

of himself to seeing that others also enjoyed the hills. We admired him for his helpfulness and great accomplishments; we often argued with him that we could not reach his goals, but we usually found that he was right, and that together we could all do more than we dreamed. The example of his life will continue to inspire us to the best that humans can experience.

WILLIAM H. THOMAS

MARK DENNIS WEIGELT  
1949-1972

Mark Weigelt died on October 15, 1972, in a massive rockfall in the exit gully of the Ice Cliff Glacier on Mount Stuart in the Washington Cascades. He was very exuberant that day because the glacier was well broken, in excellent shape, we were climbing well, and it was a beautiful day. He enjoyed his last day, as all his others, to its fullest.

Mark, a native of Washington, grew up with a fine view of the Olympics beckoning from his front window. Because of his natural abilities as a gymnast, he took up rock climbing while still in high school. He rapidly became an expert, climbing throughout Leavenworth and making seasonal trips to Yosemite.

However, Mark was not content to be just a rock climber and eventually took up alpine climbing. His first ascents include numerous routes in the Leavenworth rock climbing areas, as well as technical alpine routes in the Northwest and Canada.

Because of his gregarious nature, and because he wanted others to be able to climb safely, Mark taught some of the University of Washington's climbing classes. He devoted time to this, not for any monetary rewards, but to help his students to really appreciate and protect the mountain environment. His course was difficult, and only those with a real dedication ever bothered to finish the course. He always started out with a difficult map and compass bushwhack and bivouac, to ferret out those who didn't already have a deep motivation to be in the mountains. Those who completed Mark's course learned not only the technical aspects of the sport, but also of the fragility of the mountain environment and the need to think about and be responsible for one's actions.

The thing that one most remembers about Mark is his personality. He was strong and belligerent, yet filled with a deep kindness for those around him. He was full of energy—always had to be doing something. When the weather was not suitable for climbing, he was down at the "Y" working out or playing basketball, or off on a bicycle trip.

For being such an excellent climber, Mark was always willing to climb with a partner of nearly any ability—and help him or her enjoy the climb. He was sure of himself, yet felt no need to prove it.

The mountains were such a large part of Mark's life, it seems fitting

that his death was there, but it is hard to accept that such a vital friend is no longer with us.

EARL W. HAMILTON

HELEN I. BUCK  
1884-1972

This year the Club lost a most distinguished member, Helen I. Buck, known and loved by generations of American mountaineers. Many climbers, foreign and American, came to know this cheerful, knowledgeable, modest woman in the years after her retirement when she was librarian at the Clubhouse, but few knew the extent of her own climbing. She was not only the outstanding American woman mountain climber of her generation (as Miriam Underhill was of the generation following) but the *outstanding American woman athlete*.

Helen I. Buck was born in Manchester, N.H., near the Uncanoonuk hills. Perhaps in imitation of her four older brothers she quickly developed her interest in active sports. By 1905, when she was graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, her athletic feats were known across the country, for she broke several world records for women in track and field.

*The Boston Post* of June 19, 1905, for instance, wrote, "Swift as Atalanta, mighty as an Amazon, is Miss Helen Buck, president of the graduating class at Mt. Holyoke College, and probably the greatest woman athlete in the world." There is no doubt that if there had been participation by women in the Olympic Games of that period, she would have won gold medals and become world famous.

After her graduation she became a teacher at Staten Island High School, and later at Bay Ridge High School and Washington Irving High School in New York. During this career, her love for mountains, mountain travel and mountain friends was paramount, and she climbed in many areas. Though less well known than Mrs. Bullock Workman, Dora Handy or Annie Peck, she was a far more experienced climber. For instance, she climbed in the French, Swiss, Italian and Austrian Alps, in the Pyrenees, and in Wales and the Lake District in England. She was apparently the first American woman to climb the three peaks of Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn and the Jungfrau. She made many climbs in Colorado, ascended Popocatepetl and Ixtacihuatl in Mexico, and made one of the early climbs of Mount Robson in the Canadian Rockies, an area to which she was especially attached. She was the first woman to climb Mount Edith Cavell, and with two fellow members of the Club (Dr. A. J. Gilmour and N. D. Waffl) made the difficult first ascent of Mount Sir Alexander. In order to reach the foot of the mountain in 1929, the party had to pack in on horses 148 miles. Only three of the party of seven eventually reached the summit, and that at 5 P.M. after twelve hours of continuous climbing!