

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska
April 1970 - Vol. 13, No. 4

APRIL MEETING . . . Monday, April 13th at 7:30 P.M. . . . Ben Crawford Memorial Park (rear entrance) 3rd and Eagle. Program - MOVIES. #1 SKYLINE HIKE OVER MUIR TRAIL (Color) - The John Muir trail follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada from Yosemite Valley to the top of Mt. Whitney. #2 TETON TRAILS (Color) - Wildlife and scenic beauty of the Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park.

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

April 3-5 (Friday to Sunday) GIRDWOOD to EKLUTNA traverse. Strong skiers only. Purpose is to check on the condition of MCA cabins. Possible alternate for those who would like to ski on the glacier this weekend, but not go all the way is to ski to the Eklutna cabin and meet the group coming across. Leader: Grace Hoeman 277-7871.

April 11-12 (Saturday and Sunday) Peak on KENAI PENINSULA. Leader: Dub Bludworth -- call Randy Renner, 279-1192, for sign up and transportation information.

April 18-19 (Saturday and Sunday) Rescheduled SUICIDE I (5005') and SUICIDE II (5065') peaks behind Anchorage. Leader: Grace Hoeman 277-7871.

May 2 (Saturday) Climb and hike in little PETERS CREEK area. Leaders: Gayle and Helen Nienhueser 277-9330. (This is a tentative area only - hike may be changed to include a hike that will be in new "50 HIKES" book.)

May 10 (Sunday) Climbing and hiking up CRAIGIE CREEK in the Talkeetna's. See Anchorage D-7 map. Leader will be picked at April meeting.

BEGINNING MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

April 22 (Wednesday) THEORITICAL SESSION for beginning mountaineering school. Meet at Sears parking lot at 6:30 P.M. Subjects to be covered will be knots, equipment, maps, belaying, mountain safety and climbing attitude. Will depart Sears and if weather permits will go along Seward Highway for actual practice.

April 25-26 (Saturday and Sunday) BEGINNING MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL. Meet again at Sears parking lot (N.E. corner) at 7:30 A.M. Saturday. Travel to either CHUGACH or TALKEETNA'S.

depending on the weather. (We'll attempt to use either Crow Pass or Snowbird Mine area cabins can be used.) Leaders tentatively are: Steve Hackett, Randy Renner, Bob Smith, and Art Ward.

SIGN UP FOR SCHOOLS AT APRIL MEETING -- CLUB MEMBERSHIP A REQUIREMENT. No charge for schools.

BOARD MEETING

March/April Board Meeting will be at 703 West Northern Lights Boulevard on April 16th at 7:30 P.M. Please notify Randy Renner if you can not attend. Committee Chairman are requested to attend if possible.

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HIDDEN PEAK 5105'
ELLIOTT PEAK 4710'

January 1970

March 1970

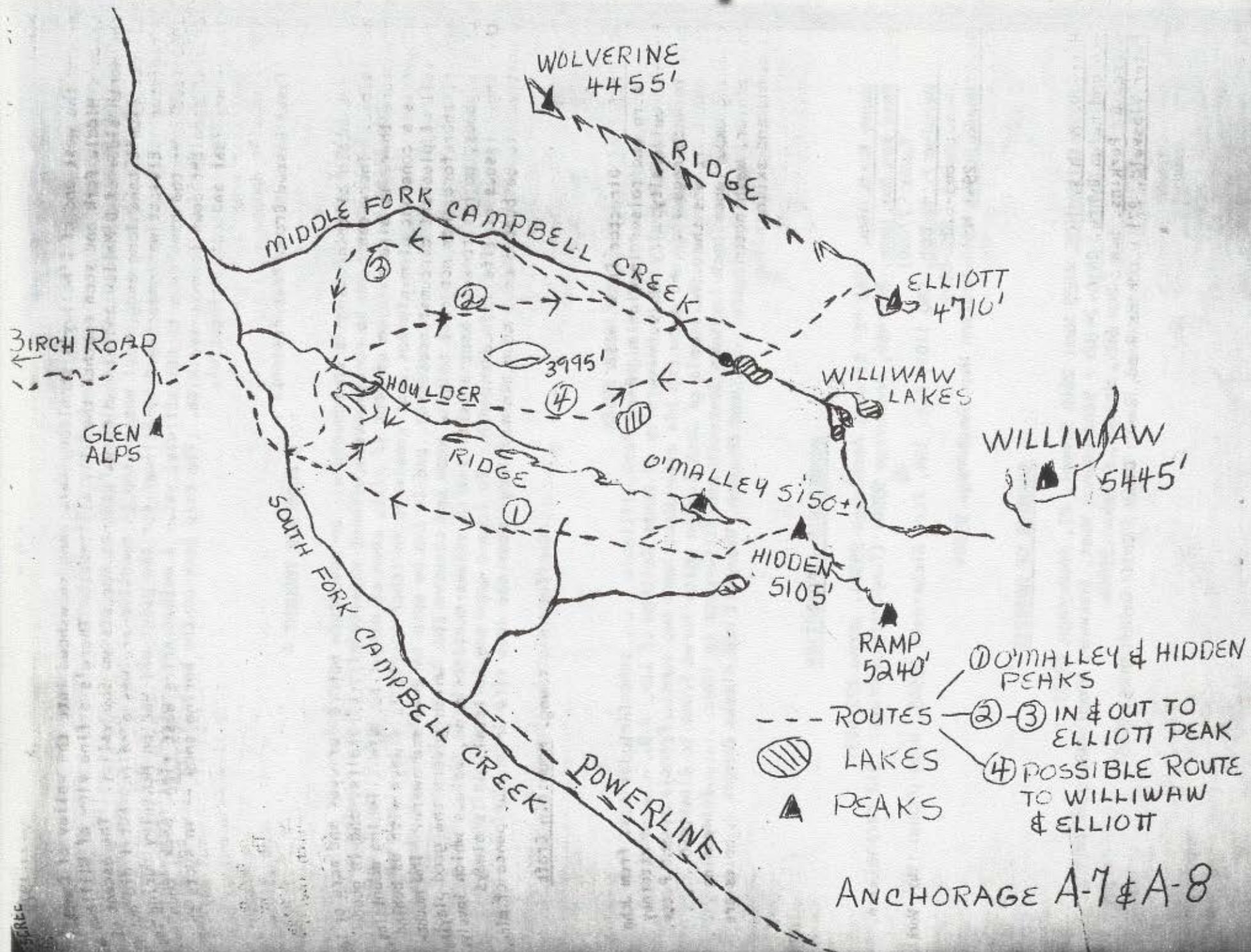
Grace Hoern

I do not feel the letdown, which some people experience after a substantial climb. Then the little peaks have become too little, and their choice is "the big thing" or nothing - usually it is nothing. To me the little outings provide as much challenge and satisfaction as the large scale expedition.

It was on one of these small climbs - a peak hidden behind O'Malley Peak - that I set out on January 10, after our return from Mt. Rainier. A new obstacle has emerged on the Glen Alps approach road in the form of one Howard Murray, homesteader, through whose front yard the approach road runs. This man has barricaded "his" road with barrels and cables. I was lucky that morn, the cable being down, and shot past the trouble spot unhindered, parked the car a little higher up where the road forks off to the power line. Skis carried me across the frozen and snowed in South Fork of Campbell Creek and I skied and skinned the valley, finally hid the skis beyond the reach of snowmobilers on the south slope of the ridge, which stretches from O'Malley's shoulder via O'Malley and Hidden Peaks to the Ramp. There is little snow this winter and the barely covered scree slopes made the going tough for me and my equipment. It didn't take long to realize that I couldn't possibly reach Hidden Peak that day. I settled for O'Malley, summit of which I reached by 14:30 hour. Only one hour was left before darkness and I hustled "ankletwisting" down with a strong desire to reach my skis before dusk would claim them. The last daylight vanished beyond Cook Inlet as I found the hiding spot. I skied down valley in the dark, with a rather bright headlamp. Barely stretched out on the sofa and the phone rang. Dave Meyers reminded me a promise I had made him earlier in the week. Yes, I told him, there's still the first winter ascent of Hidden Peak to be done, but . . . well, O.K. . . see you tomorrow morning at seven.

We weren't so lucky with the cable this time, it was strung across the barrels and the homesteader gave us an argument, despite our polite request for passage, and he enforced his stand with a shotgun and two dogs, who were eager to nip our calves. We parked below his property and skied and snowshoed up. One of my climbing skins broke, which crippled me. Dave, who was on snowshoes, the winner in the uphill race. Again we hid our skis and snowshoes -- this time a little farther up valley, beyond where O'Malley's south rib and down into the Campbell Creek valley. Hidden Peak's ridge is far more demanding than O'Malley but it is still not difficult and we reached the summit by 13:00 hour. We left a register with a note of our first (?) winter ascent and retraced our steps. A rotten rock held out on Dave and he fell down a chute as I watched with horror, unable to help. He stopped himself expertly and was luckily unhurt. I got even with him on the way to the car -- he turned to ski out of sight, but a snowmobiler gave him a ride and we reached the car about the same time.

Not until March 22 did I return to the area. Elliott Peak, 4710', was my target for the day. The many bare patches visible from Anchorage made me hesitate about equipment and I trotted up, burdened with skis, snowshoes and crampons, after I'd left the car at Murray's place. Just above the canyon I crossed Campbell Creek's South Fork, then at



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around the west end of O'Malley's shoulder, skied and snowshoed into the valley of Campbell Creek's Middle Fork and soon reached the Williwaw Lakes. There's a fine view of Williwaw the North sides of O'Malley and Hidden Peaks as one proceeds up the valley. The ascent of Elliott didn't take long and I was on top at noontime -- there was a cairn, but I did not put a register. Elliott was named by Dillman for the pilot who perished on McKinley during the 1960 rescue -- the name is not official yet. I walked the entire West ridge back, then dropped straight down to my skis. The trip back on the hard spring snow -- in spots where the ice -- was fast and delightful.

The Alaska Rescue Group Presents . . .

* FOOD FOR THOUGHT *

"Mountain climbing is an adventure: an adventure open before our eyes and more or less accessible. There can be no adventure without uncertainty of its results, and in good adventure there is also an element of risk, even of danger to life. In climbing mountain danger is a constant element, not remote as in other sports: It is always with us behind the veil of pleasant circumstances, and it can be upon us before we are aware. The mountaineer, therefore, has not only to know and observe the rules which govern the good play of all games, he has to keep another set of values constantly in mind, values which involve the larger issues of life and death. To lose a game may be beneficial and is always educative; to be beaten on a mountain may incur the loss of a life or of our peace of mind."

. . . . Geoffery Winthrop Young, Mountain Craft

MCA Profile: Director FRANK NOSEK

Born and raised in Highland Park, Illinois . . . schooling includes B.A. from John Carroll University . . . University of Idaho College of Law, J.D. . . . now an attorney here in Anchorage . . . he and his wife Janet have two sons: Francis, age 4, and Peter, age 1 . . . it was the novels of Jack London which lured Frank to Alaska in 1960 . . . climbing experience includes Sawtooth and Bitterroots in Idaho . . . Tetons, Wyoming . . . Mt. Rainier, Washington . . . and Chugach, Wrangell and Alaska Ranges . . . hobbies are climbing and skiing.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Henry K. Noldan, 1566 "E" Street, Anchorage 99501, phone 272-4031.

Hans Van Der Laan, Box 496, Anchorage 99501 (Temporary Address: 912 Marshall, Houston, Texas 77006)

Carolyn F. Wadman, CBQ 1101, Apt. 19A, Fort Richardson 99505, Home phone: 864-1342; Work phone: 863-8205.

David Hunke, 2941 Madison Way, Anchorage 99504

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Harry D. Mathis, 1435 West 26th Street, #7, Anchorage 99503.

Bob and Helga Byhre, 24104 - 92nd Avenue West, Edmonds, Washington 98020.

George G. Perkins, Box 501, Valdez, Alaska 99686.

Peter Vlasveld, 271 Woodhams Road, Santa Clara, California 95051.

BITS AND PIECES

It seems of interest to MCA to find out about the status of the Glen Alps Road. To that effect Grace Hoeman contacted Mrs. Gallagher, Anchorage Borough attorney. Mrs. Gallagher was fully familiar with the problem. The Glen Alps Road is not a public road, but strictly private and Mr. Murray can block off his property as he desires. There are two possibilities for the future: 1) As soon as the proposed Chugach Park becomes a State Park, a new access road to the area will be considered, this will be a long term project; 2) Affidavits of citizens who have used the road for ten years can be left at Mrs. Gallagher's office and a lawsuit, based on the "public usage" law can be instituted. In case enough affidavits are submitted, the Borough might consider this course of action.

SCREE is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska which is affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation. Editor: Marty Corcoran. Staff: Carol DeVoe, Joanne Merrick, Chuck Pease. Please send material for the May issue of SCREE to Marty Corcoran, P. O. Box 295, Eagle River, Alaska 99577 by April 24.