

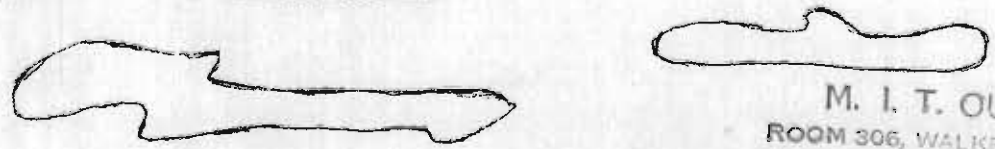
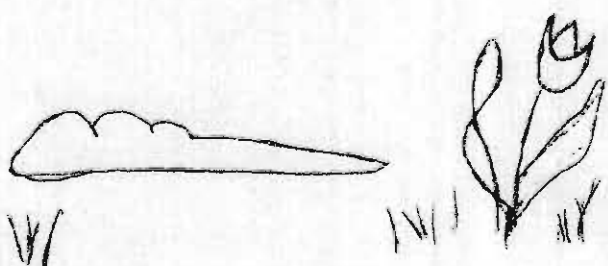
WINTER

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IOCA

BULLETIN

- 1965 -



M. I. T. OUTING CLUB
ROOM 306, WALKER MEMORIAL, M. I. T.
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

THE IOCA BULLETIN

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From the Editors

All ye IOCAans:

With relief and other mixed emotions we present to you the Winter Bulletin. We want to thank again all who have contributed articles and encourage all IOCAans to send us their ideas, thoughts, suggestions, for future articles.

Having spent much time on these bulletins, we have found ourselves with definite ideas as to what the Bulletin should be and what it should add to IOCA. It is written for all IOCA and so should be of general interest (though this interest can range from the technical and factual to the creative and amusing.) We hope that it will be a means of exchanging views on current problems in IOCA and will allow all to voice their opinions. It should also be a media of reporting common experiences and tales of IOCA trips.

This is YOUR Bulletin, so let's hear from all of you.

Jb

md

SKI TOURING AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Long before downhill skis were developed and ski areas were built, the Scandinavians used skis to travel between their villages, visit their neighbors, and to hunt with in their woods. In fact they used skis wherever they could instead of snowshoes as they were much quicker and easier to get around on except in areas of steep terrain. Together with ski jumping, the Scandinavians developed the Nordic side of skiing. Alpine skiing, in contrast, consists of the slalom and downhill. Ski Touring is still the most popular type of skiing in Scandinavia where entire villages often go off skiing together on Sunday afternoon. Students over there often spend part of their Saturday night dates on their skis, sometimes just as a method of transportation, but in many cases it is the center of the evening's activity. The villages maintain many miles of trails and their national armies are all trained in fighting on skis. Finland's defense against Russian in World War II could be cited as the best example. Finland lost the war when the snow melted.

In contrast with this, Ski Touring has been slow to catch on in America even though it has been here longer than downhill skiing. Only lately is it becoming more popular nationally. Cross-country skiing has long been popular on the college level. In fact, when Fred Harris, the founder of the college outing club movement, first proposed the Dartmouth Outing Club to his fellow students, he wrote that it should be a ski and snowshoe club running cross-country races weekly for the students. College ski teams are probably the center of cross-country skiing here today. Many members of the clubs like the AMC and ADK ski tour, the U. S. Army has several special forces units devoted to fighting on skis, and many individuals ski on their own. A few college outing clubs also sponsor ski touring trips.

Now that we have given a brief idea of the history of this sport, and its present state in America, it would probably be best if you knew what we are talking about. Ski Touring is usually referred to as hiking on skis while cross-country skiing is the racing aspect of this type of skiing. Probably all of you are familiar with downhill skiing, either having done it yourself or at least have seen it on TV or at the movies. Cross-country skiing or touring differs from downhill skiing in that it is possible to move uphill on cross-country skis, unless the slope is very steep, without using the herring bone step. It is also harder to ski down a steep slope than it is on downhill skis for the average skier. For the hiker, snowshoes are much better in this terrain. Where skis can be used however, they are about four times as fast as snowshoes and twice as fast as downhill skis on a cross-country trip with a lot less effort.

The difference in equipment is slight, but important. For someone really interested in cross-country skiing, the cost of racing skis, boots, and ski poles usually totals \$40 to \$60. A good pair of downhill skis costs over \$100 alone. The above costs refer to racing equipment. Cross-country racing equipment differs from touring skis only in relation to boots and bindings. For a short day trip over a well-used trail, racing equipment is more practical.

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Ski Touring and Cross-Country Skiing

For long trips in cold weather and deep snow it is better to use touring equipment. This is what most of you will be interested in. Racing boots are not adequate protection in deep snow or for long, cold trips. The basic skis and poles are the same for both types of skiing. The ski pole is longer than the downhill ski pole and has a wider basket (i.e. webbing just above the point). The ski pole is longer so it is more useful to push with. The basket is wider so it won't sink as far into the snow as the modern downhill poles will. The skis are made out of wood about as long or a little longer than you are tall, but not as long as your downhill skis would be. They are also about an inch narrower. The reason for this reduction in size is that they don't have to be as strong as downhill skis and so they will be lighter and easier to slide around with.

For ski touring, bear trap bindings are best as they can be adapted to any boot, even Korean boots. Their big advantage is that they hold the toe firmly in place while the heel is free to move up and down to make walking and the 'kick and glide' easy. Thus you can use the same boots that you would also use with your snowshoes, if you are going to alternate them on a hike. Now the cost of equipment has been reduced to \$35 to \$50 as you can use boots that you already have. For just an occasional trip you can easily use your downhill poles; this saves another \$5 to \$10. All that is left to buy is the skis and their bindings which cost from \$25 to \$40. Here we should point out that it is not easy to convert downhill skis to touring skis and back again. In otherwords, you should not expect to use your downhill skis for cross-country and then expect to ski downhill again the following weekend. But here is an inexpensive way to get touring skis which is the method most of our members use. If you have an old pair of solid wood skis that seem to be out of date at downhill ski areas, you can easily turn them into touring skis. First, unscrew and remove the metal edges. Second, plane off the sides of the skis until the bottom of the ski is again flat except for the middle groove. In otherwards, make them narrower by the thickness of the metal edges. Third, sand the bottoms of the skis down to the wood. Fourth, put on the bear trap bindings if they are not already on. And fifth, put on the base coat of pine tar with a blow torch. New pine tar bases have been developed that can be put on with a paint brush.

Now the skis are all set to go except for waxing. Proper waxing is very important as this will determine how fast and easily you will move through the snow. You may not even be able to move your skis through the snow if you use the wrong wax. There are three basic waxes: red, green, and blue. Total expenses for waxes may run as high as \$6, but this is usually enough to last the whole winter. You can get more information on waxing from a good ski shop.

Perhaps Dartmouth alumni and undergraduates do so much cross-country skiing and ski touring because it is a tradition on campus older than the Outing Club. Because of this there are over 20 miles of maintained trail in Hanover alone that one can ski on. Some,

Ski Touring and Cross-Country Skiing

of course, are circular routes that are used by our ski team. All of the Hanover section of the Appalachian Trail (over 10 miles) can be done on skis. It is possible to ski east or west from here to one of our cabins for the night. In fact we can ski between almost all of our cabins in our chain thus facilitating long ski trips. We usually run about three club trips during the winter. Also in the past few years Cabin and Trail has toured at night into one of our cabins for a venison steak dinner for its members. Cabin and Trail is running two such trips this winter. There is usually a trip over spring vacation lasting for four or five days. In the past these trips have gone into Lake Colden in the Adirondacks and into the Pemi in the White Mountains. These are perhaps the best areas in the Northeast. However, you can ski anywhere where it is not too steep and where there is over three inches of snow.

Ski Touring is a lot of fun and can be done very cheaply. You can practice on the local golf course and hike most anywhere with them. It can be fun to get out in the quiet of the woods on your own or to all go off together for a trip and dinner as our Cabin and Trail does. Touring can easily be learned with practice and can be worked into an outing club program without much trouble. It saves a lot of ski ticket money and time spent in lift lines. It is also a good way to get out in the woods in the winter. Once you try ski touring we guarantee that you won't be as eager to go downhill skiing again. We recommend it to other clubs and we hope to see you on the trail this winter. Please write to us if you want further information.

Larry Goss
Dartmouth Outing Club

1/14/65

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IOCA SKIING and SNOSKI

"This thing called Snoski, it is a noble thing indeed..." attributed to F. Weak Teaugh.

The remainder of F.W.T.'s comment is forever lost in the pages of Y.O.C. antiquity, but the forcefulness of this segment is strikingly obvious. Snoski is a "noble thing," has always been, and always will be.

Over the last 15 years, the sport of skiing has grown to be one of, if not the most popular form of winter recreation. It is a natural activity for Outing Clubs to engage in, since the call of the outdoors (which is echoed in the call of IOCA) is also the call of the schuss bomber, snow bunny, sitzmarker, et al. IOCA clubs have responded well to the call of the ski areas, and now it can almost be stated "...Outing Club activity in winter? Skiing, what else..."

Snoski was conceived 11 years ago by the Yale Outing Club to be an IOCA winter carnival where each school was invited to send 4 man teams plus other skiers and cheering section as desired; and in general to bring together for a weekend of skiing outing clubbers in the true IOCA spirit of friendship and adventure in the outdoors. "Fun rather than glory skiing" was to be the theme and to this end easy races have always been held at Snoski on an informal basis; but still most have preferred to just ski and meet new friends.

In 1953 Pico Peak was selected as the area to hold Snoski. Then Pico was considered to be about the biggest and best area in New England - it was high enough and North enough to have usually good to excellent skiing, and the tow facilities were among the best. Even though today Pico has been superseded by several areas as to size and extent of facilities, Snoski continues to return because of the small intimate atmosphere that is available there. Because of this fact, the Snoskier has been able to meet, or at least see, almost everyone who was at Snoski, get in lots of good skiing, and really enjoy himself.

In keeping with the idea of fun and fellowship, the Yale Outing Club has always sponsored in connection with Snoski, a large banquet and traditional IOCA square dance on Saturday evening. For those too tired from skiing or too full from eating to square dance any length of time, there has usually been a song fest or two to be found either at the square dance or back in one of the several lodges used by the Snoski crowd. The use of lodges, necessitated by the winter conditions (imagine 250 IOCA's camped in Sherberne Pass during February), is the only large IOCA event of the year with this "soft" touch in sleeping arrangements. The combination of fine days of skiing, a delicious banquet, and an active square dance have made for a wonderful weekend for those who have come to Snoski.

The large participation at Snoski has been more than rewarding for those who have had to organize and plan the accon-

dations, banquet, and square dance arrangements. In 1953 the number who came to the first Snoski was less than 130, and 11 years later this number was more than doubled (275 from 24 IOCA schools in 1963). The average has been about 180 to 190 from 12 - 15 clubs. It is probably safe to say that over 40 IOCA clubs have been represented at one time or another.

In response to the increasing attraction of winter skiing to the outing clubber, Snoski was conceived and developed. However the planners of Snoski have gone beyond that, and made it into more than just a skiing weekend; it is an "IOCA" skiing weekend.

G. Lyndon Berry

YOC

March 2, 1963

A PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY FOR OUTING CLUBBERS

- I. Putting the "outing" back in Outing Club
 - A. Self-analysis of club purpose, goals, etc. Adherence to principles of outing club, ie. out-of-door living rather than "social" outing club life.
 - B. Problem of organization and administration taking up time which might otherwise be spent on trips. One solution would be a "dynamic" reevaluation of goals and the means of reaching them and the possible necessity of cutting out some administrative functions such as selling of camping equipment, in order to allow time to devote to essentially outing club activities.
- II. Participation
 - A. "Practice makes perfect." Only by doing things, can you get to enjoy them and become competent in the out-of-doors. It is the experienced outing clubber's duty to make the newcomer feel welcome and encouraged to go on trips.
 - B.. Keep trips simple so that the newcomer can participate and acquire skills gradually. (Keep developing own skills also!)
 - C. Stop, look, and listen! The purpose of the outing club trip is not just to do things but to gain greater appreciation of the beauty of the outdoors. The outing clubber comes to realize he is not merely escaping from city life but is finding some deeper thing in the outdoors.
- III. Responsibilities on Trips
 - A. It is fine to do your "own share" but even better not to measure out shares and instead do what needs doing, remembering at the same time to allow others to get a chance to work, even if you can do it more efficiently and quickly.
 - B. Leaders-Gauge your trip-members' skills and if necessary tell one who is incapable of a trip TACTFULLY that he would

do well to wait until he has a little more experience.

IV. Conservation

- A. Natural Resources. Learn how to use the woods and rest of outdoors and defend them, but not emotionally. Use your vote to see that money and resources are used more efficiently in conserving our woods.
- B. Monetary. Pay your own way, both for food and transportation. Many people in Outing Club are losing money by paying for gas, oil, etc. and never being repaid.
- C. Other. Conserving others' equipment should be a matter of common courtesy. Cars, canoes, etc. are expensive items to have to repair or replace, even as far as a condition left-in should be respected. This also applies to campsites and shelters.

V. Co-ed policy

Couples are fine as long as they don't leave everyone else out and forget the ostensible purpose of outing club trips, i.e. to get together with others who enjoy the outdoors. There is much to be gained from more natural relationships formed in outing club groups rather than the artificial dating situations, especially the discovery that members of the opposite sex are normal people who are fun to get to know just as friends if not in a more romantic way.

Discussion Report
Spring IOCA Conference
May 11, 1958

"When in the course..."

There comes a time in the course of human events when it becomes impossible to overlook the flagrant violations of human rights by a faction of the IOCA population. As most IOCA's know, trophy presentations have always been part of the rich legacy given to us by the preceding generations of IOCA's. Quite recently, however, our ranks have been infiltrated by a group known as the trophy grubbers. By definition a trophy grubber is a person who brutally, obnoxiously and grossly removes trophies from people (hats), places (school shields), and things (Calhoun) and stores them out of circulation.

The original trophy was an object of reverence such as Calhoun, presented to a club for some outstanding characteristic. Hats were delicately and cunningly removed from a person, added to, and then returned as an example of an alert mind ready to grasp any opportunity to add weight and strength to a friend's headpiece. Upon their return they were displayed, admired and planned about. Today trophies have gone big time, no longer are the trophy grubbers willing to take a priceless

trophy delicately, but instead there is a wholesale stampede, it is grabbed and, if we're lucky, maybe it'll appear sometime within the next millenium. Hats used to disappear, be added to, and returned at the next get-together. Nowadays they disappear (or more correctly you're jumped and robbed) and the hat is never seen again.

We would propose that all of the trophy grubbers return to circulation all of the trophies they have in storage before people forget about their importance.

By bringing this situation to light we hereby relieve ourselves of all moral obligations if actions have to be taken to correct the situation.

Hopefully,

Sincerely,

Determinely yours,

Sammy Fowler VOC

Peter Catelli SUOC

"Sailin' down my dirty stream..."

'Way back at the conservation meeting of last year's conference I brought up the point of detergent pollution, and the gradual changeover of the detergent companies to products that are bio-decomposable. Someone raised the broader question of water pollution in general. None of us knew too much about the subject; we all agreed that it is an important and complex problem but could come to no helpful conclusions.

Well, since then I've been learning more about water pollution, and thought I'd pass some of it on. As always in conservation matters, I do this with the hope that maybe one or two IOCANs (I'm realist enough to know it won't be more) will get interested enough to write some stirring letters. Conservation is a funny business; it's a little embarrassing always to be the conscientious objector -- but the job of expressing, and indeed, of prompting, public indignation is essential to getting anything done.

So much for the public interest part of the problem, and on to the factual part. Water pollution is nothing new. As early as 1925 it was reaching problem proportions even in this country, with 85% of the nation's inland waters reported as polluted. In 1960 we were using 323 billion gallons of water every day; by 1980 the figure is expected to rise to 515 billion. This reflects not only population growth, but also the increased consumption per capita that accompanies rising living standards. Yet at the present rate of development we will not have that much fresh water available in 1980? We will have to use and reuse our available water, recognizing that it is a resource of limited supply. At present, desalinization is not economically practical as an additional source.

We have no choice but to use the existing supplies as efficiently as possible. Processing polluted water is far more expensive than removing the pollutant before it enters the water supply, be it sewage or industrial wastes. And some pollutants,

such as detergents and radioactive materials, are virtually permanent once they have been added. But the offending cities and industries would understandably rather avoid the cost to themselves, and they do not mind that the cost to those who use the water downstream is higher. If they can get away with it, they will continue to pollute the water running through them.

There is also the point that running water tends to purify itself naturally through the action of bacteria and oxygen. But whereas this may once have been a permissible justification for dumping untreated waste into our rivers, today we are polluting them faster than the natural purification process operates.

Federal laws require the processing of wastes harmful to health or welfare on interstate or navigable waterways, and permit payment by the polluter for the damage he has done instead of prosecution in court. But at present they are ineffective until the damage has been done; there is no way to force preventive measures. Besides, the payment for damages is usually inadequate. It is local waterways that are usually the greatest source of the pollution problem; and most state pollution laws are inadequate. Even the federal laws, where applicable, are beset by both executive and interpretive weaknesses. "The point at which pollution becomes objectionable or unreasonable varies with the user and is incapable of exact definition."³ Water may be safe for drinking yet taste horrible. It may be satisfactory for industrial cooling (from which process it is returned to the supply) though it contains much organic matter. But even the heat from such industrial processing, not to mention pollution, may make water unable to support fish. And what value should we assign to water for recreation? If a locality has an adequate drinking water supply, does it have a right to demand that its seashore or lakeshore be safe to swim in?

Quite apart from the esthetic quarrels that can be made over water for drinking and recreation, there is the justifiable objection that what seems safe today, even in extensive tests, may be destructive tomorrow. The problems of the long-term effects of chemical and radioactive substances are mystifying even to the biologists. Deciding "when to establish the limit and how to develop effective means of enforcement and control"⁴ is difficult. It requires cooperation on all levels; and cooperation is hard to come by in a problem such as this, where the offenders are hard to spot and the extent of their offense and of the authority over them is nebulous.

Complex as the problem is, it is not without hope. Federal action includes the Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 660) of 1961, which provides for grants paying up to 30% of the cost of constructing waste treatment facilities; research grants; and enforcement action, where federal jurisdiction applies. Two bills before the last congress (S. 649 and S. 1111) would have upgraded and augmented this act, but though they passed the Senate they died in the House Rules Committee at the end of the session. They should be coming up again in the present session. Important provisions of the 1961 act include the authority to set up eight long-term river-basin pollution control programs, such as the \$12 million Hudson River Basin pro-

gram recently announced as being undertaken by the Public Health Service. If, as stated by Surgeon General Terry, it is "developed in cooperation with state, interstate and local agencies, as well as with other Federal agencies,"⁵ it will be a huge step forward for the Hudson Valley and a model for other cooperative programs to follow.

The situation on the state and local level is less encouraging, and it is here that public awareness is most needed. Many communities are unaware that their sewage facilities are no longer adequate, or that they could get federal aid in improving them. Industries continue to pollute their waters further, because of ignorance or self-interest. Local governments will not act against pollution until forced to; there are too many "practical," ie. short-term financial, objections. Public awareness of the magnitude of the pollution problem can do much to prompt local action.

If anyone is interested in a particular area, with an eye to pressuring the right people there or simply out of curiosity, I have some fairly specific information on various states, and addresses of where to write in each. Questions on the states testing and enforcing methods, on whether its pollution control agency has increased its staff over the last few years, and on its future water resource plans, can be surprisingly effective. Remember that because so few people get around to writing that short letter, each that does is guaranteed to have some effect.

Sailin' down my dirty stream
Still I love it, and I'll keep the dream
That someday, though maybe not this year,
My Hudson River once more will run clear.

---Pete Seeger

It's not just the Hudson, it's every dinky little stream in the United States that's in trouble. It's going to be a long road to reverse the pollution trend, but quite obviously it's got to be done.

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1. Dr. Joe Linduska, "What's happened to our waters?" Reprinted from Sports Afield, May, 1962, by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.
 2. Staff report to the Senate Committee on Public Works : "A Study of Pollution -- Water." (June, 1963) p. 3.
 3. Linduska, op. cit.
 4. Staff report, p. 5.
 5. National Wildlife Federation, Conservation News, December 1, 1964, p. 12.

Dody Adkins, VOC
IOCA Conservation Chmn.

Outing Clubs, Graduate Students, and Alums

While not a cure-all for the varied difficulties that frequently beset outing clubs, I wish to suggest that encouragement to graduate students, researchers, local IOCALums, and perhaps an occasional faculty member can be a great help in solving some of these difficulties. Perhaps the three greatest problems which appear in most clubs most of the time are transportation, finding willing and knowledgeable trip leaders, and running the organization of the club effectively. These four older categories of members often have cars; generally have been active in the outdoors either in a college club or through other means long enough to have acquired at least the basic techniques and skills for leading trips; and those who have been in clubs often have had enough experience to be able to suggest solutions to some of the organizational problems which occur -- from dealing with the school administration, to publicity, to formulating a trip leader training program.

One notion can largely be dispelled. It is not to be expected that these groups will take over the active club leadership from the undergraduates. Several times members of these groups have been nominated for elected offices in UPOC; without exception these individuals, including myself, have declined. While I personally feel that there should be no objection to members of these groups as officers, experience leads me to believe that it would be rare for members of these groups to accept an official position. However, they will frequently be willing to be appointed to help carry out temporary duties; they are around to give suggestions in meetings and to officers which of course can be accepted or rejected; and we have found it useful in the past to use members of these groups as well as college seniors to form a more impartial nominating committee before elections.

About transportation little needs to be said other than that it is a perennial problem of college clubs and that the probability of older members owning cars is much greater in most colleges than for undergraduates.

Trip leadership is the third important problem of clubs. Many approaches can be made to this problem. I have found that having older students and alums as members is one of the simplest and most effective approaches -- though this by no means indicates that leadership training programs and other efforts should be abandoned. A large percentage of these groups would no longer be willing to become members of an outing club were they not highly interested in outdoor activities. They have generally been active long enough to have acquired the needed skills in at least one type of trip. Further they are likely to have overcome the hesitation that a large proportion of undergraduates feel toward leading a trip. And their added experience in dealing with people may make the trip run more smoothly. Finally they are more likely to be willing to accept an assistant trip leader -- a policy which I would like to advocate strongly. It is preferable that this assistant trip leader be a freshman or sophomore -- someone who will be around for a while. The trip leader should give him as much responsibility as possible while at the same time not giving him all the onerous details to

attend to. The trip leader should also let him see all the problems to be solved, the decisions to be made, and make clear the process of making them. After a few experiences like this the newcomer is likely to be competent to lead a trip and, just as important, have overcome any hesitation toward doing so.

The outing club, however, still has the problem of attracting members from these older groups. If your club exists in a University the extensive availability of graduate students and researchers, simplifies the situation. If you are a college club only IOCALums (whose addresses can be obtained from the IOCALum secretaries, Kev and Peggy Haight at 1617 Arlington Blvd. Apt. 202; Fairfax, Va.) and faculty members--who may be difficult to entice--are available. The thing to note is that these older classes of members tend, like most people, to be afraid of a solitary existence in a crowd of foreigners. Though a graduate student or alum is likely to show up on his or her own initiative from time to time, like a solitary log in a campfire they won't linger long if not encouraged by the presence of others. The trick then is to attract them in clusters. This is a fairly simple process if done through an extensive publicity campaign in which the welcome to graduate student, researchers and faculty as well as undergraduates is prominently and clearly stated. You can use posters, newspaper stories and announcements, registration literature, the graduate handbook if one exists, or whatever your customary modes of publicity may be. It is important not to neglect the various specialized graduate schools--law, city planning, business, etc.--though we have found that students in the physical sciences, math, and city planning are the most likely to be attracted, followed closely by researchers in the physical sciences. IOCALums who live in the area should be contacted at the same time. Note that most of these people will be perfectly willing to make their dues a "contribution" and be honorary members should your school rules allow only undergraduates to be voting members. The best time for running such a campaign is at the beginning of the fall semester when more students have time available. The beginning of the spring semester is another possibility.

If you succeed in mixing undergraduates and graduates along with IOCALums, researchers, and maybe faculty in the club, not only will the club benefit from specific skills and transportation and the older students benefit from having an organization to go with on trips, but also all the members will benefit from the opportunity to mingle with a wider and more varied group of people. Go to it.

Lee Robbins
UPOC, HOCalum

REPORT FROM ASCENSION ISLAND

Since October I have experienced the privilege of an assignment with Western Electric Co. on Ascension Island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, 5000 miles from Cape Kennedy, Florida. Being an avid outing clubber, I have discovered this island to be one of the most fascinating and exciting locations for outing club activity. The only thing missing is snow for skiing and girls for good company and square dancing. Each Sunday, my only non-working day, some place on the island is visited or route gets explored, and for those features a far distance from the base, there are several jeeps available permitting quick access. In fact I have discovered that jeep exploration is almost as much fun as just plain hiking, and over some of the roads here just as much exercise. The weather is always summer, i.e. 75-85 and no worse than partly cloudy with scattered showers, and this also lends itself well to outdoor activity.

Ascension Island is essentially a volcanic rock and ash pile stuck in the middle of the Atlantic. However the island is really much more than this, and in my explorations over its ancient lava flows and extinct volcanic peaks, I am almost continually coming upon scenes of breathtaking beauty and/or intriguing physical formation. How a place that has essentially no vegetation of any significance can hold countless items of such fascination is still beyond me. One reason must be that being treeless, it is possible to always see far distances and the actual composition of the island's mountains and valleys is readily apparent. It is much like being above timberline back in the States. In any case Ascension Island is an ideal place for any who like to hike and explore interesting terrain.

In a short letter it is impossible to describe all of the highlights, but Green Mountain can be singled out as the most prominent feature on Ascension Island. The most unique aspect of this mountain is that it is green. Its upper slopes are covered with thick grass and bushes, colorful gardens, and countless trees including a dense bamboo forest right on the very summit. The mass and height (2817') of Green Mountain coupled with its truly green appearance make a spectacular sight from anywhere on the island.

The mountain has a main peak and two lesser peaks with several impressive ravines separated by ridges, some of which connect to other nearby mountains of lesser height. It is steep and rugged, and to be sure some terrain is frankly too rough for passage, but yet still small enough that it is not really overpowering, and thus is a very exciting mountain on which to hike. The views from the upper reaches are certainly breathtaking. It is possible to see the entire island, from the ground at your feet off into space, past numerous other extinct volcanic peaks and valleys, right to the blue waters of the Atlantic crashing in a fury of white surf onto the rocky shore.

I like it here and am enjoying this adventure very much. By next April when I am scheduled to return to the U.S., I hope to have the whole Island completely explored, from mountain top to coast line, from the base to the "letter box" on the far side of the island.

Lyn Berry
YOC '63 UPOC '64

THE S.U.O.C. ATTEMPT AT AN ANNUAL IOCA MT. WASHINGTON TRIP

or

SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN (A TRAGICOMEDY)

Prologue in The Hole - some thirty hours prior to the start of Thanksgiving vacation. Schnee, Nawang, and random numbers of assorted SUOCers wander aimlessly amid vast heaps of gear. Many important questions are being considered. "Where --- is my --- face mask?"; "Who put this --- here?"; "Who knows how to cook this --- turkey?" Asks one poor unknowing fool - "What do we do if it rains?" Chorus "FOOL, it never rains in the winter." Faintly, from afar, the Mephistophelean chuckle of some minor malevolent demigod sifts through the universe.

Wednesday morning - drizzling rain - cars are loaded in record time (some requiring less than two hours) and diverge wildly hoping for later convergence. Two intrepid fellows head for S. Hadley where they pick up four more plus gear; thence to Acton for more gear; thence to Pinkham Notch where it is (bet you've guessed) pouring rain.

Thursday - Having disentangled themselves from sundry door handles, steering wheels, people, etc. our adventurers dash through the (yep) rain to the AMC cabin where they sit around while their fearless leader writes postcards (he knew something like this would happen). There follows: a drive through Pinkham Notch, a drive through Crawford Notch, a drive to Linner's and finally an ignominious retreat to the MITOC cabin (still raining - of course). Whereupon we: pay \$.50 to the cruel, unusual and avaricious one, gorge turkey, tickle, wrestle, con-tort, boulder, sing?, and drop exhausted to bed.

Friday - We awaken early - very early - to a symphonic poem for the skillet and sausepan played by the cruel, unusual one* and the unmitigated one. Thence pile off to Pinkham. All the world is clear and bright except, of course, our mountain which is enshrouded in mist and howling demoniacly. Undaunted, we pack off to Tuckerman where it is decided that the crampons and ice axes (left at the cars as obviously superfluous for summer climbing) might be needed after all. While poor Dave trudges back after this equipment a large group starts off to reconnoiter the headwall (the climbing of which is unthinkable due to 1. ice, 2. high wind above). Upon closer inspection

the headwall appears not so formidable and it is thought that steps should be kicked in the slush before it freezes. We begin up (with no intention of going to the summit, of course). As we near the top of the headwall Peter rushes into the lead. "I will live," he cries, and falls on his ice axe. Adding a bloody hand to his ecstasy he disappears toward the summit. We follow. Soon eleven people milling about Summit City in a 60 mph wind with clouds threatening. I reach a decision - "Let's get the hell out of here."

Saturday - clear, cold. Three people bushwack up Raymond cat-eract over to Monroe and down Boott Spur. Three climb Washington hoping for Jefferson but are turned back by increasing clouds. The rest go on one of Koppe's famous? guided? tours* to Huntington Ravine (eventually). Saturday night we string ponchos (it is raining again), eat prunes, sing, talk, regret eating prunes, aim, regret aiming, and finally sleep.

Sunday - The rain has frozen. Julie attempts to solo to the stream but is forced to request a belay. The few crampons are distributed to the less surefooted and the rest slide off down the trail. Two hours and several forceful reminders of the basic laws of physics later we arrive at the base. Begins the ride home. (Later) Ends the ride home. Overheard along the way "When do we go back again?" Like I said, "Some people just never..."

THE CREW

10 SUOC	1 family of four (with SUOC)
1 SUOC-MITOC	1 HAMOC
1 Oneonta	1 MHOC
	3 NCEOC

* tour n. (M.E.; Late OFr. torner, tourner, to turn) Despite mutterings of "Jungle" and "Pathfinder" you who followed must admit that you got what was promised - a tour.

Bob Koppe, SUOC

(Ed. Note: This brief and enjoyable account gives an indication of the highlights of the trip. As the 1 MHOC attending I would like to encourage SUOC, in particular, and IOCA in general, to make this a traditional "assault.") jb

IOCA --- WINMOUS

IOCA has been very active at the ADK winter schools, and receiving corresponding benefits. But, an "advanced school" at midterms doesn't provide the desired results.

A school at Christmas is a great way for IOCA to solve much of its beginner problem. Everybody has the same time available and lectures are an effective way of presenting much needed information to beginners. But these factors do not

contribute to the success of an "advanced school" at midterms. Vacations don't coincide, and lectures aren't as effective on advanced material. Also lacking is a way of restricting enrollment to an advanced group.

It seems to me that IOCA would be better off ignoring a midterm 'school.' Actual extended trips would be much more educational. And they could easily be coordinated while everybody is gathered together at the Christmas School.

Hal Murray, MITOC

SEVERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE GUNKS

1. An announcement at the last ARC meeting (Fall '64) that doesn't seem to have reached print:
The most effective way for an ARC leader to help the group as a whole is to push (drag) some promising person through the system, rather than trying to keep many beginners happy.
(One leader worth many beginners).
2. Although the system does not provide for official recognition of thirds, they are very different from beginners.
3. MITOC will sell the little grey book Fundamentals of Rock Climbing to other outing clubs for \$.50. It is useful in training beginners.
4. When I go to the gunks I want to go climbing, but I will make an attempt to repay the group for the time it invested in training me. However, I feel no obligation to drag rank beginners up easy climbs, for I go to the gunks as a CLIMBER, not a guide that caters to the clients desires.

Hal Murray, MITOC

HALLELUJAH, I'M A CLIMBER.

Why don't you work
Like other men do?
How the hell can I work
When there's climbing to do?

Hallelujah, I'm a climber.
Hallelujah, climb again.
Hallelujah, give us a handhold
And belay us again.

When springtime does come
Oh won't we have fun.
We'll all leave our desks
And we'll go on the bum.

I hope when I go
That there still won't be snow
'Cause my bag's only good
Down to seven below.

Oh, climbers' campground
Is a marvelous place.
It's a place where the ranger
Doesn't dare show his face.

Oh the sun went away,
And the rain's coming down.
And we're stuck on this ledge
It's a mile straight down.

Oh the fog is so thick
That you can't see a tree.
So we'll sit and we'll sing
And we'll drink Teton tea.

There's no wine for the tea,
But we don't care at all,
Cause someone's brought a gallon
Of grain alcohol.

The wood is all wet,
And my Optimus won't light.
It looks like we'll have an
Uncooked glop tonight.

The sun has come out,
And the rock's getting dry.
Hurry up, I've just heard of
A free 6 nearby.

My handhold came out.
And my pitons came too.
My belayer looked up
Said, "There's trouble for you."

The rescue party came
And the ranger came too.
As he took back my card
He said, "That's all for you."

When the snow comes again,
And the season is done.
We'll sit and we'll drink
And we'll plan climbs to come.

Composed during an impromptu
jam session by Howell and Carl
Smith, Oct. 20, 1964.

What doth I feel when I do see
The mountains' sprinkled tops of snow?
What doth I feel when pocked cliffs
Mean holds for hands and toes?

I close my eyes and see myself
Against the cliff face tense —
Expecting, glorious, feeling God's embrace
By this, His land.

The rope that wraps around my waist
Makes freedom all the more,
For I can share in God's embrace
Without a fear of fall.

But when I open up my eyes
The cliffs are out of reach.
And strange the pain that I do feel,
And strange the tears inside my throat,
And strange the way my knees do beg
That I should take a seat.

Why should the cold, impersonal rock
Of gray and brown and green and black —
Aloof, without a care for me
Have won my heart so completely?

Esther Rhodes
NPOC

M. I. T. OUTING CLUB

MEMORIAL, M.I.T.

MEMORIAL, M.I.T.

M. I. T. OUTING CLUB

MEMORIAL, M.I.T.

ROOM 306, WALKER MEMORIAL, M.I.T.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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