

Prince Glaze and the lost mountaineers

By Maret Pajutee, Correspondent

Guy Ferry was a 26-year-old University of Oregon graduate who loved to climb and explore the Cascades with his good friend, 23-year-old Henry Cramer. They grew up in The Dalles and had been in a fraternity together at the university. It was early September, 1927, and fall in the Cascades can be so beautiful. They took off in a Model T for Frog Camp off the McKenzie Pass, to climb mountains.

Frog Camp was in Forest Ranger Prince Glaze's territory, and he came across the young climbers on September 5. They reported they had climbed North Sister and, not deterred by the incoming wet weather, were planning to climb South Sister. Prince thought they may have been confused in the fog and had actually climbed Middle Sister. When they didn't return on time and the Model T was found sitting where they left it, a search was called. Prince searched the area alone in the snow for two days before help arrived.

It became the largest search conducted up to that time and the Forest Service, mountain climbers, skiers, law enforcement, and pilots were

called out. The search dominated the front page of the *Eugene Register Guard* for five days, with headlines like "South Sister Holds the Secret of Lost Boys," "No Trace of Lost Youths — Secret of Cascades Well Kept."

Then, strangely, on September 10, it was announced, "Boys are Thought Alive — 20 Volunteers are Sought." A message had come in from a remote forest phone, relayed with difficulty. It said they had reason to believe one boy was hurt and the other standing by, but they needed help quickly. Only experienced mountaineers, familiar with the Sisters area were wanted, and they needed to bring their own equipment and be ready to sleep in the snow.

Ranger Perry South from Sisters led one search team, McKenzie Ranger Smith L. Taylor a second, and Prince Glaze led the third. As the weather cleared, airplane flights were sent to scan the high slopes, but deep snow covered any traces. The searchers decided there were three possibilities: the boys had hidden in caves on Middle Sister, were lost in the forests below the mountain, or had crawled

into the lava beds.

The search became a cause and was funded by the Portland Ad Club. The mayor of Bend was reportedly directing the search, Mazamas provided leadership, and Wasco County, the home county of the two climbers, paid for food for the searchers. The Forest Service provided their best people, including Prince Glaze.

The boys' parents were there. Henry Cramer's father went out with the searchers while Mr. and Mrs. Ferry waited anxiously at Frog Camp. On September 12, Bend hometown heroes Nels Skjersaa and NJ Wulfsberg made a treacherous ascent of South Sister in a whiteout and were hailed for their climb — but nothing was found. Others took on climbing Middle Sister and found a note from Henry and Guy in the Summit box saying, "We were up here yesterday in such a blizzard that we could not find the register box. Stormy and cold today." They must have climbed it twice to sign the register. One rescuer was lowered on a rope into a deep crack of the Renfro glacier and reported he could not see the bottom.

Sheriff Taylor is quoted saying,

"There is little doubt that the boys were bewildered and lost their way in the snowstorm." Bewildered is a strangely real-feeling word for what it must have been like, lost in a swirling blizzard in the wilderness.

The rescuers swelled from 25 to over 100, and the cold nights around the campfires at Frog Camp were an incubator for ideas for helping people negotiate mountains in the future. As they huddled at the icy staging area, they talked about how to create search and rescue organizations and more.

On September 13, after the climbers had been missing nine days, the treacherous search was called off with the stark headline, "Fathers to return next summer for bodies." Guy's mother, Mrs. Ferry, was heralded as displaying "such fortitude that her grief-lined face and anxious eyes are enough to give courage to the weak. There is not a man at Frog Camp who would not go out over the Skyline Trail, even in the face of the



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