



The British Columbia Mountaineering Club

Vancouver, B. C.

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

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MYSTERY TRIP, November 4.

A small party of six started from the cabin on Sunday morning, November 4, at 8 o'clock, on the first trip of the winter season. This was made under the rather auspicious title of a "Mystery Trip."

Making their way over to the rockslide, the way led up this geological feature of Grouse Mountain a few hundred feet and then swung into the hemlocks and undergrowth, and the southern slopes of Grouse were crossed diagonally, passing over the head of the Serpentine and continuing until Mosquito Creek was reached near "Don Munday's Trail" that crosses over from Dome. Proceeding up a series of cas-

cares and waterfalls, the plateau between Dome and Grouse was traversed, passing the head of Mosquito and continuing down the north side of the divide under a spur of Dam until Kennedy Creek was reached. There the party swung to the west and climbed up an easy grade to Kennedy Lake, which was reached at noon when everybody was ready for lunch. Threatening weather suggested an early move and the party got over to Grouse the shortest way, taking what is perhaps the usual route back to the Cabin, via Larsen's Trail, which was reached at 3.15. An easy day's trip, but perhaps sufficient as a starter for the winter trips. Everyone in the party got a plentiful supply of fresh water, both inside and out, in fact, the best of the trip was in some way connected with water, by way of creek, lake or waterfall. The party was under the leadership of W. Westall with Les Ford acting as endman. Those participating were: Mrs. Westall, Miss Farmer, Miss Riddock, and Harry Somerville.

—W. W.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

November 8

The regular monthly meeting was held Thursday evening, November 8, at 648 Seymour Street. The following were admitted to the Club as Graduating members. Miss K. Smith, Miss M. Farmer, Messrs. W. H. Spicer, C. Ledingham, W. G. Lambert, D. E. McKee, T. W. Warkman and R. A. D. Todd. One very important item brought before the executive was the disgraceful habit some of our members are forming of playing poker at the cabin on week-ends. A year or so ago a quiet game on a Saturday night before a climb was thought nothing of, but now it seems that all some of the boys think about is to hurry up to the cabin and get the cards out. You have no one to blame but yourselves, fellows, so down comes the lid. Don't forget this. Besides it will do you far more good to get out in the hills these crisp winter days.

About thirty feet in a north-easterly direction from our back door runs a stream of pure mountain water. This

water taken just as it is, or used for making tea or coffee, affords the best drink obtainable on the mountain-side. Why bother bringing up these fancy concoctions from town? Some of you may have to read this a couple of times before it sinks in, but be sure it does sink in before you go any further.

A DISCLAIMER

Owing to the unauthorized statements made locally in connection with the sale of climbing rope, Mr. Don Munday wishes to correct any impression Club members may have that he has used any other kind than the English rope which the Club has always used in the past.

WEDDING BELLS

Members of the Club will be glad to hear of the wedding of Miss Marie Sherlaw and Mr. James Barnes, which took place August 8, 1928.

The Bulletin sends the best wishes of the Club and hope that Mr. and Mrs. Barnes will enjoy continued success in the future.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

November 9, 1928

This meeting was held in room 132, Hotel Vancouver, with Mr. Frank Johnson in the chair. There was a good turn-out of members and some real business was discussed.

Through the absence of Mr. Spouse, Mr. Golman read out the new winter schedule of trips. Mr. A. Taylor moved that this programme be accepted and Mr. Dawson seconded the motion.

Summer Camp this coming year 1929, will be held in our old stamping ground,

discussion about where we should spend our two weeks next year, but finally Mr. Somerville put the motion before the meeting, that we should choose Garibaldi, which Garibaldi Park. There was considerable was seconded by Mr. Horan and carried.

Regarding the question of a new entrance fee which was brought up by Mr. Ford some time ago and appeared in a previous issue of the Bulletin. Owing to Mr. Ford's absence, Mr. Westall put this motion before the meeting, which was passed. This makes our entrance fee \$9.00 for the first year and \$3.00 for each succeeding year.

Mr. W. A. Hutchings was admitted to the Club as a Graduating member.

Mr. Johnson stood down from the chair and moved that our present system of nominating be done away with and in its place we adopt our old style of nominating from the floor, at the time of the elections. This was seconded by Mr. Wallis and carried.

Then Mr. Dawson brought up the question that seeing that we had increased the entrance fee why not go back to the old qualifications for admittance to the Club? Considerable discussion for and against followed, it finally being decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive to do what they thought best. This will be dealt with at the next Executive meeting and results will appear in the Bulletin regarding same.

Mr. A. Taylor spoke on "What is to become of the old cabin?" It has now been definitely decided to form a committee to take complete charge of the tearing down of the old cabin. All material which will be of any use to us will be saved and the rest destroyed.

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Mr. Dodds then brought up the motion that there is to be absolutely no gambling at the Cabin which was seconded by Mr. Harvie and carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvie spoke on the proposed Guide Post to be erected at Little Mountain and asked that the Club obtain the co-operation of the City Parks Board in the matter. This will be dealt with by the Executive.

Following this came the motion to adjourn, bringing to a close one of our most successful meetings for some time.

THE HEART OF THE COAST RANGE

By *W. A. D. Munday, F. R. G. S.*

All distant views of Mount Waddington (Mystery Mountain), the highest mountain standing in British Columbia, fail to reveal it as being composed of some 20 peaks ranging from 10,500 to 13,260 feet. At the 10,000 foot level the massif for a length of six miles is nowhere below 10,500 feet, forming a wall-like mass between Franklin Glacier on the south, and Tiedemann and Scimitar glaciers on the north, the three flowing respectively southwest, eastward and northward, with a total area of fully 150 square miles; Franklin Glacier is over 20 miles in length, Tiedemann Glacier is 16 miles long, and Scimitar Glacier probably not less than 12 miles. Glaciers of equal size exist nowhere so far south of the Pole in the Northern Hemisphere except in the Himalayas. In the area between the head of the Lillooet River and Bella Coola there are other glaciers of great size, one at least being larger than the ones described.

There are at least three peaks which are exceeded in height only by Mount Robson, of the four 12,000 foot peaks of the Rockies but this section of the Coast Range does not equal the Rockies in average height, although possessing many 10,000 foot mountains and a fair number well over 11,000 feet.

Rock specimens seem to indicate that Mystery Mountain is composed of gneiss formed from rocks antedating the granitic rocks of the batholith of which most of the peaks of the Coast Range are made. There is also an area of extrusive volcanic breccia younger than the batholith, but this rock is found only among low mountains of 8,000 feet.

In the 400 square miles explored by us since 1926, and the much vaster area seen from higher elevations, the Franklin Glacier's complex system is, in some respects, the most striking, as all the valleys are floored with ice confluent with the mighty corridor of the main glacier which, for almost its entire length, is dominated by the enormous form of Mystery Mountain; though lacking something in symmetry, nevertheless, the mountain has real majesty as seen from this direction, in some respects the least advantageous.

The route up Franklin Valley, used in 1927 and 1928, is the logical entrance to the region, although there is a persistent myth that the Chilcotin country offers a better route. The distance from the mouth of the Franklin to Mystery Mountain in a straight line is only about 26 miles. The trip from Vancouver to the mouth of the Franklin took four days; the return took five.

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SHOEMAKERS

We started up the great gorge with ten loads, this being reduced to nine when we reached the glacier, six days later—the valley is most tedious to travel. Conditions on the glacier were more favorable than last year and we averaged 12 miles a day while taking supplies up 5,000 feet to base camp ten miles from the mountain; this stage took five days, including one 11 hour march to base camp, where we were content that night to camp on a snowbank.

Unsettled weather is probably normal among such great icefields swept by moist winds whose water content is condensed rapidly on rising to such heights. In three weeks after establishing base camp we had only one whole day really fit for climbing the higher peaks. Fortunately, we had already established a climbing camp at 8,500 feet in Fury Gap, at the west base of Mystery Mountain, and so were in a position to take advantage of it to climb the west peak, making a traverse of five peaks (10,500 to 11,500 feet) on the way up and again on the way down. The ascent was completed at 7.25 p.m., the descent at 2.30 a.m. The route offers surprisingly little choice most of the way, and in two or three places might any season be rendered impracticable by crevasses being unbridged. Evidence was noted of the movement of the neve being comparatively rapid, and a curious feature at the upper levels was that the lower lips of crevasses, that is the down-slope lips, were higher than the normally higher lips. The explanation was not self-evident.

This section of the Coast Range has a well-defined crest, but the drainage of the inland slope of the range is all carried back through the range to the Pacific by the Klinakline and Homathko Rivers, both of which have sources at low elevations in the Interior Plateau. Both have cut greater trenches through greater mountains than the Fraser River.

The historical associations of the Homathko River are a fascinating field of study. From 1872 to 1876 Sir Sanford Fleming strongly favored it as the route for the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1862-64 Alfred Waddington tried to build a road through the Homathko Pass to the Cariboo gold fields. Repeated assertions have appeared in the press to the effect that he knew of the great height of the mountain which now bears his name. A person with first hand knowledge of the Homathko Valley cannot deem this probable, and a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society in 1868 (G. J. Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 116-128), proves his failure to realize the height of peaks whose relative importance was dwarfed from the valley in a manner any mountaineer can understand. Mr. R. P. Bishop appears to have been the first to appreciate the true height of Mystery Mountain. He saw it in 1922 while surveying on high mountains sixty miles away near Lake Chilco.

SOCIAL EVENING

A Social Evening will be held on Wednesday evening, January 16th, 1929, at the home of Charlie Dawson, 2490 1st Avenue West. The girls guarantee a real good time, so let's all be there. More details will appear in the next issue.

ANNUAL DUES

As December ends our fiscal year our Treasurer, Mr. Wallis, requests that anyone who has not paid their dues for this year, please do so at once and oblige.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, OCT. 8, 1908

(Taken from the local press)

A party of members of the Vancouver Mountaineering Club climbed the Camel's Back, a hitherto unscaled peak of Crown Mountain.

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