

Raymond Edward Welch becomes first one legged man to scale the 6,288 ft. Mount Washington, NH

Never considering himself handicapped, his life was full of physical accomplishments. He was the first "One legged man" to climb Mount Washington, a feat which he did twice. The first time was on August 7, 1932. Recognition was received via the railroad, the Boston Globe, Manchester Union and even in the Plymouth Record, as he had been a recent station agent at Ashland Station. However at the time of his feat he was the agent at Northumberland Station in Coos County. His second climb was made up the famed Tuckerman Ravine of Mount Washington on July 2, 1933. On the second climb he was accompanied by Alton Weagles, brother-in-law Harold Noyes, Kenneth Unoin and his brother Freeman Welch.

Source; Manchester Union Leader, July 1933 and personal papers.:

MAN WITH SINGLE LEG AGAIN SCALES MOUNT WASHINGTON

CRAWFORD NOTCH, July 2-- Raymond E. Welch, first one legged man ever to climb officially to the summit of Mt. Washington, which he did on Aug. 7, 1932 by way of the Cog railway track descending by the motor road to Glen, repeated his remarkable feat today, scaling the difficult trail up Tuckerman's ravine, noted for its dangerous cliffs and its several tragedies, and making a record many a normal man might envy.

Welch, station agent for the Boston and Maine railroad at Northumberland, left Pinkham notch camp at 8:20 this morning, arriving on the summit at 3:22 E.S.T. One hour and 55 minutes was taken for rest, the actual climbing time being four hours and seven minutes.

Welch, who lost his right leg in a coasting accident when a child, carried one crutch and used a cane part of his climb. He was accompanied by Kenneth Chunwin, of Northumberland, F.C. Welch and Arthur Young of Woodsville, Alton Weagles of Groveton, Frank Styles and Ernest Page of Guildhall, Vt.

The party was received at the Summit house by Messrs. Witham and Anderson, managers, and entertained by President Henry N. Teague, who extended the courtesy of the railway for Welch's return trip to Crow Flite camps at the base.

Welch was winded, but in fine physical shape at the end of his climb. After a few moments rest he stated he felt good as new. The trail, 4 1/2 miles long, has an elevation of approximately 1,000 feet to the mile. He selected his companions for the trip because of their hardiness and knowledge of weather conditions amid the treacherous mountains. He kept a wet handkerchief about his temples to avoid being blinded by perspiration and made the trip in real comfort.

Welch was met by his wife and four children, Raymond Jr., Virginia, Mildred, and Frederick, also his mother, at the base of Washington where several hundred people awaited him, and congratulated him upon his feat. He is a marathon swimmer and hopes to swim the eight mile stretch from Groveton to Northumberland.

Mr. Welch will be 39 years old the 28th day of this month and he weighs 160 pounds. He is greatly interested in sports although climbing and swimming are his hobbies.