

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

" P O H O K U R A "

Bulletin No. 74.

December, 1956.

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H. T. C. (1935 - ....)

In the first year of the Club, when we were all full of enthusiasm and gathering in new members every trip, some gloomy soul was heard to mutter:- "It's the second year that counts!" It must have "bounted" - because here we are in our twenty-second.

Sometime, possibly in our twenty-fifth year, we will write up the story of it all. In the meantime come and talk about it at our 21st anniversary reunion dinner to be held on 26th January, 1957, in the Hawkes Bay Farmers Tearooms. Fifty-one have already paid their levy. Further seats are still available.

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CLUB TRIP

CATTLE HILL

No. 535

5th August

Cancelled on account of the weather.

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SHUT-EYE - ARMSTRONG'S SADDLE

No. 536

19th August

We left Holt's about 6.45 am heading for Shut-Eye. En route the Prefect played up and an interesting half hour at Onga Onga resulted in a new fan belt being fitted. This delay caused a late start up the creek bed about 9.30 am. The party split into three groups, the fastest of which made for the tops, the middle one headed for the Hut and the third just ambled up the ridge. We had lunch at Shut-Eye in the open as very dead opossums occupied the bunks. Hal later removed the corpses.

The middle group ambled on towards Armstrong's Saddle. Parting mist and Swiss yodels allowed contact with the fast-moving party which was turned back by mists and time before reaching 65. Back at the cars, in the dusk, we gathered stones for the float.

No. in party: 11. Leader: Norm Elder.  
Kath Elder, Edna Ansell, Helen Hill, Nancy Tanner, Alison Douglas, Alan and Russell Berry, Jim Glass, Graeme Hare, Hal Christian.

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TE IRINGA

No. 537.

2nd September.

We left Holts at 6.30 am with a few extra bods bringing the total to nineteen. After a brief stop for some fresh air for us and some water for the radiator at Willow Ford, we carried on over the Blowhard and eventually to the top of Gentle Annie at approx. 9.15 am. An easy climb took us to the top of the first rise, where we had a short spell. When we arrived at the spot just above the creek we decided to fill the billy and carry it to the top and have lunch there. Shortly after leaving the creek we came on to a full carpet of snow about 18" to 2' deep in the deepest places. We arrived at Te Iringa at 12.15 pm, had lunch and admired a beautiful view of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe while we basked in the brilliant sunshine.

Later on a full-scale snow fight took place, in which I think all nineteen of us took an active part. An easy walk then took us back to the truck in which we left Gentle Annie at 4.30 pm, and arrived back at Holt's at 6.45 pm after plenty of lusty singing in the truck and a very pleasant day altogether.

No. in party: 19. Leader: Len Hodgson.  
Edna Ansell, Lois Bartle, Ted and Rachael Priddey, Marie Valler, Margaret Powdrell, Heather Robinson, Barbara Hare, Graeme Hare, Al. Moffitt, Kevin Simmons, Hal Christian, Jack Landman, Alan Berry, Ian Berry, Rex Chaplin, Jim Chaplin, Jim Glass.

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WORKING PARTY - SMITH-RUSSELL TRACK (KAWEKAS)

No. 538.

16th September.

We left Holt's about 6.30 am with a fair muster of bods, slashers, axes, a hammer and discs to cut, clear and disc here and there the Smith-Russell track through the scrub. At the road-man's hut we were stopped by a couple of deerstalkers whose truck was bogged in the clearing opposite. It didn't take long to push it on to the road. On arriving at the Pine Tree we found our parking place fenced off, so we left the truck just off the road and at 9.30 after changing and the usual bite to eat, we were on our way. A disced pole was erected at the turn off for Kiwi. Those with slashers and axes cut the track while the rest of us followed, clearing away the rubbish. By 10.45 we reached the stream and since it was to be the last water for the rest of the day, we decided on a boil-up and an early lunch.

Then Kath and Norm worked along the foot of the hill towards the shingle slide cutting and discing a track, while the rest of us climbed 4,100 to give Hal's high school boys a view. There was still quite a bit of snow on top and a reasonable view. Clouds covered the tops of the volcanoes but we could see a fair distance all round. The boys couldn't resist a snow fight and a sharp battle raged till frozen hands called a halt. We made short work of coming down the shingle slide and cut fresh blazes, adding discs to the track at the foot. We lost the track in manuka, but kept going and soon came out to a nice little grassy clearing and found a disc in front of us. Norm's answer to our call was surprisingly close. After a short conference it was decided that the boys would go back and cut a track through the scrub to the foot of the shingle slide over the route we had just come. So now, instead of turning left off the shingle slide, we also have the choice of turning right and eventually meeting the Smith-Russell track which shortens the distance.

While the boys worked the girls returned to the willows to boil a brew of tea before going home. We left at 5 pm and hadn't gone far when we met a forestry truck. After some conversation off we set again, but alas and alack a little further on there was a loud bang! There goes a tyre. We all piled out and as it looked to be a longish job and it was turning cold with the sun gone some of us walked on for a mile or two eventually being picked up. The spare tyre had a bulge and a very thin place, so the former tyre was left on. We arrived in Hastings without further incident at 8.30 after a successful, satisfying trip.

No. in party: 16.

Leader: Edna Ansell.

Hal Christian + 3. Norm and Kath Elder, Philip and Els Bayens, Graeme and Barbara Hare, Owen Brown, Jim Glass, Cyril Hargreaves, Helen Hill, Doreen Fletcher.

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WAIKAMAKA - WORKING PARTY

No. 539

29-30th September.

It was a small but highly efficient band of workers that made its way up the Waipawa river and over the Saddle down to the Waikamaka Hut. At two o'clock a start was made on the lean-to on the east side of the hut, the piles for which had already been put in place a month or two before. From the time a tree was felled to the time it had been adzed and placed into position as a top plate was about one and a half hours. It was good fun to measure your opening, dash off into the bush and select your tree, chop it down, drag it back and nail it into place. The rain started about three and put a slight damper on our progress. Every time you lifted your arm to drive a nail you got a sleeve full of water. The job was just about completed by five thirty.

While we had been outside, our very good cook had been hard at work inside. After the excellent meal we spent the evening taking indoor photographs by candle light. A comfortable and ratleas night was spent with the noise of the rain outside. After putting finishing touches to the lean-to we left at eleven to go out over "66" with the weather still not looking the best. The climb onto "67" was very cold with driving rain and hail. Once on top we decided to scrub "66" and make our way round to the saddle. For almost an hour we groped our way about in the mist trying to find our way off. Not until after our compass had fallen to pieces and been put together again did we find our way onto a large patch of snow which took us down to the foot of the saddle. Two hours more saw us in dry clothes and on the way home.

No. in party: 6

Leader: Jim Glass.

Owen Brown, Alan Berry, Jack Landman, Len Hodgson, Edna Ansell.

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TRIPLEX - SHUT-EYE TRACK

No. 540.

14th October.

Members of the Club were very much in a minority on this trip. Twenty 6.am starters included seven members. Our thanks go to Owen Brown for bringing two from Napier and to Hal Christian for his magnificent effort of eleven helpers - Napier and Hastings Boys High Schools respectively. The party was under way from Hastings at 6.21 am and Triplex creek at 8.15 am. Recent flooding in the creek had made it possible to stick to new shingle banks on the north side and so keep the feet dry right up to the start of the spur, where the creek was crossed. By division of the track into "five minute units" per person, the clearing work up the spur to the ridge overlooking the Waipawa was accomplished in time to have the midday boil shortly after 11 am. at

the water holes in the bush here; the track from here on was in good order.

This left the afternoon for independent effort. All except our President - who had some bush identification problems to solve around the spur end here - made for Shut-Eye shack, Buttercup Hollow, Armstrongs Saddle - and of course the 'strangers' for the first and nearest bit of snow which lay in the hollow just above and to the south of the saddle near the survey pipe. No sign of Hamish Armstrong's plane crash of 1935 was seen in the saddle. There is said to be a piece of tin nailed to a post to mark the spot. It is suggested that consideration should be given to permanently marking this historic spot before knowledge of its exact location be lost; especially as it was the actual discovery and subsequent search by some of our first members that brought them together and resulted in the foundation of our Club.

A party of four (without packs) made a rapid traverse onto 65 and back again to join the main party who all assembled at the lunch spot with the intention of departing at 4pm - a few minutes later. The leader however found his pack had not returned from the top of 62 as hoped, so in order not to delay the party he decided to return alone to seek it and if necessary spend the night at Shut-Eye and find his own way back to town. Various kind bods donated extra clothing and food and a pack to make the prospective night out bearable. The party arrived in Hastings about 7.45. The missing pack was successfully located - blown off the rock it was left on down the Waipawa side - too late to make other than the shelter of Shut-Eye for the night. The leader hitch hiked to Hastings next morning. As a matter of general information, there is a mail truck that leaves Cullens at 7.am for Waipawa on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

No. in party: 20. Leader: Dick Clark.  
 Norm Elder, Owen Brown, Philip and Els Bayens, Joyce Stanley, Hal Christian. Napier B.H.S.: D. Bowman and M. Harris.  
 Hastings B.H.S.: J. MacKenzie, L.W. Grooby, M. Beale, B. Downey, R. Fleming, W. Roberts, P. Manning, R. Lowe, M. Frederickson, L. Lowe and B. Andrews.

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# WAIPAKIHI - LABOUR WEEKEND

No. 541(A)

20-22nd October.

Dick and I came north on Friday. On my way south I had seen the new air-drop Kime Hut, partly dismantled, but could only show Dick a few scraps of aluminium. Quite roomy, wooden floor, six (double) bunks, but no outer door to the porch, which will fill with snow at Kime. Makahu hut should be of similar size. After Waiohuru overshoot the 15-mile turn-off first go, but doubled back and put our marker discs out. Pretty draughty, so put a tent up for the Inland Patea contingent, but we had hardly

6. settled into our sleeping bags before honks and yells indicated their arrival (5½ hours from Napier) 2 hours before we expected. Woke to find a car-load of shooters and two truck loads - Tararua and Wanganui - parked alongside. As the others intended a primus boil-up before starting, we went ahead to the Waikato, where we were joined by the Wanganui party of six, and breakfasted. On upstream for a couple of hours to a particularly pleasant camp site on a big flat below Patutu. We had overtaken three parties of somewhat baffled shooters and been overtaken by the Tararua party of 16.

After pitching camp and a meal we headed off up the nearest spur but it wasn't a good choice with a lot of lawyer and second growth, and further up windfalls. Came back to find the Wanganui T.C. had headed off upstream with the intention of going out over Umukarikari. We were a bit jammed for a programme as the Inland Patea party had to return on Sunday, and we didn't know what the T.T.C. were doing. However, on Sunday it turned out that two T.T.C. and two H.T.C. were for the tops, so we teamed up and followed a better route, the bold northern approach to Patutu. A beautiful day with fair visibility from Southern Ruahines to Kawekas, Makorako, etc., and round to Taupo and Titiraupunga. A jar at the trig has records back to the H.T.C. crossing in 1947.

We then split, H.T.C. bound for the Karikaringa Pinnacles and an elusive forget-me-not, T.T.C. for a route down Pinnacle Creek, but when we stopped for a boil-up they smelt our smoke and came in. Then they found a take-off and disappeared and we continued north. Failed to find our plant, so made Karikaringa well on in the afternoon, and took off down the S.W. ridge. This has a couple of impressive pinnacles, rather on the lines of Tararua Peak, but was alleged to be all right. A bit of scrambling just the same, then down the bush ridge, pretty scrubby, to the river an hour above the camp flat. Just got in without using torches, after a fairly full day, and the unconsumed portion of the Tararua stew saved cooking and was most welcome. Some singing and so to bed.

Monday morning began in leisurely fashion but the approach of a thunderstorm got things moving and we were on our way out at 10. Rather a wet and chilly trip out (traces of snow on the Desert Road) and when the T.T.C. stopped at the Waikato to locate a stray bod and boil-up, we only stayed till the fire was going and the party re-assembled, then plodded out to the road. Some trouble getting on to the bitumen with the assistance of the assembled trampers, but nothing to that of a couple of shooters' vehicles which had ventured in along the track, and of the breakdown truck likewise bogged, trying to get one out. Headed into Waiouru with a message for assistance, then home across the Inland Patea. A striking white band of hail up the face of Aorangi, no human traffic, but wild duck in a watersplash, hares everywhere and a Jap hind near the Kakakino. Reached the top of Gentle Annie before switching on headlights - and so home.

No. in party: 6. Leader: Norm Elder.  
Dick Clark, Edna Ansell, Helen Hill, Joyce Stanley, Nancy Tanner.

SOUTH RANGI - KAWHATAU - MANGAWEKA

No. 541(B)

20-22nd October.

For one reason or another, the party for the Chateau gradually dwindled away until finally only two starters remained - not a very economical truckload. The afore-mentioned two therefore jumped into a wee car on Saturday morning and set off to have a fossick around some of the less often visited regions of the Ruahines. We struck the first snag at Triplex, where recent floods had completely scoured out the original ford, so with much muttering we shouldered our packs and trudged off up the track along which we had bounced so merrily in the Club truck so many times before. Our aim was to strike into the Kawhatau via the long spur leading up onto South Rangi (5990') from the East, a promising enough looking route, but rather an unknown quantity.

The going proved quite good however, although it turned out to be quite a step from Triplex creek, across the North Block, to the foot of a side spur leading up on to the main spur above. A heavy westerly wind developed during the day, and this did not make the rather steepish final slopes of South Rangi any easier. The route then led down to the saddle, over the rocky knob, up the shingle slide, up the steep snowgrass, and so to Paemutu, as we had done Queen's Birthday before last. Long snow slopes leading down to Tussock Creek just begged to be glissaded upon, and our progress to the Kawhatau accelerated more than somewhat. Dusk was falling as we hastened down the river to Rangi Creek, which we finally reached at 7 pm. - 10 hours from Triplex.

Despite about half an inch of rain during the night, the morning dawned practically clear, and we were soon burning up the track in the direction of our objective no. 1 of the trip - Mangaweka (5687'). The route leads directly up from the Kawhatau by way of Trig Creek, and fact that we climbed the 3000' to the trig in two hours is an indication of the rapid going this affords. Mangaweka itself, the second highest non-volcanic peak in the North Island (Hikurangi - 5753' in the Raukumaras has pride of place) is merely a gently rounded knob on the Hikurangi Range, all of which is over about 5200'.

After a very pleasant boil-up in a sunny spot, sheltered from the breeze, we ambled off in the direction of Hikurangi (Junior). Just north of Mangaweka however, we came upon the scene of something I have never before struck in the Ruahines - an avalanche. About an acre of snow, some eight feet thick at the point where it had broken away, had slid down into a small basin in a wild confusion of jumbled blocks and miniature crevasses. Two hours sufficed for the trip along the broad tussock crest of the range to Hikurangi and back, and we were soon glissading madly down the heavily snow-covered east face of Mangaweka to Trig Creek and the Kawhatau below.

Monday morning was murky, decidedly so. Hughie at least obliged by giving us a chance to strike camp without getting wet, but then he really sent it down. Up Rangi Creek we plodded, and somehow managed to go sadly astray from the track up to Rangi Saddle. After almost an hour and a half of floundering and crashing through leatherwood and assorted scrub, with the rain simply teeming down, we eventually set foot on the Saddle at 10.15. A few watery rays of sunshine greeted us upon arrival so thoughts of retreat via Waikamaka were abandoned, and the scheduled trip out by way of Rangi proceeded with. The approach to Rangi by way of the Saddle is not to be recommended, as we found out when we struck a nasty little rock bluff a few hundred feet from the top. However, we made it in due course, to be confronted with a delightful panorama of sweet nothing at all, unless one counts the mist. No time was lost in picking our way through a most prolific growth of spaniard, and making our descent to the Waipawa by way of the Saddle. The steady down-pour in the lower reaches of the river went practically unnoticed as we took in the effects of the flood a few weeks before; logs piled high across the river bed, slips from the banks at every turn, and even a brand new waterfall about 80 feet high. Half an hour down the track from the Mill brought us to the car once more, a welcome sight after a vigorous but fruitful week-end.

No. in party: 2.

Alan Berry and Jim Glass

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# NORTHERN RUAHINES

No. 542.

28th October.

Cancelled owing to lack of support.

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# KAWEKAS - REMEMBRANCE DAY

No. 543.

10-11th November.

The advance party left at 9.am. on Saturday morning with the idea of doing some necessary repairs to the bunks in the Kaweka Hut before the arrival of the Main party. We (Graeme Hare, Cyril Hargreaves and the leader) met R.E.C. (Radio Emergency Corps) members Ron Morgan and Morrie Taylor with Angus Russell at Omahu and had a leisurely drive to the Pines, followed by a leisurely trip to the Tutaekuri. Just after crossing the river we ran into Norman. He and Kath had gone in to Kiwi Hut the day before and intended to camp on Saturday night at Studholme's Saddle with the R.E.C. party. This would make the final ascent to the Cairn shorter and give the radio time to be set up and tested on arrival there.



However, Kath was overtaken by violent abdominal pains at 8.30 am. and as she was no better two hours later, Norm set out via Kaiarihi and Kaweka Hut to contact our party, eventually meeting us shortly before 1.30 pm. The R.E.C. men immediately set up their transmitter and tried to make contact with the outside world, while we boiled the billy for lunch. Saturday afternoon is filled with sport etc., and having no schedule arranged no radio contact could be made. Hoping to do better out of the river bed, we shifted back up the ridge south of the Tutaekuri.

Norm set off on the return journey to Kiwi up the old pack track on the ridge, now almost obliterated by scrub. It was arranged that if the radio could still make no contact, the leader should return to the road and drive out to the nearest phone at Waiwhare, Angus would return to Swamp Cottage and make a base there, and Graeme and Cyril would pilot Ron and Morrie up to Kiwi Hut. As there were no results by 2.50 pm, the leader left for the road and met the main body, which had left town in the truck at 1.30, near Swamp Cottage. They said Doc Bathgate was at Kuripapango and might be prepared to go in to Kiwi. The main body consisted of Owen Brown, Jack Landman, Edna Ansell, Pat Bolt, Helen Hill, Joyce Stanley, and seven high school boys. It was arranged that Owen, Jack, Helen and Joyce, with Doc if available, should go up to Kiwi, the rest staying at Swamp Cottage for the night and to await further developments. Found Doc at the Macdonald's and he took off for Swamp Cottage, leaving with the party about 5.30 pm. Miss Macdonald very kindly drove the leader in to see if the Forestry people (who have a radio transmitter) were at home, but no luck.

Meantime, the R.E.C. party had remained on the ridge south of the Tutaekuri and finally made contact about 3.45 pm with Stratford (over Kiwi Saddle and Mount Ruapehu!). After some difficulty, messages were finally relayed by Stratford to Wellington and on to Hastings!

The leader got to the phone at F.W. Ward's, just across Willow Ford, soon after 5.30 pm and rang Janet Lloyd asking her to get in touch with the Club Captain, Phil Bayens, and try to organise stretcher carriers. When I located Ted Napier, R.E.C., at 6 pm he told me that Doc McPherson, the Napier Ambulance, and R.E.C. members with another set, were leaving almost immediately for the road-head at the Pines.

Norm arrived back at Kiwi Hut at 5 pm to find that Kath had got the upper hand over the bug that had stricken her - mercifully it was nothing more serious - and she set to work repairing bunks and preparing for the arrival of later parties. So some maintenance work was done in the Kaweka range! The R.E.C. party, Graeme and Cyril set out for Kiwi some time after 4 pm, and after an arduous trip with heavy packs in the cold and latterly dark and showers, arrived at the Hut at 8.45 pm. Good

10. piloting by the boys on their first trip to Kiwi. The H.T.C. party with Doc Bathgate arrived after an equally cold, dark and damp trip at 9.30 pm. Eleven trampers spent the night in Kiwi.

The ambulance, Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist and Mr. Ted Napier of the R.E.C. with radio gear arrived at the Pines about 8.pm, and Doc McPherson and three deerstalkers soon after. The H.T.C. carrying party of 15 strong men and true (thanks to sterling organisation by Janet and helpers at Base) set out from Holts just after 8.pm in two trucks, very kindly lent by Mr. Berry, and two cars and arrived after a fast trip two hours later at the Pines. Difficulty was experienced getting in touch with Kiwi Hut by radio, but finally contact was made soon after 10. pm. and the information received that Kath had recovered. The carrying party was ready to leave for Kiwi, but instead they turned round and went home, as did the ambulance, Doctor, and R.E.C. people. Laurie Kenny, who had his own car, and Doug Napier decided to remain with us at Swamp Cottage. By midnight, peace and quiet had once more descended on the Kawekas.

On Sunday morning Pat and Edna set out for 4,100 with the seven boys, and Angus, Doug and Laurie went off too, leaving the leader to wait at the Cottage for the Old Members and families to arrive. The first car-load reached the road-head about 9.am and they trickled in until 11.am. Mr. and Mrs. Bickerstaff, R.E.C., and an assistant brought in a radio set to link up with the top party for the Service of Commemoration. Contact was finally established at 11.15 - after the Kiwi Hut party had changed the direction of their aerial. We - 13 adults and 12 children - gathered round the set at Swamp Cottage while Norman conducted the Service at Kiwi Hut. It was really most impressive, though reception was a little weak at times.

After lunch, the old members and their children all wandered along the track as far as the Lakes and back. The youngest - 13-month old son of Radioman Ross Bickerstaff - went in a pack, the rest mostly on foot. The advance party from Kiwi returned at 3.pm and the others an hour later. After a cuppa, tracks were made for home. The truck was found to have a flat tyre, which was soon changed, and we left in cars and truck for Napier, Hastings and Havelock at 5.pm.

We owe much gratitude to the Radio Emergency Corps members, who gave so generously of their time and energy in helping in an hour of need, and due to their link much time and labour were saved. To them also go our thanks for making possible the participation of those at Swamp Cottage in the Commemoration Service. As usual, when the call for help came H.T.C. members gave no thought to their planned arrangements and entertainment and took off at a moment's notice for the ranges.

It was very pleasant to be able to link up with the high party for the Service (even though this year we were unable to

reach the Cairn) as it is mostly the Old Members, whose tramping (11. activities are limited by family responsibilities and lack of training, who knew and tramped with those whose names are engraved on the Cairn.

Friday party: 2. Norm and Kath Elder.

Saturday party: 21. Leader: N. Tanner.  
Graeme Hare, Cyril Hargreaves, Angus Russell, Ron Morgan and Morrie Taylor R.E.C., Owen Brown, Jack Landman, Edna Ansell, Pat Bolt, Helen Hill, Joyce Stanley, and High School boys Bruce Downs, Neville Hutchison, Alan King, Laurence and Raymond Lowe, Peter Manning and Barry Pocock, and Laurie Kenny and Doug Napier.

Sunday party: 26.  
Mrs. Lovell-Smith, Joan and Clem Smith and Brian; Marge and Les Holt, Sally and John; Joan and Arch Toop, Brenda, David and Roger; Dulcie and Alan Oulaghan, Anne, Susan, Christine and Barbara; Mr. and Mrs. Bickerstaff, R.E.C., Paul and Stewart, and Alan Leitch. Ron Craig and cousin came out in the afternoon.

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#### REPORT ON KIWI HUT RESCUE OPERATION

10th November, 1956.

Though this turned out to be a false alarm, and apologies are due to those whose week-end was unnecessarily disrupted in consequence, action had to be taken on the assumption that it was a case of serious illness. As a trial of the emergency organisation it was a first class turn-out and would have been adequate for an all-night carry should this have been necessary.

At the time of stand-down, radio, doctor and a carrying party were at Kiwi Hut and very strong relief parties at the road head with radio, a second doctor and an ambulance. This, however had taken 11½ hours from the decision that assistance was necessary, though it is difficult to see how this time could have been reduced under the circumstances.

A search committee, assisted by those particularly concerned with the organizing of rescue parties, have discussed mainly the problems that have cropped up and are likely to be encountered in future emergencies:-

(1) Liaison. The initial difficulty in making radio contact from the Tutaekuri led to parallel communications being established by radio and phone, and the organization of two rescue groups resulting in a large turnout at the roadhead. Under the circumstances with the prospect of an arduous night carry this had no serious drawbacks, but for economical use of man-power some closer liaison between the various search teams would probably have been found necessary. An example was the

difficulty the first parties to reach the roadhead had in (12. locating the Swamp Cottage.

(2) Odd volunteers turned up at the roadhead without the base controller being notified of their departure. Either base or club captain should be contacted.

(3) Police. Traditionally search and rescue operations within a club are its responsibility. Consequently in this case police were not informed by the H.T.C. base, but were approached by R.E.C. base. The committee have decided that in future notification of the police shall be standard practice in all types of search and rescue, even though assistance be not required.

(4) Press. Inaccurate press reports caused a certain amount of annoyance. The only solution is for reporters to know where they can get accurate information, and the committee propose to supply the local papers with copies of the club's search procedure memorandum. They can then get a grasp of the general set-up and can locate competent members of the organization. It is realized that this places an additional burden on the control organization, and it will probably be necessary for the base to depute someone to deal with press enquiries in order to keep phone communications clear.

(5) Long Carries. The prospect of an all night carry in high country under indifferent weather conditions made it clear that considerable problems of organization would have been encountered. The following were discussed:-

- (a) The siting and manning of at least two boil-up points along the route.
- (b) The relaying of the carrying parties' packs and the desirability of relief parties dumping packs and going forward light.
- (c) The use of anchor ropes on scree and steep faces.
- (d) The opening of narrow portions of track for the passage of a stretcher.
- (e) The search committee suggest that a fixture be devoted to the problems of a long carry.

(6) Medical Instruction. In this case the sick person had to be left unattended for 7 hours and it was 12 hours before a doctor arrived. It is easy to visualize conditions under which as much as 24 hours may have to be spent before medical help is available. Little can be done, the problem is one of nursing rather than first aid. It would be of the greatest value to have instruction as to what should, or more important, should not be done in these circumstances (e.g. drink, sugar, alcohol, aspirin, etc.).

(7) Expenses. The club search fund exists to meet expenses occurred in an operation such as this which is the club's responsibility.

ANNUAL REPORT.Membership:

This year closed with a membership of 89, made up as follows:-

|                   |    |        |
|-------------------|----|--------|
| Full members      | 65 | { 61 } |
| Junior members    | 3  | { 3 }  |
| Associate members | 14 | { 13 } |
| Honorary members  | 5  | { 6 }  |
| Associate member  | 1  | { 1 }  |
| Life member       | 1  | { - }  |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

This meeting marks the club's 21st anniversary and calls for some sort of a review, but when I look back I feel that all that can be said has been said. So instead of a serious review, I propose to start with lizards.

This lizard business started with the club's first trip on Te Aratipi in October 1935 and led to the story of Pohokura. It is appropriate that I should now retell this legend in the form in which the club first heard it:-

...On the arrival of the Takitimu canoe, the newcomers, finding the land already inhabited, proceeded down the East Coast to pick up a suitable site for settlement. Their venturesome leader was Tamatea, known as Pokai Whenua (literally, rolling the country into a bundle) from the extent of his explorations. On reaching Heretaunga he set off up country with his son (Kahungunu) to pick up the lie of the land and eventually came to a pa called Otupae, on the snowy shoulder of the Ruahines that we see through the Taruarau Gap. Here, while he sat and rested, he put down the calabash which always accompanied him containing his two pets, Pohokura, a lizard, and Kahurangi, a crayfish, and when he came to pick it up his pets had escaped. Pohokura's outlines are visible today in the ridges of the Ruahine Range and the moaning of Kahurangi who lurks in the valleys of the Kaimanawa can be heard when bad weather is approaching....

With no disrespect to his descendants, we have been followers of Tamatea in a very special sense. Even recently we have found ourselves following his footsteps perhaps a shade too closely, in a damp gully at the head of the Tauranga Taupo and again at a tapu rock in the Ika-awatea. It is not that we spend our time chasing legends (or chasing lizards for that matter), but the stories come up and we can share and sympathize with these first explorers and their problems.

We are still exploring. It is surprising to check up and find that though the club trips now tally 540, a quarter of this year's trips were over new routes. It makes you realise how lucky we are in the country that we can reach from Hawke's Bay.

Getting there is the trouble. Rising transport costs have compelled us to buy our own truck and, thanks to our truck committee and to working parties, we are able to offer cheap transport to our members. The club's thanks are particularly due to Ian Stirling. We do not know how much of his own time he has put into truck maintenance, but we suspect it must be considerable, and we are grateful to him. Even so we are not quite breaking square and the transport fund is being subsidised from the club's general funds. We can meet this in four ways: (1) Raising fares; (2) Increasing the subscription; (3) Running more working parties; (4) Increasing our membership.

Now it is a matter of fundamental policy that the club supplies cheap transport. That rules out 1 and 2. I don't think we should attempt more working parties. We also have our own hut and track maintenance to consider - and over the last year something like third of our fixtures were working parties of one kind or another. (It should be mentioned that in addition to earning £47 to meet truck depreciation the club, with the much-appreciated assistance of Greater Hastings, has added £72 to the Ross Sea Fund in the course of the year - a considerable total for a small body). Most of these trips were well supported but it is putting too much on to the willing horses. That rules out 3, and leaves us with the need to increase our membership.

I might point out that in 21 years our total membership has only increased by 1, though in the meantime the district has gone ahead and sprouted two new cities. Also we can always do with an intake of new blood. I usually do a moan about the loss of useful members, but I think I'd better give it a rest this time. When I read in the annual report of the T.T.C. that all their active members were of less than two years' standing I thought I'd check up on our own position. Here are some figures which may amuse you. The Easter trip down the Tauranga Taupo was a representative turn-out. About one third were of less than two years' standing, the average  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years and if the Kaipo party is included,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years. The leaders of the latest fixture list up to Christmas average  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years with the club. The moral seems to be that it isn't the shortage of old-timers that is our worry.

Most people, unless they have some special interest to keep them going, tend to fade out. For that reason, this

21st anniversary means more I think to the earlier members than to the club as a whole. It is the 5-6 years when you were tramping that matters. That is why the reunion was shifted from Labour Day - because we knew jolly well that all the active members would be far too busy tramping to attend. We hope that by putting it at the end of January we'll have the club that is as well as the club that was.

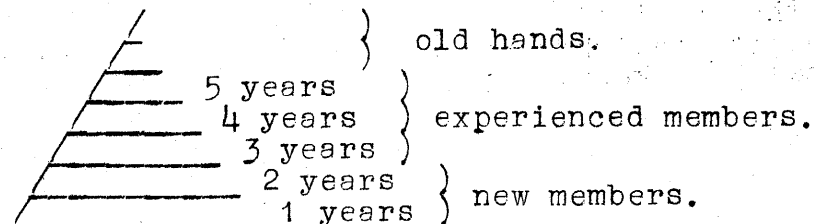
Twenty-one years isn't such a long time but it is worth recalling that when we started in 1936 it was still in the time of the slump. We were all hard up but we had a lot of fun, and it gave us one benefit, a tradition of self-reliance. Consider the club huts. In 1936 we built the Kaweka Hut, every penny of it with our own money. In 1940, we got a £5 grant towards building the Waikamaka Hut, in 1947 50% of the cost of Kiwi Saddle. In each case of course we supplied 100% of the labour. Now if the Makahu Hut gets built it will be done by Forestry, cost, labour and all. It has even been suggested that we get paid for track-cutting contracts, so it appears that a trampers' millenium is approaching.

In conclusion I should express the club's thanks to the various sub-committees whose reports follow, in case they are too shy to blow their own trumpets - particularly to the social committee not only for a very full programme of entertainment at meetings but for their remarkable feat, which must be unique in the annals of the Blossom Parade, of entering a successful float and making a cash profit on it; to the fixture committee for making us work and enjoy it; to the truck committee for keeping us rolling; and to the gear custodian for making gear a money-spinner. We have to make our farewell to Alf Dixon, who has been our auditor for a number of years, but is now joining the higher brass and moving to Wairoa. I am not thinking so much of his use in keeping a succession of treasurers on the rails, as of his value in emergencies with his knowledge of the country and his connection with scouts and rovers.

#### CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

This is more or less a marked year, being the 21st anniversary. Knowing of early club history only from hearsay, I like to concentrate on the present and future.

The present active membership is about 60, the majority having been three years or more connected with the club. Here is something we miss. There should be a wide base of new-comers, with an experienced middle section to train the new members. You can compare it with a pyramid -



It takes at least a couple of years before a tramper can call himself experienced - a couple of snow trips, a few river trips, real bushbashing, and a couple of times being lost, without losing his head. This all takes time.

Trips: Only two trips were cancelled. One was converted into a working party (deck of the truck), the other was cancelled owing to bad weather. The leader should not hesitate to alter a trip, if that particular part of the country is inaccessible (e.g. because of swollen rivers), but if other arrangements can be made, it should be left to the leader's initiative. In other words, never cancel a trip, make other arrangements. Two trips are worth mentioning:

- (1) Northern Kaimanawa Crossing,
- (2) Northern Rushine Crossing, in which we covered some entirely new country. Some of us had a go at the Sawtooth, but it had to be abandoned owing to bad weather. The average number on trips was 13.

Meetings: A new meeting-place was found, which is a big improvement. The attendance at meetings is getting a little low. With an active membership of 60, we could at least expect 40 or 50 at the meetings. It is only two Wednesday nights in the month and I am sure that it is not much of a burden to anybody to keep those dates free.

Another remarkable achievement was the Float Antarctica. There was actually a photo of it in one of N.Z.'s leading weeklies. Bravo, Social Committee.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who co-operated with the club and especially those who give their permission to pass over their property, not forgetting their hospitality when we were in trouble.

#### Search and Rescue;

A rescue practice with the St. John Ambulance and a trial search and rescue with the R.E.C. have been held in the course of the year. An innovation in the latter was the reference back to Hastings of injuries for medical advice. One short stand-to and the elements of a second, were useful tests; the flap they caused has led to the drafting of a summary of search procedure for quick action in an emergency. Copies of this are held by the members of the Search Committee and have been circulated to Police, R.E.C. and S.A.R. headquarters, so that next time the balloon goes up each person concerned can get straight on to the immediate action. The search list has been kept up to date.



### FIXTURE, HUT AND TRACK REPORT:

Fixtures: The committee has met prior to the publication of each issue of Pohokura and drawn up a fixture list.

Huts: At Waikamaka, piles and sleeper plates have been cut out of local black beech, creosoted and placed in position on the original site. The hut has been replaced on these. Repairs have been effected to the chimney. A strip of flat-iron has been attached to the bottom half of the outside wall. A lean-to is under construction to give space for packs and firewood. Creosoted piles and plates are in position and the framework has recently been erected. One further working party should complete this addition. At Kiwi, a new axe-handle is needed. At Kaweka, the door requires a better catch, and half the bunks need repairing. Makahu Saddle: Early this year a party prospected a number of sites for the N.Z. Forestry Service but no definite arrangements to build have yet been made by that body.

Tracks: Smith-Russell (to 4100' on Kiwi) Track: through the tea-tree has been recut and disced. Also a direct route back from the shingle slide to the turn-off on this track has been cut and disced. Daphne Spur: A great deal of snow-broken branches obscure this track. A suggestion has been made that the club endeavour to obtain a contract from Forestry for clearing this track. Colenso Spur: A working party is needed to open up a track from the deer wallow near the bush level up on to the tussock or out on to the shingle slide. A route down could be prospected from the bottom of the shingle slide across the bush on to Colenso Spur above Colenso's Camp. Discs need replacing on this track. Shut-Eye Track: This needs clearing of fern in the lower levels and snow-broken branches higher up.

### TRUCK COMMITTEE REPORT:

The major problem which exercised the minds of the committee during the year was the provision of a less elderly and more commodious means of transport. Although the Bedford had given us 18 months of practically trouble-free running, the need was felt for a heavier vehicle, and the present 1938 Ford was purchased with this in mind. The purchase price was £160, but to this must be added certain non-recurring expenditure in improvements such as the sealed-beam lights and deck alterations. The sale of the Bedford realised £100 towards the cost of the present truck. The motor of the Ford seems to be in very good condition, and now that most of the minor defects have been ironed out, we should be able to look forward to several years of relatively trouble-free service.

Two major trips were undertaken during the year - to Poronui at Labour week-end and again at Easter, the party being picked up at Motuopapa Bay on the latter occasion. Just for the record, about 290 passengers were carried a total of approximately 30,000 passenger miles, an increase of 6000 over last year.

#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Over the last twelve months, members have travelled over many lands, and we have been able to share these travels with their letters and colourful photography. Speakers have been few, but very interesting. If members could suggest any subjects suitable for club evenings, the social committee would be pleased to take them on.

Blossom Parade came and went like the snow that fell in the night. What an urge it was to get some of the real stuff - but no, Antarctica carried her own snow (borax). Though our entry was on a small scale, the effect was good and most realistic, gaining one of the few places on the picture page. Perhaps it was the perky penguins or the snowy "Husky" (kindly lent by Mr Thew), that caught the camera's eye. We are very grateful to all who have helped the committee this year.

#### REUNION COMMITTEE:

At the Old Members' Trip held in October, 1955 a committee that included ex-members as well as present members was set up to plan a twenty-first reunion.

We first of all sent out circulars to all present members and ex-members that we could contact to find out who would be interested and also to get, if we could, addresses of those ex-members with whom we had lost touch. There was an encouraging response so we went ahead.

A second circular gave the detailed plans and the cost per head. We are aiming at covering all expenses with the reunion levy which we asked people to send in by the end of September. The response to this has been a little disappointing so far, but the actual reunion date, January 26-27th, 1957 is still a good way ahead.

Those most interested seem to be the ones who belonged to the club before the war.

#### "POHOKURA".

With the help of leaders of trips, contributors of special articles, typistes, duplicators, staplers and wrappers, the usual three copies of "Pohokura" have been put into your hands this year. We regret that no copy arrived at Shackleton Base, but one was posted.

Still more contributions would be welcome. Overseas members, please note.

Further rejuvenation of the duplicator should make that branch of the work easier next year.

#### PUBLICITY.

Brief accounts of the more interesting trips have been submitted to the local press, with a summary of the bushcraft film, and there was also a full account of the public showing of the Barun and Antarctic films when George Lowe was here, to raise money for the Ross Sea Fund.

A notice board, similar to the one in Jack Charters' window, is now displayed in a sports shop in Napier to make it more easy for visiting trampers and prospective members to get in touch with the club.

The project of publishing a route guide to commemorate this anniversary is under way, and there is a possibility that this will be published by the Pegasus Press as one of their holiday guide series.

#### LIBRARY:

This year 20 members took out 44 books which brought in 12/-. Since moving to the Radiant Hall our pictures have also to be housed in the library cupboard which rather makes for over-crowding.

During the past year three new books were donated to the club, "We Die Alone", "Crusader Fox King" and last month we were delighted to receive from George Lowe a copy of "East of Everest", written by himself and Ed Hillary. Many thanks, George. It has been suggested that any books not connected with tramping be excluded to make room for later additions.

#### GEAR CUSTODIAN'S REPORT:

The gear at home has been checked up and is in quite good order. The tent that was written off last year was pressed into service once more as part of Antarctica, in the Blossom parade. But again I have not visited the Kiwi and Waikamaka Huts since winter and can only say that gear there was checked at the beginning of the calendar year.

Just over a month back I was at the Kaweka Hut and found that recent visitors had left the camp over full of water. The frying pans had been only too well cleaned and had rusty surfaces, and had to be polished off with a little salt-free fat.

Tents and packs have been returned in good time and dry, but billies have not always had the same good treatment,

and the large billies are very black inside.

Hire of gear has brought in a total of £9. 1. 6D., an increase of £1. 4. 6D. on last year. This is make up as follows:-

|                          |    |     |       |
|--------------------------|----|-----|-------|
| Parks                    | -. | 17. | -.    |
| Packs                    | -. | 18. | -.    |
| Billies                  | -. | 6.  | -.    |
| Boots                    | -. | 48. | -.    |
| Tents                    | 4. | 3.  | 6.    |
| Ice Axes                 | 1. | 10. | -.    |
| Goggles, etc.            | -. | 7.  | -.    |
| Sale of ether containers | -. | 2.  | -.    |
| <hr/>                    |    |     |       |
|                          | £  | 9.  | 1. 6. |
| <hr/>                    |    |     |       |

#### APPRECIATION:

The club's appreciation of the kindness of property-owners has been expressed by the Club Captain in his report.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The following officers were elected:-

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>Patron:</u>              | Dr D.A. Bathgate.   |
| <u>President:</u>           | N.L. Elder.   |
| <u>Vice-Presidents:</u>     | J. Lloyd, R.W. Chaplin, W.G. Lowe.  |
| <u>Club Captain:</u>        | Philip Bayens.  |
| <u>Secretary:</u>           | U.M. Greenwood.   |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>           | Alan Berry.   |
| <u>Auditor:</u>             | C. Stirling.  |
| <u>Executive Committee:</u> | P. Bolt, N. Tanner, H. Christian,<br>J. Glass, H. Hill, J. Landman,<br>P. Wood. |
| <u>Social Committee:</u>    | P. Bolt, E. Bayens, J. Glass,<br>E. Ansell, G. Hare, L. Hodgson.                |

SUB-COMMITTEES.

The executive committee at its first meeting appointed the following sub-committees:-

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>Fixture, Hut and Track Committee:</u> | H. Christian (convenor), H. Hill, P. Bayens.                              |
| <u>Search Committee:</u>                 | President, Club Captain, Secretary.                                       |
| <u>Track Committee:</u>                  | A. Berry, I. Stirling.  |
| <u>Reunion Committee:</u>                | J. Lloyd, N. Elder, U. Greenwood, L. Lattey, L. Holt, A. Toop, N. Tanner. |
| <u>Editor:</u>                           | J. Lloyd.   |
| <u>Gear:</u>                             | K.M. Elder, with N. Tanner.   |
| <u>Press &amp; Publicity:</u>            | N. Elder.   |
| <u>Album:</u>                            | J. Glass.   |
| <u>Notice Boards:</u>                    | Hastings - A. Berry,<br>Napier - E. Ansell.                               |
| <u>Librarian:</u>                        | E. Ansell.  |

RUAPEHU: EMERGENCY FIRST AID.

Following discussions between the Federated Mountain Clubs, the Taumarunui Hospital Board, the Department of Tourist and Publicity, and the Department of Health, arrangements have been made to install X-ray equipment at the Château Tongariro for use during the winter months. A doctor from Taumarunui will be in attendance to operate the X-ray equipment and deal with casualties.

CLUB EVENINGS: We have had ten-minute talks on the compass, food, how to walk, and slides of a trip to England, a visit to Queensland, and various excursions in the local ranges.

RISE IN RENT: The rent of the Radiant Hall has been raised to 25/- a night. When this was announced at the club meeting, someone suggested that instead of raising subscriptions each person should contribute sixpence a meeting. The most favoured method of collecting this was for everyone to drop the coin nonchalantly on the dinner-waggon as they took their cup of tea. The response that first night was so enthusiastic that we overdid it and collected 14/6! Keep it up, everybody.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome Heather Robinson and Ron Morgan to the club.

PRIVATETRIPS

July 10th.

RUAPEHU - NATIONAL PARK

We left Hastings at 5.30 a.m. in a downpour of rain which did not stop till we at last got to Taupo at 12 noon. We only had 5 stops during the trip. Petrol blockage, which persisted occurred at regular intervals and in the most awkward places, e.g. half way up a steep hill or just on a sharp corner. From Taupo we had a good view of the bad weather at National Park. With this in mind we decided to see the day out at the Motuopa Bay Youth Hostel. The level of the lake was very high. Many a summer cottage was surrounded with water.

July 11th Off to N.Z.A.C. Hut. The weather cleared a little and we got to the hut in semi-blizzard conditions, which did not let up till Monday 16th. Fortunately we had an invitation from Edna's son in law to spend the week-end in National Park - and what a week-end! The semi-blizzard grew into a blizzard and National Park, perched on some sort of a plateau, got it first hand. In spite of all that we managed to get into the bush and hunt for *Dactylanthus*, which we indeed found. *Dactylanthus* is some sort of a root parasite, which attacks the tip of the root and stops it growing lengthwise. The root attacked this way forms a nice rosette (wood flower), only seen when the fungoid growth is boiled and chopped away, the final operation done very carefully.

July 16th Back to the mountain. The weather improved considerably.

July 17th Perfect climbing weather - not a breath of wind. Got to the top in perfect conditions - snow just right.

July 18th Spent the day skiing. Went up 21 times. Only the T-bar was operating which takes you just below the staircase.

July 19th Up to Tokoroa to visit Norman's daughter.

July 20th Got home without much trouble by 5 p.m. and started packing for the week-end trip to North Kaweka Trig. (No. 535 in last Bulletin) - this was just to finish off our holiday.

P. Bavens.

8 - 9 Sept.

HOWLETT'S - TIRAHA

Although lack of support caused the scheduled Club trip to Howlett's to fall through, a small party decided to make the annual pilgrimage to this region three weeks later.

We accordingly boarded Hal's car early Saturday morning and proceeded smartly to Mill Farm. The gloomy predictions of the local inhabitant regarding the state of the river after an inch of rain the previous day, proved to be not entirely unfounded. A number of the crossings in the 4½ hour struggle up to Daphne were barely fordable, and as a consequence it was rather a damp and dismal party that hailed the appearance of Daphne's big toe at 2.15. The Daphne track is now a sight to sadden the hearts of even the most industrious Hut and Track Committee - the fern has taken over almost completely in the lower portion, while there are a great many windfalls and broken branches strewn hither and yon over the whole area. Hughie also turned it on for our benefit, and even

managed a little hail near the bushline, with the result that we became progressively d-damper and c-colder as we crashed our way upwards. The slopes below the hut were well covered with thick crusty snow, somewhat reminiscent of 3 Johns, so it will be appreciated that the damp, cold hut had been elevated to the status of the Waterloo itself by the time that we paddled up to the door at 5.15. The floor of the hut had been turned into a bog by the activities of cullers, and I hate to imagine what would have happened if we had had to apportion the three bunks among a fair sized party, as we did last year.

As it was, a good night's rest was had by all, with packs judiciously stacked beside one bunk as a footrest for the unfortunate outer double-bunker. Sunday dawned a wee bit murky, and there was even a light snow shower as we left the hut at about 10.15, fortified by a prolonged breakfast of omelettes and other delectable dishes. The sun soon broke through however, but what with the scenery being so photogenic, and one thing and another, it was noon before we sat upon Tiraha (5472'). Unfortunately, the cloud ceiling was a couple of hundred feet lower than we were, so after a quick snack, helped down by a tin of pineapple, we galloped off down the mountain.

Shouldering our burdens again, following a more leisurely lunch at the hut, we set off down the spur, making considerably better time than when slogging up the previous day. The river had relented a little by this time, and we made the trip down to the Mill Farm in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours, although not entirely without incident. About half an hour above the Moorcock, we were treated to the sound and sight of a large rock, about five feet in diameter, hurtling down through the bush directly opposite us, to land with a goodly thump in the riverbed. "Just imagine what you would have looked like if . . . . .".

A. B.

Party: Edna Ansell, Graeme Hare, Hal Christian, Alan Berry.

#### KIWI HUT - Labour Weekend

During the long weekend, Thursday to Sunday, I took six boys from Napier B.H.S. to Kiwi Hut. The tramp to the hut was rather slow due to heavy rain and rather heavy packs. The track on the ridge up to 4594 was good but where it goes through the beech it was covered with broken branches. Behind the hut the bush there is also a mess of broken branches indicating recent gales.

Friday was a perfect day and we tramped along the ridge to 4915 and dropped into the creek west of Studholmes Saddle for a boil-up. We had wonderful views of Ruapehu.

On Saturday I took three boys as far as the Cairn (It took us  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Kiwi Hut). The wind was extremely strong along the tops and we wasted no time in coming back to the hut.

The "base camp" party meanwhile cleared a new track to the water supply and stocked up the hut with firewood. We also fitted a new handle to the hut axe. We left the hut at 9 a.m. on Sunday reaching the road via the scree at mid-day.

O. H. Brown.

Oct. 25-28th

BOG-PROBING at No Man's

The discovery of pumice and timber in the bogs near No Man's early in the year gave an opportunity of carbon-dating the changes that have been taking place in the high country, but we hadn't brought out enough pumice to work on and the Geological Survey had asked for more. This was the most urgent job once the snow had gone, but for various reasons the trip could not be made till after Labour Day. It was also an opportunity to do some more bog-probing as we didn't know how far down the logs went and suspected they might be in definite layers.

Four-day packs plus shovel and probing rod made a fair load and a late start from Big Hill didn't help. After wasting some time trying to locate the last part of the track to Ruahine Hut, gave it best and went up over Tikorangi. Between Lessong's and No Man's most of the track has been recently cut. Got in at nightfall; - no rats, mice nor opossums in residence.

A reasonable morning probing across the bog at 5 yard intervals, but pushing a six-foot probe inch by inch into peat is harder work than it sounds. After two runs switched to pumice collecting as mist was shutting down and this was the more urgent job.

As the upper layer was less than an inch thick it took some careful collecting. Dug out an oblong and skimmed it down to the pumice then scraped this up with a knife and a spoon. The lower layer being several inches thick it was just a question of bringing up a few shovelfulls and trimming the peat off to get as much as we could carry - 20-25 lbs of wet pumice in all.

Thick mist was now down and after running a third probing line, with difficulty in picking up our marker-poles, called it a day.

After sleeping the clock round felt a lot better, and went back to a day of bog-probing. Five more runs gave us a close cover of well over an acre - doesn't sound much but its a lot of work.

Decided to come out down Herrick's in hopes of picking up the day party. We had dried the pumice out to about 20 lbs, but it was still quite a load with shovel and other impediments.

Herrick's discs all right, except for an obscure sidling near the bottom, but are near the point of being forced off the clouts by the growth of trees. The scrub is getting away lower down and we were lucky in just keeping ahead of cloud settling down half an hour behind us. Herrick's Hut was deserted - just reached it ahead of a heavy shower and had a quick boil-up. There is now a tractor track along the north bank of the stream which we followed out.

N.I.E., K.M.E.



BIOLOGY & TROUT PLANTING

Sept. 22nd.

6th Form Trip to Te Atuahuru

The party of 20 left Hols in 4 vehicles at 6.15 a.m. and arrived at the station where the track branches off to Yeoman and Gardner's mill at 8.15. The trip was mainly biological and we had also been given 6 boxes of trout eggs to plant. These boxes of trout eggs are put in running water 1 ft to 18 inches deep. A hole is dug in the shingle approximately 9 inches deep and the boxes of eggs are put in the hole at the last second, for exposure to light can kill the eggs. For transportation the eggs are wrapped in moss, to keep the light out, and packed in ice to stop the eggs developing during transportation.

We planted 4 of these boxes in Gold Creek and another 2 in the Makaroro River in the direction of Colenso's Spur which we later climbed. It took us 2 hours up the Makaroro River to where we planted the last boxes of eggs, which was pretty good going according to Mr Christian who was in charge of the party. We stopped at the foot of Colenso's Spur for a short time to wring out our socks and empty our boots and have some food. We had crossed the river 22 times, not counting the crossings up Gold Creek.

The first seven hundred feet up Colenso Spur just about knocked some of the boys out for they did not realize that they had such a climb ahead and they really set a pace; but it had slowed down to a steady plodding by the time the seven hundred foot mark was reached. We had a blow at that mark and counted the party to make sure no one was lost or had turned back. After that we tramped on for about an hour keeping a look-out for Colenso's bivvy, but we passed right through it without noticing it for there was little to identify it by. There were some tins there but it was a bit overgrown; also the track was overgrown with fern in places, but by looking for discs we kept fairly well on the route.

After about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours we reached the deer Wallow where we had a brew and lunch. By this time we had seen quite a bit of snow and at the Deer Wallow there was a good patch of snow and a good snow fight ensued. The snow was mainly about 9 inches deep at this height, approximately 4500 feet, about 500 feet from the summit just below the bush line. Had lunch from 12.45 to 1.45 getting the water for our tea from melted snow water in the Deer Wallow. It was good and cold and made excellent drinking water and excellent tea. One of the party upon testing the surface, where the snow had not melted, fell through and got a pair of pretty cold feet, as it was knee deep where it gave way.

From the lunch place we took  $\frac{5}{4}$  hour to the top 5028 feet above sea level, the last 28 feet being the hardest. On the shingleslide steps had to be cut but in spite of this good progress was made. On top of Te Atuahuru, 5028 feet, the map was orientated and the various places pointed out to us, Mt. Ruapehu and Mt. Ngauruhoe amongst them. Also Hastings could be seen very faintly in the distance. Fifteen of the party reached the top and 5 stayed behind at the lunch spot. It had taken  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours to the top less  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for egg planting.

These five tried to go back down the spur but got bushed and upon hearing us talking headed towards us, ending up back where they had started from, for really they walked in a circle. The main lot left before Mr Christian and five of us others and when they came to the double disc 6 wandered off the track, five of them being the five that had wandered off before. Mr Christian, Kevin Simmons, Graeme Hare and myself, although tramping club members, wandered off the track but by fanning out soon found it again. We reached the river in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours, about 5 minutes after the first of the party and it was then we found out that six were missing for we thought they had gone on ahead. Five minutes after the last of us, two of the six appeared round a bend upstream of us and confessed they were glad to see us. They had hit the river about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour upstream after following a small creek down to the river, having to negotiate a number of waterfalls. The other four turned up twenty minutes later. Left Colenso's at 5.30.

It only took an hour back to the top of the ridge overlooking the river and the station. Reached the cars at 6.45 and left at 7.00 p.m. after changing. Mr Christian said at the time that it was a very good performance considering the number of first trippers, the number that had no nails in their boots and also the fact that three had shoes. We arrived back in Hastings after an uneventful journey at 9 p.m.

The road was in good condition except for two patches that had been heavily metalled recently.

The weather was ideal, although it was not so good just as we packed up.

The track was a bit overgrown in places but the discs kept us on the right track. Some discs were discoloured and some had fallen off but were on the whole pretty good. The six that got lost were lost only due to inexperience for they followed a deer track that struck to the left instead of the track that went to the right.

Cyril Hargreaves.

### S e q u e l

Barbara and Graeme Hare went to collect the trout egg boxes, left the month before, and to do some re-discing of Colenso's Track. Neither of these objectives was accomplished as the river had been in heavy flood and was still dirty and running swiftly. We found none of the boxes, nor did we reach the spur. Of the eighteen stakes we placed on the banks as markers for the boxes only one was left.

( Another club party planted trout eggs up Big Hill Stream the same day. We surmise that the floods washed them away too.

- Ed.)

FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS - ACCIDENT REPORTS

- (1) On 31st March, 1956, several parties comprising part of an organized mountaineering course, were descending Mount Harper, when one of them, TERENCE PALMER, was hit on the head by a stone and killed. The stone was probably released by one of the parties above, who shouted a warning which was heard by those near Palmer.

Comments:

1. A climbing party, particularly on loose rock or scree, should avoid ascending above or descending below another party on any route which may result in the lower party being endangered by rocks dislodged from above. This is particularly important when there are relatively inexperienced people on a mountain.
  2. If this cannot be avoided, the greatest care should be taken to avoid dislodging stones when others are below.
  3. Warning shouts should be repeated loudly by the members of a lower party, so that all are warned, and can take evasive action.
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- (2) On the 26th January, 1956, a mountaineering party of three men attempted to cross the Wilberforce River when the river was discoloured and rising at a place where it was four to five yards across, knee deep and flowing swiftly. The Party crossed together holding their ice axes together as a pole. Their ruck-sacks were being carried on one shoulder with the other shoulder strap free. About the middle of the crossing the ruck-sack of one of the party began to slip off his shoulder and in attempting to retain it, he and one of the others were swept off their feet, but both men were able to hold on to a boulder in the river. The remaining member of the party regained the bank and with a piece of cord thrown to the others, pulled their one remaining ruck-sack into the bank. The river had by now risen considerably. The party's rope was in the lost ruck-sack, but with the straps from the other two sacks, the man on the bank fashioned a "line" with which he anchored the others as they attempted to regain the bank. Unfortunately when the "line" snapped, the others were again swept off their feet and one of them, Allan Frank Clough, was drowned.

Comments:

1. When crossing a river or stream, which is discoloured and running swiftly, the party should always cross singly, tied on to the rope, (Safety in the Mountains, p.31). In this case the river appeared shallower and safer than it

really was, but this only emphasises the need for an adequate reconnaissance taking every precaution at all times when crossing a river.

2. The initiating cause of this series of mishaps, was the practice of carrying the ruck-sack on one shoulder while crossing a river. This has been done so that the ruck-sack could be shed easily if the mountaineer were swept off his feet. The swaying of a half hitched ruck-sack results in such instability that a climber is more likely to be swept off his feet, especially in a swift river current. It is emphasised that the advice given by the Federation is "to undo" the waist band...and "loosen the shoulder straps" (Safety in the Mountains, p 29). When crossing a river, the practice of undoing one shoulder strap is to be condemned.

3. It may be significant that there have been more than twenty drownings in this particular river.

4. Attention should be drawn to the increasing number of drownings in the New Zealand Mountains in recent years.

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#### S O C I A L      N E W S .

Engagements:      Treve Nockels to Ron Bushby.  
                       Lois Barile to Alistair Moffitt.

Derek Conway      is still in Melbourne working at the Kodak laboratories. He has joined a Tramping Club and gets a certain amount of tramping and ski-ing; also, of course, at the moment, a good looksee at the Olympic Games.  
George Lowe      has left on the "Magga Dan" for the Antarctic. Mail can be addressed to him c/o N.Z. Base, McMurdo Sound. American 'planes have agreed to forward it from there.  
Ronagh Black      (née Hobin) now living in S. Australia, spent a few days here recently. Ronagh was out on the first club trip and continued to come out till her marriage and departure at the end of the war. About 25 Old Timers got together at Norm and Kath's to give her a rousing welcome.

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CHOCOLATE:       $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. Kremelta.      1 cup dried skimmed milk.      1 cup sifted  
                       icing sugar.      4 level tablespoons cocoa.      Vanilla.

Melt kremelta, add cocoa, then other ingredients well sifted and vanilla. Mix thoroughly. Nuts, ginger, sultanas, raisins may be added if desired. Put in frig. to set. Take out when set and cut up. Put back in frig and lock the door.

#### Does Dr. Bathgate Have Hunches?

Out of the 542 trips the club has run, there have been four occasions when we have needed medical help. On three of these Dr. Bathgate was either on the spot or close at hand.

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FIXTURE LIST.

| <u>Date:</u>                     | <u>Trip:</u>   | <u>Leader:</u>    |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Jan. 27th.                       | Old Members' Day: Ngaruroro River (?).   | Janet Lloyd.      |
| Feb. 9-10th.)                    | Week-end: Cape Kidnappers.   | Edna Ansell.      |
| 10th.)                           | Day trip: " "  |                   |
| Feb. 24th.                       | Horseshoe Bend, Mokoepka Caves.  | Heather Robinson. |
| Mar. 9-10th.                     | Makahu Saddle Hut, North Kaweka.   | Al Moffitt.       |
| March 24th.                      | Prospecting party: Kaweka Track sidling<br>Tutaekuri.  | Kevin Simmons.    |
| April 6-7th.                     | Makaroro River, Colenso Spur, Tupari gorge<br>sidling.                                       | Graeme Hare.      |
| April 19-27th:<br><u>Easter.</u> | Otumore, Howlett's Hut, Sawtooth, Hawkes Bay<br>Ridge, Hikurangi, Rangī Saddle, Black Ridge. | Phil Bayens.      |
|                                  | <u>Alternative trip:</u> Timahanga (via Gentle Annie),<br>Hoggett, Log Cabin, Manson, Kiwi.  |                   |
| May 5th.                         | Wakarara via Wakarara sheep station.   | Len Hodgson.      |

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To all members we wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The first meeting next year will be held on January 23rd.

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