

# Proceedings of the Club

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 1961

Since my last report as published in the *Journal*, the Council has elected 40 Active and 2 Honorary members; 4 were lost by death, 7 by resignation and one was dropped. There are now 550 Active and 14 Honorary members (6 of the latter are also Active members). Those lost by death are Richard S. Hirschland, F. Norton Smithe, Warren G. Spickard and Raymond T. Zillmer.

The Council met four times during the past year with a total attendance of 36.

There were no major club-sponsored expeditions in the past year but a number of our members were with Sir Edmund Hillary in the Himalayas and we are anticipating the direct report in part that we shall have this evening. In this hemisphere the amount of climbing and of new routes made was amazing. To those who thought all the new routes had long since been made we suggest a review of *The News*. We are glad to note the participation of many members in these climbs. We especially salute our Italian friends who climbed the South Face of Mount McKinley.

In the past year we have associated ourselves with The Alpine Club of Canada in a joint Safety Report. Plans are afoot to broaden this work. You will have noticed Article One, *National Search and Rescue Plan*, that was distributed with the last *News* and which was prepared by The Mountain Rescue Association. The importance of this work must be evident as we recall the deaths of highly skilled climbers in Europe and even one of our best and most valuable men, Dr. Spickard. The objective dangers will always be with us.

In this my last report as Secretary I wish to emphasize the importance of Conservation in which the Council has taken increasing interest, due largely to the energy of our current dinner Chairman. We see the ever increasing numbers who are seeking a renewal of elemental appreciations in the outdoor activities which inevitably leads many to the mountains. That is all to the good but unless we can preserve the elemental character of our remaining natural heritage there will be few places for our children to go and fewer incentives for them to go there.

I hope it is not out of place to end on a personal note. My job as Secretary has involved at times quite a lot of work. By and large it has

been fully compensatory, it has brought me into contact coast to coast with as fine men and women as anyone could ask for and I would not have missed it for anything.

LAWRENCE G. COVENEY, *Secretary*.

### ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

*Minutes of the 58th Annual Meeting of the American Alpine Club held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C., Saturday, December 2, 1961.*

President Bates called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Fifty-seven members were present. The President asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the last annual meeting. None were offered and it was moved, seconded and voted without dissent to approve those minutes as published in the *Journal*. The Secretary gave his report which is published elsewhere in this *Journal*. The Treasurer called attention to his published report which had been mailed to all members.

Brief reports were given by the Editors of the *Journal* and the *News*, also by the Committees on Conservation, Library, Safety, House, Research and Medical. Norman Dyrenfurth spoke on the status of the plans for an Everest expedition in 1963. The President read a letter from Major McCrane which expressed his thanks for the assistance given in teaching rock climbing to the guerrilla warfare unit on October 30. This training was organized by Frank Cary with the able assistance of Miss Monahan.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the meeting extend its thanks to the retiring President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The President called on John C. Oberlin as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Oberlin referred to his report as published in the *News* (No. 66) and repeated the nominations as follows: Carlton P. Fuller, *President*; Bradley B. Gilman, *Treasurer*; John S. Humphreys, *Secretary*; Lawrence G. Coveney, *Eastern Vice-President*; S. John Ebert, *Central Vice-President*; William E. Siri, *Western Vice-President*; Frederick O. Johnson, Robert H. Bates, Henry S. Hall, Jr., *Councilors* (1962-1964) and William S. Child (to complete Gilman's term 1962-63), William Unsoeld (to complete Humphrey's term 1962-63) and Benjamin G. Ferris, Jr. (to complete Ebert's term 1962). The Secretary stated that he had not received additional nominations and inquired if there were any objections to the report. Miss Gest moved that the nominations be closed and as no objections were made the Secretary in accordance with Section C3 of the By-Laws acclaimed the nominees as elected. The President inquired if there were any further business; none was proposed and he declared the meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

*Lectures.* Arnold Wexler gave an illustrated talk on the seldom visited Mount Monarch area and Robert C. West, Jr. described his party's climbs and explorations in northeastern British Columbia. Their color slides were excellent. It is good to be reminded that notwithstanding the population explosion and the spread of concrete there is still *Lebensraum* not too far away. Norman Dyrenfurth showed the beautiful film, *The Ascent of Dhaulagiri*. Most of us have seen examples of his photographic skill before, but there is no doubt that this record of one of the great mountaineering epics will always rank among the best.

*The Dinner.* President Bates noted in his remarks that the annual meeting and dinner last took place in Washington on January 2, 1903. We began to wonder at this long interval as we observed 182 members and guests in the very appropriate facilities of the Shoreham Hotel. It was an honor to have among our guests such distinguished people as Minister and Begum Mohammed Masood, Justice and Mrs. William O. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad L. Wirth and Mrs. Paul Siple. The Dinner Committee is indeed to be congratulated. Nick Clinch presented a color enlargement of Masherbrum to Minister Masood in honor of Captain Jawed Akhter's great part in the ascent of that mountain. Barry C. Bishop and Dr. Thomas O. Nevison described the ascent of Ama Dablam, the scientific work of the Hillary Expedition and the gallant attempt on Makalu. It seems clear that Ama Dablam is one of the brilliant accomplishments in which our members have participated and also that we might as well put to rest with other mythology the stories of the abominable snowman. The courage of the summit attempt on Makalu commands our highest admiration. However, the thin margin by which great tragedy was avoided and the partial disablement sustained by one member should end any difference of opinion about the necessity of oxygen on high mountains. At the very least, its reasonable availability for emergencies seems mandatory.

LAWRENCE G. COVENEY, *Secretary*

#### REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Committee as a whole has not been called upon to make any recommendations or decisions during the past year. On the other hand, the individual members have been quite active in conservation matters, particularly David Brower and Paul Wiseman. Brower has represented the Club at meetings of the Natural Resources Council of America, of which the Club is a member organization, and has attended most of the important meetings on conservation in the western United States. In recognition of

his contribution in the field he has recently been elected as vice-president of the Trustees for Conservation.

Paul Wiseman, our Committee representative from the Northwest, keeps the Committee fully informed on conservation matters in his area. At the time of the Annual Meeting and Dinner he traveled from Seattle to Washington, D. C., to attend our meetings and briefed Council and Committee members on the progress of the struggle now going on between those who oppose the idea of another national park in the state of Washington and those who support it. Unfortunately, the opposition takes every opportunity to label the far-sighted supporters of a park as a small, selfish group who wish only to preserve the wilderness areas for their own limited use as a playground. The opposition gives frequent evidence that they are not informed on the actual bill itself and what it does offer and are opposing national good for provincial and commercial interests.

The passage by a wide margin of the Wilderness Bill through the Senate was a great gain. It is sincerely hoped that in the present session of Congress the bill will be passed by the House. Club members wishing to support the bill should write the Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, urging its passage. Such expressions are of great importance in helping the Congressmen to reach a decision. The Club has given continued official support to the bill.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks some of the larger corporations have sent notices to their stockholders, explaining their opposition to the Wilderness Bill and misrepresenting the character and coverage of the bill. Over the years the bill has been considered and reconsidered, changed and amended, to take into account all reasonable objections raised by informed and well intentioned critics. Now it is a case of whether large corporate interests will have their way or the great national need be recognized.

WILLIAM S. CHILD, *Chairman*



## CLUB PUBLICATIONS

**THE AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL**, annually from 1929, illustrated. Price and availability upon request. Current issue, \$3 (\$2 to members).

**A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA**, by Howard Palmer and J. Monroe Thorington, revised edition by Thorington, 1953. This guide covers all peaks of interest to climbers with routes and map references. \$4 (\$3 to members).

**A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE INTERIOR RANGES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**, by J. Monroe Thorington. Covers the Selkirk, Purcell (including Bugaboos), Monashee, and Cariboo ranges. Third Edition, 1955, \$3 (\$2.50 to members).

**A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE CASCADE AND OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS OF WASHINGTON**, by a committee of the Cascade section of the American Alpine Club, chairman George R. Sainsbury, illustrations by Dee Molenaar. Second edition, 1961, \$5 (\$4 to members).

**A SURVEY OF EARLY AMERICAN ASCENTS IN THE ALPS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**, by J. Monroe Thorington. Illustrated. \$2 (\$1.50 to members).

**WHERE THE CLOUDS CAN GO: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CONRAD KAIN**, edited by J. Monroe Thorington. A reprint (1954) of the book originally published by the club in 1935. \$5.

**ACCIDENTS IN NORTH AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING**. Annual report of the Safety Committee of the American Alpine Club. 35 cents.

**HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING**, by Kenneth A. Henderson. 1942. \$3.75 (\$2.50 to members).

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