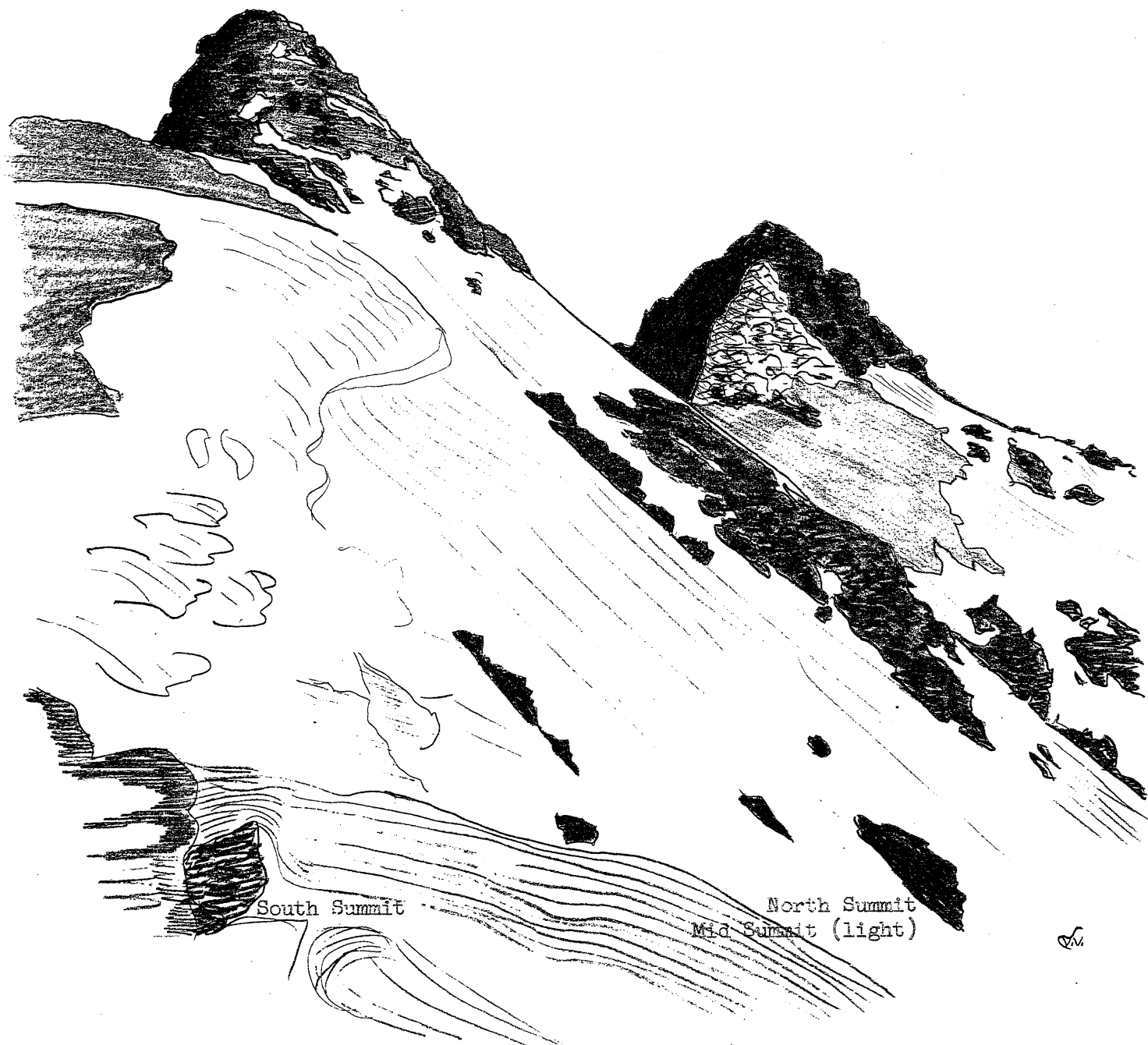


Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

SEPTEMBER, 1964
Vol. IV, No. 1



South Summit

North Summit
Mid Summit (light)

MT. HARDING PEAKS - MISSION RANGE by Dave Line, July 4, 1964
From East Side of South Ridge

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Rocky Mountaineers

We appreciate your contributions of articles, maps, and notes on hiking and climbing. Please submit articles typed and double-spaced. Black and white photos and slides are especially useful and can be traced easily onto our multilith stencils.

Officers for 1964 - 65 are:
Pete Hall, Pres.
John McCammon, Vice-Pres.
Martha Ward, Sec.
Sam Braxton, Treas.

For information about formal and informal activities call 549-2513. The Braxtons will act as a clearing house for planned trips and activities not announced at monthly meetings. Please call mornings and after 9 p.m.

WINTER ACTIVITIES - It's not too soon to think about them!

Nordic Events and Touring Clinic

Word comes from the Southern Rocky Mt. Ski Assoc. that a Junior Nordic Clinic and a Touring Clinic are being planned for November 27-29, 1964 at Crested Butte, Colo. They plan short half and one day tours and an overnight--nothing strenuous. Will emphasize basic technique. Registration fee will probably be about \$3. Cafeteria meals less than \$1. Until further information comes, address inquiries to Kenneth G. MacLennan, c/o City of Gunnison Recreation Dept., Gunnison, Colo.

Don Walters, president of the Northern Div. of the USSA has just announced the appointment of Don Roskie, 361 Carol Dr., Great Falls, as a new member of the Hut & Mountaineering Comm. We're happy to get a broader geographical representation on the committee. Other members are Bob Manchester, 2114 - 37th St., Missoula; Hal Kanzler, Box 913, Columbia Falls; and Jack Hughes, Canyon, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

NEWS RELEASE for the "MOUNTAIN EAR"

Summit Register Box Installed on North Trapper Peak

North Trapper Peak, 9000' in elevation and situated in the southern alpine area of the Bitterroot Range, was the recipient of a cast aluminum summit register box on August 5, 1964. The installation was made by Asst. Ranger Bob Henderson of Darby, Montana and myself, both employees of the U.S. Forest Service, and I also represented the Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana.

The trip started from the end of the road on Trapper Cr. at 7:00 a.m. and followed a trail up Trapper Creek to the confluence of Cirque Cr. From here the climb began at 8:45 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m. we arrived at our bivouac spot high in the cirque. After a brief rest we strapped on our summit packs and proceeded to the top by the scree gully route reaching the summit at 4:30 p.m. There were three summits on the peak where the register could have been installed. I wanted to bolt the register box on the West Summit as being the most difficult summit to reach, while Bob held out for the East Summit as probably the highest. However, since the top of N. Trapper was no place to hold a debate, the impasse was solved by bolting the box to the center summit. At 6:10 p.m. we left the summit, returning to our bivouac spot by 7:15.

We intended to transfer the names from the register bottles to the permanent register but time ran out on us. Will the next climbing party to N. Trapper please transfer the names and date of ascent to the new register?

The installation of either the cast aluminum or plastic tube registers is a joint venture between the mountain-climbing clubs and the U.S. Forest Service. This is one of many services that the Forest Service is doing to assist the recreational public to use and better enjoy the higher alpine wilderness areas.

Thad Lowary

A THREE-DAY TRIP TO MT. HARDING, July 3, 4, 5, 1964 (MISSION RANGE)
by Shirley Braxton

Day One: written on location

Glorious, glorious, glorious--what a glorious trip!! And what makes such a trip? An accumulation of many things. First and foremost, the weather - the sun was out in all its glory, the hike being even a little too hot; cheerful companions, Martha Ward, Dave Line, husband Sam and sons Bart and Dalt - we were all in such gay humor; and a delightful camping spot - to be described later in detail.

We left Missoula at 8:15 Friday morning, left the car at 10:30, reached the meadow below Eagle Pass at 3:00 and high camp at 5:00. The reason we chose to come by the Eagle Pass approach was due to the water situation. From Allentown the NW ridge appeared very dry, with few snow patches in view from the valley. The Eagle Pass route proved to be much the better, since there is an enjoyable trail all the way to the ridge. We left our cars when the driving got bad and hoofed it to the end of the road. The trail takes off in clear sight. A small stream is soon reached about 75' from beginning of the trail. We did well by filling canteens here, as water was scarce until snow patches were reached. (July, after a late spring.)

It was quite a musical party trudging up the trail since we Braxtons all tied bells onto our packs to serenade the grizzlies. At first the darn bell nearly drove me crazy, but after awhile, I hardly noticed it.

After leaving the meadow below Eagle Pass we headed straight up to the ridge which lies south of Mt. Harding. This was a little frustrating at times, as we were climbing through much beargrass. We stopped frequently during this upward pull. It was a hard grade to establish a rest-step, not steep enough to go very slow yet not easy enough to go fast.

Two hours after leaving the meadow we arrived at our home for the next few days - one of the most enjoyable campsites I've used. The ground had to be leveled off for the tents but aside from this we had many conveniences - handy flat rock for the kitchen, and actual running water 10 feet away (coming from a snowbank which Sam tapped with a unique water spout, an aluminum tent peg). The ground was carpeted in yellow glacier lilies and butter cups, and accented here and there with white pasque-flowers. The view alone was spectacular--we could see MacDonald and surrounding peaks, Flathead Lake, Ninepipes Res., and oh, so many potholes. Then as darkness set in it was a treat watching the lights in the valley explode in brilliance. Oh! and an airplane visited us - making 3 circles no less, and tilting his wings and gunning his motor. I'm sure the first time around he was doubtful as to what he saw, but the second and third he was quite sure...Homo sapiens mountaingoatus.

Day Two: conquest

Our party left camp Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and since we estimated our camp at 8000' elev. we reached the base of the south summit rock by 8:30. Here we roped up - Sam, Dalt, Martha on one and myself, Bart, Dave on the second. Actually, a rope isn't necessary as the climb turned out to be mostly a rock scramble. Tis a good safety measure tho' and since most of the party was rather inexperienced, twas a good idea. Summit was reached in 30 minutes. The main hazard in the Harding peaks is the loose rock problem and we had to exercise much caution. Once on top, twas like a climber's dream - warm, tho' slightly breezy, and clear as a bell for miles. Peaks in every direction were showing off.

Instead of climbing over the south summit and down the north side we back-tracked the way we had come up. Darned if we didn't meet up with a friend of Dave's, Ed Vail, at the saddle. Ed had left his car that morning and travelling light had made it to this point in four hours. While Dave visited with Ed, Sam, Dalt, and Bart on one rope, Martha and myself on the other traversed under the south and middle peaks on the east side to the north peak. We travelled across snow patches (rather steep) and rocky outcrops. Martha did very well on the snow as this was her first real experience with an ice axe. (I gave her her first ice axe arrest lesson and she came through in flying colors. Anyone that trusts me enough to purposely fall on my belay is okay by me! In fact, I invited Martha along on my man-less ascent of Everest.)

We had one rather interesting pitch - a snow bridge, where you had a choice of falling two different ways--both very steep; we chose neither. Base of the north summit was reached in two hours. I'm sure this traverse could have been done much quicker but once again Sam was stuck with the women and children, and we are so slow. (Won't some of you hearty climbers please invite Sam along - I'm afraid he's developing quite a complex.)

The north peak proved to be a good, rotten, loose rock scramble also. We had no sooner started up when Ed caught up with and passed us. He had traversed from the south to the north peak in a very short time. His only troublesome spot was the snow bridge which he mastered on hands and knees, using rocks in each hand to dig into the snow since he was without ice axe and wearing only tennis shoes. And when I think of the \$\$'s we spend on equipment. North summit was reached by 2:30, with the same spectacular view accented this time by dark clouds to the south.

On the descent we reached the base of the north summit in ten minutes. Here Sam invited me to climb the middle peak. This task took us a total of an hour up and down, and proved to be the most interesting climb of the day. We ascended a chimney that offered two rather tricky spots, not really difficult but a certain amount of technique had to be exercised. Technique--joke!! My technique will never be found in any book. In one place a rock blocked the chimney - Sam mastered it in no time but the only way I could get over it was to spread myself over it and wiggle up - good thing Sam couldn't see me.

Once off middle summit, haste was made back to camp the way we'd come as the storm was getting much closer and thunder was already sending its messages. Dave was waiting for us at camp - Ed had left for his car.

Day Three: written in retrospect

Miserable, miserable, miserable--how a trip can begin so gloriously and end so miserably is all in the hand of old man weather. Now I'm not saying that our trip was unsuccessful. We succeeded in climbing all three summits, south, middle, and north (Sam and myself that is, Martha and the boys north and south, and Dave was content with south Harding).

While on the top we could see the storm approaching. It was considerate enough to unload its rain after we reached camp and then sha-boom! Needless to say, dinner was served a-la-tent and the Braxton four spent a miserable night in a two-man tent. The kids had used a tarp rigged up but Mom and Pop felt better with the young-uns nearby--near by! What am I saying?? We were all atop each other. Really tho' it wasn't too bad and everytime complaining was heard I reminded us-uns of the poor creatures spending the night on the north face of the Eiger and how lucky we were to be only "slightly" wet!! Poor Dalt had quite a nasty time of it "up-chucking" all night. This boy must learn that mountains can't be mastered on tootsie rolls and chocolate. (Ed. note - These parents must learn not to carry temptation along with them.) However, he hiked all the way out in a weak condition and made it in true mountaineering spirit.

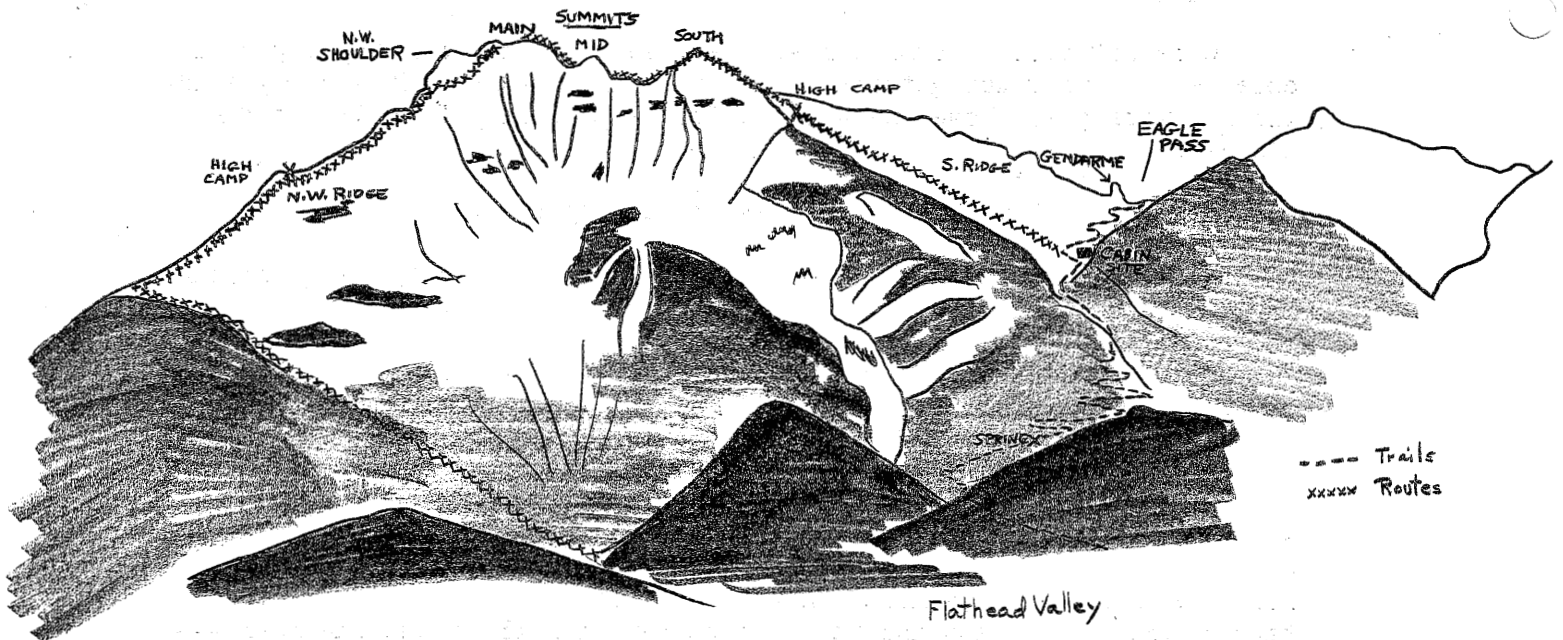
The descent from high camp took us a little over two hours - left at 6:50 a.m. and arrived at the cars by 9:10 a.m. Going out was quite uneventful; a little dubiously between camp and trail since we were enveloped in a misty fog and climbing down steep terrain covered with slippery beargrass. Once on the trail it was a matter of one foot after the other wallowing through the wet brush (you good, ol' Missions).

Let me summarize briefly for a minute. The account of our trip in on Friday was written that night in the tent - I was so excited I couldn't sleep. The account of Saturday and Sunday was done later at home, with spirits somewhat dampened!!!

Route of Traverse from S. to N. Harding Peaks (Class III)

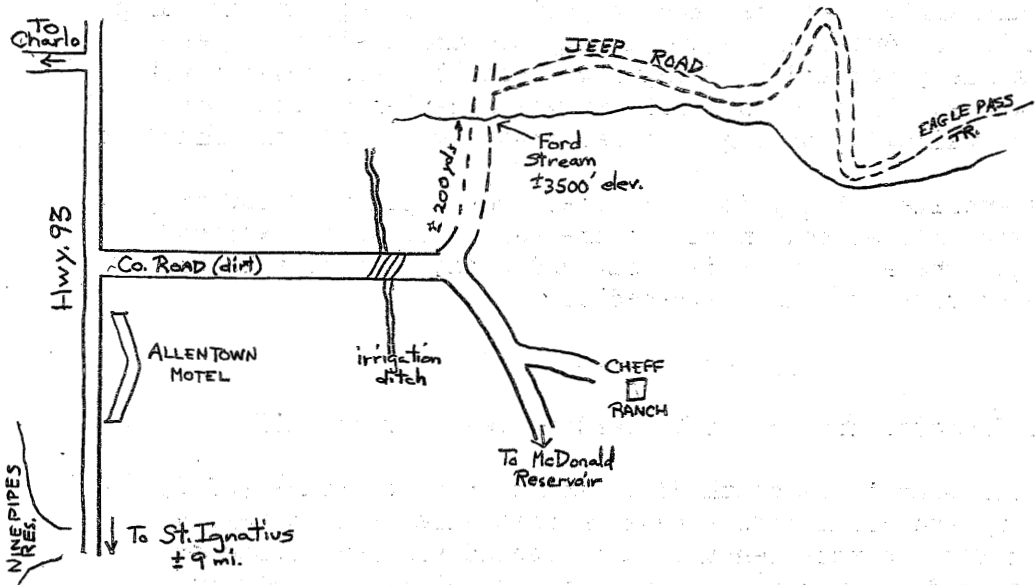
Climb south summit via south ridge and down north ridge (of S. summit); rope up and climb middle peak on east side using a nearly vertical crack for two rope lengths, and descend via same route or south ridge (of middle summit); climb north, or highest summit by its south ridge and southeast face. Middle summit may be bypassed below base on the east side.

Sam Braxton



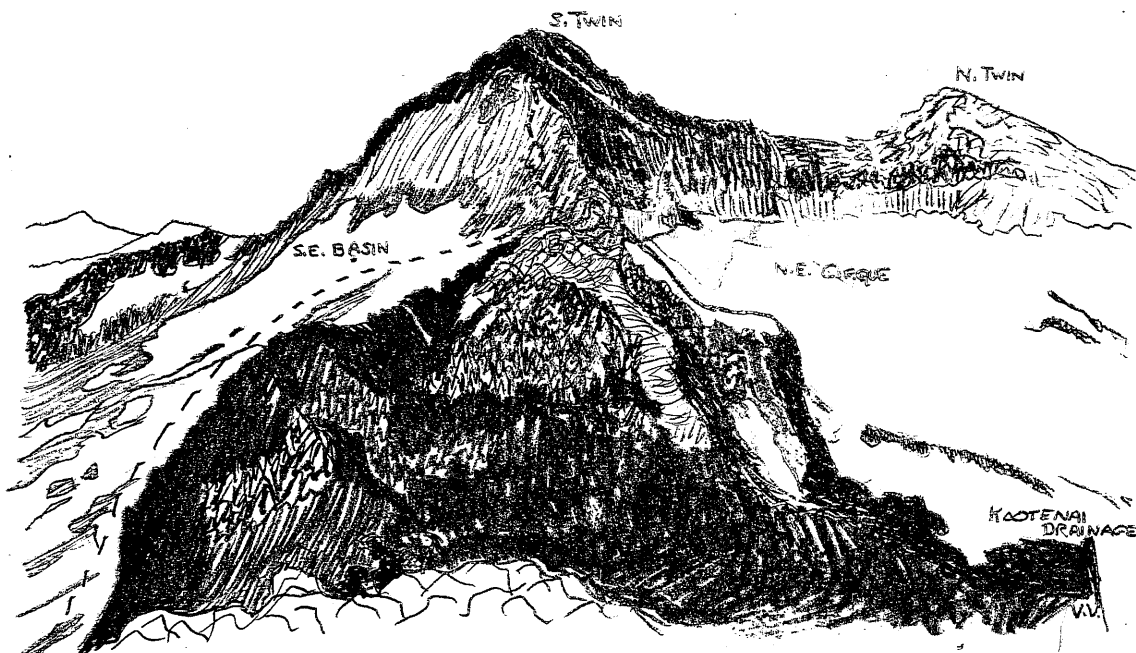
MT. HARDING FROM NINEPIPES RES. - From photo May, 1958

Trip to Eagle Pass for Hikers and Climbers...Sept. 27, 1964..Call 549-2513 for information. This is a trail hike to a most interesting spot high in the Mission Range. A gendarme in the Pass will offer rock work for climbers while hikers explore the area. All day trip - cost per person, \$1.50 - bring lunch and canteen.



Approach to Eagle Pass Trail.....

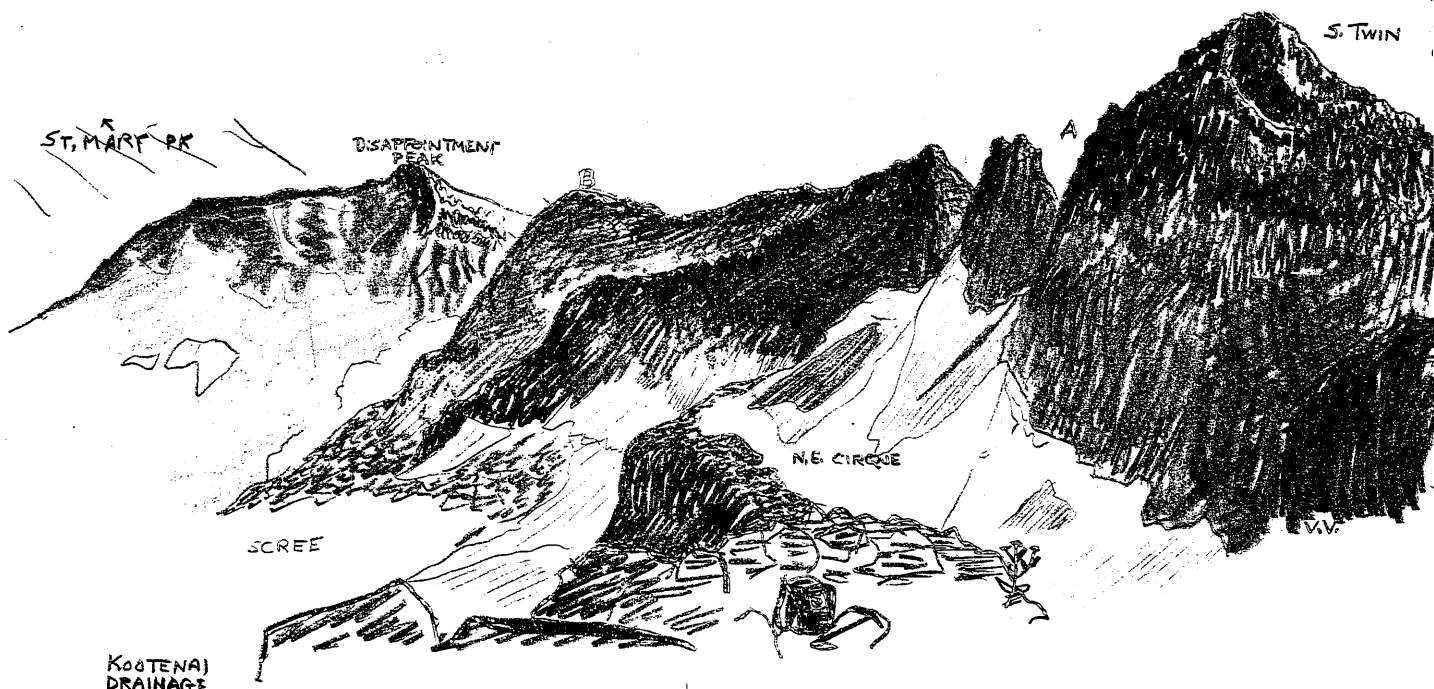
Turn left just after crossing large irrigation ditch; ford a stream, then take road on right. Follow jeep road as far as you can drive - it has been extended for several miles by pole cutting in the area. Trail takes off in plain sight.



BIG CREEK
DRAINAGE

LOOKING TOWARD HEAVENLY TWINS (9275' elev.) FROM DISAPPOINTMENT PEAK

Photo by P. MacLachlan June 1962



KOOTENAI
DRAINAGE

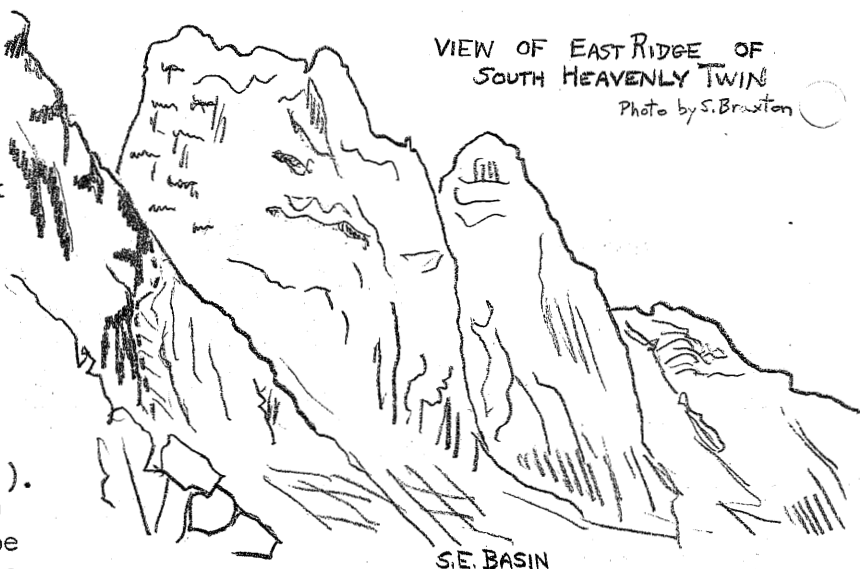
SOUTH HEAVENLY TWIN FROM NORTH TWIN

Photo by S. Braxton, Aug. 1963

HEAVENLY TWINS, W. OF VICTOR, MONT.

Southeast Face Route - Class III

Approach from end of Big Creek road, to Upper St. Mary Lk. (see map June-July 1964 "Mountain Ear") 7 hrs., with overnight gear. From low point in Disappointment Ridge which is directly above Upper St. Mary Lk., drop down several hundred feet to small stream, then climb into S.E. Basin up to couloir at base of east ridge ($2\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.). Climb up couloir about 100' (north) then west up east ridge for one rope length; cross out onto the S.E. face and climb to summit (1 hr.). Traverse from S. to N. Twin and back is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.



VIEW OF EAST RIDGE OF
SOUTH HEAVENLY TWIN
Photo by S. Braxton

Register notes (verbatim) from atop Heavenly Twins:

Aug. 16, 1935 Edward M. Little - Msla.U. of M.

Hampton K. Snell - Msla.U. of M.

D. Wayne Byall - Msla.

saw one goat on way up.

climbed up from valley

and ridge west from St.

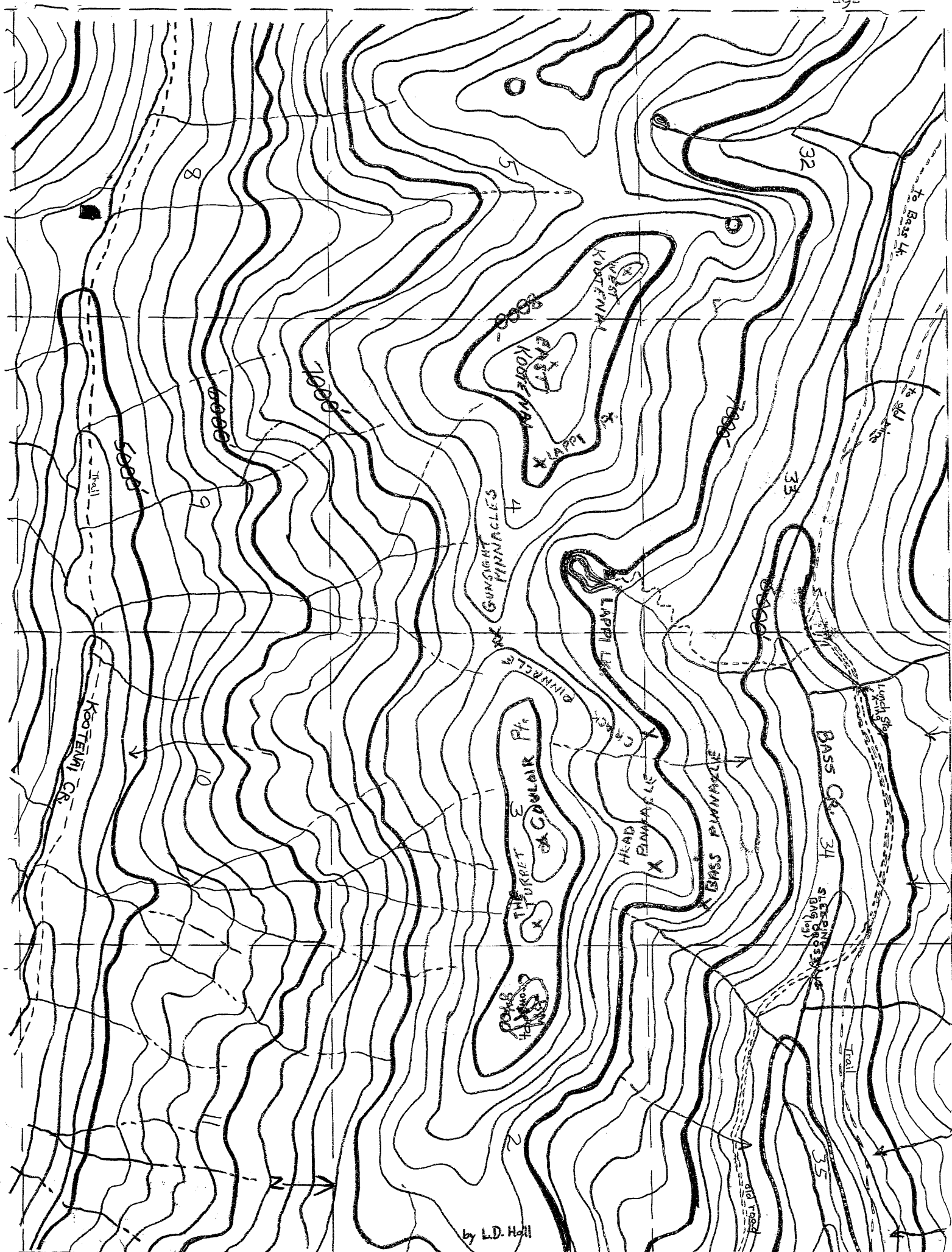
Mary Peak.

Aug. 14, 1955 William A. Long 925 N. Chelan Ave., Wenatchee, Wn.

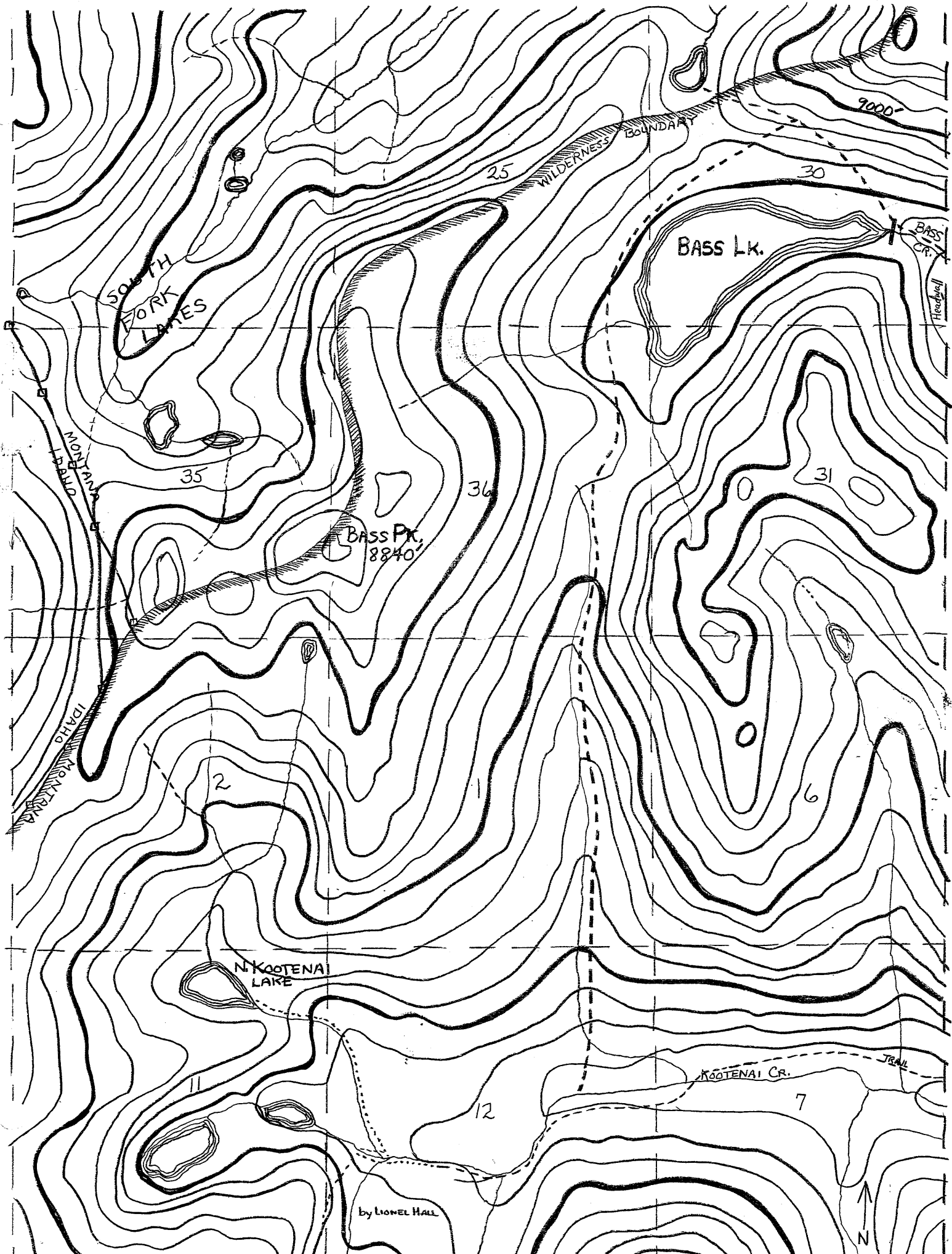
William M. Myers 429 S. 5th E. Missoula

by way of Beaver Cr. Saw a black bear on way up.

From time to time notes from the registers atop area mountains will be brought down and filed with club papers, and published verbatim in articles about the specific mountain. It is important that the multitude of slips of paper making up these registers not be mislaid. (see page 13)



by L.D. Hall



DOINGS AT LAPPI LAKE

A work party of five (Gary Hall, Dick Wolff, Sam, Bart and Dalt Braxton) packed in roofing, gas, and bunk material on Aug. 29. Bruce and Colin Hardy had preceded us, by about an hour, to the cabin for an overnight hike. We assembled the lower section of the bunks, cleaned up a bit, and cut some wood. Eventually the Lappi Aid Shelter will sleep four on bunks, with room for two more on the floor.

OUT OF THE RUCKSACK, ideas old and new

Bob Larson of Billings sends this suggestion about Primus-type stoves: I purchased a stove pad from the dime store (one of those old deals with a metal side and an asbestos side) - round in shape, of a proper size to fit inside my army two-man mountain pot set (wherein I also carry my 71 L Primus), punched a hole in the pad and in the bottom of the Primus metal case, and carry a short metal-cutting screw in the hole in the case - when the time comes to fire up, I screw the pad to the bottom of the case. It provides insulation for the bottom of the stove and, more important, provides a wide diameter base for the assembly to prevent tip-overs.

REGISTER NOTES from Squaw Pk., N.W. of Missoula, Mont.

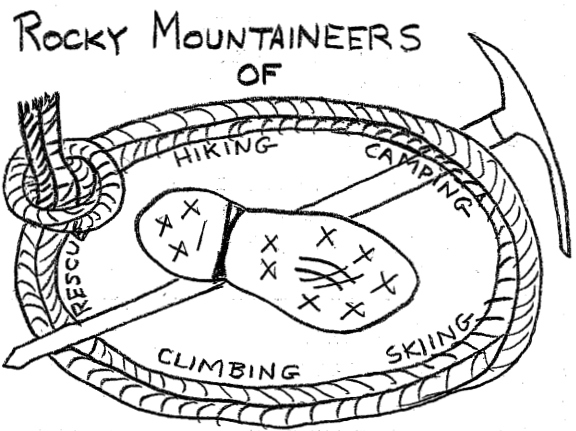
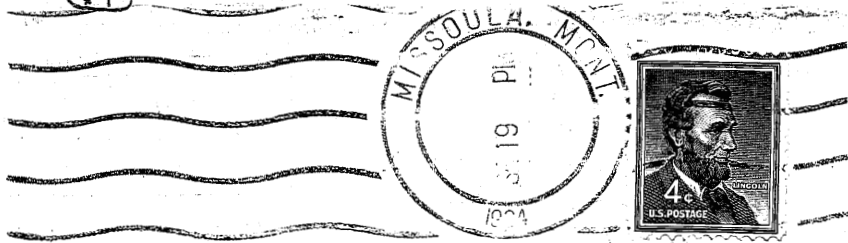
Boy Scout Troop 37 Sept. 27, 1958		
Gordon Smith	Jim Johnson	Bucky Heinle
Ted Boyd	Bobby Lewis	Mr. Smith
Alberton	Bobby Johnson	Danny Hecathonn
Ronald Bernid	Bobby Dewald	Colin Misenar
6/27/60	Horst & Lois	Sept. 10, 1960
Ed Cech	Jarka	Post 14 - B.S.A.
Ed Cech Jr.	Vienna, Austria	Missoula, Mont.
5241-South Fair Elms	18 Sept. 60	
Chicago, Illinois		Made camp on Stoney Creek -
-----	Margaret Barnett	hiked up trail to Squaw Peak.
Del Cox, D.F.R.	Joyce Barnett	
9 Mile R.S.	Bob Barnett 9/16/62	Leonard Zawada President
Huson, Mont.	Albert Barnett	John Nash Treasurer
		Jerry Denend Secretary
Maurice R. Felton Nine Mile Ranger		Norman Heberle Rep.
Station Huson, Montana June 9, 1961		Curt Hesler
2:32 P.M. Maintained Stonie Creek		George Winn Adams
trail am leaving now. So long		Bob Thompson
		Walt Bradford-nuisance
Undated names - Steve Brien		John Nash - Advisor
Ted Brien Missoula		1455. - 9-10-60
Virginia Dale hard walk up the		
mountain)		
		Bob Richardson
Hal Samsel Missoula Montana June 24 1962		Huson, Montana
Steve Samsel Missoula Montana June 12 1962		1961
Rick and Dave Wells Aug. 14, 1962		Ken Wagner Aug 1963

Billy Myers (age 5) Charlie Myers (age 3) Vera Myers Tom Myers June 15 1963		July 4, 1963 Gabe & Don Forrester Missoula - Saw 2 big white-tail bucks down below	
M.S.U. Richard Nelson Pat Carney 7 July 1964			
Len Labawl Aug. 14-1963 KAVALLI MONT. PO BOX 11			
Paullette Dale; Boy what a trip! Now all we have to do is get down Hal Dale Virginia Dale 9/16/62		Oct. 27, 1962 Started from the Rath Pk. road. Weather is sunny but a little windy. 7-55° F. Ron Berg & Allen Fetscher soup down below. Air cool.	
Oct. 7, 1962 Bob Turner Brandy Maria Morisaina Lynn Blumberg Bob Burgess Agnes Boner		Oct. 27, 1962 Started from the Rath Pk. road. Weather is sunny but a little windy. 7-55° F. Ron Berg & Allen Fetscher soup down below. Air cool.	
Mike Rafferty Age 13 Denny Rafferty Age 11 Chuck Rafferty Age 10 and our Dog - Teoh Sept. 2, 1962		Oct. 27, 1962 Started from the Rath Pk. road. Weather is sunny but a little windy. 7-55° F. Ron Berg & Allen Fetscher soup down below. Air cool.	
More Register Notes From Squaw Pk.		Oct. 27, 1962 Started from the Rath Pk. road. Weather is sunny but a little windy. 7-55° F. Ron Berg & Allen Fetscher soup down below. Air cool.	

Aug. 5, '63
7 P.M.
We tried the assault on Squaw Pk. for the
first time in March, '63, but melting snow
made the going too tough on snowshoes and
stopped a mile short.
Today the 80° weather and huckleberry
picking on the way up made it a much more
pleasant trip
Bob Mutch
Bob Schuette

"The Mountain Ear"
2100 South Ave. W.
Missoula, Mont. 59801

Return Postage Guaranteed



WESTERN MONTANA

Dave Line
Whitaker Road
Rt. #3
Missoula, Montana

Exp Oct