

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

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SCREE

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MEETING, MONDAY DECEMBER 5

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska will meet on Monday, December the 5th at 8 p.m. With some trepidation Scree announces that the program is to be the Army group who but by now you readers must know all the details. Do come. It should be interesting.

In spite of the fact that January 2nd is a holiday the MCA will meet in the hope that some of our members who are engaged elsewhere on the first monday will be free to attend. This program will be the Spurr slides.

NOTES:

Summit, August 1960 reprinted from Scree Paul Crews' account of the McKinley incident. It was illustrated handsomely with a Bradford Washburn picture, with the route and the spots of special interest plotted in by Dee Molenaar.

Also The Saturday Evening Post of November 26th has an "as told to" article by John Day. The photographs are in bright color but fail to identify in the summit photo of the Day party which shadow in the foreground belongs to which member of the Anchorage party!

Look for the January issue of Reader's Digest which will contain the last (we hope) account of the McKinley climbs and fall of last May.

The Alaska Rescue Group will hold an open house at its new headquarters, 1111 East 5th Avenue (old Territorial Police Headquarters) from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, December 2nd.

The Alaska Conservation Society is still looking for members. Send \$3 for a regular, \$2 for associate, \$1 for spouse or student to: Membership Chairman, Box 512, College, Alaska.

The mountaineers were driven by the weather - lack of snow- to that ankle-bending sport - ice skating. Howard and Elinore Schuck our chief exponents of the rink have been out of town. However, on the sunday before the snow the following habitues of higher altitudes could be found at Goose Lake - Irma and Dave Duncan, Helga and Bosco and Lois Willard.

BOOK REVIEW:

Kangachejunga, The Untrodden Peak by Charles Evans, Leader of the Successful Expedition, R.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 1957, \$5.00. This is the account of the ascent in 1955 of the third highest of the world's peaks by a British party. The implication of the title is that the peak was successfully climbed by four men but the precise top - the last 20 feet - left untouched, honoring a promise made to the government of Sikkim. The Sikkimese consider the summit sacred. The story of the ascent is almost devoid of excitement and in spots is hard to follow because of the turgid style of the doctor-author, who obviously climbs better than he writes. There are many black and white illustrations. These are, by and large, more informative than the text. Appendices describe food, equipment and oxygen sets, and medical problems. The devotee of mountaineering books will gobble this book up but will hardly rate it with the accounts of other great climbs.

Rodman Wilson

From: Sports Illustrated, November 28, 1960

For 60 years undergraduates at Cambridge University have been sallying forth at midnight to climb all over the roofs of the institution's 19 colleges. It is the English equivalent of goldfish eating or crowding into phone booths. This night climbing, or stegophilia, has now received literary recognition in the form of a little book containing advice on footholds, drainpipe and chimneying techniques and many secrets about Mitton-hole Turret, Temptation Wall, Devil's Tower, 1834 Corner and other forbidding spots. The book limits itself to the rooftops of one college and is entitled Night Climber's Guide to Trinity.

The budding stegophile will find, for example, that there is ample finger room behind the first drain on the great gate, and 'those whose drainpipe technique is adequate will reach the top without too much difficulty.' The book warns that 'the growth of undergraduate enthusiasm toward night climbing has evoked a proportional increase in official disenchantment', but 'who would wish it otherwise?' It is true that some few climbers have fallen, damaging both themselves and the buildings. One gentlemen climbed to the roof of the chapel after a riotous evening of drink and merriment and took the shortest way down, thus giving the spot its present name: Sandy's Drop. Some climbers say it is little hazards like this that give roof walking its allure. Others say they climb the roofs of Cambridge because they are there. Only the London Times has given the dedicated stegophile a full measure of understanding: 'His goal is pure and innocent, and his purpose the sublimer fellowship of sky and stars: which who would thwart must surely be lacking in