

to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

THOMAS J. GARGAN, M.D.

HENRY WELTY COULTER, JR.  
1920-1996

Henry (Hank) Welty Coulter, a prominent and distinguished older member of the American Alpine Club, died of a pulmonary ailment on February 12, 1996, in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He had spent most of his life in Washington, D.C., but moved to New England in autumn, 1993.

Climbers will remember Hank for his many difficult first ascents in the Tetons, usually in the company of his later-to-be brother-in-law, Jack Durrance. Most of these climbs were accomplished in the late 1930s and early '40s. This was the golden age of Teton climbing when the number of new routes available seemed unlimited and good mountaineers were rare. Two of these were Jack Durrance and Hank Coulter. Usually together, the two pioneered a series of itineraries, many of which have since become classics. If the Durrance-Coulter routes do not equal technically the standards of today they represent nonetheless the "state of the art" for the era during which they were made. Viewed in the light of what was then known and what equipment was used, there is no doubt that the climbs pioneered by Hank and Jack are just as notable for their time as are the more acrobatic achievements of the worthiest of their successors.

There is hardly any point in listing Hank Coulter's best ascents. All were "top of the line." Besides, their description may be found in any up-to-date version of the *Climbing Guide to the Tetons* for whose first edition Hank served as editor and part-time author.

The purpose of guidebooks is to convey information. Accordingly, they usually overlook anecdotes, amusing or otherwise, which may have occurred during a first ascent. The Durrance-Coulter partnership usually had more than its share of these tales, thanks largely to Jack's clinical and sardonic sense of humor and Hank's proclivity to view all human events with a grain of amusement. One of these incidents is not to be forgotten.

It was August 13, 1941, when an energetic and bushy-tailed Jack Durrance and a sleepy Hank Coulter set off in the morning twilight to climb the hitherto unscaled West Face of the Grand. Some time after sunrise, when rocks and air had become comfortably warm, Jack found himself leading a delicate pitch and in need of slack to continue his advance. But the rope refused to budge and Jack called down to Hank, who was on a ledge below and, presumably, belaying. No reply. He called again. Still no reply. With great care Jack descended the difficult pitch to see what might be wrong. And there, seated in a belay position, oblivious to all around him, was Hank, fast asleep and snoring noisily.

Precisely what expletives Jack may have used to rouse Hank from his torpor are not known, but they were sufficient to insure that there would be no repetition of the incident. Indeed, in later years Jack would invariably praise Hank's mountaineering abilities and his extraordinary conscientiousness.

Born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Hank graduated from Dartmouth, then went on to obtain a doctorate in geology from Yale University. In 1952, as a professional geologist, he joined the United States Geological Survey and next year participated in a Pennsylvania Museum expedi-

tion to Afghanistan. In time he became one of America's most expert seismologists and a specialist in all matters relating to geological safety. He studied the Alaska earthquake of 1964 and helped draw plans for the rehabilitation of Valdez. Not surprisingly, Hank served as an advisor to the Secretary of the Interior's Commission on matters related to the Trans-Alaskan pipeline.

Hank usually represented the Geological Survey during its stormier relations with the then-Atomic Energy Commission. The Commission was seeking the most economically viable locations for the siting of nuclear energy plants. More often than not, these locations happened to be either on a fault line or close thereto. It became Hank's unpleasant duty to veto a large number of otherwise desirable locations, something that did not endear him to the five Commissioners.

An indication of Hank's reputation as a mountaineer may be found in the fact that he was elected to the American Alpine Club when he was barely 20 at a time when the age requirement demanded a full majority. Equally important is that Hank was a longstanding member of Washington's exclusive Cosmos Club, where membership is conferred only on persons who have made a major contribution to American society and to the advancement of human knowledge.

All those who knew Hank well loved him and respected him. He was quiet, unassuming, conscientious and always in search of the truth. He was a born teacher with the rare quality of being able to instill enthusiasm in all those around him. Those who associated with him more often than not quickly learned to surpass themselves. But most important of all for a mountaineer, Hank could retain his sense of humor even in the most dire circumstances; and after all, is it not a sense of humor that really makes climbing worth while?

ANDREW JOHN KAUFFMAN, II

WILBUR DAVIS  
1921-1996

Wilbur Davis has been a member of the Iowa Mountaineers for over 37 years. He served as an outing and climbing leader on many of the Iowa Mountaineer North American and international outings and expeditions. His love for encouraging and teaching young climbers in the art and skills of mountain climbing and then unselfishly taking hundreds of beginning mountaineers up mountains for their first mountain summits has enriched not only his life, but everyone who has come to know him.

I had the privilege to ascend Mount Assiniboine in the Canadian Rockies and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania during Wilbur's 69th and 70th years of climbing and adventuring the mountains of the world. His love of life, love of people and his love for the mountains will be missed by his wife Cornelia and his daughter Connie and son Clea and by everyone else who has had the wonderful privilege and opportunity to get to know and climb with him. He will be especially missed by the Iowa Mountaineers and all of its members.

JIM EBERT

KEITH E. HART  
1927-1996

Keith E. Hart of Juneau, Alaska, died on April 27 at the age of 69. Hart was born in Portland, Oregon in 1927 and raised in Vancouver, Washington. He moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1952 to attend the University of Alaska. Hart became very active in expedition climbing in Alaska and Yukon Territory.