

# The B.C. Mountaineer

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## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

P. O. Box 543 VANCOUVER, B. C.  
TELEPHONE SEYMOUR 648

Honorary President: J. PORTER, B.E.

President: L. C. FORD

Secretary: L. G. GOLMAN

Treasurer: M. M. DODDS

Editor: A. M. LAMBERT

1790 Kingsway New Westminster, B.C.  
Phone New Westminster 2406 L

LIBRARY: A. C. Phillips Ltd., 315 Cambie Street

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### SUMMER CAMPS

Summer Camp is the Club's main activity. I've been surprised lately by the number of people who bring up the subject of next year's camp. Where shall it be? We have very little choice. It is necessary that the camp be at five thousand feet or more, and within striking distance of at least four worth-while climbs. It must be accessible by pack pony in order that our fifteen hundred pounds of equipment can be taken to the site cheaply. It must also be central to some pleasant easy days.

Very few districts fall into all these classes.

The Wahleach Lake district is accessible by pony but is only two thousand feet high. There is a fair camp-site beneath the mountains that stand six thousand feet above it. The two main peaks Foley and Welch are not accessible from any lake camp. They would have to be climbed from a subsidiary camp at timberline. There would not be many places for the less ambitious to visit unless they were enthusiastic fishermen. This is, I admit, a negative description, but although I could spend a very enjoyable two weeks there myself I cannot imagine a Club camp there.

The Tantalus Range has been discussed in earlier records; there was once a scheme put forward to fly the supplies and party in to the lake there. The Peaks are, like those in the Cheam Range, high above the base camp, and in line rather than grouped. A wonderful district for an ambitious party but hardly for a large camp.

We are still waiting for reliable information on the Fitsimmons Creek district. From all accounts the peaks, although high, are not so very interesting. People who go to large camps are not inclined to gamble with their only "two weeks vacation."

Bute Inlet is a magnet to all of us; none of our members have done any exploring there. From all accounts there is no meadow land there, no camp-sites within striking distance of any group of peaks; so we must forget that.

We are forced to admit that the seldom travelled, trailless districts are, however interesting, for compact climbing parties only. The civilized districts easy of access such as Lake O'Hara, the Selkirks or Garibaldi are the only really suitable districts for a large camp.

The climbing in Garibaldi isn't all that it might be, but for a really enjoyable mountain holiday for the less ambitious, the district has no rival. Here one sees the mountains from the most cheerful aspect. The wide open rolling glaciers invite the casual wanderer. Every mountain in the district invites the interested visitor, the wonderful flowers in the meadows add to the illusion that it is a gala day in the mountains. One climbs or one doesn't, according to mood. There is no challenge.

The Rockies at Lake O'Hara are a challenge. For my part I felt as though I was there on sufferance only. We climbed with the mountains' permission. We were constantly reminded of our insignificance and felt quite impertinent when planning to scale the heights.

Even after making a climb and finding it quite simple, we would look back up and

think "On sufferance only." It is necessary to climb quite often to retain any self-respect, and then go back again the next year to show that you can still do it. Foot for foot they are no worse than our local hills. They are just putting up a much better bluff, and familiarity, there, does not breed contempt. If it did it might not last long. Non-climbers might not notice these opposing personalities but they could not fail to be affected by them. The scenery is, of course, quite beyond description, even with the camera or the brush. Mono-chromes only reflect the harshness of the mountains, they lose the atmosphere of restfulness in the valleys. Even paintings lose a great deal.

It is for those who have been to the Selkirks to tell us of them. They could not fail to come between the two extremes of mountain grandeur just mentioned.

It would be interesting to hear something of Robson Park if we must have a new field. That one should prove worth while.

Next year's camp will be discussed at the Semi-annual meeting. If there is anywhere you would like to go bring your idea to the meeting.

#### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The Photographic Exhibition has been postponed. The committee were having difficulty in securing a suitable building in which to house it. They are endeavoring to obtain the use of the new Art Gallery which opens on October 1st. If they are successful the exhibition will be held early in the new year. Look for an announcement in your next bulletin.

#### SILENE ACAULIS. L.

##### Moss Champion

Every mountaineer must be familiar with this beautiful alpine pink. It forms mats of bright green cushions, covered by the wide open fine petalled rose-purple to pink flowers.

This alpine plant is found on nearly all our mountains over 6,500 feet, and is as widely dispersed as Spitzbergen, the Aleutian Islands and Northern Siberia. It is sometimes called the flowering moss, but no moss flowers in the sense with which we are familiar. Our silene belongs to the large family of pinks, or the Caryophyllaceae, and has very long, strong roots; the reason for which is obvious, for it could never hope to cope with the terrific winds it encounters if it were not firmly anchored. The writer once measured the roots of a plant clump measuring six inches across, and found them to be seven feet six inches in length.

Silene is common at Garibaldi and it was found on the Western Lion in 1909. It does not flourish at sea level—having a tendency to flower all the year round, which results in its rapid exhaustion. The mats of close cushions often afford a home for many neighbouring plants, and the potentillas or mountain cinquefoil can frequently be found growing out of its protecting shelter. It has many relations in the mountains, notably the bladder campion with their white flowers and swollen calyxes, and its close resemblance to our

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cultivated pinks cannot fail to suggest this relationship. This beautiful moss flowers in July and August, and the cherry blossoms are always an indication to the mountaineer that he is reaching the regions nearest his heart. —Fred Perry

**OUR HONORARY PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAY IN GARIBALDI PARK**

I went to Garibaldi Park at the request of Mr. J. C. Campbell, of the National Parks Board. I had been balked by circumstances a dozen years ago, and had not cared to think of the matter again. But I am glad I went for I had a very good time at the Wallis Camp. Everything was done by the directors that could have been done for my convenience and safety.

Of course I did not go to the Park to do stunts, even if it had not been too late for that. But I got the information I wanted thanks to the friendly interest shown by all the members of the party.

The haze in the Cheakamus Valley was a handicap to photography on the west; some points to topography had to be left unsettled at the last. Still, I cannot recall a time when I got so much enjoyment and information out of a summer holiday.

—J. Porter

**THE SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Will be held on November the 6th in the York Room of the Hotel Georgia, at 8 p.m. If you have any suggestions as to where we should hold next year's Summer Camp bring them to the meeting.

**AUGUST EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Notes**

Club camps have always been successful from the point of view of being enjoyable, it isn't often that on settling up accounts the committee find themselves \$130 to the good. The 1931 Lake O'Hara camp enjoys both these distinctions. The money has been voted into the general fund. Frank Johnson the chairman, Charlie Dawson, and Les. Ford are to be highly commended for their work in this connection. Also Mickey Dodds for his co-operation in the capacity of treasurer.

In future the names of all persons wishing to join the Club, together with the names of their sponsors, will be published in the Bulletin before being voted on by the Executive.

The camp reunion will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, 1250 Comox St., on September the 18th.

All members interested in seeing camp pictures and hearing tales of adventure first hand are cordially invited. There will be a charge of twenty-five cents to cover the cost of refreshments.

The Committee accepted with regrets the resignation of Miss Teddy Sproule, who is now living in Montreal.

The winter programme will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee will consider forming a transportation committee to take care of all out of town trips.

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## MOUNTAIN EARS

Charlie Dawson and Wilda Grace were married at St. Stephens Church on September 4th. Congratulations, best wishes and all that.

\* \* \*

We are very pleased to announce the engagement of Miss Greta McCallum to Mr. John McKenzie.

John and Greta, with Mr. Anderson and Mr. McKenzie spent a week in the Sawteeth district and on Howe Sound. Unfortunately Greta was taken ill and was unable to climb but they reported that they enjoyed their holiday.

\* \* \*

Ralph Cleveland and Miss E. Gerard were married in August and spent a week motoring in the Interior.

## CHURCH MOUNTAIN

August 15th - 16th

With the Shuksan trip called off we decided that we should go somewhere, so on Saturday evening we motored to Glacier and the hospitality of the Mount Baker Mountaineering Club's Cabin.

On Sunday morning we started off for Church in tow of Deacon Cooper and arrived after the first hymn, in time for the service by the Rev. Roy Howard, D.D., also in time for the collection. We decided that we might as well ascend the Steeple (or peak as someone described it) and arrived at the top after an enjoyable climb. The view from here was very good, that of Baker, in particular, making it well worth the effort. The flowers were at their best and rivalled anything we had seen outside of Garibaldi Park.

On the way home three daring members, feeling spiritually uplifted made the first ascent of the Butterhorn after surmounting the most trying difficulties. This proved so exhilarating that we decided to traverse the whole ridge to the fire and police station. In order the Pepperhorn, the Wattahorn, the Nottahorn and other Klaxton horns were trodden under-foot like nobody's business. While at times the members were hanging on by their eyebrows the most difficult part of the trip was the Mountain of Dishes we surmounted before leaving for home.

Our thanks are due to Bishop Mitchell, the (fire) warden of the Church, for his hospitality to us.

Those taking part were Art Cooper (choir) leader, Miss K. Smith, Miss V. Jones, Bill Hendry, Tom Warkman, and Roy Howard (usher).

—Roy Howard

*From a record left in the Glacier Cabin by Tom Warkman*

## THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner will be held this year in the Aztec Room of the Hotel Georgia, but not as usual.

Last year some of our old time members mentioned that we were getting too formal for them; we hope we won't shock them the other way this year.

The anniversary of the Club's birthday almost coincides with Hallowe'en night, so we'll combine the two, and have a Hallowe'en Dinner.

Dinner will start at 6.30 o'clock after which we will dance from nine to twelve. Even our President has promised to doff his cloak of formality for the evening and join the fun.

October the 31st is the date, be there and bring your friends to wish the Club "Many Happy Returns of the Day." Wear fancy dress, you'll feel out of place as the only person without it.

Girls Hallowe'en dresses and boys Pierrot, Felix, or Exaggerated Climbing Outfit. Edge nails and crampons will be barred from the dance floor.

Tickets are \$1.75 each, you can get them from Frank Johnson, Les. Golman or members of the Social Committee.

OCTOBER 31 '31 IS THE DATE.

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