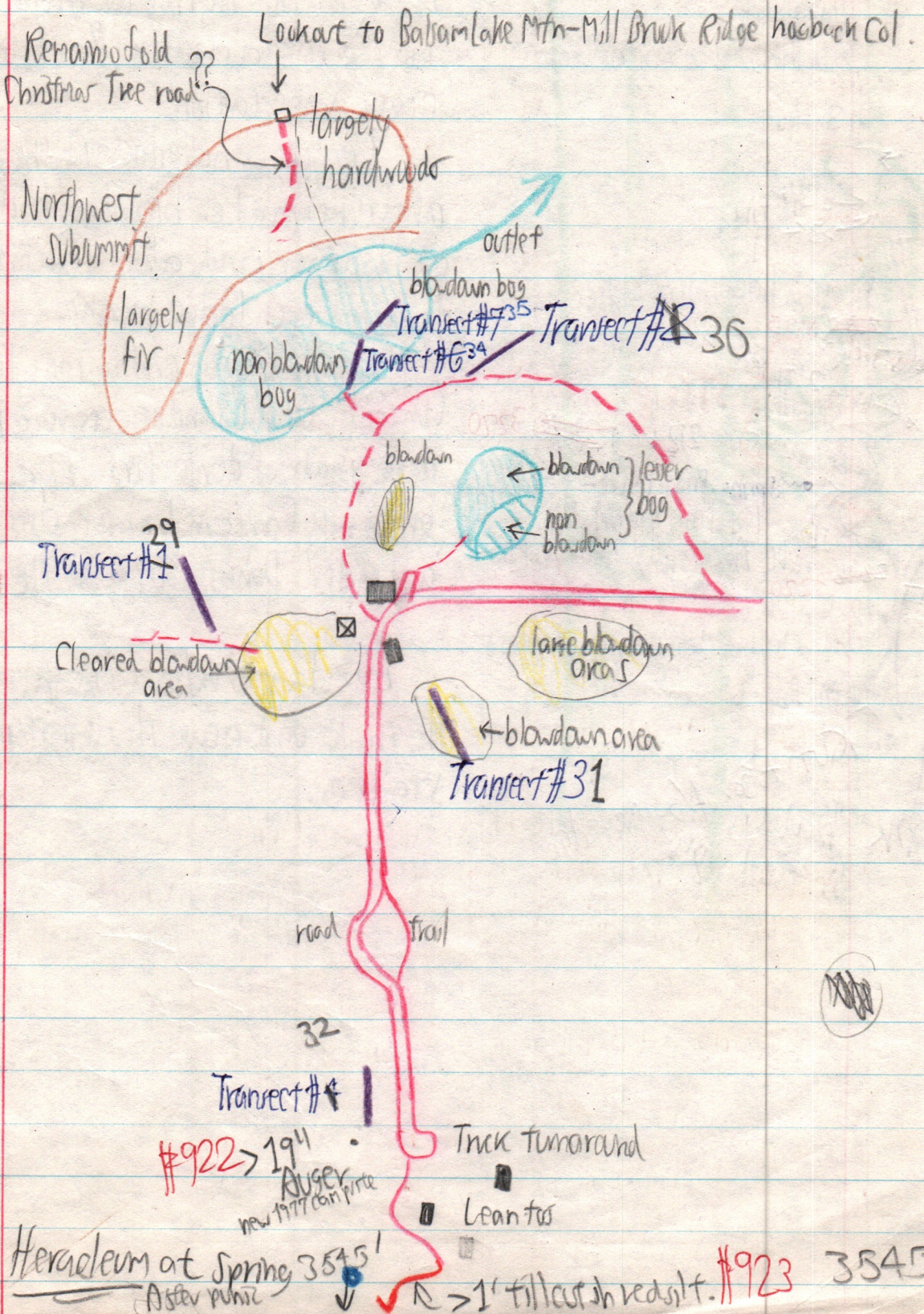


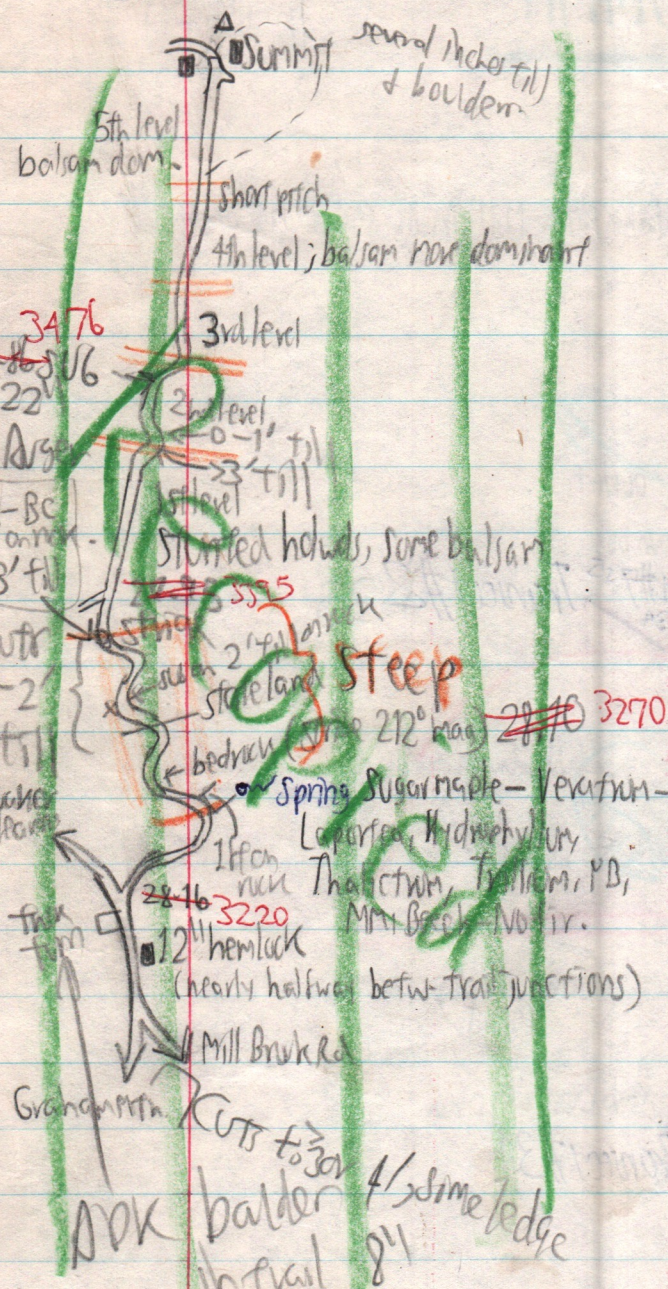
Balsam Lake Mtn. Summit

260-10
In 1970



4

260-11



Hay-scented fern lets in more light to ground level than wood fern because of the narrower fronds, and may permit a greater % of ground cover vegetation.

Cornus canadensis is shade-intolerant and comes in after blowdowns, along trails or clearings, and along reportedly disturbed open ledge banks.

Maianthemum can endure more light than *LL-Clintonia-Oxalis*, and is scarcer in the dark shade of dense firs. It also grows with *Cornus* in lighter areas, as under *Dennstaedtia* in the fern glades.

Luzula parviflora is present along the trails and near the summit in several stations.

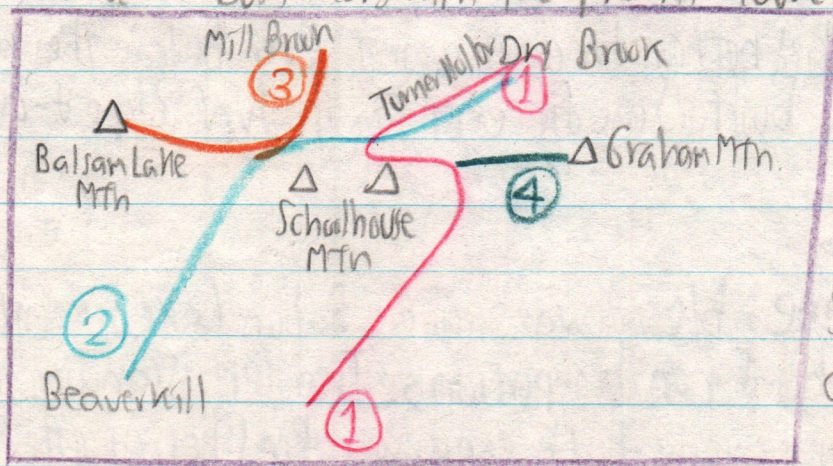
260-12

Notes from Larry Baker

6/21/70

Fire Towers— Built by B. Lake Club in 1890's as a crude wooden lookout. The State's first wooden tower built ca. 1909 was burned by lightning, and replaced by a steel tower about 1919 on the site of the older cabin. In 1932, the present tower was built.

Roads— Original road ¹ from Quaker Clearing to Seager went up the southeast slope of Schoolhouse into the Schoolhouse-Graham col. Then west about 1/2 mile, and sharply back to the NE down Turner Hollow. Before 1900, the southern half of the road was rebuilt ² between Balsam Lake & Schoolhouse Mtns, but remained in Turner Hollow northward. In 1932, the present road ³ from Mill Brook Road was built along with the present tower. The Graham Mtn



road ⁴ was built about 1960 when the microwave relay station was built, but the station was abandoned about 1966 or 1967.

A former wagon road ran up Shandaken Creek ~~to~~ over the Eagle-Big Indian Col to Olivera. The Mapledale-Olivera trail was used to drive cattle, horses & turkeys to Kingston from Dry Brook Valley. [What about bridle path & fire line? 9/8/85]

Hemlock Bark and Logging—

The furthest bark peelers & loggers ever went up the slopes is at present. The 19th century workers stayed in the

2013

(2)

Use this!

valleys & lower slopes. Ridge growth is more worth exploring. All summits are virgin, except perhaps Schoolhouse. Logging in Dry Brook at the Shandaken Creek Confluence ended Nov. 1969. That on the N slope of Schoolhouse ran to about 1967. That along the trail above Mill Brook Road 1960-1962.

Pigeon Creek

Spruce in the Doubletop - Big Indian Col, on Big Indian side, found by surveying party establishing State Land lines.

Doubletop's fir is from the steep pitch up, with only scatter down to Big Indian Col.

Graham did not have fir on its summit, even before the relay tower was built. Some fir exist on the NW slope & on Schoolhouse summit.

1950 Hurricane blew down areas on Balsam Lake Summit, indiscriminately in both bog & non-bog portions. Trees left standing in blowdown areas died gradually of exposure. Pin Cherry & other helms came up as thickets in the better-drained areas, while fir thickets developed in the less well-developed parts.

The northwest subsummit is nearly blowdown-free, but there are *Denroaetia* openings. Firs up to 12", some dead & dying YB to 20".

Blowdown areas before 1950 looked like non-blowdown areas do now.