



DESCENT

Volume 24: No. 1

Alaska Alpine Club

March 1996

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Controversy on Cook's Climb continues

by Philip S. Marshall

A mock trial arguing Dr. Frederick A. Cook's alleged first ascent of Mt. McKinley in 1906 was staged Saturday morning, 3 February 1996, at the Schaible Auditorium of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Local climber and lawyer, Bob Groseclose, cheerfully agreed to plead for the deceased "defendant", while noted alpinist and geographer Dr. Bradford Washburn, was the "plaintiff". Three local court judges heard the "case" and will be issuing a written "verdict".

The event, sponsored by UAF's Department of Northern Studies, was organized by Mike Sfraga, a University official, climber, and doctoral student of Washburn's life. Sfraga thought the 90th anniversary of the climb would be an appropriate time to reanalyze the question, but the Frederick A. Cook Society, supporting Cook's claims, declined to participate. Groseclose, a longtime endurance

Fidbits

"Gripped and exposed on the walls of the Castner Glacier (wonder what it's like outside the hut)"

"No time to write, marmots attacking from all sides now"

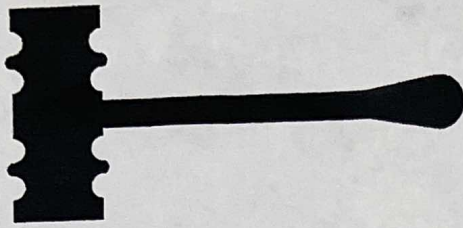
Two entries from Thayer hut log book

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athlete and climber who has done McKinley, acquiesced to represent their side for the sake of the gathering.

Groseclose's tack was that Cook had the cold-weather experience and gear (40-lb packs, 1-lb hair rope, 4-lb silk tent and a novel, lightweight sleeping bag system) to do the ascent and that he should not have to prove his claim. The route up the East Face of the East Buttress, some of which, such as the "Hairy Ridge" near Pt. 11,920, has never been "repeated", would constitute a superb alpine-style climb. It connects with the 1963 route and the 1969 Catacomb Ridge route.

As to the affidavit from "Big" Ed Barrill stating he and Cook never made it, Groseclose countered with the unverified Cook Society claim of a receipt for payment of a large sum of money to Barrill from anti-Cook supporters and the quip, "He [Barrill] never met the likes of a Johnny Cochran!"

Dr. Washburn then commenced his lengthy and fascinating delivery, showing undiminished faculties at age 85, both mental and physical. He had just recently visited the doctor for the flu, but was not about to miss this debate. Surrounded by all his superb, large photographic prints he used as "evidence" (and to which the public was treated a viewing at the close), he was "sworn in" with a flourish by Superior Court Judge Ralph Beistline. Washburn remarked how he had become involved with this controversy in 1956, but now that Belmore Browne, Terris Moore and Ad Carter are gone, he's the last to dispute the Cook Society. "They have really held my feet to the fire, and a good, one, too!" he said, referring more to the -20°F temperature prevailing in Fairbanks at

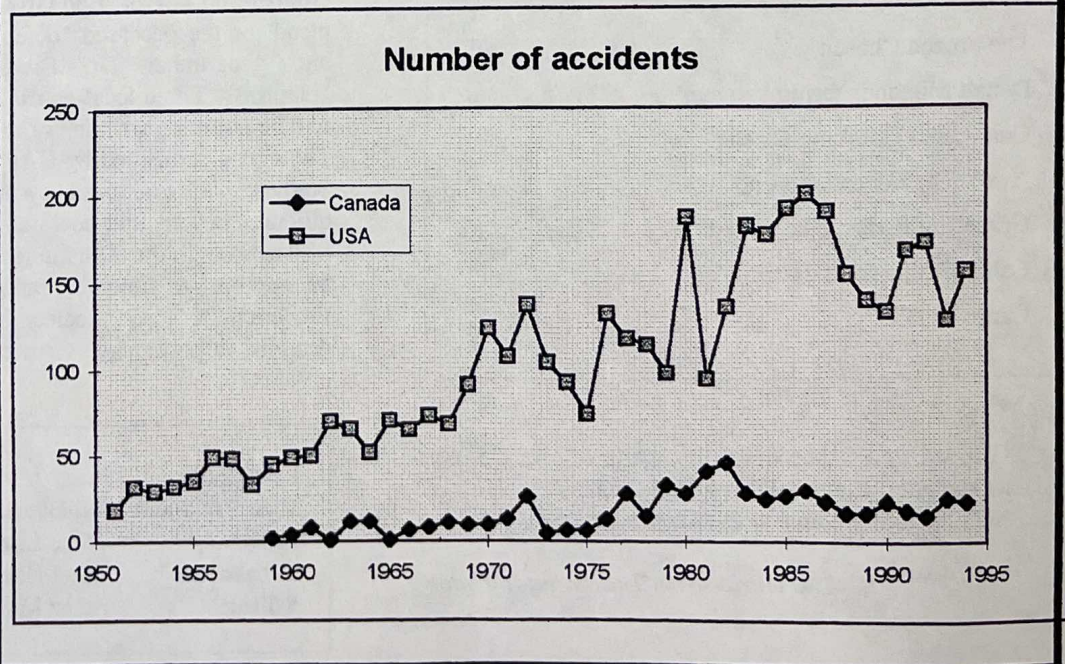
the time. He added that his years of debate with them was like "fencing with a jellyfish"

Sufficiently warmed up, if not by the TV video camera lights and photographers' flashes, Washburn termed Cook's To the Top of the Continent a "Niagara of verbiage", later amended to "diarrhea." Critical details of the summit push that don't fit are: "rows of granite pinnacles" (yet these do not exist in the top 600', and Brian Okonek, seated in the audience, confirmed that the summit rock which he has sampled by rappelling down the South Face is predominantly black argillite.); Cook's summit photo shows footsteps in fresh powder (typical conditions at 20,000' is rockhard windcrust from the nearby jetstream.); no additional summit photos were taken, though it was clear, windless and only -16° F; Cook reports seeing plumes from Illiamna and Redoubt volcanoes (impossible; they are either too distant or hidden by Spurr and Gerdine.); no mention of typical knee-deep windrift snow from the prevailing northwest wind onto the lower southeast side which Washburn waded through in 1942 to check out "that stupid route"; and finally, no word of the usually arduous passage into and out of Thayer Basin.

Regarding Cook's summit photograph, Washburn ticked off the cons: the infamous similarity of Cook's summit picture with those of the Fake Peak by Browne,

Throughout this DESCENT you will find statistics on mountaineering accidents in North America. These numbers were taken from the 1995 issue of "Accidents in North American Mountaineering", published by the American Alpine Club.

Total number of accidents in Canada and in the USA, 1950-1994



Washburn and Carter; the barely visible image of another mountain on the margin of the photo (none should be visible at the angle at which this picture was taken were it a valid summit photo), which matches Mt. Grosvenor down on the Ruth Gorge; the original 1906 negative has never been found; in November 1956, Washburn heard from Edward Van Haltina of Brooklyn, N.Y., how he had made up suspect slides for Cook in 1907. Washburn then announced for the first time the just completed findings of a stereographic analysis of Cook's, Browne's, and Carter's "summit" photos by ITEX Corporation. They align perfectly and in all likelihood must be the same location, not McKinley's summit.

Washburn likened this forty-year scrutiny to a "three-dimensional detective tale", and concluded by saying "if anyone who has set foot on McKinley's summit still claims Cook's photo is that, then they ought to be sent to a psychiatric hospital!"

Other non-photographic arguments against Cook are that he and Barrill would have had to average 5.5 miles and 2100' per day on the eight days of their ascent from the Tokositna to the top. Making this rate of ascent unlikely is that Barrill had no climbing experience, they had no snowshoes, wore rubber shoepacs without crampons, lacked goggles, mittens, gloves, snow saw (for the igloos they built), and most significantly, a shovel. To this omission growled Washburn, "God help climbing McKinley without a shovel!"

The judges and later the public were then given the opportunity to question the "litigants". Groseclose declined, saying "My witness is unavailable."

Judge Beistline asked, "Has anyone climbed all of the East Buttress by this route?" Groseclose responded "Am I supposed to speak on behalf of Dr. Cook?"

Next the judge queried, "Is Fake Peak really its name?"

"Its true name is Alleged Fake Peak!" the lawyer

spoke up.

As the house's laughter subsided, Washburn added: "It's so tiny, no name's been given to it."

Washburn became so enthusiastic at times that the Judge had to remind him to return to the microphone. His adversary picked up, "That's OK, just walk away from the mike!"

In closing, Washburn proposed that Cook's supporters prove their route's feasibility "by getting two climbers using Cook's gear and set'em loose!" The lawyer quickly responded: "We're looking for volunteers!"

All was not in jest, however. The geographer cited the estimate of respected Mazama mountaineer, C.E. Rusk, who wrote that Cook's geographic descriptions elsewhere were excellent and accurate. Cook's laurels would have been fixed just with pioneering up the Yentna River and Ruth Gorge, the first highlevel circumnavigation of the McKinley massif, his 1903 highpoint on the Northwest Buttress, and his first proposal of crossing north to the Muldrow Glacier as an ascent route. It was all rather sad that such a popular and determined climber wound up this way.

The mornings words ended with Brad's belief that "Browne's McKinley expedition was the greatest Alaskan expedition ever." And in an eerie hindsight, had they climbed Denali in 1912 (Browne was forced to turn back 600 horizontal feet from the summit), the party would have been a day longer on the peak and so been caught in the Katmai earthquake, all killed and probably lost without a trace of ever knowing what they had accomplished. Thus linger intriguing speculations about mountaineering, both quenching and stoking the flames of our imagination.

*Philip Marshall is an AAC member, schoolteacher and woodcarver in Fairbanks.
Berg Heil!*

Make Prayers to the Mountain

By Ian McRae

First-time Denali climbers are well-advised to read such primers as *Surviving Denali* or *The McKinley Climbers Handbook* before going on the mountain. However, these practical, "how-to" handbooks give scarce attention to a critical factor that can make or break an expedition—that of the mystical domain.

Perhaps an additional text is needed, one which verses the uninitiated climber in such esoteric and apparently absurd climbing strategies as "superstition management," "wilderness augury," "vibration assessment," and the like. Strategies such as these, while scoffed at by rational thinkers, enable climbers of all abilities to back off the mountain well before they get in

trouble, sometimes before they even set foot on the mountain itself, thereby saving heaps of unneeded expense.

My nominated text would be Richard Nelson's *Make Prayers to the Raven*. Nelson, a former U.A.F. professor, has sometimes been criticized by ethnographers raised in the old school for overlaying his study of native Koyukon belief systems with too much of his own belief systems. Any way you look at it, *Make Prayers to the Raven* contains many truths about the Alaskan wilderness and those who go into it on a regular basis.

The chapter to read is Chapter 12, "Principles of Koyukon Worldview," in particular the *Tenets of Koyukon Ideology*. Just substitute the word "mountain" where

Nelson uses "animal," and "climbing" for "hunting," and you will see what I mean. Here is a smattering of excerpts, with a trifling periphrasis to go along with each.

Natural entities are endowed with spirits and with spiritually based power.

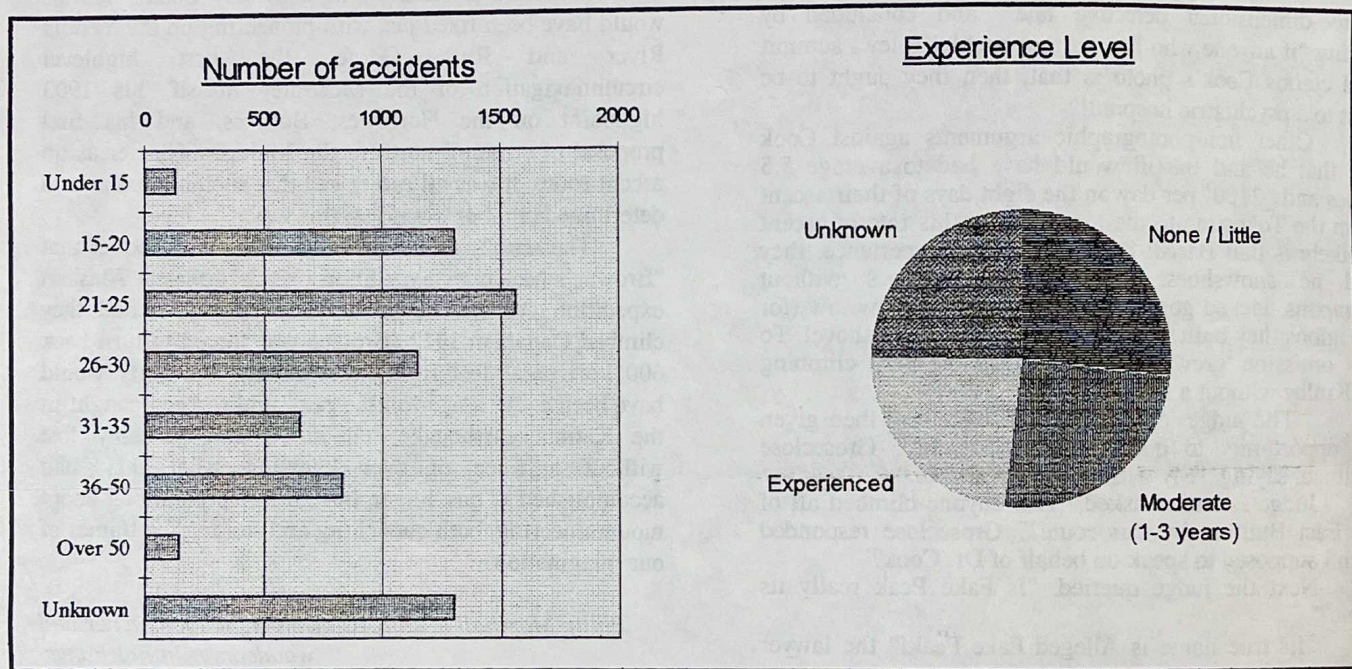
For "natural entities," read "mountains."

Humans and natural entities are involved in a

Environmental events are often caused or influenced by spiritual forces; they apparently do not occur randomly but happen through design and consciousness.

This one you really have to watch; "environmental events" such as that serac that just missed you by two meters might be due, it seems, to emanations from your own consciousness, from some preexistent bent within the matrix of general consciousness, or, on a more serious

Number of climbing accidents in North America by age group (left) and by experience level. (right), 1950 - 1994.



constant spiritual interchange that profoundly affects human behavior.

Climbers and mountains are involved in a constant spiritual interchange that profoundly affects climbers' behavior. The most "profoundly affected" climbers lose touch with reality, and their "behavior" comes to resemble a selfabsorbed trance under which they are forever planning their next expedition.

Spirits of natural entities have different amounts of power.

Which do you think is gonna mess with your life more, an ascent of Deborah's East Ridge or a walk up Donnelly Dome?

The source of preeminent spiritual power is the earth itself.

Here, Nelson refers to *sinh taala'* as the Koyukon name for the earth's power.

level, from the consciousness of your lover back in town.

Human behavior toward natural entities is governed by spiritually based rules.

Nelson lists several sub-headings under this one, including:

Respectful indirect address. "Whenever climbers speak of mountains, they must be respectful and deferential. For example, bragging about climbing exploits or making uncomplimentary comments about mountains is strictly tabooed."

Respectful direct address. "In certain contexts, people should speak directly to natural entities (especially mountains.)"

(I have found that mountains like to be sung to. If you're ever out there getting thrashed by one, you may want to try this.)

Respectful use of names. The names of some mountains should not be used in certain contexts, such as while the mountains are being climbed." Doesn't it make you kind of wince when you have to say the name of the mountain where you're going?

Powerful spirits tend to be highly sensitive, vindictive, and dangerous.

This is essentially the same message promulgated in the Denali climbing manuals—i.e., the mountain is frigging dangerous!

Spirits of natural entities appear to be vaguely conceptualized.

Consult Nelson for complete explication, but this "tenet" seems to me merely a disclaimer pointing out the all-too-obvious fact that this spiritual mumbo-jumbo is half the time just a crock of shit—or, at the very least, is NOT a consistent set of rules, but something that changes through many contexts.

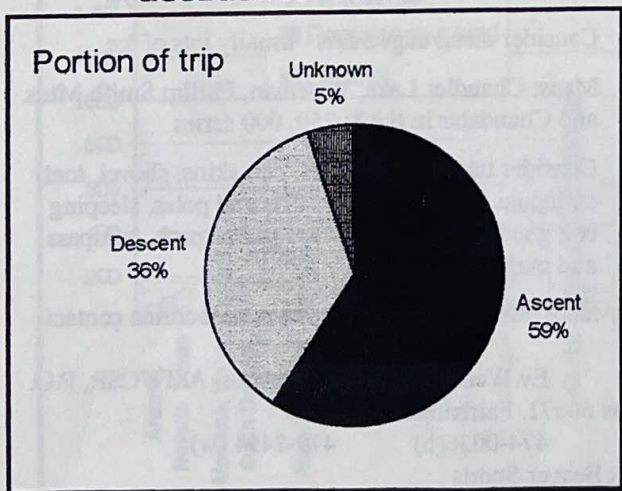
Applicability of rules is contingent on belief.

This might explain why saintly, nice people are often rudely annihilated, while assholes with plenty of bad karma climb on into old age.

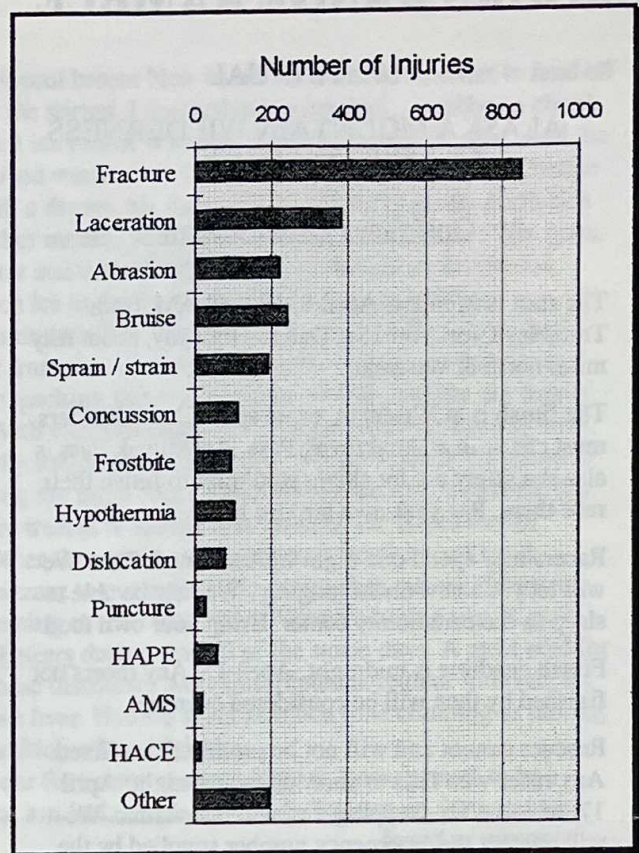
Devices used to catch and kill animals are involved in spiritual interchange.

Devices (such as axes, crampons, stoves, tents, etc) used to climb mountains are involved in spiritual interchange. This one seems like it could save a lot of climbers some grief. For instance, sleeping with your shovel is sensuous, and is wise practice in snow country. Or— who, in the haze of altitude delirium, would start down Denali Pass, as some of done, without the psychic presence of their old and trusted ice ax resting in their

Portion of trip during which accidents occurred, all accidents 1950-1994



Type of injuries, all North American mountaineering accidents, 1950-1994.



uphill hand?

Luck is an essential element in the spiritual interchange between humans and natural spirits.

"Luck"—the random element immanent within the unpredictable chaotic structure of cause and effect into which the climber steps when embarking upon a climb — is central to most climber's concerns, especially in the capricious Alaska Range, a climbing environment far more unpredictable than your average crag. Carry prussiks, dig pits, put in screws, carry extra fuel, decide to retreat — you will still find yourself saying once it is all over, "We got lucky."

Spirits of natural entities can be propitiated.

I interpret what-this means in terms of climbing mountains as: if the vibes are good, go for it!

Announcement:

BROOKS RANGE RAMBLE

10th ANNUAL

ALASKA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS CLASSIC SKI RACE

Guidelines for participants:

1. The start is Monday, April 8, 1996, 9 AM, from Trembley Creek, mi 185, Dalton Highway, about fifty miles north of Wiseman.
2. The finish is at Wiseman, exact spot TBA. All skiers must check in at Anaktuvuk Pass. Anaktuvuk Pass is also the safety net for skiers who want to finish their race there. Pay your own air fare home.
3. Racers may spend one night in Anaktuvuk Pass. We will let you know about lodging. We may be able to sleep in the community center. Bring your own food.
4. Finish deadline is midnight, April 17. Any racers not finished by then will be considered overdue.
5. Rescues cannot and will not be promised or offered. Any racer who fails to show up by midnight, April 17, or call after dropping out, will be overdue. We will contact the emergency number supplied by the racer, the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Alpine Rescue Group. This will be the extent of AMWCSR's involvement.
6. Racers are responsible for any expenses incurred for rescues or attempted rescues on their behalf. Racers are encouraged to take out insurance through the Alaskan Alpine Club's "Rescue Expense Fund." A \$15 fee will insure a person for one year for up to \$1,500 in rescue expenses. Contact: Alaskan Alpine Club; Mt. Rescue Expense Fund; 3641 Sandvik; Fairbanks, Ak. 99709; ph.479-2149.
7. The plan is to rendezvous in Fairbanks on April 7 for the drive to Wiseman. We will stay the night there, dinner and breakfast provided. We will drive to the starting line and shuttle all cars but one back to Wiseman.
8. Entry fee is \$100, \$75 for students. Fee is non-refundable unless a person withdraws by April 1. A commemorative long sleeve shirt is issued.
9. Application deadline is April 1.
10. Any racer who turns back or drops out should notify other race participants if possible and call Anne Wenrick, 474-0026. Leave ms.
11. Minimum age is 18. I reserve the right to deem any applicant unqualified.
12. Maximum number of racers is 20. No applications accepted after that.
13. No cash awards. We will have donated prizes.
14. Racers are encouraged to travel in groups of two or more for safety and fun. Racers may share food and gear with each other but not with non-racers.
15. Each racer should be independent in terms of gear and food.
16. All travel must be self-propelled, without benefit of motorized vehicles, wheels pack or pull animals.
17. All travel must be self-contained. Everything needed must be carried from start to finish without benefit of pre-planned caches, air drops or aid stations. Littering or purposefully dropping gear or food is grounds for disqualification.
18. Racers select their own route. It is important that you describe your route on the application form. Let someone know if you change your route. There will be no organized trail sweep.
19. The Alaska State Highway system is out of bounds. Racers are allowed to use the Nolan to Wiseman access road.
20. A celebrative b-b-q is planned in Fairbanks on Sunday, April 28.

Suggestions for Brooks ramble

- If new, talk to those who have done this before.
- Expect 60 mph winds, avalanche country, open water, -40°F, +40°F, deep snow, no snow, icebreakable crust, overflow, sloop and storms.
- Waterproof your gear, especially if you use a sled.
- Take food and fuel for a minimum of 10 days.
- Consider metal edged skis - usually lots of ice.
- Maps: Chandler Lake, Wiseman, Phillip Smith Mtns. and Chandalar in the 1: 250, 000 series.
- Consider taking: stove, fuel, pot, skins, shovel, tent, crampons, repair kit, extra skis and poles, sleeping bag good to -40° F, pad, sled and/or pack, compass and maps, flares, saw.

For more info, sign up forms, and release forms contact:

Ev Wenrick, race co-ordinator, AMWCSR, P.O.
Box 60671, Fairbanks, Ak 99706
474-0026(h) 479-2494 (w)
OR Beaver Sports

The Frozen Chosen

by Rick Studley

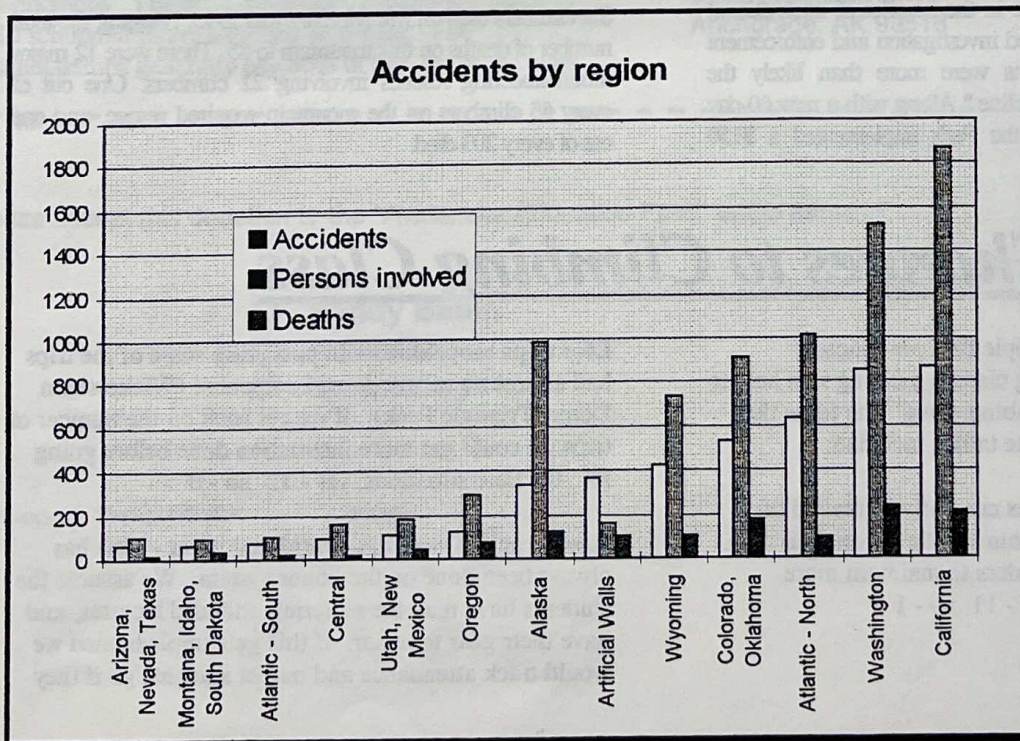
The sun was hot on my face as I rolled over in the sand. A cool breeze blew in off the water in an effort to fend off the raging heat. The mostly naked, dark skinned woman beside me stirred. I reached out to her and ... grabbed a chunk of frozen down in Jeff's sleeping bag? Whoa! Wait a minute. That isn't sand. It's snow in the bottom of the tent. And the hot sun I felt was really frost raining down from the tent walls. And worst of all the dark skinned beauty stirring beside me was really Mike reaching for the pee bottle. Ahhhh! It was all a dream. It's thirty below and we're on the north side of the Hayes Range in winter. The sun won't shine here for another month. What the hell were we thinking? "Hey guys, what say we find the coldest, darkest route we can, wait for winter and a hard cold snap, and then go try to climb it." Fairbanks hard men? I think not. Climbers with a touch too much ice in the brain would be more appropriate.

And thus our trip to the northwest ridge of Mt. Moffet continued. We, Jeff Apple Benowitz, Mike Litzow, and myself, Rick Studley, received a Peter McKeith Climbing Grant from the Alaska Alpine Club to make all this fun and excitement possible. After much preparation and organizing (i.e. packing the morning that we left), the big day finally came. We were ready to go, all we needed was a ride to Delta. With minimal begging we bummed a ride and left town. We arrived too late to fly that day so we set up camp and excitedly settled in for the night. We were mildly surprised to find out the next morning that it had been forty- five below during the night. An auspicious beginning. Undaunted (i.e. foolishly) we flew in to the Trident Glacier the next day and were treated to spectacular views of the Hayes Range. Though the potential epic factor was high, all went smoothly. Other than giving a big boost to the chemical hand warmer industry, there were no incidents to add excitement or pizzazz to our outing. No avalanches, no one dropping into a crevasse, no seracs falling on us, and no unexpected swimming in the Delta river. Almost a boring trip. A good deal of time was spent in the critical analysis of The Three Musketeers during several of the storm days. A must read for anyone cooped up with foul smelling friends for days on end. These discourses were interrupted at regular intervals for discussions of our love lives, or more correctly, our imagined love lives. Had we spent as much time climbing as talking of our amorous interests, we'd have scaled everything west of the Richardson highway.

However, as it turned out we only managed to slog up to our first camp at about 8500 ft. Snow proved to be a scarce commodity, so after gaining the ridge we dug into the first available crack we found. Day two on the mountain

found us creeping our way up low angle, hard, mountain ice at such a slow pace that after two hours we'd only gone two pitches. We were climbing in our belay jackets and were still freezing. All we could see was a lot more of the bastardly hard ice ahead with no place for a cave in view. Therefore, we made the wise (i.e. obvious) decision to retreat back to our cave and throw in the towel. Of course, it was easier said than done. Those same 400 ft. we had

Numbers of mountaineering accidents in the United States by area, 1950-1994.



just come up took us four hours to get back down. In the span of six hours we had managed to move a grand total of eight hundred feet. An embarrassing admission, but the truth none the less.

As the next few days blew by we realized just how wise our choice had been. We didn't see the summit for six days and spent three of them storm-bound in the tent. With the amount of food and fuel we had taken up with us, many stomachs, and possibly fingers and toes, would have suffered had we continued. So instead, we lounged in the tent and read, ate and talked of love.

Time drew near for the skedaddle home. Thoughts turned towards the next adventure, a meal that didn't contain ramen or couscous, a warm shower, and various other details. By some accounts a failed trip. But, in many ways a winter trip to the Hayes range is a beautiful, albeit cold, experience. Perhaps next year I'll spend the winter on a sandy beach with a beautiful woman. But, somehow I doubt it.

Denali National Park: 1995 Summary

The following is a sampling of information contained in "Denali National Park & Preserve 1995 Mountaineering Summary", which has been released by South District Ranger J. D. Swed. To request mountaineering information or forms for preregistration, please contact:

Talkeetna Ranger Station,
Box 588,
Talkeetna AK 99676;
Tel 907-733-2231;
Fax 907-733-1465.

"In 1995, 1,220 mountaineers registered to climb Mount McKinley. This is the second highest number ever to attempt Mount McKinley. (The record year was in 1994 with 1,277 climbers.) A total of 553 climbers reached the summit of Mt. McKinley this season, representing a 43% success rate."

"There was a decrease in the number of international climbers this year. ... Increased investigation and enforcement of illegal guiding regulations were more than likely the contributing factors to this decline." Along with a new 60-day preregistration requirement, the Park implemented a \$150 Mountaineering

Special Use Fee for climbing on Mt. McKinley or Mt. Foraker. All funds collected from this fee go directly to support the mountaineering program in the Park; the funds do not pay for rescues. The following new routes were recorded:

- Mt. McKinley, First Born, on the 'Father and Sons Wall', by Eli Helmuth and Steve House.
- Mt. Johnson, The Elevator Shaft, couloir on the North Face, by Jack Tackle and Doug Chabot.
- Mt. Brooks, via the Southeast Face, by Thai Verzone and Paul Sotherman.
- Daryl R. Miller and Mark Stasik of Talkeetna completed the first winter circumnavigation of the Mt. McKinley and Mt. Foraker massifs. Their route included an elevation gain-and-loss of 65,000 ft along 350 miles of travel. The two experienced ambient temperatures of -58° F and winds over 100 mph at times during their 45-day trip.

Six climbers died on Mt. McKinley in 1995, bringing the total number of deaths on this mountain to 85. There were 12 major mountaineering rescues involving 22 climbers. One out of every 55 climbers on the mountain required rescue, and one out of every 203 died.

Changes to Climbing Class

With the death of three people that were loosely affiliated with the climbing class, a meeting was held to discuss changes to the climbing class. The ideas that were discussed and the vote tallies included:

Exercise more control - As currently formatted the students have a lot of freedom to take off on their own. The idea here is for the leaders to maintain more control over activities. yes - 11 no - 1

Less trips more skills - In past years some of the trips had almost no instructional component (Wickersham Dome, Triangle Peak). If we cut back on the number of trips we could get more instruction done before going into the field situations. yes - 12 no - 0

Keep track of who has completed what - This has always been done on the honor system. We assume the students have read the material, attended lectures, and have their gear together. If this gets implemented we would track attendance and not let students go if they

are missing crucial skills. Not sure how we will handle students that arrive with considerable skills. yes - 12 no - 0

Hire a paid director - The thought here is that if we are to act more like a professional organization we also need to pay like one. An alternative here would be to hire a secretary/treasurer to handle many of the details. yes - 10 no - 1

Up the class fee - This goes hand in hand with the last item. yes - 10 no - 1

Limit class size - Less students would make it easier to

control. The vote reflected the idea that more instructors/trip leaders would be recruited to man a larger class. yes - 1 no - 10

Buy radios - This discussion ranged from radios that would allow the leader to communicate with the rear leader, to radios that would allow contact with planes, Pump Station, truckers, etc. yes - 7 no - 4

Buy avalanche beacons - We discussed the idea but quickly discarded it due to the expenses involved and anticipated problems with keeping track of the beacons. Instead we will try to get one of the local stores or UAF Student Activities to purchase and rent beacons.

Avalanche Education Fund

The Alaska Alpine Club has donated \$300 to the Avalanche Education Fund in memory of the three Fairbanks climbers that died in an avalanche near the Castner glacier on February 18, 1996. The fund was created by the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc. and 'friends of friends' killed in avalanches. The purpose of the Education Fund is to promote avalanche awareness through the production of educational materials (e.g., books, videos, brochures, etc.) and by providing financial assistance to experienced Alaskan travelers who might otherwise find it difficult to participate in field backcountry avalanche hazard evaluation workshops. The fund has grown to the point that 6 to 10 scholarships are awarded each year. The scholarships generally pay 50% of the cost of the class.

Jill Fredson of the Alaska Mountain Safety Center indicated that 1 or 2 scholarships could be designated for Fairbanks depending on how the fund raising goes. She said we could be involved in selection of the recipients or they would do it. The courses are an intense two days of learning about avalanches and how to avoid getting caught in them.

Send Donations to:

The Alaska Mountain Safety Center
9140 Brewsters Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

cut here ----- cut here

Please accept this donation to the "Avalanche Education Fund" in the name of:

- Randy Baten
- John Slage
- Mark Neiro

(Optional) Donated By:

Name
Address

Grapefruit Rocks to be Mined!!!

Globe Creek Mining has submitted an application for a mining permit to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining. They hope to extract Limestone which they would crush and sell to Golden Valley Electric Company for use at the Healy Clean Coal project. Eventually they want to build a kiln so they could convert limestone into lime, which is used in water treatment (Fairbanks MUS), gold processing (Fort Knox), sludge treatment (MUS), and a component of cement.

For those of you that have not visited our local crags, Grapefruit Rocks is a beautiful area and has been used for recreation for over 50 years. It is used for hiking, camping, bird watching, and of course rock climbing. It is especially beautiful in the fall when ribbons of deciduous trees turn golden.

As originally proposed the mine was to be on the South face of Upper Grapefruit, below the twin towers area. This site was selected because it did not directly impact climbing, was on the opposite side of the hill from the endangered Peregrine Falcons, and did not cross wetlands. It was also cheap, as it is close to the road and consists of a large talus slope so they can simply scoop up the material rather than conduct blasting. Unfortunately, it would be an ugly scar on the landscape.

This is not the first time climbers have battled to protect Grapefruit Rocks. When the oil pipeline was planned from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez the Alaska Alpine Club mounted a successful campaign to move the pipeline to the West and Pump Station 7 to the North. Early plans located Pump 7 on top of Lower Grapefruit. Then when a

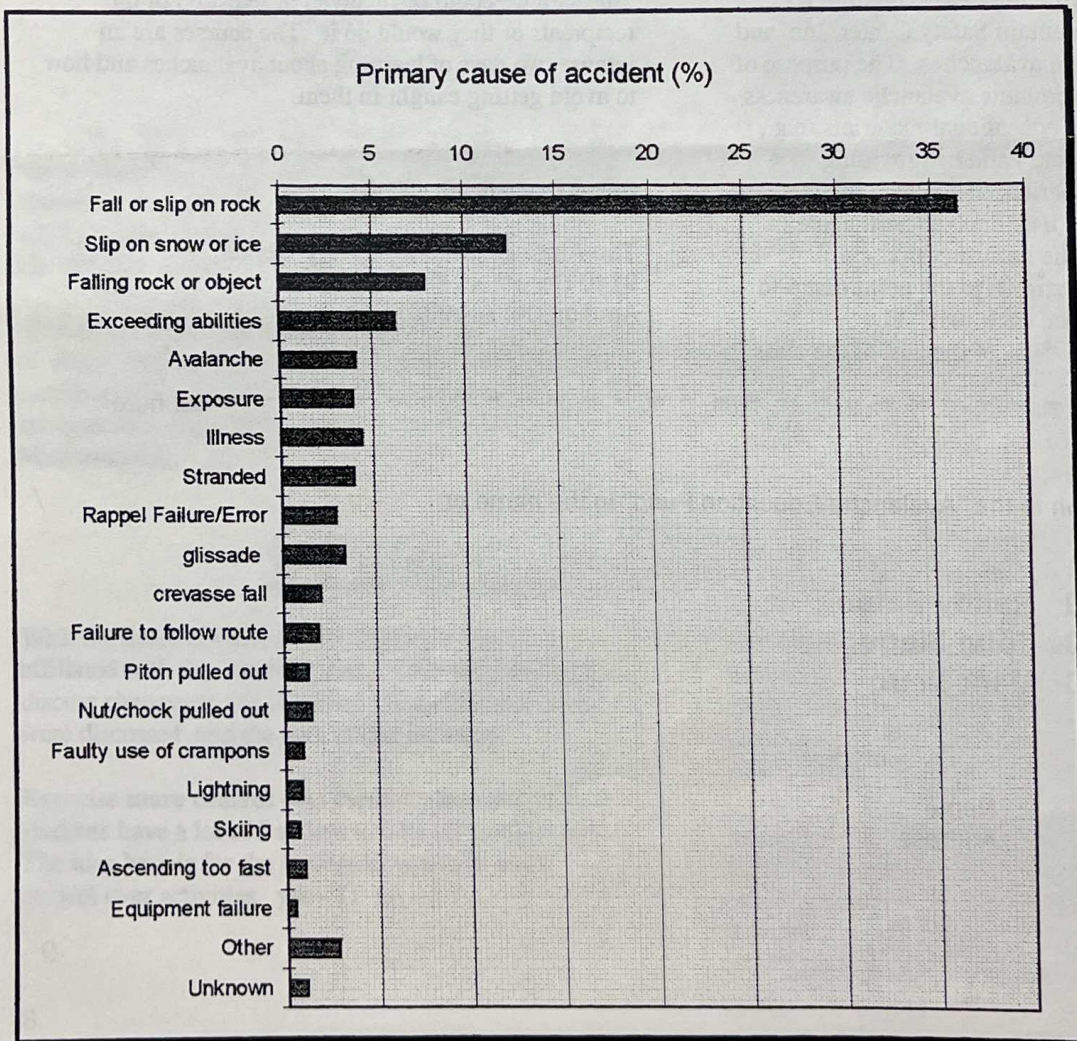
person proposed to open a liquor store and RV park at a "Trade and Manufacturing Site" near the rocks the club succeeded in stopping the project.

The area was proposed as a park clear back in the pipeline construction days. When the Tanana Basin Plan was written the area was designated for recreation and closed to mineral claim staking.

Unfortunately, the area had already been staked, and the old claims are apparently still valid.

Some negotiations have taken place to try and find a solution satisfactory to all parties. Globe Creek Mining agreed to start mining on the East face where they would be out of sight from the road and the climbing areas, but they are not giving up

Primary causes of mountaineering accidents in the United States of America, 1950-1994



the right to mine the South Face. For most any reason they could change their mind and mine the South face. Going around the corner caused the Fish and Wildlife Service concerns because it is closer to falcon nests. They wanted something in return, and suggested climbers agree to not climb on rocks with falcon nests should the falcons relocate. Falcons stake out their nest sites in April, the same time Globe Creek Mining wants to go in and get a "bulk sample". So in this round of negotiations we get a gentleman's agreement that the mine will be out of sight and could lose Falcon Rock should the miners chase the falcons around the hill.

Ironically there is also a new proposal by DNR to build trailheads, latrines, and interpretive signs for Grapefruit Rocks. In their proposal they show a trail to the top of the hill and big arrows are titled "VIEW". The arrows point directly towards the mine!! The listed contact person, Anna Plager, had not heard about the Globe Creek Mine, many weeks after the application had been received!

What can you do to help???

- Write to DNR and express your opinion. Demand a fair and open process. Ask for a public hearing. Ask that they ensure the claims are valid. Ask them to require bonding to ensure the mine scar is re-vegetated should the project go bankrupt.

John Shively, Commissioner
State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
400 Willoughby Ave.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

- Write to GVEA and ask them to not buy their crushed limestone from Globe Creek Mining. Currently the Healy Clean Coal Project is priced to use lower 48 limestone. There is also a competing mine trying to open in the Cantwell Area. If you are a GVEA member be sure to tell them that as well.

Board of Directors
Golden Valley Electric Association
P.O. Box 71249
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1249

Calendar of Events

March 23: Student Activities will be hosting the Banff Film Festival at UAF, a collection of outdoor films selected from over 150 entries. During the past two years Student Activities has offered a variety of outdoor related seminars such as camp cooking, bike repair, orienteering, fishing, and ice climbing. They are requesting help with both an avalanche safety seminar and perhaps an ice climbing clinic as well. The seminars are going to be offered from Noon-3pm on Saturday. If anybody is interested in helping out, please contact Franz Mütter (479-8815).

April 2, 7:30pm. Schaible Auditorium: "South America - Aconcagua" Slide show by Bill Cole.

May 3, 7:00pm. Potluck and annual meeting of the Alaska Alpine Club, Copper Lane House, UAF campus.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

November 6: 7:30pm. ANNUAL CLIMBING CLASS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING !!! Stan's house. Call 479-5017 for more info.

Cantwell huts

We were recently approached by DNR to finally resolve the status of the two huts on the Cantwell Glacier. The State is no longer willing to tolerate the huts in their current status, due to liability concerns. They basically gave us two options: Either the huts will be removed by the state at our expense (alternatively, we could remove the huts ourselves), or we apply for a Land Use Permit to obtain the legal rights to use and maintain the huts for public recreation. We decided to apply for a Permit in spite of heavy opposition from Doug Buchanan. As supporting documentation for the application we need photographs and detailed site descriptions of the huts and their surroundings. If you have photographs of one or both of the huts or any other useful information, please contact Franz Mütter (479-8815).

Your mailing label indicates your current status with regard to annual dues. If your mailing label has a green bar across the bottom - RELAX, you don't owe any dues. If it shows a black bar you owe dues for the current years. A red bar means TROUBLE! You owe us dues for the PAST THREE YEARS. Pay up NOW or you loose your membership. Please fill out the attached stub and send it in with your dues.

Annual dues: Family \$15 [], Individual \$10 [], Student \$5 [] (Please check one)

Name: _____

UAF affiliation (check all that apply)

Address: _____

Spouse

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Student (3 or more cr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
Faculty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	male <input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	female <input type="checkbox"/>
Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No UAF affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Phone: _____ (work) _____ (home)

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Alaska Alpine Club
P.O. Box 81174
Fairbanks, Ak 99708



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