

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.