

Ryland's climbing career spanned more than three decades, starting before World War II in the Sierra Nevada and continuing in the Cascades and Olympics for many years. He was also active in The Mountaineers but he climbed little in the last decade of his life.

GEORGE R. SAINSBURY

HASSLER WHITNEY

1907-1989

With the death of Hassler Whitney on May 10, 1989, the Club has lost one of the best known early climbers on the American scene and one of its most distinguished scientific members. Hassler was a friend to many of us who were active rock climbers in New England in the twenties and thirties. He has now become a byword to the present-day climbers in the region through his association with the Whitney-Gilman route on Cannon Mountain, of which he made the first ascent in 1930 with his cousin Bradley B. Gilman, who was later to become a president of the Club.

He was born in New York City on March 23, 1907. He attended Yale from which he graduated with a PhB in 1928 and a MusB in 1929, which reflect his two interests: logical thought and music. He was an accomplished performer on the violin and the viola. He went on to obtain a PhD in mathematics at Harvard in 1932 and followed that interest for the rest of his life. He continued his career at Harvard, serving as Instructor of Mathematics from 1932 to 1935 while doubling as tutor from 1933 to 1935, then becoming Assistant, Associate and finally full Professor from 1946 to 1952. That latter year he left Harvard to take the post of Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, from which he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1977.

Hassler had an active family life, marrying Margaret Howell in 1930, with whom he had three children: James Newcomb, Carol and Marion. In 1955, he married Mary Garfield, and they had two children: Sarah Newcomb and Emily Baldwin. After her death, he married Barbara Osterman, by whom he is survived.

He developed early an interest in mountaineering, starting at the age of 14 with the ascents of the Breithorn, the Cime de l'Est of the Dents du Midi, and the Combin de Corbassière. The next year he returned to the Alps and started climbing without guides. He continued returning to the Alps every few years, doing guideless climbs in the Chamonix district, the Pennines and the Bernese Oberland. In 1934, he climbed the Grand Teton, but he seemed to prefer the Alps for his climbing recreation.

Hassler was not only highly regarded but very distinguished in his field of mathematics. With his perceptive mind, he developed many new lines of thought and ideas in that field. He was a Fulbright exchange professor at the Collège de France in 1957 and received several honorary degrees and special awards and honors from scientific societies. Despite the eminence of his status as a

mathematician, he was a very modest and unassuming person whom we shall greatly miss.

KENNETH A. HENDERSON

RUTH DYAR MENDENHALL

1912-1989

Ruth Eleanor Dyar was born on August 16, 1912 in Kiesling, Washington, a farming hamlet near Spokane. Her father, Ralph, was a newspaper executive and playwright. Her maternal grandparents, who had emigrated from southern Germany, had founded Kiesling. Ruth's love of the outdoors developed during her early years on hikes in the hills near her family's farm. As a child, she learned that she loved climbing anything available—trees in her grandfather's orchard, the farm buildings. When her family moved to Spokane after the war, she continued to climb on a neighborhood basalt outcrop.

Ruth attended the University of Washington with a major in journalism, graduating *magna cum laude*. Although she hoped for work in her field, professional jobs were scarce. She soon moved to California because she was offered secretarial work there, but she was very lonely in her first years away from home. She frequently wrote to family and friends, beginning a lifelong tradition as a correspondent.

Ruth joined the Sierra Club in 1937 and began going on outings with the Ski Mountaineers section. She first encountered rock climbing in the spring of 1938 when most of the ski mountaineers switched to climbing for the summer. Technical climbing had recently begun in California. There were six routes on Tahquitz Rock, and Ruth did them all. She was one of a party of five that made the first ascent of the Swiss Arête on Mount Sill. There were two experienced climbers and three neophytes: two young men and Ruth. The male beginners felt extremely insecure on the exposed ridge and never climbed again, but Ruth was thrilled by the climbing and the altitude.

Ruth was one of six who established a cooperative climbers' residence, "Base Camp," in 1939. A mixed group of young people living together in a big house was a concept far ahead of its time. For the residents, Base Camp was like the home and family most of them missed. At this time, Ruth developed her lifelong interest in outdoor journalism, serving as editor of *Mugelnoos*, the spirited and irreverent newsletter of the Sierra Club's Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections during its first four years. She later served on the Sierra Club's editorial board in 1940 and 1941.

Ruth met John Mendenhall, a structural engineer, in 1938 at the base of Tahquitz Rock. They were married in Van Nuys on September 22, 1939. They climbed extensively in California before World War II. They made first ascents of Monument Peak in the southern California desert, a route on Strawberry Peak in the San Gabriels, and Mount Whitney's southeast face. In 1940, they went