

managed his voluminous global correspondence on an old manual typewriter before reluctantly moving to a computer. He was a dedicated historian and an atlas of mountain information who could answer most climbers' questions from memory.

Those of us who knew Ad best were privileged, but so were thousands of casual acquaintances. It did not take long to recognize how essential his wife Ann was in his life: she welcomed unexpected guests, planned their days, and in a hundred ways Ann made it possible for Ad to be the diverse and interesting man he was.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.

TOM CABOT  
1897-1995

Tom Cabot had been a member of the AAC since 1924, distinguishing him as our oldest living member at the time of his death on October 9, 1995.

In the late 1960s, I met Tom in Penobscot Bay off the coast of Maine, where he and his wife, Virginia, sailed and gunk-holed most summers. After just a short time on board his boat, it was easy to tell how he got his reputation as a doer, straight-forward thinker, and generally competent outdoorsman. I saw him many times thereafter, including monthly Harvard Traveller's Club meetings in Boston. My father-in-law, who brought me into that club and who was his first cousin, gave me Tom's autobiography, *Beggar on Horseback*, to read in 1979. In 1980, I went to him to ask for money for an expedition to China. I used the approach he discussed in his own book: know your cause, explain it clearly, expect to be questioned, and then ask for the gift. That was when I learned that he felt the mountains had taken too many of his friends, and as a result, his interest in climbing had ended — including the support of expeditions.

Early on, Tom was known mostly for his accomplishments as an industrialist. Upon graduating from Harvard, he built a small company in West Virginia started by his father into the world's largest producer of a much needed product: carbon black. He went on to become an industrial consultant to our government's State Department. But he soon became even better known as a philanthropist and conservationist, both of which gave him his greatest pride. Through it all, he was an avid horseback rider, skier, canoeist, and sailor. His mountain and exploration experiences, too numerous to list, included the Selkirks and Assiniboine, the Alps, Mexico's volcanoes, Patagonia, and an expedition to Columbia in the 1930s to explore and map

the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

His benevolence will be felt by the Cabot Conservation Fund, and by those who are recipients of monies from the Virginia Wellington Cabot Fund at Radcliffe, set up in honor of his wife. His unbridled energy will be remembered by many and carried on, especially considering that among his living relatives are 29 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

JED WILLIAMSON

CHARLES STACY FRENCH  
1907-1995

Charles Stacy French, American Alpine Club member since 1937, and former Director of the Carnegie Institution's Department of Plant Physiology and Professor of Biology at Stanford University, died October 13 at the age of 88. Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, he was educated at Loomis Academy and Harvard University where he received a doctorate in biology in 1934. He was very involved in mountaineering and skiing activities with the Harvard Alpine and Skiing Club, climbing often in the White Mountains and skiing at Tuckerman's Ravine. He was also involved in and led expeditions to the Alps where he climbed the Matterhorn and had many wonderful climbing adventures.

After the completion of his doctorate Stacy French worked as a research fellow at the California Institute of Technology. He also found time to go on a number of climbing expeditions with Norman Clyde and his good friend and fellow botanist, Carl Sharsmith (longtime ranger at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park). He climbed Mount Whitney, Mount Shasta, Mount Hood and Mount Rainier, and was a member of a climbing party led by Norman Clyde that established a new route on the Hotlun Glacier of Mt. Shasta in 1934.

Stacy French was an Austin Teaching Fellow at Harvard Medical School and also taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Minnesota before being chosen as the Director of the Department of Plant Physiology in 1947. Aside from the main labs on Stanford University Campus, the department maintained research field stations at Point Reyes National Seashore and Mather and Tioga Pass just outside the western and eastern boundaries of Yosemite National Park. Part of the work at the Yosemite stations was to develop range grasses for various altitudes. The Tioga Research Station was above timberline and focused on alpine grasses. He would make yearly pilgrimages to oversee the work going on at these research stations and would camp and hike with his family in the Sierras as part of these excursions.