



The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Vancouver, B. C.

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A TRIP TO MT. SHUKSAN

By Arthur Cooper

One hundred miles south east of Vancouver in the Mt. Baker region rises a fine massive peak, known as Mt. Shuksan. Viewed by club members from the top of Mt. Baker, it excited further ambitions but it remained unvisited owing to the time required to reach it. Now, since the completion of the Mt. Baker highway to Austin Pass Meadows, it is more accessible, consequently the writer made three trips into the district last year to determine a feasible route to climb the mountain. This was done therefore, but lack of time and weather conditions prevented a complete ascent.

Leaving Vancouver by auto July 1, a private party of three and the writer pro-

ceeded to Austin Pass. The road was open to within a mile of the Pass, therefore, it was necessary to pack over the Pass. This, together with the lateness of the hour and unsettled weather made it necessary to camp near the head of Swift Creek instead of approaching the mountain more closely as planned.

Saturday, July 2nd, dawned fair and bright and camp was left at 5 a.m. The route followed over a 5000 ft. pass to Lake Maiden, and then down 1200 feet to cross Shuksan Creek. Directly above towered the cliffs of the mountain overhung with fine hanging glaciers. The route led up past Curtis Falls over steep rocks and heather benches. A narrow steep glacier was followed upward to the main snowfield above. Once on this snowfield a course was directed towards the highest pinnacle which towered up over 1000 feet higher a mile to the northward. The edges of this snowfield were flanked by jagged pinnacles and ridges of rock, while the effects of sunshine and shadow with dark clouds in the background afforded excellent subjects for photography. The steep rocks of the final peak afforded excellent hand holds and foot holds; accordingly the summit cairn was reached at 12.50 p.m., altitude 9088 feet.

The much desired views of Mt. Baker, Rainier, the Tomahi Region and Chilliwack Lake Mountains were not obtained. It was noticed that many fine glacier-clad peaks including Ruth Mountain formed the head of the valley of the North Fork of the Nooksack. Closer views disclosed the chalet on Austin Pass Meadows, and the auto camp at Shuksan just 7000 feet below. The great precipices below the peak made it impossible to obtain a good view of the wonderful hanging glaciers on the north and east faces. It was seen, however, that several glaciers descend from the snowfield all indescribably shattered and ending on the brink of precipices. The dense mist then closed in and from then on visibility was nil. The names in the record book in the bronze cylinder in the cairn showed that comparatively few had

climbed the mountain as compared with Baker. On the descent a 2500 ft. standing glissade was enjoyed with hardly a stop and camp was regained at 6 p.m., after passing a party of the Mt. Baker Club, who were to climb the next day under C. A. Fisher.

Sunday morning camp was broken in dense mist and driving rain, and town gained that night. It will be proposed to put this trip on next year's programme instead of Mt. Baker.

The party consisted of Bill Dobson, J. Norman, J. Irving and the writer.

**NORTH PEAKS OF CROWN FROM
LYNN VALLEY, JULY 16-17**

The party assembled at Lynn Forks on Saturday night, the majority coming up after the heat of the day. We got away from the shacks at 6.15 a.m., and followed the Zine Mine trail to the usual taking off place. From there on to the foot of the North Peaks the greater part of the route lay through thick underbrush with, as we neared the top, occasional rock slides, which made the going easier.

We had figured out, the previous evening, several possible routes up the second and third peaks, but in the morning clouds descended and masked the peaks entirely, so we started off more or less blindly, with the intention of at least spending a day of good rock climbing. As it happened we started up the ridge leading to the Camel, but it was not until about 11 a.m. that any serious obstacle was reached.

As we were still thickly surrounded by clouds several of us decided to do a little exploring while the remainder of the party had a rest, and we descended some little distance to the far side of the ridge, which in the fog appeared the only feasible route, though we could not tell where it led. Fortunately at this point the clouds blew over and a route across a snow gully and up the ridge to the first peak was deemed practical. Running shoes had been worn during the rock climb to this point, but to cross the snow gully nailed boots were resorted to and steps cut part of the way and the rope used. On the rock running shoes were again donned and the picked route followed to within several hundred feet of the summit where an impracticable wall made it prudent to descend several hundred feet and follow an alternative route which eventually led us to the summit at about quarter to four. From there the usual route over Crown Peak and down to Crown Pass and thence to Lynn Forks was followed. Fair glissading was experienced from Crown Pass to the foot of the rock slides and the Spectre of the Brocken was seen on three occasions during the ascent.

The party consisted of Mrs. Dobson, Islay Richards, Franky Riddoch, Nancy Coulson, Bill Dobson, Jim Irving, Harry Somerville, Fred Brownward, Leader Ted Taylor and Endman Brick Spouse.

MOUNT WROTTESLEY

July 23-24.

Fifteen members and friends were at the wharf when the whistle blew to board

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the "Sannie II," and after a somewhat enjoyable passage, the beach (?) near McNabb Creek was reached before dusk. Water seemed to be the momentous problem but was happily solved by Harold—whose costume seemed to fit in very well for wading the many salty and marshy puddles, to where the water was good and fresh. After a somewhat belated supper an attempt at sleep was made, but was prevented by mosquitos and sand flies, and by certain of our members who for some strange reason wanted to take a dip in the briny at about one o'clock in the morning and seemed to delight in strutting near the heads of those trying to sleep with their "seven league" nail studded boots. Finally the night came to an end and a start was made by those climbing at 5.45 a.m. Any one might have thought we were working in the interests of a broom factory considering the amount of brush we saw and explored, but every once in a while we'd hit a bluff which relieved the monotony and which proved quite interesting. Some rule should be made whereby Harold could be prevented from pulling out the saxifrages, claytonias and things so that those following him could make progress. For some reason he left the Devil's Club alone. Anyway, the lake on the summit ridge was a welcome sight, and here the party spent a pleasant hour and a half in eating, bathing and wondering who the wild man of Borneo was. After thus refreshing themselves the final attempt to the peak was made and this was reached a little after noon. Views of Tantalus, Garibaldi and the Black Tusk were quite clear, although distant views were rather hazy. After a short stay,

more swimming was indulged in on the way back, although this time we chose the "real" lake—oh Boy: Ask those who were on the trip !!! Fast time was made on the return assisted greatly by the blazes which two of the party had made during the climb, and camp was reached about 6.15 p.m.; the party reached the city about 10.15 p.m.

Those making the climb included: Alex. Simpkins, Thos. S. Urquhart, H. Shaw, G. Mailleue, L. C. Ford, W. Hawksworth, W. Westall, R. J. Lanning, D. McPhail, Harold O'Connor, End Man, George Wallis, Leader.

Those staying on the beach included Mrs. Westall, Jim Norman, Frank Johnson and P. L. Tait, fisherman!

CROWN MOUNTAIN AND THE CAMEL, JULY 30-31

The party assembled at the Club cabin on the western slopes of Grouse, Saturday evening. In order to avoid as much of the heat as possible a start was made at 6.25 a.m., and the Plateau was reached at 7.10. As we got out onto the Eastern slopes of Dam the sun began to be felt. After a quick run down into Crown Pass we started up Crown, with the sun beating down on our backs. The water hole about two-thirds of the way up was a very welcome sight. Lunch was eaten on the meadows just below the Crater Rim. After lunch we traversed the Crater Rim and then over to the Camel by way of Crown Peak. Quick time was made onto the Head which was reached at 10.45 a.m., where numerous

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pictures were taken. The view to the north and east was hazy owing to smoke from forest fires, and clouds. In the Crater was a stream of water running out from beneath a bank of snow, and even though we had to climb down and up about two hundred feet, we thought that the effort was well worth it.

We stopped on the meadows for another lunch and most of the party went for a swim in the lake over by the Knees. (This party was strictly stag). As the sun was very strong and some of the party wanted to take things easy going back, we split up, but the majority arrived back at the Cabin at 3.30 p.m. There were eighteen members on the trip, thirteen going to the Camel's head. The trip was led by Brick Spouse with Art Cooper as end man.

WEDDING BELLE

In the last issue of this paper we offered our felicitations to Miss Gertie Fraser on her engagement for marriage. We now salute her as Mrs. Brown, she having been married to Mr. Heber Brown on June 30th, in Winnipeg. We heartily wish Mr. and Mrs. Brown all matrimonial joys and hope they may return to reside in Vancouver again before long.

ANNUAL DUES

The treasurer reminds us that August is the last month of grace in which to pay our club dues to keep us in good standing. A postal note or cheque to George Wallis at 551 Howe Street, will carry you for another year.

HINTS ON THE USE OF THE ROPE IN MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

(Continued from June Number)

DO NOT ATTEMPT A DIFFICULT PLACE WHERE AT LEAST ONE GOOD ANCHORAGE CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITHIN THE LENGTH OF THE ROPE. A slip on such a place will mean disaster for the whole party, and if such a place is met with a party is not justified in attempting it.

NEVER ATTEMPT A DIFFICULT CLIMB EXCEPT WHEN THE MOUNTAIN IS IN GOOD CONDITION. It is always bad during a storm and for at least two days after.

NEVER ATTEMPT A CLIMB IN BAD WEATHER. And if a storm should come on, even threaten, during a climb, turn back at once and get to safe ground as quickly as possible.

NEVER ALLOW MORE THAN ONE PARTY ON A DOUBTFUL SNOW BRIDGE AT THE SAME TIME. If this rule is observed there is only a chance of one breaking through, and this chance is much less than if more than one are on it.

NEVER JUMP ON A SNOW BRIDGE. Cross it as carefully as possible, so as not to jar it. There may be others to follow you and you may need it on your return.

IF YOU SHOULD HAPPEN TO PARTIALLY BREAK THROUGH ON A SNOW BRIDGE DISTRIBUTE YOUR WEIGHT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON TOP OF THE SNOW. Throw yourself forward so as to assume a lying position with your arms spread out and your ice axe flat on the snow.

(To be continued)

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