IN MEMORIAM

FORESTA HODGSON WOOD
1904-1951

Seldom in any lifetime does one meet a person successful in so many ways, so gifted and so charming as Foresta Hodgson Wood. During her full and happy days, she warmed and enriched the lives of all who knew her. Prospectors in the Yukon, classmates in school, wives of officials in Ottawa, cooks and corporation presidents, bomber pilots and Swiss guides delighted in her humor, her common sense and her lovable personality. The talented artist and sculptress, the gracious hostess of the drawing room and the wise, considerate mother was also the boon companion, the sportsman among sportsmen, the one indispensable member of each expedition.

Foresta was the perfect complement to her geographer husband, and as an expeditionary she was unequalled. When snow drummed against the tent and spirits sagged, her amusing anecdotes could make the storm a joyful occasion, while her apparently casual work with the primus made each supper memorable. Despite her apparent fragility, she had courage and endurance. For instance, at the end of a long day, I have seen her pick out her ram, kill him with a single shot, and help to skin him and pack the meat to camp. Similarly, I have seen her use a dynamic belay with speed and technique when she saw me start a slide on a steep Yukon snow slope. On Mount Wood, for instance, she never complained once about her frozen feet. Her courage was never shaken, whether she were traversing long ice slopes, travelling alone in bear country or flying in rugged mountains. In all activities she not only showed poise, but could be counted on for remarkable color photographs; in fact, she early became recognized as one of this country’s finest mountain photographers. Little wonder that for these and other reasons she was considered such an outstanding expedition member.

The St. Elias Mountains she particularly loved. She knew the thrill of being in new country, the lure of the untrodden height. Even more, perhaps, she enjoyed the beauties around her—the patches of saxifrage and red lichen on warm rocks at the edge of
a snow patch, the thrust of an icy monarch against the blue of space, the color of evening shadows on snow and of sunsets glowing on high summits above a darkened world. Many an evening she would eat her supper outside because “it was too beautiful to come in.”

Foresta’s expeditions to Little Tibet, to Mexico and to the St. Elias Mountains form an impressive record. But it was not the record, nor her ability to rise so magnificently to every emergency, that made her so memorable to her friends. They will always recall her warm and delightful personality, her sense and sensibility, her gentle, rare and loving spirit.

Robert H. Bates

DANIEL UNDERHILL
1874-1951

Daniel Underhill died suddenly on 1 July 1951 at Jericho, L. I., in the house where he was born 77 years ago. He was a direct descendant of Capt. John Underhill (fl. 1630) and Halen Kreuger. He was a graduate of Friends Academy, Locust Valley, L. I., of Swarthmore College, and of New York Law School. He received his law degree in 1896 and was admitted to the bar in the same year, soon becoming a member of the staff of the District Attorney of Queens County. A few years later he became a partner in the law firm of Davison and Underhill, practising in Brooklyn. After 1930 the firm became Underhill and Foster.

Mr. Underhill was chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of Hicksville, trustee and counsel of the Roslyn Savings Bank, former trustee of the Nassau County Trust Company and of the Glen Cove Trust Company. He was a former vice-president of the Nassau County Bar Association and a member of the board of managers of Swarthmore College. He was a member of the Religious Society of Friends.

He joined the American Alpine Club in 1922, assisting with various legal procedures in connection with its activities and attending many of its meetings. He was a member of the Alpine Club of Canada (1921), the Alpine Club (1930), the Swiss Alpine Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Fresh Air Club. His climbing career began in 1920, and for several seasons he was active