



climb if you will

introduction by Sir Jack Longland

Geoff Hayes, who was killed whilst climbing at Dow Crag in the Lake District in 1971, was a member of the famous Midland mountaineering club — THE OREAD.

SIR JACK LONGLAND (President of the Alpine Club) writes in his Foreword to the book: "...In my experience the Oread Club is unique in the British mountaineering scene, whether in the number and variety of real 'characters' to be found among its members, in the comprehensiveness of its activities in or near the hills, and in the imaginative and outrageous Saturnalia which it inadequately describes as the Annual Dinner ... And that has left out the Antarctic expedition to South Georgia and the climbing of Mount Brooker; many Himalayan peaks of far greater stature have offered less resistance than this fine mountain; less have been climbed by so small a unit.; and the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition."

GEOFF HAYES was one of the most popular members of the Club. In this book over 30 of his friends and club colleagues have written of good days on the mountains on expeditions to such far flung places as Antarctica and the Himalaya; on Oread meets to the Alps or Scotland; and summer evenings on Derbyshire crags.

ERIC WALLIS a guide for the British Mountaineering Council writes of Geoff "His tremendous walking ability — an image readily springs to mind of a wiry bespectacled figure, calf muscles bared to the elements, hands in his pockets, Bergan rucksack on his back, bouncing up and down with his untiring gait, over the wild desolation of Bleaklow or the Fourteen 'Three Thousand' feet peaks in Wales."

DOUG SCOTT who has twice battled with the elements on the South West Face of Everest, writes of an epic day many years ago... "Keep the wind on your left cheek" yelled Geoff. No talk of going down. This was our Everest that day and at the time, an easy walk made hard for youthful climbers in those conditions. We kept on over all five summits in the full fury of the blizzard."

Geoff Hayes leading the final pitch of Bramble Buttress on Craig-y-Geisal, Tremadoc, North Wales in 1971.

Photo — Gordon Gadsby

£2.95

This book stemmed from an idea by Celia Berry after she had read Geoff's mountaineering diaries, and it has been carried to fruition by the following group of Oread mountaineering club members.

Jean Russell A.L.A., born in Preston Lancashire, but now living in Parwich, a Derbyshire village near Ashbourne. Jean works as a lecturer in children's literature for Nottingham and Sheffield universities, she is on the National Executive of the Federation of Children's Book Groups. In her leisure hours, apart from mountaineering she is often found riding her horse Bilbo Baggins, across the rolling hills of The Peak in company with Rusty, her husband on his mare Bess.

Mike Berry born in Beeston was a childhood friend of Geoff's. Mike lives in Borrowash and works in Derby as a Chemical Engineer, this profession taking him lecturing to Australia and North America. Apart from his love of the mountains he is a devoted family man, member of the mountain rescue team and enjoys classical music.

Gordon Gadsby of Beeston, Nottingham. Gordon, who works in the building trade as a painter and decorator, is an outstanding photographer and artist. He has climbed in places as far apart as Corsica and Arctic Norway and in his spare time he is a Snowdonia National Park Warden and a member of the mountain rescue team.

Jack Ashcroft of Bradway, Sheffield, works as a Civil Engineer. Jack has climbed in many places and was a member of the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition. These days he specialises in long distance mountain walks and keeping up with his three active sons and his wife Janet.

Paul Gardner of Allestree, Derby, works in Burton-on-Trent as a packaging engineer for a major brewery firm. Paul is a founder member of the Oread and is radio operator when the rescue team are on call out. He is an experienced skier and every winter will see him on the boards with his wife Betty and son, Douglas, either in the Cairngorms or in Europe in The Alps or Pyrennes.

Margaret Gadsby, born in Davyhulme, Manchester, now living in Beeston. Margaret, who is a part-time secretary, has travelled extensively with her husband Gordon. She enjoys gardening, drama and is an armchair supporter of Manchester City Football Club.

Anne Hayes, Geoff's wife, who first came to England as an au pair girl from Aachen in Germany, was herself a member of The German Alpine Club. Without Anne's enthusiasm and assistance this book would not have materialised.



*At 20,000' on White Sail (21,148') in Kulu Himalaya, Derrick Burgess leads to start 180' ice pitch — crux on ascent of peak. Bob Pettigrew is belayed to gigantic icicles.
Photo — Jack Ascroft*