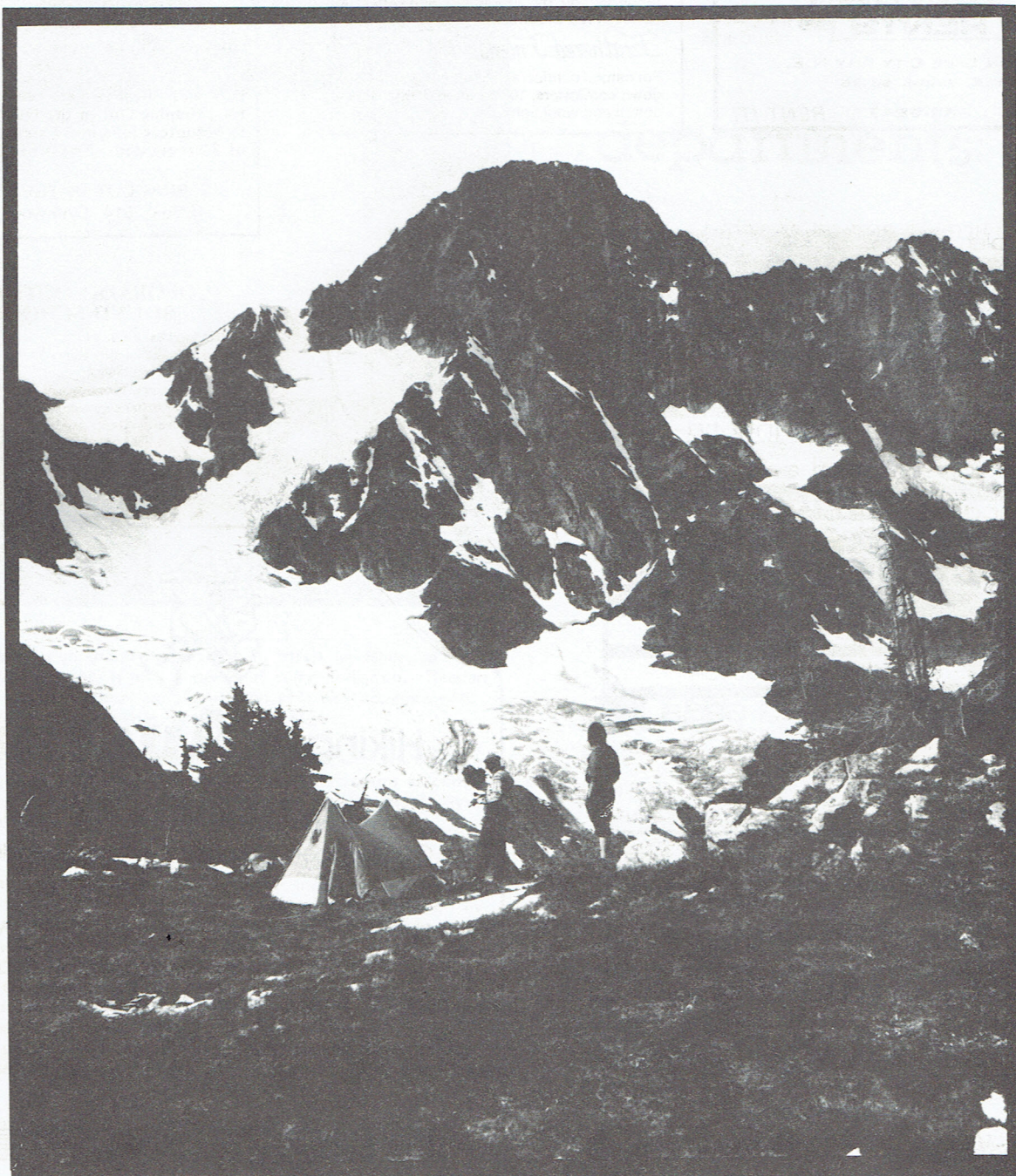


signpost

FOR NORTHWEST TRAILS



INSIDE—
THE DOUGLAS SQUIRREL
BAILEY RANGE

AUGUST 1984
\$2.00

signpost

FOR NORTHWEST HIKERS

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 8



Ann Marshall

Just as this posted sign shares information or offers guidance, so SIGNPOST, the magazine, is also a means of communication. Readers are invited to submit material for publication as a way to share with others their thoughts, discoveries, and experiences.

Material should be of interest to trail users in the Pacific Northwest states and neighboring regions. We accept these submissions as contributions to the cause of safer and more enjoyable trail travel; if payment is requested, it will always be a rather modest amount.

We can't print everything—our pages are limited—but any trip reports not used go into our data bank to help answer inquiries. All poetry, art work, and feature articles are seriously considered for inclusion in Signpost. If in doubt, before spending a lot of time on a project, ask the editors if your contribution will be timely.

How to reach the Signpost office:

Drive I-5 north from Seattle to Exit 183. Go west on 164th Street SW to 36th Avenue W. At the stoplight at the top of the hill turn left (south). In a quarter mile, watch for Signpost sign by driveway on the right. Park and walk to red barn at back of property—and there we are.

Founder of Signpost and Northwest Trails Association:
Louise B. Marshall

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Mesahchie Peak from the north, with David Gonzales and Steve Ricker. North Cascades National Park. Photo by Stephen Fry.

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REPORTS TRAIL AND ROAD CONDITIONS

RAINIER NATIONAL PARK—Summer should be approaching at Paradise and Sunrise, but it isn't. Sixty inches of snow still cover the base of the Paradise weather station. The road is lined with snowbanks. Nevertheless, spring is in the air. Varied thrushes are singing their trilled whistle, the same song that was heard a month or more ago at lower elevations. Soon carpets of avalanche lilies will replace the white snow.

All Park roads are open except Westside Road from Klapatche Point to North Puyallup River, and the Mowich Lake Road to within 3 miles of the lake.

For backcountry information, call 206/569-2211.—Ranger, 7/13.

QUARTZ MOUNTAIN-PEACHES RIDGE—We drove from Exit 84 off I-90 on the back roads south and eventually picked up a new logging road. The numbers of these roads escape me now but can be found on the Pic-Tour map for Greenwater/Easton. We parked in an active logging area and thinking we would intersect our trail in ¼-mile, found it was more like a mile with much of it over muddy road just being put in.

Once on the trail it was easy to follow to a junction with the Peaches Ridge Trail. And once on the ridge we enjoyed the many wildflowers and views dominated by Rainier. Slowly the ground snow increased, but was no impediment. The trail veers around to an easy walk up to Quartz Mountain where more expansive views await. About 9 miles round trip.—CAT, Bellevue, 6/23.

NORTH CENTRAL

McMILLAN PARK DANGER—A slide on McMillan Park Trail 738 on 7/19 has taken out a portion of the trail on a rocky shelf. The area is about 3½ miles in from the trailhead on North Cascades Highway at Granite Creek. It is totally impassable for stock, and very dangerous for foot travel. The side slope is 100%. A ranger will be going in to examine the situation on 7/21 and decide on a course of action. For information on the situation, call Winthrop Ranger Station, 509/996-2266.—by phone direct to Signpost.

STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN (USGS Mount Bonaparte)—An easy hike with views of the Okanogan highlands and the Kettle River Range. Follow Highway 20 east from Tonasket. Shortly before Wauconda, head north. Paved roads lead to within ½-mile of Lost Lake, where nice Forest Service camps and good fishing are.

The 1-mile trail begins at the northeast corner of the lake and gains 900 feet to the 4742-foot site of a former lookout. At ½-mile turn right at an unmarked junction. By late July or early August the abundant wild strawberries should be ripe.—Charlie and Gary Hickenbottom, 6/30.

NORTH GARDNER MOUNTAIN (USGS Mazama and Silver Star Mountain)—Enjoyed a sunny weekend while climbing the towering hulk of North Gardner (8956 feet), one of Washington's highest mountains.

David Singleton and I approached the mountain from the north by way of the dry and easy Cedar Creek Trail, passing through lovely stands of pines, fields of paintbrush and lupine, and within a stone's throw of Cedar Falls. After 3 miles, a log provides a relatively safe crossing of Cedar Creek (we belayed each other across). From here, the final four miles to North Gardner's summit are off-trail.

The brushy and somewhat dense forest of the Cedar Creek valley eventually gives way to pine and flower-studded scree slopes at about 5600 feet. We wandered at this elevation up the lonesome "Shelokum Creek" valley.

One of the several attractions of this traverse is the imposing view of the unusual outcroppings of layer after layer of conglomerates exposed on the cliffs across the valley. The geological character of this area is more typical of Glacier National Park than of the North Cascades.

We climbed North Gardner by the north ridge, and were rewarded with expansive views of the cloudy Cascades and arid eastern Washington.

We had a great time descending the west side, where scree and snow made the task an easy one.—Stephen Fry, Woodinville, 7/7-8.

STEHEKIN—To keep bears from becoming a problem at backcountry camps, keep a neat camp and hang food out of reach.

The Valley Road is open for travel to Cottonwood, but is rough where streams run across the road.

The *Lady of the Lake* now lands at Field's Point instead of Twenty-five Mile Creek. The boat departs from Field's Point at 9:45am.

The shuttle bus makes three round trips daily to Cottonwood, leaving Stehekin at 7:30am, 9am, and 2pm.—Ranger, 7/16.

PCT—Snowcovered from Canadian border to Highway 20.—Ranger, 7/10.

CENTRAL

LAKE MARGARET (USGS Chiwaukum Mountains)—A nice, strenuous 4½ miles with lots of elevation gain. The lake at 5000 feet had snow on the ground and was 90% frozen, but it was beautiful with a spectacular waterfall at the north end.

Saturday evening we climbed Ladies Peak to watch the sunset and got some awesome views. We were visited in our camp at dusk by a curious deer. A wind storm the night before had been quite severe, blowing trees and branches down across the trail.

The low point of the trip was in returning to the trailhead and discovering that my car had been broken into. We didn't lose anything of value, but we still made a report to the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. They said it's a common problem.—DH, Edmonds, 6/30-7/1

MILLER PEAK (USGS Mount Stuart)—Mary Sutliff wrote in detail about this destination in the July issue, so I'll just say that the only snow of any significance was well up on the ridge and easily negotiated. Just as we arrived, a contingent of Mountaineer Scramblers was leaving the peak for some cross-country travel, and when they discovered Neil Hunt was among us it was like a class reunion.—CAT, Bellevue, 6/24.