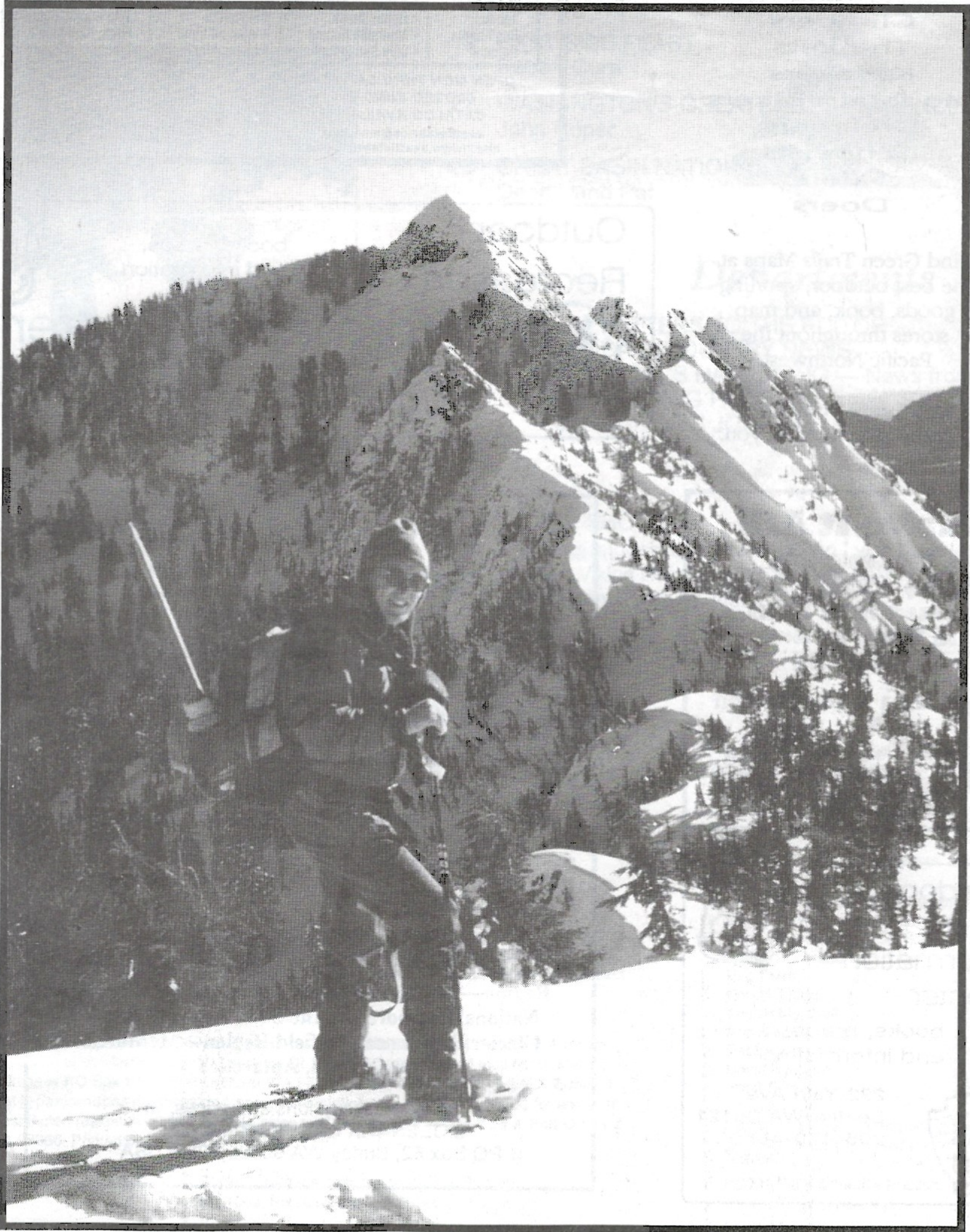


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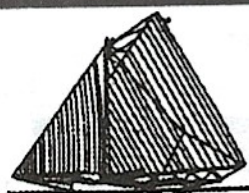
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VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2

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RANDOM VIEW—



Jane Habegger

Cole Creveling (left) and his sister Sarah skiing on the Mowich Lake road, Mount Rainier National Park.

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COVER PHOTO:

Ted Hegg snowshoes on "Short Long," with Long Mountain and Viking Horns behind. Boulder River Wilderness, Washington. Photo by John Roper.

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EXTREME CAUTION

On December 28th, 2000, the southeast side of Blue Peak above Washington Pass in the North Cascades avalanched to the ground on 19 centimeters of depth hoar.

The trigger was apparently a snow pit being analyzed by a skier at the top of the run known as Madison Avenue to helicopter skiers, or the central section of the Birthday Tour to back-country skiers.

The crown line on top was 3 feet deep and it ran all the way down to Copper Creek below Stiletto Peak.

A fracture line profile taken two days later showed 7 cm of four-finger snow, over 30 cm of one-finger snow, over 36cm of snow penetrated by a pencil—in other words, skiing good enough to tempt powder skiers on top, but all overlaying the deadly 19 cms you could poke a fist into.

Profiles in other study pits above the Methow have less tempting snow on top, mostly crust and crud, but less depth hoar. Still, extreme caution is advised for the possibility of persistent instability at the ground.

Eric Burr
Mazama, Washington

BEACH DRIVING

Re: Craig Romano's report on Roosevelt Beach in the January 2001 issue (page 6)

It may be of interest to readers that Washington's Seashore Conservation Act (codified in the Revised Code of Washington at RCW 79A.05.600-695) addresses both issues of public beaches and beach access and where and when beach driving is permitted.

Enacted in 1967 (with some significant amendments in 1969 and 1988, and then re-codified in 1999), the Sea-

shore Conservation Act is very significant and I encourage citizens to read and understand it in its entirety.

Two specific features of instant note:

(1) The Act establishes "for the recreational use and enjoyment of the public, the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area." Essentially this is all state-owned lands from Cape Disappointment at the mouth of the Columbia River to Leadbetter Point; from Toke Point to the South Jetty on Point Chehalis; and from Damon Point to the Makah Indian Reservation; and occupying the area between the lines of ordinary high tide and extreme low tide, but excluding lands within the boundaries of any Indian Reservation.

The Seashore Conservation Area is under Washington State Parks' jurisdiction and is administered by it as provided by this and other laws. Therefore, the public owns and has the right to access and use the public beaches of the defined Seashore Conservation Area; when Craig was hiking beaches between Pacific Beach and Griffiths-Priday State Parks, he was indeed using lands administered as part of his State Park System.

(2) The Act also provides that "The ocean beaches within the Seashore Conservation Area are hereby declared a public highway and shall remain forever open to the use of the public as provided in RCW 79A.05.635-695." [sections of this Act].

Those sections provide for local governments to establish recreation management plans (subject to State Parks Commission approval) for portions of the Seashore Conservation Area within their jurisdictions. Such management plans must generally provide for at least 40% of public beaches governed by the plans to be reserved for pedestrian use (i.e., motorized traffic is restricted) from April 15 to the day fol-

lowing Labor Day each year.

While the Parks Commission may not require a local government's recreation management plan to designate more than 40% for pedestrian use, such a government may elect to do so if it wishes.

So, under present Washington State law, beach driving is indeed a limited right, but a right nonetheless.

William C. Jolly
Environmental Program Manager
Washington State Parks

KIDCADIANS

Re the January 2001 issue, page 29, on kids in the outdoors: I want to report on one club doing something about it. The Cascadians Hiking Club of Yakima now has a new group for kids called the Kidcadians. Member Susie Ball is spearheading this effort and its going nicely for a new venture.

It may not be our own kids who need to learn about hiking, camping, boating and the outdoors, but what of the many who aren't exposed to it at a young age? They are the future, not only for the sport but also for the environment.

Marian Mae Robison
Wapato, Washington

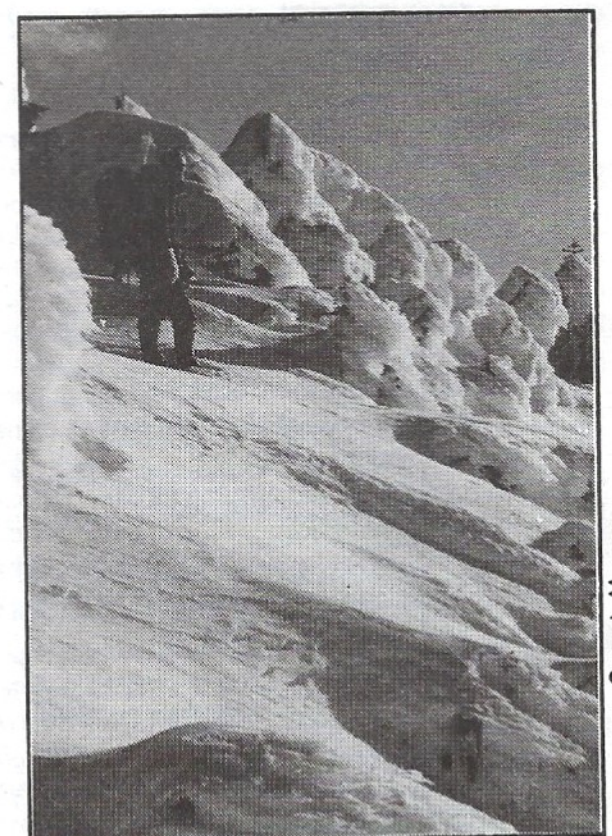
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Snowshoer on Mailbox Peak.

INTRODUCTION

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

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


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-  —Hiking, backpacking on trails.
-  —Canoeing, kayaking and water trips.
-  —Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



PENINSULA



 **KENNEDY FALLS (USGS Kamilche Valley)**—This hike follows old logging roads on Simpson Timber lands. There are all kinds of trees everywhere, from recent plantings to stands 40 years old. We went a total of about 8 miles, but there are more roads to explore.

From I-5 in Olympia, head west on Highway 101. In 6 miles this turns into Highway 8. Continue from this junction 9.4 miles (15.4 miles from I-5). No road signs of any kind mark the spot, so you have to slow down and watch for a little dirt road to the right that is gated. Parking here for a few cars.

Walk through the gate. There will be a gravel pit immediately on the left. At the first road junction to the right, stay straight on the main road. At the next Y bear to the right. Freeway noise is soon left behind. Pass four more side


roads, staying on the main road. In about a mile from the start is another Y. Head to the right, slightly downhill, just before a logged hillside. In about another half mile is another Y (actually a triangle). Go to the right. Soon after that Kennedy Creek and a swampy area will appear on the right.

After about another mile the road ends due to recent logging on the adjacent uplands, a change since Carl was last here in 1993. However, someone seems to be keeping a trail open through here to Kennedy Falls. So continue for about another mile, on the route of the old abandoned road. At one point it looks like a new beaver dam may soon cause a flood over the trail. There is also one small creek crossing. In a few more years this portion of old road could become impassible.

Finally reach good road again and a junction. Continue straight ahead to Kennedy Falls in a few hundred feet. Follow short trails to view the falls, actually quite impressive, dropping 20 to 30 feet, but a little difficult to photograph because of overhanging trees. Walk along the edge of the precipice with care.

For a return loop, go back to the last junction and head uphill, which is actually a bypass around the lower section of abandoned road. Take the first main road to the left, contouring through a recently logged area. Pass four spur roads and a swampy lake. At a T intersection turn left at the base of a hill. Go past two more spur roads to the right and go left at the next road T. This eventually comes out at the triangle intersection mentioned above.

Looks like this is an abundant bird and wildlife area. On this day we saw one salamander, one frog, one large hawk and two grouse. We also heard frog songs, and saw several spider webs jeweled in the morning mist. A great finale for the year and century.—C. Berner, Renton, 12/30.

 **GREEN MOUNTAIN (USGS Wildcat Lk)**—We have not done this hike for several years. Last time the summit was a vast garbage dump and pickups were racing up and down the summit road.

This is DNR land, part of the Tahuya Recreation Area, and we had heard that there had been improvement, the area had been cleaned up, and the road closed to cars and trucks (ORVs are still allowed). Turning off Highway 3 in Bremerton we followed first Kitsap Way, then Holly-Seabeck Road to the Tahuya Multiple Use Area.

There is a trailhead marked "Green Mt" but we choose to use the Wildcat Lake trailhead. It is a couple of miles longer and makes for a better hike. Most of the way is through woods, crossing streams and passing waterfalls. The trail crosses roads at several points but is well marked. A short climb brings you to the summit. There are several picnic tables and great views in all directions. The Olympics, Bremerton, the Kitsap Peninsula and the Cascades in the distance. This is near the big bend of Hood Canal so there is water all around.

It is true, they have cleaned up the garbage and we had a nice lunch. We made a loop by returning via the Bea-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: February 20

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

ver Pond trail which provided an interesting change of scenery. The beaver pond was very interesting.

There is a lot of information about this and other hikes in the Tahuya area in *Footsore 4* (1979, out of print) by Harvey Manning, Mountaineers Books. A delightful ferry ride back to Seattle completed a wonderful day and our first hike of 2001.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 1/7.

VASHON ISLAND (USGS Vashon)—A short ferry ride away. We drove to Point Robinson and left the car near the lighthouse. We walked back roads to Dockton where there is a picnic area and boat launch. We had lunch here then followed the roads back to the Gold Beach area where we went down to the beach and returned to the lighthouse to take advantage of the tides.

This can be done in reverse depending on the tides. It is about 6 miles total. We investigated the abandoned gravel pit which is being developed as a State Park. We also noticed the new area where they are going to haul out gravel for the third Seatac runway.

There were quite a few other hikers and a group of bicyclists doing a similar route. If you do not like hiking on roads you can do the entire hike on the

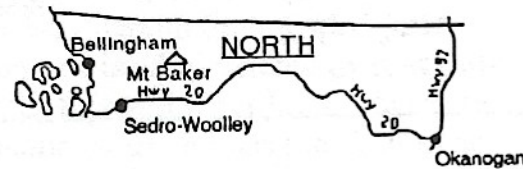


Taking a break from skiing, Bailey Raymond finds a natural snow arch at Hurricane Ridge.

beach. We did this once, but it is about 12 to 14 miles so we like to cut off some of the beach. A stop at the island Dairy Queen on our way to the ferry completed the day.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 1/14.

OLYMPIC NATL PARK—The Hurricane Ridge road is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Sol Duc road is closed until further notice due to several downed trees. The Hoh road is open during daylight hours only. The Deer Park road is open for 14 miles. The last 3 miles are open to pedestrians. Current Park road conditions are available by calling 360-452-0329.—Ranger, 1/24.

NORTH



CRANBERRY LAKE (USGS Anacortes S)—In Anacortes, drive toward the San Juan ferry dock. From Oaks Avenue turn left onto Georgia Street. Go 3 blocks and turn right on 4th Street, signed "Cranberry Lake." Follow to trailhead parking.

This Cranberry Lake is part of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL), not to be confused with the Cranberry Lake found in nearby Deception Pass State Park.

The Cranberry Lake perimeter trail, starting at the parking lot, is about 1.5 miles long. It is a little rocky in spots and comes to within inches of the water in several places, but is a very pretty walk.

Or, take a loop that follows near the park boundary, totaling about 6 miles, passing several view spots and rocky cliffs. In between are many connector trails wandering among numerous ponds and swamps, making it easy to design a loop hike of any desired length.

Having been here before, we set out to explore new trails that we had never been on previously around the park boundary. At the farthest spot from the parking lot is the high point at 750 feet and a nice little mossy bald among the madrona trees. The trees have grown up some, so look

Kelly Raymond

around to find little views out to the water, Mount Erie, and Mount Baker. The sun tried to nudge an opening between uncooperative clouds, but found the effort too difficult on this cool, but dry day.

After lunch we continued around the boundary trails, and ended up with about 7 miles total. We saw a red-headed woodpecker, and several fresh beaver cuttings. We also heard frogs practicing their frog songs, always a pleasant sound. Lots of sword and licorice ferns line the winding woodsy trails.

This is a delightful winter walk, but to avoid confusion in the maze of trails, it will be very helpful to first send for a new 2000 ACFL map packet. For \$10.50 (which includes 50 cents for postage) you will receive maps of the Whistle Lake and Heart Lake areas, as well as the Cranberry Lake map.

Send to:
City of Anacortes, Parks Dept.
PO Box 547
Anacortes WA 98221.

The packet of maps is also available at several locations in Anacortes. The new maps are excellent—topographical and very detailed.—C. Berner, Renton, 12/24.

POINT 4751/4769 (GT Lake Shannon 1996 or newer)—On

the finest day of this winter, Grant Myers led a bicycle-snowshoe trip to Point 4751/4769 southeast of Lake Shannon. This peak, of little prominence, can be seen from the Skagit Valley. It marks the southern end of the ridge that separates Sauk Mountain from Lake Shannon.

Following John Roper's description (*P&P April 99*) we pushed our bicycles from 700 to about 3400 feet where we met the snow. Passing over the open "lunch" knoll we explored peek-a-boo views from the densely wooded summit. Escaping a frigid wind we descended back to the warm sunny knoll.

While I may have questioned spending such a beautiful day on this peak, the views were nothing short of spectacular. I think this view of Baker is not only unique but possibly the finest non-aerial view possible.

The low Baker Lake valley fills the foreground offering stunning contrast to the abrupt rise of the massive volcano. Climbing routes, hiking trails, and future trips were visualized while John Wells enlightened us with stories of how climbing used to be.

Starting down, Pantera's four legs were no match for our bikes until I blew a tire. Despite the heavy pack and dragging a lame bicycle I managed to

out-jog him for a surprise victory.—
Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 1/6.



DAMNATION, HELL-RAISER (USGS Mt Triumph, Damnation Pk)

—This weekend foray featured Steve F., Dave W., Ian M., Matt B., Don B., and me doing Damnation Peak and Peak 5560+ which Steve F. called "Hellraiser." We left the Thornton Lake road at 7:30 to hike the abandoned road following Damnation Creek. The USGS map shows the elevation at this junction to be 2245 feet. We were surprised at how little snow was on the Thornton Lakes road—we came across only two small patches easily passable by any vehicle. In fact snow was non-existent in old growth sections of the forest up to 3000 feet.

We walked the abandoned road under sprinkling snow, and branches having wet snow clinging to them. The abandoned road was decent for the first 10 minutes and the last 10 minutes, but the 100 minutes in between were really awful. This abandoned road has been reclaimed by alder everywhere making travel difficult, and it takes approximately 2 hours for a one-way jaunt in poor weather. The alder on the road claimed one ski pole basket and Ian's glasses; however, on the way out Matt found Ian's glasses! This was a classic cross-country travel experience—and we had to do it again on the way out!

After we reached the end of the road we eyed an open slope on the lower east face of Damnation because there was no brush visible. Halfway up we ran into sand at 3700 feet making progress unbearable and to top it off we could tell this side ended in a face on the south ridge. We traversed to the south ridge of Damnation and followed the ridge to the summit putting on snowshoes around 4800 feet. The ridge is brushy up to 4500 feet where it opens up more. To our disappointment the clouds did not dissipate and we were not treated to any views on the summit.

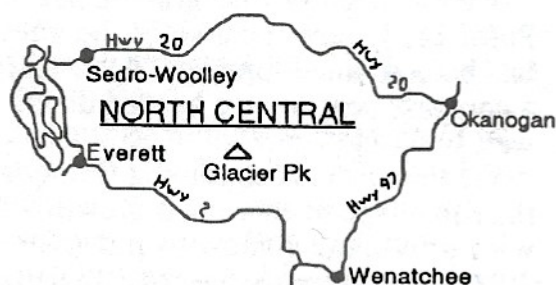
After 20 minutes on the summit Don B. and I left for the second peak, Hellraiser, northwest of Damnation. The others declined to go and left soon following the south ridge completely down. Don and I followed the northwest ridge of Damnation down until we came to a 12-foot step of rock around 5240 feet point where we were mystified how to get down for about 15 minutes. Eventually we found a way down hanging on trees. This ridge and step could be avoided by going down a broad gully trending north off Damnation and traversing over.

We continued to the "official" head-

waters of Damnation Creek where we dropped our packs at the col and continued for the summit of Hellraiser with no views.

We made it to the summit without problems and could see glimpses of the Diobsud peaks. We returned to our packs and went down a very pleasant, very wide open, and very brush-free valley of Damnation Creek. Around 3200 feet we traversed around the south ridge of Damnation and worked our way back up to the abandoned road. We caught up to the boys within 30 minutes. To my surprise the road walk took only 90 minutes on the way out—but it was still awful.—Stefan Feller, Auburn, 1/14.

NORTH CENTRAL



EBEY LANDING, FORT CASEY (USGS Coupeville)

This is a favorite winter hike with our group. Frequently sunny as it is in the rain shadow of the Olympics. Parked in the State Park parking area at the beach at Ebey Landing. It was partly cloudy and a bit windy. We climbed the bluff and followed the bluff trail, continuing from where the trail drops to the beach to the end of the bluff which is a nice lunch spot. There are some trees if you need to get out of the wind. Splendid views across the water to Port Townsend and the Olympics.

We backtracked and took the trail down to the beach and returned to the parking area. The tide was out and there were a lot of interesting sea creatures in the tide pools. When we arrived back at the car part of the group continued along the beach to Fort Casey. The rest drove and met them near the lighthouse. We spent some time touring the park, checking out the gun emplacements, etc. The bluff-beach loop is about 5 miles, plus another 2 down to Fort Casey. A brief stop in Coupeville for antique stores completed the day.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 12/31.



ROBE VALLEY (GT Granite Falls 109)

—It was a gray day and the Stillaguamish River was almost pure white with glacial flour. The new trail down the 270-vertical-foot hillside to the old railroad grade I wrote about last year is crumbling and isn't being

helped by switchback cutters. This year we went down the old trail and went back by the new trail. Here is what we found:

The river is moving westerly. At the rate it is eroding the old railroad grade, before it gets to the canyon, the trail won't be there long. One big maple tree that was standing last Christmas is now in the river.

The canyon trail is being underwashed, too. At one place a tree is hanging by its roots. If the tree goes, there will be no trail. Trickle of dirt are covering the old concrete track bed slowly but surely. The big slide of three years ago has had a new trail dug over it. It is sliding and filling with loose dirt from above. From that point looking down river, a massive slide has dropped down into the river on the other side. Luck has it that it did not block the canyon.

There appears to be trouble in the first tunnel. I would like you tunnel experts to look at this one. Since last year many huge rocks have fallen from the roof. There is a long crack in the overhead from which all of these rocks have tumbled. Water is dripping in greater quantities than ever before. Is it about to collapse or just continue to give a few hikers headaches?

To get there, go to Granite Falls and drive east on the Mountain Loop Highway. Ascending the long hill to a plateau. After passing a lake on your right, watch for a brick sign. Park along the road and enjoy a great hike. There is a picnic area on the top now that has a wonderful view of the basin.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 12/25.



LONG MOUNTAIN (USGS Silverton)

—Following the sparse directions in Dallas Klope's *Winter Climbs* for the west side of Long Mountain, I left the Marten Creek trail, which was completely free of snow, at 2600 feet and 2 miles.

This was a bit farther up the trail than suggested by the guide, but it seemed necessary to go that far to get past the cliffs of the rocky west ridge. The guide also mentioned "forest with some brush."

I did start out in forest, but try as I might I couldn't find a continuous band of trees that led upward. So I spent the next 1½ hours thrashing through brush. From 3000 feet to 3400 feet I ran into a cliff band that also hindered progress, but now the brush was useful as handholds. At 3500 feet I hit continuous snow slopes and travel improved greatly.

The snow was hard crust with maybe an inch of fresh powder, good for

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

cramponing. I diagonalled left up the easy snow under cliffs into an open basin beneath the saddle between the main peak and the west ridge high point. Well below the saddle, I climbed left up a broad gully directly under the summit wall, then went left again, frontpointing up a narrower gully to a notch on the north ridge.

The last hundred feet to the summit was a tricky partially-snow-covered rocky knife-edged ridge that I mostly crawled along to avoid being blown off by the stiff wind. The view from the top was great of Liberty Mountain and Three Fingers but I didn't stay long to admire it due to the wind and the precarious nature of the summit.

The crawl back down the ridge to the notch and backing down the steep stuff took some time, but once I hit gentler snow retreat was fast and easy. At the end of the snow I continued straight down the fall line and ended up in even worse brush and steeper cliffs than on the way up. At the cliff band I made use of "brush rappels," backing down holding onto branches. Somewhere in this mess I stumbled on a mine tunnel completely hidden in the brush. I know this is an historic mining area, but it continually amazes me the inaccessible places I come across evidence of mining activity.

Eventually I hit the trail closely north of where I left it earlier in the day, and had a pleasant trip out to the trailhead by headlamp. I can't say I would recommend this route, at least not under such low snow conditions. Maybe it would be better with a normal snowpack. But the peak itself was very nice.

I had wanted to approach from the Deer Creek road and the north side, but that road was gated at the highway and was free of snow. I couldn't drive it and I couldn't ski it and walking it wasn't appealing so I chose the route from

Marten Creek. 4000 feet elevation gain and 7½ hours total. Snowshoes and rope were carried but not needed. Ice Axe and crampons were essential.—Fay Pullen, Kent, 1/9.

▲▲ PEAK 5040 "Hawk Rock" (GT Monte Cristo)—Mitch,

Jerry, Tom and I all wanted to get out in the mountains and get some exercise, despite a marginal forecast. Mitch chose this peak for its accessibility and fair amount of prominence.

This unnamed peak about 2 miles northeast of Eagle Rock we called Hawk Rock; a good name, though is not particularly rocky. We drove the Beckler River road to road 6540, then up 6540 until we were stopped by snow at 1800 feet, about 1¼ miles.

We ascended second-growth slopes of Point 2416; very open, since the trees had been thinned long ago. After taking a compass bearing, we headed down west to a saddle at 2240 feet.

We then headed southwest through the same type open second growth, with only patchy snow to just over 3000 feet, where we gained 300 feet on a snow covered boulder/brush field. Above this we were in old-growth woods, exceptionally open and brush free. The wooded slopes were moderately steep, and the snow was pleasantly firm: excellent for kicking steps.

We hit the north ridge of the peak at about 4000 feet, where the angle eased. On the ridge we had an open slope with a protruding rock formation, then a narrowing and fairly steep snow ridge to the top. This last part was fun climbing on firm crusty snow with a couple of inches of powder over. Perfect snow conditions to make good time in.

From the summit area we had filtered views through fog to Johnson Ridge and Frog Mountain, but not much else. On a clear day this peak should have good views; it's about half open and half treed on the top.

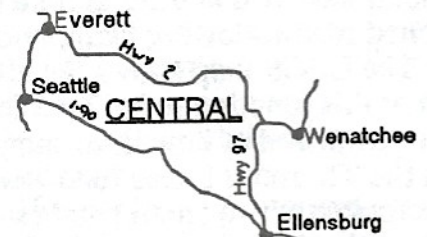
We speculated on whether we had made a first ascent of this minor summit. Mitch thought that probably no one else had bothered to climb it, and said that John Roper knew of no one that had. If not the first then probably the first winter ascent. It was just a little over 3 hours up, and 1¾ hours down. Definitely a worthwhile winter outing since it's not too long and had so little bushwhacking. View potential from the top, too.—Grant Myers, Bellingham, 1/13.

DARRINGTON DIST—Suiattle River road is snowfree to the trailhead. Green Mountain road is snowfree 2 miles, then blocked by a downed tree. Snow

starts at 4½ miles on the Mount Pilchuck road, but there is only a few inches in the parking lot.

The Mountain Loop Highway from the Darrington side is snow-covered near Monte Cristo Lakes; on the Granite Falls side, the county has kept it open to Barlow Pass.—Ranger, 1/23.

CENTRAL



▲ LORD HILL REGIONAL PARK (USGS Snohomish)—It

was a beautiful foggy crisp morning. We wanted to go somewhere without hunters, so it had to be a park (though some parks allow hunting). This Snohomish County Park is right outside the town of Snohomish. The park is a volcanic ridge with old second growth trees, a couple of viewpoints out over the valley, but mostly just wide trails through the trees. The name comes from a Mr. Lord who homesteaded on this hill in the mid-1800s and had a farm as well as a logging operation.

We were joined by a wonderful golden Lab who stayed with us the whole time. The trails are not marked, but we had a map, and "Honey" (that's what I named him) kept an eye on us the whole time.

He was so good: when we sat on a tarp for lunch, he did not try to snatch our sandwiches out of our hands, and he changed his way if we did not turn up the fork in the road that he had chosen. Some bizarre behavior: He would pick up a big stick or a small log, four or five feet long and two or three inches in diameter, and carry it for a while, then go off in the underbrush and dig a hole with his front paws, drop the stick in, and then use his muzzle and forehead to bury the log in dirt and leaves. He did this about six times.

At the end of our hike, he watched to be sure we made it back to the car, then scooted under a fence and was gone.—Goldie Silverman, Seattle, 12/6.

▲ REDMOND WATERSHED (USGS Redmond)—This is a

large area with about 9 miles of loop trails and is great exercise when you don't have a lot of time to drive. There are beaver ponds, birds, and other possible wildlife sightings along the trail.

I suggest saving it for the winter, as the many ponds are breeding places for the marauding mosquito. The trail sys-

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

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tem has bike, horse, and people trails. Some of the trails are exclusively for hiking and running. This trail system feels as remote as any other low-country hiking trails.

How to get there? Avondale Road connects Redmond and the Woodinville-Duvall Road at Cottage Lake. Nearer to Redmond than Cottage Lake is Novelty Hill Road. If attempting to hike the Watershed, turn east on Novelty Hill Road. Go east about 3.5 miles or just past 218th Avenue NE on the right. The Watershed road is on the left. Watch for the sign on the right. There is plenty of parking and maps are usually at the trailhead. If paper maps are not available, there are maps on the posts at each branch trail showing your location in the watershed.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 12/24.



SNOQUALMIE UPLANDS (USGS Fall City, Snoqualmie)

—Between Tokul Creek and Griffin Creek on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail are many horse trails leading up to Weyerhaeuser logging roads that make for great winter walking. Loops of any desired length can be designed. There are viewpoints, creeks, ponds and swamps, a beaver dam and lodge, and Lake Marie to visit.

Drive to the Tokul Creek Road, or Spring Glen Road, or Fall City Community parking lot, or Griffin Creek Road to access this area. Follow the old railroad grade and take any trail up that looks inviting. A Weyerhaeuser map of the Snoqualmie Tree Farm will be helpful [see page 17 for where to buy map].

On this cool early January day, we started at the Fall City Community parking lot, crossed the road over to SE 39th and walked along picturesque Rutherford Slough, a good place to see herons, ducks, and muskrats. We reached a gate in ½-mile. From the gate it is approximately ¾-mile to the railroad grade. We turned left in a few hundred feet and took the old Toboggan Road and trails up to a viewpoint of the Snoqualmie Valley. The sun edged along the horizon just high enough to rearrange the shadows.

We then proceeded north about another 1.5 miles to a viewpoint of Mount Pilchuck, Mount Baker, and Griffin Creek. Then taking a southeasterly loop and passing two swampy lakes and two easy creek crossings, we arrived at our lunch spot, a nameless pond we fondly refer to as Beaver Lake because of its resident beaver lodge and dam.

After lunch we continued around

Beaver Lake and eventually ended up at an overlook with views to Mount Si, Rattlesnake and Tiger Mountains, the Snoqualmie Valley and river, and city skyscrapers in the distance.

After a short rest enjoying the view, we took a nearby trail that steeply descended down an adjacent ridge back to the railroad grade. By the time we reached the car we had hiked about 8 miles, with approximately 800 feet elevation gain.—C. Berner, Renton, 1/3.



THE HUMMOCKS: Sleeping Beauties (GT Mt Si)—

“The Hummocks:” what a great name! Is this an invention of Wanderbuns and Shortstop (see *P&P*, May 1999, page 12), or has it been used by others in the past? Whatever, the name refers to a splayed group of low elevation high points just east of the North Fork Snoqualmie River road a few miles north of North Bend.

According to the article referred to above and USGS Mount Si, The Hummocks consist of Sleeping Beauty 1 Hummock (1600+ feet, just under 1.2 miles east of Fuller Mountain); Sleeping Beauty 2 Hummock (1400+ feet, 1.3 miles east-southeast of Fuller Mountain); Huckleberry Hummock (1400+ feet, 1.7 miles southeast of Fuller Mountain), and Monument Hummock (1280+ feet, 2.7 miles south-southeast of Fuller Mountain).

I would humbly suggest that as “Huckleberry Hummock” is actually a two-topped massif similar to the Sleeping Beauties, and its northern top (1400+) is designated on the USGS map as “Hancock,” that we call the northern top Hancock Hummock and the southern top (1370 feet) Huckleberry Hummock.

Such tedious trivia aside, all of these summits are credible winter destinations. Some have roads nearly to the top, while other require cross-country travel. Unlike higher adjacent Fuller Mountain, none has an actual trail to the top.

With only a couple of hours available, my dog Hanna and I chose the Sleeping Beauties as our goals this foggy day. Our description follows, a modest trek of 3.5 miles with 750 feet of gain.

Drive to North Bend. Take Ballerat Street north and continue about 4 miles until the center yellow line ends at a Y. Take the left fork, uphill, the North Fork Snoqualmie River road. In .4-mile the pavement ends. In another 3.5 miles stop at a crossroads, with Gate 11 on the right and Gate 10 a bit down the road to the left. Park here, elevation 1020 feet.

Walk east through Gate 11 and continue .25-mile. Turn left on road 32100

and follow it north .5-mile. Turn right on road 32120 which leads to the ridge between the two Sleeping Beauties in .45-mile. For number 1, take the north branch .1-mile, then head for the top through small Douglas-fir, bracken, Oregon grape and occasional blackberry canes. For number 2, take the south branch .15-mile to its end, cross the logging slash, find your way through more plentiful blackberry thickets, then clamber to the top. Because of the thorns, brush and slash, a cover of snow would be welcome.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 1/12.



SLEEPING BEAUTY HUMMOCKS (GT Mt Si)—

Sleeping Beauty Hummocks has two peaks. The south hummock is shorter than the north hummock. Both have great views.

The south hummock has a rotting, slippery slash pile that must be overcome before the trail to the top can be reached. The trail follows a sharp ridge (close to the edge) and up to a nice picnic spot with views of the North Fork Snoqualmie River, Mount Si, Tokul Plateau, and Rattlesnake Mountain.

Heading to the north hummock, go past the logging spur leading to the south hummock. Watch closely on your right for a ramp with a cairn on it. Head into the short fir trees. At a rock pile of 4 or 5 rocks, turn to the right and follow the faint path heading to the top. Two places offer good views. One is on the north end of the top and the other is on the southwest side.

To get there, drive to Gate 10 and turn left from the North Fork County Road. After turning left, park on the right side of that road. Walk east. Cross the County Road, pass the Weyerhaeuser Gate and continue east. Turn left at the first road. Go north passing one road on your right. Turn right at the next road. Follow that road to the hummocks. The hike is 3.2 miles round trip with a 500 foot gain. If you can cross the slash pile and get to the top of the south hummock, you can add another 80 foot gain.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 1/1



FULLER MOUNTAIN (GT Mt Si)—

Last week we met a whole covey of Mountaineers led by Karen Sykes going to Fuller Mountain. This week Shortstop, too, wanted to experience Fuller Mountain.

Shortstop learned a few things about Fuller Mountain and its trail. She learned that the log across Ten Creek is aging and it is going to let someone down one of these days. She found the

three talus falls are slippery. She learned that the trail is dark on Tokul flats, and the switchbacks are fading. We did it anyway and had a good hike.

The view at the top of Fuller is always great. If you park at the west gate of Gate Ten, you can see your car from the viewpoint on the southeast top of Fuller. It isn't where you might expect it to be.

With our Garmin Etrex GPS, we found the hike to be 2.1 miles one way. We also found that it is 993 vertical feet gain. The trail is slow from the southwest side of the mountain because of the rocks and slides that must be crossed. After the slides, the trail starts up. The old trailbed has been pushed aside by ferns. From the top down the ridge to the first switchback on the ridge we cleared the ferns from the trail.

Lower on the trail after crossing Ten Creek, the tread is faint. Watch for markers. In about .1-mile you will come to a slash crossing. Cross it to a large loading area of the past. Follow the road to the left. In a short distance you will find another road that goes right. Follow it uphill. Watch sharply for the trail into the deep woods on your left. It isn't that hard to find. Once on it, follow the track. In some places it is faint.

To find Gate Ten, turn onto Ballarat Street on the east side of the car dealer in downtown North Bend. Follow the yellow line out to the North Fork Snoqualmie River county road. When you get to a wide spot in the road where you can see a gate on both sides of the road, you are there. Park on the left side of the road near the west gate.

To find the trail, go around the west gate and cross Weyerhaeuser's road and see a sign telling of the start of the trail. Enjoy the hike and we hope we made the trail a little better for your hiking enjoyment.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 1/6.



SASSE MOUNTAIN (GT Kachess Lk)—Our group of ten from the Everett Mountaineers headed up through the trees on snowshoes from where we had parked on the Salmon la Sac road just north of the Cle Elum River campground. The trip had a 3400-foot gain from the road to the summit.

Using map and compass we found the old logging road to use for a couple of switchbacks. From there we went straight up a steep hill to find the end of a spur logging road which cut off a lot of snowshoeing.

Once up to the spur road, we used it for about ½-mile before continuing

crosscountry the rest of the way, some of it over old clearcuts, through standing timber and open slopes, then up the ridge line to the summit. Since it snowed all day, there wasn't much of a view, but with the top covered with trees we couldn't have seen much anyway. Time to the top, 4½ hours.

We ate our lunches on top. One of the members had brought along a birthday cake. Two in our party were having birthdays and got to blow out the candles before the cake disappeared.

Heading back down had some fun moments. One little spot in particular turned out tricky. In the fog we could not tell that it dropped very steeply for about 10 feet, so when we stepped down on our snowshoes, we slipped and slid down the short slope. About 5 of us did it in the same spot. Going back down took only about 2½ hours.

The only bad part of this trip was after getting back to the Brickyard P&R on I-405 from where we had carpooled. I found the driver's side window of my Ranger pickup had been smashed out and my CD player stolen. So you never know if they will hit you at the trailhead or a park and ride.—George Chambers, Bothell, 1/13.

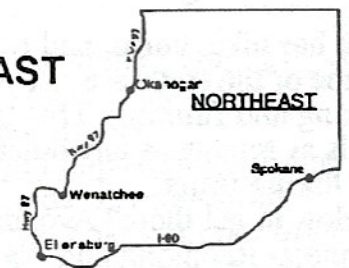
ENCHANTMENTS—To obtain a permit for the 2001 season, call the Leavenworth Ranger Station, 509-548-6977. Applications will be processed starting February 21.—Ranger, 1/17.

CLE ELUM DIST—Due to the lack of snow, skiers and snowshoers are encountering more snowmobilers as each group tries to find suitable snow. Please be courteous and tolerant and respect your neighbor when in shared use areas.

The Voluntary Non-motorized Areas are still in effect this year. The areas that snowmobilers are asked to avoid are I-90 exit 62, Salmon la Sac, Jungle Creek, Beverly/Bean Creek, Iron/Bear Creek, Blewett Pass and Wilson Creek. A map outlining these areas is available from the ranger station.

The Cle Elum District would like to know how you think this concept is working. Contact the ranger station with your thoughts or for more information: 509-674-4411.—Ranger, 1/15.

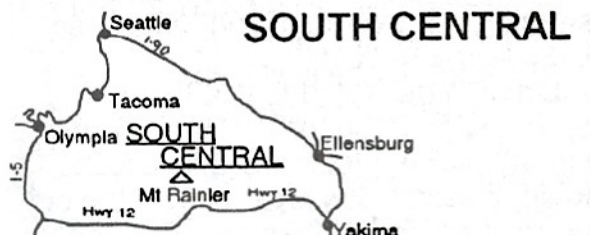
NORTHEAST



OLD BUTTE (USGS Wenatchee)—Located at the southwest edge of the town of Wenatchee, Old Butte sports a great view of the Wenatchee Valley and the Columbia River.

The climb was a personal celebration of a recently acquired parcel of land given by a local landowner to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. This gift allows public access from the edge of town onto land owned by the State DNR; thus, hikers now have legal access from this edge of town onto many acres of hiking terrain, all open country with sweeping views.

Old Butte takes less than a half hour to access, but has a somewhat exposed scramble to reach the top of this ancient volcanic feature. A higher point above on the ridge can be reached without scrambling and has a similar view.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 1/5.



CEDAR RIVER TRAIL (USGS Maple Valley)

Heather and I headed out for a long hike on this dreary and dismal day. Being both a cyclist and a runner as well as a hiker, I find that Rail-Trails satisfy all of these pursuits. However, some of our Rail-Trails are better fitted for one sport over another.

The easternmost segment of the Cedar River Trail makes for some good winter hiking. Unlike the western half of the trail which is paved and surrounded by encroaching urban sprawl, the eastern segment of the Cedar River trail is relatively wild and rural.

A good portion of the trail is within sight of the river, and plenty of large cedars, firs and cottonwoods line the way. There are lots of old railroad bridges too—iron trestles nearly 100 years old.

We hiked from Landsburg Park to where Highway 18 meets Highway 169 outside Maple Valley. This out-and-back, generally flat hike is 12 miles long. We encountered only 14 other trail users on this rainy and quiet Saturday.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 1/13.

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TWIN FALLS TO HALL CREEK (GT Bandera)

—Last fall I promised my young friend Erika a hiking trip when she came home from college on Christmas break. This was the payoff. The weather was gray, 40ish, but dry when we arrived at the Twin Falls parking lot (near exit 38, I-90) about 9:45.

I get out a lot, but Erika has had far fewer opportunities so this was a new trail for her. It was easy going, only slightly muddy, on up to the bridge and viewing platforms to see stunning Twin Falls (actually a triple). Then we continued up through the forest to the Iron Horse trail and then east about another mile and a half to the Hall Creek bridge which the State has so nicely repaired.

We had partial mountain views with the cloud level at about 4000 feet. A little snow was on the edges of the Iron Horse. This was a very successful low elevation mid-winter hike. No rain and, more importantly, no snow on the trail, since my friend's waterproof boots were 500 miles away in the closet.—Robert Michelson, Seattle, 12/27.



THE FACE and THE CLOWN (USGS Ohanape-

cosh Hot Spgs)—I eventually made it away from the family for a break to the wilderness over my Christmas break. I do love my family dearly, but I *needed* to get out of the house. I chose two peaks just east of Ohanapecosh Campground.

I arrived at Ohanapecosh and was ready to go at 6:45am. The state plows the road up to the Ohanapecosh campground—however, this place is not a Sno-park so you can park for free! Snow on the highway after Ohanapecosh was less than an inch. I must have been really excited to go because it was still too dark for me to travel, so I took a half hour nap in the car. I started moving at 7:15 and, yes, I still had a road walk to do. I walked the road for about 20 minutes before I came to a mini service road off to the right with a chain link between two trees. I followed this road until it ended at a large water tank. I followed a trail behind the water tank until I crossed the stream I wanted to cross. I then immediately headed uphill.

This area is definitely old growth because it lies within the National Park boundary. It is so old growth, I barely encountered any obstacles in brush bashing. In fact I even recommend these peaks as a trip to do in the fall when it is raining!

There were patches of snow all the way to about 3200 feet. From 3200 feet to 3800 feet there was about 2 inches of

solid snow. This was weird. We need more snow in the mountains or it will be a very tough summer. When the snow became deeper, I sank up to my shins.

Temperatures were in the low 40s, and there was a very high cloud layer above the elevation of Mount Rainier. I felt guilty. Here I was on December 29th doing a peak in winter under spring conditions. I could not take credit for a winter ascent of this peak under these conditions.

Anyway, I made it to the summit of Peak 5299 generally following the easterly trending ridge all the way to the top. There was a rock step between 4600 and 4800 feet that could be easily bypassed by going around to the right and up. The summit is half trees on one side and half clearcut scenic on the other. Glimpses of Mount Rainier, Little Tahoma, and Double Peak can be seen.

I had to put on snowshoes on the way down because I was sinking up to my thighs in melting snow. I called peak 5299 The Face because of the broad northeast face opposite a peak I called The Clown (Peak 5028). Peak 5299 has 1019 feet of prominence—I think. I got the name The Clown due to Laughingwater Creek.

My next objective was peak 5028, or The Clown which was northeast of The Face. Since the contour lines indicated steepness between The Clown and The Face I followed the same ridge I ascended down until I could find a break. I found a break at the 4600 foot contour line. A snow-filled gully headed down and to the northeast into a basin. The ascent of The Clown went easily and without fanfare. The difficulty was still the spring-like snowmelt conditions. Animal tracks were everywhere too. This summit is also half treed and has half views of clear cut.

I came down The Clown and intersected the Laughingwater trail around the 3000-foot level still amazed at how little snow and brush I encountered. Back to the car at 3pm.—Stefan Feller, Auburn, 12/29.



SNOQUERA FALLS LOOP (USGS Sun Top)

—Essentially the only uphill on this 3.4 mile loop is the section going up to the falls. Otherwise, it is a gentle walk in the quiet woods. We didn't see a soul on this cold but dry midweek day. Just don't go on a weekend when there is snow as the trail crosses Boy Scout Camp Shepard's inner tube runs. Son Jeff came here when he was a Scout and the place is a zoo during their winter snow camps.

Jacki and I got a late start as usual and wanted to end early enough to do some

serious browsing at Greenwater's Wapiti Woolies store. Still we had enough time to take a side trip to the footbridge over the White River and back, a total of 1.8 miles additional.

Parking in the cleared area on the east side of the road just past the Skookum Falls sign on Highway 410 south of Greenwater, we began our loop on the lower trail. Don't confuse this with the powerline trail which is even lower and not shown on the map. The Sun Top topo shows our entire trip in detail.

We ate a quick lunch on a cold log just on the other side of the footbridge and left before we turned to ice. Continuing counter-clockwise on the loop, we hiked uphill to Snoquera Falls. Not very exciting this time of year as there was little water coming over. We left the trail and made our way to the base of the falls for a more impressive view. About 1/3-mile north of the falls a landslide has wiped out a section of the trail. We gingerly picked our way diagonally down the dirt and boulders to regain the trail at the bottom. After that it was an uneventful return on the remainder of the trail to our car.

Stopping in Greenwater, we enjoyed one of Wapiti Woolies' famous Mount Rainier Mudslides while we perused the racks of fleece clothing.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 1/9.



MOUNT TAHOMA TRAILS (USGS Mt Wow)

—Hiked to Snow Bowl Hut on dirt and packed snow. No need for snowshoes but did carry them since they really felt a need to get out. Skiing out of the question until more snow.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 1/7.



PARADISE (USGS Mt Rainier East)

—Did a snowshoe hike at Paradise. Only about 3 feet of snow. Some of the trail signs were still visible at Glacier Vista. The spots that usually have snow cornices were bare. Lots of crevasses showing on the Nisqually Glacier. Unless the weather pattern changes soon, 2001 will be a really low snow year. The backcountry should open up early.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 1/17.



TUMTUM PEAK (USGS Wahpenayo Pk)

—I went to Tumtum Peak on Christmas day 1999 and decorated a summit tree with festive fabric bows that I fashioned (see *Pack & Paddle, February 2000*). I decided that Tumtum was to become my annual Christmas Day summit and therefore planned a trip for Christmas day 2000. I was a bit anxious about

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navigating solo as a good portion of the trip is in the trees above Kautz Creek. Last year there was no snow until approximately 500 feet before the summit and navigation was sometimes challenging. As it turns out a friend joined me at the last minute and there was snow on entire trip, which made for easy return route finding.

The Kautz Creek trailhead inside the Nisqually entrance of Mount Rainier National Park was bustling with the tourists rushing to the porta-potties and snapping photos of the mountain. However, once on the mile-long trail to the creek crossing we didn't see a soul.

The day started with clear skies and mild temperature with a few inches of crunchy snow from the beginning of the trail onward. We had an easy crossing of Kautz Creek on a snow-covered log. We continued upward on the trail in snow until around 3180 feet where we started trending through the woods, sometimes following elk tracks in the snow in a southwesterly direction.

The snow eased my mind, as I knew I would be able to follow our tracks back to the trail. The conundrum of this trip is finding the correct ridge to ascend to reach the 4000 foot saddle. We nailed it dead on and arrived at the saddle in good time.

From there we contoured around the saddle and lost only approximately 20 feet elevation before the final short, steeper push to summit ridge. The snow level was perfect. Just enough for our feet to bite in except when we occasionally stepped on old logs which could send us slipping for a bit before we firmly stopped in the snow.

Once on the ridge it was an easy walk to the summit at 4678 feet with 1118 feet of prominence. I was happy on the summit to see the subalpine fir tree I decorated last year in all its glory with four of the bows I placed last year still on the tree! We had filtered views across the valley to High Rock lookout but couldn't see beyond to Adams. This year I brought a garland to add to the tree with a new festive bow for the top. The garland and bow were the color white for hope for the new year.

The day was great. It was good to know I could navigate on my own. I thought about Christmases past, especially last year's summit with Pilar and new hopes and dreams for 2001. Here's wishing *Pack & Paddle* readers sunlight rays of hope in your mountain endeavors in 2001.

Stats: 6 miles round trip, 2420 feet elevation gain, 4 hours 20 minutes total time, including rest breaks and tree trimming.—Marti, Seattle 12/25.



REFLECTION LAKES

(USGS Mt Rainier East)—

Sign said chains required—that was a good omen. Put them on for practice even though a plow driver told me the sign would be down in 15 minute. Glad I put them on; it was slick. I skied out toward Reflection Lakes, took the shortcut over the toe of Mazama Ridge; mistake. There had been about 4 inches of new snow Wednesday night, another inch or so Thursday night, over a very compact base. Under the trees the snow cover was as little as one inch over ice.

Reflection Lakes have unmarked snow cover. Don't think the weather has been cold enough to attempt a crossing. Turned around at the overlook of Louise Lake. Returned on the road, took the high abandoned road grade above the viewpoint above Narada Falls. Snow slow but still good skiing.

Snowing hard when I left at 2pm so I hope there will be good snow cover by the time *P&P* goes to press and this won't be worth printing.

Met, for the umpteenth time, that delightful, diminutive old couple who virtually live on the mountain—Ake and Bronka Sundstrom.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 1/12.

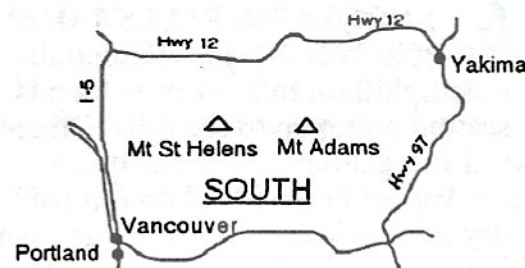
MOUNT RAINIER NATL PARK—

Snow depth at Paradise is about 56 inches, half of average. Longmire to Paradise road closes at 4:30pm daily, or earlier if conditions warrant. Morning opening is between 8 and 10am.

Lower Carbon River crossing is out; must use suspension bridge.

Camping on snow is allowed almost anywhere within the Park once snow had accumulated to sufficient depth to protect vegetation. That depth is 60 inches at Paradise and 24 inches elsewhere. Snow camps must be 200 feet from plowed roads and parking areas (to avoid getting buried by snow-blowing) and 100 feet from water.—Ranger, 1/15.

SOUTH



GIFF PINCHOT NATL FOREST—

Like everywhere else, snow is skimpy this winter but there is enough for good skiing and snowshoeing.

Marble Mountain Sno-Park has 10

inches. Skiing in the vicinity is poor to fair but conditions improve as you gain elevation. Smith Butte Sno-Park has 18 inches of snow—icy, but will improve with new snow. Wind River area Sno-Parks have about 15 inches of snow, just fair for skiing because of being icy. Will improve with new snow. The Wind River trails are groomed.

Some trails are open for adventurous hiking; expect winter conditions: Dog Mountain, Lewis River (lower part), and PCT (lower part).—Ranger, 1/12.

CANADA



ELK and THURSTON (Chilliwack 92/H4)—

This hike provides one of the best viewpoints for both the Fraser and Chilliwack Valleys. A steep trail leads directly through pleasant forest to the views from Elk Mountain (4700 feet). The trail continues along a ridge through pockets of trees to the open summit of Thurston (5335 feet). Views south beautifully frame the Border Peaks, Tomyhoi and Slesse.

North, the Cheam Range appears close enough to touch and on a clear day Garibaldi and Whistler areas can be picked out of the "waves" of the Coast Range. West, the flat Fraser Valley captures the lower mountains of Sumas, Chilliwack, and Vedder but if clear you'll see the Gulf Islands and northern San Juans.

Cross the border at Sumas and take Highway 1 east to exit 123; go right/south on Prest Road to a left/east on Bailey Road; take the right fork onto Elk View then stay on the main road. Just past the large Chilliwack Bench Road sign (road turns to gravel) look for the parking lot on the left (2000+ feet).

The 8 mile round trip makes a pleasant day but if you're fast or set up a car shuttle you can continue following the ridge to Mount Mercer. On this day, the trail in the woods below Elk had become ice (we would have used crampons if we had them), the ridge had an enjoyable snow crust and we packed the snowshoes all day.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham (with Roger C) 12/28.



MOUNT FORD (Chilliwack 92/H4; ITMB Map 098 Fraser Valley Road Map includes many trails)

—We started for Mount McGuire but ended with Mount Ford and spawning salmon. After another retreat from McGuire (50 trees felled across road to Borden Creek) we continued up the Chilliwack River road. The Mount Ford road (on left/north side) is steep but drivable (active roadside logging).

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My high clearance car crossed small streams and deep waterbars.

Parking, after one hill too many, we walked the short distance to road end and the trailhead, 3400 feet. The trail provides no warm-up, but immediately climbs steeply. Once on the wooded ridge, the slope eases and limited views suddenly change to a panorama (4660 feet). Despite the chill wind we bundled up and enjoyed the scenery.

To the south we could see deep into the canyon between rugged Rexford and Slesse mountains, our attention drawn to a tangle of border peaks and ridges. To the west, Mount McGuire taunted us once again, and the lower ridges fell away to the Fraser Valley and Islands beyond. Moving out of the wind on the northwest side we enjoyed dramatic views of the Cheam Range. (Snow and road conditions can lengthen this hike to 9 miles round trip and 3300 feet of gain if starting from the main road.)

Driving home, we stopped at the Angle-wing Lake salmon enhancement area (south side of main road). We had excellent wildlife viewing: spawning salmon in the rock bordered stream, a variety of waterfowl on the lake, and eagles perched above the river. Our next stop was the large salmon hatchery at Slesse Creek. A mob of returning salmon, interpretive signs, and good river viewing made the stop worthwhile (hatchery hours limited to 8am to 3pm). At the bridge we enjoyed another kind of "wildlife" viewing as whitewater kayakers ran the slalom course. Our favorite coffee stop in Chilliwack was closed so I treated Roger to his first visit to a Tim


Hortons (now he owes me big time).—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 1/7.

 **MOUNT LAUGHINGTON**
(Chilliwack 92/H4; ITMB Map 098 Fraser Valley Road Map includes many trails)—I expected to get good views from this trip because Mount Laughington, though only about 6000 feet high, is separated from the adjacent ranges by deep river and creek valleys. Even so, I was not prepared for how stunning and continuous the views would be.

I combined the info in both *103 Hikes in SW BC* by Macaree, and John Baldwin's *Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis*. The gate from Foley Creek Road had been unlocked for a while and I managed to get my 4-wheel drive car over the numerous and ugly-looking water bars to about 2 miles where snow covered ice stopped me.

Sheer rock faces and rugged snow dusted peaks were evident before I stopped the car. Walking, then snowshoeing, I followed old logging roads to the beginning of the long curved ridge. The distant peak at the other end turned out to be the destination. Despite numerous small bumps, the ridge travel in snowshoes was not difficult and the views just kept getting better. If you're just here for the scenery, then the last big bump marked with a summit cairn is sufficient. If you want the highest point, you'll have to drop down and negotiate some technical areas before reaching the final peak where a plaque may be found if the snow isn't too deep. Despite shortening the 12

mile round trip by 4 miles it still felt like a long day but the descent was incredibly fast as I skied the powder on snowshoes, down the ridge and through the trees to a lower section of road.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 1/17.

 **MOUNT CORRIVEAU**
(Skagit River quad)—Bud Hardwick, my dog Panterra, and I climbed this peak set deep in the rugged country of the BC Chilliwack. We were on the Radium Lake trail (see *103 Hikes in SW BC*) at 8am, 2 hours after leaving Bellingham. It was a clear but cold day and the trail was quite icy.

Where the trail crosses Radium Creek to its east side for the second time (at 3450 feet and about 1½ miles up the trail), we left the trail heading straight up the steep, forested slope. There was no snow, but the forest floor was frozen hard and increasingly slippery. After a while we got out crampons (mine were instep) and ice axe, after several slides on the duff. This increased traction though our progress was still on the slow side.

After 1500 feet of elevation gain we finally had enough snow cover for stable footing. At about 5300 feet we donned snowshoes, but soon removed them when the slope steepened too much to use them.

We went back and forth several times with equipment changes; with gentle slopes snowshoes were useful but on the steep slopes we floundered up with our ice axes. Panterra floundered too, and whined loudly as he followed us up the steeper sections; very happy and

My Best of 2000

Every newspaper does their top picks for the previous year. Here are my top climbing picks for 2000.

BEST TRIP: Triumph/Despair. Greg and I did these two peaks plus three others in two days.

BEST WINTER TRIP: Oval Peak. Did this one with James as an over-nighter. I do not know how many winter ascents this peak gets, but it is probably less than two.

WORST DOWNHILL TRIP: Marble/Hit Me with Mitch and Christine. It was when we reached the apex of two gulches and we were between them. Then we had to scramble down next

to a waterfall and then follow slippery logs out, only to cross a river in the dark. Oh yeah, it was raining too.

BEST CAMPSITE: Sonny Boy trip with Mike and Matt. Gorgeous view of the Ptarmigan Traverse northwest of Sonny Boy Peak.

MOST AVALANCHES: North Crested Butte with Mitch and Mike. Lots of loose wet snow falling into the main gulch. I do mean a lot.

STEEPEST: Johannesburg with Don. This was the second best trip due to rain on our second day—we managed to get two other peaks. The snow was steep and wet but really cool.

MOST ELEVATION GAIN: Seven Fingered Jack and Mount Maude plus four other peaks by myself in two days. The scree traverse to Ice Box and Chilly was a real pain.

MOST PEAKS IN ONE DAY: Six in the Teanaway from Iron to Earl Peak after the birth of McKenna. I could have gotten nine peaks, but the wife demanded I be home at a certain time.

BEST BIRTHDAY TRIP: Beaver Peak. Lots of friends made this trip enjoyable despite the rainy start and sugar snow, and let's not forget the limousine down the mountain!

—Stefan Feller

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

wagging his tail once on easy ground. We finally passed the east-northeast minor buttress of Corriveau and angled southward, now above timberline. Great views from here of surrounding peaks and the end of Chilliwack Lake, our starting level now 3500 feet below.

Huge snow-covered granite boulders made for an interesting landscape as we traversed between them and up to the 6150-foot saddle between the two high points of Corriveau. We were stunned by the sight of Rexford and Slesse upon reaching the saddle, and marveling at these and so many other summits gave us a chance to catch our breath. It was getting late, however, and we pushed on to reach the north summit at 1:30pm. As we ate our lunch and enjoyed the views we discussed going over to the south summit. This other peak appeared to be higher, though the name Corriveau is placed by the north of the two.

Our stay on top was brief due to the wind chill (my water bottle froze) and the late hour, not to mention our desire to go over to the other peak. At the saddle we dropped our packs and strolled the scenic and gentle crest of the south peak to reach its top in just 10 minutes. Bud's altimeter showed this peak to be 30 feet higher than the other; they are both contoured at 6400 feet with no exact elevation.

It was good to get to this higher summit as it was less windy here and had a bit better views also. At 2:30pm we had to pry ourselves away and head down.

The descent went well until the frozen ground of the forest. My instep crampons were not sturdy enough to handle the downward force and broke out the adjustment screw, causing them to fall apart. For about 1000 feet I had a tough time. I had to do some careful down-climbing with the pressure of getting down before dark. Bud had no problem with full crampons and went ahead to find the best route down.

It was quite a relief to reach the trail at 5pm with just enough daylight to reach the car. It was truly a great adventure if a bit hurried. 5½ hours up to the first summit and 3 hours down from the second with about 5000 feet net gain. Was this a first winter ascent? I have no idea, but certainly a great objective and one not often done.—Grant Myers, Bellingham, 1/15.

OREGON



NEAHKAHNIE MOUNTAIN—With no supplies except a snack bag of pretzels, Jacki and I started out after 2pm on this rainy afternoon to do a 5 mile loop up and over Neahkahnie Mountain. Donning rain jackets against the wind and rain and wearing our hiking boots, we figured we'd have the time do it before dark. And if it turned out that we really should have had our packs, we reasoned it would just make a more interesting P&P read.

Neahkahnie Mountain is located on the Oregon Coast south of Cannon Beach. Most of the trail is in lovely coastal fir; however, the one viewpoint along the way is well worth the wait. Beginning at the north trailhead, we hiked up, around, and over the side of the mountain for 2 miles before we attained the rocky outcropping which afforded wonderful vistas.

We looked east to the Coast Range and south from Nehalem Bay on down the coastline for many miles. By now the rain had stopped and the skies cleared enough to enjoy the view. We broke out the pretzels and shared with Shabby since we'd forgotten the dog biscuits. The packs may have been intentionally left behind, but we actually forgot the dog biscuits and leash.

The south trailhead is about .5-mile up a dirt road. That left about 1 mile of Highway 101 to walk in the waning daylight with a leashless dog back to the car. We fashioned a short leash from Shadow's collar (that's another story) which seemed to do the trick. The stretch of highway that curves around the sheer rock face of Neahkahnie Mountain actually had a little walkway next to the retaining wall overlooking the Pacific. Lovely ocean views to our left while cars whizzed by on our right. But we felt safe enough and the downhill walk went quickly. We arrived at the car as darkness was settling in.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 1/17.

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.

WANTED—Looking for a few women to start a weekly hiking group, but only during the week. I am a 64-year-old woman who has hiked extensively in Washington for 30-35 years, except for the last two. I want to start up again. Bellevue, near I-90. Marita, 425-746-3877.

WANTED—Hiking/climbing partner for Old Goat. Intermediate skills. If you're over 50 and still got it, give me a call. 253-838-8621; ask for Pat.

LOST—Pair of prescription sunglasses in brown case along West Fork Miller River trail/road. Call Don, 425-883-5575 (Bellevue).

FREE—Woman's XC ski boots. Size 7½, Merrell backcountry model, leather with Vibram sole, near new condition. Free to whomever can put them to good use. 509-943-6940 (Richland).

FOR SALE—Avalanche beacons: Two Ortovox M-1 avalanche transceivers for sale at \$180 each. Never used. New last year for \$300. Contact Lewis at 425-643-2446 (Bellevue) or <lewis.turner@ci.seattle.wa.us>.

FOR SALE—Fischer X-C E99 skis, 195cm. Women's Asolo backcountry boots, size 8. Both for \$150. Excellent condition. 206-546-2163 (Seattle).

FOR SALE—New Atlas snowshoes, never worn, Model 1233BD, mountaineering use with crampons. New \$229, sell for \$150. Call Doug at 360-678-2972 (Coupeville) or <dshep5243hiker@aol.com>.

FOR SALE—One pack: Dana Bomb Pack, 3200ci. Black, M/L, seldom used, \$150. 360-830-5870 (Seabeck).

FOR SALE—La Sportiva K3 mountaineering boots, size 45. Grivel G-12 new Classic crampons, packed twice, never used, fit boots very well. Boots: \$310 new, asking \$250. Crampons \$125 new, asking \$100. Contact Joel at 206-780-1344 (Bainbridge Island).

OSAT—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 253-236-9674 or on the web: www.osat.org

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).

LOUISE BURNETT MARSHALL

The Ascent of Yang Ming Shan

—FIRST OF A SERIES—

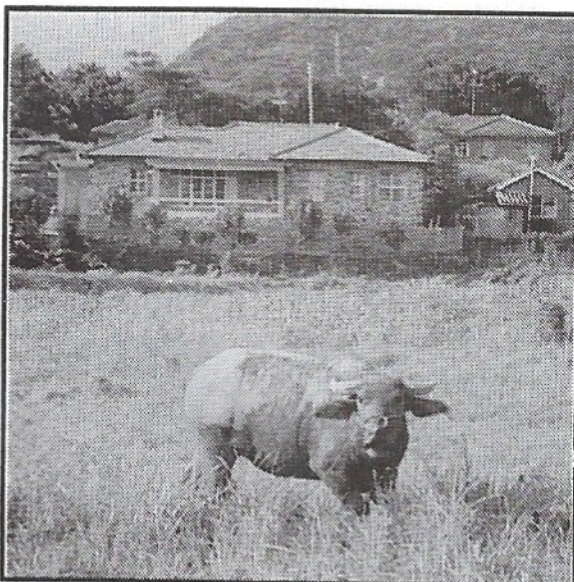
Author's Note: The retelling of this reminiscence is based on the style of *Ascent of Rumdoodle*, with a nod to "Ascent of Iowa's High Point" (*Backpacker* magazine).

Visiting in Taiwan in August, 1967, and based in the little village of Tien Mou, outside Taipei (sort of like North Bend is to Seattle), I looked around for outdoorsy contacts with the locals.

Since I don't speak Chinese and most Taiwanese at that time did not speak English, locating hiking and climbing routes was not easy. By finagling an appointment with a Green Beret colonel (who certainly knew the terrain), I was directed to a suitable challenge. I would lead an assault on Yang Ming Shan, the mountain which towered over Tien Mou.

Our climbing party of three consisted of me, as leader and route-finder, then my daughter Ann, and—roped-in from the very start—my granddaughter Amber, aged 1 month. Two of us were Mountaineer Climbing Course-trained: I as an auditor, Ann a bona fide graduate. Amber was a novice. We carried our equipment in shopping bags, improvised into summit packs. Not a strong party, but willing and cooperative.

Our approach route began at the end of Road Ten, where it ran into a meadow. Here was our first challenge: the meadow was occupied. The occupant was a Very Large Water Buffalo.



The first challenge—a water buffalo on the route.

Louise B. Marshall

None of our party was familiar with these creatures close-up; seeing them on postcards was enough. We tried to act as if we belonged there, held our breath, and the beast let us pass.

Beyond the meadow the route began to gain altitude, into a forest. My Green Beret informant had mentioned this was a well-worn route; actually it must have been *ancient*, to judge by the concave wearing of each stone step. This was the only time I have seen suncups in rock.

We passed small abodes of indigenous people, tucked away among the trees in small clearings, usually with a few jungle fowl about. Bamboo was



Roots of a banyan tree.

Louise B. Marshall

used in many ways: as woven fences, as water pipes, and as structural members of sheds.

Testimony to the great age of the route, we found a huge banyan tree, whose many branches and their supporting columns formed a little forest of its own. We knew we should be respectful of the mountain, as were those before us.

Along the way we found small Buddhist shrines of stone and cement. There was no rockfall to fear, however, and no bergschrunds to negotiate. The ascent was fairly straightforward, through steep woodland.

As we neared the summit a wall appeared on our right, and soon we saw what it enclosed: a huge house—or palace—which must have a majestic overview of the entire Taipei valley. Our route came out of the forest at the entrance gate of this monstrous build-

ing, with an armed uniformed soldier occupying the guard station. (*Freedom of the Hills* doesn't cover this.)

Our party assessed our situation and determined that it would be dangerous to attempt to retrace our steps, as we were near exhaustion. *Freedom* says "Judgement should not be swayed by desire," so our descent route would have to be by taxi. As leader it was my job to approach the guard and attempt to communicate to him that we wanted him to order a taxi for us from base camp. Luckily, this worked.

We sat down to wait at a small refreshment stand nearby (nothing like this on Mount Si!). We couldn't eat or drink anything except what we had brought with us—on strange mountains it is "best not to drink the water" but traveling in the backcountry in lands near the Equator in August you can expect heat. It was hot, but our party was brave.

Our escape vehicle arrived in about a half hour, and took us back to Tien Mou, passing the old and sacred cherry tree in the middle of the "main" street from which the village takes its name. It let us off at Ann's house, our base camp, and we entered our own small, walled (no guard) entry yard, dumped our climbing gear and took a nap.

Thus ends the Ascent of Yang Ming Shan. △

Louise B. Marshall, of Lynnwood, is the founder of Signpost and Washington Trails Association.



The ancient steps passed small abodes.

Louise B. Marshall

BILL LONGWELL

Winter Walking

—WHERE I HIKE WHEN THE SNOWS DRIVE ME FROM THE HIGH MOUNTAINS—

Each spring I follow the melting snows up favorite trails, constantly checking the warming process. It's the part of the year I long for, especially after the long winter. I begin this process in late April and in December I'm still trying to reach high mountain passes. I do my best to extend high mountain hiking.

I try to hike in the high mountains at least 50 times a year. It's the high mountains I prize. However, I can't hike there all year.

Since I don't care to ski or snowshoe, but hike the whole year (125 to 150 hikes a year), where do I hike in the winter?

Of course, I hike in the Issaquah Alps; I live in them. I've walked there for 35 years and average about 50 hikes in the Alps each year.

Several years ago I decided that I needed to find new areas to walk. After all, I've hiked Tiger Mountain over 1000 times and Squak over 500 times.

RAIL TRAILS

Snoqualmie Valley Trail (SVT)

- 31 miles, Rattlesnake Lake to Duvall
- virtually snowfree year around

This trail has so many trailheads that it's easy to get onto it: Rattlesnake Lake (off exit 34, I-90); Tanner, east of North Bend; Spring Glen, east of Fall City; Fall City access road off Highway 203; Griffin Creek; Carnation (Entwistle Road); Stillwater and Duvall—all easy to find.

Many loop hikes are possible, especially if combined with little-known Weyerhaeuser roads and trails on the great plateau rising above the SVT.

Between the Tokul tunnel (1 mile north of Snoqualmie Falls) and Griffin Creek (a 7.6-mile distance) at least 12 unsigned trails lead from the SVT up to little used logging roads that wind through deep forests, alongside active beaver ponds and connecting with the arcane Weyerhaeuser road system. Reduce the mystery by systematic exploration.

One horse-riding Snoqualmie Valley couple I know tries to build at least one trail a year that leads from the SVT to the Weyco plateau above.

With these trails, unlimited loop trips are possible. Few people hike here on weekdays. Few people walk here anytime. Walk from the Tokul tunnel with a Snoqualmie quad in hand (logging roads show on the map) and lay out on your map all these connecting trails. It's great exploration. It'll take you a while.

In the 31 miles from Rattlesnake Lake (here are connections with the Rattlesnake Ledge Trail and the Iron Horse State Park Trail), the SVT passes through deep forests, over raging streams on refurbished trestles, along the interface between civilization and mostly unknown Weyco lands, through farmlands and pastures, on the margin of four valley communities, along the great Snoqualmie River and past historic valley settlements.

Iron Horse State Park (Old Milwaukee Railroad Mainline that ran from Chicago to Seattle)

- Lake Annette trailhead to Rattlesnake Lake, 18+ miles
- upper 5 miles has snow from late November to March

This 90-year-old grade is easily accessible from a number of places. Eight trails and two roads reach it: (1) Lake Annette trail; (2) Hansen Creek Trestle trail; (3) McClellan Butte trail; (4) Garcia Road, east of Olallie State Park; (5) East Hill Creek bike trail—unofficial; (6) Hull Creek Trestle trail; (7) Change Creek climbers' trail; (8) Exit 38 I-90 trailhead and road; (9) Twin Falls trail and (10) the old access trail along Christmas Lake to the Cedar Falls road.

This grade does not offer loop trips; one-way walks (two cars) seem the only choice, unless hikers use the Tinkham Road. In March I'm usually walking the Lake Annette trail to the grade (snow usually hangs on the grade near the remnants of the Humpback snowshed) and walking to Exit 38 I-90 in



Bob and Ira Spring

Through farmlands and pastures on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

Olallie State Park (13 miles) or all the way to Rattlesnake Lake (18 miles).

During the winter I'll walk from Rattlesnake Lake to the one-time missing trestle (it's repaired now) at Hull Creek, or 2 miles farther to the Garcia (pronounced "Garsha") Road and back (12 to 16 miles).

Some people access this trail at Twin Falls State Park and either make a return trip back or walk to Rattlesnake Lake. The Mount Washington trail (so far unofficial, but popular) leaves the trail near the Exit 38 access road. Some hikers begin at the Exit 38 trailhead and hike to Rattlesnake and on to Tanner on North Bend Way (about 11 miles).

Milwaukee Mainline from Maple Valley and old Pacific Coast Line Loop
• 13 miles

Begin this hike right under Highway 18 in Maple Valley and walk east over the Cedar River trestle. In 1 mile turn right onto another old grade, the Pacific Coast Railroad. Pass through the tunnel under Highway 169, pass through another tunnel and walk above Lake Wilderness and developments.

Reach the Kent-Kangley Road at Summit (Four Corners). Turn left on sidewalks, cross 169 and continue toward Ravensdale. Turn left onto the Summit-Landsburg Road and reach Landsburg and Cedar River again.

Cross the river, turn an immediate left onto the old Mainline grade again, cross the river on trestles three more times to reach Maple Valley and the familiar last Cedar River trestle and Highway 18.

WEYERHAEUSER SNOQUALMIE TREE FARM

During the past several years I have made a systematic exploration of the Snoqualmie Tree Farm, basically the lands between Stevens Pass Highway 2 and Snoqualmie Valley, lands just west of the Alpine Lakes.

Of course, a person walking these lands must walk *logging roads*; that does not bother me as it bothers some of my friends.

Weyerhaeuser has three types of logging roads: mainlines that see scores of hard-driving logging trucks each weekday until about 3pm, secondary roads that see occasional logging trucks, and then those roads that often penetrate deep forests and see only an infrequent patrol truck. I walk all types.

When fast moving vehicles approach,

a walker, unusual in this logging domain, must move off to the edge of the road.

When walking Weyco lands, a hiker must learn a new geography. These names are familiar to people who fish the numerous Weyco lakes. Here's the new geography to learn: Spur 10, Fuller Mountain, Mainline, J-Line, Klaus, Bridges and Boyle Lakes, McLeod Lake, Lake Hancock, Lake Calligan, Tokul Creek and Griffin Creek. And others.

Weyerhaeuser sells a map of its tree farm lands, "Snoqualmie and White River Tree Farms." It is a must buy. Several hardware stores in the Snoqualmie Valley sell it for \$5. Hikes of all distances appeal to me. I take several marathon-type day hikes each year and, of course, numerous short hikes. Here are samples of my long hikes.

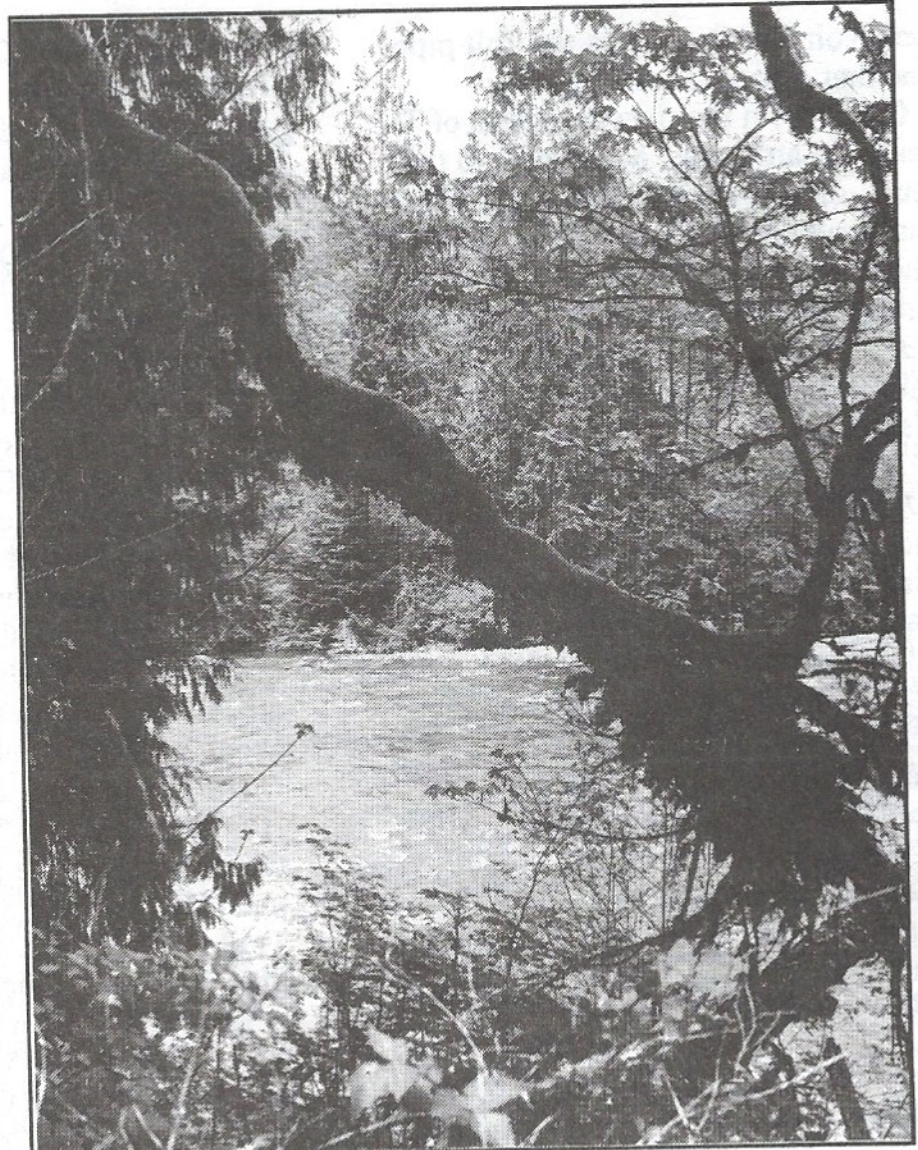
Stevens Pass Highway 2 to Spur 10 or Mainline Gate 4
• 26 or 31 miles
• 1700 feet gain

The Alpine Lakes to the east and semi-high mountains to the west. A

WALKING ON WEYCO LANDS

An annual permit is required for vehicle access to Weyerhaeuser lands. Permits (\$60 per car) and maps are available at:

- Ace Hardware, 4521 Tolt Avenue, Carnation
 - True Value, 15302 Brown Street, Duvall
 - Sportee's, 16725 Cleveland St, Redmond
 - Carmichael's True Value, 8150 Falls Ave S, Snoqualmie
- See www.weyerhaeuser.com for more information



Tolt River from the J-Line.

Bob and Ira Spring

narrow lake-filled pass, two unfamiliar rivers and a broad plateau leading south and to familiar scenes. Walk this Mainline, pass four lakes and find vistas new to almost every hiker.

Drive Highway 2 past Goldbar to Milepost 33.3 and road 62 (Proctor Creek road). Park here. This is the road that leads climbers to Mount Persis.

Climb steeply 1.3 miles, level out briefly and continue climbing past a gravel pit and past the Mount Persis road 6220 (3.5). Cross Proctor Creek and reach Little Cavanaugh Lake (in the draw below) at 5 miles. You've climbed 1300 feet. The rest is easy. At 6 miles leave Forest Service land at a closed gate. Here begins Weyerhaeuser timber lands. A hiker walking along this Mainline will pass several logging operations.

Descend alongside the North Fork Tolt River, a river unknown to almost everyone. Cross the river (9.0) and begin the last major climb of the day. Mid-hill (12.0, near milepost 19) look westerly for a stupendous view of Seattle, some 35 miles away.

Top out (15.0) and begin a mile-long level walk before dropping to the South Fork Tolt River at the "Green Bridge," as the loggers call it, just below the Tolt.

Reservoir (16.0). Here is the Tolt pipeline that descends into Seattle.

Climb from the river for views of Tiger and Rattlesnake Mountains to the south, drop alongside Mud Lake (18.0) and curve easterly to a fork in the road. The Mainline continues right. Left, behind yellow concrete blocks, lies the old Mainline route along Black Lake. Take it. It curves back to the Mainline. Black Lake is thought to hold a crashed World War II military plane.

As you walk through this tree farm—and this Mainline splits down the middle—you walk through a carefully managed cropland. No better place exists anywhere to grow trees. Look at the low elevations here; this would be an ideal location for a new city. My friends and I often joke about various locations: where the high school will go, where sub-divisions will sprout. The road system is in place for a city. But, this must not happen. This must remain a tree farm.

Slight ups and downs carry you through cutover lands, past Fury Lake (25.0) and views of Fuller Mountain, a focal point in the North Fork Snoqualmie River lands, where you now walk. Spur 10 lies just ahead (26.0).

You can drive to Spur 10 on the public North Fork Road from Ballaratt Street in North Bend. Someone could

pick you up here. Or, continue on the Mainline, pass the J-Line (28.5) and reach Mainline's Gate 4 at the old community of Snoqualmie Falls.

Snoqualmie Valley Trail-Tokul Creek-Griffin Creek Loop

- 28 miles
- 1000 feet gain

This walk plies the western edge of the Snoqualmie Tree Farm and follows Tokul and Griffin Creeks, two salmon-bearing streams. Look for ravens and bald eagles. Except for the brief 2 miles on the Mainline, this is a quiet walk.

Drive from Fall City across the Snoqualmie River Bridge, turn an immediate left onto Highway 203 and travel about 3.5 miles to NE 11th (Griffin Creek Road) and a sign that reads "Camp Don Bosco." Turn right onto this road. Continue right at the first junction, cross the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and drive 1.2 miles farther to a gate. Park out of the way.

Walk the Griffin Creek Road back to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and turn left. Cross the Griffin Creek high bridge in .1-mile. Continue 7.5 miles to the Tokul Road at the SVT tunnel.

Climb up the side of the tunnel, turn left onto the Tokul Road (8.8 from car). Round a curve right and turn left onto SE 53rd. Climb steeply ¼-mile (the

only steep climb of the trip) into the old community of Snoqualmie Falls and barking dogs and reach the Weyco Mainline. Gate 4 lies .2-mile to the left.

Walk the Mainline 2.1 miles and reach a major road left, signed "J-Line." Turn left and walk this road, much quieter than the Mainline, past Ten Creek, along Tokul Creek and across it, past East Creek and on to the Griffin Creek Bridge, 8.4 miles from the Mainline (20.7 from the car).

Make a half-mile climb (last of the day) and continue down the Griffin Creek Road. When along the creek stay left and reach the gate and car (28.3).

Shorter Trips

Numerous loops are possible; just study the Weyco maps or USGS quads.

1. Park near the Tokul Bridge on the Tokul Road (.7-mile above the SVT tunnel). Walk to SE 53rd (mentioned in the 28-mile loop hike), climb to the Mainline, walk to the J-Line and take the J-Line across Tokul Creek to road 30000. Turn left onto 30000 and walk 5 miles back to the Tokul Road. Your car is left ¼-mile.

2. From Spur 10, walk an out-and-back hike to Lake Hancock (2172 feet) along road 32000. Eat lunch at the outlet bridge (10 miles, 1200 feet gain).

3. From Spur 10, walk an out-and-back hike to Lake Calligan (2222 feet) on roads 32300 and 29100 (14 miles, 1200 feet gain).

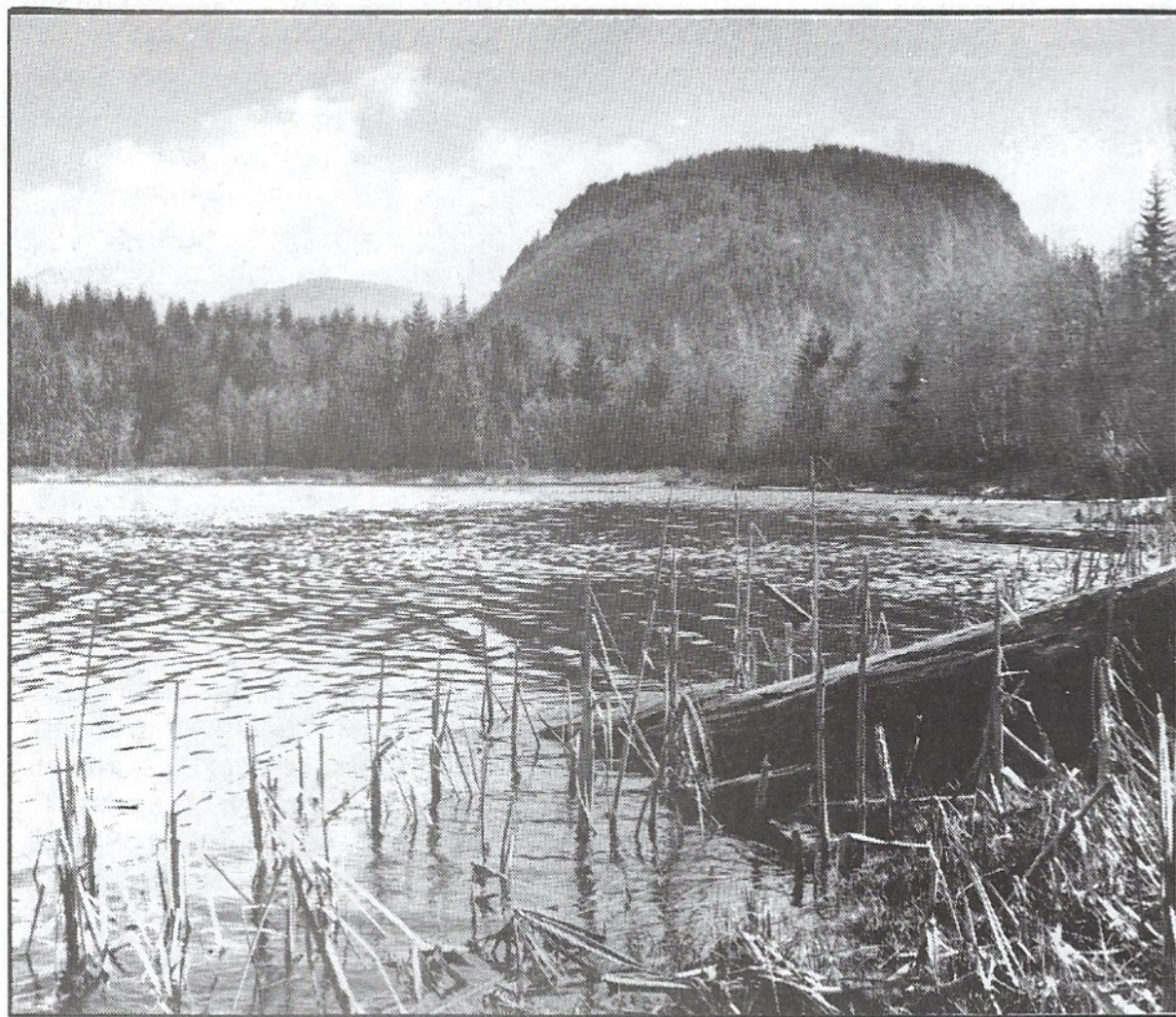
Try reaching Lake Marie, McLeod Lake (a quarter-mile hike), Klaus, Bridges and Boyle Lakes—all near Spur 10. In the summer try for Philippa and Isabella Lakes via Weyco road 29200 and a fishermen's trail. Try for Loch Katrine.

USGS quads for hikes in this region include Index, Goldbar, Devils Slide, Mount Si, Snoqualmie, Fall City, North Bend, Carnation, Lake Joy, Chester Morse, Bandera and Snoqualmie Pass.

See you on the J-Line.

△

Bill Longwell, of Fall City, is a retired teacher who built many of the trails through the Issaquah Alps. He is the author of Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain.



Boyle Lake and Fuller Mountain.

Bob and Ira Spring

ROBERT CURÉ

East Side Feast

—ELEVEN TRIPS FROM TWISP—

"Cascade Quest 2000," my latest series of alpine peregrinations, was a great trip, despite the fact that only one of the peaks I visited was on the original itinerary. The grim forecast at the start of September prompted me to head straight for the east side; the continued unsettled weather, the area's splendid scenery, and the convenience of basing out of one town convinced me to stay. Here's how it went.

Day One (September 2): Gilbert Mountain

USGS Gilbert

I hit the Twisp Pass trail at 7am, flush with first day enthusiasm, and started up Gilbert's south slope ten minutes later. The soft swishing noises made by my walking poles parting the understory mingled with the muted thump of my footfalls as I headed skyward. The only other sounds to breach the stillness were the strident chittering of several squirrels and the whiny squawks of a pair of Clark's Nutcrackers.

Above timberline, a spur of lichen-blackened rock led toward a boxy Class 4 east ridge tower. I detoured to the west, crossed four or five gullies and summited around noon.

Crescent Mountain, Switchblade Peak and the verdant upper reaches of the South Fork of the Twisp River all impressed, as did the list of names on the summit register. Among the luminaries: Gordie Skoog, Mike Torok, Dallas Kloke, and four of the few to have climbed all of the Bulger List peaks (John Roper, Silas Wild, Don Goodman and Dave Creeden).

Day Two: Mount Gibbs (Peak 8142)

USGS Gilbert

A 1998 visit to this area featured some fine views from Peak 7782 (aka Louie Louie Peak, aka Renegade Peak), which did much to mitigate my chagrin at the fact that I had mistaken it for adjacent Mount Gibbs.

I hiked up the Louis Lake trail. A logjam at the foot of the lake led to its south shore; an extensive rockslide

from there provided a brush-free route to Upper Louis Lake. I then followed Louis Creek, a delightful little rill bubbling between bright green moss-bound banks, toward the col between Gibbs and Peak 7787.

The summit ridge was only about a foot wide at its narrowest, with an 1100-foot drop to the northeast. I tiptoed across it, sans pack, and searched in vain for a summit register. McGregor Mountain, Mount Bowan and double-summitted Reynolds Peak were but a few of the entrees my eyes feasted on from this scenic smorgasbord.

The return route hugged the crest of the east ridge and afforded a striking view of the northeast face which I took such great care not to fall down. A descending traverse from the col bypassed the lovely Louis Creek scenery but made for faster progress to the upper lake.

Day Three: Stiletto Peak

USGS Gilbert and
McAlester Mountain

Bell-like Lincoln Butte towered above the woods to the west as I made my way up the Copper Pass trail. I quit the trail at 6000 feet, jostled briefly with some scrub evergreens, and sauntered up a boot-friendly 40 degree slab replete with numerous chickenheads and horizontal corrugations. The route topped out in pleasant heather country with big views of Switchblade Peak and Hock Mountain.

Plan A was to climb Switchblade, but uncertainty about the route induced me to head for Stiletto instead. A long enjoyable traverse over several rockslides, past a placid larch-lined lake, and along scrumptious blueberry-studded slopes brought me to the west side of the massif.

Stiletto was a nice climb with an arresting summit tableau. I blasted away with the camera for an hour and headed back at

4 o'clock. I briefly contemplated the idea of a return via Twisp Pass, but didn't have the appropriate map—a recurring problem on this trip, since most of the itinerary was improvised.

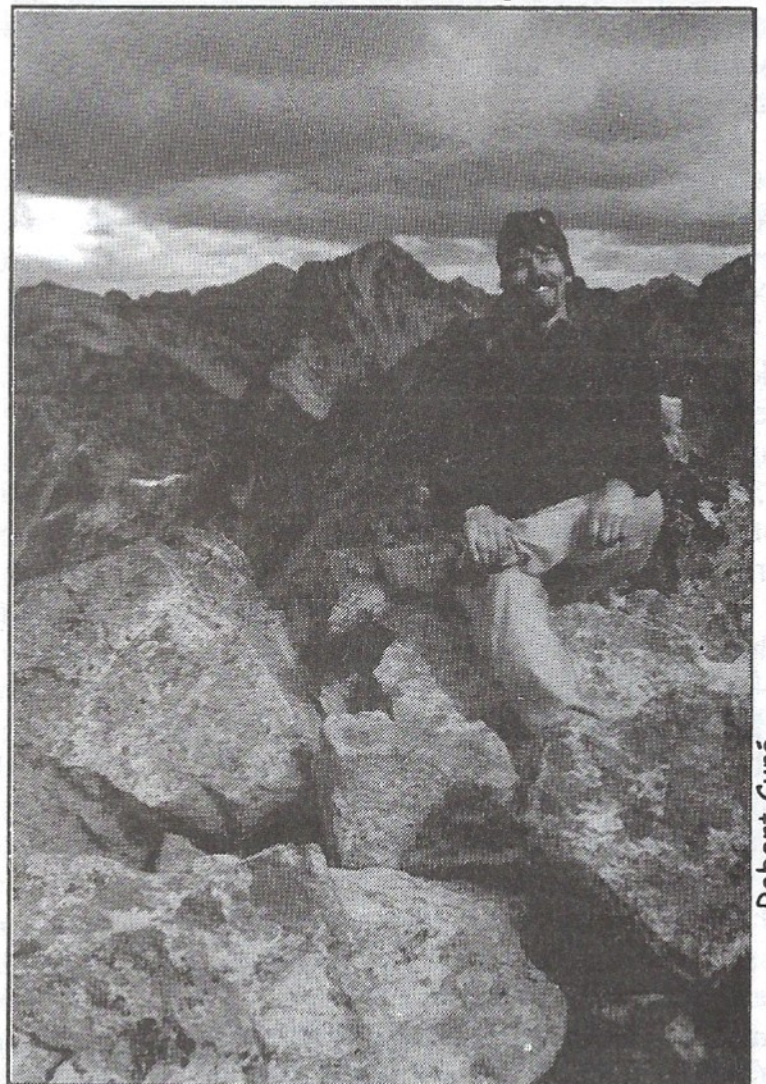
I made it back to the trail at 6:30 and followed it down as it meandered among the twilight greens of the forest. The storm clouds which had been lingering about with Damoclean portent started to unload a half hour later. I was a bit soggy and footsore by the time I got back to the car, but I was too contented to care.

Day Four: Delancy Ridge

USGS Silver Star Mountain
and Washington Pass

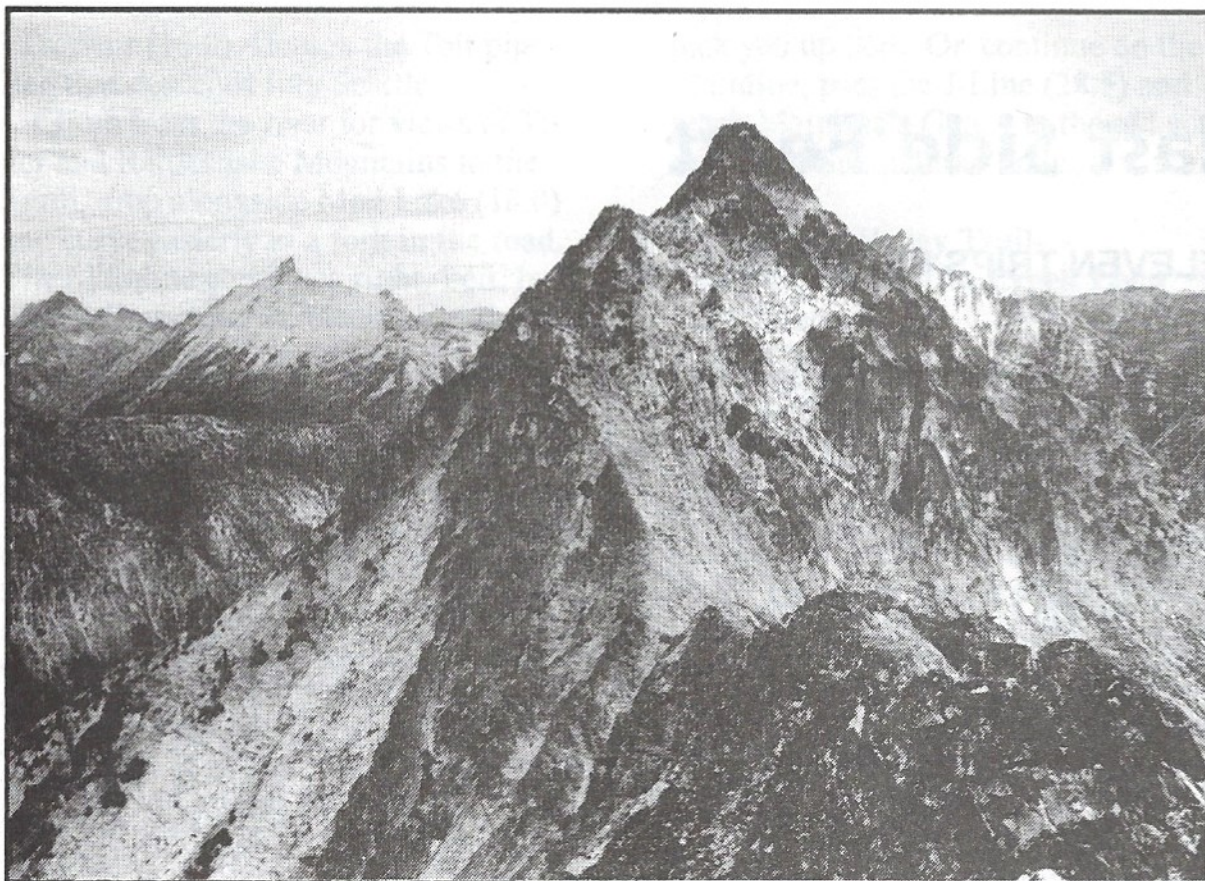
This is the 5-mile long ridge which winds above the North Cascades Highway north of Silver Star Mountain.

A casual hike up to the adjoining Needles ridge back in '98 had me thinking that this trip would be a real



Robert Curé

Day Three: I enjoyed the view from Stiletto and stayed on the summit for an hour.



Robert Curé

Day 6: Porcupine Peak, from the south summit. Golden Horn in the distance.

skate, but Mother Nature had other ideas. A few minutes after leaving the car, I found myself being held, pushed, poked, slapped, shoved, flayed, flogged and flailed by the slide alders which blanketed the lowest 300 feet of the slope. A half hour later, the situation had improved from abjectly miserable to merely unpleasant, as I vainly tried to convince myself that the struggle would make the summit more satisfying (it didn't).

After cresting the ridge, I descended 300 feet to the col just west of its apex. An easy scramble led to the benchmarked summit and its imposing Silver Star view.

A couple of dry streambeds got the descent off to a good start. Innumerable leftward zigs and rightward zags eventually led to a timber cone laced with excellent game trails. One last belt of brush barred the way a few minutes from the highway.

An attempt at bulling my way through left me stopped in my tracks. Next, I tried walking atop a tangle of vine maple trunks hanging three feet above the slope. This worked out fine—for about thirty seconds. The dead trunk below my left foot gave way with a piercing crack; my right leg broke through a second later, leaving me feeling like a beetle on its back. I uttered a few choice expletives as I untangled myself and undertook a brief uphill retreat. A short laborious traverse and another game trail finally delivered me to the North Cascades Highway.

Day Five: Mother Lode Peak (Peak 7905) and South Creek Butte USGS Gilbert

It seemed only fitting that yesterday's travails be followed by one of my favorite all-time bushwhacks.

I left the South Creek trail near the 5-mile mark for the cool, inviting forest above it. A cushion of moist detritus cradled my feet with each step; the gentle purl of the stream nearby was equally soothing.

My plan was to follow the easternmost of the two streams which cross the trail in this vicinity and follow it to its source lake at the foot of Mother Lode's southwest slope.

After emerging from the timber, it was clear that I had followed the wrong stream. The price I paid to rectify this mistake was an idyllic half-hour traverse with grand views of Mount Gibbs and wide-bodied McAlester Mountain.

Upon reaching the correct stream, the reason for my mistake was obvious; it was dry. I reached the lake a short time later and spent a blissful lunch hour basking in the sun. A talus slope dotted with clumps of brush and scattered outcrops led to the summit, with its much better than expected panorama.

The trek to South Creek Butte began with a 400-foot descent to the connecting saddle. The ascending traverse from there was a bit loose, but not unpleasantly so. While the summit views were similar to Mother Lode's, the view of that peak, with the butte's craggy north summit to its right and

the aforementioned lunch break lake to its left, made it worth the extra effort.

I'm still curious about the origin of the cables and shards of glass strewn about the summit. My first thought was that this must have been an old fire lookout site, but a search of two different fire lookout books made no reference to this peak.

Day Six: Porcupine Peak attempt USGS Washington Pass

Numerous ridges and buttresses sprawl outward from this bulky 7762-foot eminence, located 2 miles north of Rainy Pass.

Today's route climbed above the PCT at the 6000-foot level for a scenic side hilling session to the broad saddle between the main and south summits. A traverse along the east flank of the summit ridge took me to a gully, which led toward a notch just below the summit block. The ridge from here was steep and exposed, so I decided to stay put.

After shooting a couple of rolls of film, I picked my way back to the saddle, using a 3mm rope to lower my pack before me at the steepest sections. Next stop was the south summit for another photo shoot, before racing the rain clouds back to the car (the clouds won).

Days Seven and Eight: Rained out.

Day Nine: Copper Point

USGS Gilbert and McAlester Mountain

This is a rather plain looking lump, parked among the elegantly carved peaks of the North Cascades like a '64 Rambler in a lot full of Ferraris. Nevertheless, its 7840-foot elevation and its location just northeast of Copper Pass make it a superlative vantage point.

The forecast called for afternoon clearing, so I allowed myself the luxury of a few hours of extra sleep before finally hitting the trail at eleven. The first sucker holes appeared in the firmament a half hour later, only to disappear in the murk shortly thereafter.

By 3:30, things had cleared up nicely, revealing dazzling views of the snow-spangled slopes of Silver Star, Kangaroo Ridge, Blue Lake Peak and the Stiletto Peaks.

Day Ten: Point 7125

USGS Gilbert

This was a somewhat arduous bushwhack to the ridgetop high point between Louis and Reynolds creeks. A fine spot for gazing at Louis Lake, Rey-

nolds Peak, Crescent Mountain, Gilbert Mountain, *et al.*

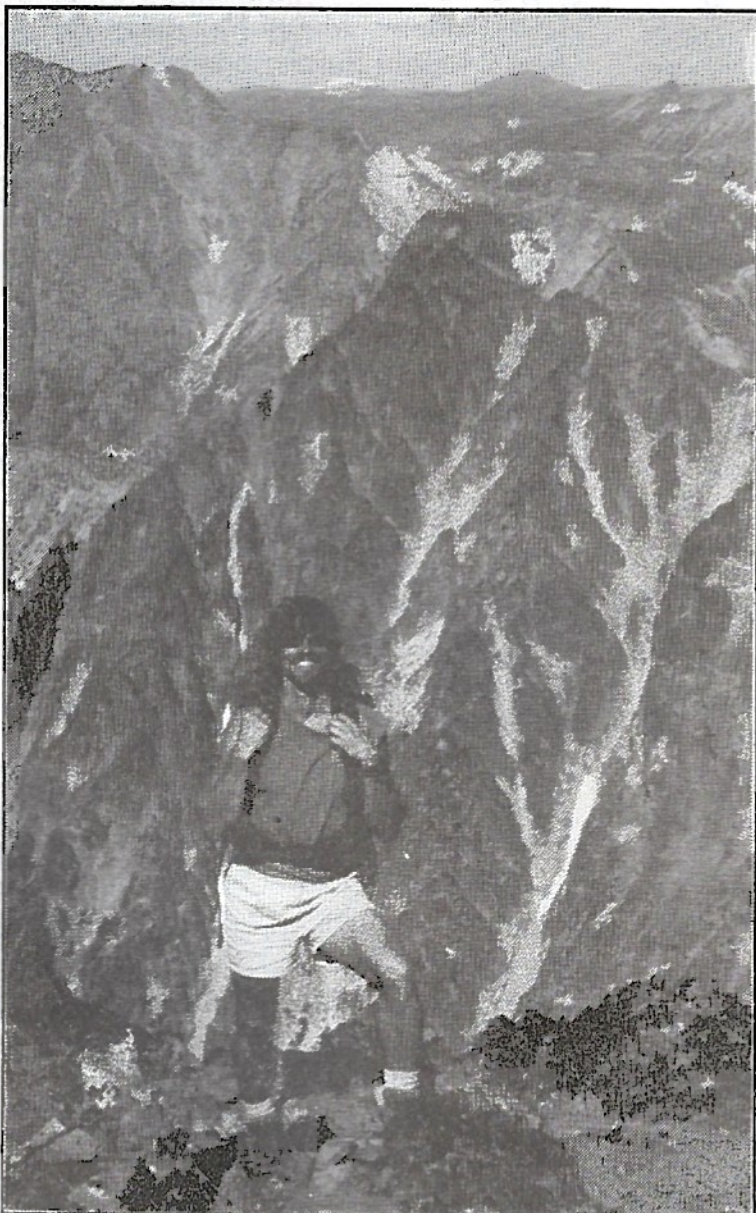
Day Eleven: Frisco Mountain
USGS McAlester Mountain,
McGregor Mountain, Mount
Arriva and Washington Pass

Frisco is the smaller and more westerly of the two peaks above Rainy Lake.

Stop number one today was Heather Pass, to shoot Black Peak in the soft early morning light. After a quick hike up to Maple Pass, it was time to get down to business. First, a tedious 1100-foot drop down dew-slicked slopes to Maple Creek basin.

From here, a stroll down a conveniently located dry streambed provided passage through slide alder. Next, a hop across the creek and a stair-stepping 700-foot ascent of a prominent rockslide. The route then veered to the right and curled up and around a north-west-trending spur ridge. A pleasant hike up the southwest ridge led to the summit block. After an easy ascent from the southeast, I found myself ogling the best panorama of the trip.

A note left in a film container served as the summit register; the only signa-



Day 12: On Robinson Mountain, a high, isolated summit with a far-ranging panorama.

Gary Zielinski

tories were members of Dallas Kloke's September '96 party.

For the return trip, I headed down the gentle south slope of neighboring Rainy Peak to the Bridge Creek trail. It was a bit daunting to be descending 4000 feet of terra incognita without a map, but the descent came off without a hitch. That still left a journey of 7 miles and 1300 feet of elevation gain to get back to the car, but the extra miles merely prolonged the pleasure of another splendid day.

Day Twelve: Robinson Mtn
USGS Robinson Mountain

The headlamp came in handy both coming (5:45am start) and going (9:15 pm return) on today's adventure.

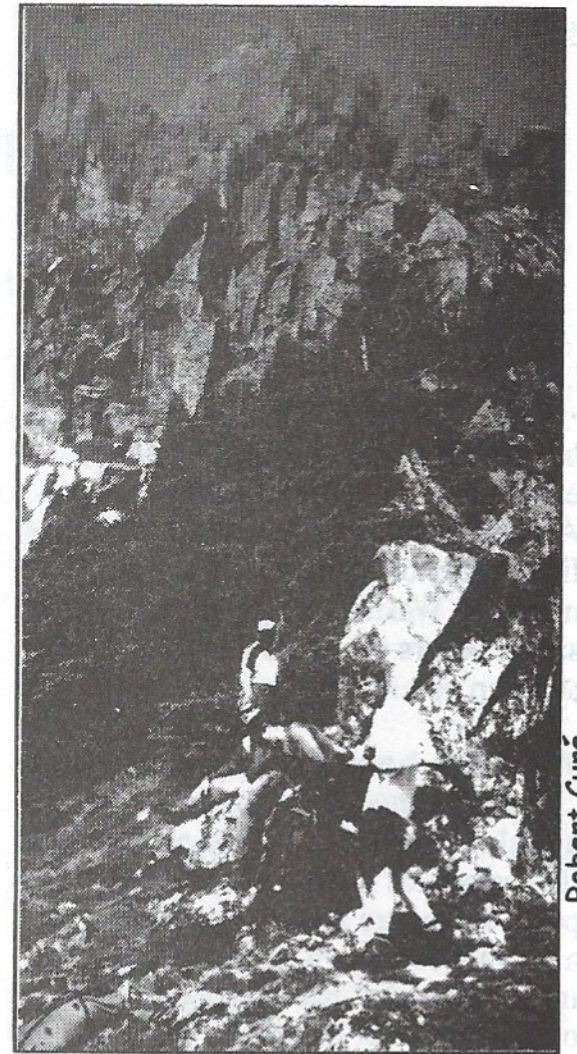
A 3-mile jaunt up the Robinson Creek trail led to the surprisingly good unmaintained trail up Beauty Creek. I left this trail at 5200 feet for the grassy slopes above it. I paused a few minutes later to slather myself with sun block and noticed two people peering up toward me. I gave them a wave and soon made the acquaintance of Gary and Robyn, two of my fellow New Englanders.

Since we were all well-traveled wilderness lovers, we had plenty to talk about as we hiked up to the basin above. From the basin, we toiled up a horrendously loose scree and talus slope to the lengthy northeast ridge.

The weather was a little too good. As the day wore on, the merciless sun, beaming down through a cloudless sky, made it feel like we were climbing on Mercury. We were fortunate to be able to augment our water supplies with snow scraped from a couple of patches on the north side of the ridge.

As we neared the summit, a precipitous 100-foot-high hump on the ridge gave us pause. Robyn and I weren't optimistic, but Gary reconnoitered the route and assured us that it wasn't nearly as bad as it looked.

We followed his lead and continued up the now gently angled ridge. Gary's assessment of the situation a few minutes later ("I think Robinson is toast") also proved to be correct. We soon found



Robert Curé

Last day: Don Goodman (top), Greg Frye, Juan Lira and Tim Johnson at the saddle beneath Bedal Peak.

ourselves happily exchanging high-fives on this high, isolated summit with its far-ranging panorama.

Day Thirteen: Crescent Mountain
USGS Gilbert

The last east side climb of the trip began with a pleasant forest ramble from South Creek trail and ended with 700 feet of Robinson-like tedium (loose gullies and friable rocks). Another rewarding viewpoint, despite the thick haze.

Last Day: Bedal Peak
USGS Sloan Peak

A stellar route-finding job by Don Goodman got our party of five up the fog-cloaked west slope of Bedal Peak.

From the saddle below the summit, we were treated to the surreal sight of the uppermost 1600 feet of Sloan Peak knifing through the cloud layer. An airy ascent of Bedal's southeast ridge made for a fabulous finish to a memorable vacation.

△

Rob Curé is back home and back at work machining grinding wheels in Massachusetts—and making plans for next year's trip.

JOHN ROPER

Washington's Greatest Prominence Peaks

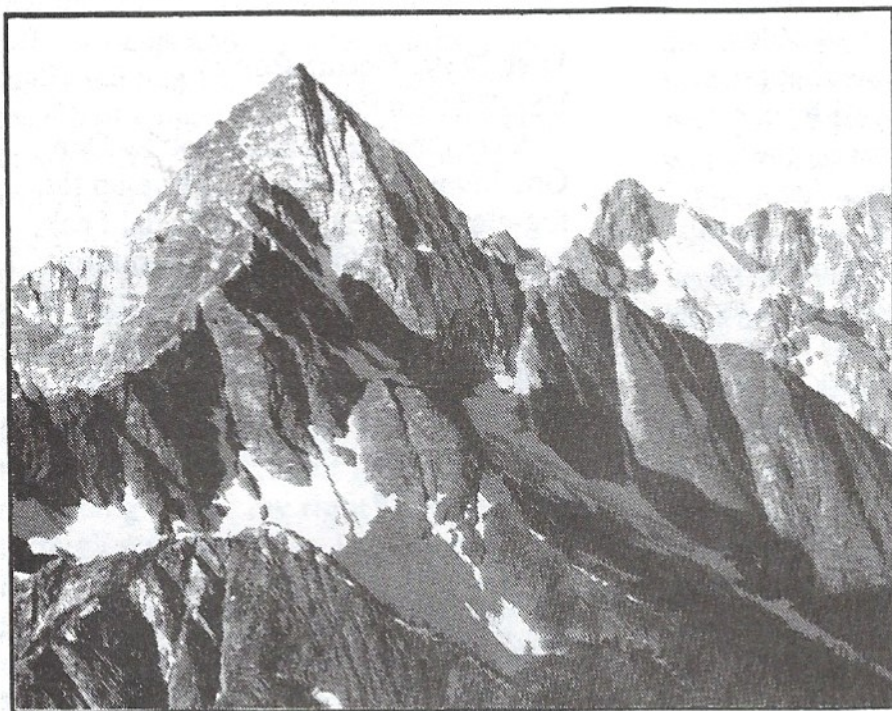
—THE 52 PEAKS IN WASHINGTON WITH OVER 3000 FEET OF PROMINENCE—

This important Washington list has been a long time coming. Finally in early 2000, with the ultimate help of Andy Martin, these peaks were identified. Many of the summits are familiar names to Washington mountain enthusiasts, others are more obscure, but still stick up aplenty.

What the heck is Prominence?

Simply stated, it is the elevation that a peak rises above the highest saddle that separates it from the next higher peak. If you are standing on one peak and want to go to a higher peak, you must descend at least the Prominence of the first peak before climbing the second. Another way to say it is that Prominence equals the peak's elevation minus the elevation of the lowest contour that encircles that peak, and no higher peak.

Peaks with big Prominence fall away (eventually) on *all* sides, and usually look pretty prominent. Landforms that look prominent do not necessarily have great Prominence, however. Mount Si is a good example here, looking quite hefty as it looms about 3700 feet above North Bend, but it drops only a puny 247 feet on the backside before rising to higher ground.



Luna (left) and Fury (East and West peaks), tied for 47 on this list.

Noah's Next Flood

Or, look at it this way, using a modern-day Noah example. The Prominence of a peak can be thought of as the peak's elevation above sea level, when it first becomes the highest point on its own "island" as water rises. This "new sea level" shore/contour is the one that encircles the peak and no higher summit. Say the animals are all on The Ark.

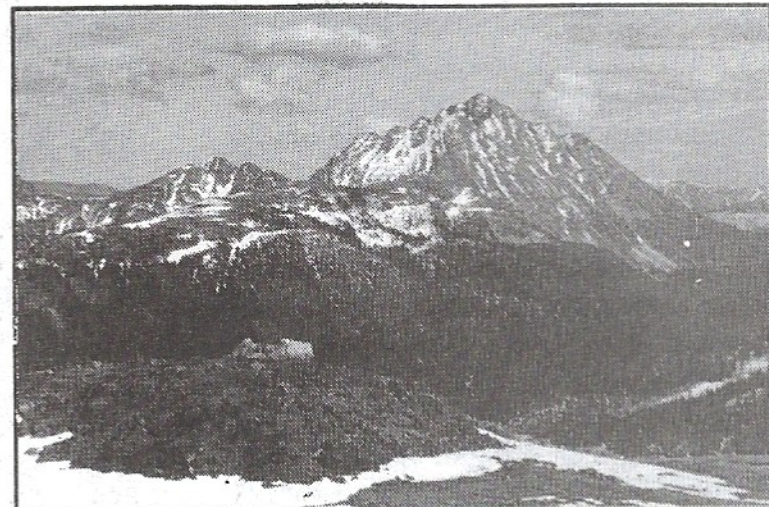
The highest peak in the world, Mount Everest, rises 29,028 feet above sea level. It is the highest point on the "Asia-Europe-Africa (Eastern Hemisphere) Island." And 29,028 feet is its "Prominence" above all surrounding water.

The highest peak in the Western Hemisphere is Aconcagua in Argentina, elevation 22,834 feet above sea level. It is the highest point on the "North America-South America Island." And its height is its Prominence.

Now let's say that the rains come and the oceans start rising and all of the peaks eventually start turning into high points of their own separate islands.

First, Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet, separates from Aconcagua when the oceans rise to 85 feet (Gatun Lake at the Panama Canal), the lowest point (now) between McKinley and Aconcagua.

McKinley becomes isolated from Aconcagua on a separate "island," and becomes the high point of "North America Island." It's Prominence (may I say "P") is



Rommel Mountain, number 14.

John Roper

20,320 minus 85, or 20,235 feet.

Looking locally, as the rains keep coming, the oceans rise around Washington State. When the water rises to separate Mount Rainier as an "island" from the new "Mount McKinley Island," Mount Rainier becomes isolated as the high point of its own piece of land. The "Noah's Saddle" for Rainier is way up in Canada, at the head of the Okanogan River on its divide with the Thompson/Fraser River near Enderby, British Columbia. (north of Omak and Oroville in Washington). That saddle is 1200- feet, so Rainier's Prominence is 14,410 feet minus 1200 feet, or 13,210 feet. As soon as a peak is isolated as the high point on its own island, its elevation is its Prominence.

Interestingly, several 3000+ foot Prominence peaks in Washington have a Noah's Saddle that is lower than Rainier's. When the ocean rises to only 140 feet, Mount Olympus is separated out as the high point of "Olympus island" with a "P" of 7829 feet. This is a tremendous Prominence, which ranks "Lowly Oly," at 7969 feet, as having a greater Prominence than absolutely every 14,000+ foot peak in Colorado, except Mount Elbert, 14,433 feet!

Other summits with a lower "Noah's Saddle" than Rainier's 1200- foot include Anderson Mountain (with a 340- saddle), Round (540-), and Lyman (880-). So as the water rises, these summits would separate off from their

continued on page 22

WASHINGTON'S 3000-FOOT PROMINENCE PEAKS

Compiled 2000 by Andy Martin, Edward Earl, Jeff Howbert, and John Roper

PEAK	PROM.	ELEV.	SADDLE	PEAK MAP	SADDLE MAP	LO
1. Mount Rainier	13,210+	14,410	1200- (50)	Mt Rainier West	Vernon 82 L/6 BC	
2. Mount Baker	8881+	10,781	1900- (100)	Mount Baker	Skagit River92 H/3 BC	
3. Mount Adams	8116+	12,276	4160- (40)	Mount Adams	Cougar Lake	^
4. Mount Olympus	7829+	7969	140- (20)	Mount Olympus	Tumwater	
5. Glacier Peak	7480+	10,520+	3040- (40)	Glacier Pk East	Snoqualmie Pass	
6. Mount Stuart	5335+	9415	4080- (40)	Mount Stuart	Stevens Pass	
7. Abercrombie Mtn	5168+	7308	2140- (20)	Abercrombie Mtn	Newport WA/ID	^
8. Round Mountain	4780+	5320+	540- (20)	Fortson	Fortson	^
9. Mount Spickard	4779+	8979	4200- (40)	Mount Spickard	Mount Blum	
10. Copper Butte	4740+	7140	2400- (40)	Copper Butte	Republic	^
11. Mount Saint Helens	4605+	8365	3760- (40)	Mt Saint Helens	Spirit Lake East	^
12. Three Fingers	4490+	6850	2360- (40)	Whitehorse Mtn	Bedal	^
12 or Whitehorse Mtn	4480+	6840+	2360- (40)	Whitehorse Mtn	Bedal	
13. Mount Shuksan	4411+	9131	4720- (40)	Mount Shuksan	Shuksan Arm	
14. Remmel Mountain	4365+	8685	4320- (40)	Remmel Mtn	Ashnola Mountain	^
15. Jack Mountain	4186+	9066	4880- (40)	Jack Mountain	Washington Pass	
16. Moses Mountain	4134+	6774	2640- (40)	Moses Mountain	Tunk Mountain	^
17. Mount Deception	4108+	7788	3680- (40)	Mount Deception	Mount Christie	
18. Mount Prophet	4000+	7640+	3640- (40)	Mount Prophet	Mount Redoubt	
19. Hozomeen Mtn	3966+	8066	4100- (100)	Hozomeen Mtn	Manning Park92 H/2 BC	
20. North Gardner Mtn	3996+	8956	4960- (40)	Silver Star Mtn	Crater Mountain	
21. Ruby Mountain	3888+	7408	3520- (40)	Ross Dam	Ross Dam	
22. Sloan Peak	3875+	7835	3960- (40)	Sloan Peak	Blanca Lake	
23. Huckleberry Mtn	3865+	5825	1960- (20)	Stensgar Mtn	Forest Center	^
24. Goode Mountain	3800+	9200+	5400- (40)	Goode Mountain	Cascade Pass	
25. White Chuck Mtn	3789+	6989	3200- (40)	White Chuck Mtn.	White Chuck Mtn	^
26. Bonanza Peak	3711+	9511	5800- (40)	Holden	Suiattie Pass	
27. HP Chiwaukum Mtns	3681+	8081	4400- (40)	Chiwaukum Mtns	Stevens Pass	
28. Gilbert Peak	3684+	8184	4520- (40)	Walupt Lake	Green Mountain	
29. Gunn Peak	3640+	6240+	2600- (40)	Baring	Blanca Lake	
30. Calispell Peak	3635+	6855	3220- (20)	Calispell Peak	Ione	^
31. Mount Bonaparte	3537+	7257	3720- (40)	Mount Bonaparte	Molson	^
32. South Twin	3520+	7000+	3480- (40)	Twin Sisters Mtn	Twin Sisters Mtn	^
33. Mount Spokane	3503+	5883	2380- (10)	Mount Spokane	Athol, ID	^
34. Mount Daniel	3480+	7960+	4480- (40)	Mount Daniel	Mount Daniel	
35. Black Peak	3450+	8970	5520- (40)	Mount Arriva	Mount Logan	
36. Lyman Hill	3400+	4280+	880- (40)	Sedro-Woolley N.	Lyman	
37. Aeneas Mountain	3327+	5167	1840- (40)	Aeneas Lake	Conconully East	^
38. Dirtyface Peak	3320+	6240+	2920- (40)	Lake Wenatchee	Schaefer Lake	^
39. Mount Aix	3286+	7766	4480- (40)	Bumping Lake	White Pass	^
40. Mount Blum	3280+	7689	4400- (40)	Mount Blum	Mount Blum	
41. Mount Lago	3265+	8745	5480- (40)	Mount Lago	Washington Pass	
42. Castle Peak	3226+	8306	5080- (40)	Castle Peak	Pasayten Peak	
43. Desolation Peak	3222+	6102	2880- (40)	Hozomeen Mtn	Hozomeen Mtn	^
44. Ellemeham Mtn	3183+	4659	1476- (33)	Bullfrog Mtn	Enterprise	
45. High Rock	3125+	5685	2560- (40)	Sawtooth Ridge	Wahpenayo Peak	^
46. unnamed (Big Gee)	3120+	5080+	1960- (40)	Gee Point	Gee Point	
47. Luna Peak	3071+	8311	5240- (40)	Mount Challenger	Mount Redoubt	
47. or Mt Fury (3 areas)	3040+	8280+	5240- (40)	Mount Challenger	Mount Redoubt	
48. Big Craggy Peak	3070+	8470	5400- (40)	Billy Goat Mtn	Billy Goat	
49. Dome Peak	3040+	8920+	5880- (40)	Dome Peak	Dome Peak	
50. Buckner Mtn	3032+	9112	6080- (40)	Goode Mountain	Goode Mountain	
51. Anderson Mtn	3024+	3364	340- (20)	Lake Whatcom	Acme	
52. unnamed, Rogers BM	3015+	5775	2760- (40)	Aladdin	Aladdin	^

Numbers in parentheses are the contour interval for the Saddle map.

LO ^: Summits with past or present lookouts. HP: High point. BM: Benchmark.

land connections with Rainier as islands with greater than 3000 feet Prominence before Rainier would separate from McKinley.

History of Prominence Calculations in Washington

The first accurate Top 100 list of peaks in the state, calculated by Prominence, was meticulously put together by John Lixvar in 1976. He fleshed out this so-called "Bulger List," which to this very day is the most prized major goal for Washington mountain fanatics.

John's figures played off of a list of peaks down to 8500 feet calculated by John Plimpton, following the 400-foot prominence rule. Lixvar's list has some quirks that don't need to be discussed here, but as important as his list, John established the concept of a "clean prominence" standard. See Table, page 25, on "Ways to Calculate Prominence."

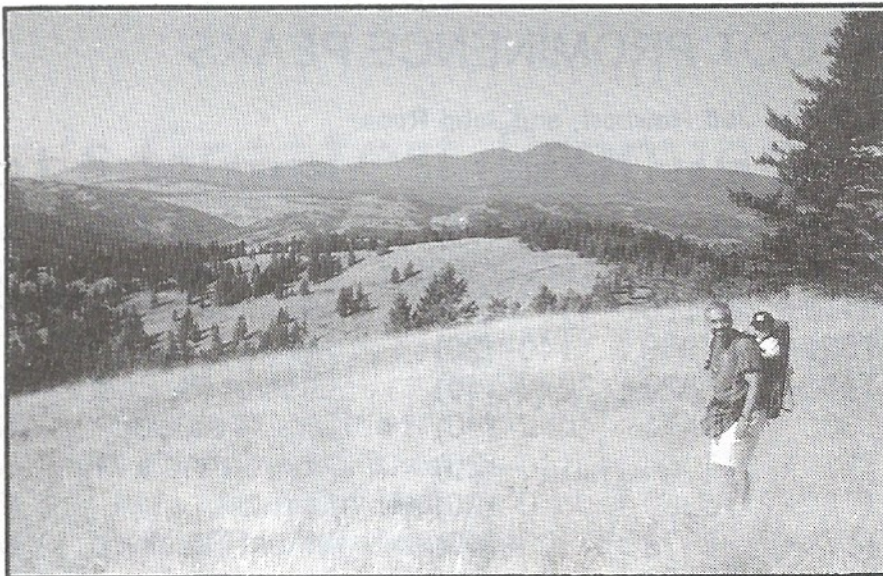
Next, Steve Fry came along in the early 1980s and stunned the Prominence world, locally at least, by figuring out the Top 100 peaks in the state by several different prominence intervals, including the 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 1500, and 2000-foot rules, and others. All of the above lists have ranked the peaks by height, not Prominence.

Steve's Prominence religion was different than John Lixvar's, and he sometimes came up with different numbers for Prominence on the same peak by his "split the difference" method, described in the Table below.

Until the USGS or satellite mapping can precisely calculate the "exact" summit and saddle elevations to the foot, Steve's estimates are probably more statistically accurate approximations to true prominence, but his use of elevations that are "+/- 20 feet" is considered "messy" by the "clean" prominence camp.

Starting in 1995, Jeff Howbert began finding many 2000+ feet Prominence peaks as he methodically analyzed every Washington quad, and Greg Slayden has done independent work here too. But, it took an Arizonan with the help of a Californian to complete this Top 52 list in its current form.

Edward Earl from San Diego developed a computer algorithm to perform comprehensive prominence analysis of areas of the United States using digital elevation data from the USGS. Because the data available have many inaccura-



John and Aaron on Mount Bonaparte, number 31.

cies, it is still necessary to verify the results on topographic maps before placing final confidence in them. But this program puts the nose of paper topo map analyzers on where to look for peaks with a particular Prominence.

Andy Martin, from Tucson, whose keen eyes have identified the highest point in every county in the entire United States, finally wrestled this Washington Prominence list into its current form from the map room at the University of Arizona library, and we thank him. Unfortunately, he could not (yet) be persuaded to finalize the "Top 100 Washington Peaks by Prominence," the usual number we like in Washington, so there is still some more entertainment out there.

Thoughts on the 3000 feet Prominence List

As mentioned, most of the peaks listed are familiar names to Washington climbers. The first three peaks are

obvious candidates (Rainier, Baker, Adams), though it may be a surprise that Baker, 10,781 feet, beats out higher Adams, 12,276 feet, in Prominence. This is because Baker connects with Rainier through a significantly lower Noah's Saddle (in British Columbia) than Adams (whose saddle is just north of White Pass).

Climbers can see from points all over the range that Glacier and Stuart rise above the crowd. But Abercrombie, 7308 feet (the high point of

Stevens County in northeast Washington), steals the Prominence crown from the barely very highest peak in all of northeast Washington, Gypsy Peak, 7320+ feet (the high point of Pend Oreille County), because of Abercrombie's lower Noah's Saddle with higher ground in Idaho.

Big Prominence always translates into big views. It's a long way down before the ground goes up again. Over a third of the summits on this list are, or were, former lookout sites, and the last time I checked, there were still buildings on Moses, Huckleberry, Bonaparte, Spokane, Aeneas, Desolation, and High Rock.

There are a couple of peaks that tie for the same Prominence ranking, even though the maps say one peak may be lower than the other. Ranked 12 are Three Fingers, 6850 feet, and Whitehorse, 6840+ feet, and at 47 are Luna Peak, 8311 feet, and Mount Fury, 8280+ feet (West Fury and two points



Mount Shuksan, number 13.

Karen Roper

John Roper

on East Fury all share this elevation). These alternates are listed because if you add 39 feet (on these 40-foot contour maps) to the imprecise "+ elevations" for Whitehorse and Fury, they may be higher than their Three Fingers and Luna rivals.

This is an ultra-clean list, since "Noah's Contour" is used for the saddle height, even if a precise number is shown on the map at the saddle (e.g. Stevens Pass for Stuart and Whatcom Pass for Luna), because the benchmark may not be at the true low point.

Note the odd-balls on this list. There are some very low elevation peaks with very big Prominences. These include summits like Lyman Hill, 4280+ feet,



South Twin Sister, number 32.

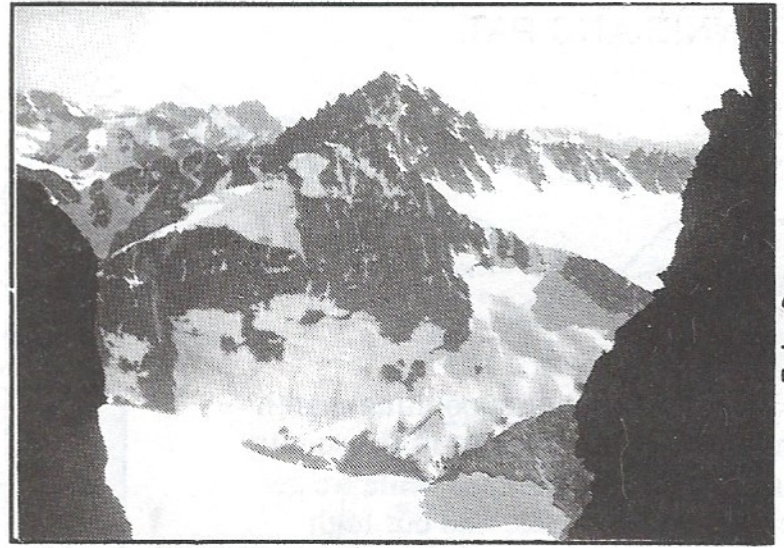
John Roper

Aeneas Mountain, 5167 feet, Ellemeham Mountain, 4659 feet, and lowliest of all, Anderson Mountain, 3364 feet. It's pretty amazing to have over 3000 feet of Prominence on a summit that's only 3364 feet high.

In August 2000, Karen and Aaron came along with me to help finish this list. It took us just two days to polish off the final two peaks I had left, since earlier goals had already coaxed my body up 50 of the 52 summits, and the two alternates. We drove nearly to the top of Ellemeham Mountain, just

west of Oroville, after waiting out and worrying about a tremendous thunder and hail storm that dropped lightning bolts on the summit prior to our arrival.

The next day, we hiked up a gated road, shooing cows and bulls off our path to my last summit, Aeneas Mountain/ Lemansky Mountain, west of Tonasket, where we chatted with the



Buckner Mountain, number 50.

John Roper

friendly lookout, who actually spotted a fire during our visit.

I found joy on all of these peaks, but then I am an equal-opportunity Washington mountain/landform/bump explorer. I love our Washington summit diversity. Everything counts. This range consists of near-nothing to near-impossible summits, and this list exemplifies that fact.

Climb 'em all, or take a shot at them, if you will. Every summit provides a unique and rewarding life experience.

△

John Roper, of Bellevue, is an inveterate peak-bagger.

JOHN ROPER

Ways to Calculate Prominence

As an exercise, let's try to figure the Prominence of a theoretical peak that shows as the 7000+ foot contour, where the saddle/pass that connects it to the next higher peak shows as the 6000+ foot contour, by the various ways:

1. "Clean Prominence Way" = 960 feet.

- Dictum: Let no one dispute that this peak qualifies for this Prominence level.

Therefore, make the peak as low as the map allows, and make the saddle to the next higher peak as high as the map allows, or on 40-foot contour maps, add 40 feet to the contour shown for the saddle.

For example, a 7000+ foot contour peak remains 7000 feet and the 6000+ pass would be figured at 6000 + 40 = 6040, for a Prominence of 960 feet.

2. "Best Possible Prominence Way" = 1039 feet.

- Dictum: Make the peak's prominence look as good as possible.

Make the peak as high as possible, and make the saddle as low as the map allows.

For example, a 7000+ foot contour peak could be as high as 7039 feet on a 40-foot contour map, and the 6000+ foot pass could be as low as 6000 feet, so the best Prominence possible is 1039 feet.

3. "Call a Spade a Spade Way" = 1000 feet.

- Dictum: Whatever the map says the elevation of the peak and the pass is, is.

For example: A 7000-foot contour peak = 7000 feet, and a 6000+ foot contour pass = 6000 feet, so the Prominence is 1000 feet.

4. "Split the Difference Way" = 1000 feet.

- Dictum: Add 20 feet (half of a 40-foot contour) to the peak, and add 20 feet to the pass before the subtraction.

For example: A 7000+ foot contour peak = 7020 +/- 20, and a 6000-foot contour pass = 6020 +/- 20, for a Prominence of 1000 feet.

DENNIS AND PAT

Great Basin National Park

—NEVADA SUNSHINE AND THE SMELL OF SAGE—

June is such a disappointing month in Washington. The rest of the country is experiencing summer while we get chilly days and rain, and our high country is still covered with snow. In 2000 Pat and I decided to head south to Nevada's Great Basin National Park to get a jump start on summer.

Day One, June 18—We arrived Sunday morning to cloudy skies and signs indicating the campgrounds were full. This surprised us, but by the end of the day everyone packed up and left after the weekend.

There are four fee campgrounds in the park and a handful of primitive free camping sites on the road up Snake Creek Canyon. We opted to stay at the Baker Creek campground (elevation 7500 feet) at a site with a good view of the valley below. We paid our fee (\$7 per night), set up some lawn chairs, and headed for the visitor center.

Our first order of business was the ranger-led tour of Lehman Cave. This is a limestone cave that was discovered in the late 1800s and became a National Monument in 1922. A much larger surrounding area became the Great Basin National Park in 1986. While still at



We hunker out of the wind at Johnson Pass.

the visitor center we did the .3-mile nature trail where we studied the differences between pinyon pine, juniper, and mountain mahogany which are the major trees in this high desert.

Next we drove up the Wheeler Peak scenic road to check out the upper campground (elevation 10,000 feet)

and to have lunch. Along the way is another short .3-mile nature trail to the Osceola Ditch. Miners built an 18-mile-long waterway from Lehman Creek to their diggings at Osceola. Remains of the waterway are at the end of the trail.

By now those overcast skies had turned into a first-class thunder, rain and hail storm. Since morning lightning strikes had already started a fire in the direction of our planned hike tomorrow, we were hopeful this rain would help put it out.

After some inquiries about how bad the fire was, we headed back to camp to set up our tent. It was a brand new tent which we had never set up before. Dumb! It was pouring, the wind was wailing, and, of course, we couldn't quite figure it out. We and the tent got soaked in the process.

We gave up on cooking dinner and drove 6 miles down the hill to the little town of Baker and ate at a restaurant, grumbling about summer and sunshine and unfulfilled expectations.

Day Two, June 19—It rained most of the night, but by morning the storm



Wheeler Peak, 13,063 feet. The trail follows the right skyline.

Dennis and Pat

Dennis and Pat

had blown through and the fire was out. We began our hike at the Baker Lake trailhead (elevation 8000 feet). Today's goal was Baker Lake, 10,620 feet, and beyond to Johnson Pass, 11,294 feet. This would be a 14-mile round trip day with 3200 feet gain. It would also be our first workout at altitude.

The trail switchbacked steadily up through open fields of sage, groves of aspen, and then pine and fir. The trail reminded us of the Sierra—basic granite with a trail hacked through it.

Part way up was the ruin of an old miner's cabin. The lake itself was a treat, an alpine gem set in a high cirque. It was a bit breezy at the lake, apparently the tail end of yesterday's front still blowing through.

Treeline and the maintained trail ended just above the lake. It was another 674 feet of gain to Johnson Pass which looked alpine and attractive, not too steep and just a mile away. Cairns marked the way. No sign of thunderheads so we gave it a go.

As soon as we left the trees we entered a wind tunnel. The unrelenting wind was so strong going up the slope to the pass it was hard to stay standing. If you had a foot off the ground to take a step when a gust hit, it was all you could do to keep upright. Our wind shirts flapped wildly around us, and we thought for sure they would be ripped to shreds right off our bodies. The only time we had experienced wind like this was on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. It felt like a hurricane.

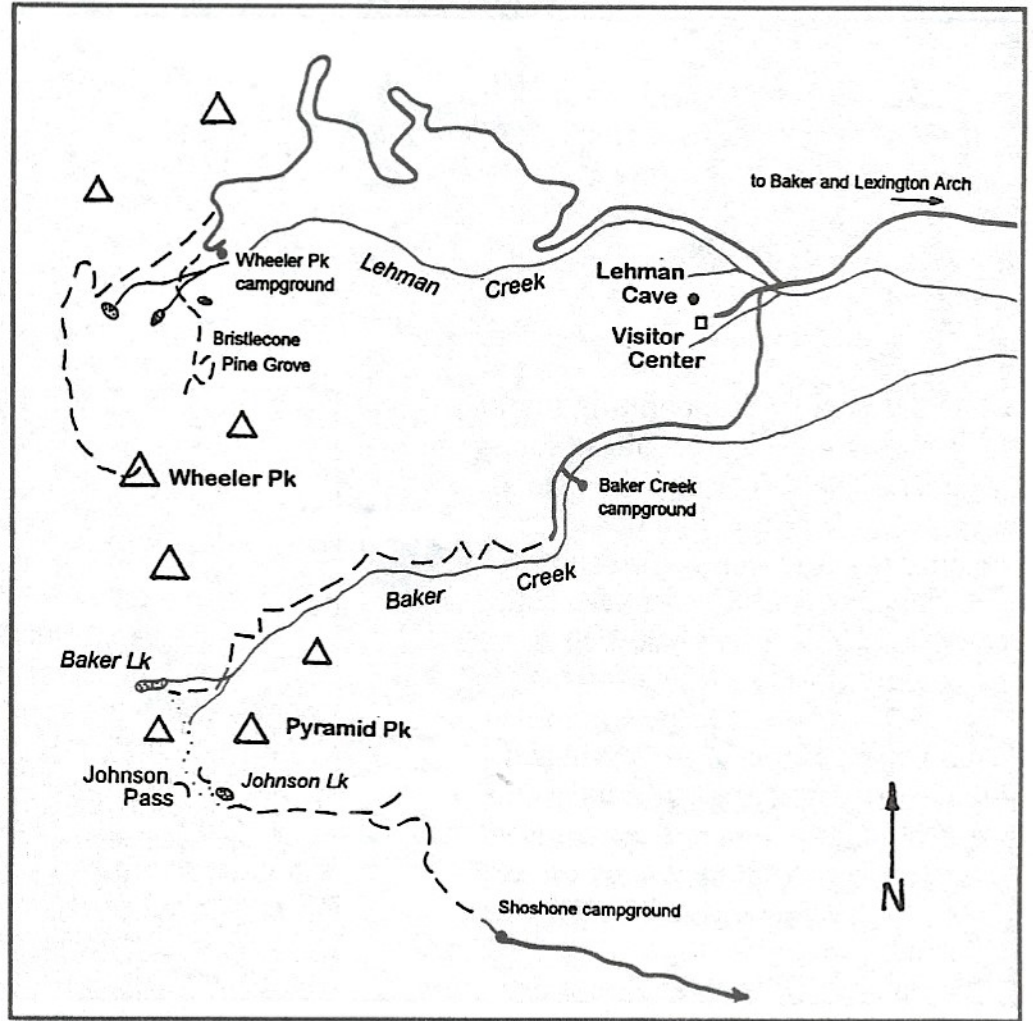
After what seemed like a long struggle we reached the broad pass and hunkered down behind a large rock. From this vantage point we could see people on the summit of Wheeler Peak (13,063 feet), which made us wonder what the wind was like up there!

Pyramid Peak was an easy 600-foot climb above us from the pass, but wind and a touch of altitude sickness said no way. We started down. When we reached tree line our war with the wind ended. We met just three people this day, and no one above the lake.

Day Three, June 20—Wheeler Peak is 8.6 miles round trip, with 3000 feet gain. It is the big one in the park, and the second highest summit in Nevada. There is a trail to the top which begins in a paved parking lot on the summit road at about 10,000 feet. This was a beautiful day. No wind, no clouds, lots of sun.

We started at 9am and hiked through groves of aspen and limber pine, then alpine meadows to treeline at around 11,000 feet. The trail is gradual to here. The serious work begins in the last mile. We gained about 1500 feet in that last mile, which doesn't seem like a lot, except that there's not much air to breathe.

The trail climbs through a rubble pile of rocks. We didn't encounter any snow until just near the top, where it blocked the trail. A short detour of rock-hopping took us to the summit at 12:30pm. The top is a long, flat ridge with a number of stone shelters to hide behind. We didn't need them today. Look for the summit register in an old mailbox. We stayed on top for over two hours admiring the basin and range topography. The views were spectacular.



Day Four, June 21—Lexington Arch is 3.4 miles round trip, with 820 feet gain. We wanted an easy day today. We drove about 30 miles south, going into and out of Utah, to see one of the few limestone arches in America.

We were warned that the 12-mile dirt road required a high clearance vehicle. It was an extremely narrow mountain road with few pullouts for passing, and many rough stretches. A passenger car could make it with careful driving. We



Dennis with the Wheeler Peak summit mailbox.

Dennis and Pat



Dennis and Pat

Miner's cabin at Johnson Lake.

met four people returning from their hike as we started up the trail. Otherwise we had the place to ourselves.

The trail took us first to an overlook to view the arch from a distance, and then right under the arch itself.

White-throated swifts nest in crevices on the underside of the arch. Sitting below, we watched their unique take-off. They would free-fall out of the nests and plunge downward. Then like parachutists opening their chutes, wings flapped until flight was achieved—about 6 feet over our heads. They buzzed us constantly.

Day Five, June 22—Johnson Lake, 10,800 feet, is 7.4 miles round trip, with 2420 feet gain. We looked down on this lake from Johnson Pass on Monday, but the trail from the pass was blocked by snow. Since it looked a little dangerous, we opted to reach the lake by another route another day. This required another 12-mile dirt road drive to the trailhead at Shoshone primitive campground. No people again. We had the trail to ourselves.

The trail wasn't really a trail. It was an old mining road, hard packed sand at the bottom and mostly a pile of polished boulders at the top, exposed to sun, and not much fun to walk on. To tell the truth, we thought it was pretty ugly. At one point we were detoured

into the forest to avoid a tangle of blowdowns that blocked the road, and we were grateful for the diversion into the woods.

Near the top we ran into a number of old log cabins and the ruins of a tungsten mining operation dating from World War I. The cabins must have been built when the snow was quite deep as all the stumps were cut off quite high. The lake itself is in a cirque surrounded by meadow and is quite pretty, if you can ignore all the "historic" refuse lying around. Do miners ever clean up after themselves?

With the passage of enough time, most people seem to accept that the junk decays into artifacts. Let's just say this lovely alpine setting was a little less than pristine.

Day Six, June 23—Bristlecone Pines trail is 2.8 miles round trip with 600 feet gain to 10,600 feet. This was our

last hike before heading home. It is a popular trail that starts from the Wheeler Peak campground. For those who aren't familiar with them, bristlecone pines are the oldest living things on earth. They can live 3000 to 5000 years before dying and they survive only in a few inhospitable, rocky, high locations in the southwest.

They are gnarled and twisted by wind and weather into weird and beautiful shapes. There were several interpretive panels in the grove explaining the nature of these long-livers. Unfortunately, despite all the adaptations they've made over the centuries to climate and terrain to allow such long lives, they are now threatened by bad air. Man-made pollution is so deadly to them and has occurred so relatively recently in their history that they may be wiped out before further adaptation is possible.

Some final notes—Great Basin National Park is a fine early summer destination. By mid-June the snow is pretty much gone, even at high elevations. It's generally hot and sunny, but afternoon thunderstorms are common. There were bigger crowds than we expected. Apparently, on weekends the campgrounds sometimes fill up. During our week there, sites were always available, and our campground was mostly empty. All the aspen groves hinted at a future fall color trip.

The popular trails like Wheeler Peak and Bristlecone Pines and the cave tour attract lots of people. The other trails were quite lonely. Unfortunately, there aren't a whole lot of other trails. We felt we pretty much "did the park" in the week we were there, but see ourselves coming back again for a shot of early sunshine, the smell of sage, and some great dry country birding.

△

For more information:

Superintendent
Great Basin National Park
Baker NV 89311

775-234-7331

www.nps.gov/grba

Dennis and Pat, of Olympia, consider Olympic National Park their back yard. In their spare time they travel to the Arctic, collect High Points of the US, hike the PCT, and explore new areas.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

OLYMPIC COAST CLEAN-UP—

Volunteers will converge on Olympic National Park beaches April 28 this year to remove accumulated marine debris washed ashore from winter storms.

The clean up will cover 60 miles of coast from Shi Shi to South Kalaloch. Debris such as bottles, ropes, floats and buoys will be hauled off the beaches and cached for later removal. This community/volunteer effort will help preserve the natural beauty of the unparalleled Washington coast.

Volunteers are urged to select a beach and register their participation by April 16. Beaches easily accessible by car or a short hike are appropriate for a one-day outing. Some beaches will require a single overnight stay. More remote beaches will require a several day commitment from volunteers with no-trace wilderness backpacking skills.

Emphasis of the 2001 clean up will be the remote, difficult-to-reach wilderness beaches. Because of their remoteness, many of these beaches have never had a thorough clean-up before. Hardy wilderness-savvy volunteers are needed.

Data about the debris will be recorded to provide a snapshot record of the coast and help identify sources of the debris. The data will be used for oceanographic research of interest to naturalists and marine scientists from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Olympic National Park.

Two orientation sessions for volunteers are scheduled:

- Tuesday, 7pm, April 10 at River Center (new Audubon Center), 2151 Hendrickson Road in Sequim; and
- Wednesday, 7pm, April 11 at REI's second floor Meeting Room, 222 Yale Avenue North in Seattle.

For more information, or to sign up for your beach, contact Jan Klippert, 206-364-2689, or email <jpklippert@aol.com>.

SKIER KILLED IN BANFF—In early January 30-year-old Frances Frost, of Canmore, Alberta, was attacked and killed by a cougar while skiing on a trail near Lake Minnewanka, about 10km north of Banff village.

Banff's chief warden Ian Syme said it appeared that the cougar attacked the woman from behind and bit her on the neck. He speculated that she prob-

ably never knew what hit her.

Another skier came along shortly, found the cat on top of the woman, and immediately backtracked to warn other skiers and call authorities. Parks Canada officials killed the cougar.

A couple of other cougar attacks have occurred recently around Banff. Cougars here are short on food this winter, having to compete with a new pack of wolves for a limited supply of elk.

The friends and family of Frances Frost have said emphatically that she loved all of nature and would not want cougars to be demonized because of her death. Banff residents are relieved that the Park is acting with restraint toward the cougars involved in the other incidents.

ORIENTEERING—Orienteering is a fun and challenging sport for both mind and body, using a map and compass to

navigate to checkpoints in the woods and on trails marked on your map. It is a great way for anyone to learn, hone, or test their navigational skill.

Each event has a range of courses from beginner to advanced and the map is included in the price of the event. Meet fees are usually \$8 for non-club members, \$5 for club members. Instruction is available on site.

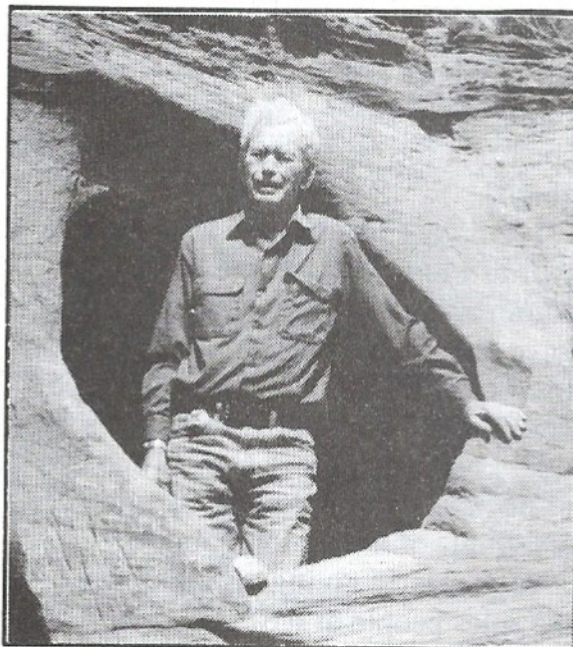
Additional driving details, newcomer suggestions, and event results are posted at the Cascade Orienteering Club website: <www.CascadeOC.org> and on the regional site: <www.pnwo.org>. Two meets are scheduled for February:

- Saturday, February 10, Farrel McWhirter Park Redmond
- Saturday, February 17, Fort Steilacoom, Tacoma

If you would like to know more about the sport, please contact Eileen

to next page

ARCHIE M. WRIGHT, 1913-2000



Kathe Stanness

Archie in Utah, 1997.

Archie Wright passed away December 10, 2000, at age 87. He joined The Mountaineers in 1977 and was an active member and leader of many hikes and backpacks. In 1981 he led a weeklong Naturalist backpack on the Chelan Summit Trail which resulted in a group of friends known as Archie's Gang.

He was kindness personified, a caring man, a genuine gentleman as well as an accomplished outdoorsman. His fire-building skills kept us warm during an unexpected blizzard on the County Line Trail backpack. His wit and humor tickled our funnybones: he had a million

stories and jokes and told outrageous puns, but never at anyone's expense. A sincerely religious man, he touched our hearts when he briefly bowed his head in prayer before meals. It was always a good feeling to be on his trips as he truly cared about and for his companions, looking out for everyone.

An accomplished mechanic, he kept an elderly GTO (the pride of his life after his family) on the road and drove it to many trailheads filled with friends, their packs, and his ever-present coffee-pot. Even on the shortest of hikes or showshoe outings, Archie loved to make and share coffee.

During his later years his "buddies," as he called us, pitched in and helped carry his gear but he remained an enthusiastic participant and joyful companion in several adventures, including an outing to Utah Canyon Lands in 1997 (see *Pack & Paddle*, March 2000, for the whole story).

His son and his wife of many years—his "Little Margie"—preceded Archie in death. Daughter Adoline Brown and her family of Bellingham survive him.

All of us who hiked with him over the years will miss our sweet friend and his kind and gentle humor. Happy trails, Archie.

—Kathe Stanness, Marysville,
member of Archie's Gang

KEEPING PACE

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

STEPS TO RECOVERY—This is in response to Debby Riehl's comments in the January issue, page 30.

You're in good company. All of us in the Midweek Mountaineers seem to be in various stages of disrepair and suffer from bad knees, backs, and the like. Of course we could always blame it all on Yellow Cat but that wouldn't solve the problem.

It is indeed discouraging and depressing to have your body betray you when your mind wants to be out there climbing mountains. Ever since I first injured my back in 1990 by doing something really stupid and ending up with a couple of protruding discs, I found there are three steps to take toward recovery. First find a good doctor (in my case an orthopedist) specializing in your particular problem.

Then insist on having an MRI or CAT scan as x-rays don't always show what's wrong. Lastly, find a good physical therapist and be religious about doing your exercises. It took some months and many doctors and physical therapists to finally diagnose my exact problem and decide on the best course of treatment.

The above is rather straightforward and easy to accomplish. The difficult part comes when you realize there are things that you just aren't capable of doing anymore, ever, or at least not in the foreseeable future. Take heart. Almost everyone I've known has come back eventually. It takes time to rebuild your body. Even if you don't come back to quite the level you were once used to, with determination, you will still be able to get out there. That is better than the alternative which is not getting out at all. That's unthinkable.

Good luck, Debby.—*Ginny Evans, Renton.*

WEARING OUT—To Debby Riehl (*January, page 30*): believe me, you are not alone! My active friends and I are trying hard to keep one step ahead of failing body parts and it is getting harder every year.

We are becoming "bionic" aging jocks. As a group we are sporting a few new hips, several new knees, a new ankle and a new shoulder. Less public but still important are many silicon lens implants following cataract removal and a new implants following mastectomy.

We are just glad to show up and I'm sure you are too. We all plan to go as long as we can, as best we can. We're with you all the way!

I want to thank you for all the rescues you have participated in over the years. I've enjoyed so much your many articles in past *P&P* issues. I always read them first! You've done many good works in mountain rescue. Perhaps it's time to change gears. I hope you're better already.—*Roxanne, Edmonds.*

BLISTERS—After reading Laura Wild's story (*January, page 20*), I thought I'd offer a suggestion in response to the blister trouble she wrote about.

I had the same trouble with my new pair of Montrail Moraine boots last summer. They fit great otherwise, but gave me terrible blisters on my heels. I tried everything: moleskin, duct tape, moleskin and duct tape together (too thick, pushed my toes against the front of my boots going downhill), and every technique of lacing in the books.

After nearly giving up hope, one of the sales people at REI suggested I try athletic tape. I figured it was worth a try, and voila! The problem was solved. Since using athletic tape (I put it on

before starting out as a preventative measure) I haven't had any more blisters; it seems to really do the trick. —*Ann Mecklenburg, Issaquah.*

POLES DON'T "SAVE ENERGY"—Using trekking poles does not save you any energy, a study by an exercise physiologist found.

What poles do is let you use a longer stride, bend your knees slightly less (putting less strain on those joints) and feel more comfortable.

The study was done by Christopher Knight of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

AMBER'S MSG-FREE GRANOLA BARS—

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ½ cup melted butter
- 2/3 cup peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups quick oats
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/3 cup wheat germ
- 1/2 cup raisins (those dried cranberry things)
- 1/2 cup dried apples
- 1 cup carob chips

Combine first five ingredients well. Mix in remaining ingredients. You can add whatever you like—dried prunes, coconut, raisins—so long as the mixture sticks together in large clumps. Press the glop into a deep dish stone (or greased 9x13 baking dish). Bake at 350 for 20 to 45 minutes; depending on how crunchy you want them. Cool and cut.

This is a modified recipe from Southern Foods Breakfast Recipes.—*Amber Bone, Fort Worth.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING from page 29

Breseman, <breseman@msn.com>, or Kean Williams, <keanwill@yahoo.com>. The Cascade Orienteering Club has a 24-hour Hotline: 206-783-3866.

SNOWY PARK—A new BC Provincial Park has been announced. Snowy Park, adjoining Cathedral Provincial Park, is 26,000 hectares right on the BC/Washington border.

Snowy Park is one of almost 50 parks

that will be formed or added to in British Columbia, totaling 122,963 hectares in the Okanagan/Shuswap region.

SNO-PARKS—Thanks to those of you who spotted the error in last month's Sno-Park information. Here's the corrected version:

The special grooming sticker will be required again this season at Cabin Creek, Hyak, Lake Easton, Lake Wen-

atchee, Kahler Glen, Chiwawa Loop, and Mount Spokane Sno-Parks. The Grooming sticker will *not* be required at Crystal Springs.

The basic seasonal Sno-Park permit price is \$21 (\$20 plus \$1 to vendors); in addition, the grooming sticker is another \$21 (\$20 plus \$1 to vendors)—\$42 total if you plan to use the above-mentioned Sno-Parks; \$21 if you are going to use only regular Sno-Parks.

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



A snow camping trip in Wenatchee National Forest.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"I'm sorry to say I let my subscription expire. I mailed my check today. I've missed my monthly issues so in penance I signed up my son-in-law and have been glancing at his copies."—*Sumner*

"I have enjoyed your magazine for many years."—*Richland*

"Lots of backpack trips scheduled this summer from Arizona to Alaska—not enough time to hike everywhere I want."—*Stevenson*

"Hi to Louise."—*La Jolla*

SKIING IN THE RAIN—My friends know how grumpy I get when I have to hike in the rain. Skiing in the rain is just as bad, maybe worse.

Luckily our downhill trips to Stevens Pass have been icy or snowy instead of rainy, but recently Lee had to put up with me as we finished a cross-country ski in the rain near Snoqualmie Pass. He was as happy to see the car as I was.

NORDIC CENTER MOVES—On one of our trips to Snoqualmie Pass we checked out the new location of the Nordic Center—at the old Hyak Ski Area.

Although the Old Milwaukee lodge is more spacious, we found the outside facilities not as much fun as at the old location at the base of the Silver Fir chair at Ski Acres. The base area loops are too short, and accessing the chair to the upper trails means a long walk up a steep hill, not like the convenient access to the Silver Fir chair.

However, the Silver Fir chair can still be used by cross-country skiers—you just have to buy your ticket at Hyak and take the shuttle back. Also, a yurt has been installed about 2½ miles up the Cold Creek road toward Windy Pass, making a cozy stopping point.

In addition, the parking area is huge and will hold hundreds of cross-country

skiers' cars. I guess we'll just need some time to get used to the new system. Change is always difficult!

TRAVELS—We are looking forward to visiting cross-country trails at Salmon Ridge and Mount Baker after this issue goes to press. The visit will be in conjunction with the winter meeting of the Sno-Park committee, of which I am a new member.

OUT AND ABOUT—Yellow Cat has taken several extended breaks from compiling the Index (which is finished, by the way, and will soon be e-mailable!) to sit behind the wood stove for some serious whisker-toasting.

Not being a skier, YC prefers to spend the off-season in quiet contemplation. She has been aided in her relaxation efforts by a generous gift of home-grown catnip from Duster, Ariel, Fuzzface and Ghost, who all reside with Peg Ferm.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall

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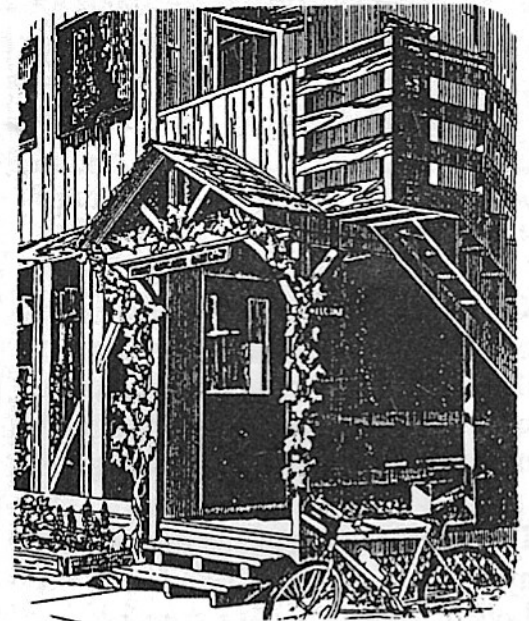
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