

meter peaks, Nanga Parbat. "Mountaineering," he said, "roused a passion within me that has grown with the years, and has to no small extent molded my life and thought. It has led me into regions of such fairy beauty that the wonders of Xanadu seem commonplace beside them; it has brought me friends who may be relied on in fair weather and foul; and it has stored my mind with memories that are treasures, corruptible neither by moth nor rust, sickness nor old age. It is true that the great ridges sometimes demand their sacrifice, but the mountaineer would hardly forego his worship though he knew himself to be the destined victim. But happily to most of us the great brown slabs bending over into immeasurable space, the lines and curves of the wind-molded cornice, the delicate undulations of the fissured snow, are old and trusted friends, ever luring us to health and fun and laughter, and enabling us to bid a sturdy defiance to all the ills that time and life oppose."

Alison, we mourn your loss, but equally, we celebrate your marvelous achievements. We hope your children, Tom and Kate, will continue to grow in stature and learn to appreciate in the fullness of time what a very special mother you were.

GEORGE BAND

PAUL NUNN  
1943-1995

On August 6, Paul Nunn and Geoff Tier were descending from the summit of Haromosh II (6666 meters), in the Karakoram Range, when they were overwhelmed and buried by a massive icefall collapse. They would have all been safely back in Base Camp if that ice had broken a few minutes before or after. This accident was sheer bad luck, for these men were not driven to take undue risks. They were there for the fun of climbing, and none more so than Paul Nunn, whose prodigious energy and enthusiasm for the sport had become legendary over the past 35 years.

Nunn was at the center of British climbing, its affairs and development. He was involved in every aspect: its literature, guidebooks and social life. He was a great yeoman of the climbing world and its servant. As chairman of the British Mountaineering Council, he held the leading post in the sport at the time of his death.

Paul Nunn was born in Abbeyleix Co Laois, Ireland, in 1943. He was brought up by adoptive parents in Macclesfield, Cheshire. He attended the Catholic Xavier College in Manchester, where he joined the Boy Scouts, who introduced him to hill-walking and rock climbing in the Peak District at the age of 12. His natural curiosity led him to climb farther afield in North Wales, the Lake District and Northern Scotland. He also pioneered an enor-

mous number of new routes in Great Britain, climbed many of the classic hard routes in the Alps and Dolomites as a teen (including the Cassin route on the Cima Ovest in four and a half hours and the first British ascent of the Phillip-Flamm route on the Civetta in 1963), and, in 1972 with Paul Braithwaite, Dennis Hennek and myself, he climbed the east pillar of Asgard, a 4000-foot rock climb up on the Arctic Circle in Baffin Island. While in Russia in 1974 with Clive Rowlands, Guy Lee, Paul Braithwaite and myself for a new route on Pik Lenin (7,135 meters), Nunn had to descend with altitude sickness. In every other way Paul Nunn was the ideal expedition climber. He was not given to homesickness, he was always supportive of other members of the group, and he was a craftsman where technical climbing was concerned. Certainly if he had acclimatized better he would have been included in Chris Bonington's 1975 Everest expedition. However he was undeterred and simply threw himself into expeditions to lower peaks, principally in the Karakoram. He returned to Pakistan or India almost every year with the occasional visit to Nepal.

But a list of his numerous climbs would hardly do justice to Paul Nunn's contribution to world climbing. In the 1960s he was instrumental, along with Nat Allen and Dave Gregory, in reviving the British Mountaineering Council's commitment to producing climbing guides to the Peak District. He sat on many important committees at the Alpine Club, the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council. He contributed to all the main magazines and international alpine journals. In particular, his book reviews were always so refreshing to read. He was a leading contributor to the influential *Mountain* magazine from its inception. His balanced views helped the founding editor raise the standards of mountain journalism to new heights. It is well worth reading his essays as collected in *At the Sharp End* (1988).

Paul Nunn was also a formidable economic historian. He gained his degree at Sheffield University and taught for two years at the Cavendish Girls School, Buxton, before taking up a post as economic history lecturer at Sheffield Polytechnic, where he became principal lecturer in economic history at the School of Cultural Studies. He was himself an expert on the management of 18th century estates and did his doctorate in this field. He contributed to the prestigious publication *Essays in the Economic and Social History of South Yorkshire* (1976).

Through original research he was able to solve the mystery of where capital originated to finance the Industrial Revolution. Together with John Salt, he developed an independent history degree course at the Sheffield Polytechnic, a very lively course specializing in regional history.

Paul Nunn had time for people and he really cared for those down on their luck. He made time to visit me in hospital recovering from broken legs after the Ogre climb, and while languishing in Nottingham isolation hospi-

tal with a mystery disease in 1980.

Just before setting off for Haromosh II he found time to write a warm and sympathetic letter on the death of my father. He was generous with his time, never had a bad word for anyone, was always positive and, most of all, kind.

It was these qualities that encouraged the climbing fraternity to vote him in as chairman of the British Mountaineering Council. He had half completed his term of office but had already made his mark, making BMC a much friendlier organization than ever before.

DOUG SCOTT

### SIR ROBERT CHARLES EVANS

1918 - 1995

Charles Evans was a mountaineer's mountaineer: expert, unassuming and self-effacing to a fault, whose love of neurosurgery and climbing demanded judgment, skill and nerve. He began serious climbing in 1938 and after WWII, as soon as Nepal first opened to foreigners, made some remarkable explorations and climbs there.

In 1953 Charles was invited to Everest as deputy leader to John Hunt. He and Tom Bourdillon climbed to within a few hundred feet of the summit. But his equipment was not working well and to persist would have endangered both and faulted the expedition. With sound judgment they gave up their chance to be the first and Charles left his oxygen cylinders for Hillary and Tensing at 28,700 feet.

Two years later Charles led an equally harmonious team to Kangchenjunga, third highest, and considered by many the most difficult challenge in the Himalayas. Their success was widely praised, especially because the two teams stopped six feet below the top out of respect for the Nepalese reverence for the mountain.

Perhaps his most inspiring legacy will be the way he accepted his fatal illness, multiple sclerosis. As a neurosurgeon he knew all too well what probably lay ahead for him in 1960, but he showed wonderful grace under pressure as his body slowly deteriorated.

After giving up surgery he soon had to stop climbing, and he became Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales until 1973. He was able to sail for a few years, then handed over to his wife Denise, also an experienced climber and sailor.

Among many tributes and high awards he was knighted in 1969. Climbers and sailors and all who admire courage will miss Sir Charles Evans sorely, and the young will model after him.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.