

# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

## ROCKY MOUNTAINS LIVE UP TO THEIR NAME.

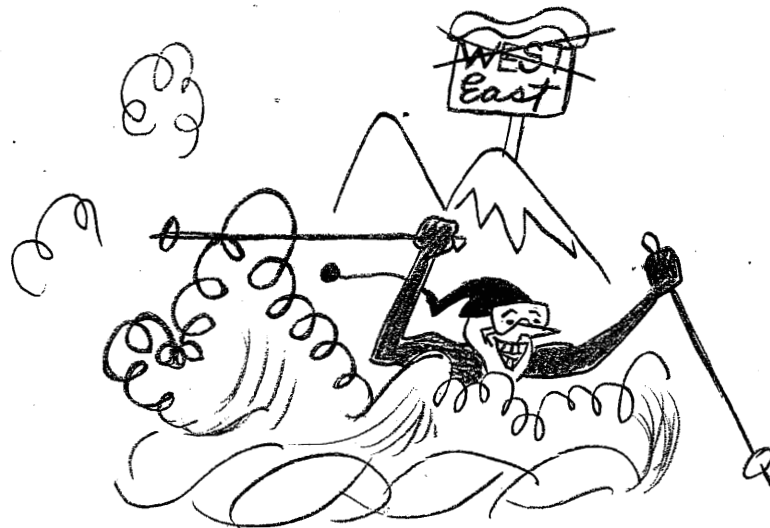
MISSOULA, (PU) - This seasons skiing, even touring, has proved to be valuable experience for slalom racers - around tight gates of trees and rocks.



## Vermont Ski Lift Closed by Drifts up to 35 Feet High,

The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, Feb. 18, 1963.

RUTLAND, VT. (AP) -- Thirty-five-foot snow drifts forced the closing Saturday of the East's highest ski lift, the chair lift at Killington, Vt. The wind-whipped snow jammed the lift apparatus at the 4,241 foot summit. Nearly four feet of snow has fallen there since Wednesday.



# CONTENTS - SPECIAL MAP ISSUE

Announcements-----	2
Recent events-----	2
Marshall Bowl Ski Tour-----	3
Marshall Bowl Maps-----	3 & 4
Hoodoo Pass-----	5
Mormon Ridge and Lolo Peak-----	5
Little St. Joe Routes-----	6
St. Joseph Peak Routes-----	6
Lolo Peak Area Map-----	7
Sweeney Peak Area Map-----	8
Little St. Joe Area Map-----	9
St. Joseph Peak Area Map-----	10
Bass Peak Map and Routes-----	11

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH MEETING - Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 PM, MSU Lodge Conference Rooms  
 SKI PATROL AVALANCHE SLIDE PROGRAM - Presented by Gardner Miller. Possibly additional movie on slide material. Mountain rescue unit information, presentation of the club patch design, refreshments, etc. COME!  
 AVALANCHE FIELD SCHOOL - THIS WEEKEND - MARCH 9 and 10, 9:30 AM, Snow Bowl, upper chalet. This is a Ski Patrol training session, but interested mountaineers are invited to attend and learn to make your touring safer and what to do if caught in a slide. Saturday: Danger signs, snow study, rescue procedure, etc.  
Sunday: Control methods, practice rescue. Bring lunch and warm clothes.

## RECENT EVENTS

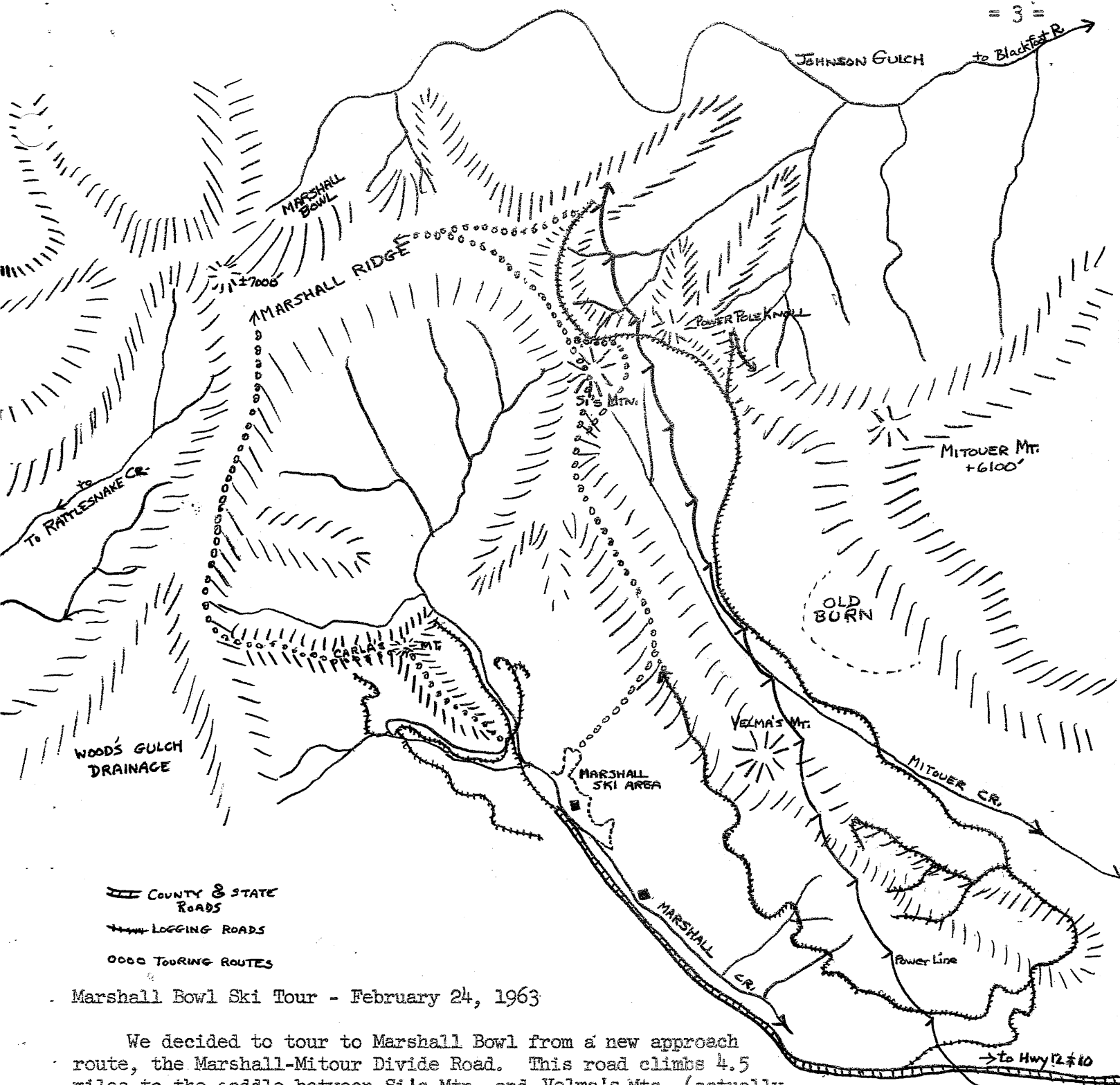
February Meeting. A fair turnout of members attended the busy meeting last month. The equipment display featured much fine gear, imported, domestic, and home-made. The featured movie from the Seattle Mountaineers showed basic balance in walking with an ice axe on steep snow and many scenes of how to arrest a fall with the axe. It was short, but worthwhile, and was shown again later in the evening to the Avalanche School group and those who wanted to see it again.

## SWEENEY PEAK SKI TOUR - March 3, 1963

Although February was so dry that little touring could be done and prompted this issue's cover, March came in with a mildly Lionine snowstorm that dropped a foot of powder on our hills. So the twice postponed Sweeney Peak tour was reinstated. Originally eight were going, but by Sunday morning the three wives dropped out, as did two of the men. Then after playing "musical cars" for an hour (Tom had a flat and Vic's car was left in favor of the Hall jeep) we started off at nine for the Sweeney Creek Road. Following this as far as the jeep with chains could go, we abandoned wheels (after getting stuck twice) in favor of skis. This road provides excellent access to this high ridge as it winds nearly to its crest and without snow is passable by car to the point of trail #93's departure.

We had gained at least 2000 feet by jeep and before long had climbed another thousand on skis in the warm sunshine. Here we found the trail abruptly rising from the road straight to the ridge top (climbers essential) and then pleasantly following the ridge through open Douglas-fir to nearly the top of a second rise where we lost the trail. A route can be found along the ridge top, occasionally blazed or cleared, through moderately dense lodgepole. We ran out of steam and time breaking trail in the deep snow and turned back about a mile short of Sweeney Peak's fine alpine snows. Any party getting on the road by dawn, and starting at least half-way up the road, could make the peak in a day tour. What took over four hours to climb only took an hour to descend as we tracked up the powder on the somewhat open, forested slopes and then cruised down the appropriately-angled road.

— T. CHORTE



We decided to tour to Marshall Bowl from a new approach route, the Marshall-Mitour Divide Road. This road climbs 4.5 miles to the saddle between Si's Mtn. and Velma's Mts. (actually hummock's on a ridge) from the Marshall road. This new logging road is somewhat muddy in places but passable to cars. We were able to put on skis (1:30 PM) about 50 yds. up the ridge traverse into the Marshall-Johnson's Gulch saddle on the Mitour side of the ridge. This is a SE exposure but less brushy (if snow is adequate) than the Marshall side. The climb took about 3 hrs. up under good weather and snow conditions. On top the wind was blowing while we had lunch and enjoyed the views before the descent. Only about 12" new snow on top of ridge and the cornices were only overhanging about 3 ft. at this time as compared to 6 to 8' last year. We did not have time to ski down into the bowl so we headed down the ridge back toward the car. Skiing out was in "breakable crust" so we didn't do much form skiing. Had we been able to start down a few hours earlier it would have been an excellent ski out.

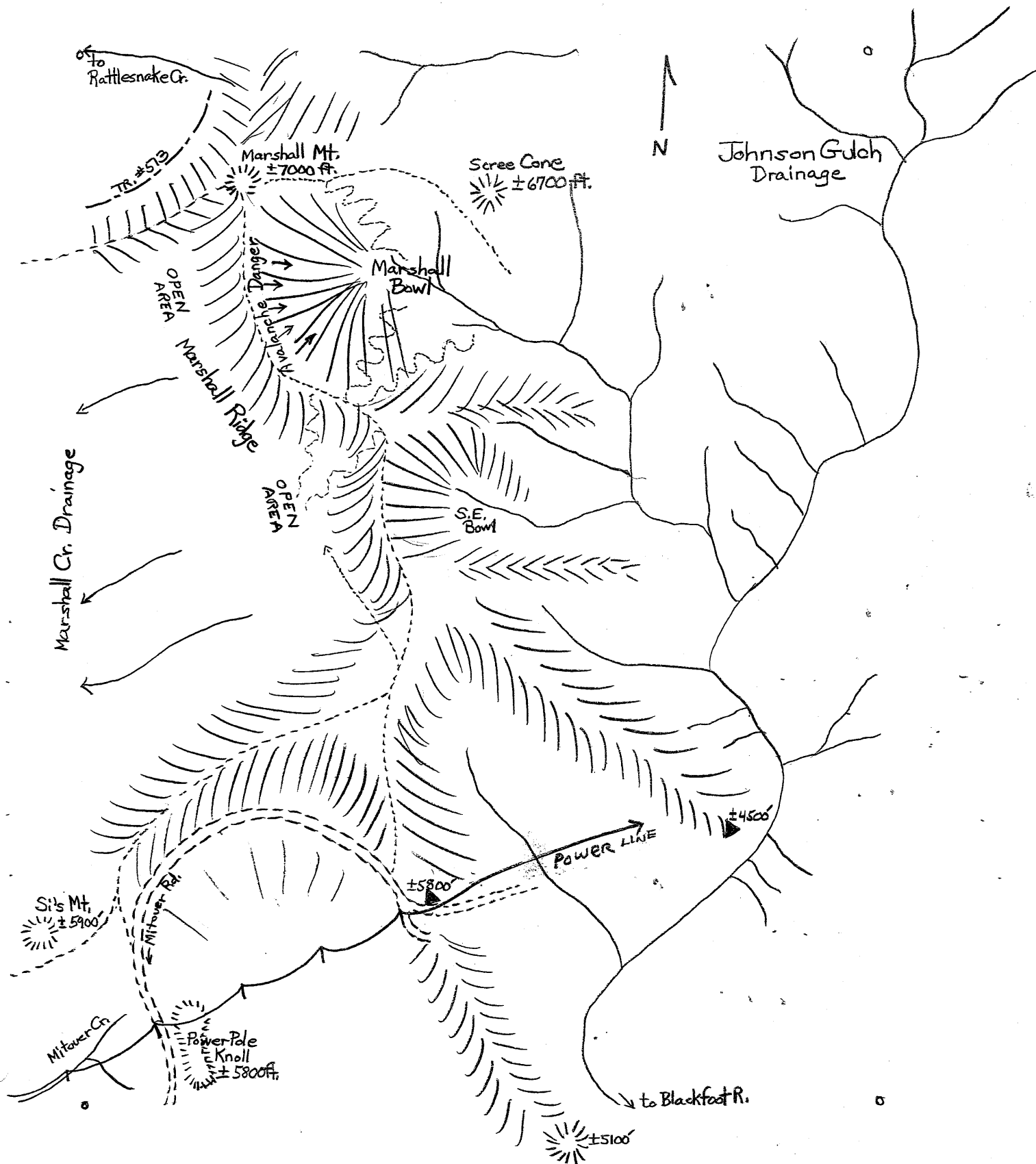
It is best to plan early spring tours so that you are skiing down between 1-4 PM before the crust has a chance to form. The Choates and Braxtons made this afternoon tour and a good time was had by all in spite of the breakable crust. — S. BRAXTON

MARSHALL RIDGE AND BOWL AREA, approach from Mitour Creek

1" = 1 mi.

----- SKI ROUTES

===== GRAVEL ROAD



# A Look-See at Hoodoo Pass

And what did we see? We saw clouds and mist! However four intrepid skiers did find some pretty nice skiing on May 20, 1962.

Dave Line, Gary Hall, Lionel Hall, and Ginny Vincent couldn't wait any longer for clear weather so set out to see if spring skiing in the Hoodoo Pass area was all it was made out to be. This area is up Trout Cr., out of Superior, Mineral Co., Mont. An excellent two-lane dirt road goes past the Diamond-National Mill and on up scenic Trout Cr. The miles are posted along the way. On the lower reaches there is a large campground. The grade is not excessive and without realizing it we arrived at snow line (+6,599 ft. elev.) 17.5 miles in. It was impossible to drive over or through the snow and ice so we took to skis for another 1/2-3/4 mile. Here the road crosses Hoodoo Cr. (sign) in a level area surrounded by steep-sided ridges. The sparsely-timbered slopes are of varying pitch. Though there was considerable dust on the surface and gullies due to melting, the 3-5 ft. of snow was plenty firm and provided excellent skiing. Due to low clouds we could not see the general lay of the country, though we could see Hoodoo Cabin below us. Weather was warm enough to enjoy lunch in a melted out area under the trees. In every bare area trillium were blooming and many birds were singing. At the top of the ridge were some 5-needled pines which do not occur much lower than 7000 ft. Due to the excellence of the roads (graded anew almost to snow line) this trip could be made within two hours.

Missoula - Superior 60 miles

Superior - Hoodoo Pass about 20 miles

D/N Mill to snow line May 20, just

Cedar Cr. Rd. Jct., 17.5 miles

At Superior leave Interstate at second exit and turn left under highway. Another left takes one to the Diamond-Nat. Mill on Trout Cr. where one bears right.

- Virginia Vincent

## Mormon Ridge Reconnaissance - June 5, 1962

Ski mountaineering in the Lolo Peaks area has many advantages: closeness to Msla, high elevation and big open terrain. The one disadvantage has been accessibility. The Carlton Creek road is rough, long, steep and best driven in a "jeep". The best that can usually be done in a car other than a four-wheeled drive, is the ridge, where ruts across the road make it impassible.

The Mormon Peak road is a first class forest road, on a southern exposure which keeps it usable later in the fall and earlier in the spring. It is only 40 min. driving time from Missoula to Morman Ridge saddle and the Mill Cr. Trail #310 take-off.

Twenty minutes on Trail 310 (in good shape) puts you at the foot of Morman Ridge. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of trail through thick Lodgepole will have to be made here. Above this point it is fairly open all the way to the summits of Lolo. The ridge is north facing so once you put on skins you can leave them on. Work up this ridge holding to the Mill Creek side (west) until you reach a rocky bluff, which will probably be blown free of snow, just under the Carlton Ridge. Traverse under this and to the east and climb out on the Carlton Ridge just about 250 vertical feet above the Carlton Lake. Drop down to the west about 300 yds. and 50 vertical feet to the saddle between Mill Creek and Carlton Lake. This is the only loss in elevation to be made on this route. (see map #1)

It appears that one can side-hill to the right (west) of the rocky bluffs into the Mill Creek-Carlton Lake saddle, without losing any altitude. Area may have avalanche hazard when snow-covered but in the summer it might be fine.

When the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of trail still not fully cleared is in shape, this should be only a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hour climb to the top of Carlton Ridge which in itself is a very good ski-off for those who wish to go no further. The Lolo peaks above this point have yet to be fully explored as to their ski mountaineering possibilities.

- Sam Braxton

LIT'LE ST. JOE (±9040')

SOUTHEAST FACE TRAIL\*(see map)

Summer Months - For moderately strong hikers. Class II. Time up  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 hours; time down  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The trail was cleaned out in fall of 1962 to extent that horses could travel over it. It is marked by red flagging up to campsites.

Winter Months - "Exceptional Ski Touring Area". For moderate to strong snowshoers and skiers. Time up depends on how far one can drive up the Larry Creek Road. From halfway up the road the time is about six to seven hours, depending on snow and weather conditions. Campsites are good and water is no problem as the spring runs nearly year round (look on map). Time down for skiers is about four hours by a different "route" than the "trail" taken up and is shown on map. Open slopes from 9000" to 6000"; and from 5000" to valley floor is very open timbered slopes. For more specific information refer to November 1961 issue of "Mountain Ear".

\*St. Joseph Peak Trail shown on USFS maps as going over Lit'le St. Joe is now practically non-existent, being entirely grown over plus having much down fall. At the beginning of the Larry Creek Road is a large sign telling of its existence, but the beginning of the trail is practically impossible to find being located at the terminus of one of many skid roads. This trail is not recommended.

ST. JOSEPH PEAK (BM 9570')

SUMMER MONTHS

Southeast Ridge Route - For moderately strong hikers. Class II. Hike can be made from picnic area in one full day.

Southeast Drainage Route - Same as above with advantage of having water available.

East Ridge Route - For strong hikers. Class II. Can be made from end of Larry Creek Road, over Lit'le St. Joe, on to the peak and back to picnic area in one very long day.

East Face Cliff Routes - (Not Shown) - Unknown if have been climbed. Class V with rock not very good (?).

South Face Route - For strong hikers with rock scrambling experience. A few minor Class III pitches. Be prepared to spend night on summit or pass to west. Take trail to mine and proceed on up from there. (Route from Montana Mountaineers Scrap Books).

West Ridge Route - For strong hikers with rock scrambling ability. One pitch of mild Class III. Steep back pack required to place camp at head waters of Southfork of Sweeney Creek by way of pass out of Bass Creek. On second day can climb both St. Joseph and Stormy Joe Peaks. This is the best route to peak.

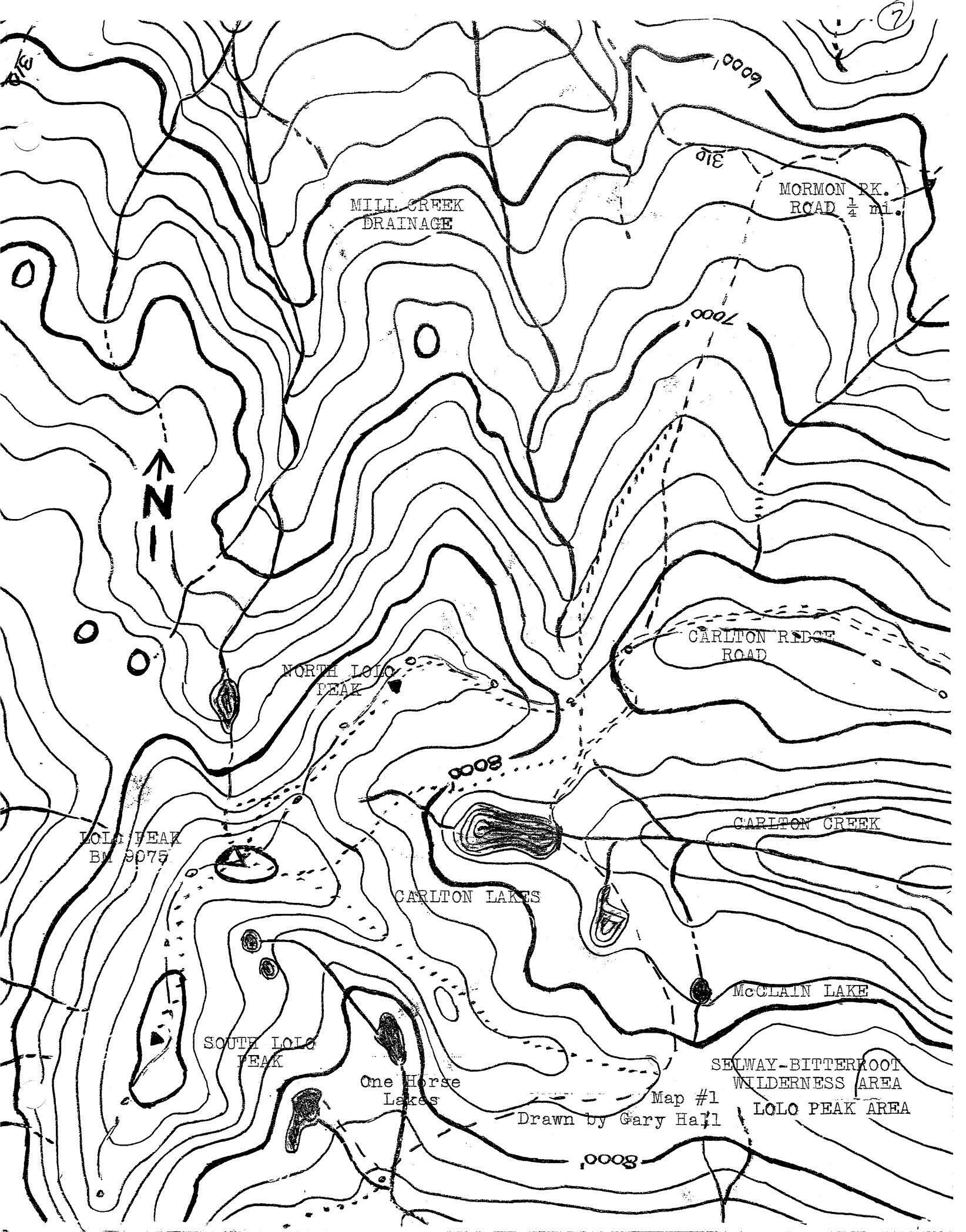
WINTER MONTHS

Southeast Ridge Route - For strong skiers and snowshoers. Lesser avalanche hazard found here than other routes but be sure to keep off cornices. Class II. Is a pre-dawn to post-dark trip.

All Other Routes - Extreme avalanche hazard.

TRAILS

The only established trails in the area are; the trail around Bass Lake from dam to pass between Kootenai and Bass, the trail over pass ending at small lake at head waters of Southfork of Lolo, trail to campsites on Lit'le St. Joseph, the practically non-existent Lappi Lake Trail, trail to mine, and trail on northside of Bass Creek (where road is on southside). All others are Routes.



MILL CREEK  
DRAINAGE

MORMON PK.  
ROAD 1/4 mi.

N

NORTH LOLO  
PEAK

CARLTON RIDGE  
ROAD

LOLO PEAK  
BL 9075

CARLTON CREEK

CARLTON LAKES

McCLAIN LAKE

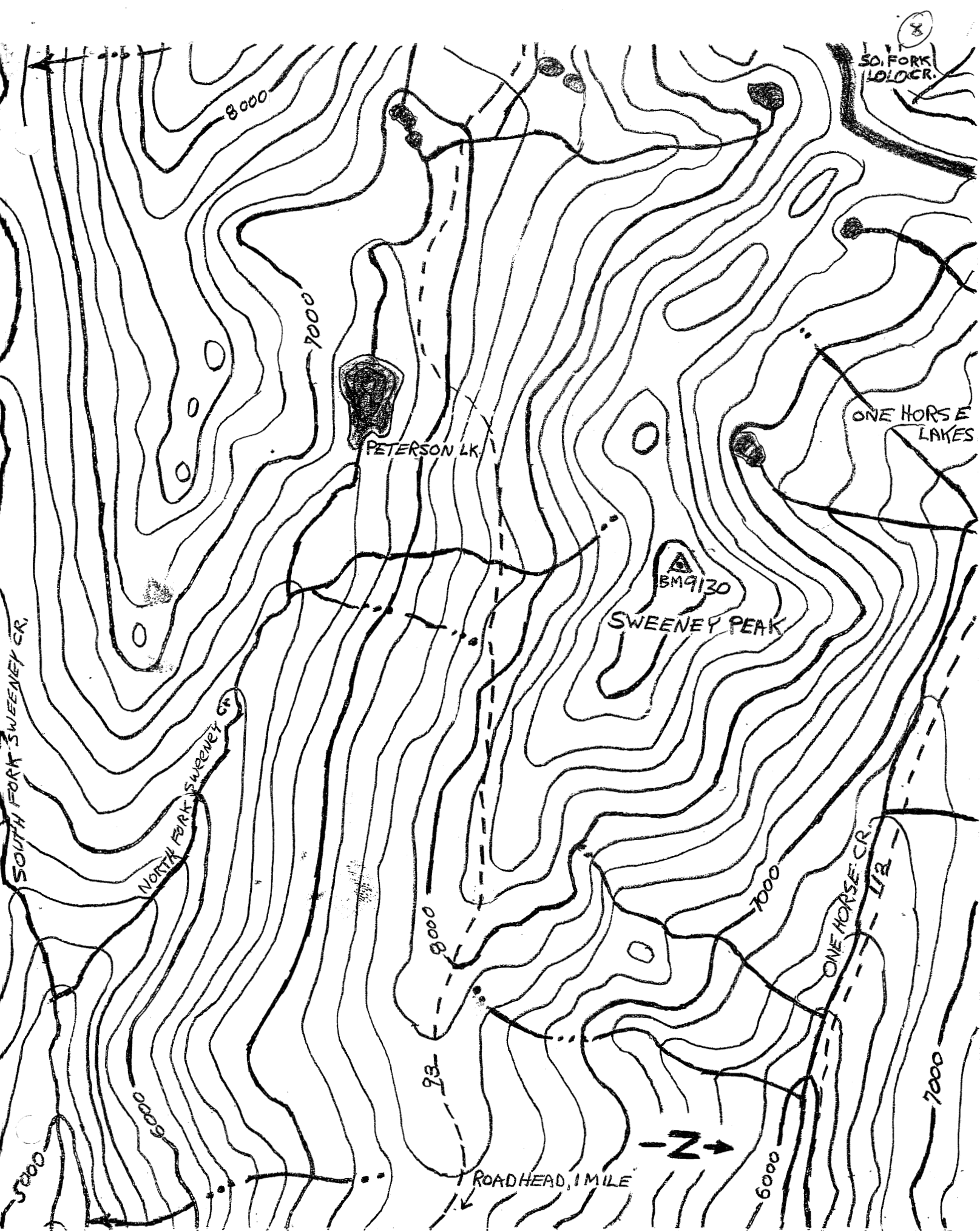
SOUTH LOLO  
PEAK

One Horse  
Lakes

SELWAY-BITTERROOT  
WILDERNESS AREA  
LOLO PEAK AREA

Map #1  
Drawn by Gary Hall







LIT'LE ST. JOE  
PEAK  
9040'

Falls

Shelter

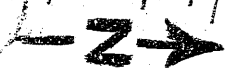
Saddle

Spring

Campsites

View Pt.

Observation  
Point



SELWAY-BITTERROOT  
WILDERNESS AREA

BASS CREEK

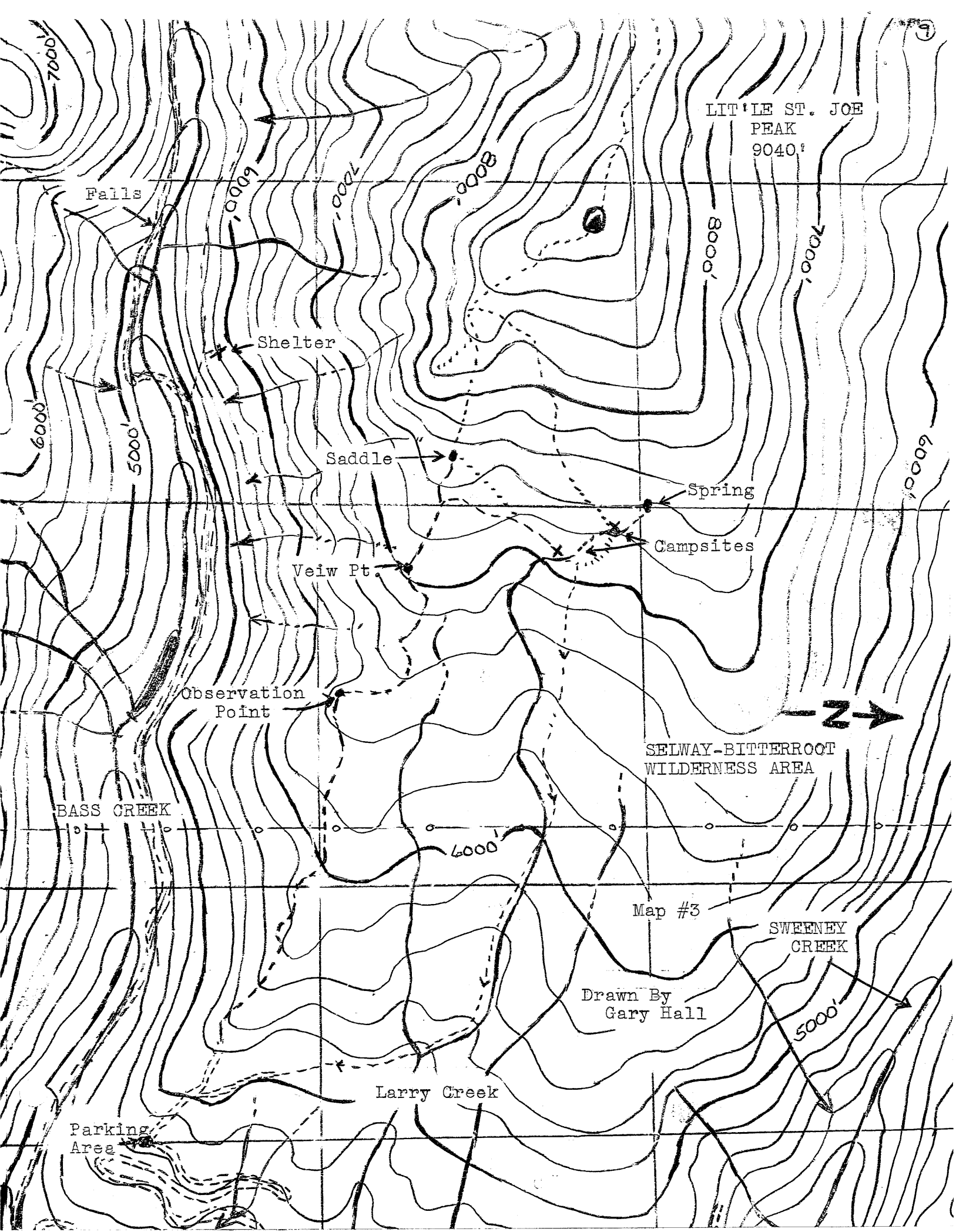
Map #3

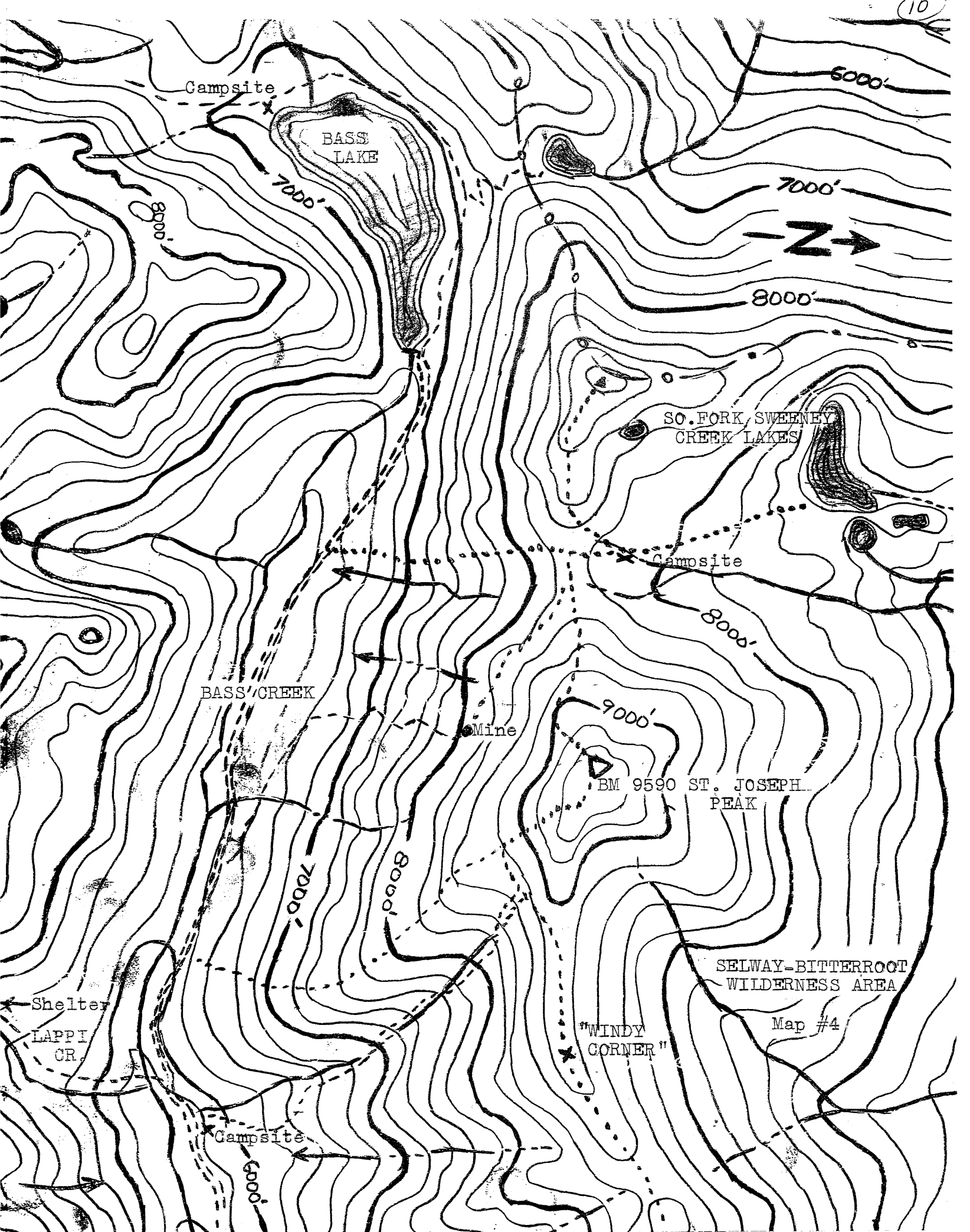
SWEENEY  
CREEK

Drawn By  
Gary Hall

Larry Creek

Parking  
Area





Campsite

BASS  
LAKE

5000'

7000'

-Z→

8000'

SO. FORK SWEENEY  
CREEK LAKES

Campsite

8000'

BASS CREEK

Mine

9000'

BM 9590 ST. JOSEPH  
PEAK

7000'

8000'

SELWAY-BITTERROOT  
WILDERNESS AREA

Map #4

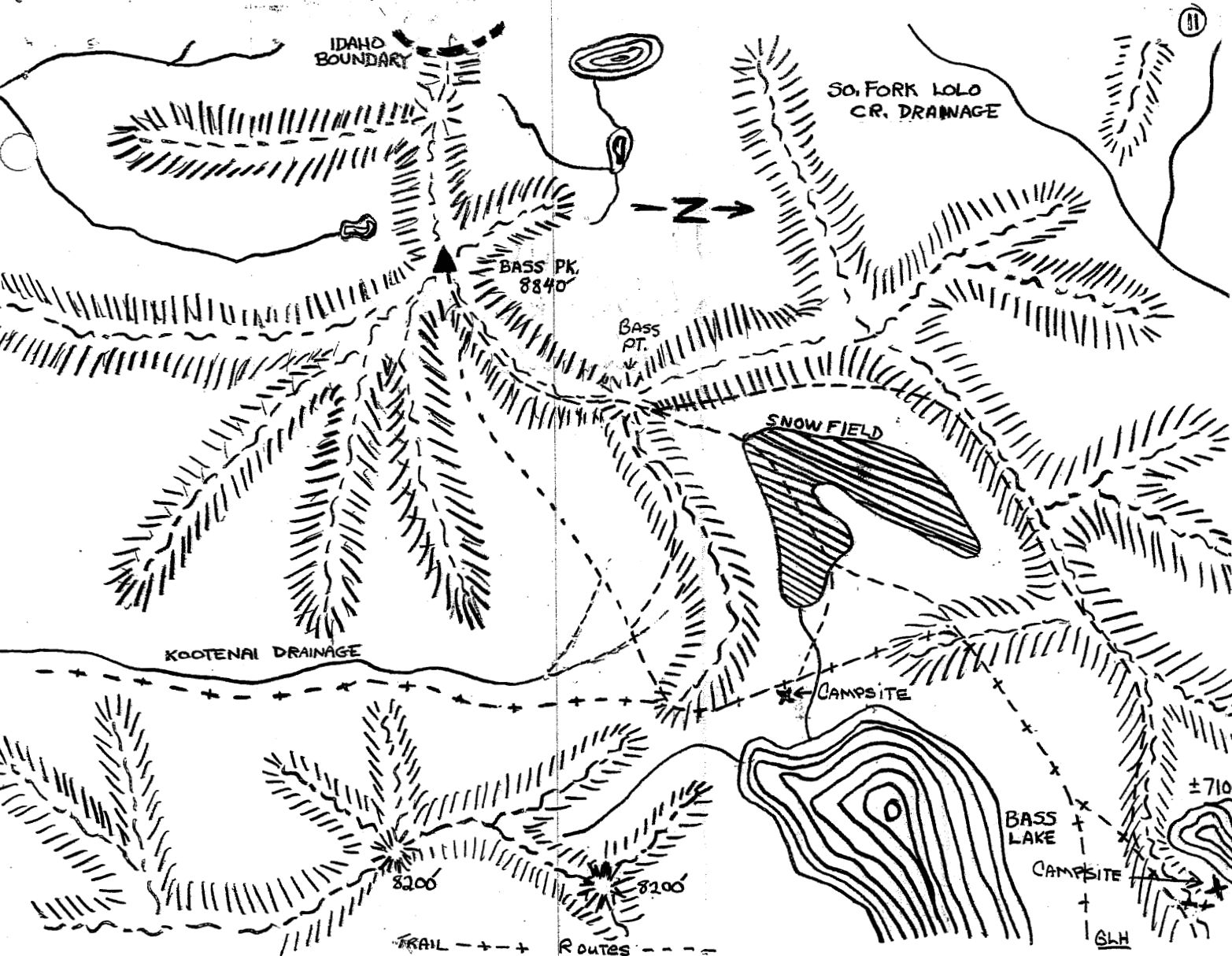
Shelter

LAPPI  
CR.

Campsite

6000'

"WINDY  
CORNER"



# BASS PK. (8840')

## SUMMER MONTHS -

BASS PT. ROUTE - From Pk. to saddle it is an exposed narrow crumbling ridge. Can find route across with caution.

EAST DRAINAGE ROUTE - Class III via saddle for strong hikers. Advantage is not having to cross ridge. (These are hypothetical routes not done by author).

## WINTER MONTHS -

Climb made difficult by weather and avalanche danger of area. Probably not yet done.

## BASS POINT

### SUMMER -

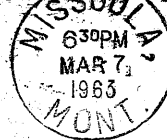
NORTH RIDGE ROUTE - Class II for strong hikers. Must circumvent several cliffs on ridge not shown.

SNOWFIELD ROUTE - Class II for strong hikers over moderate snow slopes with ice axes required.

NE RIDGE ROUTE - Class II over smooth slab rock for moderate hikers.

### WINTER -

Winds coming off lake often make area miserable. NE Ridge Route possible without exposing oneself to much avalanche hazard.



DAVE Line  
Whitaker Rd. Rt. 3.  
Missoula