

I apologise for the lateness of this issue. It is due to several reasons, including seasonal activity on the part of the Editor, a breakdown in the typewriter and the general pressure of events towards the end of last year. I apologise in that this issue should come out before Christmas, but the typewriter breakdown made this impossible. I apologise for calling this No. 1 of Volume 6.

OREAD

MOUNTAINEERING

CLUB

NEWSLETTER

I hope you will find this issue of interest and that it will be a vintage year. The Committee will continue to work hard and I hope that during this coming year I would like to publish a kind of super tenth birthday edition of the Newsletter. Every member of the Club must have some pre-Christmas message for the Club. It may be a message that comes from first contact with Oread members - or it may be something that you remember from past meetings. Whatever it is let us know about it - as soon as possible.

Editorial.....	Page 1
Harry Pretty: Christmas in Retrospect	1
Roger Turner: Norway, 1958	3
Ruth Welbourn: Karwendel, 1958	6
P.R. Falkner: Bullstones Cabins Nov. 15th/16th	10
Obituary	11
Harry Pretty: Valedictory	11
P.R. Falkner: Family and Junior Section News	13
Fred. Allen: Christmas Party at Rhyd Dhu	14
Correspondence:	14
Oreads in Shorts:	17
Book Review:	20
Progress Report - Snowdon View:	20
Stop Press:	21

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On December 23rd 1958 I left home and went to a camp between the Duff and Gairns Gorges to have for a five day break. The other day I had a very good day in the field for four hours, probably the best weather that had resulted in frustration and considerable mental stress.

EDITORIAL

I apologise for the lateness of this issue. It is due to several reasons, including seasonal apathy on the part of the Editor, a breakdown in the typewriter and the general pressure of events towards the end of last year. I originally intended that this issue should come out before Christmas, but the typewriter breakdown made this impossible. I am therefore calling this No. 1 of Volume 6.

I hope you've all had a magnificent Christmas and even more I hope that 1959 will be, for all Oreads and in all things Oread, a vintage year. Next March the Oread will be ten years old. Somehow or other we have survived a decade and I hope that the Committee will contrive to mark this occasion in some fashion.

During this coming year I would like to publish a kind of super tenth birthday edition of the Newsletter. How good it will be is largely up to you. Every member of the Oread must have some pre-eminent memory that has a typical Oread flavour. It may be a memory that rises from first contact with Oread members - or it may be something that you remember from past Meets. Whatever it is let me know about it - as soon as possible.

Preferably it should be short and to the point. I would suggest a length of approximately 200 - 300 words, but if you cannot possibly do it in less think in terms of 500 as a maximum.

I MUST HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS BY NOT LATER THAN THE END OF MARCH.

H.P.
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CHRISTMAS IN RETROSPECT... Harry Pretty

For most people Christmas has a particular flavour. Quite unlike any other time of the year it provides its own atmosphere and among those fortunate enough to spend it in the company of family and friends it is frequently memorable. My own Christmases have been spent variously - quietly at home, uproariously at "Tyn-y-ghanty" and "Bryn-y-Wern", and once on a railway station in Montreal. The story I propose to relate concerns a Christmas quite different from any of these - unique in some ways, but with the familiar spirit that seems essential to all good Christmas stories. That it is nostalgic, and not without sentiment I freely admit. For this I make no excuse since this was the way of it.

On December 23rd 1954 Dick Brown and myself left a camp between the Lyell and Geikie Glaciers to return to base for a five day break. The others had left two days before. We had been in the field for four heart-breaking weeks of awful weather that had resulted in frustration and considerable mental strain.