

Mountaineers in the Olympics

By MARY BANKS

I NTO the heart of the Olympics!

I wonder if it is possible to convey in words, to those who do not know, what that means to one who has spent even a brief space of time within the region. Certain it is that no words of mine can begin to portray the beauty of it all. Since I could but fail in any attempt to describe the country through which we passed, the real part, (for after all it is the view to be had from the mountains, rather than the mere attainment of the summits, which is the real part) of The Mountaineers' trip into the Olympic Mountains, will have to remain untold, and only the unimportant details be chronicled.

Undaunted by the fact that every writer in referring to the Olympic region always dwelt upon the impenetrability of the forests as the reason for its never having been explored, The Mountaineers soon after organization decided upon Mount Olympus as the goal of their first annual outing, with the idea of giving the members an opportunity for original research in a hitherto untouched field.

I should like to tell of the obstacles overcome in accomplishing this idea, for it is a tale well worth the telling. Of the work of Asahel Curtis, aided by W. Montelius Price and L. A. Nelson, and abetted by the Board of Directors of the Club. How, the funds being utterly inadequate to defray the necessary cost of trail-making, Port Angeles, a thriving sea-coast town in the vicinity, was persuaded to undertake the cutting of a way through some sixty miles of forest as a business proposition for itself; how the exorbitant prices demanded by the packers proving prohibitive, the Club purchased its own train, and other like incidents.

In justice to the Club I must tell how, when everything was finally in readiness—provisions enough to last sixty-five people for many weeks safely cached away at the foot of the mountains, full sixty miles from civilization—and when it lacked but a few days of the date set for the start, word came that three men had hired a guide who was in a position to know where the way had been cleared, had quietly made the ascent in advance of the Club, and returning, had hastily published accounts of "The Ascent of Olympus," with no credit given to the Mountaineers who had made the trip possible.

Too much praise cannot be given those who managed the expedition. Never, I am confident, did mountaineers have better or more elaborate meals served them, and better-natured or finer cooks, with an almost uncanny genius for making delicious pies, cakes and other delicacies without many of the most necessary ingredients. When it is considered that tents, beyond one small general awning, were out of the question, even for the women, and that with one small camp oven and a bon-fire, bread was baked every day and meals, often consisting of six courses, or more, were served to from forty to sixty-five persons, the even temper of the cooks will appear no small item. Thanks are due Mr. W. F. Delabarre and many others of Port Angeles, and also to Messrs William and Grant Humes, whose hospitality at their camps, and whose courteous and generous imparting of knowledge of woods and mountain lore, added much to the interest and pleasure of the trip.

But to return to the actual start of The Mountaineers on July 24th,* whose party of sixty-five counted amongst its number faculty members of three universities, nearly a score of other instructors, a few scientists, with medicine, the law and various other professions and trades represented as well; but which was which was more than one could tell, for the khaki suits in which so many were clad as to give almost the appearance of a uniform, proved quite a disguise to rank. After several days in the woods I by chance discovered that the man in the much-worn khaki suit was a well known author whom I had long wished to meet; that the man with the jolly laugh and the ready wit, was, when at home, a most serious preacher of the gospel in one of Seattle's largest and most conservative churches. The round-faced, mild-looking man proved an autocratic leader with an iron will, to which men almost twice his size meekly yielded—for the time at least. The grave professor of history proved to know more jokes and limericks than a dozen ordinary mortals; the smooth shaven young fellow with city looks and ways was in reality a trapper spending his life in the woods; while the stalwart man, apparently an experienced mountaineer, proved to be a professor of mental science in a prominent university. But enough of the people.

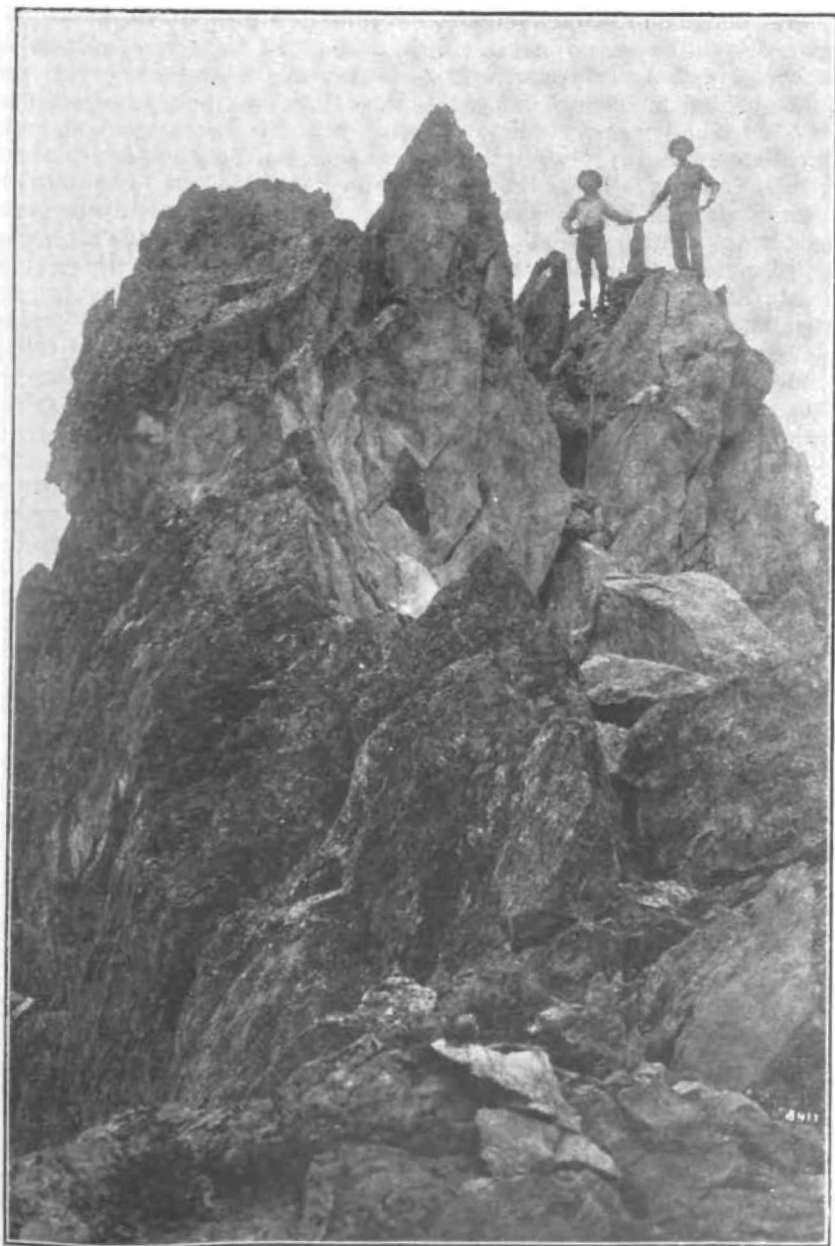
Of the trail pages might be written and much yet be left unsaid. I am tempted to describe in detail every bit of the way; the trees, marvelous not only in height but in peculiarities of growth; the canyons, the mountain torrents with their magnificent water-falls; the evidences all about of wild animals, yet our apparent safety; each night's camp so utterly unlike any other yet each so unutterably beautiful.

Many an amusing tale might be told of incidents on the trail, especially of the "steerage" committee, appointed anew each day to steer the roast-beef-to-be safely up and down the steep road and through innumerable rivers and streams. The progress of that committee was somewhat in the nature of a continuous performance, with new and unexpected features at irregular intervals.

The numerous bridgeless river crossings also added variety and interest to the program, though appreciation was sometimes woefully lacking in the involuntary performers, amongst whom was one dignified judge who had come from a distance to join the party, and who may be said to have met his Waterloo while crossing the Godkin, resuming his march a wetter, if not a wiser man.

One day allowed in camp for the preliminary settling, and the next, all, save the Outing Committee (who have gone to reconnoitre for the Olympus trip), may be seen wending their way over the nearest snow-field, en route to the top of Noyes, led by Prof. W. D. Lyman, of Whitman college. Pausing to admire the first snow-arch, another delay while a few enter the big snow-cave, then a steady climb over the snow and we see the welcome green of the Divide, which is soon reached. Here we get our first hint of the view to be seen from the top. Then a stiff climb over rock, often but a narrow ledge around some sharp corner, offering but scanty foothold. The summit proves much farther than it looks, but such a view of peaks as one catches long before the summit is reached, impells all but two to continue

*For the convenience of certain University men, whose lectures at the summer session of the University of Washington prevented their leaving in July, a second party of seventeen, under the leadership of the president of the Club, Henry Landes, started ten days later, the others awaiting their arrival before making the ascent of the main peak.



SUMMIT OF MOUNT SEATTLE.

Photo by Asahel Curtis.

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to the very top. Then the return—when the first steep snow slope reached proves too great a temptation for our leader to resist, so calling to all to follow, but under no circumstances to let go their alpine stocks, he suddenly disappears down the steep incline; little suspecting to how many this is in the nature of a first performance, until he reaches a stretch of rock, stops, and looks behind him. Such a sight as meets his gaze beggars description! I have coasted down many a mountain side with far larger parties, hailing from Boston to Los Angeles, but never have I dreamed of the variety of ways it might be done until I saw those thirty-nine coming down. Not only were they coming down thirty-nine different ways, but some seemed to be coming down all thirty-nine ways at once—head first, feet first, sidewise, some a whirling tangle of arms, legs and alpine stocks, snow flying; others clutching vainly at the air in a futile effort to retard their lightning progress. Dangerous? Possibly, but so funny that when I had somewhat recovered from laughing I was really alarmed lest the grave professor would collapse from merriment, and it was with difficulty that those below overcame their laughter in time to stop the flying progress of the others ere they reached the rocks.

But the story was too good to keep from our leader, with the result that the next day all were invited, (and our leader's invitations were those of a czar), to go with him to a near-by snow slope, where all the inexperienced were initiated into the many uses of alpine stock, the cutting of ice-steps, etc.

The next day, August 1st, about half of those in camp made the trip to the Queets Valley, twelve of them continuing on to the glacier and up to the summit of Mount Queets; the only party, so far as known, to make the ascent from the west side. After climbing to the extreme top of the rocky pinnacle and leaving the usual records, the descent was made down the opposite side of the mountain.

On Saturday, August 3rd, those who had not gone up Mount Queets on the first trip were taken up the east side by Mr. Asahel Curtis, who had also guided the previous party, this making his fourth ascent to the summit; he and Mr. W. M. Price having made the first known ascent of the mountain earlier in the season.

The following day being the Sabbath, no official trips were made, though several small parties stole away from the services, one party of three going to the top of Mount Seattle, and another of six up Mount Barnes; both leaving the usual records on the summits, and all returning in time for the evening services around the camp-fire, which were conducted by Rev. Van Horn—a most beautiful and impressive service and one long to be remembered. The spirit of the mountains seemed to have impressed all with their solemnity and majesty, as they sat about the camp fire, surrounded by the snowy peaks, which shone out of the surrounding darkness; and it was with a feeling of reverence that all finally wended their way silently to their beds beneath the stars.

Bright and early Monday morning, for reveille was always sounded at 4:30 a. m., or earlier, the Mountaineers shouldered their blankets and rations for their first two days' trip up the mountains, intending to conquer Mounts Christy, Seattle and Cougar Peak before returning to camp. But the "schemes o' men gang aft a-gley" and despite the efforts of the leader to hasten the slower walkers, it was late ere Lakes Mary and Martha were passed and the foot of Christy reached. If the mountain was to be climbed that day as planned, it would have to be at race horse speed, and all but

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the strongest were urged not to make the attempt. The warning was unheeded by many, however, and the start was made on the run. After several delays were caused by one whose ambition was greater than her strength, the girls agreed to drop out and permit the men to go on alone. Eleven men and one woman continued to the top at a speed probably never exceeded in making an ascent; all returning to the main party more or less exhausted, though none admitting it.

Awakening the next morning in a chilly gloom which foreboded a storm, the march toward Seattle was resumed, only to encounter a heavy rain which steadily became heavier, obscuring the way and making footing so slippery and precarious that the attempt to climb Seattle, much less Cougar Peak, was voted out of the question. Drenched to the skin, by noon all were thoroughly chilled, and the water-soaked blankets heavy to carry. But the gloomier the outlook the cheerier the spirit evinced, and camp was finally entered in the midst of cheers, despite the fact that the two days' tramp meant for many not the conquest of a single peak. A candy pull was soon started to cheer up the wet spirits, but it must be confessed that many slept wet that night and continued so next day as well. Indeed, the Landes party which arrived about noon was no wetter, having enjoyed good weather until but a few miles below permanent camp.

July 8th dawned clear and bright and was spent as a drying out day by all but a few who made the ascent of Mount Meany. Only two more days were left before the first comers must return homeward, so although the ninth dawned gloomy and foggy, thirty-seven started bravely for the two days' tramp to the summit of Mount Olympus; each individual, however slight, laden with his or her blankets and ten pounds of provisions. The various trips up Olympus are chronicled elsewhere, so it remains for me merely to outline the return to camp and from thence homeward, leaving the events occurring after our departure to be told by some one fortunate enough to be among the last to leave the scene of the Mountaineers' six-weeks' outing.

But before we retrace our steps I cannot refrain from a brief mention of our camp at the base of Olympus, now known to us as Hospital Camp, because of the accident to Miss Bailey; but even this association cannot obliterate from memory that wonderful canyon, unexpectedly discovered on the eve of our arrival, while in quest of a band of elk. A canyon whose straight walls grew steeper and steeper, extending down to unknown depths, until a glance over the edge made one grow dizzy; while the river, which, but a short distance before, roared beside us, now sounded but an echo at the bottom of the canyon far below us.

Then, too, the glaciers, so temptingly near our camp—how we longed to explore them. Lacking the magnitude of the Muir and Davidson glaciers in Alaska, and the peculiar individuality of the various glaciers of Mt. Rainier, they yet have a charm which makes one resolve to know them some day, even as one knows those others.

But the order to return is given, so reluctantly we leave, rejoining those at the main camp about sundown of the same day as our attempted ascent of Olympus. The next morning we start on our four days' tramp toward home, reaching Port Angeles August 14 and leaving on the steamer Whatcom just as twilight darkens into night. At dawn of the following day we are in Seattle,—and the Mountaineers' first annual outing—probably the most wonderful outing ever taken by any mountain-climbing club—is a thing of the past.

Olympic Outing

List of members of The Mountaineers who went on First Annual Outing

Archer, A. W.
 Bailey, Winona
 Banks, Mary
 Baptie, H. May
 Belt, H. C.
 Belt, Mrs. H. C.
 Best, John A. Jr.
 Bigelow, Alida J.
 Blake, J. Fred
 Brown, Sydney
 Casey, Alice M.
 Childe, Eugene A.
 Chittenden, Eleanor Mary
 Craven, A. J., Bellingham
 Curtis, Asahel
 Curtis, Mrs. Florence
 Eaton, Dr. Cora Smith
 Epler, Frank
 Flett, Prof. J. B., Tacoma
 Frye, Prof. Theodore C.
 Gleason, Helen R.
 Hanna, Ina M.
 Hannaman, Geo. L., Bremerton
 Howard, Anna
 Howard, Grace
 Hubert, Anna
 Humes, Grant
 Jones, Nancy Emerson
 Kaiser, George
 Ketcham, Florence
 Kracht, Fred G.
 Kracht, Louise

Kracht, Ida
 Krows, Melvin
 Landes, Prof. Henry
 Landes, Prof. Charles. Tacoma
 Leckenby, Mollie E.
 Light, J. P.
 Lyman, Prof. W. D., Walla Walla
 McCarney, Margaret
 McDaniels, Metta
 McGregor, P. M.
 Morril, Ormond
 Nelson, L. A.
 Nettleton, Lulie
 Niedergesaess, Gertrude
 Plumb, Prof. F. H.
 Price, W. Montelius
 Richards, E. E.
 Southard, F. S.
 Stevens, Dr. B. R.
 Stevens, Dr. E. F.
 Stevens, Mrs. Vesta E.
 Stevens, Prof. H. C.
 Strang, Hattie A.
 Streater, Gertrude Inez
 Stuff, Mrs. Josephine
 Treadeau, Joseph
 Van Horn, Rev. F. J.
 Van Horn, Robert
 Webster, E. B., Port Angeles
 Weaver, Prof. C. E., Berkeley, Cal.
 Wilson, W. E., Ellensburg
 Wright, Wm. H.

Record of Ascents to the Summits of Peaks of the Olympic Range, Made by Mem- bers of the Mountaineers in 1907

MOUNT CHRISTIE.

First Ascent, August 5th, 1907.

Mr. Asahel Curtis	Mr. J. P. Light
Mr. Grant W. Humes	Mr. Eugene A. Childe
Mr. Geo. L. Hannaman	Mr. Fred J. Blake
Mr. John A. Best	Mr. Melvin A. Krows
Mr. P. M. McGregor	Mr. Frank Epler
Mr. F. G. Kracht	Miss Ida Kracht.

Miss Kracht is the first and only woman, so far as known, who has climbed Mt. Christie.

Second Ascent, August 19th, 1907.

Prof. Henry Landes	Mr. Chas Landes
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MT. MEANY.

First Ascent, August 8th, 1907.

Mr. Asahel Curtis	Mr. L. A. Nelson
Mr. P. M. McGregor	

Second Ascent, August 18th, 1907.

Prof. Henry Landes	Mr. Chas. Landes
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MT. NOYES.

First Ascent, May 30th, 1907.

Mr. Asahel Curtis	Mr. Grant W. Humes
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Second Ascent, July 30th, 1907.

Prof. W. D. Lyman, leader

Company A.

Rev. F. J. Van Horn, Capt.
Robert Van Horn
Mrs. Stevens
Dr. Stevens
Miss Jones
Miss McDaniels
Mr. Hannaman
Miss Bigelow
Miss Bailey
Mr. Epler

Company B.

Mr. Krows, Capt.
Miss Banks
Dr. B. R. Stevens
Mr. Tredeau
Miss Grace Howard
Mr. Brown
Miss Anna Howard
Mr. Kracht
Miss Ketchum

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MOUNT NOYES—Continued

Company C.

Mr. Light, Capt.
Miss Strang
Miss Nettleton
Mr. Child
Mrs. Curtis
Mr. McGregor
Miss Streator
Miss Leekenby
Mrs. Belt
Mr. Belt

Company D.

Judge Craven, Capt.
Miss Ida Kracht
Mr. Plumb
Louise Kracht
Mr. Kaiser
Miss Casey
Mr. Southern
Miss Baptie
Mr. Blake

Company E.

Mr. Webster

Miss Chittenden

Dr. Eaton

Mount Olympus

WEST PEAK.

FIRST ascent of the west and highest peak, altitude 8,250 feet, by aneroid reading of The Mountaineers, August 13th, 1907.

L. A. Nelson, leader	Seattle
Miss Anna Hubert.....	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Prof. Henry Landes	University of Washington, Seattle
Prof. Charles Landes	High School, Tacoma
J. B. Flett	High School, Tacoma
Prof. Theodore C. Frye	University of Washington, Seattle
Prof. C. E. Weaver.....	University of California, Berkeley, California
Prof. F. H. Plumb	Principal Denny School, Seattle
Mr. W. Montelius Price	Seattle
Mr. E. E. Richards	Seattle
Mr. A. W. Archer.....	Seattle

Miss Hubert was the first woman to climb Mount Olympus, and the only one to climb West Peak.

The party left in the record box the following articles: United States flag, Mountaineers' badge, jack-knife, red and blue ribbon, purple string, ten cent piece, five cent piece, bread ticket, safety pin, a calk, hair pin, two matches and business card of A. W. Archer, containing account of The Mountaineers first attempt to climb Mount Olympus.

EAST PEAK.

First Ascent August 12,

The first party of The Mountaineers to reach the summit of Mount Olympus.

Mr. John A. Best, Jr.,	Mr. L. A. Nelson,
Prof. H. C. Stevens.	

Second Ascent, August 15.

Dr. Cora Smith Eaton, first and only woman who has climbed this peak.
Mr. L. A. Nelson.

The following record was left on the summit: "Record of ascent of East Peak or Sphinx Head, of Mt. Olympus, on August 12, 1907, by a party of 'Mountaineers' from 'Hospital Camp' in Queets Valley, in four hours and five minutes, by way of Humes and Hoh Glaciers.

"An old paper, supposed to be from Shelton, from extracts therein, found in cairn. Same is inclosed with this record.

"L. A. Nelson, Seattle. John A. Best, Jr., Seattle. H. C. Stevens, Seattle.

"We salute the brave pioneers who climbed in 1899."

In the ascent of August 15, by Mr. Nelson and Dr. Eaton, it was decided that the date of the Shelton newspaper was August 12, 1899, exactly eight years to a day from the day it was found by Mr. Nelson's party, August 12, 1907. This conclusion is based upon the fact that there is an administrator's notice signed Frank D. Nash, with the dates under it, of publication—"July 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12, 19." And there is notice of resolutions on the death of Robert Brand, "at a regular meeting of the Tenino Lodge No. 38 A. O. U. W.", on August 7. The paper therefore must have been printed later than August 7 and the natural inference would be that it was the issue of August 12.

Mount Olympus, Continued

MIDDLE PEAK.**First Ascent, August 13th, 1907.**

Prof. Henry Landes, Seattle	Mr. F. H. Plumb, Seattle
Miss Anna Hubert, Seattle	Mr. Chas. Landes, Seattle
Prof. John B. Flett, Seattle.	Mr. W. Montelius Price, Seattle
Mr. A. W. Archer, Seattle	Mr. L. A. Nelson, Seattle
Prof. Theodore C. Frye, Seattle	Mr. Earl E. Richards, Seattle
Prof. C. E. Weaver, Berkeley, Cal.	

Second Ascent, August 15th, 1907.

Cora Smith Eaton, M. D., second woman to reach the summit of Middle Peak.

Mr. L. A. Nelson (third ascent in four days).

List of party attempting the ascent of Mount Olympus, August 10, 1907. Severe snow storm prevented the party from reaching the summit:

General Staff.

Asahel Curtis
L. A. Nelson
Henry Landes

Grant Humes
F. Bowman

Company A.

Geo. L. Hannamau, Captain
Mary Banks
H. C. Stevens
Alida J. Bigelow
Sydney Brown
Anna Hubert
F. H. Plumb
Mollie E. Leckenby
Dr. Weaver
Anna Howard
Frank Epler, Lieut.

Company C.

John A. Best, Jr., Captain
Lulie Nettleton
Ormond Morrill
Gertrude Niedergesaess
A. W. Archer
H. May Baptie
Wm. G. Wright
Winona Bailey
Judge A. J. Craven
J. P. Light, Lieut.

Company B.

P. M. McGregor, Captain
Nancy E. Jones
Eugene Hilde
Metta McDaniels
Chas. Landes
Ina M. Hanna
F. J. Kracht
Mrs. Asahel Curtis
Robert Carr
Dr. E. F. Stevens, Lieut.

Company D.

Gertrude Krows, Captain
Prof. W. D. Lyman
Hattie A. Strang
Robert Van Horn
Grace Howard
Rev. Van Horn
Margaret McCarney
E. E. Richards.
J. F. Blake, Lieut. and rear guard

Mount Queets

First Ascent (East Side), May 27th, 1907.

Asahel Curtis

Mr. Grant W. Humes

Mr. W. Montelius Price

Second Ascent (East Side), May 29th, 1907.

Mr. Grant W. Humes

Mr. Asahel Curtis

Third Ascent (First Ascent Made from the West), August 1st, 1907.

Mr. Asahel Curtis, Leader

Mr. H. C. Belt

Miss Mary Banks

Miss Winona Bailey

Mr. Geo. L. Hannaman

Miss Alida J. Bigelow

Mr. J. P. Light

Miss Ida Kracht

Mr. John A. Best, Jr.

Mr. Fred G. Kracht

Mr. F. H. Plumb

Mr. P. M. McGregor

Miss Banks was the first woman to stand on the summit of Mt. Queets.

Fourth Ascent (The Third Ascent From the East), August 3rd, 1907.

Mr. Asahel Curtis, Leader

Mr. Robert Van Horn

Company A.

Mr. L. A. Nelson, Captain

Miss Gertrude Inez Streator

Mr. Eugene A. Childe

Dr. Cora Smith Eaton

Miss Nancy Emerson Jones

Mr. E. B. Webster

Mr. Franklin Epler

Miss Alice J. Casey

Miss Mollie E. Leckenby

Mr. J. Fred Blake

Mr. Melvin A. Krows

Company C.

Mrs. Asahel Curtis

Mr. Grant Humes, Captain

Mr. J. P. Light

Miss Grace Howard

Miss Florence Ketcham

Judge A. J. Craven

Dr. E. F. Stevens

Miss Anna Howard

Company B.

Mr. Geo. L. Hannaman, Captain

Mr. F. S. Southard

Miss H. May Baptie

Miss Metta McDaniels

Mr. F. J. Van Horn

Prof. W. D. Lyman

Mr. H. C. Belt

Mrs. H. C. Belt

Miss Leckenby only girl to reach southern peak of Queets. Shaky rock proved climbing unsafe, and no more were allowed to climb that pinnacle.

Fifth Ascent, August 18th, 1907.

Mr. Henry Landes

Mr. Chas. Landes

Mount Seattle

First Ascent, August 4th, 1907.

Asahel Curtis

Mr. L. A. Nelson

Mr. Grant W. Humes

Second Ascent, August 15th, 1907.

Miss Margaret McCarney

Mr. W. Montelius Price

Miss Gertrude Niedergesaess

Mr. A. W. Archer

Mr. Chas. Landes

Miss Ina M. Hanna

Mr. Chas. E. Weaver

Mr. Leslie R. Corbett

Prof. Henry Landes

Ova C. Purnell

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MOUNT SEATTLE—Continued.

Third Ascent August 19th, 1907.

Dr. Cora Smith Eaton

Mr. E. W. Humes

Cougar Peak of Mount Seattle

First Ascent, August 4th, 1907.

Mr. L. A. Nelson

Mr. Grant W. Humes

Mr. Asahel Curtis

Second Ascent, August 11, 1907.

W. M. Price

Third Ascent, August 15th, 1907.

Prof. Henry Landes

Mr. Chas. Landes

Fourth Ascent, August 19th, 1907.

Dr. Cora Smith Eaton, M. D.

Mr. W. E. Humes.

Dr. Eaton was the first woman to climb Cougar Peak.

Mount Barnes

First Ascent, August 4th, 1907.

Mr. P. M. McGregor

Mr. Geo. L. Hannaman

Miss Lulu Nettleton

Miss Alida J. Bigelow

Mr. F. H. Plumb