



No. 543--March 21, 1978

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Clubs's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions and address changes to Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, Ca. 90243. Subscriptions \$2.00/year. This is a 6 page issue.

APRIL MUGELNOOS MEETING DATE IS SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECT. ELECTION

In spite of various reports appearing in The Mugelnoos, the merger of the Snow Touring Committee and the Ski Mountaineers Section has not occurred nor is it imminent in the very near future because by-laws for the proposed "Wilderness Skiing Section" acceptable to both groups, which will be submitted to the SMS members for a vote, have not yet been agreed upon. Therefore, elections for the 78-79 SMS Central Committee will be held as usual at the April 18 Mugelnoos mtg. Should the merger occur, those elected could serve on the "Ski Mountaineers Outings Committee" within the new section. SMS members who would like to serve should contact Secretary Barbra Lilley or Chairman Bill Feldmann so they can be nominated at April mtg. Note; elections will follow the regular meeting and program (Wind River Range of Wyoming). BL

SNO MORE

As optimistically hoped for in an earlier issue of Mugelnoos, the latest DWP snow survey of the Sierra snowpack indicates 160% of normal for the entire season. Mammoth & June mtn. ski areas report 10-15 feet of snow. The long ramp on the #1 Chair at Mammoth is no longer visible. June Mtn. plans to operate thru April 23; Mammoth Mt. has no set closing date! Most scheduled SMS tours should go as scheduled; meanwhile there should be excellent Alpine ski touring on Mt. Baldy for at least another month. ("more snow than '69" says John Wedberg). Anyone interested should contact John (before 8 PM). BL

HOW CAN AN EXPERIENCED CLIMBER BECOME AN RCS MEMBER?

A number of questions have recently arisen regarding how an experienced climber may become an RCS member. This notice summarizes a two page information sheet on RCS membership which is obtainable from David Perkins RCS Secretary/Treasurer (4975 Doman Ave. Tarzana, Ca 91356). A prospective member should contact a Qualified Leader (generally those listed in the Mugelnoos as leader or assistant leader for scheduled climbs), or go through the Training Committee to meet a Qualified Leader (QL). The QL may obtain a proficiency card from the Secy/Treas. and may sign off part or all of it for the prospective member if the QL feel satisfied with the performance and knowledge of the prospective member after having talked and climbed with him/her. With a signed off proficiency card and four climbs with the RCS during a season one can take the safety test, climb with a member of the Safety Committee, obtain a First Aid Card and CPR card, then apply for membership. Simplicity Itself.

Yosemite Mugelnoos Program

The May meeting will feature the acclaimed film Sentinel: The west Face and slides from a cross-section of Yosemite climbs encountered by RCS members. Don Pies is still soliciting climbers for use of their "hero shots" in this slide series. Don can be reached at home: 374-5745 and at work: 322-1763 X248.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 18, 1978
DEADLINE: FRIDAY APR 14

WEBBING DETERIORATION STUDY

Bob Hartunian recently tensil tested a 1" webbing section that had been in the desert for 11 months with exposure to sun. An unused section of sling from the same watch was used as a control specimen. Results; 17% loss of strength between the two. 3800 LBS, & 4600lbs respectively. Bob would like to make more tests to establish when slings should be retired. However exposure time on samples must be known for valid tests. Call Bob at (714) 962-4034.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues of each mo, LA Dept Water & Power aud. 111 W Hope St, downtown LA. Free parking. Come 1/2 hr early (7pm) for Ski Mtrs equip demo. Program, refreshments. Climbers, Skiers, & guests welcome!!

C A L E N D A R

- Apr 1-2 SKI TOUR SAN GORGONIO BILL FELDMAN
APR 2 BIG ROCK-EMORY YOUNT
APR 3-9 JOSHUA TREE-BOB LINDGREN
APR 15-16 SKI TOUR OINION VALLEY GAIL WILDS
APR 16 RESCUE SEMINAR-KATHY QUINN FRED WING
APR 18 MUGELNOOS MTG.

FROM THE AAC NEWS

"Through the enduring efforts of Raffi Bedayn, the Sierra Nevada Branch Library has been relocated in the quarters of the Yosemite Research Library in Yosemite National Park. Over 70 volumes are already shelved and more books were sent in Feb. including a complete run of The American Alpine Journal. The branch was originally established in Stockton and moved to several locations before finding a permanent home in Yosemite. The collection is available during library hours for research and general reading. Steve Medley is the librarian."

WOULD THE PERSON WHO WANTED TO BUY BARBRA LILLEY'S ALPINE SKI TOURING PLATES CONTACT HER. SHE LOST YOUR NAME & ADDRESS. 8421 Lindley Ave Northridge, Ca. 91325

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS--WELCOME!

RONALD M. MILNARIK
1931 Bonnie Brae
Riverside, Ca 92506
(714) 682-8494

ANDY FRIED
538 N. Bronson Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca 90004
466-0480

SKI MOUNTAINEER Mark Gobel is among the most recent applicants (and presumably accepted) for membership in the American Alpine Club.

NOTICE TO RCS MEMBERS

Ballots for the election of honorary members are enclosed with this issue. Mail votes by April 18--- see instructions on ballot. The biographical information required by the bylaws is in last month's Who's Who, this month's ditto, and the articles on pages 3 & 4.

Nominees are J & R Mendenhall, C & E Wilts, & Art Johnson. If you did not get your ballot, contact Dave Perkins or J. Ripley, or come to the Apr 18 Mugelnoos Mtg.

FOSSIL FALLS FEB 4 & 5

Leaders Al Fowler & Dave Burdett Despite the weather there was a better than average turnout for this climb. The increase was mostly due to the students as some of the regular RCS attendee's of this climb were missing this year. Notable climbs were Al Carlsons climb of Ed's Crack. He is only the second RCS member to complete this climb although everybody always tries every year. Bob Lindgren completed a fine climb of the crack on the southwest wall of the upper canyon. It is the one which requires the two rope belay because of the long traverse. Many students completed climbs of the various practice rts. and gained much valuable training in a different climbing environment. (AF)

CLIMBERS CAMP IN ILLAMPU, BOLIVIA Jack Miller is organizing a "climbers' camp" in May-June '78. The purpose is for experienced climbers and expedition mountaineers to get together and share the benefits of group travel for climbing high peaks in Bolivia and pioneering new rts in the Illampu range. These benefits are; lower travel costs, simplified logistics, the camarade of a climbing group, and the wider variety of rt possibilities afforded by a large, flexible group. The basic plan is to assemble in La Paz, have a few days to adjust to that altitude(3810meters), climb the 6,000 met. Huauna Potosi(cont p5)

RCS FOUNDER CANDIDATE-FOR HONORS

Arthur B. Johnson, the first RCS Chairman, is one of five nominees for RCS honorary membership (see announcement p2). Art seized the idea of starting a Southern Calif. counterpart to the Bay Chapter RCS and worked tenaciously to make the idea a reality.

Art came to LA in 1925 from the Fresno area, where he was born in 1906. He became involved with the the Sieera Club when he helped to build Harwood Lodge in 1930. His hikeing and mountain scrambling led him to try climbing when Glen Dawson introduced it to our area in 1933. After the summer of '34, Art felt the need for a local climbing group. Others shared this feeling, and Glen encouraged him to push the idea. Art persuaded the Chapter Executive committee to authorize a Rock climbing Sect. in Sept of '34; he was then appointed section chairman (later elected).

The section's first years were difficult--we were in the midst of the Depression, and there were few experienced climbers of known places to climb. Under art's leadership, the RCS grew and evolved untill by '37 it was well established and vital. Such climbing spots as Stoney Point & Tahquitz Rock were discovered and developed, and the pattern of winter practice climbs and summer "real" climbs was set.

An engineer by profession, Art was interested in the technical aspects of equipment safety. He tested ropes & knots for strength and also made an early sit harness for practice falls (correct belaying was still evolving at this time). He established a safety consciousness in the sect. that has served it well over the years.

During his years in charge he led over 50 days of climbing in the prewar period, most of them as chairman. He also arranged schedules and kept everything flowing. Art was the only person in RCS history to serve 3 terms as chairman ('34-'37)--yet he was not 'burned out'. He continued to lead and participate up thru the war, though his opportunities were limited after entering the Navy in '42. He remained a sect. member thru 1950. All this climb work was sandwiched between many hiking, backpacking, and climbing trips. His climbing career included first ascents on the E. Buttress of Muir, of the Pink Perch rt. on Thor, and on the face of Moro Rock in the Sierra (35-39); first ascents at Tahquitz Rock were; Fingertip Traverse, Piton Pooper, White Maiden, and Traitor Horn ('36-'38); and also the first ascent of Monument Peak near the Colorado R. with the Mendenhall in 1939. In makin the second ascent & first descent of the E. Buttress of Mt. Whitney in '37, Art & Bill Rice made the round trip of this rt. from E. Face Lake in 6 HRS. including a half hr on top!

After the war Art became chairman of the Long Beach Group. He and his late wife Mary were married in '45 and their children are Neil (1946) & Priscilla (1948). Art was in charge of the rebuilding of Harwood Lodge in '49-'51. Always a strong conservationist, he became Angeles Chapter Char. in '51 and was director of the Sierra Club '51-54. His efforts earned him the chapters highest service award in '61 and the American Motors award that same year. As regional vice president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, he organized their annual convention in the summer of '76.

Art's interest in climbing has continued to this day. He still subscribes to Summit, Off-Belay, etc. He has been a member of the American Alpine Club since '57 and was chairman of the AAC's Southern Ca. Sect. '65-'67.

SPEAKING OF ART..

Perhaps we can conclude best by quoting a few words from people who ought to know; JOHN MENDENHALL: "Art Johnson was a very hard worker and a good organizer for the RCS." CHUCK WILTS: "I'm very pleased that Art Johnson has been nominated for honorary membership. He really deserves it more than anyone." RUTH MENDENHALL: "Art was one of those graceful, cat like climbers. His feet seemed to stick to any surface." HOWARD KOSTER; a leading climber of the '30's, RCS chairman after Art: "If you are making honorary members on the basis of what they did for the section, you certainly should make Arthur B. Johnson an honorary member. It was Art who almost singlehandedly organized the RCS..." JR

WHO'S WHO IN THE NOOS

CHUCK & ELLEN WILTS

(Note: The careers of these stalwarts should be of interest to all readers, but RCS members should be especially attentive in view of the honorary membership election---see page 2.)

To newer climbers, the name Wilts brings to mind local climbing & the Tahquitz guidebook. The backgrounds of Chuck & Ellen run much deeper than this, however. They have earned RCS & SMS members respect through long years of loyalty to both sections. Chuck was RCS chairman '45-'46 and '48-'49, while ellen was SMS chairman '52-'53 and RCS secretary '47-48(cont.

and again in 60-'61. They have contributed much over the years to the SMS central committee, SMS Ski Test Committee, RCS Safety Committee, and to both sections as trip leaders.

Charles Harold Wilts was born in LA in 1920 and raised in our local area. He visited the the Sierra almost yearly from the age of 6 mo. An interest in electrical engineering led to a BS in 1940, MS '41, & PhD in '48, all from Cal Tech, where he has been a professor since '47. He began climbing with the RCS in '41, joining in '42. He also began skiing about the same time.

Chuck's research job provided him with a draft deferment (WW2). Few climbers were active during the war, and Chuck can still become enthusiastic about the 1944-45 period when he and a few friends had Tahquitz all to themselves. Chuck & friends also climbed in the Sierra during the war, making the first ascents of the Minarets, on the NE Ridge of Darwin and of the classic SE Buttress of Cathedral PK. He had only been climbing for 2 years when he and Spencer Austin made the first free ascent of the upper Cathedral Spire in '44.

Climbing with one EB

In '45, Chuck began to teach skiing to EB--Ellen Louise Beaumont, a young lady he'd first met at Tuolumne Mdw in '41 (she was there on her first camping trip). Later in '41, this local girl checked out the Sierra Club at Stoney Point, and by early '45 she was a member. Between club activities she attended UCLA, where she majored in music & minored in psychology.

Ellen's interest in climbing was increasing. Friend Chuck became RCS chairman in late '45, & Ellen joined in May '46. Chairman Chuck launched into an incredibly active year that saw him appoint the first RCS safety Committee, lead the RCS into its first normal post war season, make the first ascent of the Wilts-Sutherland routes on Banner & Morrison, make the first post war climb of Mechanic's rt., & the first ascent of the Finger Tip Traverse, then to the Tetons, help explore the new Angeles Crest Williamson area, attempt to establish a high point on the Lost Arrow Chimney in Yosemite, ascend Snow Creek on San Jacinto, and on New Years Eve announce with Ellen their engagement at a Harwood Lodge folk dance party. Chuck & Ellen were married on June 14, 1947. They honeymooned in Tuolumne Mdw area, finding time to make a first ascent of the south Arete of Matthes Crest. Later in '47, Chuck was on the first ascent of Ski Tracks while Ellen "first ascended" Knox Knocks.

Expanding Horizons

In the fall of '47, Chuck & Spencer Austin made another try at the Lost Arrow Chimney, surpassing the high point of the competing Salathe-Nelson team. Shortly thereafter, Salathe's party finally made the first ascent; but the legendary Swiss had gained great respect for rival Wilts. That winter Salathe took a 3 day ski tour with Chuck & Ellen in the Sierra. Meanwhile, Ellen was elected RCS secretary ('47). Chuck conducted a series of equipment tests that were to lead to an article in the Sierra Club Bulletin. Chuck, Ellen, and other RCS members visited the Columbia Icefield area of the Canadian Rockies in Aug '48; they plucked an ascent of Athabasca and the first ascent of Mt Gec from amongst the rains. Still that wasn't enough for one trip-- Chuck & Ellen stopped at Yosemite Valley on the drive back & made the first ascent of Rixon's Pinnacle, one of the hardest short rts for years and not repeated till mid '50's.

Son Charles Howard was born June '49 during Chucks second stint as RCS Chairman. By Sept. Ellen was feeling fit enough to join Chuck & George Harr for some pioneering in the Piute Crags. Chuck, Ellen, & Austin made the first free ascent on the Piton Pooper in '49.

Then Till Now

In the '50's saw the continuation of the Wilts standards after a brief break for the birth of Gail in July '50. They moved to their Pasadena home in '51, and Janet was born 2 years later. Space will not permit a complete listing of the Wilts' climbing and club activities over the last 25 years or so. The highlights since 1950 include:

FA Mt. Nelson & Mt Smythe, Columbia Icefield, '51

FA East Lark, Sling Swing Traverse, Orange Peel, Egals Nest. Tahquitz
Numerous FA in Yosemite valley 7 Tuolumne mds.

Alpine climbs in the High Sierras, e.g. Piute Crags, South Ridge of Ken Minaret, & East Ridge of Kenrelin Mineraet, East Face of Starr Minaret & South face of Clyde Minaret. (all FA) Ellen & Rich Gnagy made FA of E. Buttress of Thunderbolt in '59.

Today both are members of RCS & SMS as well as members of the American Alpine Club. (Ellen has been sidelined from climbing due to a serious auto accident in '67 she's hopping to fully recover in order to return to climbing & skiing. We all can be grateful for the Wilt's families contributions--thanks. (JR)

BOLIVIA CONT:

for acclimitization, then establish a wellstocked and comfortable camp on the northeast side of the remote Nevado Illampu. Out of this camp ascents on nearly every grade may be attempted. Established glacier rts reach the summit of Illampu (6,362 meters), and new rts on its walls of steep granite - said to be as good as that of Mt. McKinley - may be approached from this camp. A great variety of lower peaks (5,200-6,100 meters), offering hundreds of new rts, are reached from the same basin.

Although it is expected that the majority of participants will climb in their own teams, some guiding will be available, if the composition of the group requires it. For further info contact: Jack Miller, PO Box 4547, Aspen Co 81611, (303) 925-3371. (Dec AAC News)

JANUARY AT LOUIE'S PLACE

The Jan 28 RCS practice climb was held at Mt. Rubidoux, named for Louis Rubidoux, an early pioneer. Scheduled leader Craig Williams had to bow out at the last minute because of a serious illness in the family, John Ripley filled in.

The group met at the 'down road' gate - the park is closed to autos because of the condemnation of the wooden bridge. We had 42 students and 15 instructors, including enough old timers to put the lie to the old saw that 'there are older climbers and there are boulder climbers, but there are no older boulder climbers'. For a while it looked like we wouldn't have any ropes, as Phil Bruce was a few minutes late, having done battle with a recalcitrant oil cooler. Ron Master deployed the Training Committee to belaying, anchoring, and rappelling & prussik stations. Anchors received a concentrated effort since signoff is not normally done at Stoney Pt.

A good time was had by all. It was nice to see long time member Herb Mull and former Training Committee chairman Maynard Brandsma out with us. Jim McPherson limped up and generally tought from a seated position because of a recent broken ankle. Kathy Quinn, member in waiting, reminded instructors to help out with the April rescue seminar. (JR)

Green Valley Ski Tour

Due to road closure the local ski tour on March 12 was rerouted from the intended site at Mt. Waterman to Green Valley Lake. This proved to be a good choice for the five participants including the leader.

After having been detoured from highway 330 to 18 the group arrived at the road head at Green Valley Lake finding three inches of untracked powder over a firm base.

The intention was to ski to the top of the ridge between Green Valley Lake and the Keller Hut where there is a YMCA camp. Due to somewhat poor visibility, it snowed on and off, and poor trailmarkings we did not find the camp. However, the snow was great and the solitude and beauty of the forest exhilarating.

After the tour we had time for about a dozen runs at Green Valley Lake ski resort. No lift lines, beautiful snow and a final run through the forest in untracked powder climaxed a great day of skiing.

New qualifiers for future ski mountaineering trips are: Ron Milnarik, Mark Levy and Andy Fried. Minor Collinsworth had already qualified on an earlier tour. (WB)

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Sat - Mon Feb 18-20. Eight climbers enjoyed three beautiful early spring days on the annual visit to Pinnacles. On Sat Ruch Carter, Bill Bragg, Ray Beal and Fred Wing did some easier domes in the high peaks area - Tombstone, Monument, Cone and Photographers Delight - ranging up to an overated 5.5 on Monument. Scott Luther, Bill Rubin and Fred Mellon tried more challenging climbs in the same area. They climbed Ball Pinnacle, 5.6 but had a hung-up rappel rope and lost some time, so they were unable to finish Flat Iron, 5.8. On Sun Nick Clinch joined Carter & Beal on several domes in the High Peaks Section. Luther Mellon and Rubin scaled Freedom Dome 5.8, and scouted a 5.9 rt. Meanwhile, Bragg & Wing had a delightful day on the Old Original Route on Machete Ridge. It involves a traverse of the half mile length of Machete, mostly on top-800 feet up, and is occasionally exposed, yet quite accessible. (5.5, optimal, otherwise mostly 4th class with one 5.4 move). The greatest difficulty was on the walk back -- getting past the flooded caves area. On Mon Luther, Rubin & Mellon bouldered while Clinch, Carter, Bragg and Wing climbed Twinkel Toes, 3 present & moderate pitches plus a long, overhanging rappel, on the north face of Machete.

Every year we tell you how great this area is in the spring, and how varied the climbing routes. And every year we have a turnout of about eight. (FW)

LET THEM EAT CHICKEN FEATHERS (UPI)

Thirty-five manufacturers and retailers of down jackets and vests have been accused of mixing too many chicken feathers with goose and duck down.

Sacramento county District Attourney John Price said Wed that 32 lawsuits have been filed charging the firms with unfair business competition and false and misleading advertising.

Defendents include prominent manufacturers of down clothing, which is one of the fastest growing sales items in recent years.

"What we see here is an industry epidemic of consumer fraud," Price said. Price's staff and state investigators said they purchased 195 jackets and vests, at a cost to taxpayers of \$9000, as part of the investigation.

Federal rules require that an item of clothing labled as a down garment contain 70% duck or goose down. A county investigator said the average down content for American brands was 49%. The average for the Canadian-produced down garments was 34%.

The rest of the filling consisted of chicken feathers or fibers, he said. The average price per pound of process plumage is about \$30.00 for goose down, compaired to \$25. for duck down, \$2.50 for goose feather and \$2.40 for chicken feathers.

The Brands and manufacturers named in the suits are: Beconta, Berni, Bogner, Cabot, Camp Ways, Comfy, Dorfman Pacific, Down Peak, Golden Fleece, Head, J.C. Penney Ski Apparel, J.C. Penney, Jones, Life 7, Mervyn's, Montgomery Ward, Wards Western Field, Muir Trail, Number 1 Sun, Oshmans, Ossi, Pacific Trail, Pack In, Pioneer, Pioneer Wear, Pro Action by Campus, Prime Down, Reversible and Real, Roffe-Rene, Saska, Silton, Ski Daddle, Skyr Skiwear, Snow Lion, Spiegel, Sport-A-Round, Sports Wear, Down Sundance, Tempco, Touch "A" Down, United Sporting Goods, White Stag Expertise, White Stag Mountain Goat, White Stag Snug Bug, and Woolrich.

(From AAC Newsletter of Dec '77)

POWDERED PROOF--

OK, campers, here's the news you've been waiting for. Insant, powdered alcoholic beverages are on the way. Thats right. Kool-Aid for grownups. Just add water to that innocent-looking powder in your glass and-presto! - instant bloody mary, screwdriver, or daiquiri. And thats just the beginning. Coming up next may be powdered wine, beer, irish coffee, and even a gelatin dessert, a four percent alcholic geatin dessert. All of that is possible because a Japanese food chemist, Jin Ichi Sato, was looking for a way to turn soy sauce into powder for easier snipping. The problem was how to retain the alcoholic content of the fermented sauce while losing the water; the solution involved encapsolating drops of alcohol within tiny grains of the flavoring solid. Then water could be added to bring the product back to life. It didn't take Sato long to realize the implications of his discovery, and Global Marketing Services of Portland, Oregon, hopes to have the powdered cocktails on the U.S. market as soon as the Treasury Department gives them the go-ahead to sell alcoholic beverage that comes in an envelope. "We've got to get people to try these drinks more than once," said Mike Hill of Global Marketing. "We dont want to market something just as a novelty. It's got to tast good." Roughing it will never be the same. (Playboy Mag. Feb '77)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Library Committee (AAC)-Secretary Vaill reported that he had begun negotiations with Ruth Erb of Malibu, Calif. regarding the donation of a 2500-3000 volume mountaineering library owned by her anr late husband, Arkel Erb, who was killed on Dunigiri last year, Committee Chairman Von Hennig telehoned his recommendation that the donation be accepted, and upon duly seconded motion, the board unanimously authorized Sec. Vaill and Director R. Mendhenhall, in consultation with chairman Von Hennig, to work out the terms of the donation with Ruth Erb.

(AAC News Dec '77)

Articles of Interest to climbers;

Spectatular Solo Rock Climbing (about R. Robbins) Quest MAR-Apr '78

Stone Walls & Stout Hearts---Sports Illistrated Mar 6'78