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**OUTING PRELIMINARIES IN SCOUTING AND TRAIL WORK****J. H. WEER**

AS early as 1909 and for several years thereafter, officers and members occasionally discussed the encircling of Mount Rainier and looked forward to it as a possible outing for The Mountaineers. In 1911 J. B. Flett and C. A. Barnes, Jr., encircled the mountain on a knapsack trip, travelling well above the timberline, crossing glaciers and descending into the timberline parks to camp at night. They repeated the trip in 1912, Calvin Philips, Jr., and J. H. Weer being added to their party for the second trip. It remained for Charles Albertson and H. B. Bennett to make an extensive encircling trip in the fall of 1913, covering not only the higher route, but exploring as well all the principal timberline parks, gaining first-hand information as to their respective attractions and merits as camping places, and making investigations as to the feasibility of people and horses traveling from park to park. Following this trip they made a report to the Trustees, which, after announcement of the intention of the Department of the Interior to construct a round-the-mountain trail, resulted in the Trustees selecting Mount Rainier National Park as the scene of the 1915 outing. This trip of Messrs. Albertson and Bennett, therefore, comprised the greater portion of the scouting for the 1915 outing.

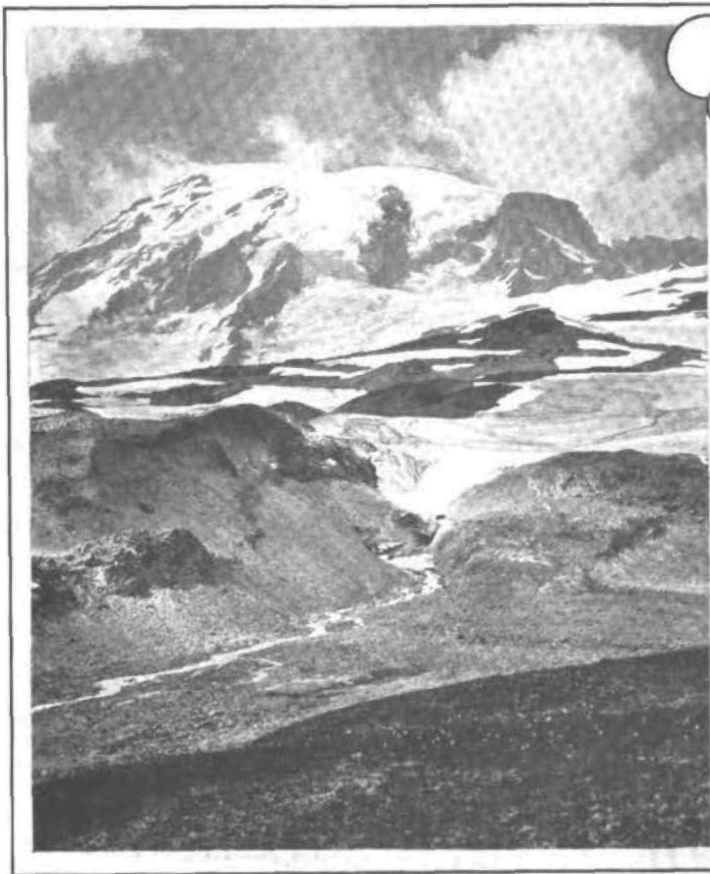
In the fall of 1914 Mr. Bennett again visited some of the remote portions of the park, in company with Chas. M. Farrer and completed the location of a feasible route for a trail over a difficult divide to

connect Summerland and Ohanapecosh parks. Much credit is due for the locating of this route, which played the most important part in making possible The Mountaineers' visit to Ohanapecosh Park and its surroundings.

Several trails had been in existence for years in the north and south portions of the park, but new trails in the eastern and western portions to connect the already existing trails, and repair of the latter, were essential for this outing. The route selected by the Department for the new work was for an outer-belt trail, principally in the forests of the park, which would be open for travel during a considerable portion of the year, branch trails to be constructed in later years to make accessible many portions of the park not yet open to travel. Construction work on the east and west side trails was begun by the Government crews, under Supervisor Ethan Allen, late in the year 1914, and continued with good progress until stopped by the approach of winter. Thus most of the scouting had been done and some of the new trail completed before January first, when the 1915 Outing Committee was appointed. The holding of the 1915 outing and construction of trails as proposed by the Department were closely allied, for while the new trails were for the use of the public, they were at the moment of chief interest to The Mountaineers, since that organization planned to be the first to use the encircling trail in its entirety.

Following the appointment of the 1915 Outing Committee frequent conferences were had with the Park Supervisor and correspondence was carried on with other Department officials, to keep in touch with plans for and progress of trail construction. Mr. Stephen T. Mather, Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, who has jurisdiction over all National Parks and Mr. Mark Daniels, General Superintendent of National Parks, early showed hearty willingness to expedite the trail construction and repair work, so that it would be completed early enough for The Mountaineers' outing to be held at the desired time and without serious obstacles for their pack train. By these gentlemen, allotments of funds were made and authority given for pushing forward the trail work.

Work was hardly begun in the spring of 1915, under Supervisor J. J. Sheehan, when a change occurred in the office of Park Supervisor and all work was temporarily suspended. Mr. D. L. Reaburn succeeded to the position, and he immediately organized and placed in the field three efficient trail crews under the able direction of Messrs. Thos. E. O'Farrell, Ben Longmire, and Wm. Stafford, respectively, at the same time showing as much interest in executing the work as though it were his own enterprise, with the result that the end of July saw the trails ready for travel. At the special request of The Mountaineers, to whom the work was of great interest for this occasion, Mr. Reaburn also arranged for the construction of two additional stretches of trail for



**PARADISE GLACIER  
FROM MAZAMA RIDGE**

In 1870 the Paradise Glacier came almost down to Sluiskin Falls in the Paradise River, just beyond the point shown in the lower left hand corner of the picture.

T. C. Smith



**THE OUTING  
COMMITTEE**

The men who planned the outing and successfully conducted the first large party to completely encircle Mount Rainier. From left to right, Charles Haslehurst, J. H. Weer, F. Q. Gorton.

T. C. Smith

first use on this Outing and which will be enjoyed by many in years to come. The most important of these was the one heretofore mentioned, to connect Summerland and Ohanapecosh Parks, crossing, midway, the eastern extremity of Frying Pan Glacier. To travel over the outer-belt trail in the eastern portion of the park would have taken our party to a comparatively low level, in valleys far to the east of Summerland and Ohanapecosh Parks, making it difficult, if not impossible, to visit these two parks but for this high-line trail. The 1915 Outing party will long remember their interesting experience in building a steep switch-back trail with their hands and alpenstocks, for a short distance around the east edge of Frying Pan Glacier, to provide passage for the pack train on account of the unusual snow and ice conditions this year preventing the horses from crossing the glacier as intended. The other special piece of trail work was the opening of a temporary snake trail, leading from the main west side trail, up the valley of St. Andrews Creek to the meadows in lower St. Andrews Park. This trail will be very useful pending the building of a permanent trail at a higher level into upper St. Andrews Park.

Members of the Outing Committee during the spring and summer of 1915 made a number of short trips into the park, principally to select routes for the party to travel where trails were not to be followed and to locate the various camp sites.

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