

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Baker, G. P. (Hon. Mem. 1946)	1882
Freeman, E.	1900
Hoek, H. (1905-15 ; 1930-42 ; 1947-51)	1905
Runge, A. J. R.	1908
Trier, F. Newton.	1908

We also record with regret the death of Mrs. Walter Wood, the wife of our distinguished American member, and her 18-year-old daughter, who were lost in a Norseman piloted by Mr. Maurice King, the well-known 'bush pilot.' The aircraft was on a flight from the Seward Glacier airstrip to Yakutat, over country described by Mr. N. E. Odell in *A.J.* 57. 484 *et seq.* No trace of the party has been found, although a prolonged search was carried out for the missing aircraft.

PERSONAL.—The Club congratulates the following members on their several distinctions :—

Mr. G. W. Anson on a Knighthood in the Birthday Honours, 1951.

Dr. D. R. Pye on a Knighthood ; Mr. P. Wyn Harris on the K.C.M.G. ; and Mr. A. P. Harper on the C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours, 1952.

We note the appointment of Mr. J. M. Wordie as Master of St. John's College, Cambridge.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee has extended an invitation to H.I.H. The Prince Chichibu of Japan (Hon. Mem. 1928) to renomination as an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club. His Imperial Highness has been pleased to accept.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.—We have to thank the following for their gifts to the Club Library :—

Lady Withers (through Mr. J. E. C. Eaton) for a collection of Alpine books.

Lt.-Gen. E. F. Norton for kindly allowing a selection to be made of letters of Sir Alfred Wills dealing with his early mountaineering ventures in the Alps.

Mr. D. F. O. Dangar for a number of MSS. of William Mathews.

MOUNT EVEREST—ITS NAME AND HEIGHT.—Mr. B. L. Gulatee, Director of the Geodetic and Training Circle, Survey of India, in Technical Paper No. 4, published May 1950 by the Surveyor General of India, discusses these two matters concerning Everest, and in view of the

controversies that have frequently arisen it may be useful to give his conclusions, viz. :—

- (i) GAURISANKAR is not the old and correct name of Mount Everest.
- (ii) That though the policy of the Survey of India has always been to adopt the local names of all geographical features, rather than to give them any personal names, Mount Everest is the only exception as no local name was known at the time of its discovery and none has been since put forward that stands out as indubitable.
- (iii) Chief Computer Radhanath Sikhdar cannot be regarded as the discoverer of Mount Everest.
- (iv) 29,002 ft. must be adhered to as the height of Mount Everest, until further observations are taken.

HIMALAYAS 1952.—In addition to the Swiss Expedition to Mount Everest, and Mr. Shipton's party on Cho Oyu, we learn of at least three other British Expeditions to the Himalayas. We hope to give fuller details of these in a later number ; at the time of going to press some doubt exists as to their precise objectives.

There are also reports of a German Expedition to Chomolönzo and a French Expedition to Tirsuli (*Die Alpen*).

ANDES—MOUNT FITZROY (11,073 ft.)—A French expedition under the leadership of M. René Ferlet has succeeded in making the first ascent of Mount FitzRoy, the famous Patagonian peak, which has long attracted mountaineers. The successful ascent which was carried out by M. Lionel Terray and M. Guido Magnone, was made on February 2, 1952, in bad weather after part of the upper buttress had been climbed on two previous occasions to prepare the route. Camp III on the shoulder consisted of two tents erected in ice-holes. One bivouac was spent on the upper part of the mountain. In all some 118 pitons, 400 feet of fixed ropes and a rope ladder were employed. The climb is described as containing 500 feet of Grade III (artificial) climbing and 500 feet of Grade V supérieure.

SOME FIRST ASCENTS IN THE CHILEAN ANDES.—Mountaineering in the Chilean Central Andes is increasing more and more. There are indeed a good number of 13,000–19,000 ft. peaks yet unclimbed and unnamed but they represent only a small part of the 'Alpine Background' of Santiago, the capital and the largest city of Central Chile.

The mountaineering season for Chilean climbers begins at December and ends towards April. Before November, two members of the Chilean Andine Club, section Santiago, Walter Bachmann and I decided to choose for our annual mountaineering holidays, only a mountain region with unclimbed and, if possible, unnamed peaks. In the sources of the Pangal river, only 55 miles south of Santiago, there is a good number of peaks awaiting not only the foot of the climber, but even the sight of men. This Andine zone is, perhaps, the most unknown of

the Chilean Central Andes, and we resolved to visit it. A third member of the Club joined us : Enrique Vidaurrezaga.

By railway and lorry we arrived at 'Hacienda Los Perales,' a farm near the junction of the Pangal and Cachapoal rivers. There we engaged the services of an arriero (mule-man and local guide) ; we needed only a mule to transport the equipment and food supplies.

On December 7, we arrived at 'Las Callanas,' a beautiful pasture ground at only 4,000 ft. above sea-level. There ends the motor-road and begins the alpine path to the two upper subsidiary valleys of the Pangal river ; Cajon Flores and Paredones.

Our plan was in two parts ; ranging across the two valleys we had projected : (1) Penetration of Cajon Flores to attempt one of the two unnamed peaks, 16,100 and 16,020 ft. ; (2) Mountaineering in the Paredones peaks (15,000 to 17,000 ft.).

From Las Callanas we spent less than 5 hours in moving 12 miles up the Pangal river and penetrating the Cajon Flores. The rest of the evening was spent in placing the base-camp in a lovely, grassy spot. There were some beautiful andine flowers such as the 'clavelina del campo' (wild carnation) and the 'malva triste' (gloomy mallow). Height: about 7,700 ft. It gave us our first view of the twin peaks of Cajon Flores. The higher of them, peak 16,100 ft., seemed to us more accessible than the lower, which presented to the camp a great reddish tower. We decided to attack the higher.

December 8, was gloriously fine and we started to push up a light camp to the col between the two peaks. With our rucksacks, the climb was wearisome rather than difficult and we reached the col when darkness was falling. There we decided to camp, having estimated our height as being close to 13,000 ft. Next morning was cool and clear and we started at 7 A.M. We ascended easily the lower part of the south glacier, but we were surprised to find that the upper part was very steep. The general angle of the ice slope was increasing more and more as we were climbing. We tried then to force the pass to the last snow dome by a snow-filled gully to the right. After a careful ascent we arrived at a short ice-ridge ; the summit was to the north of the last snow dome and at 4 P.M. we were there. We had a wonderful view of the valleys and peaks to the north near Santiago, but our wish to observe the mountains of Paredones to the south, which we hoped to climb, failed in clouds.

We erected a small cairn with heavy stones and left some notes and dates of our ascent. We named this peak Nevado de Flores (The Snow Peak of Cajon Flores). With a chill wind we retraced our tracks and arrived back at the tent. Next morning we continued the descent to the base-camp, where we rested two days.

On December 11 we moved 15 miles up-river. Paredones is a long, stony valley and we arrived very tired at a small grassy spot, at about 8,000 ft. where we pitched the tent. It was our second base-camp. Thus opened the second and last stage of our programme.

Next day we moved up by an ill-defined track lined with yellow and

blue wild flowers, to the vast cirque formed by the rocky group of Sierra de los Paredones (The Peaks of the Walls); Serrucho (The Handsaw), a beautiful solitary snow peak (16,080 ft.); Catedral del Barroso (The Cathedral of the Muddy River) 15,650 ft.; the broad, massive group of the Picos del Barroso (The High Peaks of the Muddy River) 16,600 to 17,000 ft.; and Morro de la Mama, one of the many Chilean 'Matterhorns' (ca. 16,500 ft.).

Serrucho was the finest mountain of the cirque, but seemed to us to be too difficult. We decided then to climb the easy north-west Peak of the Picos del Barroso (16,570 ft.) which would give us a clear view of the general angle of the south glacier of Serrucho, the only practicable route to the summit. On December 13, we marched along a volcanic rock-ridge, technically very easy. Dense mist and stormy clouds had hidden Serrucho; we reached the summit and started down rapidly. With a chill, strong wind we packed the tent and continued the descent. Heavy drops of rain were falling when we reached the base camp. There we rested for two days.

Since I had seen beautiful Serrucho I had turned over in my mind the possibility of an ascent. On December 16 we set off up to the Cirque and placed a first camp under a great rock, near the foot of our peak. The only route to the top was by the south-east glacier, leading to a snow col and then to the upper face of the glacier, via steep ice and snow slopes. We climbed the south-east glacier and penetrated the broad gully filled with 'nieves penitentes' (small snow pinnacles). It was very steep and with the possibility of an avalanche in our minds, we scaled quickly and keeping as close to the rocks as possible. The sun was declining when we pitched the small tent in the snow col.

The night was calm and starlit and at 6 A.M. we were off. The rope was frozen and the cold was still intense, but the weather was clear and provided a most enjoyable climb. We traversed the lovely South face of Serrucho and scaled the steep ice slope which leads to the summit snow-ridge. Step-cutting was necessary. Bachmann and I, leading the rope by turn, worked with energy. We reached the top at 3 P.M. Clouds and mist were forming again, but some breaks in the clouds gave us superb views; in a dense mist we got back to the col, observing every precaution to negotiate the steep sections that had become dangerously soft. After a bad night we made the descent by the broad gully to the base-camp, where we assembled with our 'arriero.' The next day we marched to Las Callanas, to return, by lorry and railway, to Santiago. So ended our mountaineering holidays of this year.

EVELIO A. ECHEVARRIA.

AN EARLY ATTEMPT ON THE DOM.—In *Peaks, Passes and Glaciers*, vol. 1, pp. 195-6, mention is made of an attempt on the Dom in 1858 by Mr. Cayley, but he and his guides were stopped by mist not far from the summit.

In Mumm's A. C. Register (vol. 1, p. 172), the attempt is attributed to

Professor Arthur Cayley, the celebrated mathematician (1821–1895). This is incorrect. Cayley's guide was Johann Zumtaugwald and the expedition is recorded in Zumtaugwald's Führerbuch over the signature 'Edwd. Cayley,' and dated July 1858.

The Admission Book of Trinity College, Cambridge, records that Professor A. Cayley was entered with the single christian name 'Arthur,' and the name of Edward S. Cayley appears as having matriculated in 1842.¹ To him, perhaps, may be given the credit for this attempt on the Dom. Edward Cayley was not a member of the Alpine Club, and apart from this expedition, nothing is known of his alpine career, though he may have ascended Monte Rosa in 1856.

Johann Zumtaugwald took part in Mr. Chapman's attempt in 1856, and was also one of the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies's guides on the first ascent of the Dom, September 11, 1858.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

THE FÜHRERBUCH OF ALEXANDER BURGNER.—A correction. In my article in the November issue of the *Alpine Journal*, I stated (p. 186) that 'history does not record the names of the other two guides' on Eckenstein's ascent of the Dom from the south-west. I have recently received from M. Kurz a copy of the 1937 edition of his *Guide des Alpes Valaisannes*, vol. III b, wherein he mentions that the other two guides were Mattias Zurbriggen and A. Supersaxo. This information is not in the 1919 edition, neither is it to be found in the *Alpine Journal*.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

ALEXANDER BURGNER'S FÜHRERBUCH.—Although mentioned in vol. II of Kurz's *Guide des Alpes Valaisannes*, it is, perhaps, not generally known that Ludwig Friedmann with Burgner made the first ascent of the Gässispitz (3,410 m.) (Barrhörner Group) in August, 1891 (page 101 of A. B's Führerbuch). Before 1947, the first ascent was erroneously attributed to Walter Gröbli with Aloys and Josef Pollinger who climbed the peak on October 10, 1891. In his admirable guide-book, M. Marcel Kurz comments: 'Il est vraiment étonnant que cette caravane n'ait pas trouvé le cairn de la premiere. . . .'

J. SANSEVERINO.

ALPINE HUTS.—The Diablerets hut, at the foot of the Oldenhorn has been reconstructed during the summer of 1951. The hut is privately owned, but is open to the public. The Engelhorner hut, the property of the A.A.C.B., has also been enlarged and improved, and is now able to accommodate 58 people.

The Gspaltenhorn hut has been destroyed by an avalanche. We also learn that the Rossier hut is being enlarged, and climbers are advised not to expect accommodation there during the coming season (*Die Alpen*).

¹ In some MSS. letters of Sir Alfred Wills, at the A.C., there is a passing reference to 'Cayley, a cousin of the mathematician.'—EDITOR.

THE ALPS 1951.—The following expedition, of which we received notification too late for inclusion in our last number is worthy of record :—

Aiguille d'Argentière—North face direct. July 30, 1951.

Dep. Albert Premier. 0130

Rimaye 0430

Summit about 0830

Good snow conditions except for 300 feet of ice in the middle of the face.

Descent by Whymper route, Col du Chardonnet and Fenêtre du Tour.

Party. O. J. P. Bott, Hon. R. R. E. Chorley, R. H. Dunt.

The same route was climbed a few days earlier by A. M. Cleland and P. D. Smith.

INTERNATIONAL HIMALAYAN GATHERING

THE International Himalayan gathering at Munich at the end of September was a thoroughly good show ; as to be expected very well organised. Prerepresentatives of mountaineering clubs in Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy and Austria were there and the Alpine and Himalayan Clubs had also their own representative. We were met respectively on arrival at the Hauptbahnhof and accommodation had been arranged and paid for by our very welcoming hosts. Transport too was provided free throughout the three days.

Proceedings began with a stag dinner party of some score in all, the guests being welcomed by Herren Paul Bauer, Max Mayerhofer and Fritz Bechtold. Oral bouquets were handed round and the A. C. cum H. C. representative did his best with the limited German he speaks. He conveyed the greetings of the Alpine Club—the Himalayan Club committee having cabled their own. Politics were kept out except for the *nem con* agreement that mountaineers abhor them. Next day the conference took place, mainly on equipment, clothing and diet. The most interesting exhibit was a combined sleeping-bag-bivouac-shelter. It is made by the Ballon-Fabrikwerke in Augsburg of cloth and rubber tubes each inflated by a sturdy-lunged porter or climber. Two can squeeze into it and the top closes over. When occupied it seemed to me reminiscent of the old Michelin advertisement, 'Bibendum.' I was unable to find out what happens when a real High Asian blast strikes it. But Bauer had tried it out on Nanga Parbat in 1938 and spoke well of it. It is not however yet in full production. Another departure, new to me was footgear made of rubber cum leather fabric with nails welded in. After a very pleasant mixed lunch party we assembled to see films of various expeditions with running commentaries and speeches interspersed. Speakers included Bauer, Allwein—conqueror in 1928 of Pic Kaufmann (now Pic Lenin)—Mayerhofer and Bechtold. The latter's Nanga Parbat narrative was most moving. In the evening another mixed party dined at small tables and mingled after each course. Bed, if my memory serves, at about 3.0 A.M. The final day began

with a unique procession of dogs, two miles of them, Schnauzers, Boxers, Terriers, Dachshunds, etc., and many 'any other variety.' At intervals there came big drays drawn by fine horses with glittering harness and loaded with polished barrels of Munich's many beers. At the head and at the tail of the procession rode a section of smart mounted police. Before dispersing in the late afternoon we paid a visit to the 'October Fest' which began at least three hundred years ago as a sort of harvest thanksgiving and has now developed into a sort of combined Hampstead Heath, Blackpool and Butlin's, but very orderly and extremely happy.

H. W. TOBIN.