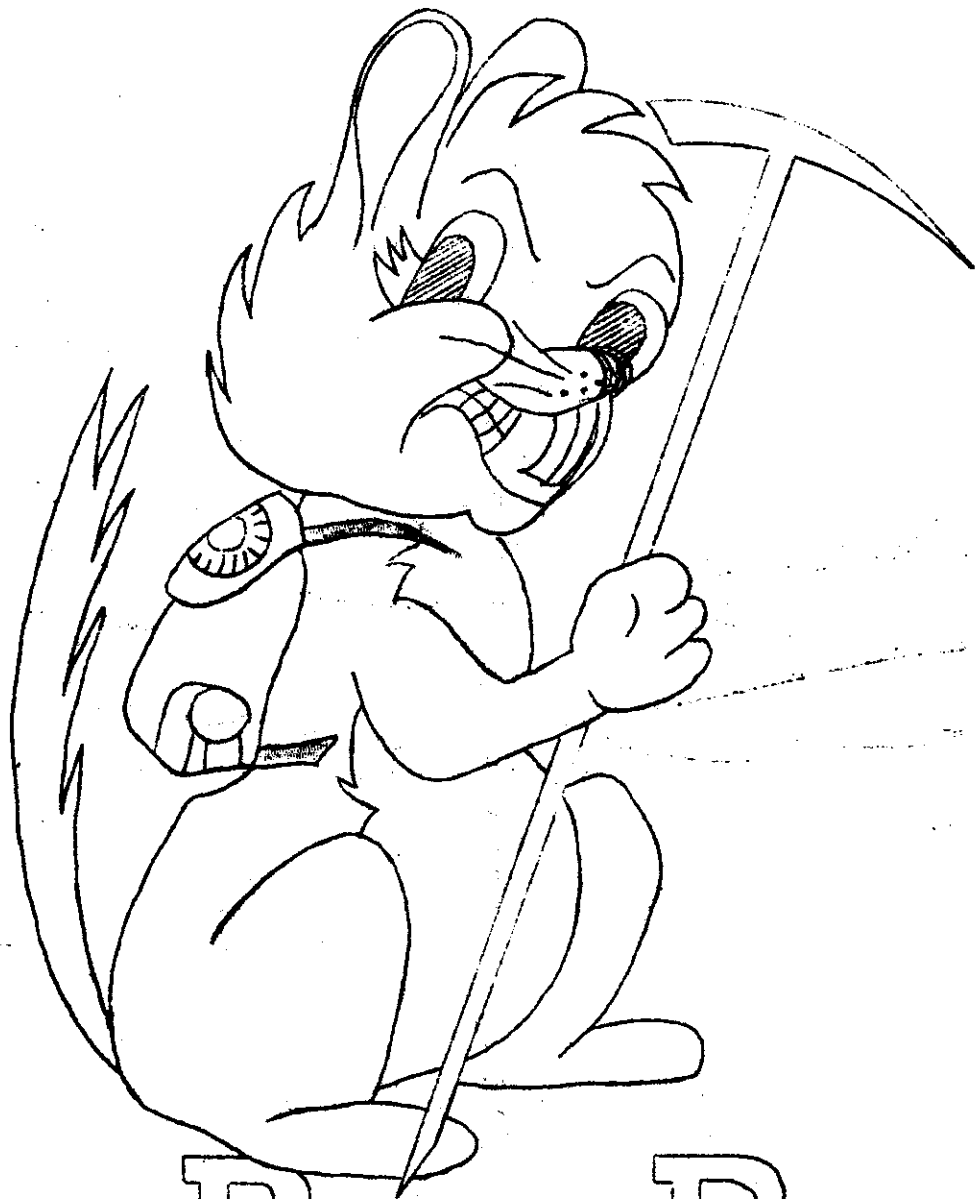


Feb. 1972



THE PACK RAT

* THE PACK RAT *

Volume 15

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR: MARIANNE STANFORD

PUBLISHER: BLAKE CORDON
and other kind
workers

MEETINGS: Every Wednesday evening at 8.00 p.m.

PLACE: Basement, First Lutheran Church, 1001 7th Avenue S.W.
(opposite O'Neil Towers), on corner of 9th Street and
7th Avenue S.W.

Phone for Club Information: 282-1330 (Mon-Sat, 9-5 p.m.) Bob's
Bookstore.

Summer Activities: Include Hiking, Climbing, Swimming,
Backpack Trips

Winter Activities: Include Skiing, Ski-Touring, Skating, Snow-
Shoeing, Hiking.

In addition to our outdoor activities, an active Social and Program
Committee organizes many social functions and Wednesday evening
programs throughout the year.

The objects of the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association are "To
protect the interests of Ramblers, and to maintain their rights and
privileges, to foster a greater love, use and knowledge of the country-
side, to assist in the preservation of countryside amenities, to secure
travel facilities for members, to function as a Bureau of Information,
to organize social functions".

The "Pack Rat" is published a minimum of six times a year. Its aim
is to keep Rambler members informed of club activities, and to
stimulate interest and concern in subject areas in which the club is
now involved and perhaps should become involved.

A REPLY TO MARIANNE STANFORD'S EDITORIAL
IN THE JANUARY PACKRAT

By Brian Crummy

Recently, Marianne asked me if I were interested in writing a reply to last month's editorial, which was entitled "Let's Look at the Life of a Leader". In this editorial Marianne examined the "abuse and accolades" that trip leaders receive. Probably Marianne asked me to write this reply because of an outburst I made at one December meeting, which outburst was directed at a previous meeting of the Leaders' Council, or as more correctly phrased so I am told - the "Grand Council". In fact, Marianne's article itself may have germinated from this outburst of mine, and it surely also refers to this particular meeting of the Leaders' Council.

This meeting of the Leaders' Council needn't delay us any longer, for nothing was decided at this meeting, other than that which had already been accomplished, and that which had already been accomplished need hardly be decided. No, the meeting was without import, and if everyone, including myself, became very upset during the meeting, then it only proves how easily we become volatile.

Let's look at Marianne's article. Almost at the beginning of the editorial Marianne writes, "No one receives more respect and adulation in the Club than a trip leader." Does he indeed! I must admit that I can't ever remember someone adulating me for a trip I led! (I haven't been accoladed either - shame on you members for not adulating and accolading me!) And as for respect, this surely points to the person and not to the leader, and leaders have no monopoly on that quality. Nor Marianne, can I agree that "Longtime leaders are held in awe for their wisdom". Rather, they are held in forbearance for their perseverance. But other other practical aptitudes that a leader learns, such as the self-improvement in outdoor skills, are real enough.

Marianne then mentions the negative aspects of being a leader, beginning with "The respect is given because of the responsibility involved". Well, we've dealt with respect - how about responsibility? The leaders are responsible? Who makes them responsible? The Leaders' Council? Impossible, the Leaders' Council won't ever reprimand a leader - What, and make an open issue of a leader's failings! At that very meeting last Fall, we were told of a leader who should have been reprimanded, and the point is that he wasn't and he won't ever be. The leaders are responsible? Well, it isn't the Leaders' Council that makes them so. Can it be then that the leaders are responsible to themselves? Since we've dispensed with the Leaders' Council, we'd have to ask that same question in the singular, "Is each leader responsible to himself?" Well, hopefully each will be, but we know that not all leaders are responsible, and since we are looking at leaders (and not at each leader) we won't get much help here. What kind of an

association is it, that holds the leaders responsible, but that allows each leader to decide for himself how much responsibility he will bear?

Or, as a last resort, are the leaders responsible to the led? Or shall we call them the "followers". It's very difficult to find a suitably euphemistic word for the "led" isn't it? How about "ordinary members"? That sounds awfully drab and besides it has that taint of officiousness, and what's more, it certainly indicates that there are better members. Yes, "ordinary members", "followers" or the "led" are all in a rather sad state.

Anyways, what shall we do about the responsibilities of the leaders to these followers? Say that the led don't hold the leaders responsible for them. Then everything is clear, and we'll have shown that, after all, leaders aren't responsible. But say that the led do consider the leaders to be responsible for them. For those followers who are perennially docile, who are, so to speak "true sheep", such as our Rambler Pin so charmingly depicts, the situation is a bit tricky. Let's leave them for awhile, and look to those followers who follow at the beginning of a trip, but become tired or annoyed at a leader, perhaps justly so or perhaps without due cause. Or similarly, we might be faced with a person who honestly thinks that the leader is making a mistake, and who feels that even if the other trip members consider the leader responsible, that he is going to save his own skin, or at least make himself more comfortable. Any person who leaves the leader doesn't hold the leader responsible for him, and the leader can govern himself accordingly.

Let's return to the "true sheep". If a leader finds himself with such people or such a person on a trip, it is to be hoped that he will act in a humane and reasonable manner. But all the same, if a person possesses so little craft and will power, that he will let someone else - whatever his position- lead him into a dangerous, awkward or even simply an uncomfortable spot, then it speaks ill of that person's right to hold anyone else responsible, when he can't be responsible to himself. Again, I would hope that the leader would act reasonably, especially keeping in mind that no person is the same on different trips under different conditions, but I could do no more than simply hope that the leader would be reasonable.

No, Marianne, I don't consider that leaders are responsible, nor that they can be made responsible, nor that, in the special sense implied in your editorial, that they even should be responsible. The reason not, is that a leader never earns anything for his troubles of leading trips. When a leader takes a trip, he involves himself with a certain amount of work, but he doesn't do it for a payment, in fact, he doesn't do it for anything, other than the satisfaction that he gains for himself, and that he gains by seeing others enjoy themselves. But because there is no remuneration, there can't be

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any responsibility. "Followers", "led", "ordinary members", "sheep" - you're on your own! - oops - we're on our own!

Well, Marianne, as critical as I am of your postulates, I'm not so critical of your conclusions. I agree that the "followers" - your word, that time Marianne, not mine - should find out "where we're going" (I like that we - may I join you?), learn "to watch for trail markings so we won't be absolutely dependent on the leader" (that's doubly good advice), be "prepared for the problems of a sudden wind, rainfall or snowstorm", and "ready for common repairs to boots, packs, skis or snowshoes". And most of all I agree that, "There are many valuable things a person can do for himself, if only he dares to try".

Why, simply why, do we have to bother with all this nonsense about the responsibility of trip leaders. Why?

Is it because we think that we have to have a formalized way of getting new members out to the mountains with more experienced people? Of course, we do have to help new members; we have to do it to stay alive as an association. And leaders announcing trips on Wednesday night, passing out trip lists, organizing car pools and overseeing the arrangements are fine ways to introduce new members, both to the club and to the skills of hiking and mountaineering. But let's leave it right there. The leaders don't assume any more responsibility than they want to assume, and there isn't any member, new or old, who can hold a leader responsible.

And what should we do with those trips that are just a little harder than what most Ramblers want to do? Should those who planned those trips feel obligated to take members they don't know, or whom they know and of whose ability they are doubtful? Or perhaps this will be a very special trip, and the members want to simply limit the numbers to keep the group from being unwieldy. Or perhaps they just want to go on their own this weekend, for purely personal reasons. Who's to say they shouldn't? The by-laws don't, that's certain. Tradition? What's tradition in a recreational club? Shouldn't we simply do what we feel is best for ourselves as a club.

A leader earns no remuneration for leading trips. He earns only the satisfaction of enjoying himself and helping others to enjoy themselves too. Leading has to be fun. If the fun is gone for a leader, if he doesn't enjoy leading trips - perhaps because he feels too responsible? - he can't be a successful leader anymore. The Rambler method of leading trips is a fine, practical and very successful way to visit themountains. But it isn't the only way. We won't grow as a club unless we explore alternate ways for people to engage in skiing, hiking and mountaineering, and these will be ways in which all members develop themselves, rather than ways in which some members are supposed to feel a false and shabby sense of responsibility to other members.

HYPO THERMIA

The following article has been submitted by Bob Pattison to help you remember the important points on this subject;

Introduction:

Hypothermia is the word that describes the rapid, progressive mental and physical collapse accompanying the chilling of the vital internal organs of the human body.

Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold, aggravated by getting wet, wind and exhaustion.

Hypothermia usually develops in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees above zero, in which rain or a wet snow is falling.

Hypothermia is the "number one" killer of outdoor recreationists..

Cold Kills in Two Distinct Steps:

Step One - Exposure and Exhaustion

A person is undergoing exposure when the body begins to lose heat faster than it can produce it. When this occurs two things happen:

1. You voluntarily exercise to stay warm.
2. Your body makes involuntary adjustments to preserve normal temperature in vital organs.

Either of these responses drains energy and brings on gradual exhaustion.

Note: The best time to prevent Hypothermia is during this period of exposure and gradual exhaustion.

Step Two - Hypothermia

When exposure and the gradual exhaustion is allowed to continue your body will lose all its energy reserves and will be unable to produce heat to maintain its vital internal organs. As the temperature drops the vital internal organs (brain, heart, liver, pancreas, etc.) lose their capacity to carry out their functions. The brain when it becomes cold, is deprived of its judgment and reasoning power. You will not realize this is happening and you will lose control of your limbs. This is Hypothermia. Without treatment this leads to stupor, collapse and death.

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Four Lines of Defense Against Hypothermia

First Line of Defense - Avoid Exposure

1. Stay dry and warm. When clothes get wet, they lose about 90% of their insulating value. Wool loses less, cotton, down and synthetics lose more. Put on rain gear before you get wet and wool clothes before you start shivering.
2. Get Out of the Wind. A slight breeze carries heat away from bare skin much faster than still air. Wind drives cold air under and through clothing. Wind refrigerates wet clothes by evaporating moisture from the surface. WIND MULTIPLIES THE PROBLEMS OF STAYING DRY.
3. Understand cold. Hypothermia cases usually develop in air temperatures between +50° and +30° Fahrenheit. Most people can't believe such temperatures can be dangerous. They fatally under-estimate the danger of getting wet at these temperatures. Water of +50° Fahrenheit is unbearably cold. Cold water running down the neck and legs and held against the body by wet clothes can kill. Cold water running down the neck and body will flush body heat from the surface of the clothes.

REMEMBER Don't ask "How Cold is the Air?" ask instead "How Cold is the Water Against my Body?"

Second Line of Defense - Terminate Exposure

If you cannot stay dry and warm under existing weather conditions, using the clothes you have with you, terminate exposure.

1. BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO GIVE UP REACHING THE PEAK OR GETTING THE FISH OR WHATEVER YOU HAD IN MIND.
2. Get out of the wind and rain. Build a fire. Concentrate on making your camp or bivouac as secure and comfortable as possible.

Persistent or violent shivering is clear warning that you are on the verge of hypothermia.

Make camp while you still have a reserve of energy. Allow for the fact that exposure greatly reduces your normal endurance.

You may think you are doing fine when the fact that you are exercising is the only thing preventing your going into hypothermia. If exhaustion forces you to stop, however briefly.

1. Your rate of body heat production instantly drops by 50% or more.
2. Violent, incapacitating shivering may begin immediately.
3. You may slip into hypothermia in a matter of minutes.

Make the best-protected member of your party responsible for calling a halt before the least-protected member becomes exhausted or goes into violent shivering.

REMEMBER: Never ignore shivering, be brave enough to give up and make camp or get into shelter. Appoint a "Foul-Weather" leader.

Third Line of Defense - Detect Hypothermia

If your party is exposed to wind, cold and wet, **THINK HYPOTHERMIA.** Watch yourself and others for symptoms.

1. Uncontrollable fits of shivering.
2. Vague, slow, slurred speech.
3. Memory lapses. Incoherence.
4. Immobile, fumbling hands.
5. Frequent stumbling. Lurching gait.
6. Drowsiness (to sleep is to die).
7. Apparent exhaustion. Inability to get up after a rest.

Your Fourth and Last Line of Defense - Treatment

The victim may deny he is in trouble. Believe the symptoms, not the patient. Even mild symptoms demand immediate, drastic treatment.

1. Get the victim out of the wind and rain.
2. Strip off all wet clothes.
3. If the patient is only mildly impaired:
 - (a) Give him warm drinks.
 - (b) Get him into dry clothes and a warm sleeping bag. Well wrapped, warm (not hot) rocks or canteens will hasten recovery.
4. If the patient is semi-conscious or worse:
 - (a) Try to keep him awake. Give warm drinks.
 - (b) Leave him stripped. Put him in a sleeping bag with another person (also stripped). If you have a double bag, put the victim between two warm donors. Skin to skin contact is the most effective treatment.
5. Build a fire to warm the camp.

Think Hypothermia When Planning Outdoor Activities

- *TAKE HEED OF HYPOTHERMIA WEATHER.
- *WATCH CAREFULLY FOR WARNING SYMPTONS.
- *CHOOSE EQUIPMENT WITH HYPOTHERMIA IN MIND.
- *THINK HYPOTHERMIA.

Notes on Equipment

Choose rainclothes that are proof against wind-driven rain and cover head, neck, body and legs. Polyethylene coated nylon is best. The coatings won't last forever. Inspect carefully and test under a cold shower before you leave home. Ponchos are poor protection in wind.

Take woolen clothing for hypothermia weather. Two-piece woolen underwear - or - long wool pants and sweater or shirt. Include a knit cap that can protect neck and chin. Cotton underwear is worse than useless when wet.

A stormproof tent gives best shelter. Take plastic sheeting and nylon twine for rigging additional foul-weather shelter.

Carry train food - nuts, jerky and candy - and keep nibbling during hypothermia weather.

Take a gas stove or a plumber's candle, flammable paste, or other reliable firestarter.

Rescue blankets that can be carried in a pocket are available. These blankets are made of a tinfoil substance and are folded into small packages. When wrapped around a person they maintain body heat.

DON'T WAIT FOR AN EMERGENCY. USE THESE ITEMS TO AVOID OR MINIMISE EXPOSURE.

BACKPACK HOLIDAY TRIP into Virgin land of Yellowheart - to Mount Robson and Rainbow Canyon on July 22-30, 1972 - approximately 90-100 miles - between 8-9 days. Trip never made by Ramblers. Leader - Ed Forester.

EXCERPTS FROM "ARMCHAIR ECOLOGISTS ARE CRAZY"

by Roger Trexel

"Here we are back in the great debate over proposed development of Lake Louise village in Banff national park. Scheduled for public hearing is a master plan for tourist facilities.

There are three points at issue now:

MONOPOLY over tourist facilities in a national park - a policy which has been followed for years at Banff;

EXPANSION of tourist facilities at Lake Louise;

CONSTRUCTION of a luxury hotel off the Trans-Canada highway and removed from the village.

SKI AREA

Note that the ski area is only indirectly affected at this time, although inevitably there will be so-called ecologists complaining about destroying the landscape.

Although I'm a keen outdoor man, I begin to question the sanity of some of the more rabid ecologists. There are armchair idealists lapping up propaganda from the television sets.

National park policy was already restrictive long before the ecologists appeared on the scene. Now the ecologists are not only making a fetish of their crusade, they are getting ridiculous. A few years ago the ski trails on Whitehorn were dangerous because the parks department refused to allow tree felling. The slope must not be seen from the road.

TEASHOPS

Lately the department has been burning the old mountain teashops which were erected by private enterprise as welcome havens of rest for hikers and climbers.

I say to the armchair ecologists: try ski touring off the beaten track at 20-below and you will dream of a warm teashop; have your car leave the road and get stuck in a snowdrift on the Jasper road at 10 p.m. in a blizzard and you'll dream of a nearby service station and motel.

I will also say: get up from your warm Calgary bed at 6.30 a.m., drive up to Sunshine or Lake Louise ski resorts, cough up \$6 per head for each adult (above 14 years) member of your family - and stand in line waiting for the ski lift for the next 40 minutes at 10-below zero.

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FACILITIES

After repeating the queue ordeal throughout the day, succeeding in getting only half a dozen ski runs and failing to get a seat in a crowded ski lodge - then you will dream of more available ski resorts.

I am not, repeat not, in favour of uncontrolled commercial development along the Trans-Canada highway through the national parks.

But I do maintain there is a pressing need for more tourist facilities and for more ski areas. There is plenty of space available without destroying the landscape

It is true that there is space available outside the national parks at Canmore, Radium and Colden, etc. Tourist development in those places should be encouraged, not discouraged.

I am not enthusiastic about the proposed Imperial luxury hotel at Whitehorn. Neither am I supporting any idea of private cottage developments or even condominiums.

TOURIST TRAP

What I do maintain is that summer tourists and winter skiers demand better facilities and more competition. They are being taken for a ride at Banff.

Last summer after a motor tour of the Pacific Northwest (including California) we found Banff was the biggest tourist trap on the road.

It would certainly not upset the ecology to permit additional ski slopes. A tourist village at Castle (Eisenhower) Mountain junction would be a welcome development. Motels, coffee shops and service stations would not upset the landscape at Lake Louise.

What should be forbidden in Banff national park are drive-in cinemas, honky-tonks, private cabins, large beer halls (nothing wrong with the roadside tavern), neon signs, billboards, amusement parks and all the other commercial paraphernalia which have marred so many American tourist traps."

What are your feelings about this? Tell us in the Pack Rat.

BACK-PACK COOKERY

By Marianne Stanford

Even though summer seems a long way off, it's not too soon to begin getting up courage for that first - or improved - bout of cooking in the out-of-doors. The following is excerpted from "The Sierra Club Wilderness Handbook"

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"The process of transforming part of the load on his back into appetizing meals is one of the knapsacker's most pleasurable activities, so much so that failure to plan and to cook the right amount of the right food in the right way can ruin a trip. Fortunately there is some leeway in the interpretation of the word "right". The backpacker needs no wide knowledge of foods and their preparation. Several factors work to the advantage of even the completely novice wilderness cook. First, he exerts himself enough - and his party does too - not to be too demanding about what he eats; certainly he will be more the gourmand than the epicure. Second, few are likely to complain to the cook, out of fear of being handed the stirring spoon. Third, quite often - frequently out of preference - dinner may not be ready until campfire time, when it is too dark to see clearly just what is being eaten. All in all, the novice will get on very well, inventing as he goes, experimenting to see if peanut-butter soup, for example, is really fit to eat, and finding out for certain that an accidental combination of macaroni, cheese and chocolate is not very fit.

There is always the hard way to learn, of course; this is intended primarily to suggest how the novice may avoid it. No 19th-century wilderness cooks were consulted on how to live royally off the country on wild berries and grouse. Moreover, those who care so much about cooking that they want to spend most of their time fussing over elaborate dishes already have so many culinary predilections that we'd be wasting our time in trying to add any of ours. This is simply about basic food.

A balance between carbohydrates, proteins and fats is important to provide sustained energy, especially after breakfast and lunch. Carbohydrates (sugar and starches) are the most quickly available, energy from proteins becomes available later and is more lasting, and fats are the most slowly utilized. Providing adequate carbohydrates is rarely a problem, but care is needed to assure sufficient protein and fat, especially for breakfast. If meals are well planned, there will be little craving for candy and other between-meal snacks.

Minerals and vitamins usually present no problem, especially if most crackers and cereals are of the whole grain variety. Vitamin C, however, may be deficient unless dehydrated citrus fruit juice or some other beverage known to contain this vitamin is served daily. Vitamin C is important in maintaining resistance to infections. Tablets of ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), 50 milligrams per person per day, may be substituted for citrus juice.

Salt is important, since correct salt balance is essential to a feeling of well-being. The amount of salt lost in perspiration varies considerably among individuals and changes with acclimatization. During strenuous activity, especially in hot weather at the beginning of a trip, most people want and need more salt than can be added to food without spoiling its flavor. However, tastes and the need for salt vary, so a salt shaker should be

readily available at mealtime. Since too much salt is as undesirable as too little, each person needs to be alert to his own craving for salt and adjust his intake accordingly. Other signs of salt deficiency are excessive fatigue, headache, stomach cramps, and diarrhea. Many hikers carry salt tablets to take with water when symptoms occur.

Sufficient water to prevent dehydration is also essential. Substantially more water is usually lost during a day's hike than is replaced, regardless of how much has been available along the trail. Many people do not drink enough fluids during the twenty-four hours to replace this loss unless a considerable amount of water is combined with their food. Lemonade is a refreshing means of increasing fluids for lunch or when camp is made early. Soup is excellent for breakfast or dinner, and a generous supply of hot water for beverages should be available for both meals.

DEDICATED TO THE CLIMBING FRATERNITY

"THE PITON SONG" (to the tune of a song I
can't remember)

Let us knock a piton in
Hanging delicately by the chin.
A tap or two - just here will do
To get it in, a mighty - Damn!

That was my thumb I'll have you know,
I hit most accurately with that blow.
To work again, with might and main
I'll get this piton in or Bust.

It's dropped right out on someone's head
He's swearing horribly, he cannot be dead.
To work once more, ignore the gore,
We'll climb this wall if we have to Blast!

My foothold's gone to the scree below
A piton - ting-ting-ting - quite safe you know!
Up to the top, we dare not stop
Till it's time to have our lunch - Below!

"Anon"

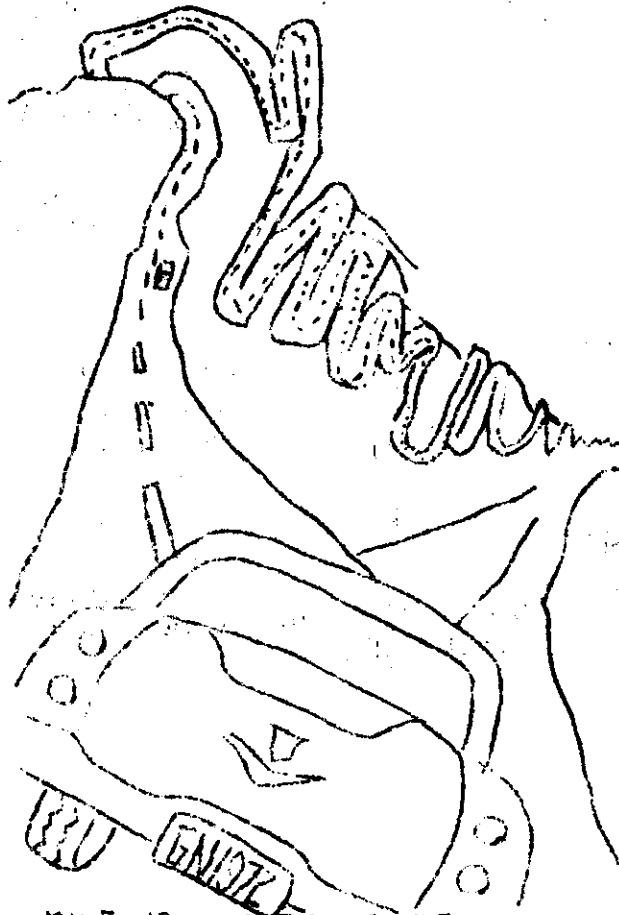
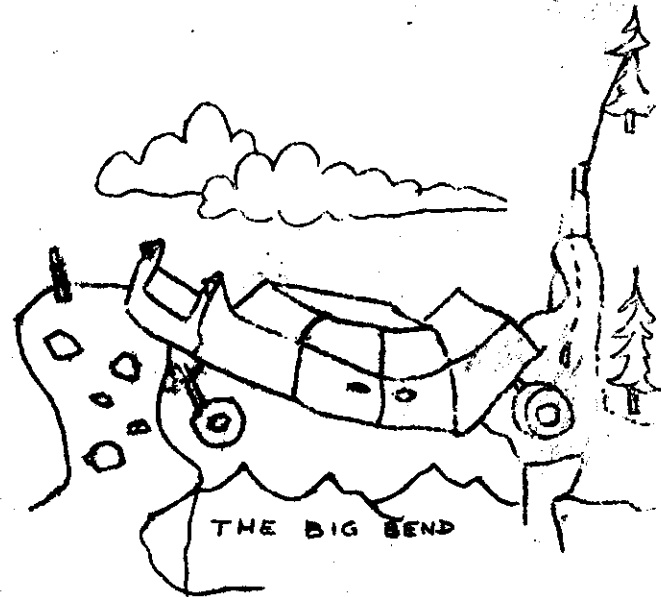
from Ruth Pullivant

VIA THE WILD AND WINDING

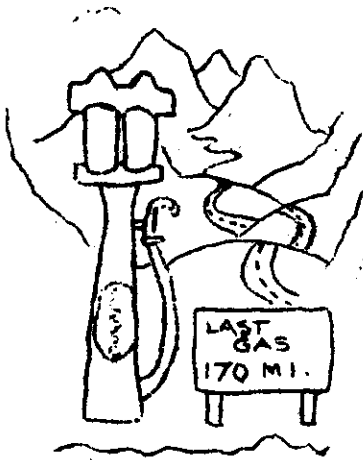
By Cordon Nutt

Not saying that you'd be a showoff to go on, or a coward to turn back, highways of the '40s and '50s had some understandably yet unavoidably unforgettable moments in store for you as you forged West. Here was the era when two lanes without shoulder held the forefront of renown.

BIG BEND If you wanted to reach the Coast without entering the States, you'd probably take the Big Bend (your car would even inoreso) between Golden and Revelstoke. Dust was a shocker - scenery supreme. Boat Encampment at the top of the Bend was a historic way - stop on the Columbia R. of fur trade days. Today pavement takes you from Revelstoke to Mica Dam near the old Boat Encampment.

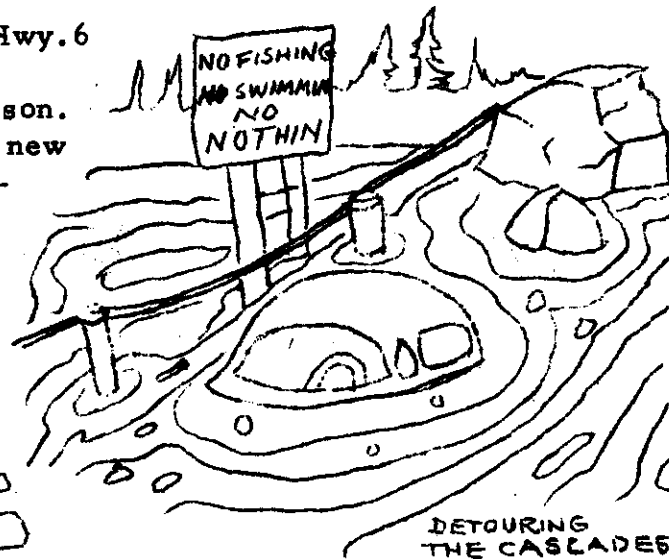


MT. REVELSTOKE. Making it over the Big Bend, you would be hard-pressed to decide to camp in Mt. Revelstoke Park, particularly if you went up in the dark and started down the 18-mile grade next day (as illustrated). It's paradise now, though - an alpine wonder country, as always.



CASCADES In the early days of the Southern Trans-Canada Hwy., people often told of doing the Cascades and though this really was rough - so were the detours. Many pushed well into Washington and Idaho to reach the Coast with less cost.

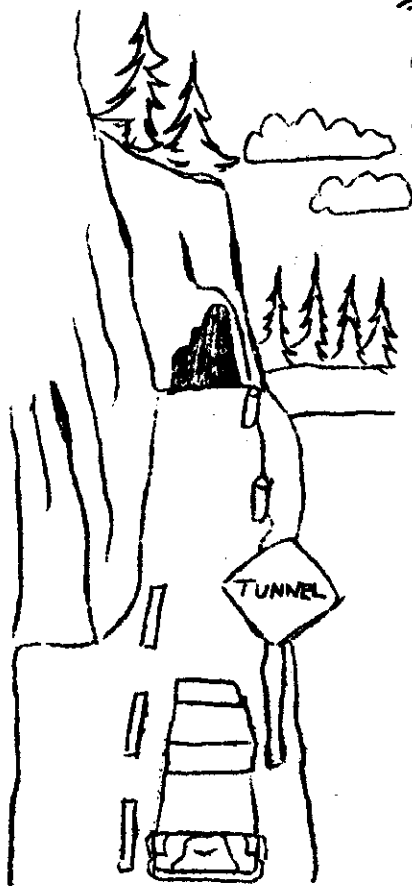
UNDERSTATEMENT Hwy. 6 is the picturesque link between Vernon and Nelson. Soon it will be part of a new paved route from Revelstoke to Nelson.



North of the lumber community of Slokan, a sign reads "TUNNEL" - two lanes shrink to one as the driver balks through a small dark hole in a cliff high above Slokan Lake.

So you'd take the bus? Not if you were switched into a converted school bus (to do the Big Bend) in which case you learned to sit as close to the centre of the vehicle as possible!

In any event, you would always return with "Memories of vast worlds - self-explored".



UNDERSTATEMENT
NORTH OF SLOKAN

1971 CALGARY WEATHER UNUSUALLY UNUSUAL

By Wally Drew

They say that weather is usually unusual. Last year in Calgary was exceptionally unusual, even for this erratic climate. Consider the examples described below.

On January 7 Calgary received .10" of rain, the greatest rainfall for any January in 22 years. Snowfall for the month was nearly twice normal and measurable precipitation was recorded on 19 days, a new all-time record for January. Consequently January 1971 was the greyest January in 18 years with only 67 hours of sunshine. The lowest temperature for the year was -33° on January 13 and 14.

February was mild but not outstanding in any way.

Calgary had never recorded a thunderstorm in March until March 30, 1971. In spite of more snowfall than normal, March 1971 was the sunniest March in history with 213 hours of sunshine recorded. The highest temperature during the month was 47° , the third lowest March maximum of the century.

Continuing the bright trend, April 1971 was the sunniest one in 25 years. Two thunderstorms were recorded while normally there are none in April. The snowfall for the month (3") was the least for any April in 19 years.

The exceptionally fine spring continued through May which was the warmest and driest May in 13 years and the sunniest one in 43 years. There were no thunderstorm days compared with a normal of one.

June was sunnier than normal and had more thunderstorms than usual but otherwise was quite a normal month.

Summer appeared reluctant to come to us when July 6 brought us a temperature of 34° , the lowest July reading in 28 years, with frost in many parts of the city and a heavy freeze in rural areas. Only July 26 a severe cold front brought winds reaching 76 mph. to Calgary, the strongest wind ever recorded in July. That front, with accompanying hail, did millions of dollars of damage in the Red Deer area north of us.

Summer finally came in full force in August. On the first day of the month the temperature reached 92° at Banff and 35° at Jasper, new August records for both stations. Calgary's highest temperature of the year was 95° on August 5, a tie for the highest reading in 35 years and the hottest recorded in August in 49 years. With a mean (average) temperature of 67.3° , August 1971 was the hottest month ever recorded in Calgary with 87 years of records. It nosed out July 1936 for the honor. As though that weren't enough, the month was much drier and sunnier than normal, giving southwestern Alberta 7 warm, dry, sunny weekends in a row from late July through early September.

September gave us nothing more outstanding than a new record high barometer reading for the month.

October had more than twice its normal snowfall and a thunderstorm which is usual for October. The 0° recorded on October 28 tied the lowest October reading in 20 years.

November 1971, with only .06" of precipitation, was the driest month in 8 years and the driest November in 22 years. It was the first November in 9 years during which the temperature failed to drop to 0°. The 6 consecutive days of dense fog late in the month were very unusual.

1971 ended as it began, with a cold and snowy month. The temperature dropped below 0° on 21 days and rose above freezing on only 5 during December. The month had the most snow of any December in 40 years. On December 9 the barometric pressure fell to 28.73", the lowest ever recorded in Calgary! On the 16th, the temperature rose from -20° to 34°, a record (for December) 54° temperature range for 1 day. The wind peaked to 65 mph. on December 30, a new record velocity for December.

1971 as a whole was the sunniest year on record for Calgary, slightly surpassing the record set in 1970. There were an unusual, if not record-breaking, number of thunderstorm days during 1971 - quite a year!

CSPS Avalanche Course - December 1971

By Brian Crummy

The Canadian Ski Patrol System Basic Avalanche Course in December was attended by about two dozen people, of whom five were Rambler members. The course consisted of three evening lectures held on December 6, 7 and 8th, and one outing held on Sunday, December 12th, at Snowridge. The lectures were taught by three different instructors, and included the use of films and charts as teaching aids, and as well there were equipment demonstrations.

The Sunday outing at Snowridge took place on a cold day and we had to dress warmly. In the morning we dug snow pits and examined the snow layers in relation to the crystal types, the effect of wind on the depositing of snow, the effect of temperature and the variation in snow caused by location, especially as regards the orientation of a slope to the wind. After digging snow pits, we practised avalanche probing in a course probe line. We learnt the basics of probing, a very disciplined technique, and the importance of good organization in probing successfully.

After eating our lunches in the lodge, we returned to the slopes to rescue a buried dummy, who had not really been buried in an avalanche, since the

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snow cover was so stable, but who had been buried in a trampled slope. The rescue was of middling success, although the organization sometimes faltered. The probe line is held in a straight line by a length of cord, and to begin it took ten minutes just to untangle the cord before a line could begin probing. Just as the probe line was about ready, the dummy was found by one of the random probers, who were sent to the slope ahead of the probing team. We returned to the lodge at about half past four and after a half hour recapitulation of the happenings of the day we returned to Calgary. Those who received exams could then write them.

For ski tourers the course is not exactly what one wants in learning snow-craft, because it is primarily aimed at the area ski patroler. However, the information presented certainly is helpful, and the course could easily serve as an introduction to avalanche safety for the ski tourer. It will surely be repeated next year, and some Ramblers will be interested in taking it.

LEGEND OF DEADMAN'S FLAT

By Gordon Nutt

Gas, meals and accommodation welcome the visitor to present-day Deadman's Flat near Canmore. Multicolored neon sets the stations aglow at dusk but the place is rarely so quiet as when in 1903 Francois Marret arrived there to live with his brother, John, a miner at Canmore.

Francois claimed that his brother was using a strange electrical device to kill him. Francois never could find this machine, and late one night Francois finished John with an axe.

Francois tried to replace his brother on that next morning's shift at Canmore, leaving John Marret partially immersed in the Bow River. The water would revitalize John, Francois was quick to assure the constables. Naturally, Francois did not remain at the Flat any longer since authorities in Calgary were interested in his story.

Long years have allowed the Marrets to drift from memory, and today's visitor to the Flat is too preoccupied with coffee and conversation to notice some slight overtone in the wind outdoors where one would swear to hearing a strange electrical device. Shine your flashlight where you will. That machine source will elude you too. "Let's all be sensible and have another cup of coffee".

The cost of Rambler crests has increased to such an extent that they will no longer be given to new members. Any person desiring one of these attractive crests for his or her jacket or pack may purchase it from Arthur Kam for \$1.50.

FOR SALE

LUSSER Ski safety bindings - Touring version, familiar to many Ramblers, can be used for either downhill or climbing. \$48.00 including fitting. Downhill version - new in North America - same principles and safety features of the touring version but does not permit the heel to raise and lower. \$42.00 including fitting.

Binoculars	\$10.00	Climbing Boots sz. 7	\$7.00
Kodak Instamatic Camera	\$ 5.00	Climbing Boots sz. 6	\$5.00
Polaroid Camera	\$ 6.00	Boot Tree	\$1.00
4 ft. Teletripod	\$ 3.00	Touring Boots sz. 12	\$5.00
Nalgene 10 oz. Bottles	25¢ each	Touring Boots sz. 7	\$5.00
H/D Bolt Kit (climbing)	\$ 5.00	Downhill Ski Boots sz. 12	\$5.00
Estwing Hammer/Chisels	\$ 4.00	Machete	50¢

Contact Ray Marriner Phone 276-1001

BISA AND DATA

Wally enjoyed the friendship of many of his Rambler friends very much. Thanks for everything. Quita.

Cerry and Kirsten Aston are going back to Scotland to live. Those that knew this enjoyable pair will miss them, but wish them "safe journey" and a happy life.

Al Samek and Jenny Tomlin are back from Nepal and England, respectively. We're looking forward to the tales from both trips.

Marlyn Allan and Saide Din can be reached for the next while at this address - 23 Filrig Street, Edinburgh EH6 5AD, Scotland.

Robert Deadman suggested that a good way to wear clothing for winter activities is COLD - Clean, Oversize, Loose, Dry.

Gunther Mueller and Christine Bonham are married now - Congratulations to both of you.

Boom Lake is about a little over one hundred miles out of Panff Park on the way to Eadium. The trip is of wonderful splendor and worth viewing for the scenery at this time of year. The mountain peaks present are Mount Temple, Mount Allen and a few others.

- Robert Deadman.
