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A Peak Ahead: Getting Found on the Long Walk

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Getting Found on the Long Walk

“FOOTFALLS ECHO IN THE MEMORY,” T.S. ELIOT WROTE IN *The Four Quartets*, “Down the passage which we did not take/Towards the door we never opened.” Such regrets and stresses roil around the brains of many people who take to the mountains, where it often feels easier to sort out those choices we have made and haven’t made yet.

In the Summer/Fall 2014 issue of *Appalachia*, we examine six kinds of long journeys.

Three of them take place in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Andrew Riely traces the impact of Camp Pasquaney’s “long walk” on the boys who have done it for more than a century. Middlebury College student Caroline Santinelli writes of girls who learn what they can do while they walk over history on the Franconia Ridge. New Hampshire writer and runner Doug Mayer explains the growing phenomenon of mountain trail running.

Christopher Johnson is back with a profile of the psychologist who invented “flow”: Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi honed that theory studying mountaineers.

The wife of a former Tenth Mountain Division Soldier named Franz Alt contacted us to say she’d found a diary entry about a long ramble he took in 1943. We share that story with you, and Washington, D.C.-based writer Trish Anderton places it in context.

Our sixth long walk is mine. I tell the story of four people who dragged gear and Eliot’s paperback up the Appalachian Trail.

William Geller describes the old-time logging in Maine’s Hundred-Mile Wilderness. Ryan Harvey studies the lessons he learned recovering a climber’s body on Mount Washington. On the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, writer and former forester Rebecca Oreskes talks with researcher Peter Landres about the ecological frontier of wilderness. Adirondack steward Devon Reynolds considers what happens when cell phone people live without them.

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