



History

Connecticut Chapter



Appalachian Mountain

1921 Club 1957

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Village Lane
HARWINTON, CONN.



PREFACE

The 1957-58 Chapter Committee is pleased to have the privilege of presenting this history of the Chapter to its membership. A history can be a compilation of events and dates - rather dry reading at best, or it can be a story, or a series of stories as this one is, telling of growth and development and change and of the people responsible for this. I've lost track of the number of times I have read this Chapter History, either the whole or a part, and I have been surprised that I found it more interesting each time. I can therefore honestly urge you to read it thoroughly and carefully, thinking of it not just in terms of the past but rather as the foundation for the future of our Chapter's program.

No one will really know the amount of time and energy that have been put into this work, principally by the History Committee, and in particular by its chairman, Norman Wickstrand. Mention should also be made of Frederick Kilbourne's help in editing. I speak for the Chapter, I am sure, when I express appreciation to all those who have made this history possible.

Marie Carden, Chairman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Early Members	1
2. Annual Meetings, Dinners and Lectures	3
3. Excursions	7
4. Many Interesting and Entertaining Events	13
5. Trails	16
6. Rock Climbing	18
7. Bantam Camp	21
8. White Water Canoeing	25
9. Skiing	28
10. The Mount Riga Story	29
11. Photography	34
12. Odds and Ends	35
13. Membership Graph	38
14. List of Past Officers	39
15. Participation of Connecticut Chapter Members on Committees of Club	46
16. Chapter History	47
17. Chapter By-laws	57

To the Members of the Connecticut Chapter,
Appalachian Mountain Club:

In 1956, Kornel Bailey, then Chapter Chairman, appointed a committee to bring the Chapter history up to date. Since then this committee, with the help of many others, has worked on this project. This cooperation has been extremely helpful, at times even indispensable, and the committee is most grateful for all of it.

The activities of the Chapter have been so great that it has been impossible to include even bare mention of all events. The committee has tried to include representative details of various types of activities and to make this representation typical of each year. Many events are included which some may consider less important than events which have been omitted. This is unavoidable when we try to include all facets of the Chapter, whether they be of the older or younger members, the strenuous or less strenuous activities, the small or large groups and gatherings, and outdoor and indoor events.

A photograph of the organizational meeting at West Peak, June 11, 1921 with many of the people identified, and a photograph of the Mt. Carmel Hut are on file with the Chapter secretary.

Various notes, letters, etc., used in compiling this history, are filed in a loose-leaf notebook that is also on file with the Chapter secretary.

The committee has prepared two copies of the history for the Club files. They wish to recommend that this history be published in sufficient quantity so that all members of the Chapter may have a copy of it.

Respectfully submitted,

December 7, 1957

Thelma M. Webster
Kornel T. Bailey
John A. Herr
Frank W. Gray
Norman M. Wickstrand,
Chairman

Roger A. Colman 1915
 Alice M. Frisbie 1917
 Hubert B. Goodrich 1919

EARLY MEMBERS



On June 11, 1921, about forty people including twelve of the members of the A. M. C. who resided in Connecticut attended a walk to West Peak in Meriden. Mr. Henry Jewett Greene of Worcester, a member of the Committee on Regional Chapters, and Professor William North Rice of Wesleyan, a corresponding member, were also present. The twelve corporate members and the dates when they joined the Club are listed as follows:

1909	Edward H. Lorenz	Hartford
1912	Dr. A. A. Crane	Waterbury
1912	Mrs. A. A. Crane	Waterbury
1916	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Meriden
1916	Walter R. Clark	Bridgeport
1918	Dr. George T. Linsley	Hartford
1918	Judge Arthur F. Ells	Waterbury
1919	Prof. Karl P. Harrington	Middletown
1920	Amy Fowler Warner	New Haven
1920	Rosa E. Roth	Bridgeport
1921	Alfred P. Wheeler	Meriden
1921	Robert A. Squire	Meriden

All of these continued as active members and showed a strong and enduring interest in the kind of activities for which the Club was originally founded in 1876. Some have been particularly outstanding.

Frederick W. Kilbourne sent out the first notices and has held several Chapter offices. Over a long period of years he led many Chapter walks, and was one of the pioneers and leaders of the Connecticut Trail System. He is the author of Chronicles of the White Mountains, a much quoted and authoritative book, was one of the associate editors of Webster's International Dictionary, and frequently contributed to Appalachia. He has also been an ardent amateur botanist.

Walter R. Clark, though never very active in the Chapter, was a regular climber in the vicinity of Jackson, New Hampshire. He took the picture of the group attending the organizational walk in 1921.

Arthur F. Ells, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, is a past chairman of the Chapter. He and the late Henry R. Buck share the honor of being the only men from this Chapter who have been Vice-presidents of the A. M. C.

Mrs. Herbert O. Warner (nee Fowler) has been an interested member of the Chapter since its organization. She has no doubt participated in Chapter walks over a longer period of years than anyone else, and is still occasionally seen on our local outings.



ANNUAL MEETINGS, DINNERS AND LECTURES

Although these four surviving charter members are unable to participate as actively as before, as recently as 1956 three of them attended the annual dinner.

A fifth member of the original group was the late Karl P. Harrington. He was a prominent summer resident of North Woodstock, New Hampshire, for over fifty-five years. Besides teaching Latin at Wesleyan University, he was an accomplished musician, and wrote the music for a well-known Christmas carol. He also was the author of Walks and Climbs in the White Mountains, and served as the Club Councillor of Trails in 1923 - 1925.

The twelve members listed above are generally considered as comprising the charter members of the Chapter. Several others who were on that original walk later joined the Club. Two of these who have been especially active in the Chapter are Mrs. Robert A. Squire of Meriden, and William R. Williamson, now of Washington, D. C.

At the annual meeting held at the New Haven Lawn Club in 1938 a history of the first seventeen years of the Chapter was presented. A copy is included in the Appendix. The committee which compiled this account consisted of Herbert O. Warner, Bessie L. Crane, Frederick W. Kilbourne, and J. Walter Bassett.

*Mrs Robert A Squire died Feb 27, 1994
at the age of 105
Louis Williamson died May 28, 1997
born in 1895*

Every year since the organization of the Chapter, the annual business meeting, dinner and lecture has been held on or about the first Saturday in December. An occasion for reunion of various interest groups within the Club for reminiscing, and for just plain visiting with old friends, these meetings have always been popular with our members and may be said to have acquired the status of tradition. Since 1928 attendance has exceeded 100 and of late years has been greater than 200. Boston and the Chapters are represented, and for years we have considered the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Peabody, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Meredith, and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Ross an important part of our annual get-togethers.

The arrangements for the annual meeting have been the responsibility of the Entertainment Committee. Prior to and including 1934, the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford, Dr. George Linsley, Rector, was the place of meeting. Since that time seating capacity and a desire to equalize traveling distance has necessitated a wider search for meeting places.

The original history of the Chapter was read by Amy Fowler Warner at the 1938 annual meeting held at the New Haven Lawn Club. Her husband Herbert Warner, chairman of the History Committee, had developed a severe cold so he was compelled to listen while she did the talking. The guest speaker that year was Charles S. Houston who spoke on the subject, "Ascent of K-2." With five white companions he had reached the height of 26,000 feet, the highest altitude then attained on this Himalayan peak.

For the next four years, the meetings were held at the Farmington Country Club. In 1939, Christine L. Reed entertained us with exceptionally beautiful colored movies and slides of a "Manless Climbing Trip on Mt. Confederation - Canadian Rockies." In 1940, Sidney N. Shurcliff gave an enjoyable talk while showing his splendid colored movies on the topic, "Ski America 2nd." December 6, 1941, was the date that attendance at our annual meeting exceeded the 200 mark for the first time. The score was 201. Bradford Washburn told of his trip with his wife in 1940, illustrated by colored slides and movies under the title of "Alaskan Honeymoon." Brad began his talk by showing the most direct route for the Japanese to attack our country without knowing that, at that very moment, they were moving in on Pearl Harbor. At 1:25 A. M. E. S. T. the following morning our military, naval, and air bases in Hawaii were under attack.

At annual meetings the chairman of various activities committees present reports. What to do when there are co-chairmen? One answer was forthcoming in 1942 when Clara Tripp

and Betty Gadd read their report simultaneously. That year Guy Shorey, the Gorham, New Hampshire photographer, added fuel to the age-old debate as to when the White Mountains are the most beautiful by showing his colored slides of "Four Seasons in the White Mountains." Much discussion ensued. Few opinions changed.

The Farmington Country Club was "closed for the duration" so our annual meeting of 1943 was held in St. Andrew's Parish House in Meriden. Here we shared with Harry J. Robinson his "Wanderings in the Peruvian Andes," depicting the life of the Indians in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador with their colorful costumes and magnificent mountain scenery.

The next year, 1944, at the Masonic Hall in Wethersfield, we journeyed to Alaska with Doug Brown on a sixteen-day trip to enjoy its superb scenery of mountains, sea, and glaciers.

In 1945 at the Rockledge Country Club in West Hartford, we were forcefully reminded by Virginia Anderson of Boston with her beautiful colored slides that "Colorful New England through the Seasons," has something truly magnificent to offer.

We were back at St. Andrew's in Meriden for the next two years. In 1946, we joined Brad Washburn in testing Arctic equipment for the U. S. Army at high altitudes on Mt. McKinley, which due to its height, its latitude, and its exposure to fierce Arctic winds, produces some of the coldest and most trying weather on earth. We remained north of the border in 1947 in British Columbia with one of our most youthful speakers, William L. Putnam, to share in his "Colossal Enterprises." Bill had brought along his devoted companion, a beautiful Alaskan sled dog. Confronted by a "No dogs allowed," Bill was forced to leave his pal outside. Hardly was he well launched in his lecture, when his dog let it be known both vociferously and persistently that he did not intend to be ignored, and that he demanded immediate admission. He won. Bill suspended operations, let him in, and after a canine display of affection for his master, the dog plumped down on the floor and the lecture continued without further interruption.

Our next two meetings were held at the Mill Plain Church in Waterbury. Mrs. Robert L. M. Underhill, Miriam O'Brien to many, one of the Club's most skillful and inveterate climbers, took us to the Montana Rockies for a closer look at the sky. In 1949 we sailed to within ten degrees of the North Pole on Commander Donald B. MacMillan's Bowdoin. The ship's doctor Edward K. Morse, was our host, leader, and photographer as we visited "Greenland and the Polar Eskimos."

In 1950, for the first time, our annual meeting was held east of the Connecticut River at Odd Fellows Hall, East Hartford. The business meeting was a long one and it wasn't until about 9:30 P. M. that we did the impossible. With Robert L. Nichols

of Tufts College we visited both ends of the world within two hours as he led us "Beyond the Arctic and Antarctic Circles."

It was the next year, 1951, that we first began to hold the business meeting in the afternoon prior to the dinner and lecture. The First Methodist Church in Middletown supplied us with adequate space for the business meeting and pre-dinner assembly without interfering with the preparations for the dinner or the lecture. Our trip on this occasion was with John Nichols Booth of Belmont, Massachusetts, "Through Himalayan Passes to Forbidden Tibet."

The following year we merely crossed the Middletown Green to the Masonic Temple to hold our annual meeting. There we joined the Robert Underhill family's European climbing trip. An Underhill who doesn't climb? Unthinkable!

Connecticut weather frequently becomes rigorous in early December. It is invariably cold, ice storms are frequent, and traveling conditions are unpredictable. It was felt that such conditions were in part responsible for a sparcity of attendance particularly among our older members and those who must travel relatively long distances. Out of this situation came the practice of holding a semi-annual meeting early in May. The first such meeting was in 1953 at the Universalist Church in New Haven, with an approximate attendance of eighty. Gretchen Seikel of Wellesley, Massachusetts, with the aid of Ektachrome slides, described her previous summer's trip through Scotland, Norway, and Sweden. As for Miss Seikel, it was Jean Patterson, club secretary, who remarked, "You don't know Gretchen Seikel? Well, you should!"

It was at the First Lutheran Church in Waterbury at the 1953 annual meeting that the photography group projected slides selected to illustrate the various activities of the year. For the first time in several years, the Entertainment Committee ventured to present a lecture without slides or movies. Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Arctic explorer of many years' experience and of international stature, had been engaged for the occasion. His subject was "The Arctic Sea, the New Mediterranean." Authoritative, interesting, stimulating, his evening with us left us with lasting impressions of the Arctic and of its increasing importance in international affairs. We enjoyed him immensely and he seemed to have a good time with us.

The semi-annual meeting in 1954 was at the Mill Plain Church in Waterbury. Helen Fair of the New York Chapter took us "Canoe Exploring in Dinosaur National Monument." This area has long been of interest to the A. M. C. because of the persistent attempt of the Department of the Interior to put through an irrigation and hydro-electric development on the upper Colorado River including Echo Park Dam, a threat to Dinosaur by flooding. Due to her presentation, several of our

members joined the many nature lovers from all over the nation protesting the project, and to some degree helped to persuade Congress to hold up the venture until its proponents agreed not to put any dam in any reserved area.

In December of 1954, the annual meeting was held in the Woodbury Grammar School where Bradford Washburn took us back to Mt. McKinley, his mountain, if a long and intimate acquaintance can be said to warrant a proprietary interest in a mountain.

May, 1955 found us assembled at the Universalist Church in New Haven. For the first time Chapter songbooks were introduced for community singing, a practice which has since been enjoyed at many gatherings. Robert L. Grayce of the Massachusetts Audubon Society introduced us to three-dimensional color pictures of living birds. The response of the audience was immediate and enthusiastic. At the annual meeting we visited "In the Heart of Africa" with John Nichols Booth.

The seventh inter-chapter meeting fell in May in 1956. It was our Chapter's pleasure to be the host for the occasion, and it was decided to combine it with our semi-annual meeting. The Kensington Congregational Church, centrally located and not far off the parkways, was picked as an appropriate location. The inter-chapter business disposed of, there was ample time for visiting with friends from other chapters and many of them stayed over to hear Joe Dodge, manager of the A. M. C. Hut System in the White Mountains, tell us of the problems of the construction, maintenance, and operation of the hut system. Handy with a camera and on the spot at the right time, he had a beautiful and spectacular set of slides of "Four Seasons at the Huts."

In 1956 for the first time, the annual meeting was held in New Britain where we met at the YWCA. At this meeting, the Chapter's first woman chairman was elected, Marie Carden. In the evening following the dinner, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Keith, club members, told us of their three-week trip in parts of Peru and Bolivia. A side trip in a tiny cruiser down a part of the Amazon and another to Manchu Picchu, the last city of the Incas, in its setting of spectacular mountain scenery, combined to make the evening one of memorable impressions.

Again in 1957, the meeting was held at the New Britain YWCA, and this time George Haig entertained us with color films of the "Atlantic Coastline."

Through the years there has been an increasing number of visitors from other Chapters at our annual meetings, and Connecticut Chapter members have enjoyed attending the other annual meetings of the other chapters as well as the Club annual meetings in Boston.



EXCURSIONS



The first history of the Chapter which was presented at the annual meeting on December 10, 1938 recorded the principal outings held up to that date. The events chronicled below constitute but a portion of the walks and climbs which have subsequently been held.

On Saturday, June 7, 1939, our leader was C. C. Furnas, at that time at Yale. He has since left this area but has become well-known as Assistant Secretary of Defense in 1956. The guest leader was Professor Longwell. In the evening he gave a delightful talk on the geology of Connecticut. He reported that the state had been very thoroughly covered by a geologist who crossed it east to west and west to east on equidistant routes until the entire state was covered at small intervals.

In May 1939, one of several annual trips was made to Raymond, New Hampshire, where we visited the family home of Horace Whittier. On trips of this kind some people slept in the house and others tented outside.

In October, a Halloween party was held at Whittier's cabin at Old Marsh Pond in Plymouth. In those days the Chapter did not have as many members as at present and consequently the attendance at these parties was not so large but that a moderate-sized cabin was sufficient. What was lacking in numbers was more than compensated for in other ways. With only oil lamps for illumination this cabin in the woods presented something of the atmosphere of Halloween that is not obtainable with fluorescent lights, etc.

About this time, skiing was becoming very popular and the Chapter scheduled many events with skiing as a feature. In January, 1940, we met at the Bristol Ski Cabin with Rome Spare as leader. This, like many others, was a trip in the vicinity of Rome's many miles of Blue Trail where the actual route and activity depended on the weather and the wishes of the members attending.

The same month we went to Jug End Barn in South Egremont, Massachusetts. This was one of the earlier winter-sport centers and was a decidedly interesting spot although the weather was not ideal.

It seems that walking in the daylight does not completely tire an Appie's feet and ambitions. After a walk in Andover, Dorothy Raymond and Emily Yeomans arranged a supper and dance for us in the village Town Hall. These events were very popular, and consequently were repeated many times.

Although we are a mountain-climbing club we frequently

take to the rivers. A very popular event was Burton Lawton's boat trip. His very powerful private boat was moored at East Haddam where the Lawtons lived. Before - yes, before - everybody was on the boat he would announce that he was ready if we were. Then before they could hustle onto the boat, the newcomers would get a real surprise. The floating dock was a barge and off we would all go. That is, he would unhitch the barge from the moorings and barge and all would go down the river to Selden's Island. With the flat-top barge alongside the boat we had plenty of room to move around and no chance to rock the boat.

In 1940 we made several overnight trips, including a trip to Mason, New Hampshire. This was the family home- stead of Almus Russell and later on used by him as a summer home. He and Frances (née Carothers) now reside in Pennsylvania. In October we spent a weekend at Pinnacle Valley Club at Lake Waramaug.

Many times the Chapter has been fortunate in being the guest of the Wesleyan University observatory. Professors Slocum, Stearns, and Sitterly have entertained us so interestingly with a look at the heavens that this event has always attracted a good turnout. The Wesleyan telescope is one of the largest refractors in New England and truly a very fine instrument. These events, probably more than any others, were on a "weather permitting" basis. However, we were always welcome and when the visibility was not good we always enjoyed a lecture on astronomy.

In February, 1941, we went to Richmond, Massachusetts, where we made our headquarters at the "town farm." Well, it was formerly, but it was then a weekend camp of Elizabeth Sturtevant. Many trips, usually in the winter, were made here to walk and play and enjoy each other's company.

April 9 we had a very interesting walk in the area which later became Penwood State Park. At that time it was the private property of Mr. Curtis Veeder (Dutch for pen), who turned his cabin over to us for the day. He even let us have his chauffeur Charles, who made and served coffee for us to drink with our sandwiches.

Memorial Day that year gave us an opportunity for a three-day weekend. We joined a general excursion from Boston to go to Sturtevant's "Bemis Camp" in North Chatham, New Hampshire.

Many sections of the Connecticut Blue Trail are frequently visited. One of these is Besek Mountain, which we visited on November 22. In the evening we met in Middletown and heard Karl P. Harrington speak on "Sixty Years on New Hampshire Trails."

In January of 1942 we visited the cabin of Bill Williamson in North Granby. About twenty people attended, under the leadership of Roger Waite. We enjoyed Bill's cabin but unfortunately he was in Washington, D. C. Although a very prominent member of the Chapter in the early days, he has been in the nation's capital for many years. The newer members regrettably never had the pleasure of knowing him.

On May 9 we met at the Hartford Seminary and had a summer camp reunion. A representative was there to speak briefly about each of the Club's four camps. The people were seated at tables arranged in such a way that Three-Mile patrons were in one group, Echo Laker's, Cold Riverites, and August Campers in other groups.

In July we visited the cottage at Columbia Lake which was owned by Clara and Ed Tripp.

During the war, our activities were somewhat restricted, but continued nevertheless. The notice for March 14, 1943, reads, "Meet at Bristol Bus Terminal," - obviously one method of living with gas rationing was to use the busses.

June 30, 1946, we went to Whittier's "Hemlocks." This was then his new woodland camp where, in later years, we had many very interesting outings. Unfortunately, many different people have had difficulty in finding this place, especially for an evening meeting. Eunice Whittaker one evening could not find it until she finally was escorted there by a policeman in his patrol car.

November 16, 1946, was a beautiful fall day and a large crowd turned out for a special-permission trip to "Prohibited Areas" of Lake Gaillard, North Branford. Clarence Munson was our leader. In the evening our former chairman, Austin Hawes, gave us an interesting illustrated talk on Guatemala.

August 23, 1947, we walked in the vicinity of North Woodbury. We then returned to the summer home of Stuart Judd for a picnic supper and square dance. These parties later became annual events and were so popular that we have really had to "hire a hall." The Judd lawn is very appealing for a picnic supper, but for the evening we go into one of the community halls in Woodbury.

September 13 we went to Winsted for a unique outing led by Marjorie Case. This event was repeated annually for several years. After a walk and picnic supper some form of evening entertainment was always provided. One year we heard of Jim and Dorothy Parker's western horseback trip. Another year, a friend of the Case's from Riverton showed us slides and told us about Holland at tulip time. One year a curtain was strung up in the back yard in a sort of stage fashion. When the curtain was drawn aside the show

was a clothesline full of clothes. The clothes were a full-scale exhibit of what Ethel Dorrance packed into her suitcase for a trip to Europe. Once Leroy Foote told us of the Old Leatherman who used to roam Connecticut.

One of the notices which is here quoted in part explains a popular annual activity. "Saturday, October 30. Halloween is here. Meet at East Church Community Club, East Plymouth. There will be a short walk, perhaps on Johnny Cake Mountain, and then we will return to the church for supper (bring your own) and Halloween activities. Ghosts will frolic, perhaps in square sets."

Several years, from 1946 to 1950, we spent a weekend at the Crissy Place in Norfolk for skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing and skating. The appeal of winter outings was great and one year, 1949, we also had a winter camping trip to the Mohawk Ski Area. This was a joint trip with the New York Chapter.

On March 5, 1949, we had an entirely different type of trip. This time we visited Yale's Peabody Museum to see the new mural "The Age of the Great Reptiles." In the evening our guide, Mrs. Preston Cloud, showed pictures of Paracutin in Mexico, and both mountain and cattle country in Texas.

A very popular but non-typical annual activity was successfully begun when we visited Pierson's thirty acres of greenhouses in Cromwell. These events were sometimes conducted just prior to the Easter shipping season. Other times we saw poinsettias, etc. just before the Christmas shipping season - no, we don't mean "shopping." The visits were purposely planned to be just before the plants were shipped to the retailers.

In May we had a smooth water canoe trip on the Salmon River where we paddled from Ted Hilton's to the Connecticut River. It was a fairly raw day for May 21 and the return upstream against the wind just before dusk was not exactly leisurely!

After having had our annual field day at Mrs. Crane's for several years, in 1950 we shifted our locale to Heartt and Betty Raub's lovely home in Woodbury. These outings with a walk were always very enjoyable. The Raubs have a novel arrangement whereby all can eat under cover. The concrete floor and foundation walls of an old barn had been roofed over and provided with a fireplace and picnic tables. The silo foundation provided a small swimming pool, now superseded by a larger excavated pool. Although we have gone here several different years we are happy to say that it never rained so as to really necessitate the roof. In the fall of 1955 and again in 1956 we had a chicken barbecue here with Carl and Alice Johnson as chefs.

The Chapter has successfully tried many kinds of out-

tings. In October, 1950, we enjoyed a beanhole party at the home of Ralph and Ethel Kimball in Middlebury. The beans were cooked for many hours in a hole out in the garden which had been prepared in the morning when the hot walls and beanpot had been covered with earth. After we had our beans and fixin's, Ralph described to us the hopes and plans that he and Ethel had for fixing up their rural home.

April 21, 1951, we again visited Peabody Museum and this time our guide was staff member Scotty Lippitt. Scotty, at that time, was one of our younger, very active and energetic members. She joined Narragansett Chapter in her teens and took part in the activities of Connecticut while here and later with members of the Boston Area when she did graduate work at Harvard.

April 2, 1952, a hike was held in the northwest corner of the state for the special purpose of seeing the waterfalls in Dean's Ravine and similar places.

On the 21st of June a trip was made to West Peak in the form of an anniversary of the walk when the Chapter was founded. Several people who were on the original walk were also present for the trip called "We honor our Chapter Founders." Originally the group met on the porch of the Danaher cottage, which was now gone so that only the site could be visited. This original cottage was owned by the father of former U. S. Senator John Danaher.

On September 28th, a trip was scheduled which from the bulletin seemed quite innocent. It was to Barn Island in the southeast part of the state. A few of the people who went were very enthusiastic about the possibility of the Chapter's renting the cottage there for a salt water camp. Although the enthusiasts were few in number their interest was strong and vociferous. We had had Riga only a short while, and nothing materialized of the Barn Island camp. In fact, it is doubtful if we could have gotten the cottage even if the Chapter Committee had approved.

In the early days of the Chapter it was the custom at the annual meeting to announce a trip for the following day. In a similar way a trip was scheduled for December 7th, the day after the 1952 annual meeting. The weather was clear and crisp and about a dozen hikers made the Compounce loop.

On the 9th of May, 1953, we had a conducted tour of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. This is the oldest agricultural experiment station in this hemisphere. In the evening Gretchen Seikel, in her fascinating, inimitable style, showed us pictures of Scotland, Norway and Switzerland.

The 20th of June this same year was frightfully hot, but a goodly number of members went through the Yale Forest Pre-

serve in West Haven. Professor David Smith was our very instructive guest leader. In the evening many more people showed up for an illustrated talk by P. J. VanHeiningen of New Haven. He spoke on his recent trip to Holland, which was his birthplace.

This same year in August the Chapter sponsored its own one-week range walk in the Presidentials. Although the rock climbers have been as far as Katahdin, this is one of the most distant hiking trips the Chapter has ever scheduled.

In September, a weekend pack trip was held at Stratton Pond in Vermont. As ironical as it sounds, "the weaker sex" were in the majority. One man and three ladies packed into the Pond, stayed overnight and went over the top of the mountain on Sunday. Also one man and wife cheated by walking in to the Pond for supper and then walked out just before dark in order to stay at the nearby hotel. The Chapter trips have certainly had many variations.

In October, a group went to the Minnewaska Mountain House in New York state for a weekend. This type of trip had not been run for many years, but was so successful that this trip has been repeated on alternate years with trips to Lake Mohonk in the intermediate years.

April 10th, 1954, Walter P. Green led a trip to the Mansfield Hollow Flood Control Dam. This dam was later found to be very effective in minimizing damage in the Thames River valley during the floods of August, 1955.

On March 13, 1955, we visited the Great Forest in Norfolk with Mr. Edward Childs as our guest leader. Here we saw a sphagnum bog with pitcher plants and various flora that are more typical of northern New England. We also visited his modern sugar house which was in operation on that day. The day was fairly mild, which is conducive to a good flow of maple sap. By contrast, two weeks later the Chapter held an extremely windy and wintery walk on Mt. Lamentation, with several members from Boston as guests.

In April, 1956, Richard H. Goodwin of Connecticut College for Women spoke on conservation, placing particular emphasis on the desirability of preserving natural areas.

In the summer and fall of 1957, the entire Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail was traversed in a series of weekend trips, promoted by the White Water group with their typical and efficient community cooking supplying nourishment for the endeavor. It was found that a temperature of over 96° encountered in June is NOT conducive to vigorous hiking. Salt revived some, but others called it quits.

Also in 1957, bird walks and geological expeditions gave instructive purpose to some of the trips.



A SAMPLING FROM
MANY INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING EVENTS
FROM 1940 TO 1956

May 18, 1940--A horseback trip in the Watertown area was arranged by Lillian Judd.

October 19-20, 1940--A weekend at the Pinnacle Valley Club at Lake Waramaug.

October 10-12, 1942--One of many weekend camping trips to Macedonia Brook State Park.

February 6-7, 1943--One of the many winter weekends at the Northfield Inn.

March 6, 1943--Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, showed Kodachromes of "Great Western Parks" at the Hartford Y. W. C. A.

April 17, 1943--Carl W. Miller of Brown University showed fine mountain and flower pictures.

January 22, 1944--One of several very enjoyable evenings at Lois Williams' home.

September 23, 1944--A very pleasant evening at Warren and Virginia Horton's after a walk.

November 11, 1944--Color sound films at Middletown's Y. M. C. A. The artist Tom Thomson's "West Wind" of northern Ontario seasons and "The Home Place" of colonial and modern architecture.

July 15, 1945--First of the popular Bradley Point Beach and evening parties held by Louise Maltby.

November 17, 1945--Doug Brown's fine Alaskan pictures.

February, 1946--Bowling Parties in East Hartford started, and were repeated for several winters.

March 9-10, 1946--Winter weeks at "Bunny" and Marian Burnett's Ski Lodge in Wilmington, Vermont.

March 23, 1946--George William Bailey's pictures, "Famous Hump Trip to China," were enjoyed. This affair, held at the Hartford Seminary, presented a different aspect of the Asiatic mountains than we generally have for programs of a mountaineering club.

April 14, 1946--Supper at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church. Meteorologist Roy Lundquist was a most interesting speaker.

July 16, 1946--Connecticut invited to the "Noble View's" (Berkshire) Mortgage Burning Ceremony.

June 17, 1947--One of many pleasant walks and evenings at Kornel and Kay Bailey's with Doug Brown's film, "The Tales of An Appie."

September 20, 1947--Connecticut invited to Berkshire's

picnic supper and square dance at the Stanley Products Park in Westfield, Massachusetts.

July 24, 1948--The first of Mary Caiazza's popular afternoon and evening Connecticut River launch trips.

October 16, 1948--A very entertaining evening of old movies, slides and photos at Frank and Louise Gray's.

January 22-23, 1949--The first winter weekend at Parker Whitcomb's "East Hill Farm," Troy, New Hampshire, with skiing, fine food, and a sleigh ride.

March 26, 1949--Lillian K. Birrell of Auburndale, Massachusetts, showed pictures of the Club's pack train trip in Glacier Park.

December 10, 1949--A Christmas party was held in Horace's Community Hall in East Plymouth, which became an annual event. Santa Claus delights children and everyone with presents. Carols are sung; games played. Cecelia Brenneis and others call some dances. From 1954, pot-luck suppers have preceded the gala event.

March 11, 1950--Harriet Roe of Worcester showing fine flower and Glacier Park pictures.

March 23, 1950--Ray Garner's good and graphic rock-climbing pictures.

August 26, 1950--Allen and Gwen Smith's lovely Hartland Pond place for an afternoon.

February 1, 1951--A pot-luck supper in Farmington.

May 12, 1951--The first new members' party was held at the Shrine Club in Thomaston.

May 24, 1952--I. R. Traverse of Middletown gave a talk and showing of his very extensive old gun collection, with a fascinating commentary.

September 20, 1952--The new members' party was held at the Juds' in Woodbury with picnic supper on the lawn. Pictures of Chapter activities were shown. This has become an annual event and so popular that we adjourn to the Town Hall for the evening entertainment.

November 22, 1952--Eliot Cogswell's Canadian Rockies pictures at the Connecticut Historical Society.

October 3, 1953--Austin Hawes, a former Chapter Chairman, showed pictures of a Mediterranean trip.

November 11, 1953--Sid Clark and Gardner Moulton, after a walk, presented Roland Wells Robbins, a New England archaeologist, who showed splendid New England scenes and covered bridges. He also gave a reading from his book, The Covered Bridge.

December 20, 1953--J. B. Gardner and Seymour Smith's Christmas trip to Northwest Camp where Lydia Loveday carried in a miniature decorated tree. A lovely moonlight return over the snowy mountain.

October 16, 1954--James and Dorothy Parker's Punch Brook Farm, a walk and picnic supper and then to the Burlington Firehouse for a showing of Gwen Smith's interesting travel pictures.

January 2, 1955--At the Frank Gray's in Middlebury. Open house and a welcome to the new officers.

September, 1955--Florence Hungerford arranged for members to see John Beecher's collection of early American clocks.

February 4, 1956--Arranged by Betty Gadd, a showing by the former president of the Hartford Cinema Club, William C. Goeben, of his very artistic and unusual slides taken in Europe.

February 11, 1956--Lecture and slides, "Treasure Hunting in Americana," Roland Wells Robbins' excavation of Jefferson's birthplace. Haddam Town Hall. Sid Clark.

April 28, 1956--A walk and evening at the Burbanks' in Middlefield and Van Lamb's "100 Days Around the World" film.

June 2, 1956--The hospitable Griffins' interesting place in Washington, Connecticut, for the annual picnic.

December 8, 1956--"Hawaiian Islands Scenes and Scenery" by Harold Rafton, Andover, Massachusetts, following basket supper in the Hartford Quaker Meeting House.

December 9, 1956--Through snow to Harold and Sara Pierpont's for one of their many trips and entertainments--this time a bakery and did we bring home the dough!

March 9 and November 30, 1957--Kornel Bailey guided us about the ever interesting Mt. Higby reservation, and then over to the Westfield Congregational Church for enjoyable evening entertainments.



The trail work of the Connecticut Chapter and that of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association on its Blue Trail System have been closely interwoven for many years. At the organization of the Association the following men were present: Edgar Heermance, J. Walter Bassett, Arthur Perkins, Robert E. Platt, Herbert O. Warner, and Everett Waters. Edgar Heermance was Chairman of the trail work of the Association for many years. Herbert was long an active and prominent member of the Connecticut Chapter. Arthur Perkins, Robert Platt, J. Walter Bassett and Everett Waters each served as Chapter Chairman.

Frederick Kilbourne, for many years our Connecticut Chapter treasurer, was named Chairman of the Meriden section of trails at the second meeting of the Association. Romeyn A. Spare has been an active and enthusiastic member of both organizations. He became head of the Bristol section of the Blue Trail System, June 9, 1930. In October, 1945, he succeeded Edgar Heermance as Chairman of the State Trails Committee and still continues as the Bristol Section Chairman. His trails have always been among the best maintained in the system. From time to time, some twenty-nine A. M. C. members have been listed in the Connecticut Walk Book as section chairmen for the Association.

The Appalachian Trail's thirty-three miles in Connecticut was laid out by Ned Anderson for the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. The Association is a private organization supported only by dues of its members and contributions. Because of similarity of purpose and objectives, the Chapter has made annual contributions to the Association, the Appalachian Trail Conference, and the New England Trail Conference.

In 1949 the Chapter took over the responsibility for the maintenance of thirty three miles of the Appalachian Trail in the state. This trail now has white blazes throughout its entire length, but in its early days the Connecticut section was marked by the blue of the Forest and Park Association. The approaches and side trails still bear blue blazes. Among the pioneer trail men who were members of both the Chapter and the Association were such stalwarts as Augustin Crane, Karl Harrington, Ben Utter, Bennet Bronson and Robert Ross. Other members of many years' standing in the Chapter and now or formerly active in trail work are George Barrow, Jesse F. Smith, William F. Cheney, Forrest G. Purinton, William Burling, Mark Goedecke, and Ronald Malia.

For years the Chapter Committee has included a Chairman

of Trails who has usually also been a member of the Association. The Quinnipiac, the first blue trail, was open for travel in 1929. By 1936 the system had developed to a degree where the Association deemed it appropriate to publish the Connecticut Walk Book. Since many of our members had used the trails extensively they turned to us for financial support in the venture. Over some opposition, our 1936 annual meeting voted to assist the project in the amount of one hundred dollars. The money was intended to establish a revolving fund with the idea that sales of the book would finance future editions. Due to rising costs the fund ceased to revolve, but the Walk Book has survived, and the second printing of the fourth edition together with its supplement, corrected to August, 1957, now sells for \$ 2.58 including the 7-1/2¢ state tax. All editions have been sold below cost.

Among the many of our members currently active in trail work, two are outstanding; Seymour Smith and Harold Pierpont. With both men trails are a passion, and they are indefatigable. The latter has, almost single-handed, maintained a hundred miles of trail. The former assumes personal responsibility for twenty-two miles of the Appalachian Trail, serves as chairman of our Trails Committee and, as such, supervises the maintenance of the balance of the Trail in Connecticut. In addition he maintains much of the Mattatuck Trail. He organized and leads the more recent "Roving Trail Crew" which, after extensive and intensive effort on our own trails, use their vacations to assist the hard-pressed trailmen in the White Mountains and the remote sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

ROCK CLIMBING



In the years immediately preceding World War II, group rock climbing in the Connecticut Chapter was largely confined to practice climbing during Daylight Saving evening hours from May through September. Most of the weekly sessions took place on the columnar trap rock outcroppings of central Connecticut along which runs the Metacomet Trail. Such favorites as Rattlesnake (North) and Will Warren's Den in Farmington, Pinnacle Rock and Sunset in Plainville, rugged Ragged and so-called Metacomet in Southington were visited and revisited. Generally at least once a season, we climbed on the crumbling cliffs of the Hanging Hills of Meriden, while two or three evenings each season found us on the secure rugosities of Naugatuck valley granite opposite the Chase rolling mill in Waterville.

Some of our eager climbers usually joined the Boston group at Cow Camp, North Conway, New Hampshire, on an early July weekend to do White Horse, Cathedral, Willard and the Pinnacle in Huntington Ravine. There were also a few weekend camping sorties to the famed Joe English Hill, New Boston, New Hampshire, there to climb Charlie's Face, the Pipeline, Towles Terror, the Chimney, Allis Folly, and other routes established by the Boston Climbers.

Few of the short climbs on our Connecticut cliffs were designated, but who will forget the "Back Off" on Eagle Cliff, the "Wiessner Crack" above the Flake on Ragged, the "Lemon Squeezer" at Waterville, and the exasperating "Little Clamshell" at Metacomet.

During those years, Foster Sturtevant (aptly known as Sturdy) and later Mark Goedecke, arranged the meetings and instructed us all in the handling of ropes, tying-in, belaying, rappelling and the use of the hardware, carrabiner and piton, as well as the technique of the layback, jamb holds, chimneying, and the like. Outstanding among the leaders was capable, confidence-inspiring Henry Beers, and it was a delight to watch him, generally teamed with Ralph Walker, romp up the most difficult of climbs. Among others of the small but ardent group who climbed week after week was the Waterbury crew, Roger Makepeace, Lucien Warner and Chase Kimball, to name but a few. And then there were always beginners.

To the neophyte struggling up an "impossible" route with the breathless discovery of a TG (Thank God) hold just as he was about to "go on the rope," the minutes seemed like hours. These sessions of toil, perspiration, frustration, and then triumph were ennobled by the quiet of setting sun on rocky cliff, and when it got too dark to see the handholds there was the

camaraderie of picnic suppers on top of the cliffs - a friendly relaxed time thoroughly enjoyed by climbers and non-climbers alike, after which, by flashlights, we would find our way down to the cars. (Then there was the night we were a little too late getting off Kilkenny Rock in the West Hartford Reservoir property and had to scurry around to find a caretaker to unlock the gates.)

Rock climbing as a Connecticut Chapter activity practically ceased during World War II, what with many of the climbers in service, and gas rationing. It never really got going again until J. B. Gardner, who had done considerable climbing with the Boston group and on his own, took hold around 1950. Very few of the former Connecticut climbers were again active with the group, but new members joined in so that before long rock climbing was again a small but active part of the Chapter activities.

The group no longer met evenings but did their climbing on weekends. Of the old climbing areas, Ragged (north and south), the Meriden cliffs and the cliffs at Waterville were used and two or three new areas in Connecticut found - such as the cliffs on Selden Island where several weekend camping-climbing trips have been scheduled by Whit Stueck. Again, a few would join the Boston group on their climbing trips in New Hampshire, and in 1951 and 1954 some of the Boston group camped and climbed with us in Connecticut.

One of the most interesting developments has been the scheduling of climbs in the Shawangunks, one of the best rock climbing areas in the northeast, whose cliffs offer innumerable leader climbs of all degrees of difficulty. Two or three camping-climbing trips a year are now made there, and there we have learned to know many of the A. M. C. New York Chapter climbers, for most of their organized rock climbing is done there. Weekend camping-climbing trips have been held at Riga, but there the climbing is quite limited. Also, in 1954, the rock climbing group joined in a successful combined hiking, climbing, and canoeing weekend at Jamaica, Vermont.

In 1950, arrangements were made by Jack Taylor and the Hilliards for the Chapter to sponsor the presentation at Trinity College by Ray Garner of his wonderful film "The Mountain," showing in detail the climbing of the Grand Teton by the Exam Route, and this lecture was well attended, many of the Chapter members and practically all of the rock climbers being in the audience.

In 1952, on the Waterville cliffs, dynamic belaying practice equipment was put up (the first in the northeast) and such belaying practice is now part of the yearly rock climbing program.

In 1953, the Connecticut rock climbing group sponsored a

safety conference at Mt. Carmel, which was attended by climbers from many of the organized rock climbing groups in the northeast. After a morning spent in safety discussions and various demonstrations, the group turned to climbing for pleasure, which, ironically and tragically, resulted in a fatal accident to a Princeton undergraduate who, after falling, was killed by a rock which had followed him in his fall.

In 1955 and also previously we have occasionally run a combined local climbing trip with the Yale Mountaineering Club - among whom was Dave Harrah, one of the members of the college climbing party who made the first ascent of Yerupaja, Peru, in 1950.

The University of Connecticut Outing Club has furnished some young climbers to our group, outstanding among them being John Reppy, and, while at Trinity College, Jack Taylor, a skillful leader (who received his training with the Boston A. M. C. rock climbers).

Our Chairmen, in addition to J. B. who served several years, have been Scott Isaacson, Whit Stueck, and, at present, Dan Weaver. They have encouraged inter-chapter climbing and also the combination of rock climbing with other Chapter activities. The rock climbing program has brought us several new A. M. C. members and, in addition to teaching the fundamentals of climbing and safety techniques, has provided not only a sport most enjoyable in itself but also preliminary practice for more extensive climbing and mountaineering. Thus, many of our rock climbers have taken vacations - either with the A. M. C. or other mountaineering groups or on trips of their own planning - to such mountains as Katahdin, the Tetons, Wind Rivers, Selkirks, and to other mountains in western U. S. and Canada and in Austria and Switzerland.



BANTAM CAMP



In the early summer of 1938, the Chapter rented a small cabin and one water front lot at Marsh Point on Bantam Lake. Early in the season, perhaps at the very start, a register was placed in the cabin. The first date was July 10, 1938, with eleven names recorded. This first book has now been filled and records the names and dates of many visits of many different people to this camp which the Club still uses.

When the camp was first built, there was no access road on the point. The original owner and builder of the camp had usually come to the camp by boat from Dempsey's landing. By the summer of 1938, the White Foundation had built a road out onto this point. This road, now practically abandoned, is what we now refer to as the upper road. Although they were not scheduled in the bulletin, several midweek events were held at the camp even during the first month. It furnished opportunities for picnic suppers and swims.

Under the date of July 28 fourteen names appear in the register. On this unpresuming but eventful occasion Foster Sturtevant and Elizabeth (later Mrs. Sturtevant) arrived about seven o'clock and announced that their car - i. e., only one car - was stuck in the road far from camp. Little thought was given to eating, swimming, or relaxing, for we preferred to help our member out of his difficulty. We had had a very rainy period in July that year. The new road had very little gravel, much moisture, and was very conducive to rutting and otherwise difficult driving conditions. The road was very narrow and we soon realized that the other cars at camp were also practically trapped. With considerable difficulty, many stones, much tugging and pushing, all but one car had passed the soupy, muddy spot ready to go home. We all stayed to help each other. But this time we finally decided we could not "do it ourselves." So, Leslie Rood, the owner of the last car, and Norman Wickstrand went to try to get a wrecker - i. e., a professional. Oh, incidentally, it was now after midnight and we were all very tired and dirty. We had done much of the work by flashlight, but the mud just kept getting deeper and softer. The garages which had wreckers all seemed to be closed tight for the night. A group of young men was found who said they were house movers and could do the job. With the help of a few pieces of steel cable and a block and tackle, a small model "A" Ford car pulled that last car out of that muck. Some witty soul wrote in the register the essential and impressive parts of this episode as follows: "We were all STUCK on the place! And how? Mud? Wow! And they didn't get home until morning."

In looking back through the names in an old register such as this, one is reminded of some people that we have not seen for a long while. We are also strongly reminded that many events have transpired since. Many of the names, we are happy to relate, are still prominent in the Connecticut Chapter. The first page, for instance, includes only these names: Rood, Waite, Sturtevant, Woodhouse, and Stibbs. Later pages include many other names. Just to mention a few of the names with perhaps a note of interest on some of them: C. C. Furnas, a nationally known professor of Chemical Engineering, who was then at Yale; Frank Bentley, A United Aircraft engineer, and family - with very pleasant English accents; Frances Carothers now living in Pennsylvania as the wife of Almus Russel; Alice Sitterly, then of Middletown, who now resides in Georgia, will long be remembered; Elizabeth (née Tuttle) and Andrè Levesque, who are now in the hotel business in the south; Herbert Williams, brother of Doris, now lives on the West Coast; Everett O. Waters, former Chapter Chairman, also a Yale Professor and a special editor of Webster's Dictionary; Mary and Roger Waite and Scottie - notice that this is the dog, because the three children had not yet arrived. The last entry for the year was December 4 with eleven people and Scottie being recorded. These names were: Williams, Rood, Ensor, Woodhouse, Waite, Dorrance, Hayn, and Wickstrand. Ethel Hayn is now better known as Ethel Dorrance. Some of the names which appear in the register, we regret to say, are no longer with us because, to quote the Old Indian, they have gone to the "Happy Hunting Ground." As Appies we should like to modify this to the "Happy Hiking Ground."

The History Committee is very grateful to those people who have at various times seen fit to add some word or remarks to the register in addition to their names. In this way, many otherwise forgotten events can be incorporated into this history. With the date line September 3, 1939, someone printed in inch high letters the three letter word "WAR." This caused considerable change and limitations to all Club activities, as well as to the life of each one.

In a more pleasant vein, we find the following piece of appropriate poetry dated May 31, 1943:

"Just we five have come a long way,
 No one to join us at work and play,
 And work we found; there was no doubt
 That ice storms threw things about.
 We took a large tree off the roof,
 Another in the path,
 And many more that lay about
 Torn off by winter's wrath.

We cleared the place as best we could
 In the short length of time we had
 And hope the next ones to come up
 Will find things not too bad."

Frank, Emma, and Shirley Stibbs;
 Louis and Lillian Woodhouse

As the above verse indicates, every spring it is necessary to have one or more work parties to put the camp in shape for the season. Every spring there has been sweeping and raking, washing and painting, chopping and cleaning to do. This in itself represents considerable work. However, one of the major annual tasks has been putting out the dock and erecting the tents and picnic shelters. This brings us to another important phase of Bantam Camp.

The first year, the camp consisted of one 50 ft. water front lot with a cabin twenty feet square including the porch. On this lot two tents were pitched for ladies' and gentlemen's dressing quarters. These tents were inherited from the weekend camping committee. The first season the tents were pitched on sloping ground. Later, a spot to the rear of the cabin was leveled off. Still later wooden platforms were provided. A dock was built and also a raft for swimming. Still later a canoe dock was built. There has been necessary and considerable repair and rebuilding of these facilities. Fortunately, different Camp chairmen have stressed various features in the nature of improvements. Jack Herr engineered the raft and large connecting dock. Frank Gray fostered the canoe dock. The white water canoe committee built the welded steel canoe rack. In 1953, the main cabin was altered in such a manner as to make it one large 20 ft. x 20 ft. room with windows on the entire front. Les Rood was the first chairman and he was instrumental in building several picnic tables. One of the hardest jobs tackled was completed in 1949 when several of the members dug the well down into hardpan. It meant pick and shovel work for one man in the hole and others on top removing the dirt one pailful at a time. The well with pump and piping to the cabin are very much appreciated by all visitors to the Camp. Henry Wagner, of all the chairmen, was the outstanding carpenter. First, he rebuilt all tent platforms. Then he built some more and better tables and benches. The next project was the portable (demountable) Adirondack lean-to. This was a two room structure built on one of the tent platforms. It serves much better than the tents for both dressing and sleeping quarters. About the same time, Harold Pierpont and J. Heartt Raub wired the Camp for electricity. Frank Gray built the council-ring fireplace and split-log benches. Following an afternoon paddle

up the river many campers several times a year gather around the fire at about dusk for a sing. The instrumentation of John Ensor and Paul Donchian is always appreciated. Joan Ensor and her friends added much with cowboy and college songs.

The longer the Camp is used, more courage and ambition seems to be forthcoming from the workers. In 1954, it was decided to try to excavate under the cabin and put in a concrete block foundation. The owners, the White Foundation, agreed to furnish all the materials. When they questioned if the Club members were qualified to build a foundation under the existing cabin, their fears were easily dispelled. The instigator of the project, Jack Herr, and about three-quarters of the diggers and hard workers were engineers. This project took about three years and has greatly improved the storage facilities, the neatness of the under-cabin area, and the excavated material is now providing a terrace where the "rocking-chair brigade" can hold forth.

No history concerning events in Western Connecticut in the summer of 1955 would be complete without reference to the weather. July was one of the hottest and driest in years. Bantam Lake is the largest natural lake in Connecticut. Nevertheless, in August we had a heavy rain which caused the lake to rise about three feet - yes, three feet. This caused the dock to become detached from the shore, and we now had to swim to the raft. About a week later, the historic rains of August 18 and 19 came. The lake already high rose to ten feet above normal. This reading is 4.5 feet higher than Camp Columbia had recorded in over forty years of observations. Transportation and communications in this part of the state became very limited. Frank Gray and George Haig managed to get to Camp a few days later and salvaged the dock and raft, also some other docks which had drifted in. Fortunately the aluminum canoes were chained. The high water and heavy rain made quite a mess of the camp, but no structural damage was suffered. Swimming, etc., was prohibited for several weeks so the pleasures of Bantam for the summer of 1955 terminated as early as the middle of August.



WHITE WATER CANOEING

White water canoeing in Connecticut, although participated in independently or with other A. M. C. groups, was not an organized Chapter activity until after a meeting at Louise Maltby's in October, 1946, where a petition was circulated to determine the amount of interest in such a sport. This was found to be considerably and through the sympathetic cooperation of Chapter Chairman Roger Waite and his committee, one canoe was purchased in 1947. This was also to be used at Bantam Camp. Louise Maltby and Doug Brown made up a committee for acquisition and assignment. Louise has a most amusing account of going alone to an auction of many canoes to bid on only one or two. Also ask her about the time she canoed in Vermont one March day wearing an orchid on her jacket!

In 1947 a new committee, consisting of Doug Brown, Louis Woodhouse, and Robert B. Sturgis was appointed.

In January, 1948, Doug Brown, Lucien Warner, Earl Durham, and Heartt Raub were appointed as a new committee and joint trips were held with both Boston and New York.

On March 12, 1949, the first of the popular White Water Rallies was held at Doug's house in Meriden. By then the white water group was well launched. A number of trips were held, with the interest increasing along with the skill of the group. Committees and personnel changed, but fortunately most of the original experienced members still came faithfully from near and far to help and to teach. New people came to try it, liked it, and became A. M. C. members and white water enthusiasts.

With Doug's great enthusiasm and enormous expenditure of time and energy in organizing, planning trips, and teaching, and with the calm and wise guidance of Foster Sturtevant, Frank Gray, Earl Durham, and Mark Goedecke, the fleet was gradually enlarged, and trips became really exciting, and we had many interesting experiences.

In August, 1949, Doug set up the first Bantam Olympics. In the fall of that year the first canoe reunion was held at his house. On many other occasions the group enjoyed Doug's wonderful hospitality--sometimes to see his beautiful photographs, or after many a trip when the canoes were put away. A canoeing weekend trip without Evelyn was never quite as enjoyable as when she was there.

Among the early highlights: A "Snowbird" trip on New Year's Day in 1951 on the Farmington River to console the skiers for lack of snow!

The Chapter's first trip on the West River in Vermont was held in early spring that year, and Phyllis Webster and Doug

Brown turned over in the icy water. They stopped in at nearby houses. The only article of apparel Doug's host could furnish him that would fit was a pair of dry "long johns." Phyllis' hostess turned out to be the reporter for the district and custodian of the church garment collection, so Phyllis was clothed from the barrel until the arrival of her dry pack.

In April or early May, in hail, sleet and snow, a race was held on the upper West River sponsored by the West River Valley Association. Afterward a cup was awarded and dinner and a square dance enjoyed.

From about 1950, J. B. Gardner gave much of his time, thought and skill to white water. Many new members became experts and, in time, instructors. The group grew in size and ranged far afield, even to the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania, by invitation of the Buckridge Ski and Canoe Club.

Safety in running was and is stressed. The practice of artificial respiration and proper life-saving were taught. First-aid equipment was procured. Special canoe-carrying racks were made for cars and a large rack constructed at Bantam to hold the canoes in summer.

In 1954, Doug's lecturing schedule became so heavy that he had to give up canoeing and the chairmanship. An advisory committee of four was formed to carry on in the absence of a chairman; this group ably met the responsibilities and problems. The fleet still expands. The canoeer ranges far and wide and sees beauty of stream and valley, birds and flowers that many never see.

Camping on canoe trips is increasingly popular. On many a Saturday night camping canoe parties find and join a local square or barn dance.

The 1955 season provided good spring running with the usual spills and thrills. The early fall trips were sadly disrupted by the various hurricanes which, however, did provide good late fall water. The 1956 season had almost normal conditions for early March, but the trips soon became operations: ice-running, snow-dip and frostbite far into April. The early northern trips had to be postponed. The group's enthusiasm was not congealed, and they were glad to have a chance to try the Westfield's Middle Branch and found it exciting, as was the Windhall in Vermont. Even the mile-long cut-off below Jamaica on the West which avoided heavy water on that part of the river was not without interest. The Esopus in New York had very interesting spots. Also New Hampshire's Swift River with its curvaceous and scenic "fast flat" that soon became anything but flat. That was a pleasant trip with Boston.

An innovation for Connecticut was a joint Slalom meet on the Salmon in which the Buckridge Club of Pennsylvania, Boston, and New York participated. The Buckridgers supplied most of

the equipment, and all the groups, the "know-how." Connecticut enjoyed this event very much and hopes to have similar events in the future. John Jay of ski film fame took many photographs, including movie shots from a canoe following a participant.

White water canoeing is a sport which seems to engender a wonderful spirit of cooperation and comradeship among its participants. Out of this grew the "Buddy" system on the river, with each canoe being responsible for the one following, and a seldom-relaxed "rule of position," as well as designated lead and end canoes.

Canoes have been damaged, although never lost, and the Chapter is humbly thankful that no tragedy or serious accident has marred any trip.



SKIING



For two seasons the Connecticut Chapter had an organized ski club with Whitney Stueck of Saybrook as its enthusiastic chairman. Its career was glorious though brief. The trips were interesting and very instructive in the art of winter camping, such as "be sure to bring the whisk broom," "avoid glass water containers; or else 'water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink'," "and ground cloths to put over and under the bags when sleeping out." It was enlightening to learn that sleeping in the snow is easier to take than one would assume.

For the book: the first season, 1952-53, was attended by 29 members and 15 guests to a total of 157 skiing days. The next season's capricious snows cut the skiing days on organized trips to about 60.

The Chapter's specialty was the Ski Caravan organized by Whit and usually beginning at his little red cabin in Jamaica, Vermont, where he and Phi so hospitably welcomed the group and fed them, too. The Caravan then skied various areas according to snow conditions, cooked supper with frozen fingers, and during the evening would travel to another area and campsite. One of the high lights of such travels was the sleep-out in Middlebury College's Snow Bowl in Vermont when Whit awoke us whisking inches of snow off with the aforesaid broom, a very practical demonstration of its usefulness.

The next season's highlight was really deep freeze in tents at Vermont's Mad River Glen parking space, when the already frozen eggs froze again before one could finish eating them. Dick Bielifield was not able to go out in the evening because one of the wildly blowing tents was tied to his car. All these incidents made for much fun and comradeship.

There are also many other interesting events; the weekend at the hospitable Isacson's, J. B. Gardner's splendidly organized Tuckerman Ravine trips and his trips to Riga and Dean's Ravine. The ski socials didn't need snow, so were very successful and lots of fun.

The erratic snow conditions often made cancellation of trips necessary so the ski committee decided to discontinue the "Ski Club" as such and return to the former plan of occasionally getting together when the inspiration moved.

Fortunately, J. B.'s Riga and Mt. Washington climbing and skiing trips still go on and Whit's Tuckerman's trips, too. These groups are "warmly" known as the "freezer brigade."



THE MOUNT RIGA STORY



This story has to do with the extreme northwestern corner of Connecticut, and has its origin in the rise and fall of a great local enterprise in the early 1800's. The area centering on Salisbury and Lakeville was once the iron center of America and at one time forty furnaces were in blast within a sixty-mile reach in the Housatonic valley. One of the most prosperous of these furnaces was located at the foot of Forge Pond (South Pond) in the Mount Riga School District of Salisbury Township. Around Mount Riga furnace there was once a thriving community, enjoying the highest income per capita in the country at the time. It is reported that the best department store in all Connecticut was located there. There were seventy children in the local school.

The local industry was doomed by insurmountable problems of supply and technological advance. As the years progressed, the denuding of the hillsides for wood for charcoal extended ever outward, and the rich deposit at Ore Hill became exhausted. The Mount Riga furnace went out of blast in 1847, leaving a community of forty families who became a problem for the town of Salisbury. The last of these families left the mountain in the 1930's and the permanent population of the Mount Riga School District is zero.

During the ensuing years, three wealthy families acquired all the land holdings of the old Salisbury Iron Company, comprising some six thousand acres more or less. In the course of three generations, the holdings subdivided to a point where it became necessary to form a closed family corporation for administration purposes. This corporation, known as "Mount Riga Incorporated," maintains legal address in Salisbury, Connecticut.

The next phase of our story deals with the effort on the part of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club to expand its field of operations to embrace enterprises in keeping with basic ideals of the Club. On authority of a motion introduced by George W. Hull of Bristol at the 1949 annual Chapter meeting, Chairman Leslie H. Rood appointed a special committee to investigate the general camping requirements of the Chapter. The committee consisted of Ethel Dorrance, Doris Williams, Kornel Bailey, John Gardner and Roger Waite, with John Ensor as Chairman. This committee mailed questionnaires to the entire membership of about four hundred. Out of a thirty percent return, Bantam Lake Camp received strong endorsement, but there was a small, sincere minority who wished for something more remote where they

could cut trails and be constructive in the wilderness. Out of twelve locations mentioned on the questionnaires, two suggested Mount Riga. All locations were considered; some were investigated; but the fact that Mount Riga clicked was the result of a certain amount of good fortune.

When Harold Pierpont and John Ensor, investigating for the committee, first called at Mount Riga on July 15, 1950, they were fortunate to find people representing about one-third of the stock interest of Mount Riga Corporation sitting on one porch at one time at the McCabe Camp on Riga Lake. Among the group was Louise (Mrs. Robert) O'Brien, who was then the treasurer of the corporation and who was to become a staunch friend of the Chapter. They knew of AMC through contacts with Harold Pierpont and Seymour Smith, both of whom had been active in maintenance of the Appalachian Trail which crossed their land. After defining our problem and emphasizing that AMC is a group interested in preserving, not despoiling the wilderness, they were friendly at once. Before the first interview ended, Mrs. O'Brien said that she would present a formal request from the Chapter to the corporation at its annual meeting in October, provided that there was no request for camping rights on the lakes, which were reserved for stockholders.

For the next several months, letters and AMC publications were sent through Mrs. O'Brien to acquaint the members of the corporation with the Club. Finally, our formal request for camping privileges was submitted in writing. A meeting of delegates from the corporation with the AMC committee took place on Armistice Day, 1950, on Mount Riga. Before that meeting ended, the Mount Riga Project emerged from the ethereal into reality as boundaries and conditions were discussed, although many months of formalities still lay ahead.

To the 1950 annual meeting, the special camping committee brought an offer from Mount Riga Corporation to lease approximately 1500 acres to AMC at a token rental of five dollars per year. This large tract of forest and mountain land was bounded on the north by the Massachusetts State line; on the west by Mt. Washington and Bear Mountain Roads and the Appalachian Trail; on the south by Under-mountain Trail; on the east by land of farmers of the valley. This area embraced practically all of Bear Mountain, the highest summit in Connecticut, and its eastern and western approaches include a wild and undeveloped portion of Sage's Ravine; also a mile-and-a-half section of the Appalachian Trail.

The proposal was received enthusiastically by those attending the annual meeting, and the incoming Chapter chairman, John Herr, was authorized to appoint a committee to

proceed with the "Mount Riga Project" on a one-year trial basis. Work finalizing the lease as to boundaries and conditions was completed. At the corporation's request, use of the leasehold was to be restricted as far as possible to AMC membership. Except from Mt. Washington Road to campsites, entries were to be hidden and unmarked; all state and town laws must be obeyed and AMC must not sublease; and the lessor reserves the right to inspect at any time. The lessor agreed that AMC could maintain campsite or sites, erect semi-permanent shelters, clear woodlands, cut trails, undertake reforestation, dam streams within state law, dredge ponds, post property, and would not be liable for acts of vandalism of others or damage by the elements. The lease was for one year, automatically renewable annually unless either party gave sixty days' notice prior to termination date.

Because the Connecticut Chapter is legally incorporated only through its parent organization, the lease had to go to Boston to be signed by AMC president Robert W. Morgan, and of all things, the signed lease was lost in the return mail and never found! Duplicates had to be made which caused breath-taking delay, and not until April 9, 1951, was the document fully executed, signed on Mount Riga's behalf by the Club's staunch friend, Louise O'Brien.

Don Pratt and his camping committee selected a lovely spot in a hemlock grove on a bank above a rushing stream in the extreme northwest corner of the tract. This immediately acquired the name "Northwest Camp" and has been known as such ever since. In early spring a large construction-type tool box was moved into the area, followed soon by a cook tent and wood-burning range donated by Horace Whittier, all of which served as a base of operation for the next planned step - a lean-to. The woods abounded in chestnut trees, dead for many years, fallen leaning on the hemlocks, and with wood as sound as ever. Under the leadership of Horace Whittier, who soon acquired the title of "woods superintendent," crews worked through the summer and fall weekends. The lean-to graduated into a full-fledged log cabin as the chestnut logs were brought in from the surrounding forest, shaped, and fitted into place. The unfinished cabin was just barely chinked and roofed as the snow began to fly. The architectural motif, which sort of developed like Topsy, was Swiss. The lower room was 11' x 12' and the loft was 14' by 12', overhanging at the front.

The first year also saw activity on other projects. Don Pratt and his committee built the first outside fireplace. Seymour Smith led his trails committee in the clearing of Undermountain Trail and scouted an escarpment trail to Sage's Ravine. Norman Wickstrand and his conservation

committee cleared the waterhole at Northwest and recorded the flora found in the area. All committees, however, spent their major effort in the construction of the cabin which was a "must" as a base for further operations.

At the 1951 annual chapter meeting it was voted to continue the "Mount Riga Project" into another year, and 1952 saw progress in all three phases of activity - camping, trails, and conservation. Under Horace's continued guidance the cabin was made comfortable for sleeping eight in the loft. There is a commitment that the permanent sleeping quarters at Northwest will not be expanded without permission from Mount Riga Corporation. By year's end, it was estimated that 900 man hours had been spent on the cabin and it was worth at least \$1200. The camp register showed approximately 300 signature days.

The trails committee improved the "Bog Trail" cut-off from Northwest to Bear Mountain Road, and established a new trail known as the "Bee Line" from Northwest Road up the western slope of Bear Mountain to the summit. The latter has proved a popular moonlight route, and brings the summit within a mile of camp.

Walter Green wrote a comprehensive account of botany in the area which is presently filed as a permanent record with the 1952 annual Chapter report. Norman Wickstrand as the conservation committee chairman accompanied by state and University of Connecticut foresters conducted a joint inspection trip over the reservation to study possible projects in conservation.

The development of the Mount Riga Project has been accomplished with a minimum of publicity outside of AMC circles. This is in accordance with the wishes of the Mount Riga Corporation who do not want to focus attention of an undesirable destructive element of the public on the area for fear that the wilderness will be destroyed. Club-sponsored publicity has been limited to an article written by Seymour Smith appearing in the June 1952 issue of Appalachia, and periodic announcements in the bulletin.

The year 1953 saw continued improvement at "Northwest." A pump was installed in the cabin to lift clear, cool water from the stream. Mount Riga Incorporated extended swimming privileges on the sand beach at Forge Pond.

By 1954, with major, essential construction completed, "Northwest" entered into a new phase of its existence, namely the enjoyment of its refreshing environment by the membership. Permission was obtained to swim and picnic on "Bold Anthony" rock on the eastern shore of Riga Lake, the gem of the area and hitherto closed to all but corporation families. This rock was the terminus of a new trail having a hidden entrance from Mt. Washington Road known only to the membership. This year

saw the locating and clearing of a trail by Seymour Smith's committee around the eastern slope of Bear Mountain connecting "Northwest" with "Paradise" campsite on the eastern rampart. The conservation committee under Harold Pierpont laid out a picturesque "Nature Trail" starting at Northwest. The camping committee under Marie Carden put the finishing touches on the cabin and instituted the perpetual pantry for anyone who might arrive short of food. The Mt. Riga National Bank was founded and has proven to be financially sound. The first experiment of providing a meal to those who registered was tried by the Sturtevant's over the Labor Day weekend, and was such a success, this practice has been continued on scheduled weekends, with the costs being shared and any profit going into the bank. It was during this year that a stone patio was constructed between the cabin and the fireplace. It was for this project that the famous "mule team" tactics were employed to great advantage. The mule team consisted of one wheelbarrow with plenty of long ropes tied to it. The mules were any of the members who happened to be on the end of the rope. The result, many a load of rock and gravel pulled from the stream bed to the site of operation.

During the activity of construction and following it, there have been many day and extended walks utilizing Northwest as a base. Though the number participating usually is numerically small, those fortunate enough to attend experience the satisfaction and beauty of wilderness travel. Winter weekends, a specialty of J. B. Gardner at Northwest, are always pleasant and varied. In winter the forest talks. With snow cover, woodland creatures move about leaving footprinted trails to identify. A bushwhack to Bingham Pond to skate and pick cranberries, exploration of remote swamps, a climb in a fairyland of ice to Gridley Mountain's summit - all these have been enjoyed. Day trips have been many - to Everett, Race, Monument, Round, Frissell, Bald Peak, etc. Trail maintenance expeditions are always active and fun, too. Thus Northwest serves around the seasons as a wilderness base camp.

The year 1955 will be remembered by the great flood following in the wake of a hurricane, and all road approaches to Northwest were completely destroyed. It was late in August 1956 before the Mt. Washington Road from Salisbury was back in service. Despite this handicap, the marking of trees and shrubs along the Nature Trail was expanded. The conservation committee under Bob Hatch compiled and posted lists of all trees, shrubs, flowers, minerals, birds and animals found in the area. And many individuals and groups continue to use Northwest as a base for exploring throughout our wilderness area.

PHOTOGRAPHY



The photography group of the Connecticut Chapter, A. M. C., developed from a series of informal slide competitions and reviews held in previous years. On these occasions frequent questions were asked concerning types of camera, film, exposure, lenses, light meters, and related subjects. This led to the conclusion that there was a goodly number of our members who would welcome an opportunity to meet occasionally to discuss technical photographic problems and to exchange ideas and experiences. George Haig was asked to head the activity and in March of 1953 a group of twenty met at the home of David Thompson in Cheshire and organized as the "Photographic Unit."

During the first four years of its existence the unit remained unchanged as to size and purpose. A part of each meeting was devoted to the viewing of slides which were considered of interest photographically together with the usual questions and comments. Approximately half of each meeting was devoted to some technical aspect of color photography.

At the Chapter annual meeting in 1953, the group utilized the interim between the business meeting and the annual dinner to acquaint the members with its activities and to present a collection of 100 slides representative of the Chapter activities for the year.

Color printing, still in its infancy and developmental stage and demanding as to finance, leisure, patience, and grim determination was a challenge to Messrs. David Thompson, Frank Gray, and George Haig. Possessed to some modest degree of some of the above attributes and the facilities of Dave's darkroom, they decided to give it a try. The Printon process seemed the most likely to produce results. The group was able to present a few barely acceptable prints at a subsequent meeting, but no one has been stirred to emulate their example. Even this trio of enthusiasts went into retirement when it was discovered that each of their 8 x 10 prints ran to \$2.50, exclusive of time and running about, and that a Brooklyn outfit would make them for \$1.69!



ODDS AND ENDS

"The objects of the Club" as stated in the by-laws, "are to explore the mountains of New England and the adjacent regions, both for scientific and artistic purposes; and, in general, to cultivate an interest in geographical studies." These purposes have been achieved by various media. One type of Club endeavor has been the Chapters of which Connecticut is only one. The success and growth of the Connecticut Chapter has been because of the continued interest of many members in the various phases described in the previous sections. No one activity should be given the principal emphasis. Likewise, probably, no one member has been interested or active in all the various facets of the Chapter. The Chapter has consisted of a very positive but hard to define integration of various activities. Most of the activities have been briefly described in the previous sections. In addition, many members have enjoyed the Club's summer camps. Others have enjoyed Western trips and various other regularly scheduled excursions. Since the participation has been as individuals and not as a Chapter, no further reference is made to them in this history. The name is true of lectures and other activities, both in Boston and with the various chapters. All members receive two magazine issues of *Appalachia* annually where articles have appeared that were written by Chapter members.

In order to administer these various functions there has been an executive committee consisting of seven members, namely: the chairman, secretary and treasurer, and the chairman of each of the following sub-committees: excursions, trails, entertainment, and membership. As the years went on the activity of the Chapter increased and seemed to indicate the desirability of revising the above committee. In 1951 after about thirty years of existence it was found that the Chapter had prospered without any recorded constitution or by-laws. Some members preferred not to change the existing pattern. However, a majority preferred a written constitution, a copy of which will be found in the appendix.

The by-laws as adopted specified a Chapter Committee of the preceding seven officers plus the most recent living past Chapter chairman. These eight constitute the minimum committee, but four others may be added if desired. These four presently are the chairman of the following activities: rock climbing, white water canoeing, Bantam Camp, and Mt. Riga Camp. Other activities such as photography, conservation and skiing also have or did have committees. However, these respective chairmen are not official members of the Chapter

committee. Nevertheless, these activities have been much appreciated by many members and consequently have functioned as though they had nearly equal status.

The Club members seem to have always been interested in camping, at both transient and permanent camps. Quoting from the 1938 history, "Perhaps the most fun of all were the camps at Pleasant Valley, forerunners of the later style of weekend camping." From this developed a desire to have a somewhat more permanent camp, perhaps in Pleasant Valley.

At the annual meeting in 1925, which was held in Hartford, it was voted to rent from the State of Connecticut the stone hut on Mount Carmel, Hamden. This stone hut was rented by the Club until the annual meeting in 1934. All furniture and fixtures other than tools, bedding, and cots were then transferred to Noble View. The Connecticut Chapter still continues to use and appreciate Noble View, the camp of the Berkshire Chapter. For many years we enjoyed a laurel weekend there with Berkshire Chapter as our host.

At this 1934 meeting a new era in Chapter camping was also started. Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Purinton had attended a weekend camp of the Boston group on October 12, 1934 and in December sold the Chapter on the advisability of buying equipment in order to operate a tent camp on about one weekend each month the year round. Mr. Purinton in his supplement to the 1938 history writes, "It became plain, however, after a year that the majority of the members of the Chapter preferred outings less strenuous and with more comfort than that afforded by camp life."

Officially, as a Chapter, very little has been done in the fields of forestry and conservation. Many of the members, including some not previously mentioned, have been prominent in these very worthwhile fields which are close to the hearts of most if not all Appies. A few names seem worthy of mention. Austin F. Hawes was for many years state forester. J. Walter Bassett has been president and very active in the Sleeping Giant Park Association. Both of these men have been chairmen of the Chapter. Robert M. Hatch has been much interested in conservation legislation, particularly in laws protecting non-predator hawks and owls. Since the beginning of 1956 the Chapter has had a Conservation Committee. This Committee has sponsored various meetings including one at which Richard H. Goodwin of Connecticut College for Women spoke on Natural Areas Program; another at which the speaker was Albert E. Burke of the Yale University conservation program. The function of this group is to cooperate with other conservation groups and to bring the importance of conservation to the attention of Club members by means of special programs and trips. This Committee is awakening the interest of

the Chapter in the conservation of the natural resources of Connecticut. It is becoming the conviction of many that conservation constitutes one of our most fertile fields of endeavor.

Although the Chapter has grown and prospered, little attention has been given to long range objectives. In order to establish general policies and set up a frame work within the different committees should function, a committee was appointed in January 1957 by Marie Carden, then Chapter Chairman, with John Ensor as chairman, for these purposes. This "Survey Committee" felt that it was first necessary to establish clearly the fundamental purpose of the Chapter as a unit of the Club organization. A portion of the report of this committee accepted by the Chapter membership at the December 1957 Annual Meeting follows:

After much study of club literature and records this committee arrived at the following statement as its interpretation of the stated objectives of the club as they apply to the chapter:

THE OBJECT OF THE CLUB IS TO AFFORD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLORATION, STUDY, CONSERVATION AND RECREATION BY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, IN THE MOUNTAINS, FORESTS AND ALONG THE WATERWAYS OF NEW ENGLAND AND ADJACENT REGIONS.

In the committee's opinion interest in the chapter is fairly well divided between actual participation in the objectives and the social activities relating indirectly thereto resulting in fellowship among people with kindred concern. It is felt that this is a healthy condition so long as the stated objectives have the primary position in the chapter program and generate the social side rather than vice versa.

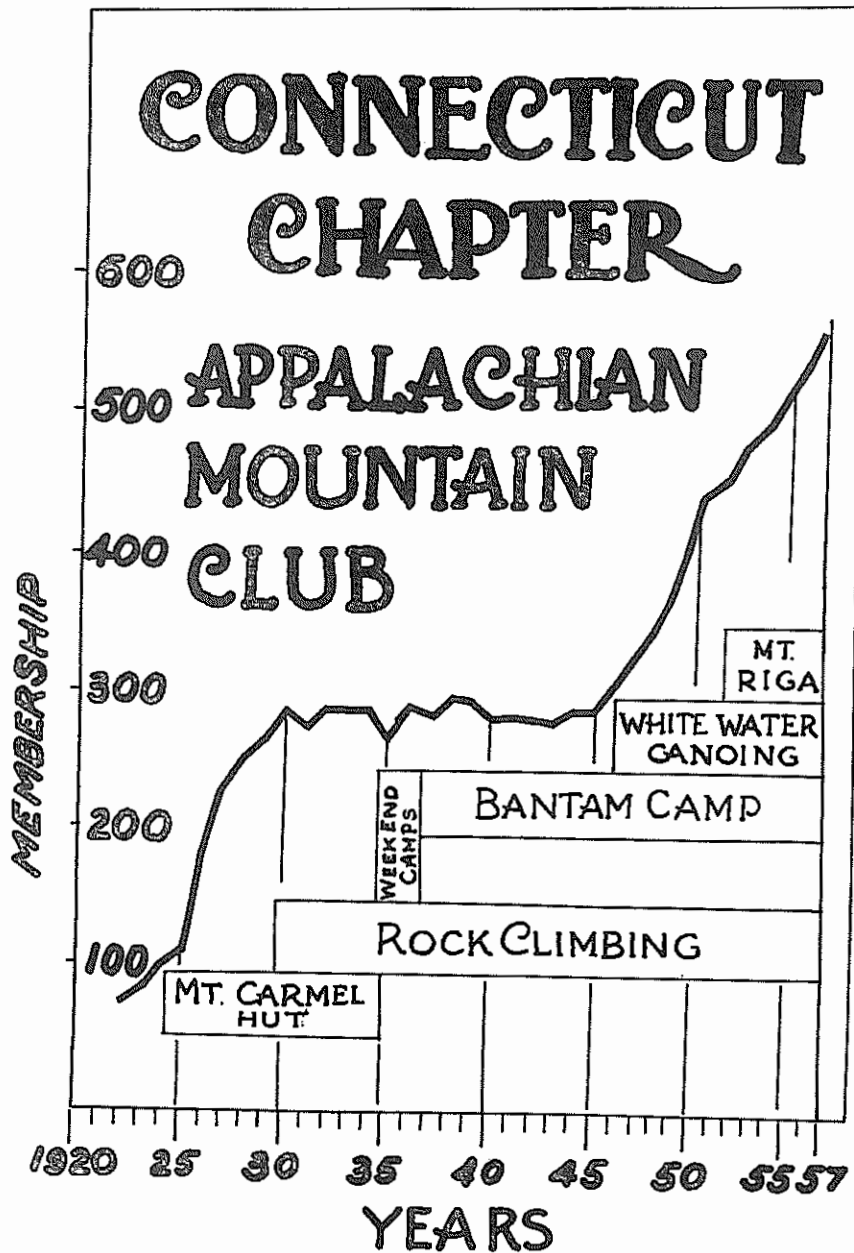
It is felt that the chapter is performing public service when it maintains trails, instructs in such activities as rock climbing and white water canoeing and assumes active interest in conservation. To expand the public service does not mean to open the activities to the general public but rather to open them further to INTERESTED and RESPONSIBLE PERSONS. A wilderness can soon be destroyed by a careless public. To expand in the right direction means getting our story to interested individuals and groups.

The Committee has continued its consideration of various Chapter problems, such as development of campsites, method of operation, growth of the Chapter, and so forth.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER, A. M. C.

Chapter Officers 1921 - 1955

The Connecticut Chapter was formed and the first officers were elected on June 11, 1921, at West Peak, Meriden. Officers were and are elected at the annual meeting, take office following the meeting and serve through the next annual meeting. *Annual meeting dates.



1921

* 6/11/21

Ch.	Augustin A. Crane	Trails	Karl P. Harrington
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Ent.	Arthur F. Ells
Treas.	George T. Linsley	Mem.	Herbert Thoms
	Walks	Robert A. Squire	

1922

* 11/26/21

Ch.	George T. Linsley	Trails	Karl P. Harrington
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Ent.	Mrs. Augustin A. Crane
Treas.	James E. Wheeler	Mem.	Herbert Thoms
	Ex.	Robert A. Squire	

1923

* 12/16/22

Ch.	George T. Linsley	Trails	Robert A. Squire
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Ent.	Belle H. Johnson
Treas.	James E. Wheeler	Mem.	Mrs. Augustin A. Crane
	Ex.	Arthur V. Parker	

1924

* 12/8/23

Ch.	George T. Linsley	Trails	Robert A. Squire &
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne		Henry Buck
Treas.	James E. Wheeler	Ent.	Lois P. Williams
	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot	
	Ex.	Amy Fowler	

1925

* 12/6/24

Ch.	George T. Linsley	Trails	Robert A. Squire &
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne		Henry Buck
Treas.	James E. Wheeler	Ent.	Belle H. Johnson
	Mem.	Mrs. Augustin A. Crane	
	Ex.	W. R. Williamson & Edna Gillette	

		1926			* 12/12/25
Ch.	George T. Linsley	Trails	Robert A. Squire &		
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne		Henry Buck		
Treas.	James E. Wheeler	Ent.	Belle H. Johnson		
	Mem. Mrs. Augustin A. Crane				
	Ex. W. R. Williamson & Edna Gillette				
		1927			* 12/11/26
Ch.	Arthur Perkins	Trails	Alfred P. Wheeler		
Sec.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Ent.	Amy Fowler		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie Elliot		
	Ex. Herbert O. Warner				
		1928			* 11/26/27
Ch.	Arthur Perkins	Trails	Alfred P. Wheeler		
Sec.	J. Walter Bassett	Ent.	Amy Fowler		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Herbert O. Warner				
		1929			* 11/17/28
Ch.	Robert E. Platt	Trails	Arthur Perkins		
Sec.	J. Walter Bassett	Ent.	Lois P. Williams		
Treas.	Harriet W. Elliot	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Amy Fowler				
		1930			* 11/23/29
Ch.	Robert E. Platt	Trails	Arthur Perkins		
Sec.	J. Walter Bassett	Ent.	Lois P. Williams		
Treas.	Harriet W. Elliot	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Amy Fowler				
		1931			* 12/6/30
Ch.	Everett O. Waters	Trails	Arthur Perkins		
Sec.	Robert A. Squire	Ent.	Mildred G. Small		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Franklyn M. Stibbs				
		1932			* 12/5/31
Ch.	Everett O. Waters	Trails	Herbert O. Warner		
Sec.	Robert A. Squire	Ent.	Mildred G. Small		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. W. R. Williamson				

		1933			* 12/3/32
Ch.	Henry R. Buck	Trails	Romeyn A. Spare		
Sec.	Lois P. Williams	Ent.	Helen D. Perkins		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. W. R. Williamson				
		1934			* 12/9/33
Ch.	Henry R. Buck	Trails	Romeyn A. Spare		
Sec.	Alice D. Brooks	Ent.	Helen D. Perkins		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. William H. Burling				
		1935			* 12/8/34
Ch.	Forrest G. Purinton	Trails	Romeyn A. Spare		
Sec.	Frances W. Carothers	Ent.	Edna Gillette		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. William H. Burling				
		1936			* 12/7/35
Ch.	Forrest G. Purinton	Trails	Romeyn A. Spare		
Sec.	Frances W. Carothers	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Ex.	William H. Burling		
		1937			* 12/5/36
Ch.	Austin F. Hawes	Trails	Romeyn A. Spare		
Sec.	Frances W. Carothers	Ent.	William H. Burling		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Franklyn M. Stibbs				
		1938			* 12/4/37
Ch.	Austin F. Hawes	Trails	Franklyn M. Stibbs		
Sec.	Elizabeth Osborn	Ent.	Hubert Goodrich		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Frederick L. Coe				
		1939			* 12/10/38
Ch.	Arthur F. Ellis	Trails	Franklyn M. Stibbs		
Sec.	Elizabeth Osborn	Ent.	Hubert Goodrich		
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot		
	Ex. Roger T. Waite				

	1940		* 12/9/39
Ch.	Arthur F. Ells	Trails	Roger S. Sperry
Sec.	Doris B. Williams	Ent.	Allen K. Smith
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot
	Ex. Horace R. Whittier		
	1941		* 12/7/40
Ch.	Romeyn A. Spare	Trails	J. Walter Bassett
Sec.	Doris B. Williams	Ent.	Alice H. Sitterly
Treas.	Robert E. Platt	Mem.	Nellie P. Elliot
	Ex. George C. Prime		
	1942		* 12/6/41
Ch.	Romeyn A. Spare	Trails	J. Walter Bassett
Sec.	Doris B. Williams	Ent.	Mrs. Arthur F. Ells
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Mem.	Louise E. Maltby
	Ex. Mrs. Edwin P. Tripp & Elizabeth H. Gadd		
	1943		* 12/5/42
Ch.	Franklyn M. Stibbs	Trails	Roger T. Waite
Sec.	Elizabeth H. Gadd	Ent.	Phyllis H. Webster
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Mem.	Louise E. Maltby
	Ex. Louis W. Woodhouse		
	1944		* 12/4/43
Ch.	Franklyn M. Stibbs	Trails	Roger T. Waite
Sec.	Elizabeth H. Gadd	Ent.	Phyllis H. Webster
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Mem.	Louise E. Maltby
	Ex. Louis W. Woodhouse		
	1945		* 12/2/44
Ch.	J. Walter Bassett	Trails	Ralph W. Stetson
Sec.	Mary B. Sawers	Ent.	Horace R. Whittier
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Mem.	Louise E. Maltby
	Ex. Mr. & Mrs. Warren G. Horton		
	1946		* 12/8/45
Ch.	J. Walter Bassett	Trails	Ralph W. Stetson
Sec.	Mary B. Sawers	Ent.	Grace Scouten
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Mem.	Lois P. Williams
	Ex. William & Ethel Dorrance		

	1947		* 12/7/46
Ch.	Roger T. Waite	Ent.	Gwendolyn Smith
Sec.	Sarah W. Ball	Mem.	Phyllis Webster
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Ex.	William & Ethel
Trails	Harold Pierpont		Dorrance
	Bantam	Leslie H. Rood	
	1948		* 12/6/47
Ch.	Roger T. Waite	Ent.	Mrs. Frank W. Gray
Sec.	Mary A. Caiazza	Mem.	Phyllis M. Webster
Treas.	Frederick W. Kilbourne	Ex.	Mark & Jane Goedecke
Trails	Harold Pierpont	Bantam	Leslie H. Rood
	1949		* 12/4/48
Ch.	Leslie H. Rood	Ent.	Louise E. Maltby
Sec.	Mary A. Caiazza	Mem.	Phyllis M. Webster
Treas.	Roger T. Waite	Ex.	Mark & Jane Goedecke
Trails	Harold Pierpont	Bantam	John A. Herr
	1950		* 12/3/49
Ch.	Leslie H. Rood	Ent.	Marjorie Case
Sec.	Ethel Dorrance	Mem.	Dorothea A. Raymond
Treas.	Roger T. Waite	Ex.	Kornel Bailey
Trails	Harold Pierpont	Bantam	John A. Herr
	1951		* 12/2/50
Ch.	John A. Herr	Mem.	Hazel Rood
Sec.	Alice E. Abbott	Ex.	Kornel Bailey
Treas.	Roger T. Waite	Bantam	Frank W. Gray
Trails	Harold Pierpont	W. W.	Douglas M. Brown
Ent.	Stuart Hamilton	R. C.	J. B. Gardner
	1952		* 12/1/51
Ch.	John A. Herr	Mem.	Hazel Rood
Sec.	Catherine E. Blanchard	Ex.	Kornel Bailey
Treas.	Roger T. Waite	Bantam	Frank W. Gray
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	W. W.	Douglas M. Brown
Ent.	Elizabeth D'Olier	R. C.	J. B. Gardner
	Riga	John S. Ensor	

1953

* 12/6/52

Ch.	Frank W. Gray	Mem.	Mary B. Sawers
Sec.	Phyllis B. Hodges	Ex.	<u>Norman M. Wickstrand</u>
Treas.	Wales F. Meisinger	Bantam	C. Henry Wagner
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	W. W.	Douglas M. Brown
Ent.	Cecelia E. Brenneis	R. C.	J. B. Gardner
	Riga Horace R. Whittier		

1954

* 12/5/53

Ch.	Frank W. Gray	Mem.	Mary B. Sawers
Sec.	Phyllis B. Hodges	Ex.	<u>Norman M. Wickstrand</u>
Treas.	Wales F. Meisinger	Bantam	C. Henry Wagner
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	W. W.	Douglas M. Brown
Ent.	Cecelia E. Brenneis	R. C.	J. B. Gardner
	Riga Horace R. Whittier		

1955

* 12/4/54

Ch.	Kornel Bailey	Mem.	Mary B. Waite
Sec.	Jean C. Smith	Ex.	Carl H. Johnson
Treas.	Wales F. Meisinger	Bantam	Roger A. Colman
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	W. W.	Donald W. Pratt
Ent.	Marie Carden	R. C.	Scott Isacson
	Riga Harold C. Pierpont		

1956

* 12/3/55

Ch.	Kornel Bailey	Mem.	Mary B. Waite
Sec.	Jean C. Smith	Ex.	Carl H. Johnson
Treas.	Wales F. Meisinger	Bantam	Roger A. Colman
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	W. W.	Donald W. Pratt
Ent.	Marie Carden	R. C.	W. Whitney Stueck
	Riga Harold C. Pierpont		

1957

* 12/1/56

Ch.	Marie Carden	Mem.	Mrs. Roger T. Waite
Sec.	Mrs. George W. Carden	Ex.	Sidney C. Clark
Treas.	Leroy W. Foote	Bantam	George C. Haig
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	W. W.	Gardner W. Moulton
Ent.	Phyllis M. Webster	R. C.	Daniels Weaver
	Riga Robert G. Ream		

1958

* 12/7/57

Ch.	Marie Carden	Mem.	Mrs. Roger T. Waite
Sec.	Mrs. George W. Carden	Ex.	Mrs. Charles H. Alexander
Treas.	Leroy W. Foote		Alexander
Trails	Seymour R. Smith	Bantam	George C. Haig
Ent.	Phyllis M. Webster	W. W.	Gardner W. Moulton
	R. C. Daniels Weaver		
	Riga Robert G. Ream		

Participation of Connecticut Chapter Members
on Committees of Club

Vice-presidents	Henry Buck Arthur F. Ells Mary B. Sawers	1934 1945-1946 1956-1957
Councillor of Trails	Karl Harrington	
Committee on Chapters	Forrest G. Purinton Austin F. Hawes Marie Carden Mary B. Sawers	
Conservation Committee	John S. Dunning William J. Jahoda	
Rock Climbing Committee	W. Whitney Stueck	
Canoeing	J. B. Gardner Donald Pratt	
August Camp	Kornel Bailey May Kedney Mark Goedecke Mary B. Sawers Foster E. Sturtevant Douglas G. Christie Charles H. Alexander	
Cold River Camp	David M. Hummel	
Echo Lake	Roger T. Waite	
Rhododendron Cottage	Brownell Gage Robert Squire	
Three Mile Island	Forrest G. Purinton	
Appalachia Committee	Mary B. Sawers	
Guide Book Committee	Karl Harrington Herbert Warner Amy F. Warner	

May 4, 1939

To the Members of the Connecticut Chapter,
Appalachian Mountain Club:

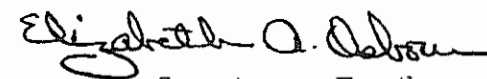
With this you will find a copy of the History of the Connecticut Chapter, A. M. C., from the date of its formation in June 1921 through December 1938, which is sent you in accordance with the vote taken at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter.

The delay in sending this has been occasioned by the time taken in attempting to have the editor of "Appalachia" include it in his columns. However, this could not be arranged and we are now sending it to the members individually.

It is with pleasure that we send this to you. We commend it to the older members for the enjoyment they will receive in reviewing happy events which have taken place in which they were active participants and to the newer members as an interesting explanation of some of the Chapter customs and traditions, and an inspiration for future activities.

The thanks of the entire Chapter are extended to the Committee which prepared it.

Sincerely,



Secretary - For the
Executive Committee.

Enc.

28 Newport Ave.
West Hartford, Conn.

In April, 1921, Mr. Frank S. Mason, then Chairman of the Committee on Regional Chapters of the A. M. C., wrote to several members living in Connecticut asking if it were feasible to form a Chapter. The matter had been discussed informally the preceding winter at an A. M. C. outing in Jackson. Dr. A. A. Crane of Waterbury, the senior male member in Connecticut, and other Connecticut members were approached, and, the project appearing to them desirable and feasible, Frederick W. Kilbourne sent notices to all registered members residing in the State calling for a meeting at Hubbard Park, Meriden, to consider the project. Many favorable replies were received, the idea being strongly endorsed and much interest being shown. June 11, 1921, was the date finally settled upon as most convenient for a meeting and a walk in the Hanging Hills region, and that day became the birthday of the Connecticut Chapter.

At the time appointed some forty persons assembled at the entrance to Hubbard Park and from there hiked to the top of West Peak by an attractive route of from four to five miles. The climb and walk along the ridge was punctuated by thrills and chills, for Mr. Arthur Blewitt of Waterbury killed a good-sized rattlesnake after several walkers had passed dangerously near without seeing it or recognizing its rattle. The party was also treated to a splendid view of a duck hawk, known to nest on the cliffs.

There were present a goodly number of invited guests, many of whom subsequently joined the Club, one corresponding member, Professor William North Rice of Middletown, and twelve corporate members as follows: Walter R. Clark and Rosa E. Rothe of Bridgeport, Rev. George T. Linsley and Edward H. Lorenz of Hartford, Professor Karl P. Harrington of Middletown, Dr. and Mrs. A. A. Crane and Arthur F. Ells of Waterbury, Amy Fowler of New Haven, Alfred P. Wheeler, Robert A. Squire and Frederick W. Kilbourne of Meriden. John H. Sage of Portland, whose membership application was pending, was also present.

After an open air supper around a fire, the party assembled on the veranda of the Danaher cottage where Henry Jewett Greene, a member of the Committee on Regional Chapters, who, with Mrs. Greene, had come from Worcester for the purpose, directed the procedure of organizing a chapter. The appropriate votes were passed and the following officers and members of the Chapter Committee were elected to serve until the first annual meeting: Chairman, Dr. Augustin A. Crane; Secretary, Frederick W. Kilbourne; Treasurer, Rev. George T. Linsley; Chairman of Trails Committee, Professor Karl P. Harrington; Entertainment Committee, Arthur F. Ells; Membership, Dr. Herbert Thoms; Excursions, Robert A. Squire.

So much for our birth! Our baptism was almost immediate. The clouds had been darkening and the thunder had begun to roll, but we had important business to transact and paid little attention to the weather. However, no sooner had we started down the trail than the heavens opened. Never, it seemed to us, has it rained harder than during the succeeding half hour, and never were human beings any wetter than the members of the newly formed chapter and their companions.

We are so fortunate as to have Dr. Crane's account of our next trip as follows:

"The second official outing of the Club was held on the afternoon of June 25th, 1921 under the direction of Dr. Crane. Mr. Wheeler acted as leader and G. Averill Crane as rear-guard. Start was made from the Beacon Falls Railway Station at exactly 2:40 P. M. as per schedule. The party started up the west bank of the Naugatuck River to the old site of High Rock Grove; from there to the top of the ledges on the eastern face of Mt. Tobey, known as High Rock; thence back into the gorge and up the whole length of the gorge to the peak of the entire range, locally known as Andrews Mountain, altitude 830 feet. Descent was made from there by wagon road to Naugatuck, which the entire party reached at 8:10 P. M. Distance traveled, nine miles, net elevation 700 feet, time elapsed five hours and a half.

"The weather was fine, though hot, and the views excellent. The party consisted of Alfred P. Wheeler, Robert W. Carter, F. L. Bacon, Robert A. Squire of Meriden; William Duddy, William Duddy, Jr., W. R. Clark and Rockwell Clark, Bridgeport; Judge Albert Mathewson, Dr. Herbert Thoms, Mr. May Humphries, Miss Edna Gillette, Miss Amy Fowler, Miss H. W. Elliot, New Haven; Dr. and Mrs. A. A. Crane, G. Averill Crane, Dr. Joseph L. Harvey and Mrs. Alice K. Henry of Waterbury."

This is a fair sample of our early walks. Mr. Squire served as excursions committee for two years, and set the pace for those who have followed. He conducted our first weekend trip at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury on October 7th and 8th, 1921. The party visited Sage's Ravine and Bash Bish Falls, climbed Riga and Bear, and enjoyed a hail storm on Everett. Edna Gillette toiled up the rocky and vertical face of the monument on Bear and wished she hadn't when she was confronted by the fact that she had to come down again, as that was before the days of the cord rappelle. Breakfast was late at the Inn, and on inquir-

ing the reason we found that someone - not of our party - had been so careless as to murder the cook during the night.

Mr. Squire also took us to Monadnock over Memorial Day in 1923. We stayed at the Ark in Jeffrey. Such a long automobile trip was in those days a venture not to be lightly undertaken, but several cars made the journey and the Memorial Day Weekend trip was established as a feature of our Chapter program. We went to Monadnock many times after that; staying at the Tavern in Fitzwilliam, camping out at the Bicknell Cottage on the mountain, and once had a cottage connected with the Ark.

Bob Squire was succeeded on the Excursion Committee by Bill Williamson and Edna Gillette, who served for three years. Then in 1927 and '28 Herbert Warner; '29 and '30, Amy Fowler, and they worked together so well on the weekend trips during those four years that they decided to make the association permanent. Others thought their example a good one; ask Everett and Dorothy Waters, Arthur and Martha Ells, Roger and Mary Waite, Gertrude and Jonathan Randle, or Brownell and Delight Gage.

The Reverend George Linsley succeeded Dr. Crane as Chairman, and he was followed by Arthur Perkins, Robert E. Platt, Everett O. Waters, Henry R. Buck, Forrest G. Purinton and Austin Hawes.

At our first annual meeting, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford, in November, 1921, we took our own supper and coffee was furnished. Thirty-eight members and guests were present. The report of the Treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$1.76, and an unpaid bill of \$2.94. A collection was taken and the Chapter became solvent. At the 1922 annual meeting, instead of taking the collection it was voted to instruct the secretary to communicate with the Treasurer of the A. M. C. to learn if there is any money accruing to the Chapter from Club funds. We have had no financial difficulties since that time, as 30% of our dues are remitted to the Chapter.

Our first dinner and lecture - an illustrated talk on Cold River Camp by Walter O'Kane - was held in New Haven on January 28, 1922. A walk on Mt. Carmel was scheduled for the afternoon, but only a few of the adventurous ones who made the attempt reached the top, the mountain being completely covered with hard, smooth ice. About forty attended the dinner. We have since had many interesting and enjoyable lectures, including those by Myron Avery, Dr. A. H. Graves, Christine Reid, Miriam O'Brien Underhill, and several by Dean Peabody and Bradford Washburn.

An outstanding event of 1925 was the excursion to West Peak, Meriden, early in January, to view the total eclipse of

the sun. We had as guests more than thirty Appalachians from Boston and vicinity, and were rewarded for our ascent of the mountain on a bitterly cold morning, by unobstructed views of the wonderful phenomenon.

Although we like to walk, the thing that really brings out the attendance is a party. Mrs. Crane's Woodbury apple-blossom parties are always popular, and the swimming party at Gordon Rowe's private beach has been a much appreciated change during the warm weather. There have been parties at the Coe's camp, winter sports and dances at Andover, and many other good times. There were, however, two outstanding parties, both in 1927. The first was in June, Judge Perkins's lawn party, when Benton MacKaye told of his dream of a trail from Maine to Georgia, a dream which Judge Perkins and other members of the Chapter helped to make come true, as the Appalachian Trail is nearly completed.

There were sixty at that party, but when Governor and Mrs. Templeton gave us a sheep bake at their new home in Waterbury on September 24th, 1927, there were 147 to partake of their hospitality. We have never since had a function that was to be compared with that sheep bake.

We have continuously had good programs of half day and all day walks, with many informal and enjoyable evening parties following our Saturday afternoon walks. We have week-ended at Wauramaug; at the Mary Lyon Inn in Buckland, Massachusetts; in the Tyringham Valley; at Wilmington, Vermont; at Lake Tiorati in New York, and at many other places. At East Lee, Gertrude Ellis's car was taken to pieces and put together again in the dark, and, strange to say, operated nicely after the amateur mechanics were through with it. At East Hartland, Everett Waters and his assistants did a major crankcase repair on his car, with chewing gum.

The Catskill weekends - including the strawberry shortcakes - were much enjoyed. Who can forget the night at Meads in 1924 when the thermometer dropped, and we all shivered. Bill Williamson and his roommate used the floor rugs and bureau scarf for extra bedding, but they didn't help much, and as a last resort Bill got up and put on his necktie. Apparently that did the job, and he was able to sleep thereafter.

From Meads we went to the Big Indian Valley and climbed Slide Mountain on that wonderful day when the oxalis was a carpet of bloom all the way up the trail. We went back to climb Slide; Cornell, and Wittenburg a year or two later, and had beautiful cloud effects, but nothing to compare with that carpet of spring flowers.

One of the best excursions was to Mt. Graylock over a week-end in the Fall of 1924. Fifteen members and friends gathered at Adams in the early evening of October 11th, and,

after a good supper, started up the Adams trail by moonlight. It was an unusual experience and an eerie one, for the play of strange lights and shadows in the deep woods seemed almost unreal. The trail was straight up, and Mutt Crane (bull dog) a regular hiker with the A. M. C., was pressed into service and literally pulled Miss Conant up the mountain, much to our amusement. We arrived about midnight, and many of us were up to see the sunrise the next morning, a spectacular sight.

The next day about ten of us walked down the Bellows Pipe Trail, via the Cascades, to Braytonville, then took the trolley to Williamstown, and walked from there down the valley road to the entrance of the Hopper. Bill Williamson got "sailing" directions and we were off, supposedly to reascend the mountain by the renowned Hopper Trail. The wood road was most alluring and kept on and on to the very head wall of the valley, and then suddenly stopped, no sign of any trail ascending or leading from it. There was much scouting about the brush by all the men and even a long retreat to find blazes or signs to direct us to the Hopper Trail - but no luck. By then time was pressing, and Bill knew if he were to get the bunch to the top of the mountain intact and alive, by dark, he had to work fast. After consultation, a line was organized and we were told to stay in that order and so many feet apart, and under no circumstances to allow any break in the line. We then struck out, straight as an arrow, for the top of the mountain, through deep underbrush and primeval forest, Robert Platt leading and Bill bringing up the rear. Timed periods for climbing and short rests were made, and in that skillful but tedious manner we at last, completely exhausted, reached the mountain road near the top just as real night closed in upon us.

Meanwhile Dr. Crane had left the party at Braytonville and walked to North Adams with Mutt, to transact some business and to continue by trolley to Adams to pick up his car and to ascend the mountain again preparatory to departure Monday. He had forgotten that it was Sunday, and found that he could transact no business; found that in his mountain garb he was oddly conspicuous among the Sunday crowds; and found that he could not take his dog on the trolley cars without a permit, which could only be obtained at the central office of the trolley company. This involved a long walk and the loss of connections with two trolley cars. He finally stood at the curbstone awaiting a car for Adams to reascend the mountain. His face probably reflected the annoyance which he had been through, his dog tugged at a chain at his side, and the inevitable tramper's drinking cup rested on his belt. A very solicitous individual from the Western Coast approached him, full of sympathy and probably something stronger:

"Well, old man, are you up against it?"
"Yep", said the tramper.
"But you always keep a stiff upper lip?"
"Yep", said the tramper.
"And does your dog always go with you?"
"Yep", said the tramper.

Then followed a long period of scrutiny. The philanthropist said "Well, Well, Well", dropped a nickel into the cup on the trampers belt and passed along, proud of having accomplished a good deed.

The story was told about the fire on the mountain top that evening, and since then a favorite refrain at similar outings of the A. M. C. has been -

Halleluia! Halleluia!
Put a nickel in the cup,
For the Old Doc and his pup.
Halleluia! Halleluia!
Put a nickel in the cup
And be saved.

Perhaps the most fun of all were the camps at Pleasant Valley, forerunners of the later style of week-end camping. We rented shelter and Harriet Elliot and Amy Fowler planned the food. It was here that we invaded a new field - that of the drama. A rainy day drove the campers to a near-by barn, where an all-star performance of "As You Like It" was given, the cast consisting of the entire company with the exception of Bob Griswold and Bert Warner, who were audience, and Harriet and Amy, who were busy in the kitchen striving to prepare a rainy day feast from the materials provided for a trail lunch, augmented by quantities of fresh asparagus. The costumes were original and startling, to say the least, and the whole performance went off with considerable verve and dash. Austin Hawes was the "Duke", but unfortunately no one can remember just who played the other roles.

Of course, we have not mentioned all of the week-end parties. They played an important part in bringing our scattered members together, and people who had been strangers became a harmonious group of good friends.

About the winter of 1924-25, the State acquired the stone house on Mt. Carmel, and Phil Buttrick, then secretary of the Forestry Association, solved the puzzling question of what to do with it by proposing that the Chapter take it over for a Club House.

A fund of one hundred and seventy-nine dollars was contributed by members to cover the expense of furnishings, and the New Haven girls started the job of cleaning it up and making it

habitable. Harriet and Amy got plenty of experience in scrubbing and Marjorie Kilborn came out strong as an upholsterer and curtain-maker. For a number of years we had a great deal of enjoyment from the Hut. There were parties there nearly every week-end - we had New Year's parties and Fourth of July parties, and once a turkey dinner with all the fixings.

The first trials at rock-climbing, in the late twenties, were not conducted in the approved manner, and it was not until 1930 that Bill Williamson and other members of the Chapter went up to Boston for "lessons". They returned with a lot of respect for the niceties of swing, balance, and rhythm that distinguish the skillful climber. Soon after that others who had been dabbling with ropes and rocks for some time began to organize regular climbs where their recently acquired knowledge could be put in practice. Fortunately there are a number of easily accessible, percipitous trap rock outcroppings in central Connecticut, many of which make excellent climbing of all degrees of difficulty - although Bob Underhill once remarked on West Peak, "Not bad after you pull down half the mountain." The Mt. Carmel Hut was a popular center for sallies on the Head and Third Mountain. Rattlesnake, West Peak, Sunset Rock, Kilkenney, Pinnacle, Metacomet, and Ragged have been climbed and reclaimed. There was also a not to be forgotten climb of Split Rock by moonlight. Apparently mosquitoes also enjoy rock-climbing for they frequently joined the parties in great numbers. Some of the more enthusiastic climbers have been to Joe English, Cannon, and White Horse Ledge, to say nothing of the Alps.

No tale of the Chapter's rock-climbing would be complete without mention of the regular Thursday night climbs - later held on Wednesday nights; very informal and very enjoyable. The "ladies" - those who do not climb - bring lunches and add to the sociability of the occasion.

A series of camping trips during 1935 and 1936 was started after Mr. and Mrs. Purinton had attended a very enjoyable camping week-end put on by the Boston group in 1934. At the annual meeting in 1934 a vote was passed appointing a committee, which, in addition to Forrest Purinton, consisted of Leslie Rood, Herbert Root, Gregory Lynch and Franklyn Stibbs. An appropriation of \$300 enabled the Committee to purchase three squad tents, two umbrella tents, eighteen folding cots, twenty-two mattresses, stoves, heaters, lanterns, auto trailers, cooking equipment, etc. After a "dress rehearsal" at Black Rock Park in January, 1935, at which a good system was devised for carrying on the work smoothly and efficiently, everything was in readiness to operate the camps, and many enjoyed them during the next two years.

The winter locations were usually on the ice, which made

a good foundation after being cleaned of snow. Eight inch spikes were driven into the ice for holding the tents, and when heavy waterproof canvas was spread down for a floor, and the equipment installed, everything was in fine shape. In summer only two tents for sleeping quarters were put up, and the cooking was done outdoors.

One trip each month was planned, except for July, August, and December, and the great system under which everything was done included engaging a full moon for every camp. The service of Herbert Root as cook was outstanding and, while the committee as a whole did a prodigious amount of work, it is probable that the campers in looking back at the good times enjoyed remember the good meals as No. 1 item.

Another thing shows how every detail was thought out and provided for. After the meals the ritual (so-called) of washing the dishes started. It was an unwritten law that those who were on their first camping trip washed the dishes.

Evenings were spent around the campfire with songs and stories, in summer out-of-doors, and in winter in one of the tents, and no matter how the wind blew, or how hard it snowed, it was always warm and cozy inside.

Some of the camp sites were at Peoples' Forest, Black Rock State Park, Leesville, and Macedonia Brook. All in all a most successful venture, and the equipment is on hand ready for another committee to start in on a new series.

We are now having self-sustaining camping trips, giving each one an opportunity to develop his or her own camping technique.

No history would be complete without reference to the friends who are no longer with us. In our early days George Linsley was one of the most regular attendants at the Saturday afternoon walks. His interest was with us as long as he lived. Dr. Munger taught us to see the ferns and the flowers and to hear the birds. Our walks were never quite as interesting after he left us. Judge Perkins took his climbing seriously, and the "old guard" remember how he used to practice climbing up and down stairs numberless times a day. He erected ladders and a wall in his garden to get experience in hazardous places, all preparatory to a climbing trip in Switzerland.

Henry Buck was the first among the older group to take rock-climbing seriously, and helped get a group started for weekly practice. He was Vice President of the Club and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Chapter.

We might mention many whose faces the older ones miss, but it seems to us hardly credible that you who have joined us in the last eight years did not know Dr. Crane. He is still, to us, a vital part of the Chapter. The organization could not have been what it is today without his dynamic personality.

In looking back over the years, your Committee feels that many enjoyable trips have been made, many lasting friendships formed, and, as Bill Williamson writes, "The Chapter has undoubtedly been alive so long as to have developed a group of virtual graduates, who, having passed a certain enthusiasm down the line, are now excusable when they sit back and exchange reminiscences over virtually the same kind of trip that occurs today, surrounding it with a poetic glamour which refuses to admit the similarity."

Herbert O. Warner

Bessie L. Crane

Frederick W. Kilbourne

J. Walter Bassett

Committee.

Submitted at Annual Meeting
December 10, 1938.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization is an administrative sub-division of The Appalachian Mountain Club, a corporation existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and of the State of New Hampshire. It shall be called The Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and is hereinafter referred to as the Chapter. The term Club as used herein is to be construed to mean the Corporation, The Appalachian Mountain Club.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Chapter are to cooperate with, and to further the objectives of, The Appalachian Mountain Club in general, and in particular as they encompass the State of Connecticut and adjacent regions.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

The classification of members, the requirements for membership, the establishment of dues, the rights and privileges of members, the termination or severance of membership, shall be governed by the By-Laws of the Club. There shall be a Chapter Membership Committee of not less than five members, the chairman to be elected by ballot annually. This committee shall also serve as the Club Sub-Committee on Membership for the Chapter. The remaining members of the committee shall be chosen by the chairman of the committee with due regard to geographic distribution and shall be subject to the approval of the Chapter Committee. It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to keep an accurate record of all active members of the Connecticut Chapter and make an annual report of the same to the Chapter, to investigate by such means as are available the suitability of all candidates, and to advise the Club of approval or disapproval.

ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATION

The management and direction of the business and affairs of the Chapter shall be vested in a committee of not less than eight and not more than twelve members to be known as the

Chapter Committee. It shall be composed of the Chapter Chairman, the Chapter Secretary, the Chapter Treasurer, the most recent living past Chapter Chairman, the chairman of each of the following committees: Excursions, Entertainment, Membership, and Trails, and may include the Chairmen of four other active committees. The Chapter Committee shall recommend to the Nominating Committee specific activities to be represented.

The Chapter Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Chapter Committee. He shall be the executive and administrative officer of the Chapter. In the absence or disability of the Chapter Chairman the Chapter Committee shall select one of their number to perform his duties.

The Chapter Secretary shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the Chapter and of the Chapter Committee, shall give notice to the membership of the date, time, and place of all meetings of the Chapter and a similar notice of the meetings of the Chapter Committee to the members thereof, and shall conduct the official correspondence of the Chapter, keeping proper records and files of the same.

The Chapter Treasurer shall collect, have custody of, and under the direction of the Chapter or the Chapter Committee, disburse funds belonging to the Chapter, and shall keep account of all Chapter property. At the annual meeting and at other times when requested by the Chapter Chairman or the Chapter Committee he shall present a report of the financial condition of the Chapter.

The fiscal year of the Chapter shall end November first. Committee chairmen shall return all balances in their possession to the Treasurer by November first together with statements of accounts for review by the auditors. At the end of the fiscal year, the Chapter Chairman shall appoint two members of the Chapter to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and of committee chairmen handling Chapter funds, and a certificate of the auditors' findings shall be appended to each of their several reports.

ARTICLE V. ELECTION OF THE CHAPTER COMMITTEE

The Chapter Chairman, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the members of the Chapter Committee shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting provided, however, that should there be but one nominee for an office, election may be by

voice vote. Members elected shall hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are chosen, provided, however, that the Chapter Committee may fill any vacancy by appointment, such appointment to terminate at the date of the next annual meeting. A majority of votes cast shall elect. The Chairman of the Chapter shall not be eligible for more than two consecutive terms of one year each. Although no specific term of office is set up in these By-Laws except for the office of the Chapter Chairman, the nominating committee shall be encouraged to select new persons from the chapter membership to serve in the various elective offices and committee chairmanships from year to year in order to spread the responsibilities and honor of these offices over a wide cross section of the membership.

A nominating committee of five members of the Chapter shall be appointed annually by the Chapter Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Chapter Committee, not later than September first. No member of the Chapter Committee may serve on this committee. The names of the nominating committee so appointed, together with a list of the offices to be filled at the next annual meeting, the number of which shall be determined by the nominating committee, shall be made known to all members of the Chapter by October first. The nominees shall be made known to the membership by November first. Additional nominations may be made in writing by not ten members, who shall specify the name of their candidate and the office for which they nominate. Such nomination shall be placed in the hands of the chairman of the nominating committee or the Chapter Secretary or be addressed to either bearing a postmark not later than November tenth. No person shall be eligible for office unless nominated in accordance with one of the foregoing provisions, except that in case of death or incapacity of any nominee nomination may be made from the floor. The notice of the annual meeting shall contain a complete list of elective offices and the names of all candidates for each office.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Chapter shall be held the first Saturday of December. Special meetings may be called by the Chapter Chairman, and shall be called upon a vote of two-thirds of the Chapter Committee or on petition of not less than twenty-five Chapter members addressed to the Chapter Chairman whose duty it shall be to call a meeting

when so petitioned. The Chapter Committee shall meet prior to January fifteenth and at the call of the Chairman thereafter. Special meetings shall be called on vote of a majority of the members of the Committee or upon a petition signed by ten active members of the Chapter addressed to the Secretary whose duty it shall be to call such a meeting on such vote or petition. Sixty members, or fifteen percent of the Chapter membership, whichever is the greater, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Chapter. A majority of the Chapter Committee shall constitute a quorum. Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by Robert's Rule of Order where not inconsistent with these By-Laws. The order of business for meetings of the Chapter and of the Chapter Committee shall be:

- I. Call to order.
- II. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- III. Report of the Treasurer.
- IV. Reports of Standing Committees.
- V. Reports of Special Committee.
- VI. Unfinished business.
- VII. New business.
- VIII. Election of officers (Chapter meetings only).

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT.

These

These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of at least three-fourths of the members present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the Chapter, provided that proposed amendments shall have been first published to the membership at least one month prior to the date of the meeting, and that they shall have been likewise published in the call to the meeting at which it is proposed that an amendment be adopted. Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

ARTICLE VIII. CONFLICTS.

If any provision of these By-Laws be contrary to or inconsistent with the law or By-Laws of the Club, such provision shall be null and void, otherwise these By-Laws shall be in full force and effect.