



Scale 1 inch = 2 miles

Road ---
 Trail ---
 Climbing route ---

CO-7-N



Scale 1 in = 2 mi.

Roads ———
Trails ·····

COQUITLAM AND SILVER PEAKS

The area on the map between Coquitlam Lake and River on the west and Pitt Lake and River on the east and south contains two cone shaped peaks which appear very inviting from the Fraser Valley. The northern and higher is Mt. Coquitlam (5300' elev.). A tribe of Salish Indians share their name with the mountain but the history of the naming is unknown.

After an unsuccessful attempt, in company with Harry Self, in bad weather, Don Munday, Phyl James (Mrs. Don Munday), and a companion made the first ascent of Mt. Coquitlam in the summer of 1918 while Don was a patient at the New Westminster Military Hospital. This was before the area had been logged and the party, after walking from the City of Coquitlam, camped about three hours up Gold Creek which joins the Coquitlam River just south of Coquitlam Lake. Next morning, the party followed the Creek but found it very narrow and full of huge boulders. After surmounting these inconveniences they made their way up a gulley to the ridge and followed it to the peak.

At least three and possibly half a dozen parties have since climbed Mt. Coquitlam. All subsequent parties have camped at Coquitlam Lake and crossed the logged over hillside above the lake instead of using Gold Creek. In 1922 and 1924 B. C. M. C. parties reached the peak, the first party were favoured with hot weather and freshly burned logs over which to climb while the second party made the whole trip in fog and rain.

It is not a frequently visited peak and a search through the "Avalanche Echoes" gives the information that during the years from 1927 to 1942 inclusive, only one Alpine Club party succeeded in reaching the top. This trip took place in March 1931, with sixteen members participating, four of whom left Vancouver Sunday morning, making the climb in a day from town.

The smaller of the two peaks mentioned above is Widgeon (Silver) Peak. Webster says 'Widgeon' - 'A migratory duck'. It is believed Neal Carter was possibly the first to have designs on this peak but it was Tom Fyles and Bill Wheatley who prospected a route from the Coquitlam to Gillies Quarries Road, via Munro Lakes, one fine Sunday. This lead to a scheduled Vancouver Section trip on April 15, 1934, but thick mist hid the peak and the party were forced to turn back without finding it. In 1936 another abortive attempt was made and it wasn't until May 16, 1937, that Bill Wheatley finally led a party to the top. Unfortunately a heavy downpour accompanied the party to the peak, and they hurried down, probably feeling that Webster's definition fitted them. Another Vancouver Section party led by Nelly Fraser reaked the top on March 26, 1939, from the Pitt River side. They left Vancouver Sunday morning, driving to the Pitt River Bridge where a launch took them to a landing just north of Gillies Quarries. It had been planned to land at the base of the peak but low water in Widgeon Slough made this impossible. A six mile trail, almost obscured in spots by vegetation, lead to the foot of the mountain, then a very direct ascent brought the party to a lower peak. With about 100' loss of altitude and a short traverse across a col, the main peak was reached about 3 p. m. Snow and weather conditions were perfect.

Nelly Fraser.