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Ging

Mr. Douglas J. Horne,
Publicity Director,
B.C. Centennial Committee,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

c/o Editorial Dept.,
The Province,
Vancouver, B.C.
May 5, 1958

Dear Doug:

Sorry I missed you when I was in Victoria last week, but as promised to Courtenay Tower, I am forwarding a release on Fairweather to handle as you see fit. It is fairly long, but I leave it to you to decide how it should be treated. And if there are any specific aspects of the expedition on which you would like separates, please let me know. You might also, if you would, give me some idea of what you would like for a future schedule, once you see from this what we have in store.

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Pictures are a major item. I have enclosed ~~xxxxx~~ pictures of Mt. Fairweather taken by Dr. Bradford Washburn. He charges a publication fee for them, and you should write him direct at 76 Sparks Street, Cambridge 38, Mass. He charges up to \$10 for each picture, but if you want to arrange a wholesale deal, I'm sure you'll find him reasonable. If you need any help, I'll be glad to oblige.

One pic has a tracing on a cover-sheet which might be of some help if you have an artist, in outlining camp-sites and proposed route. I have circled in pen the information that might be useful to you. Also useful is the dotted line showing route up glacier, with ice-falls.

Also enclosed is a provincial government air-photo showing the peak from the B.C. side. They could make you a specially good print. Please let me have all three back as soon as you can for the team's use.

Finally, photo-wise, enclosed are three small prints of training shots during our crevasse-rescue session. The man who took them, like most of us miniature-men, is loth to let his negatives out of his sight. If you want one or more of them, and Kipnes will print them, our man is willing to take his negs there. If you decide to use any or all, I will dash off cutlines for them. If you don't, I'll Court that you might want individual shots of the final party. Would Kipnes do this?

If you have any problems in mind, you might drop me a note.

Yours sincerely,

xcx.C.

Paddy Sherman

P.S. A good simple sketch map would help a release. An artist-
best to let him know you need it. Be sure.

Fairweather. 1.1.

May 4, 1958.

From: Paddy Sherman.

Planning is almost completed for one of the most spectacular centennial projects of all--an attempt by eight mountaineers next month to scale 15,300-foot Mt. Fairweather, B.C.'s highest point.

The party, consisting of members of Vancouver section, Alpine Club of Canada and the B.C. Mountaineering Club, will fly from Vancouver on June 14 to begin its month-long expedition.

The peak is one of the highest coastal ~~xxxxx~~^{mountains} in the world, and has never been climbed by a Canadian party. Though several attempts have been made by world-famous mountaineers, it has been climbed only once, in 1931.

The eight climbers, still not finally chosen from a dozen now in training, will live for a month on snow and ice amid some of the most awe-inspiring scenery in the world. And though their summit bid will probably be made in late June, they must expect to meet temperatures well below zero.

To cope with this, and the ever-present threat of week-long storms on the peak, special lightweight mountaineering equipment has been ordered from Europe.

The party will have the same down ~~xx~~ sleeping bags that the successful Mt. Everest climbers used; boots are being shipped from Italy; and tents are being made in Vancouver to the climbers' own design.

Mt. Fairweather is probably not known to most B.C. residents as the highest peak in the province. Most people think of Mt. Robson(12,972 feet) or Mt. Waddington(13,260 feet).

More.

Fairweather 2.22.

But they are mountains wholly in B.C. In the case of the northern giant, the boundary between B.C. and the Alaskan Panhandle runs right over the summit. The approach will be through Alaskan territory, but it is hoped it may be possible to make a new route of ascent from the B.C. side of the summit pyramid.

An RCAF Canso seaplane is scheduled to take the party almost 1,000 miles north from Vancouver on June 14, to sheltered Lituya Bay. Some days later, when the team has had time to make its way in to base camp at the 5,000-foot level, supplies will be dropped by parachute, thus saving many days of back-breaking work.

What sort of a problem will the mountain present? A writer in The Alpine Journal, London, wrote in 1931 that because of low pressure areas in the nearby Pacific Ocean, and the intense cold, the air on the summit is as thin as it would be on a 17,000-footer elsewhere. And in 1935, Dr. Bradford Washburn, an authority on Alaskan mountaineering, wrote that it was one of the most difficult climbs in North America.

It is clad in perpetual ice from its summit right down to the ocean; and it towers higher above the sea than Everest does above the base camp used when it was first climbed.

Like Everest, Fairweather guards its approaches with an ice-fall, a tottering chaos of steep ice like a frozen cataract in a mountain torrent. In fact Fairweather Glacier has three big icefalls, with their attendant mazes of crevasses, all to be negotiated before the 5,000-foot base camp is reached.

The party now in training is concentrating on snow and ice work. Recently, in a snowstorm, they spent hours dangling on ropes in deep crevasses near Mt. Baker, practising rescue techniques.

More.

Fairweather 3.33

This weekend, the climbers plan to camp high on ~~2x2k~~ 9,100-foot Mt. Shuksan. On the following weekend, they hope to set up camp for several days on the summit of 10,750-foot Mt. Baker

Final selection of the party will be made after the Mt. Baker weekend, which will be a full-scale tryout, using most of the expedition's new equipment.

The remoteness of Mt. Fairweather brings many problems. What would happen, for instance, in case of trouble? How would the climbers get a doctor if needed? And how would progress reports reach the centennial authorities?

The first was comparatively easy: two mountaineering doctors are in the training party, and one will go with the expedition. And the party will be able to reach the outside world over a special radio transmitting station set up for the ~~xxxxxxx~~ occasion.

The B.C. Amateur Radio Association pitched in to help the expedition. As a result, a full-fledged "ham" station will be set up on the beach at Lituya Bay. Department of Transport has allotted it the call-letters BCC, standing for B.C. Centennial.

BCARA secretary-treasurer George Kitson, a city detective, will probably operate the station, and a chain of "ham" operators along the coast may relay his reports if reception is poor.

In case of an emergency requiring, for instance, ~~equipment~~ medical party equipment the ~~xxxxxx~~ couldn't carry in, it could be parachuted to base camp within a day of a radioed call for help.

Nothing has been left to chance on this expedition. Against such a worthy peak, only the party that is ready for anything can expect to succeed without taking unjustifiable risks.