

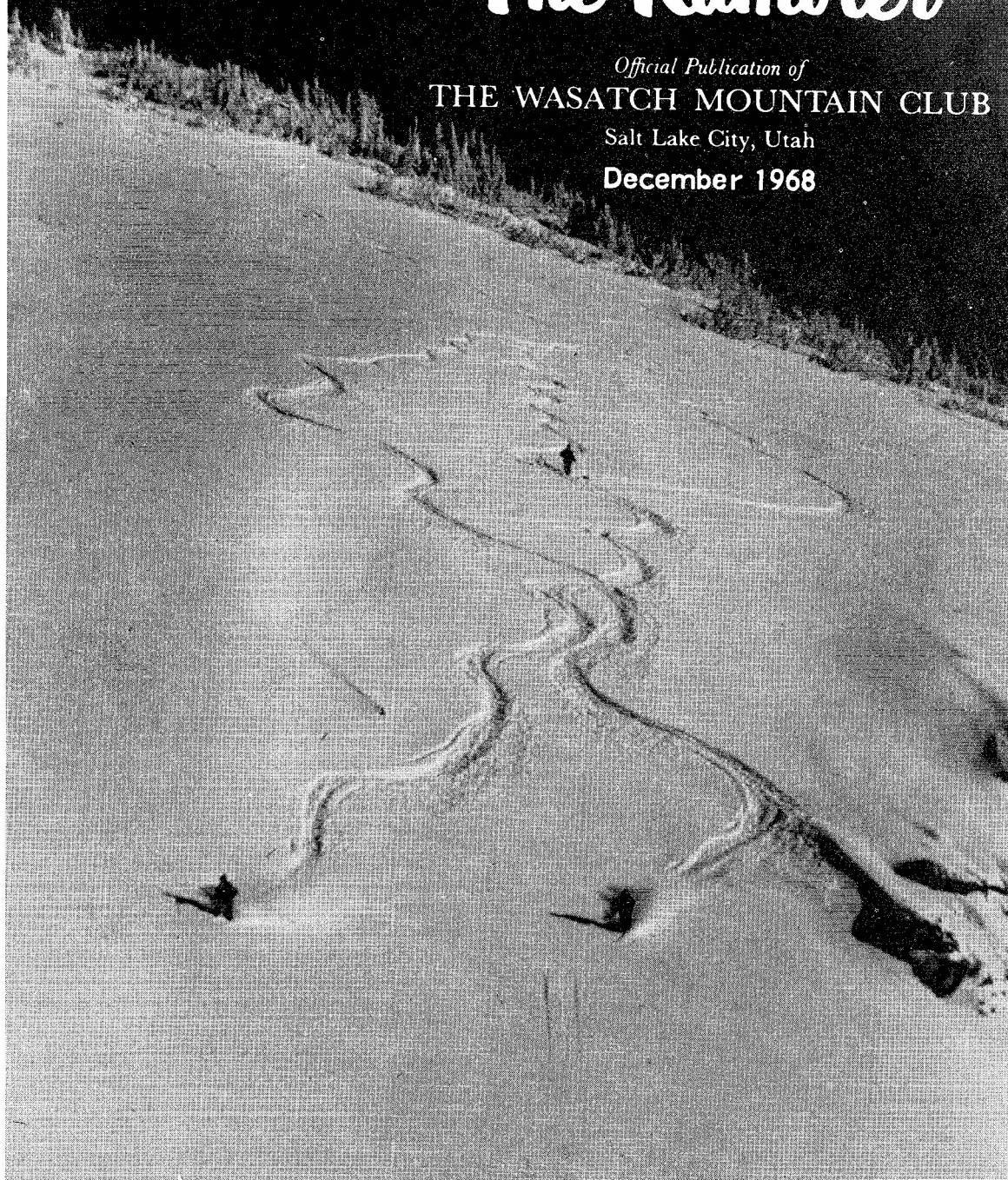
The Rambler

Official Publication of

THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

Salt Lake City, Utah

December 1968



CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 1968

- Nov 28 - Dec 1
Thurs - Sun. TETON SKI TOURING -- Anyone interested in some scenic touring in the Tetons over Thanksgiving contact Dennis Caldwell (278-2100; office, 322-7664).
- Dec 6
Fri SKI TOURING SOCIAL -- 7:00 p.m. This will be a good chance for the experienced and beginning enthusiasts for this sport to make new acquaintances and renew old ones on the eve of the 1968-1969 touring season.
On hand will be an assortment of touring equipment, a few 35-mm slides, and refreshments, along with plenty of free advice. Host: Dennis Caldwell, 4822 Fortuna Way (on what is left of Wasatch Blvd)
- Dec 7
Sat. BEGINNERS' SKI TOUR TO SNAKE CREEK PASS -- This is a short tour which starts from the top of the Mt. Majestic lift. The country around Brighton is quite charming, and the terrain is relatively easy to negotiate. It will be an excellent opportunity to try out touring equipment and techniques. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Carl Bauer (355-6036).
- Dec 14
Sat. ALTA - BRIGHTON - ALTA -- Via Twin Lakes and Catherine Pass. This intermediate tour will afford some spectacular views of the high country between Alta and Brighton. The terrain is not very difficult and cars may be spotted to allow anyone to do either half of the trip. Meet at the bottom of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Bob Frohboese (355-7218).
- Dec 22
Sun. GAD VALLEY -- (Intermediate - Advanced) The lift has not yet been built here so we can still cavort in relatively untracked snow in this area. The tour is relatively short and makes use of the Alta ski lifts. Meet at the main lift terminal at 9:00 a.m. Leaders: Charles and Emily Hall (277-1555).
- Dec 22
Sun. FAMILY TUBING PARTY -- Bring sleds, toboggans, and tubes to the "Meeting of the Glaciers" area in Big Cottonwood Canyon at about 1:00 p.m. When toes get numb, we'll regroup at the WMC lodge in Brighton for hot dogs and a cozy fire. Hot drinks will be provided but bring your own wieners and trimmings. No need to register but call Del and Carol Wiens for

Dec 22 - cont directions or information (487-2584).

Dec 28
Sat.

CARDIFF FORK -- (Intermediate) This tour will start at Alta and proceed up the south slopes to Cardiff Pass, overlooking the burgeoning Alta complex. The climb is not difficult, and from there it is downhill all the way to Big Cottonwood Canyon. The tour is recommended for people with a small amount of experience who don't like to suffer. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Lee Steorts (485-0073).

Dec 31
Tues - Wed

NEW YEAR'S BASH AT THE LODGE -- Band, bar service and snacks, 9:00 - ? Bring a sleeping bag and stay over for New Year's Day brunch. For members, \$2.50 covers all except drinks (\$3.00 for nonmembers). If you can't make brunch, the cost is \$2.00 (\$2.50 for nonmembers). Hosts are Tricia and Charley Swift (277-2267). Register with them by 10:00 p.m. Monday, Dec 30. If weather makes Big Cottonwood Canyon impassible, and don't take the Highway Commission's word as gospel (conditions are often better than reported), call the Swifts or Carol Wiens (487-2584) for alternative plans.

Jan 3
Fri

MOONLIGHT SKI TOUR TO PARK CITY -- (Intermediate) This relatively short tour will start in Big Cottonwood Canyon at the Guardsman Pass road. A full moon works wonders on snow, and the downhill skiing is as outlandish as one might think. Meet at the bottom of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 5:30. For information, call Dennis Caldwell (278-2100).

Jan 5
Sun.

BRIGHTON - SILVER FORK -- (Intermediate) This short, scenic tour will start at the top of the Mt. Millicent lift. From Twin Lakes it is a short climb to the beginning of the downhill run past Honeycomb Cliffs to Silver Fork. The terrain is suitable for adventurous beginners. Meet at the bottom of Mt. Millicent lift at 9:15 a.m. Leader: Dale Green (277-6417).

Jan 5
Sun.

WINTER SOCIAL -- Come, nonskiers as well as skiers, to our first Sunday night social of the season. For you new members, these informal come-as-you-are-from-the-slopes gatherings begin at 6:00 p.m. or so. Dinner and beer are provided at an extremely reasonable price. Let me emphasize that you need not be a skier nor be fresh from the slopes. This first social will be held at the home of Ann McDonald,



Jan 5 - cont

5344 Cottonwood Lane (277-0816). Please park in the field behind Ann's house and not in her neighbor's driveway.

Jan 11
Sat.

AVALANCHE TRAINING SCHOOL -- This will be an all-day program on the theory and practice of avalanche problems geared especially for those who tour into the back country. The morning will be devoted to lectures and films on terrain analysis, rock selection, safety precautions, and preliminary rescue procedures. The afternoon will be spent on the hill in the execution of a field problem, including probing and rescue procedures. Last year a nominal fee of \$2.00 was assessed. The school will be held in the meeting room of the new Gold Miner's Daughter (many thanks to Jim Shane) at Alta, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Register at Club headquarters. For additional information, contact Dennis Caldwell (278-2100).

Jan 18, 19
Sat., Sun.

ASPEN WEEKEND SKI TRIP-- This year we will plan a trip during the "low season" when crowds taper off so accommodations should be easier to get. Bus fare will be \$15, and daily lift tickets are reported at \$6.75, which goes for the four major areas at Aspen with 21 lifts. The trip will leave Friday evening no later than 6:00 p.m., with late arrival in Glenwood Springs for the night. We will have an evening "on the town" Saturday night and will have to return from Aspen by 4:00 p.m. to arrive in Salt Lake by midnight. Accommodations should run \$5.00 per night. Call Ed Cook (355-5522) or Carol Wiens (487-2584) for reservations and information. We must have your reservation by December 20.

Feb 22, 23

JACKSON TRADITIONAL WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY WEEK-END SKI TRIP--- We will take the bus for this trip, leaving Friday evening for 2 full days of skiing at Snow King or Teton Village. The lift passes are reported good at both places this year. See the January Rambler for further details.

PHOTO OPPOSITE: This photo shows "Uncle" George Unseld, a member of the Club for more than 35 years, painting the picture that hung over the fireplace at the lodge for many years. George's paintings also hang in many of the homes of our older members. He died about 5 years ago. Photo by Burr Lee.

COVER PHOTO BY ALEXIS KELNER

SKI TOURING PRIMER

by Dennis Caldwell

For the benefit of those who are not completely familiar with Wasatch ski touring, we offer a few general remarks on the subject. Ideally, ski tours should be classified according to both technical difficulty and endurance. The traditional categories, beginner, intermediate, and advanced apply mainly to the difficulty of the downhill skiing; furthermore, these classifications can be somewhat misleading in terms of one's experience at the ski areas. It must be realized that at best, one will be skiing powder on tours, not to mention less savory forms like crud and garbage, and classifications will be modified accordingly. Intermediate skiing on the hardpacked is one thing; in the powder is quite another.

Looking on the bright side of touring for the less than expert, the rewards this year will be greater than ever with the great surge in popularity of lift skiing. The view of the Alta lift lines from Mt. Superior on a clear Saturday is quite satisfying. Then consider the most alpine view of your favorite ski area, remove the crowds, eliminate the road, and surround yourself with forests and valleys rimmed with snow-capped mountains and you have ski touring.

One of the secrets to approaching this sport with the proper frame of mind is a shrewd self-evaluation. The common cases of hesitancy are good skiers of limited endurance and inexperienced skiers in good condition. Quite often the latter group is in a better position to enjoy touring than the former since anyone who makes it to the top of the downhill run can generally clown his way down by traversing and kick turning if necessary. The suggested program for people in these situations would be for the good skiers to try the short alpine tours like Gad Valley and gradually build up their endurance on longer ones such as Alta - White Pine. On the other hand, the poor skiers in good condition will find all-day tours over gentle terrain like Alta - Brighton - Alta to their liking. Needless to say, there is nothing but desire standing in the way of the good skier in good condition; whereas the inexperienced skier in poor condition might first test his mettle on a very short and easy tour like Albion Basin or Snake Creek Pass.

Finally, we present a brief summary of what to expect on a few of the club's more popular tours.

I. Beginner Tours

A. Snake Creek Pass

A short climb from the top of the Mt. Majestic ski lift to a pass affording good views of Brighton and Mt. Timpanogos. The terrain is easy and provides a good introduction to touring.

B. Albion Basin

This is a broad description covering a variety of short outings in alpine surroundings involving gains of less than 800 feet of elevation.

II. Intermediate Tours

A. Cardiff Fork

A 1200-foot climb from Alta up the south slopes to the divide between the two canyons and an easy descent (except for the first 100 yards) into Big Cottonwood Canyons.

B. Alta - Brighton - Alta

An interesting all-day tour covering all the high country between Alta and

Brighton. The elevation gain is about 1000 feet each way, and the slopes are mainly of the intermediate variety.

III. Advanced Tours

A. Gad Valley

This tour begins from the top of the Sugarloaf lift at Alta and involves a climb of less than 1000 feet to the head wall of Gad Valley and provides a maximum of downhill skiing for a minimum of effort. It can easily be done in a half day.

B. Lake Blanche

This is generally regarded as the club's finest offering. A total elevation gain of around 2000 feet over alpine terrain to the top of Cardiac (!) Ridge sets the stage for one of the finest downhill runs in the Wasatch. The terrain is rugged and a challenge to the experienced skier.

RAMBLERRATA

by Pat Dow

Well, I managed to do it again. The errata column might become a permanent fixture. Last month's blooper concerned the author of the Zion Narrow's trip. No name was attached to the manuscript, but the article was enclosed in a New England Life Insurance envelope. Naturally, that could only be Ann McDonald. Since I hadn't seen Ann for many moons,

it seemed entirely plausible to me that she was temporarily living in California. In fact, I steadfastly ignored Jane Daurelle's doubts. It should have been apparent to me, someone later said, when the writer mentioned making the hike in just 7 hours. There you have, Annie. A testimonial to your hiking endurance.

My apologies go to the real writer, Burt Janis.

SKI TOUR RATING GUIDE

by Charles Keller

The tours on page 8 are arranged in order of difficulty, and are accompanied by various informative data such as distance, horizontal and vertical, lifts, recommended skiing ability, and remarks. The difficulty of a ski tour is hard to define; in the case of this list, it was assumed that all trips are made under the same good conditions. But snow conditions are never constant. They change from day to day, or even hour to hour, elevation to elevation, and location to location. Difficulty of a tour also depends upon weather conditions, personal comfort, physical condition, and adequacy of equipment. These variables cannot be predicted at the time the tour starts, much less several months ahead. Hence, the list can only be used as a guide.

The tours listed have been taken by WMC members in the past, or have been scouted on foot in anticipation of the touring season. The distance figures are based upon the usual, accepted routes, but every tour on the list has a multitude of variations that, in general, make the trip more difficult. Such variations are not listed. "Tours" such as Green Trail, Peruvian Gulch, Solitude Canyon, etc., have not been included since they are really extended ski tours. Tours such as Albion Basin, White Pine from White Pine, Mineral Fork from Mineral Fork, etc., have not been included since they are so variable as to distance and difficulty that they cannot be compared with those well defined tours that are listed.

If you expect to tour this season, and especially if you haven't toured very much in the past, look over this list carefully. Use it as a guide to determine whether you can or should

attempt a scheduled tour. The required ski ability is listed as A, B or C. Grade "A" includes skiers with basic ability, those who can ski Main Street, Pay Day or Majestic with confidence. They need not be able to ski powder or other uncut snow. The "B" grade includes skiers of intermediate ability, those who regularly ski Collin's Face, Bob's Bowl, Millicent or Thaynes. They can handle their skis off the packed slopes even if they can't ski powder. The "C" class includes the advanced skiers who will go any place in any snow condition. They may not be able to ski it, but they do have the ability to try.

What class of skier are you? Be honest with yourself, and do not go beyond your class until you have demonstrated that tours in your class are well within your ability. Do not attempt a tour more than four or five places down the list from the most difficult one you have taken. If in doubt, talk to the trip leader, or the ski touring director. Nothing is more unfair to the more experienced skiers, nor more dangerous to the individual, than to have a person who has proved himself on an Alta to Brighton tour come out for a Mineral Fork or Lake Blanche trip. These comments are certainly not made to discourage your going on a trip, but only to make you aware of the problems.

Although tours will be scheduled throughout the season, you should be aware that possibly some of them will not be taken because of weather and snow conditions. Shorter tours are sometimes substituted; other times touring will be abandoned completely for the day. If your chosen tour cannot be taken, don't be discouraged. It can and probably will be scheduled later.

Codes for Ability:

- A Basic (Main Street, Pay Day, Majestic)
 B Intermediate (Collins Face, Bobs Bowl, Millicent, Thaynes)
 C Advanced (any place, any condition)

Codes for lifts:

- Mt Millicent
 Mc Majestic
 A Albion Basin
 Ga Gondola (Park City,
 G Germania

Horizontal distance is in miles,

Vertical distance is in feet.

TO	FROM	LIFT	CLIMB		DESCENT		ABIL.	
			DIST.	VERT.	DIST.	VERT.		
Wolverine Cirque	Brighton	Mt	0.7	350	1.6	1,330	A	
Snake Creek Pass	Brighton	Mc	1.0	840	1.4	1,240	A	
Katherine Pass	Alta	A	1.0	740	2.3	1,680	A	
Brighton	Alta	A	1.0	740	1.8	1,440	A	Via Katherine Pass
Alta	Brighton	Mt	1.2	275	1.1	1,430	A	Via Twin Lakes Pass
Alta	Brighton	Mc	1.3	1,020	2.3	1,680	A	Via Katherine Pass
Albion Shelter	Alta	A	1.6	1,040	2.5	1,980	A	
Honeycomb Fk.	Brighton	Mt	1.0	500	2.0	2,140	A	
Park City	Brighton	-	2.0	700	1.8	900	A	To Thaynes Lift, via Scott's Pass
Brighton	Park City	Ga	1.8	400	2.0	700	A	Via Scott's Pass
Wolverine Fk.	Alta	A	1.2	1,205	1.8	2,035	B	Return via Grizzly Gulch
Gad Valley	Alta	G	1.4	460	2.2	2,940	C	
Silver Fork	Brighton	Mt.	1.6	470	2.8	2,460	B	Via Twin Lakes Pass
Mill Creek	Mill D N.Fk.	-	2.3	1,460	4.4	2,160	B	Via Dog Lake to Elbow Fork, Three mile runout.
Cardiff Fork	Alta	-	1.0	1,360	5.9	2,750	B	Via Cardiff Pass
Silver Fork	Alta	-	1.8	1,610	2.8	2,510	B	
Day's Fork	Alta	-	1.5	1,890	3.5	3,180	C	Via Flagstaff Peak
White Pine	Alta	G	3.4	330	3.0	3,140	C	
Am.Fk.Canyon	Alta	G	0.3	160	12.6	4,450	B	To S.Fk.Ranger Sta., Long runout (Same as above)
Mary Ellen Gulch	Alta	G	2.5	-570	8.4	3,720	B	
Silver Lake	White Pine	-	3.4	3,030	7.6	4,580	C	(Same as above)
Maybird Gulch	White Pine	-	3.4	2,440	2.0	3,175	C	Via Red Pine
Major Evans	Alta	G	2.9	480	7.4	4,770	C	To S.Fk.Ranger Sta, Long runout
Hogum Gulch	White Pine	-	3.6	2,700	3.1	3,660	C	Via Red Pine, Maybird
White Pine	Alta	G	2.4	1,075	4.0	3,875	C	Via Twin Peaks summit
Major Evans	Alta	G	2.4	1,075	8.1	5,360	C	Via Twin Peaks summit to S.Fk.Ranger Sta, Long runout
Mineral Fork	Alta	-	2.3	2,180	3.1	4,160	C	Via Cardiff Pass
Silver Lake	Alta	G	2.4	1,075	8.3	5,360	C	Via Twin Peaks Summit
Lake Blanche	Alta	-	1.9	2,060	4.3	4,500	C	
Alpine	White Pine	-	3.7	3,000	6.5	5,560	C	Via Red Pine
Thunder Mt.	White Pine	-					C	Via Red Pine
Bell's Canyon	White Pine	-					C	Via Red Pine

Red Pine & Bells Canyon Trail Cleanup

by Dale Green

After much talk and many promises, only 10 adults showed up for the Red Pine trail clearing. All fears of not finishing soon vanished, however, when it became apparent that this was a distinctly superior group of trail clearers. Lead by Larry Swanson's super-ax (able to cut through a 4-foot tree with a single blow), we cleared a 10-foot swath all the way to the lake before noon.

The Bells Canyon trip started poorly. Alexis Kelner was leading us through his shortcut (around a No Trespassing sign) when the property owner

showed up and read us the riot act. After establishing his authority, he invited us to park our cars around his house so vandals wouldn't get in then and otherwise did everything he could to help us. It pays to ask! We took until lunchtime to clear and mark the trail as far as the meadows. A few of us went on until about a half mile below the upper reservoir when time and deep snow forced us back.

I've lost the lists of all those along but they deserve thanks from all the club's members.



SKIING LESSONS

by Benita Jackson

Last year 20 skiers of varying abilities received five 2-hour skiing lessons at the Alta Ski School for 50¢ a lesson.

This year we will be able to make the same arrangements if, as last year, we get together a group of 15 or more skiers.

DATES: Five consecutive Sundays beginning January 7th. If weather or ski conditions are poor, we can postpone any lesson to the following Sunday. Make-up lessons are also allowed for individuals

TIME: Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30

PLACE: Foot of Wildcat lift near the ticket office at Alta (this is the usual meeting place for Alta Ski School classes)

INSTRUCTION: We receive instruction by Alta instructors along with others who have

paid the full rate. Classes are provided for instruction on all levels - from snow plow to parallel

FEES:

A regular all-day lift pass costs \$5.00 at Wildcat lift. We pay:

1. \$5.50 for the full-day pass plus the 2-hour lesson
2. \$4.50 for a full-day pass at Albion lift (Never-sweat) plus the 2-hour lesson
3. \$3.50 for a 1/2-day pass at Albion plus the 2-hour lesson
4. \$2.25 for the lesson without a lift pass (usually \$4.00)

NOTE: You may sign up for the five Sundays and share the five lessons among members of your family.

For further information and/or registration for the lessons, call Benita Jackson, 322-0751 (evenings).

Brave New Bus

by Ed Cook

Since late July, our traveler of the highways has been in the process of a motor and transmission changeover, which has been expensive but should now offer the best in transportation. With a new Ford 332-cubic inch V-8 motor and Clark transmission, we can expect excellent performance and rapid transit to places far and near the year around. Particular praise and credit is due to Bud Reid for his guidance and hundreds of hours of work to

get us back on the road again. We hope the result will be membership acceptance and participation in the bus trips planned for this winter and spring, which include ski trips to Aspen and Jackson in January and February, and plans for Brian Head near Cedar City for March, and possibly Arches, Natural Bridges, Dead Horse Point, and Grandview Point as family trips in the spring. Keep your eye on the Rambler for scheduled fun trips on the bus in the months to come.



UP TIMPANOGOS BY MOONLIGHT

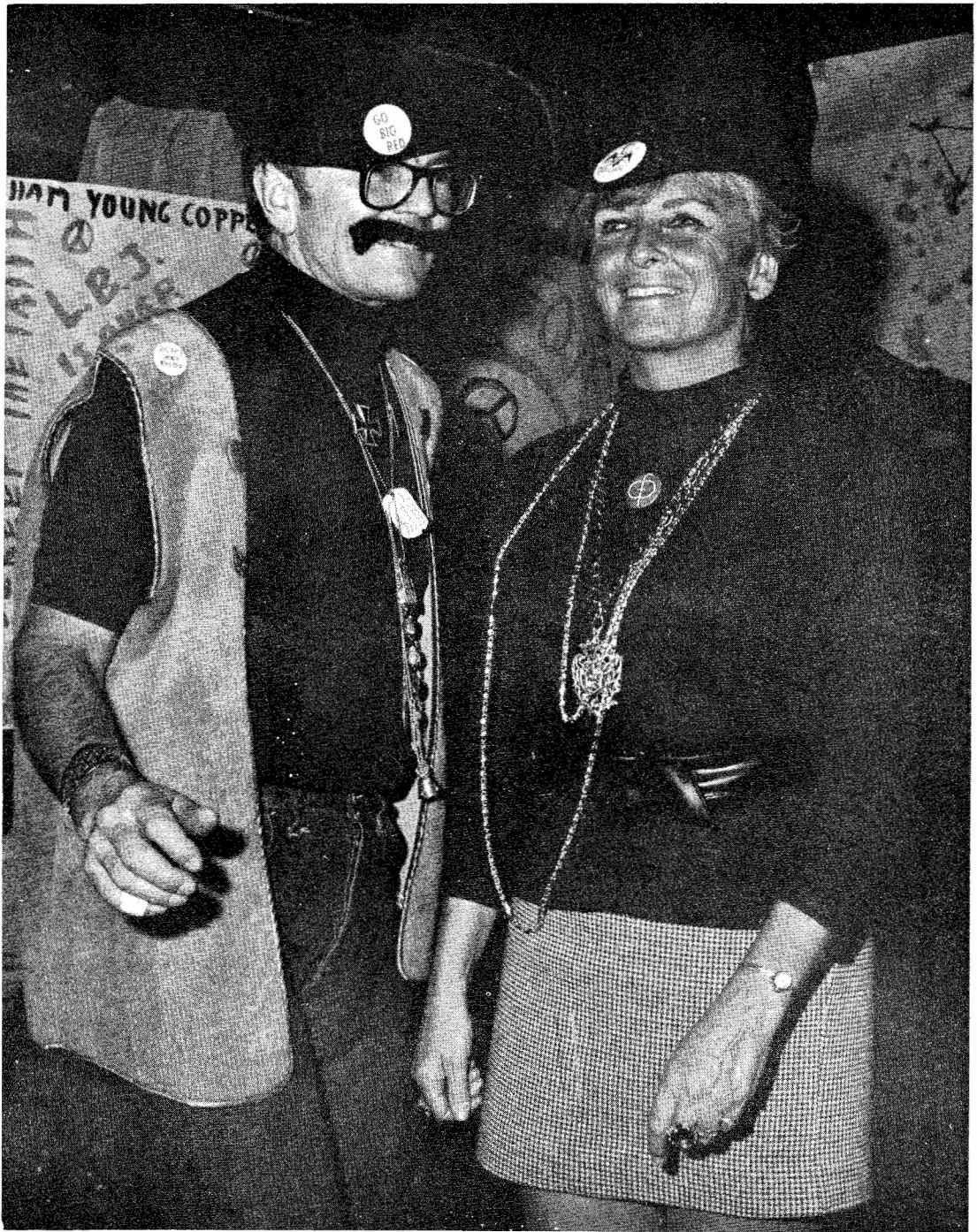
by Chuck Mays

Three times this year I have climbed Mt. Timpanogos, but the hike of September 7, 1968, provided the most unusual view, for it was at night. Dick Bell (hike leader), Steve Tyler, and I left the Timpooneke campground about an hour before dark. A vast flock of sheep grazed near the campground and we continued to hear their bleating for the first 5 miles up the trail. Such is the sound-focusing effect of canyon walls in still air at night.

The moon had been full on the preceding night, so we hiked for about an hour in the interval of semidarkness between sunset and moonrise. Long before we could see the moon, we saw its sharp illumination of Mt. Timp. On the crest we gazed down

at the multitude of electric lights throughout the valley. "A lot of kilowatts down there," Dick observed. Utah Lake was visible in the negative, i.e., its lack of electric lights. We reached the crest in 3 hours and 15 minutes. The wind howled and suddenly grew cold. And the remnants of snow were solid blocks of ice. Over a mile below our elevation, near the Geneva steel mill, molten slag was being dumped. Its red glare flashed then slowly died.

When we descended, the moon was illuminating part of the glacier. And those sheep were still bleating. "Why don't they go to sleep?" asked Dick. "How can they with all that noise," said Steve.



Hippies John and Helen Mildon at the Hippie Party

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MT. TIMPANOGOS VS MT. NEBO

by Dale Green

Herb Lund's humorous comments concerning Mt. Timpanogos' real height rang a bell about a letter I wrote many years ago (in 1954). Being born in the shadow of Mt. Nebo, I was having an argument with a fellow born in the shadow of Timpanogos as to which was the highest. The brand new USGS maps at that time showed a drop of 258 feet in Timp's elevation (from 12,008 to 11,750), which my friend refused to believe, and a corresponding increase in Nebo's height. A letter to the USGS Topographic Division brought the following reply:

"After checking our records, we find that the elevation of Mt. Timpanogos was reestablished by adjusting the mean of several vertical angle readings. The

elevation to the nearest foot is that shown on the map - 11,750. Elevations of the three peaks which constitute Mt. Nebo were established in the same manner and are, reading from left to right, 11,877, 11,824, and 11,928. The placement of the name "Mt. Nebo" (on the south peak only) was unfortunate and we assure you that on the next map edition, the name will be placed to include the three peaks."

Many elevations were changed with the new mapping but none as drastic as Mt. Peale near Moab. Shown for years on maps as 13,089, it dropped 368 feet to 12,721. On the other hand, Kings Peak, our state's highest, rose from 13,498 to 13,528.

New members

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SLC, Utah 84108

C. J. Curtoys
U.S.U. Box 1344
Logan, Utah 84321

Marian Nelson
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SLC, Utah 84117

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SLC, Utah 84105

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WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

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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 \$3.00 dues (spouse \$1.50). The club event I have attended is: _____ on: _____ (date). I agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the club as specified in the constitution and by-laws and as determined by the Board of Directors.

Name (printed) _____ Recommended by _____

Signature _____ Member: _____

(If spouse membership, please include name of _____

spouse (printed) _____ and signature _____.) Director: _____

Address _____

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