

Thayer Scudder organized and led the Harvard Brooks-Mather Expedition, making the first ascents of Mt. Brooks 11,900 feet, Mt. Mather 12,100 feet, and two lesser peaks of about 11,000 feet. They also accomplished a program of surveying for the Boston Museum of Science and botanical collecting for Harvard University. The Harvard McKinley Expedition of 5 members got to within 700 feet of the summit of McKinley before turning back because of bad weather. The route followed was the traditional Muldrow Glacier approach. The party was on the mountain 40 days, gaining valuable experience. Two members of the Club also made climbs in the Castner Glacier region of the Alaska Range, while another party visited the Selkirks and made first ascents of Mt. Corbin, 8897 feet, and Pyrite, approximately 8400 feet.

The Club had a very successful rock climbing program this fall and the climbing program will extend into the winter, with trips to Mt. Washington to give members experience on snow and ice and in bad-weather camping. This increased participation has made it necessary for us to develop a more extensive program for leader qualification. As during the past two years, the Safety Committee has emphasized safety in our climbing procedure.

The climbing camp run by the Club two years ago will again take place this summer for two or three weeks in British Columbia.

H. S. FRANCIS JR.

Iowa Mountaineers. During 1952 the Club sponsored an outstanding number of major activities. The Summer Camp in the Tetons attracted 41 participants. The Christmas holiday climbing outing to Mexico attracted 16 participants and culminated in the ascent of the three high peaks—Orizaba, Ixta, and Popo. The membership for the year was 1359.

The Club has been seriously affected by the draft and by the war in Korea. In past years the Club's most active climbers and committee members have been seniors and graduate students in the University. Most of the students are now required to take special military courses and to attend summer military camps. Almost all of the students are called into the armed services immediately after graduation, which prevents them from attending the summer camp during their senior year or while taking graduate work in the University. This situation is best illustrated by the fact that,

although the Club membership is still increasing annually, the number of active members has been slowly decreasing.

JOHN EBERT

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Probably the most notable ascent made during the last year was that of Devil's Tower by Jane Showacre and Jan Conn. It was the first ascent by an all-woman rope.

Arnold Wexler, Donald Hubbard, and Sterling Hendricks continued their climbing activities in the ranges of British Columbia, making a total of 7 first ascents in the Monashees.

Local activities were just as noteworthy since they involved introducing a large number of inexperienced people to mountaineering techniques and safety principles. Much time was therefore devoted to instruction of beginners with particular emphasis on *safe climbing*. The Club has made a special effort to interest new people in its activities and in mountaineering in general. During the last year local climbing trips were conducted every Sunday, in addition to weekend trips to more distant climbing areas at least once a month. Participation in these trips this year has totaled over 1200 "climber days" without serious accident.

J. REED

Sierra Club. The past year has proved a very active one for Sierra Club members. Besides the usual conducted trips to the High Sierra during the summer months, rock climbers and mountaineering members accomplished several climbs of note in the local area.

The Loma Prieta Climbing Section (San Jose-Los Gatos) explored the King's Canyon region, making some excellent Class 5 and 6 ascents. More accurate knowledge of the area will be helpful in the completion of a *Climbers' Guide* to King's Canyon rock climbs, being written by Bob Smith of the Loma Prieta group. Climbers of the Southern Section completed new ascents of the final summit lead on the Lost Arrow in Yosemite Valley. Salathé and Nelson finished this unparalleled climb from the base of the spire in five days.* Wilts and Gorin made a third ascent of the needle in August.

This past March W. Dunmire, W. Siri, A. Steck, and P. Swift made a first ascent to El Capitan Tree, which grows on the sheer

* *Sierra Club Bulletin*, Vol. 32, May 1947, describes an ascent by roping down to the notch from the rim of the wall.