

## OUR NATIONAL PARK

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HIS year more than fifty-five thousand persons visited Mount Rainier National Park. This establishes a new record for attendance, a full twenty-five per cent above any previous year.

Of the thousands of visitors each year, many come from the city in an afternoon, spend a night in the park and start for home the next day. This gives them a week-end holiday and, if that is all the time they can spare, it is better to take a short trip than no trip at all. However, one cannot help feeling that a longer stay is necessary in order to see more of the beauties of the park and to carry away a lasting impression of the majesty, the serenity and mystery of the great mountain.

No trip could be more ideal than the one the Mountaineers enjoyed this summer. Three weeks spent in the open, sleeping under the stars, making the entire circuit of the mountain, on foot and leisurely, climbing to the high places, crossing the glaciers, descending into the valleys, watching the leaping waterfalls, listening to the merry chatter of the mountain streams and standing in the silent forests of giant trees.

To take such a trip is to see the mountain and the park under the best conditions and in the most delightful way. Surely, none of the thousands of visitors could have had a more thoroughly successful and satisfying trip than the Mountaineers. It is to be hoped that more and more people will be able to take similar trips in future years.

The large travel to the park, already taxing the available accommodations and increasing by leaps and bounds from year to year, necessitates consideration of how the growing number of visitors may be given a larger territory to explore and prevent overcrowding of the one portion of the park now accessible.

The ultimate development of the park will probably require highways leading up the river valleys at the four corners of the park and other highways, either inside or outside the park boundaries, connecting these four corners. The "Tap roads" must come first and the "Around-the-Mountain" road will come, all in due time.

There is an occasional person who feels that development of the park by automobile roads is undesirable, and who dreads lest the beauties of the region be marred by too numerous visitors. However, such fears are groundless as well as selfish. On account of the heavy snow-fall of the region, a road that goes above an elevation of 5500 feet will not be open, on an average, before the middle of July, and sometimes not then. This gives only two months' use of the road, since few people would use such roads after the middle of September, even if weather conditions permitted. Half of the area of the park lies at an elevation of more than 5500 feet and is, therefore,



MOUNT RAINIER AND OHANAPECOSH GLACIER FROM ABOVE INDIAN BAR.

*Roger W. Toll*

safe against having its solitude disturbed by an automobile horn. What additional roads would do would be to make accessible starting points, from which further exploration could be made. Such starting points, easily reached, are greatly needed. The present road up the Nisqually River does not develop more than five per cent of the area of the Park and the remaining ninety-five per cent remains unvisited except by a hardy few.

For several years a road has been advocated running through Fairfax and up the Carbon River. The development of the northwest corner of the park would make accessible the Carbon Glacier, Moraine Park, Mystic Lake, Spray Park, and Mowich Lake (formerly known as Crater Lake). These are but a few of the better known features and there are many other attractions of this region. The Carbon Glacier would be many miles nearer by road to both Seattle and Tacoma, than the Nisqually glacier is at present. This proximity would be an important feature in drawing visitors and handling problems of transportation.

The number of visitors that throng to the Nisqually road in midsummer at times seriously overcrowd the available hotel accommodations. New regions of the park must be developed, with new hotel and camp accommodations, in order to divert a portion of the increasing number of yearly visitors. The Carbon River road is the most logical and desirable road for such new development.

Next in importance would come the White River road. A road now runs up the White River to a point about ten miles from the park entrance and contractors are now at work on the remaining distance. Within the park, a mining road was built some years ago up to Glacier Basin. This road is not satisfactory as an automobile highway and its reconstruction will be necessary to properly develop this portion of the park. A road up the White River will make accessible Glacier Basin, the Emmons Glacier, Yakima Park, the Sourdough Mountains, Steamboat Prow (from which starts one of the two best routes to the summit), beautiful Summer Land, half encircled by glaciers, and many other points of interest.

A road from Lewis up the Ohanapecosh River would make accessible the Ohanapecosh Hot Springs, lying just outside the National Park, noted for their curative powers, and also the wonderful forests of fir and cedar in that portion of the park. It would greatly facilitate access to the remarkable box canyon of the Muddy Fork as well as to Cowlitz Park, Indian Bar, Ohanapecosh Park and other beautiful regions.

The construction of one, two, or all of these main roads would increase the demand for connecting roads, following the most practicable location, whether inside or outside of the park boundaries. These main "tap roads" would not only make accessible the areas immediately adjoining the roads, but would offer to the nature lover and the out-of-door enthusiast an opportunity that does not now exist, of taking comparatively short and inexpensive

trips from one corner of the park to another. One can carry blankets and provisions for a two-day trip while one cannot, with pleasure and comfort, carry equipment for a trip of a week or ten days' duration.

Suppose, for example, that there was a road up the Carbon River and a camp or hotel at the terminus of the road. How many more people would be able to make the trip along the trail on the west side of the mountain? Suppose that one or two permanent camps were established at suitable intervals, with tents, bedding and food. One could then start from the Nisqually, either on foot or on horseback, but without the necessity of a pack train, and know that at the end of a day's trip a camp would be found with all the necessities for rest, shelter and food.

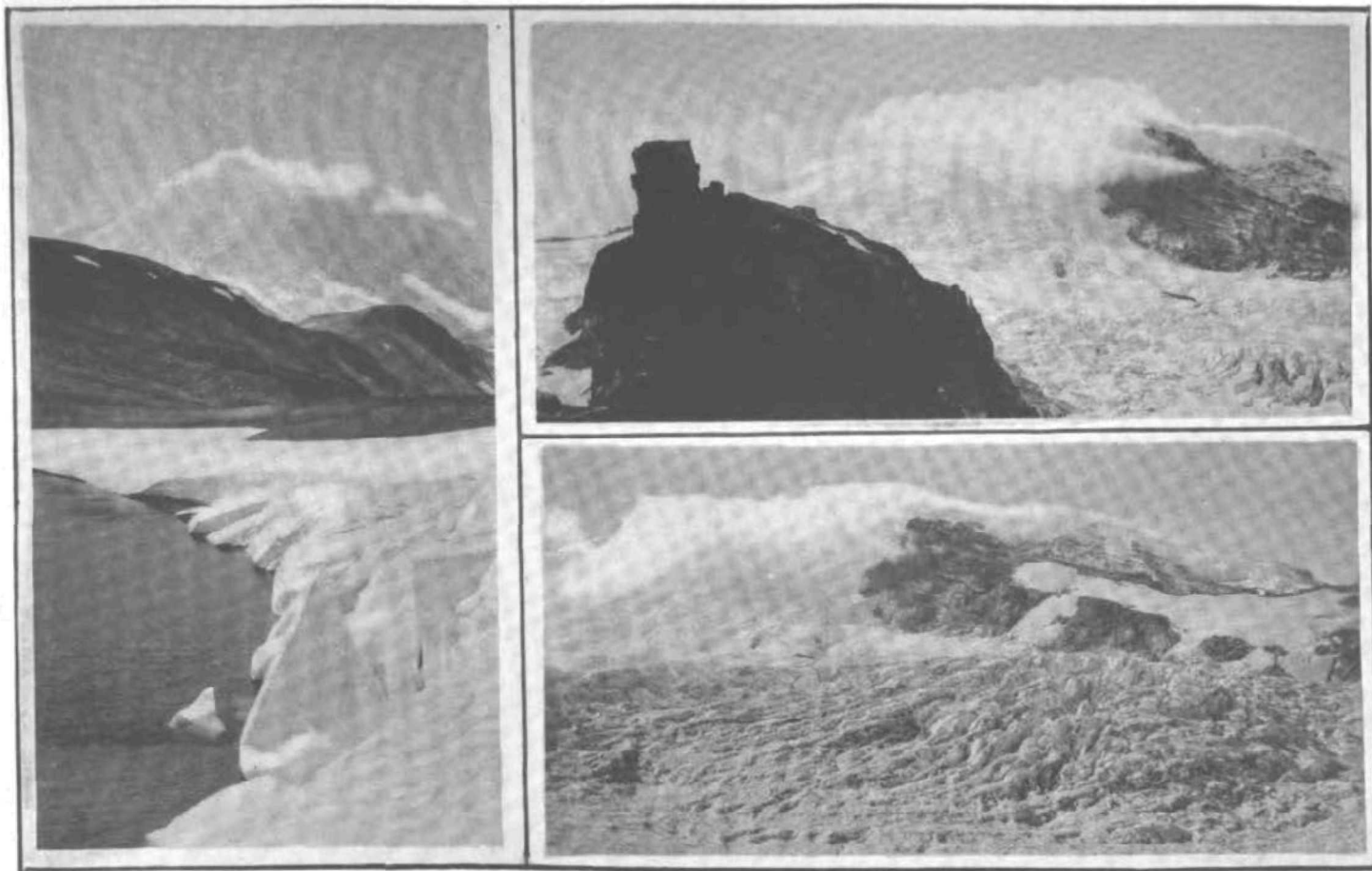
At the present time there is not enough demand to support such camps, as the trip around the mountain requires too much time and expense to appeal to the average visitor. If, however, the trip could be shortened so as to make half of the circuit, or a quarter of the circuit of the mountain, the number of persons wishing to take such a trip would be greatly increased and the patronage of intermediate camps would justify their maintenance.

Those of you who shared in the outing this summer had at your disposal many advantages that the average visitor does not have. The commissary list requires careful thought in advance, the camping equipment must be selected with good judgment, the pack horses must be found, packers located and much effort, as well as prayer, must be expended to get the caravan into motion as a going concern.

Suppose a few of you, individually, wanted to duplicate the trip, perhaps for your own pleasure or for the sake of showing a few eastern friends what kind of a country you have out here. Could you do it? Would you do it? In nine times out of ten the answer is "No." Better access is needed, more facilities must be offered. If the difficulties are such as to deter you, who know the country and revel in roughing it, imagine what an obstacle they present to one who is a stranger in these parts.

The park contains matchless and inexhaustible resources for recreation, but they must be developed before they can be utilized. More shelter houses must be built, the trails must be improved in places, marked more clearly in other places and more signs must be placed giving direction, distance and other useful information.

The head and director of the National Park Service, Stephen T. Mather, is a broad gauged, clear visioned and energetic man whose whole heart is in the betterment and improvement of the parks and the park service. The needs of the Mount Rainier National Park, and of all the National parks, are well known to him and to the enthusiastic organization that he has built up and both are constantly working towards the development and improvement of the parks.



SEPTEMBER SCENES ON THE  
NORTH SIDE OF MOUNT RAINIER

Left, Frozen Lake. Upper right, The Mountain and Winthrop Glacier from St. Elmo's Pass, Inter Glacier at the left. Lower right, Winthrop Glacier—Mount Rainier cloud-capped!—Russell Cliff in the center, Willis Wall to the right.

*Roger W. Toll*

Improvements cost money and that is sometimes difficult to obtain. Appropriations can be had where a definite and urgent need is known to exist. For that reason it is well for individuals and organizations, such as the Mountaineers, to know what treasures lie hidden in the inaccessible and only half explored portions of the park. Before long, when enough people say, "This resource *must* be developed," Congress will make the necessary appropriations. Present appropriations are sufficient to provide for administration, protection, traffic control and the maintenance of trails and road. When these necessities have been taken care of, not much remains for betterment.

An appropriation has been asked for in order to begin the construction of the Carbon River road. With a start made in this section of the Park it is probable that future years will bring funds with which to carry on the work. The park rapidly wins friends for itself and when one person has seen the beauties of a region, what is more natural than a desire that others should be enabled to see them also?

The National Park Service is greatly interested in having the educational, as well as the recreational possibilities of the parks developed. When people with active minds go on a vacation trip, they think different thoughts and observe new things, but their minds and faculties are constantly at work and they want to know something of what they are seeing. All out-door sciences appeal to them, and they wish they knew more about the flowers, plants, trees, rocks, glacial action, and could read more clearly the history so boldly written in the towering crag and the deep cut canyon.

The National Park Service has already published pamphlets on the forests, the flora and the glaciers of the park. A party of biologists spent the entire summer in the park, encircling the mountain in order to collect data for a publication on the birds and mammals of the park.

It is believed that there would be considerable interest in a publication on the opportunities for recreation in the park and the rewards that walking and camping trips would yield. Such a book would describe each trail, telling of the special scenic features that it offers, the distance between points, the amount of elevation to be climbed, the average time required and information of the sort that everyone wants to know, but can rarely find out, when planning a trip.

Besides the trails, the various routes to the summit of the mountain should be described, with their advantages and disadvantages. Then, too, data should be given on the lesser peaks, many of which offer exceptionally fine view points, well repaying a climb.

Another important feature that should be included is a description of the various "high-line" routes connecting the camping places on the slopes of the mountain. These routes could be shown by means of photographs, by description and reference to the topographic map so as to be of great help. At present it is very difficult for any one wishing to take such trips, to find out which routes are practicable and which are impracticable, where glaciers may be crossed and where they should be avoided.

No one person possesses the information that would be necessary for such a book. It must be compiled from the experiences of many. If the knowledge of your Club members regarding the mountain could be put into writing, what a valuable hand book it would make for those who will follow along the same trails and routes.

The suggestion is that the Mountaineers, as a Club, begin now to collect such material. Club trips would be reported and individuals would turn in short accounts of trips that they make. Such a collection would soon become of value to the Club and would form the basis for a publication on the splendid possibilities for outings in the park.

Another thing in which co-operation between the Park Service and the Mountaineers will be beneficial is the subject of nomenclature. Your Club is one of the few organizations in the State that is interested in securing the best names for places and features. The Park Service is interested in having names applied to the various mountains, streams, waterfalls, and other scenic points that are now unnamed. By working together, a more satisfactory result will be obtained.

The most desirable names, in many cases, are the original Indian names, or, if these are too long and unpronounceable, their English equivalents are often very good. It may be that some of these original names are now known or that they could be secured by bringing some of the old Indian residents into the Park, as was done, for example, in the Rocky Mountain National Park.

If no original name can be found, and a name is to be supplied, the Indian names may be drawn upon with advantage, but this should be done by an expert, not an amateur. Descriptive names are good. The one thing most difficult to avoid is the indiscriminate naming of scenic features after persons. Sometimes personal names are appropriate, but more often they are not. If the rule of the Geographic Board was followed, namely, that landmarks should not be called for living persons, there would be much less of this naming after "anybody and nobody."

There are now many secondary peaks, streams, waterfalls, and other features that should be named but are now without names. The suggestion is that a committee of the Mountaineers and the Park Service agree upon a list of good, attractive names for these unnamed features, and that they be put into current use. Anyone takes much more interest in a waterfall, for example, if it has a name. It then becomes a suitable destination for a trip, something to photograph, and something to write home about; but if it is a nameless waif all the importance is at once stripped from it.

Another subject in which both the Mountaineers and the Park Service are interested is the protection and preservation of game and wild life in the park. The situation regarding the deer is most unfortunate. Their summer feeding grounds are in a thin belt around the edge of the park, but not

entirely inside of it. They are protected and lose their sense of fear. A man can often walk up, in full sight of a deer, to within less than a hundred feet of him. Then come the fall snows, driving the deer down from the higher slopes to the woods, and frequently outside of the park. With the month of October the open season begins and hunters line the edges of the park and butcher the unsuspecting deer. It is no wonder that deer are not more plentiful in the park and that the visitor only rarely has the pleasure of seeing them.

It would be most desirable if a zone around the park were declared a game sanctuary. This should include the winter grazing ground of the deer which is mostly outside of the park. A strip five or ten miles wide would be adequate. This would allow the deer a chance to multiply so that they would be abundant in the park and, in the long run, this would improve the hunting outside the protected zone. The deer need this protection and need it promptly.

A protected zone around the park would also give greater safety to the mountain goats. It is difficult to patrol to an exact line, particularly where the line is unfenced and does not follow easily distinguishable landmarks, such as ridges and streams. Hunters, however, will not venture far inside the line because of the increased liability to detection and the lessened plausibility of their excuse that they did not know that they had crossed the line. The protected zone should then be so laid out as to be not merely "enough," but two or three miles more than enough, so as to protect the game more successfully from the poacher.

All Mountaineers know the danger of forest fires and also know how to build a camp fire that will not spread and how to put it out so that it will stay out. If this knowledge was distributed more universally among campers, the danger of forest fires would be almost eliminated. Fires are caused by ignorance and carelessness. Anyone who fully appreciated that a single thoughtless act might sweep away a forest of stately trees that have come to us as a heritage from past ages, would surely be careful. "Fire is a good servant but a bad master." Generations and generations would be required to replace the loss that one swift fire would cause. Let us keep, unharmed, our wonderful forests and in order to do so let us spread the doctrine that fires are preventable and that they must be prevented. Anyone who takes chances with fire in the woods must be shown the error of his ways, quickly and forcibly.

Let every Mountaineer think of Mount Rainier, not as "A National Park" but as "Our National Park." If the citizens of the state and those who utilize the attractions offered by the park, are indifferent regarding its future, why should anyone else worry regarding its welfare? On the other hand, if the needs of a park are recognized and championed by the keen, aggressive members of a community, who stand ready to fight for it, if necessary, to insure a square deal, then surely the merits of such a park will not be passed by, unheeded, when appropriations are made for development.



The Mountaineers are to be congratulated upon their officers, and at the same time the officers are to be congratulated upon their members. The members reap all the benefits that come from wise administration, careful planning, system with a capital "S" and good leadership. It is hard to find leaders who will say "stop. This is not as safe as it should be." The temptation is strong to say, "Let's go a little farther and see what happens." Yet such leaders are necessary to the success of an outing when the party is made up of members of varying experience and ability.

An organization such as the Mountaineers, organized for mutual co-operation, with no selfish object, having a strong and substantial membership, is a power for good in any community.

May it continue to give pleasure to its members and expand its usefulness year by year.



TANDEM NATURE  
COASTING

*Fairman Lee*  
The alpenstocks are taken away before  
sliding as a safety-first precaution.