



The British Columbia Mountaineering Club

Vancouver, B. C.

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

P. O. Box 543

TELEPHONE SEYMOUR 648

Honorary President: J. PORTER, B.E.

President: F. W. JOHNSON

Phone Kerrisdale 1871 L

Secretary: L. G. GOLMAN

Phone North 988LI

Treasurer: G. T. WALLIS

Phones: Sey. 3742 and Bay. 5940 X

Official Publication:

THE B.C. MOUNTAINEER

Editor: F. A. SPOUSE

1590-15th Ave. W.

Phone Bay. 2188 R

Subscription: \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Published Monthly.

LIBRARY: Outings Ltd., 5th Floor

939 Granville Street.

Member of

Canadian National Parks Association,

Canadian Forestry Association,

Associated Outdoor Clubs of America

No. 7 SEPTEMBER, 1928 Vol. 6

MOUNT TANTALUS

By F. A. SPOUSE

For the past fifteen years Mt. Tantalus has withstood various assaults made upon its mighty summit, but on Saturday, August 11th, 1928, Arthur J. O. Cooper, Harry L. Somerville and the writer conquered this monarch of the Squamish district, making the third recorded ascent of this mountain.

Leaving Vancouver on August 8th, we travelled by water up to Squamish, at the head of Howe Sound, and from there took a stage to a point some five miles above Cheekeye, crossing the Squamish River at what is known as The Big Bend. We camped that night on a rocky bench some

three hundred feet above the river and about an hour and a half travelling distance from where we crossed. Next morning we shouldered our eighty pound packs and began the five thousand foot climb to our base camp. Little need be said of this climb, other than that it took us nine hours and ten minutes, which, together with the pack the previous evening, made a total of ten hours and forty minutes. This ridge is very steep and near the top we had to force our way through blue berry and mock orange bushes. Our camp was situated on a fairly narrow ridge, at an elevation of 5365 feet above sea level. To the south could be seen the numerous peaks which rise up from the Seymour Valley, and also close at hand Mt. Alpha. Turning our eyes to the west we could see Serratus Ridge, and the South Peak of Tantalus, named by Mr. Neal Carter, Mt. Dione. Next in line came Tantalus itself, from which branched a long narrow ridge running in a north westerly direction. Turning to the north a vast sea of peaks, mostly unknown to us, spread out before us. Then looking eastward we could see the familiar peaks of the Garibaldi and Mamquam groups.

On Friday, August 10th, we set out at 5:50 a.m. on our first attempt which we had decided to make by crossing the glacier, which lies on the eastern slopes of Tantalus, and then following its neve to the crest of the ridge and from here up to the peak. This sounds very nice and easy on paper but was very different trying to put it into practise. We passed under the Tantalus Glacier for a short distance, dodging numerous avalanches which were continually falling from the snout, until we came to a place where we could get onto the ice. This we did by climbing a twenty foot ice wall, after which followed much tedious step cutting. We tried to follow the line of least resistance but only got ourselves into trouble by crossing a very flimsy snow bridge, and found our route on the other side blocked by a huge crevasse. We could do nothing but retrace our steps over the bridge—which held—and try our luck amongst the seracs. We managed to get through these to a point about three hundred feet below the Horn, a rocky pinnacle which sticks up out of the glacier, but here we had to admit defeat and so re-

traced our steps, getting back to camp at five in the afternoon.

In spite of very poor weather conditions we started out at 7:15 the next morning to try another route. This time we dropped down two thousand feet into the valley to the north of our camp and crossed below the glacier, then up to the ice on the other side of the valley. At this point the glacier is totally different than what we had attempted the previous day, its bed being not so steep, consequently there were no seracs to contend with. What crevasses we came to, we could easily get around and without much trouble we reached the rocks leading to the north ridge. Here we had lunch while we waited for the weather to clear. While feeding the inner man, the sun broke through the clouds for a few minutes, showing us the crest of the ridge about five hundred feet directly above us. Pushing on, we ran into some very steep but not difficult rock climbing, finally gaining the summit of the ridge at 3 p.m. The occasional glimpses that we got of the glaciers on both sides of the ridge were enough to show us that a slip meant a long ride to the glacier below. This ridge is a series of small peaks, offering excellent rock work, which as the summit of each is gained gives one the false impression that it's the last. At this point the weather began to grow steadily worse, finally turning into a blizzard, through which our vision was limited to fifty feet. At 4:25 p.m. we crossed the neve of the glacier and knew that the next summit would be the last. Here we had considerable difficulty crossing the 'schrund which is very wide and deep at this point. Then followed a scramble up a chinnew, which by this time was ice-coated, a short climb up the final rocks and at 4:45 p.m. we gained the summit. Here

we found in an old shaving stick holder the records of the previous climbs, the first on Thursday, August 10, 1911, by Messrs. A. B. Morkill, J. S. Davies and B. S. Darling; the second on Wednesday, August 26th, 1913, by Messrs. H. H. Shanley, K. Hamilton White and B. S. Darling. These records were as clear as the day they were put there, being wonderfully preserved by the water-tight tin. We left our own record and took the aneroid reading, which we made 8462 feet, but seeing that the weather conditions were so bad and our aneroid was only equipped to read up to 8000 feet, this reading is more or less approximate. The reading made by Mr. Carter on his attempt a few years ago, of 8850 feet, is much closer to being correct. After taking some pictures we started back at 5 p.m., and after a careful but thrilling descent we got off the glacier at 8:20, and a short time after that we decided to camp out for the night. I might mention that while coming back over the ridge we saw The Spectre of the Brocken, very clearly. Cutting as many boughs as the few scant trees allowed we lay down to sleep, the weather at this time beginning to clear, promising a good night. At 2:30 it started in to rain, and believe me it knows how to rain up in that country. Sleeping out at an elevation of about 5000 feet on a wet night with only boughs as protection is not all it might be, but we shivered on till 4:30 a.m. when it was light enough to enable us to pick a route over the cliffs below the glacier. We arrived back at camp at 8:45, having been away twenty-five and one-half hours, and after a good breakfast, fruit, porridge, bacon, hard tack, butter and jam and tea and then some more tea, we turned in. The rain kept up steadily for eighteen hours, easing off a bit about eight o'clock Sunday

MOUNTAINEERING BOOT HEADQUARTERS

A large variety of styles to choose from.
Boots made to measure by our own
expert shoemakers, if you wish.

"TRICOUNI" or "SWISS" nails

WOOD'S FOR SHOES

160 Cordova St. West
VANCOUVER, B. C.

KODAK FINISHING

As a Club Member I fully appreciate
Mountain Views and can give them
the special attention they merit.

A. C. PHILLIPS

Seymour 4916

323 Cambie Street

night, enabling us to cook supper, but that was all. As a matter of fact we had to run to the tent with our last course to get out of the flood. Monday dawned bright and clear but clouded up a bit in the afternoon. There was quite a bit of fresh snow on the peaks which gave them a wintry look. We took things easy around camp this day, strolling up the ridge to get pictures of the surrounding country-side. The next morning we broke camp and after a last look at Tantalus we started down the ridge to the Squamish River. It took us about four and one half hours to make the journey down to the river, where we camped for the night on a sand-bar. That evening we stayed up till one thirty singing and having a general good time around a huge camp-fire. Promptly at 8 a.m. Mr. Houston arrived to ferry us across the river, but as the water had dropped about four feet in the past week we had the experience of running the river for about six miles to Mr. Houston's ranch where we were treated to another breakfast. We left Squamish at three o'clock that afternoon, arriving back in Vancouver shortly after seven.

I might mention that where we camped, and as far as we could see, anywhere else in that district would not be suitable for a Summer Camp. The water supply is very limited and the pack in is out of the question for pack horses and also for a large party.

THE SIERRA CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

It was the pleasant duty of the writer to arrange to meet this Club on their arrival for a short stay in Vancouver. Les Ford and I arrived at the Great Northern Station shortly before the train arrived, and were fortunate in meeting Dr. and Mrs. Alvarez

and their two sons. They are all members of the Club and had come by a different route, in fact had climbed on Mt. Rainier on their way north.

The train arrived at 9:50 a.m. and Les and I were swamped under by a hundred carefree climbers on a holiday. Dr. Alvarez was very kind in introducing us around and we met Mr. Colby, their President; Mr. Hoover, Past President; and Mr. Clyde, one of their premier climbers. After a pleasant talk we extended an invitation to Mr. Colby and his Club to come up to our cabin on Grouse, should they desire to do so when returning home via Prince Rupert and Vancouver. —A.T.

AUSTIN PASS, AUGUST 4—5

Leaving Vancouver about 3 p.m. Saturday, August 4th, quick time was made down to Glacier, Wash., where we had supper. After a short rest we continued on for twenty-one miles further up the road to Austin Pass, where we arrived shortly after 10 p.m. We awoke the next morning to find the countryside covered with mist which hovered around all day. About noon another car arrived, which had left Vancouver that morning, bringing our total up to twelve. The day was spent around the Pass, some going over to Mazama and Chain Lakes and Table Mountain, while others climbed up to Panorama Dome. Most of us inspected the Chalet, which is a beautiful rustic building, surrounded by lakes and mountains. Some of us were fortunate enough to see a couple of black bears enjoying themselves at the garbage dump behind the hotel. Just as we were leaving the clouds blew off Mt. Shuksan giving us a good view of this 9000-foot peak. The return journey by way of Bellingham,

OUTINGS LIMITED

5TH FLOOR, 939 GRANVILLE STREET VANCOUVER, B.C.

Mountaineering and Camping Equipment

Edge Nails

Alpenstocks

Tents and Waterproof Clothing

The most important part of a mountaineer's outfit is his Boots; they may mean Life or Death to him.

McLachlan-Taylor Co. has made a special study of the construction of boots for mountaineering. All our boots are hand made. It will pay you to see us before buying your next pair.

MCLACHLAN-TAYLOR CO.

SHOEMAKERS

63 CORDOVA ST. WEST

VANCOUVER, B.C.

was made liesurely, as no one seemed to be in a rush to get home. Those on the trip were: Mr. and Mrs. W. Westall, Mr. and Mrs. A. Taylor, Mrs. Dobson, Misses I. Richards, D. Dobson, M. Herod and A. Siddeley; Messrs. P. Lockie, F. W. Dobson and F. A. Spouse.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CLUB CABIN

Our Club cabin, on Saturday evening, August 18th, was the scene of a pretty bridal shower of useful kitchen utensils. The bride, Miss Grouse Mountain, was dressed suitably for the occasion but had apparently been doing quite a lot of climbing as the muscles in her arms and legs were very conspicuous. (Excuse me Les.) Believe me our Secretary makes a good girl.

Now to get back to the real purpose of the gathering. Promptly at 9.53 p.m. our President Mr. Frank Johnson officially opened our cabin, following which he gave a short talk, expressing his pleasure at being able to open our new home. He then called on Mr. Les. Golman, who gave us a brief outline of the work involved in bringing our cabin to its present standing. Then Mr. Ford gave us a talk expressing the desire to see everyone make themselves at home yet at the same time doing all they can to help make our cabin and surrounding property the cleanest on the mountain. Following this came the aforementioned shower, Miss Grouse Mountain receiving for the cabin, many useful articles in the way of pots and pans, knives and forks, plates, brooms, can-openers, ash trays and the like. Then the ladies put on a very good meal, sandwiches, cake, cookies and coffee. To round out the evening, we had a dance after which everyone made ready for bed as it was a case of up early for the trip to Crown and the Camel in the morning.

CLUB TRIPS CONTINUED

September 22—23, Western Lion via Howe Sound. Roddy Gaudet, leader; Bill Dobson, end-man. September 29—30, North Peaks of Crown. Brick Spouse and Hazen Nunn. October 6—7, Work Bee at Cabin. The Lions trip is an old favorite by

way of launch to Lions Beach. Good rock climbing can be had on the Head of the Western Lion. The North Peaks of Crown will be a good rock climb, returning by way of Crown Peak. On the Work Bee everyone is expected to stay at home and play, but lets fool someone this time and put our energy to work around the cabin. Come dressed in your old clothes as we want YOU to WORK. This completes our Summer Schedule.

CROWN AND CAMEL, AUGUST 18—19

Bright and early Sunday, August 19th, we left our cabin, following the usual route over to Crown. We had lunch beside the old snow-post just below the peak, after which we pushed on to the summit. After a short rest here we started over to the Camel. The weather was poor, being so cloudy that you couldn't see the Camel from the Peak. We certainly had a good time on the Camel, there being thirteen of our own members and two others on the Head at once. Being unable to take any pictures we started back right away, stopping at the snow-post again for tea. We took things easy on the way home, arriving back at the Cabin about 5 p.m. The trip was under the supervision of Frank Johnson, assisted by Ted Taylor.

CYPRESS LAKE, AUGUST 26

By mutual consent of those participating this trip was changed to a day trip up Cypress Creek to the creek which flows from the meadows between Hollyburn Peak and Mt. Strachan, up this creek and home by way of the lakes and Ski Camp. Party left Vancouver early Sunday morning making good time over to Cypress Creek. After leaving this water-way we ran into a few falls which gave us some interesting rock climbing. We stopped for a short rest on the meadows below Hollyburn Peak, after which we proceeded on to the Ski Camp. The view of the Lower Mainland was very poor, owing to smoke from forest fires, which hung very low over the mountains. Those on the trip were: Mrs. Dobson, Leader, Miss I. Richards, Miss F. Riddock, End, Bill Dobson, Denny Gore and Brick Spouse.

Jones & Son Tent & Awning Co., Ltd.

28 WATER STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C.

PHONE SEYMOUR 740

Special Announcement

We have just put on the market a light weight *Eiderdown Sleeping Bag* specially constructed for Mountaineers, Sportsmen and others. The bag is made of the same materials as the full size "Yukon" sleeping robes, and being extremely small in bulk and light in weight will fill a long felt want.

Weight—Only 4 pounds

Lining—Pure wool Kersey cloth.

Covering—Waterproof silk.

Filling—Best grade pure down.

Price only \$20