

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION  
VOLI ISSUE 3

John Hickey Resigns

John M. Hickey, Founder of the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association has found it necessary - for personal reasons - to resign from the Ramblers' Executive and all other club duties. The club has accepted his resignation with regret and hopes that he will be able to return to his duties in the future. John still holds his membership in the Ramblers.

John had the initiative and ability to legally establish and organise this much needed outing club in Calgary. His hard work and leadership during the critical early years of the Association have made the club succeed and grow. When we enjoy the varied Ramblers activities we can remember that we most likely would not have a club like this if it were not for John. Then we can realise the debt we owe to John for founding the Ramblers. His leadership and humour will be missed at the Executive and other meetings.

ROAD LOG OF THE NORTH FORESTRY ROAD

The following road log was made on the Ramblers trip of August 10th and 11th 1957. Mileage and times are from the Ramblers headquarters at 16th Ave. and 10th St. N.W. in Calgary. Except for stops indicated, driving continues at a quite steady, but easy pace suited to good car care and enjoyment of the scenery. The road was muddy and slippery in stretches due to rain. Slightly better time could easily be made in dry weather, but dust would be a problem. The scenery consists mainly of foothills, forest and streams with the first and last quarters being most scenic.

| <u>Mileage</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location or Stop</u>  |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 0              | 7.30 a.m.   | Calgary - R.M.R.A. Headquarters.   |
| 21             | 8-8.15      | Cochrane - gas and coffee ( no more gas for 185 miles)   |
| 31             | 8.30        | North Forestry Road leaves No.1 Highway (Turn right)   |
| 42             | 8.50        | Ghost River and camp site  |
| 49             | 9.05        | Enter Bow River Forest Preserve - register   |
| 51             | 9.10        | Ghost Ranger Station   |
| 57             | 9.25        | Mocking Bird road turns off to W. (left) for 3 miles   |
| 59             | 9.30-40     | Waiporous Valley Viewpoint - panoramic view of the Rockies including Devils Head   |
| 65             | 9.50        | Fallen Timber Creek and camp site  |
| 84             | 10.25-10.55 | Red Deer River and camp ground (Calgary via Sundre 117 miles; Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Road extends 15 miles W.   |
| 86             | 11-11.05    | Red Deer Ranger Station  |
| 107            | 11.40 P.M.  | James River ( two unmarked alternate routes that reconverge)   |
| 119            | 12.10-12.50 | Picnic lunch stop - extensive views  |
| 126            | 1.05        | Clearwater River and camp ground   |
| 127            | 1.06        | Clearwater Ranger Station and junction to Caroline (keep left for Nordegg)   |
| 166            | 2.20-2.40   | Ram River Falls (worth seeing) and camp ground one mile to E. (right) on side road   |
| 179            | 3.10        | Side Creek and camp site   |
| 186            | 3.20        | North Ram River and camp site  |
| 197            | 3.40        | North Saskatchewan River   |
| 206            | 4.00        | Nordegg Ranger Station and ghost town of Nordegg (gas and cafe and cabins)<br>Camp grounds 3, 7, 17, and 28 miles W. of Nordegg; 2 miles N. of Nordegg; 8, 16, 24 miles E. of Nordegg. |

OFFICERS

|                    |                  |        |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Chairman           | Sandy Vair       | 'Phone | 871044           |
| Vice-Chairman      | Wally Drew       |        | 896145 (new no.) |
| Secretary          | Barbara Thompson |        | 870020           |
| Treasurer          | Reg Clark        |        | 892718           |
| Senior Trip Leader | Tom Moffat       |        | CH4-4737         |

Any officer may be called for information.

EXECUTIVE

|            |             |                  |            |
|------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Reg. Clark | Tom Moffat  | Barbara Thompson | Wally Drew |
|            | Juan Corkan | Sandy Vair       |            |

TRIP LEADERS

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Tom Moffat   | Sandy Vair |
| Jim Clachrie | Wally Drew |
| Ron Smylie   |            |

ASSISTANT LEADERS

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Tom Thurston      | Ken Bailie |
| Reg Clark         |            |
| Nancy-Gay Stewart |            |

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Membership | - Nancy-Gay Stewart |
| Programme  | - Juan Corkan       |
| Publicity  | - Barbara Thompson  |

MEMBERS

During the past month the Ramblers membership rose to 37 when the following paid their dues:

|            |            |          |
|------------|------------|----------|
| Norma Hogg | Pam Vosper | Kay Watt |
|------------|------------|----------|

FROM THE EDITOR

It has been brought to the Editors attention that there has been some littering of trails on hikes by the discarding of refuse by Ramblers or guests. Please, let us leave the country where we camp and hike better than we find it - not worse. It is our duty and privilege to preserve the beautiful scenery that we enjoy so much.

Many thanks to Barb. Thompson for typing the last issue of "The Pack Rat" and to Mary Hodgkinson for duplicating it.

If you have any contributions or criticism in regard to your newsletter, "The Pack Rat", please contact the Editor, Wally Drew.

MEETINGS

Because several of our active members, especially men with cars, have been on holidays, club activity has temporarily slowed down somewhat and meetings have been smaller. We have some good Fall hikes ahead of us and expect large turn-outs.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Ron Smylie's Alpine Sport Shop, 1026 - 16th Ave. N.W. At those meetings not preceding an overnight trip a special programme has been offered.

On July 31st Herb Snowden of the Fish and Game Association gave an enlightening talk on fishing in Alberta. He told of the stocking of Lakes and streams and answered questions afterward.

What makes these mountains and foothills what they are? On August 14th Bob Tennant answered these and other questions in a talk on the geology of the areas we frequent. He also explained some general principles of geology. Bob is a District Geologist for Dome Oil Company and has been making geological road logs in the foothills of S.W. Alberta.

The Ramblers Association has gone on record opposing the discriminatory practice of running a bus into Lake O'Hara for lodge guests only. We feel that the bus service should either be discontinued or made available to everyone. Sandy Vair has sent an appropriate letter to Ottawa.

### TRIPS

On Saturday July 27th Sandy led Ted, Bob, Lillian, Pearl and Nancy on a fairly wet hike to Sherbrook Lake. Everyone enjoyed their lunch sitting under the trees out of the rain. On the way out some wild strawberries for the girls in the car who could not go with them. The cars had been left at Wapta where those not on the afternoon hike had obtained and enjoyed hot coffee from Wapta lodge. With the return of the hikers came more rain and the party set out for Bow Lake camp ground. En route, rain, sleet and finally snow were encountered. On arrival at Bow Lake the leaders decided not to erect tents, and after a good supper Ramblers prepared to sleep in the shelter, some on the floor, some on tables. John Hickey and Sandy Vair electing to sleep in Sandy's car.

About 10.30 p.m. a car drove into the camp ground and a young woman appeared asking for help with engine trouble. It transpired that the three remaining occupants of the car were Nuns en route for Banff. First one, then the other two joined the party in the shelter. They evinced considerable interest in our Association and its aims. Meanwhile, Sandy, Tom, Sid and Bob "got out and got under", their efforts proved successful and the Sisters left us to continue their journey.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear and after a hearty breakfast two separate hikes were made to Helen Lake.

Tom led Sandy, Bob, Lillian, Pearl, Sid and Nancy up Helen Creek to Helen Lake. It was a lovely clear day for taking pictures and the views and flowers were at their best. The stop for lunch was enlivened by the visit of a marmot which ran off with Bob's shoe, when that was retrieved the marmot tried to steal the rain cape on which Lillian was sitting. On the way out a keen watch was kept for sight of John and Ted who were on a hike of their own and supposed to meet up with us on the trail. They were met later when they emerged onto the highway. Sunday, July 28th. RECONNAISSANCE: The Circumnavigation of Dolomite Peak.

Members: J.M. Hickey and Ted de Waal

Leaving Bow Lake Campground at 8.00 a.m., Mr. R.A. Vair drove us to Mosquito Creek bridge. The recon party then followed the Mosquito creek trail, which is on the North side of the creek, not as shown on the Survey Map, for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. We then left the trail and bushwhacked North, climbing diagonally upward toward the back of Dolomite, into a high, larch valley which was found on the 1956 recon. In this valley we followed the West branch of a small creek which is a tributary of Mosquito through a rocky valley in a treeless meadow. Ahead of us we saw that a spur of Dolomite blocked the valley. We followed the diminishing creek North East in a rocky gorge between Dolomite and the un-named peak to the East.

This gorge, culminating in a high col, offered easy access to Dolomite Pass. We reached the top of this col at 12.15 after a trip of at least 4 miles, and climbing over 2,000 feet. As we descended over old moraines into the pass, Dolomite Glacier was visible to the south-west. In the pass, a high treeless meadow, we followed Dolomite creek upwards to the West, climbing again slightly into a grassy col graced by a small lake and shed sized rocks. In the West end of the pass, we came upon Katherine Lake (Alt. 7787) where we had lunch. Between Katherine and Mt. Cirque we could see a high grassy col which seemed to offer easy access to Helen Lake. However, we skirted the west side of the lake, and out west near the South end, coming out on the high escarpment overlooking Helen Creek valley. At this point the terrain forced us Northwest, and we descended over broken ledges to the Helen Lake Lower trail, meeting it at a point just below the small tarn one sees to the left when ascending into the high meadow. To this point I would estimate that we had travelled at least 9 miles. The trip out, since it has been a regular Ramblers trip for years, should be familiar to most members.

COMMENTS: a rewarding trip. A large portion of it was over very rough terrain, and boots are a must. To travel further into the Rockies from here would demand bivouacs, and the additional weight would be a burden to lug up over the high passes. However, when the ~~South~~ Thompson Highway is complete, it might offer access to the point where Dolomite Creek debouches into the South Saskatchewan. This would be a trip of around 30 miles, and a large part of it might be bushwhacking, since we saw no trace of the trail marked on the survey map. I would recommend that we have a bivouac party go in the Helen Creek way in the future and have a look down Dolomite Creek toward Mount Marmot.

J. M. HICKEY.

On August 4th a trip to Stewart Creek and the Three Sisters was led by Don Smylie and Ken Baillie. The party consisted of the leaders and Landy Vair, Tom Thurston, Sam Turner, Nancy-Gay Stewart, Betty Guenther, Chris Learn, Pam Vosper, Shirley Ritchie, Joan Reenan, Frank Motealfe and one other whose name no one seems to know.

The party left Calgary at approximately 7.50 a.m. in fair weather for a quiet trip. They wandered up past the old mine dam located about 2 miles up Stewart Creek. After a restful lunch in the sun the party seemed to lose interest and probably the size of the party decreased until only four people had the final ridge. Unfortunately the whistle was blown for the return before all had reached the top. The return was uneventful.

The overnight trip of August 10-11 was limited to five people because the only car available was that of the leader, Wally Drew. Those who thoroughly enjoyed what proved to be a very adventurous weekend into new country were: Betty Guenther, Nancy-Gay Stewart, Chris Learn, Ted de Waal and Wally Drew.

Saturday we drove to Nordogg as indicated in the road log. From there we drove 17 miles west on the proposed David Thompson Highway to Tersishner Camp Ground to camp. It was a nice and scenically located little camp ground with a good kitchen shelter. We got Ted's tent up before two violent thunder storms hit Saturday evening. It cleared up quickly and we enjoyed a moon-light walk before retiring.

Sunday morning a short hike without benefit of trail was taken North of Nordogg and there was a marvelous view of the town and the Rockies. One girl strayed away from the group and disappeared. After trying unsuccessfully for 1 1/2 hours to find her, the help of three rangers from Nordogg was obtained. One of them found her after she had been missing three hours. She claims she was not lost - just bewildered. She knew where she was, but just did not know where the car or we were. The moral of this story is that one should not stray away from the group on a hike, especially without getting permission from the leader.

Sunday afternoon we drove to Sylvan Lake. There the car became violently sick and had to crawl to a garage for a couple of hours of treatment. That gave our group time for a sunset swim in Sylvan Lake. Ted collected a loach (blood-sucker) and lost his watch (which was soon found). Bright aurora and full moon added beauty to the drive back to Calgary.

On August 18th six Hemblers took to the water like ducks on a swimming excursion to Pine Lake (Ghostpine Lake). This warm-water lake is set in woods and framed hills 16 miles East of Penhold. The day was mostly sunny and warm. The six were Pam Vosper, Mary Hodgkinson, Jean Nicholls, Dorothea Spiller, Betty Guenther and Wally Drew. How busy can a guy get?

Tom Moffat spent the weekend of August 24-25 in the mountains with two friends from Seattle - Chris Learn, Ted de Waal and Wally Drew left Calgary at 1 p.m. on Sunday and drove through rain and snow to join his two friends at their camp by Bironhower Lake. There, leaving his friends to head camp, Tom led the group of four Hemblers to the top of Mt. Silverback. In spite of clouds and snow the ascent was interesting and worth while. Largest disappointment was the complete lack of view from the cloud-enveloped summit. Tom added to his lunch by eating a hard candy he had left in the summit cabin a year before. In spite of the 20 mile hike only half with trail and large elevation gain the party was back to the cars by 6 p.m.

#### WALLY DREW'S HOME GOING

Henk Halbertsma has been doing the most. Early in August he imported his sweetheart from Holland. On August 24th Miss Anne-Marie van Waegeringh and Mr. Henk Halbertsma were married in Calgary. Jean Ziegler, Jean Nicholls, and Wally Drew were among the guests at the wedding and reception. Everyone agreed that Henk had a very beautiful and charming bride. They will live in Calgary. We hope to see both with the Hemblers.

Dorothea Spiller spent her week's holidays at Sylvan Lake, Alberta and Prince George, B.C. She water-skied on Sylvan Lake. Tom Moffat was laid up for two weeks with the 'flu'. He made good use of the time by reading approximately 2,000 pages of current literary classics.

Jean Nicholls and Jean Ziegler spent one week of their holiday in Vancouver. The second week was spent on Vancouver Island.