



vol 10, no 5  
march 1968

mountaineering club of alaska  
box 2037 anchorage alaska 99501

happenings on the way

march meeting...Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle, Monday, march 11, 8 p.m. Program attraction will be the film "Magnificence in Trust" on the national parks and monuments on the Alaska scene.

\*\*\*

BYRON PEAK, Sunday March 17. A roped ice and snow climb in the Portage area behind Byron Glacier. Requires good condition, full equipment, ice and snow experience. Leader: BOB SPURR, ph 272-8330.

LAZY MOUNTAIN, 3720', Saturday, March 23. Very nice, easy trip in the Palmer area on snowshoes or skis--perhaps one of the last of the season. A delightful hike if the snow is gone. Drive to about 620', gain 3100' in about three miles. Fine views of Matanuska Valley, Matanuska Peak, and other peaks in the area. Leader: TONY BOCKSTAHLER, phone 694-2323.

BIRD CREEK RIDGE, Saturday, April 6. Easy, rolling ridge separating Bird and Indian Creeks. First summit is 3505' at two miles. The hardier can continue to 3855' at five miles, or even 4650' at 6½ miles. Beautiful vistas and no difficulty in good weather.

LEADER: GRACE HOEMAN, phone 277-7871

\*\*\*

happenings that were

executive committee met briefly February 29 to discuss the proposed legislation (SB 361 introduced by Sen. Poland of Kodiak) to bond major mountain climbing expeditions. Committee members composed a letter indicating the reasons that this bill is inappropriate which will be sent to some legislators, particularly members of the State Affairs Committee. ARG also will be sending a letter of a similar nature.

\*\*\*

Dub Bludworth, Grace and Vin Hoeman crossed Kenai Lake February 25 on the ice from the abandoned railroad station of Lawing to Black Point and climbed Black Mountain, 2213', choosing it for reduced avalanche threat since it is timbered to the top. A strip of what was once red cloth was found tied to a tree 50 feet from the middle (highest) summit where we dropped a register bottle into the snow. (V.H.)

\*\*\*

MATANUSKA PEAK, 6119'

February 18, 1968

Bob Spurr

As Ned Lewis and I passed over Lazy Mtn about 8 a.m. and began the traverse of the long NW ridge to Matanuska Pk, I reflected optimistically on our chances for the summit. Two previous attempts in early January had expired at this location, the first after a time-consuming and losing bout with snowshoes, erroneously judged as personally appropriate for the peak, and the second, a week later on skis in perfect if cold conditions when my companion's numbing feet forced a retreat. So I bided time until the next full moon when night skiing would be at its easiest. After departing Anchorage early, Ned and I donned skis with skins and left the car near 6 a.m. under a waning moon. We made good time on frozen granular, finally shucking skis after 1000 vertical feet.

The prevailing north winds generally keep this ridge in firm condition; even in winter a narrow scree line is frequently visible from Palmer, laid bare wherever the full sweep of the wind is unimpeded. We traversed hard slab and sastrugi, sighting evidences of shattered cornices and slab avalanches.

By 11 a.m. we were cramponing up the remaining 1000 ft of ridge toward the large vertical step, dubbed "Gibraltar," which forms part of the imposing NW face. On questionable snow we roped up, hugged the inside wall and climbed into the amphitheater below the summit. With choices none too obvious amid snowy slabs, a steep snow finger proved to be the crux of the climb and put us just below the summit, which we gained by 2:15. The gray ceiling which had hung low all day was now rapidly lowering until fine snow marked the onset of the inundation which continued into Rendezvous. We inspected two salad dressing bottles, left a third register in the form of a film can, and by 2:30 were rushing down the easier SW slope to gain the valley floor, hoping for a quicker route out. After a long slog in declining daylight, we yielded to flashlights, climbed over the shoulder of Lazy Mtn, finally arriving at the car by 7:40 p.m.

\*\*\*

WINTER CHUGACH SCRAMBLES

Vin Hoeman

Grace and I were able to urge our "Redback" VW up snow machine tracks to within a quarter mile of Ptarmigan Ski Area February 11. We proceeded afoot up the west ridge of "Round Top" 4755', replaced the leaky can there with a register bottle, then traversed down the broad southeast ridge to climb Point 5070' for which we propose the name "Vista Peak" because of the fine view and the fact that it's visible from Anchorage. No cairn or record was there until we left one, but we later learned that Dave DeVoe, Gary Hansen, and Kerstin Petterson were there a couple years ago.

Referring to 30 Hikes back in Anchorage, we saw that we'd neglected to do "Black Peak" 4446', so on the 13th, we returned and traversed its several rocky summits, depositing a register on the highest. There are fully two dozen Black Buttes, Caps, Hills, Mountains, Peaks, Tits, and Tops in Alaska already--it would be a shameful lack of imagination to insist on another; hence we suggest altering the name of this feature to "Blacktail Rocks," the allusion being to the Willow Ptarmigan, our state bird, sometimes locally called "Blacktail" to differentiate it from the White-tailed Ptarmigan that also occurs in this area.

\*\*\*

MCA VOICE FROM ANTARCTICA (85°46'S, 176°E)

Dave Johnston

Our old Scott tent creaks and groans through its fourth day before a relentless 25 knot wind from the South Polar Plateau. Outside, the ground blizzard swirls thicker and the temperature keeps creeping lower. It's -17° F right now. Inside, Dave and I snuggle a little deeper at each blast, and pump our two-burner Coleman a notch higher. Hmmm, must be about time for another round of butter-fried, breaded shrimp and "Dave, ready for another cup of hot grapefruit juice? Bacardi flavoring this time?" Then we lie back to more hours of BS or reading and dreaming of building log cabins. Or we slip on the earphones for pseudo stereo shortwave from our little sledge set. Bach from BBC, The Mamas and the Papas from VOA. News on Radio Australia. The endless harangue glorifying the great Chinese People's Cultural Revolution on Radio Peking. Or the soft, psychedelic Oriental music and gently accented Geisha tone cooing "Ow bow choo, GI Joe, wen will you 'ave 'ad 'nough of this needless killing... Goodnight from Hanoi."

But it hasn't always been so degenerate. For nearly three straight months, the weather up here, only 300 miles from the South Pole, has been traditionally stable. Navy ski-shod C-130's flew our four-man party from Ohio State University and our 7000 lbs of gear out from McMurdo Station (big coastal city of 1000), landing us on a smooth, snow-covered glacier at 8700'. From our base camp cache, we radiated out in two-man parties to explore and map the geology of the Trans-Antarctic Mountains. We were to be out two weeks to a month, covering up to 250 miles on our Polaris motor toboggans. Supplies for that period were hauled behind the Polaris on durable, twine-lashed wooden Nansen sleds.

Most of the travel across the flat, 40-mile-wide glaciers is safe and straightforward. But now and then crevasse fields add spice. As some of the slots are rather large--say 75 feet wide and miles long--we sometimes chose to detour.

We have worked out of three different base camps this season, each quite different from the other. So the form of mountain and type of rock have varied greatly. Sadly, the most beautiful granite was on the dumpiest little mountains. But since USARP policy insists that climbing is too risky, maybe this was fortunate. Strangely, I'm quite complacent about accepting the "no technical climbing" rule. And I think it's partly because my pure climber's ethic which tolerated appreciation only for good, solid, beautiful rock has been corrupted by these goofy geologists. I've come to appreciate the most appallingly scungy crudrock. But wait, before I'm ostracized! I have an excuse: fossils! They're really bloody interesting, even old leaves and stems like we find all the time. But especially bone fossils. We found the first ancient land vertebrate bone (probably a reptile vertebra) in Antarctica! It could quite possibly be an important support to part of the "Continental Drift Theory" (i.e. Our bone may match up with bones already discovered in Africa, South America, Australia, and India, thus supporting the theory that these areas, plus Antarctica, were once all part of a super continent called Gondwanaland.)

And so, even crudrock can prove interesting. Anyone know of fossils in the Chugach?

....

## ANTARCTIC VOICE, cont.

In the course of our geology, we did get up some peaks. Not all of them were entirely dull either, but don't tell USARP. Listed are the first ascents of named peaks:

Date	Range	Mountain	Elevation
18 Nov 67	Miller	Orr Peak	ca. 7845'
29 Nov 67	Miller	Kreiling Mesa	ca. 8050'
30 Dec 67	Queen Maud	Graphite Peak	10804'
2 Jan 68	Supporters	Mt. Kinsey	10200'
6 Jan 68	Supporters	Mt. Westminster	11047'
17 Jan 68	Grosvenor	Aitken Nunatak	9128'
19 Jan 68	Grosvenor	Mt. Cecily	9216'
22 Jan 68	Grosvenor	Mt. Emily	9233'

Even when one is lucky, he doesn't get to spend all his time in the field. Though food and gear are organized just for field parties, packing still takes time. Thus we've spent nearly three weeks at McMurdo Station. Life at McMurdo isn't all drudgerous packing though. There's the evening flick (mostly Class C, 1930-50 vintage) and of course the wardroom bar. In the bar and occasionally elsewhere around McMurdo, you're quite apt to meet other climbers. A short list of these might be of interest to Scree readers: Al Paige (U of A, Mt. Logan, 1st ascents of Mt Hess and of King Peak in the Yukon), George Denton and Monty Alford (with Vin on Mt. Vancouver last year), Art Twomey and Tuck Forsythe (from U of Wisconsin--Tuck led 1966 Denali climb), Bill Isherwood (friend of John Bousman's, but who isn't!), a bunch from U of Wyoming, Carlo Mauri (Italian who reached summit of Gasherbrum IV with Bonatti), a dozen good Kiwi (New Zealand) climbers (one is going to Peru in March, and another learned to climb with Frank Smythe), and Dave Elliot, my British tentmate, who saw Ed Hillary in England once.

The old storm roars on, but we're still expecting to get out of here in a couple of days despite (1) it looks like winter is here already; (2) our Polaris is diddley zilch shot and I'm the mechanic and it's 55 miles to base.

One way or another, I hope to be chopping blue ice on some ridge of Mt. Cook in New Zealand with Chet Hackney and Bill Hauser in two weeks. For that account, just pay your dues and await your next issue of Scree.  
(24 Jan 68)

\*\*\*

Has anyone done all 30 Hikes? This was a question asked last MCA meeting, but it is hard to know when one has completed a hike; probably several of us have been on portions of all 30 hikes. A more definitive goal, as yet approached by no one, might be to visit every summit mentioned either by name or elevation in the book. There are 78, and so far no one claims to have visited over half of them. (V.H.)

\*\*\*

Wisconsin MCA member Jane Coble (moderate experience on Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition last summer) would like to climb Mt. Sanford, 16,237', in the Wrangell Range in April or May in preparation for McKinley in 1969. Interested leader, and party members should contact her, Box 783, Madison, 53701.

\*\*\*

## MT. WILLIWAW - FIRST WINTER ASCENT

Vin Hoeman

It is seldom enough that a scheduled club trip accomplishes an announced major goal, but this one to the highest of our Chugach "Skyline Section" peaks luckily included a few hours of good weather between storms. Not that the weather was very good when Bill Babcock, Dub and Harry Bludworth, Karen Courtright, Dave DeVoe, John and Betty Ireton, Steve Shrader, and Grace and I met at the Flattop-Powerline road fork the morning of 17 February. Clouds threatened as we snowshoed across the valley and cramponed up to the shoulder of O'Malley Peak, and across the plateau the wind blew furiously. The Iretons decided to camp there in a snow cave and possibly try O'Malley. The rest of us pushed on and dropped into the valley of "Williwaw Lakes" where we set up tents and dug three 2-man snow caves.

Although the barometer was still quite low in the morning, we had a few hours of clear weather, or at least no low clouds, and we started for the summit. First we looked at the tempting northwest ridge, but decided this new route would be too much of an undertaking in winter, so we went to the standard southwest gully and arrived on top from 10:20 to 11:15. Unable to find the register, we left another. This was the fourth ascent. The storm was building as we left the mountains.

\*\*\*

## RAINBOW CREEK

John Wolfe

For those in the MCA who always are searching about for a nice, easy one-day hike up into the hills, preferably on a road if at all possible, I can suggest the following little venture. I tried to do one of the Suicide peaks Sunday, February 18, from the back, that is, via the approach from Rainbow Creek. Rainbow is the next creek of any consequence down the Seward Highway beyond the McHugh Creek campground. To most people, it's the one where there's a small dilapidated cluster of old rotting homestead cabins just a short way up on the hillside from the highway. There's even a little ratty old roadway leading to the cabins.

A few years back, I was once surprised to find a new and relatively good road cut through the alder brush leading on up the hillside above and well beyond the broken-down shacks. There even was a trailer hauled up to the end of the new road, as if there were new homesteading activity back behind the so-called "scenic drive" withdrawal all along the highway. Now, to my continuing surprise, that road has been considerably extended and runs through about four homesteads in the area. The highest and most distant is something over a mile hike from the highway at an elevation of about 1000 ft.

That much, just in itself, is an interesting little trip. The view back down the little valley is superb--out across the waters of Turnagain Arm toward the valleys behind Hope and Sunrise. But there's yet another angle to consider for the more hardy who aren't entirely satisfied with just a road trip for about a mile. That last homestead is within a stone's pitch of timberline with almost nonexistent scrub between the little trailer home and the open tundra slopes climbing up to peaklet 4235' due west of Suicide 5005'.

There's always one disappointing factor to most homestead roads, of course; that's the homesteads themselves. This one, I'm afraid, is

## RAINBOW CREEK, cont.

no exception. The second place in is a classic among Alaska home-steads--I can heartily recommend that you take along all your camera gear for some of the ugliest desecration shots of really delightful Alaskan countryside. MCA Conservation Committee please sit up and take notice: this is surely a matter worthy of some attention!

\*\*\*

ATTEMPT (A-hem) OF SHIP CREEK TO INDIAN Sharon M Cissna  
- or - ON TOP OF OLD GUNSIGHT February 24-25

The weeks preceding this trip were filled with extensive preparations, including practice trips to the base of Wolverine and to a minor peak above Ptarmigan Ski Area. I also had many misgivings about a 22-mile cross-country haul. Still, the seed of that strange mountaineering mania was growing, so, equipped with second hand and borrowed gear, I boldly stepped into the foggy white February morning. I had overcome my fears and was actually very excited for the trip to commence.

We arrived at Arctic Valley around 7 a.m. and to our dismay, were met with a hugging fog which obliterated the view of the pass and much of the foreground as well. It was the opinion of those knowledgeable persons with the party (Gayle Nienhueser, Steffen Maagoe, and Bill Babcock, as well as the drivers, Hans Van der Laan and Marge Maagoe) that we postpone the attempt as the weather could have made the trip a fiasco.

Four of us, Gayle and Helen Nienhueser, Bill Babcock, and I, decided upon an alternate trip. North, we felt, had more promise of good weather. So, early in the afternoon, we arrived at the base of Gunsight Mt (Mile 110 or so on the Glenn Highway) and started trudging upward on snowshoes. The snow had no firm base, and every step threatened a snow burial. However, we gleefully discovered a hard-packed snowmobile trail (First time any of us had seen any use for the contraptions!), and this helped. After a few hours, we made camp. That night it was about -5°... may I disrecommend dacron sleeping bags!

Next day at 6 a.m., I hesitatingly stuck my head out into the parched cold air from what suddenly seemed a cuddly warm sleeping bag. I would need several thousand extra words in my vocabulary to describe the impact of the view over the icy chunks of our "snow fort."

When we began the climb to the summit, the sun was well up. The climb was a gradual one, over a series of curved hills which we were able to walk up easily on snow shoes. Reaching the final snowfield leading to the peak, we suddenly interrupted a mother caribou and child, soon joined by about 100 more. After a short steepish slope requiring crampons, we made it. The view from the top was both awe inspiring and disquieting--looking across the Chugach, we discovered the weather had cleared in Anchorage. All agreed, however, when we returned to the car, that the weekend had been delightful. I, for one, am ready for another attempt of Ship Creek to Indian, no matter where it finally ends up!

\*\*\*

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, which is affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation. Scree staff: Marie Lundstrom, Callie Van der Laan, Sharon Cissna, Joanne Merrick, Carol DeVoe. Send Scree stuff to Box 4-964.

bits and pieces

FOR SALE: Gerry Alpine sleeping bag shell, insulated, padded waterproof bottom. Like new. Best offer. Bob Spurr 272-8330.

\*\*\*

Over 600 copies of 30 Hikes have been sold since the printing of 2000 was available last July. Callie Van der Laan is in charge of distribution and sales locally, and she will have copies available for sale at MCA meetings. Cost per copy is \$2.50 to nonmembers and \$2.25 to members.

\*\*\*

ADDRESS CHANGES: Charles Lesley, 455½ 7th Ave, Salt Lake City, Utah. Ray Genet, Box 48, Anc 99501, ph 272-2966. Bill Babcock family, 3803 Barbara Dr, 99503, hm ph 277-4933, wk ph 272-7844.

\*\*\*

South East Alaska Mountaineering Association members are going great guns on write-ups of trails and hikes in the Ketchikan area for 100 Wilderness Routes in Alaska, according to the February SEAMA Bulletin.

\*\*\*

NEW & NEWLY PAID UP MEMBERS: Rod Perry, Box 555, Anc (res: Abbott Loop), hm ph 344-2009; Phil Stockhausen, 4302 Cope St, #5, Anc 99503, hm ph 272-2846, wk ph 277-7671; Chet Zenone, USGS, 218 E. St, Anc, (res: c/o Anch Inn) wk ph 277-5526; Stephen F. O'Brien, 524th Ord. Co, 4th Missile Btn, Ft Rich, wk ph 862-2216; Ward Hulbert, 1840 W. No. Lights, Anc (res 6926 Town & Country Dr), hm ph 344-1605, wk ph 272-8032; Howard J. Hunt, Box 4045, Anc (res: 6924 E.6th) hm ph 333-5714, wk ph 272-5561, ext 621; Jeb Schenck, Rt 1, Powell, Ohio 43065; Don Stockard, Bill Babcock & family.

\*\*\*

Appalachian Mountain Club is planning their annual range hike in the White Mts of New Hampshire for July 13-21, 1968.

\*\*\*

American Alpine Club News (January) note: "Boyd Everett's proposed K-2 expedition was granted sponsorship for 1968 which may be renewed for 1969, subject to the Council's approval."

\*\*\*

Dave Johnston is due back from the farthest south any minute.

\*\*\*

MCA membership dues: adult membership, \$5.00; junior membership (under 18), \$2.50; family membership, \$7.50; out-of-town (over 50 miles from Anchorage), \$2.50.

\*\*\*

It's about time for another membership list to accompany April or May Scree. Send address and phone changes to Box 4-964, Anc 99503.

\*\*\*

...The stuff you'd never know if you didn't read publications from elsewhere! The Rescue Rucksack, published by the Tacoma Unit, Mountain Rescue Council, included the following in the February issue: "THERE IS A SAFE DRUG WHICH KILLS PAIN ALMOST INSTANTLY, PREVENTS INFECTION, HELPS CONTROL BLEEDING, AND COSTS ALMOST NOTHING! So reads the title of a brochure recently passed on to us. The drug? An ice cube! The article was condensed from an article by Herbert L. Harschansohn, M.D. in Pacific Coast Fire Journal and we'll condense it further (and Scree staff even more...).

cont.

'A powerful anesthetic, it has been used for certain major surgery while the patients are awake. No anesthetic after-effects or drowsiness is experienced...For a sliver in a sensitive fingertip, put the tip on ice until numb and lift the sliver-out painlessly with a needle sterilized in a match flame...Put a burned finger in cold water in which an ice cube or two has been placed. Or, apply ice directly over the burn until the sting is no longer felt when the cube is removed. There will be very little swelling and blisters won't appear, so the burn will heal more rapidly. You can apply your favorite burn preparation after the pain has subsided...Ice stops bleeding--not only visible but under the skin from a bruise as well. Black and blue discoloration is due to caking of blood from torn blood vessels. Ice constricts, so there is less leakage until clotting takes place. This means less discoloration, swelling, damage to surrounding tissues, and less pain...Ice helps prevent infection. Any refrigerated part of the body is not likely to become infected, even if contaminated with dirt. Cold keeps germs dormant. A cube against the wound until the doctor arrives practically eliminates the danger of infection...Ice is not dangerous, because it refrigerates the tissues, it does not freeze them. The temperature of the tissues is lowered to between a half to five degrees above freezing. Do not add salt to the ice--this can cause frostbite.'" Q. What effect can it have on heel blisters or a handful of Devil's Club stickers? ...

\*\*\*

Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
 Box 2037  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Second Class