

Canadian Marathon Ski Tour, an event which is now attracting international entries. The club organized a winter ski trip to the Rockies. Trips were run in Banff and Yoho National Parks to Lake O'Hara and the Lake Louise area. A traverse of the Wapta Icefield from the Bow to Peyto Glaciers and a ski ascent of Mount Rhondda (10,025 feet) was also made on the same trip. Finally, a ski trip was run into the Little Yoho Valley for several days of powder skiing.

The exodus to the western Canadian national parks continued during the summer with members climbing at Yamuska, Corry Crack, 3/4 Couloir, Pilot Mountain, Hilda Peak, Edith Cavell, Rhondda, Gordon, Balfour, and Mount Robson via the Hourglass and Schwartz ledges. Members were active in other regions as well. One joined a successful climbing trip to Peru, while another was involved with an expedition which climbed Mounts Wood, Slaggard, Strickland, and Macaulay in the St. Elias Mountains. Technical climbing continues to be very popular at Mount St. Hilaire, Val David, Mount King, and St. Simeon on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. Several new routes were established on the Shawbridge cliffs.

KEVIN O'CONNELL

*Mountaineering Club of Alaska.* The year 1973 saw much activity by our members in the Wrangells and, of course, in the mountain ranges visible from Anchorage including the Chugach, Kenai, Talkeetna and western Alaska Ranges. With the aid of accommodating weather conditions and in spite of the short daylight hours and unpredictable snow conditions, first winter ascents were gained on peaks in the Chugach, the Kenai and the Talkeetnas. Expeditions involving club members were made to the Wrangells and to the western Alaska Range. Early in the year, one party which had set out to ski-tour around the McKinley-Foraker complex changed heart at some point and skied up the Kahiltna, reaching the 17,200-foot camp on the West Buttress of Denali before being beaten back by inclement weather. Mount Drum (12,010 feet) in the Wrangells saw two attempts this year, only one of which was successful. Significant first ascents were registered by club members in both the Chugach and the Talkeetnas in spite of the retreating borderline of virgin territory.

While the season has been most successful for the MCA, our members were not left unscratched. Fortunately, the worst damage sustained was a few broken bones by an unfortunate neophyte practicing self-arrest during a club-sponsored school. We have had worse years. This occurrence precipitated a searching re-evaluation of school safety procedures, which concluded that our safety standards were not deficient and that not all possible contingencies could or should be guarded against.

This year has seen the club's environmental and political posture become more aggressive, a trend which has been manifest for a number of years, but a trend which is viewed with some sadness by most mem-

bers. Our club has lost the innocence of its early years, and this is not without regret on our part.

Plans for the coming year include first winter attempts on significant peaks in the Trodrillos, the Chugach and the Talkeetnas.

With the incidence of climbing by "outside" groups on the increase, we would like to hear of all climbing in the mountain ranges local to Anchorage, so that the history of these ranges may remain complete. A short note to the club (Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510) detailing party members, peak climbed along with its location (elevation & township and range as specified on the 1:64,000 quads), date climbed and suggested names, would be greatly appreciated.

WILLIAM A. BARNES, JR., *President*

*Simian Outing Society.* The Simians began the year by instructing beginners on the local cliffs of Portland Arch, Indiana. These cliffs have since been closed by the state, and the area has been incorporated into the Indiana system of natural areas. Efforts are being undertaken to have climbing permitted here again. There is no leading at Portland Arch owing to the crumbly nature of the sandstone; so the climbers have little impact here. Several weekend trips to Devils Lake were taken, only to be rained out. Several areas in southern Illinois and Missouri were explored as possible new climbing sites.

Over the Christmas holiday period we headed for Colorado to ski tour around the Longs Peak region, then down to the Sawatch Range for a climb of Mount Princeton. During semester break there was a trip to Jackson Hole with an ascent of Jackson Peak, a ski ascent of Sheep Mountain, and ski touring in Yellowstone. During the spring vacation several Simians tried an ascent of Gannett Peak in Wyoming's Wind Rivers, but with six solid days of snow, the peak was never seen. Other Simians had better luck with the weather backpacking to Escalante Canyon in southern Utah. During the same period there was a ski-touring trip to Wisconsin along the south shore of Lake Superior.

Over the summer Simians were scattered to the four winds with trips to Colorado culminating in an ascent of the Diamond on Longs Peak. Several groups, at different times, returned to the Wind Rivers and with favorable weather succeeded in climbing the long-sought Gannett Peak. Some Simians even tried the watery world with a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

MARK WILSON

*Spokane Mountaineers.* Club membership peaked at 400 during the year. We voted a new ski tow for our Mount Spokane property and now sponsor a ski team under mentor Mark Pinch. We have an effective expedition fund, and our Himalayan library is extensive. The club will offer a basic mountaineering course in 1974. The following will provide some continuity back to our last *AAJ* report in 1969 with com-