



Mountaineering Club of Alaska Box 2037 Anchorage Alaska 99501 February 1970 Vol 13 No 2

FEBRUARY MEETING...Monday February 9 at 7:30 P.M. Bon Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle...meetings will have to start at 7:30 from now on because of the city ordinance requiring city parks and buildings to close at 10:00...Grace Hootman will show slides and talk on the first ascent of Mt. KILBALL...Barry Kircher will have a program on the MCAs trip to Mt. RAINIER over the Christmas Holidays.

#### CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

February 14-15 (Sat. & Sun.) MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL to be conducted by Bill Babcock (leader) and Steve Hackett. Tentative area is Portage Glacier and an alternate will depend on the weather. Instruction will be aimed at all levels of experience. Club membership and a signed release is mandatory. Call Bill Babcock at 279-1187 or Steve Hackett at 277-1181 for sign-up and information about required equipment. Sign-up sheet and info will also be available at the Feb. meeting.

February 21-23 (Sat. - Mon.) SNOWBIRD MILE/MONTANA PEAK AREA Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and climbing in the Talkeetna Mountains north of Palmer. For those going on to the Montana Peak area, full winter gear is necessary; others can stay in the cabin. Leader will be picked at the February meeting.

No climb is scheduled for the weekend of Feb. 28-Mar. 1. Anybody interested in climbing this weekend can contact members of the Marcus Baker group as they will be climbing this weekend.

March 7 Or 8 (depending on the weather) Annual MCA climb of BYRON PEAK in the Portage area. Leaders: Gayle Monmeser 277-9330. Note: an article appeared in the February 1970 ALASKA magazine about the 1967 Byron climb -- stay away from cornices.

Maps of climbs will be at the February meeting for the information of prospective climbers.

Progress of the MARCUS BAKER/Mt. GOODE expedition:

MEMBERS: Chuck Pease, leader; Nick Parker, climbing leader; Barry Kircher, food coordinator; Dave Wesche, expedition doctor; Bob Smith, photographer; Randy Renner, communications and transportation; Bob Spurr, Wendell Odierick, Jim Kross, Steve Hackett, and Russ Robbins. The group is currently planning meetings every 2 weeks (although meeting weekly) and planning several climbs in preparation for a March 14th departure for a 1st winter ascent on both mountains.



RANDY REMNER'S REMARKS

The JANUARY MEETING was a real group meeting! It was agreed to take advertising in SCREE but how much and the cost was never resolved. The membership, after discussion, empowered the board to resolve the contract differences with the Seattle Mountaineers and to go ahead with the publication of "50 HIKES". A resolution banning all motorized vehicles on the Resurrection trail was passed in support of the Forest Service proposed ban of trail vehicles in this area. The proposed Chugach State Park was presented to MCA. Since that time, the bill has been introduced in both the State House and Senate -- passage looks favorable at this time -- send those cards and letters to the legislators and senators and see if we can't push just a little harder.

Grace Hoeman has invited MCA to hold their next EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING at her home at 8:30 P.M. on February 18. This will be an informal meeting of officers and committees and all others interested are invited to attend.

Now members and members who have been around for a while: what better way to enjoy MCA than to get involved in what's happening. The main season of climbing and hiking is approaching. Why not lend a hand and when spring finally arrives we'll be ready for a full season. Here are the MCA Committees:

Climbing, Instruction & Rescue:

Chuck Pease (Chairman)

Steve Hackett

Nick Parker

Bill Babcock

Corresponding Secretary: Jim KrossEquipment: Joanne MerrickHuts and Cabins: Barry KirchnerPrograms & Publicity: Randy RemnerMembership: Carol DeVoeConservation: Sharon Cissna (Chairman)Geographic Names: Grace Hoeman

Ruth Schmidt

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NEWS FROM THE ALASKA RESCUE GROUP

Randy Remner

ARG, under the guidance of Dr. George Wichmann (chairman) and Steve Hackett (vice-chairman), has been evaluating its position as a rescue group and advisor to the Mt. McKinley Park Service. It was determined at the last meeting to get ready for a possible busy summer, because of the changes in climbing regulations on McKinley, as explained by Ernest Borgmann, Park superintendent, which will allow almost anybody to climb the mountain and the only requirement will be to register when going in and sign out when leaving the Park. Dr. Wichmann explained to Mr. Borgmann that ARG no longer wishes to be responsible for approving or disapproving groups wishing to climb the mountain. ARG WILL ACT as an educational group to advise groups going on the mountain and will act as a rescue group within limitations placed by the weather, altitude and transportation to the mountain. The Major in charge of the Elmendorf RCC explained their position, ability and problems associated with mountain rescue. He recommended that ARG reaffiliate with C.P. to alleviate legal technicalities in conjunction with ARG using military transportation to the mountain. ARG has asked the Kinley Park Service to assist in rescue by allowing a temporary cache at 17,000' for running a line with a winch to 14,000' to facilitate speedy rescue and evacuation. We are awaiting a reply so final plans can be formulated for a trip to the mountain in the spring before the rush begins. The possibility of traffic signals at Windy Corner was also discussed if things get too crowded up there.

The Alaska Rescue Group presents...

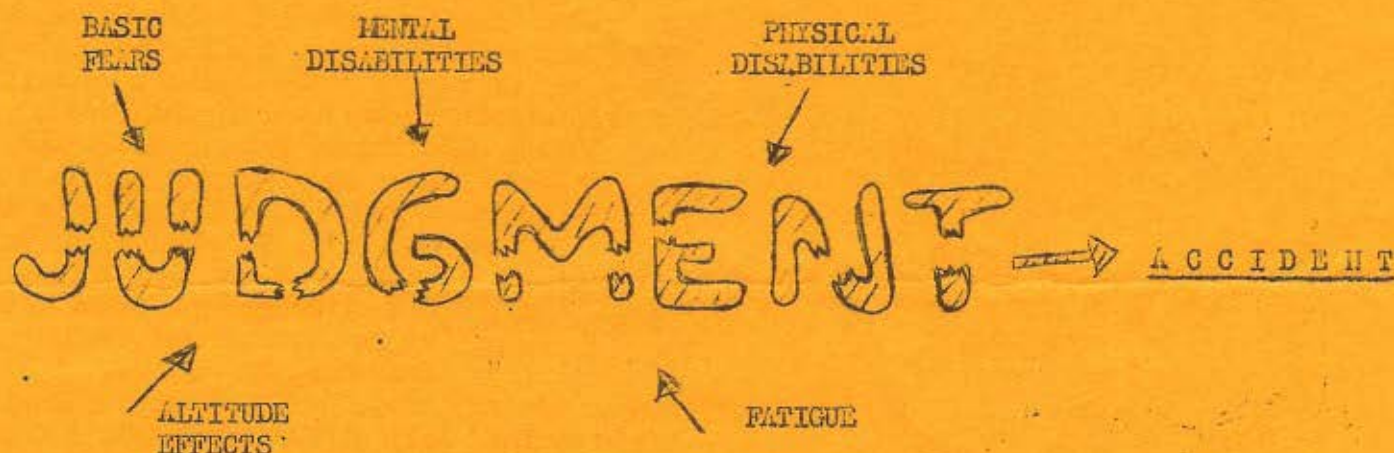
\* FOOD FOR THOUGHT \*

Steve Hackett

The following material was quoted from a talk given by Gene W. Mason, M.D., Everett Washington at the Mountain Rescue Assoc. convention held in Seattle, November 28-29, 1969. ARG is an active member of the Mountain Rescue Association.



"Fears and physical and mental disabilities, either by themselves or in combination with climbing fatigue effects, serve to disintegrate judgment and precipitate accidents. Prevention lies in careful, objective evaluation of what potential hazards one is carrying into the mountain environment, understanding of the additive stresses of climbing and altitude, and alertness toward their interaction.



With increasing numbers of people turning to mountains for recreation activities and more mountain climbing accidents occurring yearly, a critical look towards the precipitating factors is needed. The first step towards prevention lies in understanding the problem. While there are accidents that occur in spite of good judgment, e.g., an avalanche in an unexpected area, or the failure of a piece of previously tested equipment, most accidents occur as a result of poor judgment occurring during the climb. Let us look at the factors leading to this disintegration. Some of the factors are carried into the mountain terrain by the climber just as certainly as his equipment, while others develop as the environment is challenged. Those carried with him are; 1. basic human fears, 2. mental disabilities, and 3. physical disabilities. The mountain environment superimposes the factors of: 4. altitude effects and 5. fatigue. With regard to mountain climbing accidents, prevention lies in careful objective evaluation of what potential hazards one is carrying into the mountain environment, an understanding of additive stresses of climbing and altitude, and an alertness towards their interaction."

\* \* \*

RAVEN PEAK 6650'±50

January 7, 1970  
First Winter Ascent

Dan Osborne  
(Alaska Alpine Club)

Lennie Chestnut and I skied up to the Forest Service Crow Pass cabin in six hours. This cabin is the fanciest base camp this writer has ever stayed in. The oil stove and oven produced some great glop and many batches of hot biscuits (bring your Bisquick when coming here). The 7th looked very promising and we skied on wind pack or on packed snow to the head wall of the Raven Glacier without any trouble. The little 400foot steep glacier that comes down to the Raven Glacier from the west col of Raven Peak was tricky. The snow varied its texture many times and the shrub kept appearing in our footsteps. We found the summit cairn and entered our names. Since the sun had set while we were on the summit, the climb back down to the col was almost a glissade. Skiing down the Raven Glacier with headlights presented no problems and within two hours of the summit we were eating hot biscuits in the "Crow Bar".

\* \* \*



PEAK 4650' BIRD RIDGE Rod Wilson  
(Chugach, Anchorage 47 quadrangle)

Bird Ridge divides Indian Creek from Bird Creek. A popular climb is up the steep path from Seward Highway, mile 101, virtually at sea level, about 2 miles to Bird Point, 3505'. The ridge goes on north from this prominence for about 4 miles before fanning out into a large fan of rugged peaks which are set like a check block at the head of Ship Creek.

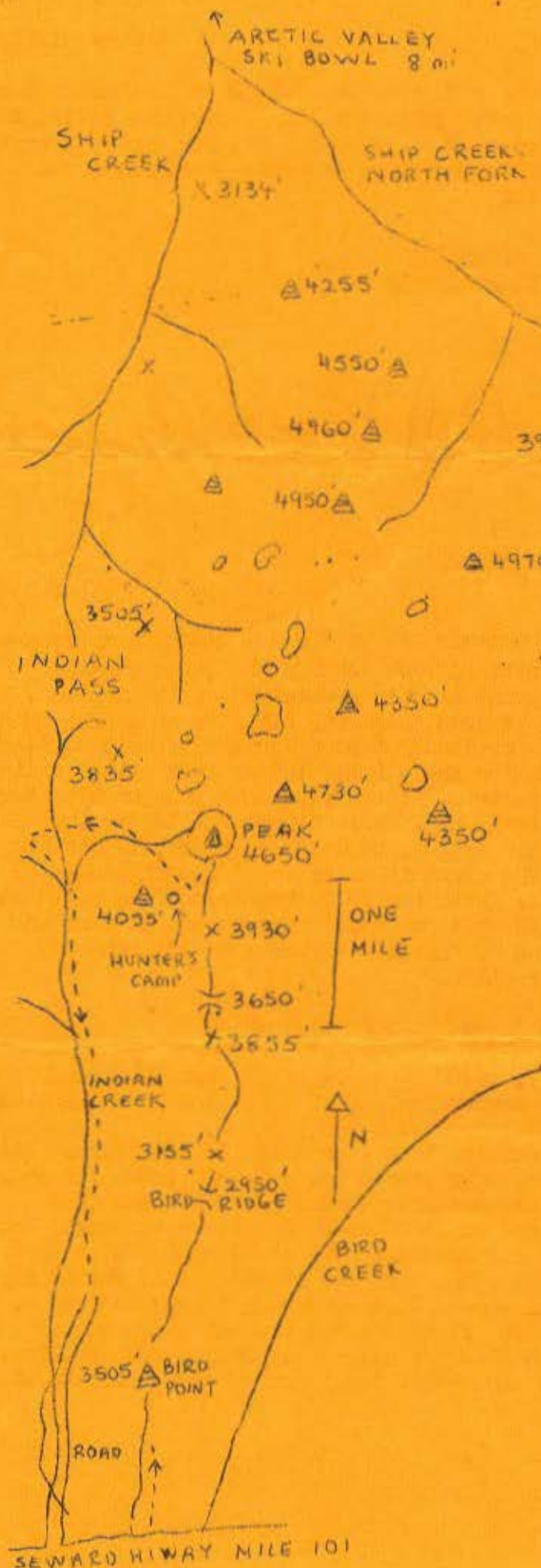
Valley when viewed from Arctic Valley Ski Bowl. There are 11 major points (A) between 4000' and 5000' in this 15

sq. mi. area, together with several small lakes and many fair vistas.

BIRD CREEK PASS Few climbers have entered the region because access is arduous.

On August 24, 1969, Ford and Gary Hanson, Lotte Kraker, Bill Stivers, and Gary and Rod Wilson walked over Bird Point and followed the ridge up and down in sparkling weather to the pyramidal mountain 4650' 50" (61° 03' 00" N, 149° 26' 36" W, Section 15, T 11 N, R 1 W) which rises abruptly 700' above the end of the ridge. The peak is visible from the highway at Indian. No obstacles were encountered scrambling up the final rocks. A rude cairn and lunch remnants, eggshells and paper were found on top. We built a substantial Gory-type cairn on a large boulder and deposited a register at the west base of the boulder. We descended (see map) as we had come to the ridge, then turned northwest past an old hunting camp at 3800' and went down a bowl to a stream coursing due west to intersect Indian Creek about 1 mile south of Indian Pass. It would have been better to follow the stream all the way to its confluence with Indian Creek. We then wound our wooded way along soggy trails to the road in Indian Valley, having been gone 12 hours in all.

Since this area is bounded by Indian and Bird Creeks on the south and Ship Creek branches on the north, Indian words such as squaw, topee, or pepoose, bird names such as red, all, siskin, or pipit, or ship names could designate the major points. Modest names for modest mountains.





# THE HINCHESERS IN NEPAL: PART I

— Helen Hinchessor

It all started last spring with a letter from our friend Libby Hatton, a doctor working in Ethiopia. "I'm heading home next fall" she wrote, "and I think I'll go the long way and spend the month of November in Nepal. Is there any chance you can join me?" Well, of course it was preposterous...but...if we didn't build the cabin...and put off the addition for a few more years...and fixed up the old car...and stopped buying everything except food...we could go! That is, if we solved the problem of the children...which Sharon Gissner did by offering to care for them. Thank you Sharon!

Unbelievably, on October 31, Gayle and I boarded a jet for Tokyo. Twenty-four hours and one Asahi Porter later we headed for Bangkok, and after 12 hours in Bangkok boarded Thai Airlines flight 311 for Kathmandu! We found Calcutta a half hour time change from Bangkok...and Nepal another ten minute change! This symbolizes her independence from neighboring India and China and set the tone for this off-beat and delightful country.

We strained for glimpses of the Himalayas as we landed but found that glimpses were all we could get. Kathmandu is set in a broad valley and the mountains are quite distant. We found Kathmandu sufficiently fascinating however, to make us quite willing to wait for the mountains. Temples mingled with buildings old and modern. Cows mingled with friendly dark-skinned people, bicycle drawn rickshas, and tiger-striped Datsuns (taxis). The climate was delightful--like Alaskan summers at their best, except dark and cool at night.

We met Libby and Ginny Wood (of Camp Denali and Fairbanks) in Kathmandu. They had found an excellent medium-price hotel (\$5 per day per person for room and board--if you were better at bargaining!) which was our base of operations. We had 3 days before our Everest trip started--3 days in which to wade through the red tape of trekking permits and flight clearances (for our charter trip to Lukla) and to plan and purchase our food. But it was all part of the adventure--my excuse to explore the twisting, narrow back streets teeming with people (and occasionally cows) and lined with fascinating little shops. We had brought with us all our equipment but no food other than Tang, dehydrated meats and dried soups. The Tang was a delightful but unnecessary luxury as we soon got used to the iodine in the water; the meats and soups which we used for sauces were very valuable. We found that we could buy most other things in Kathmandu, though not familiar brands. We had a few days of panic because Gayle's Kelty had disappeared somewhere between Bangkok and Kathmandu, but discovered even that could be solved by borrowing a Kelty through the Peace Corps contacts given us by George Leonard and Gene Finger. Luckily Gayle's pack was unpacked in Calcutta so we did not need to impose on the Peace Corps. Alcohol to prime the kerosene stove was another crisis, but we finally found the one store in town that carried "spirits" (no white gas is available).

Another miracle: 3 days later we were actually airborne in our chartered Cessna 220 heading for the little mountain strip at Lukla and the start of our Everest trek. We were cautioned over and over before we left the U.S.--don't expect anything to happen the way it should--just be happy if you get to Kathmandu. But for us every arrangement we made worked. There are angles, however. We soon discovered the importance of not looking like a hippie and not being pushy if we wanted cooperation from the trekking office. And we were very lucky that through my voluminous summertime correspondence with every contact in Nepal we could dig up, we discovered our American Cessna pilot who worked in linguistics for a mission but did charter work on the side. If he said he'd take you on a certain date he took you. We had made our reservations weeks in advance. This kind of advance planning was important, as we were on a tight schedule.

At Lukla another piece of good fortune came our way. Before our arrival Libby and Ginny had called on Col. Jimmy Roberts who handles most of the group trips to Everest base camp; they found him very British and very gracious. Out of courtesy he sent a note via a sherpa going to Lukla to the effect that our party would be arriving on Nov. 6 and wanted a sherpa. We were met at the plane by a sherpa holding Robert's note. He was Kami Pasang, our sherpa-to-be for the next 11 days. We also hired four porters. What luxury! But considering the altitude and the price (less than \$1 per day per porter) we felt it was a very worthwhile investment.

We spent a day at Lukla acclimatizing a bit we hoped to the 9000' of elevation and glorying in the green mountains, terraced fields, and scraps of white peaks poking up in the



distance. It is a heavily used country; there is none of the destruction caused by our machines, but the dung problem is considerable! The next day we left about noon, heading up the Dudh Kosi River valley. We spent the night in a sherpa home, quickly learning that bedtime was soon after darkness fell, between 7 and 8. We were up at 6 and soon on the trail in dim morning light. A few bonds later a sherpa carrying a Kelty passed us--sure sign of a Westerner behind him. But there was something about this Westerner..."Lotto!" I screamed, and we fell on each other with delighted hugs. (Lotto Kramer, that is.) A few minutes of excited talk and then we were on our way again, mumbling about small worlds...

(To be continued in a future issue)

#### MCA Profile: Secretary MARGARET WOLFE

Born and raised in Bismarck, Minn...has a B.A. from Univ. of Minn. and an M.S.W. from Catholic Univ. of America, Wash., D.C...is presently a social worker with the GAAB Health Dept. consulting with child care agencies...married MCA'er John G.H. Wolfe last August...came to Alaska in July 1968, a long-time dream come true...began employment with the State Welfare Div. in Juneau and moved to Anchorage in Feb. 1969...previous hiking experience was mainly last summer--most importantly (and wearily!) Resurrection Creek Trail from Hope to Cooper Landing...hobby is music --piano and singing, as well as listening.

#### BITS AND PIECES

FOR SALE: by Ned Lewis, 1-Eddie Bauer Karakoram parka, nylon-cotton outer fabric, red, fur ruff, very good condition \$40. 1-Japanese rucksack, semiframe, red, 22x18x6, side pockets with ski slots, Bivi sheet attached. \$10.

MCA'ers are sorry to see that long-time member Peter Vlasvold and his family are leaving Alaska. They are moving to Sunnyvale, Calif. on Feb. 12. We wish them luck and happiness in their new home and hope they'll return to Alaska one day.

MCA played cupid last summer! Fred Cady and Katie Hammond met on the Crow Pass overnight hike...and are now planning to get married in July. Congratulations!

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FIRST CLASS