

"THE PACK RAT"

Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association

Calgary, Alberta

Vol. I, No. 4.

Sept. 1957

From the Executive

An executive meeting was held at the home of Chairman, Sandy Vair on Sept. 17th. It was decided that through the fall meetings will continue to be held every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Ron Smylie's Alpine Sport Shop or Alpine Ski Hut, depending upon which sign you read. This club headquarters is located at 1026 - 16th Ave. N.W. We have a caller and plan to hold square dance meetings on alternate Wednesdays as soon as we can find a suitable place. Do any of you have a rampus room where we could square dance or know of a suitable place? If so please contact Sandy Vair or Wally Drew.

Hikes will continue until the snow gets too deep which will probably be late October or early November. Then we will switch to skis and take our hikes on skis - known as ski-touring. We also hope to do some outdoor ice skating this winter. For more information on winter activities contact Wally Drew after Thanksgiving. You do not have to know how to ski. Get the equipment and we will teach you to ski-tour. We will also advise you on buying equipment.

The "Pack Rat" will come out at two-month intervals from now until late spring. For contributions to or criticism of "The Pack Rat" contact the Editor, Wally Drew.

The Annual meeting will be held in November. Notices will be sent to all 1957 members about a month in advance. That is the meeting at which the members elect their next Executive and Officers. You all come and cast your vote.

The Ramblers crests are here. All members are entitled to one free crest and additional ones may be purchased.

Many thanks to Mary Hodgkinson for typing the last issue of "The Pack Rat" and helping Sandy Vair reproduce it.

At the end of the Executive meeting attended by Sandy Vair, Wally Drew, Barbara Thompson and Tom Moffat, Mrs Vair served delicious home-made scones, date bread, cookies and jam along with coffee and tea.

OFFICERS

Chairman	Sandy Vair	'Phone	871044
Vice-Chairman	Wally Drew		896145
Secretary	Barbara Thompson		870020
Treasurer	Reg. Clark		892718
Senior Trip Leader	Tom Moffat		CH-4-4737

Any Officer may be called for information

EXECUTIVE

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

TRIP LEADERS

Tom Moffat	Sandy Vair
Jim Clachrie	Wally Drew
Ron Smylie	

ASSISTANT LEADERS

Tom Thurston	Reg Clark
Ken Bailie	Nancy-Gay Stewart

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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

MEMBERS

We welcome Jean Ziegler as our newest member. That brings the 1957 membership to 38 as of September 22nd.

TRIPSSKOKI TRIP → AUGUST 17 - 24 / 1957

Early on the morning of August 17th a party of four eager hikers left Calgary for Lake Louise with a full supply of camping gear and food for a week's trip. The party consisting of Lillian Thompson, Pam Turner, Tom Thurston and Ken Baillie was joined at Lake Louise by Sandy Vair. After a pleasant bus ride to Temple Lodge the food was split up and the ruck sacks were filled. At this point certain members of the party decided that they could not lift their packs let alone carry them seven (?) miles. However the packs were finally raised to the proper position and the party started off.

After successfully crossing the creek twice and a pleasant stroll up the valley the Half Way Cabin was reached. Following a leisurely lunch and a restful siesta it was decided by unanimous vote that we would push on for Skoki Lodge.

The summit of Boulder Pass was attained and we enjoyed a care-free stroll along Ptarmigan Lake waving to the occasional fisherman. Suddenly looming in front of us was Deception Pass. Oh! the pain! Finally after much struggle we achieved the top of the pass and were greeted by cold wind and rain. But after limping down the trail we eventually crawled in to the cabins and gradually recovered our strength. A steak supper was enjoyed by all and soon the party was actively working around the camp site.

After the wood was chopped and the dishes were washed the girls decided to have a little fire in the fire place in their cabin. Soon a small column of smoke curled out of the chimney while at the same time smoke billowed out the open door of the cabin. Something was wrong. After dropping rocks and sticks down the chimney it was established that said chimney was plugged. The fire was removed from the cabin and after the smoke had cleared the stove pipes were carefully examined. Finally the obstruction was located and we all learned that a chimney draws much better if one opens the damper before the fire is lit.

Breakfasts proved to be a very popular meal for the residents of Skoki Valley. No sooner would one of the cooks commence the delicate job of turning a pancake with a knife than a horsefly would commence a fresh meat breakfast from the shoulder of that cook.

On the 18th Tom Thurston said goodbye and headed back to Calgary and to work. During the week trips were made to the Skoki Lakes, up Skoki Valley to Merlin Lake, (this trip is recommended to all future hikers in the area), over to the Red Deer Lakes and up Douglas Valley to the natural bridge. Other trips of interest in the area include climbing the ski trail behind the cabins and then following the high trail around Mount Skoki and climbing the ridge behind the Cyclone Warden's cabin and then going down on to the Drummond Glacier.

It was interesting to notice that the girls who were a little tired on the trail climbed the cliffs to Merlin Lake like rock rabbits, hardly stopping for breath.

One of the interesting episodes of our trip took place the night Sandy made a trip up the trail to the little house in the woods. When he arrived he found that a porcupine had beat him there. After a loud and vicious battle Sandy gave in and retired leaving the porcupine as the victor. The rest of the week Sandy made the trip armed with an ice axe.

The party remained healthy the whole trip and the level of the bottle that was taken "For Medicinal Purposes Only" was still half full at the end of the week.

The girls proved to be very successful cooks and the scones and butterscotch whirles which they produced were very delicious.

Unfortunately a week is soon over and so we found ourselves back at Temple Lodge shivering in the snow and waiting three hours for a bus to take us back to Lake Louise.

Ken Baillie.

HOLIDAY TRIP TO MOUNT ASSINIBOINE

As part of the Holiday tour three Ramblers, Ken Bailie, Tom Thurston and Yours truly made arrangements to visit the area of Mt. Assiniboine and to stay for three days at Sunburst Lake Camp, (Elizabeth Rummel Prop.) It had been our intention to go to Sunburst Lake on Monday Aug. 26th but we postponed the trip to the following day on account of bad weather.

The party left Calgary on Tuesday morning at 7:00 and drove to the Canyon Dam on the Spray river southwest of Cammore where we were forced to leave the car. After hiding the gasoline can in the bushes we donned boots and rucksacks and hiked around the Spray Lake. At Turbulent Creek, 3 miles from the car, some butter was cached in the stream under a rock. It was not there when we returned four days later. If anyone has any information about the whereabouts of this container of butter will they please notify the editor.

The weather was questionable but improving and nothing of note occurred until the stop at a creek about three miles from the end of the lake where we had lunch and Tom lost his drinking cup in the creek. Anyone having any information about the whereabouts of Tom's cup please notify the editor.

We arrived at Sunburst Lake Camp, having traversed Assiniboine Pass at about 5.30 having walked an estimated 18 miles in about 8 hours. We were dead beat and turned in soon after supper.

Wednesday we climbed the Nub (9016 ft) which is a block fault mountain and requires little or no technical climbing knowledge. From its crest we had an excellent view of Mt. Assiniboine and of Assiniboine and Wonder Passes and down the Simpson River to the west. We also spent some time chasing Ptarmigan and taking pictures of them.

Thursday snow fell in the morning but stopped about noon and permitted a sortie into the bowl south of Sunburst Peak where yours truly sat and took in the sights while Messrs Thurston and Bailie scrambled up the flank of the mountain (Sunburst).

In the evening Tom tried to catch a fish at Cerulean Lake. Smythe tried them too some years ago. He didn't catch any either.

We returned to the car by way of Wonder Pass and Marvel Lake on the Friday, and after retrieving the gasoline can drove to Cammore where we poured Ken on to the train for Calgary and went fishing for the week end.

R. A. Vair.

There was no club trip over the Labour Day weekend because most members had other plans including wildcat trips. A "wildcat trip" is a non-club trip.

On Sept. 8th Margret Hartmann, Rose-Marie Niklaus, Chris Fearn, Dorothea Spiller, Zen Cocalis, Nick Cocalis, Ted de Waal, Tom Thurston, and Wally Drew went on a day trip led by the last named. An early start was necessary to drive over to Yoho National Park. The group followed a good trail to Ross Lake and then one mile west toward Wapta Lake. From there we headed straight up the steep mountain side until timber-line was reached. Those in front saw some fine specimens of mountain goats. It was an easy walk back into the cirque above Ross Lake after the steep ascent to timber-line. In spite of clouds and some light snow the views made the trip very worth while. An easier route down was found slightly farther west.

Moraine Lake - Eiffel Lake - Larch Valley - Sentinel Pass - Paradise Valley. Sept. 21 - 22.

On Saturday Sept. 21st Tom Moffat, Sandy Vair, Ken Bailie, Nancy-Gay Stewart, Lillian Thompson and Mary Hodgkinson set out for an overnight trip to Moraine Lake.

Arriving at Moraine Lake about noon the six members of the Ramblers in Sandy's car lay claim to the largest shelter in the camp ground. After lunch we decided to visit Eiffel Lake. The larch trees were just about at their best, and we got some good views of Moraine Lake from the top of the switch-back. It was a perfect day for hiking, not too hot and with a clear blue sky and light clouds.

Eiffel Lake was a dark blue from the trail and reflected a number of the peaks in its clear waters. While the others basked in the sun one of the members scrambled around to the other side of the lake to take pictures. We had some difficulty in finding the lower trail back to Moraine. We arrived at the shelter shortly before dark to prepare and enjoy a sumptuous repast. We enjoyed a warm and comfortable sleep, and were up early to meet the rest of the party when they arrived. Several good reflection shots were taken from the pile of rocks at the end of the lake while waiting for the other three cars to arrive.

On Sunday, Sept. 22nd the camping group was joined at Moraine Lake by Wally's day trip consisting of Jean Nicholls, Daphne Smith, Pat Sargent, Betty Guenther, Chris Fearn, Pam Turner, Dorothea Spiller, Gladys Patterson, Marjorie Hulbert, Jess Kosell, Pam Vosper, Michael Vosper, Ted de Waal, Bob Tennant, Frank Pumpf, and Wally Drew for the annual larch hike. This gave us a combined group of 22 - our largest trip of the year - for the hike up through Larch Valley to Sentinel Pass led by Tom Moffat. Both the Indian Summer weather and the larches were at their prime and new snow on the high, jagged peaks was an added attraction to make it one of the most enjoyable trips of the season. We ate lunch beside a lake above timber-line after watching Tom wade in the clear, cool water.

After lunch all but two went on up to the top of Sentinel Pass and enjoyed magnificent views and snow ball fights. There the group split with Tom leading the more ambitious ten down the snow-covered slope and out through Paradise Valley. Sandy led the others back to the cars which were then driven down to Paradise Creek for the rest of their passengers. We are happy that six new guests enjoyed the hike as much as the veteran Ramblers and were glad to see Gladys out for her annual hike.

WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING

Sandy Vair spent the first week of his holidays with his mother in Jasper National Park. In spite of lady luck conspiring against them at times they enjoyed the trip and saw a number of mountain goats. The next two weeks were spent conducting the holiday trips written up in this issue.

Ruth Weisberg was a guest at Barbara Thompson's home in Calgary over the Labor Day weekend. Barbara and Ruth's room-mate went to Seattle, Washington for their holidays. There they enjoyed fine weather and boating on Puget Sound.

Deighton Higgins felt the call of the bright lights. He flew to Denver, Colorado for the Labour Day weekend.

Our sympathies go to Tom Thurston. He is in bed with chicken-pox. We are missing him on our trips until he recovers.

Nancy-Gay Stewart and her sister rented a car and spent a week's holidays (often camping in the rain) in Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks and in Edmonton. Everything was fine except for a car break-down in Edmonton.

Henk and Anne Halbertsma spent their honeymoon in the Windermere country and in Waterton National Park. They are now happily settled in their Spruce Cliff suite.

Betty Guenther has spent two pleasant weeks vacationing in B.C. One week was spent with her parents near Chilliwack and one week with her sister in Vancouver.

Mary Hodgkinson is now able to do full-fledged hiking and is thoroughly enjoying it. We hope the leg troubles are over.