scale, it is felt that the rescue group will extend its activities in the near future.

RICHARD C. HOUSTON, Chairman, Mountaineering Committee

The Southwestern Mountaineers. 1956 was a year of growth for the Southwestern Mountaineers, of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Composed primarily of students, professional, and military personnel from Las Cruces, White Sands, and Fort Bliss, the group has grown to a total of approximately 30 members.

While most of the rock climbing activity has taken place on the granitic spires of the Organ Mountains, which overlook the vast Tularosa basin of southern New Mexico, the club has roamed far afield for its major accomplishments of the year. Summer months saw club members make four ascents of Shiprock. During the Christmas holidays, ascents were made on Pico de Orizaba and Popocatepetl, in Mexico.

Mountaineering activity has not been limited to rock climbing. Three times in the past year, club members have participated in mountain rescue operations in the Organ Mountains. Two inexperienced climbers, who had suffered serious injuries in the rugged Organs, were carried to points where helicopters from the White Sands Proving Grounds were able to pick them up and transfer them to medical aid. A third rescue saw club members remove an unconscious teen-age boy from a mine shaft into which he had fallen. As a result of club rescue activities, a close cooperation exists among the authorities of White Sands Proving Grounds, the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department, and the Southwestern Mountaineers.

RONALD A. HAHN

Spokane Mountaineers. A seasoned organization founded in Spokane in 1915 makes its AAJ debut in this report. It was easily predictable that a climbing club should have an early start in such surroundings as those accessible from Spokane. Here within range for week-end trips are the Idaho Selkirks, the Montana Cabinet and Mission ranges, and the Washington Cascades. Longer outings often reach the Tetons, the Oregon Wallowas, and the Canadian mountains. Our natural winter headquarters is 6000-foot Mount Spokane. A cabin with ski-tow facilities is in use there now, and a J-bar lift is planned.

Our "peak baggers" had a very successful 1956 season. Instruction preceded climbs on Rock Peak, in the Cabinets; Mount St. Helens, Mount Index; Mount Shuksan; and Chimney Rock, in the Idaho Panhandle.