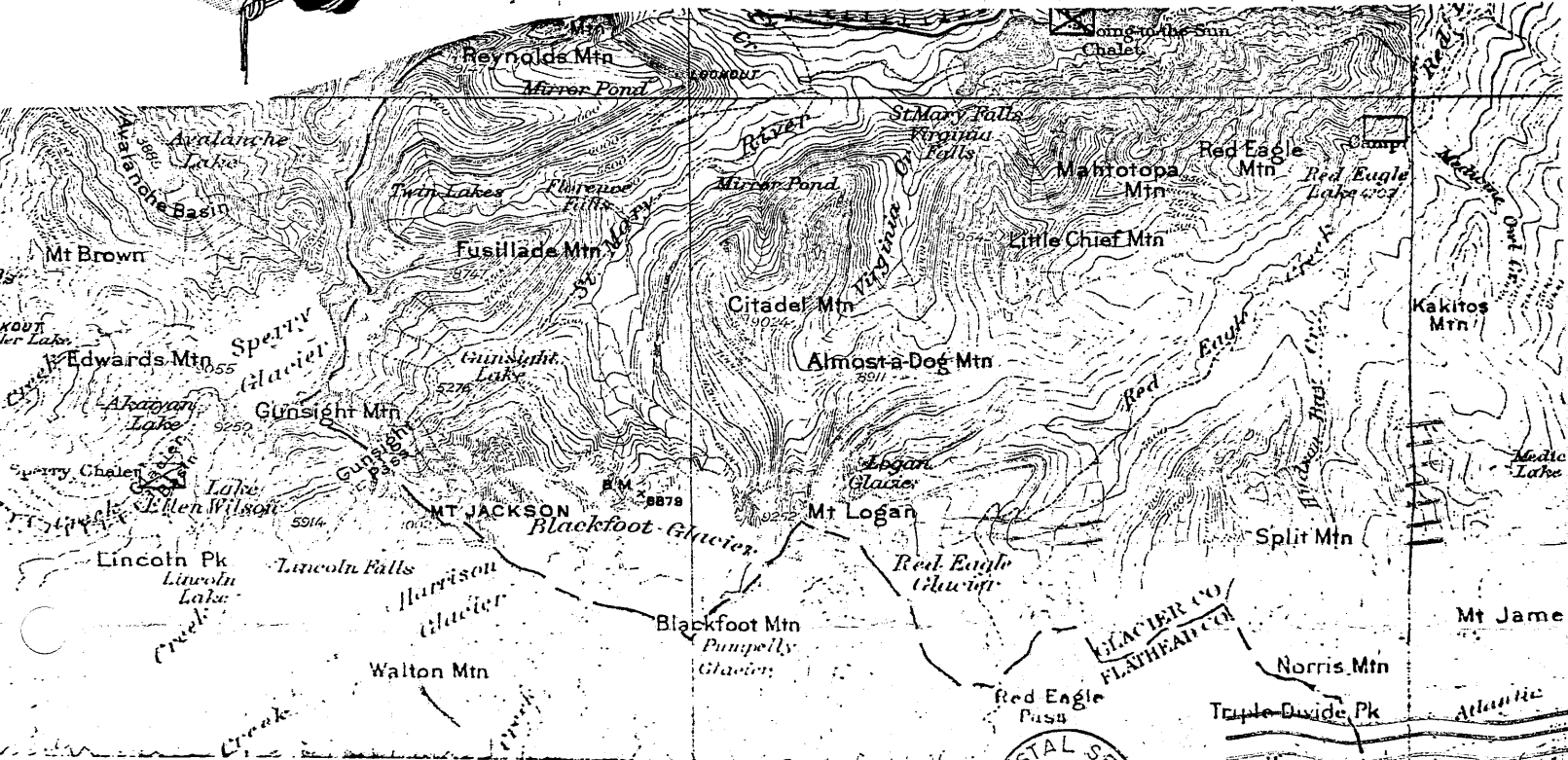


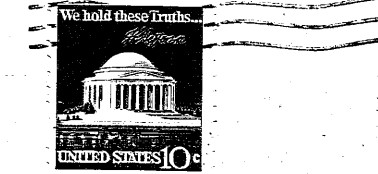
Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

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THE MOUNTAIN EAR
BOX 1375
MISSOULA, MT. 59801

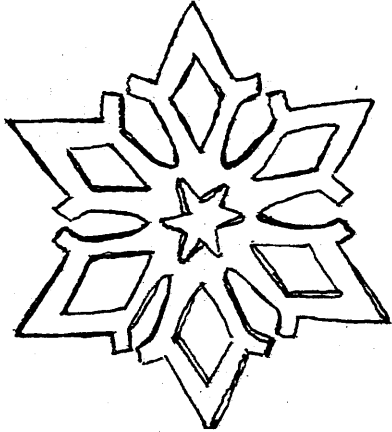


FIRST CLASS

We go...on foot
We ski...tour
We shoot with camera
We boat in silence
We enjoy...with
respect.

Dave Line
1135 Whitaker Dr.
Missoula, Montana 59801

The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 1575, Missoula, MT. 59801 welcome all persons interested in the out-of-door activities of hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling & technical climbing - summer, winter, autumn & spring. Subscription to the Mountain Ear is by membership: \$4./yr. single, \$5./yr. family, \$2/yol. to out-of-town address. Eight issues per volume.



The JANUARY meeting will feature Bill Myers' MINOR SCRAMBLES IN THE ALPS

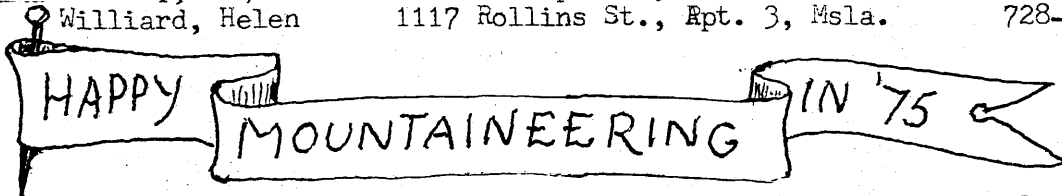
Jan. 8 7:30 P.M.
W. Fed. Savings & Loan
Hwy. 93 S, at the time
& temp. sign

Refreshments

Jan. 12th
Ski-tour + snowshoe trip
with Bob Benson
to
Lubrecht Forest or
Twin Cr. area
Meet 8AM at Eastgate
Shopping Center

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|----------|
| Adler, Richard & Carol, Steve & Mike | 728-2627 |
| 302 E. Beckwith, Msla. | |
| Baty, Don West Fork Route, Darby, Mont. 59829 | |
| Kaag, Raelen Stevensville, Mont. | 777-5745 |
| Karkanene, Steve 2703 Sycamore Av., Msla. | 543-7801 |
| Myers, Bill & Vera, Bill, Chuck & Bob | 549-3606 |
| 2308 Cloverdale Dr., Msla. | |
| O'Donnell, Dennis J. 1901 Missoula Av., Msla. | 543-7904 |
| Qamar, Tony 509 Hill St., Msla. | 728-7613 |
| Rimel, John Whitaker Hill Rd., Msla. | 543-6149 |
| Stuart, Eugene 609 Phillips St., Msla. | 728-4321 |
| Williard, Helen 1117 Rollins St., Apt. 3, Msla. | 728-3335 |



Ski-touring & Snowshoeing SCHEDULE to be set up at meeting. Bring ideas!

There is an informative article on WINTER TRAVEL in the Nov./Dec. 1974 issue of Montana Outdoors which is published by the Mont. Fish & Game. The 3 concise sections detail X-country skiing, snowshoeing & camping.

Univ. of Vermont owns 9 natural areas, East woods, Red Stone Quarry, Centennial woods, Pease Mtn., Colchester Bog, Mt. Mansfield, Molly Bog, Concord woods & Shelburne Pond. Administration is aimed at study and recreation. Atop Mt. Mansfield, accessible by road and chairlift, a ranger program is undertaken during summer months. A brochure is available from UVM Environmental Program, Burlington, Vt. with map & policy.

Locally, the Montana Natural Areas Act of 1974 provides a format & enabling legislation for the protection of relatively undisturbed areas possessing significant values which should be preserved. Forest, Grass & Shrubland, Geologic, Aquatic, and a newly planned-for Zoological designations have been defined. More info. can be obtained from M.N.A. Comm., School of Forestry, Univ. of Mont., Missoula, Mt. 59801.

WALTON MTN., by Allen Smith

On July 29th, 1974, four climbers, Paul Jensen, Mavis Lorenz, Tom Shreve, and Allen Smith set out for a first ascent of Walton Mtn. in Glacier National Park. Walton is named on topo maps and is located just south of Mt. Jackson. Tom had written to J. Gordon Edwards, author of A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park, inquiring about Walton and received a letter saying as far as Edwards knew it was unclimbed.

We left Going-to-the-Sun Highway about noon to follow the Gunsight Lake Trail. That evening we set up camp at the snout of Jackson Glacier. The next day we climbed Blackfoot Mtn. from which we got an excellent and impressive view of Walton to the west, across the Harrison Glacier.

After a good night's rest we left camp at 8 AM and quickly reached the pass between Jackson and Harrison Glaciers. From here we picked our way down some broken cliffs, some steep snow, and a few ledges to the Harrison Glacier. Having decided on a low route we struck out across the ice towards the ridge connecting Mt. Jackson and Walton Mtn. The ridge was gained by a prominent snow patch and a short pitch of rock scrambling above the snow. Here we ate lunch under a clear sky with snow, ice and peaks surrounding us.

Our repast completed, we followed some goat trails south along the ridge. Perched upon this ridge, just before it becomes the summit ridge of Walton, is one of the most ideal campsites in Glacier Park. A small grassy meadow, with water, sits here, high above the surrounding valleys. Too bad it is so hard to reach, or maybe it's better that way.

Upon reaching the actual base of Walton we skirted to the west, entering some large open chimneys and gullies. We alternated climbing on the ridge proper or in the chimneys the rest of the way to the top. The rock here is comparable to that found at Kootenai Cr. (Bitterroot Mtns.) and is much better than expected for GNP. The view from the summit was well worth the climb. Jackson, Blackfoot, and Stimson were before us, while Mt. St. Nicholas stood out far to the southeast. Below us, the east face of Walton fell some 3,000' to Harrison Creek.

We searched for a cairn or some other indication of a previous climb but found nothing. A large cairn was erected and a plastic jar with paper and pencil was put inside. The register now reads "Walton Mtn., 8941' First ascent by humans July 31, 1974" to which we signed our names. The "humans" was put in because of numerous goat sightings and a goat bed on top! After taking in more of the view and "clicking a few shutters" we began our descent. We roughly retraced our route and arrived back at camp by 9 PM.

Ropes and ice axes, as well as knowledge of how to use them, are necessary when traveling on glaciers. Altho' you are not "crazy" to cross glaciers, as one ranger told us we were, care should be exercised. There is some good climbing to be done on Walton for those who are willing to put out the effort. It is a very enjoyable climb, fully worth the time and energy it takes.

P.S. We talked with Edwards at Many Glaciers later and learned that 3 rangers had set out 2 days after our climb intending to make a "first" ascent of Walton.