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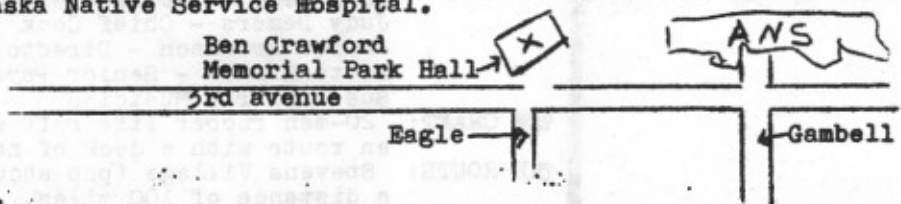
screes

volume 10, number 1
 november 1967

mountaineering club of alaska
 box 2037, anchorage, alaska 99501

happenings on the way

november meeting...not only does MCA begin the year with new officers, but the pleasure of a new meeting place as well. Additionally, it appears that the meeting date may have to change from the third Monday of the month to the second Monday in order to use the new place regularly. Perhaps it is appropriate that significant changes occur now that MCA is beginning its tenth year of existence! The November meeting will begin at 8 p.m. (same time as usual), Monday, November 13, at the Ben Crawford Memorial Park Hall, at 3rd and Eagle, near the Alaska Native Service Hospital.



The program for the evening will be slides of the three MCA cabins — Elutna, Snowbird and Crow Pass. To continue the inventory, equipment available to members will be on display, along with a display varied and fascinating books on mountaineering. Lots of socializing encouraged!

BYRON PEAK, Sunday, November 19. By the direct route, perhaps the finest one-day climb on mixed terrain in the Anchorage vicinity. Depart Portage Lodge for Byron Glacier, ascend ramp through first icefall, and climb north ridge to summit. Ropes required for every three climbers. Good physical condition assumed and some glacier experience necessary. Skis (preferable) or very fast snowshoes. Leader: BOB SPURR, phone 272-8330.

HATCHER PASS, Sunday, November 26. Good ski touring area above Independence Mine. Skiers wanting to make a weekend of it could ski in to the area on Saturday and meet the group on Sunday. Leader: TONY BOCKSTAHLER, phone 694-2323. (NOTE: Date is changed from Hiking and Climbing Schedule published in September.)

WOLVERINE PEAK, 4455', Sunday, December 3. Full day trip to one of the high points of the mountain skyline above Anchorage. Skis or snowshoes. (See #7 in THIRTY HIKES.) Leader: JCANNE MERRICK, phone 272-5243. (NOTE: Date is changed from Hiking and Climbing schedule published in September.)

MATTOP, Friday, December 22. Second annual climb and summit sleep-in on Midwinter's Night. Leader: STEFFEN MAEGOE, phone 752-1163.

happenings that were

Executive committee meeting, October 26, included new and retiring officers. Discussion considered the selection of a new program chairman, a constitution revision committee, the selection of honorary members, the summer climbing school, mountain safety as a possible MCA or ARG program series, the selection of a climbing and hiking committee, and the current status and future of MCA cabins, especially the new one near Whiteout Glacier. If meeting times are permanently changed to the second Monday of the month, future executive committee meetings will be held the last Tuesday of the month at 640 Karluk.

EXPLORER PEAK

June 10-11

Bill Babcock

Jeff Babcock and I drove to Portage and parked our car at the foot of Explorer Glacier. After a short bushwhack which brought us to the glacier itself, we traveled up the glacier and east to a rock rib coming down from the ridge leading over to Explorer Peak. We climbed the rib using rope and went on to the summit of Explorer Peak. There we found a note from Paul Crews left in 1961, on a trip he made with several scouts. We spent the night there and then proceeded east toward Byron Peak. By early afternoon a storm came up, so winds and rain kept us from Byron. We followed the rock ridge down to the west of Byron Glacier, and reached the Portage Glacier road soaked and rather chewed up with Devil's Club. Coming off the northern buttress of the ridge, we had a tremendous glissade of perhaps a half mile down a steep gully. Nick Parker and his father gave us a ride to our Volkswagen.

A SHORT REPORT ON DOINGS IN THE NORTH

Gregg Erickson

Following our wedding September 1, my bride, the former Janice Goddard, and I joined four other intrepid souls for a wilderness float trip cum honeymoon on the Yukon River.

THE CREW: Me - Captain and Navigator (left map in glove compartment of car in Fairbanks)
Ed Demers - 1st Mate and Chief of Propulsion Dept (paddles)
Judy Demers - Chief Cook
Janice Erickson - Director of Campsite Planning
Lotte Kramer - Senior Psychotherapist (also an MCA-er)
Sue Kramer - Musician

THE CRAFT: 20-man rubber life raft with a pervious floor modified en route with a deck of natural materials (logs).

THE ROUTE: Stevens Village (pop about 100) to Rampart (pop about 50), a distance of 100 miles.

TIME EN ROUTE: 4 days

WEATHER: Glorious! Temperatures ranged from 70° down to 25°.

THINGS SEEN: Rampart Canyon, Yukon Flats. The vanishing villages and culture of the Alaskan Indian. Remains of the old Army telegraph system (circa 1910). Fall colors rivalling New England. Wolf tracks as big as a man's hand, etc.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Rampart Dam (all opposed but for differing reasons.

...This certainly isn't mountaineering, but thought you might be interested anyway. Regards, Gregg. (ISEGR, U of A, College)

HIGHER SPIRE, 6135'
USGS Anchorage D-6
Talkeetna Mountains

October 15, 1967

Bob Spurr

On October 15 under sunny skies, Jim Lethcoe and I made the third ascent of Higher Spire (Davidson, Hoeman, Aug. 20, 1965, south gulch; Fraser, Kaufman, nine days later, route unknown). Higher Spire is prominent on the Talkeetna skyline as observed from Anchorage; it is the highest of the peripheral peaks on the large cirque glacier whose northern drainage is Bartholf Creek and whose southern exposure overlooks Reed Lakes. We ascended Glacier Creek above Snowbird Mine, and by hugging southerly exposed slopes, avoided most of the snow en route to the col at 5100'. (I recalled wallowing in waist-deep powder exactly one year earlier near this same area.) After traversing 3/4 mile across glacier, we kick-stepped up a finger gully on lousy snow to gain the short north ridge; three rope lengths over snow-laden rock gave us the summit and beautiful views of the northwest Chugach.

MARY'S MOUNTAIN

October 18, 1967

Bill Babcock

All Morey, Dave DeVoe, Dub Blodworth, and I met at Safeway at 4 a.m., and by 5:30, we had arrived at the foot of Mary's Mt. Initially, we missed the jeep road, but soon found it. The jeep road is northwest of the deserted cabin. One follows the powerline trail to the highest poles then another trail, partly overgrown, leads north for a few hundred yards then cuts back south for one mile. When this logging road ends, there is a clearing. Turning east or up the mountain, a deep gully can be found to the south after a 100-yard walk almost straight up. Keeping to the north of this gully paralleling the steep gully all the way out of the tree and bush completely avoids any bushwacking. We arrived

(cont. next page)

bits and pieces

New MCA officers elected at the October annual meeting are Frank Nosek, president; John Wolfe, vice president; Callie Van der Laan, secretary; Bob Hansen, treasurer; and Hans Van der Laan, director. Paul Crews, director, is entering his second year of a two-year term in that position.

MCA members paid up as of October 25: April Allen, Duane R. Anderson, Col & Mrs Richard Barquist, Anna T. Baziak, Harry Bludworth, Winford Bludworth, Tony & Betty Bockstahler, Jim Bruce, John V Burns, Sharon M. Cissna, Dundonald Cochrane, Mr & Mrs Costella, Bronwen L. Courtney (1200 L St, apt 609, ph 272-9013), Karen Courtright, Paul Crews, Richard E. Dangremond (342 Scranton Ave, Lake Bluff, Illinois), Mary Jean Dawson (1200 L St, apt 609, ph 272-9013), Dave & Carol DeVoe, Judy Gamble (3935 Lynn, hm ph 333-7463, wk ph 277-4924), Dianne Gudge (207 E No. Lbs, Blvd, #117, wk ph 272-4564), Andrew R. Goulding, Clement & Florence Grenier, Evelyn Groomer, Wayne Groomer, Chet Hackney, Lloyd Dale Hagen (329 1/2 N.E. 54th St, Seattle, Wash, 98105), Don W. Haglund, Leo Hannan & family, Bill Hauser, Vin & Grace Hoeman, Betty Woods Hunter, Dave Johnson and family (Wendy's Way, Anc), Lotte Kramer, James & Nancy Lethcoe (c/o AMU family housing), Charles Lesley, Carrie Lewis, Ron L. Linder, Marie Lundstrom, Steffen & Marjorie Maagoe, Mary A Mackenzie, Charles A. McLaughlin, John & Joanne Merrick, Mary Morse, Malcolm Myers, Gayle E. Niehueser, Frank Nosek & family, Theresa Overfield, Louise A. Rydell, John Samuelson, Howard A. Schuck, Ruth A.M. Schmidt, Barney Seiler, Clarence Serfoss, Michael J. Speshock, Bob L. Spurr, Norman Stadem, Bill Stivers & family, Hank & Betty Thielsen, Hans R. & Callie Van der Laan, Peter Vlasveld (phm ph 272-8326), Bill Wainwright, Ann Wheaton (1200 L St, apt 609, ph 272-9013), Margaret Wherritt, Rod & Gwynneth Wilson, David Wolf, Helen Wolfe (2148 Sunrise Dr, ph 277-9330), John Wolfe (Box 1572). Honorary members are Jim Branch, Franconia, N.H., and Glenn Clark, Box 2012, Anc.

Scree will be sent to all people currently on the list through the December issue. Then only paid up members will be included on the mailing list. Dues: adult membership, \$5.00; junior membership (under 18), \$2.50; family membership, \$7.50; out-of-town (over 50 miles from Anchorage), \$2.50.

The MCA 4-man Alpine Hut Logan tent (all nylon) is available for rental to MCA members at 50¢ per night per person, payable in advance. It must come back clean and dry! Call Dave DeVoe, 333-5492. He also is custodian of other MCA equipment which members may borrow, including ropes, ice axes, and a couple pairs of crampons.

MCA-er John Ireton, who was a member of the successful MCA McKinley Expedition this past summer, married MCA-er Betty Woods Hunter November 4, 1967.

MCA-er Carol DeVoe was one of the lucky winners of an ice axe as a door prize at the ARG Polka Party November 3. According to Vin Hoeman, ARG Chairman, the Jim Cassidy Memorial Fund should net \$300 or more from the foot-stomping affair.

Dave Roberts' book on the second ascent of Mt. Huntington—by a new route, the West Face—is scheduled to be serialized soon in the Saturday Evening Post.

Over Christmas holidays, the Hoemans plan to climb Chimborazo, 20,563', in Ecuador, and bring back alive mice of the genus Phyllotis that Vin noticed in the refuge at 16,000', with which the Institute of Arctic Biology hopes to start a test colony for high-altitude testing here in Alaska. They plan to leave about December 22.

MARY'S MT, cont. on the summit at noon. Enjoying beautiful weather, we rested there and consumed lunch until about 2 p.m. We then started down and enjoyed a close-up of a half-dozen sheep on our descent. By 5:00, we were back at the car. We enjoyed reading the notes left over the years by Joe Pickler.

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 be published should be sent to Marie Lundstrom, Box 4-964, Anchorage 99503, or call 277-0846.

MINERS AND MOUNTAINS

Vin Hoeman

The first explorers in new lands are often seekers for riches. Such was the case in many parts of Alaska where, at the turn of the last century, the richness sought was in the form of gold. One of the places it was found was in the southern Talkeetna Range where mines were established by 1906 in the heads of valleys surrounded by spectacular granite peaks. Prospectors moving through new areas continually do not have time or inclination to make ascents that are at all out of the way or even look difficult. The first known attempt on one of Alaska's high mountains was by prospector John Bremner in October-November, 1884, when he attempted to snowshoe up Mt Wrangell while wintering at Tielke. (see Seton-Karr, 1887 Shores and Alps of Alaska) It is only when miners become sedentary that they occasionally find time to celebrate on the eminences at hand.

The miners in the area of Independence Mine in the Talkeetnas made the first ascents of most of the spires that overlook the mine. The most prominent of these spires is the Pinnacle, 5550', whose first ascent was made by Dow and Harrison in 1939. They drilled a bit into the rock that is still there. The next true hill SE of The Pinnacle has recently been referred to as "The Needle", 4950', and on it Bob and Hugh Spurr found a record that even antedates Pinnacle's climb (SCREE, 9:10:4). On 15 October Barney Seiler, Grace and I went up to recover this record, finding it in the remains of an antebellum tobacco can so stained with rust as to be partially indecipherable. Here's what I can make out: "June 29 1938 and on the other side:

F(renchie?) Rousseau	" 'us too'
_____ Carr	Norman _____ erberg
** _____ dence	Ge _____ (one high letter in last name)
J M _____ "	From _____ Independence Mine
	July 31, 1940
	To hell with you Fro ty _____ ou and
	go _____ ing over _____ s"

After replacing this register we continued over the next two pinnacles NNE including a two-piton slab the miners never did.

Mrs Rose Johnson, 76, of Wasilla tells us that in their mining days she and her brother-in-law and nephew climbed "The Needle", The Pinnacle, and other points around Independence Mine in the summer of 1943.

PTARMIGAN PEAK

October 22

Bill Babcock

Peter Vlasveld, Harry Blodworth, Dub Blodworth did the North Face Of Ptarmigan. Getting somewhat of a late start at 9 a.m., we roped up at the foot of Ptarmigan and worked our way up the ice-and-snow-covered rock. Most of the time all four members moved simultaneously. Several steep walls forced some piton climbing but mainly because of the snow. The higher we climbed, the more difficult it became, and our pace was slowed by repeated belays. By 3:30 in the afternoon we were within walking distance of the summit but decided to descend rather than bivouac. Our descent went rapidly without incident. However, the last thousand feet were descended in the dark, which made for interesting route finding. Harry Blodworth did the climb with a cast on his right arm.

A.R.G. NEWS AND NOTES

Large Maagoe

A great deal of activity went on this year on Mount McKinley, as anyone knows who reads newspapers. A capsule summary of that activity follows. The Cassin route was climbed successfully for the second and third times. The Hokkaido Alpine Association Alaska Expedition, led by Dr. Takao Sasaki, made the second ascent; the third ascent was done by Boyd Everett's group. Boyd's group also pioneered the Direct South Face Route. Gregg Blomberg led the first winter climb of McKinley, placing three MCA members on top (Davidson, Genet, Johnston). Nine expeditions successfully climbed the mountain this year, yet their achievements were marred by tragedy since eight lives were lost to the mountain. ARG fielded two rescue attempts. In August Vin Hoeman led the last climb of the season, a search effort for the bodies from the Wilcox group. Ray Genet went on the first and last climbs of 1967 and is the only person to reach McKinley's summit twice in one year.

FIRST RECORDED ON IDAHO PEAK

October 21

Vin Hoeman

A 1914 map in a USGS water resources report is the first to show Idaho Peak, 5050', on the ridge between the Little Susitna River and Goodhopp Creek (tributary of Reed Creek). It is specifically located on Anchorage D-6 quad,

IDAHO....cont.

but not so easy to pick out on the ground. When Grace and I parked partway in the Snowbird Mine road 21 October, we walked up Goodhope Creek and first climbed Peak 4950, next S. from it, finding an old cairn atop this easy talus pile. Continuing to the SE ridge of Idaho, we found what may have been an old cairn partway between the pass and the large blocks of the summit ridge. There was no sign of previous ascent, but plenty of cairn material available so we built a good one in which to leave our Nester bottle register and descended the SW Face, noting a fine roped rock route up the West Nose to do some summer.

THOUGHTS ON THE SIERRA CLUB, ALASKA CHAPTER POSSIBILITIES Callie van der Laan

It is not news to most of us that conservationists are interested in Alaska as perhaps the last place where the chance exists to do things right: we Alaskans still are able to make a choice concerning the preservation of our mountains, wildlife, and wilderness. Other states are struggling to preserve unique wild areas from encroaching civilization so that future generations may know what the American earth used to be. As mountaineers, we are aware of the necessity to at least protect our mountains -- witness our Mountain Conservation Committee.

The Sierra Club is a national conservation organization with chapters all over the country, yet none in Alaska. Currently, most Sierra Club members living in Alaska are members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. The Sierra Club's Board of Directors has voted to place Alaskan conservation on its list of top priority objectives. This means that a certain proportion of time will be spent by full-time Sierra Club staff conservationists in studying our problems. In order to assist them, we definitely need a nucleus of tough Alaskan conservationists here in the form of an active Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club. There are other conservation groups in Alaska -- notably the Alaska Conservation Society of College and Kenai -- with smaller groups such as our Mountain Conservation Committee and Southeastern Alaska Mountaineering Association giving support. But there is a definite gap since the population center of Alaska (Anchorage) has no strong group at all -- the logical thing to do is to form a chapter of the Sierra Club here. The Sierra Club does not direct its chapters, but counts on them to provide necessary information. This is the time to do it so that a local chapter can make recommendations and decisions on the basis of local knowledge and understanding. Cooperation and hard work will be necessary for any effective education of the public regarding Alaskan problems.

We wish to protect "our" mountain (and other) wilderness areas. The Sierra Club can help us.

For more information and to indicate your interest, please call Callie van der Laan at 277-4251. (1601 F Street, Anchorage)

More bits and pieces...

Art and Lairis Davidson have a son, Arlyn Lomair Davidson born October 22.

Dave Johnston has travelled from fall in the Rockies and the East to summer in Hawaii where he picniced with Cliff Ells and family. From there he went to New Zealand springtime, soon to be in an Antarctic summer.

MCA-ers Bob Byhre and Helga Bading were married on October 27. Their address is 1815 N.E. Perkins Way, Seattle, 98155.

PHOTOGRAPHED ON IDAHO PEAK
A 1964 map in a USGS water
book on the ridge between
Crested Butte and Red Peak
(tributary of Red Creek)