

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR: John Moore
MANAGER: Mary Ferguson
PHOTOGRAPHER: Phil Bruce
CONTRIBUTORS: John, Andy, Fred, etc.

SONGS - PAGE 4

MUGELNOOS

No. 541 -- January 18, 1978

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions and address changes to Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, CA 90243. Subscriptions \$2/year. This is a 4 page issue.

MUGELNOOS' FORTIETH BIRTHDAY

A Story of Endurance and Forty-tude

This issue marks the Fortieth Anniversary of Mugelnoos, forerunner of all present day Sierra Club newsletters. There wasn't a single newsheet in all of the club in January 1938 when the "Agent for Progress and Propaganda" (Glen Dawson) edited Issue No. 1. The first few numbers were devoted exclusively to Ski Mountaineers activities. The strange name comes from a German word mugel, meaning a small hill or bump in the snow (hence the modern skiers' term "mogel"), plus "news" with a German accent--allegedly a take-off on the diction of old-time SMS Chairman George Bauwens. "Say MOO-gull-news, not Mew or Mugg."

Most of the Ski Mountaineers of that day were also in the RCS, so the Mugelnoos just naturally became the official RCS publication after a few issues (beginning with No. 7, March 15, 1938).

Dyar Straits

Issue No. 10 (April 13, 1938) carried the notice that "with this issue, Glen Dawson, Dick M. Jones, and Wayland Gilbert turn over most of their duties to the able editorship of Ruth Dyar and Phoebe Russell. We are all pleased with the success of our Mugelnoos and request your continued support." Ruth Dyar (later Mendenhall) made the 'Noos her own special mission. Assisted at first by her cousin Miss Russell or Jim "Tahquitz" Smith, Ruth edited the paper from April 1938 through May 1941, setting a distinctive, witty style (see below). During those three years, the Mugelnoos was published every two weeks and was usually at least four pages long!

War is Ruthless

The Mendenhalls left Southern California in mid-1941, and the 'Noos was reorganized and placed under a subcommittee whose members rotated the editorship with each issue, beginning the unique arrangement that has lasted down to the present. The most active wartime editor was Joan Dyar (later Clark), Ruth's sister. She edited one out of every three issues all through WW II. Mary Helen Dawson was also a primary cog through the war, at first along with Glen, then by herself after Glen went into the army in 1943. Joan, Mary Helen, and the other editors maintained the light-hearted approach as much as possible, providing a common bond and link to old times for the war-scattered skiers and rock climbers.

War shortages and long working hours caused the editors to stretch the time between issues to three weeks in 1941. The frequency dropped to monthly in July 1942, where it has remained ever since (it facilitates the rotation of editors).

Postwar Patterns

By 1946, the pattern of operation was very much as it is today. Editors rotated in putting out a newsheet once a month in legal size (letter size was mostly used until 1943). Mugelnoos meetings, which began as parties for everyone willing to show up to help put out the 'Noos, were being combined with section meetings. Programs had developed and business was now discussed, but the original task of folding and stuffing the Mugelnoos for mailing survives to this day. Also in 1946, Ruth Mendenhall began editing again and watching over the newsheet; she continued as Mugelmother through 1977.

Ingredients of Success

The Mugelnoos was a hit right from the first, not only with local SMS/RCS types, but with members of the club's Board of Directors and a widespread following throughout the club, leading to the starting of other newsletters. One such, the Bay Chapter RCS Yodeler commented in 1942: "While we of the north-

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NEXT ISSUE: February 21, 1978
DEADLINE: Friday, February 17

MUGELNOOS MEETING: Tuesday February 21
7:30 p.m., L.A. Dept. of Water and Power Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St., downtown L.A. Free Parking. Come one-half hour early for Ski Mtnrs. equipment demo. Program, refreshments. Climbers, skiers, guests all welcome. Program is on the Japanese Alps by George Shinno.

C A L E N D A R

- Jan 28 Sat Rock Climb, Rubidoux
Craig Williams
- Feb 4-5 Sat-Sun Ski Tour, Pear Lake
Hut, Doug Mantle,
George Shinno
- Feb 4-5 Sat-Sun Rock climb, Fossil
Falls, Al Fowler,
Dave Burdett
- Feb 11 Sat Rock climb, Stoney
Point, Leonard Hall
- Feb 12 Sun Local Intro Alpine
Ski Tour, Walt Davie,
Freeman Allen
- Feb 18-19 Sat-Sun Alpine Ski Tour, San
Antonio Hut, John
Wedberg, Charles Wilts
- Feb 18-20 Sat-Mon Rock climb, Pinnacles
Natl Mon., Mindy Bag-
don, Fred Wing
- Feb 26 Sun Local Intro Alpine
Ski Tour, Izzy
Lieberman, Freeman
Allen

NEW ADDRESSES

Charles Rugg
820 Pinecone Dr.
Scotts Valley, CA 95066
(408) 438-3253
Cliff Cameron
7036 Bevis Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91405
787-9830
Al Carlson
5315 D Malvern Ave
Buena Park, CA 90621
(714) 521-7952 (address correction)

FOR SALE

Galibier R R's \$35, Kelty in Glendale,
1801 Victory Blvd.
Old Gerry year-round tent. Poles have
shock cord. Tent is two man size (but
tight). \$50. Call Andy (213) 466-0480.

SUPER SIERRA SNOWPACK

The 6 to 10 feet plus snowpack cover-
ing the ski slopes at Mammoth-June
Mtn. ski areas by mid-January provides
an excellent chance that all Ski
Mountaineers Section tours scheduled
for the Sierra will go as planned
(weather permitting). Southern Cali-
fornia tours still in doubt due to the
persistent high snowline of the current
storm track, so think COLDER SNOW.

The "Face" at June Mtn. ski area
has a good cover; unfortunately June
Mountain's powder skiing has been
discovered by others including its ski
patrol. Best bet for powder skiing
there is a stormy weekend.

(B. L.)

PEAR LAKE SKI TOUR

The Pear Lake Ski Tour Feb. 4-5 will
go as scheduled.

LONG-LOST ONES NOW LIVE IN COLORADO

DeDe Gorin, an old-time Ski Moun-
taineer who has lived in the Denver
area for 15 years, recently paid a
visit to So. Calif. She reports that
former climbers and skiers from Mugel-
noos terrain who now live in Colorado
include Alberta MacArthur, Clem and
Lee Todd, Dale and Frances Ebersbacher,
Willard and Marian Dean, and Dave Lind.

(RDM)

HELP DESERT GROUP

The Desert Committee needs your help
and at the same time offers interest-
ing, backpack and hiking ventures.
Dean Slaughter, newly appointed as one
of four coordinators for the desert
roadless areas/wilderness survey, is
leading a number of desert trips.
Unless the desert activists have some
help, forests of ironwood trees, oco-
tillo and barrel cactus are going to
be bulldozed for power plant sites,
etc., and precious roadless areas lost
forever.

The committee is sponsoring an
overnight backpack in the Palen
Mountains area located east of Joshua
Tree National Monument on February
11/12. Water cache will be provided;
carry one to two quarts. Send two
sase with vehicle make and model,
telephone number to Dean Slaughter,
Box 605, La Canada, CA 91011.

Southern Sierran

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

Woe unto him who is alone when he
falls for he hath not another to
help him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:10

Mugelnoos Birthday (cont)

land fill our yellow sheet with lots and lots of serious stuff, the Mugelnoosers from way down south have created a true tradition in a lighter vein."

Humor, wit, and the ability to avoid taking the climbing/skiing world with deadly seriousness at all times, were the hallmarks of the Ruth Mendenhall Mugelnoos. Ruth's taste and the confines of the mimeographed format bred (and still breed) a pithiness that excluded the egocentric rambling common in too many newsletters. All the news was dug up, forcibly if necessary, so that the Mugelnoos was always up to the minute. It seems that in the thirties, lots of skiers and climbers had that gift of looking at the world slightly cockeyed, with a twinkle in the eye. Puns and cartoons were especially famous. Joan Clark, Bob Brinton, Howard Gates--and of course Ruth Mendenhall--were among the infamous punsters, but nearly everyone seemed to contribute. Ruth also drew many cartoons, but the best known were Phoebe Russell's "Sierranimals" and May Pridham's Little Gem equipment put-ons. Some of May's well loved efforts were collected as part of Belaying the Leader in 1956.

Mugelnoos Marches On

While the variation in editors over the years has resulted in some dilution of the original characteristics of the Mugelnoos, variety and originality have been fostered. Each editor produces an issue with a distinctive (and distinguished?) flavor. And the Mugelnoos continues (we believe) to supply a timely, compact mixture of the awe-inspiring, saddening, and chuckle-inducing triumphs and tragedies of section members.

(JR)

MOSES-MAGGIE IS NO MORE

After years of study and discussion; and hard work by students, skiers and Forrest Reed, our prime ski area potential at Moses-Maggie was included in, not out of, the Golden Trout Wilderness Area.

Senator Sam Hayakawa and Congressman Bill Ketchum bitterly opposed designation of the huge Golden Trout area but were inundated with the weight imposed on them by Senator Cranston and wilderness advocates, both elected and anointed.

It really seems to be a story of deception and intrigue, in the final days of the legislation.

Ketchum battled successfully in the House to reduce the size of the area to acceptable limits but when the companion bill (Cranston's) started moving on the Senate-side, all that Senator Sam could do was steer it into a conference committee and hope for the best. At one point it seemed possible that the conference would opt for the House version.

Support from Gov. Brown, apparently was the deciding factor. It seems that the state owns some land adjacent to Moses-Maggie (Mtn. Home State Forest) which they want to harvest timber on and they need access to their timber across the Sequoia National Forest. So boundaries were adjusted to accommodate two or three million board feet of state-owned timber at the expense of inventoried ski areas all through the wilderness, and twenty million board feet of federal timber.

Forrest Reed and Don Simpson were all but guaranteed by Congressman Teno Roncalio and committee staff man Weisner that Moses-Maggie would not be included in the wilderness designation. This happened at hearings on the bill chaired by Roncalio in Oregon and Wyoming.

A veto by the President is all that could stop designation of the 300,000 acre wilderness, and that action is not at all likely.

Far West Ski News
November 15, 1977

SKI MOUNTAINEERS AND SNOW TOURERS TO MERGE

At a special Snow-Touring Committee Management meeting December 12, a new set of By-Laws was drafted and adopted to be forwarded on to the Ski-Mountaineers for approval by that section.

The new By-Laws would apply to a new Ski-Touring section, which would be formed by merging the SMS with the Snow-Tourers. The By-Laws are standard AnChap-approved type, quite innocuous and written in such a way as to allow for maximum freedom on the part of ski-mountaineers and nordic tourers.

The Snow-Tourers agreed that outings should be separated, with mountaineers holding their own, under their own leaders; and vice-versa for the tourers. Only on bus trips would there be a pooling of the various types of skiers, with part of the group downhilling, others mountaineering, others nordic touring.

"Touring" chair Don Barcus will submit the new By-Laws to the SMS for their review and approval. Attending for the touring committee was Don Barcus, Treasurer Ann Drayer, Norman Kingsley, Sigmund Meieran, Ann Marie Mercon (Snow-Flakes Editor), Clare Miller, Bill Miller (Outings), Dick Olsen, Ray Shepherd, and Ed Unge.

(NK)

STONE POINT CLIMB JANUARY 7

About 50 students and 20 instructors showed up for the Saturday a.m. climb. The bucket drop was run for the first time. Students also practiced prussik and rappel, upper belay and knots. Some climbs were top-roped for practice, these included pot holes and jam crack, and Beethoven's Wall.

After the climb about 15 people went to Tim Ryan's new house for dinner and conversation. Towards the end of the evening, Tim brought out some slides of climbing in Peru. (If you would like to see these slides they will be shown at MUGELNOOS this summer.) (AF)

GORY, GORY
(Anonymous)

"Will it go around the chockstone?" called the belayer, looking up,
Our hero feebly answered "Yes" and slowly inched on up.
He was trying to drive a piton when his foothold crumbled out,
And he ain't gonna climb no more.

Gory, gory what a helluva way to die,
Gory, gory what a helluva way to die,
Gory, gory what a helluva way to die,
He ain't gonna climb no more.

He slid right down the chimney and he quickly gathered speed;
He shot past his belayer, who'd forgot the climber's creed;
An anchor to a piton would've been all he'd ever need,
Oh, he ain't gonna climb no more.

The belayer felt the rope pull taut and tried to let it run.
But it jerked him from position and he knew his time had come;
He left the ledge behind him, and it shot up toward the sun,
Oh, he ain't gonna climb no more.

They sped on down the chimney and they passed the southern col;
They had such good exposure that it made a glorious fall;
They slithered over a friction pitch and sped on down the wall,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.

The days they'd lived and loved and laughed went running through their minds,
They thought about the girls back home, the ones they'd left behind;
They thought about the ranger, and they wondered what he'd find,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.

A medic in the valley watched them through his telescope,
And as they neared the bottom, My! his eyes grew bright with hope,
For it had been a week or more since the parting of the rope,
And they ain't gonna climb no more.

One had the rope around his neck and a piton through his spleen,
An ice-axe in his rucksack had split the other's bean;
Large trails of red marked their descent as they neared the slopes of green,
And they ain't gonna climb no more.

They hit the ground, the sound was SPLAT! The blood went spurting high;
Their comrades all were heard to say, "What a colorful way to die!"
They lay right there a-quivering in the puddles of their gore,
And they ain't gonna climb no more.

(Slowly, reverently)
There was blood upon their rucksacks, there were brains upon the rope,
Intestines were entwined across the green and grassy slope;
(Up tempo, irreverently)
And we brought them back in a bucket after salvaging the rope,
And they ain't gonna climb no more.

I think this is sung to the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic (Ed)