

# The B.C. Mountaineer

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## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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### THE ANNUAL DINNER

Remember the annual dinner on October 31st; bring your friends and wear fancy dress. Let's make this a real Halloween party. You can get tickets from the Dinner and Dance Committee: the Misses Nancy Coulson, and Vi. Jones; Messrs. Les. Golman, C. A. Dawson, P. Lockie, W. Hastie, H. O'Connor and F. W. Johnson.

### THE WESTERN LION

September 19th-20th

Evidently, the very questionable weather that preceded the trip to the Western Lion was in some measure responsible for the comparatively small attendance. This climb is usually the most popular of the year. Only fifteen decided to chance weather conditions, with hopes that their good friend the "West Wind" would dominate the situation on the morrow.

The regular launch from Turner's Wharf had to be cancelled as the small attendance would have left the Club with a deficit. Fortunately we were able to make arrangements with Mr. C. de L. Harwood, who offered to take us from Horseshoe Bay to St. Mark's Camp on his launch the "Del H." This kind offer was eagerly accepted, and the majority of the party left Horseshoe Bay at 4.20 p.m. on the Saturday, and reached the Lions beach an hour later. Mr. Harwood also returned to Horseshoe Bay in the evening to pick up three more members who were unable to make the afternoon boat.

Through the courtesy of the Rev. Mr. Sovereign, we were allowed the use of

St. Mark's Camp, where we turned in on the veranda for the night. After a light (?) breakfast, we started by bug light up the usual trail at 5.20 o'clock. This is a perfectly good, well blazed trail that can't be missed by the light of day, but one one can easily go astray on in an indifferent light. We made fairly good time right up to the ridge that forms the back of the "beastie." A series of short rests prevented us from becoming too much detached, although the endman also attended to that. Being a perfectly good endman he always kept the tail end moving towards the front. The travelling up this slope and along the succeeding ridge was decidedly watery. The blueberry bushes held a heavy supply of moisture, which made for cold hands and wet knees, otherwise it was quite dry, for we didn't run into the morning mists until nearing the ridge that leads to the summit. Here we began to feel a chilly sou-wester striking us broadside-on, just a reminder that something was in the air. We arrived at the extremity of the ridge known as the shoulder at 10.35 a.m. The snap shot enthusiasts had to subdue their desire for pictures owing to poor visibility. We had lunch here and endeavored to warm up before the climb to the head, which could be observed occasionally through the rifts in the clouds that were continually sweeping up the western face. The atmosphere partly cleared at 11 o'clock so we started to climb the head. The whole of the party made the summit by 11.45 a.m. with only the partial aid of one rope. By this time the surrounding peaks were partly visible. Thirty minutes was sufficient to view the cairn and anything we could see beyond. A few pockets of last year's snow were still visible on the lower part of the slopes to the north.

Leaving the summit at 12.20, the last of the party reached the shoulder by 1 o'clock, where an immediate departure was made for home. During the return the air cleared and both peaks of the Lions, Mount Brunswick, Harvey and Mount Hanover, the Sawteeth and beyond were plainly visible. From this time on, the mists lifted from the surrounding peaks, the sun shone through the clouds with ever increasing brilliance, giving the picture takers a wonderful opportunity. Everyone was back at the beach by 4.20 p.m.

Two ambitious members, John McKenzie and Bert Cook chose to return over the ridges, via Mount Strachan and Hollyburn, a route which, surprising to relate, enabled them to reach home well ahead of the main party.

Those making the trip were Roy Howard, F. Brownsword, T. Fallowfield, John McKenzie, G. W. McKenzie, C. R. LeL. Harwood, T. Carroll, A. Sutcliffe, Bert Cook, L. Hanson (a visitor) and the Misses K. Smith, and M. Hatfield, together with Ira Swartz (who stayed at the beach), Les. Golman, endman and W. Westall, leader.

—W.W.

#### THE CAMP REUNION

Was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson on Comox Street. There was a hundred per cent. turnout of those in town and quite a large number of members who were not in camp. From the looks of some of the pictures there will be lots of competition at the Exhibition. The Camp scandal sheet, the "Cataract Roar," was distributed; the editor has a few extra copies for those who would like them.

#### WELCOME HOME

Bill Dobson is back in town to stay, and glad to be back. He has promised to honour us with a visit to the cabin some Sunday (make it a work bee, Bill, and you'll be doubly welcome).

Harry Somerville is back from Chicago (unscathed). From all accounts he's seen more of Chicago than the Chicagoans. We'll have to be careful not to speak too suddenly to him for a while until he gets' back to normal.

Now we'll see some climbing with these two back.

#### THE WEDDING OF CHARLIE DAWSON and WILDA MORGAN

Was attended by quite a number of club members. I'm sure I don't know what the bride wore as I was too interested in the bride. I do know though that Charlie wore a large smile, and that Percy Lockie as best man was doing his best to outsmile him.

At the reception afterwards at the Peter Pan there was one highlight (apart from the cake). The minister, while proposing a toast to the bride touched upon her quality of quiet persuasiveness as dominant in her character. Of course Charlie couldn't keep quiet, and in a little speech afterwards agreed with the minister saying, "If it was not for Wilda's quiet persuasiveness I certainly would not be here tonight." After the laughter died down I think he began to wonder just what he had said.

Charlie then told us all to drop all formality and enjoy ourselves, which we

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promptly proceeded to do. I never saw so many impatient men as those lined up to congratulate the bride. The cause of the trouble was discovered when someone saw Les. Ford trying to sneak into line a second time.

We saw the bride and groom on to the boat amid showers of confetti and the very best of wishes from everyone.

### PHLOX DOUGLASII HOOK

This common mountain flower has been referred to as the mountain forget-me-not. Its flowers are supposed to resemble the ordinary forget-me-not. It is, however, in no way related to it, it belongs to an order not easily recognized in B.C., the polemoniaceae, which includes two very floriferous genera, the polemonium and the gilia. Polemonium confertum is one of the showiest flowers of the high mountains around Garibaldi, while Gilia agregata is one of the finest scarlet flowers around B.C. and is common to that part of the dry belt that drains into the Columbia River, the Tullameen and the Okanagan, etc.

Our Phlox Douglasii is closely allied to Phlox Diffusa, but climbs higher, being almost entirely a plant of the arctic zone. We have found it on all of the high mountains of Southern B.C., and it is quite common on the ridge between the Lions, which we think is the nearest it can be found to Vancouver. It is one of the commonest flowers in the Garibaldi region, on the slopes of the Black Tusk it grows on the edges of the rocky outcrops and is rarely out of bloom all summer.

Phlox Douglasii forms cushion-like tufts and its woody stems are a few inches tall

and partly creep along the ground. The many needle-like leaves give the appearance of prickly moss. The foliage is thickly sprinkled over with faintly aromatic smelling blooms that vary from white to pink and lilac. The individual flowers are about three quarters of an inch across.

Phlox diffusa is not so common as Phlox Douglasii. Its flowers are not quite so large and have a tendency to be of a paler or softer tone, it seems to prefer limestone soils. It is very common at Mount Liunchum, but rare at Garibaldi. Mountaineers who have gardens have often brought this treasure down to lower levels, and invariably complain that it does not do well. No wonder, for the best of rock gardeners complain of its stubbornness; but perseverance, paying close attention to the nature of the soil, exposure, and more important still, keeping the rain from it in winter, will induce this lovely plant to throw blooms that will produce that hungering for the mountains that besets the mountaineer when summer comes.

### SKIING

The Executive Committee have engaged a room in the annex of the Grouse mountain chalet to house the equipment of any who wish to ski this winter. There is no sleeping accommodation, just storage space for skis and a stove to warm skis before waxing. The cost of the room to the members is Thirty dollars for four months to be borne by those using the accommodation. Get in touch with Roy Howard if you are interested, so that he can estimate the cost to the individual as soon as possible.

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. R. Howard has applied for Active Membership, sponsored by L. G. Golman, L. C. Ford and C. A. Dawson. Application to be voted on at the meeting of October 15th.

## THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION and COMPETITION

Will be held in the middle of January, 1931. The Final announcement and information will be given at the Annual Dinner on October 31st and also in the November Bulletin.

The following are the classes:—

- Class 1 Winter Scene.
- " 2 Summer Scene.
- " 3 Sunrise or Sunset Views.
- " 4 Mountain Peak.
- " 5 Marine View.
- " 6 Animal or Bird.
- " 7 Rock Climbing.
- " 8 Wild Flowers.

All entries are to be enlargements. Prints will not be accepted unless they are framed or properly mounted with plain margin of at least one and one half inches in width.

Entries are to be photographs taken within the last two years.

As we hope to have the exhibition in the New Art Gallery, YOU are requested by the committee to do your best to make the exhibition a success.

—Photographic Exhibition Committee.

## THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE KWOIEK NEEDLE

Situated in the eastern section of the Cascade Range, twenty-five miles from the main line of the C.P.R. and about north west of the station of Keefers, lies the Kwoiek Needle, a spirelike rock peak 8500 feet in height. This hitherto unclimbed peak, called Churchhouse by the Indians, was the ultimate goal of a party consisting of one member of the Alpine Club and two members of the B.C. Mountaineering Club, who left Vancouver on the night of August 15th, intent on the possibility of making a first ascent.

The first two days of our trip provided the greuling task of transporting fifty-five pound packs over a distance of twenty-five miles and to an elevation of 6100 feet. Our route followed a ridge which in a general way paralleled the valleys of the Nahatlatch River and Log Creek. Camp was finally established on the evening of our second day out, in an ideal location on the crest of a ridge, and within easy striking distance of the peak.

The following morning dawned with overcast skies and the promise of the threatening weather, we therefore decided to confine our activities to the business of plotting a route up our peak. Two hours along the ridge from camp brought us onto the blue ice of a small glacier on the north west face of the peak, by which time the weather had begun to clear. Casting aside any idea of postponing our assault, we roped up and headed towards a snow slope which seemed to offer the most obvious route to the summit arete. We continued our way up the snow slope, an occasional step having to be cut, and at 7500 feet passed a bergschrund which did not offer any difficulty. Two hundred feet higher, finding the angle of ascent a bit too steep for comfort, we took to the rocks on our right and after an interesting scramble on good sound rock we reached the arete at an elevation of 7900 feet. The remaining 600 feet to the summit was quite easy, but considerable care had to be exercised because of the unstable nature of the rock.

The summit was reached at 1 p.m., six hours after leaving camp, the aneroid reading 8500 feet at this point. Several familiar peaks were visible on the horizon. Away to the south Baker and Shuksan stood out, while the peaks of the Lucky Four Range were also faintly discernable. To the south west lay a group of peaks which we took to be near the head of Harrison Lake. At least four of them must border on 10,000 feet, and they should offer an excellent field for a future expedition. To the north lay the Skihist Range 9,600 feet in height, while the lower rolling hills of the dry belt to the east completed our view.

During the remainder of our week in the Kwoiek Country two minor peaks were ascended, the elevation being in the neighborhood of 7500 feet. Unfortunately the peaks are separated from one another by wide valleys, a disadvantage to mountaineers.

We did not have as much climbing as we would have liked but we thoroughly enjoyed our holiday.

—J.B. and W.H.