

APRIL 77



Pack Rat

April, 1977

Newsletter of the
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

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 countryside; to assist in the preservation of countryside amenities; to secure travel facilities for Ramblers; to function as a bureau of information; to facilitate public access to the mountains and woodlands; to organize social functions for the members".

The Ramblers meet every Wednesday evening at 8:15 p.m. in the basement of the First Lutheran Church, 1001 - 7 Ave., S.W., Calgary, T2P 1A8. There they organize hikes, ski-tours, backpacking and canoeing trips. There are programs on three of every four Wednesdays. The Ramblers also hold social functions throughout the year.

For information phone 282-1330 (Bob Baxter at Bob's Bookstore, hours: Mon. to Sat., 10 to 12, 1 to 5:30) or any of the following in the evening:

President:	Bob Pattison	283-7147
Vice-President:	Brian Westcott	286-7288
Secretary:	Del Lavallee	271-1365
Treasurer:	Ron Folkins	283-6114
Leaders' Chairman:	Helga Dauer	283-7147

The Pack Rat is published a minimum of six times a year. Its aim is to keep Rambler members informed on activities and to stimulate interest and concern in subject areas in which the Association is now involved and perhaps should become involved. The present editor is George Muench (Address: 655 - 3 Ave., N.W., Calgary, T2N 0J2; Phone: 283-0413). Trip reports and articles are welcomed.

'77 OR BUST

Thirty-six bodies came and went during the annual New Year's party. In the early part of the evening, impromptu entertainment was provided by Jan Gill and assistants while, at the same time, they were doing a great job of decorating! Next on the agenda was, of course, eating. Food-bringers, as well as chair-carriers and sound "systemizers": your efforts are all appreciated. After supper, the new year was given a warm welcome and then the merry-making continued until it ended. (There were also several good people who started clearing up when my back was turned, and thanks go to them; with an extraspecial thank you to Alastair.)

'77. AND WE DIDN'T BUST...

While I'm at it - I should note that credit goes to Ian Wallis and Marnie McCall for all before-hand preparation of the Wine and Cheese. (There would not have been a party without them.)

Thank yous, again, go to The Workers at this party (you know who you are) who made one thing follow another, from set-up, eats, drinks and coffee, right up until the vacuuming.

We should give a final round of applause for The Entertainers. They entered into the spirit of things (in spite of any misgivings they may have had) and made our talent contest a success. Some of our entertainers also went on to do the Ramblers proud at Sunshine!

Vivien Budgen

CARROT CREEK VIA SOUTH GHOST: JUNE 19 & 20, 1976.

Leader Art Davis

Art Davis, Dee Parsons, Helga Dauer, Bob Pattison, Peter McGill, Tom and Marianne Flannigan accompanied me on this tremendous backpack.

We started hiking north up Exshaw Creek which flows from the north into the Bow River near the town of Exshaw. The valley was quite level with numerous crossings of the creek, made easy by using stones to cross on. Carrying on till noon, we stopped for lunch by the creek. The once sunny day was clouding up and 2 pm, having hiked on from the lunch stop, found us sheltered under some trees that protected us from a light shower which later moved on east. We continued on climbing up over the pass at the head of Exshaw Creek. It was quite a sudden, steep climb but by 4 pm we were on the summit. We crossed the pass keeping high to enable us to cross a continuing ridge to the west. From here we could look down on the tributary streams of the South Ghost River.

From the ridge we descended a gentle snow slide down towards the lower valleys. The sky was darkening to the west and rain looked a possibility. A trail was found that took us along a ridge and led us down. While on the trail the heavens opened up with rain and

thunder, all mixed with a strong wind. About a half hour of these conditions and we were all a cold wet group.

The trail led us to the valley bottom where we had to cross a creek. We managed this on logs, then we came to the main South Ghost. I forded it in running shoes and some got across on logs. A fire was started at an old outfitters camp, and supper cooking begun and the tents put up. In the cooking process Dee dropped her steak in the dirt and horse manure while Peter lost his in the fire. By the time it was fished out the steak looked like an old leather boot. After eating we made up some Boom Tang drink and sat around the fire, singing and telling jokes. All retired by 11 pm.

Sunday June 20 found us up at 8 am and, after breakfast, on the trail - which soon proved to be the wrong one. Maps were brought out of packs and the valley and pass located which would lead us over to the Banff Park and the Carrot Creek Divide. The problem now was to find a trail, or else scrub bash keeping high above the creek that occupied this unnamed valley, as it was by all appearance a series of steep canyons. We stopped for a bit of mountain mix and observed where a grizzly had been digging around for ants at what appeared not too long a time ago.

Setting out now to gain altitude we scrub bashed up the ridge and in the process we lost Bob and Helga. We stopped for lunch to wait for them. Art went back looking for them but was unsuccessful. Peter McGill after lunch went back to try to locate the two of them, thinking that they went up into a basin to the north (this is what happened, we later found out). The rest of us started on hiking on the rough side hill and then at 12:45 Art found a good trail heading west. This saved the day. We followed it until we reached an unnamed pass at the head of the valley by 2:30 pm. Here Peter McGill caught up with us having found no sign of Bob and Helga. We hiked on passing the Banff National Park border cairn. We followed down a tributary Carrot Creek. Over in the northwest towered the majestic snow-capped Mt. Aylmer. Presently a trail was found that led us up to Lake Minnewanka and then down Carrot Creek towards the Trans Canada Highway.

Thinking it would be clear sailing now to the highway, we hit the first of 26 stream crossings at 6 pm; we just packed our boots and wore our runners. On the way was a delightful campsite near to a moss-covered mound of rocks. Perhaps it was an old grave site. Finally at 8:40 we reached the cars having accomplished a first for the club. Our thanks go to Art for leading a great trip which, for myself, was one of the most enjoyable I've ever done.

Jack Carter

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

One of the basic differences among club members may have been

uncovered after a Ramblers outing during the whimsical past. Gathering for supper at a member's house that evening, a kingsize pizza was cut squarely in two for Esther Jeffrey and Peter McGill. Esther received her piece first. "Boy!" she exulted when she saw the pizza. "Do I get all this?" Next, Peter was served. "Boy!" he exclaimed. "Is this all I get?"

S.L.O.T.H.

Based on the idea that perhaps not everybody in the Ramblers is a Super Jock, I hope to arrange occasional summer car camping weekends for those members who are of a more leisurely disposition. These trips would go under the general heading of SLOTH weekends after that most noble of South American creatures and to indicate the relaxed nature of expeditions in which the participants Sleep Late and Omit Tough Hikes.

I would hope that these trips would enable Ramblers to reduce the incidence of sweaty armpits to the minimum necessary to indulge in such exerting exploits as drinking, reading, talking, drinking, eating, playing dominoes, drinking, fishing, and comparing hangovers.

There would be provision for short ambles of a duration not exceeding two hours and at no time at a speed exceeding 2 miles per hour.

Trips would usually last from Friday nights through to early Sunday afternoons and would be to areas mainly east of the mountains and out into the prairies and badlands, hopefully to campgrounds located beside rivers or lakes. These regions experience some of the best camping weather and definitely the best sunsets (sunrises are to be challenged whenever possible by defiantly snoring at them).

Everybody would be welcome on these trips but those of a hyper-active nature are to be dissuaded from attending due to the possibility of their unfortunate disease being contracted by susceptible members of the group who might previously have been happy merely to perambulate between tent, cooking shelter and toilet.

Like any self-respecting bureaucracy, certain rules would have to be followed: mealtimes would be a matter of agreement between individuals of each food group, although anyone eating before 9:00 a.m. at the earliest would be considered to be letting the side down. It would, however, be nice for all to have supper at about the same time so that nobody gets too great a headstart in the wine race.

Car camping trips have decreased noticeably in number within the Ramblers over the last few years. Perhaps SLOTH trips will encourage a resurgence of such activities for those who by reasons of health or sheer laziness do not indulge in the strange habit of backpacking.

If you are interested in reducing perspiration to a minimum, think about trying a SLOTH weekend this summer. The only problem is getting up the energy to organize one.

Frank Reed

A MORAL!

There once was a very fit skier
Whose soul had never known fear.
 He climbed in all weather,
 Pack light as a feather.
His protection?--his strength and good cheer!

But let's just imagine a case
When he fell far behind for a pace.
 Fellow skiers raced on
 In the teeth of a storm;
Thick snow, cold and wind, forcing haste.

Now follows a hard set of facts.
Falling snowflakes soon wiped out their tracks.
 His ski hit a stump,
 He went down with a thump;
And came up with a number of lacks.

A cable had snapped with the strain.
His ankle was signalling pain.
 One ski was a splinter,
 Passè for the winter;
Yes, a hard set of facts, it was plain!

Meanwhile, in search of good cheer,
All the others had gone for a beer.
 The glasses passed round,
 Some peanuts were found;
When his friend noticed, "One man's not here!"

Some said: "Well, it's just growing dark.
Perhaps he went off on some lark.
 He'll join us at table
 Whenever he's able."
"No! We must look for him back in the park!"

Again in the wood, deep and black,
The rescuers searched for a track.
 Then into their sight
 Came a glimmering light.
T'was a flashlight on compass and map.

(over)

Space blanket taped round him,
 It's warmth to surround him;
 Well bandaged, his ankle;
 (this poetry may rankle)
 His binding made stable
 With spare tip and cable;
 He'd gotten himself right out of his fix
 With the strength of some glucose and good mountain mix.
 "Hello!" said our skier, "Now that you're here---
 Is it too much to hope that you've brought me my beer?"

The MORAL, should you fail
 To discern, in this tale,
 Is not what you think.
 If you value your drink;
 Should you want to survive
 To come back alive
 At the end of the trip;
 Never mind the spare tip
 And emergency gear. The MORAL is here---
ALWAYS COUNT HEADS IN THE PUB WITHOUT FAIL---OR
HAVE YOUR FRIEND BRING YOUR BEER UP THE TRAIL IN A PAIL!

Dee Parsons

CALGARY REGIONAL TRAILS COUNCIL (Non-motorized)
 Meeting, March 31, 1977

Eleven of us attended from about six associations.

- (1) We discussed implications of the preview of the zoning program for the Forestry Reserve by the Eastern Slopes Interdepartmental Planning Committee of the Alberta government. Too early in the game for firm conclusions.
- (2) The executive of the C.R.T.C. (non-motorized) was given mandate to enter into discussions with motorized trail users to try to work out some sort of general agreement to avoid conflict.
- (3) We discussed ways of trying to avoid conflict of interest between non-motorized and motorized trail users such as separate trails in areas for cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. Ken Rathje of the Foothills Nordic Ski Club expressed the opinion that the last two were not entirely mutually incompatible, and could work and play together. Some felt that a slight separation of ski and snowmobile trails, such as along opposite sides of a creek, would be satisfactory. I argued that cross-country skiers and snowmobilers were completely mutually incompatible because snowmobiles spoil the peace and quiet of the countryside for up to three miles with their noise and fumes, and should not even be in the same valley.

Wally Drew

THE GREAT DIVIDE TRAIL

In a meeting with the Alberta Government held in Edmonton on January 20, the Great Divide Trail Association was able to raise some specific questions about the government's position in regard to the proposed trail. Representing the provincial government at the meeting were Bart Deeg, a consultant with the Long Range Planning Section of the Recreation Planning Branch; Beverly Bullock, a Consultant with the Outdoor Recreation Section of the Programs Branch; and Larry Wall, a recent employee of the Outdoor Recreation Section. The exchange between both parties was felt to be positive. Below is a summary of answers to questions raised by the GDTA during the meeting.

What is the present official status of the GDT outside of the National Parks?

The overall concept of the GDT has been approved by the Alberta Government, however the entire route location has not been officially endorsed. Each segment of the Trail must be separately examined.

(The status of the GDT within the National Parks was reported in the February 1977 Pack Rat.)

What role would the Alberta Government like to have in the establishment of the GDT?

The Alberta Government would like to play an advisory role in the establishment of the GDT. The Government would also provide some funding if the GDTA could justify the expenditure. Two main Departments and one Committee are involved: the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife; the Department of Energy and Natural Resources; and the East Slopes Interdepartmental Planning Committee.

What role does the Alberta Government see the GDTA playing in the establishment of the GDT?

According to the Alberta Government, the GDTA has the major role to play in:

- (a) locating a route for the Trail,
- (b) constructing the Trail (with approval from the Forest Service),
- (c) marking the Trail,
- (d) maintaining the Trail,
- (e) publicizing the Trail, and
- (f) negotiating with the British Columbia Government.

Would the Government of Alberta prefer to sponsor an all-Alberta route or the Alberta portions of an Alberta-British Columbia route?

At the present time, the Alberta Government would prefer to support an all-Alberta route. However, they would endorse an Alberta-British Columbia route if:

- (a) the GDTA can demonstrate that it greatly reduces the cost of construction,
- (b) it improves the Trail aesthetically,
- (c) volunteer labor is available from the B.C. side, and

(d) some Government funding can be obtained from the B.C. side for their portions of the Trail.

What is the Government's view as to what the implications of the development of the GDT will be? Have any long-range projections been made as to use by hikers and horseback riders? Have any impact studies been carried out in this area?

It is impossible at this time to accurately estimate how many people will utilize the GDT. It would be better to establish a portion of the GDT as a test section where use could be monitored for several years, before proceeding with establishment of the entire route. To date, no impact studies have been made in this area, and it is assumed that the GDTA will carry out future user impact studies with advice and funding from the Alberta Government.

Will any legislation be necessary to establish the GDT?

The East Slopes Interdepartmental Planning Committee is presently reviewing a recreational corridor plan which, if approved, would make a GDT corridor feasible. By legislating the provincial corridor system, the GDT is automatically legislated. However, if the corridor plan cannot be legislated, then an Order in Council may be made which will ensure that the use of the Trail will be designated for horses and hikers only.

information supplied by the
Great Divide Trail Association

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

To really be
Is, it seems to me,
To have been, if only briefly,
Far removed from this age's coddled cradles
Into breathtaking realms with vast arrays
Of rocky peaks, gargantuan pillars,
Slopes and slabs, tortured and exposed elevations,
Rising from countless legions of proud trees
Guarding on their flanks jewelled waters
Providing refuge only for creatures and plants
Daring to live unfettered and die free.

Lately
I have ventured further
Into the supra-world of mountains.
I have rambled, crawled, clung and slid
Higher and yet higher up their slopes and chimneys,
And this achievement has occurred in all seasons.
Each of these mountains must have welcomed
Me, my boots or skis, my axe, my backpack
Else I could not have gone as far as I have been
Reaching at rare moments, treasured times
To the very summit of their mighty forms.

Surmounting

A rocky grandeur
 I have deeply seen and felt
 The great mountain's strength and being,
 Its closeness and its kinship and its warmth.
 I have shared with it my sweat, my tears and thoughts
 And we communed together on our common end.
 We are aging, eroding, dying and becoming dust
 To be blown and scattered together my mountain and me
 Eternally together later; Now our spirits intermingle briefly -
 Glorious mountain, thanks for drawing me to thee!

Convening

At the steadfast mountain's peak
 With my fellow Ramblers and our mountain friend
 We also hail, and praise the neighbor mountains
 Admiring their unique forms and features beautiful
 At the level of their spires so close to heaven.
 We also view, down the fine form of our mountain's head
 In vast places, pure seas of frozen waters
 Gently undulating dazzling white oceans of ice
 Whose crevasses were bridged by celestial blown snow
 So mountain and man could meet and greet at top.

Evolving

This mountain companion and me
 Raised from what source, by whose power?
 If we share a destiny, do we have a common father?
 Our life and strength began in hidden ancient years.
 Mountain! Who's your master? Else we're each chance products
 Imbue in me the knowledge of creation for I know
 Upon a mountain's slope all prophets' powers have shone
 strongest.
 My mountain gave an utterance: "In His hand are all
 The corners of the earth and we are each known,
 Nurtured, loved and killed by One who cares for us."

author remains unknown -
 contributed anonymously

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. !?!

April 1 & 2 witnessed the appearance of one of our club members upon the stage of the Jubilee Auditorium. Singing with the 76-member Stampede City Chorus of the Calgary chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. (the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America), Roger Woodgate performed in the group's 22nd annual show, appropriately entitled "Just Ramblin'". Barbershopping is a pure form of singing, in quartets or in chorus, utilizing four-part harmony, and has many active adherents. The local Calgary group practices weekly on Wednesday nights, and explains in good part Roger's absence from Rambler meetings this past year.

FOR SALE

Backpack, rarely used. Nylon, aluminum frame, weighs 3 lbs. Map pocket, 4 zippered side pockets, carry-all with frame and 2 large zippered pockets. \$12.00. Can be seen at Rambler meetings or phone Jay Reed at 283-1047 (evenings).

SUNSHINE VILLAGE EXPANSION

The National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, along with the Alberta Wilderness Association and many other conservation organizations, have been concerned over procedures to expand Sunshine Village facilities as proposed recently. The NPPAC has been in contact with the Rocky Mountain Ramblers through the editor of the Pack Rat, and asked if certain materials could be submitted by them for inclusion in our newsletter. In a letter from the Calgary/Banff Chapter the following position was put forth by Mr. David Hauer of the NPPAC:

"We believe that public response at this time is very important because as we understand the recent events in Ottawa,

1. Mr. Allmand will not release Parks Canada's Recommendations on the proposed expansion, and he calls these recommendations "tentative" and "non-binding."

2. Sunshine apparently is doing economic viability studies.

As we interpret this, it appears that Mr. Allmand may be planning to make a political decision divorced both from national parks policies as well as from Parks Canada's own recommendations."

The following article has been submitted by the NPPAC for publication in the Pack Rat:

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SUNSHINE VILLAGE

The proposal to nearly triple facilities at Sunshine Village in Banff National Park has rightfully been labelled a disgrace. The proposal so violates a succession of statements by Parks Canada concerning downhill ski development that one can only question the federal government's credibility.

Included below is some background information, plus a summary of some policy violations and environmental and aesthetic impact which would result if the Sunshine expansion is approved. Additional information may be obtained from the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, 47 Colborne Street, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1E3.

The Proposal. Proposed developments at Sunshine include eleven new

ski lifts, a Great Divide snack bar, new hotel and day lodge facilities, and expansion of the Bourgeau parking lot from a present capacity of 800 vehicles up to 2160 vehicles. In addition, a gondola lift is proposed as the method of access from the parking lot up to Sunshine. Overnight guest accomodation will increase from 190 to 400 person capacity.

Public Participation. The proposal was presented on June 7, 1976, with all briefs to be submitted by July 5. Although the latter date was extended to September 30 in response to public protest, the tenor of citizen involvement was clearly set by Parks Canada. Inadequate time was allowed for careful research by concerned persons; the major study-reports were available at only five locations; and public hearings were not held. Nor had public comment been solicited during the planning process -- comment was limited to a finalized plan rather than to review and evaluation of possible alternatives.

Parks Canada held four "open houses" to present the proposal to the public, but these events cannot possibly be considered as a replacement for public hearings. They do not provide an opportunity for individuals to hear and assess the views of others, and they do not provide a means by which briefs can be made available to all. Why such an inadequate programme for citizen involvement? The Sunshine expansion proposal is controversial, and discussion of it inevitably leads to major questions of national parks policy and land use. The short shrift the public has received is indefensible.

Parks Policy Contravened. The 1965 "Winter Recreation-Management and Development Program" placed the ultimate capacity of Sunshine at 1245 skiers per day.

The 1976 proposal calls for an "optimum" of 6500 skiers per day.

The discrepancy of 5255 skiers per day is incredible. Has the 1965 policy been deemed "antiquated"? How (and why?) has policy changed so dramatically? Will a new "optimal" figure be revealed in 1980? 1985?

1970 Statement Contradicted. In 1970 the director of Parks Canada publicly stated that "no further lifts will be constructed above the tree line in the Sunshine area."

The 1976 proposal includes two new lifts which extend partly into the alpine tundra zone, and three new lifts which would rise totally above tree line.

Park Guidelines Ignored. The 1974 decisions resulting from the 1971 spring public hearings on the mountain parks stated that downhill skiing would be restricted to present ski areas.

The 1976 proposal includes (1) an entirely new development at

"midway," (2) a new lift in the presently undisturbed watershed of Howard Douglas Creek, and (3) new lifts in the untouched valley south of Eagle Mountain (Goats Eye), nearly 2 miles distant from Sunshine Village.

Impact on the Sunshine Meadows. The Sunshine Meadows are an invaluable park resource, outstanding in their uniqueness and fragility. A Parks Canada scientist describes the area as "internationally renowned for the extent and interesting diversity of its floral resources." He goes on to say:

The alpine meadows and portions of the timberline ecotone do represent extraordinary and fragile natural communities. Any disturbance in these Arctic-like environments causes rapid impact which is frequently irreversible.

Yet the proposal put forward by Parks Canada and Sunshine Village inadequately deals with the effects on the Sunshine Meadows of both expanded ski development and increased summer use.

Incomplete information is available on the effects of snow compaction resulting from skiing. Plant ecologists speculate that the Arctic-like, short growing season will be further reduced by delayed melt, perhaps beyond the tolerance of the alpine flora.

Considerable damage presently exists from the mechanical effects of construction and from abrasion by skiing which results during the early and late parts of the ski season. Erosion and modification of the vegetation have resulted and could be accelerated under increased use and longer ski seasons.

Summer Use of the Sunshine Meadows. It is beyond doubt that greatly expanded summer use would be adopted if the proposed developments, such as gondola access, are constructed. The large capital investments which Sunshine would incur make summer use inevitable. The disastrous effects which this pressure could have on the Sunshine Meadows is of paramount concern.

Sunshine Village cannot be planned in a Vacuum. The decision on Sunshine will effect not only the immediate geographical area involved, but also other park facilities including the future of all ski developments in the mountain parks. Equally important, it will have a major influence on the future recreation policy for Banff and other national parks, and on adjacent provincial recreation areas.

It now appears that Assiniboia, a major ski/recreational development proposed for an area just outside Banff National Park, will go ahead. Major recreational complexes such as this may be appropriate outside national parks, but inside the parks, natural ecosystems should be carefully managed and used.

Effects on the Trans Canada Highway. If Sunshine expands to the

extent proposed, use of the Trans Canada to the Sunshine cut-off will increase. Will it result in an interchange or overpass? Will this be a factor forcing the proposed twinning of the highway? If expansion of other downhill ski facilities in the park is triggered, substantial congestion could result during peak hours.

Effects on the Banff Townsite. The proposal fails to suggest how the national park will meet demand by the 6500 day skiers for overnight accommodation and other services. Will this place additional pressure on Banff townsite, and result in demands for more development in Banff?

Failure to encourage efforts to develop facilities outside the parks. Expansion at Sunshine (which may trigger similar development elsewhere in the national parks) further removes Parks Canada from its stated objective of encouraging the construction of facilities and development outside national parks.

Effects on the Canadian Taxpayer. Parks Canada has not indicated who will pay for certain phases of the proposed expansion. Who will pay for upgrading the Sunshine road? For road maintenance? For a Trans Canada interchange at the Sunshine turn-off? For avalanche control? For proper water and sewage treatment facilities?

Summary. Our national parks have the specific legal jurisdiction of maintaining large tracts of natural landscape for the benefit of this and future generations. National parks are uniquely adapted to this purpose; if we fail to maintain these natural ecosystems, we shall permanently lose this option.

LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

The most effective response for individuals and organizations opposed to present procedures regarding Sunshine Village expansion, state NPPAC, is to write directly to Warren Allmand, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. A personal letter directed towards stopping this precedent for development, towards halting such contraventions of national parks policy, and towards saving the option of natural landscapes is of greatest possible value at this time. A form letter is the next most effective alternative. NPPAC has made such a form letter available, appearing on the next page, with space provided for comment. Please recognize, urges NPPAC, that the addition of even one or two lines of personal comment greatly increases the effectiveness of a form letter. The form letter in addition could be used as a guide in formulating a personal letter of one's own. Additional presentation copies of the form letter are available in limited quantities, along with reprints of additional Sunshine information, from the literature table on Wednesday evenings or from George Muench.

A SUNSHINE HISTORY

In 1841, the Canadian Rockies saw its first tourist. Sir George Simpson traveled up Healy Creek from Banff, past the location of the present parking lot, and over Simpson Pass. Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, was on a journey that was to take him around the world. In his journal he comments on the "grand scenery".

Skiers first appeared in the Sunshine area in the late 1920's. In 1929 a cabin was built on the present site of the sports shop building. The name "Sunshine" came about as an early party was skiing from Shadow Lake through this country, to Mount Assiniboine. For most of their trip they were in heavy clouds and driving snow. Just as they came over Mount Standish, the clouds rolled back, and the valley was bathed in sunshine. The name stuck!

The first lodge opened for business in winter of 1935-36. There were no lifts, but touring was the vogue, and with its open alpine country, Sunshine was a natural. During the next three decades the lodge grew to be the log building in the centre of the area.

The first rope tow at Sunshine was installed in 1940. This was used as a practice tow, while the good skiers still climbed up mountains such as Brewster Rock and Twin Cairns. The next lift, a platter pull, was built on Strawberry Hill in 1957.

In 1960, Sunshine was bought by Cliff and Bev White. The following decade saw great changes. Virtually all the present guest and lift facilities were built in these years. These now include 180 guest beds in the Inn and Chalets, a Day Lodge with 600 seats in the cafeteria and restaurant, as well as a triple chairlift, three double chairlifts, a t-bar, and a beginners' tow. The ski area covers almost 1200 acres. An annual snowfall of 400 inches gives a season beginning in early November and lasting until late May.

Sunshine Village is now a Division of Warnock Hersey International Limited, a Montreal based Canadian Company with diversified interests including several recreation properties.

from information supplied by
Sunshine Village

KEY SOLUTION

From out of the whimsical past again comes the story of some Ramblers returning after a day's outing to one of the mountain huts where they had their base camp. Expecting Quita Mills to be at the hut when they arrived, the Ramblers were surprised to find the place padlocked and empty. Knowing she was expecting them, however, they guessed that the key had been hidden somewhere and, indeed, discovered it under an overturned bucket on the front porch. Once in the hut, the Ramblers found everything in order for their return and a note on the table. It read: "Back soon. Key under bucket."

Hon. Warren Allmand
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Allmand

Your decision, now expected in May or June, on the proposal to expand facilities at Sunshine Village in Banff National Park will have consequences of lasting significance for the environs of Sunshine. In addition, your decision will implicitly affect national parks policy and thus have ramifications in all national parks in Canada.

Several issues concerning the proposal deserve restatement.

1. The expansion of facilities at Sunshine Village will result in environmental and aesthetic damage to this area of Banff National Park.
2. In fact, Parks Canada stated that no new ski lifts would be built above tree line at Sunshine, yet Sunshine Village now proposes to do this very thing.
3. Parks policy also states that ski development will be restricted to existing areas, but the plans for Sunshine now include development in new, undisturbed valleys.
4. Moreover, the federal government has withheld from public release several documents, including Parks Canada's Recommendations on the expansion proposal for Sunshine Village. These documents should be released before decisions are made.

We ask that you, as the Minister responsible for national parks, make a decision which will affirm the outstanding natural values of our parks. Within the national park system is the unique opportunity to maintain natural landscape. We hope that this option will not be lost.

Sincerely

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

LIST OF TRIP LEADERS - APRIL 1977

LEADERS' CHAIRMAN: Tony Forster (Helga Dauer in his absence)

FULL LEADERS

Aghion, Claire (Oct. 74)
Baxter, Bob
Bell, Jim
Carter, Jack
Crummy, Brian
Dauer, Helga
Davis, Art
Drew, Wally
Forster, Tony (Sept. 76)
Gillingham, Peter
Graham, Art
Haase, Arn
Henley, Angus (Oct. 74)
Jeffrey, Esther
Kaiser, Albert
Kam, Art (Sept. 72)
Kirkpatrick, Jim
Lanner, Mel
Leach, Bill (Oct. 73)
Marriner, Ray
McCaskell, Isa
Mills, Quita
Moran, Tony (Sept. 72)
Pattison, Bob (Apr. 75)
Sinclair, Alastair
Smith, Daphne
Smith, Robin
Stacey, Ed (Oct. 74)
Thurston, Ruth (Sept. 72)
Thurston, Tom

ASSISTANT LEADERS

Davis, Brent (Oct. 74) to Mar. 78
Flanagan, Tom (Oct. 74) to Mar. 78
Folkins, Ron (Oct. 75) to Mar. 78
*Haslett, Benita to Mar. 78
*Herigman, Lil to Mar. 78
*Jull, Dick to Mar. 78
*Kittle, Kay to Mar. 78
*Lavalley, Del to Mar. 78
*Lowndes, Dick to Mar. 78
McGill, Peter (Oct. 75)
Parsons, Dee (Sept. 76)
*Reed, Frank to Mar. 78
Westcott, Brian (Sept. 76)

SKI TOUR AND SNOWSHOE LEADERS

Crummy, Brian
Dauer, Helga
Davis, Art
Drew, Wally
Gillingham, Peter
Haase, Arn (to Mar. 78)
Kirkpatrick, Jim
Leach, Bill
Marriner, Ray
Mills, Quita
Sinclair, Alastair
Smith, Robin
Thurston, Tom
Twelker, Wilf

ASSISTANT LEADERS FOR
SKI TOURS AND SNOWSHOE TRIPS

Carter, Jack (to Mar. 78)

Note: These ski tour and snowshoe trip leaders are for mountain trips where there is potential avalanche hazard or a possibility of blizzards in open areas, e.g., Skoki, Sunshine Village. Any leader or assistant leader may take snowshoe trips in other areas.

LEADERS FOR CANOE TRIPS

Jantzen, Ross (Oct. 75)
Leach, Bill (Sept. 73)
Pattison, Bob (Sept. 73)
Stacey, Ed (Oct. 74)
Wallis, Ian (Assistant Oct. 75)
to Mar. 78

Note: All Assistant Leaders have until March 1978 to complete their First Aid course and qualify as Full Leaders.

*Nominated by Leaders Committee, still to be approved by club executive.