

IN MEMORIAM

ERIC BROOKS 1902 - 2001

As an old friend and occasional climbing companion of Eric Brooks, and as a fellow member of the Alpine Club of Canada, I would like to offer my remembrance.

Eric started climbing when he met Emmie Milledge, already an enthusiastic climber, in the 1920s, and they climbed together both before and after their marriage in 1935. He and Emmie did many climbs together in the years between the wars, including Mt. Robson, Emmie being the third woman to make that ascent.

Eric joined the Alpine Club of Canada in 1928 and was President from 1941 to 1946, and Honorary President from 1954 to 1965. As such he represented the Alpine Club of Canada at the Centenary of the Alpine Club in London, in 1957. Eric was made an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club, had also been a member of the American Alpine Club since 1943.

During his years as president of the Alpine Club of Canada, Eric organized their annual summer camps. I first met him as a weekend guest at the Consolation Valley camp in 1942. In addition to these regular camps, he was also responsible for a military camp in 1943 for the purpose of training troops in mountaineering techniques. In 1966 he was chair of the selection committee for the Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition 1967.

After the war (in 1948-49) he spent a year as an exchange teacher at Eastbourne, England, which enabled him to climb in the English Lake District, in Wales, and in the Alps. In his later years he traveled to Britain, to Europe, and to Nepal several times, where as well as trekking he contributed to the building of a school in a remote village, which he visited when over 90. On his 89th birthday, he climbed Snowdon from Bettws-y-coed, and I believe he celebrated his 90th birthday by climbing Scafell!

Not only was he an expert and enthusiastic climber, but also a splendid and unassuming organizer who would take enormous trouble to help others, in the Alpine Club of Canada, in his profession of teaching, and with his private friends, as I can personally attest.

His final decade was marred by progressive blindness, caused by glaucoma, but that did not stop him from continuing to live alone at his home at Madeira Park, on the B.C. coast some 60 miles northwest of Vancouver, until a few weeks before his death. This was made possible for him by frequent visits from his friend Valerie Walker, who came up regularly from Vancouver.

JOHN S.T.GIBSON, AAC, ACC

JACK FRALICK 1919 - 2001

Jack Fralick, a 50-year member of the American Alpine Club, passed away in February, 2001 at the age of 81. Jack served on the Club's Safety Committee, wrote the Committee's fourth annual Safety Report in 1951, and initiated the process of tabulation and statistical analysis of climbing accidents.

Jack also co-founded the Chicago Mountaineering Club in 1940 with Harold and William Plumley, and served as its first president.

He was certainly among the first to build a “rock gym” when in 1962 he nailed plywood sheets to a scaffold using wood scraps for holds to demonstrate climbing skills at a national Boy Scout Exposition in Detroit.

Jack climbed extensively from 1936 to 1969 throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Illinois. He had the great fortune to climb with many of the legends of the sport including Petzoldt, Wiessner, Durrance, and the Stettner brothers—superb climbers and life-long friends, who in the 1930s and 40s were pioneering routes and helping to establish the sport of mountaineering in North America. Jack and his friends have several first ascents to their credit including the east face of Monitor Peak in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. This 1947 climb was at the high end of the difficulty scale for the time in the United States and remained so for several years.

After his active climbing years, Jack’s interest in the history of mountaineering remained keen. He was an encyclopedia of facts, dates, and stories about the great climbs, the great tragedies, and the great controversies that occurred as the sport grew. He loved to swap stories and lectured on mountaineering to within three months of his death. Jack published numerous articles on climbing and was often called on by others to edit or contribute to guide books and articles on the sport. He also established a collection of historical equipment, photographs, books, catalogs, and magazines from the early days of American mountaineering at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming.

Jack had a great love for the mountains and had the greatest affection and highest regard for those whom he met there. Mountaineers were among his closest, life-long friends. In preparing this memoriam, it has been very interesting tracking down my dad’s old mountain companions, many of whom I only knew through stories told around campfires at Jenny Lake a long time ago.

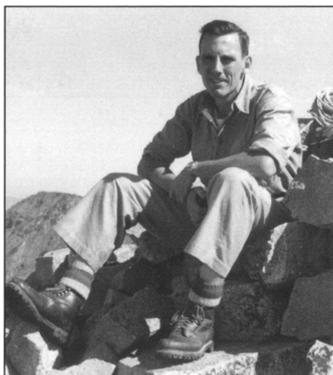
JOHN FRALICK

MICHAEL S. MARTIN 1940 – 2001

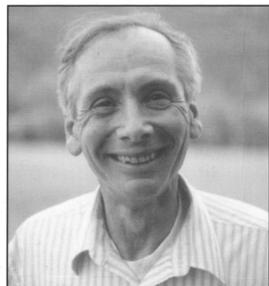
Michael S. Martin drowned September 6, 2001, near the completion of a solo hike up the Upper Black Box Canyon in Utah. He was 61 years old. Mike had recently returned to Denver from a trip to the Tetons and had spent 11 days in the Coast Range of British Columbia in July.

Mike began climbing as a graduate student in mathematics at the University of Washington in Seattle in the early 1960s. He extended his range from the Washington Cascades to the British Columbia Coast Range on trips arranged by Joe and Joan Firey.

You can get a sense of Mike’s climbing from his July 2001 trip, his third to the Klattasine area. The first was in 1992, by which time Dave Knudson had been organizing these ventures for several years. Mike, Dave,



Jack Fralick on the summit of Long’s Peak, Colorado, about 1947.



Mike Martin at Bluff Lake, 1996. Mickey Schurr