

SCREE

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MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 1

The next meeting of the MCA will be a picnic on Monday, August 1st at 6:30 p.m. Foodwise - each is on his own. Bring what you want and need. It will be necessary to bring some firewood. The picnic will be in the Sand Lake Area.

Helga goofed - not enough space - for detailed description of the place  
see bottom of last page.

If you need a ride contact the secretary. If it rains (too hard), the meeting will be at the Willow Park Recreation Hall.

Because of Labor Day which is the first Monday in September, the next meeting will be held on the second Monday in September - the 12th but at the usual place and time.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

August 7: Glacier School. Meet at Portage Lodge at approximately 7:30 a.m. Anyone interested in climbing on glaciers should come and bring ice axe, crampons, 1 day's rations.

August 21: Glacier School. Meet at Portage Lodge at 6:30 a.m. This will serve as graduation exercise for the faster Glacier School students. It will be an attempt at Byron Peak.

For Hikers: There will be an exploration of trails at Kenai which are reported to be good for walking. The date for this will be set at the August 1st meeting.

Back climbing school has been and will continue to meet regularly on Thursday evenings. The Glacier School has met on Sunday, June 26th, July 10th and July 24th. Norm Pichler needs help in conducting Glacier School and would appreciate some skilled volunteers. Norm's home phone: BR 8-7951.

FOR SALE: 8 or 9 lengths of 7/16 nylon climbing rope at 15¢ a foot. There is one 120 ft. length for \$15. This is slightly used but in good condition. It can be inspected. Contact Joe Pichler - FE 3-2101.

THREE MINOR ASCENTS IN EASTERN TURNAGAIN ARM AREA

information submitted by Ed Gendzwill, Bob Goodwin and Keith Hart.

Barned Top Mountain (5,175') five miles northwest of Girdwood village, was climbed on June 12, by Ed Gendzwill, Keith Hart, Gene Wescott and Buck Wilson. The route was from "the Cache", near Milk Creek bridge, thence across Crow Creek on avalanche debris and up the easy north ridge. The west summit of the mountain was reached in three hours and fifteen minutes. A small cairn was built.

"Peak 4,710" (number refers to elevation in feet) approximately six miles up Winner Creek trail from Alyeska ski lodge was climbed on June 19. The party was Ed Gendzwill, Bob Goodwin and Keith Hart. Two miles beyond the old Winner Creek cabin it was necessary to tackle the alder, devils claw and other botanical horrors head-on until we gained the small glacier to the north of our peak. From the col at the head of the little glacier, we climbed to the summit via some very steep snow-filled couloirs and badly broken rock on the north ridge. The top was reached in a rainstorm seven and one-half hours from Alyeska lodge. A small cairn was constructed on the highest exposed rock. A rather frightening descent was made over wet, loose rock. Thirteen hours were required for the round trip. This was the most difficult climb that we have made in the Girdwood area.

BYRON PEAK (elevation approximately 4,600 ft.) at the head of Byron Glacier near Portage was climbed on June 26th by Ed Gendzwill, Bob Goodwin and Keith Hart. After wrestling with the wet alder lining Byron Creek and a pleasant hike in the company of some MCA members, including your Editor, three of us decided to traverse the mountain. The route selected started at a 3,000 ft. col west of the peak, up a moderately steep rock ridge to the summit, down a short north ridge and onto the glacier in the eastern part of the icefall. The top was climbed in one hour and fifteen minutes from the col; the entire traverse from the col to car was done in less than four hours. A cairn was built on the summit next to a cache of MCA mementos.

Note: There is now a trail, of sorts, through the alder beside Byron Creek. You'll still have to boulder hop, however.

# O'MALLEY PEAK JAUNT

June 19, 1960

by Gregg K. Erickson

Starting off at 5 a.m. five sleepy climbers rattled off in Helga's temperamental jeep down the Seward Highway for the sunny (?) Chugach Mountains behind Anchorage. Our specific objective was the peak behind the peak behind O'Malley Road. For those who are not familiar with the area this mountain is visible from Anchorage and lies between the south and middle forks of Campbell Creek. It is the sharpest peak on the horizon as one drives toward Potter.

After reaching the foothills of the mountain via O'Malley Road and various unnamed side roads (see Helga or me for explicit directions) the five of us, Helga Bading, Dave Bernstein, Al Fujimoto, Bob Byhre from Seattle and I were sharply awakened by the chilly breeze sweeping down Campbell Creek Canyon. Prodded by the wind we got started right away, walked down into the valley - the road is on the wrong side of the creek - and forded the stream. Climbing directly up to the ridge on the other side we soon were sweating and oblivious to the cool air. We reached the ridge soon afterwards (7 a.m.) and took a long breather. From there on it was a long, uneventful pull up the ridge to the peak, which we reached about 12:30 in warm sunshine.

After eating lunch we continued along the ridge finally dropping down the north side of the canyon to a crystal clear pothole in one of the many cirques that dot the area, where we took an hour long nap in the now warm sun. Rousing ourselves we had an enjoyable walk down the valley to the car (enjoyable for everyone except Helga who fell fully clothed into Campbell Creek as a result of my failure to grab her after one of those long steps we always seems forced to make when trying to cross a stream by the "rock to rock" method).

Reflecting back over the trip I can say that it was quite a worthwhile break from the tensions of jobs and everyday living. I hope that Bob Byhre, our visitor from Seattle, enjoyed our mountains as much as we enjoyed his stories from the slopes of Mt. Rainier, which was one of the things that made the trip what it was.

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Note: The upper part of Campbell Creek Canyon has some interesting alpine vegetation and with its lakes and easy slopes would be a good place for the hikers in our club to explore.

# EKLUTNA, JULY 2, 3 and 4th

by Steve Foss

Howard Schuck, Marjorie Prescott and I met Johnnie Johnston and Trautchen and Heidi at 5040th Hospital Road and Palmer Highway. From there we proceeded to Eklutna Lake, about a mile this side of the first big washout. We towed the life raft loaned to us by Gene Horning to the upper end of the lake. We made camp at about 11:00 o'clock and then around 2:00 left to pick up Dr. Wilson, Gwynneth and their two girls. Met them at 3:00 o'clock, after a few minor incidents with the motor and we loaded the boat and went back to camp, with a small amount of overworked motor trouble.

The next day we got up at the sound of Howard Schuck's voice. After breakfast Dr. Wilson, Johnnie, Howard, Marjorie, Gwynneth and I started up the creek to Eklutna Glacier. After wading different branches of the creek and Dr. Wilson plunging in to his waist and almost being swept away, Gwynneth and Marjorie decided they should turn back, because they thought they would make us go too slow. We proceeded on up to the foot of a huge scree slope.

From there Johnnie and I inspected the glacier with the idea of a trip on the ice from Raven to Eklutna or visa versa. Dr. Wilson and Howard started up this scree slope which led into a cut at the top of the ridge on the mountain on the left as you face the glacier. We met and started downstream, crossing at the mouth of the stream from the left-hand canyon. We arrived in camp at 6:00 p.m.

That evening, after dinner, Peter Hollinbeck joined the party. The next morning we prepared to go home. Gwynneth, Peter, Margie and I walked back to Peter's car which was at the washout. Dr. Wilson and his two girls, Howard Schuck, Johnnie, Trautchen and Heidi Johnston went back in the boat.

Everyone had a wonderful time. Howard, thank you very much for arranging and organizing this trip.

# ADDENDA

by Gwynneth Wilson

This was a family outing - ages ran from 11 months on up. It was a flexible arrangement allowing latitude of interest. Howard and Rod started up the side of the peak, tentatively called "Miter", but found the going on the dirt slope too hazardous. Steve and Johnnie investigated the snout of Eagle Glacier with an eye to a future trip over Raven-Eagle Glaciers to Lake Eklutna. Marjorie, Trautchen and I with the small fry "outed". We had a social occasion in spite of ourselves. In the afternoon on Sunday, we were amazed by a visit from Marilyn Rhodes who had been "loning" it in the area. She had hiked, carrying

a heavy pack having been gone overnight, around the lake. We were all enormously impressed with her activity and courage.

The idea of going to the end of the lake via boat was a good one. By some of the party walking out, it was possible to return in one trip rather than two. We were all indebted to Howard for arranging to rent the boat and buying a second-hand motor himself in order to provide transportation.

The weather was excellent. The whole weekend led the group to anticipate another such outing in the same area - but with the definite goal of climbing a mountain.

PEAK BETWEEN "MIDDLE" GLACIER AND BYRON PEAK July 10th by Helga Bading

The mountain bearing this fitting name was climbed by Gregg Erickson and myself on a day too glorious to be happening to the Portage area. Barefooted we crossed the river 2 miles this side of the lake and then wound our way up to the "Middle" Glacier. Considerable time was spent adjusting Gregg's new crampons (the new French adjustable type, which proved no good!) and by 2:30 p.m. we built a cairn on the insignificant but steep peak. Down at Byron a colony of "ants" moved about, but nobody waved back at us. Only on the way down I discovered the steepness of the snowslope as I slid several times, duly delayed, and then we glissaded roped up, while the wet snow slowly avalanched with us. We were back at the car at 5:20, tired and well satisfied with the trip.

INDEPENDENCE MINE ROCK CLIMB by Rod Wilson

On July 17, 1950 eight of us took the chance of being caught on the far side of the annual Elk River flood caused by the Lake George breakup. We went climbing above Independence Mine in the Talkeetnas near Little Susitna. Present were Paul Crews, David and Paul Jr., Irma Duncan, Chris Reidel, Lois Willard, Helga Bading and Rod Wilson. We left cars at the mine and struck out east looking for solid rock on which to climb. Granite was found but much of it was broken up badly or covered with slippery moss. After ascending several hundred feet into a cirque, we climbed up to the right to an altitude not over 4,000 ft. and, just as it began to drizzle rain, we found a spur on which to climb and rappel for an hour before we crawled under overhanging rocks to avoid the rain while eating lunch. Following this we wended our soggy way back to the cars. There appears to be better rock higher up in the cirque as well as several interesting small peaks to climb.

To get to the picnic place drive out Sand Lake Road .. remember it makes a right turn where Jewel Lake Road continues. Then turn left as though to go to Sand Lake proper and leave the sign "Government Property" in your back. To the left is a large potatoe field. Leave Sand Lake at your left and go straight ahead until you appear to hit a shiny log house head on. Turn right there and drive 1.2 miles. A small road takes off to the left and appears to lead exactly back into the direction you just came from like so

112 mi. 12'

but when you see a garbage dump to your left you've overshoot.

Another .4 miles and (4/10th) and you're right on top of the bluff. Bring a windbreaker and firewood.