



H. B. Hinman

## CRATER LAKE

The largest lake in Mount Rainier National Park. It occupies a horseshoe shaped basin formerly supposed to be of volcanic origin, but now known to have been formed by glacial erosion.

## CAMP FIRE REFLECTIONS

RUTH HANNA



FROM the day years ago, when we first took our little tin pails and started for the woods to have a fire and make coffee, down to these weeks each summer when we go out with a hundred others to live over again some of the joys of primitive existence, the lure of the camp fire has grown stronger and stronger, increasing its hold with each succeeding summer. There is occasionally, the quiet, intimate companionship which centers around the tiny fire in the midst of the forest, where two or three congenial souls talk in subdued tones, or sit through long silences of mutual understanding; but a broader enjoyment comes when the huge fire is roaring in the high open spaces and the wide circle of eager hearts catches the contagious spirit of its leaders. This year, especially, a unity of feeling prevailed at all camp fires, making the singing heartier, the responsive laughter more immediate, and enhancing the pleasure one always takes in employing whatever talents he may possess for the amusement of the crowd. Who can possibly ever doubt, that "dese bones shall rise again," or sing the words, "Hurrah, hurrah, we'll bring the jubilee," without yielding to an unconquerable impulse to break into the haunting rhythm of "Turn around your own self?" The motion picture show in Summerland was developed on the spur of the moment in the midst of a dense fog, but in spite of this, the portrayals of scenes from camp life and grotesque situations were a great success. An entertainment which revealed unsuspected talent was the tragedy presented at Sunset Lake, a play replete with melodramatic situations. The first night in Ohanapecosh Park brought the vaudeville artists into prominence with songs, dancing, and stunts of all kinds, and the second night was the occasion of the floral pageant to celebrate the wedding

anniversary of our leader. The Jitney Press, published at Nickel Creek, furnished one of the most enjoyable camp fire gatherings. From the war news to Cynthia Grey, every article was full of clever hits, and neither dignity nor demureness availed to save any one from the searching wit of the editors (see Furry's cartoons).

These things may be taken as indicators of the high tide of hilarity and enthusiasm, but the evenings by the fire have received enduring value from Professor Meany's thoughtfully prepared accounts of experiences which brought renown to the men who lived them on the mountain, and from his delightfully appropriate verse often commemorative of these same men and their successes. It is for the purpose of preserving in available form for *The Mountaineers* the information related, frequently with dramatic touch, by Professor Meany regarding the early history of Mount Rainier and the naming of falls, canyons, glaciers, crags, and peaks that the following brief résumé is given of articles read and statements made at the camp fires of the 1915 outing.

The earliest record of any approach to the immediate vicinity of the mountain is the diary of Dr. F. W. Tolmie. The fame of Rainier's flowers must have come to him, perhaps from the Indians, for he started in August, 1838, on a botanizing expedition which took him continually closer to the mountain's snow line. With five Indians he traveled one day on horse and two afoot over the prairie from Steilacoom and up the valley of the Puyallup. Their first camp was just such a lovely place as *The Mountaineers* have often chosen, "under the shade of a lovely pine in a grassy amphitheater, beautifully interspersed and surrounded with oaks, and through the gaps in the circle we see the broad plain extending down southward to the Nisqually. In a hollow immediately behind is a small lake whose surface is almost one sheet of water lilies about to flower." This glowing account is offset by a sentence or two written in the diary the next morning, which may be reminiscent to some of us of other first nights out. "Slept ill last night. A drizzling rain fell nearly all night. Got up at dawn finding thigh stiff and painful, and thought a stop put to the journey, but after moving about it felt better. The traveling afoot was much the same as any one has experienced who has left the trail and ascended and descended several steep cliffs and passed through dense and tangled thickets, twice crossing torrents on the unsteadfast footing of a log." Several of the notes jotted down along with the accounts of serious work accomplished give most vivid glimpses of this intimate camp life with the Indians. "After breakfast Quilliliash stuck the gills and sound of the salmon on a pointed stick, to indicate to other wanderers that fish might be caught there.—Had dried meat boiled in a cedar bark kettle for breakfast. Have supped on berries which when heated with

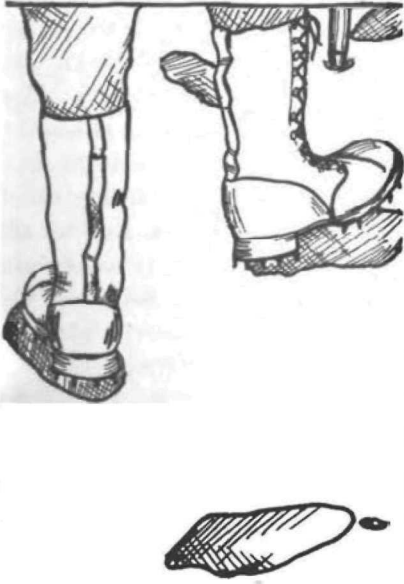
Huckleberries.



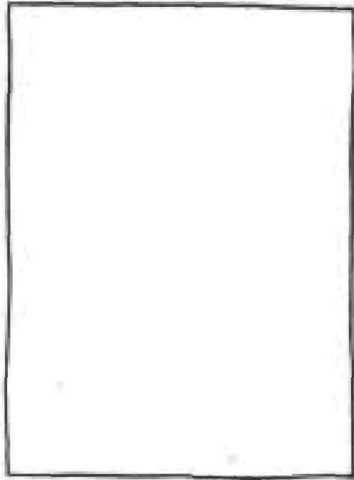
Helping the ladies



View on the climb.



View of Rainier from Van Trump Park.



Murry.

Mabel Furry

stones in a kettle taste like lozenges.—Got rigged out with green blanket, Indian style, and trudged on through the woods.”

Finally Dr. Tolmie climbed to a snowy peak immediately under Rainier which appeared surprisingly magnificent from this vantage point. A peak in the northwest section of the park, answering closely to his own description of this one, has since been named for this intrepid explorer. It is interesting to notice here how lack of experience in snow mountains led Dr. Tolmie to underestimate the magnitude of all Rainier's greatest features. “A few small glaciers were seen on the conical portion; below that the mountain is composed of bare rock for a distance of about fifty feet down to the valley beneath. The Poyallipa was fenced in to the eastward by a wall or dyke which seemed about four feet high and four hundred feet in length.” That modest sentence with the words, “a few small glaciers,” marks Dr. Tolmie as the first white man who saw a great ice stream in the United States. The freshness of impression and the quaint humor of this brief journal well repay a leisurely perusal by those who know the mountain intimately.

For a quarter of a century after this, no one seems to have made any attempt to explore the valleys and hills around Rainier, for in 1857, when Lieutenant (later General) A. V. Kautz, yielding to his passion for going to the tops of high places, sought information as to the best approach to the mountain, he was told that no white man had ever been near it, and that the Indians were superstitious and afraid of it. His determined efforts finally gained from Leschi, the chief of the Nisquallies, the statement that the mountain was most accessible through the valley of the Nisqually, and that Wahpowety of his tribe would be an able guide. Under his leadership the party of eight climbed the ridge through which the Nisqually has cut its canyon, descended to the valley on the other side and after four disheartening days reached the foot of an immense glacier. Impressed by the muddy white torrent which poured from the icy cavern in the glacier's face, Kautz studied the valley thoroughly, and concluded that the water derived its color from the disintegration of the granite walls of the canyon, and that the Naches, Puyallup, and White rivers had similar sources in glaciers, since they were of the same character in the dry season. They attempted to travel over the surface of the glacier but found it too broken by crevasses, so decided to make camp on the hillside. They were amazed to find that after climbing up the moraine, they must climb down again to reach the mountain side! So many other things were inexplicable, the little creatures looking like lambs or kids, which had split hoofs, lived in burrows, and gave forth a sound like a whistle or scream; the exasperating way in which a summit moved farther away instead of coming nearer as one approached it! The dark, gloomy forest with

its terrible solitude and the proximity to perpetual snow oppressed them greatly.

Of the five who began the ascent on the clear day which followed, the Irishman, the Indian, and the Doctor soon gave out, leaving Kautz and a German to make the greater part of the climb alone. It was after five in the afternoon when the two men reached a point which they felt could be called the top, as the mountain spread out comparatively flat. Dogue was exhausted and Kautz believed it folly to attempt further exploration of the summit at that late hour. They made the descent to camp in three hours, a distance that had required ten to climb. It is uncertain how near these men came to reaching the actual summit, but theirs stood for twenty years as the only attempt ever made. In honor of the moving spirit of this expedition the name Kautz has been given to a glacier on the south side of the mountain and the name Wahpowety to the cleaver separating this glacier from the Van Trump.

"We are not likely," wrote Kautz, "to have any competitors in this attempt to explore the summit of Mount Rainier. When the locomotive is heard in this region some day, when American enterprise has established an ice cream saloon at the foot of the glacier, and sherry cobblers can be had at twenty-five cents half way up the mountain, attempts to climb that magnificent snow peak will be quite frequent. But many a long year will pass away before the roads are sufficiently good to induce any one to do what we did in the summer of 1857." Kautz was not vainly boasting, for the early attempts at exploration were separated by many years. In 1870 General Hazard Stevens and Mr. Philamon Beecher Van Trump gave proof of having stood on the mountain's top. Their trip, which had been anticipated for two years, was begun in August, 1870. With the help of Mr. James Longmire, they secured the services of Sluiskin, the only Indian left in a deserted camp. They finally reached what is now known as Mazama Ridge and pitched camp on a high knoll crowned by a grove of balsam firs, near a turbulent, glacial torrent which dashed over a ledge of rock and broke into a cascade, later named in honor of their guide, Sluiskin Falls. Here, on the very spot where *The Mountaineers* made camp, Sluiskin tried with all the force of his Chinook and broken English to dissuade the men from their rash attempt. Up to this time he had considered their intention of ascending the mountain as too absurd to deserve notice, but when he saw their final preparations made, he broke out into a solemn exhortation and warning. Those who heard the appeal of Sluiskin given in Chinook by Prof. Meany, near this camp of nearly fifty years ago, could not fail to be thrilled with the intensely picturesque and dramatic character of this Indian friend of the white man.

The climb of the next morning, August 17, 1870, led over the Gibraltar trail, the only one followed on the south side of the mountain

for years. The account of the climb over the névé is full of interest, with its excellent description of snow conditions, the remarkable size and coloring of the crevasses and the careful work required in effecting crossings. At five p. m., eleven hours of work had brought them to a narrow ridge which they named Peak Success. It was too late to descend the mountain in daylight and they found themselves obliged to spend the night on the summit without shelter. While crossing the snow in the crater of a higher mound, Van Trump discovered the steam caves where they passed the night uncomfortably, but safely. The brass plate inscribed with their names they deposited in a cleft of a large boulder on the east side of what they called Crater Peak. The third peak, which they could see only dimly through the mists, they called Peak Tahoma to perpetuate the Indian name of the mountain, but this has since been changed to Liberty Cap. Members of the summer trip need not be told that Van Trump has a suitable memorial in the glacier and park which bear his name. Although Stevens' name has not been given to one of the huge ice flows from the summit of the mountain, the eastern part of the Paradise Glacier has been called the Stevens. The stream of the same name, which flows from it, dashes its way down over Fairy Falls and through the magnificent canyon which worthily commemorates the achievement of Hazard Stevens.

The second ascent was made later the same year by Lieutenant Wilson and Lieutenant Emmons in whose honor the Wilson and Emmons glaciers were named.

The following list gives the origin of the names of other well known points in the Park:

Avalanche Camp was named during the 1909 outing of The Mountaineers. Its significance is evident to any one who has watched the snow slides on Willis Wall.

Camp Curtis was the title suggested by Professor Meany for the temporary camp of The Mountaineers on their outing in 1909, in honor of the leader, Asahel Curtis.

Camp of the Clouds was christened August 12, 1886, by Chas. Kahoe, Chas. Billings, and Geo. Talcott of Olympia, who were obliged to wait there two days for the clouds to lift.

Camp Muir was chosen in 1888 by John Muir as the best temporary camp site on the Gibraltar route. It was named by Major Ingraham.

Columbia's Crest is the name chosen by vote of the members of an Ingraham party in 1891.

Elysian Fields were originally part of Moraine Park, which Major Ingraham considered indubitably the realm of the blest, but the quarters have since been moved from the place he assigned them.

Fryingpan Glacier resembled so much that indispensable part of a camper's outfit that Prof. I. C. Russell named it accordingly.

Gibraltar was named in 1888 by Major Ingraham.

Hessong Rock was named in honor of a photographer of Kapowsin who made repeated trips to the mountain.

Indian Henry's Hunting Grounds received the title from a Cowlitz Indian who often went there in search of game. His native name, Sotolick, was so difficult for the English tongue that a mail carrier, Harry Windsor, gave him what he called a real name.

Ingraham Glacier was named in 1890 by Prof. I. C. Russell who had been hospitably received by Major Ingraham after an exhausting night spent in the crater.

Inter Glacier was discovered by Ingraham in 1886 while making an attempt to reach the summit from the northeast side.

Moraine Park was named by Professor Russell in 1890. It is a succession of glacial moraines.

Observation Rock, climbed this year, is the highest point on the west side. It was named by a Mr. Henderson who, in 1885, first stood on its top.

Paradise glacier, river, and valley all owe their names to the expressions of the first white women to go up into that region, Mrs. James Longmire and Mrs. Jameson. When they saw the profusion of flowers and the magnificent views they exclaimed together, "Oh, what a paradise!"

Russell Cliff was named by The Mountaineers in 1909 after I. C. Russell.

Sarvant glaciers were named for Henry M. Sarvant, who made frequent explorations on the mountain in the early 90's.

Willis Wall is in honor of Bailey Willis, long a member of the U. S. Geological Survey, now in the Department of Geology and Mining at Stanford University. He carried on explorations, especially in Geology, on the mountain many years ago.

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SOURCES:

- Dr. F. W. Tolmie's diary, quoted by Clarence B. Bagley in *In the Beginning*, pp. 11-15.
- Ascent of Mt. Rainier*, A. V. Kautz (Overland Monthly, May, 1875).
- The Ascent of Takhoma*, Hazard Stevens (Atlantic Monthly, November, 1876).
- The Ascent of Mt. Rainier*, Edward S. Ingraham (Puget Sound Magazine, October, 1888).
- Origin of Some Mt. Rainier Names* (MS.). Interview with Edward S. Ingraham by Victor J. Farrar. July 27, 1915.