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### CLIMBING IN THE SELKIRKS

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This year, finally free of the Air Force and its paid free vacations to lovely places like Saigon and Guam, I was able to return in earnest to my much neglected climbing. Without much wasted time after my discharge, I applied for the Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) summer trip to the Northern Selkirks of British Columbia. Our semi-expedition was headed by Dr. John Woodworth of Connecticut.

After my three thousand mile drive to Golden, British Columbia, I was very anxious to get my legs and arms climbing once again. All seventeen trip members rendezvoused in Golden. The majority of the group flew out to Calgary, Alberta and continued to Golden by bus. As this was my first trip of all most expedition size, I was very much impressed by the logistics of a fourteen day trip for seventeen people. It seems to me that we had half a Greyhound full of food and supplies. After our last good hot bath and a steak dinner, we were ready for the next day's adventure.

Early the morning of July 14, a large flatbed truck full of climbers, food, and equipment, roared off down the road. The end of the road for us was a logging road north of the Trans-Canadian Highway, the so called Big Bend Highway along the Columbia River. The dirt road was dusty and bumpy. Shortly after we unloaded the truck, a big screaming bird swooped down on us--the French Allouette helicopter that was to fly us into the Selkirks proper. We were flown in to the timber line, landing in an area called Fairy Meadow. After the helicopter made several trips, ferrying in our party and its equipment, we bid good-bye to our pilot and our contact with the outside for two weeks. We all admitted that the helicopter ride was one of the highlights of the trip, especially flying up and over the snout of a large glacier.

In 1965, a group of climbers, assisted by a helicopter, constructed a cabin at Fairy Meadow. The cabin was to be our base camp for the two weeks, supplemented by a tent camp used in some of our ascents on Granite Glacier.

What an area for base! Around us the green of the forest and immediately above the eternal snow and ice world! The Selkirks are not the highest mountains (10,000 to 11,000 feet) but they were ours and remote, not trodden upon by the masses. Just about all the major peaks in the area have been climbed. There remain, however, many first route ascents on the rock faces.

The average day would see us split into parties of four, bound for surrounding peaks--Damon, Sentinel, Austerity, and Colossal to name a few. Unlike the previous year's trip, we had our share of foul weather. Rain, snow, hail. You name it and it came down. One was fortunate to be caught in the snug

little cabin with its pot bellied stove in such weather. We also remember the days in a leaky tent on the glacier. It seems whenever we had ambitious plans for the following day we would put up a high camp on Granite Glacier and, sure enough, bad weather would move in.

Some of our ambitious plans were to put up new routes on Mt. Austerity and on the rock face of Little Black Friar. With bad spells of weather, which meant of course, snow at higher altitudes, all we ever did was look at the unclimbed face of Little Black Friar. Looking at it from different summits, it appears that the face will take plenty of difficult free climbing and some direct aid. So, as it now stands, it is still waiting to feel the hands and boots of climbers.

Four members of our party also tried the unclimbed east ridge of Mt. Austerity. Again, the weather proved a deciding factor and, along with the difficult rock, forced a retreat by rappel.

The climbing in the Northern Selkirks is mainly on snow and ice and the area has many glaciers. Although there are many crevasses to avoid, only once did I witness anyone falling into one. The victim was perturbed at our first step of rescue --taking pictures of her.

On our long days waiting out the bad weather in the cabin, discussions would turn to, "I wonder what's happening in the outside world?" Here we were without any communication, and we never even spotted an airliner overhead!

July 26 found us with our equipment all packed up on the only semi-level area of Fairy Meadow. Suddenly, out of the clouds came our whirlybird to take us to the land of good hot baths and good cold beer. We all will have many fond memories of a great time in the high places.

### ROYAL ROBBINS TO SPEAK

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and the Mountaineering Section will sponsor an illustrated lecture by Mr. Royal Robbins at 8:30 PM, Dec. 9.

Mr. Robbins, one of the foremost technical rock climbers in the United States, will speak on Climbing in Yosemite Valley with emphasis on El Capitan. The two-hour program will include both color slides and a movie.

The program will be presented at the Department of Interior Auditorium at 18th and E Streets, N.W.