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# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
Editor - Sam Braxton      Assoc. Ed. & Publisher - Tom Choate

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TRAIL SONG - by Cedric Wright

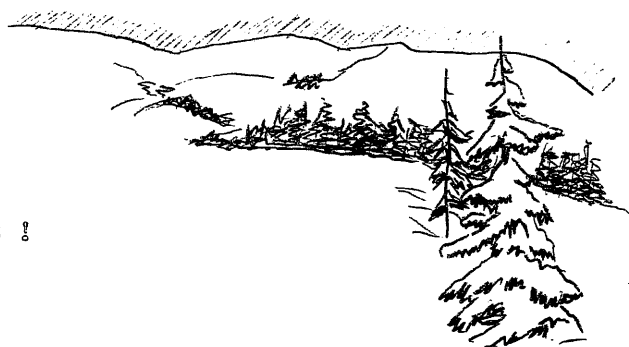
Suddenly, along mountain trails, one becomes conscious of the impression of music. There is no sound, yet one feels music of grandly simple structure, its themes like sculptured mountains. Silent sound? Yes. Perhaps the impression of sounds is because of values held in common by mountains and great music.

Beauty haunts the high country like a majestic hymn, sings in cold sunny air, the brilliant mountain air---makes of sunlight a living thing---floats in cloud forms---filters changing floods of light in patterns ever clothing the mountains anew. Beauty arrives in deep voice of river and wind through forest, swelling the chorus, giving sonority universal proportions. As a deep, sound, beauty flows from out the heart of mountains, infinitely soothing, majestic. Oh to emulate the quality of this communion! It is Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Brahms---or rather, they are its equivalents. Amidst mountains all we think, see, or feel arrives through this matrix of transcendancy. It comes with an interpretive power, a richness, an elasticity, a tonal quality which glows. The music of man, without moods similar to those of the mountains, is without character---it is merely noise. In this thought, Walt Whitman has written:

Others may praise what they like;  
But I, from the banks of the running Missouri, praise nothing,  
    in art or aught else,  
Till it has breathed well the atmosphere of this river---  
    also the western prairie scent,  
And fully exudes it again.

When mountains wake a thought, a melody, one realizes how urgently man needs that spiritual leading from the heart of nature. Across high green lakes this something speaks, in wave lines of checkered sunlight and shimmer of wind rippling. Or suddenly, while beholding mountains, there comes an eerie effervescence in the heart, an impression that for a moment one has experienced the infinity of time, of space---intimations which before had remained beyond human imagining.

Courtesy of 1957 Sierra Club Bulletin



MERRY CHRISTMAS !

Mountaineer Meeting, Mon. Oct. 8, 1962.

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Announcement of coming elections was made, with Gary Hall substituting for Sam Braxton as chairman. Plans were made for club organization and outings, since some twenty prospective new members were present, mostly from MSU. Tom Choate was re-elected as training chairman and he organized trips for climbing school and recreational climbing.

Climbing School, Sun. Oct. 14, 1962.

The first session of training was somewhat of a fizzle, thanks to few showing up and much of a drizzle. Three old-timers and five new trainees met behind Natural Science at MSU to tie knots and practice belaying. A falling log belay testing rig was put up and everyone tried stopping the plummeting 125 pounds; almost too easy with a wet and rough hemp rope! It was a wet and sloppy session, but valuable to the few who braved the elements. My thanks to Sam Braxton and Dave Line for assistance and transportation.

---Tom Choate.

Mountaineer Meeting, Mon. Nov. 5, 1962.

Sam Braxton opened the meeting and presented the November issue of the Mountain Ear. Elections were held and the result was a double tie: Tom Choate and Gary Hall for president, and Virginia Vincent and Charlu Choate for secretary-treasurer. Gary won the runoff and is your new president, with Tom as vice president. Virginia conceded the secretary job to Charlu. Sam Braxton heads the Mountain Ear staff, assisted by Tom Choate, Virginia Vincent, and Shirley Braxton. An exploration and climb of both MacDonald peaks in the missions was proposed for the following Sunday and Monday. The results of this trip will be reported in the January Mountain Ear.

COMING EVENTS:

Return to Mt. MacDonald: December 1 and 2. The newly marked Ashley Lake route will be followed and camp will be made at Duncan Lake. Main, and possibly both MacDonald peaks will be climbed the next day. Bring warm clothes, boots and sleeping bags, etc. As this will reach some of you at the very last minute, call Tom Choate or Sam Braxton for details and transportation.

Monday, December 3 - Meeting Night: 7:30 p.m. MSU Lodge. A special movie is planned for the program. Business includes plans for last trips this year, change in meeting night, and winter training in touring, camping, climbing. If you can't make it please state your mind on these subjects and mail to T. Choate, Zoology Dept., MSU. (Fill in below: Speak up! It's your club.)

-----  
I would like a trip to \_\_\_\_\_.

I prefer meetings on \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like training in \_\_\_\_\_.

Additional comments:

### Climb of Bass Creek Pinnacle and cross-country to Lappi Lake.

The second session of the fall 1962 climbing course took place in a disorganized fashion as a large group of Rocky Mountaineers headed up Bass Canyon in the Bitterroots on October 21. The motley crew, including everything from fishermen to kids and dogs, braved somewhat foul and cold weather to have fun in this area. Since only a few of the many original course members were present, it was decided that individual practice on ropes was a better approach than organized instruction of persons of such varied climbing background.

Two groups of people climbed around the pinnacle to the west, one arriving at the col just uphill from the summit spire without climbing technically. Several other parties roped their way up a slippery route on the north pioneered by T. Choate and C. Choate. The last fifty feet to the summit was fifth class and the wind was strong and cold, so it was only attempted by Choate and Erikson. Looking at the pinnacle from the west, the highest ledge is followed to the left to its end, where a piton is placed. Then swing around the rib over space until a foothold is found in the double crack on the north face; here another piton is advisable. Scrambling up this crack to the bush, one may rest, then climb the last ten feet either left or right and get on the foot-wide rib at the summit. We needed a piton on the top to keep from being blown off! We rappelled down the 50 feet to the west.

Five ambitious people, perhaps with as much need of warming up as yen to explore, left the pinnacle to cross-country to Lappi Lake. The route is moderately difficult, thanks to down timber and steep sidehilling, but in a little over an hour we reached the lake and had maintained most of our altitude. No fish were lured but the scene was beautiful and the cabin intriguing as a future shelter. On the way down an attempt was made to follow the old trail; this was partly successful despite the brush. We came out at a cairn on the road at dark, about 6 p.m. After a snack and an hour and a half of stumbling down the road to the wilderness boundary we received a welcome jeep ride from patient members of the main party.

---Tom Choate

### Mill Creek Practice Climb - Bitterroots west of Woodside.

On October 28, 1962, members of the climbing course, and a few guests, hiked up the Mill Creek Trail for about a half mile to what we now call "Mill Creek Rocks". This area had been suggested for climbing and exploration by Tom Choate, who led the group. The area proved to have everything; firm rock, class 2 to 6 climbing, nice views, and a southern exposure for warm climbing. Tom demonstrated piton driving and placement, then overhang technique and tension climbing. After lunch the party broke up to form four rope groups for practice.

I recommend the "Mill Creek Rocks" area as a superb practice area for all phases of rock climbing.

---Sam Braxton

EDITORS NOTE: A large number of Rocky Mountaineers turned out to explore Bear Creek in the Bitterroots on November 4th. Several sub-groups were formed and visited different areas. Most had successful hikes and climbs in the sun above the valley fog. As a result, several of us didn't know until later about the mishap encountered by one group and reported below.

---Tom Choate

### "ACCIDENT" at Bear Creek

Place: About four hundred feet below the large gendarme east of "Needle's Eye" (Sign on trail)

Cause: Lack of organization of party of five, and the lack of judgment of two out of that five while climbing up a seemingly minor Class III pitch. This accident could easily have been prevented if some better judgment had been used.

Situation: Everyone was to meet, so our party believed, at the bottom of the Class III pitch going up towards the gendarme after the group became divided on the trail. This seemed to induce an even further crumbling of organization of these five: John Stoianoff, John Riegler, Garry Hall, Gary Spurloin, and Al Marini. Stoianoff, solo climbing, took the hard way up over primarily Class III and several Class IV pitches, getting into difficulty several times he admitted later. Riegler lead Spurloin and Al Marini up, taking an easier route (Class II and III) while Dave Line and myself took the easiest route to catch up after I had fooled around on a lower friction slope getting used to the feel of rock again.

After eating lunch at the supposed rendezvous, several became impatient as the other group had not shown up and decided to climb up to the chimneys leading to the gendarme with hopes of attempting to climb it. This route is basically a gulley which forms a Y three quarters of the way up, but with both leading to a large grassy ledge at the bottom of the chimneys. Stoianoff, about 150' in the lead after reaching the Y, decided to leave the right fork and traverse on an upper ledge on the massive right-hand face as it lead more directly to the chimney. This placed the others and myself in a more precarious position due to the increased danger of rock fall, so when I reached the Y I took the left fork to keep from being directly below Stoianoff. Riegler followed my example, and being that the others were with him I assumed that they would do the same. I reached the grassy ledge just in time to hear Stoianoff yell "ROCK", and when I looked around I saw Spurloin in the right fork attempting to dodge the rock. At first it looked as though it would miss him by about six feet, but on the last bounce it banked off the face and directly at him catching him on the elbow and narrowly missing his head by about nine inches as he ducked.

Rescue: Spurloin said immediately that his elbow was broken, and Riegler rushed over to him while I dug into my pack for my first aid kit. As his arm was bleeding slightly, Riegler placed over the wound a compress and then immobilized the arm while I was setting up a belay system to get him back down the hill. Riegler, staying with him always, walked him down the 500' of Class III slope, he himself on rappel while I belayed Spurloin (so that if he happened to slip and bang his arm, he would not pass out on us and fall, compounding the situation).

The only other difficulty encountered was how to get him across the creek and onto the trail as we had had to boulder hop across the creek with about a half an inch of ice existing on the rocks. Finding a flat log, we built him a bridge from rock to rock and worked him across in this fashion.

---Gary Hall

CANYON PEAK - 9100' - Nine airline miles due west of  
Hamilton in the Bitterroot Mtns.

Hiked to the first of the three Canyon Lakes on the 27th of June, 1962, and camped there.

Suggested route: The trail detours around the headwall to the first lake, but a faster route lies straight up the headwall to the lake. There is a cascading falls (plus or minus 200') out of the first lake over this headwall that can be seen from Hamilton.

The distance from the first lake to the end of the third lake is approximately one mile. It is an easy one half hour hike from the end of the third lake to its north col and the beginning of technical climbing.

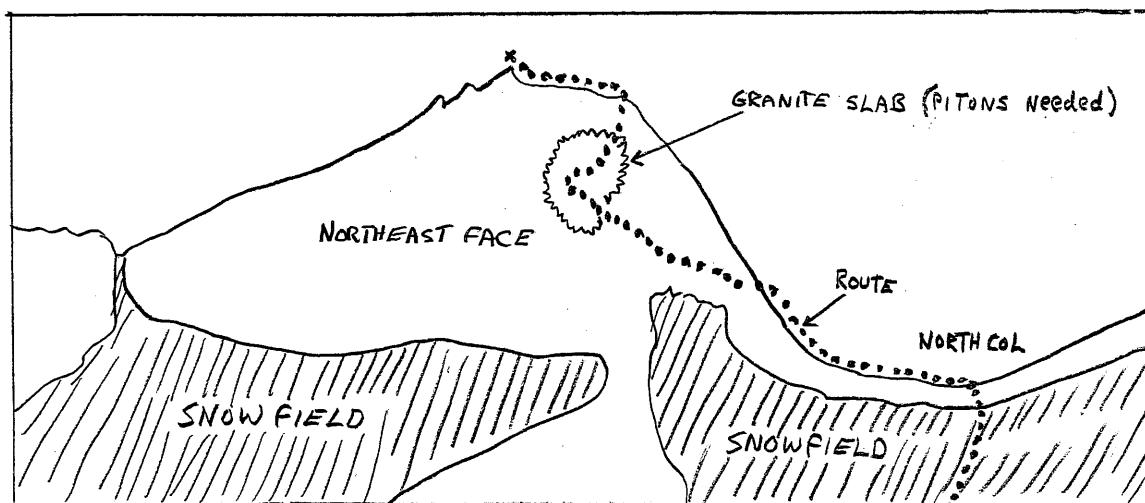
Suggested camp site: Vicinity of the third lake.

Left camp about 8:00 a.m. and traversed the north side of the bowl into the north col of Canyon Peak. Roped up at the north col and began climbing diagonally upward (45 degrees) to the left of the north ridge and reached a smooth firm granite down sloping slab (pitons for safety). Follow this slab up until the north ridge is

reached. The summit lies about 300 feet along a knife-like edge to the north. Be careful of loose rock. This route was climbed by Pete MacLachlan and Sam Braxton on June 28, 1962.

Suggested equipment: Carry rapel equipment, slings and assorted pitons (about 6, 2 angles, 3 assorted horizontals, and a knife blade). This would be an extremely dangerous climb in bad weather - so if caught, rapel down. - Sam Braxton

(See also Reconnaissance of Canyon Peak in Nov. 1962 Mountaineer)



CANYON PEAK FROM THE EAST SHOWING CLIMBING ROUTE

WINTER OUTINGS are in the offing. The first, somewhat experimental ski tour was made in Glacier Park over Thanksgiving. A ski and snowshoe trip into the Sawtooth mountains (proposed National Park) on Saturday and Sunday, January 5 & 6, possibly starting the 4th is in the planning stage. Start repairing your cross-country skis or snowshoes. Think about pairing with someone with a stove and tent if you are without them. Do you want training in winter touring, camping, or climbing? Bring your ideas to the December meeting or write them on the Questionnaire. Above all - PARTICIPATE!

#### CHALLENGE

He has not seen a mountain, who can dwell  
Content within its shadow till he dies.

A man who sees a mountain, though he pause,  
Continually scales it with his eyes;  
And all his life lives fissured till he joins  
His vision where the summit cuts the skies.

But he who seeks a mountain on a map  
and plans reconnaissance before the rains  
Carries the granite peaks in his heart.  
And glaciers course like fire in his veins.

-- Aileen R. Jaffa (courtesy of Sierra Club)

FIRST ASCENT OF THE NORTH FACE OF MOUNT WILBUR - Glacier National Park-by Tom Choate.

Mount Wilbur is one of the most difficult mountains to climb in Glacier Park. It provides a spectacular backdrop for the view across Swiftcurrent Lake from the Many Glacier Hotel. When one realizes that this sheer east face is the easy route and requires rope work (after having read Edwards' Climbing Guide), you begin to wonder what the rest of this peak is like.

Thus, after climbing the mountain and enjoying its very spectacular cliffs and views along both of the "easy" standard routes, we were challenged to try the unclimbed North face. Reconnaissance from the Summit to the first notch in the ridge to the west indicated a narrow chimney cutting the north face straight down to Iceberg Lake over 3000' below. It looked possible if it were dry and the climbers well equipped.

We set out at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, August 4, 1961 to fulfill the dream of challenging this sheer face which forms the south wall of the great cirque surrounding Iceberg Lake. Gil Averill, another Rocky Mountaineer, and Renn Fenton, an old hand at Wilbur climbing from South Dakota, and I signed out at the Ranger Station. It was a fine, sunny day and it already felt hot by the time we reached Iceberg Lake. Many white snowbergs floated in the milky green waters. It was perfect for color photography. About 9 a.m. we labored up the long slopes of talus and scree leading down into the lake from the cliffs. At the base of the first low cliffs two unafraid mountain goats jumped up from a snow crevasse where they had been resting and paused to look us over carefully before leaving.

The ledges and talus blocks and more staircase ledges went on and on, and we scrambled over fully 2000 vertical feet of them before we felt it necessary to rope up. We were now 300 feet below the black diorite sill which traverses the steep cliffs of the upper peak on all sides. Above us lay the formidable chimney, obviously the only route through the overhanging cliffs on either side. This date was almost too early, as the rock was damp and slippery in places and falling rocks screamed by occasionally.

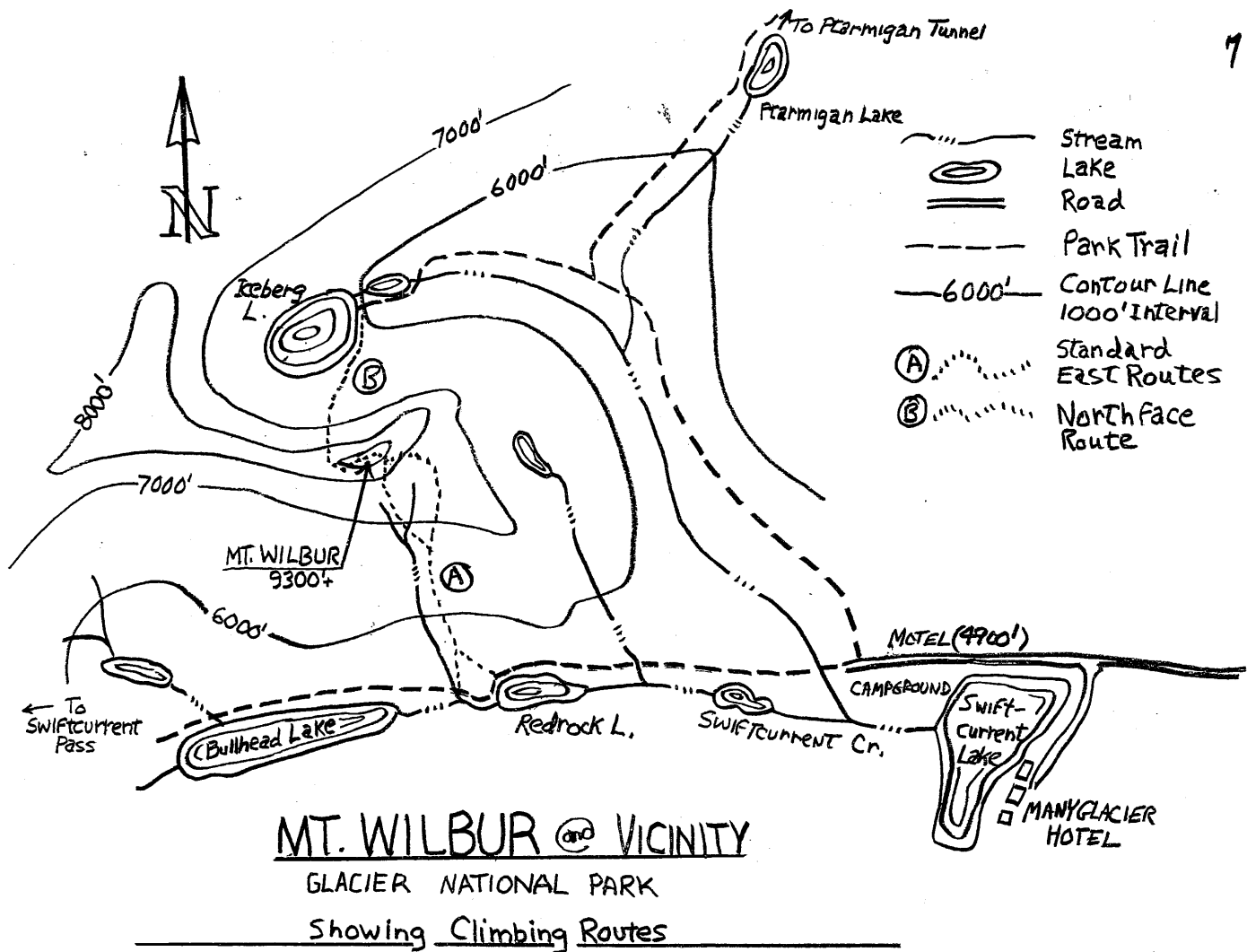
Renn made the first try, stemming up to a slippery spot, where a slip of one of his feet spoiled his nerve. I succeeded in leading this spot by finding an acceptable piton crack and driving home some slip insurance. So it went for three leads up to the ledge below the diorite where we could rest out of reach of falling stones from above (or from the hold-cleaning duties of the leader).

Above the diorite the whole face overhangs, including the chimney, and several chockstones hang out over you as you worm or stem your way up. Rocks kicked or pulled loose shot straight down 50 feet or so on top of your belayer, obviously requiring much care. With one or two pitons protecting each lead (because one falls out of such a chimney, not down it) I wiggled through small holes under several piano-size chockstones, using each for a belay point for the next lead. Momentarily the chimney widened and flattened for a resting place, 500 feet down from the top of the west ridge.

"Renn's terror" chimney was now past. More in his natural element of face-climbing, Renn led two pitches in the wide chute and entered a left branch of it. Over two more ledges a sheer face confronted us, not far from the top. I decided a crack leading up it would work, but found it took four pitons in hard-to-find cracks to make it safe. The "interesting" point here is in the middle, where the belayer squats under an overhang, held in by only an anchor piton, to do his duty while looking over the edge at the lake far below. A last scramble and suddenly we burst into sunlight and a vast panorama of peaks to the south across the deep gap of Swiftcurrent Valley.

After a rest and snack here, broken by rope coiling and picture taking, we scrambled the 300 feet of ledges just SW of the ridgetop up to the small flat summit area, arriving at 4 p.m. We rested by the tall cairn for almost an hour, drinking in the panorama of peaks and looking alternately into the three valleys 3300 to 4300 feet straight below.

Going down the East face by Edward's Route seemed a cinch after the North face climb. In fact we felt no need for roping up as we easily descended the "staircase" to the SE ridge in little over an hour (this procedure is not suggested for anyone not very familiar with the route and type of rocks). We shall always remember the spectacular view thousands of feet straight down into Iceberg Lake.



#### CONSERVATION .... and the Mountaineer:

We get as much enjoyment out of natural outdoor areas as any other people. Yet we usually do nothing to help conserve or protect it. Have you noticed the bad logging practice at the head of Rattlesnake Creek, for instance? If you saw the great waste of trees, the rapid erosion of the bulldozed soil, then why did it not bother you, make you want to write the people in charge? Let's talk over what we can contribute to the wise and careful use or protection of our local resources soon.

-- Tom Choate

#### CONSERVATION -- and Tinkering

Conservation is a state of harmony between man and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the earth. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left...

The outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is not television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism. Only those who know the most about it can appreciate how little we know about it. The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: "what good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog in the wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.

--- Aldo Leopold, in Round River.

## CONCUSSION

**SYMPTOMS** --- Any or all may be present in varying degrees. If they gradually worsen, the case is desperate.

- a. Any hard blow to the head --- suspect concussion despite victim's assurance and appearance of being 'ok' -- look for symptoms listed under 'c' below.
- b. There may be very little surface bruising, cutting, or bleeding even with severe concussion.
- c. Unconsciousness, even for a short period; slight to plentiful bleeding or watery discharge from ears and nose; unequal pupils and/or pupils don't react to light; headache; nausea and/or vomiting; dizziness; pulse full and slow with reddish-purple colored face and heavy breathing, or pulse weak and rapid with ashen-colored face and labored breathing; paralysis or numbness --- commonly in one or more extremities; confused, disoriented, irrational, and/or lost memory; sways or falls if closes eyes while standing.

## **FIRST AID** ---

- a. Keep very careful watch over any suspected concussion victim so long as you're responsible for the first aid --- an apparent minor injury can develop severe concussion symptoms many hours after the accident.
- b. If bone or object is pressed or pushed into brain, leave it alone unless you're positive victim will die unless you remove the offending object. You may kill him by removing the object so don't do it until you've carefully considered all factors.
- c. Don't apply pressure at the site of the blow.
- d. Don't plug up nose or ear if there is bloody or watery discharge --- let it drain.
- e. If victim is not cold, apply cold pack to injured area unless this causes too much discomfort.
- f. If victim is unconscious --- maintain open airway; keep lying down with head level or slightly elevated, avoiding pressure to injured area; maintain body warmth; apply cold pack; send for rescue team and doctor, or if your party is strong enough and it will save time or remove victim from other danger, carry him out, gently.
- g. If victim is conscious --- keep lying down or in most comfortable position, and quiet; keep warm; give reassurance; give no stimulants, sedatives, or painkillers except standard aspirin dose; apply cold pack; if not nauseated, give warm drink (not tea, coffee, or alcohol) and/or soup.
- h. If victim is conscious and can walk reasonably well, it will often be best to have victim walk out if he's able, but protect him very carefully as he may become irrational or may pass out at any time --- in mountainous terrain this may save a lot of time and a rough trip by litter. On steep terrain keep a secure belay on him. If he does walk out, insist strongly that he go to a doctor immediately.

## PULMONARY EDEMA (caused by "heart failure")

See article in 4/62 issue of Summit by Dr. Charles S. Houston, M.D. Dr. Houston discovered several years ago that this is the ailment which has caused very rapid (24-36 hours) death to several apparently very healthy and strong climbers in the Andes in recent years and which had been diagnosed by their fellow climbers as acute pneumonia.

Pulmonary Edema is now recognized as not uncommon among people, especially climbers, at higher elevations. It has occurred as low as 7,500' above sea level and has been fatal as low as 9,000' above sea level.



MOUNTAIN FIRST-AID(continued)

Symptoms --- "A day or two of fatigue and listlessness usually precede the major episode which begins with such shortness of breath that the climber can scarcely drag around. An irritating non-productive cough appears; sleep is broken and restless. Soon the individual must sit up to breathe, his cough becomes looser and he will raise a thin, frothy, sometimes pink, sputum. The breath sounds are rattly, and bubbling sounds may be heard either by the patient or by an observer with his ear against the bare chest. The pulse is usually rapid - but may be slow, and the temperature may be normal or high; he is obviously very ill, and the apparent diagnosis would be pneumonia."

First Aid --- "Consists first in correct diagnosis, secondly in use of oxygen and descent to low altitude as soon as possible, administration of anti-biotics (to ward off secondary infection) and the use of diuretic agents." Due to the extreme speed with which this ailment can develop it would appear that, for the western Montana mountaineer, the overridingly important task is to get the victim off the mountain and to medical help as quickly as possible --- even if you have to carry the victim out on your back! --- certainly you don't have time to wait until the next day or so for a helicopter pick-up!

(Quotations from Houston article)

MOUNTAINEER FOODS (PART III) - Shirley Braxton

Protein Cookies-  
(A meal in themselves)

Add in order:

- 1 cup brown sugar (don't pack)
- 2 C molasses
- 3 eggs
- 1 t. soda in a little hot water
- 1 pkg. raisins or 2 c.
- 1½ lbs. seeded dates
- Spices as desired, 1 t. cinnamon,
- ½ t. each nutmeg & allspice
- 3 C wheat germ
- 2 C nut meats
- 1 C butter
- 1 C soybean flour

Let stand 10 min., add more flour to make a stiff batter; bake in moderate oven (275°) in the form of small round balls on a cookie sheet. Should be hard but not crumbly.

Vitamin Drinks

Mix powdered brewer's yeast with either Tang, lemonade mix, or liquid Jello.

Logan Bread

- To one quart water add:
- 4 lbs. whole wheat flour
  - 12 oz. (1½ C) melted shortening
  - 12 oz. sugar (1½ C)
  - 1 lb. honey (1¼ C)
  - 1 lb. blackstrap molasses (1½ C)
  - 4 oz. powdered milk (½ qt.)
  - 1 tsp. salt
  - 2 tsp. baking powder

Bake at 300° for 1 hour, dry out well for several hours at low heat with oven open. If desired, nuts can be added to the above recipe. Logan bread when done, should be as hard as rock (igneous), dry and light. One piece, about 2" x 3" x 3/4", per man, per day.

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