

the head of the valley and climbed as much as 1000 feet above the lake. Poor visibility, owing to fog and clouds, revealed a need for better intra-group communications. When the dummies were discovered, MRC knock-down litters were carried in and the evacuation begun. The descent involved rather hazardous terrain, with steep snowfields and rock cliffs. The younger, less experienced members were given the actual job of evacuation, while the more experienced members observed and took notes for a detailed critique which was held later, back at the Pass. A new phase of support was brought into this operation by the Explorer Scouts, who set up an efficient "canteen" at Source Lake for serving hot coffee and sandwiches. Considering that mid-June in the Cascades is not characterized by bright sunshine and mild temperatures, the Explorers' efforts were appreciated indeed. Max Eckenburg and other Explorer leaders are continuing their work to get the Scouts well grounded in support tactics for searches and rescue.

Dorrell Loof succeeded Pete Schoening as MRC chairman early in 1956. The board members included Bill Degenhardt, Ome Daiber (re-elected) Kenn Carpenter (Everett), Ira Spring, Arnie Campbell, and Dr. Otto Trott.

The MRC mountain safety educational film, announced last year, has been completed by Bob and Ira Spring and will be available soon for showings to youth groups, clubs, and schools. Ome and Matie Daiber play major roles in the film. Financing was provided by a fund-drive conducted over a several-year period.

MRC put in a very active and worth-while year answering emergency calls which took teams to the Olympics, Mount Rainier, and various other locations in the Cascades. A new type of mountain activity arose during the year: the search for and rescue of victims of military jet aircraft crashes. Two pairs of jet fighters crashed into rugged, tortuous terrain, and MRC, in conjunction with military and civil authorities, spent many days in the field on search missions. Of eight Air Force flyers involved, three survived. These unfortunate accidents underscore the need for greater cooperation between MRC and the military in order to cope as effectively as possible with future situations.

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Appendix to MRC Report. A working relationship has been established between rescue personnel in the Pacific Northwest and rescue authorities in the Alps. The countries concerned formed an International Commission for Alpine Rescue, which is also known as IKAR. One of the many divi-

dends which this cooperation will pay is in the purchase of specialized as well as standardized equipment directly from Munich and Innsbruck. Such an example is a sectionalized avalanche-probing pole. The Mountain Rescue Council of Seattle and the local Region of the National Ski Patrol System have ordered a number of these probing poles. They will be carried in the regular emergency equipment caches in this area, and individual probes may be sold to members at cost. Construction is of strong, lightweight steel, and the weight approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. There are two sizes: four 3-foot sections and four 2-foot sections. A handy cloth-and-leather carrying-case envelopes the knocked-down sections. The sections screw together and can be tightened with a key. The key is stitched in as an integral part of the carrying case and hence cannot be lost. This probing pole is a great improvement over previous types, which are either too heavy or too cumbersome, especially in the case of the one-piece poles which are difficult to transport over long distances and rugged terrain. The shorter models are ideal for ski-touring parties in case a hasty avalanche search is necessary.

Another exciting piece of specialized gear is the "Akja," which is the latest word in Alpine evacuation equipment. It has been approved by all European Rescue Organizations and is now standard equipment there. The Mountain Rescue Council at Seattle has acquired an Akja, which promises to be of great utility and value in future rescue operations. Construction is of aluminum. It comes in three sections. For winter use, all three sections are used, to permit a greater bearing-surface in snow. It is used as a "boat," and ski attachments are not necessary. For summer use the center section is removed, and only the end sections are used. This shortened model serves excellently for rock and ice evacuations, in which case it rests on steel runners which can easily be attached to it. For movement over trails a portable bicycle-wheel can quickly be added. Two sets of handles are included, a long pair when the Akja is used as a toboggan, a short pair for summer use. There are also attachments for the use of cables in the case of aerial evacuation. The Akja is said to be the "Cadillac" of mountain evacuation equipment and it has a multitude of features which other litters do not have. It can be carried in sections, has a built-in splint, protects the victim from rock and ice, can very easily be loaded, and its construction makes it comparatively easy to carry a casualty over long and difficult terrain of all kinds.

The cost of a complete Akja is about \$125 plus freight. Both the probing poles and the Akja can be ordered from the Bavarian Red Cross Präsidium-Referat Bergwacht, Munich 22, Wagnmüllerstrasse 16, Ger-

many. Since this is life-saving apparatus which is used by non-profit organizations, no difficulty has been encountered in receiving this equipment duty-free.

Glaciers

Glaciers in the Pacific Northwest. The advance of many glaciers in the Pacific Northwest is continuing. This year it was necessary to alter our route to the Coleman Glacier measurement-stations because advancing ice discharging over some cliffs, which even last year were below the terminus of the Roosevelt Glacier, had made the previous route unsafe. Photogrammetric measurements were made this year as usual. Topographic maps of the Coleman-Roosevelt Glacier area on Mount Baker have been completed for the years 1954 and 1955 by Dr. Walther Hoffmann, of Munich, Germany, from the photograms taken in those years. From these maps, it was determined that there was an increase of 170 million cubic feet in the volume of the glaciers between 1954 and 1955. It is expected that when the map for 1956 is completed, it will be found that an even greater increase will have occurred between 1955 and 1956 at elevations below 6000 feet, but that there may have been a loss above 6000 feet, due to an unusually dry and sunshiny summer. The 1954-1955 volume increase took place almost entirely below 6000 feet elevation, the height of the surface of the glacier remaining virtually constant above that elevation.

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