

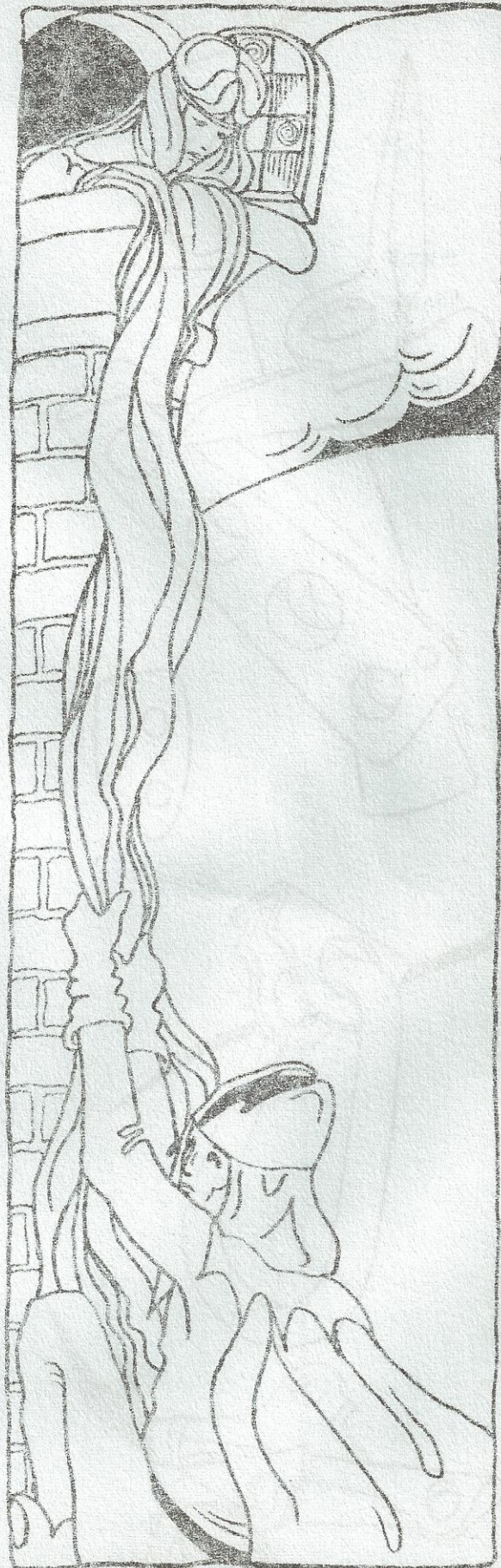
THE

MOUNTAIN
CLIMBER

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for
transmission by post as a periodical:

Number 5.

October, 1968.



MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

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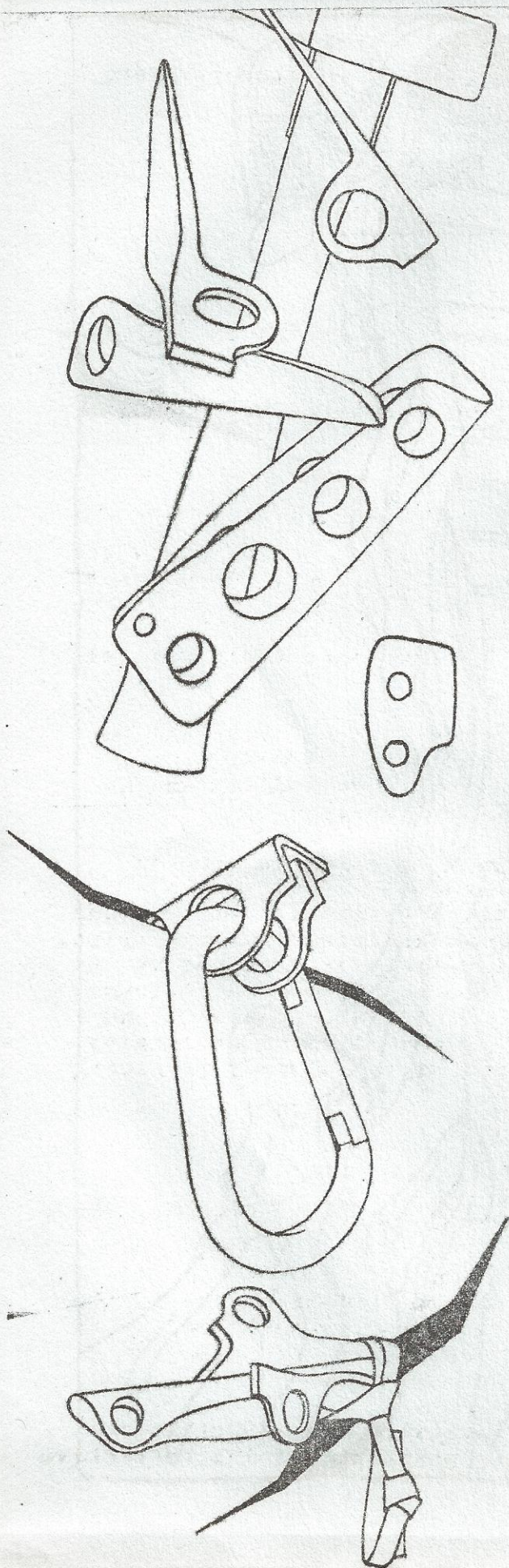
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The Mountaineer

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

Summertime is coming and the exams are on top of us. While the fortunate few are making the most of the spring snow, most M.U.M.C. members are book-bashing in the library. However, the exams will soon be over, and mountaineers will be able to dispel the rings from their eyes, and rejuvenate their wearied brains in the clear mountain air.

The post-exam bludge weekend on the Howqua River will be the starting point for a summer of activity. Here is the opportunity to laze by the riverside, or to revitalize waning muscles while rambling in the Mt. Buller area.

Much of the summer's activity will be directed towards collecting information for the proposed Guide Book to the Victorian Alps (see note following trips program). Other plans include various weekend and extended walks, rock-climbing trips, hut building on the Bungalow Spur, and fountain building at Latrobe Uni. (see trips program). Some of the more ambitious mountaineers will be venturing further afield to Tasmania and New Zealand. If you are interested in any of these activities, or if you have some ideas of your own, visit Aikman's Rd. and discuss your plans with other members.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

9th September, 1968.

Dear Editor,

As we were rather against the Feathertop hut in the beginning, BUT expended large amounts of energy and time in its construction we would like to raise one or two points in reference to the hut.

Firstly, the hut is an invitation or advertisement to all sorts of people because of its position and its reflective

nature, it can be seen for many miles and many hundreds of people must wonder what it is, who otherwise would only give Feathertop a passing glance. It is also worth considering that such a stark obvious structure rather vandalises the mountain itself.

Secondly, I have heard from locals in the Harrietville area that people are being actively discouraged from visiting the hut, whether this is true or not, it is not the spirit with which the hut was built, we would like a directive from the committee on this point.

We would like to see discussed in the club and committee the question of painting the hut in a slightly less obvious colour so that it will not attract too much attention from the "undesirable persons" and so that it will merge into the scenery with greater success.

Yours faithfully,

Jan & Andrew Spate

ANTARTIC VACANCY

A vacancy for a medical officer still exists on one of the four expeditions A.N.A.R.E. is sending to the Antarctic in 1969. Enquiries should be directed to:

The Medical Officer,
Antartic Division,
Department of Supply,
588 St. Kilda Rd.,
MELBOURNE. 3004

(Telephone 51 0271)

OUTWARD BOUND COURSES

The Victorian Division of the Outward Bound movement is once again running two courses during the summer, at their Howman's Gap school in the Bogong High Plains. The dates of courses are:

(i) Tuesday 26th November - Saturday 21st December

(ii) Wednesday 8th January - Sunday 2nd February

Anyone interested in instructing at these courses should write for further information to:

The Victorian Director,
Australian Outward Bound,
Suite 2, 65 Queens Rd.,
MELBOURNE. 3004

WILL M.U.M.C. BUILD ANOTHER HUT?

A motion passed at the last committee meeting (8/10/68) was - "That this club sets up a hut sub committee to investigate the possibility and desirability of building another hut."

Anyone wishing to be on the sub committee should send his or her application to the Secretary, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club by November 9th.

Should you have any suggestions, ideas, criticisms, etc, about any aspect of the hut (cost, size, construction, location, design, etc.) please send them to, or contact, Michael Feller. We want them!

TRIPS PROGRAMME

OCT - NOV

WALKING TRIPS EVERY WEEKEND.

Anyone interested should visit the club rooms any lunchtime.

30 NOV - 1 DEC

POST EXAM BLUDGE - HOWQUA RIVER VALLEY

Leader - Paul Callander

Standard - Extremely easy

Distance - Not much

Transport - Van. leaving Union Car Park, 6.15 p.m. on Friday.

Fare - \$3.50 - \$4.00

Cancellation fee - \$1.50

Swimming togs are essential. Lilos facilitate travelling down the Howqua River. There are many hard or medium walks for those so inclined.

7 - 8 DECEMBER

EXPEDITION TO THE VIKING

(Victoria's second most inaccessible mountain)

Leader - Michael Feller

Standard - hard

Distance - 25miles

Transport - private

There might also be an easier trip, based at King River Hut, if there is enough demand.

Those interested should contact Michael Feller.

14-15 DECEMBER

PRE-CHRISTMAS BLUDGE - Cape Woolamai.

A standing camp at an uninhabited beach.

Sunning, swimming and skin diving.

Leader - Brian Cohn

Standard - easy

Distance - 3 miles (maximum)

Transport - private

SUMMER VAC.

ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS

These will be small, private trips. For further information visit the club rooms any lunchtime or contact Clive Parker.

FOUNTAINEERING TRIP (date to be arranged)

A fountain will be built at Latrobe University as a memorial to the late Professor Cherry, one of the founders of this club. It thus seems appropriate that we should help collect the rocks which are required to build the fountain.

BOOKINGS OR INFORMATION - Visit the club rooms any lunchtime or phone Michael Feller on 20 2232 any evening.

Feathertop Hut Work Parties (Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs)

Work on the Federation Hut will commence as soon as the area is clear of snow. Potential hut builders - this is a magnificent outlet for your constructive instincts! Contact Dave Hogg (329 8484) if you are interested in helping.

Information wanted for the Guide Book.

There is still a large amount of information required for the Guide Book to the Victorian Alps which is to be published next year. It is hoped that Club members will be able to collect most of this information during the long vac. A list of suggested trips to areas for which this information is required is on the notice-board at Aikman's Road. These trips vary in length mostly from 2 to 10 days and include the Bogong High Plains, Mt. Buffalo, the Main Divide, the Southern Snowy Mountains, Lake Tarli Karng and other areas. Those seeking inspiration for vacation trips are advised to consult this list. Track notes are available for most of these trips but these are largely incomplete and out-of-date and need checking.

If you intend going on any trips in the Victorian Alps over the long vac, please contact Dave Hogg (329 8484).

A NEW "CLASSIC" SNOW WALK.

The aim of this simple snow walk was to win 30 cents from Bruno Zeller by driving to the King River Hut, strolling up the Queen Spur to Mt. Buggery, traversing the Crosscut Saw to Mt. Howitt and returning by any route, all under heavy Spring snow in one weekend. Here is the garbled account of one of the survivors:

Friday night camp is made at 4.00 a.m. Saturday morning at a point on one of those crumbling logging roads where the fuel gauge says "one mile to the point of no return". Next morning with true Australian bushcraft we ask the blokes from the nearby Landrover whether we are in Victoria or Tasmania and we soon learn we are just where the Dondangadale River crosses the road that runs south from near Cheshunt to the Cobbler Plateau, close to the turnoff that heads south-west to the King River hut.

Feeling like something to loosen us up (almost fatally in one case) for the "hard" trip we had planned, we set out to walk the rough road that winds for twelve miles round under the magnificent northern rock walls of Mt. Cobbler to the snow-drifted saddle at about 4000 ft., between Cobbler and Mt. Little Cobbler, and so down to the hut.

After an early lunch, our day's walk to Mt. Buggery begins with the road-bash to the foot of the Queen Spur, marked by some abandoned loggers' shacks and heaps of rubbish at an otherwise beautiful creek junction. We cross to the overgrown bottom of the Spur by various techniques: Mike's New Zealand "wade right in" approach, Geoff's "slip from a wet log and curse" approach and Pete's "learn from the others and keep feet dry" approach. With the Stanley's Name Spur on the right and the King Spur on the left rapidly dropping out of sight, the reputation of the Queen's Spur's Pimple becomes quite obvious to Antarctic Pete who amuses others with his whole collection of curses about "Summer death-marches in Tropical heat".

With the Pimple conquered we immediately find its south west side about three quarters covered in snow drifts deep enough to sustain very fine snow-warms. Further along the Spur, THE CLASSIC HUT SITE on a rocky outcrop reveals a magnificent panorama of the whole snow-capped range: Mts. Koonika, Speculation, Buggery, Crosscut Saw, Howitt, Magdala, No. 1 and No. 2 Divides, Lovick and The Bluff. The sun sets gradually as we continue up the now very steep and rocky west side of Buggery, always wondering if it is easier to use the ice axe and struggle up through the sliding

snow between the rock or to accept the challenge and pull up over the uncovered (and therefore vertical) slabs of rotten rock. Finally in eerie moonlight we plod through the final snow field, encouraged by frozen fingers and a stiff, chilly nor-westerly.

Then follows the ever exciting race to flatten a snow platform, pitch the tent etc., prepare and eat some food (salami and rye bread?), and struggle into sleeping bags - all before our well wetted feet and hands finally freeze permanently. Silence does not reign without a struggle on the windswept little knob; Pete develops altitude lassitude as he continues blowing air into his lilo long after it should be full, but is soon cheered up by his plans of revenge against his two obvious saboteurs. Immediately all his sharp implements are confiscated, so blissful sleep descends to both sides of the tent while groans and teeth chattering from the middle accompany each gust of tent shaking gale.

Up at the crack of Sunday mid-morning, fru-nut, slalmi, cereal, the tent, Mike and Geoff rapidly disappear, while Pete develops a new walking technique using only one leg and one ice axe. Due to this groaning, limping near-fatality, the estimated four hour return jog to Mt. Howitt (and Bruno's 30 cents) are abandoned, but Mike and Geoff propose to amuse themselves by trying to wallow down Buggery and up Speculation without stopping (even to observe snow worms). The magnificent south ridge of Speculation "looks just like the real thing" as Andean Mike shouts; they prove it by strangely pikeing out from a simple 20 ft. boulder problem on the sharp ridge in order to make an exposed traverse around it. The ten colour slides Mike took in the last half mile testify to the incredibly alpine scenes and conditions that so few people ever see.

With the summit conquered and no sign of Peg-leg Pete, Mike of New Zealand fame and Geoff of Koorroora fame decide to sharpen up their ski-ing with some ideal glissade conditions in the snow funnel to the south-east of the summit. After the first shaky descents they suddenly realize why this unique sport is not more popular when they look around for the ticket office to buy a ride back to the summit.

By the time Pete arrives, Geoff and Mike have slowed themselves down to his speed of walking and so the team, with unity that would probably secure victory on Mont Blanc (but certainly not on Rum Doodle), hits the road splash! Yes, with so much snow plus so much sunlight, the road-bash from Speculation past Mt. Koonika back to the Cobbler Plateau has become a creek-bash.

That the lunch-break is as far away as the Cobbler Lake ia achieved only by Geoff and Mike offering to carry Pete's pack and then accelerating away with it, thus giving him the necessary psychological stimulus (hunger) to make the distance. The road across the dam wall and down the valley lives right up to its picturesque reputation about half way down with a magnificent panorama of the Dondangadale Falls. But as an added bonus for springtime, there are two other equally spectacular cataracts, now confusingly dubbed the Dangdongadales and the Daledongadangs (or vice versa, cubed).

Lower down the valley, the sight of wattle blossom had Pete moaning again about tropical heat waves but he lasted well enough to beat the rain by sprinting across the bridge over the Dondangadale River to the car. Full marks to him for finishing at all after his unfortunate injury.

The only problem about driving back to Cheshunt with the engine off on the downhills to save petrol is that the windscreen wipers cease with the engine, so the resulting competition to guess the direction of the next bend through the moderate rain keeps everyone (except Geoff) highly amused.

Survivors: Mike (Sandshoes) Feller
Geoff (Writer's Cramp) Fagan
Pete (Frozen Hip) Griffiths

CLIMBING NEWS.

With exams approaching, climbing trips have become less frequent and less well attended. Although those climbing generally been "regulars" it is encouraging to see others taking renewed interest in this branch of the club's activities. Despite the "slow up" M.U.M.C. members have been putting up new routes in various areas. These include Scopophilic (Mackey's Peak) and Cryptic Crack (Hanging Rock) by Lesley Kefford and Clive Parker; Yosarian, Alchyme, Yesterday and Oedipus Rex (At Arapiles) by Gordon Talbett and Peter McKeand, with Clive Parker on the last two. Oedipus Rex deserves a special mention. It is a good free line, bisecting the left Watchtower face and finishing directly through the large roof. The climb is graded 17 or 6-.

GRADING.

To many of you these gradings may not mean much. The latter 6-; is from a system which has been in use in Victoria for several years. The grades in this system have equivalents in the more familiar system e.g. the equivalent of 6- is MILD VERY SEVERE. The grade 17 is from the "Sydney System" which was adopted by the Victorian Climbing Club at the

September meeting, and will therefore be used in Argus and future future guide books. Details of the system and equivalents in existing grades will be published later.

GUIDEBOOKS.

The first Grampians guide book published by the V.C.C. should be available before Christmas. The guide, edited by Rob Taylor and Jerry Grandage, includes descriptions of climbs at Rosea, Bunduleer, Eastern Wall, and Tower Hill.

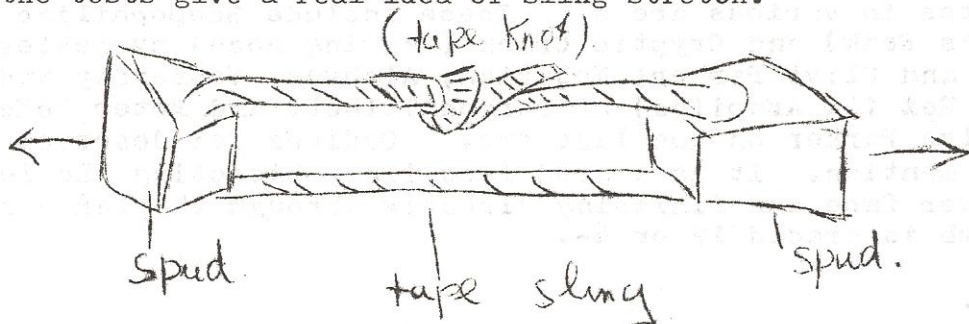
The second volume Arapiles guide may be expected around April or May 1969. The guide, edited by Chris Baxter, will contain over 170 new climbs, compared with 108 in the present guide. Copy will close soon, so if you plan a new route - better be quick.

Club climbing trips do not generally follow a programme. They are arranged at short notice, so if you want to go climbing go to Aikman's Road and ask a climber.

SOME TESTS OF CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

Introduction

Early in 1968 M.U.M.C. wanted to know the strength of a $\frac{5}{8}$ " nylon tubular tape from an unknown source. Since no method of determining actual strength was available, short lengths of tape were threaded through typical jamming devices, i.e. made into slings and broken after slow stretching on a tensometer (Diagram 1) Thus the tests give a real idea of sling stretch.



This led to some interesting findings regarding the value of various jamming devices, so the tests were extended to examine this aspect more thoroughly and also to examine tapes in various stages of decay. A Ewbank cracker on a wire sling was also demolished.

Experimental

Three brands of tape were tested on three different pairs of jamming devices. Some of the tape had been used (for periods of up to six months) and some was dyed (by soaking in a warm aqueous solution).

Results

Breaking Load (lbs)

Type of tape	Plain Troll Spuds	Jam Nuts	Reamed Troll Spuds
A NEW	1010	1700	(1859 1859
NEW, DYED			(1658 1680
B NEW			(1480 1570
NEW, DYED			1570
OLD, DYED	740	1210	1456
C NEW	1050	1740	1850
USED			1612
USED, DYED			1210
No.1 Nylon rope	490		

Notes: A = $\frac{5}{8}$ " tubular nylon, from Mountain Equipment Co., Sydney.

B = $\frac{1}{2}$ " tubular nylon, George Fisher, England.

C = $\frac{1}{2}$ " flat nylon, Graham Tiso, Scotland

Jam Nut: $\frac{3}{4}$ " across flat with $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole, well reamed.

Spuds : approximately equal size.

Tape B was dyed in a hot solution of an unknown nylon dye

Tapes A & C were soaked in a warm solution of "dylon" brand dye.

Discussion & Conclusions

1. The original purpose of the investigation was satisfied - the tape from Mountain Equipment Co. proved at least equal to imported tapes.
2. Some decrease in strength occurred with wear, but none of the tapes tested was very old.
3. Although a slight drop in strength was noted when tape A was dyed, the drop was not observed in case B. We can conclude that if tape is dyed under similar conditions that no substantial loss of strength occurs, and probably no significant loss of strength occurs.

The two most important conclusions relate to the effect of tape and jamming devices on each other.

4. Effect of the jam on the tape

Test one involved troll spuds as imported. These have a sharp and distinct edge over which the tape normally passes (as in clog and other spuds). For test 3 these spuds were carefully reamed with a scraper so that tape was not tensioned over any sharp edges (diagram 2).

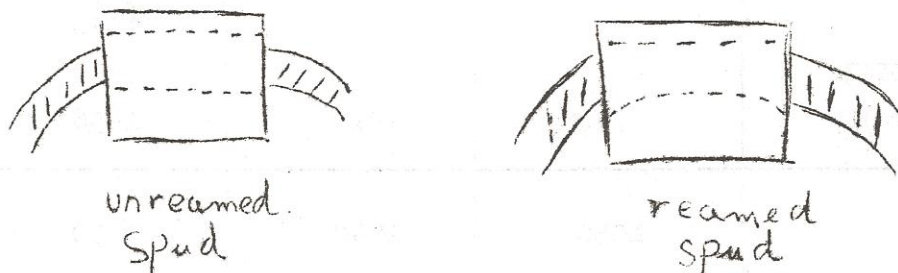


Diagram 2.

In all cases the tapes broke at the "edge" of these jamming devices.

The result of this test is astounding. A SEVENTY per cent INCREASE in sling strength can be achieved by reaming the spuds, alternatively a FORTY per cent REDUCTION in strength is observed for unreamed spuds.

I cannot speculate about the relative breaking loads under "shock" conditions, but it is fairly obvious that $\frac{1}{2}$ " tape on unreamed spuds makes a very weak piece of protection, and should not be used. Crackers should also be reamed.

5. Effect of loading on nuts and spuds

After only three tests, one of the nuts had one visible crack, the other had two, and both were deformed.

A $\frac{3}{8}$ " nut from which the thread had been filed, failed (deformed then snapped) at 1490 lb.

The spuds, after 15 tests, each had slightly elongated holes, but should still be quite safe for use as protection.

The differences are the result of differences in shapes of jams and nuts and in the materials used.

Tests on a Ewbank Cracker

Several tests were performed (in a rather unscientific manner) on a size A cracker on a wire sling with swagged copper joint.

First Test

Fault: the cracker was upside down on the sling (diagram 3)

Result: the cracker deformed and pulled out of a wedge shaped chuck at about 1400 lb.

Comment: This would probably have been nearer 2000 lb. if the cracker had been the right way up.

2nd Test (diagram 4)

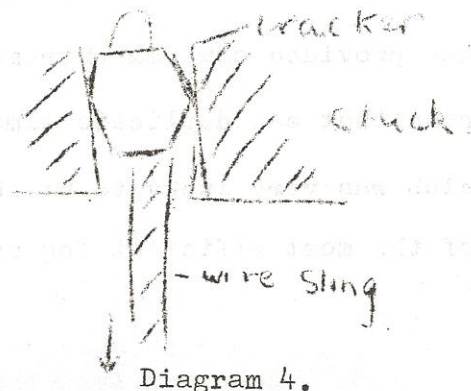
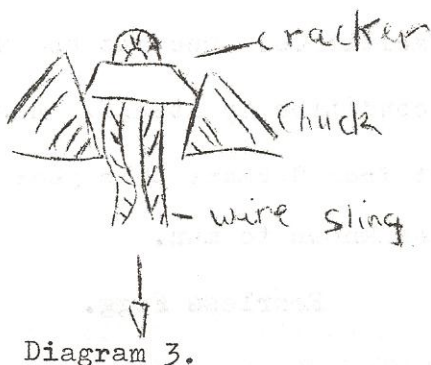
Fault: The cracker was already deformed from the first test.

Result: The cracker, placed in a slightly tapering chuck, broke. Although I supplied John Moore with a written report I cannot remember the strength, but it was considerably greater than that achieved in the first test.

3rd Test

Fault: The wire sling broke at the "bollard".

Result: The sling broke at 3000lb. The swagged joint was intact



Conclusions

The strength of the cracker obviously depends on placement, but the metal is less likely to yield than the tape, if you use tape. Wire slings greatly enhance the strength of the protection. With larger crackers the tape strength (or the rock strength) will be the limiting factor, not the strength of the metal.

Clive Parker.

PHOGG FOTOS

Despite the pessimistic outlook of the Trips' Secretary that this was going to be a good year, the weather on most club trips was perfect for the mountaineer who can't be bothered to go on trips but still likes to bore people with countless slides. Since there is always a dense fog cover on the top of every mountain - indeed some people still don't know if they made the Cobberas - most photos have a fairly uniform grey background with the persons in them somewhere in the middle supported by nothing. Thus all that is necessary to get an extremely good fog photo is to rig yourself up in all your gear, stand on a pile of stones under the shower and have whisps of ammonium chloride swirling about. In this way it is possible to climb about 153 peaks an hour.

Because this is such an integral part of mountaineering, the club has provided several extremely useful facilities. One was an expensive room that can duplicate almost any fog condition by itself. Also the club was very lucky to be able to import from Germany this year one of the most efficient fog making machines known to man.

Fearless Fogg.

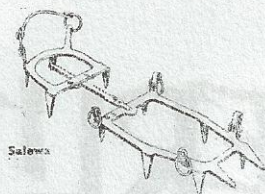
WOT'S THIS

A slip of paper was surreptitiously placed on my typewriter saying, "WE ARE ENGAGED - YVONNE AND ROWAN" (to be included in this month's Mountaineer). Wot's this, I say again! Has the old man of the mountains finally succumbed to the delights of a fair young maid? After much checking and reassuring, I discovered that tis true - Yvonne and Rowan are engaged.

Congratulations and good wishes to you both,

The typist

Copy deadline for the next Mountaineer is Friday 29th November.



Salewa



Simond Everest,
550 g.



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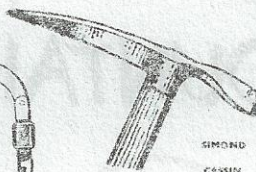
SHOULDER
dural

50 g.
1,000 kg
450 kg

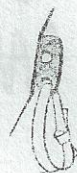


CASSIN

72 g.
1,200 kg



SIMOND
CASSIN



Rurp

Knifeblade



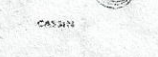
Lost Arrow
Angle



Bong
Bong



Leeper



CASSIN



ALL-ROUN

47 g.
1,000 kg



CASSIN
dural

92 g.
1,200 kg



CASSIN



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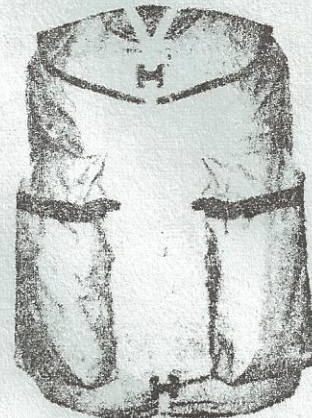
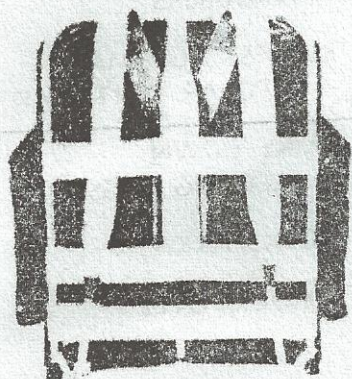
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SNOW



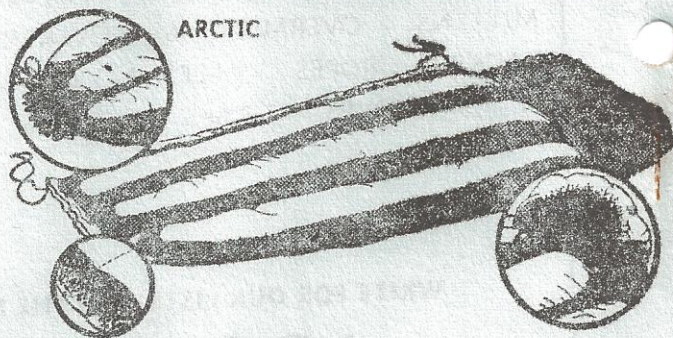
Snow: Tailored hood — 36" nickel chest zipp. Circular insert for feet. Cut 6' x 30" plus hood filled with Super down, Feather down.

Combination quilt — Sleeping bag: Designed for all-the-year use as either an eiderdown quilt, or sleeping bag. Simply fold in half and zipp the bottom and side and presto! your quilt becomes a

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ARCTIC



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