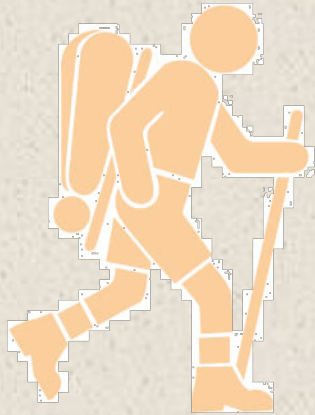


# The Long Trail: Abbreviated



By: Aaron Shore



1950

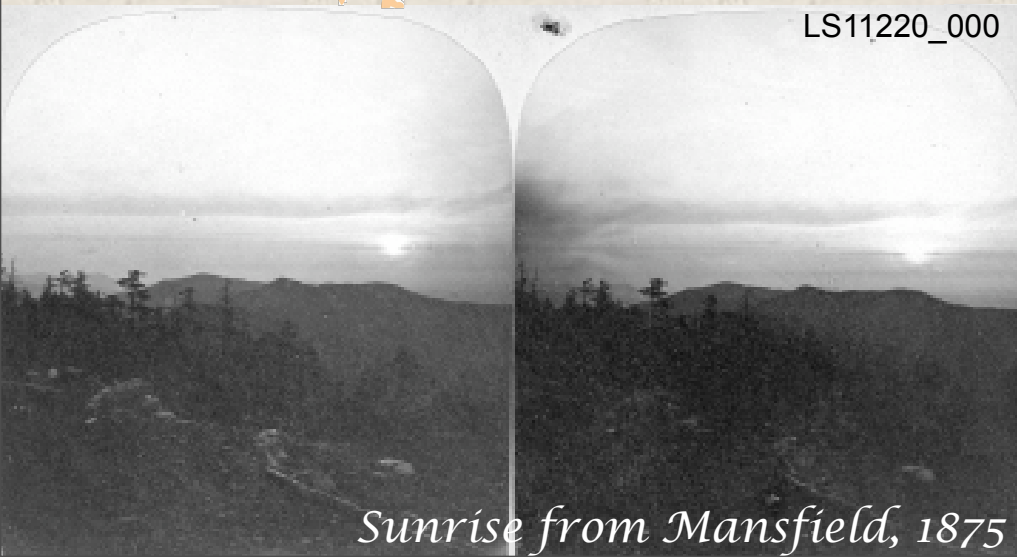
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# Purpose

*Hiking the Long Trail has been a dream of mine since I came to UVM four years ago. It is America's oldest long-distance hiking trail, measuring 270 miles from Canada to Massachusetts.*

*I created this scrapbook so others could share my experience, and learn the history of the trail.*

*Enjoy.*



LS11220\_000

*Sunrise from Mansfield, 1875*

*Camel's Hump, 1880*

LS09840\_000



# Vermont Life

SUMMER 2004  
www.villife.com



LS12596\_000

*Camels Hump, 2004*

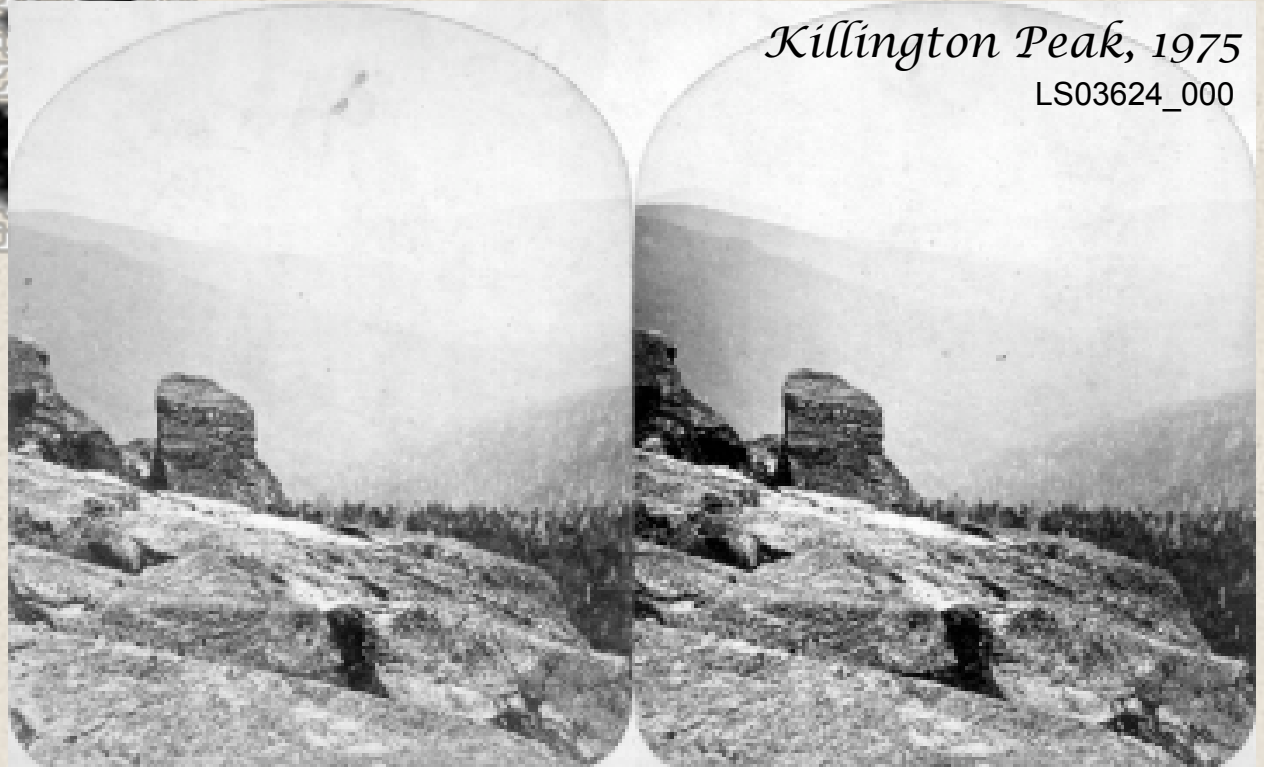


James Taylor, a professor at the Vermont Academy, first conceived the trail in 1910. His goal was to “make the Vermont Mountains play a larger part in the life of the people.”

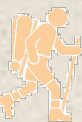
*I began my trip in southern Vermont with James Taylor and this image in mind. I wanted to be a part of the beauty that the Vermont landscape encompassed and was known for.*

*Killington Peak, 1975*

LS03624\_000



A view from the top of Killington Peak. The reason James Taylor first conceived the Long Trail was because he couldn't take his students into the wilderness without bushwhacking. He wanted to be able to travel from Killington Peak to Pico Peak, a short walk on a trail.



*During the first 10 days of my trip, I went from excited to dismal. I rarely saw anyone else on the trail and there were far more trees than mountain top views. I finally came across this nice woman who told me about the Green Mountain Club (GMC).*

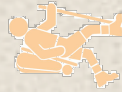


In 1911, a group of 23 people, including Mr. Taylor, got together in Burlington, VT and formed the GMC. It was their job to begin cutting the Long Trail, and to provide trail maintenance and protection.

The following summer construction began of the first cut path, from Mt. Mansfield. Within a decade, 209 miles of trail was cleared and over forty-four overnight facilities were provided.

*Southeast from Mansfield, 1962*

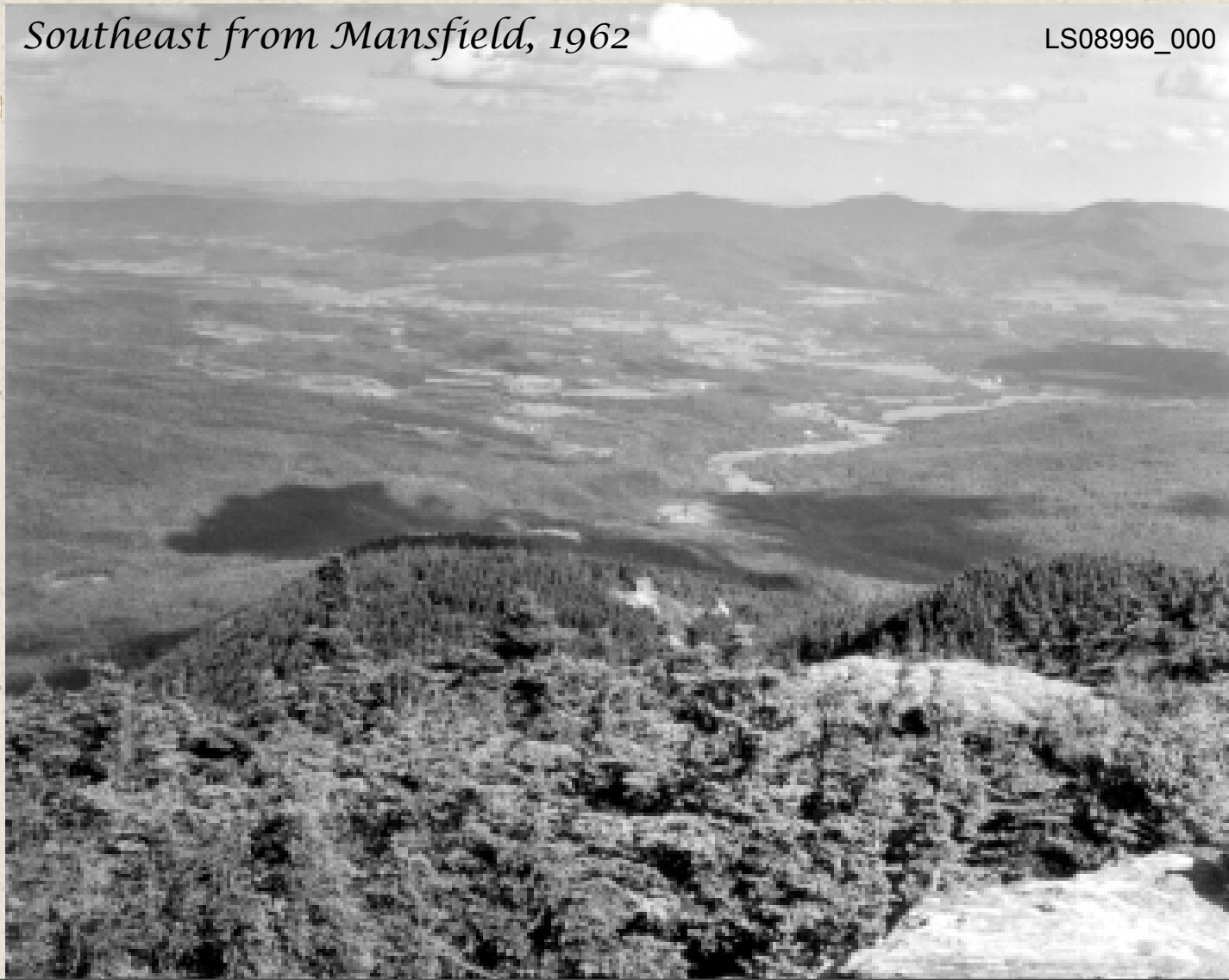
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*Most of the shelters  
along the trail are  
very primitive,  
consisting usually,  
of only three walls  
and a wood floor.*

*Almost every  
shelter I  
encountered was  
rat infested and  
smelled worse than  
an outhouse.*

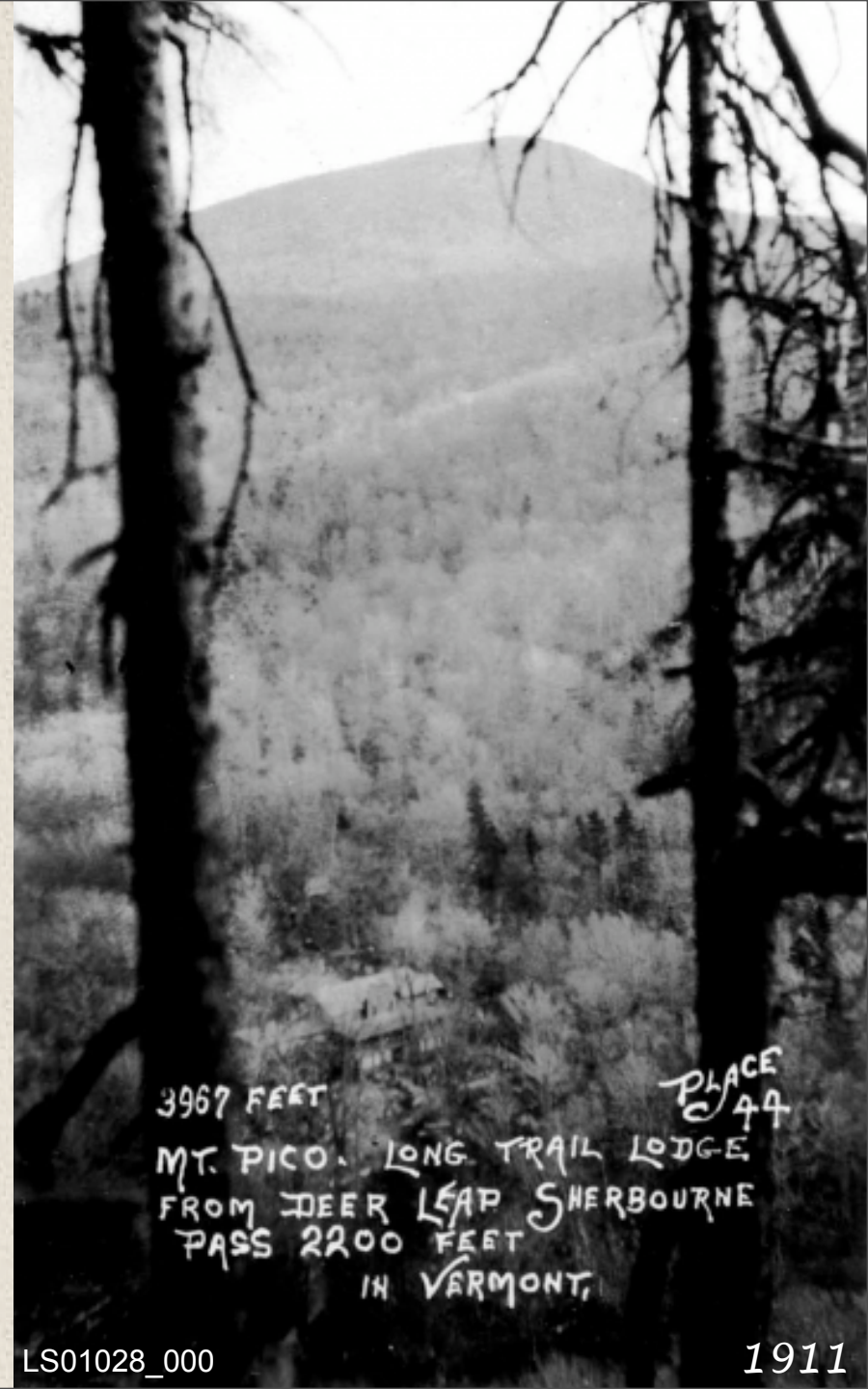
*Thankfully I  
brought a tent  
and managed to  
avoid this atrocity.*



*Days after my encounter with the woman, her name was Mary, I met another older man. He said he was 74, but he didn't look a day older than 50. He gave me this photograph and a little history lesson.*



In 1923, the Long Trail Lodge was constructed to be the base of the GMC and the heart of the Long Trail. The lodge was constructed of logs and lumber found in the woods in close proximity of the construction site. The lodge encompassed other elements of the mountains as well, including a natural rock wall that was built into the lodge.



3967 FEET

MT. PICO. LONG TRAIL LODGE  
FROM DEER LEAP SHERBOURNE  
PASS 2200 FEET  
IN VERMONT,

PLACE  
44

The most fascinating thing about the lodge was that the Long Trail actually ran right through the lodge, and meals were given to any who desired them. Unfortunately, and to the dismay of many, the lodge was destroyed in 1968 by a fire and the GMC was moved to Montpelier.



LS03619\_000

*Killington Peak, 1975*



*After a quick bite, I was back on top of the world. (Or at least VT)*

*After many long days, uncountable blisters, and too close a call with a black bear, I reached my halfway point. And to my delight, a young man, a student at a school in New Hampshire, stayed with me in the most amazing shelter I've been in yet. He told me about the 60s.*



Middlesex, 1965

LS08946\_000



During the 60's there was a "back to nature" reform movement that drove countless young adults to the wilderness, and in Vermont, this meant the Long Trail. Overuse meant cramped shelters and garbage everywhere. The GMC had to take action. They launched a number of new initiatives, including the removal of dumps at shelters, a "carry-in, carry-out" policy, and information about responsible trail and camping practices.

*25 days in and I get my greatest gift yet...*



*West, Lake Champlain in distance, 2007*  
LS01226\_000



*I finished my trip at the top of Mount Mansfield. Unfortunately, I had nor time or the energy to go any further. But along the way I was able to gather information about the most important part of the Long Trail, the Long Trail Protection Program*



*Mt. Mansfield, 2007*

The Long Trail Protection Program has permanently conserved over 61 miles of trail, and 19 shelters, as well as preserving the summits of major mountain peaks along the way. Before the program, in 1986, over 60 miles of trail were in danger of being sold or taken from the public. Unfortunately, there are still 10 miles of the Long Trail that lack any sort of legal protection and could be cutoff from the trail and the public at any time.



To this day, because of the GMC, the Long Trail Protection Program, and volunteers, the Long Trail is still available to anyone who wishes to make Vermont part of their life.



*Mt. Mansfield, 1980*

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