

The MOUNTAINEER

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THE MOUNTAIN



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The Mountaineer

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Official Journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.
Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a
periodical.

Correspondence: Beaurepaire Centre, University of Melbourne,
Parkville 3052

A Word to New Members

During the past two months you will have been introduced to some of the wide variety of club activities, in particular, the popular pastimes of walking and rock climbing. There is more to come. During May and early June, budding troglodytes will be initiated into the murky pleasures of caving. July will bring the annual twenty-four hour walk, to be followed in the ensuing weeks by a series of snow walks and an introduction to snow and ice mountaineering.

Having sampled these multifarious pleasures you may or may not find your interests lying in a certain direction. In any case, you will be confronted on the one hand by fanatical devotees of a particular activity, convinced that theirs is the only pursuit worth following, and on the other by those who scorn the specialists, deriding them as "not true mountaineers".

The important thing is to ignore these pieces of advice from intolerant persons, for they serve only to promote schism and

disharmony within the club. Direct your activities according to your interests and abilities, and you will gain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from them.

GENERAL NOTICES

Open Day - Saturday, May 4th.

- (a) a display of equipment, pancake cooking etc., situated between theatres 3 & 4 in the Barry Building. This will run from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- (b) a slide show in theatre 3 of the Barry Building during the morning
- (c) a demonstration of abseiling and safety techniques on the west wall of the Barry Building during the afternoon

Anyone able to assist for all or part of the day, or able to provide slides of club activities should contact Bob Cannon.

Ye Olde Agnes Store

For the information of those new members who have not yet ventured far afield, next door to Aikman's Road is Agnes Place, otherwise known as the club store. The store sells food, cordage etc. and hires equipment at low rates. The regulations governing hire of equipment are as follows:-

1. Equipment is hired to club members only.
2. Members going on official club trips take precedence over those wanting equipment for other purposes.
3. All equipment must be returned DRY and in reasonable condition by the TUESDAY following a weekend.
4. A deposit of \$1.00 must be paid, which is forfeited if (a) equipment is returned wet, or (b) is returned later than the due date.
5. Members must notify the Stores Officer of any damaged or worn equipment so that it can be repaired.

Rates for hiring are as follows:

	<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Week</u>
Pack	30c	50c
Tent - 2 man	30c	50c
- 4 man	50c	70c
Sleeping bag	30c	50c
Carbide lamps	30c	50c

Ropes and climbing equipment may be obtained from Clive Parker only.

The store also sells food. The types of food stocked are those which either (a) can be obtained more cheaply in bulk or (b) is difficult to obtain elsewhere. The following prices are current.

Chocolate (yes! Old Jamaica too.)	15c per $\frac{1}{4}$ lb block
Glucose tablets	20c per packet
Tinned butter	15c per tin
Dried apricots	4c per oz. or 60c per lb.
Surprise peas (shop packet:2oz.)	10c per oz.
Dehydrated Parsnip	9c per oz.
Carrot	8c per oz.
Onion	7c per oz.
Cabbage	10c per oz.
Egg Powder	14c per oz.
Instant mashed potato	4c per oz. or 60c per lb.
Plastic bags	2c each.
Linen cord (20ft. approx. for waistloops)	10c per foot

Also various types of nylon cord.

For climbing ropes see Clive Parker.

In the near future, plain dark chocolate will be sold in bulk at prices slightly lower than those for blocks of "Energy" chocolate.

First Aid

"First Aid is the immediate and temporary care given to the victim of an accident or sudden illness. Its purpose is to preserve life, assist recovery and prevent aggravation of the condition until the services of a doctor can be obtained".

While checking the M.U.M.C. First Aid kits it became obvious that many members do not realize that for their own safety and well-being and for that of the party they should know something about first aid. It is essential that each member of the party carry a PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT. Further they should know something about the M.U.M.C. kit which is carried by the leader on all M.U.M.C. trips. It is recommended that all members should read or re-read the chapter in "Equipment for Mountaineering" on this subject (Ch.5: 43-52)

Personal Kits should include:

12 bandaids
roll of Elastoplast
 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tube of Savlon
12 Disprin
Sunburn Cream

*Snake bite kit; thin rubber tube
covered razor blade

Drugs etc for personal use: e.g. Asthma tablets, glucose or similar

*Small bought kits are NOT satisfactory. THESE ARE DANGEROUS

These items can be carried in a pocket sized tin, bag or plastic purse. Such a kit MUST be put in a pocket or outside pocket of the Pack. These kits take up little room and weight only a few ozs. They ensure that the main kit is not unnecessarily depleted in items which may be needed later. They will become important if the party becomes separated.

M.U.M.C. Kits

This kit, used in conjunction with the personal kit, is suggested to be suitable for up to 10 people on a trip, less than 10 days, where medical aid will be less than 48 hrs away. It contains:

Bandages

Adhesive tape - for general strapping
Adhesive bandage - for keeping dressings in place
Crepe bandages - to apply dressings to extensive areas
Triangular bandages - to support injured limbs and for slings.
WOW (Gauze) - for a rigid bandage to support limbs
gauze on which to place the antiseptics
Bandages and Cottonwool

Tablets

Avil - for hayfever, hives and reaction to drugs.
Amphotabs - antacid for heartburn, indigestion etc.
Codis (gold foil) a painkiller for mild-severe pain.

Tubes

Butesin Picrate - antiseptic and pain-killing, small burns.
Savlon - an antiseptic to cleanse wounds (also good for blisters)
Cicatratin - a dry antiseptic for deep or other wounds.
Oil of Cloves - toothache.

General

Eye Shade - to protect a treated eye
Razor blade) snake bit outfit
Rubber tubing)
Safety pins.
Scissors
Thermometer
Fine forceps
Tweezers
Note-book and pencil to record drugs etc.

Leaders

It is the leaders responsibility to collect the M.U.M.C. Kit from the club store before each trip. Do not use it unnecessarily. It should be carried by the person most experienced with it (which, because no one has had more experience, in most cases is you). Know the full use of each item in the kit. It is advisable to have some elementary knowledge of First aid and to be familiar with the layout of the kit. Keep it accessible: make sure that each member of the party knows who is carrying the First aid kit.

When the trip is over, hand it back to the stores as soon as possible i.e. within a few days of the trip. Write each item used in the notebook provided (if absent, on a piece of paper).

N.B. On trips where there is more than one party, each party must have adequate first aid kits.

Climbers

A specially constituted kit (since climbing accidents are likely to be more serious) will be available to you from the stores. It should be taken on all trips where no permanent kits are located.

Private Trips

M.U.M.C. kits are available for these trips when not all are being used on club trips.

Please do not wait until the accident occurs to find out about First aid.

Books

Test: Equipment for Mountaineering (available from Club rooms)

Reference: Safety in the Bush (Hobart Walking club)
Safety in the Mountains (Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand)
Mountain Search and Rescue (L.D. Bridge)
First Aid (St. Johns Ambulance Assoc.)
Bible (carried with kit)
(available - see text)

A.N.

Four-wheel Drive Section

Attention of club members is drawn to the existence of a small 4 x 4 group within the club, which has been fairly active. Interested members are asked to contact:

John Campbell 24.2928
John Zmood 34.0448 (or Uni. ext.2689)
Graham Sussex 34.0484 Ext. 2726)

Jan Spate's Song Book

Jan Spate has lost her song book which contains a collection of songs built up over four years and a number of original compositions. This is quite irreplaceable, and is probably still in the possession of the last person to borrow it. If this person is a club member, would he or she please return it to Jan at Box 312, Orbost as soon as possible.

Keys to Aikman's Road

Would any ex-committee members still in possession of keys to Aikman's Road please return them as soon as possible.

GOUGER - Sidehill

The following notice has nothing to do with the above heading.

M.U.M.C. will be publishing a Club Journal, which will be free (gratis) to all members. Yes it won't cost anything this time, providing you volunteer to write an article or story and send in your pictures, poems and unpublished songs. Dirty jokes are also acceptable, although they may not leave the editor's desk.

This journal is going to be of an exceptional standard. It will rise to great heights. Perhaps it will even reach Sir Augustus on Mt. Rum Doodle (40,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) - but you must create these heights.

So please send us these masterpieces of yours (they will be returned after duplication), so that we may fill this Journal with inspiring literature and splendid pictures.

Sorry about that borrowed heading.

Harry A. Schaap.

P.S. Hand in your talented work at the club rooms or send them to M.U.M.C., Union House, Melbourne University.

Library

Many people still have books out from the library of which we have no record. Those people who borrowed books before the present recording system was implemented are asked to either return the books or enter their names and the book(s) in the exercise book at Aikman's Rd.

Of particular importance is the fact that many periodicals, especially many early, now irreplaceable editions are missing. Periodicals should not be borrowed with the express permission of the librarian and should be returned within 2 to 3 days. This has proved necessary because we are losing many of our magazines through people's thoughtlessness.

For many years we have had neither a very large nor a very comprehensive library. Steps are being taken to do something about this state of affairs. However, no one will continue to spend time and energy (and club money) on a facility which is then depleted due to carelessness.

If you have any particular requests for books or papers to be added to the library, please give Authors, Titles, and publishers of the books required (if possible) to Sue White.

Some additions have been made to the library - namely two copies of "Rum Doodle". However, those who borrow "Rum Doodle" are asked to return it as quickly as possible as many others wish to read it.

Sue White

North-west Australia

Two passengers, (preferably attractive girls) are required for a four-week trip in the August vacation. The intended trip is from Melbourne-Adelaide-Alic Springs-Darwin-North-west Coast-Perth-Nullabor-Melbourne. Anyone interested should contact:

Bob McNaught,
1/251, Williams Road,
South Yarra. Phone: 24.6143.

Positions Vacant

Members interested in filling any of the following positions should write to the Secretary, or contact one of the committee members at Aikman's Road:

Maps Officer,
Officer in charge of duplicating (also assistants)
Publicity Officer
Feathertop Hut warden
Delegates to the following bodies:
 Vitorian National Parks Association
 M.U. Sports Union (one more delegate needed)
 F.V.W.C. Track-clearing Committee
Organiser for the 24-hour walk.

THE RED CRAG

Taken from "The Sun", Feb.1. 1968.

A Chinese scientific expedition more than 100 strong has climbed Mt. Everest, the China Academy of Sciences claims.

The academy said the expedition completed an extensive series of studies in solar radiation and alpine meteorology. It said the expedition carried through its studies on the summit of Everest, remaining there for seven days and nights - and one full day after the climbers' fuel and food had been exhausted.

"They scorned tempestuous winds and intense cold because they carried Chairman Mao's quotations with them and recited his thoughts, arousing the echoes of the ice-bound valleys" the New China News Agency said.

Exposure to strong ultra-violet rays, lack of oxygen and piercing winds caused their faces to swell and some were so swollen around the lips that they found it difficult to eat.

"But they could always chant as they anchored their tents with their own bodies 'Chairman Mao is the red sun in our heart and gives us warmth and strength'. In 1960, Peking claimed that a team of young and inexperienced climbers reached the summit of Everest for the first time via the perilous North Col.

REPORTS FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of M.U.M.C. was held on the evening of Friday, 29th March. The following committee was elected.

President	Dave Hogg
Vice-Presidents	Marg James
	Harry Schaap
Secretary	Rowan Webb
Treasurer	Peter Selby-Smith
Assistant Secretary	Sue Eager
Trips Secretary	Michael Miller
Editor of Mountaineer	Pat Dugan
General Members	Rosalie Lahore
	John Campbell

Treasurer's Report - 7/4/67 to 26/3/68

<u>Receipts</u>	\$	<u>Payments</u>	\$
Trips	1,929.20	Vans	1,017.80
Interest	23.78	24 hour walk	810.00
Cancellation fees	2.45	Camping fees	48.00
Store & cord	201.27	Store	183.60
Rope	25.98	Rope	84.30
Christmas cards	10.75	Affiliation fees	4.20
Equipment hire	216.90	Printing	77
Subscriptions	255.80	Room & hut improvements	69.58
"E for M" sales	110.23	Stationery	128.28
Sale of other publications	9.35	Equipment	105.81
Song books & pack badges	55.95	Postage	48.50
Maps	57.50	Maps & library	82.80
Dinner	367.50	Suppers & Open Day	405.76
Overdue fees	4.55	Typing	37.81
Petty cash	125.90	Donations	50.00
Sundries	2.15	Sundries	33.46
Money on hand 7/4/67	1,338.73	Money on hand 23/6/68	
Unreceipted income	155.10	Bank	1,651.36
		Cash	131.06
	<u>4,893.09</u>		<u>4,893.09</u>

Monies owed by the Club, 26/3/68

Equipment	7.00
Cheques not presented	419.13
	<u>426.13</u>

Monies owed to the Club, 26/3/68

Rope	33.41
Cancellation fees	6.00
Not yet receipted	76.27
	<u>115.68</u>

Reliable Stock, 26/3/68

Rope	146.00
"E for M"	640.00
Food	100.00
Maps	18.00
Song book	200.00
Other publications	42.00
	<u>1,146.00</u>

TRIPS PROGRAMME

- 5 MAY DAY WALK - KINGLAKE AREA
Sth. Reedy Ck. - McMahon's Mill - Murchison Falls -
Strath. Falls.
Leader - Geoff Fagan
Standard - Easy-Medium
Distance - 9 miles
Transport - Van, leaving top of Batman Ave. at 9.00 a.m.
Fare \$1.20
Cancellation Fee - 50c.
Map - Army Survey, Kinglake (1.50,000)
- 15 MAY (Wednesday) CAVING COURSE - INTRODUCTORY TALK
To be held in the James Crow Theatre, First Floor,
Architecture Building at 7.30 p.m. This talk is
compulsory for all those wishing to attend the caving
course.
- 18-19 MAY CAVING COURSE - BUCHAN WEEKEND
Leader - Nick White et al.
Transport - Private
N.B. There will be a limit of 25 people on this trip.
- 22 MAY F.V.W.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 8.00 p.m.
FIRST FLOOR, 161 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE.
Business includes a proposed new constitution. A
guest speaker will be arranged. Supper will be
provided. If you have the evening free, please come
along. A quorum of 40 is required to adopt the new
constitution which, it is hoped, will forever abolish
the perennial quorum problem.
- 25-29 (5 Days) WALK IN FAR N.E. VICTORIA
Suggan Buggan - Ingeegoodbee River - Tin Mine Huts -
The Pilot - The Cobberas - Suggan Buggan.
Leader - Michael Feller
Standard - Medium-Hard
Distance - 50 + miles
Transport - Private
Map - M.B.W. Southern Snowy Mts.
Note: If there is enough demand, a three-day bludge trip
based on a fixed camp at Suggan Buggan will be organized.
Would anyone interested in leading such a trip, please
contact the Trips Secretary, Michael Feller, as soon as
possible. For further information and details see the
Trips Book at Aikman's Road.

1-2 JUNE CAVING COURSE - BUCHAN WEEKEND.
Leaders - Nick White, Bob Chappell et al.
Transport - Private
N.B. This trip will also be limited to 25 people.

8-10 JUNE (3 Days) QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND WALK - MT. COLE FOREST
Two Trips.

1. Mt. Cole - Fern Tree Waterfalls Reserve - Ben Nevis Reserve.
Leader - Peter Griffiths
Standard - Medium

2. Fixed camp at Victoria Mill Reserve
Leader - Brendan Holland
Standard - Easy
Transport (for both trips) - Van, leaving Union Car Park 6.15 p.m. on Friday.
Fare - \$3.50.
Cancellation Fee - \$1.00
Map - Forests Commission, Mt. Cole Forest.

8-10 JUNE (3 Days) QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY ROCK CLIMBING WEEKEND -
MT. ARAPILES

Leader - Unknown
Transport - Private

12 JUNE (Wednesday) THIRD MONTHLY MEETING

To be held in the large Botany Theatre, Ground Floor, Botany Building, at 7.30 p.m. Films and slides of Tasmania will be shown. Charles McCubbin will be the speaker. Supper will be served. Bring your friends.

22-23 JUNE FEATHERTOP HUT WORK PARTY

Leader - Michael Feller
Transport - Private
The track up the N.W. spur will be cleared and the hut will be prepared for the winter.

6-7 JULY 24 HOUR WALK

Transport - Van or Bus, leaving Union Car Park 12 noon on Saturday.
Cost - \$5.00 (all inclusive)
Cancellation Fee - \$2.00
N.B. The briefing will be held in the Sisalkraft Theatre, Ground floor, Architecture building at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 5th July.
The event of the year - Run, walk, sleep, eat, drink, or talk for 24 hours. Don't miss it!

20-21 JULY BEGINNER'S SNOW WALK - BAW BAWS
Leader - Required
Standard - Medium
Distance - 10 miles
Transport - Van, leaving Union Car Park 6.15 p.m. on Friday.
Fare - \$3.00
Cancellation Fee - \$1.00
Map - U.M.T.C. Baw Baw Plateau

6 SEPTEMBER - THE CLUB DINNER DANCE - To be held at "The Cuckoo,
Olinda. Not to be missed!!

- BOOKINGS 1. There are only TWO ways to book for a trip -
(a) enter your name, course, etc. in the booking
list at the Club Rooms any lunchtime
or (b) telephone Michael Feller on 20.2232 any evening.
2. Bookings made less than 3 days before a trip do not
guarantee one a place on that trip. Therefore
PLEASE BOOK EARLY.

CANCELLATION FEES. These must be paid by anyone cancelling less
than 48 hours before a trip without a good reason.

ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS - For all information about rock climbing trips
visit the club rooms any lunchtime.

TRIPS' REPORTS

The All Bachelor's Snowy Bluff Expedition

Some time last year an article was found describing Snowy Bluff
as Victoria's most inaccessible mountain. This inspired our expedition
which took place on a very hot weekend just before term started.

It was an odd assortment of cars, people and equipment, which
left Melbourne that Fateful Friday night to establish base camp in
the early hours of Saturday morning. One V.W. running on two
(or was it three?) cylinders barely made it. Our campsite was a
small sloping area of rocky ground near Licola Bridge which straddled
the cool stagnant waters of the motionless Macallister River.

Full of enthusiasm and little else the intrepid mountaineers
broke camp next morning and drove slowly up the tortuous road onto
the Snowy Plains, occasionally playing "chicken" with the odd timber
jinker whose drivers imagined themselves at the wheel of a speedy
sports car. In due course, the entire expedition soon assembled at
one of those delightfully picturesque C.R.B.-type camps with the
appealing name of Hovelltown. Here we bid farewell to our trusty cars

and the V.W. and began walking along a maze of logging roads heading approximately in the right direction. It wasn't long before a certain President of Vice had us hopelessly lost. However, a smart appraisal of the situation by our glorious leader and a hasty retreat had us on the proper track in less than a minute. A hair-raising descent down countless thousands of feet brought us to camp 1 - on a small clearing beside the inviting Moroka River. After a long swim in the cool water, we feasted and rested, for soon the hard work was to begin. Here we deposited our heavy packs and sorted out our high altitude climbing gear. For future reference this included the following:

- one pair of bathers
- one pair of sandals, or rotting gymboots (string is a help here) or thongs, or even boots.
- two pints of water with one packet of "Happy Ade" (this was considered by most of the expedition to be a vital additive to the water)
- one lightweight H frame pack (preferably not of the bilious red variety)
- one orange or apple
- one camera plus film.

Thus equipped, the small band began their arduous climb. Up through the forests we climbed, leaving the valley far behind; up further to the snowgrass level where the terminal moraine of a long vanished glacier was crossed; up further inching through a series of steep rock bluffs until, at last, the summit ridge was reached. Near the point of exhaustion the whole party draped themselves over boulders and peered into the valley, miles below. Away on the horizon we saw that mighty monarch, Mt. Feathertop, and, immediately above us, disappearing into the seething clouds whipped up by light breezes, lay our objective, the summit!

With hearts pounding now, each step a supreme effort in willpower, we fought our way upward, through a wilderness of snow gums. The summit! Where was the summit? Had we passed it? Had it moved? But no! Upwards, ever upwards, we bravely struggled. At last, over the final pitch of rock and onto the summit, a magnificent rock pinnacle, surrounded by chocolate wrappers, orange peel, beer cans, and other objects of natural beauty. The view was breathtaking; unrivalled in fact - gnarled snow gums towered over our pinnacle completely hiding the surrounding country. Our moment of triumph had come! Elated, we sank to the ground, consumed vast quantities of water and fruit, then set off at a brisk trot back down the summit ridge. Being devils we chose a descent route which differed from our ascent route, although the technical difficulties and route finding problems were certainly no easier. Downwards we plunged, fell, scrambled, and crawled, until we found ourselves ripping through blackberry bushes beside the Moroka River. Shortly we arrived back at camp 1 in time to catch the last golden rays of sunlight on our sparkling pool. A night under the stars (and ants and mosquitoes) then a long walk and swim up the Moroka next morning. We found that pure water could be obtained by keeping upstream from our loquacious blond sherpa, who had an unpleasant habit of blundering around helplessly in streams.

A pleasant uphill walk had us back in HovELLTOWN and drinking Harry's Happy Ade, then down to base camp and on to Melbourne after a long milkbar crawl. Don't forget - Drink a gallon of milk a day!

M. Feller.

The Trip of an Art Collector to Mt. Terrible (4250', 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ points).

After picking the highest point in the area to camp, we settled in for the night. Evidently we had not offered enough people in tents for Hughie sent down a few drops of rain. However, a hurried scuttling for shelter by a few more seemed to appease this mightiest of weather gods.

Next morning under and in a uniform grey sky, 17 fearless hikers set off to attack Mt. Terrible, leaving the rest of the bludgers to amble to Enoch's Point.

At 2 o'clock a firewatcher's lonely existence was shattered by the arrival of 16 tourists and 1 leader. Gradually the 'Split Whisker Lodge' filled with people who ate lunch, warmed themselves by the stove and generally seemed reluctant to leave.

Ah, but better was still to come: this place was also an art gallery. For a pleasant smile and a few words of admiration one is given a large 5' x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' picture (for want of a polite word) on masonite.

Being the third lot of visitors to the summit in four months, we were almost welcomed with open arms by Kel. Besides, there was barely three hours of daylight left so we would just have time to set up camp. Thus the rest of the day was spent by all but 3 in typical strenuous activities, e.g. 500, reading, admiring paintings, listening to Kel on the radio.

The other three covered Sunday's route to Enoch's Point and back in 4 hours.

Scene: Hut on top of hill at 7 p.m.

Enter: 3 wet tired hikers.

Comment by 3: We have been to Enoch's Point and guess what?

There's no sign of Brendan.

14 voices in chorus: HE'S LOST!!! Cheers, etc.

(I hasten to add that Enoch's Point is not the best camping spot in the world and that Brendan et al. had decided to camp downstream.)

After the evening singsong, 10 people bedded down inside the hut while the remaining 8 camped around the verandah. (If one strings up tents to stop the wind from all but one direction, one does not need a uni. education to guess which way the 20 m.p.h. fog will come from.)

When we could see it, the view from the 60' tower on the top was spectacular, and well worth the effort needed to get there: Buller, McDonald, Skene, Eildon Res, the Goulburn and Big River valleys almost straight below.

Next morning we set off for Enoch's Point. For a while there was a possibility of a 105% return rate since

- i) not much use spotting fires on a foggy day
- ii) well, someone had to carry the painting.

At the bottom of the hill (3000', 3 ml.) we dumped our packs and set off on the last mile to Enoch's Point, almost getting run over by revellers going to a 21st.

Since the black icy waters of Big River had to be conquered, 10 people went swimming. Unfortunately the girls left their togs behind and so jumped into the water, naked from the ankles down (except that hot blooded one with the black panties). After discarding his Australian rompers, Geoff also dived into the river, vanished from sight and with much gurgling, retrieved his subdacs from around his knees.

The rest of the trip was uneventful road-bashing. Kel left us at lunchtime and we thanked him for his hospitality. The van trip home was a song-a-thon: 80 miles going consistently thru song book, singing the ones we knew, (about 50) with several bursts of six pages non-stop.

BOOM.

P.S. The painting now resides in an Education Dept. hostel where all the girls enthuse over it.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION??????????

Subs. for 68/69 due on June 30th.

Non-financial members will not be included in the Membership List, so be warned and pay up NOW.

LAKE CURLEY

In February I spent three weeks in Tasmania, during which time I did two trips. I shall not describe in detail the trip to Mt. Anne, as this is a standard route. There is now a good track cut to Pedder from the road just before McPartlan's Pass, marked at the lake end by a red marker just off the beach. Perhaps the best moment of this trip was standing on the low hills just north of the lake at seven o'clock in the evening, with the Franklands perfectly mirrored in an absolutely still lake. I was lucky to get a good day to climb Mt. Anne. The track as far north as the South Gordon turnoff has now been recut. From this one can cut across to the Pike's Peak road, which is now under construction and will cross the track.

My second trip was to Lake Curley, on the Quartzite ranges in the area known as the "North Gordon" Country. Despite the drizzle I hitched out the Gordon road on Saturday 10th February to a road just past the "highest point on road" sign at Frodsham's Pass. This road has a locked gate and is the back way into the Florentine system of timber roads. I walked up the track about three miles to come to a track leading off to the right, which I knew led to Adamsfield. That evening I camped in the hut on the Florentine river. The next day the weather cleared at eleven o'clock and stayed that way, so the next morning I set off along the Gordonvale track. This starts on the far side of the bridge and should not be confused with a jeep track twenty yards further on. It was a perfect morning to wander across the flat plain opposite the Thumbs, in one of the most idyllic settings that I have ever known. I crossed the Gordon just below the bend on the flying fox (wear gloves). There is a fox and also a hut at the top of the gorge but both are locked. I would have attempted to cross the rapids there but the river was very high. I then walked west, straight up onto the plateau and around the back of Mt. Wright to a very attractive open plateau at the top of Reed's Creek, and camped in a suitable stand of timber. The next morning I walked along the watershed out onto the stepped hills, from where there was a magnificent view of the valleys of the Pokana, Boyes, and Wedge rivers. Bisecting this area was the ribbon of scrub surrounding the Gordon, several hundred yards wide, snaking across the plain. The only place where there was no such barrier was opposite Clear Hill. It was easy walking that afternoon along the lip of the hills and the eastern slopes of the Denison range to reach Lake Rhona at evening.

The next morning I took advantage of the hot weather and walked along the top of the range and lunched on a small peak near Bond's Peak overlooking a small lake. From here the South star was the dominant landmark, Mt. Curley was behind a ridge of the North star. I had to belt down a ridge, then leave it and follow the watershed to the North star (204640), and then camp, with the mosquitoes in the buttongrass below Mt. Curley. The next morning an easy walk along the ridge behind Lake Curley brought me to Lake Windy, a swim, and a sunbake. That night I felt the after-effects of the continuous heat.

The next day I walked up Conical Peak (140644) which is 200 feet higher than Mt. Curley. This proved to be an excellent place from which to survey the area. I spent an hour taking in the Prince of Wales Range and Spires to the west, and the valley and ranges to the south. It looked good walking along the ridge most of the way to the Gordon. However, I returned to camp and another swim.

The next day rain kept me in the tent long enough to prevent a projected trip to the Spires, and so I moved camp to the buttongrass below Mt. Curley again, on the East Gill creek. It then took me three days to return to the Florentine, keeping to the high country between Squirrel Creek and the Gill, and then the foothills of the Denisons, thus to the fox again. This time I followed the track back to save time and found that south of Huntley Creek it is twenty feet up the hillside rather than on the flat plain itself. I had been told that this track was blazed all the way to Gordonvale but had been unable to pick it up in the vicinity of Reed's Creek. I had had nine days of perfect weather. The Florentine was very low. That night the rain hammered on the roof of the hut.

David Troedel.

CLIMBING SAFETY

This article is intended primarily for people who attended this year's climbing course, and are keen to continue. It may however be of some interest to other climbers.

In the age of classical mountaineering, there was a fixed rule: a leader never falls. Hemp ropes and a lack of runners made this necessary. However, today, with modern equipment, a leader may fall almost with impunity.

When nylon rope first appeared, a single No.3 hawser-laid rope was used. However, analyses of many accidents (in England) showed that the $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (circumference) rope was being cut by rock. Hence only No. 4 rope was recommended.

Here are two basic types of climbing rope:

- (i) hawser-laid rope, which has great elasticity
- (ii) kernmantel rope, which was developed on the continent, where it is preferred for its smaller elasticity.

The lower elasticity and the lack of tendency to kink (due to straight fibres) are advantages which make kernmantel rope ideal for artificial climbing. However, in the event of a leader falling, the lack of elasticity is a pronounced disadvantage, as the shock of the fall is taken up more abruptly, thus producing a greater stress on both leader and second.

If the rope jams when a leader falls, the protection afforded by the elasticity of the rope and the dynamic belay used by the second is greatly reduced. Therefore the leader ties onto the rope with a knot which will slide slowly when the rope is under high tension, but will not come undone. This is the principle of the Tarbuck knot. Because of this sliding property of the Tarbuck knot, it should never be tied directly around the body, but fastened to a karabiner, which in turn is securely attached to the body.

The waist is the most convenient point of attachment, although this is also potentially dangerous. A number of evenly-distributed turns of hemp or flax rope (breaking-strain 800 lb.) is best. About 25' should be used, and renewed each year whether it is used or not. Nylon can also be used, but there is always the danger of a nylon waistloop being melted by friction from the main climbing rope (e.g. when belaying).

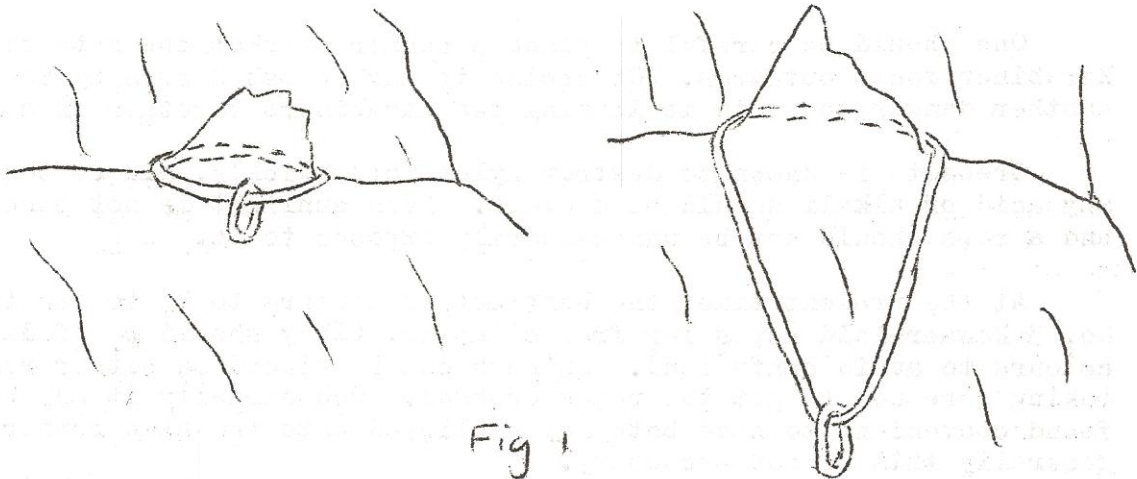
A waist tie should not be at all loose. If it is, a fall may cause it to be pulled up, thus choking the faller by pressure on the diaphragm. Alternatively, a person falling upside-down might slip right out of the waist loop. When using a waist loop it is always worth while to carry prussik loops in the pocket or on the rope.

The alternative, and the better method of attachment is the harness, or chest and shoulder tie, although it gives more trouble both at belays and while climbing. If a harness is fastened by a karabiner, this should not be the one used for tying onto the main rope, as karabiners are not designed to take loads from three directions. The main advantage of a chest harness is that it greatly reduces the danger from internal injuries.

Running belays are the leader's main protection. They should be used whenever an opportunity presents itself (within limits) the possibility is always present that the rock will give way, or that a rock will be dislodged by someone climbing higher up. (This underlines the need for a crash helmet).

Placing runners requires a great deal of thought. Each possible point of attachment is considered separately with respect to those below, and the direction which the leader will take. A large solid spike, and a No.4 sling afford the best protection, but this ideal is rarely achieved on Victorian cliffs. Jam-nuts, "spuds", "crackers" etc. are usually preferred.

A long sling is always better than a short one. It will stay on a rounded spike better, and will often reduce friction between the climbing rope and the rock (see fig.1.)



Nut slings of tape are extremely good, because the tape, being thin, can often fit into a small crack which will not admit a thick rope.

Nuts, the forerunners of spuds, chocks etc., are usually hexagonal, with the thread drilled out. They are used as artificial chockstones, and are normally removable. There are now specially shaped devices on the market which are better. These include spuds - pieces of tapered hexagonal aluminium or brass bar, with two holes drilled in the side through which to thread the sling; crackers - similar devices made from a piece of knurled bar; clogs - wedge-shaped pieces of light alloy with a single hole, and chockstones - tapered, rectangular blocks with two holes. On many climbs these devices make the difference between a well protected and a poorly protected pitch.

If several nuts of different sizes are fitted onto one sling, then this can be used in almost any crack. However, the use of many nuts on each sling will produce a cumbersome load. Two or three nuts per sling may be the best compromise.

Much work has been done on the metallurgy and design of karabiners in recent years, and those available today are reliable. The U.I.A.A., in a standard for karabiners, recommended a breaking strain of at least 4500 lbs. with keeper closed. This standard is rather conservative, and the B.M.C. recommends only 3000 lbs. as a safe limit.

Stubai ovals and the old P.A. alloy karabiners have particularly poor design and faulty heat treatment respectively. For a main waist loop karabiner, only an ASMU D, Cassin large D, Stubai D or Hiath D should be used. Alloy karabiners, although allowing a great saving in weight, have the disadvantage that their weight is sometimes insufficient to hold down runners on ballards. A disadvantage of the tooth gate karabiner (e.g. ASMU) is that it cannot be opened under load.

One should be careful to place a runner so that the gate of the karabiner faces outwards. Otherwise it may be pushed open by the rock. Another danger to avoid is linking two karabiners together in a belay.

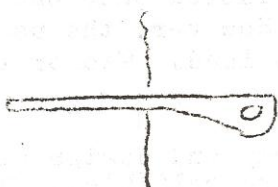
Creosote is known to destroy nylon rope quickly, and contact with any acid or alkali should be avoided. Even sunlight is not beneficial, and a rope should not be unnecessarily exposed to it.

At the present time, the best method appears to be to use two No. 3 hawser-laid ropes for free climbing. (They should be of different colours to avoid confusion). Runners can be placed on either rope, taking care not to get the ropes crossed. Occasionally it may be found convenient to have both ropes clipped onto the same runner, but generally this is not necessary.

Pitons have undergone major changes in recent years, with the introduction of a chrome-molybdenum steel type, developed by Ivon Chouinard in the U.S.A. These are extremely hard, and do not bend in use as do the European pitons (Cassin, Stubai etc.) which are made of soft steel and follow the line of the crack into which they are hammered.

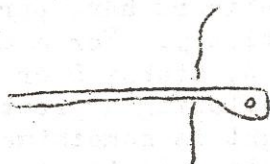
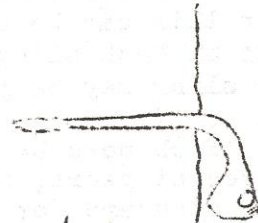
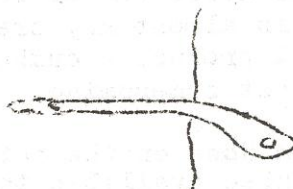
The following facts have been established in a report by the National Engineering Laboratories in Scotland to the B.M.C. Holding power in a horizontal crack can be assured only by good design of head and blade. Holding power in vertical cracks can never be assured. In wide angled cracks, V-shaped pitons are very strong. If a piton cannot be hammered right in, a loop should be placed around it next to the rock, to reduce leverage.

The following diagrams illustrate use and design of pitons.



Bad.

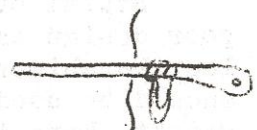
The peg may be levered out like this.



Better, but eye not close enough



Good. Eye close to rock



If peg is not right in, use tie off.

The following books may be of interest to future climbers:

"Belaying the Leader" - The Sierra Club.

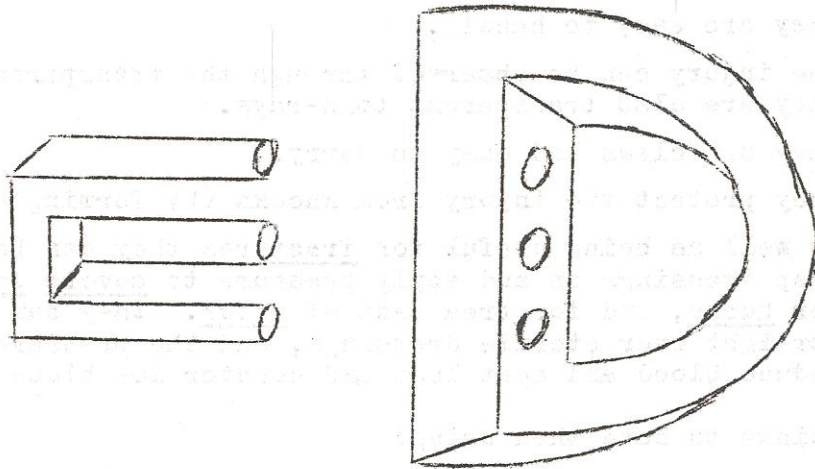
"Mountaineering" - Alan Blackshaw

"Foundations of Climbing" - Showell Styles.

These books are all cheap, and are available from the Technical Book & Magazine Co. Pty Ltd.

Tony Crapper

NEW EQUIPMENT



The Rappelender:

It's construction is apparent from the diagram. Since size is not critical, no dimensions are given.

The method of operation must be equally apparent, but a few words might help the tyro.

For rappelling, a seat sling is hooked in under, not over, the pseudo-curvilinear trichotometric insert, and the line twisted counter clockwise, looking out of the space between the centre and the other. Do not bisect the centreline, unless using the left hand, in which case, at least two.

As an ascender, a clockwise twist is employed but looking into the opening, when both facing left and between, but not behind.

Anonymous.

AIR SPLINTS

Splinting is a method of immobilising and supporting a fractured limb. In addition to established methods, splinting by inflatable plastic splints has become a common practice in first aid in the past few years.

Air splints consist of a double-walled plastic bladder with a zip fastening. The splint is placed around the limb, zipped up and inflated by lung pressure. It applies an even pressure over the area covered.

Some features are:

- (a) They are easy to handle.
- (b) The injury can be observed through the transparent plastic. They are also transparent to x-rays.
- (c) They are clean and easy to carry.
- (d) They protect the injury from knocks (by forming a cushion)
- (e) As well as being useful for fractures they can be used to keep dressings on and apply pressure to severe lacerations, for burns, and for treatment of shock. They can be used straight over sterile dressings, and the pressure tends to reduce blood and heat loss and counter low blood pressure.

Some points to note when using:

- (a) Make sure fractured limb is in correct position before inflating.
- (b) Do not have toes or fingers outside the splint (except for the type which allows the boot to protrude). The effect of having fingers outside is similar to a tight constrictive bandage.
- (c) It is better not to remove boots in the case of fractured legs.
- (d) Inflate splint as hard as you can.
- (e) Immobilise limb after application of splint to prevent the whole thing rolling around.
- (f) Check for leakage.

Air splints are available from at least two manufacturers. Plaspilene Industries of Doncaster make a set of six - arm, long arm, leg, thigh, foot and ankle, foot and leg - which is supplied in a plastic pouch with a repair kit, total weight 3 lb. This type is inflated through a non-return valve which must be pinched to open. The valve is flush with the surface and is inflated through a separate

short plastic tube. The club has one of these sets. Alston Safety Equipment of Spencer Street make a set of five - half leg, full leg, ankle, half arm, full arm. These have a simpler valve consisting of a tubular stalk and plug. I found this easier to inflate than the other make. There has been some trouble with the plastic cracking in cold conditions and models are now available suitable for temperatures down to -30°C .

Air splints are fairly expensive. A complete set costs about \$30. However, I have been told by a St. John's officer that they can be improvised from plastic sheet provided they are not expected to last too long.

T.K.

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR HIKERS AND DEFINITION OF STANDARDS

1. Trip Standard:-

- (a) EASY - considered easy for those who are moderately fit but not necessarily experienced.
- (b) MEDIUM - Fair for fit people. Some previous hiking experience is very desirable. Hard for the unfit and inexperienced.
- (c) HARD - Difficult for fit, experienced walkers. Impossible for others.

2. Equipment - Food - Clothing

Remember to "travel as light as possible"

The following list is not complete, but contains the essentials for a 2- to 5- day trip. A complete list and thorough insight into hiking can be obtained from "Equipment for Mountaineering" - available at the Club Rooms for 45c.

- (a) Clothing:-
 - Underwear - 1 or 2 complete changes
 - Shirt - long-sleeved, preferably wool or fleecy cotton.
 - Trousers - Strong cotton or wool are most useful. Should fit loosely - tight jeans while keeping up shapely appearance are attractive but unsuitable.
 - Shorts - the only way to walk in comfort
 - Jumper - At least one woollen jumper. Windcheaters are not recommended.
 - Socks - Two pairs of thick socks preferred.

- Footwear - Boots, strong shoes, sandshoes or gymboots. Sandals, thongs, court shoes and riding boots not allowed on hikes. Desert boots unsuitable for wet conditions or snow.
- Jacket - Knee length, hooded japara, parka or waterproof nylon parka.
- Hat - Handy, but not essential for heat, cold and rain.
- Nightwear - Light shirt and trousers and good down sleeping bag preferred to several layers of clothing and poor bag.

(b) Personal Gear

Matches
Compass
First Aid - bandaids, aspro, and snake bite outfit.
Whistle - useful.
Toilet gear - small towel, soap, toothbrush and paste, comb or hairbrush, toilet paper, cosmetics are useful to protect skin.
Candles
Torch
Light plastic water-bottle
Map - if possible take one!

(c) Camping Gear

Rucksack - H-frame type
A-frames are out
Tent - Form a party and share with others.
Groundsheet - P.V.C. or polythene. Plastic is best.
Sleeping Bag - Superdown type. Wool or orlon sleeping bags are not warm enough.

(d) Cooking Gear

Billy (2-3 pint aluminium)
Frypan (small type)
Cutlery - knife, spoon.
Plate & mug - plastic preferred for lightness.

(e) Food

Plan a careful menu and remember that tinned foods are heavy, so avoid them. Take food high in calorific value for energy. Plan a light-weight, palatable, well balanced menu.

Suggested foods (many available from club-room stores).

Dehydrated foods - 'Sweet 7' peas and beans, Surprise peas, Dewcrisp, 'Deb', Dried fruits, Dried meats, Milk powder, Egg powder.

Meat - Take some fresh meat but rely on bacon, salami, cabana.

Drink - Tea, Coffee, Fruit saline, 'Happy Ade'.

Other Foods - Rice, margarine, cheese, Rye-vita biscuits, spreads, cereal (Gran-bits are recommended) Scroggin, Chocolate.

The above list has been compiled by experienced MUMC members, and if adhered to should provide everything needed for a trip under normal Victorian weather conditions. Additional equipment such as a 'li-lo', stove and extra clothing would be required for a snow-walk.

The importance of selecting the right equipment, especially footwear, should not be underestimated as the right choice can often mean the difference between a survival exercise and a highly enjoyable walk.

PACKING THE PACK - SUGGESTIONS FOR THOSE COMMENCING BUSHWALKING

Equipment should be packed so that everything fits in compactly and easily. One should know the whereabouts of most articles, and have in an accessible place, those to be used during the day.

Spare clothing should be placed at the bottom of the pack in a plastic bag. Cooking utensils which will not be used during the day should also be near the bottom.

Sleeping bag, tent and groundsheet should initially be near the top of the pack so that they can be easily located at midnight when the van stops. During the trip these should be placed further down the pack.

Food to be used for lunch should be at the top or in an outside pocket.

The torch is best carried in an outside pocket or in the flap - at any rate, in a place where it can be easily and quickly located in the evening when one suddenly discovers it is too dark to see. I find it a great saving on batteries to reverse the top battery when the torch is packed so it cannot be bumped on accidentally.

If water is likely to be needed during the day, the water bottle should be in an outside pocket. Other important contents of the outside pocket are the first aid kit, glucose tablets, chocolate or barley sugar, tissues and map if you have on and are not carrying it separately.

You may think after reading this that most of your gear is in the outside pocket. However, most of the bulky things are inside and anyway those pockets are very capacious.

I forgot to mention the parka. If you are at all suspicious of the weather, have this in an accessible position, not buried at the bottom of your pack.

Now, when you have a minor halt during the day, or stop for lunch, you don't have to spend 15 minutes unpacking and repacking your pack, but need only remove the things you want.

Rosalie Lahore.

"AQUASCADE" TENTS

Kimpton's Feather Mills have recently made a few tents from a material marketed under the name of "Aquasade". This material is completely waterproof and very light (a four-man tent weighing just under 4lb.), yet it is not completely airtight, and hence does not collect condensation to the same extent as proofed nylon. It seems in every respect an excellent tent material. However, the demand for these tents has not been great, possibly because not many people have yet had the opportunity to discover their advantages. For this reason, Kimpton's have not ordered any more of the cloth and do not intend to do so unless more interest is shown.

AN APPEAL

Dear M.U.MC. Members,

Perhaps you have heard of the tragic climbing accident to Phillip Stranger ('Sparrow'), one of Victoria's foremost young rock climbers. Phillip is now paralysed from the waist down. He will probably be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. That this should happen to any 19 year old is tragic - it is even more so when it happens to someone whose whole life is devoted to mountaineering and the great outdoors.

The financial burden imposed upon Phillip and his family will be great. (Already he has spent several weeks in the critical ward of the Austin Hospital, and this appears to be only the start of a very long period of hospitalization and subsequent treatment). Not being a member of any benefit organization, the family's (financial) burden will be all the heavier.

It is to alleviate this burden that the 'Phillip Stranger Trust Fund' has been established. We earnestly appeal to everyone connected in any way with rock climbing, mountaineering and outdoor life in general to contribute generously to this Fund. This is a matter concerning us all who are interested in outdoor life. All donations, large and small, will be gratefully accepted.

Please forward all donations to:

'Phillip Stranger Trust Fund'
c/- Mr. C.R. Baxter,
18, York Road,
Glen Iris. Vic. 3146.

Might I thank you in anticipation for what will undoubtedly be a whole-hearted response to so worthy a cause.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Baxter.

P.S. As well as donations, Phillip would welcome any letters and visits.
His address is - Ward 7,
Austin Hospital,
Heidelberg. Vic.

I would like to add my support to this appeal. Although Phillip is not a member of this club he would never hesitate to instruct or assist climbers from this or any other organization. I feel that such a fine spirit can only be answered in kind, so I urge you to give generously to this fund.

Clive Parker,
Convenor,
Climbing Sub-Committee.



THE ORIGINAL WHITE

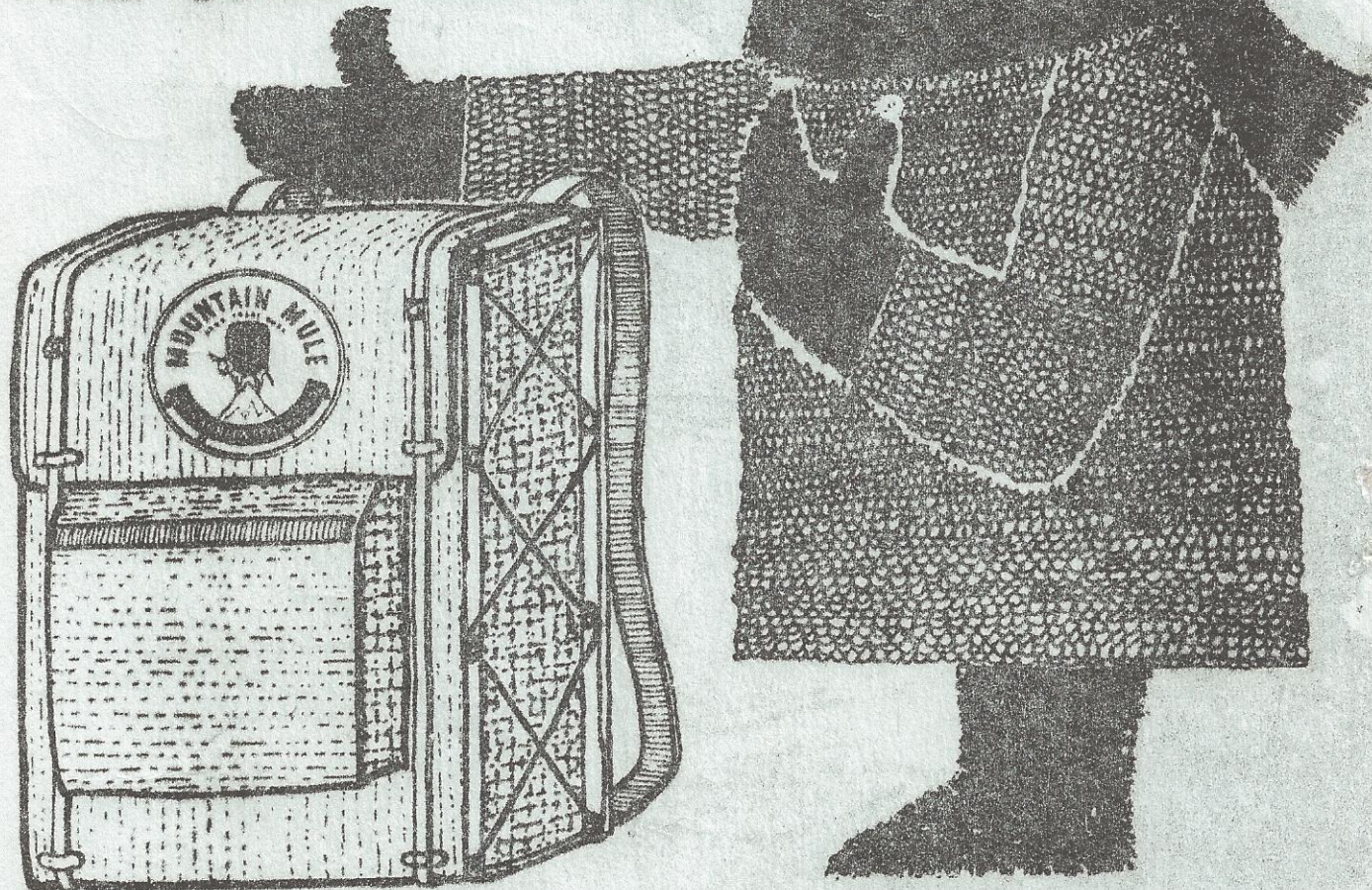


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