

## VARIOUS NOTES

### UNITED STATES

*A Night on Rainier.* The first post-war ascent of Mt. Rainier was made on 31 May 1946 by M. M. Miller, Dee Molenaar and C. M. Molenaar, as a "conditioning climb" for their activities on Mt. St. Elias in June and July. The trio made the ascent on the first day of the 1946 season via Camp Muir and Cadaver Gap, going on to the summit on the upper Ingraham Glacier. The plan was to make some preliminary tests of equipment to be used in Alaska. For that reason permission was obtained to remain on the summit overnight. In late evening a storm hit the 14,000-ft. level and compelled the group to take refuge in one of the crater ice caves melted out by slowly emitted volcanic steam. Two attempts were made to get out of the crater and descend to a lower level, out of reach of the storm. Winds of over 100 miles per hour drove the party back to the cave. But, with sleeping bags soaked inside and sheathed in ice outside, the party found it imperative to force its way down to Muir the next afternoon, having experienced conditions infinitely worse than those encountered on any of its combined 19 previous ascents of the mountain and than any of the wind conditions later encountered in the St. Elias Range.

M. M. M.

*Nooksack Tower: First Ascent.* Nooksack Tower (8500 ft.) is a very prominent upthrust on the E. ridge of Mt. Shuksan, somewhat resembling in position the Aig. Noire de Péteret on Mont Blanc. The climb has repulsed attempts since 1939.

On 5 July 1946 Fred Beckey and Clifford Schmidtke left camp (3000 ft.) on the N. fork of the Nooksack River and by a previously reconnoitered route reached the bergschrund at the foot of the final N. face (6500 ft.) at 10.30 A.M. Schmidtke worked over the bergschrund, and Beckey kicked steps 800 ft. up a 50° ice couloir on the N. face. Snow conditions were dangerous, and occasional rock falls harassed the party. The climbers then worked westward into a hidden rock trough and donned tennis shoes. The final 1200 ft. involved fourth-class climbing along the north arête. Care and continual belaying were necessary. One safety piton was used. The pair reached the summit at 3.30 P.M. and then had an uneventful descent, rappelling from pitons placed in the rock wall at the flank of the couloir. They reached camp in the valley at 10 P.M.

F. B.

*Golden Horn: First Ascent.* On 18 September 1946 the first ascent of Golden Horn (8400 ft.) in the N. E. Cascades was accomplished by Fred Beckey, Keith Rankin and Charles Welsh. The approach was from Horseheaven Camp, ten miles from the Hart's Pass Road, via the brushy valley of the upper W. fork of the

Methow River and a long talus gully on the W. side of Golden Horn. The final summit rocks were short but required a spectacular tennis-shoe climb. The time from camp was six hours.

F. B.

*Mountain Activities of the Sierra Club, 1946.* During the summer of 1946 the 42nd Annual Outing of the Sierra Club travelled for six weeks through the high Sierra Nevada, covering the finest and highest portions from Cottonwood Pass, S. of Mt. Whitney, to Piute Pass at Mt. Humphreys, far to the N. Most of the more interesting peaks along the route were ascended by different members of the party. An average of 100 people participated in each of the three two-week periods. The three leaders, R. M. Leonard, D. R. Brower and Raffi Bedayn, are members of the A.A.C. Other members present were Marjory and Francis Farquhar, Weldon Heald, Helen Le Conte, Bob Lipman and Harriet Parsons.

The Sierra Club Base Camp, organized and managed by Oliver Kehrlein, had a total attendance of 145 at two sessions of two weeks each. Camp was made in the high country of the Fourth Recess of Mono Creek. This camp is similar to the mountain camps held by mountaineering clubs throughout the world. A fine location is established about one day's pack from roadhead, and the surrounding country is thoroughly explored. The High Trip, on the other hand, is unique in permitting the members to move to new country every second or third day, and thus to explore by pack train remote wilderness areas that are inaccessible by any other means.

D. R. Brower was the organizer of the two-week "cache and carry" system of Knapsack Trips along the 13,900-ft. Kings-Kern divide of the Sierra Nevada, and among the glorious mountains of Grand Teton National Park. By careful planning in advance, food caches are established to permit high country off-trail exploration by knapsack, with loads not exceeding 20 pounds.

The other trips sponsored by the Sierra Club are the Burro Trips and the Saddle Trips. The Burro Trip is primarily for the purpose of instructing lovers of the wilderness in the technique of independent wilderness travel, doing all that is necessary to pack and care for a small pack train. Three of those trips indicate the enthusiasm with which people desire to learn. The Saddle Trip is the most luxurious of all, appealing particularly to those who love horses. Since all members are on horseback, a greater range of country can be covered than by other means.

R. M. L.

*Wind River Outing of the C. M. C.* The Colorado Mountain Club held its 33rd Annual Summer Outing in the upper Dinwoody