

under the direction of one lead instructor. Each group of 24 students had seven instructors under the lead instructor. The leader picked his team in advance and scheduled belay and knot briefing, snow trip, and rock trip to the satisfaction and convenience of the group. Students could then sign into any group and be assured of a proper instructor-student ratio. Results were remarkably better than in the past. Instructors quickly came to know the newcomers as individuals, and could follow through with student problems from one session to the next. Also, instructors were more cooperative, because they knew they were needed on specific dates, and they quickly formed a sense of responsibility toward the students. Attendance ran much higher. The highest percentage of graduation from basic school in past years was 39%. In 1970 65% of the students who enrolled, completed the course. A total of 329 people started the course, and 212 graduated.

The Mazamas scheduled 191 climbs for the 1970 season of summer climbing. Of these 144 left town, and 122 were successful, indicating a moderately good weather pattern during the year. Outings and the winter climbing program added many ascents to that number. Most notable was a fortunate outing in Europe with good weather almost the entire trip. An outing at the end of June took many climbers and many hikers to the Ruby Mountains near Elko, Nevada. This little visited area offered many interesting ascents of little known peaks. Snow was heavy, but climbing there later in the year may well be hot and dry. A hiking outing took a large group to Hawaii to explore the "big island" quite thoroughly.

JACK GRAUER

*Mountaineering Club of Alaska.* The club saw an increase in membership during the past year; over 200 members are now listed. An active climbing and hiking schedule was maintained throughout the year. Trips into the Chugach Mountains, the Alaska, Talkeetna, and Kenai Ranges made up the majority of activities. Members helped propose and establish the recently created 500,000-acre Chugach State Park, a mountain playground just east of Anchorage which has been familiar to MCA'ers for some time. The club conducted a winter mountaineering school, a beginning and an intermediate-advanced rock school, and a glacier school during the past year. Each school was preceded by evening seminars, and the combined indoor-outdoor programs were well attended and most successful. Club members utilized the long Alaskan summer days hiking and climbing numerous mountains in the Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. Some of the more notable ascents were: Alabaster (8065 feet)

in the northwest Chugach, a first ascent; Mount Dimon (7202 feet), another first in the Valdez area soloed by Charles Kibler; and Lava Peak (6620 feet) in the Talkeetna Mountains soloed by Grace Hoeman. Other notable ascents were: Mount Marcus Baker (13,176 feet) in the Chugach Range and in the Talkeetnas, Montana Peak (6950 feet), Granite Peak (6702 feet). The past year saw two MCA'ers on Mount McKinley: Randy Jenner joined a successful "Mountain Travel" West Buttress Expedition, while Grace Hoeman organized and led the successful all-female expedition, known at the "Denali Damsels." Two MCA'ers and three Nordic Ski Club members skied the Eklutna-Girdwood Traverse in the spring using the club's hut system along the way. It is hoped that this trip will become an annual spring event. The annual Flattop sleep-ins, overnight campouts during the longest and shortest days of the year, were well attended. During 1970 members have been seen trekking in Nepal, travelling to New Zealand, climbing Mount Rainier on New Year's Day, climbing and hiking in the "Lower 48" and Europe, as well as having another active year in the Land of the Midnight Sun — Alaska. Other expeditions and notable ascents in which club members participated are written up elsewhere in this *Journal*.

STEVEN W. HACKETT, *President*

*Mountaineers.* The year 1970 was a good one for the Seattle Mountaineers' Climbing Program. Favorable weather provided a high percentage of climbs successfully completed; enthusiasm of students and instructors alike resulted in a high number of graduates from the three climbing courses; and upgrading of course material resulted in a high degree of proficiency and safety among the participants of the climbing program. There were no serious accidents on any of the scheduled climbs, and more than one climb leader commented on the improved capability of the basic students, particularly in rappelling. The Mountaineers' climbing course program, one of the oldest and finest in the nation, has been conducted over the past 36 years for the purpose of equipping the student with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to probe and enjoy the natural wonders of mountain country to the fullest in a safe, rational manner. Three courses are presently offered: alpine travel, basic, and intermediate. During 1970, 201 enrolled and 87 graduated from the alpine travel course; 285 enrolled and 115 graduated from the basic climbing course; and 84 enrolled in the five-year intermediate climbing course with 24 graduates in 1970. Twenty-two climbers were awarded the Six Major Peak Pin award for successfully completing the climbs of Mounts Rainier, Adams, Baker, St. Helens, Olympus, and Glacier Peak. Among the climbs successfully completed there were 79 basic experience climbs out of