soon became proficient. Betty had an exceptional feel for snow, whether it was safe or unsafe. With her respect for avalanche danger, she hung a thermometer from a tree branch at the top of Telemark run to provide a clue. Betty would never ski the enormous open slopes of Glory Bowl in winter; rather, she waited for the consolidated spring snow. She undoubtedly holds the record for the number of runs made on Teton Pass, a record unlikely to be broken.

Trail Creek Ranch became well established, requiring wranglers, cooks, ranch hands and assorted chore boys. Betty always referred to employees as "the crew." The most important member, Margaret "Muggs" Schultz, expertly guided skiers down the slopes in winter, tended the hayfields and harvest in summer, and had inherent know-how to deal with most any problem on the ranch. She was assisted for many years by "Sis" McKean Wigglesworth, Betty's friend from ski racing days. Several crew members were influenced by Betty's enthusiasm and became successful dude ranchers, guides and outfitters.

Betty took delight in having a houseful of interesting people. She relished good food and good conversation. There was an intellectual side to her many-faceted personality. An insatiable reader, she was also devoted to opera, "Mozart in particular," she would add. An evening at the Met was a top priority when she visited New York.

As long as she was able, Betty refreshed her soul by irrigating the fields. Placing dams in the ditches, she would reverently watch as water flowed over the meadow, nourishing the hay ground and pasture for her animals. "Horses are the heart of a dude ranch," she asserted, and was justly proud of the herd she had put together and sustained.

A memorial service for Betty was held at Trail Creek Ranch on June 7, 1997, where her memorable words were recalled:

> I have seen the face of the land change in my lifetime. The wild uncrowded places are scarcer now, untracked snows harder to find, and ski racing has become big business. Time is running out. I would not have been born later.

All quotes are from Elizabeth Woolsey's autobiography, *Off the Beaten Track*, Wilson Bench Press, Box 104, Wilson, WY 83014.

VIRGINIA HUIDEKOPER

WILLIAM P. HOUSE
1913 - 1997

Bill House grew up in Pittsburgh, attended Choate, and went on to Yale, where he became an outstanding leader of the Yale Mountaineering Club. He made some difficult local ascents and, in 1932, with Alan Willcox, made the second ascent of the Pinnacle Gully on Mt. Washington, an ice climb often regarded as the most difficult climb in the White Mountains. Two years later, he and Betty Woolsey made a new route up Jagged Mountain (13,836'), then considered by the *AAJ* to be "the most difficult peak yet ascended in the Colorado Rockies." This led to a trip with Betty Woolsey and Fritz Wiessner to Mt. Waddington in British Columbia. The mountain had turned back 16 previous expeditions, but Bill and Fritz climbed it. Their success also gained them permission to climb Devil's Tower, the great Wyoming monadnock, where they made the first regular ascent.

Bill by now had graduated from Yale and the Yale Forestry School, and had landed a job with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. In 1936-37, jobs were scarce.

Charlie Houston (leader), Dick Burdsall and I met Bill at the American Alpine Club in

New York and asked him to come on the First American Karakoram Expedition to K2 with us. This meant nearly a six-month commitment of his time: a month to get to India, a month to trek 350 miles in to the mountain, six weeks on the mountain and the same to return, with a little time for emergencies. He gave up his job and was told never to return.

Bill was a magnificent companion on the expedition. He solved the major problem on K2's Abruzzi Ridge by leading a route up a break in a great reddish rock buttress, now known in mountain circles as the House Chimney. The expedition went 4,000 feet higher on K2 than anyone had climbed before, but it did not reach the summit. Bill's climb of the House Chimney has been called by Messner and other major climbers to be the finest climb done at very high altitude before World War II.

In the fall of 1938, New England was struck by a tremendous hurricane that devastated miles of forests. Though Bill had been fired for leaving his job to go on the expedition, on his return he was eagerly welcomed back, and some years later became president of the society.

All his life, Bill was known for his honesty and sound judgment. He loved forestry but, like everyone else his age in 1941, he plunged into Army work, developing clothing and equipment at the Quartermaster General's Office for the 10th Mountain Division and other troops. The development of nylon climbing rope was one of his successes.

At the end of the wa,r he married Elaine Johnson, beginning a very happy marriage in the house they built in Chesham, New Hampshire, with its grand views of Mt. Monadnock. He died peacefully.

ROBERT H. BATES

LYMAN SPITZER
1914 - 1997

On March 31, we lost a distinguished astrophysicist and an accomplished mountaineer when Lyman Spitzer died suddenly at his home in Princeton, New Jersey.

Lyman was born in Toledo, Ohio, and obtained a Bachelor's degree in physics from Yale in 1935. After spending a year at Cambridge University, he earned a Doctorate in Astrophysics from Princeton in 1938. Following a year at Harvard, he joined the Yale faculty. During World War II he worked for the U.S. Navy investigating the principles of underwater sound. In 1947, Princeton University invited him to become Chairman of the Department of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory. During the 32 years he held these positions, he joined with Martin Schwarzschild to build one of the country's leading graduate programs in astrophysics. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and earned the rare distinction of foreign membership in the Royal Society of London in 1990. He was awarded the National Medal of Sciences in 1980 and the prestigious Crafoord Prize of the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1985.

His research covered many areas, including the dynamics of star clusters, the physical processes in the gas between stars, and plasma physics. He was a leader in developing magnetic confinement for controlled thermonuclear fusion, and founded the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. In 1946, he published a stimulating paper on "Astronomical Advantages of an Extra-Terrestrial Observatory," which developed the concept of space-based telescopes. He brought these ideas to reality with the development of a 32-inch diameter telescope and associated spectrometer for the Copernicus satellite that NASA launched in 1972. He also led many preliminary studies for the Hubble Space Telescope, and provided much advice to