

Editors: Helga Bading &  
Narge Prescott, Box 2037  
Anchorage, Alaska  
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SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 2037  
Anchorage, Alaska  
November, 1964

At one of the earliest meetings of the Mountaineering Club the proceedings were enlivened by the presence of an engaging outdoorsman, complete with German accent. His humor was hardy and good-natured and his enthusiasm spoke of an appreciation and knowledge of the local terrain born from experience. His attitude, then and always, was that the wilderness was for all; the problem was to make it available safely.

The first mountain I climbed in Alaska, I was guided up by Joe. So were several others. It was a long climb accompanied by a steady, inexhaustible, amusing dialogue on a wide range of subjects. Distracted from the receding peak and encouraged by the patience of the leader, the entire group made the summit. But then, all of Joe's group usually did get there and back.

My most harrowing and exciting experience was shared with Joe Pichler too. A group of mountaineers started out to snowshoe in a January weekend the Old Mail Trail from Eagle River to Girdwood. What we anticipated being an easy hike became a struggle over difficult terrain and lengthened into a four day trudge back to civilization. Through the understandable doubts and apprehensions of most of us, I recall Joe's confidence that steady would do it and we'd all get back. And we did!

In a world which has become complex, it was refreshing to know one individual who was simply and effectively himself. At a time when adjectives are over-used, it is more fitting to apply a simple one in its purest meaning, - good. For Joe Pichler was a good husband, father, friend, carpenter and mountaineer.

If it is with immeasurable sorrow that we record the death of Joseph Pichler on November 8, 1964, it is with joyful gratitude that we have known him.

Gwyn Wilson

NOVEMBER MEETING - we're back at Willow Park on 9th and Fairbanks. Meeting will start at 8 p.m. For a program we will see the excellent color movie 'Ice Climbing on Mt. Rainier'. Monday, Nov. 16 - Willow Park.

Your new Board of Directors:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Gary Kansen     | President      |
| Ron Linder      | Vice President |
| Dixie Piersen   | Secretary      |
| Marie Lundstrom | Treasurer      |
| Dave DeVoe      | Director       |
| Rod Wilson      | Director       |

O'MALLEY PEAK

November 1, 1964

by David Meyers

About fifteen AMU students and 8 MCA members collected at the bottom of the road to Clark's (below Flattop) with the climbing of O'Malley peak in mind. The road was not driveable and we found this would take too much time .. so after hiking up the road and over to the powerline (some carried impressive packs) we split into two groups. Six MCA'ers and one group, the AMU students and 2 MCA'ers in the other. The AMU climbers went above the saddle where Dave DeVoe and Rod Wilson and others crossed on a climb of O'Malley peak 2 years ago. The MCA decided to go around back of O'Malley and climb it, time permitting. As it was, we reached only a point below the first prominent outcropping in the eastern ridge. I went to its top out of curiosity. On the way down I found patches of wind packed snow and ended up belly-sliding down for about 500 ft. The weather was perfect and everyone had a grand time.



Americans on Everest, by James Ramsey Ullman. J.B. Lippincott Co.,  
New York, 1964 Price: \$0.95

For once the account of a major Himalayan Expedition has been written by a first rate author, James Ramsey Ullman. The result is a superb account of an expedition led by Norman Dyhrenfurth which was brilliantly successful, - success tragically barred, however, by the death of our former NCA friend, Jake Breitenbach.

Ullman was a member of the expedition but illness forced him to remain in Katmandu where he kept in contact with the party by runner and radio. In writing the book he makes extensive use of the climbers' diaries, giving an intimacy and immediacy to his account which otherwise might have been lacking. The close familiarity with the personality of each climber is one of the best features of the book. Ullman spends much more time on each man's individual characteristics, his personal triumphs, his weaknesses and the like than on the mile by mile plod into the mountain, who carried how much, how far, etc. - things which often make other mountain books dull and which make one skip everything but the summit assault pages. Ullman's book is, nonetheless, a complete account for he skillfully weaves the background of the expedition, - the planning, the goals, the logistics into the tale of individuals struggling to the top of the world.

And a gripping story it is of the two successful ascents from the South Col and the unprecedented climb to the summit from the West Ridge, even-  
tuating in a digit-freezing night out for four climbers at 28,000' without oxygen, food, tents, or sleeping bags. Explanation as to why the bulk of the expedition had retreated to Base Camp at this critical moment with two summit teams still high on the mountain is not fully given.

Technical chapters at the end about equipment, physiology, psychologically, etc. by individual members are disappointingly sketchy, the material apparently scheduled for presentation elsewhere.

Pictures, several in color, are excellent. It would be nice to read a mountaineering book with pictures appropriately fitted to the text rather than almost invariably to find them in bunches in the middle of the book. In all, though, this is the best Everest book yet.

Red Wilson

#### CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Nov. 21-22 Snowbird Mine Cabin - An overnight, skies or snowshoes  
Dec. 5 or 6 Rabbit Creek Valley  
Dec. 12 Flattop

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

|                                 |               |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Balance Oct. 1, 1963            |               |                                 | \$691.84       |
| Income - Oct. 1/63 to Oct. 1/64 |               | Expenses Oct. 1/63 to Oct. 1/64 |                |
| Dues                            | \$589.00      | Scree                           | \$163.95       |
| Crosser Film                    | 93.00         | Programs                        | 33.95          |
| Equipment Sales                 | 63.33         | Shlutna Cabin                   | 507.03         |
| Patches                         | 7.50          | Snowbird Cabin                  | 13.65          |
| Co-op Dividend                  | 3.96          | Equipment Purchase              | 229.55         |
| Donations                       | 106.00        | ARG transfer donation           | 105.00         |
| Misc. Credit                    | 22.33         | Misc.                           | 26.63          |
|                                 | <u>890.67</u> |                                 | <u>1079.81</u> |
| Balance October 1, 1964         |               |                                 | \$502.70       |

NOVEMBER MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - Willow Park Hall - 8 p.m.