

With Gaston Rebuffat, he made several classic ascents in the Alps, including the North Face of the Drus, the Northwest Face of La Civetta, the second ascent of the Northeast Face of Piz Badille, and the second ascent of the Black Needle de Penterey. In addition, he shared leads on the first ascents of the North Arête of the Aiguille des Aigles and the face of the Aiguille de la Brenva. In 1951, he visited the Hoggar in North Africa and made several first ascents there. In 1952, he and three French colleagues joined four AAC members in Peru and made the first ascent of Salcantay (6271m).

In 1953, he led an expedition to Nun Kun, the second-highest peak in Kashmir (7135m), on which Pierre Vittoz and Claude Kogan reached the summit. In 1954, he led a Franco-Iranian expedition to Iran to make the first ascent of Demavend. He led expeditions to the Mountains of the Moon in Ruwenzori (1955-'56,) the Caucasus (1958), and Hoggar (1961). Pierre's career as a writer was extraordinary. His first book, on synthetic textiles, was honored by the Institute de France. His mountaineering writings include books about his own expeditions (*Escalades au Hoggar; Salcantay, Geant des Andes; Une Montagne Nommée Nun Kun; Une Victoire sur l'Himalaya; Montagnes de la Lune; Mes Galons d'Alpiniste; Une Victorie sur les Andes;* and *Ils ont Conquis l'Himalaya*), books written in collaboration with others (*Face a l'Everest*, with Eric Shipton; *Escalades et Randonees au Hoggar*, with Claude Aulard), and several books for young readers. In addition, he produced some lovingly written books about the great rivers of the world (*Le Roman du Nil; Le Roman du Mississippi; ...Danube; ...Gange; ...Loire*). He received a number of literary prizes, and his books have often been translated into other languages.

Pierre became a member of the Groupe de la Haute Montagne in 1949. He became a member of the AAC in 1953, and Honorary Member in 1991.

GEORGE I. BELL, SR., W.V. GRAHAM MATTHEWS, and DAVID HARRAH

HARRY HOYT

1924-1997

Harry Hoyt was born June 20, 1924, in Grinnell, Iowa. Since he suffered from asthma, he was sent as a teenager to the YMCA Camp Chief Ouray near Granby, Colorado, where he became a counselor and developed his love of the mountains. While there, he made his first of many ascents of Longs Peak in 1941. He then went to the University of Colorado, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in physics and remained for a further year as a teaching assistant. During these summers, he served as an instructor and guide for the university's Mountain Recreation Department. His ascents during that time included many climbs of Longs Peak, including Alexander's Chimney and Stettner's Ledges and many others in the Colorado Rockies and the Tetons.

Harry received his Ph.D. in physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1953 and immediately accepted a position as staff member in the Theoretical Division at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. Harry remained active at the Laboratory until shortly before his death. He displayed a talent for devising computer programs to solve difficult technical problems, ranging from the propagation of shock waves through layered media to the detection of fraud in the patterns of Medicare billing. He was also greatly respected as a mentor of less-experienced colleagues. For this role, he developed a somewhat curmudgeonly manner, and used it to good advantage to help his colleagues distinguish hype and speculation from knowledge.

Harry was one of the founders and prime movers of the Los Alamos Mountaineers, organizing and leading instructional courses and technical climbs for the club. He also participated in some of the summer outings organized by the Alpine Club of Canada and there met the Swiss guide, Eddie Petrig. Subsequently, Harry did a number of long classic Zermatt climbs with Eddie, including the Marinelli Couloir on Monte Rosa and the West Ridge of the Taeschorn.

One of Harry's favorite activities was climbing in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado in the spring, often over Memorial Day. Many of these mountains have poor rock, so we liked to go there early in the season when there was plenty of snow on which to make the climbs. We would drive as far as possible, then backpack, perhaps a few miles, to camp in some neat place like Yankee Boy Basin or Silver Pick Basin—often among the ruins of old mines or mills. Around daybreak, Harry was always among the first up to light a fire and start breakfast cooking. Since his asthma continued to bother him, he would also use an inhaler at this early hour and cough and snort to clear his lungs for the day's climb. Then we would set off to climb some little-known peak such as Teakettle, or Gilpin, or Vermillion.

On one of these trips, after two days of wonderful climbing, we spent the night in a campground just north of Ouray, Colorado, before heading back to work. As usual, Harry was up early, starting a fire and clearing his lungs. After the rest of us had emerged from our sleeping bags and were eating breakfast, some other campers came over and expressed concern. They asked if we had heard the bear in the campground. They had heard the bear around dawn, coughing and snorting something awful; they thought he sounded old and cross and they worried that he might come back again....

We miss you, old bear.

GEORGE I. BELL

HENRY CECIL JOHN HUNT

1910-1999

Lord Hunt, who led the successful British expedition that made the first ascent of Everest, and who was an honorary member of The American Alpine Club, died on November 8, 1998. He was 89.

Some men do things right. John Hunt was one of them. More than 45 years after the event, it is easy to forget what the circumstances were regarding Everest in 1953. The British had made innumerable attempts on the mountain. All had failed. The Nepalese opened the mountain to other countries and in 1952 the Swiss attempted Everest twice from the south side and almost succeeded. The British had permission for the following year and after that, permission had been granted to other countries. It was apparent that Everest would be climbed. The only question was, by whom? More than 30 years of effort was coming down to one last throw of the dice.

At this critical moment, the Everest Committee decided to switch the leadership of the expedition from Eric Shipton, a very popular mountaineer who was one of Britain's finest Himalayan mountaineers and had made five expeditions to Everest, but who basically ran his trips off the back of an envelope, to John Hunt, an army officer with great organizing ability. The decision was correct, but it was handled badly. Years later, Hunt, who had nothing to do with the decision, was still embarrassed by it.