

forest, to exalt in the beauty of the outdoor world, to promote a better way of life, then it is unconscionable, in the Mazamas' view, that government should actively work to destroy these outdoor clubs through their policy of taxation.

JACK GRAUER

*McGill Outing Club.* The McGill Outing Club in 1972 enjoyed another very active year of rock climbing and mountaineering both within and outside of La Belle Province. The annual Fall Climbing School was well attended with over 50 new participants this year. Although our members travel to New Hampshire's Whitehorse and Cathedral Ledges for challenging routes outside the province, most of our climbing activity centers at Val David, Mount King, Mount St. Hilaire, and Shawbridge Cliffs. Over half a dozen new routes of high standard have been opened up on Shawbridge Cliffs, and a new trail has been built along the base of this escarpment to improve the access. A guide book for climbs in this area will be published shortly. Two trips were made to Park Laurentide, where two new Grade III routes were started, if not yet completed on L'Ours.

A successful climbing instructors' school was organized in the spring with the help of the Federation of Mountain Clubs and the Quebec School of Mountain Sports. In the field of conservation, briefs were submitted on the Village Lake Louise development in Banff National Park and on the protection of the wolf species in Quebec. The past year witnessed a rather phenomenal growth in the popularity of cross-country skiing. The club was successful in obtaining two large Federal Opportunities For Youth grants for the development of X-C ski trails in the Laurentians. A comprehensive bilingual map has been published jointly with the Laurentian Ski Zone.

The trend for members to obtain summer jobs in the National Parks to fulfill climbing ambitions continues as in the past. During the summer many members traveled to various parks in western Canada where ascents were made of Victoria, Lefroy, Shaeffer, Wiwaxy via Grassy Ridge, Huber, Hungabee, Louis, Baker, Olive, Assiniboine, Andromeda via the Skyladder, St. Nicholas, and Eisenhower via the Brewer and South Tower routes. Farther afield, the club organized a very successful climbing trip to Mexico in December. Climbs were made of Orizaba and Nevado de Toluca, and two technical climbs were made at La Huesteca Canyon, including a traverse of Pico El Diablo.

KEVIN O'CONNELL, *President*

*Mountaineering Club of Alaska.* The MCA in 1972 continued its active program of sponsoring and practicing the use of mountaineering skills, both in our "backyard" Chugach Range and in the Talkeetnas, Wrangells, and other challenging Alaskan massifs. The year began with several assaults by members on nearby summits in the northwest Chugach,

most of which have yet to be climbed in winter. Short daylight hours and unpredictable snow conditions did their best to insure that the list of winter-climbed Chugach peaks would not be enlarged this year.

Expedition-oriented members participated in a winter attempt on 13,176-foot Mount Marcus Baker, highest of the Chugach, but were stalled at Base Camp by freakish winds and a downed aircraft. Another MCA expedition launched the first winter attempt of Mount Foraker, but was turned back at 13,600 feet by massive cornices and a shortage of fixed rope, returning to civilization after 19 cold and windy days on the peak. A summer attempt on Mount McKinley was thwarted by the weather at 17,200 feet, but a measure of light relief was gained by their grandstand view of the antics of French ski ace Sylvain Saudan, and, upon their descent, of the collection of considerable booty discarded by the French entourage. MCA members also tackled Mount Drum in the Wrangells, recording the third ascent of that 12,010-foot peak.

The MCA again organized its popular series of climbing schools, with its winter-skills school in January and its extended rock and ice school in late summer, instructing approximately 25 beginning mountaineers in each school. The club's stake in the environment was examined in detail, and extensive testimony was presented by the club and by individual members at public hearings on Chugach State Park and the proposed Kenai Moose Range Wilderness. The major non-climbing event of the year was the long-awaited release of *55 Ways to the Wilderness in South-central Alaska*, authored by MCA members and published by the club in conjunction with the Mountaineers of Seattle. This briskly-selling 160-page volume expands and replaces the popular *30 Hikes in Alaska*, published by the same groups in 1967 but long since out of print.

TOM MEACHAM, *President*

*Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.* During the year there was a great increase in climbing, much of it outside the Mountaineering Section, both at local areas and at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. This increase has raised questions of overcrowding (especially at Carderock), safety, and training. Within a year's time one group experienced its first fatality; the first two fatalities and two serious accidents occurred at Seneca Rocks; and other accidents and near accidents occurred all too frequently. It was indeed a very serious year for climbing in our region. The club's Mountaineering Section responded by greatly expanding its training program, adding courses in mountaineering medicine and rescue; by encouraging new members; and by establishing a formal board of overseers for the major climbing areas to identify climbing problems and to provide liaison with land owners in the climbing areas. The U. S. Forest Service's proposed visitor developments at Seneca Rocks are causing considerable concern that the quality of climbing will be degraded. We are presenting our views to the USFS in a forceful manner. A newsletter has been started to provide a forum for the USFS and the