

Vol.1. No.2

July, 1953.

Editorial

EVEREST

By now, the ascent of Everest is no longer news. Nevertheless, our congratulations must go to Hillary and Tensing for their splendid achievement, and to Colonel Hunt for his fine leadership of the expedition. All mountaineers will be particularly glad that a Sherpa was there at the moment of triumph; and few will begrudge these men the honours bestowed upon them.

At the same time there will be ~~no~~ regrets that a man who has, over the years, contributed perhaps more than any other individual towards ultimate success, did not take part in this expedition. It is a pity that Shipton was not there.

COACH MEETS

Since the Llanberis meet last February, the failing support for long-distance coaches has given cause for some anxiety. The Easter meet only just survived; the Ogwen and Wasdale projects were so feebly supported that not even a 14-seater could be operated without financial loss.

Reasons can be found for these failures. Perhaps we are attempting too many long distance meets; perhaps we have visited Ogwen too often recently; perhaps the Coronation holiday arrangements "killed" the Whitsun meet. Perhaps this, perhaps that, perhaps the other; an apologist can find plausible excuses for anything.

Last year the Wrights worked hard to get coach meets started. It would be deplorable if a club the size of ours could not muster sufficient enthusiasm to continue

that initial success. The success of the Own Silin meet (largely due to the efforts of the Meets Secretary) is a happy indication.

D.C.C.

D O Y O U K N O W ?

1. That Tom Stobart who took part in this year's Everest "do" learned to climb on gritstone with the S.U.M.C. in 1933 during my period. He it was who first led Himmelswillen (Good Heavens) and Blue Dofile (Bloody Vile) on Wharncliffe.

2. That the Rucksack Club's "Tar Hill to Cat & Fiddle" walk of 120 miles was repeated on May 29th/31st of this year, by Philip Brockbank and Neil Mather in under 55 hours.

3. That the Holmo Moss Television Mast was climbed not so long ago (first ascent) by a member of the Manchester Y.M.C.A. climbing section.

4. That George Bower did not make the first ascent of April Crack on Stanage.

5. That the Oread Vice President is now honoured by being the President of the "Mountain Club".

6. That Dick Brown has named two new climbs on Rivelin, Croton Oil Wall and Sweet Aloes. Both refer to violent purgatives. The inference is obvious.

E.B. (Vice President)

OREAD VENTURE II.

On July 4, an Oread party consisting of P.R.Falkner, R.A.Brown and B.Cook will leave England for an eight-week visit to Lyngen. The purpose of the expedition is to continue and extend the work of the 1951 Expedition led by George Sutton.

The club unites in wishing the trio every success.

NEW ROUTE

The Roaches.

Bilberry Wall. 55 - 60 ft.

VD - D.

Situated on the buttress 50 yards right of Skyline Buttress, the one having a big pine tree at bottom left. A large flat wall, notable for a thick mat of bilberries about 15 ft. up.

Start:- on the lower left below some overhangs.

An awkward move up and right, then follow vegetation up to the bilberry ledge. From the centre of this ledge climb 15 ft. direct up a steepish wall on sharp-edged ledges, then 10 ft. right (not easy) and finish up the edge on excellent holds in a fine position.

Variation:- Continue straight up near a crack instead of moving right. Not as good.

First ascent by R.A.Brown with two students from White Hall, M.K.Ebbutt and K.M.Road, 25.4.53.

(The August Newsletter will contain details of a fine, long new route in North Wales by Eric Byne. Lack of space prevented its inclusion in this issue.)

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING MEETS

Froggatt Edge, June 6th/7th.

CHAOS IN CAMP - TROUSERS TIED TO TREE-TOP.

The woods below Froggatt contain many interesting wild creatures. On Saturday, June 6th, these included rats, a small snake, and several species of rare birds, including a number of that interesting nomadic species, the Tent-dwelling Oread.

The camp site was an idyllic spot on an arboreal ledge by a little stream just below the Edge.

Some climbing was done on Saturday afternoon with such tigers as Colin Morris again showing off their skill while others, including Ed (whoever he may be), found most of the routes beyond them.

On Sunday morning a wild, bearded figure, "clad only in his shirt-tails", was seen climbing a tall tree. This turned out to be Mike Moore, whose trousers had inexplicably become entangled in the top-most branches. His donning of these garments at a great height was a spectacle wonderful to behold.

And where was Penlington?

Highlights of Sunday's activity were a club meet on top of the pinnacle, and the finding of a hawk's nest with five eggs in Hawk's Nest Crack. Many other routes were done, the tigers again burning bright, their glory also illuminating Phil Falkner, Ken Wright, Mike Moore and others.

An enjoyable week-end, helped by the traditional Oread fine weather. D.C.C.

Cwm Silin Meet, June 13th/14th

After a series of spectacular manoeuvres by our coach driver, a party of twenty two Oreads and friends led by Harry Pretty was deposited near Nantlle, shortly after 2.0 a.m. on Saturday morning. Camp was established, as dawn was breaking, by

the two llynau (lakes to the Hon. Ed.) below the crags. Some hours later, a real live mountain nymph could have been observed swimming in the upper llyn, but the satyrs (or shepherds?) were still slumbering.

During Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning most of the popular routes were ascended - Sunset Rib, Artist's Climb, Nirvana Wall, Engineer's Climb and, of course, The Great Slab. At one stage three soloists and a roped party of three converged on one stance of the Great Slab. When they had sorted themselves out, there was found to be a roped party of three, different in composition from the original party, a party of two, and one incorrigible soloist.

Ernie Marshall, aided and abetted by Messrs. Falkner and Webb, spent much time and left a good deal of iron-mongery on a particularly fierce unclimbed buttress. So far the buttress has only yielded for 100 ft. but Ernie thinks that it will go. The descent involved a spectacular abseil. PRF discovered a movable foothold which descended slowly with him for some ten feet.

The weather deteriorated on Sunday afternoon. Camp was broken in a steady downpour, but the weather soon relented, and the party reached the bus with clothes damped but spirits dry, and, until the English frontier was crossed, throats even drier.

P.R.F.

Coniston, July 10th/12th

A preliminary notice appeared in last month's Newsletter, and there is little to add. So read the second half of this month's editorial, and if you've not booked already, do so now. Remember, if you want a place in the hut, it's first come, first served!

D.C.C.

Buxton, July 18th/19th

This walking meet was to have been led by Mike Gadd, but it is unlikely he will be able to come out. Another leader will be appointed, but at the time of writing it has not been decided who this will be. Details will be given in the circular.

D.C.C.

PROFILERICHARD "A" BROWN

In our last issue we included a profile of one of the Oread's founder members. This month the profile is of one of our newest members, although Dick Brown has for so long now been involved in Oread activities, that his election was really recognition of a fait accompli and incidentally, a means of extracting a subscription from him.

Dick's association with the Oread began in 1949, with his sterling work on the Sheffield Area Gritstone Guide. In 1950 he visited the Lofoten Isles with an S.U.M.C. party, and the following year took part in the Oread Arctic Expedition to Lyngen. Here, in addition to some fine first ascents, he was noted for his incurable optimism on a wide variety of topics such as the occurrence of bilberries in Lyngen and the price of petrol stoves in Sweden. He also produced a magnificent series of colour photographs. More recently he has been involved in an assault on the notorious Nordwand of High Tor.

His bearded, dignified, almost noble appearance contrasts strikingly with his youthful sense of fun. A true disciple of Rabelais, he has been the hero of countless legendary exploits and orgies; exploits of astonishing variety, but all characterized by some outlandish episode exhibiting the true Brownian genius. Whether climbing Arctic mountains, or supping Cointreau in a Sheffield den of vice, Richard "A" Brown makes a delightful if bewildering companion. He undoubtedly possesses a great future - but what sort of future is anybody's guess.

P.R.F.

BOOK REVIEWS.

COX, JACK. "CAMPING FOR ALL" Ward, Lock. 12/6d., 1953.

A comprehensive book on the subject, suitable for beginners. Well illustrated.

SLEAVER, GEORGE. "FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND: EXPLORER & MYSTIC".
Murray. 25/-, 1952.

Younghusband, when a young man, explored Asia, and crossed the Himalaya, with very scanty equipment. His

party had to sleep outside at night, to prevent being surprised by bandits. As President of the Royal Geographical Society, he was the "father" of the Everest expeditions.

WEIR, THOMAS. "THE ULTIMATE MOUNTAINS: AN ACCOUNT OF FOUR MONTHS' MOUNTAIN EXPLORING IN THE CENTRAL HIMALAYA".

A finely printed and illustrated account of the Scottish Himalayan Expedition.

MURRAY, W. H. "THE STORY OF EVEREST". Dent 15/- 1953

A well written account and analysis of the Everest expeditions, thorough and unsensational.

HUMBLE, B. A. "THE CULLIN OF SKYE". Halo 30/- 1952

An expensive book, but well illustrated, giving a history and description of the Skye mountains.

BROWN, J. "TWO AGAINST THE AMAZON". Hodder & Stoughton 16/- 1952

Two young men, scientists, penetrate into the highlands of South America to discover the source of the Amazon. This they accomplish, and then one of them sails down the river from source to mouth, on a raft. Another proof that the British are not a decadent race!

OR E A D S I N S H O R T S

Several parties were in North Wales over Whitsun. Dave Penlington, Ernie Marshall and Phil Falkner in the Llanberis Pass did some notable ascents and a record-breaking circuit of the Horseshoe.

Geoff Gibson, the Cullums, and two friends visited Idwal. Highlight was a walk via the Cribin, Glyders, Pen-y-Pass, Lliwedd, Nant Gwynant, Pen-y-gwryd, and Glyder Fach, including a swim in the Llyn Cwm y ffynnon. Photographs of the swimmers can be had from Geoff at £1.1.0d each.

Trevor Panther and the Porter spent a wet week in Snowdonia. They reported bad navigational conditions, but climbed every day.

Bright idea for campers: Geoff Gibson had a nylon pan-scrubber at the Idwal camp. It made washing up a pleasure (almost), and both weight and cost are negligible. Recommended.

Chunky Cartwright had a restful Whitsun at the Sybarites' Delight (Helyg). It is not known whether he made any excursions other than to the Royal at Capel.

The President spent the Coronation holiday in Wasdale. His doings included the famous "Four Passes Walk".

Ray Brown, who contributes our book reviews, was recently astonished at the sight of five wallabies on Hen Cloud. Explanation, Ray, is not too much "Mummery's Blood", but a private zoo, which also includes a yak and a buffalo. No carnivorous beasts have yet been reported in England's green and pleasant land.

Dick Brown celebrated the Coronation by pegging his way up High Tor. This procedure stopped the traffic on A.6 and aroused the interest, but not the fury, of the law.

Two prospective Oreads, Gerald Parsons and David Longman, are going to Wasdale for a week's rock-climbing at the beginning of August. They are travelling in a van, and have room for one or perhaps two more climbers, to share the cost of petrol, etc. Anyone interested should write to :
D. Longman, 14 Broad Street, Nottingham.

The Wrights, the Cullums, and others will fall upon Arran for two to three weeks from the middle of the month. Additions to the party will be welcome.

Walkie-talkie carriers (pack frames) can be obtained from: United Services Supply Co., Mail Order Dept., 1-3 Kensington Gardens, London, S.W.7, at 15/- plus 2/6d p.a.p. Quote HV210 with Order. Thanks to Roger Turner for this address.

Congratulations to Betty Wright, who celebrated her 21st birthday on June 16th.

Quote of the month: "Pull in some more slack - it doesn't twang yet!" - Malcolm Padley.