



SCREE

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August 1967

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

EVENTS TO COME

AUGUST MEETING...What could be more timely and appropriate than a word-and-picture treatment of the MCA McKinley Expedition as fare at the August MCA meeting! With slides taken by Gayle Nienhueser and John Ireton and commentary by them and any other available members of the group, the program should make a full and lively evening. Willow Park Community Hall, 9th and Fairbanks, 8 p.m., August 21.

KIDS' HIKE, RABBIT LAKE, Saturday, August 19. For the whole family--get the kids out of the house and into the hills!
Leader: CAROL DEVOE, Phone 333-5492.

MONTANA PEAK, Saturday through Monday, September 2-3-4. Long strenuous climb. Glacier experience required. First night camp should be made on rock-covered slopes near the Bartolf Creek Glacier at 4500'. Second day is up a broken glacier, a steep step onto the summit ramp. Two cols must be crossed to reach base camp. Excellent physical condition required. A rewarding mixed climb on ice and granite. Leader: JOHN IRETON, phone 272-5129.

MT. VIGOR (or Beyers Peak or Byers Peak or Matanuska Matterhorn!) Sunday, August 27. Long climb up good trail and easy ridge. Views of the Northern Chugach, Pioneer Peak, and Knik Glacier.
Leader: GARY HANSEN, Phone 272-1145.

THE SUICIDES (I & II), Sunday, September 17. Long one-day climb, five-mile hike in. Up couloir on Suicide I; traverse over Windy Gap to Suicide II; rope up for short distance. Descend down couloir of Suicide II. Leader: LEO HANNAN, phone 277-4748. (note: this climb is subject to change as leader is tentative--call well before scheduled date.)

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, August 8, was concerned mainly with the cabin problem--building a new one and doing needed maintenance work on Pichler's Perch above Eklutna Glacier. Despite numerous "ifs" and unpredictable variables like weather, the committee decided (1) to spend \$100 on fixing up the Eklutna cabin, and (2) to buy materials now for the new cabin and move them to the cabin site in October, depending on transportation, storage, and manpower "ifs." The group also extended the hiking and climbing schedule into the fall and winter months, with leaders and exact dates to be confirmed soon so that the complete schedule can be published with September Scree.

Thirty Hikes in Alaska--Western Chugach, Talkeetna, Kenai will be available at meetings for \$2.25 to members or by mail (Box 2037, Anchorage 99501) at the same price. Nonmember price is \$2.50, plus \$1.00 if by mail.

NEW ROUTE, TRAVERSE - MT LOGAN, CANADA

Vin Hoeman

Mt. Logan is North America's largest single mountain, having a plateau 13 miles long at over 15,000 feet. Mt. McKinley, by comparison, measures only 7 miles between 15,000-foot extremities. Mt. Logan is the center of the largest ice mass outside Greenland and the polar ice-caps, these glacier systems of the St. Elias Mountains extending unbroken for over 300 miles from the Alsek River of British Columbia to our Copper River and the tributaries of the Tanana and Yukon.

No one has found the time and energy to do a true "Grand Traverse" of the St. Elias Range from civilization on one side to civilization on the other by way of its highest point, but we felt called to do the finest part, a lengthwise traverse of the Logan massif.

Alex Bittenbinder, Dave Shaw, and Ed Ward flew to 6500' on the Hubbard Glacier from Lake Kluane on 5 July. Meanwhile, I joined Will Harrison in waiting for flying weather at Jack Wilson's Crystal Creek home-stand. On the 8th we flew in and followed wands to our companions, finding that they had fixed ropes to get on the East Ridge from the south. However, Will and I had become obsessed with desire to do a new route, the ESE Ridge, which we christened "Hubsew" because it divides Hubbard and Seward Glaciers, so the following day we left our friends to relay supplies up the East Ridge while we carried heavy loads onto this unclimbed ridge. Storms dumped fresh snow deeply upon us, making it a difficult and dangerous week before we rejoined our companions at the edge of the 15,000-foot plateau where the two ridges come together. Once I avalanched 150 feet on a lead, Will's belay being barely able to stop me with the weight of snow behind me to keep us both from a quick trip to the Seward Glacier and a long ride at its rate to the sea. The East Ridge had been much easier and one more relay on its upper part gave us enough supplies to proceed.

The evening of the 16th saw us camped on the col between the East Peak and the sharp Southeast Summit (ca. 17,900) which Alex and I cramponed up for a first ascent. The following day we moved camp to 18,000' on the SE Ridge of the East Peak (19,750) and all of us made the 6th ascent of this major summit by that ridge in a partial white-out that afternoon. After a storm day we traversed the southern slopes of the East Peak, through the pass between it and the main summit, and climbed to Canada's highpoint from the northwest in the evening, seeing the party that had made the first ascent of the NE Ridge reach the East Peak simultaneously. They started across our way but turned back after setting off a big avalanche. We were the only party and Will the only Canadian to reach the Central Peak, 19,850', in this their centennial year. The bamboo pole from the 4th ascent in 1959 still protrudes from the snow. A terrific storm held us in two camps near 19,000 until the 25th, although on the 24th, Dave and I managed to climb the West Peak, 19,800. We tried to move once when our two 2-man tents seemed unbearable, but in a few hundred yards, they seemed a comparative paradise, and we hastily re-erected them. We hoped McKinley climbers were having better weather, but, in fact, 7 were dying at this time and elevation in similar conditions there.

Finally we were able to push on to the Physiology Camp at 17,200 where Barry Bishop and 4 others were just completing what they hope will be a permanent building for scientific work in future years. That afternoon I climbed the highest of Logan's far-western summits (ca. 18,750) and on the 27th, we crossed to the southern side of these summits to drop down to King Trench. Just above King Col, Alex fell 45 feet into a crevasse, but was able to jumar out in less than an hour with only the loss of his goggles, although diarrhea had dealt him a foul blow, and he had to discard some clothing.

Our air-supply of food, a Sella Cache, was not locatable under much fresh snow, so we cut our rations till the 30th, when the plane was able to pick us up at 9100' on the Quintino Sella Glacier.

LYNX PEAK, 6536', Third Ascent August 6, 1967 Bob Spurr

Finally there were nine of us who left Snowbird Mine early on a Sunday morning to begin the 4-mile trek to Peak 6536'. (Commonly known as Lynx Peak, this was rejected by the Board of Geographic Names, and the name Jinx was recently re-submitted.) Despite light rain, a bright horizon over the Talkeetnas lured us to depart Anchorage at 4 a.m. Hans had sped out of the Safeway parking lot in his German jeep, promising to un-sack Dave Johnston, who himself persuaded Lloyd Price, Yosemite climber and member of the highly successful Western States McKinley Expedition, to join us.

My impressions of the Lynx, formed during an abortive late September attempt on Montana Peak, were mostly of snow and ice; as it developed later, the crampons most of us carried were superfluous weight. Our route to Upper Reed Lake followed the line as described in Thirty Hikes in Alaska. The weather held, and the terrain so inspired (no pun intended) Lloyd that he left us to solo the south face of Liar Spire, the 5750' gendarme to the east of Higher Spire, 6135'. We continued to the col above Spire Pass to gain the northwest ridge of Lynx. Easy scrambling on granite slabs and boulders over the remaining 1000 vertical feet put us atop the summit. Register signers were April Allen, Dave Johnston, Lottie Kramer, Louise Rydell, Hans Van der Laan, Peter Vlasveld, myself, and finally Lloyd Price, who rejoined us on the summit. Following an hour of feasting eyes and mouths, we made a leisurely descent, the peak in the bag.

100 WILDERNESS ROUTES IN ALASKA

Helen Wolfe

Now that Thirty Hikes in Alaska is an accomplished fact, the Seattle Mountaineers have an even more ambitious project in mind--to be titled something like 100 Wilderness Routes in Alaska. They have asked the Alaska Conservation Society to be co-publishers, and Ginny Wood, member of ACS and a co-owner of Camp Denali near McKinley Park, to be editor and coordinator. Ginny has asked me to be coordinator for the Anchorage area. The 100 Wilderness Routes in Alaska will have a format similar to 100 Hikes in Western Washington, a 7 x 8 1/2 in. glossy paged paperback. There will be a description and map of each route as in Thirty Hikes, but in this case, there will also be a black and white photograph of each route or area. The book will include canoeing routes and cross-country ski trails as well as hikes. Also included will be trips from takeoff points accessible only by plane or boat.

Thirty Hikes will be updated and reprinted in the future. We will duplicate some of the more popular hikes listed in Thirty Hikes but will try to add some new ones too, such as Girdwood to Eagle River, Bird Creek Ridge, and O'Malley Peak.

We have two years to work on this project, but that means less than 1 1/2 summers now. We need help! If you have a favorite trip, here or elsewhere in Alaska, that you'd like to see included, contact me at Box 1572, Anchorage, or Callie Van der Laan at 1601 F St (ph 277-4251). We'll send you a data sheet on which to outline your trip. If you have additions or corrections to make to the information given in Thirty Hikes, please contact one of us.

Most especially, we need help on photographs. We hope there will be compensation (money) involved in this. We want quality black and white photos submitted for consideration; they should be good, sharp, 8 x 10 inch glossy enlargements. Submit photos of any of the hikes listed in Thirty Hikes or of any other trip worthy of inclusion, just as long as you fill out a data sheet to go with it. Final decision on which trips to include will not be made for some months. If you have good color photographs of any of these trips, we may be able to use them, but not slides. Photos may be of the view from the hike, of part of the terrain through which you pass, of the mountain you are climbing, of particular attractions (e.g. wildlife) to be seen often on a route. Watch future Scree issues for information about payment.

MISCELLANIE

En route from a southeast to north traverse of The Pinnacle on July 11, Bill Hauser, Hugh and Bob Spurr built a large, weatherproof cairn on the summit. A register left by the MCA McKinley group was found and duly deposited in the cairn, but the old register has disappeared. ...A week later, while atop "The Needle", southern neighbor to The Pinnacle, Hugh and Bob found a rusted-out register with names, dated 1938, 1940.

A joint venture of Harvard Mountaineering Club, Mountaineering Club of Alaska, and Vulgarian Mountain Club members attempted the Grand Teton, 13,500', in July. MCA members participating were Karen Courtright and Callie van der Laan, who reported that bad weather ended the attempt at approximately 12,200'.

NEW & NEWLY PAID UP MCA MEMBERS: Charles Lesley, 31 Gray Ave, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mary Jean Dawson, 1200 L St, #906 Inlet Towers, Anchorage (ph: 272-9013); Margaret Wherritt, 1685 Stanton Court, Anchorage (ph: 272-7319); John Samuelson, Box 2222, (res: 1241 Redwood Court), Anchorage (ph: 277-2328); Mary A MacKenzie, 3101 Willow, Anchorage; Borwen L. Courtney, 730 Ash Place, Anchorage (ph: 272-1775); Bill Stivers & family, 4107 North Star Dr, Anchorage; Ann Wheaton, Inlet Towers #609, 1200 L St, Anchorage (ph: 272-9013); Richard E Dandremond, HHCO-Ft Rich, Ft Richardson; Fred Flanders, Box 2129, Kodiak, Alaska.

Correction to June Scree: The PNA plane crash mentioned in the Mt Gannett article occurred on Mt Gilbert rather than Gannett in June '60.

As the Crow Flies...On the afternoon of August 5, Grace & Vin Hoeman packed in to Crow's Nest and that evening climbed Jewell and Summit Mts, placing a register on Jewell. The next morning, they went to the head of Crow Glacier and made a 2nd ascent of Crow Peak, 5950', by a new route, the South Ridge. These climbs were made in rather unpleasant conditions on wet rock. Vin climbed Barnes Mtn, 3820' on August 9, built a cairn, and left a register on the earthquake-shattered summit.

On July 13, Bill Hauser flew to the Alps en route to Africa. After viewing the Eiger from Grindelwald, Bill traveled to Zermatt, where he climbed the Matterhorn on July 19 with Graven Sepp in very good time. From there, Bill flew to Nairobi to meet Kyle Atkins to form the Alaskan African Expedition.

The new Dictionary of Alaska Place Names (USGS Professional Paper 567) is out and contains 36 names submitted by MCA and a couple of others submitted personally by MCA members. It has 1084 numbered pages and sells for \$8.50. Errors appear to be relatively few. (V.H.)

ADDRESS CHANGES: Nick Parker, Rm 338 Slocum Hall, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo; Bill Davis, P.O. Box 115 University Station, Seattle, Wash. 98105 (He and Nancy are on a year's leave from AMU... on a fellowship at the U of Wash); Bob Spurr's phone number (AMU) has been incorrectly listed--it should be 272-4401. Work phone for Scree editor Marie Lundstrom will be 344-1535 (Dimond High) as of August 30 (leave message only unless drastic).

All five members--Bill Babcock, leader, Jeff Babcock, Chet Hackney, John Ireton, and Gayle Nienhueser--of the MCA Summer McKinley Expedition who made the summit attempt on McKinley were able to reach the top, despite the dispiriting discovery of the body of Stephen Taylor of Chicago at the 18,000' level and the subsequent necessity of searching for other members of the Wilcox Expedition summit party, all six of whom apparently died in a severe storm.

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Scree staff: Marie Lundstrom, Callie Van der Laan, Carol DeVoe, Marge Maagoe. Articles on trips or other material to appear in Scree should be sent to Marie Lundstrom, Box 4-964, Anchorage 99503, left at 1603 33rd Pl, Penard (upstairs in yellow mailbox), or call 277-0846 (home) or 344-1535 (work--leave message).

Traveling MCA-ers Note...Callie Van der Laan reports that lodging is available for \$1.00 per night at the Alpine Club of Canada lodge in Banff, Alberta. Lodge is located on the Sulphur Mt Road. A Climber's Kitchen is available.

Helen Wolfe and Marie Lundstrom are attempting to get an index of Screes put together for inclusion in the bound volumes, whenever they are ready to be done.

MCA-er April Allen has been named editor of the Oregon State University Mountain Club newspaper, The Local Yodel, and she reports that there is so much enthusiasm among OSU Mt Club climbers that she expects to be able to publish a Local Yodel each month during the coming school year. She hopes to exchange a Yodel for a Scree on a one-for-one basis.

Helga Bading, still at the Alpine Hut in Seattle, writes..."Been reading and enjoying Scree as ever. The MCA is really active...and getting things climbed. - In the June issue of Scree appeared a reprint of a letter which George Herben sent (apparently) to the Times, 'In Defense of Mountain Climbs.' There is a remark in it that says, 'We don't know the author, but felt the letter deserves wider circulation.' - I know George Herben reasonably well. In 1960 when six of us climbed Mt Spurr, a small floatplane circled overhead just as we descended from the summit. It later turned out that George Herben was in it, taking pictures of us for his own satisfaction. George is an excellent photographer, and all of us later bought enlargements of several of the shots he had taken. I believe George is one of those who attempted to climb Mt Spurr by a different route several years before we did. I believe he was with Ernie Baumann (now dead) at that time, but I may be wrong. George worked on Elmendorf in 1960 and was later transferred to the East. I saw him again in 1964 when he was visiting and stayed with Steve McCutcheon (of Mac's Photo). Gregg Erickson and Erik Barnes both met George in 1960. Thought you people might like to know who he is. - Things are well down here. Mountains are being climbed "en-masse." I went to British Columbia for a spell--heavenly way to escape the mountaineering crowds. Good 10,000 ft mountains. Best wishes to everyone."

Vin Hoeman is leading an exploratory climb of Mt McKinley to search for other bodies of the lost Wilcox Expedition summit teams and to try to determine what happened to them. He hopes to recover diaries and exposed film and to bury the men on the mountain. Besides Stephen Taylor, who was found by the MCA Summer McKinley Expedition (who also discovered two other unidentified bodies), the six summit climbers whom Vin hopes to find and identify were Jerry Clark, Mark McLaughlin, and John Russell, of Eugene, Ore; Henry Janes, Lafayette, Ind. and Portland, Ore; Dennis Luchterhand, Scarsdale, N.Y.; and Walter Taylor, Lafayette, Ind. Accompanying Vin will be Grace Hoeman, Pete Robinson, and three others. Leaving Anchorage August 16, the group planned to fly with Don Sheldon to the 10,200 ft level on Kahiltna Pass and ascend the mountain via the Kahiltna Glacier-West Buttress Route. From the summit, they plan to descend along the route followed by the Wilcox party.

Hopefully, a new MCA membership list will be published with the September Scree...at least by October! Any wrong addresses, name spellings, and phone numbers in the April list and in later Screes should be called to the attention of Scree staff soon.
