

June 1968



THE PACK RAT.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

Editor: Wally Drew

Publisher: Sandy Vair

Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. at the club's headquarters in Bob's Book Store, downstairs at 1026 - 16th Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta.

Phone: 282-1330

On Saturday, June 1st, Lesley Dickson and Victor Jackson were married in Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary.

Lesley's cousin, Moyra Brown, and her husband, Bill, had come from the States to be with her and Moyra was matron-of-honour, while Bill gave Lesley away.

After the ceremony the guests were invited to Victor and Lesley's new home in Hyde Park Apartments where a delightful buffet was laid on.

At 6:00 p.m. the newly-weds left for their honeymoon and the start of their life together. We all wish them much happiness in the future.

MEETINGS

The following programs were presented for our Wednesday evening meetings in June:

- June 5 - Calgary Stampede film and talk by Bill Gad and Hash Harrison of the Stampede's Public Information Service.
- June 12 - Slides of Brazil by Laszlo Jamniczky, giving a comprehensive picture of that country by one who grew up there.
- June 19 - Slides (Members).
- June 26 - Films from C.N.R. - Micro Wave North
N.F.B. - Continuing Past G.S.C.
- July 3 - Talk and Slides by Bruce Fraser of Alpine Club of Canada.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome the following new and former members into our group:

74. Carmichael, Mary	3103 - 5 Street N.W.	289-7008
75. DeLacy, Brenda	#10, 1815 - 26 Ave. S.W.	245-2675
76. Byrne, Pat	2312 Sandhurst Ave. S.W.	242-5987
77. Dore, Diana	#24, 1813 - 25 Ave. S.W.	245-3291
78. Dore, Terry	#24, 1813 - 25 Ave. S.W.	245-3291
79. Magnuson, Judy	1115 - 17 Ave. N.W.	289-2293
80. Magnuson, Karin	1115 - 17 Ave. N.W.	289-2293
81. Carter, Jack	#5, 925 - 11 Ave. S.W.	244-6057

OUTINGS

CAR CAMPING, KICKING HORSE CAMPGROUND, YOHO PARK - June 1 & 2, 1968

The Oliemans family, Tommy, Marg, John, Howard, Marj, Jack Carter, Ruth Knowles and Jim met at the Post Hotel for a coffee stop. We got an early start on the trail to the Fossil Beds on Mt. Stephen and lunch was taken there. Area was clear of snow except for a few feet of the trail. Having got back to cars early, it was decided to hike a newly posted trail to the Emerald River and Amiskwi Valley from which we enjoyed a superb view of Mt. Hurd. The trail beyond the bridge offers some interesting future hiking. Refreshments were obtained at the Monarch Hotel. Our party was greeted at the campground by the Vair family and later the Hunts arrived. After supper some went for a stroll to Meeting of the Waters. It started to rain and increased through the night and was still coming down at 11:00 a.m. Sunday (also at the West Gate), so our trip to Hunter Lookout was scratched. A lunch stop at the Great Divide was followed by supper at the writer's.

Jim Kirkpatrick

FIRST JUNE WEEKEND - 1968

The mood and the month sent many Ramblers to the mountains for all or part of this June weekend. Vikki, Raj, Brenda, and Art went for two days and were joined by some for the Saturday (some being Alastair, Jim Bell, and Shirley) and yet others (Daphne, Peter, Josie, and Kerstein) on Sunday. This provided varied and lively social discourse as well as the prime objective, hiking.

Art led the trips, and Saturday took us along a ridge of Cory until we could overlook Louis. We had to climb a bit higher than necessary to avoid snow, and settled for a lunch spot just below the cliff band on Cory. Here we tried to find shelter from a very penetrating and persistent wind. Edmonton Alpinists were in this area too, having been thwarted from their original aspirations on Louis because of snow. They continued up while we went down to a sunny valley. The weather had been threatening throughout the day but did not carry out the threat until Sunday.

For supper we were joined by Brian and Paul who stayed to camp, and Alastair's group returned to Calgary. The camp was in a very nice hiking area, and after supper Brian became leader. It might be necessary to grade evening hikes soon if this one was a forerunner of future "strolls" by the dexterous Mr. C.

Sunday we met Daphne and Co. (Josie, Peter and Kerstein) at the upper car park at Mt. Norquay for a day on Cascade. The weather was definitely against us so all but Brian and Paul decided that Sulphur provided more shelter for a wet day! It was a happy choice and when the rains came down we were all safely ensconced in a pleasant corner of the Tea House where we "tea'd" ourselves generously for three hours. Gathering another hardy soul, we finally faced the elements and raced down the mountain. Soaked, but still fairly friendly, we returned to Calgary and the hospitality of Kerstein Bannerman.

Vikki Bernhardt

WORK PARTY ON OUR CENTENNIAL TRAIL - June 2, 1968

June is always a risky month for weather on the east side of the Rockies but, being eager to start on this year's trail work, eleven of us took our chances on the elements. After driving up to the mine above Ribbon Creek, we grabbed our tools and ascended the southeast ridge of Mt. Allan where the final work south of Mt. Allan was waiting to be done. Again winter had apparently done no damage. The day's labour mainly involved cairn building, but some steps were also dug in the steepest part of the route. In a couple of spots work was prevented by deep snow which lay along the northeast side of the ridge above timberline. These spots can be taken care of along with the paint-in to mark the trail after construction is completed on the north side of Mt. Allan. The top of the ridge was bare and Laszlo, Robin and Wally built additional cairns all the way to the top of Mt. Allan and were rewarded by the sight of more than a dozen mountain sheep on top. We tarried only long enough to build our cairns because of the terrific gale, that had plagued our party all along the top of the ridge making it difficult to walk on course, which began hurling rain, sleet and snow at us. Otherwise it was a surprisingly warm day for that altitude. The most beautiful sight was that of a rainbow below us! Mary, Olive, Marian, Shirley, Betty and Albert, Bob and Rolf concentrated on the lower two-thirds of the route. The combined effort completed construction on the south side of Mt. Allan.

Wally Drew

CAR CAMPING, KOOTENAY PARK - June 8 & 9, 1968

Tom, Jack and the writer hiked up Ball Pass to find there was still a considerable amount of snow at the top and, while we got higher than the pass, we didn't get the view from the pass proper. We did find an old trail to a zinc mine only 15 minutes off the main trail. Camp was made at Dolly Varden Campground and one gets more impressed with the surroundings here on each camp. Sunday we joined Wally's day trippers at Vermilion Crossing and hiked up Verendrye Creek. This is a good trail with a few windfalls which have not yet been cleared. It offers an excellent view of the valley and it's nice to get another new hike covered.

Jim Kirkpatrick

KINDERSLEY PASS, COBB LAKE, DOG LAKE - June 15 & 16, 1968

A total of 13 people participated in this trip -- Sandy, Howard, Marg, Kita, Jim, John, Olive, Tommy and Ruth, Roger, Margaret, Art and Jack.

On Saturday, June 15th, the group left Calgary in four cars. We met at Vermilion Crossing for a coffee stop about 9:30 a.m. after which we drove on toward the point, 5 miles north of Radium, where the Cobb Lake trail starts. We started hiking into the Lake, which is just over a mile from the road, at about 10:45 a.m. The trip in is a bit different to most as you go down to get to the lake, whereas on most trips the climb is made while going in. However the trail is in excellent shape and not far along it we passed the Warden who had been checking fishermen as this was opening day. After a short talk with him we proceeded the rest of the way to the lake and in so doing we passed a number of fishermen who informed us only small fish had been taken out. We got to the lake at about 11:30 a.m. The lake is not very impressive, being only about a few hundred yards in length. We checked to see if it was possible to make a trip around the lake but were informed by fishermen that due to the boggy nature of the southern end it was not advisable.

After lunch it was decided to go back to the cars and drive to McLeod Meadows Campground and hike up to Dog Lake. Around 2 p.m. we started hiking to the Lake at which we arrived in less than an hour. The place was swarming with fishermen. Jim, Howard, Tommy and I walked around the south shore of the lake to where most of the fishermen were. Many had their limits. Dog Lake is similar to Cobb Lake in that a complete circuit of the lake is not advisable because of the swampy conditions at the one end. We all returned to the campground and set up tents.

After supper Jim and Howard had a look at the Settlers road and walked north along it. The rest of us went into Radium.

On Sunday, June 16, we left McLeod Meadows around 10 a.m. and drove down the road to a point 5 miles north of Radium where the trail takes off for Kindersley Pass. We started up a well graded trail through fairly heavy timber. Having had lunch around 1 p.m., we then proceeded on across the hard-pack snow of an avalanche slope. Soon after we encountered a lot of old snow amongst the trees at about 6500 feet which made further progress impossible. We returned to the cars and had supper in Banff before returning to Calgary.
Editor's Note - The Vairs were on this trip too and caught a big fish in Dog Lake Sunday.

WATER SUPPLY SEARCH - June 22, 1968

Mission Accomplished is the term which best describes the efforts of the three member "search party" which set out from Calgary at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, June 22nd. The object of the game was to find a water supply for the proposed camp near the summit of the Centennial Trail.

The upward journey was quite uneventful until we met up with a large tree which had fallen across the path. Well, off came the packs, out came the tools, and there went the tree. It wasn't that simple really. The poor tree; it was chopped, sawed and wedged until the break-through came, thus enabling us to drag it off the trail. And so we pushed on and up as the sun went down and the clouds came nearer.

After lunch, as the actual search started, the rains came and, in fact, liked us so much that they stayed for a good hour or more. A short walk brought us to a small stream which would disappear with the snow. Then in quick succession a spring and two swiftly running creeks were discovered. After exclamations of joy, tree branches were trimmed, stones moved, and thus the trail made. The time to walk to the creek is about 2½ minutes — down that is; it is up to you how much time you take to get back up again.

Skull to skull marked the tragic episode of the day. To be more explicit, the skull of a Mountain Goat, found by Gunter, proposed as a "Mascot", and put on top of the pole marking the beginning of the trail, left its new home when we were straightening the pole which Rolf had noted was crooked. The motion of the pole and the wind got together — much to our dismay (mostly Rolf's). The "Mascot" fell and briefly rested on Rolf's head before reaching the earth. After surprise was overcome, a bleeding wound was treated. We finished with the marker, this time putting our "Mascot" safely on the rocks at its foot, and began our trek downward.

As if that wasn't enough excitement for the day, at a bend in the trail we came upon three fellows and, later, their car which had a pistol (probably only a harmless cigarette lighter, but shocking just the same) on the front seat.

A stop at the Husky Station (believe it or not, without too many protests from Rolf) delayed us for 15 to 20 minutes prior to a pleasant drive back to town. The day's events ended quietly at 6:30 p.m.

To quote Rolf, "I now know what they mean when they say that I need something like I need a hole in the head".

Pam Walters

WINTERCAMP (CASCADE MOUNTAIN) - June 23, 1968

(Daphne, Judy, Monica, Ruth, Al, Bob, Don, Ray, Terry, Tom, Laszlo)
After Tom had collected the four northerners, the cars met at the Loblaws parking lot and started out on the trip at 8:15. It was raining as we left Calgary, and it carried on to an apex in the Kananaskis area. To our great luck, however, it began lifting as we reached the Banff traffic circle and, except for mist and low clouds, it was quite nice (although a bit cool) as we got to the Norquay parking lot.

AMPHITHEATRE (CASCADE MOUNTAIN) (Continued)

We started hiking at 10:15 along the very well kept and marked trail which has only one disadvantage, namely it runs downhill until it reaches Forty Mile Creek, from where the ascent begins. This means that in coming back you end your trip climbing close to a mile. We reached the Amphitheatre at noon and settled down for lunch. The sun was kind enough to show itself after lunch and we sat around discussing politics and ideologies until 1:30. At this stage eight decided to climb the north ridge enclosing the amphitheatre. At the top (estimated at 7500') of the ridge it was quite cool, with a brisk breeze, so we didn't remain for long. The view was not bad, but not as rewarding as it could be on a clear day. We saw quite a few pikas, Columbia ground squirrels, and Ray even found a birds' nest on the way down beside the trail which we unfortunately could not identify.

We were down from the ridge at 4:30 and back to the cars at around 5:25. Some decided to head straight home while others voted for having dinner at Banff, that is if they could make up their minds as to the place that offered the best food.

Laszlo Jammiczky

ADDITIONAL TRIPS

Besides those written up for "The Pack Rat", the following Ramblers' trips were enjoyed in May:

May 5 - Skiing at Sunshine.

May 12 - Hike along Lake Minnewanka and up to Alymer Lookout.

May 19

& 20 - Camping and hiking in the Ribbon Creek - Lower Kananaskis area.

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....?

If others wrote up trips as faithfully as JIM KIRKPATRICK we'd always have a full "Pack Rat".

WALLY DREW'S address until the beginning of September will be: c/o J.C. Sproule and Associates, Resolute, N.W.T.

Our thanks go to KATHIE SHIRES for typing the last large issue of "The Pack Rat".