

The 1965 summer has almost! come to a close, by all reports and experience the weather has been mixed to say the least. The weather in the Alps and British Hills was for once very similar and mountaineers who decided to have a holiday in Scotland returned almost as brown as the Alpinists. I look forward to printing some of the Oread's experiences(!) - at least whilst on summer holiday, so a short report on your trip to me please.

As you will see from your meets cards and circulars the Social Season is not far off with the Photo Meet already in preparation. (Start getting your slides together to make it a memorable meet). But before the season is really upon us we have one or two interesting meets in Wales and the Lakes with the popular meet at 'Tranarth' leading the field.

What meets there have been during July and August have been quite well attended and the evening get-together on Tuesdays "upstairs in the Bell" has gone on as usual. It was good to see Don Chapman there one Tuesday. He was only in the Derby area for a couple of days. Why not pop in one Tuesday and meet your climbing friends. (Some of them still climb).

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MEET - GWYNANT VALLEY N. WALES

Merle Wallis

A good number of members and prospective members attended this meet and although the weather wasn't very good an active holiday was enjoyed by all. Derek Burgess, Ray Handley and Nat Allen forced a direct route in the grease up Moel Hebog on Saturday, whilst Nigel Hoen, David Brady, Eric and myself did the Snowdon Horseshoe from the campsite over Llewedd and Crib Goch. The other members of our team, namely Paul Grainger, Christene Brady, George and Janet Reynolds and Wendy and Terry Stayley unfortunately only managed to get up to the Pyg track. There was swimming in the stream early in the day and Pam and Dave Weston spent the day with Clair on Black Rock Sands. This is where Janet Burgess Maria Handley and Pat Allen spent Sunday whilst their husbands climbed on Cwm Silin and the Wenault. We however spent a good day on Tremadoc, David George and I on one rope, Nigel Christine and Terry on another did a severe, whilst Eric and Paul were on the "hard" stuff. The young ones however (Nigel, Terry, John Wilkinson and friend Jeff) were so shattered that they returned to the campsite soon after lunch where they built an enormous fire in anticipation of the evening activities! They rested then in readiness for the football match that took place by star- and car-light against the Cricket Club. We had an excellent evening by the fire singing folk and climbing songs and roasting potatoes. Dave and Pam Weston took Clare up Snowdon, and they, unfortunately, together with the other Rolls Royce employees, had to go home to go to WORK. On Monday there was a mass exodus into the Pass, where, whilst Eric and Paul did Diagonal, David (a young prospective member) and I led through on a couple of severes, Nigel and Terry were climbing elsewhere. There was an epic on Flying Buttress later in the afternoon as - alas - only Nigel and Christine got to the top; and the MEET LEADER had to make lots of butties for her team of leaders Eric and David. This was to sober her up after she got herself ever so slightly merry in the Vaynol Arms after a lunchtime refreshment. Numerous friends were present - including George Potts and wife, Derek Carnell and wife, Wes Haydn and Ray Colledge.

The Army Mountaineering Association party in Kulu, pre- monsoon 1965 was beset by last-minute political difficulties which are becoming a sad but familiar feature of climbing in the Himalaya of India. These difficulties resulted in, first, a reduction in the size of the party and, second, in an unwelcome but inevitable change of objectives from the unclimbed 21,000ft., peaks of the upper Parbati valley, to the well-trodden regions of the Malana and Tos nullahs. Moreover, access proved especially arduous because of the late snowfall of last winter (which barred three of the passes we were now obliged to cross), and the mutinous behaviour of the Tibetan refugee porters we unwisely employed on May 16th for the march-in to Base Camp in the Malana nullah.

On May 29, 1965 we made the first ascent of Ramchukor Peak, 17,025ft., in the east containing wall of the Ali Ratmi Tibba East Glacier via the last named glacier, easy névés and the splendid snow arête of the North Ridge. The summit was reached by Langford, Pettigrew, Wangal and Zangbo. At a later stage in the expedition Henty, with Palgaon and Zangbo, climbed the northermost peak in the group, unnamed Point 16,800ft. Although modest in altitude there are several attractive and difficult peaks in the area, most of them virgin.

In H.J. 5.82, A.P.F. Hamilton refers to the Sara Umga pass, which once carried the ancient trade route from Ladakh to Rampur-Bashahr in the Sutlej valley as being little known, not less than 16,000 ft., high, and probably difficult. The pass was reached by the AMA party on June 3, 1965. Some difficulty was experienced in scaling the steep north bank of the deeply entrenched west stream of the Tos glacier to enter the pass from the south, but conditions would alter radically in the post-monsoon season when the pass probably opened each year for a brief period. Its height by aneroid barometer is 16,025 ft. This is probably the first crossing of the Sara Umga La by Mountaineers. Later a camp was established for six days on the Chota Shigri glacier leading north to Phuti Runi on the true left bank of the Chandra river in Lahul, (not the Bara Shigri glacier as suggested by Hamilton).

Using the pass as a base, Langford, Pettigrew, Zangbo and Wangyal on June 9 reconnoitered the approaches from the south to Point 21,165 ft., (Papsura) and its north-westerly outlier Point 20,300 ft., both prominent, unclimbed peaks in the northern end of the Kulu/Bara Shigri Divide. We took the northern most of two tributary glaciers. This, though the steeper of the two, was less exposed to falling ice from the upper shelf of their common névé. The recce camp was sited on a col, 18,013 ft., overlooking a glacier cwm draining first north then west into the lower Chota Shigri glacier and surrounded on three sides by precipitous walls. This cwm is unmarked on Survey of India Sheet 53 E - NW, NE. By traversing the névé at the foot of Point 20,300 ft., we reached a good view-point in the south ridge of that mountain. Here, at 18,400 ft., we were on a watershed between tributary glacier flowing into the Tos glacier and those flowing into the Chota Shigri glacier. Looking south-east beyond the Tos East glacier we identified Point 19,061 ft., climbed by Colonel J.O.M. Roberts in 1941. We examined the north-west ridge, the west face and the south ridge of Papsura, 21,165 ft. but we could not trace a feasible route from this side.

Punjab Himalaya continued.....

Ali Ratni Tibba, 18,013ft., and its fore-top, known respectively as Paptula and Dramtula to the local paharis (hillmen) is a formidable mountain resembling the Aiguilles des Drus. Aiming to carry out a close reconnaissance Langford, Pettigrew and Wangyal circumnavigated the base of the mountain by ascending the Ali Ratni Tibba East glacier, a tributary of the Malana glacier, and descending the Ali Ratni Tibba West glacier, which emerges in the upper Malana on the true left bank of the river, just below the snout of the Malana glacier. Two camps were required, one on the new pass we made immediately south-west of Ali Ratni Tibba, and one above the lower ice-fall on the descent glacier. The pass was named Pass of the Obelisks 16,000 ft. We consider that once gained, the south-west ridge offers the best chance of an ascent of the mountain, but it would have to be reached by a route traversing the steep ice fields of the south face, which would require considerable resources and prolonged preparation.

The party withdrew from the area down the remarkable and precipitous gorge of the Malana river, reaching the motorable road of the Parbati valley at Jari, (5,260 ft) on June 17th.

DOWE CRAG MEET September CHRIS MARTIN.

An uneventful journey up in rain and blustery conditions. Geoff and Anne and myself arriving just before midnight to find most of the others already there.

The Saturday morning began sunny but very windy. The two outstanding members had arrived - Clair and Stan from Coventry, having taken, so it was reported 2 hours to get from the car park to the hut in the dark.

Most people went for a walk over the Walna Scar track to Seathwaite in Dunnerdale where beer and tea was consumed and then on to Wallowbarrow Crag for climbing. Several good routes being done by various members. Most people returned to the hut by dusk but Geoff, Anne, Colin, Uschi, and Rusty took until well after darkness to return having walked many miles up the river bank, in Dunnerdale, in an unsuccessful attempt to cross the river. A search party was just about to be formed.

Sunday proved to be a better day from a climbing point of view and most people headed over towards Dow. Routes climbed included Murrays, Abarhams, Girdle Traverse, Southern Slabs, Ordinary C Etc.,

Fortunately the rain kept off both days although it remained quite cool for September. However everyone made the most of the weekend and once again it was a very successful meet. Thanks to all those who came.

28 Members and friends stopped at the hut (as follows)

Chris Martin, Geoff and Anne Hayes, Rusty, Paul Craddock, Colin & Uschi Hobday Eric & Merle Wallis, John Welbourne & family, Claire Blundell, Stan Fowler, Ray Johnson, Wally Richardson, Laurie Burns, Ray & Maria Handley, Derek & Janet Burgess, Pete Janes & family, Monica, Christine & David Brady.

SKI-ING HOLIDAYS 1966

Roger Turner and a number of Oreads are arranging a skiing holiday in the Austrian Alps soon after Christmas. Details are not yet available but anyone interested should contact Roger within the next day or so.

OREADS IN SHORTS ETC

CONGRATULATIONS

to Wally Smith and Jean who were wed at the beginning of September. Their new address is " Kulu"

Moor Lane,

Bunny

Notts.

NEW ADDRESSES

(Please alter your handbook.)

D. Burgess

Plot 37 Hillrise Estate,

Findern,

Derbys.

Geoff Gibson

10 Cross Lane,

Rothley,

Leics.

Tel Leics 2749

CONGRATULATIONS

to Jack and Janet Ashcroft (mainly Janet) on the birth of (yes another) boy. Born on Aug 16th weight 6lbs 12 ozs and called David John. Ashcroft is now assured of a strong rope in his old age.

The British Mountaineering Council have recently issued a circular on climbing ropes. Copies of this interesting circular are being sent to all club members.

Lectures at the Derby Art Gallery include on Dec 1st The First Ascent of Kulu Punori by Robert Pettigrew. Illustrated by colour slides.

On 12th January there is a lecture on Baroque By- Ways Through Bavaria and Austria by Robert Moss. Illustrated by colour slides it will deal with the country and villages as well as the buildings of Munich, Salsburg, Vienna and the famous Linderhof Palace.

On the 9th February there is a lecture by E. Soothill and P. Whitehead on Pennine Panorama. It will be a colour film showing the wild life of the Pennines.

Quote "Will we have to write to the Pakistanis to get Pettigrew back for the dinner."

SUBSCRIPTIONS the treasurer reports that there are still a number of subs for 1965 still outstanding!

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK HOSTEL AT CROWDEN IN LONGDENDALE

The hostel, which opened at Easter, is run by the Youth Hostels Association. It is open to the general public and not simply to members of the Y.H.A. It has 40 beds and a cafe for light meals.

The hostel is situated on the Pennine Way. There are five crags in the vicinity- Laddow, Ravenstones, Dovestones, Lad's Leap and shining Clough - all of which are now open to the general public under access agreements recently completed between the Peak Park Planning Board and the landowners for about 31 square miles of high moorland country

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Hostel at Crowden continued....

situated north and south of the Longdendale Valley and in the vicinity of the Chew Valley. The Board maintains a full-time warden resident at Crowden, who is responsible for organising a warden service at weekends and public holidays.

Accommodation at the hostel costs as follows:

Dormitory accommodation (including the supply of a sleeping bag) with breakfast: Y.H.A. members 8/3. a night. Non members: 10/6. a night

Private bedrooms (limited in number) with breakfast:

Single room : 17/6. Double Room (per person) : 15/-

Precise times of opening and closing the cafe have not yet been settled as the hostel is still in an experimental stage of operation, but light meals are available at weekends and on most weekdays at present. Sweets and chocolates are also on sale in the cafe.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING IN THE HEART OF TOKYO

From our Japanese
correspondent.

Mountain climbing enthusiasts now practice scaling rocky slopes on the facade of a building in the bustling entertainment and shopping district of Shibuya, Tokyo.

When the Taiyo Industry Company, makers of mountain climbing equipment had a new building constructed, they had the facade, from the second floor to the roof of the six-floor building, constructed of concrete so as to duplicate the appearance of a rock face.

This structure has been named "Tokyo Rock". It is 65 feet 6 inches high and 32 feet 7 inches wide, and has been built at an angle of 84 degrees with the ground.

In addition to a few channel-like chimneys and overhangs, 130 hankens, the special spikes used in mountain climbing have been fastened to the facade.

The Tokyo rock was designed under the supervision of leading rock climbing experts. A safety net has been spread along the lower edge of the rock.

The Tokyo Rock is open to the public for Y200 (4s) an hour. Trainers are always available at the site to help beginners, while members of the Japan Alpine Association and other mountain climbing groups hold regular training sessions on the rock.

A spokesman for the Taiyo Industry Company said that the encouragement of safety in rock climbing was the principal object in designing the rock. He said that since it is the first project of its kind in the world he would be satisfied if it contributes to the dissemination of knowledge of proper climbing techniques.

If you require a permit for climbing on Coed Tremadoc (Craig Pant Ifan) please contact the secretary as soon as possible.