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BELLE AYRE - BALSAM

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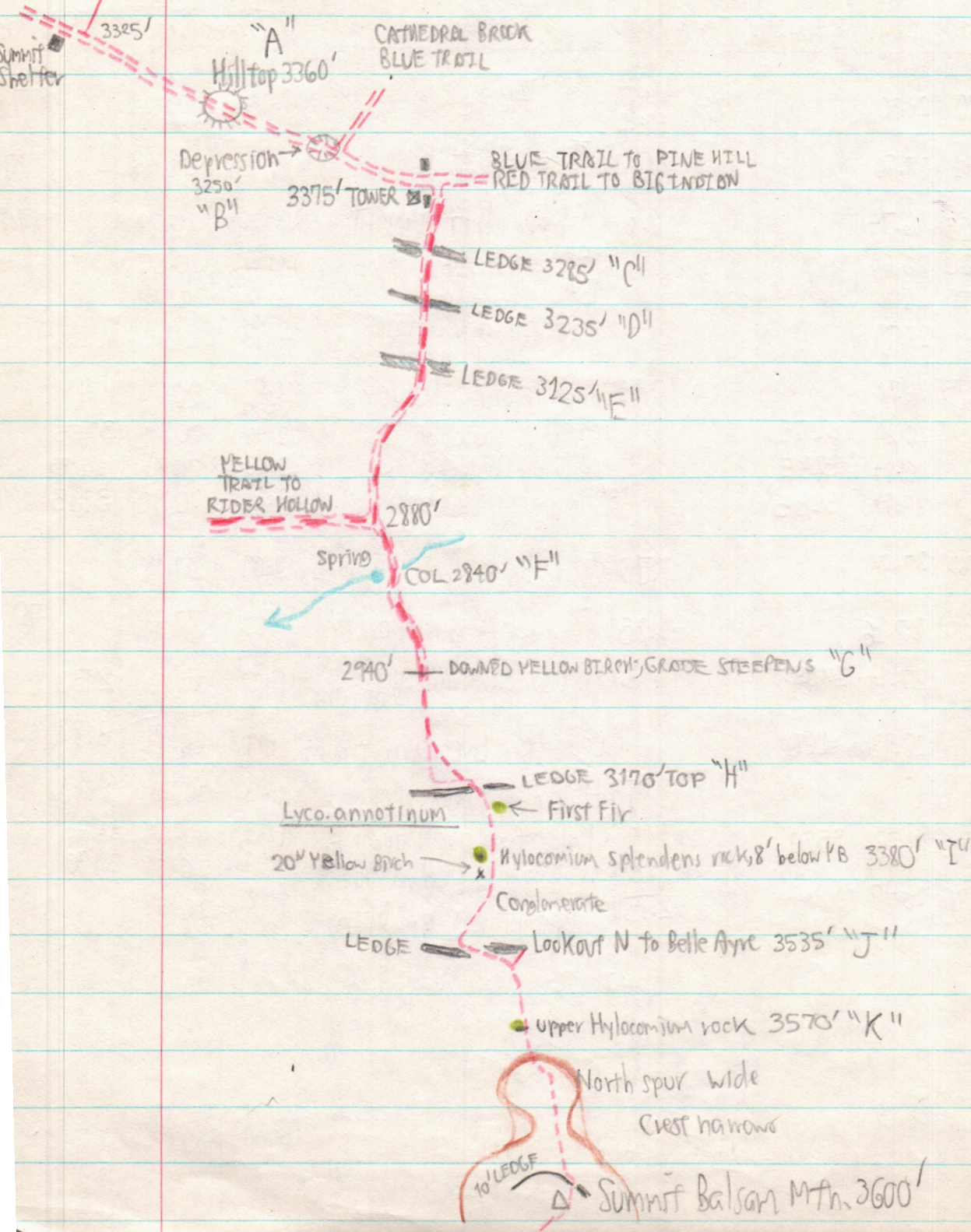
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1969
Acron and Esther to Belle Ayre via ski lift

Time	Map Elev.	Pressure	Interp. Elev.	Temp	Miles	Location	Time	Pressure	Interp. Elev.	Temp
9:37	980	29.36		71	493.7 535.5	Home	5:52	29.28		78
9:55										
10:10	2541	27.60			506.1	Chair lift base	4:15	27.55		77
10:22										
10:45	3325	26.74			0.0	Chair lift summit	3:26 AM	26.72		74
10:55	3360	26.68				"A" Hilltop	3:17	26.67		
11:01	3250	26.80				"B" Depression	3:13	26.78		
11:03		26.79				Blue Trail Junction	3:12			
11:08	3375	26.70			0.85	Belle Ayre Tower	3:07 2:46	26.66		
11:12		26.80	3275			"C" Small ledge base	2:43	26.74	3295	
11:15		26.81	3235			"D" Small ledge base	2:40	26.80	3235	
11:20		26.94	3135			"E" Stream boulders below larger ledge base	2:36 2:28	26.92	3115	
11:35	2880	27.20			1.70	June Yellow Trail Rider Hollow Lean-to	2:09	27.18		
11:42	2840	27.26			1.85	"F" Col; spring on W	2:03	27.22		70
11:48		27.14	2955			"G" YB down over trail; grade steepens	1:55	27.13	2930	
11:58		26.93	3160			"H" Ledge top; Lyco. annatum	1:49	26.89	3180	
						"I" Hylacomium rock (lower)	1:43	26.73	3380	
12:10		26.55	3520			"J" Ledge top; trail turns E	1:33	26.53	3550	
						"K" Hylacomium rock (upper)	1:31	26.51	3570	
12:28	3600	26.47	3330	66	2.75	Summit Balsam Mtn.	1:18	26.48		

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Chair lift



Belle Ayre Summit

Forest to 50%^{40%} deciduous, not severely disturbed except at clearing at top of chair lift.

Beech	Blackberry	Oxalis	Scirpus atrov.
Sugar Maple	Cinna	Clintonia	Pea annua
Yellow Birch	Aster acun	Milium	Dicranum fulvum
Black Cherry	Woodfern	Red Elder	
Moosewood	Hay fern	Hobblebush	
Mtn Maple	Poly. ohio.		

South slope Belleayre and Col

Mesic hardwoods.

Sugar Maple	Blackberry	Viola	Polystichum
Beech	Cinna	Laportea	Galium
Yellow Birch	Brachyelytrum	Lyc. lucid.	Impatiens pallida
Black Cherry	Uvularia sess.	Osmorrhiza	Thuidium
Lonicera canadensis	Polygonum alinode	Caulophyllum	Mnium
Red Maple	Oxalis	Aster acun	Brotherella
Hobblebush	Red Baneberry	Festuca obtusa	Hypoxis patula
Moosewood	Carex intu. top of "E"		below "D"

North slope Balsam

Sugar maple drops out at base of ledge "H" (3100') while first fir comes in just above it (3170'). Adiantum and Circaea alpina at about 3000'. The ledge area "H" has an abundant patch of Lycopodium annotinum on top, also Polypody, Maianthemum, Ribes frute?, Plasmodium denticulatum and other profuse bryophytes. Beech drops out at about 3550' and is absent (?) at the summit.

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At the top of ledge "H" (3170'), the forest becomes shorter, mostly to 25' except for occasional old PB. The plants are:

Mtn Ash	Lyca. amrot.	Oxalis	Lyca. lucid.
Yellow Birch	Aster acum	Abies	Solidago macroph.
MOOSEWOOD	Maianthemum	Cinna	
Red Maple	Carex brunn	Clintrina	
Beech	Dicranum	Blackberry	
Hobblebush	Poly. ohio	Woodfern	
Mtn. Maple			

Two more fir 4" x 20' near Nyctagonyx rock "I" 3380'.

By the overlook "J" 3535', nearly half the trees are fir, most of the rest Yellow Birch. Aster acum. with magenta heads at about 3550'.

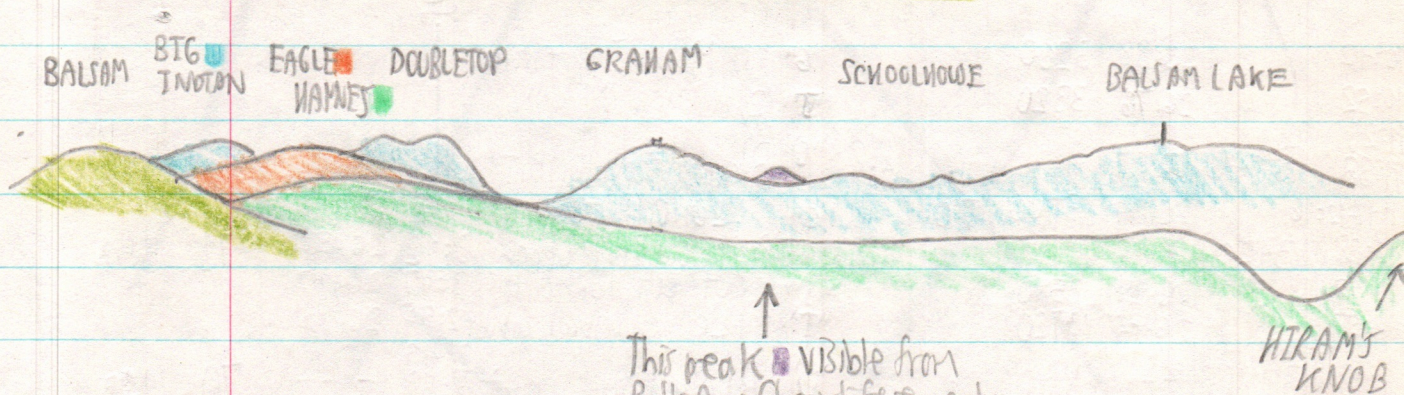
Summit of Balsam Mountain

The summit of Balsam is disturbed with a discontinuous canopy. Many large *Denroedtia* clearings are present, especially on the north spur. The dominant tree is Yellow Birch, with some 16" x 30' living trees and even larger dead ones. Firs are common but not dominant, to 12" x 30'. Fir seedlings and saplings are common, but scattered and nowhere a thicket. Some older dead fir are present. Much young fir comes up under older PB. There is no paper birch observed.

Common species are:

Yellow birch	Nayscented Fern	Clintonia	Brodiaea
<u>Fir</u>	Wood fern	Oxalis	Dicranum fulvum +
<u>Mtn Ash</u>	Blackberry	Maianthemum	Poly. chro.
Black Cherry	Lyc. lucid.	Carex brun.	Tetraphis
Mtn Maple	Raspberry	Strept. vaseus	Plagin. dent.
<u>Amel. bart.</u>	Polypodium	Aster acum.	Hyp. imponens
Hobblebush	Cinna	Veratrum	Thuidium
Red Maple		Tillium erectum	Daliothea

View from BelleAyre Fire Tower



This peak is visible from BelleAyre Chairlift top only; hidden behind Graham on Fire tower. A summit on the Beaver Kill Range, el. 3400.

Also visible: West Kill, Hunter fire tower, Plateau. Panther, Slide, Cornell, Wittenberg.

Utsayantha (last summit on range to NW): tower barely visible and questionable.