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THE PACK RAT.

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PACK RAT

Volume 10

No. 8

September 1966

Newsletter of the
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLER ASSOCIATION

Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the Club's headquarters in Bob's Bookstore, 1026A - 16th Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta. Phone: 282-1330

Editor: Wally Drew

Publisher: Sandy Vair

94 MEMBERS: A NEW RECORD

Our final membership for 1965-66 stands at a record 94, not counting Associate Members who live out of town and subscribe to "The Pack Rat". We have finally come up with the slight female surplus that the girls are always talking about. We have 51 women and 43 men. We have 21 married members, who have joined with or without spouses. Our members range from about 16 to 66 years of age and come from 11 countries: Canada, United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, United States, Hungary,

Spain, Italy and South Africa. This diverse group finds a common interest in the great outdoors of the Canadian Rockies and adjacent country.

Editor

ASSINIBOINE PARK - July 30, 31 and August 1, 1966

After a rainy Dominion Day weekend in July, car owners were worried about conditions for our August long weekend scheduled for Assiniboine Park. Could the Spray Lakes road be negotiated? 20 Ramblers were to find out. On the Friday evening several carloads made the trip in, successfully but the remainder took their chances in a one-ton pick-up truck driven by a worried Laurie. After a chilly early (?) morning start, it soon warmed up and we bounced our way along, our dexterous driver having nightmares at the lack of road in places. It was almost a relief to descend from the dusty truck and start on our long hike. We did the first 5-6 miles through the trees at quite a good pace, catching up with the Friday evening advance party at Bryant Creek Warden's cabin. After a short rest, we continued on to Assiniboine Pass where the steeper incline and the heat of the afternoon slowed the progress slightly. Just beyond the Pass our efforts were rewarded by our first view of Mt. Assiniboine, its distinctive outline dominating the whole area. It was even more imposing from above Lake Magog which stretched to the base of the mountain. We pressed on to Sunburst Lake where most camped and some softies settled for the luxuries at Miss Rummell's. We weren't too tired to appreciate the lovely view of Assiniboine in the glow of the setting sun.

On the Sunday we arose to an even lovelier day. Most took it easy, some climbing the 'Nub' which afforded us a magnificent view of Assiniboine. The alpine flowers were all around in great profusion and the cameras clicked continuously. We didn't have to feel tired or hungry to sit down, relax, and admire the panorama before us, Assiniboine looking majestic with the sun glistening on the snow and glaciers. Later we took a closer look from the moraine

at the base of the mountain. Several climbers (none from Ramblers) had climbed to the summit that day - conditions had been perfect.

Monday came all too soon and we had to pack our bags and very sorrowfully take leave of the valley. We thought of all sorts of ways to stay, including breaking and ankle or similar drastic excuses. There wasn't a cloud in the sky as we took our leave via Wonder Pass. The sight of Marvel Lake sent our spirits soaring once more and the miles to Bryant Creek were most pleasant. From there it was the same (almost dull) trail back to Spray Lakes and a most welcome foot-bathing session. Then back to Calgary, tired but content. For me it had been the highlight of all my ramblings into the Rockies and one which will be long remembered.

Marj Morris

GLACIER LAKE - August 20, 21, 1966

This trip, attended by only four Ramblers, enjoyed near perfect weather both days and was one of the most enjoyable of the year.

The four, Sandy, Brian, Art Graham and George, traveling in George's Olds left Calgary about 7:30 Saturday morning and arrived without incident at the trail head about 10:30 a.m. After unloading, the car was parked at the service station about 1/4 mile from the trail head and the food and items of community equipment distributed among the packs. We found that a new and shorter trail had been cut through an old burnt off area about a mile and a half southwest from the Saskatchewan River bridge and also around the loop in the Howse River below the final climb.

We had lunch in the sun beside a small stream about a third of the way up the last ridge. We were all a bit slow after lunch, as is perhaps the fashion when one has eaten a bit too much, but we gained speed as we approached the crest and commenced the long drop down to the Lake.

We arrived at the Lake shortly after 2:00 p.m. and the question was "What'll we do now, Leader?". So after a short rest we set up camp and went looking for an old cabin reputed to be near the outlet. We found it within sight of the rapids at the foot of the Lake, a neat little six by eight, with dirt floor, rustic bunk and roof almost intact.

During the night the sleepers were first aroused by George, who decided that he needed his sweater from the rucksack hanging in the tree outside. When all was quiet again and everyone just nicely sawing wood, the movement of one in his sleep made the next imagine that the tent had been invaded by a Porky and the alarm was raised again. The porky was a mere shadow in the sleeper's mind and so all once more was quiet.

The next morning, after a delicious breakfast of bacon and eggs, we all hiked up the Lake and beyond, shooting pictures of Mt. Forbes and all the surrounding glaciers. We disturbed a beaver who headed for the far side of the Lake and, apart from a few birds, small animals and the imaginary porky, this was all the wild life we saw at the Lake.

We returned to camp for lunch and broke camp. The trip out was accomplished in three hours and a quarter and after supper at Lake Louise we returned without incident to Calgary.

Brian proved an excellent provider and cook and the resulting meals made him a very popular fellow.

Sandy Vair

SEPTEMBER IN THE SELKIRKS - Labor Day Weekend

Twenty-one Ramblers descended on the Illecillewaet camp ground in Glacier National Park for the Labor Day weekend. After setting up camp and having lunch, Sandy led us up the trail to the Illecillewaet Glacier. It wasn't long

before the last ones became the leaders as the whole company was turned around in the mistaken belief that we were on the wrong trail. Exploration of a short side trail to the Meeting of the Waters proved that our original course was correct and we were soon into a more open part of the valley where we could see the old glacier bed. Most of the group decided they had gone far enough when the trail petered out, but eight hardy souls went on up to the Glacier so that Art could justify carrying his ice axe!!

Breakfast next morning was a leisurely affair and it was 10:00 a.m. before the mob was assembled for an assault on Mt. Abbott. The first part of the trail took us through imposing stands of giant Hemlock and Douglas Fir with a great variety of undergrowth from brilliant green mosses to Devil's Club. After leaving Marion Lake, and Jack, who hoped to catch a few fish in the stagnant pool, the vegetation began to thin out and we were soon traversing an open cirque to the Alpine meadows. At the lunch stop we caught up to Jim, Jannis and Nootka, who had left after us but came by a shorter route, and with them some of our group continued on to the top of the ridge. It was worth climbing those extra few feet as the views from the top were excellent.

With Sandy and Nancy joining the fishing crew, our leader on Monday was Jim Kirkpatrick who decided that a trip to Balu Pass would fill in what was left of the day after breaking camp. This was a wise choice as an easy two hour hike led us to what must be one of the most beautiful passes in the mountains. From a carpet of Alpine meadows Mts. Cheops and Urses Major rise up on either side whilst spread out to the south and west is a panoramic vista of glaciers, mountains and valleys. To the east the Rogers Range and Mt. MacDonald dominate the skyline and flank the valley through which the Trans-Canada Highway passes.

By 4:00 p.m. we were reluctantly heading back to the city with the last long weekend of summer nothing more than a pleasant memory of three days of fine weather, good companionship and spectacular scenery.

Ray Marriner

MT. RUNDLE - September 4, 1966

Mt. Rundle was our destination on Sunday, September 4th, as 12 of us left Calgary at 7:00 a.m. and drove to Banff where we had a quick snack at the Rundle Restaurant. We couldn't believe our luck as the day was just perfect - sunny, clear and warm. We were on the trail by 9:30 a.m. and right from the start we were gaining altitude. At first the trail was through trees and we were on a series of switchbacks. Every now and again, we would stop and hopefully compare our altitude with that of Sulphur Mountain's Coffee Shop which was directly opposite us; and whenever we stopped, Kathie would have a quick drink from her most interesting bottle which she insisted was quite harmless but which made our tongues hang out. At the division in the trail, we made for the third highest peak, as the Warden had told our Leader, Rolf, it was advisable to have ropes if we were going to the summit of the second peak. The difference in altitude is apparently only 200 - 300 feet and the two peaks are next to each other, but separated by a deep gulley.

About two-thirds of the way up we got into some loose scree and here we had a little excitement when a huge rock came rolling down at a great pace. Ruth T. appeared to be its first victim but she managed to escape with a slight grazing of her hand. Then it seemed bent on getting me, however, ones reflexes always seem to help out and once again all was well.

After five hours of steady climbing, we were at the very top - 9,600 feet high. John H. couldn't quite compete with his youthful, energetic sons, Michael and Brian, who were first at the top. The view from here was just fabulous - we could see for miles - Banff, Lake Minnewanka, Mt. Assiniboine, and three lots of mountain ranges, one behind the other. We sat here for over an hour, eating lunch, and soaking it all in. Josie, feeling a little weary, decided to curl up and go to sleep, but found that scree on a slope isn't conducive to comfort. Betty L. and Roger B., with the desperation of addicts, amused us with their antics while attempting

to light a cigarette. Trish and Chris decided they wanted to live a little longer so they clambered down the slope a short way; we wonder if the excuse was legitimate. We came down the same way as we went up and were back at the cars in three hours. From there we all went home our separate ways. What a truly fabulous trip it was!

Stephanie Jones

FIRST CENTENNIAL WORK PARTY - September 18, 1966

It was a cheery day for the Ramblers to roll up their sleeves and begin work on the Centennial Trail between Ribbon Creek and Pigeon Mountain. We all assembled at about 10:00 a.m., from various locations, some from the Diamond + Ranch, where there had been a barbecue the night before, and a few from Calgary. The cars and hikers reached the starting point of the Trail about noon.

There was a general flailing of machetes, axes and saws. Others were on the pick and shovel brigade. There was a short break for lunch and Jim Kirkpatrick celebrated the auspicious event by passing about a bottle of Calona wine. Then we worked our way to the end of the visible trail. A reconnaissance party set out to relocate the trail by making their way towards the saddle and were successful. Others, including myself, spent the afternoon on the side of the mountain admiring the view. We all got back to the main highway about 6:00 p.m., after a very enjoyable and energetic day.

The role of honour included the following people:

Rolf Pallat	Jim Kirkpatrick	Jes Kosell
Art Graham	Jannis Allan	Ann Richardson
Ray Marriner	Bob Baxter	Josie Zewiec
Jean McIntyre	Daphne Smith	Leslie Dickson
Alastair Sinclair	Lynn Cliver	Liz Roth

Liz Roth

BACKPACK - LAKE O'HARA - September 24, 25, 1965

At 6:30 a.m., Saturday morning, Brian Crummy picked up his passengers, Art and Vikki, and headed west. Clearing with the Warden, the three set off on the trek into Lake O'Hara. The trek was short-lived as a Lodge station wagon drove up, stopped, picked up the hikers, and within minutes, completed the journey. Gaining such an advantage on the prospective hikes, a leisurely lunch was enjoyed at the Alpine meadow shelter.

The first hike was up to the Odaray Plateau, where persistent fog offered only sporadic views of the surrounding mountains. As the "Grand View" would be lacking under these conditions, a trip to Lake McArthur was substituted. On this hike the weather improved considerably and the deep royal blue of the Lake was not diminished by poor visibility.

Just before reaching Lake McArthur, Art noticed a large earth mound. Closer inspection revealed bear signs in pursuit of a Columbia ground squirrel. As it appeared to be a fresh or recent attack it required all the beauty of McArthur to dispel the uneasiness of this stalwart one!

During the night, heavy cloud coverage lifted, leaving in its wake a heavy frost and ice. The sun soon revived the earth and the hikers. Then Brian's suggestion for the day was adopted. It included a trip to the Opabin Lakes and Pass, encircling one of the lakes in order to reach a ledge around Mt. Yukness which would ultimately lead to Lake Oesa. Upon reaching the Opabin Glacier, Art continued up a bit of it while the others recuperated from the rock scramble. Continuing on from the Lake brought the three to face a 15 ft. descent by means of hand and toe holds. As no other alternative offered itself, the one follower reluctantly followed the two leaders in this descent. From here the ledge was visible so it was reached before a lunch break. After locating a favorable site which provided a view of Saturday's hikes, the three ate.

The ledge proved a happy choice as it offered a continuous sight of lakes and trees below and mountains all around.

On the north side of Mt. Yukness the ridge became part of large outcroppings of sedimentary rocks. Surmounting these, a well worn path led directly to Lake Oesa. This Lake, a teal blue, offered yet another example of nature's endless variation.

When it became necessary to tear away from Lake Oesa, a change in leadership brought about a change in scene. The return trip was made via a well marked trail. At 5:00 p.m., the trio started the trip out and at 7:15 p.m., were on their way to Calgary.

On this trip, the ratio of two leaders to one follower resulted in a highly satisfactory weekend of rambling - at least from the follower's point of view!

Vikki Bernhardt

MEETINGS

The following have been the programs for our recent Wednesday evening meetings:

- Aug. 31 Informal meeting, no special program.
- Sept. 7 Slides of Mt. Assiniboine area by Marg. S., Jannis, Marj M., Lynn, Stephanie and Liz O.
- Sept. 14 Bingo called by Sandy Vair.
- Sept. 21 Slides of the Rockies and Selkirks by Art Borron and Fred de Vries, and of Norway and England by Bonnie Rothwell.
- Sept. 28 Talk on Alberta Indians by Dr. V. Dusenberry.

MEMBERSHIP

John Madgwick, 1116 - 2nd Street N.E. (277-5780), is our final member for the year.

NEW ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Vikki Bernhardt 102 - 26th Ave. S.W.

John & Madeline Hassett

Betty Pell

Rene Travelli has returned from Italy to: 721 - 15th Avenue S.W., 269-7255.

ADDITIONAL TRIPS

Even though no write-ups have been received for the following trips, many Ramblers enjoyed them during August.

Aug. 6-7 Hiking and camping at Lake O'Hara
Aug. 7 Swimming at Gull Lake
Aug. 11 Evening horseback ride near Midnapore
Aug. 13-14 Hiking and camping in Waterton Park
Aug. 27 Driving around Banff and Yoho Parks in the rain
Aug. 27-28 Climb of Eiffel Peak

DID YOU KNOW THAT -----?

ALAN BISHOP has moved to Prince Rupert on B.C.'s rainy north coast. He's working 6 or 7 days a week but has gotten one free airplane ride around the vicinity.

ELOISE WALLS, HILDA DE MOS and MARJ SOICE all took trips to California in August.

JANNIS ALLAN enjoyed a family vacation trip up the B.C. coast from Vancouver to Prince Rupert. They were very lucky to have good weather so late in the summer.

RUTH and TOM THURSTON have just returned from an early fall trip to Vancouver Island. They caught a little rain, but no fish.

Work parties have made good progress on our Centennial Trail.

MARG SHARPE has returned to work in Calgary after looking for greener pastures in B.C. and visiting Ontario.

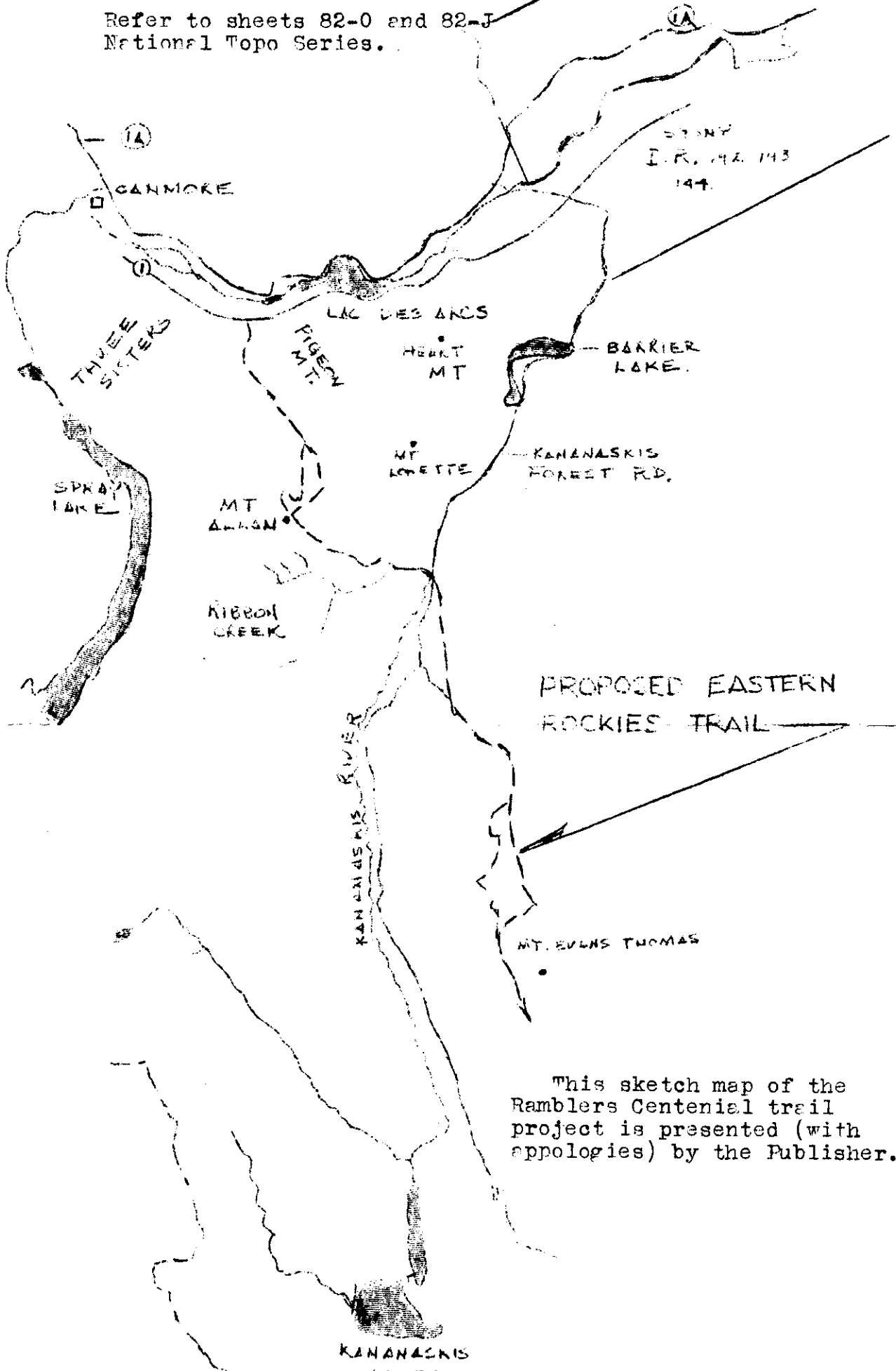
Any of you with aches and pains may be interested to know that ROGER WOODGATE has opened his own Physiotherapy Office in the Chinook Shopping Centre.

LILLIAN GARLAND is pleased to have Ramblers visit her in Vancouver. She has been known to entertain at Breakfast.

RAMBLERS CENTENIAL TRAIL PROJECT

Scale 1:250,000 1 in. to 4 miles Approx

Refer to sheets 82-0 and 82-J
National Topo Series.



This sketch map of the
Ramblers Centennial trail
project is presented (with
appologies) by the Publisher.