

most of which have yet to be climbed in winter. Short daylight hours and unpredictable snow conditions did their best to insure that the list of winter-climbed Chugach peaks would not be enlarged this year.

Expedition-oriented members participated in a winter attempt on 13,176-foot Mount Marcus Baker, highest of the Chugach, but were stalled at Base Camp by freakish winds and a downed aircraft. Another MCA expedition launched the first winter attempt of Mount Foraker, but was turned back at 13,600 feet by massive cornices and a shortage of fixed rope, returning to civilization after 19 cold and windy days on the peak. A summer attempt on Mount McKinley was thwarted by the weather at 17,200 feet, but a measure of light relief was gained by their grandstand view of the antics of French ski ace Sylvain Saudan, and, upon their descent, of the collection of considerable booty discarded by the French entourage. MCA members also tackled Mount Drum in the Wrangells, recording the third ascent of that 12,010-foot peak.

The MCA again organized its popular series of climbing schools, with its winter-skills school in January and its extended rock and ice school in late summer, instructing approximately 25 beginning mountaineers in each school. The club's stake in the environment was examined in detail, and extensive testimony was presented by the club and by individual members at public hearings on Chugach State Park and the proposed Kenai Moose Range Wilderness. The major non-climbing event of the year was the long-awaited release of *55 Ways to the Wilderness in South-central Alaska*, authored by MCA members and published by the club in conjunction with the Mountaineers of Seattle. This briskly-selling 160-page volume expands and replaces the popular *30 Hikes in Alaska*, published by the same groups in 1967 but long since out of print.

TOM MEACHAM, *President*

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. During the year there was a great increase in climbing, much of it outside the Mountaineering Section, both at local areas and at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. This increase has raised questions of overcrowding (especially at Carderock), safety, and training. Within a year's time one group experienced its first fatality; the first two fatalities and two serious accidents occurred at Seneca Rocks; and other accidents and near accidents occurred all too frequently. It was indeed a very serious year for climbing in our region. The club's Mountaineering Section responded by greatly expanding its training program, adding courses in mountaineering medicine and rescue; by encouraging new members; and by establishing a formal board of overseers for the major climbing areas to identify climbing problems and to provide liaison with land owners in the climbing areas. The U. S. Forest Service's proposed visitor developments at Seneca Rocks are causing considerable concern that the quality of climbing will be degraded. We are presenting our views to the USFS in a forceful manner. A newsletter has been started to provide a forum for the USFS and the

climbers and clubs from 10 states to present their views, ideas, and concerns about climbing at Seneca Rocks.

Weekly outings have continued, primarily for new members and training, with more of the serious climbing being done by members on private trips. Probably an equal amount of climbing is being done at local areas by others not affiliated with the PATC.

JOHN F. CHRISTIAN, *Chairman, Mountaineering Section*

Simian Outing Society. The club began the fall season with a membership drive, netting several neophytes who were initiated into the realm of rock at Portland Arch, Indiana, and Devils Lake, Wisconsin. There is considerable concern over the possibility of Portland Arch's becoming closed to climbing, with the area being incorporated into the state's system of natural areas. Along with the Purdue Outing Club, we are trying to convince key people that climbers do not harm the area and that, in fact, we climbers are the ones who pick up the trash left by local visitors. If Portland Arch is closed, it will be a serious blow to climbing in our area. Nevertheless, the club has optimistically published the second edition of its climbing guide to Portland Arch, which is available for \$1.16 through Frank Knight, 10 Montclair Road, Urbana, Ill. There were cross-country and downhill ski trips to Colorado and Jackson Hole during the winter months. Peter Zvengrowski and party made a winter ice climb of the east face of Mount Athabasca in the Canadian Rockies. During the spring, Simians traveled to the Gunks, Smokies, and Grand Canyon; and by midsummer they were well scattered throughout the mountains of the western United States and Canada.

MARK S. WILSON

Stanford Alpine Club. Our main emphasis during the winter was on mountaineering. An easy trip to Desolation Valley south of Lake Tahoe to orient newcomers was followed by more difficult trips to Mount Morrison, Split Mountain, and Mount Shasta. Not all were successful owing to weather conditions, but at the end of winter a small club party succeeded in making the first winter ascent of Mount Stanford (13,963 feet) in the interior of the Sierra Nevada. Other members took advantage of the excellent conditions in Yosemite Valley, where they completed several Grade V's.

Although activity tapered off somewhat, as usual, during the spring quarter, there were several trips to the Valley with an ascent of the Nose Route on El Capitan. The club has instituted a fairly regular weekly slide show that has become a popular feature of club life. These shows have played a successful role keeping interest high; acquainting members with new developments, techniques, and safety considerations in climbing; and emphasizing the all-engrossing subject of climbing ethics.

ROGER GOCKING, *President*