

which
mountain?

Vol. 9, No. 4
February, 1967
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
P.O. Box 2037
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

O'Malley Pk

EVENTS TO COME

FEBRUARY MEETING: Willow Park Community Center, 9th and Fairbanks, February 20, 8 p.m. Art Kennedy, forest naturalist with the U.S. Forest Service will present the program, "Glacier Phenomena and Characteristics." Art, who is presently stationed in Anchorage, has worked with Maynard Miller of MSU on the Juneau Icecap and Dr. Millet of Brigham Young U on Portage Glacier.

FIRESIDE SESSION: Friday, March 3, hosted by Frank and Janet Nosek, 8 p.m., at 640 Karluk (log house at corner of 7th and Karluk). Bring goodies and beverages to this MCA social event, plus gear or issues or whatever.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, March 7, 8 p.m., 3104 W. 30th.

WOLVERINE PEAK CLIMB, Sunday, March 11, Frank Nosek, leader (277-4924 days, 272-2966 eves). This will be a one-day easy climb requiring snowshoes, boots, or skis with skins depending on snow conditions and temperature. Meet at Safeway parking lot, 9th and Gambell, 7 a.m. Bring lunch. Wolverine is the close peak on the Anchorage skyline to the left (north) of O'Malley Peak and which has two prominent ridges or arms reaching toward Anchorage with what seems to be almost a cirque between the ridges just below the peak summit. (Williwaw pokes up between Wolverine and O'Malley, but it is much farther back.) This was first climbed, so far as is known, by Rod Wilson and Dave Kimball in early winter 1962 and named for the wolverine tracks they found among the trees at the lower levels.

Nordic Ski Club Trips coming up include the following:

RUSSIAN JACK SPRINGS SKI TOUR. February 18. This is a warmup for the next day's trip. Meet at East High, 12 noon.

FUR RENDEZVOUS TOUR--EAGLE RIVER TO ANCHORAGE. February 19. See Rendezvous notes.

O'MALLEY TRAIL. February 25. Meet at 9:30 a.m., top of O'Malley at No. Hillside.

INDIAN CREEK TO SHIP CREEK. March 4-5. Overnight trip. Call leader Lou Mass, 277-6650 to find out about preliminary session.

ARCTIC VALLEY AREA TOUR. March 5. Meet at Safeway lot, 9th and Gambell, 8:30 a.m. Leader: Terry Fleming, 279-2167.

GIRDWOOD TO EAGLE RIVER. March 18-19. Overnight trip. Call leader Marv Hathorn 277-5000 about preliminary session and other details.

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY TOUR. March 19. Meet 8:30 a.m. Safeway lot, 9th & Gambell.

DIAMOND H RANCH TRAIL. March 25. Meet 10 a.m., Mile 3, O'Malley Road.

SKI DAY AT JOHNSON PASS. March 26. Meet 7:30 a.m. Safeway lot, 9th & Gambell.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 7 considered several issues, among them the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and conservation. A committee was appointed to determine how the club should relate to conservation issues (see Callie Van der Laan's article on FWOC). ** A guest book will be purchased for visitors at meetings to sign so that complimentary copies of Scree or other club information could be sent to interested persons. Scree list should include other clubs, news media, guests. ** The MCA Summer Climbing and Hiking Schedule, as concocted by Bill Hauser, was discussed extensively, and publication was postponed until




dates for the Climbing School and Glacier School could be decided and included in the schedule. ** NOTE: For the protection of everybody, all MCA members under 19 years old must have written permission from their parents in order to go on club trips. Forms will be available at the next meeting, and trip leaders also should have them. One form will do for all trips during the year. This applies to all persons under 19, whether they are junior members on their own or part of family memberships or nonmembers who want to go on MCA trips. ** Shall the club buy a new tent, and if so, what kind? Equipment chairman Dave DeVoe is open to suggestions from interested club members. ** The aim date for a Hans Gmoser presentation next fall is October 6. ** MCA did not go into a financial hole in 1966, according to the Treasurer's Report from Steffen Maagoe (see below).

MCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1966:

Income:	Dues plus a few patches and tent rental:	\$ 616.17
	Eric Shipton dinner:	198.44
	Total income:	<u>\$ 814.61</u>
Expenses:	Refreshment at meetings:.....	\$ 38.00
	Stationery:.....	8.80
	Maps:.....	6.30
	Eklutna cabin, paint etc.:.....	26.26
	Climbing equipment (rope):.....	32.42
	P.O. box rent:.....	12.00
	First Aid cards:.....	6.00
	Scree materials:.....	75.00
	Eric Shipton dinner:.....	320.00
	Misc. expenses:.....	18.00
		<u>\$542.74</u>
	Net Income:	<u>\$271.87</u>
	Balance December 31, 1966:	\$ 852.93
	Balance January 1, 1966:	<u>\$ 581.06</u>
	Net	<u>\$ 271.87</u>

Steffen Maagoe
Treasurer
January 24, 1967

P A A GROUND-TO-AIR SIGNALS

					
1. Require doctor-- serious injuries	2. Require medical supplies.	3. Unable to proceed	4. Require food and water	5. Require firearms & ammunition	6. Indicate direction & proceed.
					
7. Am proceeding in this direction	8. Will attempt to take off	9. Aircraft badly damaged	10. Probably safe to land here	11. All well	12. Require fuel and oil
					
13. No -- negative	14. Yes -- affirmative	15. Not understood	16. Require engineer	17. Require compass & map	18. Require signal lamp

THE PINNACLE

January 14-15

Bill Babcock

Gayle Nienhueser, Leo Hannan, Grace Hoeman, Don Haglund, and I left Anchorage at 5 a.m. Saturday. (John Ireton & Barney Seiler came Sunday.) From Independence to the foot of Pinnacle, we used snowshoes, taking approximately two and a half hours. After a lunch break, we began the climb of the boulder field. Grace led, making an easy snow shoe trail. At the foot of the gully, we put on crampons and climbed the gully under generally negotiable conditions. As the gully became steeper, about 50 degrees, there was quite a collection of snow, and I asked leaders Grace and Chet to traverse over to a rock projection so that there could be a secure belay. I went out and looked over the upper part of the gully, and it appeared okay, but with some deep snow, under which were good conditions. Grace and Chet resumed their climbing and reached the top of the gully, which ended in a steep rock wall ahead and a steep, nearly vertical traverse of some 40 feet to another gully. We positioned a piton and cut platforms in the snow so we could check out conditions. I attempted the steep rock and snow wall but felt that it would be too time-consuming, and because of the lateness of the day, we decided to return to camp and complete the climb in the morning. There was concern over the increasing grade of the gully and the snow conditions, but the snow was actually quite good due to the cold and to sound underlayers. Leo had had considerable trouble with his snowshoes but later found out that by tying rope onto the snowshoes and wrapping it around the edges, he could negotiate the slope much easier. On the return to camp, everyone used snowshoes for sitting glissades almost all the way. Leo and Gayle started to dig a snow cave, as did Grace, Chet, and I. Don started one on his own that worked out well.

By 6 a.m. next day, Grace, Chet, and I were ready to move up the gully again. Don said that he had been sick all night and did not feel he could make the climb, so he decided to return to the car and wait for the others.

The climb went well to the upper part of the gully. Grace, as the lightest member of the group, was the obvious choice to traverse from the top of the gully across the very exposed 40 feet to another gully leading to the summit ridge. We took the precaution of putting her on two belays. She moved cautiously across the middle ten feet of the traverse as there were only a few inches of snow on 70-degree rock and a fall-out of several hundred feet! Within 20 minutes Grace had gone 75 precarious feet and was able to fix a good belay to bring Chet across and up to where she was. Leo followed, commenting on the wonderful view. I then noticed that John and Barney were fast moving up the gully and would soon be up with the rest of the climbers. I joined the other members and Grace led the final 60 feet to the summit ridge. We all joined Grace and were very happy to have cloudless sunny weather, giving excellent views of all the peaks within several hundred miles. Redoubt was giving forth with a giant column of smoke or steam; McKinley was majestic as it changed colors in the morning sunlight.

We heard shouts from below--John and Barney had arrived at the foot of the rock wall. A rope was lowered to John, and he climbed up to join us on the summit, followed by Barney. John and I decided there might be an interesting route to the south off the Pinnacle. After a brief exploratory trip, it appeared that an extra hour or two of rock climbing would let the party down a new route to the gully below.

Barney, Leo, and Gayle decided that they needed rappel practice, so they returned via the route that the team ascended, while the others took off on the south ridge for some rock climbing.

John led down a steep knife edge with much snow covering the holds. A rappel rope was fixed, also a belay, and John descended, clearing hand holds as he went. Perched on top of a platform 3' by 6' John decided to lower himself over onto a narrow ledge to see what he could find. He was out of sight for quite some time, but finally appeared below and said that there was a crack that one could jam fingers into to lower himself down to the lower part of the ridge. Chet went off the same route and commented to John that it was "some" route! When Grace lowered herself over the ledge, she wished she were a few inches taller. I followed, cursing the rappel rope, which got stuck so that I had to climb back up to extricate it. The group proceeded along the south ridge then, traversing north along the foot of the rock wall falling away from the ridge. Keeping close to the rock, but on steep snow, the group descended from belay point to belay point. Upon reaching the gully, I sat down to start off on a sliding glissade. Unfortunately, I did not take off my crampons, and they caught on a submerged rock. I sprained my ankle! Thanks to John's willingness to carry my pack plus the toboggan brought up by Leo, Gayle, and Barney, the whole group got back to the parking lot by 5 p.m. ***

MT. RUMBLE ATTEMPT

September 3,4,5 1966

Helen Wolfe

"Sure, I'll babysit," Bobbie said. John and I looked at each other in delight and gleefully began planning a trip. Try for a first ascent of Kiliak, 7450'? No, all the approaches look bad--let's find something we know we can do. How about Rumble, 7530'? Vin makes it sound so easy--his descent route was class three all the way--"a one-day trip for a strong party"--should be a breeze for us in three days. (See September 1966 Scree for account of the first ascent by Vin Hoeman and Dave Meyers on July 23, 1966.) Well, dear reader, I am here to advise you to consider v-e-r-y carefully everything Vin says. One-day trip, indeed! Maybe...if your strong party consists solely of three Vin Hoemans!

But we had a glorious trip...except for that first day. We camped Friday night in or around the Wolfes' homestead cabin in Eagle River Valley--Bill Hauser, Gayle Nienhueser, Jim Jelliffe (a friend from Ft. Richardson), and the two Wolfes. Saturday dawned cloudy, and we left--at the Wolfe idea of a reasonable hour--in the red Travelall for the end of the road above Hardee Airstrip. As we hiked through Heavenly Valley, we shortly found ourselves in the clouds and thoroughly lost. "We're climbing the back of Ferine," I grumbled. "Shut up, Woman," bellowed four male minds, and we continued on and up, through the fog. After a bit the clouds lifted slightly.....and we descended from the back of Ferine. Eventually we made it to the top of the terminal moraine, along its length, through Bombardment Pass, and down the long unnamed valley to Peters Creek and kinder altitudes.

We made camp in the semi-dark under clearing skies, and after dinner sat around Bill's campfire and watched a spectacular display of northern lights. The next two days could not have been more perfect--glorious blue skies and brilliant sunshine, with autumn tundra reds at their height. We left, again at a "reasonable hour," Sunday morning for the top of Rumble. We found crossing Peters Creek no real problem at this time of year. We proceeded, as Vin had said, up the wide southern gully toward the main northwest ridge of Rumble. But we ran into a little problem that Vin had neglected to mention. The gully forked. To us it was obvious that we should take the left fork because it was bigger and obviously led directly to a ridge. The right gully appeared to dead-end before hitting the ridge. To Vin it had been obvious (we learned later) that you take the right-hand gully because it was closer to the summit.

We followed our left fork gully to a ridge at about 6500', on a frosting of new snow for the last 1000 feet or so. We continued along the ridge toward the summit over footing that was slippery enough to make at least some of us uneasy. We stopped to look at the view from the unclimbed 7000' west summit of Rumble. From there we were faced with descending into Vin's right fork gully, and by majority rule, we concluded that this was too technical a task, particularly with the new snow, for our party to undertake. Time prevented us from retracing our steps and taking the right-hand gully, though as we descended, Bill stopped frequently to consider possibilities. But he was outvoted, and we had to be content with hopes of returning another day.

A beautiful boulder, about 30 feet high, christened "Mt. Smith", delayed us for an hour or two on our way back for a first ascent of it and many new routes. We too explored the remains of the old cabin lower down on Peters Creek, marveling at the remains of logs at least 18 inches in diameter here above timber line. Who was here and why? ...Then to camp and bed.

The next day we broke camp regretfully and headed home through blazing, pure beauty, through mountains no longer nameless, across rivers of known destination, but for a while yet through "valleys unpeopled and still." The headwaters of Peters Creek remain untouched; not too many people have yet defiled the loveliness with their trash, as they have Eagle River.

"There's a land--oh, it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back--and I will."

(Robert Service -- "Spell of the Yukon")

Vin Hoeman soloed Donnelly Dome (3910) on the north side of the Alaska Range, an hour's round trip from the Richardson Highway, January 19. On top are a scattering of cairns, 2 scout plaques, and a long strip of plane fuselage(?) with over 100 military names scratched in its paint over the past 10 years.

PTARMIGAN PEAK

December 4

Bob Spurr

On December 4, Bobby Hansen, Grace Jansen Hoeman, Gale Nienhueser and Bob Spurr climbed Hope and Ptarmigan Peaks, 4880', via the central couloir which bifurcates the mountain's northern slope. This is a variation of the Hauser-Foster ascent of the previous winter, whose route gained the NINE ridge below the Ptarmigan summit.

NAMES DILEMMA

by Vin Hoeman

Over the past three and a half years our Committee on Geographic Names has added 35 names to the maps of Alaska, only seven names having been rejected by the State Geographic Board and none by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. But the State Board is a political body which meets infrequently and maintains no rules for acceptance or rejection of names. We have urged them to adopt a set of rules similar to our own, or at least be allowed representation when they meet in order to stand up for our names and policies. So far this has been denied, and eight names of our last batch of fourteen were rejected without giving reasons for these rejections. We do not name features at random but select significant landmarks in areas that we are the first to explore and pick appropriate labels for them. Our strict rules are as follows:

- 1) No names of persons, living or dead, shall be proposed.
- 2) Duplication of existing names will be avoided within reasonable area limits.
- 3) Changes of long-standing names used on maps and in literature will be opposed.
- 4) Attempts will be made to adhere to a central theme in areas where several features are to be named.
- 5) Local names which conform with our policies, or are acceptable to us, but not yet official, will be proposed.
- 6) We will avoid naming features in areas not yet explored on the ground, for to name them would be to rob their future explorers of the privilege.
- 7) We recognize the difference between names for major features requiring approval, and guidebook names for minor features of interest only to mountaineers.
- 8) We believe historical and descriptive names are more desirable than those commemorating ephemeral characteristics or purely personal experiences.

Recently accepted names are CROW PEAK, 5950', between Clear and Crow Glaciers near Crow Pass; ICEWORM PEAK, 5850', highest south of Kachemak Bay named for iceworms seen on the glaciers near it on first ascent in 1951; POWERLINE PASS, 3550', at head of South Fork of Campbell Creek; TANAINA PEAK, 5350', two miles north of Mt. Williwaw; TRUULI PEAK, 6612', highest point on Kenai Peninsula named after old Indian name for range; and WHITEOUT GLACIER, with its head between Eagle and Eklutna Glaciers and its mouth at Lake George. Rejected were Mt. Alpenglow, Bombardment Pass, Ferine Mountain, Mt. Kiliak, Lynx Peak, Ovis Peak, Peek-a-boo Peak, and Mt. Rumble.

Those interested in serving on the MCA Committee on Geographic Names call Vin at 277-7871 to be contacted for the next meeting.

THE COMING CONSERVATION CONTROVERSY

by Callie van der Laan

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (FWOC) has invited the MCA to join their organization. The FWOC was established in 1932 for the "promotion of the proper use, enjoyment and protection" of America's outdoor resources. The group currently has a membership of 42 western clubs, with members in all western states except Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. There are fifteen clubs from Washington, for example, and the majority of members are small hiking and climbing clubs. The two largest are the Sierra Club and the Seattle Mountaineers. Each club has one vote and dues are according to size of membership. (For a club our size, dues would be \$10.)

The FWOC holds an annual convention on Labor Day weekend at which members vote on resolutions pertaining to conservation. Member clubs send a delegate or arrange for a proxy. In 1965, twenty-five resolutions were passed concerning such things as Primitive Areas in Colorado, Montana and California; support of preservation of wild river areas; opposition to dams in Grand Canyon area; preservation of the

California condor, the Tule elk, and the grizzly bear, and so forth. The 1966 convention unanimously approved thirty-two resolutions including opposition to heliports in national parks; support for effort to curb environmental pollution; support for a national trail system; and support for specific projects in California, Colorado, Washington and Hawaii.

The FMO's president's report in 1966 contained these statements:
 "The time has come for Federation clubs and their officers to cease being provincial in their outlook. All of us must become more aware and better informed of the total picture. Our National Parks and Wilderness Areas belong to all of the people of the nation... In Alaska, a conservation consciousness must be built within the citizenry to prevent destruction of America's last great wilderness frontier in the same manner as our forefathers unthinkingly exploited the forests, the mineral, and scenic resources from the Rockies to the Pacific. Alaska provides a golden opportunity to heed the lessons of history, to avoid the mistakes of the past and to set aside scenic and wilderness lands and protect vanishing species of wildlife before it is too late. Someone must fill the conservation void in these areas. Why not the FMO?"

Here are some of the courses open to the MCA:

- 1) Do nothing about conservation.
- 2) Take stands and action as an independent club.
- 3) Join the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.
- 4) Form a conservation committee or section which will take stands on conservation.
- 5) Form a conservation committee or section which will join FMO.
- 6) Urge individual members to join the Alaska Conservation Society, or to form a local section of that group, unaffiliated with MCA. (This society is an active group centered in College, with one branch in Kenai. Their concern is mainly with Alaskan problems, and only Alaskan residents are voting members.)

The Executive Committee discussed this issue and appointed a committee to study the FMO invitation. Committee members are: Gwynneth Wilson, Chairman, Helen Wolfe, Paul Crews, Bill Davis, Gary Hansen, and Callie van der Laan.

Scree welcomes comments on this question; it will also be discussed at the next regular club meetings.

JACQUES BATKIN "LA FARINE" 1930-1967

Farine was the nickname by which we knew our friend. He was born the 4th of September, 1930, in Mantes, France. About seven years ago he began climbing, and, although not a member of any mountaineering clubs, he soon made a series of outstanding ascents on some of the most spectacular rock faces in the Alps with other well-known climbers. Having earned a reputation for strength, ability, and good humor, he was invited to come to Alaska in 1964 on an expedition to Mount Huntington led by Lionel Terray. All six climbers made the outstanding first ascent of this 12,240' McKinley satellite, and Farine and Sarthou were the first to reach the top on May 25th. The expedition returned to France where Terray and another member, Marc Martinetti, lost their lives on Gabel Peak, 5089', on September 19th, 1965. Farine returned to Alaska last August as the guest of his Swiss friend, Ray Genet, and on the 23rd of October participated in the first Ascent of Crow Peak, 5950', with Ray and other MCA members. Perhaps because of the language barrier, we found Farine socially retiring until the work of preparing for the Winter McKinley Expedition began. Then he was a tireless, enthusiastic worker, full of fun and picking up English rapidly. When we showed pictures of beautiful rock faces, he positively glowed! On the 29th of January the eight climbers were flown to the Kahiltna Glacier at McKinley's foot, and two days later Farine died in a crevasse which tore him from beneath the load he carried toward their goal. We know Farine enjoyed his last two weeks, and we think he would wish to be always near mountains as great as McKinley and Huntington.

--- V.H.

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Scree staff: Marie Lundstrom, Marge Maagoe, Callie van der Laan, Carol Devoe. Articles on trips and other material to appear in Scree should be sent to Marie Lundstrom, Box 4-964, Anchorage 99503, or call 277-0846 (home) or 272-0554 (work).

MISCELLANIE

Grace and Vin Hoeman attempted Kings Mt, 5809', walking across the Matanuska River on the ice (\$3 round trip per person on cable in summer) January 29, but subzero winds at 60 mph turned them back with frostbitten faces at 5000'.

New and newly paid up members since last issue of Scree: Lorna Ridley, Jim Krob, Nick Parker, W. D. Balatin, Paul and Marie Hillburn, Dr and Mrs Stewart Newlander, Gregg Erickson, E. C. Rust, George Perkins, Don Stockard, Cliff Ellis, Helga Bading, John V. Burns.

Gary Hansen, Steve Stewart, John and Helen Wolfe, and Hans and Callie Van der Laan climbed Flattop January 21.

MCA patches are available to members for \$1.00 each from treasurer Steffen Maagoe.

Who borrowed Dave DeVoe's snowshoes last spring? Please return them as he needs them!

Cliff and Lavon Ellis are moving to Hawaii where he will be working as a forester for the Hawaii State Division of Lands.

Mountain silhouette on page 1 of January Scree is Devil's Tower (Indian: "Malo Tepee") in Northeast Wyoming. It was the first National Monument to be established and has been climbed numerous times.

Bill Hauser presently is teaching Physical Education 7, Mountaineering, for the Anchorage Community College.

Grace and Vin Hoeman climbed Highland Mtn, 3650', from the Roetman Homestead on Highland Road south of Eagle River, February 4. They tested Treadwell plastic snowshoes (not worthless, not magic carpets) and established a register on top. Their mountain was named by homesteaders after their road a year or two ago, and the name has been approved.

An up-to-date MCA membership list, with names, addresses, and home and work telephone numbers will be published with March Scree. Please check name and address on Scree for correctness. If something isn't right, please call Marie Lundstrom, 277-0846 or 272-0554 or drop a note to Box 4-964, Anchorage.

NOTES ON THE NEW MCA TREASURER: Steffen Maagoe...born and educated in Denmark...electronics engineer...spent two years in Antarctica and two years in Thule...has climbed in Europe and Antarctica before coming to Alaska in 1965...married MCA-er Marge Prescott in 1966...occasionally tagged "The Man from ESSA" with the mysterious ticking suitcase that monitors solar protons...hikes and skis...climbed Pioneer Peak solo in summer 1966.

For the early arriving socializers at the January 23 dinner honoring James Ramsey Ullman and the eight members of the Winter McKinley Expedition, door-watching was seeing the MCA membership roster come in--they came and they came and they came, members and non-members, until the dining area reserved at Sheffield House was jammed and tables had to be set up in the bar! Places had been set for 50 persons, but 105 were served. Ullman's slide-illustrated commentary about the 1963 American Everest Expedition, for which he was official historian, was particularly entertaining and relevant to the unusual feat to be attempted by the Winter McKinley Group, Gregg Blomberg, Art Davidson, John Edwards, Dave Johnston, Shiro Nishamae, George Wichman, Ray Genet, and Jacques Batkin.

HISTORICAL NOTES: MCA charter members, as unearthed from the dues paid list through the Sept. 4 1958 cutoff date were Joe Pichler, Bill & Lou Whitney, Judy Fisher, Robert Gray, Gretel Brasig, Ernst Baumann, George Wichman, Ted Barrett, Wayne Rhodes, Matt Nitsch, Bruce MacKenzie, Larry Straley, Bill McKee, George Deans, Johnnie Johnston, David Hendrickson, John Robertson, Duane and Shirley Luedtke, Paul Crews, Peter & Helga Bading, Sherry Rose, Jerry Nelson, Hans Metz, Erik & Tina Barnes, John Trautner, Dwight & Jacqueline Robinson, Eugene Horning, Bob Rankin, Orin L. Wilson, Andy Brauchli, Thelma L. Whitehouse, Gary King, Lois Willard, Dennis Binning, Edward Thompson, Norman Pichler, Leona Wilkerson. First officers were Paul Crews, pres; Johnnie Johnston, v pres; Helga Bading, sec-treas; Erik Barnes, director; and Larry Straley, director.
