

Mickey Schurr, and I enjoyed traveling the glaciers and ridges at the eastern end of Klattasine Ridge. We reached some summits previously climbed only by John Clarke and Peter Croft. The Big One, Peak 2468m, soloed by Croft via its beautiful north ridge, eluded us again, as it did in 1992. Mike, Mickey, and I were turned back by the steep and loose south ridge with less than 50 meters to go to the summit, vertically.

Mike would tackle about anything. I know that he savored the memories of the bitter-sweet moments when we turned back to climb another day almost as much as he did those of the summits. There were many of the latter, some previously unnamed virgin summits among them. Rarer were summits of named but unclimbed peaks, for instance Determination, on whose summit he stood with Dave Knudson, Mickey Schurr, Bruce Watson, and me in August of 1997. From this point we watched the new route we had put on Reliance a few days earlier raked by avalanches. It was at once exhilarating and chastening.

In Canada, Mike climbed many Coast Range classics: Queen Bess, Tiedeman, Cerberus, Geddes, Monarch, Munday, and Waddington among them. His footprints have crisscrossed some of the most beautiful and interesting parts of the Range. We shared successes, failures, and chilly bivouacs in British Columbia and elsewhere. Mike climbed with many other people and in many other places—Colorado, especially, and Europe.

Mike joined the mathematics faculty at the University of Denver after taking his degree at Washington. In July we had discussed the classes he was looking forward to teaching there in fall of 2001. Mike spent several sabbaticals at the Open University in Milton Keynes, England—a base for his European adventures. At Denver, he was advisor to the University's climbing club for a number of years and helped bring others into the sport. He was a member of both the Alpine Club of Canada and the American Alpine Club.

On September 16, 2001, he was warmly remembered by colleagues, students, friends, and family at a memorial held at the University of Denver. He is survived by his sons Neil of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Douglas of Austin, Texas; and by his sisters, Andrea Bachrach of Burlingame, California, and Jane Martin of Berkeley, California.

Whether I was in the mountains or at a desk puzzling over some mathematics, as long as Mike was around, a problem was just an opportunity for mental or physical exercise. He was a splendid comrade. He found the best in things and went ahead strongly and hopefully to the end.

PETER RENZ, AAC

ANTON (AX) NELSON 1918-2001

Ax Nelson passed away in Oakland, California on April 22, 2001 at the age of 83. He was a giant of a man and strong as an ox. By trade he was a carpenter and builder of homes, and by avocation a dedicated humanitarian and a rock climber.

He started climbing at the age of 27 in the San Francisco Bay Area with the Sierra Club shortly after the end of WWII, and quickly graduated to the ranks of those willing and able to take on the most difficult challenges. When he lacked skill he made up for it in strength and determination.

Ax's climbing career spanned only a few years, but two of his ascents left an indelible mark on Yosemite. He was on the team that made the first ascent of the Lost Arrow in 1946 (via a Tyrolean traverse achieved by throwing a rope across the spire) and was the second person to stand on its summit—the first being Jack Arnold and the third Fritz Lippman. Not content with

that first ascent, he turned to the last unsolved problem of that era—the Lost Arrow Chimney (see page 24). Since the early 1930s, when technical rock climbers discovered Yosemite Valley, the Lost Arrow became the symbol of the impossible climb. On days when rain prevented climbing, the group that had climbed both the Higher and Lower Cathedral Spires would use binoculars to sweep the 1300 feet of its Chimney and to pick out a possible route.

Their route consisted of four distinctive sections. The first led to a ledge they named the First Error, the second to a ledge called the Second Error, the third to the notch which was the Third Error, and the fourth from the notch to the summit which was the Last Error. Those puns reflected their conviction that the climb was above their skill level. Despite that, Richard Leonard and David Brower made the first attempt and reached the First Error in 1937. In 1946 a later generation of climbers pushed some 120 feet higher. Still, until Ax Nelson set his sights on this goal in 1947, no one had made a serious attempt at the route.

Ax and John Salathe, spent four days in the Chimney and on the fifth day made the second ascent of the Lost Arrow's spire and the first ascent from the base of its chimney. This feat ushered in the era of Yosemite climbing that knew no limits.

Ax Nelson last climbed in the Valley in 1948 and some years after that he put his humanitarian avocation to work full time. He set off for East Africa to work with the struggling Wameru coffee growers in Tanzania and in his spare time made the first complete traverse of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

I can't complete this without sharing the following anecdote because it is Ax to the nth degree. In the late 1960s, I was at a function in Washington D.C., where I met and talked with someone from the World Bank who had served in Tanzania. I mentioned that Ax Nelson had been there at one time and asked whether he knew of him. He did, he had seen this mad giant of a white man running almost daily through the streets of Dar es Salaam in the heat of the day and, a victim of curiosity, stopped him one day. It was Ax and the Ax that all of us knew.

ROBIN HANSEN, AAC

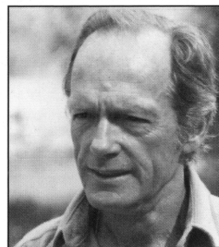
ARTHUR KING PETERS 1919 - 2001

Art Peters, an AAC member since 1964, died peacefully at his home in Bronxville, N.Y. on June 2, 2001 at the age of 81.

A 1940 graduate of Cornell, Arthur served during World War II as an officer in Army counter-intelligence. He later received a Ph.D. in French literature from Columbia University. During the 1970s, while running his own importing business, he taught French at Hunter College during his lunch hour. He was also active as a translator, critic, and author and published five books, including *Jean Cocteau And His*



Ax Nelson (right) with John Salathé after making the first ascent of the Lost Arrow Chimney, 1947.



Arthur Peters in the early 1990s. Jean Schlemmer