

# The Rambler

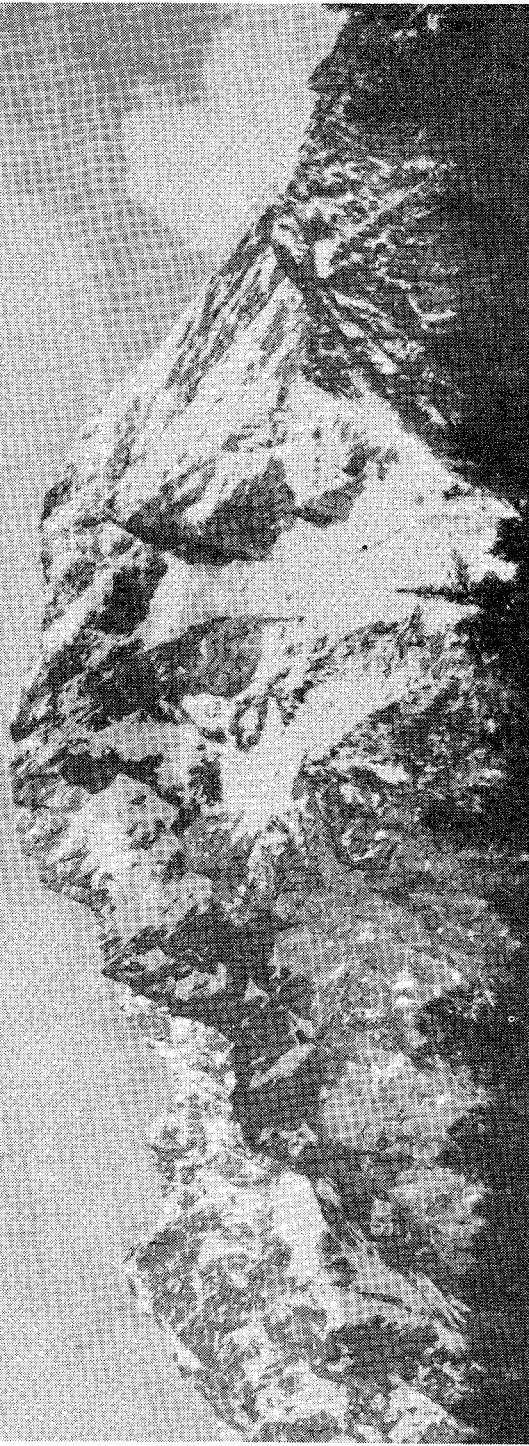
*Official Publication of*

THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

Salt Lake City, Utah

February 1967

MT. MORAN -- FIRST WINTER ASCENT



# CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY 1967

Register for all trips at Club Headquarters, 363-7150

- Feb 4 Sat. BRIGHTON - SILVER FORK -- An easier intermediate tour, offering beginning tourers the opportunity of a trip with a little more challenge. The tour starts at top of Millicent lift, goes through the Wolverine Cirque, over Twin Lakes Pass into the upper end of Grizzly Gulch, and over the ridge into Silver Fork. The climb is easy, less than 500 vertical feet, but it offers some challenge over its 1.6 mile length. The long run down (about 2,500 feet in 2.8 miles) has some forest, but should be well within the capabilities of a "B" skier (see ski tour list in the December RAMBLER). Bring climbers, lunch, water and touring kit. Register before 5:30 pm Friday, Feb 3. Meet at mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 am. Leader: C. L. Keller (487-7137).
- Feb 5 Sun. ALTA TO WHITE PINE CANYON VIA AMERICAN FORK TWINS -- An advanced ski tour. The view from the Twins is impressive if visibility is favorable. Bring climbers, water, and food for several lunches. Meet at mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 am. Register by 5:30 pm Feb 4. Leader: Bruce Christensen (277-1618).
- Feb 5 Sun. AFTER SKI SOCIAL -- Rest your weary bones and avoid those supper dishes. Stop by Bob Woody's, 2212 Vimont Ave., for some food and WMC fellowship.
- Feb 9 Thur. ICE SKATING -- Not only is ice skating fun, but it's a great way to strengthen those ankles for skiing. Meet at Hygeia Iceland, 1224 East 21st South, at 7:30 pm. Admission is 75¢, skate rental is 25¢. If you're an avid skater, you may want to go earlier (Full session is from 7 to 10). If this is your first visit to Hygeia, keep in mind that it is only a semi-enclosed rink, so dress warm. We'll hop on to the Hacienda afterwards to join those who are less athletically inclined, and have a spot of cheer.
- Feb 11 Sat. SNOW PARK (PARK CITY) SKI DAY -- Join us for a day of fun on the Snow Park slopes. For those who would like to tour, we'll go to Flagstaff Mine and climb Flagstaff Peak. Then join the group in town for an evening of partying. Meet at Treasure Mountain Center, upstairs (near gondola); from here, Bob Wright will lead us on a "tour" of the Park City night spots.
- Feb 12 Sun. ALTA TO CARDIFF FORK VIA CARDIFF PASS -- An intermediate ski tour down Mill D South Fork, past Doughnut Falls. Bring skins, lunch, and water. Meet at mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 am to shuttle cars. Register by 6:00 pm Sat, Feb 11. Leader: Lee Steorts (485-0073).
- Feb 17 Fri. NOMINATION BANQUET -- Okay, girls - here's your chance to dress up. Dig that old cocktail or party dress out of the moth balls, whack at least 6 inches off the skirt, and get ready for a big night out. You may not recognize the fellows in their suits and ties, but they really are the very same mountain climbers you've known all year! The banquet will be at the Rodeway Inn, 154 W. 6th S. (just off the 6th S. exit of the Interstate Hwy). Cocktail time will begin at 6:30 pm and we'll sit down to a

COVER PHOTO of Mt. Moran by Denis Norton. (Spring shot; nearly covered with snow in winter.)

NOTE DATE full-course dinner (baked ham 'entre) at 7:45 pm. Following dinner and  
CHANGE the nominations, a good band will play honest-to-goodness dance music  
FROM for dancing (really!). Cost, including set-ups, dinner, and band, is  
FEB 10 \$4.50 per person. B.Y.O.L. Registration (and any necessary cancellations)  
TO is required before 6:00 pm, Wed, Feb 15. Call Club Hq. (363-7150) to  
FEB 17 register. We must give the Rodeway Inn our final count the same night  
registration closes. The club will have to pay for your meal even if  
you do not come. This is our biggest social event of the year, so mark  
it down. Support the Club by nominating the most capable members to  
direct activities in 1967.

Feb 19 A N A D V A N C E D S K I T O U R T O B E L E A D B Y G A L E  
Sun. A N D A N N D I C K (359-5764). This may be Alta to Lake Blanche, or  
a previously scheduled but not conducted ski tour. Bring two lunches,  
skins, and water. Meet at mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 7:00 am for  
possible shuttling of cars. Register by 6:00 pm Sat, Feb 18.

Feb 19 A F T E R - S K I T I M E -- Quit grumbling about driving so far north  
Sun. (some of us live up here, you know!) and head for the Viavants' at  
676 S. 12th E. You can always count on June and Bill for hospitality and  
a fun evening after skiing.

Feb 22-26 J A C K S O N H O L E S K I T R I P -- This junket should speak for  
Wed-Sun itself -- or just ask anyone who went last year and he'll be glad to tell  
you, in several hours, how great it was. Expected cost is \$10 to \$12 a  
day for room, food, lift ticket, and entertainment. (Throw in your sleep-  
ing bag). Motel reservations are very important, so if you are interested,  
contact Dale Green (home, 277-6417 or at work, 486-6911) as soon as possible  
Those interested in going for the weekend only should also contact Dale.

Feb 25 W O L V E R I N E C I R Q U E -- An excellent beginner's tour with vari-  
Sat. ations to suit the whims of the crowd and the nature of the day. Meet at  
bottom of Millicent lift in Brighton at 10:00 am. Bring climbers. Register  
by 5:30 Fri, 24 Feb. Leader: Bill Viavant.

Feb 26 P O S S I B L E A F T E R S K I S O C I A L -- At Fred Bruenger's, 2590  
Sun. Yermo Ave. Last chance to meet before elections. (Check with Headquarters  
or Phyllis Anderson (322-2310) to see if the social will be held.)

Feb 26 A L T A T O G A D V A L L E Y -- An intermediate to advanced ski tour.  
Sun. Not recommended for beginners. This is an opportunity to enjoy wonderful  
expanses of snowy slopes that may soon be serviced by tows. Bring skins,  
lunch, and water. Meet at mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 am.  
Register by 6:00 pm Sat, Feb 25. Leader: Bob Woody (466-5039).

Mar 1 E L E C T I O N M E E T I N G -- Most important general membership meeting  
Wed. of the year. Come out and elect your representatives to run your club.  
Refreshments will be served. Meet at Utah Power & Light shop, between  
6th and 7th East on 6th South. Signs will provide directions to the  
auditorium.

Mar 4 D O G L A K E A N D R E Y N O L D ' S P E A K -- An easy intermediate  
Sat. tour to Dog Lake from Big Cottonwood Canyon, then on up to Reynold's Peak.  
If snow conditions are good, we'll have a great ski run down into the  
meadow below the lake. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at  
8:30 am. Register before 5:30 pm Fri, Mar 3. Bring lunch and climbers.  
Leader: C. L. Keller.

Mar 5 RED PINE TO PFEIFFERHORN -- An advanced tour, via the  
Sun. leaders select route. Bring skins, several lunches, and water. If conditions require cancellation of this tour, Deseret Peak may be attempted as an alternate. For particulars, contact leader Dennis Caldwell (466-6578). Register by 6:00 pm Sat. Meet (tentatively) at mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 7:00 am.

Mar 5 AFTER SKI SOCIAL -- At Dale Green's, 4230 Sovereign Way.  
Sun.

Mar 7 NIGHT SKIING AT SOLITUDE -- Watch for more information  
Tues. in the March RAMBLER.

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING IS SOCIAL TIME AT THE  
HACIENDA. Invite those prospective members you keep forgetting to  
bring along-----

As long as you've gone to all the trouble to read this,  
how about taking just a minute more to write out a  
check to The Wasatch Mountain Club for your dues.  
Send it to 425 S. 8th W., Salt Lake City, Utah 84104.  
\$6 regular dues, \$3 extra for spouse memberships,  
and \$3 for out-of-state members. New members have  
to kick in an extra \$2. See membership blank on  
back cover. Don't procrastinate -- hastenate!

#### N O T I C E

ANYONE INTERESTED IN A GRAND CANYON  
TRIP? Art Gallinson, a licensed boater  
for Western River Expeditions, will arrange  
for a separate boat load of WMC-ers for the  
trip. This is not a special club trip,  
but part of a regular Western River trip.  
However, we would leave about two hours  
before or after the others, so we could  
be separated from the crowd.

Dates: March 19 to March 26.


Cost: \$116.00 (includes food)

Contact Bill Viavant (364-9684) before  
17 Feb 67, if you are interested.

ED AND SHARRON SCHNEIDER have a baby  
daughter, Rebecca Corinne. She was  
born 2 Dec 66 at U.S. Army Hospital,  
Berlin, Germany, APO New York 09742,  
weighing in at 6 lbs 8½ oz.

#### KELNER WANTS OLD MAGAZINES

Alexis Kelner needs old magazines  
to tear apart for ideas and designing  
purposes. Please call Alexis (359-5387)  
or Jack McLellan (277-7214) if you have  
a batch of magazines you could donate  
to a "worthy cause". Thanks!



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## ARE CONSERVATIONISTS EVER FOR ANYTHING?

(Editor's note: The November 1966 Sierra Club Bulletin contained the following article. I am sure they will not mind its being republished. This article gives a new approach to a question too often asked.)

That the dambuilding Bureau of Reclamation, the redwood loggers, and heedless highway engineers regard conservationists as incurably anti-everything is not surprising. What does surprise us is the readiness of some conservationists to accept the validity of this appraisal. "Why must we always be against; why can't we ever be for something?"

Every conservation objective may be expressed in either positive or negative terms, and perhaps we too often emphasize the negative. We are apt to say that conservationists oppose the construction of dams in Grand Canyon. This is natural, because the initiative came from would-be dambuilders and we reacted against it. But it is just as true to say that we are in favor of preserving the Canyon intact and in favor of enlarging the national park in order to give the entire Canyon Protection.

Do we oppose indiscriminate logging of virgin redwoods? Yes, we do. But we also favor the establishment of a redwood national park. Do we oppose Park Service and Forest Service plans for incompatible development in de facto wilderness? Yes--as part of a positive program to preserve the opportunity to enjoy a true wilderness experience. Do we oppose water and air pollution? We certainly do, but that's only to say that we support pollution abatement measures.

The real negativists are those who hasten to exploit, denude, pollute, carve up and pave over the earth, careless of tomorrow, exhausting this planet's capacity to support man and his fellow creatures. The basic objective of conservation, on the other hand, is essentially positive: to maintain an environment in which man can live in peaceful coexistence with the nature that nurtured him.

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## MT. MORAN - FIRST WINTER ASCENT

by Tom Stevenson

Party: Tom Stevenson (Leader), George Lowe (Deputy Leader), Mike Lowe, Court Richards, Bill Conrod, G. Gerhart, Greg Lowe, Dean Johnson, Dennis Caldwell, Tom Spencer.

We checked out with the Rangers on 16 December 1966. No equipment was inspected this year as was done in past years. I guess they know us pretty well by now. The first vehicle went off to the Polaris snow cat, a "Bombadier", at 9:30 am on the 17th of December. The others arrived at Beaver Creek at 10:30 am. We unloaded at String Lakes and gave Dick Barker \$2.00 a head, which his "cat" had certainly earned.

We were on skis at 11:00 am and had lunch stop at 1:00 pm at the cabin, (north end of Leigh Lake), after "skating" around the lake. Everyone kept up well. Some had to scuff ice from their climbers which had frozen-up from slush on the lake. This first day out was distinctly beautiful. Clouds hovered at the base of the hills; plenty of sunshine warmed the soul. Temperature was in the mid 20's. Snow cover was adequate and fairly well compacted--we sank only about six inches on skis. George and Court broke most of the trail all day long into camp by the stream in the Skillet Glacier outwash plain. I broke only a short distance up a headwall to the level of the plain. Remarkably, everyone stayed close together. A beautiful camp was enjoyed by all after we determined the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O necessary for the Crook Food II. ("II", since no dairy product Pream is available.) Camp was quiet by 8:00 pm.

Up at 5:30 am on the 18th, Sunday, we were off by 8:00 am. Spencer and Caldwell were the last ones to leave, due to picture taking of the tents. Valley mists were ascending then falling with the air currents as the sun shown clearly. We were at the old platform

camp at 11:30 am and at the horn at 3:00 pm with George, Court, Greg, Dennis, and Mike doing the breaking. Off came the skis; we cached them until the trip down. George led down the couloir after he and Court had strenuously broken through thigh-deep snow for 200 vertical feet to the top of it. I seconded and belayed George around traverse under the horn. This was the most tricky and dangerous part of the climb, on rotten vertical rock and sugar snow. George led on to the camp, 200 feet above the horn. Four tent areas were leveled and camp pitched.

December 19th dawned nearly clear and certainly beautiful as the party of seven started toward the summit. The members were Tom Stevenson, George Lowe, Bill Controd, Mike Lowe, Court Richards, Dennis Caldwell, and Tom Spencer.

By about 10:30 am, we were at the top of the ridge below the N. Summit. I led the pitch to the ridge through chest deep snow. George led the next two pitches to the top of the N. Peak. I led the final jaunt across the wind swept NE Ridge connector to the main summit. George and I arrived on the summit about 12:00 noon. About 15-20 minutes later, the others arrived. The temperature was warm, +10°, but the wind was strong - 30 to 50 mph. I was blown over once by the easterly gale, but managed to plant my axe in time to prevent any slips. The sun was shining as George and I looked at the CMC and South Buttress areas. The CMC route offered a good high-camp but poor climbing, because of snow covered slabs.

All of us were back in camp by 4:00 pm after a not-to-technical climb over excellent though a bit deep (usually just over the knee) snow.

The second attempt was led by Mike Lowe with George Lowe, Greg Lowe and G. Gerhart. Dean Johnson decided

not to start up because of strained leg muscles. The party summited by 10:30 am, and arrived back in camp about 1:00 pm. We finished breaking camp and began moving down to the first camp. After some pleasant kickturns and traverses and many more unpleasant ones along with more than one crash with heavy packs, we made it to camp on skis. The NE-facing slopes held beautiful powder, but SE slopes had a considerable crust on them.

Spencer and Caldwell volunteered to ski out to get the snow cat and also to allow Spencer to ski the next day. It was very pleasant and peaceful at our last camp that night, listening to Court with his not-so-pure songs and stories, and enjoying our gas-lit campfire.

By 9:00 am on the 21st, we were moving toward String Lakes, hoping to arrive at noon to meet the snow cat. The cat finally roared into view at 3:00 p much to our relief. We picked up Mike, who had started out at 1:00 pm, just in case Caldwell and Spencer had failed to make contact with Barker and start the cat for us.

The end of a trip in which nearly everything worked out well. After several years of disappointing attempts, we had at last become the first to attain the summit of massive, over-powering Mt. Moran in winter.

*Please don't forget--  
Dues are due the  
end of February!*



Base Camp and Part of NE Ridge

D. Caldwell Photo

## WINTER - MT. MORAN - IMPRESSIONS

By T. Q. Stevenson

Sun and snow.  
There are the peaks, through the mists,  
exquisite.  
We're starting, the heavy packs, silent  
winter woods.  
Coolness changes to warmth, to heat,  
off with clothes.  
Lunch.  
Thick woods and hibernating ponds.  
Chilled brooks, rising ground.  
Winter sundown chases warmth from soul.  
The cry "Here's camp!"  
No packs, floating.  
Sputtering warmth of stoves.  
Cold nylon warms quickly.  
5 AM - this is morning?  
Packs, skis and sun.  
Going up, good snow.  
Sweat, blue skies, warm sun.  
Ski cache, time to slog.  
The Horn traverse, steep snow, a rappel,  
rotten vertical rock and sugar snow.  
Base camp at 5, excavating for tent  
site,  
Summit Day!  
Dawn breaks on us 500 feet above camp.  
A glorious day!  
Firm snow only thigh deep!  
Howling wind from the west.  
Short rock pitches, enjoyable.  
North summit, traverse to main summit  
in fierce wind.  
Blowing snow and dirt.  
The Summit!  
The Summit!!  
Jackson Hole, Idaho, Montana.  
Sky, snow, mountains and peaceful valleys.  
Pleasurable descent.  
Comradship in camp.  
Tranquil sleep.  
Another summit, 11 men on summit.  
Descent from mountain, weather holds.  
Great climb, strong party.

DON'T MISS THE FUN,  
MAIL YOUR DUES  
ON THE RUN!

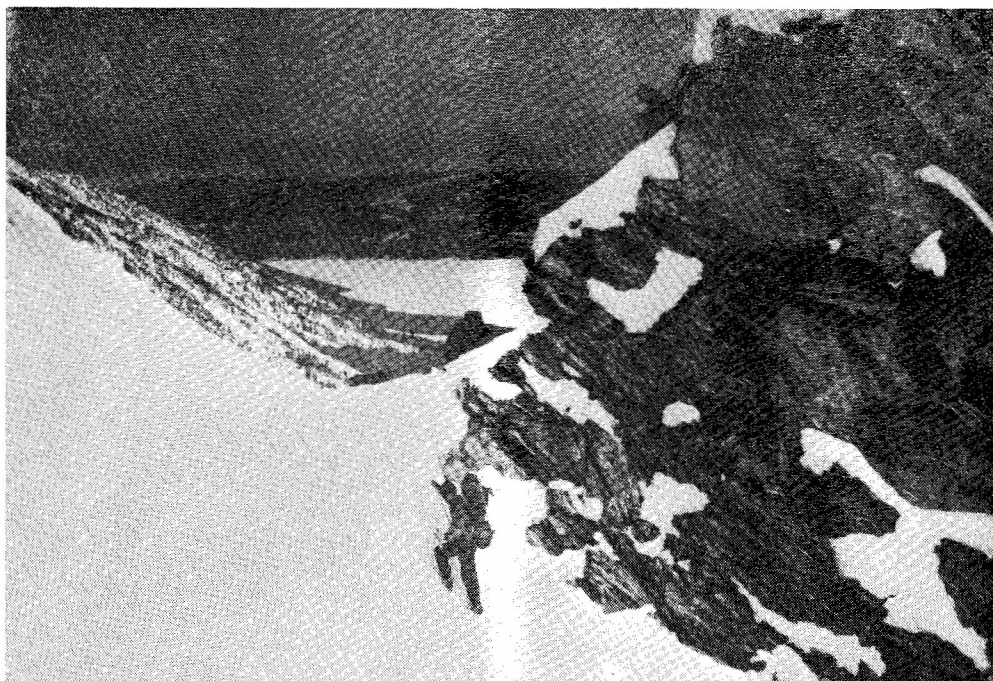


Jackson Lake from Mt. Moran  
D. Caldwell Photo



Spencer & Richards on N. (Lower)  
Summit  
D. Caldwell Photo





Stevenson & Richards on Horn Col

D. Caldwell Photo



Grand Teton from Top of Mt. Moran, 1st Winter Ascent

D. Caldwell Photo



## SILVER FORK AVALANCHE

by C. L. Keller

For the past several months, the RAMBLER has been carrying ski touring articles in which the main theme has been one of preparedness. On Sunday, 15 January, on the Alta to Silver Fork tour, the Club was put to the test. It was as if God Himself suddenly told us to quit talking and show Him that we also read what we'd been writing. And with that He triggered an avalanche in the southwest corner of the Silver Fork bowl. In that instant the ridge above Silver Fork, a scant two and a half miles from the Big Cottonwood road, and with the entire Alta area in full view, was withdrawn from the world. We were alone. Eleven out of thirteen people had been swept down in the avalanche; three were buried completely and another was badly hurt. Our entire existence depended only upon ourselves, and what we could or would do in the next few hours.

The rest is history. But there is much to be learned from history; I'd like to tell you about it. And you have a right to know what kind of people are in this Club.

The avalanche went down at approximately 2:30 p.m. Within fifteen minutes all persons were accounted for. The three who were buried had been located and dug out and it was determined that the injured man was badly hurt. He would not be able to ski out himself; he would have to be taken out. Three people were sent down Silver Fork to advise the sheriff that we had had trouble, and were bringing out an injured man. Also that three people had lost one ski each and might have trouble getting out. Within a half hour the emergency toboggan had been erected and the injured man had been taken down off the avalanche slope. Two of the men who had been buried, each with only one ski and one with a badly sprained ankle, were sent to follow the advance party so they could get out at

their own pace before dark. For the next four hours the rest of the group tugged and pulled on the toboggan until, about a hundred yards from the end of the Silver Fork road and about a mile from the Big Cottonwood road, they were met and relieved by the advance party of ski patrolmen from Solitude. Seven hours after the avalanche, the injured man was on his way to the hospital.

The three people who were sent for help were Del and Carol Wiens and Ernie Katter. Ernie and I were the only two who were not directly involved in the slide. Del and Carol both took the fast ride down, but suffered nothing more than some anxious moments. Although none of them had skied in Silver Fork before, they found their way down to Solitude with a minimum of delay, arriving there about an hour and forty-five minutes after they left us. Pete Hovingh and Lee Steorts were buried, Pete completely, Lee all except one hand. Both lost one of their skis, and Lee suffered a badly sprained ankle. After helping to carry skis and other equipment off the avalanche slope, while we brought the injured man down, they departed. They faced two and one half miles of skiing, much of it on steep slopes and through heavy forest, each with only one ski. Try that yourself sometime.

The injured man was a prospective member on his first trip with the Club, Hermann Haertel. He hit a tree while being carried down the slope. His foot and ski were pulled around one side of the tree while he hung on the other. Before the ski was torn from his boot, he suffered what we thought then to be a broken leg. After he was given relief for his intense pain, he cooperated as best he could, and actually gave invaluable help in navigating the toboggan while we traversed and descended steep slopes farther down Silver Fork. Hermann's bride of about four months, Suzanna Haertel, displayed exceptional courage in the face of her husband's injuries. She comforted him and assisted with the toboggan whenever the going was particularly rough. She gave a second

display of courage at Solitude when the onslaught of reporters would have reduced any lesser person to tears.

June Viavant and her son, Steven, remained with the toboggan throughout the afternoon and evening to scout the best routes. On one occasion, after going ahead in the dark to find the best place to cross the creek, June left Steven there as a human marker, then sidestepped several hundred feet up a steep slope to intercept and direct us. June also helped prepare Hermann's leg for the trip. Steven, who at thirteen years of age is becoming a better ski mountaineer than most adults can ever hope to be, located and uncovered both Milt Hollander's and Lee Steort's heads right after the avalanche came to rest. Del Wiens performed similar honors for Pete Hovingh.

Both Max Townsend and Carl Schwenk started touring only recently, but there was no inexperience evident in their efforts or in the type of things they had carried in their packs. Both of these men handled ropes on the toboggan continuously from the time we left the avalanche slope until we met the ski patrol. I handled the third rope, while the fourth was manned by Ski Touring Director Milt Hollander. If this Club never has another Ski Touring Director like Milt, it will still have enjoyed greater good fortune that it should expect. After having been completely buried except for one hand and having lost one ski, Milt, in his usual calm and seemingly untiring manner, limped along for four hours, one foot sinking to the knee or deeper with each step he took. The difficulty of the terrain he helped take the toboggan through might be judged by the fact that in those four hours, we covered about one and one half miles.

The Club was given the challenge and, happily, came through admirably. But the fact that we were prepared for such an emergency and were able to

remain organized after the slide did not insure our happy ending. Just the tiniest change of circumstances may have shifted the balance of fate heavily to the other side. Preparations to cope with an emergency do not justify allowing the emergency to arise. We had talked to the Forest Service before leaving and had followed their recommendations. We were aware of slab formation from the northwest winds of the preceeding days and took precautions to avoid them. It was, in fact, those very precautions that put us on the ridge above Silver Fork at 2:30 p.m., instead of noon. But then several mistakes were made. Not big ones, mind you, just little insignificant ones. Mislocation of the northerly direction by a mere fifteen degrees. A left turn instead of a right after leaving the ridge. A safety recommendation that was made as a suggestion instead of an adamant command, and a fleeting safety thought that remained unspoken. Any one alone probably would never have been noticed; together, they triggered that loud retort as the fracture ran several hundred yards across the slope followed by the dull roar as several inches of slab and light snow slid three hundred feet down the slope. At the beginning, I said that He triggered the avalanche. Actually, He had a little help.

I hope this incident will not influence the thoughts or decisions of the beginning tourers and keep them off the tours. There is risk in everything we do in life, and we must balance the risk against the pleasure derived from any particular activity. The risk in touring can be minimized; incidents such as the Silver Fork avalanche help by emphasizing the need to always act with caution. Follow the suggestions of the tour leader or experienced tourers. Do not bunch up on a steep slope, whether going up or down. On a steep traverse, stay in the established track rather than making a new one of your own. Carry and use avalanche cords when such use seems desirable. Read about snow and avalanche formations and be observant while on tours. Or better yet, take the avalanche courses that have been offered. If everyone who tours is knowledgeable and alert, we'll be able to avoid future emergencies by never allowing them to happen.

Those who no pay dues  
Get the no-ride-bus blues



On Way to Thunder Mountain A. Kelner Photo

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Bill Viavant

Little Cottonwood Canyon: Senator Moss is sponsoring special legislation to enable the Wasatch National Forest to buy the land at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, as well as other private land in Mill Creek Canyon and the Alta and Brighton areas.

The new County Commissioners have requested the Planning Commission to delay for one year any action on the proposed development in Little Cottonwood. A year will go by fast, however, so don't become complacent. If the legislation for money for the Wasatch N. F. doesn't work out, or is delayed, we still need a method for purchase or protection of the area.

Public Lands: The Bureau of Land Management will hold numerous informal and formal hearings during the next few months to help determine its recommendations for classifying the millions of acres of public lands under its jurisdiction.

Acting under the Public Lands Classification Act of September 1964, the Bureau must determine which lands should remain indefinitely under Federal ownership and which should be classified for eventual sale.

The Wasatch Mountain Club has been invited to participate in the informal meetings to present our views. We must take full advantage of this opportunity, and we hope to organize a meeting for this purpose, perhaps in cooperation with other groups with similar interests.

Much is at stake. The de facto wilderness areas near Canyonlands, the great plateaus above the Waterpocket Fold, Escalante Canyon, the Henry Mountains--these are only a few of the areas now administered by BLM which should probably have permanent protection as wilderness.

Any member interested in attending a meeting to hear more about BLM's plans should contact Bill Viavant (364-9684).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by C. L. Keller

The annual nomination dinner has been rescheduled for Friday, 17 February. The change of date was necessary due to availability, or unavailability, of the banquet hall. This dinner is THE social event of the year; it will be held at the new Rodeway Inn, conveniently located at the Sixth South exit from the Interstate highway, downtown. The dinner will be preceded by a cocktail hour (BYOL, but we've got the mix), and will be followed by a brief nomination meeting. Then a dance also will provide music for dancing. This is the time and place to renew old acquaintances among the club members, and meet all the new members. Plan to attend, and please register early; we look forward to seeing you there on Friday, 17 February.

The annual election meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, 1 March, at the Utah Power & Light auditorium at 635 East 6th South. At this meeting we will elect club officers for the next year and hold a brief business meeting. One of the subjects that will probably be up for discussion is that of the club bus, which is a very important item in the activities of the coming year. You'll recall that on the last trip of the past year, the bus displayed symptoms of poor health, and her condition has since been diagnosed as being quite grave indeed. The meeting will start at 8:00 pm; light refreshments will be served afterwards.

The Board of Directors was pleased to see Secretary Barbara Evans back on her feet and in circulation again after having had several operations and an extended period of recovery spanning the entire month of December. Welcome back, Barbara!

Prospective member Hermann Haertel, who was injured in the Silver Fork avalanche, was reported as having suffered a broken leg. However, after he was taken to the hospital, X-rays showed no broken bones, and it was discovered that he had suffered torn ligaments below the knee of his right leg. The damage was, hopefully, completely repaired in

an operation on Tuesday, 17 January. By the time this issue of the RAMBLER appears, Hermann should be out of the hospital and back on the job, albeit with the use of crutches. He still faces an extended period of physical therapy before he will have full use of his leg. For the information of those who might care to send their regards, Hermann lives at 956 East 6th South, Apt #3.

## MORE ON GRAND CANYON DAMS

A further delay is being sought in Federal Power Commission proceedings on an application by the Arizona Power Authority to build a dam in the Grand Canyon.

The dam, proposed for Marble Gorge, is one of two dams proposed in the Central Arizona Water Plan, which has generated controversy in and out of Congress. More congressional debate is expected this year.

Congress last year ordered a moratorium until last December 31st on the Arizona Power Authority's request for a license to construct the Marble Gorge Dam. The purpose was to give Congress time to resolve the issue of whether Federal, state, or private dams should be built in the Grand Canyon. The state authority filed a new motion for a license at the expiration of the moratorium.

The Department of the Interior, in asking the Power Commission for a further delay, said that, although Congress had not renewed the moratorium, "congressional and national interest in the problem of the Lower Colorado River has reached a new crescendo of intensity."

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CATALOG  
NOW!

"How come you guys have all the fun?" -- "What do you mean, the pack that had the St. Bernard in it is buried?" -- "I always did want a close-up photo of an avalanche, but how in hell do you take a picture when you're buried in it?" --- Reflections on an avalanche.

Much has been said about the Silver Fork avalanche that WMC tourers were caught in Sunday, January 15th. The local papers gave wide coverage of it. They gave the party credit for being prepared, and for the way the skiers conducted themselves as a self-contained party. For this credit the club is grateful. We are grateful, too, for the aid given by the ski patrols and others who helped during the last part of the evacuation.

We hope, too, that the ski patrols benefited from the experience. Evidently there was quite a bit of confusion for too long a time in getting a rescue party organized at the bottom, on the Big Cottonwood side. The usual assemblage of many people and lack of proper equipment for an off-the-beaten-track rescue was apparent. Few (indeed, if any) of the rescue party had climbers for their skis. Had the touring party not been able to evacuate themselves, it would have taken the rescue group many hours to get to the stricken party, and probably they would have been so exhausted as to be of little aid upon their arrival. The only real help, if the tourers had been unable to move, would probably have been from the Alta patrol, a strong party with proper touring equipment, who were nearly at the ridge when our party was met by the other rescue group near the Silver Fork road.

I hope that any ski patrol members and others helping in the rescue attempt will take these comments as constructive criticism, and not as a "sour grapes" attitude toward their help. These comments are my own, by the way, and must not be construed as a formal statement of the club or the members of the touring group. I sincerely admire the groups, as does everyone in the club, I am sure, and thank them very much for their efforts in our behalf.

If you want to have fun  
let me tell you what to do  
**PAY YOUR DUES!**

Maybe the biggest lesson we can learn from the incident is not always to expect expedient help from an outside group. Nor should we need to, or expect them to be ready to come rescue us from every predicament that we get ourselves into. Every group that tours should be a self-sufficient unit, capable of handling all but the most demobilizing of accidents.

Charlie Keller has given an excellent account of the avalanche, what happened, why it happened, and has given credit to everyone's efforts after the avalanche--everyone, that is, except Charlie Keller. Charlie by nature is a soft-spoken, modest individual who pays strict attention to detail. His "quiet persuasiveness"--that is, the quality of natural leadership without direct command, is most apparent; though I imagine he could be most emphatic if necessary.

His sense of responsibility, and that of the entire group, was most evident in the efficient way they handled their own rescue and evacuation. Charlie, as trip leader, was carrying his collapsible toboggan - several extra pounds - but without it they could not have evacuated the injured man. After determining the extent of damage the avalanche had caused, he sent three skiers down to inform the Solitude patrol of the incident, and ask for a few competent skiers to meet the group and help with the toboggan. Within one half hour, the entire group was on its way out.

Both Charlie and Milt Hollander have taken an avalanche training course. They are organizing a group of WMC skiers to take the same course. Charlie has been instrumental in obtaining avalanche films. He has provided much instruction during his trips for beginning tourers and in his many informative articles dealing with ski touring that have appeared in the RAMBLER.

Knowing Charlie, I am sure he feels badly about the avalanche, especially since he is a leader and because Hermann was injured. In retrospect it is easy to see certain things that perhaps could have been done -- every leader must feel that way at times, when things don't go as planned. But it's how a person reacts under such adverse circumstances that counts. Charlie deserves the thanks and congratulations not only of the group he led, but of the entire club, the area ski patrols, and the Forest Service.



## NOTCH PEAK

by June Wickham

On November 5th, together with 10,000 pheasant hunters, we escaped from Salt Lake City in the pre-dawn hours. Most of our "escort" had disappeared into the open fields, however, by the time we stopped for breakfast at Eureka.

West of Delta, we found a stretch of highway so enjoyable we drove over it twice. Tiring of the same chuckholes, we sought new adventure over a route leading towards Notch Peak (hopefully). One conditioning stop was made to do push-ups--pushing the three cars up the other side of a waterless water course. After finding a road a few miles later, we arrived at Miller Cove with only one dented muffler, the accomplishment of Jerry Daurelle.

At high noon, WMC time, Carl Bauer led his fearless group to the top of Notch Peak. The view from the top was tremendous, so I am told (It always is, when you are down at the bottom and 'they' are up there). They had climbed through Douglas fir and bristlecone pine, which

is quite a feat, to reach Notch Peak with its drop-off on three sides, the west one being some 2700 feet.

At approximately 3:00 pm when the main group was heading down, the lesser group was checking the gas gauge on the VW and also decided to head down. A wise decision -- for they were able to avoid helping Earl Mason, whose car came to a bumping halt with a dented oil pan and a broken tie rod, whatever that is.

And so a cozy group consisting of Jerry Daurelle and sons David and Steven, Lois Mansfield, Ellen Benjamin, Earl Mason, Milt Hollander and Carl Bauer returned to Delta in the Daurelle's station wagon. There they found Wolf Snyder who couldn't find anybody else from the second contingent to leave Salt Lake City. The group, minus Milt, decided to return to the big city Saturday evening. Shortly after their departure, Wolf started checking motels for the evasive Wickhams, who were supposed to be staying in Delta. But they, too, had been lured back to the bright lights of SLC.

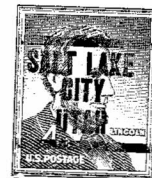
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Club Headquarters: 425 S. 8th W., Salt Lake City, Utah 84104  
Telephone: 363-7150                      Lodge at Brighton, Utah

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WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB, Inc.  
425 South 8th West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104



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Application for Membership

To Board of Directors:

I hereby apply for membership in the Wasatch Mountain Club.  
I enclose \$2.00 entrance fee and \$6.00 dues (spouse, \$3.00).  
The club event I have attended is \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_ (approx. date). I agree to abide by all  
rules and regulations of the club.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

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