

SUMMIT OF MT. HOOD OCCUPIED FOR FIRST TIME BY A TENANT

Elijah Coalman Has a Job That Makes Residence at This Place Necessary.

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT

Celebrated Guide Surprises All in His Ability to Withstand This Bleak and Barren Solitude.

By F. H. MacNeil.

The summit of old Mount Hood for the first time in its extended history, is inhabited by mankind. True, there is but one inhabitant, but he is there to stay, several months at least, and he has found a job requiring his constant presence on the graceful dome of the snow peak that Portland folks are fond of calling their own.

Elijah Coalman, the famous south side guide of Mount Hood, who has done astonishing things to the peak at close intervals for a number of years, is the person who has chosen this most novel of all summer homes.

Anyone who knows Mount Hood can appreciate the wide vision of a forest observer perched on the summit. The limit is hundreds of miles in every direction.

For years officials of the United States forest service have looked with longing eyes at the string of snow peaks that rise in the center of huge areas of the green cascade mountain forests.

But Coalman thought otherwise. His 225 trips to the top have brought him on very close speaking terms with snow, and his study of her moods has convinced him that Hood can be successfully used for some other purpose than as an object of scenery and a thing to be climbed. So he applied for the job and got it.

Along with Coalman the summit has several other permanent fixtures that weren't there last year or any time before. There is a telephone line, receivers hanging on the tent pole, 11-225 feet above the sea, and Coalman can take down the helmet and if necessary, talk directly to the warden, sheriff of the Oregon National forest in the Beck building at Broadway and Oak streets.

There is also a tent with a double board floor, a comfortable bed, a set of six books on psychology, a kerosene stove, and an unlimited supply of "grub." In the commissary, under the two highest points of the summit, a few feet from the tent, there are the instruments for locating the fires, the device known as the Osborne forest fire finder or altimeter.

Camp Establishment Is Strouous. Coalman's marvelous endurance and strength never were better demonstrated than in the establishment of his camp.

Over three weeks ago he began the arrangements which now have been carried out. All the supplies used in establishing the camp, and their weight was not counted in pounds, but in tons, were taken on the government pack mules, from the Government Camp.

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NEAR ELIJAH COALMAN'S SUMMER HOME



His tent is at the summit of Mount Hood and when he has guests they must traverse the route and wear the garb here shown. Above, left to right—An altimeter, an instrument for locating forest fires, just above Mazama rock on the summit of Mount Hood; telephone wires to Coalman's station that keep him in touch with the outside world. Below, left to right—In front of Coalman's summit tent. Left to right—R. L. Rolson, Miss Anna Dorthmann and Miss Edith Moore; deep crevasse at the beginning of the steep climb just below the summit.

with him. Olson was plainly winded when the top was reached, but he stuck on the job, doing just as much work as his employer.

For three days they labored. Three packs were taken by each from Crater Rock to the tent in the morning, and three more in the afternoon. These round trips were made on the average in an hour. The fastest round trip to the top and back again was made in 50 minutes. Each man carrying considerably more than 50 pounds at the time.

During this time Coalman learned that his assistant had been a sailor for 15 years, and had been in the rigorous interior Alaskan mountain climate for a number of years. Very short, weighing not more than 145 pounds, Olson's frame seemed of steel, Coalman says. The packing was finished. Olson, stuck by his job and helped Coalman complete his camp.

Only a week ago yesterday the forest fire finders were placed. This is a task in which mathematical exactness is required, as the location of the fire is computed by triangulation, after the observer has telephoned to the supervisor's headquarters his observations.

In placing the altimeter on Mount Hood, six different minor peaks were used as markers. One of the instruments has been placed in the snow just above Mazama rock, about 20 yards due east of the little snow hummock that is designated as the true summit. From here all points of the compass can be observed with the exception of an area directly west, overlooking Sandy, Coe and Ladd glaciers.

In order to make the circle of vision complete, another altimeter was placed 150 yards to the west of the one by Mazama rock. This takes in the territory to the west of Mount Hood, including the upper reaches of the Bull Run water sheds.

In placing the instrument above Mazama rock, Lookout mountain, directly east and Mitchell mountain, to the southwest, together with another unnamed but wooded peak to the north, were used for fixing the altimeter map with respect to exact locations.

The telephone wires were placed by Mr. Osborne, the inventor. Osborne, a number of years ago, was one of the technical men attached to the Portland office of the forest service, but recently was appointed a field man for outside work, mainly in placing his instrument. He was on top of Hood last week and did most of the work in locating the altimeter himself.

WILL THERE BE A FRAME-UP IN THE POWER CONFERENCE?

Speculation Is Rife as to Turn Events Will Take in Local Meeting.

QUESTIONS ARE BEING PUT

Interests Calling Conference Fought and Killed Oregon Hydro-Electric Bill in Legislature.

There is speculation as to what turn the water power conference, called to be held in Portland September 21 to 23, will take.

Will there be a frame-up on the part of the reactionaries and the special interests to control the conference for the purpose of taking action antagonistic to the proposed plan of the administration to encourage hydro-electric development through a leasing system under government administration?

Is that the sole purpose for which the conference of representatives of the western states, which have large amounts of undeveloped water power, was called?

Questions Are Asked. Or is the conference to be for an open minded discussion of one of the most important questions affecting the future development of the west?

These questions are being asked, as the conference was called as a result of a resolution put through the last Oregon legislature at the instance of reactionaries, after a resolution endorsing what is known as the Ferris bill, then pending in congress, was defeated.

The same interests which put through the resolutions calling for the conference also fought and killed the bill prepared by the Oregon hydro-electric commission, which provided for the creation of hydro-electric districts to enable the people to provide their own power plants and power distributing systems, and other public utilities, if they so desired.

State Control Urged. Those who opposed the Ferris bill took the ground that the government was endeavoring to assert rights over the water power in the various states that should belong exclusively to the states. They said they wanted the state to regulate and control its water power.

On the other hand, those approving the administration's effort to bring about a greater development of the country's water power resources declared that the reactionaries were trying to beg the public mind by pretending that they are fighting for the state's interests against the government, when in reality they were trying to get control of the water power for themselves.

They see in the move of the reactionaries a scheme to endeavor to control the appurtenant rights of the government for the purpose of putting the western states on record as opposed to the government's plan.

When the resolution providing for the calling of the conference was passed by the legislature it carried with it the appointment of the Oregon delegates. An effort was made to amend the resolution to permit the governor to appoint the delegates, but this was not done.

The Oregon delegates are S. B. Huston and E. B. Piper, Portland; C. S. Hudson, Bend; W. Lair Thompson, Lakeview, and Governor Withycombe, chairman. They represent the reactionary interest of the state. It is reported that the state of Washington has an equally reactionary delegation.

WOMEN AGENTS POPULAR



Left to right—J. B. Courtright, city passenger agent at Tacoma; Miss Olive Lender, Miss Edna Flynn, Miss Myrtle L. Baker, and Miss Estelle Macaulay.

WOMEN PASSENGER AGENTS O-W. R. & N. ON LAST LEG OF TOUR

Popular Quartet Takes Trip to North Beach on Steamer Hassalo.

There are four of them and they are probably as wide awake and as busy as nestlike young women as are to be found in the Pacific northwest.

They constitute the first woman passenger association in the United States and they were in Portland yesterday on the last leg of a trip of education better to fit them for their new positions.

They are the four recently appointed woman passenger agents of the O-W. R. & N. company—one for Seattle, one for Walla Walla, one for Spokane and one for Portland.

They held their first meeting in the office of General Passenger Agent McMurray, in Portland, June 28, their appointment, a complete innovation in railroad management, being the idea of President J. D. Farrell.

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WANTS SHARE OF PROFITS

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 7.—(U. P.)—Whether a general strike of all workers among New England ammunition factories shall be called in an effort to force the employers to share war profits with their men probably will be decided at an important conference to open here Sunday afternoon.

Coalman Is Not Complaining.

How is Coalman standing it, one questioner? He answers that he is feeling better than he has ever felt in his life before; that he is gaining weight and that the bracing air makes him more buoyant than when he was residing in the valleys below. He believes that he will be able to remain through the summer.

The stove burns kerosene, which Coalman packs to the top, in 84 pound quantities. He carries these in one load, if you please. His commissary is a tempting one and the meals he has been cooking for himself would interest an epicure. Despite the high altitude he has been able to cook anything that he wants, including the well known navy bean.

Although Coalman wants it distinctly understood that he is not running a hostelry because the government has hired him in an entirely different capacity, his tent has already been the scene of some famous feasts. Last Sunday the tent was formally dedicated. Coalman entertaining 20 mountain climbers, most of them Mazamas, as guests. Among other things celebrated was the birthday of T. B. Conway, a Mazama who has lately led numerous parties to the summit by way of the south side. Hot chicken, tomato soup, coffee and tea were among the stimulating and strength restoring foods that appeared on the menu. Such comfortable mountain climbing was never enjoyed by a party making an ascent in the northwest before.

L. F. Eridanore of Government Camp and Conway spent Saturday night on the summit with Coalman. They left Government Camp at 12:15 Saturday afternoon, with packs of 35 and 45 pounds which they alternated in carrying. Trudging through the extremely soft snow, they succeeded in reaching the top at 7:45. Coalman met them at Crater Rock, and a hot dinner was thoroughly enjoyed when his tent was reached.

The heavy packs contained red fire and bedding, but cloudy, however, for the fire to be seen from Portland, so small quantities were burned for the edification of the many persons watching for it from the south side. They were first informed of the exact minute of the burning by telephone from the top.

Eight View from the Summit. During the evening too, Portland was communicated with by telephone. At 11 o'clock Coalman took his guests out for a night view of his world. The lights of The Dalles were distinctly visible and the street cars were seen in motion. Likewise the street illumination at Hood River was a prominent feature of the nocturnal landscape.

Abuser of Phone Girls Is Caught

Complaints of Police of Practice Leads to Arrest of Boxmaker by Detectives Yesterday. Accused of telephoning to women employed in downtown department stores and offices and using vile and abusive language towards them, Emil Torango, a boxmaker employed in carpenter shop at 1787 East Ninth street, was arrested by City Detectives Hyde and Vaughn yesterday about noon.

Dozens of complaints made to the police detective department, resulted in the investigation being made. According to the police, Torango has confessed. He is charged with disorderly conduct. Detective Hyde traced the calls through the telephone exchanges, and yesterday, after hearing one of Torango's conversations to a girl in a department store, arrested him as he held the receiver in his hand.

The calls were sent in from the office of the shop, while the members of the office force were away for lunch. Torango is in the city jail for trial in the municipal court Monday.