

should assure him as outstanding place in the field of Philosophy as he has already achieved in mountaineering.

KENNETH A. HENDERSON

HIS MAJESTY, KING LEOPOLD III
1902-1983

Prince Leopold, who was born in the royal palace in Brussels on November 3, 1902, followed in his royal father's, Albert I, footsteps in his love of the mountains. He attended Eton, but in the main was given a military education in preparation for his kingly duties, which he assumed upon his ascent to the throne on February 23, 1934. A few months later his wife, Queen Astrid, was killed in an automobile accident on one of their frequent trips to Switzerland. Of their three children, the eldest son, Prince Baudouin, was later to succeed him when he was forced to abdicate on July 16, 1951 as the result of political pressure stemming from disapprobation of his surrender to the Nazis in 1940, even though he had been recalled to the throne by popular plebiscite held on March 12, 1950. He died of a heart attack at the royal palace in Brussels September 20, 1983.

He enjoyed climbing and became very proficient as a mountaineer. Most of his climbs were in the Alps to which he escaped when he could. Although he was familiar with many different regions in the Alps, apparently he enjoyed the fine rock climbing offered by the Dolomites, where in September 1933 he made the first ascent of an unclimbed spire named in his honor, the Campanile di Brabant. He was made an honorary member of the American Alpine Club in 1938.

KENNETH A. HENDERSON

JOHN C. CASE
1892-1983

One night over forty years ago a tall figure walked into the firelight where my bride and I were honeymooning in the Tetons saying "Any room around the fire for an old man?" Thus began a friendship which brought John very close to us, as he was to so many others. Truly a "living legend" John was one of the vanishing class of great mountaineers in the best meaning of that word.

Born in Rochester, N. Y. in 1892, John spent most of his youth in England and Europe and his association with French, Swiss and above all great British climbers influenced the rest of his life—his wry humor and style, his English accent, well worn tweeds and beret, and his philosophy. After schooling in Switzerland and Britain, he was a lieutenant in charge of a machine gun company during World War I and the few tales he cared to tell of that terrible period

were fascinating. In 1916 he joined Socony-Vacuum Oil Company where he worked till his retirement as vice president in charge of production; he was primarily responsible for forming ARAMCO—a consortium of oil companies in the Middle East. John was deeply interested in the Middle East, serving for years as chairman of the board of trustees of the American University in Beirut, and he knew and sympathized strongly with the Arabs. He was friend to kings and ambassadors as well as peasants and porters; he seemed always at ease and made others so.

He married Anne Taylor in 1916 after a whirlwind courtship and they lived in Morristown, New Jersey, though their hearts were always in Keene Valley; John returned there to build a new home after Anne died. There with his two children, 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren he celebrated his 90th birthday.

John's great love was the woods and mountains. He was a founder of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and member of the British, Swiss and Canadian Alpine Clubs as well as our own, of which he was frequent director and President from 1944 to 1946. At the start of World War II John helped organize the Tenth Mountain Division which many of the best American climbers and skiers made into an elite force. He was a special friend to many eager young climbers whom he loved to take on his favorite rock routes.

Perhaps we remember John best for his vitality and youth. Until his last year he rowed across the lower Ausable Lake to his camp on the upper lake, constantly devising ways to thwart generations of bears who raided his ice chest regularly. He traversed "The Range" almost every year, skied both downhill and cross-country, and cut and split his own wood. But when at age 89 he sought to remodel a really decrepit farmhouse we thought he had gone too far! Contrariwise, this challenged him to greater activity and interest, and the Beede House, beautifully restored high above Keene Valley will be cherished by his family for many generations. There is this one great thing about John: he never seemed to grow old; his body slowly withered but when he died gently at home, the spirit and heart were as youthful as ever.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.

JOHN DALE MENDENHALL 1911-1983

John Mendenhall died in Seattle July 30, 1983, three weeks after suffering a stroke. John, his wife Ruth, and other family members were vacationing in the Tetons when John was stricken on the night before a planned climb of Disappointment Peak.

An honors graduate of the California Institute of Technology (1933), John was a respected civil and structural engineer. During the World War II years, his work included design and construction of the Birmingham (Alabama) Aircraft