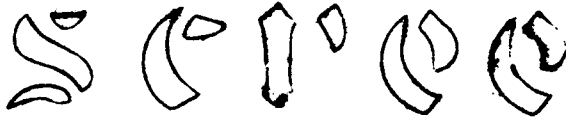


(see article on "Kanchee")



Vol. 9, No. 11
September 1967

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

EVENTS TO COME

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Willow Park Community Center, 9th and Fairbanks, September 18, 8 p.m. One person only has visited the tops of all fifty states. At the coming meeting Vin Hoeman will describe his experiences on the gamut of hills and mountains from Florida's Britton Hill, elevation 325, to our own Denali, the talk being illustrated with a varied selection of slides.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday, September 15, at Bob Hansen's house, 2080 Dimond Parkway in Wickersham Park. One topic of discussion will be the proposed plans for Mt McKinley National Park, which include a footbridge across the McKinley River. All interested persons please attend.

MCA's Annual Meetin comes up October 16, at which the main business will be election of officers for the new year. The Nominating Committee (Bill Hague (chairman), Joanne Merrick, Tony Bockstahler, and Marie Lundstrom) will meet between now and then to arrive at a list of suitable and willing officer candidates. (Call them to make suggestions and to indicate interest and availability. They may also call you!) Nominations may also be made from the floor. Members may vote only if their dues are paid for the coming year. New members who have joined since August 1, 1967, have a two-month membership bonus and are paid up until October 1968. Old members who want to vote should pay up in September or plan to come to the October meeting with checks or cash in hand ... the MCA treasurer and/or his representative will be available at the door.
Dues: single adult membership, \$5.00; family membership, \$7.50; junior membership (under 18), \$2.50; out-of-town (over 50 miles from Anchorage), \$2.50.

HIKES AND CLIMBS: see new schedule in this issue.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

The Executive Committee Meeting held September 5th dealt mostly with cabins: the Eklutna cabin will have felt under tar paper or aluminum roofing (partially completed this past weekend by a work party); materials for the new cabin will be ordered this month and can be stored with Tony Bockstahler who also will cut everything up properly. Climbing schedule will be available this month. Nominating Committee members were selected to choose officer candidates for voting at October Annual Meeting. Members of committee are Bill Hague, Joanne Merrick, Tony Bockstahler, and Marie Lundstrom.

September 1967

"KANCHEE", 4310'
USGS Anchorage A-7, Chugach

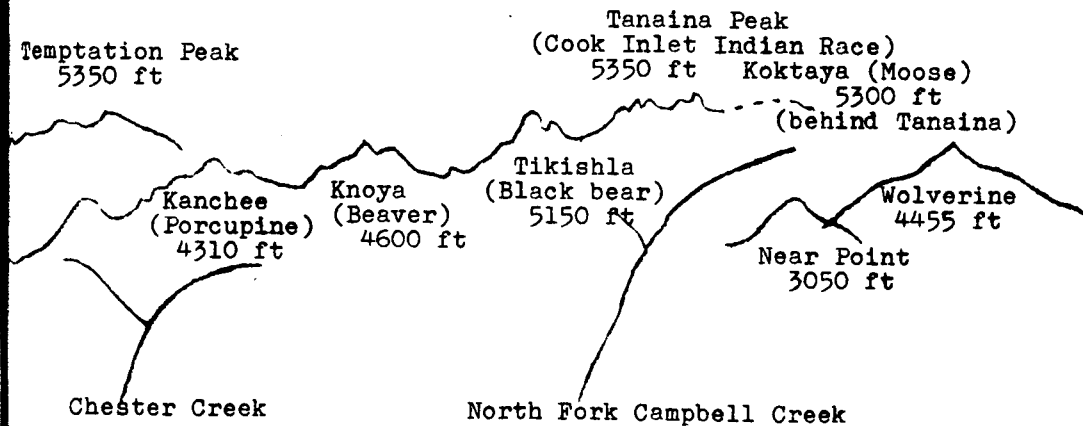
August 27, 1967

Rod Wilson

"Kanchee" is one of the skyline peaks visible from Anchorage. It is the first major point on the long northwest to southeast ridge between two major watersheds which leads back to the high point Tanaina Peak, 5350 ft. Perhaps the prominent points along this rugged ridge should not be given names as if they were all separate mountains, except that from town they all look like mountain peaks and will always be goals for hikers. Names for local usage are therefore justified.

We left cars at elevation 400' about 3½ miles from the north end of the Davis Range military road along the foot of the mountains east of Anchorage. A tank trail leaves the road at a birch marked with 3 blazes and heads east up Chester Creek valley. The tank trail soon gives way to a good blazed foot path which goes up to the left of Chester Creek about 2 miles before the blazes more or less peter out. From here one has to pick his way over successive grassy mounds and through trees to gain the upper valley. It is a virtually alder-free route. We camped about 4 miles from the cars at 2400 ft elevation on tundra. The creek was now close by for water and a few trees remained for firewood.

Climbing the peak the next day another 2 miles ahead and 2000 ft up were Cynthia Wilson, age 14, Christine Jacobson, age 15, Ted Shohl, and Rod Wilson. Approach was up to the west face and then up onto the west ridge of the peak. Ropes were not necessary. A new coke can and rude cairn at the top indicated a previous (first?) visitor. A register was left and the cairn improved.



Others going to camp and for varying distances beyond were Rosalie Shohl, Cathy Wilson, Ted Von Hippel, age 5, and Arndt Von Hippel. Many moose and one black bear were seen, and coyotes (?) howled in the night.

References: Knoya: Scree, Vol 8, #1 (Nov 65)
Tikishla: 30 Hikes in Alaska, No. 6
Scree, Vol 8, #11 (Sep 66)
Tanaina: Scree, Vol 8, #11 (Sep 66)

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Scree staff: Marie Lundstrom, Joanne Merrick, Carol DeVoe, Callie van der Laan. Articles on trips and other material to appear in Scree should be sent to Marie Lundstrom, Box 4-964, Anchorage 99503, or call 277-0846 (home).

September 1967
(page 4 before)

MOUNT SENTRY (8849' of
the Talkeetna Mountains)
& four associated peaks

2 - 13 May 1967 Charles A. McLaughlin

AS with most climbs, this one began long before the day when we donned climbing regalia and struggled to swing the much-too-heavy packs onto soon-to-be-sore shoulders. Months before our departure for the Talkeetnas, Vin Hoeman generously offered to this cheechako some suggestion about possible areas for a small expedition. I am deeply thankful to him because the information led to a most memorable interlude in a truly marvelous Alaskan mountain range.

Original plans included a four-man party and a traverse from the southern boundaries of the Talkeetnas to Mount Sentry and back out-- as Vin had suggested. Well, the foursome couldn't be arranged, mainly because the only time R.N. Empson, a veterinary practitioner and close friend from Seattle, and I would be able to do the climb was in early May. Two people traveling that distance on a number of glaciers meant to me that we had to select some other goal, which we did in February--the peaks at the head of Granite Creek.

After many letters, numerous phone calls, and shipment of supplies and maps back and forth, Slim (R. N. Empson) arrived April 28 at throbbing International Airport looking very much like the invading mountain-climbing idiot with Kelty pack, ice ax, and associated paraphernalia. A day and a half of preparation later, we loaded the "Green Gander" (an unaffectionate reference to my '59 4-wheel-drive pickup) to begin the venture in mountaineering. The temperatures for the previous three days had been in the high sixties and seemed to make the beginning of what would surely be a successful trip; however, the brilliant sunlight proved disastrous.

Snow conditions were degenerating so rapidly that even without packs, we could not keep the snowshoes from sinking several inches into the heavy, wet snow; we even attempted packing a trail before shouldering the packs, but the snow just wouldn't hold under the torturing warmth of the sun. We drove back fully prepared to get steadily morose, verbose, and drunk! Slim checked departure flights for a return trip to his busy practice.

Late that afternoon we pored over maps, hoping to salvage Slim's plane ticket. The only area I knew anything about and had maps of was the center of the Talkeetnas. This meant a plane--an unhappy and sometimes even polemic solution. Considerable debate and discussion finally led us to contact Bud Wood in Palmer, who was able to fly Slim and me to Mt. Sentry's base, which we came to call Centennial Glacier.

The scenic grandeur of the azure sky, gleaming white ice river, dazzling snow-covered peaks, and brown rocky ridges was augmented by the awesome silence broken sporadically by urgent grumblings of snow and rock avalanches. Then, as always, I found the tremendous indifference of the mountains toward anything and everything thought-provoking.

Compelling eagerness drove us to prepare hastily and depart quickly for the trudge to the col marking the west end of the west ridge of Sentry. The time was noon. We followed the ridge toward the base of the huge rock buttress, skirting out on to the south slope to traverse to a couloir which led to a notch in the ridge east of the buttress and out on to the hard snow above the impressive northwest face. A finger of Centennial Glacier thrusts itself up this face; an ice fall hangs at the base of the finger. Deplorable snow conditions, surface avalanches, and the clatter of falling rocks make this part of the ascent most tiring. Muscle cramps were plaguing Slim, who had forged most of the trail through the waist-deep mush on the south slope, but the summit didn't appear far off. In fact, from the very beginning, the peak didn't appear nearly as large as it is--an error in judgment, I believe it's called.

Our route continued up the north edge of the ridge: one 160-foot pitch of approximately 50-degree snow, on over the snowy hump, and on to the ramp that led to the last tiring struggle to the summit, which is an ugly rocky projection perched hazardously over the precipitous, ice-covered north face. Our error in judgment gave us an opportunity to photograph a spectacular sunset behind the McKinley Range. The descent was slow, as we were tired and thus being especially cautious, delaying each other most of the way.

Cul de Sac

MOUNT SENTRY, cont. (part on next page)

We finally reached the base of the mountain as it touches the edge of the northern-most thumb of the Talkeetna Glacier. By this time, we were stumbling along in the dark very weary indeed, with stomachs that spoke often of fine things to eat, none of which we had. Winter entertained us with one of her most lively and colorful night-time shows--a spectacular production called Aurora Borealis. I've never seen the Northern Lights so active and beautiful as they were this night!

Round-trip time was 11½ hours; the route not the easiest (we learned later); ten 150-foot pitches were belayed on the ascent; vertical rise was approximately 1500 feet. The climax of our trip was the completion of the climb of Mt. Sentry, so named because of the over-all geologic quality of the mountain and its geographic location where it seems to be the natural watch dog of the mountain ranges and associated valleys so familiar to inhabitants of south central and central Alaska.

With the good luck of seven days of good weather and only four days of bad, plus one day of illness, we were able to ascend to four other summits over 8000 feet (each rather arduous climbs, mainly because of the long walks on the glaciers to get to them) and one rock gendarme. For purposes of record keeping, these include: 1) the 8100+ peak in the cirque in Section 29 R. 5 East, T. 24 North, which we called Cul de Sac Peak...in what else but Cul de Sac Cirque; 2) the southern of the twin peaks in the southeast corner of Section 36 R. 4 East, T. 24 North, which we called South Centennial Peak, as these peaks climb the upper limit of Centennial Glacier; 3) the glacier-covered dome in the north-west corner of Section 6 R. 5 East, T. 23 North, which we called the Snow Dome; 4) the 8517' peak in Section 7 R. 5 East, T. 23 North, which we called Lonely Peak because of its isolated appearance when viewed from the Talkeetna Glacier; and 5) lastly, for pure fun on a sunny day, the gendarme, which we called Punctuation Tower, that marks the end of the long south ridge of Mt. Sentry which was a class four (or low class five if you're feeling cautious) 60-foot climb from the ridge.

Cul de Sac Peak was done via the east face up the second couloir from the east ridge; South Centennial Peak from the east to the saddle; Snow Dome from the north (nice to have had skis for this one); Lonely Peak from the south to the ridge scrambling on rock to the summit; and Punctuation Tower from the ridge up the broken north side.

Our hopes to do more dimmed as we realized the great distances involved in traveling to and from the peaks and the severe limitations a party of two should realize when traveling on broken glaciers in the spring. In fact it was with ecstasy that we boarded the Super Cub for the flight back to the Matanuska Valley, which was being blessed with a most welcome early spring.

100 WILDERNESS ROUTES IN ALASKA

Helen Wolfe

For those interested in helping with pictures for 100 Wilderness Routes in Alaska, we have some specific suggestions. It looks as though this will be a volunteer project, so we are asking that you submit contact sheets or snapshot-size enlargements of black and white photographs. From those submitted, we will choose the photos we wish to use and will then ask for the negatives so that we may enlarge them. In other words, we're trying to keep your expenses down. If you do your own printing, we'll be happy to have 8x10's--otherwise, we'll do them.

If you have a 35mm camera, use Kodak Plus X black and white film. It is slower film but enlarges better. Use a shutter speed no slower than 1/100th of a second without a tripod. A higher shutter speed is preferable. If the light level is low, you can use tri X film, but it will not enlarge as well. Be sure your negatives are developed correctly. If you do your own work, take them to Mac's Photo and request that they develop the negatives themselves. Tell them it's for 100 Wilderness Routes in Alaska. They will do a contact sheet for \$2.50 for either a 36- or 36-exposure film. 35mm is not recommended. A larger size film is better, but most of us have 35mm cameras, and the job can be done with this. If you take color photographs, use 120 or similar size film (2X negative). Anything smaller will not make suitable black and white enlargements. See August Scree for what to take pictures of. Contact Helen Wolfe at Box 1572, Anchorage, or Callie Van der Laan at 277-4251 or 1601 F St. for further information. ***

MISCELLANIE

NEW MEMBERS (Membership good through 1968): 2Lt Duane R. Anderson, HQ&HQ Co, Ft Richardson (Res addr: B0Q57, Ft Rich), (hm ph 863-0459, wk ph 863-2188); Col Richard F Barquist & Mrs Rose Barquist, Hq U S Army Alaska, Surgeon, APO 98749, (Res addr: 113-A Gulkana, Ft Rich), (hm ph 863-7141, wk ph 862-2206); Anna T. Baziak, 1200 L St, #1005, Anch, (hm ph 272-0189, wk ph 277-6551 ext 242); Harry Bludworth, 2705 Denali, Apt 30, Anch (hm ph 272-2775); Winford C. Bludworth Jr, Star Route A, Box 500, Anch, (Res adr: Rabbit Creek Fire Station), (no ph); Clement R & Florence A Grenier & Mark, Thomas, & Stuart, 8138 Pack Ave, Anch (hm ph 333-7851); Evelyn Groomer & son Wayne, 516 N. Klevin St, Anch, (hm ph 277-9940); Betty Woods Hunter, 207 E. Northern Lights (Res adr: 4815 Malibu) (hm ph 272-7428 wk ph 272-7428); Mary A Mackenzie, Ink Arms, 1110 Sixth Ave, #107, Anch, (wk ph 272-8952 or 272-1465); Louise A Rydell, CBQ 1114, Rm 19B, Ft Rich 99505, (hm ph 863-5421, wk ph 863-9215); Michael J. Speshock, Kenner Army Hospital, Ft. Lee, Va; David Wolf, 562 Engr Co (C), Ft Rich, (Res adr: B0Q 55, Ft Rich) (hm ph 864-1243, wk ph 862-0111).

Former MCA president Gregg Erickson and Jan Goddard were married Sept 1 in Anchorage. Gregg is a research assistant in the Institute of Social, Economic, and Government Research at the U of Alaska in College

ASCENT, the Sierra Club Mountaineering Journal, first issue available by mailing \$2.00 to Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California.

THE AVALANCHE ENIGMA, Colin Frazer, Rand McNally & Co., \$6.95, very highly rated in Sierra Club book review section as a well documented account of author's personal experiences with avalanche dangers, technological and scientific developments in avalanche detection and control, and safety measures for the hiker, skier, and naturalist.

1968 Summer Expedition: Bill Babcock will be going out the second weekend of every month on difficult winter climbs, starting in October. Any serious climbers in MCA who are interested are welcome to participate. Purpose will be to select team to climb in St. Elias range next summer. Call Bill Babcock at 272-7844, Mondays and Tuesdays, days.

Gary Hansen will be in Vancouver this winter to study for an advanced degree in architecture at the University of British Columbia, but will commute to Anchorage regularly to maintain his office here. Dave Johnston is soon off to Antarctica where he will be a member of the Ohio State University Research team until March and then on to Nepal for an indefinite period of climbing. A cheerful sendoff was given them at a goodbye party Friday, 8 September, which featured entertainment by the Upper Cook Inlet Bottle Band.

FOR SALE: Eddie Bauer Karakoram down parka, tan, medium size, \$40. Contact Bill Babcock, 272-7844, Nondays and Tuesdays, days.

MOUNTS CAPPS AND MCKINLEY

August 19 - 31

Vin Hocman

The tragedy of July was not wholly unexpected by those who know McKinley well enough to recognize that the potential to destroy a whole party has always been there waiting to line up the party with the storm. However, a research and humanitarian job remained, to find, identify, and bury bodies and attempt to learn how the catastrophe occurred. Six of us flew to 9800 at the head of the Kahiltna 19 August and the following day carried loads to 12,800 near Windy Corner. On the 21st Ray Genet and I returned to 9800 with my wife, Grace, and she and I made the second ascent of Mt Capps, 10,990, by its eastern ridge while Ray sunbathed at camp. Ray and I carried light loads up to Windy Corner that afternoon Sheldon picked Grace up the next morning (as she returned from another climb of Capps) and they airdropped the rest of our food to us at 14,200. Ray and I and the three Seattle Mountain Rescue Council climbers -- Ed Boulton, Chuck Crenshaw and Dick Springgate -- continued up the West Buttress building snow caves for camps, the highest being in Denali Pass at 18,200 the night of the 26th. Ray and I continued down to the 17,900 site of the fated party's highcamp that day, but only found the top inches of a bamboo pole that had projected over eight feet tall a month ago. The camp was said to have been "200 yards" away but probing was futile.

On 27 August, after a night with temperatures as low as minus 25° F. (coldest I

checked on this trip), Ray and I on the first rope, Chuck and Dick on second, headed for the South Peak. We thoroughly glassed the slopes of Archdeacon's Tower on the way and found wands where we believe the victims bivouaced 17 July, as well as one of theirs among the pennants and poles on top. The snow was soft and deep making tedious travel, but Ray and I arrived on top at 1305 hours and spent an hour in very good weather, then went down to comb the northern slope of Archdeacon's Tower carefully. The other rope got to the top about 1600 hours (prior to ours the latest ascent of McKinley in any year had been 5 August). No bodies were found. McKinley has cleansed herself and the immaculate shroud that conceals the remains of F. Jerry Clark, Henry Janes, Dennis Luchterhand, R. Mark McLaughlin, John R. Russell, Stephen A. Taylor, and Walter W. Taylor will soon harden into ice and move, in centuries' time, back to the lowland. We who remember will revere them along with their grand monument.

We returned to 9800 base the 29th, thus completing the climb in ten days, but a storm prohibited our flying out till the 31st.

BACKPACK TRIP FROM HOPE TO COOPER LANDING
July 1, 2, 3, 4

Dave DeVoe

Carrie Lewis
Jim Bruce
Marge Maagoe
Steifen Maagoe
Bill Hauser
Dan Wolfe
Jan Wolfe
Bill Stivers
Jan Stivers
Irma Duncan
Carol DeVoe
Dave DeVoe

