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Portland, Oregon.

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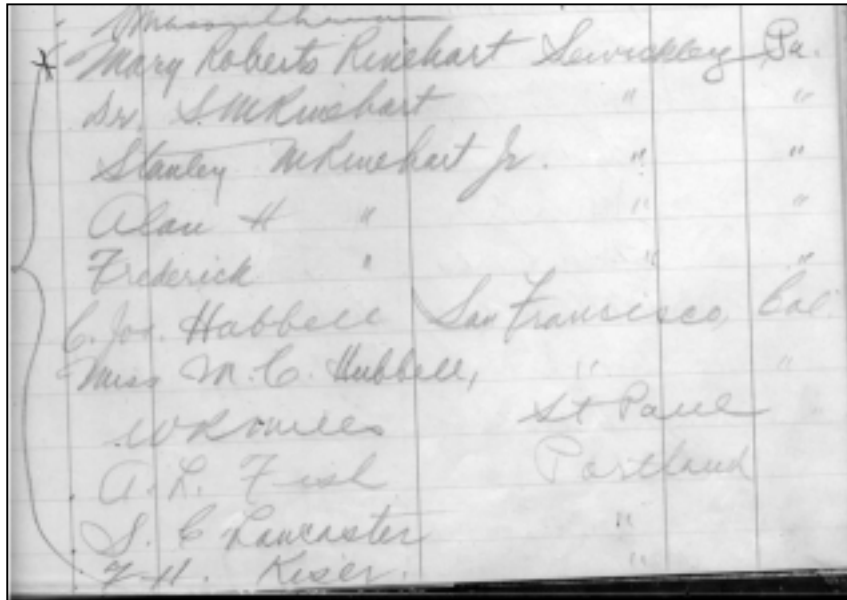
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MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

R16-295

Signed in Guestbook: September 5, 1916



Names evident above: (Complete party entry)

- Mary Roberts Rinehart...Sewickly, Pa
- Dr. S. M. Rinehart.....Sewickly, Pa
- Stanley M. Rinehart Jr...Sewickly, Pa
- Alan H. Rinehart.....Sewickly, Pa
- Frederick Rinehart.....Sewickly, Pa
- C. Joseph Hubbell..... San Francisco, Ca.
- Miss M.C. Hubbell.....ditto
- W. R. Mills.....St. Paul
- A. L. Fish.....Portland
- S. C. Lancaster..... "
- F. H. Kiser..... "



Mary Roberts Rinehart Vitae:

Profession: Mystery writer, novelist,
playwright

Born: August 12, 1876 / Pittsburgh, Pa.
Died: September 22, 1958/ New York, N Y
(Age 82/heart attack)

Age at Chalet: 40 years

**DETAILED STUDY OF RINEHART ENTRY----->>
FOLLOWING PAGES**

DETAILS / MARY ROBERTS RINEHART ENTRY

Other guests

Besides the Rinehart family, the signatures of two prominent Oregonians appear in the entry shown on the previous page. S. C. Lancaster (Samuel Christopher Lancaster) was the Chief Engineer for the construction of what is now known as the Historic Columbia River Highway. He was a frequent guest at the Chalet. F. H. Kiser (Fred H. Kiser) was a professional photographer who became a nationally recognized scenic artist known for his hand-colored photographs. He built a studio at Crater Lake National Park in 1921 to serve as his southern Oregon headquarters, studio and salesroom for his work and photographic supplies. This building still stands as well as a smaller structure that he constructed closer to the edge of the caldera. The latter is now used by the National Park Service as an information center and bookstore. (1999)

The whole family

Mary Roberts Rinehart appeared with her complete family: her surgeon husband and three sons -Stanley Jr., Alan and Frederick. The date of her visit shows that she was back from Glacier National Park in Montana, where she had accompanied a large party making a wilderness safari into the interior of the new park. Her book: *Through Glacier Park in 1915* was published in 1916. A further connection to the Glacier National Park trip is the presence of the photographer F. H. Kiser, mentioned above. One of his photographs, copyrighted in 1912, appears in her book. Since the date on his photograph precedes the date of Mary's Glacier venture, it may well be that he simply sold her the photograph and was not actually a member of the expedition.

Although Glacier had received National Park status as early as 1910, very little movement had been made to provide for creature comforts when Mary and her expedition arrived on the scene. Mary's chronicle of her adventure was filled with wonderment at the marvelous scenery, and must have had a positive impact on park attendance. Her effusive commentary was also laced with pointed criticism, as she found the lack of tourist facilities and ready access not up to her standards. In her book she writes: "A government mountain reserve without plenty of roads is as valuable as an automobile without gasoline." Those who might read her diminutive book - some 91 pages and still in print - will find it entertaining. Basically it is a tale of how Mary Roberts Rinehart, a sophisticated easterner in the wild west, meets the trials of wilderness travel - on horseback with some 41 other easterners. A staff of cooks accompanies the venture and occasionally some of the women are observed actually washing the dishes - a thing of embarrassment that Mary tells us she hesitates to mention in her writing. The leader of the trip was Howard Eaton, an idol of Mary's and also a hunting buddy of Theodore Roosevelt.

Famous mystery writer

One of the first literary celebrities of the 20th Century, Mary may be best remembered as a writer of mystery novels. She was a master at telling stories that presented a visual picture; a talent that was of particular value before motion pictures and television presented the images for us. In her prime she was America's best selling mystery writer and a rival to Agathie Christie of England. "*The butler did it*" derived from some of her work. Her first book, *The Circular Staircase (1908)* became immensely popular and is still in print today. In the course of her writing career, spanning some 45 years, she produced some 49 books - a list of them to follow. As a playwright, she was a smashing success on Broadway - at one time she had three plays running at the same time. She wrote a play entitled *The Bat*, which was made into films in 1926 and 1959. Some consider *The Bat* her greatest work. The Internet/98 credits Mary Roberts Rinehart with providing the inspiration, either via novel or story writing, for a

total of 26 films, beginning with *The Spiral Staircase* (1915) and ending with *The Bat* (1956)

When war broke out in Europe, she was one of the few correspondents allowed access to the front lines where she reported from the trenches. It is reported that she was active as a correspondent for much of the war from 1914-1918 so one must assume that she would be on her way to the front not long after exiting the Chalet. We know that all three of her sons, Stanley Jr., Alan and Frederick, shipped out to France when the US entered the war in 1917 and some have suggested that she used her position to place her sons in less hazardous duty. Whatever, all three survived the war. Later all of the sons became involved in the publishing business and Mary helped them found the publishing house of Farrier and Rinehart in 1929. In later years she could always find someone to publish her works!

Other

- According to Rinehart's biographer, Jan Cohn, Mary's novels were of great commercial success but had been attacked critically as nothing but lowbrow popular fiction. She had suffered horribly from depression during those times. Dr. Stanley Rinehart touted his medical degree and general intellectual skills, and bitterly resented her commercial success derived from what he considered trash. He encouraged her to write more serious literary works. Although her relationship with her husband was judged by some as an unhappy one, she enjoyed a close relationship with her three sons.
- Mary was born left handed in a time when a southpaw was considered unnatural and unladylike. Her parents tied her left hand behind her back, and she later did all of her writing with her right hand.
- Mary wrote her novels with a fountain pen and is reported to have used the same one for 25 years - she would never leave home without it. The pen was a gift from Kenneth Parker of the Parker Pen Company. It is notable that the entry for the entire party was written in pencil.
- Mary eventually built her own version of the Crown Point Chalet, an Inn at Cabbage Keys in southwest Florida near Fort Myers. In partnership with one of her sons, it was constructed in 1938. The Inn served breakfast, lunch and dinner to guests and boaters at milemarker 60 on the Intracoastal Waterway. It is a historic attraction - the interior is papered with more than \$10,000 in autographed dollar bills (1998). It seems quite possible that Mary's experience at the Chalet might have had some influence on her decision to construct an eating establishment that blended food with an outdoor experience.
- While on her Glacier National Park trip she came in contact with the Blackfoot Indians at their reservation near the park's border. Recognizing their miserable living conditions, she began a campaign to improve their plight. She appeared in Washington DC to plea for food and help. At one time, she was taken into the tribe, and given the name Pitamakin, or Running Eagle.
- Chalet connection: The silent film, *The Bat* (1926) lists Chalet guest Jack Pickford (1924) in the acting credits.
- Both Mary and Chalet guest Fay Bainter (1921) are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Mary was so honored as a result of her work as a war correspondent in WWI. (*Grab Bag* by L.M. Boyd, San Francisco Chronicle (November 30, 1997)

Books by Mary Roberts Rinehart:

The Circular Staircase. Bobbs-Merrill, 1908
The Man in Lower Ten. Bobbs-Merrill, 1909
When a Man Marries. Bobbs-Merrill, 1909
The Window at the White Cat. Bobbs-Merrill, 1910
The Amazing Adventures of Letitia Carberry. Bobbs-Merrill, 1911
Where There's a Will. Bobbs-Merrill, 1912
The Case of Jennie Brice. Bobbs-Merrill, 1913
The After House. Houghton Mifflin, 1914
The Street of Seven Stars. Houghton Mifflin, 1914
"K". Houghton Mifflin, 1915
Kings, Queens, and Pawns. Doran, 1915
Tish. Houghton Mifflin, 1916
Through Glacier Park. Houghton Mifflin, 1916
Bab: A Sub-Deb. Doran, 1917
The Alter of Freedom. Houghton Mifflin, 1917
Tenting Tonight. Houghton Mifflin, 1918
The Amazing Interlude. Doran, 1918
Twenty- Three and a Half Hours' Leave. Doran, 1918
Dangerous Days. Doran, 1919
A Poor Wise Man. Doran, 1920
The Truce of God. Doran, 1920
More Tish. Doran, 1921 (short stories)
The Breaking Point. Doran, 1921
Sight Unseen and The Confession. Doran, 1921
The Out Trail. Doran, 1922
Temperamental People. Doran, 1924 (short stories)
The Red Lamp. Doran, 1925
The Bat. Doran, 1926
Two Flights Up. Doran, 1926
Nomad's Land. Doran, 1926 (travel articles)
Lost Ecstasy. Doran, 1927
The Romantics. Farrar & Rinehart, 1929 (short stories)
The Door. Farrar and Rinehart, 1930
My Story. Farrar & Rinehart, 1931
Miss Pinkerton. Farrar & Rinehart, 1932
The Album. Farrar & Rinehart, 1933
The State vs. Elinor Norton. Farrar & Rinehart, 1933
Mr. Cohen Takes a Walk. Farrar & Rinehart, 1934
The Doctor. Farrar & Rinehart, 1936
The Wall. Farrar & Rinehart, 1938
Writing Is Work. The Writer, Inc. 1939
The Great Mistake. Farrar & Rinehart, 1940
Haunted Lady. Farrar & Rinehart, 1942
Alibi for Isabel and Other Stories. Farrar & Rinehart, 1944
The Yellow Room. Farrar & Rinehart, 1945
My Story: A New Edition and Seventeen New Years. Rinehart, 1948
Episode of the Wandering Knife. Rinehart, 1950
The Swimming Pool. Rinehart, 1952
The Frightened Wife and Other Murder Stories. Rinehart, 1953

Resources:

(1) *Had she but known by* Charlotte Macleod. Warner Books, Inc., New York, NY. (1994)

(2) *Improbable Fiction: The Life of Mary Roberts Rinehart* by Jan Cohn. (1980) (available in copier format only)

(3) *Through Glacier Park In 1915* by Mary Robert Rinehart. Roberts Rinehart Publishers, Boulder, Colorado. (1983)