

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library houses the Mountaineers Summit Registers from the years 1907-2015. There are nearly 200 summit registers for peaks in the Olympic and Cascade Ranges in this collection. But the dates for a peak are not in consecutive years. These summit register entries were written on all manner of paper, which in some cases suffered damage from the elements. As a result, some are very fragile and partially illegible and in other cases the entries have held up well to the passage of time. Fortunately, most of the entries I found from Fred Beckey's climbs are in decent condition.

The majority of the images I've included in this article are from this collection.

Western Washington University Special Collections Library contains the Kulshan Cabin Register. The cabin was built in 1925 by the Mt Baker Club, at 4,700 feet along the Heliotrope Ridge trail on the northwest flank of Mt Baker leading to the Coleman Glacier. Climbers would occasionally take the time on their climb of Mt Baker, to make an entry in the cabin register of their successful climb. I've included two entries that I found in the Kulshan Cabin Register made by Beckey and company.

I also found one summit register entry for a climb of Mt Rainier by Beckey in the National Archives office in Seattle.

I annotated most of the entries to provide context and to help you fully understand what was written by the climbers. For some of the entries, I transcribed the entries for clarity sake.

The end of this article contains some bonus material on entries made by other outstanding climbers, that I discovered during my research. Plus, an interesting rescue effort involving Fred Beckey.

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Mt Anderson, July 1938

This is a summit register entry for a climb of Mt Anderson in the Olympic Mountains, by a large group of Boy Scouts on an outing from nearby Camp Parsons. This is the earliest summit register entry for Fred Beckey that I could find in the Mountaineers' collection. Fred Beckey was 15 years of age when he climbed Mt Anderson.

The transcribed entries I made below include the list of names, but I omitted the address information for each climber.

Camp Parsons Party-July 6-38
Visibility perfect Rainier-Adams-St Helens-Glacier Pks
7-6-38 Loody Christolero Leader
Larry Hawks
Jack Douglas
Bob Craig
'Suds' McLean
Coburn Crosby
Arland Nave
Bernard O'Connor
Fred Beckey
Jim Woodley
Bob Thomas
Bob Moore
Bob Steen
Howard Allison
Roy Lieurance
Jim Burton
Arnold Challman assist. leader

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	Camp Parsons Party - July 6-38		
1.	Wadeley - Perfect Rainier - Adams - Mt. Hebron	O'neill, M.	
1.	Cody Christopher - 302 W 67 th Sattle	Leader, J.	Rogers
2.	Perry Hawker 3122 1/2 W 18 th	Seattle	Wash.
3.	Jack Douglas The Highland Health Club Bob Craig 816 33rd So	Seattle	Wash.
	Fred McLean 1127-18th St Seattle	Wash.	

camp persons				
DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
1-6-38	Coburn Crosby	2312-34 So.	Seattle	Wash.
7-6-38	Orland Nave	3716 Meridian	Seattle	Wash.
	Bernard O'Connor	1234-22nd No	Seattle	Wash.
	Fred Beckey	7136-Wds 4. pl.	Seattle	Wash.
7-6-38	Jim Thordley	11801-12 Ave. South	Seattle	Wash.
7-6-38	Bob Thomas	5657-12 th Ave. N.E.	Seattle	Wash.
11	Bob Moore	5026-36 N.E.	"	"
7/6/38	Bob Lter	6241-29 th N.E.	Seattle	Wash.
"	Howard Ellman	P.O. Box 936 P.	Seattle	Wash.
"	Roy Lieurance	3807 Denmore	Seattle	Wash.
7/6/1	John Burton	1726 Evergreen St.	Seattle	Wash.
7-6-38	Arnold Challman	Leader 307 East 51 st	Seattle	Wash.

Image courtesy of The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library. Accession No. 2013-009, Container 1.

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The Tooth, August 1938

Here is a summit register entry for The Tooth in the Cascade Range, in which all the young climbers enter their ages. It also includes unclear information about their climb of Bryant Peak earlier in the day.

Party of four ??? to first
have climbed Bryant
and this since 1:32 from
Lk Melakwa

Aug. 2, 1938
Roy Lieurance 15
Fred Beckey 15
Roy Blackmer Jr 15
Helmy Beckey 12

Party of four ten to five
have climbed Bryant
and this since 1:32 from
Aug. 2, 1938 Lk Melakwa

Roy Lieurance 15
Fred Beckey 15
Roy Blackmer Jr. 15
Helmy Beckey 12

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Guye Peak, September 1940

Next is a summit register entry from Guye Peak in the Cascade Range, where Fred Beckey gets snarky about another climbing party's subsequent entry. Some background information first. Fred Beckey and Dave Lind climbed Guye Peak via the Northwest Chimney, on July 7, 1939. On August 13, 1939 the next group of climbers ascended Guye Peak via the same route and enthusiastically entered their accomplishment in the summit register in large text. On September 2, 1940 Fred Beckey climbed Guye Peak via the SW Face with Helmy Beckey and Ed Kennedy. Fred must have thumbed back through the pages of the summit register entries to find his entry from 1939 and noticed the entry by the next climbing party and he went ballistic.

The number 2, indicates the second time they have climbed Guye Peak.

Beckey's entry for the 1939 climb are in black text. The entry made by the other 1939 climbing party is in blue text. Beckey's comments about the 1939 climb by the other party, that he made in 1940 are in green text.

7-27-39

Dave Lind (2) MTRs
Fred Beckey (2) Mtrs.

Climbed NW Chimney with
aid of several pitons.

Why didn't you write bigger?

August 13th

**Climbed NW Chimney
without the aid of**

Do you know what way northwest is?

**pitons. I sure would like
to see you doing so.
Gee, but, you must
be good. Fred Beckey**

**Dick Hainsworth
Tom Broderick
Sahale Ski Club**

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7-27-39

Dave Lind ② MTRS

Fred Beckey ② MTRS.

Climbed NW chimney with
aid of several pitons.

Why didn't you write bigger?

August 13th

Climbed N.W. Chimney

Without the aid of
Do you know what way North ^{West} is?
I sure would like
pitons. to see you doing so.
Gee, but you must
be good. Fred Beckey

Dick Hairsworth

Tom Broderick

Sahalie Ski Club

Image courtesy of The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library. Accession No. 2013-009, Container 3.

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The Tooth, September 1940

This is a summit register entry for the climb of The Tooth, which Beckey climbed with Jim Crooks, while Burge Bickford and Lyman Boyer filmed their climb. The numbers indicate how many times the climber has summited the peak.

9/21/40
(4) L. BOYER
(2) FRED BECKEY
(3) BURGE BICKFO
RD MOVIES TO BE
SHOWN IN 2 WEEKS
(6) JIM CROOKS
CLIMBED S.E. 2
TIMES FOR
MOVIES

9/21/40
④ L. BOYER
② FRED BECKEY
③ BURGE BICKFO
RD MOVIES TO BE
SHOWN IN 2 WEEKS
⑥ JIM CROOKS
CLIMBED S.E. 2
TIMES FOR
MOVIES

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Nooksack Tower- First Ascent, July 1946

The next summit register entry involves translation of foreign languages.

On July 5, 1946 , Clifford Schmidtke and Fred Beckey made the first ascent of Nooksack Tower, located east of Mt Shuksan. I used an on-line translator to help me try to figure out what Beckey wrote in the summit register. My best efforts are in green text.

Beckey starts off writing in the German, appears to switch to Italian in the middle passages, then concludes his entry in the German. If someone else wants to try translating Beckey's entry, be my guest.

Der Teufel
(The devil)
ist gefallen
(has fallen.)
5 Juli, 1946
(5 July, 1946)
vons Norden
(from the north)
MOLT O DIFFICEL
(very difficult)
5 ½ ORH CON
(5 ½ hours with)
HLBERGO
(???)
VON AQUILA,
(from eagle)
ADELBODEN
(???)
CORTINA DI
(Curtain of
AMPEZZO
(???)
JUNGRAU JOCH
(virgin ridge.)
& SEATTLE,
WASH
Clifford Schmidtke
Friederich Beckey (AAC)
Auch der
(The
amerikaner ("Kilroy")
American too "Kilroy")
AUF
WIEDERSEHEN
(Goodbye)

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I'm baffled by the right side of the Nooksack Tower summit register paper appearing to be singed. I could understand the paper being partially burnt if the summit register had been on top of Nooksack Tower for some time and the summit register container was struck by lightning. But Beckey's entry is for a first ascent in a brand-new log book and they wrote their entry to account for the already burnt right side of the paper. Furthermore, the other pages in the summit register are charred in a similar fashion.

Possibly Beckey and Schmidtke built a fire at their camp spot along the North Fork of the Nooksack River the night before the ascent but were careless and the summit register was partially scorched.

Or maybe Beckey got into a wrestling match with the devil over possession of the summit register and Fred won!

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DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
	Der Teufel ist gefallen.	
5 July, 1946		
	VONS Norden.	
	MOLTO DIFFICEL	
	5 1/2 ORH CON	
	HIBERGO	
	VON AQUILA,	
	ADELBODEN	
	CORTINA DI	
	AMPEZZO	
	JUNGFROU JOCH	
	+ SEATTLE, WASH	
	Chyford Schmidt Friederich Beckey (AC)	
	Auch der amerikaner "KILROY"	
	AUF	
	WIEDERSEHEN	

Image courtesy of The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library. Accession No. 2013-009, Container 5.

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Mt Baker-Coleman Glacier Ski Ascent, March 1947

This entry is from the Kulshan Cabin Register on Mt Baker for a ski ascent in March of 1947 via the Coleman Glacier.

This register entry is wedged in amongst some entries in the fall of 1947. Beckey made this entry on August 6, 1948 as he and his climbing partners made their approach to climb another route on Mt Baker.

On March 27, 1947 they didn't want to take the time to make an entry during their ski ascent and descent. The hand writing was made by one person and based on text of the next entry in this article, it was made by Beckey.

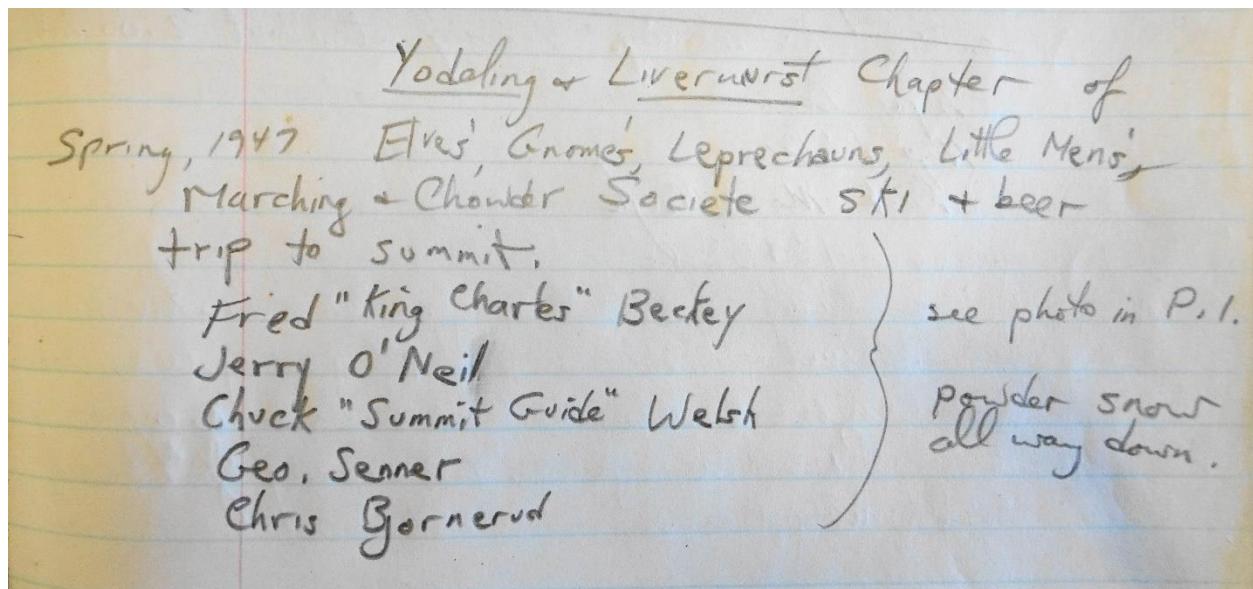


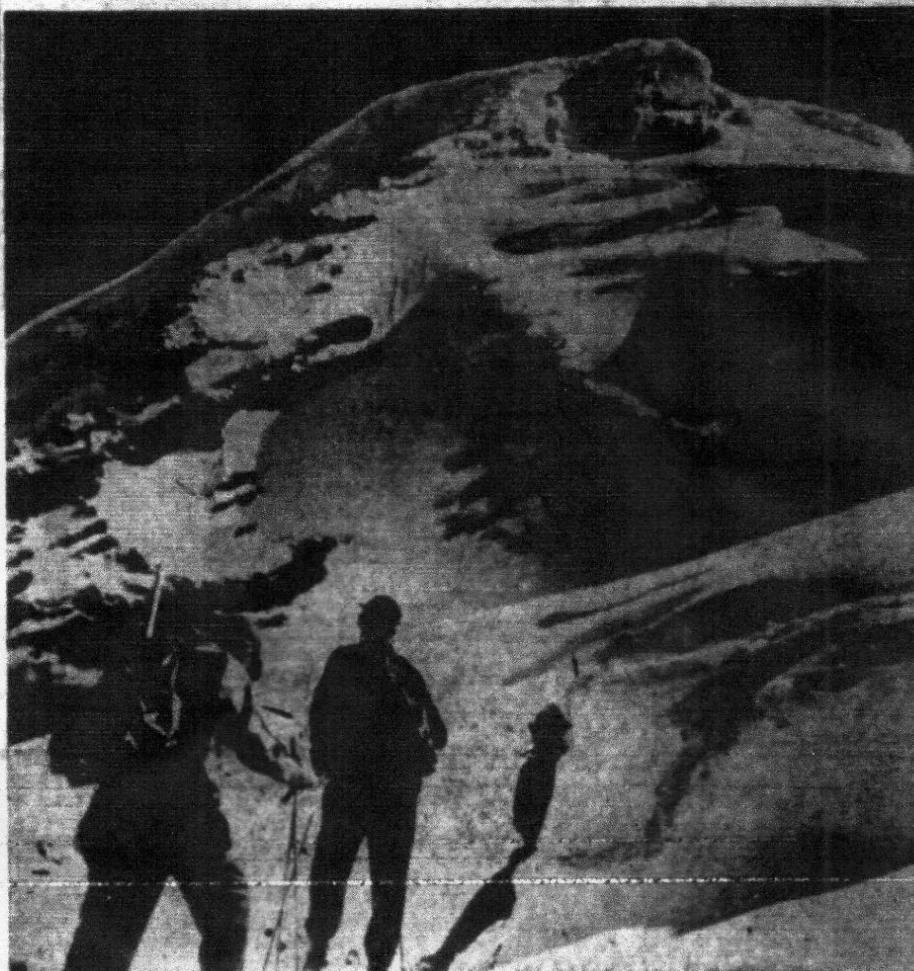
Image courtesy of Western Washington University Special Collections Library. Kulshan Cabin Register, 1935-1951.

There is a comment about "see photo in P. I.", which is a reference to the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* newspaper. In fact, Chris Bjornerud took a photo and Jerry O'Neil contacted the *Seattle PI* about the climb. The newspaper included a short article and a photo in the April 13th edition.

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Here is the article from the *Seattle PI*. This is the best I could do to enhance the photo from a microfiche copy.

Skiers Ascend Mount Baker



ON LONG ASCENT—Pausing at the 7,500-foot elevation, Jerry O'Neill, left; Fred Beckey and Charles Welsh look toward the formidable Roman Wall and summit of Mount Baker, which they successfully climbed with two other men in first ski-borne ascent this year.

—(Photo by Chris Diamond.)

Party of Five Climbs Mount Baker, Finds Coming Down Much Faster

The year's first successful ski-borne ascent of towering Mount Baker has been successfully completed, the five young men who made the trip disclosed yesterday.

The party, consisting of Jerry O'Neill, 2453 1st Ave. W., Fred Beckey, George Sennett, Chris Bjornerud and Charles Welsh, made the exhausting upward climb in nine hours.

Their downward flight was completed in slightly more than one and a half hours with more than 40 minutes of that time spent taking pictures, O'Neill said.

O'Neill said the party left Kul-

sham Cabin, located at an elevation of 4,200 feet at 6 a. m., March 27. Soon after 3 p. m., they had surmounted the last few yards to the peak, more than 10,000 feet above sea level.

Beckey was the only man of the five who had been at Mount Baker's peak previously, O'Neill said. All five, however, are experienced mountaineers and skiers.

Seattle Post Intelligencer. April 13, 1947, 29.

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Mt Baker-North Ridge, August 1948

The next entry is from the Kulshan Cabin Register on Mt Baker and is written on two pages.

This entry is rated PG-13: parents strongly cautioned - some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. If easily offended, go directly to page 17.

This is for the ascent of the North Ridge of Mt Baker, which was a new route, on August 7, 1948.

The writing is legible, so I won't transcribe this lengthy entry, which was made on August 6th. Beckey made entries in both German and Spanish, which I've translated as best as I could. In summary, both foreign language entries complain about the treatment the group received from the head male ranger and a couple of female rangers at the Glacier Ranger Station when they sign in for their climb. They were told the Glacier Creek Road was closed, so they couldn't reach the Heliotrope Ridge trailhead by vehicle. The group ended up hiking the 8 miles of the road to the trailhead anyway, then 2.3 miles to Kulshan Cabin, where they spend the night. Words in parenthesis are added by me for clarity.

German translation

It's a nice day, but the stupid folk in the R S (Ranger Station) in Glacier are just piglets. They gave us a very bad time, but we make it a ??. They said that we cannot come here (Kulshan Cabin), but we came here, and they can go to the devil.

Then Beckey insults the intelligence of his readers by stating that for the benefit of those who can't read German, he'll express his thoughts in Spanish.

Spanish translation

The man at the R S (Glacier Ranger Station) is the most stupid of all the land except for the stupid little bitches who have ordered the (Glacier Creek) road closed. It is clear that they (the women) have spoiled the head (ranger) of the R S (Ranger Station). All these donkeys do what they can for my money, go to the devil, and if we bother, it is likely that they will go there soon.

At the bottom of page 1, someone comments about pining for Gertrude. Then states how safe the women of Seattle are, with them being on the slopes of Mt Baker for the weekend.

Which was undoubtably true!

The following vertical text in the left-hand margin of page 1 was made by Beckey on August 7th, after they had successful climbed the new route on Mt Baker.

"first ascent of North Face of Baker"

The vertical entry right next to it, clarifies that it was not the North Face route which was climbed on August 7, 1948, but the North Ridge. Someone other than Beckey later wrote this correction about the route.

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Page 2 starts off attempting to elevate the tone of the long entry by misquoting Shakespeare, then quickly degenerates into a quartet of bawdy poems. The verses appear to have been written by someone other than Beckey, maybe Dick "Ranger Killer" Widrig?

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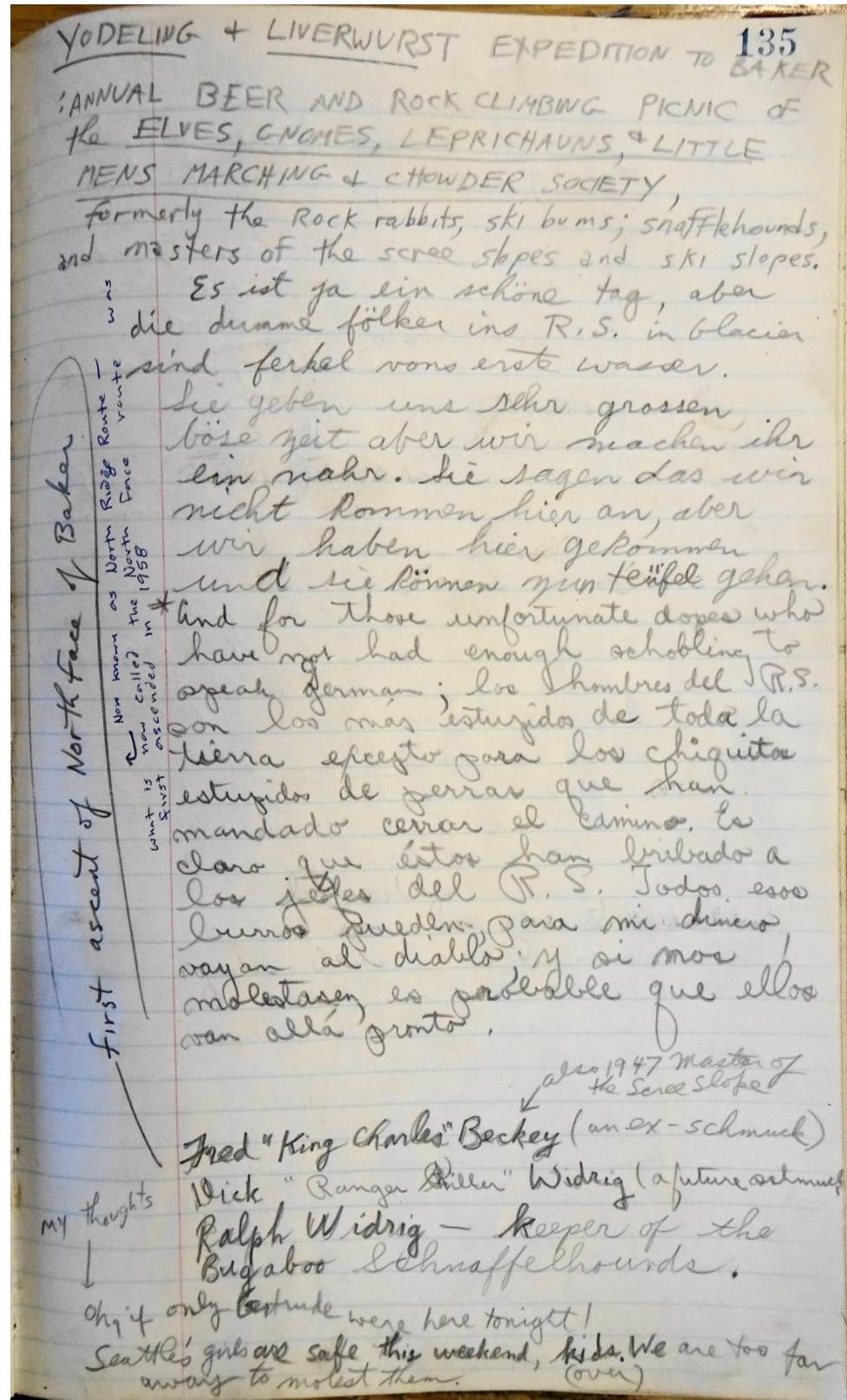


Image courtesy of Western Washington University Special Collections Library. Kulshan Cabin Register, 1935-1951.

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A quotation from Shakespeare should fittingly
close our thoughts: — King Richard III
— Now is the hour of our discontent
Made glorious by the sun of York — etc.

There was a young man from Dundee
Who had a small daughter just three
He had been married a year
But please do not fear
His wife was a widow, you see.

I went to an elegant tea
The Duchess sat next to me
Her rumblings abdominal were simply phenomenal,
And everyone thought it was me.

The shades were falling fast
When for a kiss he asked her
She must have answered yes
For they came down much faster.

There was a young maid from Rangoon
Who made long eyes at a baboon
The baboon was very strong, but do
not get me wrong, He was
chained in another room.

Image courtesy of Western Washington University Special Collections Library. Kulshan Cabin Register, 1935-1951.

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Mt Index-North Peak (Part of first traverse of three Index Peaks), August 1950

The next summit register entry is for the North Peak of Mt Index during the first traverse of North, Middle and Main Peaks of Mt Index, in a north to south direction. Pete Schoening wrote the entry on August 12th, but Beckey must have entered the time information for completing the traverse in August 1950, when he climbed the East Face of the North Peak of Mt Index in July 1951. See the next summit register entry for the 1951 climb.

Pete Schoening	8-12-50	Complete
Fred Beckey		traverse
(on cozy to Middle PK		to Main
		Pk 16 1/2
		hours
		overall time

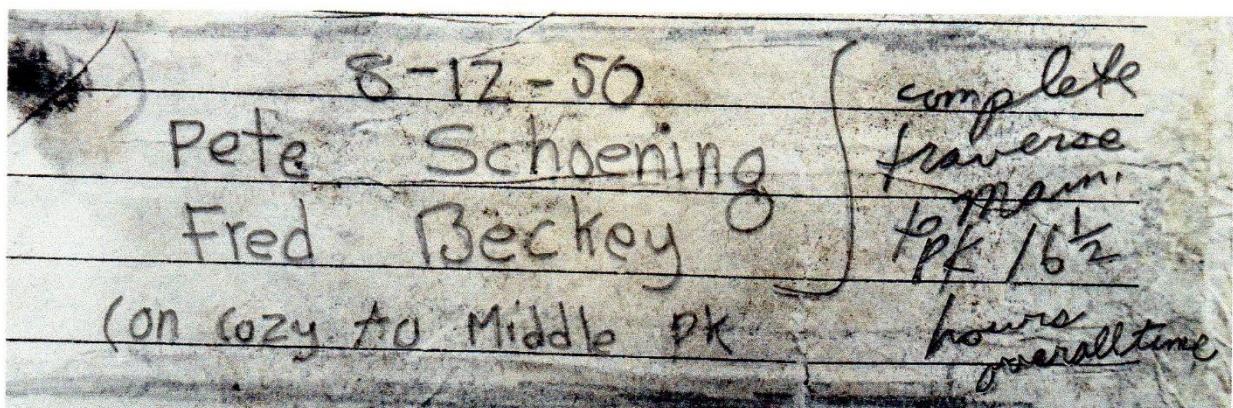


Image courtesy of The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library. Accession No. 2013-009, Container 3.

Pete Schoening was the climber who made the herculean ice axe arrest during the emergency descent of K2's Abruzzi Ridge in 1953, which saved the lives of five of his climbing partners, at the cost of one climber's life.

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Mt Index-North Peak, July 1951

Here is another summit register entry from Beckey, where he expresses himself in German. This was a climb of the East Face of the North Peak of Mt Index which was a new route. Someone else in the climbing party wrote the information at the bottom of the entry. Teaball Meadows is a grassy alp on the north ridge close to the summit. My translation is in green text.

July 1, 1951

VIE DER OSTWAND (EAST FACE)

(*Via the East Wall*)

ein herrliches zeit!

(*A wonderful time!*)

Pete Schoening

Fred Beckey 8 hours on

Jim Henry rock today

Dick Berge but several
 days spent

Left Seattle on other trips
1:30 AM; on top putting in
at 3 PM iron & ropes

Directly up E face to
Teaball Meadows; then to
summit in tennis shoes &
white underwear.
“Elves, Gnomes, Leprechauns” Club

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July 1, 1951.
VIE DER OSTWAND (EAST FACE)
ein herrliches zeit!
Pete Schoening
Fred Beckey 8 hours on
Jim Henry rock today
Dick Berge but several
days spent
Left Seattle on other trip
130 AM on top putting in
at 3 P.M. iron + ropes
Directly up E face to
Teaball Meadows; then to
summit in knickerbockers
white underwear.
"Elves, Gnomes, Leprechauns" Club.

Image courtesy of The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library. Accession No. 2013-009, Container 3.

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Mt Rainier-Liberty Ridge, July 1961

The next summit register entry is from the National Archives at Seattle. It is for a climb of Mt Rainier via Liberty Ridge. I have no idea who Stan Shepard was, but he obviously was a competent climber. How would you like to have been him, and been a member of this team of elite climbers, doing this challenging route!

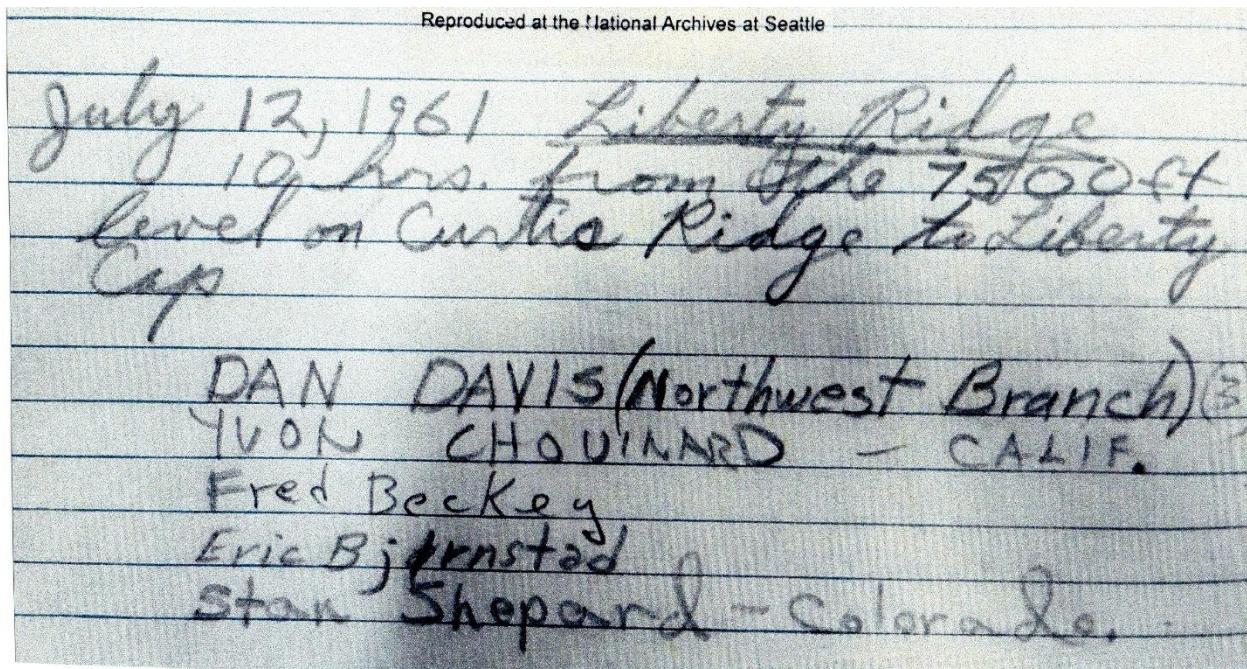


Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Registers Records 1959-1962.

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Bonus Material #1: Ed Cooper's Solo Traverse of South, Middle and North Index in July 1960

Ed Cooper was a prominent climber who did several climbs with Fred Beckey between 1958 and 1960. Fred and Helmy Beckey are rightfully credited with accomplishing one of the most audacious climbs ever with the ascent of Mt Waddington in 1942. Well Ed Cooper ranks high on the audacity scale with his solo completion of the Index traverse in a south to north direction, and the first climber to do so.

His entry begins with the statement “The Francis Sydney Smythe Solo Climbing Club does it again!!” In the Addendum of Ed Cooper’s book *Soul of Heights*, pages 177-79, Cooper writes about the meaning of the initials FSSSCCPNS on his climbing helmet which he wore in 1960-61, being re-discovered. This was figured out by a summit register entry by Cooper on Mt Garibaldi on June 24, 1961, later photographed by Doug Barrie and shared with Cooper. Cooper’s summit register entry on Mt Index contains part of the initials used on Mt Garibaldi. The full meaning of the initials FSSSCCPNS is: Francis Sydney Smythe Solo Climbing Club Pacific Northwest Section.

A couple of gripping paragraphs in *Soul of Heights* on page 59, captures the intensity of Copper’s climbing experience on the Index Traverse.

My body was on a natural high as I climbed class 4 and 5 pitches to reach the summit of the Middle Peak, and the approach the notch between the Middle and North Peak. I discovered I was a rope length away from the notch, separated by a wall that dropped off several thousand feet, I couldn’t climb back up: I had rappelled over an overhang and had already pulled the rope down after me. As I was traversing this wall unprotected, a hand hold came out and I nearly plummeted down with it. When I reached the notch, I started shaking visibly and had to wait until my body calmed down.

Attempting to ascend the North Peak, I reached one dead end, then another. Finally, on the third try, I reached a point where there was a very short overhanging pitch over a 3,000-foot drop. It was this or nothing. I pretended that the drop wasn’t there and that I was only climbing a difficult bouldering problem right above the ground. This was the only frame of mind that would allow me to do this pitch.

Keep this description in mind when you read Cooper’s summit register entry for the North Peak of Mt Index on 7-6-60. He would safely complete the solo traverse by descending the regular route of the North Peak of Mt Index. The traverse is rated Grade V, Class 5.7.

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7/6/60 THE FRANCIS SYDNEY
SMYTHE SOLO CLIMBING CLUB DOES
IT AGAIN !!
ED COOPER - via first ascent from
South Notch after first south - North
traverse of the Index peaks. A few very
airy places, but I made it, fortunately or
unfortunately as the case may be
Left car 10:00 yesterday A.M., now
11:00 A.M., fairly slow time, bivouac
included. I am quite tired as I ran out
water on the Middle Pk, & don't feel like
eating.. I hope I can find the regular
route down !

Image courtesy of The University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Library. Accession No. 2013-009, Container 3.

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Bonus Material #2: Don and Phyllis Munday's Climb of Mt Baker- September 3, 1939.

This is a two-page entry from the Kulshan Cabin Register on Mt Baker. It is for a large group of climbers from the Alpine Club of Canada, the Vancouver and Victoria sections, which climbed Mt Baker on September 3, 1939. Of real interest are the names at the top of page 2, along with the date.

The great Canadian climbing couple of Dick and Phyllis Munday and their daughter Edith signed the register. Dick and Phyllis are renowned for their exploration and mapping of the Coast Mountains of British Columbia between the 1920s and 1940s. They scaled more than 150 mountains, with 40 plus first ascents. Their nemesis was Mt Waddington, which eluded their grasp over multiple attempts between 1926 and 1934.

The significance of this date is that on September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland. In April 1939 France and Great Britain made a promise to Poland that if Germany attacked Poland, they would declare war on Germany. The British government issued an ultimatum to Germany that unless it withdrew from Polish territory by 11 AM on September 3, 1939, Great Britain would declare war on Germany.

This group of climbers from the Dominion of Canada had left Victoria and Vancouver knowing about the invasion of Poland by German. But as they arrived at Kulshan Cabin for their climb of Mt Baker, there was still no formal declaration of war by Great Britain. The deadline on the ultimatum had lapsed, as the climbers awoke before dawn to prepare for their departure on the 3rd of September. They left Kulshan Cabin at 6:15 AM for their summit attempt unaware that a state of war now existed between Great Britain and Germany.

This could not have been a carefree climb for the Canadians, especially for Don Munday. Don had served in a Canadian infantry unit in France during the Great War, or the war to end all wars. In October 1917, in separate incidents, he first inhaled chlorine gas and then suffered a bad wound to his left arm from a mortar shell. One has to wonder what his thoughts were as he climbed the Coleman Glacier to the summit of Mt Baker.

Upon the group's return home, they heard Great Britain had declared war on Germany. During the 1920s and 30s, Canadian's reaction to Great Britain's having control over Canada's foreign policy had changed. Canadian's were reluctant to be drawn into another European war and have their troops conscripted for overseas service without any say in the matter. Canada's Parliament was called into special session and after a couple days of debate, on September 9, 1939 agreed to declare war on Germany.

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Up for one valley's. — C A Fisher Oct
Alpine Club of Canada —
Vancouver & Victoria, B.C.
Time 6:15 AM. Left Kulshan Cabin
2:30 PM. Arrived summit
6:50 PM. Reached Kulshan Cabin
Clear — very little wind.
Few sunbeams — many stiff hills.
A very fine day especially for 3 ladies who arrived at 3:30 AM Saturday night & spent the Sunday sleeping & eating. Those climbing included:
Betty Trickey Victoria B.C.
Lynn Brooks Vanc. ,
Evelyn A. Gee —
Allan J. Baker. Victoria B.C. Did climb

Image courtesy of Western Washington University Special Collections Library. Kulshan Cabin Register, 1935-1951.

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Mr & Mrs Don Munday	Vancouver.	
Elizabeth Honeycroft	England.	
Edith S. Thimbley	North Vancouver	
R.D. Fraser	Vancouver	
Hilby Frasers	"	
P. Fred Leighton	Victoria.	
Cleend Busay	Vancouver.	
Cyril Jones	Victoria	
<u>Erie Brooks</u>	Vancouver.	
We are much indebted to 'Dad' Fisher who looked after us very well indeed - Thanks!		

Image courtesy of Western Washington University Special Collections Library. Kulshan Cabin Register, 1935-1951.

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Bonus Material #3: Mt Rainier, Willis Wall Route Controversy 1961-1962

The two summit register entries in this section, I found at the National Archives Office in Seattle, where they store Mt Rainier summit registers prior to 2004.

Someone reading the following summit register entries today, will probably think this has all the significance of two bald men fighting over a comb. But in 1961-62 and for another decade, what Charles Bell did or did not accomplish on Mt Rainier's Willis Wall was a contentious issue amongst the climbing community.

Ed Cooper's book *Soul of the Heights: 50 Years Going to the Mountains*, includes portions of two chapters on this subject. Mike Swayne's climbing journal also contributed information on this topic. The following is my summation of what occurred, based on these sources.

First a description of this feature on the north flank of Mt Rainier. Willis Wall rises over 3,600 feet above the Carbon Glacier. The 45-degree face, of lava and rock-strewn ice, is a source of an almost constant barrage of avalanches. The Wall is bracketed on the west by Liberty Ridge and on the east by Curtis Ridge. There are three spur ribs which provide some minimal protection from rock, snow and ice fall.

Climbing on the Willis Wall was prohibited by the National Park Service in this era, for safety reasons. Nevertheless, in June 1961 a party of five climbers led by Eric Bjornstad tried, but turned around at the base of the wall. Charles Bell was among the three climbers assigned to watch this attempt and contact the authorities if the climbers encountered problems.

Everyone returned home, except for Charles Bell. On June 11-12, 1961 he claimed to have solo-climbed the West Rib (Brumal Buttress) of Willis Wall.

Meanwhile Fred Beckey and Mike Swayne had climbed Mt Saint Helens on June 13th and Mt Hood on June 14th. After climbing Mt Hood, Beckey phoned Bjornstad to come down from Seattle to make an attempt on Beacon Rock.

Beckey had arranged a code where he would call Bjornstad collect from a pay phone and ask for someone named "Mr. Beacon Rock". When Eric said "Mr. Rock was not available" the call would be terminated, and the coins returned. But Eric knew the climb was on and where to meet Beckey and Swayne.

The next morning Bjornstad arrived with Herb Staley, Bob Baker and Charles Bell. Along with them came the news of Bell's ascent of Willis Wall. Beckey was livid and refused to believe that Bell had completed the route.

Within two weeks, a climbing party of Barry Prather, Dave Mahre, Bob Baker, Herb Staley, Eric Bjornstad, Fred Beckey and Charlie Bell returned to see if they could duplicate and verify Bell's ascent of Willis Wall. The group couldn't repeat the ascent, which only served to confirm Beckey's doubts.

Fast forward to June 1962, when Mike Swayne and Ed Cooper decided to see if they could climb the Willis Wall. Charles Bell wanted to do the climb with Cooper and Swayne, but the two wanted to make the attempt with a small party, which could move faster. Nevertheless, Bell followed Cooper and

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

Swayne to Mt Rainier. Cooper and Swayne completed their approach to a location on the Carbon Glacier, and camped several hundred feet beneath the east side of Willis Wall. That evening, the twosome narrowly missed being swept away by an avalanche.

The next day, June 21st, they completed the East Willis Wall route to the summit of Mt Rainier. Early in the climb Cooper noticed a solo climber approaching the Willis Wall, near Liberty Ridge. It turned out to be Charles Bell, who ended up doing a variation of his 1961 route. Bell did an end run around the west end of a bergschrund on the Carbon Glacier to a location near the base of Liberty Ridge, then doubled back to the West Rib (Brumal Buttress). Bell reached the summit after Swayne and Cooper.

Controversy over whether Charles Bell was the first to ascend Willis Wall in 1961 would linger amongst the climbers of that generation for years.

In Beckey's *Cascade Alpine Guide Volume 1*, for Willis Wall-West Rib (Brumal Buttress) route, Fred wrote the following:

Many sources credit Charles Bell with the first ascent on June 11-12, 1961, although there is still the disturbing question of whether he crossed the bergschrund under the face, and not near the toe of Liberty Ridge as he did in 1962.

Beckey did not believe that Charles Bell climbed the Willis Wall in 1961.

Here is the entry made by Ed Cooper and Mike Swayne in the summit register for Mt Rainier.

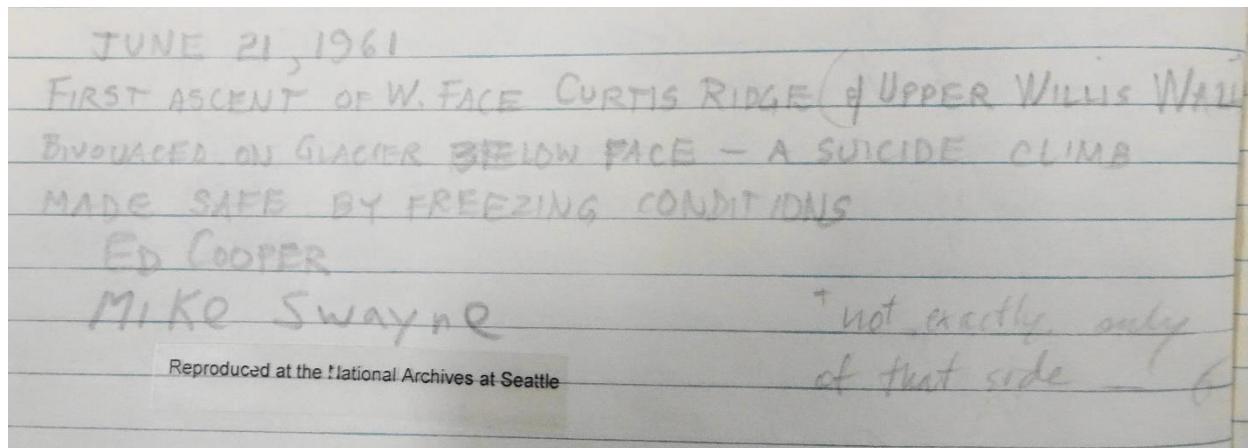


Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Register Records, 1959-1962.

In the lower right-hand corner, is the following note added by Charles Bell:

***not exactly, only
of that side**

Meaning that in Bell's opinion, Cooper and Swayne had been the first to ascent the east side of the Willis Wall. Bell had been the first person to climb Willis Wall in 1961, via the west rib.

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

Here is Charles Bell's summit register entry on June 21, 1962, page 1 of 2. Go to page 30 to see an annotated version of the map, which has been rotated 90 degrees for orientation and clarity purposes.

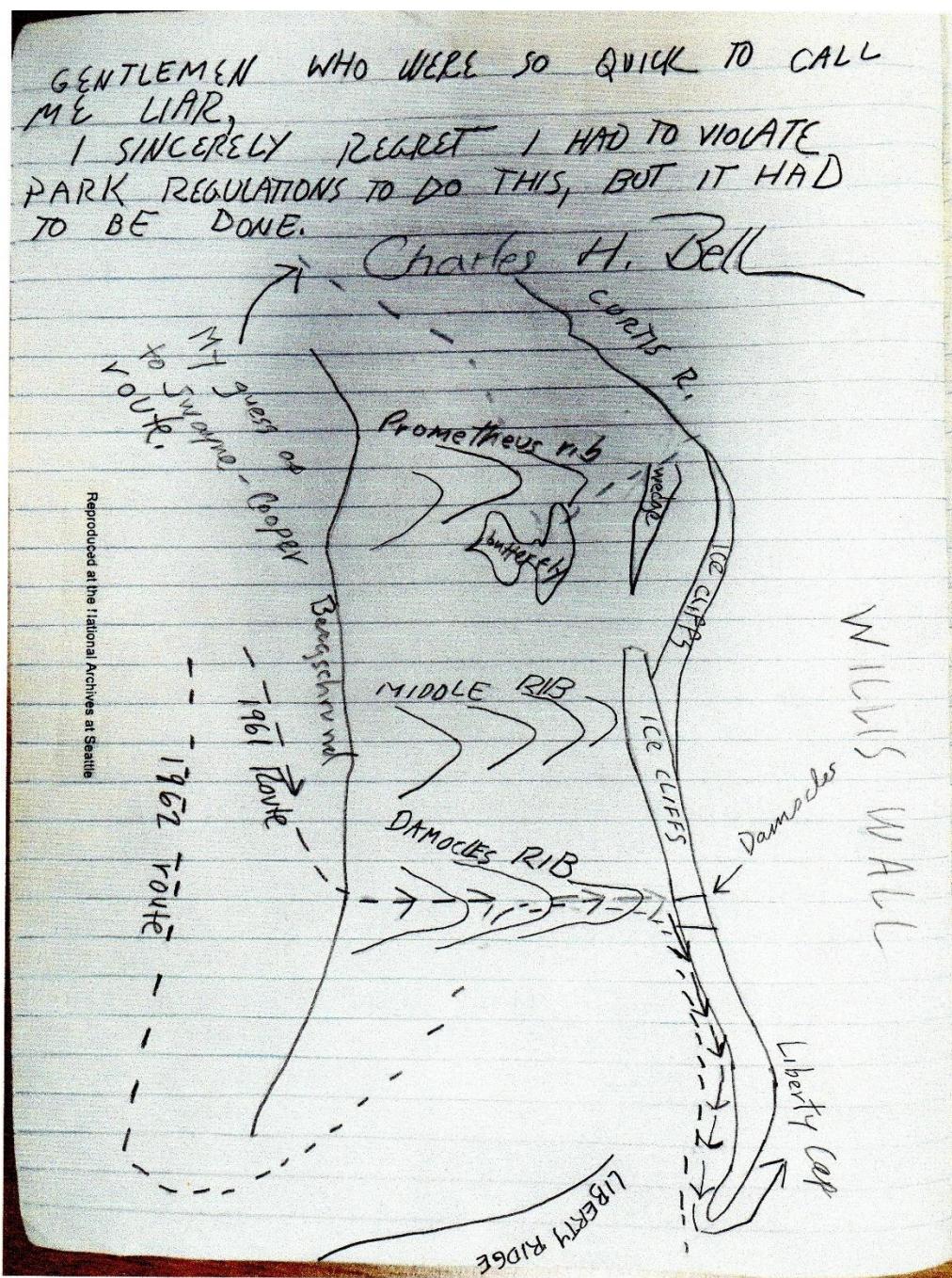


Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Register Records, 1959-1962.

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Charles Bell's summit register entry on June 21, 1962, page 2 of 2.

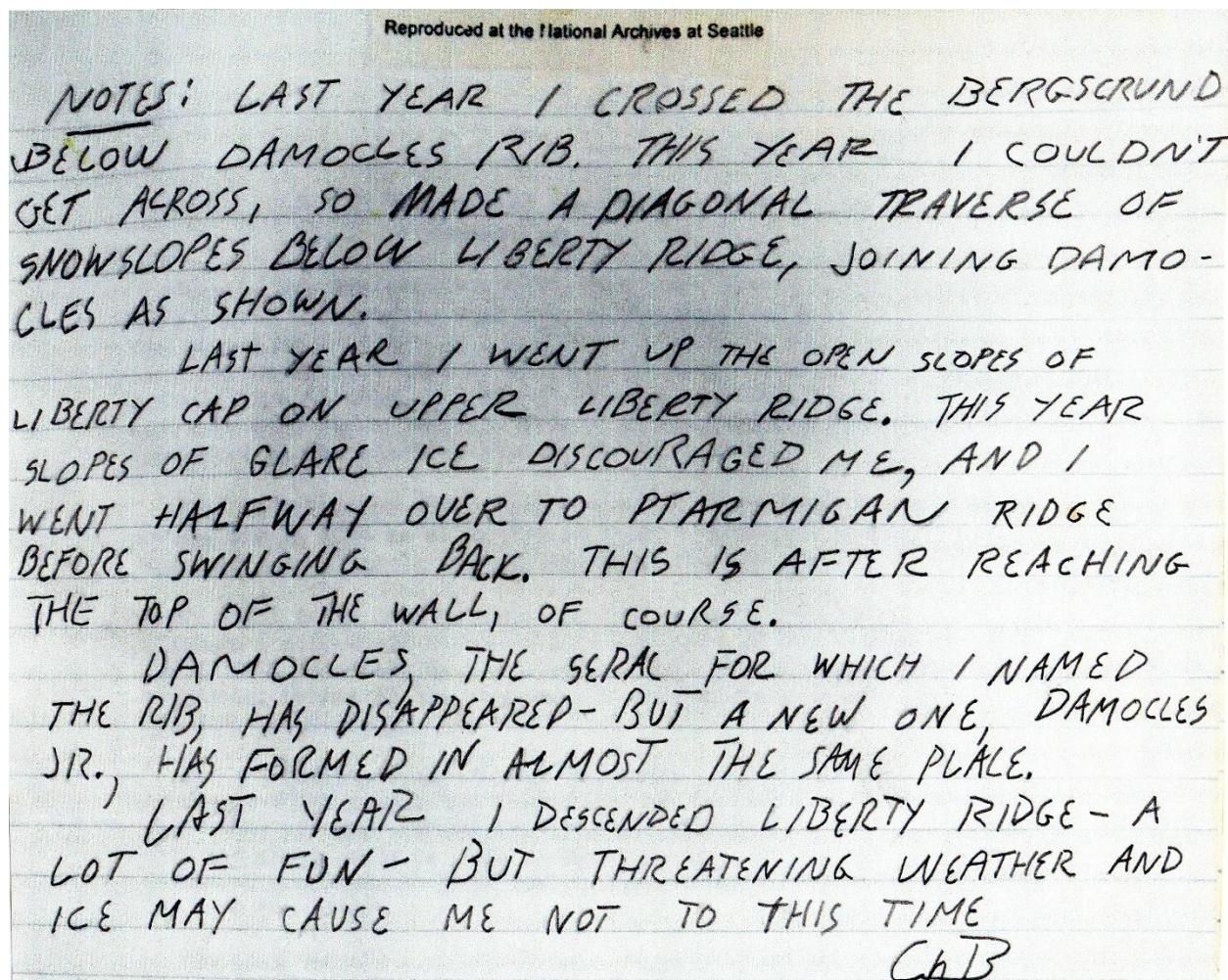


Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Register Records, 1959-1962.

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Charles Bell's summit register entry on June 21, 1962, with just the map. The map has been rotated 90 degrees and includes my annotations in parenthesis for clarity.

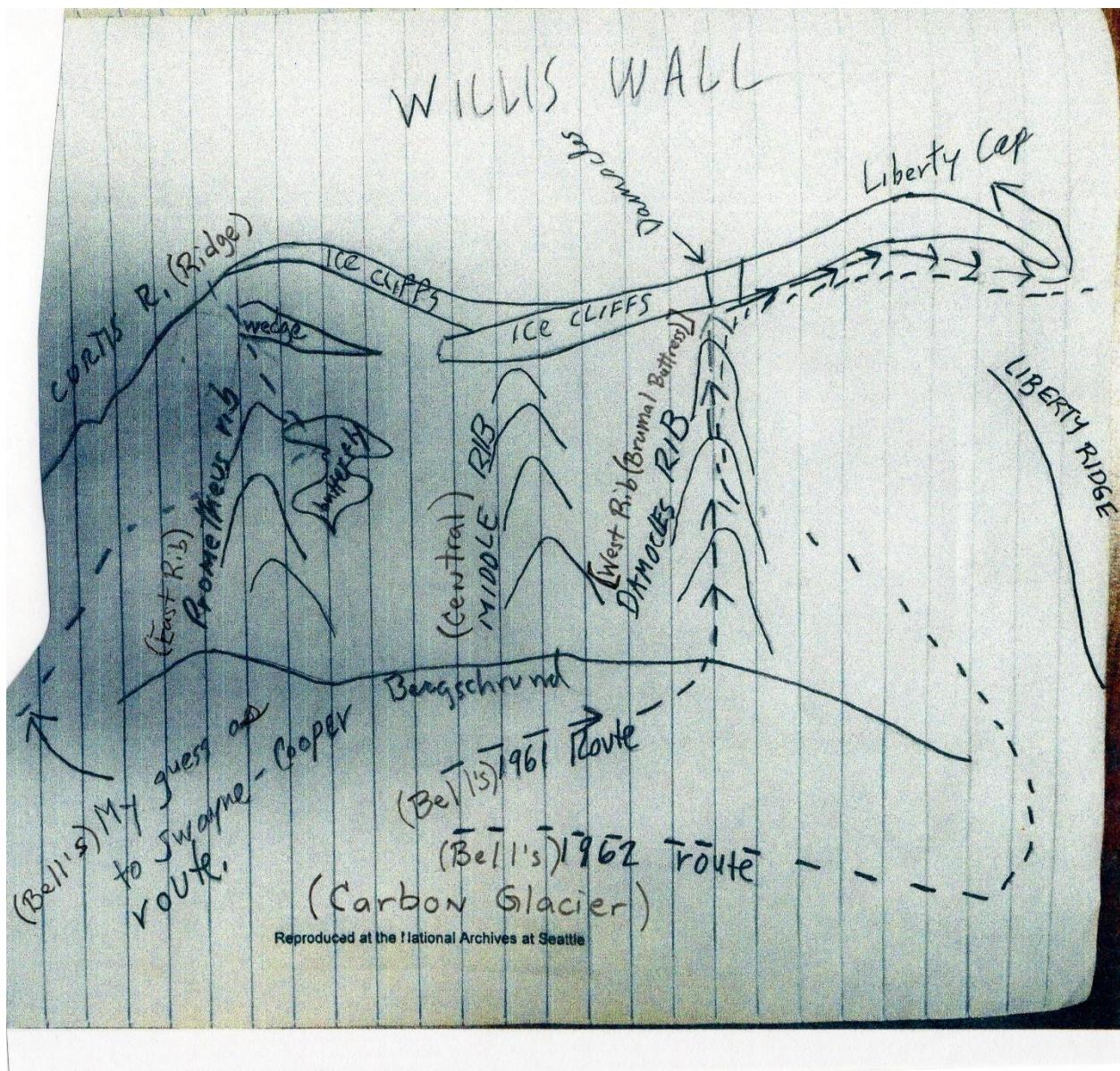


Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Register Records, 1959-1962.

The rest of the story.

The June 25th edition of *The Seattle Post Intelligencer* had an article and photos about the climb of Willis Wall by Cooper and Swayne. On page 1, above the fold no less!

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

CLIMBERS CONQUER RAINIER HARD WAY



Near Top

MIKE SWAYNE, one of two Seattle climbers who scaled the difficult north face of Mt. Rainier, stands near the summit with Little Tahoma in the background. Photo was made by his climbing companion, Ed Cooper.

Two young Seattle climbers have accomplished an unusually difficult ascent, perhaps one of the first, up one of the most rugged sections of Mt. Rainier's north face.

They are Ed Cooper, 23, of 3315 Burke Ave. N., a freelance photographer, and Mike Swayne, 22, of 133 NE 86th St., a Seattle University senior.

They started up the Carbon River Trail at 8 a.m. Wednesday from the 2,500 foot level and reached the 14,410 foot summit about 3 p.m. the following day.

THE UNUSUAL part of their climb came in taking the west face of Curtis Ridge for some 3,000 feet and then swinging over to Willis Wall from which they climbed about 1,000 feet to the summit.

During one rest period, they unintentionally slept a few hours, a lucky circumstance that very probably saved their lives, Cooper said.

Several hours after their short sleep, they decided to bivouac on Carbon Glacier at a point some 300 yards below the north face. About an hour later a tremendous avalanche booted down from Willis Wall.



At Start Of Ascent

MIKE SWAYNE (left) and Ed Cooper are pictured at the start of their climb, perhaps one of the first, up one of the roughest rock walls on Mt. Rainier.

been right in the middle of it. As it was, they had to run from their campsite, which was well powdered with snow dust from the avalanche.

Cooper said they then were forced to traverse the west face of Curtis Ridge, then edge over higher up to Willis Wall.

Seattle Post Intelligencer. June 25, 1962, 1.

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The National Park commissioner Earl V. Clifford could hardly have failed to notice this article. As a result, Clifford sent park rangers to the summit to look at the summit register. They not only found the entry made by Cooper and Swayne, but an entry made by Bell in which he freely admitted that he violated park regulations by climbing Willis Wall. The newspaper article included the addresses of Mike and Ed too, so the park commissioner didn't need to be a sleuth to know where to contact Swayne and Cooper.

The July 10th edition of *The Seattle Times* included a brief article titled "Rainier Climber Fined \$150 For Violation." The article stated that Mike Swayne was fined \$150 with 30 days in jail, suspended, by commissioner Earl V. Clifford. This was because of the unauthorized climb to the summit of Mt Rainier via the Willis Wall route. Furthermore, the articles mentioned that Mike Swayne and Ed Cooper failed to register for the climb and have their climbing gear inspected by the park service. Also, Ed Cooper would be sentenced later.

The park service's message to the climbing community was clear. Any climbing route on Willis Wall was forbidden.

Mike Swayne was arraigned before park commissioner Earl Clifford at Longmire Ranger Station. According to Mike, the park commissioner threatened to arrest him if he did not pay the \$150 fine, which he didn't have. So, Swayne had to borrow money from family and friends to pay it off, then go back down to Longmire and listen to a lecture from the park service. The \$150 fine in 1962, is equivalent to about \$1,250 in 2019 dollars.

The long arm of park commissioner Earl Clifford eventually nabbed Ed Cooper and he was fined too.

Because the park rangers saw Bell's entry for his climb of Willis Wall in 1962, he was fined \$50, equivalent to about \$420 in 2019.

Bonus Material #4: Mt Rainier, Kautz Glacier route - By Lloyd Anderson and Whittaker brothers in July 1948.

Here is a summit register entry from the year 1948, which includes Lloyd Anderson along with Jim and Lloyd Whittaker.

Lloyd Anderson was a Mountaineers' climbing instructor and co-founder of REI in 1938. Anderson organized and led the climb of Mt Despair on July 2, 1939, which was Fred Beckey's first, first ascent. Lloyd also served in the same role for the first ascent of Forbidden Peak on June 1, 1940, with Jim Crooks, Dave Lind, Helmy and Fred Beckey.

Within a year or so of 1948, both Jim and Louis Whittaker were serving as guides on Mt Rainier and I found numerous summit register entries over the next decade or so, for each of them, leading clients to the summit.

Both Jim and Louis Whittaker were initially selected as part of the 1963 American Expedition to Mt Everest, but only Jim went on the expedition. Of course, Jim Whittaker was the first American to stand on the summit of Mt Everest.

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

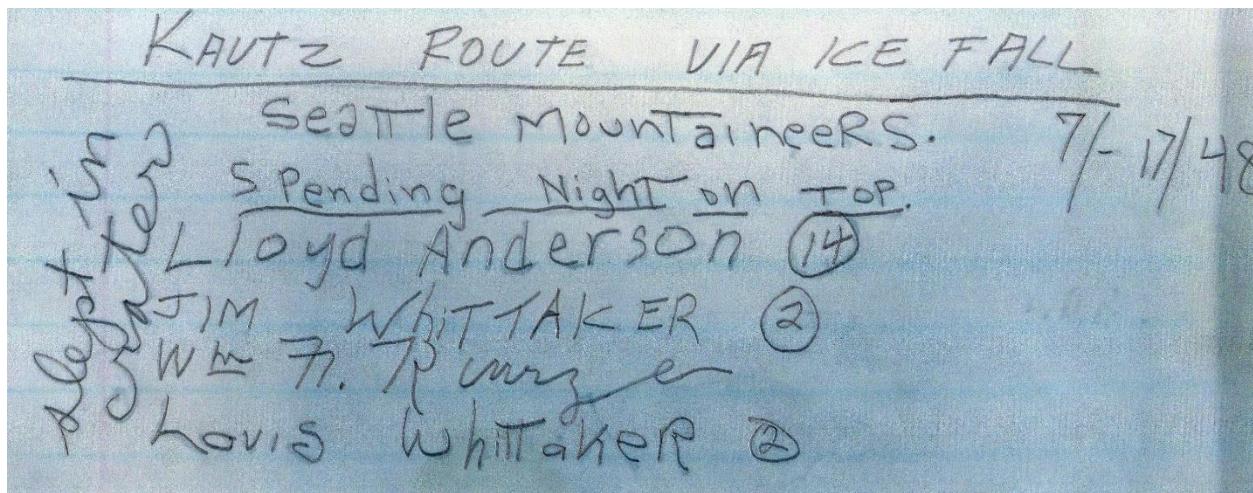


Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Register Records, 1947-1958.

Bonus Material #5: Mt Rainier, Fuhrer's Finger route - Record for longest stay on summit in 1959.

This summit register entry for Mt Rainier from July 1961 caught my eye, because it states that Barry Prather set the record for staying on the summit of Mt Rainier for 53 consecutive days. Prather was the youngest member of the 1963 American Expedition to Mt Everest.

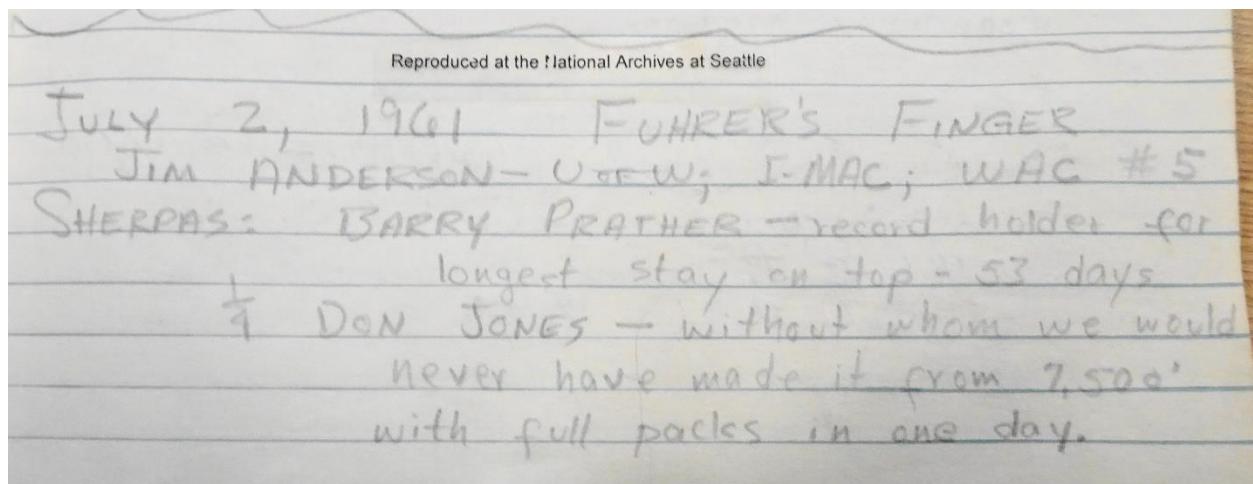


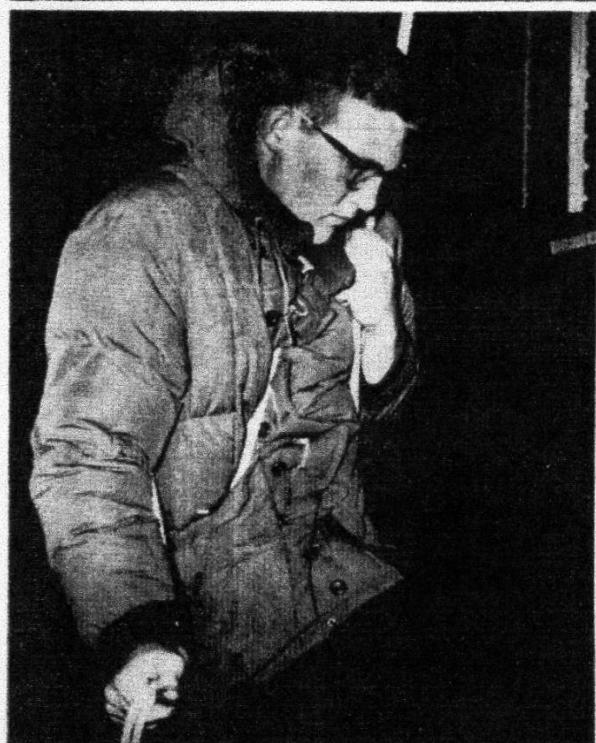
Image courtesy of National Archives at Seattle. Mt Rainier Summit Register Records, 1959-1962.

Below is an article from the Central Washington College of Education campus newspaper, *The Campus Crier*, reporting on Prather's activities during the summer of 1959 on Mt Rainier. Unfortunately, there were three fatalities during his stay on the mountain.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1959

THE CAMPUS CRIER



DEMONSTRATING HIS SKILL with a mountaineer's rope, Central student, Barry Prather, makes his way down the side of a building. Prather found ample opportunity to practice this skill on his summer job at Mount Rainier.

(Photo by Carroll Gorg)

Central Student Seeks Data Perched Atop Mount Rainier

Cold, forbidding 14,410-foot Mount Rainier was one Central junior's home for 53 consecutive days this summer. The junior, Barry Prather, was part of a large-scale study team seeking meteorological and icecap data on the lofty summit. Prather's 53-day stay atop the mountain was a new record for the party headed by Dr. Maynard Miller of Seattle. Prather's Rainier experiences lasted from July 15 to Sept. 3.

Prather, along with Dr. Miller and Richard Hands, spent the first part of the summer making trips back and forth up the mountain carrying supplies to the cache which they had established on the summit. After permanent camp was set up, airdrops supplied the necessary equipment and food to the research group.

Studies were made of deterioration of surface snow melt, water evaporation, depth of the icecap and daily temperatures. The average daily temperature never got above 28 degrees.

Prather and his group lived in temperatures from 42 degrees Fahrenheit down to a frigid 8 degrees below zero, and in winds up to 60 miles per hour. Prather said, Living on Rainier's summit, he relates, is equivalent to living on an 8,000 foot peak at the North Pole.

Storm Breaks on Summit

Four bad storms, dumping a total of 25 inches of snow, occurred while the men were on the summit. The first storm broke tent poles and forced the party to bivouac in a steam cave of the once active volcano; the fourth storm was so fierce that it drove the group off the mountain.

Prather said that the summer did have its lighter moments. Many visitors climbed the summit. One climber brought a golf club to the top and chipped a few golf balls around.

Another day the members of the party scratched their fuzzy beards in amazement when they saw a lone figure walking across the crater. The man had climbed Mt. Rainier by himself and had to be escorted down by a few of Prather's party. Since solo summit attempts are forbidden by Park officials, it cost the lone climber \$30.

Tragedy Strikes Group

On September 2, tragedy struck. Dr. Calder Bressler, a petrologist and professor of geology at Western Washington College, had climbed the mountain to visit the men. Early in the morning of Sept. 2, Prather heard Dr. Bressler moaning in his sleep.

The doctor's condition quickly grew worse and he went into a coma despite the frantic efforts of the research team. In the rarified atmosphere, the men knew

that Dr. Bressler needed oxygen. They radioed for an oxygen airdrop, and Capt. Harold Horn made a successful drop.

When the oxygen was getting low, the call went out again for another airdrop, this time in very bad weather conditions. But the airdrop never occurred, because Capt. Horn and his co-pilot, Charles Carmen, had crashed to an instant death on the upper slopes of the mountain. For a long time Prather and the research group waited for the mercy plane. The next morning Dr. Bressler passed away.

Body Carried Down

It took a week of struggle against the elements before Dr. Bressler's body was brought down and the plane was found. Because of the risks involved, Capt. Horn's and Carmen's bodies were left on the mountain where they had crashed.

On the morning of Sept. 10, a halo was seen over the mountain, as if in final tribute to the men who died there, Prather said. It also marked the end of the long stay on the summit for Barry Prather who feels that the entire summer will long relieve itself in his memory.

The Campus Crier. October 16, 1959. 5.

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Bonus Material #6: Mt Pugh, Dog Rescue Effort in March 1952

Say what?

The following material is not about a summit register entry.

Instead it is a series of newspaper articles about an effort to rescue four dogs trained to hunt cougars, which were trapped on Mt Pugh. The rescue party included Fred Beckey.

One Daiber a Seattle Mountaineer who originally sponsored the 15-year-old Beckey for membership in the club back in 1938 made this critical statement about Beckey who was accused of abandoning a fellow climber on the attempt of Lhotse in 1955: "If you have no love for your fellow man, you don't belong in the mountains".

This set of articles is proof that Beckey had some regard for dogs, as he helped attempt to rescue dogs in difficult conditions over couple of days.

Now some background information. Mt Pugh is a 7,224-ft peak located in northeast Snohomish County, Washington, on the west slope of the Cascade Range. There is a trail all the way to the summit. The trail begins by going eastward, then exits the forest at about 4,900 feet and heads north beneath the west face of Mt Pugh to Stujack Pass at 5,720 ft. From there the trail heads southeast to the summit.

The *Everett Daily Herald* was an evening newspaper at the time and had the largest circulation in the county. The first set of articles spanning from March 19th to March 24th, come from this newspaper. The articles were on the front page of the newspaper for the first four days and the drama drew nationwide attention.

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Here is the article from the Wednesday, March 19th edition of newspaper. At this point there is confusion over which mountain the dogs are actually stranded on. Also, the article states that the dogs are trapped on a cliff at 4,000 ft, which seems incorrect to me, because the base of the west face is at about 5,400 ft. The animals were stranded on a ledge of the west face of Mt Pugh since March 7th. The rescue party includes the dog owner Cleo Riddel and the two Mountaineers Don Wilde and Fred Beckey. One dog has managed to reach safety, on its own.

Rescuers Seek Trapped Dogs

Food and perhaps rescue may reach three starving dogs trapped on the side of Whitehorse Mountain today.

A rescue party set out this morning to try to reach the animals, stranded without food for thirteen days. Caught on a 4000-foot level cliff, the dogs—steadily weakening—have had to fight off attacking eagles.

A fourth dog somehow was able to make his own escape, according to a report from Darrington. An earlier account had said all four were lost on Mt. Pugh.

The dogs were marooned when they chased a cougar up a cliff on the snowy peak 30 miles southeast of this Cascade mountain settlement.

A fourth dog, a young airedale, scrambled off the ledge and was found by his owner, Cleo Riddels, and mountaineers Dan Wilde, and Fred Beckey.

The hunger - weakened animal was returned home, but attempts to reach the others ended in vain because the mountain was "too treacherous" for three men to attempt to reach the dogs' narrow perch.

The hound which made his way to freedom apparently was able to do so because he was younger than the others and his claws were sharper, Riddels added.

Everett Dailey Herald. March 19, 1952, 1.

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Next is the Thursday, March 20th article, in which the mountain the dogs were trapped on, has been correctly identified. But rescue efforts by Don Wilde, Fred Beckey and Cleo Riddle were stymied by dangerous conditions on Mt Pugh. The article states that the dogs were under attack by eagles. I wonder if there was an eagle's nest with chicks, nearby on the cliffs.

Snow Blocks Aid To Trapped Dogs

Waist-deep snow high on Mt. Pugh choked off efforts to rescue three stranded, starving cougar dogs again Thursday.

Vic Gilmour, town marshal at nearby Darrington, said today the animals probably will spend still another day — their fifteenth — without food on a narrow ledge 4,000 feet up the craggy mountain.

He corrected, too, a Wednesday report from Darrington which put the dogs on Whitehorse Mountain.

Cleo Riddels, Darrington owner of the dogs, spent Wednesday with two veteran mountaineers in an attempt to reach them. But, turning back, they said the mountain was "too treacherous" for such a small rescue party.

Two of them planned to make another try at it today, however.

Riddels said this morning he can only hope the dogs will still be alive this weekend when a party of Seattle Mountaineers will be enlisted to climb the peak. And he was anxiously awaiting good weather.

The dogs' owner said he got close enough to them to hear them howling and fighting off attacks by angry eagles. A fourth dog, younger and more agile than the others, scrambled off his perch to safety on Tuesday.

Everett Dailey Herald. March 20, 1952, 1.

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This is the Friday, March 21st article, still warranting front page coverage. Rescuers still have not been able to reach the dogs, but reinforcements have arrived. It states that an earlier effort failed in part, because the Wilde and Beckey didn't have the proper equipment.

Skilled Party Attempting Dog Rescue

A desperate attempt to rescue three cougar dogs from a narrow ledge high on the side of Mount Pugh, in the Darrington district, was launched this morning when a party of expert mountaineers sought to reach the animals, stranded for sixteen days without food or water.

The rescue attempt, which has stirred the imagination of people throughout the Northwest, is being led by Don Wilde, 23, Seattle, University of Washington student, and several others. Armed with approximately 90 feet of rope and climbing gear, the mountaineers expected to lower themselves to the cliff from a spot above where the dogs are trapped.

The dogs, the property of Cleo Riddels, Darrington cougar hunter, became trapped on the ledge while chasing a cougar across the slopes. One of the animals, younger than the rest, managed to scramble to safety. The other three were last known to be battling off repeated attacks by eagles, and rescuers have only been able to get close enough to hear the pitiful cries of the starving dogs.

Bill Patrick, president of the Snohomish County Sportsmen's Association, said Thursday afternoon the dogs are valuable to the entire county. He said the pack had run to earth about 26 cougars, and figuring one cougar kills 50 deer a year, the saving of wild life has been very great.

Riddels and a group of friends had spent several days in a futile attempt to reach the dogs, but deep snow and rugged terrain turned them back each time. Finally an appeal was issued for experts, and an earlier party, not too well equipped, made an unsuccessful assault on the mountain-side Wednesday.

If the party on the mountain today is successful in reaching the dogs it will be late evening before they can return to the road nearby.

Everett Dailey Herald. March 21, 1952, 1.

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Here is another article dated March 21, 1952 from the *Tacoma News Tribune*, in which Fred Beckey is quoted about the situation. Beckey's statement about having to drop down 800 to 900 feet to reach the dogs on a ledge, confirms my doubts about the 4,000-foot elevation stated in all the articles is incorrect. The top of cliff on the west side of Mt Pugh is over 6,200 feet. At this point in time, Beckey probably left the rescue group.

Fear Eagles May Kill Stranded Dogs on Peak

DARRINGTON—AP—Fears existed today that eagles may reach and kill three starving hunting dogs stranded two weeks on a 4,000-foot ledge on Mount Pugh in the western Cascades before they can be rescued.

"But they're plenty tough," Cleo Riddell, a part-time cougar hunter and their owner, said. "They'll probably be in good shape if we get them before the eagles knock them off the cliff."

The dogs were marooned chasing a cougar. One leaped probably 100 feet and escaped, landing in a tree or bush.

Earlier this week, two Seattle mountaineers, Fred Beckey and Don Wilde, ascended the ice and snow-covered peak but turned back because the going was extremely treacherous. Another larger party may be assembled by Wilde this weekend. The area is about 60 miles northeast of Seattle.

"Any rescuer will have to come down over an 800 or 900-foot ice-sheathed cliff," Beckey said. "He'll need plenty of manpower above and long ropes."

"A rocket gun to shoot a rope up over the cliff or into trees would help."

Tacoma News Tribune. March 21, 1952, 7.

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The Saturday, March 22nd report shares the sad news that the three dogs have died. Of note is the usage of the *Everett Daily Herald's* company airplane in an attempted to drop food to the dogs the previous day. The article lists the Seattle Mountaineer members who helped with the rescue efforts, but omitted Beckey.

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Ranges

Help Arrives Too Late To Save Dogs

Help came to the cougar dogs of Cleo Riddle of Darrington, marooned high on the face of 7,150-foot Mount Pugh Friday, but it came too late. Two of the dogs were found dead by an intrepid group of mountain climbers who beat their way into the rugged mountain fastness, and a third is believed to have perished as the result of the fifteen-day ordeal that caught the imagination of the entire country. A fourth and the youngest animal made its way to safety late Tuesday after jumping off a ledge some 200 feet to solid ground below.

The help came by both land and air Friday, fifteen days after the dogs had marooned themselves on a ledge while pursuing a cougar. The mountaineers, led by Don Wilde of Seattle, made their way up the cliff from a base camp established the night before. The help from the air was through the medium of the Daily Herald's Heralder II, piloted by Chuck Walters, and the fact that the mountaineers found one of the boxes of food dropped immediately alongside the body of the lone dog remaining on the ledge attests to the accuracy of the pinpoint "bombing" of Herald photographer Ken Knudson, who made his drops without benefit of bomb-sight or instruments of any sort.

The four dogs got into their

(Continued on Page Eleven)

Help Arrives

(Continued From Page One)

tragic predicament fifteen days ago when they chased a cougar across the face of the cliff. They lost their quarry and, on turning to retrace their route, found themselves faced with natural obstacles they could not overcome.

For a week Riddle figured the dogs would make their way down off the mountainside. They always had before.

But as the days passed and the dogs didn't return the former barber turned cougar hunter broadcast an appeal for help. It found ready ears but inclement weather balked the first attempts to get to the dogs over the ground and precluded any chances of dropping food to them from the air.

Friday the clouds rolled back from the mountainsides and the mountaineers, operating from their 4,000-foot base, attacked the front of the cliff. Meanwhile the men in the Heralder II made three food drops from overhead. The first box of food lit in the center of the mountaineers' campsite. The second was closer but missed the ledge, landing directly at the base of the cliff. The third hit the ledge itself. But the food, like the men, arrived too late.

The mountaineers found the body of Laddie frozen stiff on the ledge. The men had to inch their way several hundred feet across the almost vertical cliff to reach the animal. The broken body of Old Tom, a dog that had flushed 26 cougars this winter, was found at the base of the cliff. Queenie was nowhere to be found but Riddle believed that she followed Old Tom's lead and also made a last desperate effort to survive by hurling herself off the ledge to the ground 200 feet below.

The rescue attempts had stirred the imagination of the entire country and calls poured in over the long distance telephone wires from as far away as the East Coast.

Three of the University of Washington mountaineers who risked their lives in the vain effort to save the dogs were in Snohomish today, thoroughly exhausted from their experience. They were Wilde, Wesley Grande and Joe Vance. Others who made the climb were Pete Schoening and Dick McGowan, who worked their way to the ledge on which the dogs had been marooned, Art Maki and Tim Kelley.

Wilde said all members of the party wore steel helmets and as they climbed were continually pelted by falling rocks. The only injury sustained, however, was a black eye, suffered by one of the men who struck a jutting rock.

Bill Patrick of Snohomish, president of the Snohomish Sportsmen's Club, aided in the rescue attempt and supplied several pieces of equipment for the mountaineers, including 200 feet of rope.

Upon learning of Riddle's intention to continue hunting cougars "if he could get another hound," Patrick started raising a fund for that purpose. He has named Peter Van Soest chairman of the fund.

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Here is a follow-up article published in the Monday, March 24th edition of the paper.

Cougar Hunter Is Invited to Sportsmen's Meet

SNOHOMISH, March 24 — Bill Patrick, president of Snohomish Sportsmens Club, announced today he has postponed the regular meeting of his club from Tuesday evening to Monday, March 31, in hopes that Cleo Riddle, whose cougar dogs were trapped high on a Mount Pugh ledge, will make a guest appearance. Patrick said he has communicated with Riddle and will know this week whether it will be possible for the cougar hunter to attend.

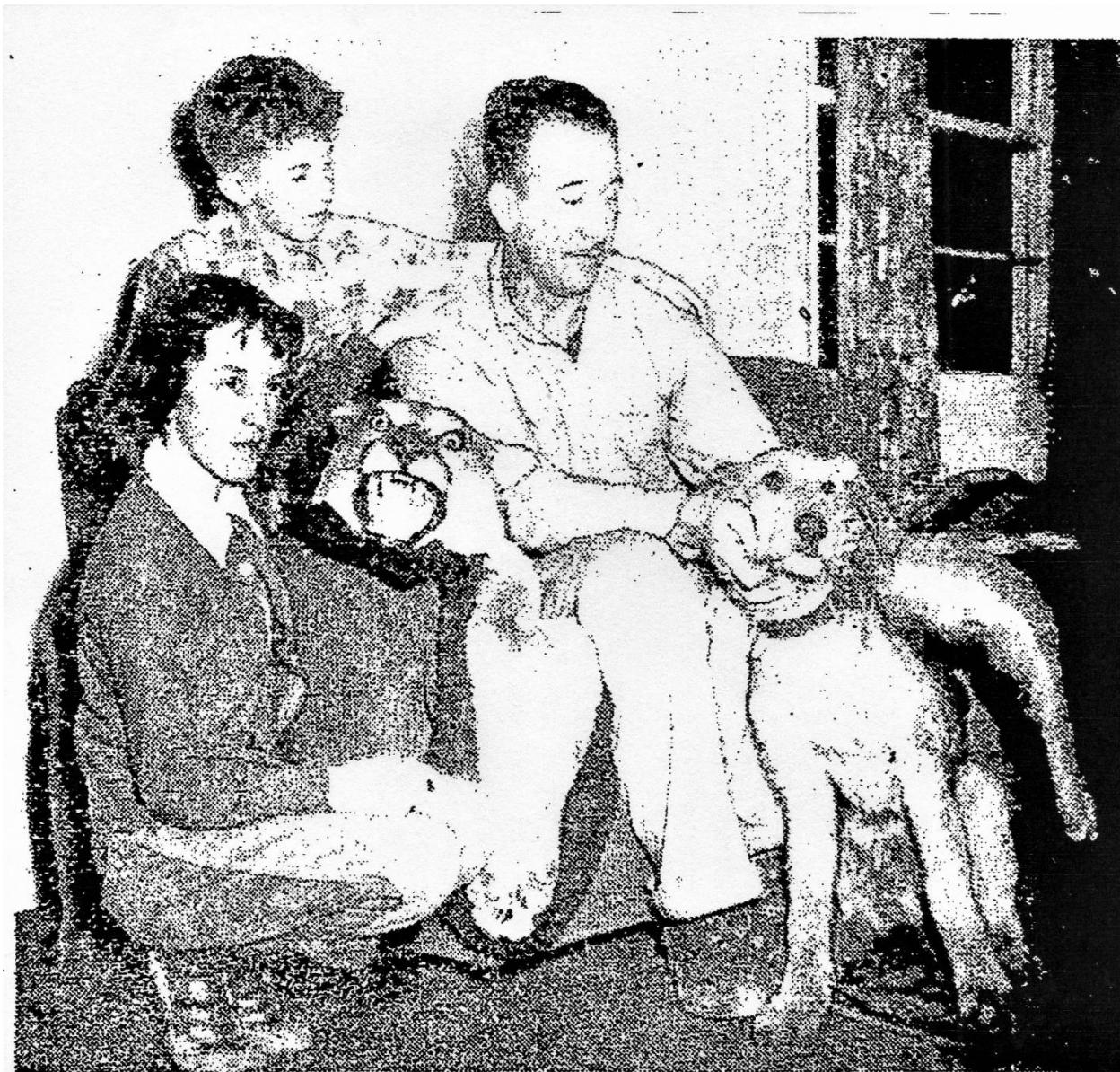
The sports club president, after hearing that Riddle would continue to hunt cougars if he could get another dog, started a fund here to purchase an animal. The total in two days reached \$35.50 and Patrick has hopes the fund will reach \$100 by the time Riddle appears at the club meeting. Persons wishing to contribute to the Riddle fund are asked by Patrick to make checks payable to Cleo Riddle and mail them to Peter Van Soest, Route Two Snohomish. Van Soest was named chairman of the benefit by Patrick.

Through the Humane Society the Snohomish Sportsmens Club presxy learned of a young pup which could be trained to hunt cougars

and which will be given to Riddle by Bill Willey of Highway 99 South. Patrick has taken a keen interest in Riddle and his cougar dogs since their kill of the cats will spare thousands of deer in this area.

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Below is a photograph and caption of Cleo Riddel and his two children along with the one dog which managed to escape on its own. BTW, that is not the family house cat by Cleo's right elbow.



HUNTERS AT HOME: Cleo Riddel, Darrington cougar hunter and barber, sat last night with his children and fondled his pup, Joe, apparently the only survivor of four hunting dogs which were marooned on a snow-covered mountain cliff after a cougar hunt two weeks ago. The children are Patsy, 12, and Winston, 11. Riddell and 12 other mountain climbers yesterday reached 4,000-foot ledge where the dogs had been stranded and found the frozen bodies of two dogs. Third was missing. Joe, 9 months old, leaped to safety down a steep slope into snow-covered brush three days ago. Beside Riddel was a mounted cougar hide, trophy of one of many early hunts.—A. P. wirephoto.

Seattle Times. March 22, 1952, 1.

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In 1952 Snohomish County did not have a Mountain Rescue or Search and Rescue unit, so it had to rely on the members of the Seattle Mountaineers to help with the rescue effort, which had their own Mountain Rescue organization. A volunteer Search and Rescue organization was formed in Snohomish County in 1958.

In August 2008 there was another incident on Mt Pugh involving a man and his injured dog. Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue (SCVAR) skilled personnel successfully rescued the dog this time, even though SCVAR's mandate was to rescue human beings only.

About 20 miles northwest of Mt Pugh, the Oso mudslide occurred in March 22, 2014, killing 43 people. The volunteers from SCVAR along with many other first responders worked tirelessly for weeks to deal with this disaster.

Below is a sampling of newspaper coverage from around the United States, of the attempts to rescue the dogs in March 1952.

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Here is the front page of the self-proclaimed "The World's Greatest Newspaper", the *Chicago Daily Tribune*.



Fight to Save 3 Dogs from Snowy Ledge

Darrington, Wash., March 20
[Special]—A 12th and perhaps

final attempt will be made tomorrow to rescue three hunting dogs from a snow-covered mountain ledge where they have been trapped for 12 days, starving and besieged by voracious eagles.

Their owner, Cleo Riddell, 44, has tried daily to reach the almost inaccessible ledge, 4,000 feet up the side of Mount Pugh, 21 miles east of here. Today he and two Darrington volunteers were forced back by a storm lashing at the mountain.

Two days ago two expert mountaineers from Seattle, Fred Beekey and Don Wilde, failed in an attempt to reach the dogs.

Slide Down Ice

The dogs, Tom, Queen, and Laddie, and a fourth dog, Joe, all were trapped March 8 on the broad, plateau-like mountain ledge while following a trail—of a coyote, Riddell thinks. They skidded down a bank of glacier ice that drops sharply for 200 feet above the ledge. Below it is a sheer drop of about 100 feet.

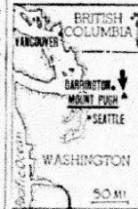
Some time early this week Joe escaped, probably by jumping off into space. Riddell, who found the dog beside a road three miles away Tuesday morning, believes Joe's fall was broken by a tree or bush.

Rescuers have been unable to spot the other three dogs on the ledge, which is about 300 yards wide and 4 feet deep in snow, but Riddell heard them barking two days ago.

Eagles Keep Up Vigil

Meanwhile four to six eagles circle constantly over the ledge. Thus far they have not been seen to land on the ledge. When they do, Riddell says, it will mean that the dogs are dead.

Riddell, who combines barbersing [for a living] with cougar hunting [mostly for fun, but also for the \$75 bounty], was on a hunt when the dogs became trapped on the ledge. Tom, about 9 years old, is his lead dog, and has helped Riddell kill 26 cougar, or mountain lions. The dogs are mixtures of Airedale and "redbone" hounds.



Chicago Daily Tribune. March 21, 1952, 1.

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

Next are a series of headlines from various newspapers from around the nation.

My favorite, from the *Herald-Press* located in St Joseph, Michigan.



Herald-Press. March 21, 1952, 3.

Coming in a close second place, from the *Hattiesburg-American* in Mississippi.



Hattiesburg-American. March 21, 1952, 7.

From the *Tampa Times*.



Tampa Times. March 21, 1952, 13.

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

This from the *Daily Oklahoman*, from Oklahoma City.

Marooned Dogs' Best Friends Try Rescue as Eagles Hover

Daily Oklahoman. March 22, 1952, 22.

Next from the *Press-Democrat* from Santa Rosa, California.

DOGS LOSE BATTLE WITH CRUEL NATURE

Press-Democrat. March 23, 1952, 10.

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

This incident inspired an op-ed by Frank Jenkins, about the character of America's citizens and the leaders chosen by its people. This rescue effort occurred at the beginning of a presidential election year during the height of the Red Scare and McCarthyism. This opinion piece appeared in the *News-Review* of Roseburg, Oregon.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

I'm sure you must have followed, as I have, the dramatic story of the cougar dogs that were trapped on a dangerous ledge on the snow-swept side of a mountain up north of Seattle.

Yesterday MEN braved the mountain's wintry hazards to SAVE THE DOGS. They arrived too late. The two animals marooned on the ledge were dead — victims of cold, not hunger, veteran woodsmen of the region said.

That is a minor matter. The big story is that American men risked their lives to save the lives of the dogs.

This morning's story speaks (mistakenly, I think) of their VALUE. Let's not fool ourselves. It was no property consideration that led those men up that icy mountain.

The Good Book says (John XV., 13): "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Those mountaineers up in north Washington didn't actually lay dow-

(Continued on page Four)

News-Review. March 24, 1952, 1.

Chapter 13: Summit Register Entries from the Cascade and Olympic Ranges

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page One)

their lives. But they LAID THEM ON THE LINE.

They were WILLING to die in an attempt to save the lives of their canine friends.

To me, that highlights one of the GREAT mistakes we've made in our foreign policy. Our leaders have permitted us to be pictured to the world as cold, hard, DOLLAR-CHASERS.

It isn't true.

We aren't that kind of people. WE'RE WARM-HEARTED AND SENTIMENTAL. Those men who climbed the mountain up north of Seattle to try to save a couple of dogs are TYPICAL Americans. We're built that way. The dollar-chasing picture has been conjured up by our enemies.

It's a lie.

But our leaders, by their ineptness, have permitted it to be HUNG ON US — to our great harm throughout the world. As a result, our leadership in world affairs has been discredited in the eyes of BILLIONS of people who FEAR us instead of admiring and trusting us.

That is little short of catastrophic.

What's wrong with us?

That's a big question, but I'll try to answer it — according to my own convictions. When we say that Americans are warm-hearted, sentimental folk, cherishing ideals for which they are willing to give their lives if need be (as witness this attempted rescue of canine friends trapped on a storm-swept Washington mountain) we mean that AS A RULE they are like that.

But —

NO proverb is more universal in its truth than this one: THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO ALL RULES.

There are exceptions to the rule that Americans are warm-hearted, sentimental, kindly people. There are Americans who are hard and cold and grasping. Americans who are willing to BETRAY THEIR TRUST to line their pockets.

They are exceptions. There's another proverb that says "exceptions prove the rule."

Here's what I'm getting at:

We've permitted these exceptions to GET INTO POWER. We've permitted it by our carelessness in choosing our leaders. We've permitted our judgment to be warped by demagogues who have appealed to our baser instincts and our hatreds and our suspicions.

The result is the fix we're in now.

I think we REALIZE it.

We're groping, blindly but eagerly, for leadership that we can TRUST. Leaders who will lead us in the right direction. The direction we really want to go.

That explains what has happened in New Hampshire and Minnesota. We have a feeling that we can trust Eisenhower. It is an instinctive feeling. Hence our willingness to accept him on faith. Anyway, I HOPE I'm right. If we really do feel that way it is a groundswell.

If it IS a groundswell, it must mean that the people of the United States of America are in the mood to take over their government again and see to it that they get the kind of leaders they feel they can trust.

That would be great.

News-Review. March 24, 1952, 4.

Author: Dave Creeden.