



The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

P. O. Box 543

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NEW YEAR'S CABIN DINNER

The Sunday set for the annual New Year's dinner was graced by one of the few fine days we have had this winter. A bigger attendance than ever was recorded to celebrate this auspicious event, and forty-six sat down to a first-class turkey dinner, being one more than last year. It was a dinner such as mountaineers love, tasty and plenty of it, with an abundance of plum pudding to finish, and our worthy chairman of the cabin committee nearly wore out a Burroughs Calculator in figuring out the proportions and financing it at 60 cents per head, which was cheap enough. There were three big turkeys, and all the cooking was done at the cabin, Miss Leone Morris being in charge, assisted by Mrs. Phyll Munday, Mrs. Geo. Wallis and Mrs. L. G. Golman. Roddy Gaudet, Harold O'Connor, Gertie Fraser and others also lent a hand before all was complete. The big room was nicely tidied up and decorated for the occasion.

After dinner, anticipating visions which might come from over indulgence of such a sumptuous repast, Geo. Wallis and Les Golman organized an "Ogopogo," which was

a fearsome looking monster with horns and a tail, as it was photographed winding its sinuous length up the hill at the back of the cabin with nearly as many legs as a centipede. Nearly everyone present went to form his majesty, each bending forward on the other's shoulders under the covering of blankets, which formed the scales upon the reptile's back. After this the whole dinner party formed a group outside the cabin, and was placed on record by eight or ten cameras.

It may be said that before lunch, those doubting their appetites took a jaunt up to the Plateau and back.

Besides those mentioned above, the following sat down to dinner: Mrs. Dobson, Misses Islay Richards, W. Chambers, E. Sharpe, Jean Genier, Eva Peers, Nancy Coulson, Olive Hardy, Violet Jones, Katherine Pratt, Annie Hardy, Henaghan, Evelyn Baynes, Winnie Jones, and Messrs. Alf. Shipp, John Huggard, J. L. Norman, W. Hendry, R. Ingles, W. E. Gilbert, Eric Fox, Scott, Bert Mann, Elliott Henderson, M. M. Dodds, Brick Spouse, Bill Dobson, Don Munday, W. H. Harrop, K. H. Grimsgaard, Clarence Moore, A. J. O. Cooper, Hazen Nunn, Jim Irving, Bert Griffin and Ira Swartz.

THE CLUB'S NEW CABIN ON GROUSE MOUNTAIN

Owing to the uncertainty, which is somewhat general in the minds of our members, the Executive has considered it advisable to issue a definite statement in connection with the new Club Cabin.

Construction on the Club's new cabin on Grouse Mountain ceased on December 23rd, 1926, and will not recommence until after the winter weather is over, and the snow is off the ground.

The contract was let by the late Cabin Construction Committee on July 10th, last, for \$650.00; work to be completed within sixty days from July 12th, 1926, and the contractors to have the right to the free use of the B. C. M. C. cabin and the kitchen stove. The contract covered all the heavy construction work of the cabin, but did not include such things as windows, doors, flooring boards or shingling the roof, and it was intended that the Club Members should do this work later on by their voluntary labor.

The two contractors started work about July 22nd, 1926. One contractor, however, suffered so badly from asthma, that he left the job in less than a week. The other contractor then took over the job, and had one of his boys to assist him, but was handicapped by ill health and want of tools, and had to depend largely on the Club's tools, which he found at the cabin. He is said to have also employed another lad for a time, but before much had been done, he became so ill that he had to return to town and go to bed, where he seems to have remained for six weeks. Towards the last week in October, he was well enough to re-start work, this time, with the help of his two sons and another man whom he had hired; but the good summer weather was over, odd times were lost on account of rain, and for a couple of weeks at the end of November, and beginning of December, work ceased altogether. With the foundations, floor joists and beams the north and south walls and a portion of the west wall completed, there is still a good deal of work to do to finish the contract, although the contractor claims that there is sufficient timber cut, and barked in the woods, and that it will be the better for seasoning.

Owing to the absence of business methods in letting the contract, the absence of a bond, and of a penalty for delay in completion, and the neglect to obtain a receipted weekly payroll from the contractor, liabilities against the Club mounted up. The Club had already paid accounts for groceries, wages and horse hire, incurred by the contractor while the building crawled along, and when the members of the late Cabin Construction Committee resigned their membership in the Club, at the General Meeting on December 2nd, 1926, there was only \$300.00 left out of the contract price of \$650.00. On paper, this was not due until the contract was completed, but three weeks later the new Executive found it necessary, on legal advice, to disburse a further sum of \$163.00, and to cancel the contract, which was done on January 4th, 1927. This money was paid to satisfy wage claims; and also an account for groceries supplied to the contractor for the job, on the credit of his contract.

The Club now has an option from the contractor, exercisable in March, under

which they can call upon him to finish the work called for by the contract for \$137.00, the balance left of the \$650.00. His right to use the cabin is cancelled, and in the Spring he will occupy a tent alongside his work. Thus our members have regained control of their mountain home, their use of which has been sadly interfered with since this contract began.

* * *

BOOST YOUR CLUB—Wear Your Badge on Trips.

MOUNTAIN MOSSES

By FRED PERRY

The mountaineer treads much on mosses, but usually gives little heed to the lowly plants that cushion his feet. Yet an intelligent glance will convince him that there are many varieties of form and growth. He will encounter a multitude of species before reaching the Club cabin, and a few of these are named here, to attract his interest in this vast kingdom of minute growths.

Most travellers will have noticed the hair-like stalks emerging from a somewhat confused mass of green. At the end of the stalk is a tiny cylindrical body opening at the cap, when ripe, and discharging a mass of spores. These spores on germinating produce a hair-like growth called the "protonema," which in its turn produces the common form of the moss.

In the rain forest of British Columbia, mosses occupy an important place. They conserve moisture, preventing its escape, absorbing it for the later use of surrounding plants. They help in forming soil, as their decaying parts become humus and provide sustenance for other forest plants.

By filling up the crevices in rocks and precipices they afford foothold for flowering plants and shrubs.

All these features may be noticed before the cabin is reached.

On the southern slope of Grouse mountain the road to Mosquito Creek provides some interesting moss studies.

In the ditch near John Cowan's cabin a *Philonotis* may be noticed, which, in early spring develops a mass of fine "fruit" standing stiff, erect and almost round. The

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leaves are closely set around the stems, making identification easy. This moss prefers very moist situations, and is common in the high mountain creeks. On the east side of the log shute is a greenish-yellow moss, one of the most noticeable varieties, called *Hypnum crista-castrensis* or the Knight's Plume moss. It covers the ground completely, exposure to sunlight causing the yellowish character. A little further on is *Hypnum splendens*, having the common name of Glittering Feather moss, and is, I think, the most showy moss on our mountain slopes. Its large feathery growth covers large areas, preferring the deep shade of the woods. It is often seen in good fruit, and is easily identified.

Hypnum robustum must not be forgotten. This moss is rarely in fruit, but forms in growth, little green tails on the forest floor. Pale in dry weather, after rain it takes on a sharp green color.

On the rock slides a silver-grey moss is the first to take advantage of the bare stone surface, having elongated leaves that form a spine-like point, and cause the hairy appearance. It is named *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, and is able to endure long periods of drought.

The Apple moss, botanically *Bartramia pomiformis*, may be seen on the cliffs just beyond the rock slide. It is to be readily observed in the clefts of the very shady rocks. In color a fine apple-green, with fruit-cases apple-shaped, it well deserves its name.

Dicranum scoparium is another inhabitant of the cliffs, easily distinguished by its habit of curling up its leaves all on one side, a characteristic common to all *Dicranums*, or nearly all.

In the wet places of the forest grows a moss with almost transparent leaves. This is *Mnium Menzessii*, and it is, I think, the only moss eaten by the forest mammals. Rabbits have been seen feeding on it frequently. It is to be found on Serpentine Creek, and is sometimes called the Tree moss from its resemblance to tiny trees.

Many other species abound, but space is limited, and so is knowledge, but it is hoped that the members of the Mountaineering Club will endeavor to add to the knowledge of our British Columbia mosses by noting and collecting unusual forms.

* * *

BOOST YOUR CLUB—*Why not wear the Club's Colors as a hat-band on your climbing hat.*

* * *

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the executive was held, January 20th, at 440 Seymour Street, to deal with general club business. It was moved and seconded that the club should write Mr. Wilson, barrister of McGreer, McGreer & Wilson, who has been very good in bringing the matter of Garibaldi Park before the Hon. the Minister of Lands, suggesting that the President in the chair of our Club be added to the list of nominees and be one of the five men chosen for the Parks Board. A letter suggesting this will go to the Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Messrs. Nunn & Knowlton were put in charge of the dance, elsewhere given notice of in this issue.

Mr. Dodds asked if the recent changes in our by-laws had been filed in Victoria. The President, finding this had not been attend-

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ed to, asked Mr. L. C. Ford to look after same.

Mr. Cooper proposed that the Secretary put a list of the winter trips in the desk at Camera and Arts, so that new members would know the details of coming trips.

Two active members were admitted into the Club, John A. Wetterwald and Hubert Griffin.

A vote of thanks to Mr. L. C. Ford was tendered by the Executive on behalf of the Club, for straightening out the financial and legal position in regard to the new cabin.

MOUNT CROWN TRIP

January 15 - 16, 1927

The annual winter climb of Mt. Crown, which was scheduled for January 9th, and postponed on account of the Club's New Year Dinner, was held on the week-end of January 16th. In spite of the cold, rainy weather on Saturday, a party of twelve gathered at the Cabin. So loath was the party to leave the comfortable warm cabin, and the smell of bacon and eggs that it required a great deal of persuasion on the part of the leader and end man to get them away by 8 a.m., Sunday morning. However, occasional glimpses of blue sky encouraged them, and in spite of the fact that some did not heed the leader's advice and bring warm wraps, the exertion of trail breaking in the soft snow, taken in ten minute spells by the members, kept them warm. From the Chalet on the Plateau a snowshoe trail led around Grouse and Dam Peaks to A. E. Agur's hut on Goat Ridge. Here lunch was eaten in the warm cosy cabin, now completely snowed in. From here Les Ford gave a demonstration of his method of trail breaking down into Crown Pass. By using one leg and steering with the other, together with a paddling motion of the ice axe, he attained a higher rate of speed than that made by other members of the party. This method proved useless up hill. By 3:30 the foot of the final arete was gained from whence the party proceeded to the corniced summit roped together. Many steps were cut as much glare ice was in evidence on the ridge and so hard was it that the leader broke his ice axe in the process.

The summit was reached at 4 p.m. and the return commenced at once, as the fog was dense and the wind piercing. Agur's cabin was reached at dusk, where a halt was made for refreshments. The remainder of the trip was completed back to the cabin

by the light of "bugs." The cabin was reached at 8 p.m. Exactly 12 hours and even if a strenuous climb it was voted most successful and enjoyable. In spite of the fact that no view was obtained at all, the effects of frost and fog on the beautifully snow decked trees was one long-to-be remembered. Those who took part in the climb were, Arthur Cooper, leader; Bill Dobson, Jim Irving, D. Irving, L. Freeman, M. Whittaker, Les Ford, H. Griffin, H. Kent, Leone Morris, while Mickey Dodds ably performed the duties of end-man.

* * *

Boost Your Club—Continue the good work of the past and maintain the Club's good name to mean something more than hikers.

DANCE

At the last executive meeting Hazan Nunn and Wilson Knowlton were put in charge of arranging the dance. Knowing the capability of these two, a real good time may be expected. The day has been set for March 4th, at Winter Garden, 2024 Beech Drive, from 8:30 to 12 p.m.

Tickets may be obtained from any of the executive or the dance committee.

As was said before, you all know what a fine time was had at the last dance, so lets everybody go and make it a bigger success than ever.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICERS; 1927

In accordance with our by-laws, formal notice is given that all nominations must be in the hands of the secretary three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, which has been set for March 16th. Also that all such nominations must have the endorsement of five members, together with the signature of the nominee, thus signifying their willingness to stand for office.

Nominations are required for: Honorary President, President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Publicity Reporter, Librarian, Auditor, and Executive Committee of five.

THE TRAGEDY ON MOUNT HOOD

It is with regret that we learn of the death of one of the Mazamas, Leslie J. Brownlee, in an attempt to make the earliest ascent for 1927 of this mountain. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Mazamas for their loss, and our commendation of the true mountaineering spirit which prevailed their organization for the rescue.

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