

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE ALASKA

No. 2. Vol. 1

NOVEMBER, 1958

MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P. M.

PLEASE COME.

PETER AND HELGA BADING WILL SHOW THEIR SLIDES OF A YEAR SPENT 100 MILES NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. THIS IS A COMPLETE STORY SHOWING HOW TWO GREENHORNS WERE DUMPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WILDERNESS . . . OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL!

LIVING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY HAD BEEN THE BADINGS' DREAM EVER SINCE THEY SET FOOT ON AMERICA'S SOIL IN 1952 AND WHEN THE DREAM CAME TRUE, THEY RECORDED EVERYTHING ON BEAUTIFUL COLOR SLIDES . . . A SHOW CERTAINLY WORTH SEEING.

MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P. M.

SECRETARY, HELGA BADING, WRITES:

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING WAS WELL ATTENDED AND WE SAW SEVERAL NEW FACES. WISH WE KNEW WHO THEY WERE! ?

AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR'S POW-WOW AT THE MEETING, THE M.C.A. ACQUIRED AN INSIGNIA PATCH. JOHN ROBERTSON IS HAVING THEM MADE UP AND IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS TO WEAR ON THEIR PARKAS.

BESIDES THE NEW INSIGNIA, THE CLUB ALSO ACQUIRED ITS FIRST PIECE OF CLUB EQUIPMENT. IT'S AN ICE AXE, AVAILABLE TO BE LOANED OUT FOR TWO BITS TO ANY NEEDY MEMBER. IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE WINNING DESIGN DID NOT ORIGINATE IN ONE MAN'S GARDEN ALONE, SO THE RUNNER UP WAS CHOSEN TO BE HONORABLY PRESENTED WITH THE WEAPON, BUT HE, IN TURN, ALREADY OWNS ONE. THE NEXT ARTIST DOWN THE LINE DONATED THE AXE TO THE CLUB. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE SPENDER.

MANY THANKS ALSO, GO TO ERNIE BAUMAN FOR HIS WONDERFUL SHOWING OF THE STORY OF HIS 1954 ASCENT OF MOUNT MCKINLEY. THE QUALITY OF HIS SLIDES EQUALS THE BEAUTY OF THE SCENERY SHOWN. IN FACT, WE ALL FELT WE WERE RIGHT THERE WITH ERNIE, INCHING OUR WAY UP TO THE GREAT DENALI. YOU CAN DREAM, CAN'T YOU?

PIONEER PEAK! WHO SAYS THAT MOUNTAIN CLIMBING IS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS ONLY? NOT SO! THE 11TH OF THIS MONTH, JOHN ROBERTSON, JERRY NELSON, DON SPARROW AND BERNIE O'GARA (THE LAST TWO FELLOWS ARE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS), MADE A TRY AT PIONEER PEAK (6398'). ALTHOUGH THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE TOP, ALL FOUR AGREED THAT IT WAS AN EXCELLENT CLIMB AND A FINE ADVENTURE.

THE ROUTE OF THE CLIMB WAS FROM A SMALL CABIN ON THE DIRT ROAD LEADING FROM KNIK RIVER BRIDGE TOWARD KNIK GLACIER. A SMALL CREEK GAVE ACCESS TO THE MAIN RIDGE APPROACHING THE FALSE PEAK, WHICH MUST BE CROSSED TO REACH THE MAIN PEAK OF PIONEER. AT THE BASE OF THE CRAGS OF THE FALSE PEAK, THEY ENTERED A GULLY CHOKED WITH SNOW AND STARTED FOR THE TOP. AT ABOUT 5500 FEET, 1000 FEET SHORT OF THE TOP, THE PARTY TURNED BACK IN THE FACE OF ON-COMING NIGHT AND RAPIDLY FALLING TEMPERATURES.

THE WEATHER DURING THE CLIMB WAS EXCELLENT AND VISIBILITY WAS GOOD AT ALL TIMES. SNOW ON THE LOWER SLOPES WAS ABOUT 18 INCHES DEEP, BUT ON THE UPPER SLOPES IT RAPIDLY INCREASED TO 2 AND 3 FEET. THE TEMPERATURE DURING MOST OF THE CLIMB WAS ABOUT 15 TO 17 DEGREES ABOVE, BUT AS THE DARKNESS BEGAN TO INCREASE, THE TEMPERATURE WENT DOWN TO NEARLY ZERO OR SLIGHTLY BELOW (NO THERMOMETER WAS CARRIED, TEMPERATURES ARE ESTIMATED). BY THE TIME THE GROUP REACHED 3500 FEET ON THE WAY DOWN, GLOVES AND PANTS WERE FROZEN STIFF AND MUCH FOOT STAMPING WENT ON TO WARM UP COLD TOES.

THE LAST 2000 FEET OF THE DESCENT WAS MADE QUITE RAPIDLY OWING TO THE FAILING LIGHT. THE PARTY REACHED THE CAR WITH A BARE MINIMUM OF LIGHT TO SPARE.

SO FAR AS IS KNOWN, THIS IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT ON PIONEER MADE UNDER WINTER CLIMBING CONDITIONS, AND, NEEDLESS TO SAY, ANOTHER TRY IS BEING PLANNED.

-JERRY NELSON-

11/58

HELP-

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE NEW MEMBERS, THE ROSTER OF COMMITTEE HEADS OF ACTIVITIES ARE LISTED. THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ANY PROJECT IS THE TEAMWORK OF MANY PEOPLE. NO ONE PERSON CAN DO IT ALL. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WORKING ON ANY OF THESE COMMITTEES, CONTACT THE HEAD -- HE'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU.

OPERATIONS	BOB RANKIN	76311 (O)
RESCUE	DUANE C. LUEDTKE	45101 (O)
TRAINING	ANDY BRAUCHLI	76074 (H)
PUBLICITY	JOHN ROBERTSON	62301 (O)

MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P. M.

DID YOU SEE THE PIX THAT JOHN ROBERTSON GOT IN THE TIMES TO ANNOUNCE OUR LAST MEETING? WAS GOOD PUBLICITY FOR THE CLUB!

DAWSON'S BOOK SHOP, 5505 FIGUEROA STREET, LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA, IS TAKING ORDERS FOR THE MOUNTAIN WORLD 1958-1959. PARTIAL CONTENTS: "TRAGEDY OF MONT BLANC", "THE EIGER MYTH", "MOUNT LOGAN FROM THE EAST", "A SOUTHERN DESCENT OF MT. RAINIER", "MEXICAN VOLCANOES", "EIGHT MONTHS OF GLACIER AND SOIL RESEARCH IN THE EVEREST REGION". IT IS PUBLISHED BY THE SWISS FOUNDATION FOR ALPINE RESEARCH. WHEN YOU ORDER, SEND NO MONEY. THEY'LL SEND A BILL WITH THE BOOK WHEN IT IS MAILED. PROBABLE COST IS \$6.00.

AS YOU PEOPLE MAKE TRIPS, SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING, YET COMPLEX, SUBJECTS IN CLIMBING IS LOGISTICS. INCLUDE, A LIST OF EQUIPMENT CARRIED, WEIGHTS, YOUR MENU, ETC. THIS INFORMATION, WITH YOUR HINDSIGHT REMARKS, WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO THOSE PLANNING FUTURE TRIPS.

HELP-

ANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE SLIDES OR MOVIES OF HIKING OR CLIMBING WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR SHOWING AT MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT HELGA.

MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P. M.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE:

- DEC - MOUNTAIN AT TOP OF TOW NO. 7, ARTIC VALLEY. PAUL CREWS, 79763, LEADING.
- JAN - GIRWOOD AREA.
- FEB - INDIAN CREEK - OLD MAIL TRAIL. OVERNIGHT TRIP.
- MAR - TWENTY-MILE.
- APR - ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: BURNS GLACIER, PORTAGE GLACIER OR THOMPSON PASS
- MAY - TO BE ANNOUNCED

OF COURSE, ALL THESE TRIPS WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A TRIP, PLEASE CONTACT THE LEADER. HE WILL SPECIFY DATE, TIME, EQUIPMENT, QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED, ETC. NATURALLY, DURING WINTER MONTHS, TRIPS WILL BE MADE ON SKIS OR SNOWSHOES. DUE TO POSSIBLE DANGEROUS SNOW CONDITIONS AND EXTREME COLD AT THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS, DIFFICULT CLIMBING WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL SPRING.

THE SCHEDULE WILL RUN EVERY MONTH WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS IT IS OBTAINED.

-BOB RANKIN-

MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P. M.

NEW MEMBERS:

- CHARLES W. WARREN, 20, ELMENDORF
- LARRY JOHANN, 16, MARTIN ARMS

11/58

-3-

REMINISCENCES OF A TYRO: HAVING VOLUNTEERED TO HELP JOHNNY JOHNSTON WITH THE NEWS SHEET, I FIND ONE OF MY FIRST CHORES IS TO EXPLAIN WHO I AM. I'M GWYNNETH WILSON FROM DENVER, COLORADO, AND I JOINED THE M.C.A. KNOWING THAT I DO NOT LIKE ROCK CLIMBING. IN THE PAST, I HAVE FOUND MYSELF AT HIGH ALTITUDES WHICH DEMANDED NOT SKILL BUT PERSERVERANCE TO WIN THE TOP. HOWEVER, I AM SURE THERE IS A PLACE FOR A "PURE HIKER" IN A MOUNTAIN CLUB. I DO HAVE A PHYSICIAN HUSBAND WHO WOULD LIKE TO SCALE WITH PITON AND ROPE, AND WHAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE OF ANY MOUNTAIN ORGANIZATION - FIVE NOVICE CLIMBERS?

HOPE TO SEE YOU DECEMBER 4TH.

IN ANSWER TO A LETTER ANNOUNCING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA, LAWRENCE G. COVENEY, SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB, WROTE THE FOLLOWING:

OCTOBER 15, 1958

DEAR MRS. BADING:

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO RECEIVE MR. JOHNSTON'S LETTER OF SEPT. 16 GIVING THE NEWS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. THE FOUR OBJECTIVES YOU LIST ARE THE ESSENTIALS IF AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING IS TO ATTAIN THE STATUS AND TRADITION OF EUROPE.

WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE HIDDEN PEAK EXPEDITION THIS YEAR, WE CAN CLAIM THAT AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING HAS COME OF AGE. HOWEVER, IT IS IN MOUNTAINEERING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WILL BE MADE. THE OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS AT THE LAST MEETING ON OCTOBER 4, ASKED ME TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES. A COPY OF OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE NEWS IS ENCLOSED. WE TRY TO MAKE IT AS UP TO DATE ON CURRENT EVENTS AS WE CAN AND IF YOU WISH, WE WILL GLADLY PUT YOU ON OUR COMPLIMENTARY MAILING LIST.

YOURS VERY SINCERELY, LAWRENCE G. COVENEY

RECOGNIZING A GOOD THING WHEN WE SEE IT, WE ARE REPRINTING THE FOLLOWING NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB NEWS:

ALASKA - MT. FAIRWEATHER - A PARTY OF EIGHT CLIMBERS LED BY PADDY SHERMAN AND FIPS BRODA, A.C.C. MEMBERS, REACHED THIS HIGHEST SUMMIT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (15,300') IN TWO PARTIES ON JUNE 26TH AND 27TH. THE CLIMB WAS MADE AS A B.C. CENTENNIAL PROJECT. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WERE DENNIS MOORE, DAVE BLAIR, WALTER ROMANES, PAUL BINKERT, JOE HUTTON AND RUSS YARD. THE PEAK WAS CLIMBED ONCE BEFORE IN 1931 BY TERRIS MOORE AND ALLEN CARPE. PADDY SHERMAN REPORTED "IT WAS A HONEY OF A CLIMB, STEEP AS COULD BE, WITH TERRIFIC EXPOSURES AND 150' WALL OF GREEN ICE TO CLIMB DIRECT JUST BELOW 15,000'". ONE PARTY TOOK 19 HOURS, THE SECOND ONE, 20½ HOURS. BASE CAMP AT 9300' WAS ON A PLATFORM BUILT OF ROCKS "AT THE BOTTOM OF A 60 DEGREE ICE SLOPE" WHICH "TOOK OFF ABOUT 3 DAYS" AFTER THEY LEFT. FIPS AND WALTER CLIMBED A 10,400' PEAK AND THE OTHER SIX GOT TO WITHIN 200 FEET OF THE TOP OF LITUYA, 11,750' RETURNING IN AWFUL SNOW CONDITIONS. THEY WERE PICKED UP BY PLANE AT LITUYA BAY JUST TWO HOURS BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVE REMOVED THEIR CAMPSITE AND STRIPPED EVERYTHING DOWN TO BED ROCK.

ADAMS CARTER WITH HAROLD JANEWAY AS SECOND IN COMMAND TOOK A PARTY OF YOUNG CLIMBERS TO ALASKA WHERE THEY HAD THE WETTEST JULY ON RECORD. THEY MADE SOME GLACIER AND GEOLOGICAL STUDIES AND THE FIRST ASCENT OF A 10,400' PEAK N.E. OF MT. MATHER. ANOTHER STEEP ICE MOUNTAIN CLIMBED HAD A TRULY ONE-MAN SUMMIT. GEORGE ERLANGER AND BILL LOOMIS, SONS OF AAC MEMBERS, WERE IN THE GROUP.

11/58

-4-

MT. MCKINLEY - 1958 AMERICAN EXPEDITION - DAVID S. SINGMAN, THE LEADER, REPORTS THAT BOTH SUMMITS WERE CLIMBED ON JULY 2ND FROM A 17,000' CAMP VIA THE WEST BUTTRESS ROUTE. THE MEMBERS REACHED THE SOUTH SUMMIT BETWEEN 3 AND 4 P.M. DAVE DORNAN AND AVE DINGMAN ALSO SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE NORTH SUMMIT THAT DAY AT 8 P.M. (PERFECT SUMMIT DAY). THE ONLY CLIMBING DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED ON THE ROUTE WAS BETWEEN 15,000' AND 16,000' WHERE 11 HOURS WERE SPENT CUTTING STEPS. THIS PARTY SPENT TWO WEEKS ATTEMPTING TO CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN VIA THE S.E. SPUR OF THE SOUTH BUTTRESS. THE SIX MEMBERS WERE FLOWN INTO THE EAST BAY OF THE RUTH GLACIER AND REACHED 11,000' WHERE THEY USED DOUBLE ROPE TENSION TO SURMOUNT A VERTICAL AND OVERHANGING ICEWALL ONLY TO BE STOPPED BY AN ICE TOWER ON A HIGHLY CORNICED RIDGE. AFTER DESCENDING TO BASE CAMP THEY WERE AGAIN RELAYED BY PLANE TO THE KAHILTNA GLACIER FOR THE SUCCESSFUL ASCENTS. BILL HACKETT, A MEMBER OF THE PARTY, FURTHER REPORTED THAT THE PIONEER RIDGE ROUTE (STATED AS THE GOAL OF THE EXPEDITION IN THE JUNE NEWS) WAS GIVEN UP BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT CHAOTIC ICEFALL CONDITIONS ON THE MULDROW GLACIER LEARNED THROUGH RECENT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, THAT ON THE SUCCESSFUL ASCENT THE PARTY MET ANOTHER CLIMBING PARTY LED BY F. EDWARD COOPER OF TUKEDO PARK, NEW YORK AND FOUR OF THEM ALSO MADE THE SUMMIT ON JULY 2ND. ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST WAS THE FINDING OF TWO 1951 CACHES OF FROZEN FOODS LEFT BY THE FIRST ASCENT PARTY CONSISTING OF BILL, BRAD WASHBURN AND JIM GALE. SOME OF THE ITEMS WERE USED AND VERY PALATABLE AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ARTICLES AND FOODS REMAIN AT THE TWO SITES AT 13,000' AND 17,200'. BILL FURTHER REPORTS THE LATEST ARMY EXPERIMENTAL RUBBER THERMAL BOOTS AS THE FINEST HE HAS EVER USED. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE LAST TWO ITEMS IS AVAILABLE AT THE CLUBHOUSE.

MT. BLACKBURN - LEON BLUMER, ONE OF A PARTY OF FIVE, MADE THE SECOND ASCENT BY THE NEW N.W. RIDGE ROUTE TO THE SUMMIT OF MT. BLACKBURN. THE OTHER MEMBERS WERE BRUCE GILBERT, DICK WAHLSTROM, HANS GMOSE AND ADOLF BITTERLICH. THEY FLEW IN AT 7,000' ON MAY 20 AND A BLIZZARD MADE THE TENTS PRACTICALLY USELESS AND THEY LIVED IN A SNOW CAVE FOR FOUR DAYS AT 11,000' AND TOOK ANOTHER LOOK AT THE KNIFE-EDGE, NOT A GOOD RIDGE TO BE ON IN BAD WEATHER. THEY TOOK TWO DAYS TO SKI AROUND TO THE N.W. RIDGE AND DUG ANOTHER SNOW CAVE AT APPROXIMATELY 11,000'. ON MAY 30, THEY CLIMBED BY MEANS OF A SQUAT ICE TOWER, THEN FAIRLY STEEP SNOW SLOPES TO 14,000', THEN A LONG TRUDGE TO THE TOP. THE TRIP TOOK 15½-16 HOURS IN GOOD WEATHER. ONE MAN FELL THROUGH A CREVASSE AT 15,000'. THEY SKIED ACROSS THE GLACIER JUNE 2-4 FOR 20 MILES TO LOOK AT ANOTHER AREA NEAR WRANGELL AND WERE FLOWN OUT ON JUNE 5.

MT. ST. ELIAS - A PARTY OF FOUR: R. D'ARCY, R. WALLING, L. SLAGGIE AND D. TOLAND MADE AN ATTEMPT ON A NEW ROUTE UP A WEST BUTTRESS IN EARLY JULY. ON JULY 18 WHILE IN CAMP AT 12,500' ON A RIDGE LEADING TO THE MAIN BUTTRESS, AND AFTER THREE DAYS OF HEAVY STORM, SLAGGIE AND TOLAND WERE OVERCOME SIMPLY BY LACK OF VENTILATION IN THEIR NEARLY BURIED TENT. THE OTHERS FOUND SLAGGIE IN THE TENT ENTRANCE, UNCONSCIOUS AND FROST-BITTEN BUT ALIVE, BUT FOUR HOURS OF ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION FAILED TO REVIVE TOLAND. SLAGGIE WAS EXACUATED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN IN FOUR DAYS TIME TO A PRE-ARRANGED RENDEZVOUS WITH A PLANE ON THE GLACIER BELOW.

MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P. M.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE STRICT RULES FOR NAMING GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES? THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HAS A BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES WHICH SPECIFIES HOW TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES ARE TO BE NAMED AND A SERIES OF FORMS TO BE FILLED OUT IN ORDER TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR NAMING.

PREFERENCE IS GIVEN FOR A NAME IN LOCAL USE. DESCRIPTIVE TITLES WHICH ARE ACCURATE AND NOT LIKELY TO BE DUPLICATED ARE A GOOD CHOICE. HOWEVER, A PEAK, FOR INSTANCE, COULD BE GIVEN THE NAME OF A TOWN NEARBY OR A PERSON OR EVEN AN ORIGINAL TITLE PROVIDED THERE IS A GOOD REASON.

14/58

THE BOARD IS RIGID IN ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR NAMING AFTER PERSONS. IT STIPULATES THAT FEATURES CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS MAJOR, SECONDARY, AND MINOR. HOWEVER, THE BOARD QUALIFIES THAT "PEAKS WHICH ARE MAJOR FEATURES IN EASTERN UNITED STATES WOULD BE SECONDARY FEATURES IN WESTERN UNITED STATES AND MINOR FEATURES IN ALASKA." A MAJOR FEATURE SHOULD RARELY BE NAMED FOR AN INDIVIDUAL BUT WHEN IT IS, IT SHOULD BE AFTER A PERSON OF ENDURING FAME; A SECONDARY FEATURE CAN BE NAMED FOR A PERSON WHO HAS EXPLORED OR BEEN LONG ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGION OR FOR A DECEASED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES. MINOR FEATURES CAN BE NAMED AFTER PERSONS WHO MERELY LIVED OR DIED THERE.

SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY UNNAMED PEAKS IN ALASKA, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NAMING SECONDARY FEATURES WOULD MOST OFTEN APPLY.

SEE YOU ON THE FOURTH, OF DECEMBER, THAT IS!