Alpine Club Meets

2 March–4 March	Jointly with ABMSAC. Winter Climbing Meet. Wasdale, Lakes
21 July–5 August	Jointly with CC. Family Meet. Bosigran, Cornwall
11 August–25 August	Jointly with ABMSAC, Courmayeur; Classic Routes
29 September–30 September	Langdale, Lakes. Dinner: Prince of Wales Hotel, Grasmere. Lecture: Dr H. G. Nicol—Everest Jubilee Trek
19 October–21 October	Jointly with YRC. Malham, Yorks. Dinner: Sparth House. Lecture: Ivan Waller—Climbing in Scotland

Membership

New members are welcome at all times. Correspondence on Membership should be addressed to the Assistant Hon. Secretary (Candidates), Frank Solari, Oakside, Duffield Lane, Stoke Poges, Slough, SL2 4AH.

Club Staff

Sue Lawford continues as our Assistant Secretary and has for the past year been assisted by Caroline Horner who will be staying with us until March 1980. The Club has also been joined by Danny Clark-Lowes and his wife Sherry who have been acting as caretakers since December 1978. It is hoped they will continue until 1981 when Danny completes his PhD studies at Imperial College.

Miscellaneous and Editor's Notes

Alpine Club Symposium Largely as a result of an initiative by Peter Lloyd (President) the Club organized a highly successful symposium on Snow Avalanches at Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Cleveland Street, London, W1 on 10 November 1979. The Alpine Ski Club, the Eagle Ski Club and the Ski Club of Great Britain joined in the promotion, while the function was supported by the Sports Council Trust through the Mount Everest Foundation. Billed for 'all those whose sport, recreation or career takes them on mountains under snow ... for mountaineers, ski-mountaineers, ski-tourers, mountain and ski instructors and guides', it attracted well over 200 interested visitors, who enjoyed a splendid series of papers presented under very pleasant conditions with a supporting programme of refreshments and a lunch.

The morning session (Chairman: Peter Lloyd) was devoted to a lecture by Marcel de Quervain (Director of the Snow and Avalanche Research Station at the Weissfluhjoch) on the 'Theory behind Avalanches'. Divided into (a) 'Structure of snow pack and metamorphism' and (b) 'Conditions for avalanche formation/mechanisms of release', this was a remarkably clear exposition of the scientific background of the subject. It is extremely hard to present complex scientific ideas in terms simple enough to be understood by the non-scientific and yet not offend the scientifically minded by over-simplification. The lecturer steered the middle course here admirably. There were slides and a spectacular film and we learned something of the scope of the work being carried out at the Weissfluhjoch. There could never be, he stressed, a complete safeguard for all situations.

The first afternoon session (Chairman: the Earl of Limerick) comprised 2 lectures—'The Assessment of Avalanche Danger' by Fred Harper (Principal of Glenmore Lodge) and 'Precautions and Rescue' by Martin Epp (Director of the Alpinesportschule Gotthard, Andermatt) and Walter Good (Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Davos). The first covered avalanche accident data and the likely conditions for their occurrence among the Scottish hills. He, too, stressed that there can be no certainty of complete safeguard. The following combined talk dealt with equipment for general ski-ing, equipment for avalanche accidents, how to behave if involved in an avalanche, techniques of rescue and so forth. The latest methods for the detection of buried bodies were reviewed—radiometers (ie heat detectors) and radar have not proved satisfactory, but considerable success has been achieved with 'bleeps', small transceivers carried by each member of the party.

The second afternoon session (Chairman: Jack Longland) was devoted to case histories—short accounts by climbers and skiers who have actually been involved in avalanche accidents. Andre Roch described the Chaukumba accident of 1939 (*AJ* 52 47), Walter Good a fatal incident on Monte Rosa, Joe Tasker the accident on K2 in which Nick Estcourt was killed,

John Harding a fatal incident in the Pyrenees and Fred Harper a series of disasters in the Cairngorms.

All the talks were illustrated by slides and diagrams and there were lively discussions at the end of each session.

After the last of these closed at 6.00pm many of the company transferred to the Alpine Club, where a buffet supper enabled information to be widely exchanged on a less formal basis.

The whole thing proved highly successful and those members and officers of the Club who participated in the organization deserve our warmest congratulations. It is to be hoped that this will be the forerunner of similar functions in future years—perhaps each President can be persuaded to undertake one such during the third year of his office.

A full report of the proceedings will be published.

Pré de Madame Carle. This stony Dauphiné plain has been briefly mentioned in recent issues of the *AJ*. It was once the meeting place of the glacier Noir and glacier Blanc and its strange name was long thought to have connection with a legend. It was not until 1887 that some authentic information came to light about Madame Carle.

Geoffrey Carle, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Grenoble in the early 16th Century, purchased from the Luzerne family the castle of Vallouise and with it much property in the same area. He had a son, Anthony, who died young, and the latter's widow 'Louise Sereyne, dame Carle' managed the estates on behalf of her 10 children. Her name was given to the pastures above Ailefroide; Madame Carle was thus a real person and not a figure of legend as was for long supposed.

The Pré has its place in Alpine history. Readers of *Scrambles* will recall that after the first ascent of the Ecrins the descending party split up on the Pré de Madame Carle, where 'every hole looked like a stone, every stone like a hole and we tumbled about from side to side until our limbs and our tempers became thoroughly jaded'. Moore and Walker with Christian Almer elected to pass the night under 'a huge mass of rock as big as a house', but Whymper and Croz pushed on, hoping to reach the chalets of Ailefroide; they did not succeed and they too were forced to spend the night in the open.

D. F. O. Dangar

The mountain scene (*Water colours by British artists*). For the meeting of the Club on 15 May 1979 Charles Warren with the help of Peter Bicknell arranged an exhibition in the entrance hall of about thirty water-colours by British artists of mountain scenery. These were nearly all painted before the foundation of the Club in 1857 and either came from the Club's collection of pictures or from those of members. Among them were Janet Carleton's magnificent view from the Montenvers, by Francis Towne, and Charles Warren's very unusual Gainsborough of the Langdale Pikes. Ruskin's mountain drawings were particularly well represented. The following is a complete list:

Paul Sandby, 1725–1809
1. Distant mountain

Thomas Gainsborough, 1740–1816
2. The Langdale Pikes

Francis Towne, 1740–1816
3. The Mer de Glace

John (Warwick) Smith, 1749–1831
4. Pistil Rhaiadr

Joshua Christall, 1767–1847
5. In Borrowdale
6. A mountain pass in the Scottish Highlands, near Crianlarich

William Daniell, 1769–1837
7. The Collin from Loch Slapin (Blaven and Clach Ghlas). Illustrated in 'A voyage round the coast of Britain'

Joseph Mallard William Turner, 1775–1851
8. Lake Maggiore

John Varley, 1778–1851
9. View from the top of Cader Idris
10. Killarney

Cornelius Varley, 1781–1873
11. Welsh mountains

David Cox, 1783–1859
12. Mountain torrent in North Wales
13. Red-coats going through a Welsh pass (Nant Francon)

Anthony Van Dyck Copley Fielding, 1787–1855
14. The Moor of Rannoch and Schiehallion

Clarkson Stanfield, 1793–1867
15. A Highland landscape

Edward Lear, 1812–1888
16. The Pillar, Ennerdale

John Ruskin, 1819–1900
17. Vevey
18. Sunrise at Vevey

19. The Lake of Lucerne and the Uri Rotstock
20. Montaigne de la Cote. Illustrated in 'Modern painters', Vol. 4, p. 218
21. Lyskam, Castor and Pollux from the Gornergrat
22. Glacier des Bossons
23. Mer de Glace, moonlight
24. A sprig of May blossom

Unidentified artist

25. Snowdon from Bethgellert on the Caernarvon road (c 1790)

Thomas Sunderland

26. In the Peak District (c 1795)

William Callow, 1812–1908

27. The Wetterhorn

Elijah Walton, 1832–1880

28. Sketch of the Jungfrau from Wengen Alp, 1874

Edward T. Compton, 1880–1921

29. Presanella von Vadrett

H. Moslyn Pritchard

30. Mont Blanc, Italian Ridge, 1900

Edward Whymper, 1840–1911

31. The Fletschhorn and Weissmies
32. Eiger and Monch from near Murren
33. Blumlisalp from Kientahl

Cold, exercise and altitude—a short note Do factors other than exercise and altitude play a part in mountain sickness and its complications?

Recent work on shorn sheep exposed to 3°C has shown that cold is associated with a raised pressure in the pulmonary artery, which takes de-oxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs. When cold is combined with oxygen lack which itself causes a rise in pulmonary artery pressure—the combined effect is greater than the sum of the 2 separate stresses. A very considerable rise in pulmonary artery pressure occurs in patients with high-altitude oedema and though extrapolating from animals to man is unwise it does suggest that cold may after all be a factor in the occurrence of pulmonary oedema in man. In fact a case of mild pulmonary oedema has been recently reported associated with cold and exercise. In addition studies at La Paz (3500m) show that in high-altitude natives both cold and exercise increased the pulmonary artery pressure above the normal physiological level found at altitude.

References:

Chauca, D. and Bligh, J. (1976). 'An additive effect of cold exposure and hypoxia on pulmonary artery pressure in sheep.' *Research in Veterinary Science 21*, 123–124.

Bligh, J. and Chauca, D. (1978). 'The effects of intra cerebro ventricular injections of Carbachol and mor-adrenaline on cold induced pulmonary artery hypertension in sheep'. *Proceedings of the Physiological Society Journal of Physiology 284*, 53p.

Durand, J. (1979). *International Symposium on high-altitude physiology and medicine MURNAU (Abstracts)*.

Antezana, G., Barragan, L., Briancon, L., Coudert, L., Cudkowicz, L., Durand, J., Lockhart, A., Mensch-Dechene, J., Paz-Zamora, M., Spielvogel, H., Vargas, E. and Zelter, M. (1979). ibid.

Michael Ward

The tyranny of lists Our active and highly technical contemporary *Crags* printed in its 18th issue an article—'Who's Who, a selection of 100 climbers who have shaped British climbing since the War', compiled by Ken Wilson and John Stevenson. The authors qualify—'For every man here' (there are, incidentally, no ladies), '2 or 3 others have made contributions hardly less important'. This highlights the inescapable problem of lists—this 100 have the accolade, while everyone else has nothing. Now we are divided into an élite and a rabble.

Of the 100, 54 are described as 'activists' (the OED says 'an advocate of activism'), 29 are 'pioneers', 15 are 'climbers', one discovered something and the other developed somewhere. Twelve from the 100 have already died, here or elsewhere, mostly in the cause of climbing.

In climbing history it is not always the contributions of first ascents that are the important milestones. Technical competence to the prevailing level soon becomes widespread, but the real pioneers are those that begin new trends, go to new areas, climb on new rock types or revolutionize human abilities. One might even say that the man whose success flows from the invention and application of specialized equipment is more of an engineer than a climber—he takes something away from climbing and puts ingeniously contrived metal and plastic in its place.

In historical writing it is invariably necessary to wait and see. The trends, the points of

departure, the surges forward only become apparent in long retrospect. Maybe this list will help future historians to pin-point these aspects of the present-day British climbing scene, when at last it can be looked at in perspective, but just now it cannot be taken too seriously.

'Games' This is the title of an interesting analysis contributed by Rob Schulteis to *Mountain Gazette* No 75. 'All games', he says, 'are imitations of war, hunting or magic'. Field sports like football, etc, are war games; magic is represented by gambling. The games which have grown out of hunting and other ancient survival activities are played with or against the natural world . 'Trekking, back packing, climbing, bouldering, body surfing, Nordic ski-ing, kayaking, poaching, even hang gliding (which is how Neolithic man would have flown if he had known how)—take us back to our roots'.

Mountaineering and Warfare A paper in the *Western Journal of Medicine*, June 1978, continues the comparison between the dangers of mountaineering and those of the more vigorous types of warfare. 'The death rate of climbers on Denali and Mount Foraker in 1976 of 1.7% is about the same as the overall mortality (1.8%) from injury and illness among the US armed forces in wars this century.

The *Anchorage Times* comments—'The fatalities among climbers are compressed into a few days or weeks on a mountain contrasted to deaths spread over years of military enlistment, which makes jeopardy on mountains in Mount McKinley National Park 40 to 50 times greater than that of service during wars—more comparable perhaps to the risk during acute battle'.

Prior to 1976 only 21 persons had died in 72 years of mountaineering in the Park area; yet in 1976, 10 died in one season out of 587. By contrast in 1977 none died from 438 aspirers.

The System for the reviewing of books In order to combat criticism it seems necessary to explain in detail how our reviewing system works. The *Journal* is produced to a strict timetable which is prepared in the late summer and is adhered to thereafter as closely as possible by all concerned. A book arriving before mid-December has a good chance of inclusion in the following year's issue; after that almost none.

Now, books which seem to call for short reviews or notices are dealt with by the Editorial staff mostly in unsigned pieces, though notes are signed where the material is controversial and the writer does not wish to involve his colleagues in his personal views. Certain books, which seem for various reasons to be beyond the competence of the Editorial staff, are passed for review to others who appear more specifically qualified.

Some are delighted to be asked, but others decline for all manner of ingenious reasons. Refusals of this kind, seldom transmitted by return of post, consume much time and Editorial energy. As a result a book which appeared to be on hand at a sufficiently early date in fact fails to make the next available *Journal*, much to the disappointment of the author, his friends and his publisher.

The solution is certainly not that the Editorial staff should do everything; rather there should be an army of volunteers from whom we could be certain to get a favourable response.

Mount Soufrière on the island of St Vincent erupted disastrously on Good Friday 1979 and some 20 times subsequently. Two-thirds of the island had to be evacuated and 45,000 were made homeless.

The John Llewelyn Rees Memorial Prize Worth £500 and administered by the National Book League, this literary prize was awarded in 1979 to our member, Peter Boardman, for his book *The Shining Mountain*, which described the Changabang expedition. This is a splendid start to a literary career and we wish him every success in the future.

Error in the *AJ* H. Hilton has drawn our attention to an error in *AJ 56* 38, where it states that '. . . Hilton had also made a solo effort on the eastern slopes of Himal Chuli in the same year (1954); but we gathered that none of the parties had been much higher than about 16,000–17,000 feet'. 'Firstly', writes Hilton, 'it was not I that made the attempt but my late dear friend Bert (Herbert) Maddock together with a local (from the Chhuling Khola area) porter whom Bert refers to simply as "G". The year was 1953 not 1954, and the altitude reached was nearer 19,000 feet, not 16,000–17,000 feet. My reference for this last correction is a copy of Bert Maddock's diary that I have'.

H. Maddock disappeared during the return march from Himal Chuli in 1953.

The Pope in the Dolomites The *Daily Telegraph* reported during August that the Pope had ascended the Marmolada (by cable car) to bless a statue of the Madonna—'the highest Angelus prayer ever said by a Pope'. The weather was bad and the statue had been buried under 2m of snow until specially dug out by Italian Alpine troops in the course of the previous night.

Tunnel at the Zoji La A 24km tunnel is planned in Kashmir at a cost of £125M. The longest and highest in Asia, it will ensure all-the-year-round traffic between the Kashmir valley and Ladakh.

Skis to the North Pole A 7-man Russian team took 77 days to reach the North Pole, after leaving Henrietta Island on 15 March 1979. They carried some supplies on their backs, received others by air *en route* and at the end flew back home.

Hannibal Once again they have been trampling in the doughty Hannibal's footsteps, this time with two 8-ton circus elephants. The 1979 American expedition, led by a former philosophy student accompanied by a former Folies Bergère dancer, chose the Col du Clapier. Though hundreds cheered when they arrived at Susa, we are still no nearer learning which way the Carthaginian went.

Government regulation of wilderness A contemporary (*Climbing*) reports as follows: 'A Harvard student who climbed Maine's Mount Katahdin solo in February without park authorization spent a night in jail and was given a suspended fine of $50. Baxter State Park rules require permits of those making difficult winter climbs; the permits are issued only if the park officials feel that the party (with a minimum of 4) has the necessary experience, equipment and emergency back-up'.

The nearest natural climbing rocks to London After half a century of research one might have been forgiven for assuming that there was no possibility of the discovery of new outcrops of natural rock in heavily populated SE England. Not so. Two members of the AC have found close to Sevenoaks a vertical outcrop on the scarp of the Greensand some 40ft high. While there is not enough of them to threaten the established climbing grounds of the central Weald, these minor rocks now attain a great distinction—the nearest natural climbing rocks to the Metropolis.

The second ascent of Denali Terris Moore draws attention to an error in Part III of his joint article (with Kenneth Andrasko) ('Shining mountains, nameless valleys') in *AJ 84*. The ascent of Denali by a US Quartermaster Corps team in 1942 was not the second ascent, as stated, but the third. The second was accomplished by the Lindley–Liek party in 1932.

Collapse of a crag It was sad to hear that a cliff climb—Hawker Slab at Morwenstow, N Cornwall—of which the Editor helped to make the first ascent, has subsided on to the beach. These cliffs have their strata highly contorted and are exposed edge-on to the full fury of Atlantic rollers with a fetch of thousands of miles. Thus they are, I am afraid, liable to be thus battered on a comparatively short time scale. It is the same inevitable progress of materials to lower levels which will destroy our mountains also in the course of time.

Building Climbing In August 1979, E. Ward Drummond, whose ascent of Nelson's Column in London was reported here last year, again made newspaper headlines with a climb on the 250-foot high spire of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. The publicity beneficiary this time was Black Panther leader, Elmer Pratt.

Wrongful Acknowledgement An Editorial oversight (*AJ 84* 35) falsely credited Turner's Rosenlaui drawing to Collection Amstutz. It belongs in fact to the BM and should have carried the same credit as the Mer de Glace. I apologize for the embarrassment caused to Walter Amstutz by this unfortunate blunder.

Archaeologists in the Pamirs The *Sunday Telegraph* reported the discovery among the Pamirs of 'a fifth Century monastery ... a turreted cliff-side building and series of caves, unlike any known religious buildings of the east'.

Abominable Red Snowman ('Chuchunaa') During 1979 a Soviet expedition set out to search the Pamirs for the 'Big Foot' or 'Yeti'. All reported sightings (such as 'a hairy creature 2m tall with long arms that utters shrill screams') are carefully vetted in monthly seminars at the Darwin Museum in Moscow. This whole subject provides an intriguing mountain mystery for which we keenly await a solution.

Acknowledgements I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Assistant Editors, Tom Connor and Geoffrey Templeman, to the production of yet another number of the Journal; their considerable assistance is deeply appreciated. The design and production team (Paul Sharp; and Paul Scott and his colleagues at Spottiswoode Ballantyne Ltd) and the regular contributors (C. A. Russell, Evelio Echevarría, Michael Scott and M. J. Cheney) have played their usual indispensable roles; I thank them all.

Book Reviews 1979[1]

Compiled by Geoffrey Templeman

Life is Meeting John Hunt, Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (Hodder and Stoughton, 1978, pp 286, photos, maps and sketches. £6.95). Lord Hunt follows Freshfield in being only the second person to be President of both the Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society. His autobiography which takes us, in the words of the Publishers, from the cradle to the cross benches, is therefore an important and eagerly awaited book. We apologize to him and to our readers for having to wait even longer for the review. At the time of publication in November 1978 most of the eligible reviewers were trekking with him across E Nepal celebrating the jubilee of the first successful ascent of Mount Everest. Consequently, the review missed the 1979 Journal.

As listed on the dust cover, John Hunt's career and achievements fall naturally in 3 parts: first as a soldier, then in public service, and throughout as a mountaineer. In the book these activities are interspersed over 17 chapters. The story of Everest and his subsequent expeditions are so well known that for me, and perhaps for most members of the Club, the principal charm and interest of the book lies in its revelation of the other facets of his crowded life, particularly in the early military and mountaineering experiences.

In the introduction we gain an early clue to the source of his energy and idealism. As the eldest son, his widowed mother looked to him to fill her husband's place and live up to his standards: 'These high expectations certainly gave me an anxiety complex lest I should fail and an intensity of purpose to succeed'. Rather shy and at the expense of much youthful fun he passed first both into and out of Sandhurst setting his own standards for his subsequent military career. Something of the same spirit influenced his mountaineering, whether it was panting, face pale with sun cream, high up on the Lhotse Face or pushing himself hard in the lead on a severe rock-climb. However, this is not the biography of a single-minded zealot. He was always ready to resist the pressure to conform and to seek contacts outside military circles. His pleasure in meeting others and making friendships provides the mainspring for this book. Also his natural facility for languages, and love of natural history continually opened up new experiences, whether clad in a *lunghi* as a muslim in the Chittagong bazaar or having his first taste of working with young people in the rural schools of Noakhali. With the good fortune of numerous Swiss ski-ing and climbing seasons in his youth, it was natural that while on leave from the Army in India, he should turn to the Himalaya for ambitious and highly successful two-man expeditions in the Pir Panjal, reaching 7470m on Peak 36, and climbing Nepal Peak and the Zemu Gap (after a yeti) in the Kangchenjunga massif.

War experiences followed, in Italy where he strongly advocated greater use of mountain troops, followed by peace making in Greece and post-war planning in the Allied Headquarters at Fontainebleau. While there he received the invitation to lead the 1953 Everest expedition which proved the turning point in his life. A memorandum on adventure training of soldiers sent in 1940 via Geoffrey Young to Kurt Hahn became the first link in a chain to meeting the needs of young people in peace. In 1956, he resigned from the Army to launch the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme which he ran for 10 years. This had the incidental

[1] Unsigned short reviews are the work of *AJ* Editorial Staff.