

Suncups started to form about the middle of July, but were not of such size by the middle of August as to cause us any trouble whatsoever.

We observed several unusual conditions which might be of interest to the reader.

The first of these was the Spector of the Brocken. Several members of our group observed the Spector while on the upper ridge of Mt. Augusta. This was caused by a late afternoon sun focusing the greatly enlarged shadow of the observer on a fog bank. A rainbow surrounded the Spector, which followed perfectly all the movements of the observer. (Pete said later he waived to the Spector and the Spector waved back).

Second, seen under the same condition as the Spector, was a phenomenon we called "the Sun Spot." There seemed to be a large fireball suspended in mid-air over the glacier in the fog. We figured it was probably caused by the concave shape of the glacier focusing the sun's rays to a point in the ice crystals and fog.

Third, was glacier lassitude. This was noticed only on days when the sun was shining and no wind was blowing. The sun, shining on the surface of the glacier, evaporated the snow; this formed a moisture-layer above the glacier, which was of high humidity. Traveling in this blanket of wet air was next to impossible. All desire to move was lost, the only wish being to stop and rest. It was only by a very strong application of will power that any progress was made under such conditions. Staying on the ridges and sidehills, if possible, seemed to be the best procedure on such days.

Last are the mirages, seen in mid-August on the Malaspina. The sun shining on the glacier would produce a refraction in the air, which would place such landmarks as Yakutat Bay and the Brabazon Hills in the middle of the glacier. They provide good points to steer by when crossing the Malaspina, though they will disappear most unexpectedly at times.

We believe that the summer of 1952 was very mild, compared to what this region has been known to offer previously. We would heartily recommend that any group going in to the area prepare for much more severe conditions than we describe here, though we hope their summer will be as mild as ours was.