**Primary Sources**

These are the primary sources that I used in my research, along with the years I found reports or information.

* American Alpine Journal: from 1943 to 2014.
* Canadian Alpine Journal: from 1947 to 2005.
* The Mountaineers Journal: from 1939 to 1976.
* University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections: Mountaineers Summit Registers, 1907-2015. I found entries in summit registers by Beckey beginning in 1938, with the last entry in 1986.
* www.tetonclimbinghistory. This website contains summit register entries for the Grand Teton Range. I found entries beginning in 1939 for Beckey, with the last entry in 1963.
* Bancroft Library Collection, of Sierra Club Mountain Registers and Records 1860-2015. A research assistant found summit register entries between 1966 and 1978 for me.
* Western Washington University Library, Special Collections: Kulshan Cabin Register, 1935 to 1951. I found entries for the years 1947-1949.
* Fred Beckey’s climbing diary.
* Dan Davis’s Climbing Journal, 1959-2005.

You’ll notice that I don’t include the Appendix in the *Challenge of the North Cascades*, which contains a chronology of his climbs between 1936 to 1968, as a primary source. I found the Appendix to have climbing date discrepancies, climbs were omitted, and it is vague about exactly what he climbed and in some cases the name of the peak is incorrect.

The first three sources are available on-line, for free. The fourth source is available for the public to view at the University of Washington Special Collections Library, as is the last source.

The first three sources normally documented a climb within a year, but there were some reports written two or three years after the climb. Not all reports were written by Fred Beckey.

On the American Alpine Club site when I did a query for Fred Beckey, I got 618 results at the time of my research. Of these, 465 are climbing trip reports, and Fred Beckey wrote 309 of these reports. The first article written by Beckey appeared in the AAJ in 1943. It is titled “Climbing and Skiing in the Waddington Area” and covered Helmy and his climb of Mount Waddington in 1942. He wrote his last trip reports published in the AAJ in 1997, which were a trio of short reports for climbs in 1996.

On the Canadian Alpine Club site, I found 79 climbing trip reports involving Beckey, in which Fred authored 58 reports. The first report written by Beckey appeared in the 1948 CAJ, was a 16-page article titled “Two Months in the Coast Range”, which chronicled the 1947 climbing expedition into the Waddington Range. The last report penned by Fred appeared in the 2003 CAJ, for a 2002 climb of Rusty Peak in the Niut Range of British Columbia.

In the Mountaineers Journal, I found 201 reports about climbs by Beckey, in which he wrote 127 of these reports. The first report he co-wrote with Wayne Swift was published in the Mountaineers Journal of 1939. It’s titled “First Ascent of Bears Breast Mountain.” 1971 was the last year that Fred wrote trip reports for the Mountaineers Journal. They covered the climbs of Dragontail Peak, NE Buttress; Marble Creek Ridge and Kangaroo Temple-East Face.

The trip reports about the same climb in the American Alpine Journal, the Canadian Alpine Journal the Mountaineers Journal could be vague and contain inconsistences when compared against each other.

Regarding Beckey’s climbing diary, he admitted to me that sometimes he was so busy climbing, that he didn’t get around to documenting information for weeks or sometimes he would do so at the end the year.

So even his diary does not contain all his climbs and there are discrepancies with dates and climbing partners. But at least the diary is a relatively contemporary account of his climbs.

Dan Davis’s climbing journal is the gold standard for a climbing journal. It is meticulous, detailed and clearly written. As a researcher one can breeze through his journal to find the relevant information quickly. Then spend the time to read his clear description of the climb as time allowed.

It is difficult to beat an entry in a summit register for accuracy. In my mind, the summit register entries are the only infallible source of information. Plus, some the entries capture historically important climbs and as a bonus are a source of amusement.

The Bancroft Library Collection, of Sierra Club Mountain Registers and Records 1860-2015, contained entries for three climbs that Fred made between 1966 and 1978.

The website containing summit register entries for the Grand Teton Range contains entries for eight climbs that Beckey made between 1939 and 1963.

I found 49 summit register entries in the Mountaineers Summit Registers for climbs that Beckey made in Washington State. A lot of the summit registers suffered water damage, the very reason they were pulled from the peak, so I did not find as many entries as I hoped too.

In the Kulshan Cabin Register, I found entries for three climbs that Beckey was a member of, between the years 1947-1949.

Register entries from the four sources provided the date of the climb, and in a few situations, corrected the year of the climb provided by another source. And it also included the names of his climbing partners, which in numerous cases I lacked.

**Secondary Sources**

Secondary sources are guidebooks, magazines, websites, films and climbing websites. Secondary sources are generally reliable for providing the correct name of a peak or route along with the rating of the climb.

Sometimes the information about the name of a peak or the route stated in a trip report in the primary source was vague or incorrect. Or there was some sort a discrepancy with the information in one of the primary sources compared to one another. I would attempt to reconcile differences about the climb, by comparing the information in the primary sources against each other, along with what I found in the secondary sources.

Sometimes the primary sources did not provide specific grade and class information about a climb or was vague (e.g.: class 5). Early in Fred’s career, a lot of the climbs were done with aid and could be referred to as a class 6 climb. Also, an aid climb could be rated Grade III, Class 5.3, A4 at the time. But now days it is climbed free and could be rated Grade III, 5.10b for example. The guidebooks were helpful in providing the current rating.

However, the guidebooks often contain incorrect ascent dates, even the three *Cascade Alpine Guide, Climbing & High Routes* guidebooks written by Fred Beckey.

See the Bibliography for the complete list of source material that I used for my research.

Author: Dave Creeden