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CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING, September 15, discussed the proposals for tourist accommodation in McKinley Park and made suitable recommendations. Following are the proposed changes and the committee recommendations:

1. Proposed: A suspension foot bridge across the McKinley River southwest of Wonder Lake. According to the committee's information, the bridge is planned to be wide enough for jeep-type vehicles and have 200-foot support towers which would be quite visible from the Park road.

Committee Recommendation: A narrow foot bridge which would be impassable for any wheeled vehicles and situated far enough away from the Wonder Lake campground so that those people who are physically unable to hike far will not be tempted to cross. The bridge should not need structural supports that are visible from the road and which might interfere with views of the Mountain.

2. Proposed: A large campground near Wonder Lake in the vicinity of the Chain-of-Lakes near Reflection Pond (between Wonder Lake and the ranger station).

Committee Recommendation: A series of smaller campgrounds between Eielson Visitor Center and Wonder Lake. This is to avoid the usual congestion of a large campground, insure greater privacy for enjoyment of the natural scene, and to avoid cluttering up the unique Wonder Lake scene with an even larger campground than is already there. Large campgrounds also create sanitation problems of large size. The committee further recommended the separation of trailer and tent camping.

3. Proposed: A lodge-type hotel in the Wonder Lake area.

Committee Recommendation: A hotel at an alternate site in the Savage River area. The enormous expense, financial and natural, of building and maintaining a large hotel at Wonder Lake seems impossible to justify to the taxpayer. The suggested alternate site at Savage River would allow tourists views of the Mountain, would require considerably less road expense and maintenance, would cost less for the initial construction, and would be much more easily accessible.

The Conservation Committee is sending its recommendations and reasons for them to George Hartzog, Park Director of the National Park Service.

NAMES

Vin Hoeman

The State Geographic Board has accepted the following names submitted last June:

Mt. Alpenglow for Peak 4850 across Turnagain Arm (formerly Turnagain or Transbrazo)

Byron Peak at the head of the glacier by that name

Cul-de-Sac Glacier and Shelf Glacier in the Kichatna Peaks

Matanuska Peak for Peak 6119 formerly called Beyers Peak,

Mt. Vigor, or Matanuska Matterhorn

Resurrection Peak 4712 overlooking river and bay by that name near Seward

Spyglass Hill and Tranquillity Pass north of Mt. Foraker.

They rejected the following names for reasons noted (comments in parentheses are mine):

Mt. Alice - too many Alices (everyone in Seward so calls this mountain)

Beauty Creek - another feature named this (200 miles away)

Bombardment Pass - character not peculiar to this pass (so what!)

Blue Lake - too common (5 in Alaska, but none within 130 miles)

Ferine Mtn. - previously rejected, no more fitting for this peak than any other (so?)

Isthmus Peak - inappropriate (it overlooks Kenai Peninsula's isthmus)

Jinx Peak - too whimsical (perhaps, but they turned down Lynx, presumably too common)

Mt. Kiliak - not called this by natives and not considered appropriate (means "monster")

Near Point - not appropriate (Oh?)

Ovis Peak - too many references to sheep already (true, but none use this name)

Peekaboo Peak - too frivolous and whimsical (not if you've seen it from Anchorage)

Pointed peak - not distinctive, too general, not of local
 geology (but descriptive)
 Mt. Rumble - name already on other features (creek in Alaska
 Range; there's a Rumbling Mtn. in the Brooks Range)
 Salix Peak - too many references to willow already (but not
 by this name)
 Skybuster mtn. - facetious (how strait-laced must we be?)
 Soggy Peak - derogatory (why not?)

We had asked to be represented at the meeting where our names were
 discussed, if we could not actually have a member on the Board.
 This request was ignored. We need to have and use names for the
 features for which we submit them. Any suggestions, by the Board
 or others, will be appreciated.

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"YISBO" (5950') AND DIDILKAMA (6100') Sept. 24 & Oct. 1 Bob Spurr
 USGS Anchorage D-6, Talkeetna Mtns.

Early on a soggy Sunday, Chuck McLaughlin and I parked below Fern
 mine and then wandered up the road which follows Fairangel Creek be-
 fore turning north. When nearing the mine, we spied three large
 tents and a flock of "littluns" but no "biguns". A couple of
 curdling yodels brought Leo Hannan out to investigate, and we learned
 of a weekend encampment of DeVoes, Hannans, and Wolfes. With forced
 enthusiasm we spurned Leo's offer of coffee and continued north
 through the banana belt. We were hunting for some 6000' objective
 in the Didilkama area, but during a respite in an old cabin, even
 its shambles seemed a more appropriate goal; after huddling over
 the map we embarked again only to flunk our map-reading by backing
 into a dead-end cirque at 4500', just as the rain changed to snow.
 Determined to avoid the cabin, we contoured east and finally emerged
 at the snout of the small glacier which fills the basin northwest
 of Didilkama, and is punctuated by many erratics and narrow, longitud-
 inal crevasses on both sides of its central nunatak. We slogged
 up the glacier in search of our six-thousander which remained
 elusive against a background of snow and loom. Bent on salvaging
 something, we continued to the glacial lobe just above which lies
 the summit of Didilkama, climbed once from the east (Davidson, Meyers,
 '65) and once by the south ridge (Babcock, DeVoe, Hannan, Nienhueser,
 '66). The summit consists of a 20 foot granitic-like flake, appearing
 as a well-placed, if insignificant, erratic from points lower on the
 glacier despite its prominence as the uppermost point of the severe
 east face. After diddling around in the snow and wind, we made
 separate belayed ascents and beat a hasty retreat to the banana belt
 with vague impressions of a fine peak rising northwest of Didilkama.

A week later under sunny skies, and fortified by a third member, Jim
 Lethcoe, we again wended through Fern Mine valley which certainly
 (in fair weather) merits consideration as the 31st hike. Our objective
 was prominent to the northeast at the head of the valley where it
 rises 1000 feet to a sharp point above the glacier snout. We ascended
 a northeasterly couloir on good snow to gain the ridge lapped by
 the large cirque glacier which feeds the southern tributaries of
 Bartholf Creek. Contouring south a few hundred yards along the
 glacier run put us at the base of the remaining pitch, a roped lead
 with nice exposure on solid rock up a spine of some 40 feet; first
 negotiated by Chuck, the not-too-roomy summit compelled us to visit
 it one at a time. We used one sling for protection. This appears
 to be a first ascent and we left a register wedged in a crack on the
 summit. The name "Yisbo" is Susitna Indian for white owl and seems
 an appropriate complement to Didilkama.

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Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
 Scree staff: Marie Lundstrom, Joanne Merrick, Carol DeVoe, Callie
 van der Laan. Articles on trips and other material to be published
 should be sent to Marie Lundstrom, Box 4-964, Anchorage 99503, or call
 277-0846 (home.)

MISCELLANIE

NEW MEMBERS: Karen Courtright, 1307 38th Place, 279-3143 (hm); Andrew R. Goulding, 1036 M St, #15; Sharon M Cissna, 1110 6th, #608, 277-0647 (hm); Charles W. Wainwright, US Biathlon Team, Ft Richardson (APC 98749), 863-0180(wk); Lawrence and Linda Costella, 537 Bragaw St, 333-8393 (hm), 272-4401 (wk APU); Norman Stadem, Box 5, Palmer, 99645; residence West Auklet St, Palmer, 745-3578; Dundonald Cochran, Jr., US Biathlon Team, Ft Richardson, 863-0180 (wk); Mr & Mrs Thielson, 835 D St, 272-9643 (hm).

On 23 September while on a hunting trip in the Tanana Hills, Grace and Vin Hoeman made a ten-mile round trip afoot from Eagle Summit on the Steese Highway to climb Mastodon Dome, 4418', having been attracted by the name. No tusk-bearing game seen.

The 1967 and 1966 issues of "Accidents in North American Mountaineering", published by the American Alpine Club, will be available for 50¢ each at the next meeting.

Some of the publications available from the American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th, New York, N.Y., 10028, are as follows: AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL, \$5.00; FROSTBITE by Bradford Washburn, good discussion which should be required reading for all mountaineers, \$1.00; KNOTS FOR MOUNTAINEERING, DTC, Smith, \$1.00; THE THEORY OF BELAYING, Wexler, 75¢; TREATMENT OF HIGH ALTITUDE PULMONARY EDEMA, Hultgren, \$1.00; MOUNT MCKINLEY AND THE ALASKA RANGE IN LITERATURE, Bradford Washburn, a descriptive bibliography published in 1951, \$2.50.

Cautels

On August 25th and 26th, Karen Courtright, Dave Johnston and Pialotta van der Laan made a first ascent of 6410' just above Eagle Lake at the head of the South Fork of Eagle River. Pialotta was unable to negotiate the top rock pitches, being untrained in rope work, and waited with mournful howls for several hours. She proved her worth by providing welcome warmth on the bivouac which was necessary on the long way out. A name for the peak has not yet been proposed.

Howard Schuck writes from Albuquerque, New Mexico, that he and wife Elinor climbed the high point in New Mexico this summer -- Mt Wheeler, 14,200'. Howard also reports that he climbs each Sunday in the Sandia Range closeby. He also notes that the sun has shone 2500 of the last 2507 days in Albuquerque!

CASTLING

Vin Hoeman

On 19 September Grace and I climbed the southern gullies and faces of Castle Mountain, 5530', and found the ammo-box register left by G. Erickson, H. Metz, N. Pichler, and C.D. Warren on 17 May 1959, since signed twice by Larry Klayum of Eka (8/11/64 and 8/12/65), and on 8/27/66 by Michael G. Briggs, John H. McCrea, and John P. Walkup. The latter three we found then went as we did way across the NW Ridge to Point 5850 in case it should be the actual top of Castle, since the name extends that far on the map. If it is included, then it's hard to know where to limit this particular mountain since the summits keep getting higher without much of a break between them and are soon no longer associated with the castle-like ramparts for which the mountain was named.

LONG WALK TO A VIRGIN PEAK

Vin Hoeman

The highest mountain in the Willow and Little Willow Creek drainages in the Talkeetna Range is Peak 6057. We'd looked at it on Anchorage D-7 quad (where it is highest) quite often, but not until 9 September did Grace and I try to reach it. We started at Fern Mine and went to the ridge at 5000' at the head of Archangel Creek, but snow was deep and bad on the boulders and it was obviously more than a one-day trip.

So on the last day of the month we drove our VW to the mine shacks at the end of the Craigie Creek Road (just possible when dry) and carried packs over a long disused trail through what we called "Dogaled Pass", 4250', as there were ancient rotting sleds on either side of it. A decapitated cabin of axe-squared logs on the Purches Creek side with hand-made furniture and an old grindstone inside, bore mute testimony to the forgotten efforts of others in these mountains, but these were some of the last signs of man other than the occasional passage of a plane.

Beyond the basin we crossed what we called "hatchethead Pass", 4450', because of a prominent tower of that shape on the far side. Peters Creek, where MCA member Jim Cassady recently crashed to his death, has a wide alpine basin at its head and this we crossed to finally camp about 8 miles in at the base of our mountain.

(Hosman continued)

On October first in beautiful weather we chose the largest talus-fan at the base of the SE face of the mountain and climbed the couloir above that produces it. The rock is a beautiful granite and most of the snow was gone from this face, so we soon gained the east ridge which we followed directly to the definite summit, there building a cairn for our register and enjoying the superb view from Iliamna and Marcus Baker to McKinley. We started down the south ridge, but soon switched to the SE face exiting at the bottom from a different couloir than the one we had ascended.

The "bouldering" possibilities in this part of the Talkeetnas are unlimited, and we took time to do a west ridge route on the "Latchethead", 4750', as we returned, though the register bottle was lost from my pocket when I leaned over to look at a face. It took one bounce and then went a long way free.

MISCELLANIE (continued)

ADDITION TO CLIMBING SCHEDULE:

BYRON PEAK, Sunday 19 November (tentative). By the direct route, perhaps the finest one day climb on mixed terrain in the Anchorage vicinity. Depart Portage Lodge for Byron Glacier, ascend ramp through first icefall, and climb north ridge to summit. Ropes required for every three climbers. Good physical condition assumed and some glacier experience necessary. Skis (preferably) or very fast snowshoes. LEADER: Bob Spurr. TEL: 272-8330.

Notes on the "Alaskan African Expedition": Bill Hauser made successful ascents of Mts. Speke (15,940'), Stanley (16,704'), Uhuru (19,340'), Mawenzi (16,690'), Kilimanjaro, Peter, and Lenana, but lost Margarita in a big hail storm, and ran out of time on the north face of Mt. Kenya. Bill is presently teaching in Gisborne, New Zealand, and expects to climb Ruapehu Oct. 21-23, and will head for the New Zealand Alps and Mt. Cook when school ends December 8. (R.L.S.)

The following equipment, which was owned by Jim Cassady, is available for sale. Call Gar Pessel, 272-9214, evenings. 1 pair nearly new Iowa climbing boots, size 12½, and Grivel crampons; assorted pitons; 2 ice axes; Rogg ski boots, size 12½; 1 pair Head "Deep Powder" skis used half a season, 7'1".

Latest word on McKinley Park proposals (see article elsewhere): the bridge emphasis has been shifted from the large suspension bridge to two small suspension bridges at the snout of the Muldrow in conjunction with a marked trail. The distance to McGonagall Pass is the same.

ADDRESS CHANGES & CORRECTIONS: Bill Hauser, PO Box 124, Boys High School, Gisborne, New Zealand; John Burns, TM3, 5061 Lotus St, San Diego, CA., 92107; April Allen, 516 Poling Hall, Corvallis, OR., 97332; Peter Vlasveld, 4001 Merrill Drive; David Meyers, Baker Residence Hall, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO., 80304; Dr & Mrs Stewart Newland, PO-310 G Cherry Drive, Elmendorf, 753-6336 (hm).

Gary Hansen is currently doing graduate work at the University of British Columbia and would be happy to accommodate any MCA members who might find themselves in Vancouver during the winter. Address: Lone Tree Island, Eagle Island, West Vancouver, B.C., TEL: 921-7314.

Kerstin Pettersson writes from her hometown in Sweden that she is returning to the states and will be staying for awhile with Dr and Mrs Bob Fraser, formerly of Anchorage, at 2300 Leyden, Denver, Colorado, 80207.
