

time," he and his wife Eve donated their time freely to the local road-runners clubs, helping with race organization, food, etc. Climbing was not enough for him in winter and so he purchased a bulldozer and built cross-country ski trails for competitive racing at a local ranch near Spokane.

Of all his achievements in sports, he was particularly proud of his membership in the American Alpine Club. To describe his power and confidence in climbing, one incident on the north face of Les Droites in the Alps sums it up. For lack of an equal partner, Gary went, as he often would go, solo. Only 200 feet up, he broke the tip of his ice axe. Rather than retreat, he finished the remaining 3600 feet of mixed water-ice and rock with an alpine hammer and Lost Arrow piton in his left hand. Such was his self-confidence. On the second of two expeditions to an unnamed and unclimbed Alaskan giant in the wilds of the St. Elias Range, P 12,659, Gary finally managed to summit.

Gary's lifelong dream of climbing an 8000-meter peak nearly became reality in July of 1988 on an expedition to Pakistan. The objective was Hidden Peak, but a border war altered the plans to Gasherbrum II. A stomach illness prevented Gary from the first summit bid with expedition leader Gary Speer. On the second summit attempt, Gary was trapped at the 2400-foot camp for three days in a storm. Gary began to show symptoms of cerebral edema. On this third day, he and his partner, Dr. Roland Willenbrock, began to descend. Gary's condition worsened and at 23,000 feet he died.

The news of Gary's death left me, his wife Eve and all his many friends numb with grief. There was now a void where once was his presence of enthusiasm and inspiration. He made an impression on all who knew him and changed people's lives for the better. Gary loved the mountains and the challenges they offered. He will be fondly remembered by many friends and acquaintances whose lives he touched. A memorial park is being planned in his name along a beautiful 80-mile "Centennial Trail" to run between Washington and Idaho along the Spokane River. Gary dedicated his life to building athletic trails and pioneering ones of his own. It is only fitting that he be remembered in this beautiful setting.

CHRIS KOPCZYNSKI

ELIZABETH KNOWLTON
1895 -1989

With the death of Elizabeth Knowlton on January 26, 1989, we have lost one of our most distinguished lady mountaineers. She was born on October 25, 1895 in Springfield, Massachusetts to Marcus Perrin Knowlton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts and Rose (Ladd) Knowlton. She grew up in Springfield, where she attended the Elms and then went to Vassar College, where she obtained her AB degree in 1916. The following year, she earned an MA from Radcliffe College.

Although she had accompanied her mother on summer trips to various

mountain regions of this country and abroad and had made many minor ascents in the White Mountains and elsewhere, it was not until she completed her education that she made her first climbs in the higher ranges, starting in 1918 with the ascent of several peaks in the Selkirks and the Lake Louise region of the Canadian Rockies. In 1921 she joined the Appalachian Mountain Club and began an association with other climbers which lasted throughout her life. She took an active part especially in rock climbing in the twenties and thirties. During that time she was extremely active in both the Canadian Rockies and the Alps. The list of her climbs is too long to enumerate here, but many of the routes she climbed in the Pennine and French Alps and the Dolomites were of great severity and earned her the respect and admiration of those who came to know her. The quality of those climbs was sufficient to have her invited to join the rather exclusive Groupe de Haute Montagne. She was one of the two American members, and the only woman, on the 1932 German-American Expedition to Nanga Parbat, on which she reached an altitude of 20,800 feet. Her book on this expedition, *The Naked Mountain*, was widely acclaimed at the time and served to establish her reputation as an author.

She wrote many articles on climbing both in mountaineering journals and in magazines of a more general nature such as *The Atlantic*. She was a most meticulous writer and resented any editorial changes, as many an editor will testify.

She climbed often with guides as that seemed the easiest way to find a companion but did not hesitate to take part in guideless climbing. She participated in an all-woman expedition of 1938 to Mount Confederation, although sickness in the party frustrated a successful conclusion. After the war, in 1947, she made an expedition to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia, where she climbed several of the highest summits. She also climbed in Mexico in this period.

She retained an active interest in mountaineering in the Alps, Himalaya and Andes until her death and was usually found at the annual meetings of the American Alpine Club, which she joined in 1928.

KENNETH A. HENDERSON

HILDA ERLANGER

Hilda Erlanger died on January 3, 1988. She was a member of the American Alpine Club for fifty years, having joined the club in 1938. She climbed extensively in the Alps and listed among her ascents the Jungfrau, Mönch, Finsteraarhorn, Wetterhorn, Matterhorn and Zinal Rothorn. She served on the Board of Directors of the American Alpine Club as a Councilor from 1952 to 1954. After moving from New York in 1963, she lived in Connecticut, most recently in Goshen.