

although the Club membership is still increasing annually, the number of active members has been slowly decreasing.

JOHN EBERT

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Probably the most notable ascent made during the last year was that of Devil's Tower by Jane Showacre and Jan Conn. It was the first ascent by an all-woman rope.

Arnold Wexler, Donald Hubbard, and Sterling Hendricks continued their climbing activities in the ranges of British Columbia, making a total of 7 first ascents in the Monashees.

Local activities were just as noteworthy since they involved introducing a large number of inexperienced people to mountaineering techniques and safety principles. Much time was therefore devoted to instruction of beginners with particular emphasis on *safe climbing*. The Club has made a special effort to interest new people in its activities and in mountaineering in general. During the last year local climbing trips were conducted every Sunday, in addition to weekend trips to more distant climbing areas at least once a month. Participation in these trips this year has totaled over 1200 "climber days" without serious accident.

J. REED

Sierra Club. The past year has proved a very active one for Sierra Club members. Besides the usual conducted trips to the High Sierra during the summer months, rock climbers and mountaineering members accomplished several climbs of note in the local area.

The Loma Prieta Climbing Section (San Jose-Los Gatos) explored the King's Canyon region, making some excellent Class 5 and 6 ascents. More accurate knowledge of the area will be helpful in the completion of a *Climbers' Guide* to King's Canyon rock climbs, being written by Bob Smith of the Loma Prieta group. Climbers of the Southern Section completed new ascents of the final summit lead on the Lost Arrow in Yosemite Valley. Salathé and Nelson finished this unparalleled climb from the base of the spire in five days.* Wilts and Gorin made a third ascent of the needle in August.

This past March W. Dunmire, W. Siri, A. Steck, and P. Swift made a first ascent to El Capitan Tree, which grows on the sheer

* *Sierra Club Bulletin*, Vol. 32, May 1947, describes an ascent by roping down to the notch from the rim of the wall.

face of El Capitan, several hundred feet above the talus slope. In July Steck and Swift overcame severe difficulties to gain a first ascent of the Yosemite Point Buttress. Also in July, R. Long and J. Davis made a first ascent of one route on the North Face of Clouds Rest.

In addition to these local climbs, members of the Club engaged in three expeditions. W. Long, R. Long, and R. Skinner climbed in the Bella Coola area of British Columbia and in 21 days climbed Mt. Defiance (9600 ft.) and Mt. Nutsatum (9600 ft.). Bad weather prevented further climbing. Members of the Club also went on the 1952 expedition to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru and climbed two peaks above 19,000 feet. Will Siri led this group which included Oscar Cook, Allen Steck, Fletcher Hoyt, Leigh Ortenberger, Nat Berlin, Peter Hoessly. Seven Club members also took part in the 1952 West Buttress Climb on Mount McKinley, which reached 12,000 feet before bad weather finally forced them back. These included Dick and Mary Houston, Chet and Evelyn Errett, Phil Bettler, Fritz Lippmann, and Dick Irvin. The California Himalayan Committee was also still endeavoring to get its expedition under way.

C. HOUSTON AND A. STECK

Stanford Alpine Club. Besides the weekend practice climbs on local rocks in which dynamic belaying is stressed, the Club climbed in Yosemite, Pinnacles National Monument, and Castle Crags. Two new routes were made in Yosemite, one up the face of Eagle Peak from the valley. During the winter, ski mountaineering trips were made to Mt. Shasta, Mt. Ritter, and Toulumne Meadows. An all-girl party made several first manless ascents in the Tetons. Two members were in the party which made the first ascent of La Perouse in the Fairweather Range, Alaska. Emphasis is being laid upon safety and the training of leaders and qualified second men for the climbing in Yosemite Valley.

NICK CLINCH

University of Washington Mountaineers: The Mountaineers climbed in many of the best climbing areas of this continent during