



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

P. O. Box 1223
TELEPHONE SEV. 3189

Honorary President: J. PORTER, B.E.

President: L. C. FORD

Secretary: J. H. SPEER

Treasurer: W. E. MARTIN

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ANNUAL MEETING

The date of the annual meeting of the Club is Thursday, March 20th, and it will be held in the Board of Trade Hall, corner of Hamilton and Pender streets, 8 p.m. Members are urged to attend so that the meeting may be a representative one.

Please note that there is a departure from the more or less usual practice of holding the meeting on the third Monday of March, but it was found impracticable to secure a suitable hall for that date.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED

The following new members were elected at the last meeting of the Executive Committee:

Miss A. A. Genier, 1154 Alberni St.; Miss E. Milledge, 1019 Nanaimo St., New Westminster; Mr. W. E. Gilbert, 601 Birks Bldg.; Mr. N. E. Martin, 302 Crown Bldg.; Mr. A. L. Kendall, 1629 Comox St.

**SECRETARY AND TREASURER WILL
NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION**

The Club's faithful Secretary, Mr. John H. Speer, and the Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Martin, who has proven highly capable in a difficult office, have both announced to the Executive Committee that they will seek to be relieved of their duties with the termination of their term of office. They have set a high standard of service to the Club for their successors to live up to, and the Club owes them a debt of gratitude.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of motion is hereby given that the following alteration in clause 4 of the By-laws of the Club will be moved at the annual meeting:

"The annual subscription of active and graduating members shall be three dollars (\$3.00) payable in advance."

Moved by Mr. Tom Fyles; seconded by Mr. W. E. Martin.

This alteration is proposed with the intention of covering the annual subscription to THE MOUNTAINEER.

ANOTHER NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of motion is given that Mr. W. E. Martin will move, and Mr. Don Munday will second:

"That Clause 9 (a) of the By-laws be altered to read:

"The annual business meeting of the Club shall be during the third week of March each year."

* * *

Moved that Clause 3 of By-laws be amended by inserting Sub-section D.

"Associate members, those in sympathy with and desirous of furthering the aims and objects of the Club, fee \$1.00 annually, to carry no Club privileges except monthly publication."

Moved by W. E. Martin; seconded by W. A. D. Munday.

STRUCTURAL CONDITION OF CLUB CABIN

While it is difficult to convince many of the members who are without knowledge of construction that the walls of the Club Cabin are seriously in need of strengthening, it is nevertheless a fact that some of the logs are badly weakened by rot. In order to acquaint all the members of the Executive Committee with the true state of affairs, arrangements have been made for the entire Committee to visit the Cabin on March 16th, so that recommendations may be agreed upon to lay before the annual meeting.

Only a small proportion of the present membership shared in the actual construction of the Cabin, so that it may be natural to have grown accustomed to the building being there as though it would always be there; when actual steps are taken to put the Cabin in a safe condition it will be found that building materials are less plentiful than in 1910. Unfortunately, such an ordinary business measure as a sinking fund for replacement of the Cabin was not started until last year, and then largely through the foresight of the present Treasurer.

But, fortunately, the Club possesses many members who will lend a vigorous hand in any work which may be undertaken. This is a phase that gives no cause for worry.

THE SPENCER-WILLIS TRAGEDY

Probably there is no finer page in the history of local mountaineering than the recovering of the bodies of David H. Spencer and Arthur Willis, who lost their lives in the "great" gully of the south face of the West Peak of Crown Mountain on February 10th.

Members of the Club and of the Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club combined to search the mountain when it became evident that something serious had befallen the youths.

Mr. Tom Fyles and Mr. Harold J. Graves, the latter a well-known member of the Alpine Club, succeeded in picking up the trail of the missing men on the west slope; they had climbed to within a few minutes of the West Peak, having crossed on the 9 a.m. ferry, and taken an auto to a point near Capilano intake. Presumably they finally turned back owing to the lateness of the hour, and undoubtedly they were caught in the torrential rain which lashed the hills that afternoon, accompanied by thick fog. The snow slopes were icy. Spencer was well-shod with edge-nails, but Willis wore long rubber boots. To the latter fact most of the blame for the tragedy is due.

They came about 1,500 feet down the easterly fork of the gully, but were stopped by a waterfall, so traversed through timber towards the westerly branch. Owing to the great amount of rain and the hardness of the snow, their tracks were obliterated in places. Tom Fyles and Mr. Graves got too low, and while the latter was getting a drink at a hole in the snow he accidentally sighted the body of Spencer on the rocks underneath. The marks on the lip of the snow suggested that Willis might have attempted to drag Spencer out, and this misled the search parties until the following afternoon—Spencer was found Tuesday afternoon, the search not having been organized in time to do anything very effective on Monday.

Late Tuesday, Mr. W. E. Martin arrived at the intake, and returned at once to the city to call out every member of the Club who could get away on such short notice, the resulting party of 16 arriving at midnight. The Capilano Timber Company contributed a large number of men, a carrying party being recruited from them for Spencer's body. On the return trip this party was put in charge of Mr. W. Taylor.

Tom Fyles retained most of the climbers to continue the search for Willis. Once more, accident played a part. Mr. W. E. Gilbert, a new member, dropped his alpen-

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stock, and in looking for it saw the foot of Willis caught between two trees. His leg was broken in two places, and his head had dashed against a rock below the trees, death being instantaneous in his case as in his companion's also.

The tracks in the snow indicated that Spencer had lent his ice-axe to Willis to offset his bad footgear. Spencer's fatal slip had been at a point on the steep side of the gully where shelving rock was thinly covered with snow. There was nothing to save him as he shot down the gully. Willis, described as naturally impulsive, had taken a few quick steps, and then he, too, had missed his footing.

To drag the bodies up the steep slopes, and then down to the intake, was hard work—Willis was not found until nearly three o'clock, and darkness came soon after six.

Only mountaineering training saved some of the Willis party from serious injury in at least one instance when the body dislodged a rock; at the warning shout they opened out just in time for the large rock to bound down directly along the rope on which they were hauling.

The Club and members lost a considerable amount of equipment, but this is being replaced by Mr. Chris. Spencer. At the inquest in North Vancouver the coroner seemed of the opinion that there ought to be some official body to carry out such expeditions—but no one knows better than mountaineers that they alone could have done what the situation required.

Mr. Morrison, at Capilano intake, deserves immense credit for the way he cooked at all hours for as many as 70 men.

THE CLUB LIBRARY

That the Club Cabin is not the most suitable place for the library, is not a new idea although it has been a debatable ques-

tion. The library is the property of the whole membership, not merely of those who go to the Cabin; therefore, there is a strong argument that it should be located within reach of the greatest possible number of members—in other words, it ought to be in the city.

As it is at present it is impossible for the Librarian to know when a book is taken from the Cabin or who has it; many good books have disappeared, and there is no encouragement to buy good mountaineering books which the Club ought to possess.

However, it is a matter on which the membership might well express an opinion, and the Executive Committee expects to be able to lay before the Annual Meeting a proposal by which a systematic check may be kept on the books, and their return in a reasonable time assured. If suitable arrangements can be made, and are given approval, all the better books could be moved to a central location in the city.

LOCAL SECTION OF NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

Steps are being taken to form a local section of the National Parks Association in Vancouver, and for this purpose a luncheon will be held March 5 in the Vancouver Hotel—about the date this issue will be printed. The Executive Committee appointed Mr. Don Munday, vice-president, to represent the Club.

The aims of the Association received the hearty approval of the Executive Committee, the good work of the parks body already was recognized, and the need for immediate support resulted in a decision to enroll the Club as a member. The annual fee is \$5 for clubs. For individuals the fee is \$1. A local secretary will be appointed. The Dominion secretary is Mr. A. O. Wheeler, Sidney, B. C.

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AN OLD FRIEND ROBBED

Mr. John Cowan, the friend of mountaineers since the dawn of climbing around Vancouver, was recently the victim of a mean theft, the daylight robber taking a sum of money and practically everything portable of value in the place. Mr. Cowan has our sympathy. A subscription list has been opened for mountaineers. Send remittances to Miss Dorothy Elliott, 1203 Nicola St.

WINTER ASCENT OF WESTERN LION

Proving a surprisingly speedy boat, the "Lorna Doone" landed the party of 18 at St. Mark's camp, Lions Beach, in two and a quarter hours from Coal Harbor. Thanks are due for permission to use the comfortable building, and to the caretaker, Mr. B. H. Malcolm, and his wife, for their efforts to make the stay of the party pleasant.

Undaunted by rain Saturday evening, February 23, preparations were made for the climb, and at 6:20 a.m. the 16 climbers started by "bug" light. Snow was met thinly about 3,000 feet, and soon became continuous. At about 4,000 feet fine views were obtained across Howe Sound, the mountains on the opposite side being sunlit, although on the east side of the Sound dark clouds capped the peaks down to about 5,000 feet. The trees were most fantastically and beautifully decked with various formations of ice and snow. New snow did not augur well for the attempt on the actual peak.

Seldom do climbers have a chance to see finer cornices than those along the crest of the ridge. One in particular was flung outward for 30 feet to the west, layer on layer of carven snow, the final marvel being a slender but huge twisted tusk curving inwards almost to the base of the cornice.

Mr. Tom Fyles decided to limit the ascent to eight persons. Immediately one woman and 15 men volunteered to withdraw in favor of each other, Tom offering

to take back the one party to the beach if Mr. Don Munday would lead those completing the climb. After this wholesale example of generosity, the fortunate ones chosen were: Tom Fyles, director, B. C. Cayley, C. T. Townsend, H. O'Connor, E. A. Fuller, H. Davidson, A. O. Cooper, and W. Hendry.

The dense fog hid the ice and snow-encased crag. The whole party roped together. Steps had to be cut the entire distance, and several ticklish corners were met with. The ascent took an hour, and the descent nearly as long as it was necessary to back down all the way. They reached the beach about 6 p.m., the launch reaching Vancouver shortly after nine. This is the first winter ascent for many years.

POLICE INTERFERENCE

On a recent Saturday several Club members suffered the unpleasant experience of having their packs searched by a member of the Provincial Police in North Vancouver; even two women were not exempt from the same public indignity. Apparently the object of the search was for firearms—incidentally members might be reminded that the Club strongly discourages the carrying of firearms on trips or to the Cabin. It might also be mentioned that within the District of North Vancouver, which extends nearly north to Crown Mt., a special permit must be secured in addition to the regular permit to carry firearms. This is not a matter of general knowledge.

Mr. L. C. Ford, president, claims this search was entirely illegal—but it was made. The Executive Committee has taken up the matter vigorously with the authorities.

FEBRUARY ISSUE LATE

By an unfortunate accident the February issue of "The Mountaineer" was delayed considerably through no fault of the Editor, so that several notices were too late to be of use.

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