

# SCREE



monthly publication of  
MOUNTAIN CLIMBING CLUB OF ALASKA  
Box 2037 Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
EDITOR: Van Hoeman, 2500 Glenwood, 99504

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March 1969

MARCH MEETING: Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd & Eagle, Monday 10 March, 8:00 p.m.  
Slide presentation of 30 Hikes by various members. Anyone wishing to contribute slides contact Karen Courtright, 272-3803.

TRIP SCHEDULE: Due to foul February weather many of last month's climbs have been re-scheduled for March as follows:

8 March GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN 6450... Leave Safeway parking lot, 9th & Gambell 6:00 am. Beautiful drive on good highway to nearly 3000 feet, easy snow hike in good cold interior conditions 2 miles to summit. Spectacular views of Chugach, Talkeetna, Alaska, and Wrangell Ranges. Sheep and caribou are often seen. GAYLE NIENHEUSER 277-9330.

15 March BYRON PEAK 4750... Leave Sears parking lot 6:00 am Bring rope for every 3 climbers, sling, caribiner, prussics, Crampons, skis or "fast snowshoes". Good physical condition assumed. BOB SPURR 272-8330.

22 March KICKSTEP MOUNTAIN 4660... A leader is needed for this delightful long-one or easy two-day climb with beautiful brushless 4-mile approach up Tincan Creek on really deep snow. If interested, call Bob Spurr 272-8330.

29 March EXPLORER GLACIER AND PEAK 3550... Leave Sears parking lot on Seward Highway 6:00 am Saturday, bring rope, sling, caribiner, prussics, crampons, ice axe. From the Portage Road climb westernmost glacier to saddle at 3000 and short W ridge to summit. A good introduction to glaciers. CLARKE STOCKWELL 279-1215 weekdays.

## 5 April OPEN DATE

12 April WINNER CREEK Valley Ski Tour. From Alyeska's Winner Creek Ski Trail, ski up the valley possibly to Berry Pass, elevation 1950 connecting to the upper Twentymile River valley. Possible climbs depending on conditions. JIM LETHCOE 272-4401.

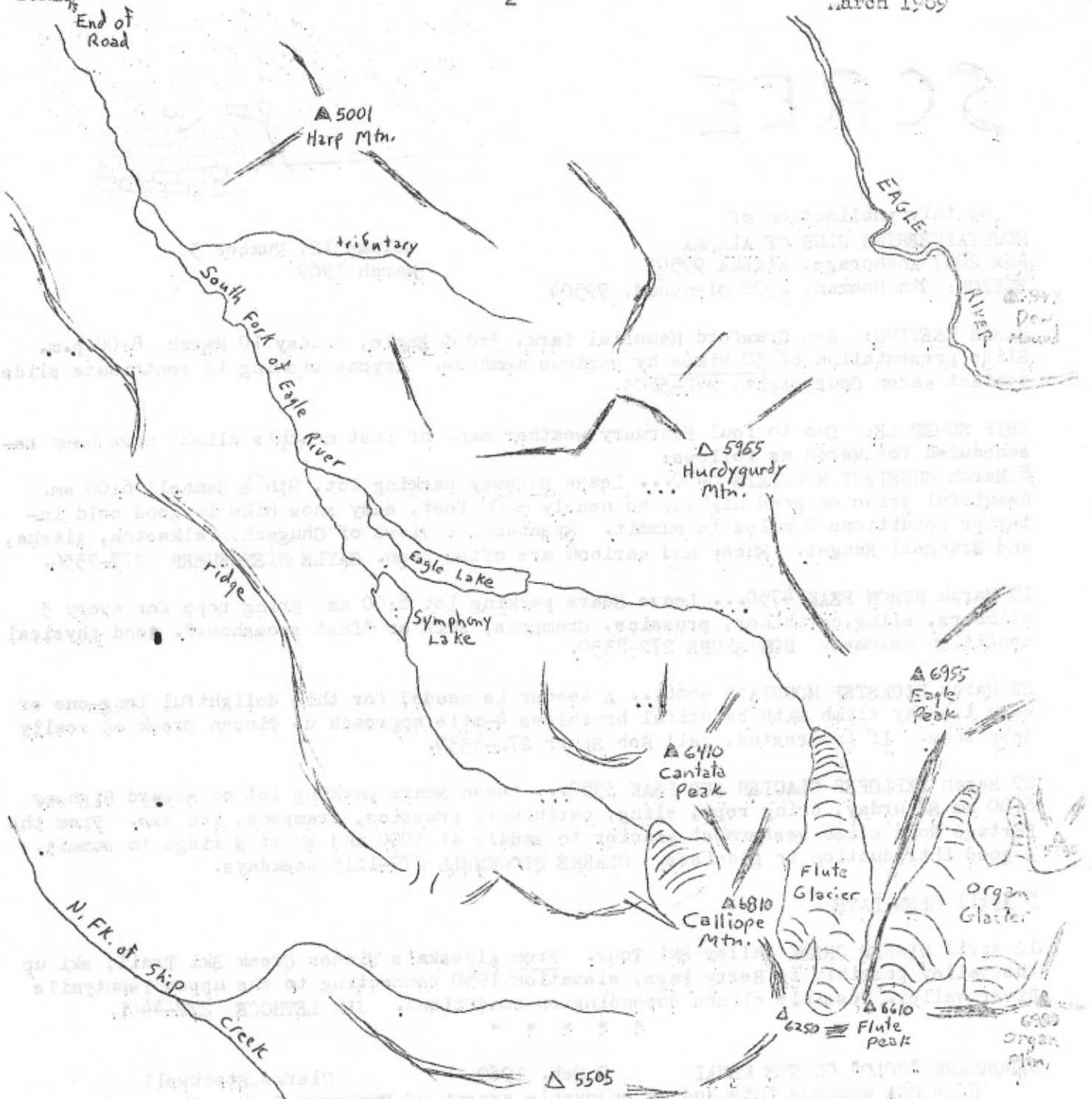
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## BENCHMARK "COLO" ON THE KENAI 9 Feb. 1969 Clarke Stockwell

Nine MCA members intended an enjoyable ascent of Explorer Peak. The weather gods proclaimed otherwise and provided a very heavy snowstorm to prove their point. Because conditions were anything but acceptable, a lesser objective was considered over a few cups of coffee at Portage. Three members, Jim and Nancy Lethcoe and Coral Loy, decided to make a ski tour, while Gayle Nierheuser, Larry Swanson, Lottie Kramer, Peter Vlasveld, and Clarke Stockwell, with the capable leadership of Bob Spurr set off to climb one of the "foothills" near Summit Lake Lodge.

The group started up eastern slopes of a large hill half a mile NW of Summit Lake. Gusty winds and occasional near whiteout conditions were a bit discouraging, but 2 hours and 3200 vertical feet later the top at the USGS benchmark "COLO" at elevation 4539 was reached.

A rapid descent was made back to the skis and snowshoes. One member did a variation during the descent and provided himself with a little extra exercise by mushing through waist-deep snow. After a quick cup of coffee, the group headed toward Anchorage. Everyone had an enjoyable day and added another new experience to their lives.



Peaks at the head of the South Fork of Eagle River  
 see 30 Hikes in Alaska, numbers 9 and 10

The first day of our stay at the head of the South Fork of Eagle River was a bit disappointing, but 2 hours and 30 minutes later the top of the USSR was reached at elevation 6500. A rapid descent was made back to the ski and snowshoes. One member did a very low during the descent and provided himself with a little extra exertion by making through what was then a quick cut off. The group headed toward the Flute Glacier on a very dry and cold day and added another few experiences to their list.

FLUTE PEAK 6610 and Point 6295 on Organ Mtn.

Hans R. Van der Laan

Some weekend in July 1968 (can't remember which one) For the glacier draining into Eagle Lake and the peak at its head I would like to submit the name "Flute". This name fits well with the musical theme followed by other features in the area and it reflects the music which abounded there during the summer of 1968 as both members of the glacier research team headed by Dr. William B. Long were flutists. (The state has approved this name for the glacier - ed.) On Friday evening I drove up the road along the South Fork of Eagle River to its end. Then a pleasant but wet hike along the river brought me to Eagle Lake at 9:00 pm where I was met by my brother Rolf. He ferried us to the other end of the lake in a motor-boat and we hiked the mile to the camp that was set up for the glacier research project. Next morning we hiked the trail that was a daily trip for my brother up to the glacier taking several stream readings along the way. Up the glacier, across a bergshroud, and we started up a steep snow tongue which seemed to lead close to the peak. We decided to get off the snow onto the rock to the right as it appeared to have enough ledges and was quite solid for the Chugach, seemingly offering an easier route. Wrong assumption. The ledges sloped outward steeply at first, then ran out altogether. It took us several hours to convince ourselves we had the wrong approach, but we finally returned to the snow tongue. The steepness of the snow was not as severe as it had at first appeared and we attained the ridge just south of the peak without further incident a short scramble bringing us to the summit. Rather restricted view because of fog. We then dropped down to the glacier NE of the peak, found a level spot and made camp.

We had planned on going after Polar Bear the next day, but because of a later than planned start we switched our attention to Point 6295 about half a mile NE of Organ. We ascended it by its wide NE gully, the rock on that side being some of the worst I've encountered in the Chugach, but, as there was no exposure problem, it was bothersome, not dangerous. The last section along the ridge became exposed, but the rock there was much better quality. A warm sunny hour with good views was spent before starting the long trip back. No records of previous ascents were found on either summit. We crossed to Flute Glacier by the 5550 col between Point 5860 and Flute Peak, used the boat again on Eagle Lake and reached the car as it was turning dark at 10:00 pm.

SCOTT PEAK 8828 in Mt. McKinley National Park Hans R. Van der Laan had on Scott Peak is an excellent two or three day climb combining creek-bed hiking, glacier walking, route-finding through crevassed areas, and moderate ice slopes with superb views of the Muldrow Glacier and Mount McKinley. My brother Rolf and I left Eielson Visitor Center late the afternoon of September 1st 1968 and went south along Thorofare River. We camped after a few miles under skies that were not too promising, but the next two days were perfectly clear and warm. Several more miles of hiking brought us to the snout of Sunset Glacier. We kept along the outside part of the curve on the southern branch and headed east with no difficulty until we reached the first large icefall where we made a judgement error. We should have stayed along the southern edge of the glacier, but instead we chose the center as it seemed the shorter and more direct route, and as a result we were soon in a maze of transverse crevasses. We spent much time working around these obstacles and then up the slope toward the col on the south ridge of the peak. We decided to camp below the col at about 7100 feet. The next morning under a completely blue sky we spent about two hours gaining the summit, making occasional stops to look behind us at McKinley. We basked in the sun, ate lunch, and retraced our steps back to Eielson that evening.

(Scott Peak is highest for 10 miles in any direction, was called "Silver Twins" "Peak C" and "Utah Peak" in the literature before Ito and Washburn named it for Gordon Scott who was killed in the USGS mapping program of 1953. It had been attempted by a party of Iowa Mountaineers led by SJ Bert in 1951 and was first climbed by D. Bernays, IN Korner and MS Wood 8 August 1952. The Van der Laans' ascent appears to be the 10th and the first in September, the period in which all ascents have been made being 26 June to 3 September. Their ascent was the same as the first ascent route, the other commonly used route being the NW ridge - ed.)



## NAMES continued

Mount Silvertip east of the Richardson Highway has also finally won out officially over "Black Warrior".

Approved by the State Geographic Board and expected shortly to be in the federal lists are Mount Ascension, Truili Glacier and Creek, Bard Peak, Hideout Hill & Mystery Hills on the Kenai, Flute Glacier, Harp Mtn, Hurdygurdy Mtn. and Calliope Mtn (formerly Icy Peak) at the head of the South Fork of Eagle River (see map p.2), Sovereign Mtn (the highpoint of the Talkeetnas), Mt. Thor (formerly Willard Gibbs), and Baumann Bump (formerly Maxes Mountain).

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## ODDINGS and ENDINGS

Wayne and Cindy Merry are leaving Alaska and the park service to return to Yosemite in April. We have enjoyed their company as Alaskans since 1965 and are sorry to see it end.

Dave and Sal Johnston have sent cards from Turkey, Amsterdam, and Iceland. They may well be wed and in New Jersey by now. Circumnavigation almost complete.

Ned Lewis tells of a climb 11 February (Japan time) with two Japanese friends of Kisokoma-ga-take 9223, in the Central Japan Alps experiencing high winds, wet snow, and some strenuous cramponing. They stayed in hut. 5 nights and visited several other named summits in the area also.

V&G Hoeman made the first winter ascent of Knoya 4650 on 16 Feb. accompanied by three Irish Setters from Stuckagain Heights who joined the party en route and gave brief chase to three foxes surprised above timberline on Knoya's SW ridge.

A winter ascent of Castle Mountain 5530, was attempted by MCA members 1-2 March, but the route attempted (from the SE) has not been done even in summer and that conglomerate rock has no cracks for pitons.

Dan Osborne, Tom Kensler, and Sam Corbin, members of Alaska Alpine Club, made the first ascent of what they named "Bivouac Peak" 7708 eight miles west of the Richardson Hwy. crossing of Miller Creek on 16 Feb. Their route was via the unnamed drainage NE of the mountain to the east ridge.

Robert G. Henderson of Anchorage appears to be the only member of the party that made the first ascent of Bold Peak on 20 July 1947 who is still in Alaska. The party also included Gene Brady, Capt. Jack Easley, Charles Hightower (1922-59), and Wayne Jacobs we know from the summit register. Mr. Henderson was called last month for additional details. He said there had been an attempt on the mountain earlier by military personnel and that was what led directly to this climb. Easley (of 10th Rescue Unit) and Hightower were the leaders and had had prior climbing experience. They went up Eklutna Lake by boat, camped near the 4850 NE col and paralleled east of the NE ridge, this being the standard route followed by all but one of the seven parties that have since succeeded on Bold. This climb was important as it was the first of the 14 independent mountains over 7000 in the Western Chugach to be climbed and remained the only one climbed until 1959 when Bashful fell, Bold having been climbed three times by then. Mr. Henderson has climbed no other mountains except a few hills near Spokane, Washington in his youth.

Our Fairbanks member, Hank Noldan led an attempt on Mount Kimball the last week in February, perhaps from Slate Creek as this party is said to "have hardly got on ... Pitfall Glacier".

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The distribution staff for this issue of SCREE is Carol DeVoe and Joanne Merrick. The publication needs additional typists with stencil experience and suitable typewriters. To volunteer call the editor at 277-7871.

March 1969

SCREE

EDITORIAL POLICY - Foreign Contributions

SCREE is an Alaskan publication with plenty of material to fill its space dealing with the mountains of the Alaskan area. We welcome material from wherever in the wide world our members happen to be, but brevity or relationship to Alaskan mountaineering are the key to getting them published in SCREE.

The Alaskan area is considered to be our state plus adjacent parts of Yukon and British Columbia, but a contribution from NE Siberia or Kamchatca (in English) would certainly not be turned down, so the goal is more to publish mountain material that is not available in better form elsewhere.

Historical Contributions

The history of any human activity is easily lost and often irrecoverably so with the passage of the persons who made it. For instance, what became of sourdoughs Pete Anderson, Billy Taylor, Martin Nash, Miles Atkinson, John Barrett, Billy Soule, and many others who pioneered our mountains? We only assume they are dead and any scrap of unrecorded information about them would be welcome.

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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Box 2037  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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