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**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

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## JUNE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The executive committee were concerned mainly with the problems of summer camp this month. They were not able to accomplish very much at the regular meeting on the 18th as there were insufficient deposits on hand, so after disposing of some routine business the meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock. The following Tuesday the Camp Committee held a special meeting after some promises had been made good, to review the situation. They found that they were sure of fifteen people attending, and so they were able to work on a food list for that number. There ensued a long session during which Del Siddeley made an appeal for some Red river cereal without which she cannot exist. Kay Smith and I sat on either side of Frank who was making up the list, endeavoring to persuade him to include the extra can of spinach or packet of whammits. Hastie was in conference with Charlie Dawson, discussing the possibility of there being any millionaires' daughters at the bungalow camp. Pan would tell us how they did it back in twenty-eight, while Mickey would remind us that the purse wasn't bottomless. However, we eventually broke through the fog and found that the camp could be run quite easily on the money available.

On Thursday, June 25th, the Executive Committee met to hear the final report on camp. Mr. Johnson reported that he had received a few more deposits, and had

been quoted on the food list; other figures were checked over and everything found to be quite satisfactory. The meeting appointed Mr. Ford to take charge of camp finance in camp, and head the camp committee in camp, Mr. Anderson in charge of camp routine (particularly the cook) and A. Lambert in charge of the arrangement of trips.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Dawson are to be specially commended for the tremendous amount of work they have done that others might have an enjoyable holiday.

The latest report is that there will be twenty people in camp.

## THE SISTERS' MOUNTAINS

May 23, 24, 25

Situated some few miles south-west of Mount Baker a group of imposing mountains has long excited the ambitions of mountaineers, but up to last year remained practically unvisited, chiefly owing to inaccessibility. These peaks, known as the Sisters Group, stand out prominently when viewed from the lower mainland, but more so when seen from the upper snowfields of Mount Baker. The range consists of a series of rugged rock peaks running due north and south, but south-west of the main mass of Mount Baker. Several prominent snowfields radiate from the range, not extensive, perhaps, but some are quite badly crevassed. The two highest summits known as the Twin Sisters, are at the northern extremity of the group while several other peaks lying to the south appear to be between 6000 and 7000 feet in elevation.

Over the long week end of May 24th, a private party of six members decided to try their luck in the unfamiliar region. The party motored 75 miles to Deming, Wn., on Saturday afternoon, then took to a branch road through Welcome, a further 10 miles to Heisler's Goat Ranch. Here the party was fortunate enough to make connections with a speeder, this offering transportation a further 9 miles to Camp No. 7 of the St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Co. The party was allowed the use of a private cabin with good beds and stove. Hot and cold showers and good meals added to the enjoyment of the trip.

Clouds hung low on Sunday morning, but a start was made at 4.30 a.m. A wooded ridge separating Green and Sisters Creeks was climbed to an elevation of 4500 feet. Shafts of sunlight through the clouds lit up the glacier to the right, but the peaks above remained persistently clouded, only occasionally showing.

A gulley was ascended to the edge of the snowfield and first lunch eaten on exposed rocks at 5800 feet. The peaks were now invisible, but a route across the snowfield in the dense fog was mystifying. At 6500 feet a steep snowslope led to a bergschrund below the rockwall of the peak ahead. Shouting brought echoes from the invisible cliff, but a steep couloir led to the main ridge at 6800 feet. A stiff rock climb of 300 feet led to a final snowslope of excessive steepness. The cornice below the summit ridge was negotiated after some difficulty and the peak gained at 10.45 a.m. Here was found the record of the U.S. Geodetic Survey, but no names in the cairn. No view was to be had but the sun

dimly showing through the fog encouraged a stay on the sheltered summit rocks. The fog blew clear just long enough to disclose a fleeting glimpse of the other peaks of the range rising abruptly above the snowfields at their bases. The aneroid registered 7350 feet. The Second Sister of the group appeared some 300 feet lower, but general conditions precluded any view or photography, accordingly the descent was commenced after leaving a record. Clearing mists revealed a sharp minor peak to the right of the col. Its virgin summit tempted four of the party and the peak was gained a 7050 feet after an interesting rock scramble. Clearing fog banks rolling off the peaks and glaciers disclosed the valley of the Middle Fork of the Nooksack, Mazama Park and the Deming Glacier on Mount Baker. The return was made over the same route and camp gained at 6 p.m. after 13½ hours out. An outgoing speeder on Monday morning helped the return to town, which was reached via Bellingham at 2.30 p.m.

This trip is a very fine one, offering a variety of snow and rock climbing. The character of the rock, split in huge red slabs, offers fine climbing. The view from the peaks would be superb in clear weather and well worth the climb, but this trip would not be suitable for an average Club party in an ordinary week end, even with transportation facilities. The timber company prohibits any camping within its precincts because of fire menace, while logging operations continue to the boundary of the Mount Baker National Forest. The Company will under no consideration allow any strangers within its limits during the fire season. Those on the trip are

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very grateful for the courtesy shown them by the lumber company officials, as well as the use of the cabin, speeder and other privileges. The region abounds with game, several deer being seen near the camp on one occasion. Those on the trip were Jack Betts, Bill Henderson, Bill Williams, C. Ledingham, J. Cherry and Art Cooper.

### KANCHENJUNGA

A review of the "The Kanchenjunga Adventure," by J. H. R. in *Alpinesport*, the publication of the Alpine Sports Club of New Zealand, contains the following very interesting report.

On Kanchenjunga the expedition reached 21,000 feet, only 7,000 feet from the summit. The failure was due to the mountain being cut off by a dangerous ice cliff, which ran right across the only possible route. It succeeded in climbing this, but before further progress could be made a huge section of the ice cliff fell, carrying away the route which had taken five days to make. The avalanche proved that to attempt the ice cliff again would bring almost certain disaster. The expedition then turned to other peaks and climbed two of 23,000 feet and the Jongsong Peak of 24,344 feet. This is the highest summit ever reached although Norton and Somervell reached 28,000 feet on Everest.

The book is recommended for those who would be interested in descriptions of the country through which the expedition travelled on their way to and from the mountain, and not require details of climbing.

### Rhododendron albiflorum Hook. Mountain Rhododendron.

[The Editor has suggested that a few notes be made on some of the most noticeable mountain flowers as they appear month by month.]

The mountain rhododendron is one of the first flowers that blooms in our mountains and should be familiar to any mountaineer who has struggled with its tough and straggling branches in his efforts to reach the tree line limit. It is a shrub from three to six feet high, the young twigs and leaf stalks rusty, soft and downy. Its leaves are shiny, slightly downy and about three inches long, not evergreen. The flowers arise in an irregular cluster toward the top of the stem, and are creamy white; the three anterior petals are orange or yellow dotted. It can be found from three thousand to forty-five hundred feet in peaty soil, and is common to Grouse, Dam and Crown Mountains. It takes unkindly to cultivation, and can be found at its best on the edges of open trails or open spots, being rather shy of flowering in the shade.

Another close relation is the California Rhododendron, which is confined to a few limited areas in B.C.: namely, the Hope-Princeton-Trail and Chilliwack Lake. It has a glorious rose-colored flower, just like the cultivated rhododendrons; and one almost regrets the coming of the Hope-Princeton Road, as the opening of that highway will mean the passing of one of our most beautiful plants.

These notes will appear monthly at the discretion of the Editor.

—Fred Perry

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**MOUNT SEYMOUR****May 31st**

The illness of Mrs. Dobson, and the uncertainty as to whether the trip was to be held or not, probably prevented a large turnout.

Five strong, we caught the 7.40 ferry and proceeded, via service car to Indian River road, on the Deep Cove side. We started up the plank road at 8.30 a.m. and proceeded by a skid road and a good trail to the Alpine Club's new cabin, arriving at 11.15.

After eating a large lunch we left at 12 noon and followed Goldie Creek up an easy grade to the foot of the first peak, arriving at the final summit at 2 p.m. After more lunch and trying to identify all the surrounding peaks we left at 3.30 and following a different route arrived at the cabin at 5 o'clock. Here we found tea already prepared for us. One prominent member embarrassed us by drinking tea out of his saucer; he explained that if he used a cup the spoon got in his eye. After a pleasant trip down we caught the 7.40 p.m. ferry back to town.

This climb was made by what we believe to be a new route for the club and was voted a great success. Those taking part were Miss Blanchard, Messrs. Les. Ford, W. Westall, J. Booth and myself.

—Roy Howard

**NORTH PEAKS OF CROWN****June 20th**

Accompanied by six members from the Mount Baker Mountaineering Club, a party of thirteen left the Club Cabin at 6.15 a.m., and were joined shortly after by Mr. Anderson and his son Roy. The weather was nice at the start, but shortly after leaving Crown Pass, it started to rain, and continued to do so in a most successful manner throughout the balance of the trip. In fact, to one with a keen sense, there was every evidence of a slight wind blowing as well.

After a brief lunch on Crown Meadows, the peak was reached at 11 a.m. Although the visibility was very poor, for a little more work, most of the party proceeded over to the first peak north of Crown. At this stage we might mention that the Mount Baker Club Girls sure deserved credit, the way they scampered over those rocks as if they were nothing at all clearly explains the reason for them wearing such an appropriate emblem as they do, namely that of a Mountain Goat.

While returning, a visit was paid to Mr. Tait's cabin where tea, warmth and *shelter* were gratefully received. As an innovation the girls favored us with some Scotch Dances and Arabian Tangos. Being garbed in brilliant hues fashioned from Mr. Tait's blankets, they made a perfect setting.

Those on the trip were Misses: M.B. M.C. members (Lawson, Hibner, Barrett, Weythman, Spiescke and Messrs. (Happy) Fisher, and Jones): B.C.M.C. members Miss Fraser and Messrs. Ford, Anderson, Jr., Anderson, Sr., Sutcliffe, McKenzie, Sr., McKenzie, Jr., (L) and Sandy (E).

Two or three other members from the M.B.M.C. were wise and spent a leisurely day at the cabin.

—J. McKenzie

**SKYLINE RIDGE TRIP****June 6th and 7th**

Thanks to fine weather, a good party and the use of the Mount Baker Club's camp at Glacier, a very successful trip was enjoyed by all, which included a party that returned from Ruth Mountain owing to the leader having injured his knee.

Those on the trip were: Misses P. Morris, M. Blanchard, L. Johnston, K. Smith, N. Coulson, M. Hatfield, J. Burnes, Mrs. Dobson, Mr. and Mrs. Westall, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson; Messrs. J. Irving, E. Snow and friend, C. Saunders, T. Fallowfield, A. Paget, B. Cross, P. L. Tait and B. Cook.

—F. W. Johnson

**Highlights of the Mount Baker Mountaineering Club's Visit**

Mr. McKenzie senior and self placing paper arrows on the trail half an hour after they had gone by.

\* \* \*

Happy (to Mary who was hanging her pyjamas over the stove to warm): "What have you got there, Mary?"

Mary: "Oh, just my riding habit."

Happy: "Huh, yours must be a night-mare."

\* \* \*

They really did expect to climb the Camel this time, but the weather man was evidently on his vacation for the weather went back to normal.

However, the one good thing about that is that they still have something to come back for.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Mr. E. S. Lee was admitted to the club as a graduating member on June 18th. Miss L. Johnston was raised from graduating to active membership.