

# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

Vol 1 No. 2

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NEXT MEETING The monthly meeting will be held Dec. 4, Monday, at the Lodge in Conference rooms 1 and 2, 7:30 p.m. Russell Betts will present his slides of climbs and outings in Glacier (Boulder Pass area), Anaconda-Pintla (Mt. Howe and Senate), the Bitterroots (North Trapper), and the Missions (Mt. Harding). A slide program of this magnitude will prove of interest to everyone.

TRIP TRANSPORTATION Cars, depending on type and other factors, cost 8¢ to 14¢ per mile to operate. This is hard to believe but is verified by government studies. This is the total cost of operation, including wear and tear on the car. For this reason it is suggested that on outings the passengers should offer to pay the car owner 1¢ per mile each. With four to five passengers the car owner will just about break even.

REGISTERS are now on Trapper, Lolo (south peak), Stuart, McLeod, Panoramic, and Murphy. Future climbers on those peaks please report the condition of plastic register container with respect to weathering, animal damage, etc.

## Classification of Climbs in Montana Rockies

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|------------------|---|
| <u>Class 0</u>   | Trail walkers.  |
| <u>Class I</u>   | Off trail bushwhacking and boulder hopping.   |
| <u>Class II</u>  | Rock scrambling up moderately easy ledges and cliffs with little exposure.  |
| <u>Class III</u> | Rock scrambling up moderately difficult ledges and cliffs with some exposure but ordinarily no rope work (in good weather). |
| <u>Class IV</u>  | High angle rock and snow climbing with rope protection desirable.   |
| <u>Class V</u>   | Very high angle rock and hard snow climbing with piton protection required for leader.                                      |
| <u>Class VI</u>  | Direct aid climbing using rope tentation.   |

All classes may become much more difficult under adverse weather conditions.

CLIMB OF MCLEOD PEAK On Sunday, Oct. 15th, a group of nine, led by Dave Line, climbed McLeod Peak in the Rattlesnake Mountains. This mountain stands on the west side of the basin at the upper end of Rattlesnake Creek, and is the highest in the range. Access on this trip was made by driving up the main Rattlesnake Road, pass the Franklin Ranger Station no longer in existence. The road was known to go up the main creek as far as Wrangle Creek, where it crosses to the west side, dividing here, going up either Wrangle Creek or to Carter Lake. The right hand fork goes up the main creek. It was discovered that

the road goes about 3/4 mile into section #16, and the cars were brought up to this point. The trail continues from the end of the road and after about a mile, crosses a stream, continues up a steeper pitch coming to a higher and slightly less steep section. (20 minutes) Here the group stopped for lunch. (1 hour) Within a stone's throw to the west, a series of rock ledges and cliffs rise to a ridge which ends on the southeast corner of McLeod Peak. The group left the trail here and traversed the north flank of this ridge through timber, rising all the while, until they came out on a rock prominence overlooking a wet meadow. A little farther west under the mountain itself, could be seen a nice little lake about 200 yards long. Climbing over a series of rock ledges beyond the lake to the top of the ridge, the group found itself at the base of the top cone, a mixture of scree, small rubble, and some large rock. Mounting the summit from here was not difficult, but was slow and tedious (for the exhausted) because of the steep pitch.

After an hour on top the group returned via the northeast ridge of the cone, which consisted of one section of several hundred feet of easy rock work. Dropping off a scree slope of this ridge towards the east, they proceeded through a series of rock ribs alternating with beargrass troughs - a very characteristic feature of the west side of the basin. Lower down, the route followed through timber and some windfall until the final steep drop down to the trail. The trail here runs without much grade, crosses a tributary fed by a lake east under the peak and the above mentioned lake on the south east side, and led finally back to the point from which the party originally left.

In all, the trip took about 10 1/2 hours, which could have been shortened by an hour if the extent of the road up the main creek pass Wrangle Creek had been known in advance.

Climbers: David Line, Gardner Miller, Pat Patton, Tom Choate, Ron Berg, Virginia Vincent, Peter and Lesley Flaccus.

#### MCLEOD PEAK (ca 8,620) RATTLESNAKE RANGE

Southeast Ridge Route - For moderately strong hikers with a little rock scrambling ability.

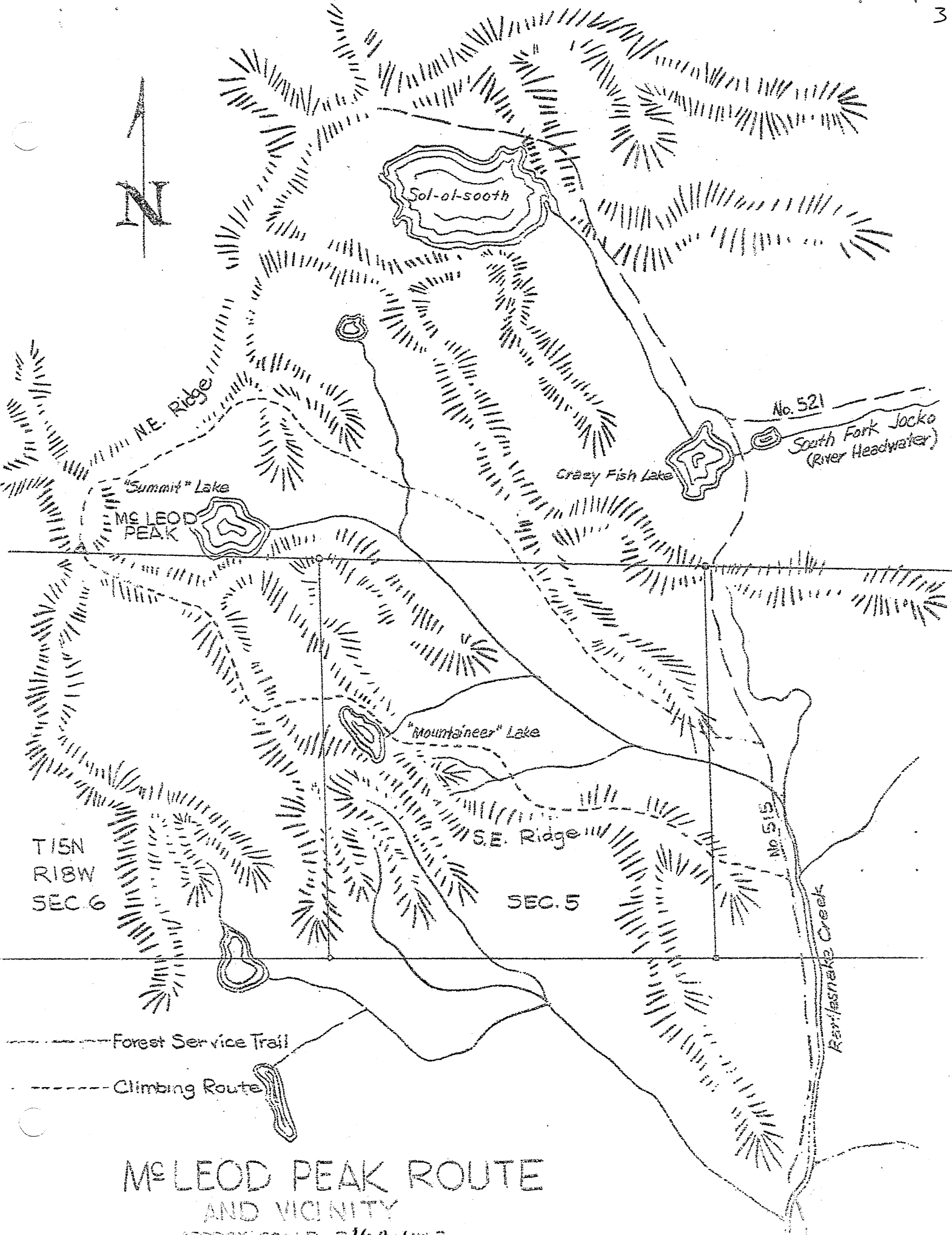
Class II.

Time up - about 3 hours. Time down - about 2 hours. Leave car at about 6,150 ft. elevation.

Driving time one-way - 1 hour 15 minutes from Missoula.

From old Lincoln School, Missoula, drive up Rattlesnake road 21 miles to present road end at elevation ca. 5,950 (road is being extended). Take Trail #515 towards Crazy Fish Lake for about 1 mile. (20 minutes) Leave trail and scramble up rocky ledges on slope 100 yards to the left, west. Proceed upward (+or-500') and to the right, to rocky outcrop on north side of ridge overlooking small boggy meadow and a good view of the peak. Drop down about 100', cross meadow to small stream. Cross stream and follow it up to "Mountaineer" Lake (ca. 7,350') a short mile from peak. Hike around lake to north end and scramble up rocky slope to ridge (ca 7,700') west of lake. Follow ridge northwest to summit. Last 900', more or less, is alternate scree, talus, and outcrops lying at 20-35°. Water available except up last ridge.

McLeod is the highest peak in the Rattlesnakes and gives excellent views of the surrounding country. Forest service map of area is wrong on many details. Date of climb 10/15/61.



# MC LEOD PEAK ROUTE AND VICINITY

APPROX. SCALE 3 1/4" = 1 MILE

# SKI TOURING DURING WINTER AND SPRING ON LIT'LE ST. JOE - BY GARY HALL

After driving only twenty-five miles to the south of Missoula, then hiking for another three hours or four miles (which even sounds easier) to base camp at 7800 feet along a marked trail, you can find yourself staring, practically in disbelief, at the almost virtually open and virgin ski slopes of Lit'le St. Joe, extending down 9000 pass the several campsites. Having cached your gear not needed for the ski descent down, in an hour and a half over class two snow slopes with very little effort, you can find yourself absorbing one of the most enjoyable views of the Bitterroot mountains during the winter months from the summit of Lit'le St. Joe.

Towards the west you can not help notice the 9500 foot snow laden St. Joseph Peak, the highest point in the northern portion of the primitive area, with its massive two mile crescent shaped snow cornice on the east face. It seems as if all the past and present avalanche signs have been born from this cornice. Acting as the gateway to the mountain from the summit of Lit'le St. Joe is a two to three mile, almost horizontal, skiable ridge which leads to the base of the 500 feet of cliffs. These cliffs extend down from the summit which divides the avalanches from the cornice into either the northeast or southeast cirque of the mountain.

Turning southward from St. Joseph Peak you will observe again, as you would have done on the trail coming up, probably one of the most impressive mountains in this region--the majestic, seemingly almost impenetrable, Heavenly Twins lying several air-miles to the west of St. Marys Peak. For me, it is almost worth coming up to here just to see this set of peaks. But here are just a few of the other magnificent sights that can be seen from here: Bass Peak, the Kootenai Peaks, the Bass Castle Crags, Mt. Lolo, Sweeny Peak, Lappi Lake midway up the side of one of the Kootenai Peaks, the "very" steep drainage into Sweeny Creek from the summit of Lit'le St. Joe, and many of the other noted peaks to the south that make up the jagged horizon.

Approaching the summit of Lit'le St. Joe you may have come across the tracks of mountain goat which seem sort of out of place due to the winter season and the height at which they were found, but the goats are able to feed almost the year around on a wind-swept, snow free, western portion of the mountain. I am very dubious, though, whether or not you will be able to spot any of them against the snow.

Having reached the summit, you are now ready to begin your descent on skis down the large dome shape surface of the mountain. The run on top is about a half mile in length and is climaxed by your sudden disappearance over the lip of the large open ski bowl in which, about midway, lies your camp. If the views of this photographic terrain do nothing for your esthetic values, then maybe the descent on skis will have made your trip worth while.

If this area interests you, then more specific details on how to get there are as follows: Drive approximately twenty miles south of Missoula on Highway 93, about four miles pass Florence, to the Bass Creek and Bass Creek Camp turnoff. Now proceed just past the "Charles Waters Memorial Park" (a picnic area) where you will find a Y in the road. One sign points to the left and reads something like, "Bass Creek road and Bass Lake--8 miles." The sign to the right, the one with which you are concerned, reads "Larry Creek road and the St. Joseph Peak Trail" (which happens to be non-existent). Take and follow the Larry Creek road, a passable logging road, at least at present

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for passenger cars, to the end (making four switch backs) where you will find a parking area (elev. 5300 feet) for about a dozen cars. A skid road, passable to jeeps, leads from here. You follow this, keeping to the left, to the end.

This road is about a half mile in length. The first 200 yards are very steep to someone carrying a pack, but do not let this discourage you as it levels out some. The road leads up the north side of the ridge to a bench in comparison to the first pitch. From the end of this skid road is a blazed trail which leads to the left (south) about 100 yards in length, which takes you out on to the southern exposure of the ridge. For the most part, this trail stays on the southern ridge all the way to the camp. The ridge at this point is a crescent shaped, or can be considered a backward C. Follow the trail about 200 yards to the middle of the crescent at which point you might easily lose the trail as it goes down instead of the expected up. If you do happen to stay on top of the ridge you will run into some very thick alder brush which extends through the rest of the crescent part of the ridge. If so, merely head down about fifteen yards where you will pick up the trail. Follow the trail from here for three quarters of a mile up the ridge until you come out upon a ridge extending south. You will notice that you have come to another backward C or crescent ridge. To here it normally requires approximately a fast hour's walk. This is a standard resting place and is an "Observation Point" for the Bass Castle Crags and the Kootenai Peaks.

From "Observation Point" the ridge leads north-northwest for approximately 150 yards before it begins to swing back again to the bench above. The trail follows this ridge and is marked by blazes and with orange survey tape up to the bench. This section of the ridge seems to abound with dead fall. During winter and spring these logs are covered completely with snow making the trail skiable if you happen to be good. Someday, for summer and fall climbing in this region, I hope this next portion of the trail can be cleaned and brushed out better than it is at present. As it is now, you should not have to step over anything much higher than your knee.

Once atop the bench you will be given your first glimpse of the Heavenly Twins to the south. Proceeding up the ridge for about a third of a mile, you will suddenly drop into a prominent saddle. Off to the right about 20 yards is a ford of Larry Creek which is, as far as I have been able to determine, fed by a spring the year around. This is believed to be the only place on the mountain where you can obtain water outside of melting snow. There are three possible campsites in the immediate vicinity. The first is near the first sign of water; the second is about thirty yards up the creek, overlooking the Bitterroot valley; and the third is about fifty yards westward up hill from the first campsite. Firewood is plentiful in any of these three sites, so there is no necessity of carrying a stove, unless you plan to camp at a higher elevation, above the tree line. Cooking above the bowl and all the way to St. Joseph will probably necessitate a stove of some type.

The easiest way to the summit of Lit'le St. Joe from the saddle is to go up to the last campsite mentioned and then follow the obvious drainage up to the headwall of the bowl. Now traverse the headway either to the south or the north to get on to one of the exterior ridges of the bowl which will lead you out on to the dome shaped area of the top. Once on the summit ridge head northwest for about a

half mile until you come to the last and highest outcropping or rock which is the summit of Little St. Joe.

The proposed route to St. Joseph Peak from here takes you across the long horizontal ridge to the base of the cliffs leading to the summit. From here, traverse on skis across the hazardous southeast face. The northeast face is by far worse yet and the cliffs seem a little impractical with skis. During the spring there are many signs of avalanches originating from the cornice above. Traverse this southeast slope until you reach a feasible place from which the cornice can be surmounted. Once on the ridge, all you do is proceed upwards until you come to the summit, making sure that you stay to the left of the edge, clear of the overhanging cornice. During the winter when the danger of avalanches is very slight, this route would probably be feasible for only two people to undertake. However, during the winter when the avalanches are born from the cornice, a party of six would be best, with only two at a time exposing themselves to the avalanches while the other four would be acting as a makeshift rescue unit in case the two were caught by an unexpected slide.

If you want to climb St. Joseph Peak in one day then it is advisable to go up the long easy ridge from the canyon floor. But in doing so you will miss much of the surrounding country.

What is unusual about this region is that it is only twenty-five miles south of Missoula plus the fact that Little St. Joe can be climbed and skied down in only one day if that is all the time you have.

## ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION AND CARDIAC RESUSCITATION WORKSHOP

Where: Life Science Building  
Montana State University  
Northeast corner Maurice and Keith Ave.

When: Nov. 27, 7:45 p.m. All invited.  
Nov. 28, 7:45 p.m. All invited.

What: Lectures, movie, slides, pamphlets, demonstration  
and an opportunity to practice under supervision.

Who is Invited: Nurses, physicians, first aid workers, safety  
officials, ambulance drivers. Previous experience  
with this type of workshop indicates it is best to  
attend two sessions.

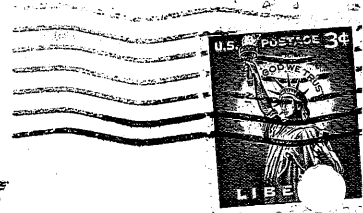
FREEZE-DRIED FOODS Armour's "Star Lite Foods" are the greatest boon to the  
backpacker in many a year. A two-ounce steak reconstitutes to its original  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. after a few minutes soaking in water. Most people cannot distinguish  
any difference between the freeze-dried foods and fresh foods. In the freeze-  
dry process there is little or no shrinkage, shriveling, change in nutritional  
value or palatability, common results of other dehydration methods. As a  
result, rehydration is not hampered by a skin or crust deposited on the surface.

Freeze-dried foods have a shelf life in excess of two years.

Obtainable from: Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
523 Pike Street  
Seattle 1, Washington

<u>Item</u>	<u>Freeze-Dry Weight</u>	<u>Reconstituted Weight</u>	<u>Per Serving</u>	<u>Per Package</u>
Steaks	2 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	\$1.10	\$2.20 (2 servings)
Boneless Pork Chops	2 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	\$ .80 (2 chops)	\$1.60 (2 servings)
Ham Patty Mix	3 oz.	6-7 oz.	\$ .90 (2 patties)	\$1.80 (2 servings)
Cooked Scrambled Eggs	$1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6-7 oz.	\$ .55 (2 eggs)	\$1.10 (2 servings)
Veg. & beef dinner	6 oz.	32-34 oz.	\$ .50	\$2.00 (4 servings)
Chicken Stew	$6\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	32-34 oz.	\$ .50	\$2.00 (4 servings)
Rice & Chicken dinner	8 oz.	36-39 oz.	\$ .50	\$2.00 (4 servings)





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