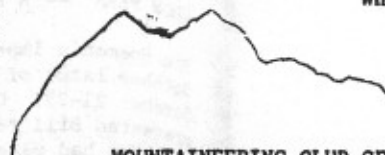


Which mountain?

Peril Pk

SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Vol. 9, No. 1
November, 1966

EVENTS TO COME

NOVEMBER MEETING: 8 p.m., November 21, at Willow Park Community Center, 9th and Fairbanks. The program will be a slide visit with Sepp Weber, ski instructor and avid mountaineer, who will take the audience on a trip from Bettles, Alaska across the Brooks Range to Anaktuvuk, down the Anaktuvuk River to the Colville River, and on to the Arctic Coast.

A PARTY! November 18, 8 p.m., at Hans and Callie Van der Laan's home-on-the-hill. This is a going away party for Kerstin Pettersson and Bud and Hermina Bergman, as well as a birthday party for Hans.

*** Calliope + Cantata

THANKSGIVING WINTER MOUNTAINEERING TRIP, November 24, 25, 26, 27. The purpose of this four-day expedition is to climb peaks 6810 and 6420 in the Western Chugach above Eagle Lake on the South Fork of Eagle River. These peaks can be seen from the end of the road going up the South Fork. Peak 6810 is glacier-clad and very spectacular. At present, these peaks are unclimbed, but with the road going farther and farther up the valley, presently to within three miles of Eagle Lake, the pressure on these peaks will increase. We will climb these peaks under winter conditions and will put two or more routes on each one. If we are successful, we will submit names for these mountains to the Board of Geographic Names. -- Bill Hauser.

Everyone who is qualified is invited on this trip. A general meeting will be held on November 16, at 7 p.m. at 926 W. 25th, Apt. 6. At this time tents will be organized, rope leaders chosen, and food plans set up. People with questions should call Bill Hauser at West Anchorage High School, 277-5511. Further discussion with trip leader Bill Hauser and other expedition members will also be possible after the MCA meeting November 21.

OTHER TRIPS-----?

Members of the 1967 MCA McKinley Expedition are holding training trips twice or more each month to various spots. Qualified MCA members are welcome to come along. See Bill Babcock, leader.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, November 1, with both old and new members present, established a regular meeting time and place each month for future meetings. Executive Committee will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m., at the Wolfe home, 1104 W. 30th. Any MCA member is welcome to attend any of these meetings. The Committee also appointed Marge Maagoe as Program Chairman, Dave DeVoe as chairman of the Committee on Trails and Shelter Planning, and Marie Lundstrom as Scree editor. Executive Committee is composed of the officers elected at the October meeting: Hans Van der Laan, pres; Frank Nosek, vice pres; Helen Wolfe, sec; Steffen Maagoe, treas; Paul Crews, director; and Gary Hansen, director now serving the second year of the two-year term.

EAGLE MOUNTAIN, 6955' -- First Ascent September 9, 10, 11 Bill Hauser

Bill Babcock and I rushed up the South Fork of Eagle River road by trailbike to within three miles of Eagle Lake. We camped at 7 p.m. The weather was cold and clear, and we were on our way at 4 the next morning. We moved quickly and met the sun high on the south ridge of Eagle. We debated about the gully on the face versus the gendarmed ridge. After a natural rock fall down the gully, we chose the ridge. We stayed below the ridge itself, traversing to a point near the summit pyramid. We gained the ridge after three roped pitches. An icy 15' chimney was the key. A classic 300' rock edge of low angle led to the summit at 12:30 p.m. We built a cairn, placed a plastic bottle within for a register, waved to the Wolfes at their homestead, and returned to Eagle Lake by 7 p.m. Eagle should be a one-day climb in the summer with good weather. Peaks 6610 (The Little Matterhorn) and 6810 are very impressive unclimbed.

(Flute?)

Calliope

CROW PEAK -- A First Ascent (?)

October 21, 22, 23

Grace Jansen

Vin Hoeman's impressions of his trip to Camprober and Polar Bear, as reported in the October issue of Scree, inspired Bill Hauser to plan this trip for the weekend of October 21-23. Unfortunately, an exam in connection with his postgraduate studies prevented Bill from leading the trip. Dale Hagen could not join the party since his homebrew had reached a critical stage that weekend, thus leaving four participants: Ray Genet, Jacques Batkin (new arrival from France and acquaintance of the late Lionel Terray), Don Haglund, and me.

Friday night, we met in Girdwood and set out from the Double Muskee Inn at an advanced hour. Don drove us to the repaired bridge, where we camped. Saturday, we walked up the Crow Creek path on snowshoes, la Farine (Jacques) and I for the first time. When we reached timberline, clouds packed around us, the wind started up, snow swirled, and obviously there was not much point in trying to push toward the target. Instead, we headed for the Crow's Nest cabin, where we waited out the Saturday. Don sewed gaiters from an old piece of tarpaulin; I tried my best French on Farine with dubious results; Ray entertained us with his quick wit.

We woke up Sunday morning refreshed and were more than pleased with the beautifully clear, cold weather. We looked at the ridge across the Crow Glacier -- with compass in hand, all agreed on one particular peak as being the Crow Peak, and after a leisurely breakfast, we set out on snowshoes, heading in the direction of Crow Pass. We discussed the route: either to Crow Pass and along the ridge...or up the Crow Glacier and then up the south face? Farine decided to do the latter and took the lead. We left part of our heavy packs below Crow Pass, turned left onto the glacier and roped up. Farine's decision turned out to be a good one, since as we progressed closer to the ridge, we saw a notch which looked like a tricky technical problem from below. We ascended Crow Glacier obliquely and headed for the south face directly below the peak. We left our snow shoes there. A short distance up the steep, slippery face, we put on crampons and went up step by step, at times sinking deeply into the snow. Farine found things at this point "penible" and laborious it was indeed. The upper part of the face was ice-covered rock, which was not particularly difficult to negotiate, only Don had troubles because of ill-fitting crampons, which made his holds insecure.

We reached the peak in excellent spirits, blue skies overhead, pleasant sunshine, and joked around a bit. Ray took pictures, one of which found its way into the newspaper a few days later. It was difficult to ascertain whether or not this peak had been climbed before. We hacked at some protuberances, found no cairn, so then hacked some rocks loose and built one. A plastic urine specimen bottle (not used), donated by Providence Hospital, served as a register.

The descent was almost by the same route (except for the upper rock stretch, which we avoided going down) and quite delightful. We picked up our snowshoes on the glacier and our packs where we had left them below Crow Pass. On the way down to Crow Creek, my snowshoes slid off an icy slope, and I took the things off in disgust. A little while later, sinking to waist level in a snowdrift, I meekly put the cursed things back on.

At dusk we were back at the repaired bridge, drove to the Double Muskee Inn, and had a good time and an excellent meal there. Dale joined us for that concluding part of the trip. ...Incidentally, Jacques Batkin outclimbed us by far--he is fabulous! Welcome to the club, Farine!

"CLIMBS AND OTHER MISADVENTURES WITH A JAPANESE FRIEND"

Nick Parker

The opportunity to have a guest from a foreign land live with you does not often present itself. I was fortunate to have this opportunity in June of this past summer. Yoshio Inukai came to Alaska at the beginning of the summer, and we climbed together until he departed for an expedition to Mt. Bona at the end of July.

Yoshio came to Alaska originally as the forerunner of the previously mentioned expedition. It was his duty to pass all equipment and food through customs and prepare the way for the remaining climbers' arrival and trip to Gulkana and Mt. Bona. They were to be in Anchorage July 25. Surely that would be more than enough time. At first we didn't think so.

My own introduction to Yoshio came through the efforts of Art Davidson, who was at the time neck deep in the Mt. Logan climb. He mentioned something about meeting an interesting fellow from Japan, so the next day I wandered over to Wendy Jones' art

Scree

village, where she had kindly loaned Art a quonset hut to prepare food for the Logan expedition. When I arrived, all was very quiet and peaceful. Strange, thought I, for this should be a busy place. My meditations were suddenly shattered as a torrent of Japanese invectives streamed past. I traced them to the author, a small Japanese trying to untangle a vacuum machine cord.

"Good afternoon," I said, "can I help? You must be Yoshio. Art said you needed a ride to the docks, so I figured I might drop by and...we...could...per..."

"No speak English, thank you."

"Oh!"

My mind clouded with evil thoughts of revenge when I caught Art. Somehow he gave the impression that Yoshio spoke the tongue of the natives. We stumbled for a while, finished with the greetings, and silently untangled the cord. Later we went to talk to the people going to Mt. Logan. They informed me of Art's request to have me wait for a bit, so we could have a conference. Two hours later he burst in, spied me, and said, "A-ha, Nick, how are you and Yoshio getting along?"

"A-ha, Art, how are you and Yoshio getting along?" I queried.

"Quietly," he confessed.

We talked for a while, and I found that Yoshio had a couple of small crates at the city dock. I volunteered to take them to wherever Yoshio was staying. Art said Yoshio was staying at the YMCA, so we decided to find another place. It turned out to be my house. Yoshio moved in with us, and Sea-Land brought his two crates--each one weighed 1,000 pounds! I felt that it would be a fine experience to have Yoshio stay with us, and my parents consented and were happy with the decision when they met Yoshio.

We couldn't get to customs that night, so we went climbing instead. We gathered up Dave Meyers and went up to Eklutna Glacier Saturday. We made it from the army camp to Pichler's Perch in two hours, as the weather was bad and we didn't want to get wet. Sunday we painted the rest of the cabin, minus the upper sections of the two ends. It was on this Eklutna trip that Yoshio began to exhibit his excellent form on both technical ice and snow.

During the next weeks Yoshio and I, with various companions, climbed Byron Peak, Bashful, and tried a new route on Peril Peak. We also went on climbs of minor peaks and hikes in the local Chugach. (Climbs will be written up separately.) On the domestic side, Yoshio proved to be a fine all-around friend. We worked around our house doing various bits of carpentry, painting, and agricultural improvements. Yoshio was brought up on a farm in the Japanese Alps, and it was interesting to see his methods of dealing with plant life. The trouble was that we were in town an average of only three days a week, so he couldn't exhibit all his hidden skills.

Unfortunately, all things must come to an end. On July 25, Yoshio and his friends were driven to Gulkana by Dave Meyers, Art Davidson, and me. Yoshio and two friends did come back to Anchorage and stay with us for two additional weeks after their successful climbs of Mt. Bona and Churchill Peaks. It was during this visit that they helped rescue Dave Meyers and me from Eagle Glacier.

In retrospect, I think that this was perhaps the finest time of my life. I was instructed in the art of accepting life on its own terms by a person representative of one of the world's more patient civilizations. I also learned to eat seaweed.

EAGLE GLACIER TRIP...or The Lost Weekend October 8-11 Grace Jansen

Early Saturday morning, Dale Hagen, Hans Van der Laan, and I were supposed to be flown up to the Eagle Glacier by Eric Barnes. Unfortunately Dale had left part of our food (all the warm meals!) at home and he and Hans turned back to fetch the package. While they were away, Eric flew me and most of our gear and skis up to the glacier. The weather was closing in rapidly, and as Eric left for the second trip, I wasn't so sure he would return, as with passing minutes, the clouds really wrapped up the glacier. Well, Eric took a chance, and he, Dale, and Hans, with our warm meals, made it up a while later. Eric took off in a hurry, though.

With the help of map, compass, and vaguely and intermittently visible landmarks, our little party made its way on skis to the east basin of the glacier. We crossed a crevassed area, then, while climbing steadily, progressed a few more miles east. Camp was made in a driving snowstorm at approximately 5800 feet. Dale cooked quite a nice meal on his new stove, and we were comfortable--as far as the old Logan tent of the club allowed.

On Sunday morning, Dale ventured a short distance from the tent, but the weather was too bad to dare undertake a climb. We might not find camp back. Thus we spent the day in the tent--reading, crossword-puzzling, talking, sleeping, cooking. Slowly the moisture started to creep in and bother us. At times the tent, in windgusts, made suspicious movements, as if it wanted to rip or take off. We left the guylines loose around our ski equipment and axes. These became deeply frosted and a spectacle to behold.

Monday morning, with no climbing objective accomplished, we decided to break camp and start the return trip on compass. A plane pickup had not been planned for the return trip. En route, we encountered a group of frost-grounded geese, which amazed me--if we had been hungry, they would have fallen easy prey to us. We descended to the crevassed area, reached the main glacier and climbed again toward the south ridge of Goat Mountain, which we reached in early afternoon. The weather then started to clear, fortunately, since a descent of the south ridge with low visibility would have been difficult at best. For the descent, we took our skis off. Because of the advancing hour, we were forced to make camp at 4000 ft. on the ridge--a perfectly beautiful spot, with clear, cold weather. We scraped our supplies together and enjoyed another adequate evening meal.

Tuesday (!) morning (at last the skies had become perfectly clear), we descended on skis down the bowl toward Glacier Gulch. This really was the highlight of the trip, but all three felt bad about our missed commitments for the day. We took our skis off when we struck rocks and moss, and walked a while down the creek. A struggle through the alder brush brought us to the repaired bridge. Dale's car was parked near there, so he drove us to the airstrip, where Hans and I had left our vehicles.

Although this was not a very successful trip, I found it very instructive and enjoyed it as such. A repeat is planned at some future date. Personally, I would like to see just where we camped that weekend.

THE MITRE (6650') and OVUS PEAK (6650') -- First Ascents August 28

Bill Hauser
& Vin Hoeman

From Pichler's Perch, we climbed the west ridge of the Mitre. The rock is very sound and is an enjoyable series of bouldering problems for 1500 feet. We gained the summit in three hours from the hut, built a cairn, placed a register, and set off down the south ridge. We then climbed the north ridge of Ovus, which was also a fine climb on good rock. A cairn was built, register placed in a plastic bag, and we traversed off down the south ridge of Ovus to the glacier and arrived at the hut by 2 p.m.

This is a very nice traverse; the views of the unclimbed peaks at the head of the East Fork of the Eklutna look very easy but quite inaccessible. Vin named the 6650 above the hut Ovus after Ovus Dal, since we saw a large ram on its summit from the Mitre.

COMMENTARY

FROM THE EDITOR: As new Scree editor, I will be needing not only plenty of juicy articles about climbs--especially first ascents--and extended trips, but also bits about who has been climbing what, even if for the 89th time! The Miscellanie section needs more stuff. Please send Scree stuff to me, Box 4-964, Anchorage, and call me (home: 277-0846, work: 272-0554, ext 21) with news about members' activities, hikes, and other items of interest to MCA people. We also need more staff members to type, staple, and lick stamps! Interested volunteers please call me. Marie Lundstrom

FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT: The primary purpose for the existence of the MCA is to serve as an aid to its members in furthering their enjoyment of climbing and hiking. To achieve this purpose, I would like to see our efforts concentrated in the following areas:

- 1) Trips -- A full program of climbs and hikes is the best way to get us away from being only armchair mountaineers.
- 2) Climbing School -- Another rock-climbing and glacier school will be attempted to aid our less experienced climbers in getting into the mountains.
- 3) Meetings -- Attempts will be made to reduce the boring and tedious parts of our business meetings and to have a variety of programs touching on all parts of mountaineering. -- Hans Van der Laan

These welcomes more commentary from members and other interested parties.

MISCELLANIE

Nordic Ski Club has invited MCA members to go along on Nordic trips.

Ed Lane of Mercury, Nevada, is planning to climb Mt. Sanford, possibly by the south arête, and Mt. Wrangell in July 1967. He has asked ARG if any Alaskan climbers would be interested in joining his group. If interested, please write directly to Ed Lane, Box 482, Mercury, Nevada 89023. Marge Maagoe (Sec-Treas, ARG, Box 4-891, Anchorage, phone 752-1163) has other information on this.

MCA monthly meetings are listed in the calendar put out by the Anchorage Women's Club.

Program Chairman Marge Maagoe wants suggestions for programs--what do MCA members want in their meetings?

The MCA McKinley Climb people have been having training climbs twice a month, including trips to Byron Glacier and the Snowbird/Fern/Independence area.

John Dillman is expected back from Viet Nam momentarily, according to Helga Bading. Helga is still at the Alpine Hut in Seattle and also instructing in skiing. She says, though, "Things are getting too crowded with people."

CENTENNIAL PEAK--? The suggestion has been made that an unclimbed peak of reasonably significant height be selected as Centennial Peak and climbed by as many MCA-ers as possible, with lots of publicity and emphasis on the name and the Centennial, etc.

Vin Hoeman may be reached at the Zoophysiological Lab, U of Alaska, College. Art Davidson is at, in, or with the Institute of Arctic Biology, U of Alaska, College. Dave Johnston presently is working at the U of A. Scott Hamilton is in Nepal.

From the Mountain Rescue Council (Seattle Unit) winter issue newsletter:

Climbing Ropes Any climber using nylon rope should be aware of recent tests (see SUMMIT Magazine, June and October, 1966 issues). LOUIS I. WEINER, U.S. Army Natick Lab., reports tests which suggest that Goldline rope should be retired after 100 climbs or after it has sustained one substantial fall; also indicates that Goldline may be more susceptible to damage from abrasion than manila. Pending more testing, The Mountaineers have discontinued use of 3/8" Goldline as official club rope for instructional field trips or for club climbs. The current recommendation of the rope manufacturer is that Goldline rope should be substituted for manila rope only on a size-for-size basis (e.g. 7/16" Goldline for 7/16" manila).

PAY DUES! With January issue, Scree will go only to paid up members, as per MCA By-Laws. List of currently paid up members will appear in December Scree, which will be sent to all presently receiving the newsletter. 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.

MCA equipment for rental by club members is available through Dave DeVoe.

Gary Hansen, Hans Van der Laan, Kerstin Pettersson, Grace Jansen, Dale Hagen, and Bud Bergman made a one-day repair visit to the Eklutna Glacier cabin--Pichler's Perch--in September. They caulked and taped all points on the exterior and covered the back end completely with polyethylene.

NOTES ON THE NEW PRES: Hans Van der Laan...born in the Netherlands...became a U.S. citizen in 1963...also came to Alaska that year...left Alaska in '64 to get a master's degree in structural engineering at U Cal, Berkeley...married Callie Newton in December 1964...returned to Alaska in June '66...has climbed in the Tetons, Yosemite Valley, Colorado, Mt. Rainier, and extensively in the Chugach.

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Scree staff: Marie Lundstrom, Marge Maagoe, Helen Wolfe.