passable depending upon your attitude toward brush. Almost all of it is in the shade, which is nice.

Along the way I found a nice pair of sunglasses, which I needed after sitting on a pair and dropping another in a lake. Things were looking up.

Upon reaching the basin we saw our objective. The tower is located on the ridge that connects Forbidden with Boston, lying directly east of Sharkfin Col, the low point in the ridge. We hiked up an hour's worth of rock slab

and finally got on the western edge of the Quien Sabe Glacier.

Although it was well broken a nice route led to the dirt gully that leads to the upper snowfield below the tower. Once up the gully we crossed under the tower and climbed easily to the U notch where we got out the rope. There are three low class 5 pitches on the southeast ridge.

The first one works around to the north and comes back to the ridge. The second one is incredible and follows the true ridgeline in an airy sweep with nice holds. The third and final pitch, like the first, goes behind the ridge to the north and scrambles big blocks to the summit. We arrived to grand views of Forbidden, Buckner, Boston, and many other of the giants of the North Cascades.

On our descent we rappelled a different gully, the one directly below the tower, having seen several slings in it. It was wet but fairly easy to follow. Unfor-

tunately it is not usable on approach because of moat problems. If you are Spiderman this is your route.

We arrived back at the car at dusk. Another ten minutes and the flashlights would have come out. 6 hours up, 6 hours down.—Mark Owen and Paul Cho, Shoreline, 8/3.



CEDAR CREEK, ABERNATHY PASS (USGS Mazama, Silver Star Mtn)

—I took 24 children ages 8-13 on an overnight horseback trip and we contracted with Early Winters Outfitting for the horses, mules and support. We have worked with them for the last couple of years and they do a super job, especially with the children.

We met the wranglers at 10am followed the horse truck up to the Cedar Creek trailhead. The wranglers fitted each child to a horse and adjusted the saddle for each as well. We were on our way. I happened to get the same horse that I had last year, "Rusty." All of the horses are veterans between 8 and 18 years old.

We worked our way up the trail with only a few little mishaps. One child's saddle started slipping so we stopped so that it could be adjusted. One young lady hit her head on a log across the trail. Good thing she had that helmet on!

The trail was very dry and dusty in most places with a few mud puddles. We rode 5½ miles in to a meadow where we set up camp. Most of the group decided to sleep out in the meadow under the stars to avoid the hassles of setting up and taking down their tents. We then played games and went for a hike before dinner. The children then had a talent show which went very well for only 10 minutes of practice. It was then bedtime. The children woke up periodical during the night depending on how close the horses were grazing to their heads.

The next morning after a breakfast of pancakes and sausages we went on a 2 hour hike farther up the trail which allowed the wranglers time to get the horses ready. The ride out was uneventful. The children all had a great time.—Ginger Preston, Tacoma, 8/12-13.



SOUTH NAVARRE (USGS South Navarre Pk)

—Hank and I went for this off trail hike a little late in the day. The drive to South Navarre is two hours and 62 miles from Chelan via the Gold Creek Road off Highway 153. Other access options are available over rough and scenic Forest Service roads, but this seems to be the quickest route.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

We left from the South Navarre camp site at 6400 feet and walked up the southwest spur which comes down from South Navarre. It should be noted that this campsite offers beautiful views of the lower Chelan Valley and a high probability of solitude. Bring your own water.

The spur rises steeply through thin timber and meadow up to the ridge. Stay on the westerly side of the ridge until it levels out. Then cross over to the easterly side and ascend the summit over loose rocks.

The open summit at 7870 feet has a tremendous view featuring Glacier Peak, Cascade Pass, the Chelan Sawtooth Ridge and Entiat Mountains as well as the Okanogan Highlands and the Chelan Valley. On this day the Cascade Crest was obscured in angry clouds which faded into puffy white bands as they moved east over us.

The whole 2-mile adventure took less than three hours, but throw in the drive, which is an adventure in itself, and it was a very pleasant afternoon. At 20 months, Hank did well to hike maybe halfway up on his own which is good since he and a day pack together are weighing in at 40+ pounds these days!—Tim H., Chelan, 8/16.



CHIWAHA MOUNTAIN

(USGS Suiattle Pass)—This

being our rest day at Lyman Lake while hiking from Rainy Pass to Suiattle River, the Scouts rested while I went a-wandering. There is a nice 3-mile trail to Spider Gap which only becomes a bit steep right below the gap. It was a beautiful morning as I looked down into Spider Meadows and across to Maude, Seven Finger Jack and Fernow.

My plan was to skirt around behind Chiwawa and attack it from the south since I didn't have crampons to try the Lyman Glacier route. I encountered some of the loosest talus I have ever seen. Crossing over two ribs before gaining any real elevation above the gap, I carefully scrambled over a sliding heap of a mountain.

With lots of time on my side and a beautiful day to enjoy I took my time with each step. Finally I reached a spot where I could see Fortress and the gap between the two peaks. Just over the third rib I found a large, low angle gully that I followed upward. Chiwawa's summit is just like the rest of the south side—a crumbling mess! Grand views in all directions, especially the dominating presence of Bonanza just across the valley.

Unfortunately the ridge leading to Fortress looked way to technical for a



Shirley Haley

Peter, James and Grandma cross their—ugh—60th downed tree on the Milk Creek trail. Glacier Peak Wilderness.

continuation of my adventure, so I returned the way I came, enjoying a nice glistade down to Upper Lyman Lake and finally a nice swim with the Scouts at Lyman.

There is a very unusual sandbar that crosses the very middle of the lake. We all walked across in chest deep water, amazed at the feeling of being in the center of such a large mountain lake. Very warm water for 5500 feet. They found a nice secluded beach for reading and sleeping and the rest of the day was spent in relaxation.

4 hours from Lyman Lake. Bring water as the snowfields above Upper Lyman don't give up their water easily.—Mark Owen, Shoreline, 8/12.

▲▲▲ CLOUDY PEAK (USGS Suiattle Pass)—This is an easy

scramble from Cloudy Pass. Beating the Scouts up by three hours, I later found out, I hiked with heavy pack out of the Lyman Lake Basin. Like the day before, another beautiful day greeted me, as I filtered some water out of the nice stream in the meadow below Cloudy Pass. With no snow field above it looks like a great all-summer water source.

From the pass I took just the top of my pack, which turns into a neat hip pack, and a little food and water for the scramble. I followed a nice trail for about 20 minutes that quickly disap-

peared in the rocks below the summit block. Things got a bit interesting finding the right ledge upward. The sandy ledges slope downward, and aren't very wide so careful walking is required or a long tumble will take you down to the basin between Cloudy and North Star Mountain.

Twenty feet from the summit I found a squeeze crack that required a rope. Fortunately the south facing ridge was doable. Great views down into Agnes Creek where thirty teenagers were repairing the trail two day earlier with nice big planks. On my next walk up the Agnes I am going to try that trail rather than the PCT.

90 minutes up and 60 back to Cloudy Pass where the Scouts still hadn't arrived. I knew I should have continued to North Star!—Mark Owen, Shoreline, 8/13.

▲▲▲ GLACIER PEAK, GAMMA RIDGE (USGS Prairie Mtn,

Huckleberry Mtn, Downey Mtn, Lime Mtn, Gamma Pk)—Leaving the Suiattle trailhead at 7am on a very hot day, we pitched camp early at Miner's Creek rather than face Gamma Ridge trail on the hot afternoon.

The next day, leaving at 6:30, on up the ridge through beautiful hemlocks and strawberries to camp at the saddle at 6450 feet. Despite sore feet, we start-

ed downhill for Gamma Hot Springs but as the stream dropped into a chute and the going over loose rubble, back and forth across the stream got ever slower, we decided we would soon run out of time and energy, jeopardizing the next day's climb. At 5600 feet we turned back to our camp.

July 18, hiking with all of our gear at 6am, we had hoped to continue up Gamma Ridge, cross the Dusty Glacier and ascend the Ermine Glacier and set up camp on Frostbite Ridge with a quick run up to the summit and back, and then a descent via Lime Ridge. The traverse around Gamma Peak in wet heather without a trail was annoying but the ridge onward to the west was gorgeous. The chute down to the glacier at 7000 feet as advised by Beckey was a mixture of loose boulders and slick rock, a risky and unpleasant descent of some 60 feet.

Even the middle section of the Dusty Glacier had extensive open crevasses requiring time-consuming zigzagging, a bad sign. Cutting through the saddle at 7541 feet we traversed north around the base of cliffs to start up the east side of the Ermine Glacier.

Again numerous crevasses to bypass with an ominous row of seracs down the middle of the glacier: we were soon faced with a sturdy but very steeply-pitched snow bridge with poor prospects for a safe belay, and above at about 8200 feet we could see a crevasse cutting the entire glacier from side to side. Our summit attempt was over.

Returning to the saddle, we, after lunch, ascended Point 7717, which terminates in a charming overhanging rock hook. The views were wonderful and the descent down the snow on its northeast face brisk. The down climb to 7000 feet proved to be quite simple and we thus avoided having to descend the Dusty Glacier and ascend the treacherous chute at 7000 feet.

Future climbers by the Gamma Ridge route would be much better off climbing on rock and snow directly to Point 7717, bypassing the lower Dusty Glacier.

At least as of this writing, it appear-

ed that an alternative route to the summit could have been traversing south-east across the Dusty Glacier above Recession Rock and either taking a very steep snow route from the North Guardian Glacier back up onto upper Dusty, or continuing over to the Chocolate and Cool Glaciers.

Despite having failed to make the summit or make our traverse of the north face of the mountain, and despite sunburn, mosquito bites, sore feet, and tired thighs from the long descent from Gamma Ridge, we nonetheless voted this a memorable, character-building experience!—Charles M. Bagley Jr. and Charles H. Bagley, Seattle, 7/17-20.



GAMMA RIDGE TRAIL

(USGS Gamma Peak)—The Gamma Ridge trail provides the principal access to climbing the east face of Glacier Peak. It starts southward from the upper Suiattle River trail about 10 miles from the trailhead, just before the Suiattle trail plummets steeply down pumice banks to the river edge once again.

A very old sign reads "Gamma Way No. 791." The fallen tree across the entrance to the Gamma Ridge trail is a further reminder of the Forest Service's lack of recent trail work, and for the next mile going gently uphill many more windfalls need to be passed. A pleasant stream is crossed at 3460 feet with excellent water (July 1998) and a small dark campsite. This stream however becomes dry from this trail crossing all the way down to its junction with Gamma Creek.

As the trail begins to switchback steeply up the face of Gamma Ridge, its quality improves markedly with far fewer fallen trees. On up to 5400 feet it winds through a pleasant, cool forest of tall hemlocks with a ground cover of strawberries and moss.

At 5500 feet is a very large campsite with a small stream from a snow patch in the vicinity (will probably be entirely dry later in the year), and no views. The ridge rapidly becomes drier with the appearance of fir and heather and increasingly impressive views. There are several campsites just beyond point 6218 and others farther up the ridge at 6460 feet.

Here the trail seems to end, although beyond Gamma Peak on the ridge top up to 7000 feet are other traces of track making travel somewhat easier there. Unfortunately, around the south face of Gamma Peak where a

trail would be most helpful, none exists.

It is a simple scramble to continue beyond 7000 feet up the gentle cliffs to a snow slope and finally ascend the overhanging hook of point 7717. Beyond lies the snow saddle between the Ermine and Dusty Glaciers, the end of Gamma Ridge.

At least up to 6000 feet the trail is in good condition except for the fallen trees. On the switchbacks is evidence of extensive trail work in past decades. Who built this trail and why? We can find no information on its origin in Crowder and Tabor (1965) or in Beckey.

Certainly Native Americans would have had no reason to hike this long and mostly dry distance, and miners had no reason to come up here. We checked the surrounding ridges and hilltops and found no sign of a fire lookout. Does anyone know why this trail was built?

There is also another obvious trail that switchbacks out of the depths of Dusty Creek up toward but not reaching Ridge 6602. This trail is not shown on the topographic map. Why not? (We walked along the top of 6602 and found no sign of trail on the top nor any sign of a lookout tower.)

And why is it Gamma Ridge? Presumably no radioactivity has been discovered in the area! However, it appears to be the third ridge eastward after Grassy Point. Who named it? We would be interested in others' comments.—Charles M. Bagley, Jr. and Charles H. Bagley, Seattle, 7/18.



MOUNT PILCHUCK (USGS

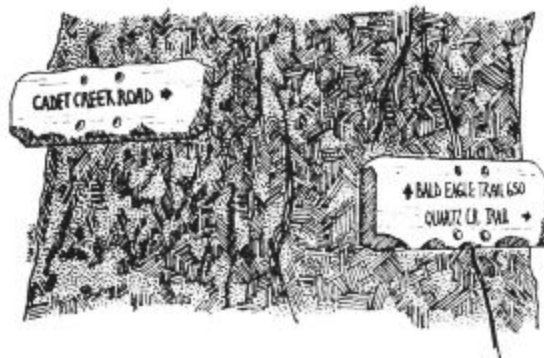
Verlot)—We had not been here

for several years so we decided to check out the trail work that had been done as well as the repairs and rebuilding of the lookout.

We were impressed with the "new" trail. A decided improvement. A few muddy places near the start need some attention. The blasting in the boulder field has greatly improved the trail (both wood and stone steps really are great). A great vote of thanks to the Everett Mountaineers for the hard work that went into rebuilding and repairing the summit lookout.

We were appalled, however, at the amount of graffiti that has already accumulated; hardly a surface was not covered. Someone had also damaged one of the interpretive panels, and the register was defaced and damaged. I really cannot understand why people have no respect for the hard work that went into rebuilding this structure for the enjoyment of all.

On a brighter note, we enjoyed the



like, even though the views were only peek-a-boo since there seemed to be a cloud cap around the mountain. With the improved trail this is a good family hike, and several families with small children were there.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 7/19.

MYSTERY PASS (USGS Blanca Lk)—The upper portion of the trail into Glacier Basin is a slabby, slippery mess. Here is a pleasant cross country variant.

Hike the trail until you reach the base of the large talus field coming down on your right. Mystery Pass is the hole in the sky directly above you. Clamber up the talus and, for orientation, aim for the first of the mines high on Mystery Hill (identifiable by copper colored debris). Many interesting mining artifacts abound. Continue on up to the pass (which is level with the top of Mystery Hill).

From this point, we made a traverse across the snow and then dropped down to Ray's Knoll for lunch. Note: Ice axe advised. Spotted a couple of climbers at the "North Col" on their way to the summit of Monte Cristo.—Judy and Garth, Carnation, 7/12.

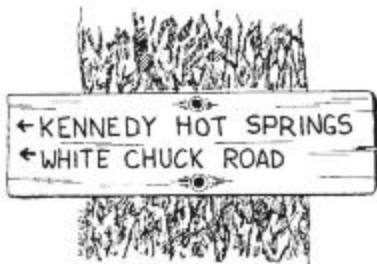
GOTHIC BASIN, FOGGY LAKE (USGS Bedal, Monte Cristo)—Goran and I decided it was time to try a new area. I remember a work mate at Kenworth once recommended Gothic Basin so we looked it up in *100 Hikes*.

The trailhead is about 1 mile down the Monte Cristo road from Barlow Pass on the Mountain Loop highway. It is easy to find, on the right, just before the bridge over the South Fork Sauk River.

The trail was excellent, just re-worked. We said "Great, no soaking from wet brush today." We spoke too soon. After ¼-mile we came to a sign telling us to use the old trail, because of trail work. We obeyed with loud mutterings, some in Swedish that I didn't understand, as we once again got soaking wet from the brush we had to push through.

Eventually we got back to the new trail and started up. The trail soon became a scattering of small tracks and we chose the wrong one and finished up bushwhacking until we found the trail again. Higher up, after about 1½ miles the trail becomes very distinct and easy to follow.

Breaking out of the trees we were rewarded with great views and rushing cascades to cross. We arrived on snow at about 4300 feet and soon crested out



into Gothic Basin. We recognized Del Campo Peak from the guide and headed for it. Whoops, we came to the edge of a steep canyon with no obvious way down or around. We scratched our heads and finally got the map out. Checked our bearings. We were 180 degrees out. Our Del Campo was Sheep Gap Mountain. We then headed in the correct direction, north, and kicked steps up a snow filled gully to arrive at a still frozen Foggy Lake.

Could it be that the picture on page 81 is mislabelled?

On the way down we saw a lone hiker making his way up. He had stopped and sat resting when we got to him. It turned out he was a fellow Brit. Had been a pilot in the RAF in WW2 and at age 76 was still solo hiking, and said he was going up Del Campo. What a guy!

The hike down was uneventful from that point until we realized we had missed a left turn and had to back track ¼-mile. We came across the trail crew doing stellar work building cedar slab sidewalks over the swamps. They said they would be doing the first 1½ miles which will really make this trail great.—Goran and Fred, Redmond, 7/16.

GOTHIC BASIN (USGS Bedal, Monte Cristo)—We had 10 boys and adults on this second-to-the-last 50-miler-shakedown hike. We spent Friday evening camping along the riverbank on the trail to Monte Cristo. We would start the Weden Creek hike in the morning.

Saturday morning arrived and the weather was terrific. We overslept so we got a late start on the trail. It must have been about 10am when we finally got going.

The trail started off through dense woods that had a few very deep mud-holes. We had read trip reports earlier in the week which warned of the trail construction going on. The reports said to follow the little flag markers since the trail has detours around the work areas. We did follow the flags, which took us through heavy brush. I think we were blazing the new trail. We weren't

alone, however, as there were several others both in front of and behind us. The ascent started in this section of the trail. The gradual uphill turned quickly into relentless climbing. We were carrying full 40+ pound packs (just for the experience of it!).

At the first water crossing, I lost my balance, and my foot was in the river with water gushing around the top edge of my boot. One wrong move and wet socks would be my companion on the miles ahead. Friends grabbed my arms in attempts to help me out of my predicament, but to no avail—both feet became submerged. Oh, well. It was going to be in the 80s anyway.

Each mile of the trail became steeper and steeper. We were thankful at about mile 2, when we were able to stop at a stream to filter water and dunk our heads. The heat of the day had arrived, and we all were hot and ready to end our journey. The last mile seemed like several. There are boulders to scale, mud to avoid, snow to cross, downed trees to crawl under, and steep gullies awaiting any wrong move. Everyone coming down the trail said that we had only about a half-hour to go. That half-hour was more like 2 hours! 2600 feet of elevation gain in 3 miles. It is spring here now, with many wildflowers in bloom.

Tired and totally spent (the adults, that is), we arrived at Gothic Basin. There was still snow in the basin, and it was beautiful, but at the moment, we were too tired to appreciate anything but arriving at our destination. There were several others camping here. We found a wonderful campsite to the left of the trail and UP (of course) a hill. The site has a 360-degree view of the Cascades all around us. The sky was clear and sunny. It was such a different perspective to be at the top of the mountains looking down at the valleys.

The sunset was gorgeous! We melted snow for our dinner water, ate, and went to bed early to allow plenty of time to dream about the trip down.

We got another late start the next morning. We had planned on a grab-and-go breakfast, so that worked out good. We hit the trail and began our re-entry into civilization. I'm not sure if the climbing the day before was more difficult, or the descent on this day. It was refreshing to use different muscles today, but just as tiring.

The last mile of the trail, we forgot to follow the little flags, and we ended up at the river, which was too deep and wide to cross. We had to backtrack.

All in all it was a great trip.—Lori Wist, Lake Stevens, 7/18-19.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



SILVER LAKE, TWIN LAKES (USGS Bedal, Monte Cristo)

—We parked at Barlow Pass and set off down the road to Monte Cristo. This is a 4-mile walk on a road that follows the South Fork Sauk River to the old mining town. On the face of it, it seems to be a real pain that one cannot drive this road, but the rewards are well worth the effort.

We kept a steady pace and after one hour and twenty minutes arrived at the trailhead. The trail up to Poodle Dog Pass is steep and rough, 1600 feet in a mile. We enjoyed the view of Silvertip Peak with Silver Lake nestled at its base, still covered in ice, but decided not to go down to its shores.

We wanted to see Twin Lakes, another 2.7 miles over open country. The views of Columbia Peak and Wilmon Spires are nothing short of inspirational. At about 5400 feet the trail crosses a pass and the Twin Lakes are at your feet, 700 feet down. The colour of the water is hard to describe, deep turquoise or azure blue, wonderful views with Mount Rainier in the distance.

We went part way down to the lakes to try to get better pictures, but did not go all the way. This trail is very dry, no streams to replenish your water bottles; we just kept topping them with snow.

The day was a hot one but it was two very happy hikers who arrived back at Monte Cristo to replenish water bottles and soak feet in the river ready for the last 4 miles back to the car at Barlow Pass. I have to agree with Messrs. Spring and Manning that the closing of the road has made this hike into a wilderness experience. We met no one until we were on the road and they were just going to the town.

It took us about 8½ hours for the round trip of 16 miles and 3650 feet elevation gain for the day.—Fred and Goran, 7/20.



PERRY CREEK TRAIL (USGS Bedal)

—Continuing our "exploration" of new areas Goran choose the Perry Creek Trail.

The trailhead is at the end of road 4063, which is on the left just past Big Four Picnic Area on the Mountain Loop Highway.

Arriving at the trail head at about 9:30 we had a surprise to see six cars parked there, one of which was a Forest Service truck. The trail register showed eight hikers in front of us.

After about half a mile we found a trail crew of about six youngsters busy brushing out the trail. The trail is in really good condition affording ample

shade from the morning sun with occasional clear areas across talus slopes. Don't miss the cascades coming off Stillaguamish Peak, on the opposite side of the valley; we counted six separate falls.

The views from the end of the trail are well worth the 4-mile and 3100-foot climb. We scrambled to the top of the small peak to the northwest of the trail-end plateau. This really was worth the extra effort as it gave us a full 360 degree view, Glacier, Baker, Shuksan, Three Fingers, Big Four to name a few.

An excellent hike, that decided us on Dickerman Mountain for next week.—Goran and Fred, 7/23.



MOUNT DICKERMAN (USGS Bedal)

—We had to forgo our Monday hike as I was pooped after an all night evacuation of an injured hiker from Surprise Lake trail. As it turned out Tuesday was a bit cooler under a high cloud cover.

We made an early start and left the trailhead at 7:30am. The trailhead is just past the Big Four picnic area on the Mountain Loop highway.

The first 3 or so miles are through



the forest on a good trail with lots of switchbacks. The last 700 feet of elevation gain are through lovely alpine meadows, with lots of flowers, on a trail that was in excellent condition.

The views are just incredible, and we lingered for 45 minutes before heading down. The hike up took us 2½ hours and down 1¾ hours. Elevation gain is 3700 feet in 4 miles.—Fred and Goran, Redmond, 7/28.



BLANCA LAKE (USGS Blanca Lk)

—I hiked this trail back in 1990 over lots of snow and through lots of clouds. My return today with hiking partner Heather was like hiking a completely new trail. The weather was spectacular, there wasn't one patch of snow on the trail, and a recent work crew had just completed reconstructing some of the worst parts of the trail near Blanca Lake. Nice job. And I feel good about my Trail Pass dollars after seeing exceptional proof of its implementation.

Today we sat by the shores of Blanca Lake and allowed the cool breeze to refresh us from the August heat. After our break at the lake we headed back up to Virgin lake and then struck out on the crude path to Toil Peak. Steep climb but fantastic views. No problems following the path; just one downed tree to negotiate.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/7.



FORTUNE PONDS (USGS Captain Pt)

—Heather and I did a 14-mile roundtrip hike and encountered no one except a youth trail work party—and they did a great job of clearing brush and cutting windfalls.

The trail to Fortune Ponds, Meadow Creek trail 1057, is a sure pleasure to hike. Miles of beautiful old-growth along the creek, and subalpine meadows at the end. We crashed the brush to find the upper Fortune Pond, a prettier body of water than the lower pond.

The upper pond is shallower and after our recent hot spell it was quite warm. I went for a dip.

This trail definitely takes you to a quieter corner of the Henry Jackson Wilderness.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/8.



FERN LAKE (USGS Saska Pk, Pyramid Mtn)

—Catching an early ferry, Lee, Darren and I stopped at the Sultan Bakery before heading over Stevens Pass.

At the North Fork Entiat trailhead was a party of three boys and a dog, being dropped off by their dad. He told us the boys also planned to camp at Fern Lake.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

By noonish we were ready to set off. Being young and fast, Lee's son Darren set off at a good clip. Lee and I brought up the rear at a slower pace.

At Camp Isabel, 4 miles in, we were caught in a downpour, the only rain of the trip. At Grouse Creek we met up with Darren as planned and decided to continue another 3/4-mile to Deer Camp at the Fern Lake trail junction.

At this point we were 6 miles from the car with an elevation gain of about 1300 feet. We camped here to make the steep climb to the lake in the morning. In the evening I read aloud portions of Mary Sutliff's *Entiat Country* and most of Peg Fern's wonderful article, "Pyramid Creek Loop" (*P&P*, December 1997).

The first problem in the morning was crossing the North Fork. Both *Entiat Country* and Peg's article mention crossing on upstream logs. Darren located the spot and we crossed easily on a sturdy log in the jam.

Now the trail climbed steeply, gaining 1700 feet in 1 1/2 miles. We each went at our own paces, Darren taking about half as long as I did to reach the lake. There were several downed trees; two of them were difficult. Halfway up, the trail comes close to the stream; otherwise there is no water.

The trail reaches the lake at its outlet, where a bare and trashy campsite awaits. The three boys and their dog had pitched a tent here. Darren had scouted for other sites and we chose one on a grassy meadow at the south end of the lake.

In the morning we took day packs and circled the lake to the snowfield at its northwest corner. The plan was to ascend to the ridge and drop into the Anthem Creek drainage, then climb again and drop into Choral Lake, as described in *Entiat Country*.

About 250 feet into the 600-foot climb from lake to ridge, Lee recognized that he would be in over his head if he continued. We stopped to confer. Lee would turn back, Darren and I would continue to the ridge, where I would turn back and he would continue to Choral Lake.

Lee descended to the shore where he anxiously watched our upward progress. Darren chose a route right up the cirque wall and kept telling me it could be done because he had done it yesterday. It was an "interesting" ascent, with scrambling and class 4 climbing. When we were 50 feet below the ridge, I came to a deadend.

I found a pleasant, level rock where I sat to admire the view below and have a snack before I descended. The dead-

end didn't bother Darren, and he ran up, down and sideways on the cirque wall to find a way around that I could manage. In half an hour he came back and announced success.

His route was a good one and in just a few minutes we came over the rim and stood on the ridge, where views of the Cascades spread south to Mount Rainier.

Darren continued on his way to Choral Lake, and I spent some time exploring the ridge and a short way down into Anthem Creek basin. At the low point of the ridge a steep scree finger led back to Fern Lake and I decided to descend this way rather than downclimb our ascent route. This was a good choice and the descent was fast and easy. Lee had spent the whole morning and early afternoon at the north end of the lake, so we walked back together, going past the outlet camp which had been vacated by the three boys that morning. They had used the fire ring as a garbage pit and thrown a huge sheet of black plastic onto a smoldering fire. The plastic melted into blobs over their garbage and the rocks.

Maybe previous generations were hard on backcountry sites, but the next generations have a lot to learn yet. I kept thinking that I hoped those boys would join Boy Scouts and learn about "Leave No Trace" camping.

About 3 or 4 that afternoon Darren returned to camp with tales of the beautiful Anthem Creek basin and his trip to Choral Lake.

In the morning we were on our way out. After the steep trail down, the smooth North Fork trail was easy and quick.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 7/31-8/3.



ROCK MOUNTAIN (USGS Mt Howard)—Christine and I

set out on a cloudy morning to hike up Nason Ridge to the top of Rock Mountain on the Snowy Creek trail. Rock Mountain is the third highest point on this rugged ridge (Mount Howard and Mount Mastiff are higher, both over 7000 feet) which can be seen to the north as you drive Highway 2 east from Stevens Pass toward Leavenworth. The Snowy Creek route climbs 3350 feet.

To reach the trailhead drive east over Stevens Pass. At 4.5 miles from the pass, just where the highway splits, take a left at an unmarked road, cross the eastbound lanes of Highway 2 and take Smithbrook road 6700 over Rainy Pass to road 6705. Drive 3.5 miles on 6705 to the well-marked trailhead.

The lower section of trail follows Snowy Creek, passing through both tim-

ber and open brushy slopes and crossing several small creeks. After about 2 miles the trail climbs to a lovely grassy meadow set in a basin protected by horseshoe-shaped cliffs. The meadow was dotted with wildflowers. A tiny creek, the last water of the hike, was lined with willows, pink mountain spirea and pink monkeyflower. We could hear the alarm calls of pikas off in the rocks across the meadow.

The next part of the trail is a series of switchbacks, passing first through open woods and then steeply tilted meadows. As you climb, the trees get smaller and smaller. The blueberries weren't ripe yet, but there are lots of them. Bring a container if going in late summer or early fall.

On the way up, we disturbed what appeared to be a falcon; it had a broad head and was light-colored on its belly and short wings. It flew off into the mists. Coming down, we saw a mother grouse and a couple of her half-grown chicks wandering through the brushy cover. She was chucking to them in a "mother voice" as Christine put it.

The trail climbs about 2000 feet from the basin and finally reaches a narrow saddle, 6200 feet, at timberline. When we reached the saddle, clouds were whipping over the top, blocking our view. However, as we stood there a moment to catch our breath, the mist parted. Below our feet was the barren basin of Rock Lake. There was a signpost at the saddle marking the junction with the Nason Ridge Trail, which angles down to the lake, traveling east. To the northeast we caught glimpses of Mount Howard. We could not see the top of Rock Mountain itself due to the clouds, but we were so close we decided to climb to the summit.

The final approach to Rock Mountain from the saddle is by a narrow, but good trail, now clear of snow. It is the route to the old lookout, which has been removed. Nothing remains but the rocky platform, rusty nails and a few pieces of iron rebar sticking out of the rock.

When we got to the top, 6802 feet, the clouds parted. Wow! A 360-degree view! We had a long day, but were very happy to have made the effort. The views and flowers were stupendous. The sheer loveliness of the area made the sweat and exertion well worth it.—Liz Escher, Seattle, 8/3.

✓ **STEHEKIN**—The Stehekin Valley road is open to vehicles to just beyond Flat Creek (20.1 miles), and has been cleared to Cottonwood for hikers and bicyclists. Footbridges over washouts

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

above Flat Creek make hiking easier.

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.

Cascade Pass trail has been cleared. Please do not feed pesky deer at Cascade Pass. Please stay on trail; all the plants at the pass were carried in and planted by hand!

Company Creek trail 1243 is open to National Recreation Area boundary, about 2 miles, but is not maintained beyond boundary. Brush, trees, and nettles on trail beyond boundary. The Forest Service has no plans to maintain Company Creek trail.

Devore Creek trail 1244 is open and snow-free to National Recreation Area boundary, 1/2 mile. Great views! Trail is not maintained beyond boundary; expect brush, many downed trees, and nettles across trail after 1.5 miles. The Forest Service has no plans to maintain Devore Creek trail.

Flat Creek trail is cleared and brushed. Fantastic grove of old growth cedars at the end.

Goode Ridge trail has been cleared trail to 4 miles.

PCT South: South Fork Agnes trail is under construction—four bridges are out. Use the upper PCT as an alternate. Hemlock and Big Spruce Camps will be full of Forest Service crews until the end of August.

PCT North: Crews have cleared trail. Maple Creek bridge is installed. Cougar may have stashed a deer carcass at

Six-Mile Camp, consider using another camp.—Ranger, 8/15.

CHELAN DIST—509-682-2576. The 7000-acre North 25 Fire is almost completely contained. Some roads in the area are closed. Call for current info.—Ranger, 8/18.

ENTIAT DIST—509-784-1511. Some roads are closed due to fire. Call for current info.—Ranger, 8/18.

LAKE WENATCHEE DIST—509-763-3103. Fees are now required for overnight use of all campgrounds and undeveloped areas in the Upper Chiwawa Valley from the end of pavement on road 6200 to the road end, including spur roads. Fee is \$4 per vehicle per night. Call for details.

Most trails are snowfree and maintained.

Sheep are grazing in the Rainy Creek and Minotaur Lake area through August.—Ranger, 8/18.

CENTRAL



WEST FORK FOSS LAKES

(USGS Skykomish, Big Snow Mtn)—This is a rough trail. Rocky with big steps to make. Our destinations were Malachite and Angeline Lakes. Trout, Copper, Little and Big Heart were on the way.

Trail maintenance people were in there but they weren't smoothing the trail out. Weather was in the 90s and bugs voracious. All destinations are easy except Angeline which should be classified as a scramble.

Some people mistake Delta Lake for Angeline because they do not go far enough past Big Heart. The trail breaks left off the ridge after Big Heart and becomes fainter as you go down. It becomes steep and hands become necessary. You end up on a boulder field 150 feet below Angeline. You scramble very large boulders up and then down 150 feet to the lake. Outlet water goes under the boulders. Many downed trees in lake at outlet.

Apparently there is an easier way to access if you go all the way to Chetwood. We swam both days at Copper. Water was great.—Edythe, Robert, Bob, hikers from Aberdeen and Olympia, 7/14-15.



SNOW LAKE, SOURCE LAKE OVERLOOK (USGS

Snoqualmie Pass)—My 12 year old grandson Drew, visiting from the Philippines, was anxious to find some snow. So we drove to the Alpental Ski Area parking lot, walked across the gravel road and hiked up the trail.

As we passed the Source Lake Overlook trail we could see a large snow field just above Source Lake but we continued toward Snow Lake. We encountered a small patch of snow before reaching the ridge above the lake. We dropped off the ridge to the lake and there were still small patches of snow at lake's edge. Drew was ecstatic.

Two days later Drew, his 4-year-old sister Robin, their father Eric and I again hiked up the same trail in search of snow. This time we took the Source Lake Overlook trail to the snowfield just above the lake. The two days of heat had melted much of the snow but my grandkids were delighted to still find enough to pelt their father with snowballs.—BRN, Snoqualmie Pass, 7/13 & 15.



MOUNT GARFIELD (USGS Lk Philippa, Snoqualmie Lk)

—According to Beckey (*Cascade Alpine Guide*, vol. 1, pp. 192-199), "Garfield is a hazardous enigma". Indeed, there have been a number of accidents (some fatal) and routefinding can be a problem if you are not familiar with the area.

Basically, there are but two routes to the summit, one from the south and one from the north. While I have done both, in this report I shall expand upon



Phil Glass

In the Tuck and Robin Lakes basin. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Beckey's description of the south route and for this it will be convenient to divide the climb into 12 steps.

Step 1: Hike the boulder-strewn drainage to the slabby chutes.

Step 2: Exit right and locate the path in the woods. The tread is pretty good and not hard to follow (a little tape and a few blazes).

Step 3: Exit the path at a small basin below a big slab. Climb out of the basin and up the gully on the left. At the top of the gully, enter the trees and ascend to the base of another slab. Continue along the slab boundary to where the climbing is easiest (look for two pine trees above you).

Step 4: Climb the slab (note the rappel slings on the pine trees). Exit the slab, work right and then up to the rim of the "Great Canyon" (some tape). The astounding view from here is that of Garfield in all its glory.

Step 5: Follow your nose along tread, delineated by cairns and tape and even some cut branches. Exit left into the gully which leads to the West Peaks of Garfield. Note the strategy: In principle, you'd like to be over to your right on the ridge. But the ridge gets steep fast, hence the exit into the gully. Now ascend the gully a short distance until you spot a brush-choked spur coming down from the right. Note: This branch of the gully is obscure and easy to miss.

Step 6: Climb the spur to the glade, a benign and pleasant spot. Once there was a huge cairn here but it has disappeared.

Step 7: Leave the glade and make what Beckey calls the "key ledge traverse" to the base of the No. 1 Gully. This is easy (but you don't want to slip).

Step 8: Beckey then suggests dropping 10 feet into the No. 1 Gully and traversing exposed rock to the base of the No. 2 Gully. Since this is problematic when wet or icy, it is safest to proceed up the No. 1 Gully about 75 feet, then climb over the little crest on your right and drop down into the No. 2 Gully.

Step 9: Ascend the No. 2 Gully until you reach the large slabs with a fence of trees across the top. Proceed up and into the trees on the right, then back (left) to the gully. Keep going until you get to the chimneys.

Step 10: At this point we put on our rock shoes. The first chimney is easy to stem but the second chimney is more difficult (it certainly is not class 4; exit problems). However, there is a chockstone in the middle and one can put a sling around it for protection. We then climbed the slab, holding onto the



Mark Owen

South Gemini, 6799 feet, and the summit ridge above Col 6480; Garth Warner and Rodger Galloway make their way up. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

chimney wall (a strenuous exercise).


Note: I once "walked up" the slabs adjacent to the chimney (this is in fact easier but considerably more exposed). Somebody has recently placed bolts in the slabs, so this variant can be protected.

Step 11: Complete the climb to the col. This is Class 3.

Step 12: The summit is a scramble. To minimize the time on the slab at the beginning, go way over to the left, then cross back to the right and enter a line of trees. Follow them into a shallow basin about 100 feet below the summit. Climb to its head, then right on to the ridge crest, and from there to the summit. Unfortunately, the register (placed by The Mountaineers in the early '80s) is in bad shape: wet and soggy.


We made six rappels on the descent. While some of these were done solely for convenience (we had a 200 foot rope with), let me comment on the last rappel which really is a safety issue. About 100 feet before you arrive back at the glade (see Step 6), it is necessary to make a move that puts you on the top of a steep, needle covered chute that empties into the "Great Canyon." If you slip and lose it, then you will have punched your ticket to eternity.

Time: Plan on a dawn to dusk affair. —Garth Warner and Rodger Galloway, Carnation, 7/23.

 **MOUNT DEFIANCE** (USGS *Bandera*)—We were up early to get a jump on the heat and saw only

one other hiker on the way to the Granite Mountain turn off. The berries were just beginning to ripen at Rainbow Lake.

There were a couple of blowdowns just after the Mason Lake cutoff. They were easy stepovers but annoying considering the popularity of this trail. All of the peaks were visible, even Mount Adams.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, and Sparky, Edmonds, 8/8.


 **RIDGE LAKE** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—I left the trailhead at I-90 at 10:30am, almost three hours earlier than usual. Since we have been having some very warm days I hoped my early start would help me avoid some of the afternoon heat but just to be safe carried 2½ quarts of water.

About a mile past the fork to Commonwealth Basin, while I was stopped for my first drink, I was overtaken by two teenagers who were hiking the Oregon and Washington portions of the PCT. They had started at the California/Oregon state line and had covered the 98 miles between White and Snoqualmie Passes in 3½ days.

They indicated that they had overdone it and were both recovering from over-use foot injuries and were "taking it easy for a few days." I fell in behind with my "heavy" 15-pound day pack while they carried packs with only enough food and gear to get them to Stevens Pass. I was sure glad they were "taking it easy."

Although I puffed and wheezed the entire way I did manage to stay with them for the next 4½ miles to Ridge and Gravel Lakes which sit at the base of Mount Thompson. Ridge Lake was warm enough for my two young friends to take a refreshing swim.

I refilled my 1½ quart water bottle at the lake and laced it with iodine. By the time I covered the 7.3 miles back to my car, I had consumed 3½ quarts of water.—BRN, Snoqualmie Pass, 7/28.

 **RED PASS** (USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—My wife dropped me and my bicycle off at the PCT parking lot and I started hiking, not sure of my ultimate destination. At 2.5 miles I took the left fork toward Commonwealth Basin. As I dropped elevation, I noticed an old abandoned trail coming up from my left. I presume this is part of the old Cascade Crest Trail.

After passing through Commonwealth Basin I switchbacked up the side of Red Mountain to small tarn at about 5000 feet. I continued to the ridge between Red Mountain and Lundin at 5300 feet and after another 100 feet to Red Pass. From here you can still see

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



Robert Michelson

Hot summer day in the Teanaway—a Mountaineer group at the Stafford Creek trailhead (Liz Escher on the left).

the old abandoned CCT heading down a steep chute before traversing the east slope of Lundin.

Since I still felt strong, I continued up to the top of a sub-peak of Lundin. A beautiful day with magnificent views of Mount Thompson and many others.—BRN, Snoqualmie Pass, 7/23.



LAKE LILLIAN (USGS

Chikamin Pk)—Our old friend Ralph was visiting from Iowa and joined us for the hike. We met at Preston and I drove up to the Mount Margaret trailhead.

The weather had changed and it was raining hard at Preston. Lucky for us it had stopped by the time we got to the trailhead, but the humidity was high. Ralph was soon hurting, having been a "flatlander" for the past 3 years.

The brush was wet and I got the job shaking it and clearing the spider webs. By the time we got to Lake Lillian, Ralph was ready to call it quits so he found a resting spot while Goran and I carried on up the "new" trail to the ridge top. The trail is excellent and should be adopted as the official trail and close the old one.

The trail becomes indistinct but we followed a track to the left side of the peak that soon turned into a scramble up steep loose rock. We called a retreat and gingerly backtracked to follow the ridge proper. This brought us to the second saddle, where the usual trail joins the ridge, and we followed the old trail down to join Ralph for lunch above the lake.

This is a hike with quite a lot of elevation to regain on the way out, so don't push yourself to the limit going in.

We could hear thunder in the east as we hiked through the woods and as we joined the old logging road it started rain on us. By the time we had got to the pass it was really raining hard. But we had a great day's hiking.—Fred, Goran and Ralph, Redmond, 7/30.



LAKE LILLIAN (USGS

Chikamin Pk)—This hike falls very near to the bottom (or should I say top?) of NOT recommended hikes. First of all, it starts off with a $\frac{2}{3}$ -mile road walk. The road is barricaded so you can't drive up it, but otherwise in good shape. I assume this is my tax dollars at work.

Next comes about a mile through a hideous clearcut, which has the added bonus of allowing you clear views of the generally ravaged Snoqualmie Pass area. Count rings on the 200- to 300-year old stumps; tiny rings, proving the short growing season each year.

At least three generations will go by before this area is returned to its former beauty. This isn't harvest; it's strip-mining. View it and weep.

Finally, after that hot, steep and demoralizing climb, you enter forest as it was intended to be. And the far-off whine of 2-stroke engines is finally muffled.

The trail runs along the ridge with side trails to Mount Margaret, and Lake Margaret far below. You get to Twin Lakes in another mile or so.

Lovely, but very buggy. The only bugs of the trip were in this basin.

You also get to more logging, evidently done by helicopter since there are no roads. Ugly, ugly, ugly.

And finally, at the Wilderness Boundary, real forest. Here the trail takes a few wild knee-crunching ups and downs before a final steep grunt to beautiful Lake Lillian, all serene and bright. A little trail on the far side goes up to Rampart Ridge, and there's a single camp.

Lake Lillian is warm enough to swim in, at least on a hot day like this one. Heaven. A water ouzel came within a few feet of us as we sat very still, swimming and walking and bobbing along the shoreline.

We left the lake a bit too late, which was a mistake. We then heedlessly veered off the path we had come in on (this is not a maintained trail) and didn't notice until we had dropped several hundred feet into the valley of Lake Laura. A silly mistake, but it was easy to make. There's a fork just before the lake that's not at all obvious going in, but very plain going out. Stay left!

That was about 500 feet of elevation gain and loss I didn't really want to do! All in all, between the road walk, the clearcut, the logging at Twin Lakes, the bug-haven of Twin Lakes basin, and the very steep sections of trail, I'd advise getting to Lake Lillian by way of Rachel Lake and Rampart Ridge. That's a haul up, too, but at least it's pretty the whole way, with no swampy bug basins, no road walk, and no semi-permanent clearcuts!—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 8/2.



NAVAHO PASS (USGS *Enchantment Lks*)

—The Teanaway Country seems to be getting a lot of press lately with the land exchange pending between Plum Creek and the Forest Service. From the heights of Navaho Pass, you can see some of the lumber company's holdings south of the delightfully rocky Stafford

How to Contact Us

Write:

Pack & Paddle

PO Box 1063

Port Orchard WA 98366

e-mail:

packandpaddle@visnetinc.com

Phone:

360-871-1862

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Creek road.

It was mid-July and the temperatures were heading for the high 80s when our group of Mountaineers headed out on a day hike. This trail climbs and climbs, 1900 feet in the first 4 miles and almost 1000 feet in the last mile and a half. It goes in and out of forest and follows the drainage of Stafford Creek. The now-much-diminished creek splashes its way through deeply carved rock gullies and gravel beds, silent testimony to the snow-melt-driven power present in these waters earlier in the season.

I wasn't expecting many flowers, but was pleasantly surprised to find meadows full of bright asters, yarrow, wild parsleys and buckwheat. Another big surprise was the tiny meadow situated on a bench below the pass, filled with cotton grass, elephant's head, shooting star and asters. Rugged lodgepole pine, whitebark pine, larch and subalpine fir spot the landscape. Dainty waterfalls and cascades, which would not be out of place in a Japanese garden, spring down the mountainside.

Above the pass looms Navaho Peak to the east, and the iron-stained rocks of Earl Peak to the west. At the pass, 6000 feet, is a junction with the Cascade Creek trail and the County Line trail. From the pass, Navaho Peak is an easy walk and some 1200 feet more in elevation. Further hiking options abound, the only limits being time, strength and imagination.

Another discovery was the rocky barrens just below the pass. Some of my fellow hikers were astonished to find all kinds of interesting chunks of heavy, shiny black and greenish rock. Having read about the serpentine in the area (especially Iron Peak) I thought it might be that mineral (hydrated magnesium silicate). There were only the desiccated remnants of delicate plants spotted throughout the barren area, a good reason to try to visit the area a little earlier. I noticed some *Lewisia columbiana*, one of three *Lewisia* species that grow in various parts of the Teanaway area.

All streams were easy to cross. The only snow left was high on the north side of Earl and on the stony flanks of the highest Stuarts. There were two downed trees high up on the trail, but no impediments to travel.—Liz Escher, Seattle, 7/22.

NAVAHO PEAK (USGS *Enchantment Lks*)—The cloudy weather on the west side led us to cross the pass to the Teanaway River. The Stafford Creek trail begins in pine and hemlock woods, then yields to alpine

meadows and finally a "moonscape" that reminds me of Mount St. Helens.

The trail was in good shape and the wildflowers were abundant, with several that grow only in this area of the Cascades. Most of us stopped at Navaho Pass (6000 feet) with splendid views of the Stuart Range. Two intrepid souls went on the additional 2 miles to the 7223-foot summit of Navaho for even greater views.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, July.

LEAVENWORTH DIST—509-548-6977. Debris from a landslide crosses the Snow Lakes trail 4 miles up; follow flagged route through. All trails are maintained *except Chatter Creek*.

Enchantments: permits are required from 6/15 through 10/15. The fee is \$3 per person per day. For an application, call the ranger station.—Ranger, 8/18.

CLE ELUM DIST—509-674-4411. Most trails are snowfree and have been maintained. Call the ranger station for details.—Ranger, 8/18.

SOUTH CENTRAL



MCCLELLAN BUTTE

(USGS *Bandera*)—Rejoice!

Some of you who may have avoided this hike in the past due to the tiny (three-vehicle max) parking hole are in for a surprise.

Just follow the sign to a bigger parking area about ¼-mile south. The trail now bypasses the remnants of the old wooden wire-wrapped waterline but does add ½-mile of hiking along a service road.

Most of the trail is still under forest canopy which I welcomed since the thermostat was knocking into the high 70s. At the 4000-foot elevation the reception committee of biting bugs trumpeted my arrival. I countered with a new roll-on Cutter's repellent stick which dampened their merry-making.

Downed trees slowed me down and I saw no signs of any trail maintenance. Scrambling up the final rock section to the summit proved irresistible on such a cloud-free day. Down-climbing the same is always a hairy proposition what with the sheer exposure and no safety

belay.—Leo B. Kabigting, Seattle, 7/16.



MOUNT CATHERINE

(USGS *Snoqualmie Pass*)—

Since I needed a good workout and currently live at Snoqualmie Pass, I decided to check out the Mount Catherine trail. I was also curious about how to best access road 9070 after listening to inquiries from hikers who were instructed by their guidebook to turn left after driving through two Hyak parking lots.

I started out on my bicycle from the Hyak parking lot and pushed my bike up the ski run to a gravel road that traverses the ski slope just below the bottom ramp of the upper chair.

After about a mile I passed another more heavily used gravel road coming up from my left. I found the Mount Catherine trailhead after about 1200 feet of elevation gain and 5.14 miles. There were only two vehicles parked at the trailhead and after stashing my bike in the bushes I started up an old and rugged logging road.

The logging road ended in less than ¼-mile and the trail entered the forest and switchbacked for another mile and about 1300 feet of elevation gain to the top of Mount Catherine. The views from the top were spectacular. Looking north I could identify several peaks popular with climbers including Mount Thompson, Red Mountain, Lundin, and the Tooth.

On my return (after about 4 miles) I took the more heavily used gravel road which traveled downhill for about ¾-mile before turning into the paved Hyak Drive E.—BRN, Snoqualmie Pass, 8/8.



TOLMIE PEAK (USGS

Mowich Lk)—Got a late start

so decided to go to Tolmie Peak. Trail starts out of Mowich Lake and is 6½ miles round trip. The first section follows the Mowich Lake shore for a while then cuts over the hill and heads up toward Ipsut Pass.

Here the trail drops below some interesting cliffs then starts climbing back up to Eunice Lake; we saw snow still there. The lake sits in a beautiful bowl and you can see the lookout tower above the lake.

Now the real climb begins, zig zagging up to the tower about ½-mile up. There are good views of Mount Rainier along the way. The lookout tower appears to be constructed similarly to the Mount Fremont tower. The bugs at the top are quite bothersome but you really don't notice them until you stop and they can find you.

I hung out at the tower while Ralph (the peak bagger) scrambled over to the

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



Gordon McDougall

Mount Rainier from High Rock Lookout.

top of Tolmie Peak. He said the views were wonderful and he could see down into the Carbon River drainage and could see Green Lake.

The hike out was uneventful until we were approached by a running dog without any visible person or leash. The owner came shortly after the dog but so did the Ranger asking which way did they go! We later saw the dog being put into the back of a pickup truck.—Ralph and Ginger Preston, Tacoma, 7/11.



BERKELEY MEADOWS

(USGS Sunrise)—If you want to escape the abundance of wildflowers, fat marmots, mountain goats or spectacular views, you simply can't.

Hiked past Berkeley Meadows (or is it Berkeley Camp?) trying to get to Grand Park—but didn't. The sun was simply merciless and the stops at the viewpoints too many. Trail in great shape.—George Gromer, Joan Ferguson, Vancouver BC, 8/2.



NACHES LOOP (USGS Chinook Pass)

—The overcast sky gave way to a wide open ceiling of cloudless blue as we left Enumclaw on our way to Chinook Pass. After parking the cars and donning our gear, Wanderbuns led us counter-clockwise on the loop. The trail started out slightly muddy then became hidden under deep banks of snow. After a bit of slipping and sliding, we broke out into the sun again and a dry trail with incredible views of Mount Rainier to the west. In several places we were even able to get a peek at Mount Adams.

As we progressed farther up the trail, more incredible views met us at each turn. We found a wonderful lunch spot with a view of Mount Rainier on one side and Dewey Lake nestled in a valley on the other side. Some of us rested in the shade near trees while others sat in the sun, soaking up warmth in addi-

tion to the views.

On the way to our lunch spot, we encountered a few people. As we rounded the farthest side of the loop and headed toward the cars again, we encountered a mob near a small lake.

Our hardy group of eleven people had a wonderful day of hiking. One person was heard to comment that they had never hiked in shorts across snow before. It was a ho-hum day for viewing flowers—there were just too many to count! The Matsushita Adventure Club had experienced another successful outing.—Shortstop and Wanderbuns, Kirkland, 7/18.



GOAT PEAK (USGS Goose Prairie, Old Scab Mtn)

—Another of those drizzly days in Puget Sound so we headed east in search of sun. We drove over Chinook Pass to the Hells Crossing campground on Highway 410 where the trail takes off.

We had previously done this hike via the Goat Creek trail from Cougar Flat campground near Goose Prairie. Both trails intersect the American Ridge trail for the final ascent to the 6473-foot suite of a former fire lookout.

This trail is steep; the wildflowers were in abundance, however, and the view from the summit was well worth it.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, July.

WHITE RIVER DIST—360-825-6585. Chinook Pass road is closed Mondays through Thursdays. Two-lane, two-way traffic allowed on weekends.

Greenwater road 70 remains closed at 7 miles. The new road is under construction and may be open late this season. There is no vehicle access to Summit Lake on road 7810; the Carbon River bridge is out.—Ranger, 8/3.

MOUNT RAINIER NP—Between 6/1 and 9/30 there will be a \$10 fee for a

Wilderness Permit for a \$5 fee for each person in the party.

NACHES DIST—509-653-2205. Most trails are snowfree and maintained. Call the ranger station for details.—Ranger, 8/18.

SOUTH



MT ST HELENS (USGS Mt St Helens)

—The mountain, as always, looked awesome and a bit far away (especially if you are 70 years old). Since there is no water at Climbers Bivouac we stayed at the lower Cougar Camp (all filled up!) and drove up to trailhead 216A, Ptarmigan Trail.

This trail gives you a lot of false hope of what to expect (trees and shade). At the end of this trail the hike/climb starts in earnest. We saw about 20 people moving up, some slow, some fast. The sun was merciless.

Halfway up found a young man lying in the sand in a semi-conscious state—minus water. As Good Samaritans we made him more comfortable, flagged the area where he was and another hiker on his way down left him his water bottle. We notified his teammates who were on their way down, who hopefully looked after him.

We reached the top after five hours, not a record, but certainly worth it. We would like to hear from anyone who has chosen a different route up, since we want to do it again.—George Gromer, Joan Ferguson, Vancouver BC, 7/29.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



GOTCHEN CREEK TRAIL

(USGS King Mtn)—We saw a notice in *Pack & Paddle* advertising a trail work weekend for people who had no affiliation with organized clubs (April issue, page 10). We called up and got the details for the June 20-21 weekend.

We showed up at the Mount Adams Ranger Station in Trout Lake to meet Ross Bluestone, our friendly Forest Service worker. We also met Mike who would be working with us for the day. We did all the required paperwork and watched a short video about trail work. We then loaded up into our cars and were on our way.

We dropped off vehicles on one end of the trail and then drove to the other end and worked the trail from the top down. We installed two new check dams and cleaned out the numerous water bars along the way.

This trail has no real distinguishing characteristics other than being a nice walk in the woods. We stopped and ate lunch along Hole in the Ground Creek where we discussed with Ross why his district would do trail work with "just anybody" and others such as Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest won't even look at you if you ask about doing trail work.

He didn't know why others didn't but was very willing to have people volunteer in his area. We finished up the work and meet a couple of horses at the cars who would be using our trail. We arranged with Ross to return in the morning to do some more.—Ralph and Ginger Preston, 6/20.



LITTLE HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN

(USGS Little Huckleberry Mtn)—Ross decided we should finish up a job that others had started on the previous work weekend but had not finished. We jumped into the Forest Service truck and headed out. The trail is a very steep 2.5 mile uphill trail.

The previous group had done numerous bathtub-sized water bars as the trail goes directly uphill. There is a small reprieve where the trail obtains the ridge just prior to climbing the mountain itself. This is where our work began and we leapfrogged up the trail doing the work.

We ran into one small patch of snow just below Spring Camp where we also ran into the only other people we saw that day. There is only enough room here for about one tent and there is a barrel where the spring comes out. From there we headed to the summit. Once we were out in the open sun it

was quite hot as we made our way the last little bit to the summit.

We sat at the summit and enjoyed the views for quite a while as it was a beautiful day and we could see Mount Adams and the lava beds, Mount Hood, Mount Rainier even though it was in the clouds, and Mount St. Helens. We then headed down and on the way down noticed fresh bear scat in the middle of the trail.

All in all it was a great day. Driving back to the ranger station we watched as a thunderstorm hit Mount Adams. We talked with Ross about the possibility of adopting a trail and he encouraged us to go check out Sleeping Beauty Mountain.

This weekend was a lot of fun and hopefully this area will continue to offer this type of program for others like us who don't want to belong to organizations. We told Ross we would be back tomorrow but didn't end up returning until Tuesday since he wore us out.—Ralph and Ginger Preston, Tacoma, 6/21.



SLEEPING BEAUTY TRAIL

(USGS Sleeping Beauty)—We had talked it over with Ross Bluestone of the Mount Adams Ranger District about adopting a trail. He suggested this one which is 1.4 miles long and was the sight of an old fire lookout.

We stopped off at the ranger station on the way to the trailhead and picked up two shovels to clean out the waterbars. The trail had already been cleared of fallen trees by a Forest Service crew with chain saws so we wouldn't have to worry about that problem.

The trail is nonstop uphill to the summit and it has a lot of waterbars. We leapfrogged up the trail stopping to work on a waterbar when we got to it. We did a total of 57 waterbars and 4 check dams.

The trail passes through second- and old-growth forests. There were no views until we reached the base of the rock. Here the trail zigzags up to the old lookout site. We had to imagine the views as the good weather we had had all week was now clouds.—Ralph and Ginger Preston, Tacoma, 6/23.



MOUNT ADAMS SOUTH SPUR

(USGS Mt Adams West)—The threatened quota on permits for this route didn't materialize this year so I decided to do this climb before it's restricted. With my friend Jim I travelled road 23 through low clouds from Randle to register at Trout Lake.

The 3 miles from Morrison Creek to Cold Springs campground is the worst road I've been on. The "TRAILERS NOT RECOMMENDED" sign is severe understatement. Many two-wheel-drive cars made it, though.

We'd decided to avoid the heavy packs by camping at the car and doing the climb in one day. I'd guess at least half the people camped higher up. Cars arrive all night long at Cold Springs so sleep is difficult. We left at 4am and summited at 11:20 in perfect weather.

The South Climb trail leaves Cold Springs (5600 feet) and intersects the Round-the-Mountain trail 1½ miles later at 6240 feet. Then comes rocky travel skirting the Crescent Glacier until snow is finally reached about 7500



Zach and Sarah Evans on the false summit of Old Snowy with Mount Adams in the background. Goat Rocks Wilderness.

Phil Evans

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

feet. Initially we could kick steps but soon crampons were needed as we headed for the Lunch Counter and on up to the false summit along the west side of Suksdorf Ridge.

Topping the false summit, the true summit looked like another mountain miles away. It's not, of course, but by then the snow was getting soft except for a breakable crust, so the last bit to the 12,276-foot summit was tough. The boarders and skiers I talked with were not too happy with the snow conditions either.

Standing glissades were not possible so like most people we were the well worn sitting glissade chutes. Some of these were too fast for me, especially since I'd seen rocks in some of them on the way up, but they made short work of the descent as we were back at the car in less than 3½ hours. Overall a great trip capped off by my favorite vanilla malt at Aaron's Ark in Eatonville.—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 8/1.

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATL FOREST—Most trails are snowfree and many have been maintained.

The Loowit trail is closed from the junction with trail 216E west to Studebaker Ridge due to a debris flow last year. Watch for rattlesnakes on Dog Mountain trail.—Ranger, 8/4.

OREGON



COOPER SPUR (*Mt Hood Wilderness*)—Heather and I

headed for Mount Hood's Cooper Spur by starting at the Cooper Spur ski area and following trail 643 to Tilly Jane campground, then onward on trail 600A to the spur.

Most people begin at Tilly Jane; our extension gave us over 5 more miles of hiking and 2000 more vertical feet.

The trail to Cooper Spur is breathtaking, one of the prettiest trails I have been on this summer. The entire trail is above tree line and views extend as far north as Mount Rainier and as far south as Mount Jefferson.

The way stays good to about the 8000-foot point, then you must follow a crude way through the rock and snow to reach the spur. The trail ends at Tie-In Rock at over 8500 feet. I continued a little farther to the snowfields. The view from here over Eliot Glacier is awesome.

We returned with a little variation—glissading down a long snow chute to the Timberline Trail and then following Timberline to Cloud Cap, connecting to Tilly Jane with a short but nice trail, and then hiking down the Tilly Jane ski trail 643. This way back was

easier, more fun, and faster! The loop was over 13 miles with more than 5000 feet gained and lost.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/1.

BRITISH COLUMBIA



RAINBOW LAKE (*Squamish Forest Dist*)—Heather and I

spent a very wet day slogging through the mud to pretty Rainbow Lake. The trail begins in Whistler not too far from Rainbow Park. It is well marked, 9km (5.5 miles) and 2600 feet elevation gain to the lake.

The trail has been extended to Madeley Lake and can be accessed from the Alexander Falls recreation area. We opted not to go any farther than Rainbow Lake today—the rain was beginning to seep through our "waterproof" gear.

Even though the trail is just over 5 miles to the lake it will take you longer than usual to do this hike. This trail is another classic BC forest service trail, meaning lots of rocks, roots, stream hopping and steep grades. It is worth every step.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/15.

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—Eyeglasses on the North Fork Skykomish River trail, August 8. Identify to claim. Call Lindy, **425-672-7699** (Lynnwood).

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

FOUND—Sunglasses on trail to Boston Basin. Identify brand and where they were set down and I will give them up. Call Mark, **206-542-1788** (Shoreline).

FOR SALE—Kelty child carrier backpack; holds 4-month-old to 35-pound kid, with extra accessory pockets (so you can carry 10 essentials for you and

the kid, *plus* cloth diapers!). It is well-used, so we're asking only \$15 for it, but it still has a lot of miles in it. (Was \$85 new, on sale).

Rhode Gear child carrier seat for bicycle with rack to mount over rear wheel, EXCELLENT condition, \$30 (paid \$60 new).

Call Kathy or David, **360-659-7252** (Lake Stevens).

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—Nearly complete set of Seattle Mountaineers Club annuals, *The Mountaineer*, from 1907 to the present decade. Volumes for 1912, 1919, 1943 and 1994 are missing, but the 72 volumes cover history and activi-

ties of the club from its founding in 1906 to 1992. Asking \$150. Call John Thorp, **509-946-9053**, or write to **2110 Dover St, Richland WA 99352**.

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—Men's Raichle all leather hiking boots. Size 10. Like new—worn five times. \$75. Call John at **206-232-3518** (Mercer Island).

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).

KIM HYATT

A Pack and a Paddle

—TWO TRIPS IN THE OREGON CASCADES—

The summer of 1997 found the Hyatt School of Leisurely Backpacking taking on a pair of Central and Southern Oregon Cascades adventures. On one trip our backs did the carrying while on the other a canoe did the work. Or, at least, that was the theory!

THE PACK

The Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness lies, strangely enough, on the Rogue-Umpqua Divide, straddling the ridge that separates the headwaters of the Rogue River from the headwaters of the Umpqua. Standing one ridge west of Crater Lake National Park, the area features lovely old-growth forests, lakes, interesting rock formations, and several former and existent lookouts.

My wife Paula and I attended the first week of the Chemeketan Annual Outing at Diamond Lake in August. We would take down our Outing tent and head a few miles south on the middle Saturday of the Outing.

Our companion was to be Sandra Birchall, a nurse at Salem Memorial Hospital and fellow Chemeketan. Sandra turned out to be about as pleasant, agreeable, and accommodating a companion as one could hope for. I hope we see more of her on future backpack trails.

Saturday

The Hyatts and Sandra piled all our Outing gear into the Hyatt van and left the vehicle parked near the Outing site. We piled ourselves and backpack gear into Sandra's small car and headed south on highway 230. A mile short of the Highway 62 Junction (road to Crater Lake) we turned right on Forest Road 6510.

Paula and I had been here, a few years back. The shortest route to our starting point was road 6515 but on that earlier occasion 6515 was closed to protect peregrine falcon nesting sites. We were instructed to take a longer approach by way of road 6510.

Sure enough, the signs still indicated that we should use 6510. Only trouble was that about 4 miles short of our goal

we suddenly found ourselves confronting an impassable washout! As we were turning around I spotted a pick-up making the same discovery on the other side of the impasse.

"Hmmm," we said, "must be possible to get there via 6515."

It was. After a lot of wasted time and effort we finally found a place to park the car near the junction with road 530 to Hershberger Lookout. It does not seem too much to ask that the Forest Service put up a sign or two to indicate the proper route!

We ate lunch, shouldered our packs and wandered north up the Hershberger Lookout road. 'Tis always the same:

"I am sure I can't carry this thing. It's too darn heavy!"

But of course I do. Even start getting used to it after a mile or so. It's strange. A failing back will no longer let me do several things. I can no longer carry a canoe. There are other no-no's. Yet I can still manage a backpack if I employ some degree of moderation as to how much I put in there and do not attempt to go too far.

The afternoon was hot. Happily, af-

ter about ¾-mile of road wandering we entered the trees.

Another ¾-mile of road took us to a sharp switchback and the beginning of our trail. 'Twas hotter yet as we climbed steeply for ¼-mile to a saddle. We traversed the side of Jackass Mountain about ½-mile to a trail junction. We took the left hand fork and descended steeply into luxuriant meadows.

I went ahead to find a campsite. Never did find one. Never did find an existent site. We soon got the impression that this area is used primarily by fishermen and hunters. Plenty of campsites at lakes, vanishingly rare otherwise. Finally located a reasonably level site in the ferns with large logs for shelves and sitting places.

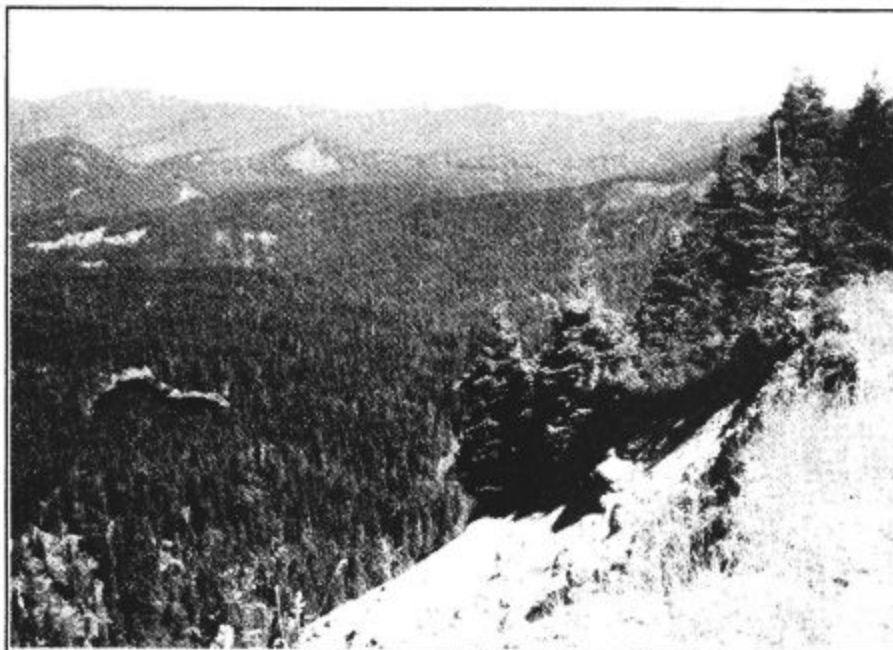
In the evening I went out for a walk. A middle-agish man came along. He was shirtless and packless. He was headed back the way we had come. Seems he was doing, in one day, the entire loop our party was hiking in 5 days! Said he was having a great time.

The sun was down and we had less than an hour of light remaining. I think he said his car was at the switchback. I assume he made it.



Fish Lake.

Kim Hyatt



Grasshopper Mountain.

Sunday

Didn't have very far to go. All downhill. Too steep. Too much downhill. My knees did not like the abuse one bit. Slow pace, small steps, frequent stops.

Eventually we came to a junction with trail 1578. A gorgeous place with a rustic bridge, cool, deep pools and huge trees. We lingered for a while and then wandered a final blessedly level 1/2-mile to Fish Lake.

A large lake. Very scenic. Rugged Highrock Mountain loomed to the southeast. Much of the shoreline consisted of steep slopes plunging into the deep lake but occasional more level areas provided extensive camping possibilities. We found a delightful intermediate site set back in the woods. A nearby spring provided cold, delicious water. The swimming was great and we enjoyed relaxing and staying cool in the hot afternoon.

Fish Lake is easily reachable by several relatively short trails and would make a great base camp for a number of rambles. Trails go in all directions.

Monday

Fish Lake was the low point of our backpack (elevationwise). Time to head back up. We chose to climb trail 1573. Turned out to be one of the less developed routes.

Difficult enough getting across the outlet of the lake. A huge log jam. An interesting maze. A complicated balancing act with the big packs on our

backs.

I don't think trail 1573 was ever constructed. Must have been a boot-worn user trail that eventually got itself recognized on the Forest Service inventory. Up and down, in and out, often very rough, sometimes exceedingly steep.

Paula complained a great deal about the paths her husband was leading her on but I preferred anything to one of those knee-jamming descents. Eventually we topped out and a far

more gentle half mile led us to a junction with trail 1578. We turned left and wandered up and down (the terrain was up and down) on a far better path for 1/2-mile to Buckeye Lake.

The Buckeye Lake and Cliff Lake area was fascinating. Sometime in the recent past (recent geologically speaking) the entire northwestern half of Grasshopper Mountain sloughed off in one massive landslide. The lakes lay in the middle of the debris. To say that the area was rough, irregular, and bouldery would be a gross understatement!

Hard to come up with a place to construct a camp. There were several small, scrunched-up sites too close to the lake and one somewhat irregular but fairly good site respectfully back in the woods. We set up and spent another quiet afternoon swimming and keeping cool. The view of Grasshopper's yawning cliffs, grandstanding over the lake, was impressive.

Tuesday

We chugged southeast 1/3-mile to Cliff Lake. We made a discovery. Maps showed a camp at Buckeye Lake. A guide I read referred to camping at Buckeye Lake. I assumed that the place to stay was Buckeye Lake. Fellow hikers, may I be pleased to inform you that the much better camp—bigger, flatter, easier to use—is at Cliff Lake!

I had been dreading today's march. Most of our trails had so far proved to

Kim Hyatt



Cripple Creek shelter.

Kim Hyatt

be steep, irregular, rough. Today we would do our heaviest climb of the trip. I was expecting an ordeal. Turned out to be our easiest day of the backpack!

From a junction with the upper end of trail 1578 a well-graded switchback led us up to the long upper incline of Grasshopper Mountain. The trail was good and the slant moderate. Any time it did get very steep there were switchbacks. It seemed no time at all until we reached the spring and the side trail to the summit of Grasshopper Mountain.

Paula decided not to partake but Sandra and I stashed our packs and walked the half mile to the old lookout site. The views to the west and south were great. The cliff edge appeared somewhat unstable and we were careful not to stand too close.

Our trail dropped steeply into a meadow. Just about the time my knees began making disparaging comments the path leveled out. Our final 2 miles of route from the meadow to Cripple Creek Shelter was astonishingly level, quite easy to walk in the afternoon heat.

The shelter was in the process of being restored. I was pleased to see the effort. All too often, these days, the venerable old structures are being destroyed. The problem was that a herd or two of horses had been there in the not too distant past. The ground was so torn up we had great difficulty finding a place to pitch our tents.

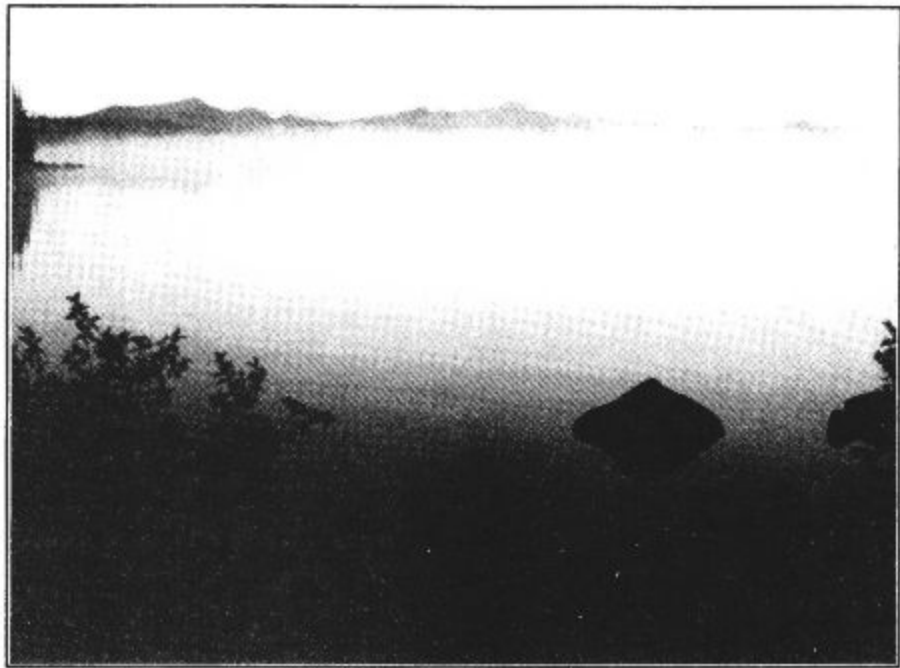
Another problem was water. I expected to find Cripple Creek Shelter adjacent to Cripple Creek. It was, sort of. I had to bushwhack down the canyon for 1/8-mile or so before I could find enough flow to fill our containers.

Wednesday

Should be a cinch, an easy half day to end our jaunt. All we had to do was hike a short mile to a junction with trail 1434, go right, hike a couple of miles to the ridgetop and descend a short piece of old road to our car.

It was easy for a while. We found our final trail, descended a little through deep, shady forest to a stream crossing and began a pleasant ascent through alternating trees and verdant meadows.

Then the trail turned nasty. The final 1/2 mile was as straight up as a path can be and continue to be called a "trail." As such routes are wont to do, the path was badly eroded. Sometimes we found it virtually impossible to work our way through the mini-canyons and we had to struggle up adjacent, brushy slopes.



Kim Hyatt

Waldo Lake's North Camp.

Occasionally braided mini-canyons crisscrossed our route and finding the correct course was problematic. Patented Hyatt "leisurely backpacks" are not always as advertised!

Despite the jarring ending we enjoyed our backpack.

Do you enjoy solitude? During the entire backpack we saw our marathon hiker, a small horse party at Fish Lake, and a day trip couple fishing at Buckeye Lake. That's it!

THE PADDLE

Oregon's second largest lake is Waldo. (The answer to the question you just asked is Klamath Lake.) I would also be inclined to call Waldo Oregon's second most beautiful lake. (Crater Lake, of course.)

About 6 miles long and 3 miles wide Waldo is famous for the pristine clarity of its water. Set a mile high among snow-clad peaks the aspect is magnificent. The fishing is not particularly good and motor monsters and water skiers are prohibited so the sparkling waters are ideal for canoes and sailboats.

In addition, on all sides but the east the lake is surrounded by the Waldo Lake Wilderness Area. There are numerous trails. With a canoe camp as a base, almost unlimited wilderness hiking is available.

In general I am not overly impressed with Oregon canoeing (I have been hopelessly spoiled by Minnesota's Boundary Waters). Paula is having

more and more trouble getting me into a canoe at all. I can no longer carry one of the darn things and my tolerance for sitting long periods of time on a hard seat in cramped positions drops toward the vanishing point.

I will make an exception for Waldo Lake. Paula and I scheduled a canoe-pack for September 9-13. Daughter Karen and her friend Dune (Cynthia) would join us for the first three days.

Friday

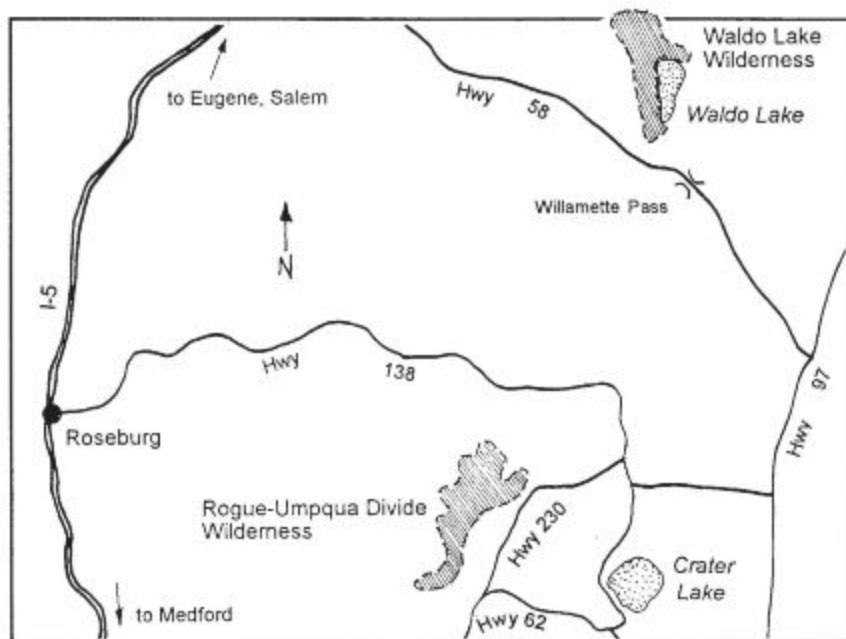
Paula and I drove down from Salem and Karen and Dune came across from Eugene. We set up our tents at North Waldo Campground. It had been foggy all day. I took numerous pictures as the mists began to dissolve in the evening.

Saturday

We loaded our canoes and paddled west across the lake. The day was beautiful, calm, and warm. We were planning to camp at the old boathouse site (the boathouse is long gone) just north of Elbow Lake.

Paula insisted that where I was trying to go was too far north. On this particular occasion I was right but we had plenty of time, it was a gorgeous day, and I did not feel like arguing. Had we gone to "the right place" we would have missed the gorgeous, isolated camp we found on a point a half mile south.

The Around The Lake Trail lay in the woods about 200 yards west of our camp. No great problem in any case.



Some enterprising soul had flagged a route from the little cove by our campsite to the trail. After setting up camp we hiked south down the trail to Green Lake and returned. We enjoyed a calm, colorful evening before retiring to our tents.

Sunday

Waldo Mountain was the order of the day. The 6357-foot lookout oversees the lake and numerous big mountains such as the Three Sisters and Diamond Peak. It was getting hot and the final mile was a tad steep. Paula bailed out part way up.

I finished the climb with Karen and Dune but did not take my after lunch nap or allow enough recovery time. Karen and Dune were in a hurry to get back to camp for a swim. I was dragging bottom when I caught up with Paula. While she wandered down to the Old Boathouse Camp for a look I napped by the side of the trail. By the time she got back I was fine.

After another lovely evening we again retired to our tents. During the night a strong east wind sprung up. Waves splashed noisily on the nearby rocks.

Monday

The plan for today was that Karen and Dune would return to North Waldo and drive home. Paula and I would enjoy a final day hiking around the peninsula to the north of camp, spend another night, and paddle back to North Waldo on Tuesday.

A strong east wind continued to

pound the lake. Unpleasant-looking clouds were moving in. It appeared that the weather might get worse and worse. We could be pinned down for days! Karen and Dune had to get back. Paula and I decided to join them.

We waited for a "lull" in the wind. We struck out to the east. The lull was just that. The worst enemy a bicyclist or a canocist has is the wind. Today's gale was a doozy!

I paddled bow. I am the stronger paddler and I am twice Paula's size. A canoe will try to pivot around the largest person. We would have had a horrible struggle with Paula in the bow!



Waldo Lake from Waldo Mountain.

I don't think either of us ever felt seriously threatened. When an especially big series of waves would hiss by I would stop padding and help hold our bucking craft steady. Sometimes we would ship a little water.

There was nothing for it but to bite deep and pull, bite deep and pull, over and over and over again. No reprieve, no let up, no rest. We dared not get sideways or lose headway.

The crossing took us three long hours. As we finally gained the relative shelter of the far shore I felt so tired I could barely move. I think I must have been running on adrenaline! Paula and I were in agreement: we think that was the hardest either of us ever worked in a canoe.

After we landed I literally could not get out of the vessel! Luckily Dune is a strong young woman. She helped me up out of my seat and kept me from falling over until I could get moving around and regain some circulation and equilibrium.

We had paddled to Inlet Campground instead of North Waldo. The crossing to Inlet was a little shorter and more directly into the wind. Karen and Dune walked to North Waldo (1½ miles) and retrieved the cars. We had escaped.

Afterward

You know the rules. On lakes it is supposed to be calm in the morning. The wind comes up in the afternoon and then it calms down again toward evening. Somebody must have thrown out the rule book. By afternoon the wind dropped. We could have crossed easily! Not only that but the bad weather did not materialize.

Paula and I camped Monday night at Cultas Lake and wandered slowly home on Tuesday. It was a little cloudy but not too bad a day and the winds were light. Might be a lesson there but I'm not sure what. One does what seems best at the time.

Will Paula ever get me back into a canoe? A good question. She will try. Remains to be seen.

Kim and Paula Hyatt live in Salem and are members of the Chemeketans club.

LEE MCKEE

Hammersley Inlet

—GOING WITH THE FLOW—

Hammersley Inlet is the narrowest major waterway in South Puget Sound. Twice each day the water flowing back and forth through it with the changing tides makes for fairly high currents in some spots—and a fun ride for intermediate paddlers.

On this Sunday in mid-August, 17 of us in single sea kayaks launched from Walker County Park (see *South Puget Sound Afoot and Afloat* for directions) on the south side of the inlet to make the trip to Hope Island.

It's roughly 5½ nautical miles from the park to where the inlet joins Pickering Passage and then another ¾ nm to the northwest side of Hope Island.

Over this distance the inlet is ¼ nm or less in width—about ⅓ nm between Cape Horn and Cape Cod—and has four spots where significant eddies can occur depending on the stage of the current. These are at Skookum Point, Libby Point, Cape Horn and Cape Cod. Two current stations along this section of the inlet allow you to calculate what the current will be doing.

Most trips are planned to take advantage of the high current—riding the ebb out to Hope Island, waiting on the island for the change of current, and riding the flood back to the county park.

Dede, our trip leader, went over the trip plan with us, and shortly before 10:30 we were on the water. Our timing was such that we were basically at max flood for the entire trip down the inlet. We were two days after the full moon, and the predicted current was close to the highest rates of the year.

With little paddling effort we had covered the distance to Cape Horn near the end of the inlet in about an hour. Here a significant eddy line extended from the Cape into the main channel. Seeing a power boat coming down the inlet, we backpaddled to maintain our position and waited for the boat to pass. Then, staying clear of the eddy line, we entered the main current and were whisked past the end of the Cape, past Cape Cod, and out into Pickering Pas-

sage. We had covered the 5½ nm in just over an hour!

Our attention now was focused on reaching Hope Island, which is a 106-acre marine State Park about ¾ nm southeast of Hammersley Inlet. The current flowing out of the inlet forks—one channel flows northward up Pickering Passage and the other southward toward Squaxin Passage. On high ebb current days you will expend less effort if you stay toward the middle/south side of the inlet entrance to avoid the northerly flow (while staying clear of the back eddy off Cape Cod). We had a bit of a wind in our faces, but before long we had all reached the island.

We had two hours to wait before our return trip. While most of our group joined Dede for a walk around the island's shoreline, several of us just relaxed with our lunches by the boats. One person, who has been to Hope several times, broke out a book to read to while away the time.

A little after 2pm Dede rounded us all up and said it was time to be heading back. As we entered the inlet, the current was just starting to change from ebb to flood. Where three hours previously there had been a significant eddy line extending from Cape Horn, now the water was smooth with little evidence of any current movement.

As we proceeded up the inlet, though, the current began to build with ripples and eddies forming along the shoreline. We also had a fair breeze in our faces

to contend with which created some minor wave action.

Several of us skirted the south edge of the inlet to "beachcomb" from our kayaks while the majority of our group tended toward mid-channel. At Skookum Point a fairly strong eddy line had formed out from the point so those of us along the shore headed for mid-channel, too. A little after 4:30 all of us were back at the launch point and loading up our gear after an enjoyable Sunday paddle.

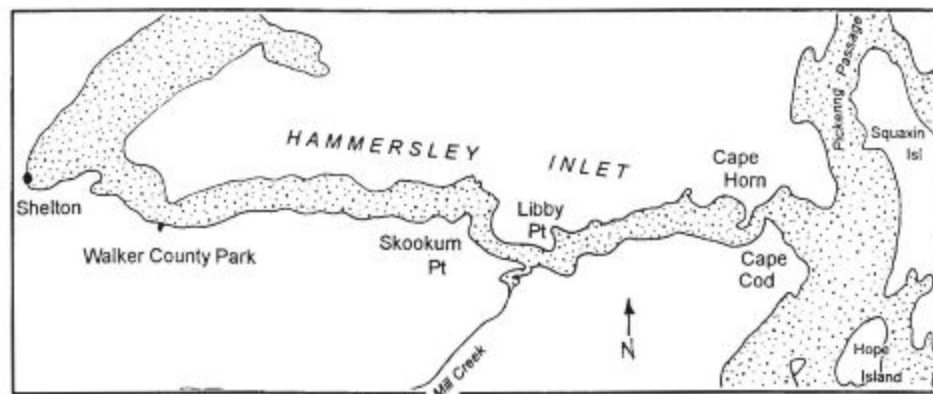
If you make this trip be alert for boat traffic. The navigable channel is quite narrow in some places which limits where power boats can travel, and on weekdays you may encounter tugs traveling to and from Shelton. Adding to this is limited visibility where the inlet makes a sharp bend at Cape Horn.

Also be mindful of eddies and eddy lines. The location and strength of these will change depending on the direction and strength of the current flow. The significant ones will be at the spots mentioned earlier.

And, finally, the inlet can channel wind. So expect some wave action if the wind is opposing the current.

△

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



MADELEINE BEATY

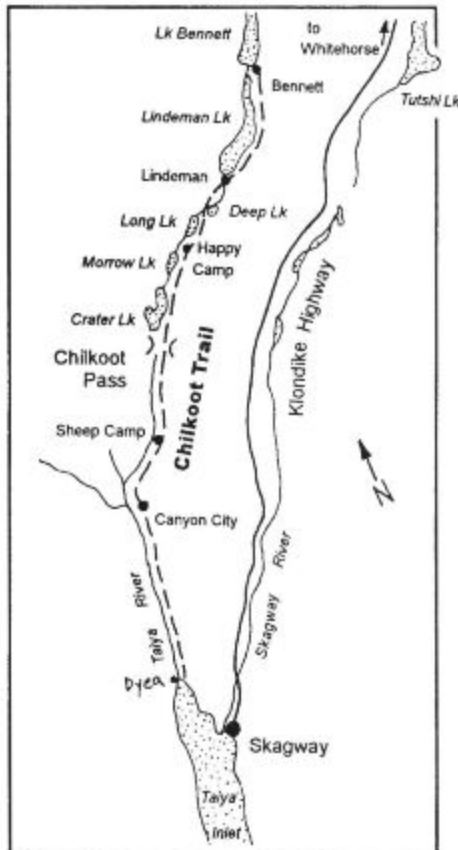
Hiking the Historic Chilkoot Trail

—100 YEARS SINCE THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH—

We had had a yearning to hike the Chilkoot Gold Rush Trail ever since we drove to Alaska in 1995. A visit to Dawson City and Skagway kindled that desire, especially after a stop at the Klondike Gold Rush Museum in Skagway.

It took a bit of doing to make all of the arrangements for the hike. We obtained the trail permits back in March and made all the other arrangements accordingly. We also arranged round trip plane tickets from Seattle to Juneau, car rental, lodging in Juneau for two days before and two days after the hike, boat service from Juneau to Skagway and back, a shuttle to the trail head at Dyea, lodging in Skagway for a night and the train ride from Lake Bennett to Skagway at the end of the hike.

The Chilkoot Trail is a strenuous hike but it is extraordinary from beginning to end. It is well worth the effort. The tread is not always great, but the trail is well marked, sometimes with



Jim at the trailhead.

cairns taller than a person.

We flew from Seattle to Juneau on a beautiful clear day. We spent a couple of days sightseeing and hiking. We then took the Auk-Nu boat Alaskan Dream to Skagway. En route we saw a pod of humpback whales put on a show. There were beautiful hanging glaciers and water falls along Lynn Canal.

In Skagway we took care of the permits at the hiking center and obtained the reserved railroad tickets. We strolled around a bit, had dinner and took the shuttle to the campground at Dyea, where we spent the night.

Day 1

We started the hike on Wednesday, July 1st on yet another glorious day. The trail immediately started to climb steeply making us wonder what lay ahead. It went up and down for about a mile before it got easier. Our new packs carried quite well but the weight of them made the going difficult. We carried a lot of cold weather gear, which seemed superfluous in the heat.

We had lunch at Finnegans Point inside the shelter to get away from the biting flies and the notorious Alaskan mosquitoes. Going on we arrived at Canyon City early in the afternoon, set up camp next to the Taiya River and then took a stroll to the Canyon City town site. To get there we crossed the river on a neat hanging bridge. Here were many artifacts left from the gold rush days.

We started to meet fellow hikers that evening, who would be with us the rest of the hike. We were all concerned about the smoke that began to fill the valley. We could not tell if it was coming up or down the valley.

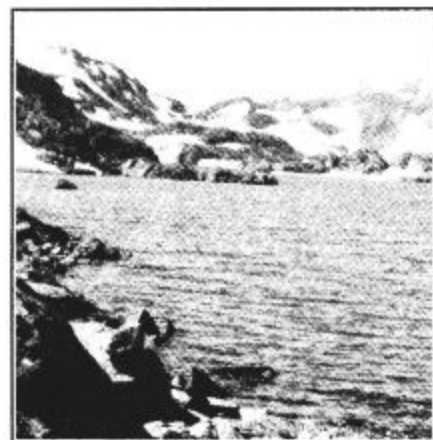
At 8:30pm a ranger appeared to call a meeting. The smoke, he said, was from a fire down-valley. A house had burned and caught the forest on fire in Dyea. After spreading into the trees the fire crowned and began moving swiftly up the narrow valley.

The Park Service was concerned about the hikers, especially if the wind continued to blow into the night. The ranger had a group of twelve hikers move from Finnegans Point 3 miles up to Canyon City. He said it would be possible to evacuate by helicopter from here. Our instructions were to leave camp early and go up to Sheep Camp if we did not hear from him during the night. He wanted us all to go by 6am.

Day 2

We were grateful to make it through the night all right. Little did we know that the trail was closed behind us for the next three days. We were the last ones to get started; one day later and we could not have made the hike. We were exceedingly grateful.

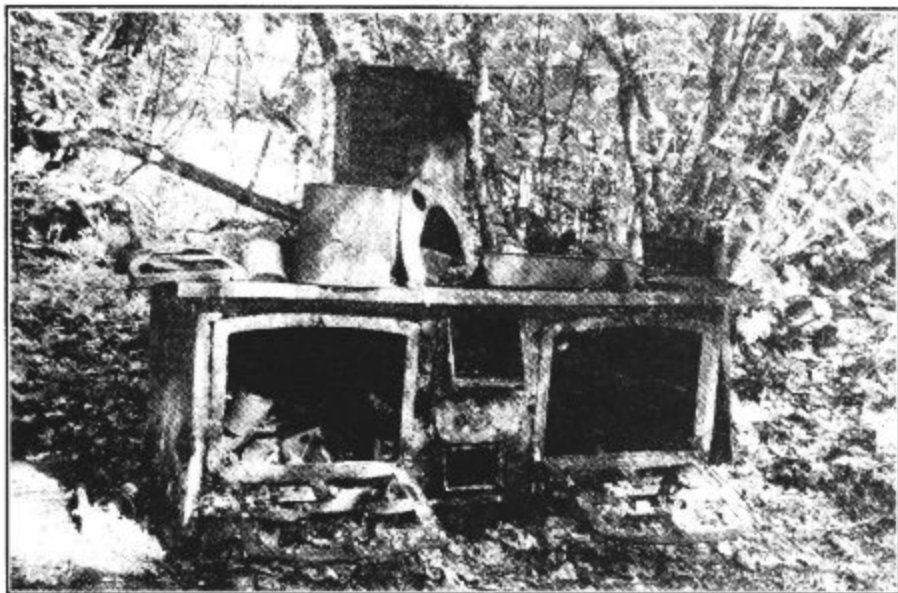
The sun was again shining brightly as we covered the trail between Canyon City and Pleasant Camp. This was another upsy-downsy stretch of trail. The



At Morrow Lake, looking toward the pass.

Madeleine Beaty

Madeleine Beaty



A relic at Canyon City.

trail became much easier after we crossed another hanging bridge just short of Sheep Camp, which is the largest camp along the trail on the United States side. It contained two shelters and two bear poles.

Cooking in a central cooking area for bear control was kind of nice, since you had a chance to chat with the other hikers at that time. We got to know people from Georgia, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Nova Scotia and a large group of youngsters from California. We went to bed early in spite of the extended daylight up north, since we wanted to get an early start the next day.

Day 3

This was our hardest but most exciting day. We were glad to have an early start since it promised to be another hot day. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. Soon the trail started to climb into beautiful scenery above the tree line.

There were hanging glaciers and waterfalls on the canyon walls above us. We walked along a rushing stream in and out and over big boulders. We passed several hikers before we got to the Scales. This was a magnificent area with many artifacts everywhere. The rocky ground was densely carpeted with short stemmed Canadian dogwood flowers.

The Scales is the only flat spot around before the trail goes upward to the pass towering above you. There were remnants of snow in the gully but the famous Golden Stairs were bare. Now it was a matter of scrambling up the felsennmeer. We were still hiking in

the shade which helped somewhat but the going was still pretty tough.

We reached the first false summit by 10am just as the sun's first rays hit us. It was a great feeling to look back down to the bottom of the canyon from here.

After two more ups we reached the summit, tired but happy. We talked to the Canadian Warden for a while before heading on. She told us that the avalanche danger was quite high for the next two miles.

We maintained a fast pace down the snowy slopes and past the lakes. We looked at the massive overhangs towering above us to the east, and that spurred us on.



Happy hikers at Lake Bennett. Madeleine and Jim are fourth and fifth from left.

The scenery was extraordinary here. There was a blue sky, a bright sun, alpine flowers and Crater Lake a gorgeous sapphire blue. There were snowy mountains all around, more lakes to admire and streams to rock hop across all the four miles from the summit to Happy Camp.

We were the first ones there that day and after selecting a campsite we cooled off in the lovely river below us. We had time to reflect on the day's hike and wondered if the miners had the time and inclination to appreciate the beauty of this trail. Or maybe their hardships were too monumental to permit such whimsy.

Day 4

Another grand day awaited us. Shortly after leaving Happy Camp the trail goes up once again. Hiking through this area was most enjoyable. White heather was everywhere in this open parkland. Soon we were walking by Long Lake which was a deep turquoise blue. We saw more artifacts along the trail as we approached Deep Lake, also a very beautiful lake with many flowers along the lakeside trail.

After Deep Lake the trail followed a raging river in a deep canyon for a couple of miles. Soon there was a downhill stretch and the trail dropped to Lake Lindeman. Here we found a splendid camp with a stunning view of the lake and mountains that surround it.

Lake Lindeman is very large with emerald green water. The camp is split

Madeleine Beatty

photo by boat captain

in half with an upper and lower cabin and campsites. The lower is a little off the trail, somewhat dryer on a hot day, but closer to the river for water. There is a Warden Cabin nearby and an interpretive center. It was fascinating to read copies of the miners' diaries and the comments of hikers in the log book.

At Lake Lindeman we met a number of disappointed hikers who came in from Lake Bennett to go to the Chilkoot Summit. The fire had destroyed their plans to hike the whole trail. Some had planned a long time for the trip.

Day 5

We started the day hiking in sunshine but there were a few ominous clouds in the sky, indicating a possible change in the weather. It still was hot as the trail tended uphill from the lake. We crossed the river on a sturdy bridge and entered a very dry area with large boulders about.

Soon we walked by several small lakes and then the larger Bare-Loon Lake, which had several nice campsites. After we crossed a nice flowing stream we hiked through a swampy area high above Lake Lindeman. It looked like good moose country but we saw only footprints by the side of the trail. The prints were huge.

We passed a very old cabin that looked like a relic of the gold rush. From there on we walked in a sand trap for about two miles all the way to Lake Bennett. Walking down the last stretch of trail with Lake Bennett in view was magnificent.

The 100-year-old St. Andrews Church caused us to pause for a while before we walked down some steps to the camp area. At the camp we saw the extraordinary little Chilkoot Sourdough Bakery building where we would be getting a pancake breakfast the next morning.

We tried to find a camp with some shade and put up the tent. One by one the other hikers arrived all in a very happy frame of mind. There was a lot of joking and talking that evening.

Some of the hikers saw bears along the trail, including a grizzly between us and them not far from the log cabin. We never saw any bears even though we didn't wear bear bells. (It is probably a good idea to use them.)

The Next Day

Pancakes were being served between

8am and 10am and we were all at the cabin by 8 with big appetites. Our group had dwindled to only 12 people since the group of 12 young hikers left us at Bare-Loon Lake to hike out along the railroad track to the highway.

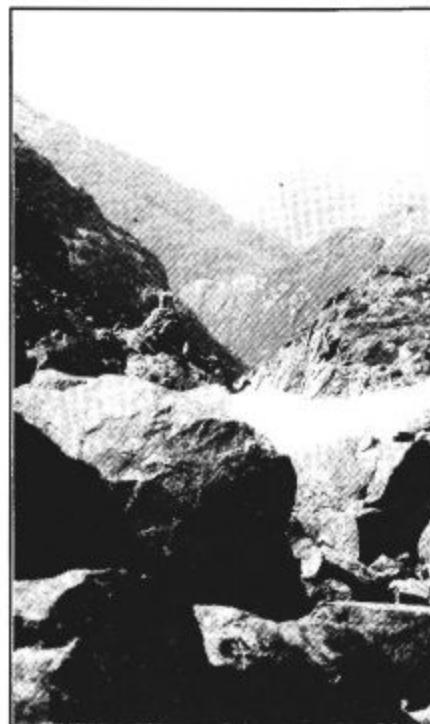
Because there were fewer people and nobody on the trail behind us for several days we were able to get seconds. Yum, yum.

This treat was made possible by the Yukon Hiking Club. They put up the building and are staffing it from July through August this year. These pancakes were truly historic since Ione Christensen, who made them, used sour dough starter whose lineage is traceable to the starter her great-grandfather used on the Chilkoot Pass 100 years ago.

The bakery had an electric fence around it to keep the bears, or maybe the hikers, out. They could cook and serve for only two hours a day in deference to the bears.

We hope they leave the little building for a central cooking area for the hikers. This is the only camp without one and campers must cook in the dirt at the foot of the bear pole at present.

We all went down to the train station early and waited for the train's arrival from Skagway. There were a lot of people aboard to attend the ranger's tour through the former townsite. Many relics were around, especially broken



At the top of Chilkoot Pass, looking south.



Madeleine Beaty

Following the miners' footsteps: Jim nears the top of the pass.

bottles made of very thick glass, and tin cans. Those which had a dot from the lead seal on the bottom were from the old days.

Today, July 6th, is the 99th anniversary of the train reaching Lake Bennett. After the tour we boarded the train and had a relaxing ride down to Skagway. Still no rain.

We spent the night in Skagway and had a chance to do a little shopping before we left by boat in the afternoon. It rained a little bit while we were on the boat but stopped again by the time we reached Juneau. We rented a car again so that we could do some more hiking.

Two days later we boarded the plane just as it was beginning to rain. We felt so lucky to have had such nice weather. Mount Rainier was out in full view when we landed in Seattle. △

Madeleine Beaty, of Federal Way, is an avid skier and hiker. She and Jim are both retired and have hiked a minimum of 500 miles a year for the past dozen years.

WARREN GUNTHEROTH

Cabin Mountain

—TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY MAP LEADS TO “ADVENTURE”—

I recently discovered my 1901 USGS map of Snoqualmie Pass, which was the only one available when I first began climbing in 1963.

I thought it deserved antique status—as my son Karl accorded my first ice axe by hanging it over his fireplace—but in the process of having it matted and framed, I looked carefully at it. One of the very few named mountains on the lower half of the map is Cabin Mountain, west of the pass and south of “the highway,” and I had never climbed it!

Ed, Sasha and I had been skiing a couple of times on the roads that take off from Easton, and were aware that Forest Service road 41 was closed at a bridge washout, since we had to wade across it on our way to climb Goat Mountain earlier this year.

(Interestingly, Goat is one of the other “major” peaks on the 1901 map.)

Although we saw a large Suburban ford the stream at the washout, our clearance wasn’t adequate.

To reach Cabin Mountain, I determined that we would have to come from the western approach by leaving I-90 at exit 62 onto road 54, which—after passing the turn-off to Stampede Pass—turns into road 41.

It was one of the very hot weekends this summer, and Sasha and I left home just after supper with all the car windows rolled down. It was cool by the time we reached a branch road close to a stream at about 3500 feet, where we camped on the road side.

Two problems soon emerged: the sleeping bag I had pulled out of my closet turned out to be only a shell, which—even inside a Gore-tex bivvy bag—was “refreshingly” cool during the night, and the dew was the heaviest I can remember.

My strategy was to get up early and avoid the hottest time of the day, so we were up and driving by 6am. The lack of numbering on most of the side roads was not helpful, but we continued on

the most traveled road (41) off *USGS Snoqualmie* and onto *USGS Lester*.

At the junction with road 52, I stayed left and headed south. Shortly afterward, side roads on the left in ½ and 1½ miles were passed, and just after a major road on the right that crosses the bridge across Cabin Creek, I turned left (north) leaving 41 which continues east toward the washed out bridge 2 miles farther.

The road we had chosen to ascend the western flank of Cabin Mountain effectively ended at the next junction (estimated 3500 feet), because of serious erosion.

I selected the right branch which ran more or less east for about a mile and ended at 4000 feet. From the contour map, the best ascent appeared to be near the end of the road, below a large

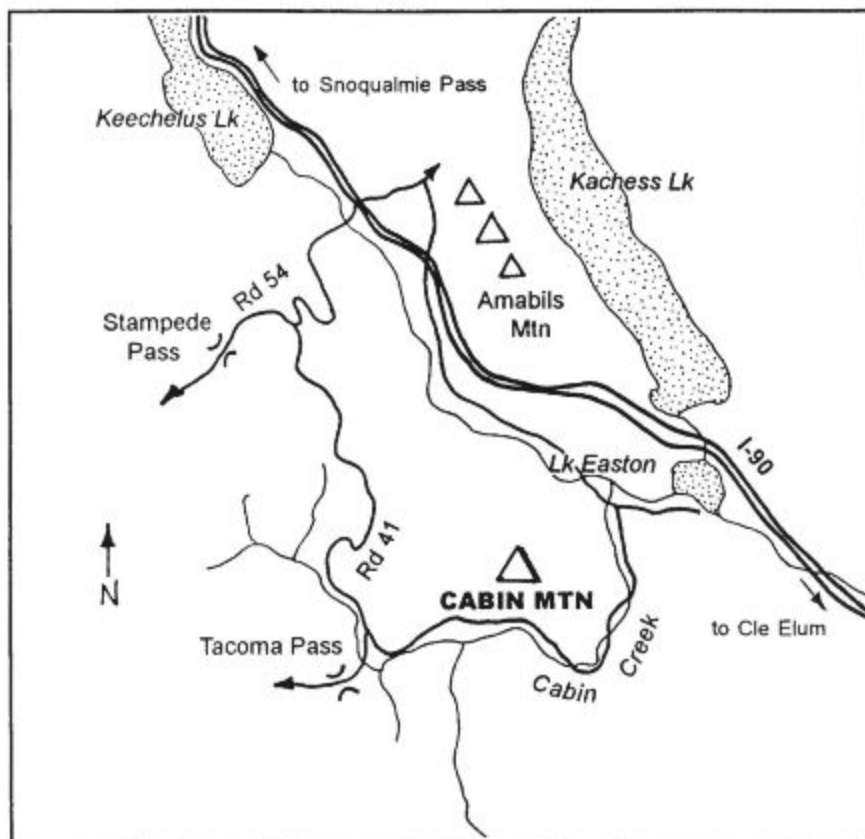
clearcut. It was quite steep, but without cliffs, and Sasha and I headed up in a northeasterly direction.

We were able to ascend in the trees on the left of the clearcut part of the way, and crossed a terminus of another road coming from the west that is not shown on the map. We gained the ridge top and hiked back northerly.

As usual, deciding which one of several summits was “the” summit wasn’t easy, so we made the precision maneuver and climbed them all.

We started back down the ridge about 9:30, feeling smug about avoiding the heat. As always, Sasha assumed the lead, striding along with her usual confidence.

Usually, she backtracks diligently, and almost never makes a mistake. We had been descending for 30 minutes,



and I became aware that she was following a faint tread from a timber cruiser, associated with occasional ties and other markers for a timber sale, but it took me another fifteen minutes to realize that we were descending on the wrong side of our ridge.

Sasha decided about the same time that her decision to take a "trail" instead of the cross-country route we had ascended was not working out, although I certainly agree that a trail, even an animal trail, is preferable to cross-country travel (except, of course, when it's not going in the correct direction).

In this case, she abruptly stopped, stood still a few seconds, and slowly trotted back to me, with a look that seemed to say, "Okay, it's your turn to lead now."

As we started back up toward the ridge top 500 feet above, it was getting *really* hot, and we had finished most of the quart of water we were sharing. (I had decided that this was such a short climb I would leave the other two quarts in the ice chest.)

When we finally reached the ridge, I looked down and saw a clearcut and a logging road and decided that they were the ones on our ascent, and we headed down. About 1000 or so feet down we encountered a series of cliffs, and each time that we thought we would be able to gain the moderate slopes we could see just below the cliff, we would reach an ugly drop-off.

This required climbing back up a couple of hundred feet, traversing and then trying another descent. This went on for at least an hour, and included one episode of at least a half-hour when we were separated from each other.

It suddenly occurred to me that Sasha was unable to hear my whistle, since in the past month she had become fairly deaf, although her sense of smell was as good as ever. I was finally becoming anxious, but then I heard her panting just over me, looking extremely tired and hot. I gave her the last of the water, and tried hard not to remind her that this was *her* fault!

We finally circumnavigated the last cliff, and I felt a surge of relief, anticipating that we would soon be back to



Warren and Sasha share lunch on a summit.

Ed Emery

the car and ice-cold drinks. I began to concentrate on the road below that I could see intermittently through the trees.

I was concerned that it didn't seem to go very far back in the direction of the car, and when we finally got on it, my worst fears were realized: the road came to an end above another cliff.

There was another road below, but that too ended nowhere near anything useful, and it became obvious that they originated from the east, rather from the west where the car was parked.

After wasting another half an hour trying to traverse back toward the west, I was feeling extremely tired, and a little faint from dehydration. I finally elected to go all the way down to the river, with the plan to tank up and walk road 41 back to our side-road.

The worst part of the ordeal was yet to come: the hundred feet of valley brush between the road and the river. By this time we were both having difficulty getting over even modest fallen trees, but when we stumbled down the steep bank, Sasha plunged into the stream and tried to drink all of it.

It was deliciously cold, and I drank one quart without pause, and although I briefly thought of giardia and *E. coli*, I was willing to deal with that when and if it came to pass—so to speak. (It never did.)

We had a serious problem, in our exhausted state, getting back to the road.

When we did, the dirt road was completely unshaded except for a foot or two on the edge, and even that was intermittent.

Sasha would trot a hundred feet, drop down in a spot of shade, and wait for me to pass her.

It was at least a mile until we encountered what I hoped was *our* side road. (The map showed only one, but then, it hadn't shown three other roads we had crossed up higher.) It was about 800 feet back up, and about a mile, but at least we had satisfied that ugly thirst.

The car had never looked so good, nine hours after leaving it, and for one of the few times in the 10 years I've driven this car, I turned on the air conditioner at top speed, and let it

cool before encouraging Sasha to get in.

The drive back to Seattle wasn't as bad as I thought it might be, with the help of a can of Mountain Dew to stay awake. Of course, Sasha fell asleep immediately, and never did apologize!

Later Ellie correctly pointed out that I should have been making the decisions all along. But Sasha is correct more times than I over the years in our bushwhacking climbs, and she does make clear admissions when wrong, unlike some of us!

△

Warren Guntheroth, of Seattle, is a pediatric cardiologist. Sasha (now 12), a Siberian husky, frequently accompanies him on the trail.

*Warren has written a book of their adventures, called **Climbing with Sasha**. It is available at the University Bookstore.*

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

SQUAMISH—The Squamish Rock-climbers Association continues its cooperative relationship with BC Parks to operate Stawamus Chief Provincial Park. The campground opened early this year and is in good shape.

The 45-site campground is rarely busy, and is so far one of the only provincial campgrounds where a campsite is available on a Friday or Saturday night. Once the word gets out, this may no longer occur.

The easy access to mountain bike trails, local hikes, and the cafes and pubs of Squamish will make this park's popularity soar in no time.

The SRA is hoping to see revenues increase this year. Under the cooperative agreement with BC Parks, net revenues will be directed back to the park, making improvements and upgrades possible.

Camping at the Chief and paying your \$7 fee directly helps that park continue to be a secure, climber-friendly place to camp in Squamish.—*from the BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter.*

BLUE GLACIER STUDY—Olympic National Park has received a \$7500 grant from Canon USA to monitor changes in the Blue Glacier. Using a remote automatic camera, glaciologists will take daily photographs of the gla-

cier. Information gathered in the study can be used to help detect changes in the global climate and to predict changes in the timing and amount of river flows in the area.

Park staff are working with the US Geological Survey and glaciologists from the UW to monitor the changes.

HIGH CAMP—High Camp is now open in the fall, as well as for skiing in the winter. You can be transported to the camp, half a mile from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness boundary, stay in a rustic cabin, soak in the hot tub, and hike during the day in the autumn high country.

Kids, normally half price, are free on the first weekend of October. Call for a brochure with lodging and transportation rates: 425-844-2000 or 888-9HI-CAMP. Or check the web:

www.scottishlakes.com

TRAIL WORK—Volunteers for Outdoor Washington has continuing trail work projects through the fall. Here are some:

Iron Goat Trail: Saturdays and Wednesdays through 10/28. Coordinator for September is Sam Fry, 206-232-3829.

Robe Canyon Trail: work on the new Lime Kiln Trail on 10/4. Call Steve or Nancy Dean, 360-652-7181.

Wonderland Trail: help complete

remaining segment of trail from 9/21 to 10/3. Come for one or several days. Call Jim and Suse Altengarten, 206-433-2996, or Annik Wolfe, 206-368-2688.

For information about VOW and additional workshops and events, call 206-517-4469.

LAUNCH FEES—As of January 1, paddlers will need a conservation license (or a hunting/fishing license) to legally use many public boat launches.

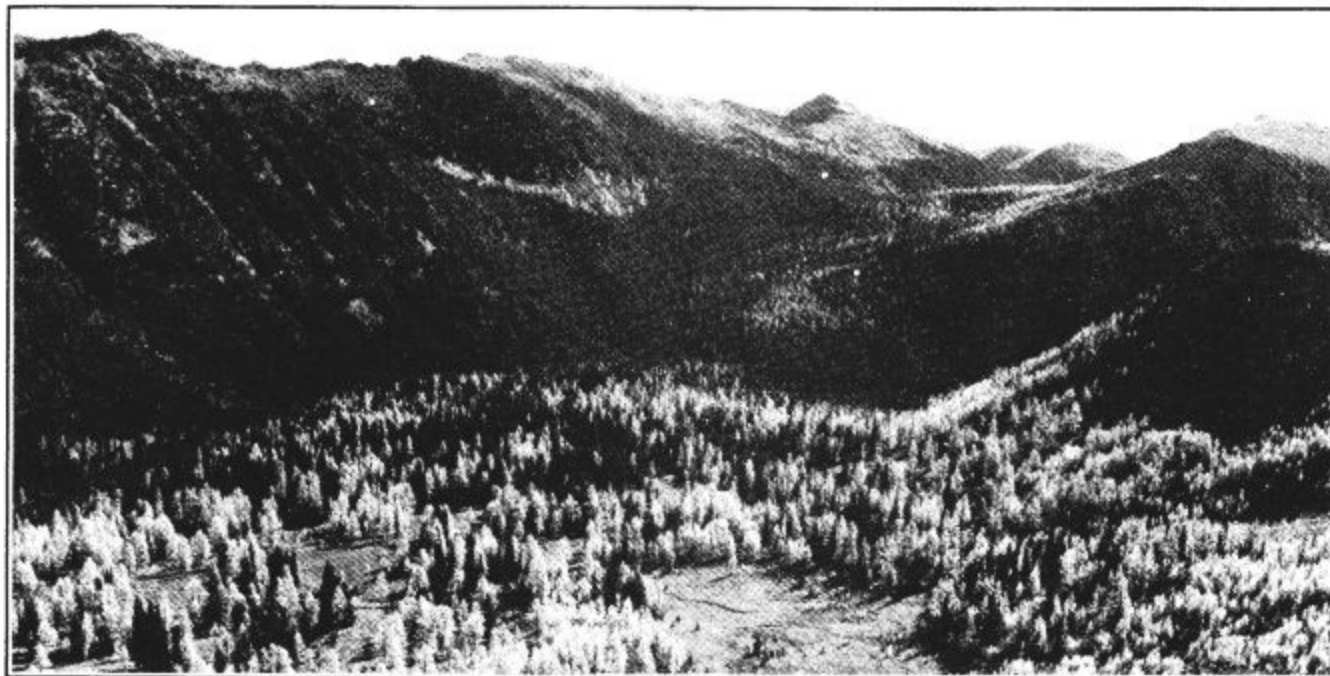
Public use of boat ramps, funded by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, has soared, while the sale of fishing and hunting licenses has had an equally abrupt drop.

The conservation license is a decal that goes in your car window. Using a boat launch without one next year will risk a stiff fine.

Ask your local paddle shop for details.

BECK WEATHERS—Tickets to hear Dr. Beck Weathers are available from Green River Community College, 253-833-9111 x2404.

Beck Weathers survived the 1996 Everest storm in which eight people died. He will speak about his experience on Thursday, October 8, in the Lindbloom Student Center at GRCC at 7:30pm.



Lee McKee

Upper Tony Creek Basin; Pasayten Wilderness.

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

MARINE WILDLIFE—Soundwatch publishes a small brochure for boaters on how to observe marine wildlife. You can request a copy of "Boater Guidelines: Protecting Marine Wildlife" from:

The Whale Museum
PO Box 945
Friday Harbor WA 98250
800-94-ORCAS

SPAMISH RICE—Here is a recipe that I "invented" a few years back. Simple but very tasty.

- 1 can Spam (I use Spam Lite; please, don't laugh)
- 1 package rice pilaf mix with seasoning packet (or, better yet, if you can find it, a rice/lentil mix that doesn't take too long to cook)

Prepare rice or rice/lentil mix according to package. Slice Spam thickly and lay on top of rice as it comes to the boil; cover with lid or foil and let it all

cook together for the required time.

I usually use a Teflon frypan with a folding handle, to get maximum surface area. While it's cooking, you can re-live the old Monty Python skit by chanting: "SPAM, spam, spam, spam...."

Serves 2.—*Katie Swanson, Seattle.*

GAITERS—Put your gaiters on when crossing loose scree. Push them down to the tops of your boots, covering your socks, and cinch them up tight. The gaiters will prevent scree from filling your boots.

BATTERY REPLACEMENT—I thought this might be of interest if someone needs battery service on a Vertech altimeter watch. This is from information provided by Vertech:

"Signs of a failing battery: A weak battery can cause the altitude display to range over hundreds or thousands of feet within an hour or two. Also, the altimeter, thermometer, or barometer may be abnormally high or low.

"Batteries last about 20 months from the manufacture date. The serial number on the back of the Vertech is keyed to the manufacture date. Units with serial numbers below E00001 are due for battery replacement in June 1998, and those with serial numbers below E03385 are due for battery replacement in July 1998. A few Vertechs manufactured in 1992 and 1993 don't have serial numbers.

"If you are uncertain about whether your Vertech needs battery replacement, call the Service Center at 800-731-4407 or 510-786-1924.

"We do *not* recommend that you replace a Vertech battery yourself or have a jeweler do it for you. After two years of use, the Vertech is ready for factory service that will ensure its precision and durability. If the Service Center finds that the Vertech needs service other than battery replacement, they will notify you. Vertech Battery service

costs \$20."

I sent mine in earlier this month and got it back in about 2 weeks. Call the 800 number for mailing address and instructions.—*Craig Mecklenburg, Bremerton.*

NO-COOK DINNERS—Consider leaving your stove at home if you're going out for only one night. For dinner, bring a sandwich from home, cold vegetables (cooked or raw), and a thermos of soup.

UTM MAP GRIDS—The USGS is responding to an increased interest in GPS systems and the use of UTM grids in mapping by producing a pamphlet about it.

USGS Fact Sheet 142-97 gives an overview of how the UTM system was developed and how to use it. They say it is actually easier to use than the latitude-longitude method, once you understand it.

FS142-97 is not yet available in printed form, but it can be printed from their internet site:

<<http://mapping/usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs14297/html>>

TRAIL FOOD—Run equal quantities of mixed nuts, raisins, dried apricots and prunes through a meat grinder with a medium or large-hole cutting blade. Mold the gooey extrusions into balls almost the size of silver dollars.

These may be packed in plastic bags the way they are, or they may be rolled in powdered sugar or chopped nuts. Don't eat too many if your system is not used to large quantities of dried fruit.—*Gordon McDougall, Olympia.*

LOGS—If the only way across the stream is on a slippery log, cross in your wool socks. Wool will provide better traction on wet wood than your hiking boots.

HIGH ALTITUDES—If you are actually cooking above 5000 feet (rather than just rehydrating a freeze-dried dinner), remember that cooking takes longer the higher you go.

At sea level, water boils at 212 degrees; at 5000 feet it boils at 203 degrees; 10,000 feet, 194 degrees, and 14,000 feet, 187 degrees.

Figure that cooking time will double at 10,000 feet.

BACKCOUNTRY NOTES

Pen-and-ink notecards of the Cascades. Blank inside. Envelopes included. Package of 8 for \$7.50 includes tax and postage.



Order from (or request brochure):
Backcountry Notes
PO Box 1063
Port Orchard WA 98366

WIN FAME & ADMIRATION!

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

PACK & PADDLE
PO BOX 1063
PORT ORCHARD WA 98366

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Trying to keep my feet dry—near Suiattle Pass, Glacier Peak Wilderness.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"I wish more Oregon hikers would contribute trail reports."—*Portland*

"I really like those hand-drawn maps. It makes it easier to understand the story. Would also like to see more environmental news."—*Lake Stevens*

E-MAIL—Our e-mail address is: packandpaddle@visnetinc.com
A reader pointed out to us that it appeared incorrectly in the June issue. Our fault.

We have been on-line now for almost a year. *Dozens* of you have contacted us

by e-mail, to send reports, letters, comments, or just to say hi. It is loads of fun and we hope you'll continue to stay in touch.

We have used these communications with you to build a considerable e-mail list which came in handy recently to notify many of you about the Sol Duc backcountry closure as soon as we found out about it.

E-MAIL REPORTS—Whenever you send a report by e-mail, I will send an acknowledgment of its receipt, usually within a few days.

If you don't get an acknowledgment, you ought to assume something went haywire, and try sending it again.

I don't send acknowledgments for reports received in the mail.

YELLOW CAT—September is the month that Yellow Cat came to live with us. It was 8 years ago that she showed up abandoned and hungry on the porch.

As it turned out, she could type and file, and Lee and I needed an Administrative Assistant for our new magazine. After some negotiation the deal was struck and she has been here ever since.

TOUGH BOOTS—I had some difficulty getting Lee and Yellow Cat to sing the "Tough Boot Stomp" along

with me, mostly because we couldn't figure out what the tune was.

Mary Watson tells me that the verses are sung roughly to "Three Little Maids From School" (The Mikado), the two middle lines are spoken (with feeling), and the chorus rocks along to "The Hokey-Pokey."

Improvise as you see fit.

LIKE MINDS—On a paddle recently, Lee was interested to see that another paddler had a Seaward kayak like his. Although made just over the border in BC, Seawards are not usually seen on most Mountaineer and WKC trips.

Turns out the owner of the other Seaward is Spencer Wright, a subscriber from Kent.

SEPTEMBER—Watch out for those yellowjackets.

See you in the backcountry.

Ann Marshall

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Complete your *Pack & Paddle* library—get all the back copies from Volume I, Number 1 to the current issue. Write or call for ordering information:

Pack & Paddle
PO Box 1063
Port Orchard WA 98366
360-871-1862



SUBSCRIBE TO

PACK & PADDLE



the magazine about backcountry travel in Washington and the Pacific Northwest

1 year (12 issues) \$19.46—(\$18.00 + \$1.46 state sales tax)

2 years (24 issues) \$35.67—(\$33.00 + 2.67 state sales tax)

Gift (we'll send a card)

(Residents of states other than Washington may subtract tax.)

name _____

address _____

city, state, ZIP _____

send with payment (check or money order) to:

Pack & Paddle
PO Box 1063
Port Orchard WA 98366

Questions? Call us at 360-871-1862

9/98

**LONG TERM
RELATIONSHIP WANTED**

You like hiking in the woods, mt. biking, horseback riding, river rafting, quiet romantic dinners, hot tubbing outside. I am quiet cozy inn w/gourmet, but casual dining room w/huge stone fireplace, outdoor hot tub. I live at the foot of the North Cascades.

3 1/2 hrs from Seattle.

Mazama Country Inn

800-843-7951 or

www.mazama-inn.com



Seattle Fabrics

Outdoor & Recreational Fabrics

Retail & Wholesale

Special Orders • Shipping Anywhere

SNOW SPORTS

- Gore-Tex®
- Fleece Fabrics
- Waterproof Fabrics
- Bag Fabrics
- Patterns

HIKING/CAMPING

- Coated Nylons
- Sleepbag Zippers
- Hardware & Webbing
- Repair Items
- Mosquito Netting
- Bivy Sac Patterns

WATER SPORTS

- Sunbrella®
- Marine Zippers
- Dry Bag Materials
- Neoprene
- Window Vinyl
- Marine Hardware

OTHER ITEMS

- Patterns & Books
- All Widths Canvas
- Fabrics For Kites, Windsocks, Banners, Flags, Also Velcro, Webbing & Zippers

OPEN MON THROUGH SAT 9-5
9-7 THURSDAYS
CATALOG AVAILABLE

(206) 525-0670

FAX (206) 525-0779

<http://www.seattle2000.com/seattlefabrics>

Helpful Staff • Classes Available 8702 Aurora Ave N Seattle 98103 - SE Corner of 88th & Aurora

**SEVERAL GOOD REASONS TO USE
PARGETER MAPS**

- They provide an economical **BIG PICTURE** for mountain travelers!
- They are beautiful bird's eye view oblique angle images illustrated in full color from USGS quads.
- They are large, info packed formats averaging 24" x 32" covering the Olympic Mountains, North Central Cascades, North Cascades East and North Cascades West - Thousands of square miles!
- Richard Pargeter's popular pictorial relief maps delightfully portray our mountains more quickly for most users.
- They are excellent planning tools - find hundreds of lakes, peaks, streams and valleys across the breadth of the ranges in their uncut relationships.
- Copious overprinting gives road and trail locations, ID numbers, trail point-to-point distances and elevations.
- Great quantities of really usable info for less money. Don't be without them.

Please ask for **PARGETER MAPS** at map and sporting goods stores or at stores along the Cascades and Olympic highways.

Or send \$7.50 each (ppd) for quick delivery, to:

R.A. Pargeter, POB 844, Kent, WA 98035. Thank you!

**GREEN TRAILS
MAPS**

Explore your world
in 15 minutes

ONE OF THE TEN
ESSENTIALS FOR:

Hikers
Climbers
Thinkers
Kayakers
Mountain Bikers
Dreamers
Canoeists
Skiers
Doers

Find Green Trails Maps at the best outdoor, sporting goods, book, and map stores throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Call **1-800-762-MAPS**
for the store nearest you.