

MOUNTAINCLIMBING CLUB OF ALASKA

SCREE

Editor
Gwyneth Wilson
25 - 8th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska
4-7833

Secretary
Lois Willard
1607 - 14th Avenue
BR 6-8534

Vol. 3, No. 1 October 1960

MEETING, MONDAY NOVEMBER 7

The MCA will meet as usual on the first Monday of November which is the 7th at 8 p.m. in the Willow Park Recreation Hall, 9th and Fairbanks.

At the last meeting, the following officers were elected:

- President: Dr. Rodman Wilson
- Vice-President: Howard Schuck
- Secretary-Treasurer: Lois Willard
- Member of the Board: Hans Metz

Erman Pichler remains on the Board to fill out his term of office.

CLIMBING PROGRAMS by Howard Schuck, Indoor Program Chairman

November Meeting (7 Nov): The Army Group was originally scheduled for the October meeting, but they were called out on mountain maneuvers and had to cancel out. This presentation has been rescheduled for the November meeting. It will consist of movies, slides, and narratives of two extensive expeditions over the glaciers of the Chugach Range.

December Meeting (5 Dec): The program originally scheduled for November has been moved back to the December meeting. This is to be slides of a number of small trips or climbs. Members wishing to show up to 20 slides of any recent outing should give an indication, and the slides, to Howard Schuck prior to 30 November (Call 4- Sk 32115 (duty) or 114 - SK 29448 (home)).

January Meeting (2 Jan): The Mountain Club group which climbed Mt. Spurr last summer will present an illustrated report of this important achievement at the January meeting.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE:

Births: To Bosco Bading on October 3 & 4, 11 (yes, eleven) offspring: 9 girls and 2 boys. Helga has explained that in German all dogs are "he's" which helps this situation considerably.

Bob Bailey has been sick and in the hospital.

The Anchorage Daily News on Friday, October 21, 1960 in an article headlined "Alaska Rescue Group Sets Evacuation Demonstration" stated: "Sunday's session climaxes the study of glacier climbing techniques in which group members have participated throughout the summer. In the transition from summer to winter activities, the group has discontinued the weekly classes in rock climbing which were held each Thursday."
WHOSE classes?!

FROM AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB NEWS: September 30, 1960

Alaska - Adams Carter led a small expedition into the Alaska Range from June to August. Their main objective was to make glaciological studies on the north fork of the Eldridge Glacier, some 20 miles east of Mt. McKinley. They found that the snow in the accumulation basin of the glacier appears to have been building up considerably in the two years since they were in the region last. They managed to take off a couple of days to do some climbing and made the first ascents of several of the lovely peaks of the region. The finest climbs were those of the two 11,000 ft. mountains to the east of Mt. Mather, the higher of which they dubbed the "matherhorn". The other members of the party were the Englishmen, David Atherton and Brian Wilson, and the Americans Douglas Bingham, Thomas Bisbee and Nathaniel Goodhue.

Map of Mount McKinley - A new map of Mt. McKinley by Brad Washburn has been published by the Swiss Federal Institute of Topography. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston 14, Mass. Cost 2.00.

JOHNSON PASS TRAIL Saturday, October 15th by Gwynneth Wilson

Ten hikers (Betty Alleman, Irma and Dave Duncan, Marjorie Prescott, Chris Reidel, Howard and Elinore Schuck, Betsy Tower and Lois Willard) met at 7:30 a.m. at the home of Gwynneth Wilson. They drove in two cars approximately 66 miles toward Seward where the Johnson Pass Trail crosses the highway and is marked with a sign.

The group started hiking about 1/2 mile interior but parallel to the Seward Highway with the highway to the north and some ridges on the south on a jeep road which after a distance peters out in wash-outs caused by the East Fork of 6 Mile Creek. However, there is a clearly defined walking trail which after an hour's hike led to a small settlement of cabins. It was estimated that the distance from the parked cars to this spot was about 3 miles. Since there was evidence that a vehicle had recently been brought from the Seward Highway directly to this site, the MCA party noted that distance could be saved by picking up the Johnson Pass Trail from a work road entering the highway approximately 3 miles nearer Anchorage than the jeep road chosen. This alternate route would necessitate fording the East Fork of 6 Mile Creek.

The hikers continued for another mile or so. During this phase of the trek the previously noted shouting from somewhere in the rear caught up with the group in the person of Louise Voelker who had missed the morning rendezvous. The account of her determined detecting and tracking down of the advance group would make a story in itself. Sufficient to say that the ten early birds were impressed with Louise's scouting abilities.

From maps provided by the most thorough Howard Schuck, always a good man to have along on an expedition, the group decided to make Gleason its goal. Gleason, an old mail trail roadhouse, is in a valley which is perpendicular to the Seward Highway. Since the trail did not seem to terminate quickly in the city limits of Gleason, the hikers stopped on a sunny knoll for lunch.

Not too far beyond the meal stop the trail turned into the valley. It should be noted that Saturday, October 15th was a rare Alaskan fall day. One accurately described as "Sourdough Summer". In hollywoodese this was a production in wide screen, supervista, technicolor wired by nature for sound. The valley was bright and sunny. Though Gleason remained elusive and it was getting late, the group was reluctant to turn back.

The goal was reached! But there was a mystery. We do not know when Gleason was abandoned but there squashed under the collapsed house were pots and pans, family medicine and even a baked cake in a cake pan. The probing was brief but a pan was parloined to be presented to the MCA as a memento of this exploratory trip.

The road back seemed long, as returns at the end of the day can seem. The group got back to the cars with a minimum of scars - a pair of blistered heels and a pulled leg muscle being the score for the day. It was estimated that we walked about ten miles round trip.

It was recommended enthusiastically that the MCA make the exploration of the Kenai trails one of its goals. In regard to the Johnson Pass Trail, it was felt that one or both of two trips be attempted: it seemed feasible to snowshoe the trail on an overnigh_t or during the summer months arrange to divide a party, one half crossing the Trail Lake, one termination of the Johnson Pass Trail, by boat and the other starting from the Seward Highway. The groups would meet for a campout and the exchange of car and boat keys.