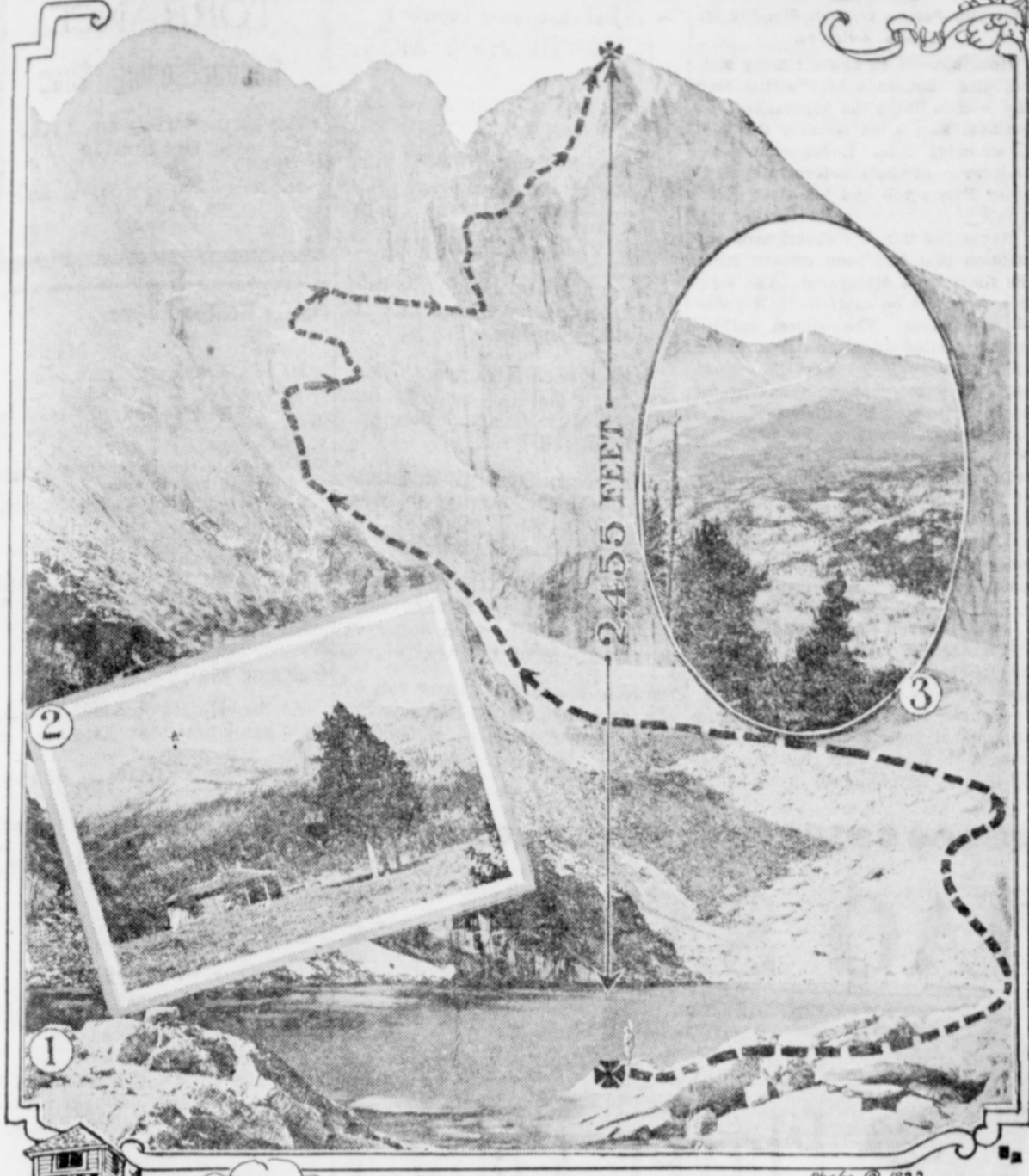


Kiener's Lookout



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

KIENER'S LOOKOUT is not really its name at all. It is merely a fire lookout station on the top of Twin Sisters Mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park, and Walter Kiener is the man on watch for forest fires. Nevertheless Walter Kiener's outlook is unique. For right across Tahosa Valley looms the dark, sheer East Face of Longs Peak, "King of the Rockies." And it is there that was enacted last winter the grim struggle between man and mountain that thrilled the mountaineers of the world. That dread East Face did not stop Agnes Vaillie and Walter Kiener. But altitude and storm killed Agnes Vaillie after the summit was won, crippled Walter Kiener for life and did to death Herbert Sortland in an attempt at rescue. And from his lofty eyrie on the Twin Sisters Kiener looks out day after day and night after night on these very places. (Picture No. 3.)

Rocky Mountain is the most popular of all the national parks. Tahosa Valley, at the foot of Longs Peak, is its south entrance. The Twin Sisters rim Tahosa's cup on the east; the crest of the vast granite heap is the park boundary. Hundreds each season climb the Sisters for the magnificent view, the alpine flowers, the fantastic timberline. This season thousands instead of hundreds have worn deep the steep and narrow trail. It is the Twin Sisters plus Walter Kiener. Men and women of prosaic lives are fascinated by the tragic and thrilled by the heroic.

Tahosa—Land of the Dwellers in the Mountain Tops—is 9,000 feet up in the Colorado Rockies. The south Sister rises to 11,384 feet; its Twin to 11,436 (No. 2). If your eyes are good you can just see from Tahosa Kiener's Lookout on the bare granite summit of the north Twin. His sheltered cabin is hidden from sight. Longs Peak rises to 14,255 feet. Its slopes are deeply scarred by ancient glaciers. It was not ascended until 1868—and then with great difficulty from the west and by way of The Notch. Finally was found a comparatively easy trail from Tahosa Valley, which able-bodied men, women and youngsters can safely travel with competent guides. About a thousand visitors a year make the ascent. But not more than six winter ascents have been made.

The famous East Face of Long Peak

rises 2,455 feet from Chasm Lake in East Gorge. It is mostly sheer. It was believed by all mountaineers to be impossible of ascent. In 1922 a Princeton professor made the ascent. Since then it has been climbed several times by experts. The dotted line shows the only way up (No. 1). All of these ascents were in summer.

It was this winter ascent of the East Face that challenged Agnes Vaillie. The daughter of a wealthy Denver man, she had chosen a business career and was secretary to the chamber of commerce. Mountaineering was her avocation and she could justly boast that no man in the Colorado Mountain club could outdo her. Walter Kiener is a Swiss who had established a reputation in the Alps before coming to Denver about two years ago. He has done much climbing in the Colorado Rockies and had frequently been the companion of Miss Vaillie.

Agnes Vaillie, Ellnor Eppich and Kiener left Denver Saturday, January 10. Sunday at 3 a. m. they reached Timberline Cabin (11,300 feet up on the regular trail). At 9 a. m. the two climbers left for Chasm Lake and Miss Eppich returned to Tahosa Valley. Darkness found the two climbers only part way up the East Face. After a favorable day the thermometer had dropped to 14 below and the wind had risen. They decided to climb up rather than down. They reached the summit at 4 a. m. Monday.

There is no shelter there; they had to keep moving. The regular trail down is on the west slope. They chose a shorter route down the north slope. Few have been over it, even in summer. They had both used it. There is no trail. By 9:30 they had descended about 750 feet.

At this point, the most difficult of this dangerous route, Miss Vaillie lost her footing and slid down over rocks and snow for 150 feet. She assured Kiener she was not hurt. But it was found that her feet and hands were partly frozen. With Kiener's help she went on a hundred feet or more. Then she was exhausted, though unbroken in courage.

Kiener left her for help at 10:30 a. m. He reached Timberline Cabin at 1 p. m. There he found a relief party of four men: Herbert Sortland, Jacob Christian, Hugh Brown and his son, Oscar Brown. Leaving Oscar Brown to keep the fire going, Kiener led the others back up the mountain. Just above timberline (11,500) Hugh Brown had to drop out. At 11,800 feet Herbert Sortland, twenty-three years of age, could not keep up and was sent back. Kiener and Christian—he had given up hope of returning alive—reached Agnes Vaillie at 4:30. She was dead—and had been for

hours. The two men got back alive to Timberline Cabin at 7:30 p. m.

Then at intervals struggled in men whom the drifts and gale and flying snow and bitter cold of the winter night could not keep back. Each had started as the news reached him that Agnes Vaillie was in danger on Longs Peak. By 10 o'clock had arrived Tom Allen, assistant superintendent of the park, and Jack Moomaw and Walter Finn, park rangers. At 4:30 Tuesday morning Superintendent Roger W. Toll (cousin of Agnes Vaillie) arrived from Denver, with Edmund Rogers, George C. Barnard, William F. Ervin and Carl Blaurock, veteran mountaineers of the Colorado Mountain club. Daylight found them all trying to keep from freezing about a fire kept burning on top of the cabin stove. To recover Agnes Vaillie's body was impossible. At 9:30 all descended to the valley.

Then it was discovered that Herbert Sortland was missing. Volunteers—Casey Rockwell, John Sherman, Ed Andrews, Jack Dillon, Warren Rutledge and others—risked their lives in the vain search that was made below timberline.

Not until Thursday could Agnes Vaillie's body be reached. It lay at an elevation of about 13,300 feet on the north slope, 200 feet back of the edge of the East Face, and about 50 feet above the perpetual snowdrift on the edge of Boulderfield—which is in plain sight from the valley, suggests a flying bird, and is sometimes called "The Dove." Two skis were placed end to end and a third lashed across the joint. The body was strapped to these skis and carried with the aid of ski poles. Eight men carried the body across Boulderfield, relays taking part at frequent intervals. Further down a toboggan could be used.

At Timberline Cabin fluttered the American flag, worn and frayed from the winter storms. Agnes Vaillie had done patriotic service overseas during the World War. They took down Old Glory and laid it across her body. And so came back Agnes Vaillie from Longs Peak to Tahosa Valley.

Walter Kiener, badly frost-bitten and partly snow-blind, was driven to Denver for medical treatment; several operations were found necessary. Agnes Vaillie's father paid the hospital bills. The national park service gave him the lookout station.

The body of Walter Sortland was not found until February 25—in the Valley, within a stone's throw of the main road and of shelter. Kiener's official gaze must pass over the spot several times a day. And he cannot look at Longs Peak without seeing "The Dove."

Master Craftsman

Either the burglars in France have exquisite sensibilities or the press agents are adepts at the profession. Consider the case of a burglar who broke into a house, packed up all the valuables ready to take away, and then found that the tenant was no other than the famous Mme. Dufous, a lady whom he had seen many times gazing behind the footlights at the theater. Stricken with remorse, he thereupon left everything he had planned to take, and added this note: "I would not for anything in the world give you pain. But you must permit me to carry off some photographs. Your radiant beauty and your equal goodness of heart will forgive this petty larceny."

Heavy Inheritance Tax

Perhaps the oldest and certainly the most drastic of inheritance tax laws in the world is that of the Igorot tribes

of the Philippines. When an Igorot tribesman dies, half his property is sold off and the proceeds used to defray the cost of a canoe or wake. The cadaver being smoked into a mummy in a burlap chair, sits by and views the orgy, one of wine and feasting and utter abandonment to the carnal pleasures—save alone abuse of virtue, which is not known to the Igorots and if perpetrated would entail the death penalty. American government is the sole uplifting influence amongst these tribes.



HIS THOUGHTS

Bride—And you think of nothing but me?
Groom—Nothing but you, my dear, nothing but you.
Bride—And what at this very moment?
Groom—Why, I was thinking that you might be thinking that I was thinking it must be near dinner time, my love.—Chicago Daily News.

Her Last Employment

"Where were you employed last?" asked the manager of the fair applicant.
"In a doll factory, sir."
"And what were your duties there?"
"Making eyes."
"Very well. You are engaged; but please don't demonstrate your capabilities when my wife is around."

Nothing Wasted

The young wife was in tears when her husband came home from work.
"What is wrong, darling?"
"Oh, that maid! She smashes everything she touches."
"Good! Send her over next door at once. Mrs. Spuggs wants some one to help her move her victrola."

Competent Source

Mrs. Muddle—Well, John, I have heard both sides of the story of the trouble between Mrs. Nagg and her husband.
Mr. Muddle—And from whom did you hear both sides of the story?
Mrs. Muddle—Why, from Mrs. Nagg, of course.

TO KEEP AWAY FROM HIM



"How did you come to decide to buy a six-cylinder car?"
"Well, I heard the collector for this automobile concern drove a four-cylinder."

Shingle Facts

East and West have never met. Their ways have never mingled; So Chinamen will never get Their pigtails bobbed or shingled.

His Income

She—If I ever marry it will be a man whose income has at least four ciphers in it.
He—That's good, dear. My income is all ciphers—as many as you like.—The Progressive Grocer.

Word Meaning Trouble

"Dad," said Clarence, "what's a three-letter word meaning trouble?"
"Yes," growled his father, who was wishing he had been struck dumb the day he proposed.

MILKING ENERGY



"It's said the hand-shaking done by a noted politician in Washington before election would milk every cow in the country twice."
"You don't say! And just to think he has to use all that energy in order to milk the government."

Struck Out

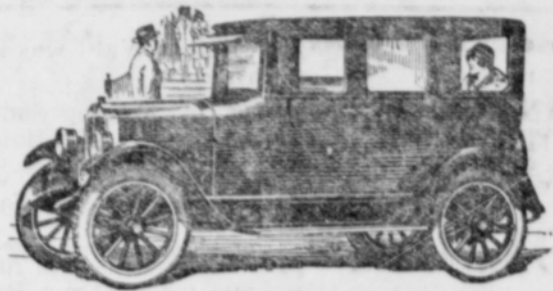
He struck a match to gaze Upon his gasolines— No more he'll travel On the village green.

A Noneconomist

"Blowitz has a rather novel philosophy."
"What is it?"
"He says when a man works hard to get money, why impose upon himself the further hardship of trying to save it?"

Of Course

"Why were the Middle Ages known as the dark ages?"
"Because there were so many knights."—Washington Star.



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Evidently Had Not Absorbed "Business"

A story is being told of the engagement of an additional chorus man for the musical production, "Rose Marie," at Drury Lane theater.
The male chorus in the show are mainly mounted police and frontiersmen, for the action of "Rose Marie" takes place in northwest Canada.
Out of the two hundred applicants for the position one was selected because of his excellent voice. He was duly brought before the "powers that be," and promptly turned down as looking "nothing like the part."
The producer was keen to have him and made inquiries as to his previous stage experience. Imagine his surprise when the man replied, "I haven't done much acting lately—I've spent my last five years in the Canadian Northwest Mounted police!"—Vancouver Province.

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Famous Old Mansion

The Quincy mansion is at Quincy, Mass., formerly called Bralutree. William Coddington built the original house, which consisted of a large kitchen, a living room and two chimneys. Coddington died shortly after the erection of the house. His successor, the first Quincy, to occupy it, was the first of three Edmund Quincys'. In 1706, the third Edmund added the present dining room, parlor and the chambers over these rooms. Later a study and bedroom were added. Among the many noted guests entertained there were Lafayette and Benjamin Franklin. The latter, after a visit, sent a "Franklin stove" as a return for hospitality offered him.

Fruits From Abroad

Argentina and Australia in the southern hemisphere are making efforts to establish a regular trade in fruit with the United States and other countries in the northern hemisphere when fresh fruits are out of season.

To get rich a man has to think; and he has to think in time.

Overhead

Johnnie—What's overhead expenses, Pa?
Pa—Your mother's hats, dear.

Sure Relief
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