

SPRINGS GOT CHRISTMAS PRESENT OF BARR TRAIL FOUR YEARS AGO

Four years ago today Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region were recipients of a Christmas gift surpassing anything else in this section as a scenic asset, and an attraction for tourists during the summer months. The present was that of the Barr trail, zigzagging across the east face of Pikes Peak for a distance of eight miles from the top of Mount Manitou to the summit of the peak.

On Christmas eve, 1918, Fred Barr set out the last pile of rocks, designating the end of the trail survey. It marked the completion of a task which everyone had said was impossible and impractical. Completing the survey on Christmas eve, Fred Barr broke into the summit house, spent the night there, and returned to Colorado Springs the following day to announce his achievement.

Survey Only Beginning.

The survey was only a beginning, the real work of building the trail was yet to be undertaken, yet it marked the realization of one of the ambitions of Barr's life, and demonstrated unquestionably the feasibility of constructing a trail over the most scenic part of the peak.

From a youth, Barr believed the trail could be built, and he realized the scenic possibilities of a route across the east face of the peak. He encountered almost unsurmountable difficulties in finding a way which would combine the desired scenic advantages, and low grades. On several occasions he searched for more than a week to find a route around some natural barrier.

As finally surveyed four years ago, the trail followed a zigzag course up the east face of the peak. Starting at the top of Mount Manitou, the

route reached the summit by a series of switchbacks. The grade seldom exceeds 12 per cent, never more than 15, thus making accessible to nearly everyone capable of hiking or sitting



FRED BARR
Trail Maker of the Pikes Peak Region.

astride a burro the most picturesque part of the Pikes Peak region. From the trail views are afforded that are obtainable nowhere else on the entire front range.

Fred Barr spent three summers working on the upper parts of the trail, finally completing the work last summer. He received aid from no one. The cost was approximately \$10,000.

With the completion of this trail Barr went ahead to survey other routes now inaccessible except to a few hardy climbers, who are thoroly acquainted with mountain climbing. He has now surveyed trails to Cameron cone, Manitou reservoir, and Crater lake, one of the undeveloped scenic points in the Pikes Peak region.

ARMY REACHES NEW HIGH MARK; RECEIVES \$1258

The total of \$1,258, a new high mark for the kettle proceeds of the

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