Enclosed Open Letter from W.A. Howatt. Waikiki Hotel Mar 15-1933

"I crossed from the West branch of the Matukituki river with 3 others (J.H. Christie engineer in charge Te Anau-Milford Rd) G.A. Graves H.V. Green) in Dec 1932 intending to explore the country round the headwaters of the Aranaki & Waiparu rivers & to check on the existing maps of the district & if possible to cross the Olivine Range to the Waiparu & return to the Matukituki valley of the Mt. Saddle as it is sometimes

olivine range is W of town Aranaki N.W-E. of it

sup 166. called Hectors Col. We found a marble in hut Sir James - then Mr. - Hector the Govt Geologist had crossed the Saddle & spent - 14 days - & recommended it to the Waiparu Valley & then recrossed the Saddle to the Matukituki after a very trying time. Previous to our party - being our party & those crossed from W. to E. Müller reckoned that it was impossible to do so altho. Hector had made the crossing before Mr's time. However we descended the Aranaki for about - 6 miles below the Twin Falls Creek a branch of the Aranaki which is only about 1/2 mile long & issued from a huge Glacier (Snowball) on the W. side of Mt. Nazer & comes out of the Glacier in two beautiful Waterfalls about 300 ft. high. Under a big rock we found the remains of a very old fireplace at this point where we returned up the river. We crossed over the Aranaki to the N bank & climbed a steep spur leading up on the S.S.E. shoulder of Mt. Twin. This is a pass over an ascending glacier on to the saddle between the Waipara & the Aranaki. About half way up we passed two pure white Quartz reefs running parallel with the River, one which stretched for 1/2 mile reminded me of a White Stone fence. It was about 3ft high & about 2ft thick. The other one was about half the size & about 30 ft higher up the Mountain. They are both barren. When we reached the top of the saddle we found a vast Snow field extending between Mt Twin & Mt Barff & feeding a glacier which formed the source of the Aranaki on the N.W. shoulder of Mt Barff. We got a glimpse of the Bare glacier & the Waipara Valley, but a heavy fog came down, & it came on to Snow heavily, so I took a back compass bearing & then left to other 3 to dig & got a photo & made my way N.E to dig & found a way down into the Waipara which I accomplished & half an hour

afterwards the remainder of the party followed my steps in the Snow. The fog lifted as we got on the top of the range & after we had descended 500 ft: the day was beautiful & fine. We followed down a deep Small Creek which rises from the Snowfield above mentioned until we reached the terminal face of the Bonar Glacier & pitched our camp about - 150 yds from the ice face.

We stayed 4 days in there resting around & had to shoot - most of our meat of which there were plenty: We only went about - 2 miles down the Waipara as the weather was very wet: We then climbed over the Matukituki at an elevation of 6500 ft aneroid & descended to Mt. to our base camp at Shovel Flat:

abbreviated. "I had a delightful shovel which fitted my alpenstock, I had broken the alpenstock & left it beside our camp at the Bonar Glacier I left the shovel head beside our camp at Shovel Flat - because some curio hunter had taken the old miners shovel that the place was named after"