Mount Baker Club Records, 1897-2002

Overview of the Collection

**Creator**  Mount Baker Club
**Title**  Mount Baker Club Records
**Dates**  1897-2002 (inclusive)
            1897 2002
            1925-2002 (bulk)
            1925 2002
**Quantity**  14 linear feet
**Collection Number**  XOE_CPNWS0006mtbaker (collection)
**Summary**  The collection includes minute books, newsletters, scrapbooks, periodicals and books related to mountaineering and outdoor activities in the Pacific Northwest, together with membership, financial and legal records, and photographs related to club activities from 1925 to 2002.
**Repository**  Western Washington University, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies
                Goltz-Murray Archives Building
                808 25th St.
                Bellingham, WA
                98225
                Telephone: 360-650-7534
                cpnws@wwu.edu
**Access Restrictions**  The Collection is open to the public.
**Languages**  English
**Sponsor**  Funding for preparing this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the Washington State Legislature to the Washington Women’s History Consortium. Funding for encoding the finding aid was awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Founded in 1911 by community leaders and local businessmen in Bellingham, the Mount Baker "Hiking" Club originated as a means to promote economic development in the city and its surrounding area. Under the leadership of individuals such as Charles Finley Easton, early members sought to attract tourists and investors to Mt. Baker by publicizing its natural resources. Early promotional efforts included organizing the Mt. Baker Marathons (the precursors to today’s Ski to Sea race) held between Mt. Baker and Bellingham between 1911 and 1913. From its inception, therefore, the Club’s interests and activities have been closely related to the development, conservation and use of the Mount Baker area.

Although the Club’s origins can be traced to 1911, the Mount Baker Club was not formally incorporated until August 1928. Under the leadership of presidents such as C.A. "Happy" Fisher, the newly incorporated Mount Baker “Hiking” Club continued to emphasize pursuit of outdoor activities, focusing in particular on hiking and skiing at Mount Baker and the surrounding mountains in the North Cascades. During the 1930s, skiing in particular became increasingly popular around the Heather Meadows area on the lower slopes of Mt. Baker. In 1935 - the year that Bellingham’s first winter sports carnival...
was held at Mt. Baker Mountain - the Mt. Baker Ski Club was formed. Although separate entities, the
Hiking and Ski Clubs remained closely affiliated for many years, sharing resources and the monthly
newsletter, “The Rambler.”

From the Mt. Baker Club’s inception through the present day, its members have engaged regularly
in camping, hiking and other outdoor pursuits throughout the Cascade region. Destinations for
hiking expeditions have included British Columbia, Mt. Rainier and the Pasayten Wilderness, as
well as mountains and trails around Mt. Baker and the North Cascades. The Club has also been
responsible for building and maintaining property in the Mt. Baker area, including cabins at Mazama
Park, Glacier, and the Kulshan Cabin below Heliotrope Ridge on the Glacier Trail. Constructed
originally in 1925, Kulshan Cabin was rebuilt in 1949 and maintained under joint ownership by the Club
and the Associated Students of Western Washington College of Education (now Western Washington
University).

The history of the Mt. Baker “Hiking” Club has been characterized by its members’ consistent interest
and involvement in efforts to protect and conserve natural resources for human enjoyment. Charles
Finley Easton in particular was an early proponent and supporter of plans to establish a National Park
in the Baker region. Although the North Cascades National Park was established in 1967, Mt. Baker
itself was excluded from this region. It was not until 1984, with the passage of the Wilderness Act, that
Mt. Baker itself was afforded recognition and protection through federal legislation. Besides the Club’s
interest in this and other legislative developments relating to the natural environment, its members
have also worked to ensure the maintenance of regional trails and resources for outdoor recreation.
Among the Club’s major conservation efforts was their restoration of a former forest service lookout at
Winchester Mountain in 1982.

Content Description

The Mount Baker Club collection contains detailed records of the Club’s activities and interests from
its formal inception in 1928 through 2001. With the exception of a small number of photographs dating
from 1925, the bulk of materials in the collection date from 1928 onwards.

The Collection’s administrative records reflect the formal history of the Mt. Baker Club, including its
incorporation in August 1928, by-laws, property records and minutes from monthly meetings. The
minute books comprise an especially valuable resource for researchers, documenting Club interests
and activities between 1928 and 1995. They include early membership listings, detailed information
regarding the maintenance of cabins in the Mt. Baker area, and also reflect the Club’s later concerns
with conservation and environmental issues.

The hiking, camping and social activities of Mt. Baker Club are well documented in newsletters,
scrapbooks and outing records. The collection contains an almost complete set of the Club’s official
reflect the outdoor, social and educational pursuits of the Club, including information about its hiking
trips and camping expeditions. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings and written notes, and
most notably, a large number of photographs pertaining to Club outings and social events. Photographs
in the 1927-1931 scrapbook, for example, document the Club’s first winter climb of Mt. Baker in 1925,
the construction of the cabins at Mazama Park and Heliotrope Ridge, and the skiing tournament at
Mount Baker Lodge in 1931. Outing records include trip schedules, written reports, trail literature and
maps from hiking and camping expeditions.

Researchers should note that the collection at the CPNWS does not include the original scrapbook
compiled by Charles Finley Easton, which documents the history and early ascents of Mt. Baker, and
which was used as a promotional tool in lobbying for a National Park at Mount Baker. Easton’s scrapbook was donated in 1946 to the Whatcom Museum of History and Art in Bellingham, where it is now housed in the Museum’s Photo Archives.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The original copy of the Club’s Summit Log 1925-1930 is restricted due to fragility - a copy is available to researchers.

Preferred Citation

Mount Baker Club Records, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Heritage Resources, Western Washington University, Bellingham WA 98225-9123.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is organized in accordance with the following series and subseries arrangement:

Series I. Administrative Records, 1925-2001
   Subseries 1 - Minutes, 1928-1995
   Subseries 2 - Incorporation Records, 1953-2001
   Subseries 3 - Membership Records, 1947-1993
   Subseries 4 - Legal and Financial Records, 1928-1967
   Subseries 5 - Property Records, 1925-1999

Series II. Club Activities, circa 1925-2002
   Subseries 1 - Club Outings, 1925-2002
   Subseries 2 - Winchester Lookout, 1983-2004
   Subseries 3 - Photographs, circa 1925-1980’s
   Subseries 4 - Newspapers and Clippings, circa 1940-1972
   Subseries 5 - Film, 1948-1952
   Subseries 6 - Song Books, 1926, 1978-1979
   Subseries 7 - Club History Files, 1909-1980
   Subseries 8 - Printed Hiking Information, circa 1927-1980
   Subseries 9 - Maps, circa 1902-1974

Series III. Club Newsletters, 1928-2004

Series IV. Club Scrapbooks, 1925-1985

Series V. Mountaineering Periodicals, 1897-1983


Custodial History

In September 2001, president Márian Eicher transferred the bulk of the Mt. Baker “Hiking” Club collection to the CPNWS on behalf of the Mount Baker Club. Additional maps, newsletters and outing materials were donated from the records of long-time Club members Chuck and Anita McCullough.

**Processing Note**


**Separated Materials**

The first Mount Baker Hiking Club scrapbook, compiled by Charles Easton, was donated to the Whatcom Museum of History and Art in 1946. The original scrapbook is now held in the Museum’s Photo Archives and is also available on CD Rom.

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**Detailed Description of the Collection**

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

**Series I: Administrative Records, 1925-2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Minute Book</td>
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<td>1952-1958</td>
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<td>Minute Book</td>
<td>1969-1982</td>
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<td>Minute Book</td>
<td>1982-1995</td>
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<td>3/1</td>
<td>Records and Certificate of Incorporation</td>
<td>2001 May</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Constitution and By-laws</strong></td>
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<td>Bellingham Camera Club</td>
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<td>Correspondence re: membership</td>
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<td>3/6</td>
<td>Membership Application Cards</td>
<td>1936-2002</td>
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<td>Membership Application Cards</td>
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<td>Membership Application Cards</td>
<td>1951-1980s</td>
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<td>Membership Application Cards</td>
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<td>3/10</td>
<td>Membership Release and Indemnity Agreements</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
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<td>3/11</td>
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<td>2002-2003</td>
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<td>3/12</td>
<td>Membership Cards</td>
<td>1950-1952, ; 1961-1963</td>
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<td>Membership Lists (Club and Board Members)</td>
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<td>Cascade Wilderness Club Membership List</td>
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**Sub-series 4: Legal and Financial records** 1928-1967

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<td>1928-1932</td>
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<td>3/17</td>
<td>Memo re: Bookkeeping Records</td>
<td>1948</td>
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<td>3/18</td>
<td>Capitol Stock Tax</td>
<td>1933-1938</td>
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<td>3/19</td>
<td>Contracts and Agreements re: the Kulshan Cabin and property</td>
<td>1928-1948,; 1966</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
<td>Health Insurance Information</td>
<td>circa 1966-1967</td>
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**Sub-series 5: Property records** 1925-1999

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**Mount Baker Cabin**

**Box/Folder**

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<td>3/23</td>
<td>Building Specifications for Cabin on Heliotrope Ridge</td>
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**Series II: Club Activities, 1925-2002**

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<td><strong>Sub-series 1: Club Outings</strong></td>
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<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>Summit Log (restricted - copy available)</td>
<td>1925-1930</td>
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<td>3/27</td>
<td>Classification of Outings</td>
<td>undated</td>
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**Outing Records and Reports**

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<td>3/29</td>
<td>Chiwack River (Boundary Trail)</td>
<td>1977, 1980</td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>Chiwaukum Mountains, Icicle Creek</td>
<td>1981 July</td>
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<td>3/31</td>
<td>Mt. Rainier (Silver Springs Campground)</td>
<td>1983</td>
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<td>3/32</td>
<td>Pasayten Wilderness</td>
<td>1976 July</td>
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**Box/Folder**

| 3/37        | Trails Information                            | circa 1968-1982               |

**Sub-series 2: Winchester Lookout**

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Mount Baker Club Records, 1897-2002
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv86875
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<td>3/45</td>
<td>Winchester Lookout Guest Book</td>
<td>2002-2004</td>
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**Sub-series 3: Photographs**

"Hiking Trip Photos" comprise images collected by Club members Hazel and Carl Priest, arranged by location. The collection also contains CDs with digital copies of many of these images.

- Oversize Folder
  - 1 Photo of club members 1925

**Box/Folder**

- 3/49 Mt Baker Club 50th Reunion 1971

**Hiking Trip Photos**

- Box/Folder
  - 3/50 Hiking Trips (general) undated

**Hiking – Mt. Baker area**

- Box/Folder
  - 4/1 Mt. Baker Recreation Area (general) circa 1948-1960
  - 4/2 Chain Lakes circa 1948-1957
  - 4/3 Lake Ann / Shuksan Arm circa 1948-1966
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<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Ptarmigan Ridge / Coleman Pinnacle / Camp Kaiser</td>
<td>circa 1948-1957</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Kulshan Cabin / Coleman Glacier / Hogback Ridge / Grouse Ridge</td>
<td>circa 1949-1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Goat Mountain</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Douglas Fir Hike</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Anderson Creek</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Church Mountain</td>
<td>1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>Welcome Pass</td>
<td>1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>Hannegan Pass</td>
<td>1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Baker Lake</td>
<td>1949, ; 1972</td>
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<td>4/14</td>
<td>Sauk Mountain</td>
<td>1951,; 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Ross Lake Dam / Diablo Lake</td>
<td>1956</td>
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<td><strong>Hiking - Foothills</strong></td>
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<td>Canyon Creek (Nooksack River)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Devils Garden / Devils Mt.</td>
<td>1948, ; 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>Sumas Mountain / Deming Lookout</td>
<td>1948</td>
</tr>
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<td>4/19</td>
<td>Entwhistle</td>
<td>1957</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Stewart [Stuart] Mt.</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>Bowman Ridge</td>
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<td>Container(s)</td>
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<td>Cultus Mt.</td>
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<td>Lookout Mt.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4/24</td>
<td>Blonden Cabin</td>
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<td>5/1</td>
<td>Chuckanut / Larrabee</td>
<td>1948, 1958, 1972</td>
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<td>5/2</td>
<td>California St / Lake Samish</td>
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**Hiking – Coastal Areas**

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<td>5/4</td>
<td>Governor’s Point</td>
<td>1957</td>
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<td>5/5</td>
<td>Point Roberts</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Birch Bay</td>
<td>1949-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/7</td>
<td>Fort Bellingham</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Bird Refuge [?]</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>Unidentified beach hikes</td>
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**Hiking – outside Whatcom County**

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<tr>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>Deception Pass / Mt. Erie</td>
<td>1948-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>Camano Island</td>
<td>1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>Ebey’s Landing</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<td>5/13</td>
<td>Ft. Casey (Whidbey Island)</td>
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<td>San Juan Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Monte Cristo</td>
<td>1948, ; 1957</td>
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<td>5/16</td>
<td>Buck Creek</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<td>5/18</td>
<td>Ohme Gardens / Palouse Falls</td>
<td>1961, ; 1972</td>
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<td>5/19</td>
<td>Icicle Creek</td>
<td>1972</td>
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<td>5/20</td>
<td>Grouse Mt., B.C.</td>
<td>circa 1950</td>
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<td>5/21</td>
<td>Indian Arm, B.C.</td>
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<td>5/22</td>
<td>Stanley Park, B.C.</td>
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**Sub-series 4: Newspapers and Clippings**

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<td>6/1-6/2</td>
<td>Clippings Book</td>
<td>1940s</td>
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**Oversizefolder**

| 2          | Bellingham Herald Centennial Edition | 1953 April 26 |

**Sub-series 5: Film**

Films of "Mt Baker Club Hikes" were created by club members Carl and Hazel Priest. The Priest films are on reel to reel format, with a copy available on video cassette tape.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Box/Folder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>Mt. Baker Skiing (reel to reel tape)</td>
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**Mt. Baker Club Hikes**
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<td>Beach / Canyon Creek / Sumas Mountain 1948; Skyline Ridge / Tomyhoi Mountain/ Cultus Mountain</td>
<td>1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/6</td>
<td>Suiattle Mountain / Mt. Baker 1950; Sauk Mountain / Ross Dam / Mt. Baker Trail</td>
<td>1951</td>
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<td>6/7</td>
<td>Bowman Ridge / Mt. Rainier / Mt. Baker / Kulshan</td>
<td>1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>Ruth Mountain / Lake Ann / Grouse Butte</td>
<td>1951-1952</td>
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<td>7/2</td>
<td>Cascade Pass / Camp Kiser / Church Mt</td>
<td>circa 1952</td>
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<td>VCR copy of Priest footage</td>
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<td>Koons, Fritz. &quot;My Life Story.&quot;</td>
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<td>Spieseke, Alice W. Accounts of &quot;Winnie's Slide,&quot;</td>
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<td>“Backpacking and Hiking: An Annotated Booklist.” Bellingham Public Library</td>
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| **Sub-series 9: Maps** | | circa 1902-1974 |

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Series III: Club Newsletters, 1928-2004


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Series IV: Club Scrapbooks, 1925-1985

The first Mount Baker Hiking Club scrapbook, compiled by Charles Easton, was donated to the Whatcom Museum of History and Art in 1946. The original scrapbook is now held in the Museum’s Photo Archives and is also available on CD Rom.

Mount Baker Club Records, 1897-2002
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv86875
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### Mountaineering Periodicals, 1897-1983

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<td>Camp Life</td>
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**Series VI: Mountaineering Publications, 1916-1986**
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<td><em>Forest Outings</em>. Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture,</td>
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<td><em>Prevention of Disease and Care of the Sick</em>. US Public Health Service, Treasury Department</td>
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<td><em>The Mountain: Brief Submitted to the US Geographic Board [re: Name of Mt. Rainier]</em>. Tacoma: Justice to the Mountain Committee</td>
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Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
- Hiking - Cascade Range
- Hiking - Washington (State) - Baker, Mount, Region
- Kulshan Cabin (Mount Baker National Forest)
- Mountaineering - Cascade Range
- Mountaineering - Washington (State) - Baker, Mount, Region
- Outdoor recreation - Cascade Range
- Outdoor recreation - Washington (State) - Baker, Mount, Region

**Corporate Names:**
- Mount Baker Club
  (creator)

**Geographical Names:**
- Baker, Mount, Region (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Ruth Steele
2002