



THE PACK  
RAT

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION  
1026 - 16th Ave. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.

Vol. 2, no. 6  
July 1958

### First Aid Course

With the interest and safety of the club in mind, twelve Ramblers are taking the St. John Ambulance Association first aid course. The class meets two hours every Tuesday evening for eight weeks. There is studying and practicing to be done outside of the class. Eight other people are taking the course with us. The twelve Ramblers are Mary Hodgkinson, Nancy Gay Stewart, Ruth Weisberg, Lucia Van de Werve, Sandy Vair, Tom Moffat, Ted de Waal, Nick Cocalis, Henk Olliemans, Joe Behringer, Roy Sward, and Wally Drew.

### EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS

Chairman	R. A. (Sandy) Vair
Vice Chairman	Wally Drew
Secretary	Mary Hodgkinson
Treasurer	Bob Norton
Senior Trip Leader	Tom Moffat
Membership Chairman	Nancy Gay Stewart
Programme Chairmen	Jean Nicholls and Bob Tennant
Publicity Chairman	Barbara Thompson

TRIP LEADERS

Senior Trip Leader	Tom Moffat	CH-4-4737
Trip Leaders	Sandy Vair	AT-3-1044
	Wally Drew	AV-9-6145
	Ren Smylie	AV-9-3367
	Tom Thurston	AV-9-3029
	Ken Baillie	AT-3-2879
	Nancy Stewart	CH-9-4962
Assistant Trip Leader	Ted de Waal	AV-9-2442

For information about weekend trips call Senior Trip Leader, Tom Moffat or Chairman, Sandy Vair. For information about day trips call Day Trip Chairman, Wally Drew. To cancel from a trip call the leader of that trip.

If you have any suggestions, criticisms, or contributions for the "Pack Rat" see the Editor, Wally Drew. We especially need feature articles such as camp recipes.

MEMBERS

The following have become members of the Ramblers by paying 1958 dues since the last issue of "The Pack Rat".

Dudley Baker	AV-9-2490
Elizabeth Kung	AM-6-6481
Paul Kung	AM-6-6481
Bea Lautenbach	BU-8-2311
Helen Van Oldenborgh	AM-6-6709

MEETINGS

Ramblers meetings are held every Wednesday at Alpine Smylie's, 1026 - 16th Ave. N.W. The main purpose of the meetings are organisation of trips, enjoyment and information for members and guests in planned programmes, and getting acquainted. Everyone is welcome to come to the meetings.

The following programmes were presented during July.

July 2nd	Talk on the geology of the Cochrane - Bragg Creek area by Bob Tennant
July 9th	No formal programme because of Stampede Week
July 16th	Talk on trees with many samples by Fred Marsh.
July 23rd	Wiener and marshmallow roast at Bob Tennant's "ranah" with Jean Nicholls as hostess and Bob as Host.
July 30th	Talk on rock identification with samples by Bob Tennant.

## MID-SUMMER TRIPS

The Dominion Day trip to Broken Leg Lake was led by Sandy Vair. About 20 members signed on for the trip and, presumably due to probable inclement weather only nine were left to brave the elements. Sandy Vair, Bob Tennant and a friend, Ted de Waal. Barbara Thompson, Nancy Gay Stewart, Jean Nicholls and Donna Patterson and Mary Hodgkinson met in the rain at Camp Chief Hector on the old Banff Highway.

The trail led north along a creek and then ascended gently still following the course of the creek. At a "meeting of the waters" the trail disappeared beneath deadfall and scrub. The party bushwhacked through undergrowth and bog towards their goal. The halt for lunch was not called till just after 1 p.m. by which time one very hungry, out of training member was also out of breath, out of temper and out of faith, to her subsequent shame. Food did a lot to restore the spirits of those that were lagging, but much to the disappointment of the two fishermen - Sandy and Ted - it was decided to "call it a day" and start back.

Having struggled ankle deep through bog on the way in the party was drenched with rain on the way out. A quite surprisingly happy group eventually squelched its way to the cars where most had some dry clothing to put on.

Although the Lake was not reached it was clearly to be seen about a mile distant shortly after the lunch break. In it still there are - we believe - some fish swimming happily about sublimely unconscious of the fate that might have been theirs.

July 6th - Lower Slopes of Mt. Edith

This trip was planned as an ascent in the Fairholme Mts. above Cammore. But because of a major storm that brought rain to lower elevations and snow and clouds down to timberline, the trip was changed to the Banff area where it was cloudy, but not raining. Only 5 out of 12 showed up for the trip. They were Pam Turner, Zen Coccalis, Nick Coccalis, Charlie Neill, and Wally Drew the leader. The good trail leads north from the Trans-Canada highway about three miles W. of Mt. Norquay junction. It goes through nice forest to the pass between Mt. Norquay and Mt. Edith that separates Bow River drainage from Fortymile Creek drainage. We ate lunch on the open lower slopes of Mt. Edith. The view of Mt. Louis as it kept appearing and disappearing among the clouds was most impressive. The trip was so easy that there was group singing a good bit of the way back down the trail.

July 12th - 13th. Elk Lakes

The party for this trip consisted of eight people led by the Chairman. At the beginning of the tour the weather was spotty and a short storm interrupted the hike in at lunch time. Members were stashed under various trees and rain coats stuffing their faces while the rain came down. After lunch and rain were over we carried on down the old Elk Pass trail. Ken Bailie led and was soon drenched to the waist. Once down off the pass we searched for a camp site and found a good one near a small creek about half a mile from the lower Elk Lake. It was getting on so up went the camp and the fire was lit. The rain came on also and about 9 p.m. we were forced to hit the sack as the rain started coming through the trees and was accompanied by lightening and thunder. There appeared to be much scudding about for some time after the party in the club tent settled down. The reason became apparent the following morning when we got up. Your chairman may forget a sleeping bag occasionally but at least he does not pitch his tent in a hollow. The other tent had about two inches of water on the floor at bed time. Next morning as the weather was still threatening we lit out for home without seeing the lakes. Our pots which were left out overnight had about 1½ inches of water in them in the morning. This was the fourth trip in a row which was rained out this year.

## July 13th - Death Valley

This was another wet Sunday. Wally Drew led the hike up the trail suggested by Bob Tennant. It was followed from the Sheep River road W. of Turner Valley to the headwaters of Death Valley Creek. Others on the trip were Barbara Thompson, Ruth Weisberg Kirk, Bea Lautenbach, Jean Nicholls, Charlie Neill, Walter Bodenmuller, Ted de Waal, Roy Sward and Nick Cocalis. The trail was wet and some wading was necessary. It did not get one wet much above the ankles unless you sat in the water as Ruth did, much to her surprise. A severe thunderstorm was bearing down upon us when we stopped for lunch near the top of one of the foothills. A patch work shelter of poncho and rain coats was hastily erected. The ensuing hail, snow and sleet left a blanket of white and sent the temp. down to 31° in mid-day in mid-July in the foothills of sunny southern Alberta. Bob has decided that he prefers the winter season. Wally had his thermometer as usual. The open woods were pretty with wild flowers even when slushy and wet. This was the first Ramblers trip for Barb's new used car. Charlie was the driving instructor.

## July 20th - West Wind Creek

This was the first Ramblers trip into the new area opened up by the new Trans-Canada Highway south of the Bow River in the Gap. The leader, Wally Drew, had scouted the area previously. Others on the trip were Anita Witte, Helen Van Oldenborgh, Jean Nicholls, Donna Patterson, Aline Cox, Bob Tennant, Gerry Schlee, Ted de Waal and Walter Bodenmuller. There was a good camp ground on Wind Creek about one mile from the highway. The fire or mining road on which we hiked continued beyond and forked with one fork following Wind Creek and one fork following West Wind Creek. We took the latter and also hiked on a couple of the numerous old trails. An interesting obstacle was crossing Wind Creek on a bouncy log. Walter lost his balance and fell in. Aline threw her hand bag across, but not far enough. It was rescued from the creek by Ted. Her cookies were reduced to a soggy paste. Because it was such a warm, sunny day we wound up the hike early and finished off the afternoon with a swim in the waters of Cotton Lake near the highway.

July 26th 27th Floe Lake

The Ramblers journeyed to Kootenay Park in B.C. for a warm, sunny and what proved to be a very long weekend. Mary Hodgkinson, Nancy Gay Stewart, Ruth Weisberg, Lucia van der Werve, Hank Oliemans, Tom Moffat and Sandy Vair, the trip leader, drove to Marble Canyon camp ground on Friday evening and spent the night there. They were joined Saturday morning by Bea Lautenbach, Ted de Waal, Joe Behringer and Wally Drew. The group carried full packs eight miles up the trail to Floe Lake and had that beautiful spot to themselves for the weekend. Lucia fell in a creek on the way up. Tom, a true gentleman, let her wear his pants the rest of the way while he hiked in his swim suit. Floe Lake is surrounded by high peaks, alpine meadows, and larches. A glacier along one side of the lake carves off ice floes into the lake. Wally's stone fire place literally back-fired on him. The rocks cracked and exploded when heated. Tom, Lucia, Henk and Ruth had hot tamales and rice for dinner. After dinner Sandy and Nancy went fishing and Tom, Ted, and Joe glissaded on the glacier. Bea and Wally scorned the tents and slept out under the stars and northern lights.

Sunday the group split into two parties. After Ted, Henk and Bea enjoyed some more glissading, Sandy led the main group back down Floe Creek to the cars. In spite of recent illness, Mary made the whole weekend trip in good form. Tom led Lucia, Joe and Wally down the long way via a high pass and Numa Creek. That ambitious party was unable to find the old trail that was supposed to go that way. After a long day of scree slopes and bushwhacking, they finally reached a trail at 6.30 p.m. with the girl nearly exhausted. After a snack supper Joe and Wally hurried ahead down the trail to contact the others, while <sup>Tom</sup> came with Lucia at her pace. Contact was finally made after dark and it was 1 a.m. before everyone was safely back to the cars. No one went home until everyone was out of the woods. That meant getting home between 5 and 7 a.m. Monday. Such incidents and delays very seldom happen in the Ramblers. On an occasion like this when bad luck is encountered, the cooperation of everyone really illustrates the "esprit de corps" of our club.

#### WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING

We all sympathise with Tom Thurston in the loss of his aunt with whom he had been living. Tom has had many responsibilities, but we hope to be seeing him again soon.

Charlie Neill rates two head lines. In June he had a business trip to the Arctic region of the Northwest Territories. In July he was hospitalized with ulcer trouble. We hope he will be back with us soon.

Joan Reeman is back at the meetings. She is walking with canes and unable to come on any trips for a while.

Pam Turner is taking care of the trip insurance collections. The trip leaders turn the money in to her.

Ron Smylie RETURNED WITH A HEAVY BEARD after a half week in summer camp with the Alpine Club.

Walter Foltz and passengers enjoyed a trip to the Rocky Mountains of the U.S.A. Walter was so impressed with Denver and Colorado that he hopes to move there.

Margaret Hartmann writes from San Diego that she misses the Ramblers. She thinks people earn more money in the States because they work harder. She isn't sure it's worth it.

Sandy Vair and Nancy Gay Stewart have announced their engagement and are making plans to get married on September 19th.