

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### GENERAL MEETINGS.

THE 57th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Oddfellows' Hall on November 27, 1945. Hugh D. Welsh, President, was in the Chair. The President extended a welcome to members returned from the Services. Accounts for the year were read and approved. For the purpose of election of office-bearers it was decided to count the period of the war years, from November 1939 to November 1945, as one year. James A. Parker was elected Honorary President in place of Professor John Norman Collie, deceased. New members of Committee were elected on a card vote in the order: Ruth K. Jackson, Colonel E. B. Reid, R. H. Calvert, W. Malcolm, and J. W. Baxter. The Trustees reported that they were not then in a position to open negotiations for a lease of Derry Lodge.

A Special General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Oddfellows' Hall on February 18, 1946, to discuss the question of the Club's affiliation to the British Mountaineering Council (see under p. 79). The matter had already been under discussion at the November meeting, when those present were in favour of the formation of an association of Scottish climbing clubs.

A Special General Meeting of the Club was held in the Business Women's Club, 19 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen, on Saturday, November 16, 1946, to consider the proposed new Rules presented by the retiring Committee. Mr Hugh D. Welsh, President, was in the Chair. The Rules, apart from Rules 3 to 7, were approved, and the new Committee was instructed to reconsider the rejected Rules.

The 58th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held at the close of the Special General Meeting referred to above. Accounts for the year were read by Mr Macgregor, on behalf of the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Mr William Garden, who was absent on account of illness. The accounts were approved. Office-bearers for the year were appointed, as given below. The President, in a review of the year's activities, referred to the deaths of the following members: James A. Parker, Honorary President; George McIntyre (1897); James F. Tocher, Dr Theodore Watt, and Leslie Durno.

R. M. Williamson was elected Honorary President and other Office-bearers appointed as follows:—

*President.*—E. Birnie Reid.

*Vice-Presidents.*—William A. Ewen and Ruth Jackson.

*Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.*—William Garden, 18 Golden Square, Aberdeen. Phone 7960/7961.



*Honorary Editor.*—William A. Ewen, 242 Mid Stocket Road, Aberdeen. Phone 1446.

*Honorary Librarian.*—Robert L. Mitchell, 19 Seafield Drive East, Aberdeen. Phone 7487.

*Honorary Meets Secretary.*—Edwin W. Smith, 6 Viewfield Avenue, Aberdeen. Phone 6067.

*Committee.*—Messrs R. H. Calvert, H. D. Welsh, W. M. Duff, H. J. Butchart, J. H. Crawford, G. A. Taylor; Misses H. M. E. Duncan and Ada Adams; and F. W. Alexander, Junior Meets Secretary.

A Special General Meeting of the Club was held in the Royal Hotel, Aberdeen, on January 28, 1947, to consider the new Rules. Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., was in the Chair. The Rules were unanimously approved.

#### NEW RULES.

The Committee hopes that it may be possible to print and issue to members copies of the new Rules in the near future. In the meantime, attention is drawn to the more important of the new provisions. The Annual Subscription is increased to 15s., but members residing at a distance from Aberdeen may pay a reduced subscription of 10s. Members under twenty-one years of age pay half the annual subscription. Candidates for membership must present for the consideration of the Committee a list of climbs accomplished, stating the month and year of the ascent. Junior members may be admitted at the age of sixteen and do not require to submit a list of climbs, but must be proposed and seconded in the usual way. Their application for full membership, however, may be made at age eighteen, and must be accompanied by such a list. (The Committee regards attendance at a Club Meet a necessary preliminary to election, and suggests that candidates should not present themselves for full membership until a number of climbs have been accomplished, a proportion of them in winter, with ascents in the Cairngorms included.)

#### ANNUAL DINNER.

The first post-war Dinner was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 23, 1946. Hugh D. Welsh presided, and the Club had as guests Messrs N. E. Odell, Alexander Harrison (S.M.C.), Eric Maxwell (Grampian Club), and John Geddes (Morayshire Mountaineering Club). The President proposed the Toast of "The Club" in a speech greatly to the liking of his audience. W. M. Duff's reply included a warm tribute to the retiring President. Colonel Butchart welcomed the guests and Mr Harrison replied. Nearly 150 attended.

After dinner Mr N. E. Odell described the ascent of Nanda Devi,



with a very full range of slides of the expedition, picturing the Plains of India, the Alaknanda Valley, Badrinath and the Pilgrim Way, the route up the Rishi Gunga to the Inner Basin, and on the mountain. It was all told in a very unassuming way, which touched only lightly on the formidable difficulties which the expedition faced and overcame. Colonel E. B. Reid conveyed the members' appreciation of Mr Odell's kindness in coming north to address the Club and their thanks for a very pleasant evening. Dr Odell had arrived from India only three days before and had travelled north against his doctor's advice.

### MEETS AND EXCURSIONS.

#### SUMMER EXCURSIONS, 1945.

It was found difficult to arrange for distant excursions during 1945, so the nearer and smaller hills figure largely in the activities. On April 7, I note, there was a walk from Maryculter to Muchalls, names with which I am vaguely familiar as places one passes on the way to somewhere else! On May 12 there was an excursion to Bennachie and, on May 27, to Clochnaben, by cycle. These produced nothing new save some quaint remarks about the bicycle as a means of transport. On July 8 the cyclists were out again to the Hill of Fare, but there was a noticeable thinning of the ranks. On June 9 Tap o' Noth was on the card and the Midnight Excursion was held as usual on June 23/24. Twenty-two members crossed Lochnagar from Spittal of Glen Muick to Braemar and also, as usual, midsummer weather dogged the party. The clouds lifted about 4 A.M., by which time all were well on the way down. On September 23 an excursion to Mount Keen was well attended. The party crossed the Glen Muick hills from Ballater and rejoined the bus at Glentinar House.

#### WINTER EXCURSIONS, 1946.

Custom dictates that the New Year Meet shall be held at Braemar, with what I regard as unvarying monotony and many others call desirable regularity. At New Year 1946 hotel accommodation was not available at Braemar and no Meet was held. This practice, for which there is no real sanction that I can discover, almost precludes the possibility of holding an Easter Meet at Braemar, although climbing conditions at that season are normally very much better than at New Year.

The usual winter excursions were arranged: to Lochnagar on January 1, February 10, and March 3, and to Beinn a' Bhùird on March 24. Snow conditions were fairly good up to the middle of March, when a thaw set in and mild weather spoiled the snow on Beinn a' Bhùird.



The number of parties in the Spout or its branch, on these excursions to Lochnagar, tends to increase, while other feasible and excellent climbs remain neglected. The Central Buttress Gully, for example, is probably steeper than the Spout and offers a more sporting finish, and Pinnacle Gully No. 2 usually gives a more interesting climb than the Branch or the Chimneys. One Junior member complains that there is not enough time available for anything but the Spout and, of course, it cannot be too strongly impressed on the Juniors that they must not keep their elders waiting! That brings me to the excursion of March 3, when it snowed all day. Most of those present stayed on the low ground; all, indeed, except nine—all of them senior members. These nine, the Groupe de Haute Montagne, appeared bent on collecting all the tops of Lochnagar in the day. They followed the usual route, they tell me, making a diversion to the Meikle Pap on the way up. For the rest, they all but succeeded, narrowly missing the Little Pap on the way down. And all this was achieved in little more than three hours over schedule! Mr Duguid drives well, and taking his bus out of Glen Muick that night with only one visit to the ditch he may regard as one of his best performances, a feat not surpassed even by the achievements of the G.H.M. For the rest of the year the excursions were favoured with consistently good weather.

#### EASTER MEET, 1946.

The Easter Meet was held at the Dell, Rothiemurchus, from April 18 to 23. The party included Messrs E. B. Reid (President), Mitchell, Ramsden, Whitehouse, Calvert, Rudge, Hendry, Roberts; Misses Jackson, Duncan, Pittendrigh, Hoggarth, Wisely, and several guests.

On Good Friday Misses Hoggarth, Wisely, Jackson, with Calvert climbed Cairngorm from Loch Morlich, thence by Cairn Lochan to the Lurcher's Crag and the Lairig. Mitchell, Hendry, and Roberts went to Stob Choire Claurigh on the 19th, to Bynack More from Ryvoan on the 20th, when Hendry climbed the northernmost Barn. Hendry and Roberts took in A'Chòinneach also, and the same party went to Glen Banchor on the 21st to climb Càrn Dearg, and on their last day climbed Geal-Chàrn and A'Mharconaich, from Dalwhinnie.

On the 20th, Misses Jackson, Hoggarth, Wisely, Duncan, and Pittendrigh walked up Glen Einich to the site of the lower bothy and continued to Braeriach by the south side of the Beanaidh Bheag and the ridge between Coire an Lochan and Coire Ruadh. Here they met three members who were staying in Aviemore, Messrs McIntosh, Esslemont, and Mutch, with whom they joined forces. The parties reached the summit in mist and snow and there parted company, the ladies returning to the saddle between Braeriach and Sròn na Lairig. Col. E. B. Reid's party did the same round in the opposite direction.



Regarding the activities of the others the Editor has little information. Rudge was as far afield as the Shelter Stone, and Ramsden and Whitehouse, I feel sure, did not come all the way from Manchester to sit in the hotel. If members would send a complete but concise account of their activities immediately after the Meet the Editor's worries would be halved!

#### SUMMER EXCURSIONS, 1946.

The Cairnwell is an excellent centre for the peak baggers; one can collect a number of Munros here with a minimum of exertion! Of rock-climbing there is practically none, and this year little snow remained save in an occasional sheltered gully. Welsh and Duff were suspiciously uncommunicative about their intentions, but they left with McLay and Reith ostensibly to explore the Baddoch. Welsh returned with a four-pronged salmon spear wrapped up in a macintosh. I make no conjecture, offer no explanation; I state the simple fact. Hendry departed strangely along the high road in the direction of Glenshee. After about a mile he was seen to rummage in his pockets, apparently without finding what he was looking for, and then to wheel left up Creag Leacach. I am told that he went over the tops to Kander at top speed and then back to the Cairnwell, where he climbed some of the tops west of the road. Odd. Roberts and Alexander climbed the wide gully in Corrie Kandar and so on to Glas Maol, which was visited by most of the others. Misses Adams, Lawrence, and Beaton did Glas Maol and Creag Leacach, and then the Cairnwell and Càrn Aosda, while Mathieson and McGregor collected everything within reach on the east side of the road. Smith, Dyer, and Mrs Crawford went on to An Socach, and Taylor and Ewen went out to Glas Tulaichean and came down the Baddoch.

An excursion to Ben Rinnes was arranged for the May Holiday, but this did not prove a very popular outing. Only five attended, but they enjoyed a good day on the hill. Mrs Caldwell, of Aberlour, entertained the party to coffee on their arrival there. There was, on the other hand, a full bus load for the Clova outing. Miss Daniel did the Ben Tirran, Green Hill, Boustie Ley, Ben Reid round, but the others continued to Braedownie, whence most reached Mayar and Dreish by one route or another. Two parties went to Glen Doll and one to Juanjorge.

Seventeen members and guests spent a Saturday afternoon, May 25, on Mount Battock. The route was from the footbridge beyond the Bucket Mill at Woodend by the track along Glaspitt to the watershed east of Baudnacanner. Battock is still a long way off from there and the dip into the Aven valley is exasperating. It was cold, windy, and gloomy on top and visibility was poor. The return was made by the same route. Five hours' walking.

For the excursion to Lui Beg on June 2 we had the firm's second-





CRAIG MASKELDIE, LOCH LEE

*E. C. Thomson*



best bus, which indignity was inflicted upon us by the state of the Derry road. We were late in arriving at Derry, but there was time enough for Ben Macdhui and even for the Càrn a' Mhaim, Macdhui, Càrn Crom round, as one party demonstrated. Roberts and Alexander went to Beinn a' Bhùird by Clais Fhearnaig and two parties to Derry Cairngorm, one by the corrie of Lochan Uaine. The rocks here provide some simple scrambling. Hendry found his way to the Shelter Stone *via* Beinn Bhreac, Beinn a' Chaorruinn, and Beinn Mheadhoin. Bad weather threatened from the north-west and a few hail showers blew over, but colourful views were obtained in other directions.

Kerloch, a notable eminence of the Lower Gramps, was visited on Saturday, June 15. The party numbered six. It becomes plain that it is hardly worth while including these Saturday afternoon stroll-with-the-dog excursions on the circular. Kerloch we might save for our declining years and since, even under the present administration, I see no prospect of our declining equally or at the same time, Kerloch might well be left out of the calculations of the Meets Secretary!

The bus was full on the occasion of the excursion to Glen Isla. If this were not the first Club outing to Glen Isla, it was certainly the first for many years. No doubt most of those present had already seen the Caenlochan from the Glas Maol ridge, but the best view of it is from the valley bed. The Glen was reached *via* Kirriemuir, on a morning that carried a hint of rain. But the mist soon cleared off the tops and the day improved rapidly. A large party crossed the Monega Pass and walked back to Glenshee. The others went up the Caenlochan, where the last of the larches were being cut, some to Tom Buidhe and the Callater hills, and others to Caderg and Glas Maol. The bus went round to Glenshee and picked up the parties at various points on the Cairnwell road.

The Midsummer Excursion, on June 22/23, was from Coylum Bridge to Linn of Dee. Rarely is the Midnight attended by midsummer weather, but this one was; the Lairig party passed an hour and a half at the Pools of Dee. Some thirty attended and four main routes were selected: *via* Glen Einich and Braeriach (Baxter, Calvert, Crawford, Mathieson, and McGregor); *via* the Lairig (Smith, Hutcheon and guest, and several others); *via* the Shelter Stone (E. B. Reid and guest, Pat Sellar, and McLellan), while Train and party went over the Lurcher and Macdhui. The proceedings terminated with breakfast at Braemar, the first post-war visit to Invercauld and the first under the new management.

The excursion to Loch Lee on September 29 was unique in that all expenses of transport and refreshment were borne by one of our oldest members, Mr R. M. Williamson, who joined the Club in 1892. Mr Williamson was a climber of wide and varied experience, with several contributions to the Club *Journal*, and although he has not climbed for many years, or taken an active part in the Club activities, Mr Williamson has always shown a very keen interest in our doings, and,



wishing to give some expression to it in some practical way, desired, as a father of the Club, to be allowed to bear the expenses of the outing. The twenty who attended this excursion are greatly appreciative of this gesture, and the President conveyed their thanks, and that of the Club, to him for his generosity.

W. A. E. ✓

#### INDOOR MEETINGS.

Three Indoor Meetings were held in 1945; on January 19, February 16, and March 23. At the first we were to have seen some M.O.I. films, but a snowstorm held up films and operator somewhere about Keith. Symmers thereupon suggested that each member get up and talk for five minutes, and he was invited to begin. I remember him insisting that the leader should be permitted to lead and elaborating on the duties of the tail-enders. A stern disciplinarian, apparently; at, or about, 3,000 feet he becomes much milder! In the face of these authoritarian pronouncements nobody ventured to say a word, and it fell to the President to keep the party going until refreshments arrived.

For the February meeting the President had obtained from Major Biggs, a friend whose acquaintance he had made at Sligachan, the loan of a collection of colour slides of Skye. The slides, which were of great beauty, illustrated the glories of Skye throughout the year. Our grateful thanks are due to Major Biggs for so willingly lending this valuable collection.

On March 23 Train gave a talk on painting and sketching in the mountains, or rather on his personal approach to the subject. His energy and enthusiasm were reflected in the number and variety of the pictures he brought down, and the large meeting greatly appreciated his efforts to make the evening enjoyable.

The Indoor Meetings, 1946, were held on January 28, February 22, and March 22. H. D. Welsh sends the following notes on these events:—

For the first, Miss E. J. Malcolm gave a talk illustrated by lantern slides, entitled, "In the Shadow of the Cairngorms." Well-remembered scenes were presented in attractive form and her racy descriptions were much enjoyed. At the February meeting members were called upon to describe some of their experiences, and a Brains Trust proved of great interest and enjoyment. It was hoped that lantern slides belonging to our late Honorary President, Dr Collie, would be shown at the March meeting. However, the Alpine Club, in whose possession the slides now are, were unable to lend them. Instead, Misses Hoggarth and Jackson staged a number of charades dealing with place-names familiar to us as frequenters of the Cairngorms. Humorous readings and recitations on climbing subjects were given by Mrs Noble, and Miss Evelyn Rodger sang several songs.



### **THE BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL.**

THE B.M.C. was formed in 1944 with the object of co-ordinating the activities of the various climbing clubs throughout Britain, so that action on a national scale could be taken in affairs of common interest, such as matters affecting the appearance and usage of mountain country (*e.g.*, power schemes, deforestation, location of industry). The need for such an organisation became apparent during the war, when Clubs, acting individually, could give only limited assistance to the Service departments. Advice and other assistance has also been sought by industry, shipping lines, and educational authorities, and this work is best co-ordinated through a central authority.

At the outset the organisation was centred on London, and Scottish Clubs, finding London too distant from Inversnecky—thinking, in other words, that Scottish affairs should be handled in Scotland—were slow to affiliate to the new body. Since then, however, the B.M.C. has delegated responsibility to local committees, in Scotland, Wales, and the Lake District. At a Special General Meeting of the Club, held in February 1946, it was decided, by the unanimous vote of the meeting, to join the B.M.C., and Sir Frederick Whyte and Major Charles Reid were invited to represent the Club on the London Committee of the B.M.C. Both were reappointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Club in November 1946.

### **THE ASSOCIATION OF CLIMBING CLUBS IN SCOTLAND.**

IN January 1946 the Scottish Mountaineering Club convened a meeting of representatives of Scottish Clubs, with the object of establishing an informal committee to discuss matters of common interest. Further meetings took place at Glasgow (March), Dundee (June), and at Aberdeen (November). Messrs Hugh D. Welsh and E. W. Smith represented the Club at all meetings. Business included discussions on Climbing Huts in Scotland, National Parks, the work of the First-Aid Committee, etc. One favourable result of these meetings is that freedom of movement between various Club huts has been obtained. Co-operation between the Clubs has been easy and pleasant. Latterly the A.C.C.S. and the Scottish Committee of the B.M.C. have become practically identical bodies.

### **FIRST-AID COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUBS.**

THIS body was formed prior to the war and is not part of the B.M.C., although the two work in the closest co-operation. The Club became affiliated to the F.A.C. by a decision of the Special General Meeting of February 1946. Shortly afterwards the Club launched an appeal to members for donations to an Emergency Fund, to which £91 was



contributed by August. In due course a sum of £30 was sent to the F.A.C. to be earmarked for the establishment of a First-Aid Post in the Lochnagar area. By June 1946 this post was established at Spittal of Glen Muick, with the kind permission of Colonel Eric Mackenzie, of Glen Muick. Other posts have been established in the area by the F.A.C. in conjunction with local Clubs. The list reads :

Spittal of Glen Muick	-	Mr J. Robertson.
Braemar	- - -	Police Station. Phone, 222.
Lui Beg Cottage	- -	Mr Scott.
Coylum Bridge	- -	Mr Grant, Merchant. Phone, Aviemore 220.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANISATION.

UNDER this scheme, volunteer members of local Clubs could be called in to assist should search or rescue become necessary in their area. A number of members have agreed to hold themselves available and others to lend cars. Convener of key men is R. L. Mitchell, 19 Seafield Drive East, Aberdeen (Phone, 7487), to whom volunteers should send their names.

### NOTES.

THE Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club has leased a cottage, "Black Rock," in Glencoe, near Kingshouse, as a Club Hut. There is accommodation for ten, two dormitories, kitchen, and wash-shed. Terms for the whole cottage for kindred Clubs, at present, 3s. 6d. per person per day. All arrangements made through the Hut Custodian, Miss C. Barclay, Catriona, Milngavie, Glasgow.

The S.M.C. Hut at Lagangarbh, Glencoe, is now in full operation. The J.M.C.S. has acquired a cottage at Steall, Glen Nevis, for which the accommodation charge is 2s. per night.

Members wishing to stay at any Hut must book through the Club Secretary, Mr William Garden, who will make the necessary arrangements with the Hut Custodian.

The Scottish Rights-of-Way Society is promoting a Bill, which it is endeavouring to have introduced into Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity, to amend the law in Scotland relating to rights-of-way. Briefly, competency of actions of declarator relating to rights-of-way would be raised in the Sheriff Court; the period of use (or disuse) necessary to establish (or extinguish) a right-of-way would be reduced from forty to twenty years. County Councils would establish a register, erect notice-boards at termini, etc. A memorandum relating to the Bill may be seen in the Club Library.

The Forestry Commission has announced plans for establishing



Glenmore as a Forest Park. Glenmore Lodge would be required for Forestry personnel, but three acres of land near-by would be set aside as a camping site.

A large avalanche fell from the Clova slopes of the Dog Hillock, near the footbridge across the South Esk, a mile above Moulzie, on February 25 or 26, 1947, taking with it large stones, turf, and heather, and killing thirty-seven deer. The avalanche travelled at least 1,000 feet, swept across the Esk for over 50 yards, pushing some of the dead deer in front of it. The breadth of the avalanche at the Esk was some 150 yards. Mr Allan Cameron, of Moulzie, who saw the avalanche on February 27, is of the opinion that the deer were caught while they were sheltering in a hollow about half-way up the slope. Regarding the probable cause, he says: "It was a wild time of drift and the snow combed over the ridge of the hill until it became too heavy and broke away." The carrion crows were on full rations for weeks!

A correspondent on *The Times* reports the result of a survey of the eagle population of the East Highlands. In the Cairngorms area, he says, the number has remained stable, but in the Clova-Lochnagar area there has been a sharp decline over the last decade. In 1946 he saw no eagles at all where, in 1938 and 1939, he had seen them daily. The major cause of the decrease, he thinks, is the destruction of adult and young eagles by gamekeepers, who do not always realise that the eagle is strictly protected by law at all seasons. He concludes that the eagle will be extinct in the East Highlands in about thirty years' time at the present rate of decrease. (At least one eaglet was raised in the Clova-Lochnagar area in 1946; another single eaglet was seen in the same eyrie in May 1947.)

The Association of Bird Watchers and Wardens, at the invitation of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, has initiated a scheme for the better protection of the eagle and other birds of prey—osprey, kite, hobby, honey-buzzard, marsh and hen harrier, white-tailed eagle, etc. Rewards of from £3 to £10 are offered to gamekeepers and others for the rearing to maturity of any of these. The Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds has also launched an appeal for the fuller protection of the golden eagle. The Society suggests that disturbance of birds or eyries during the breeding season should be reported to the local police.

The question of mountaineering in the Glencoe district has apparently been occupying the attention of Argyll County Council. Some members of the Council think that a ban should be placed on climbing in certain of the danger areas. The Council will have to improve on Army methods of warning people off. I am reminded of the Club excursion to Kerloch in June 1946, where the party reached a notice-board: "Danger. Unexploded Bombs and Grenades." The party had just walked through the danger area!

The winter of 1946-47 will be remembered by skiers as one of the best for many years. It was remarkable on Deeside more for the duration



than for the depth of snow. As in 1946, the thaw arrived about mid-March, after some forty-five days of storm. The Kincardine hills, seen from the Mearns, appeared to be carrying much more snow than usual and, even at Easter, large snowfields remained although elsewhere there was little snow below 2,500 feet. At Crianlarich the snowline was about 2,500 feet; Dalwhinnie did not impress as a ski-ing centre, but the Cairngorm corries surpassed all expectations. The snow began below Clach Bharraig, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Glenmore Lodge. Above 3,000 feet "the black specks had disappeared; the white was everywhere. All was well." All, that is, except the overhead conditions, which were generally abominable.

Temperatures recorded at Braemar during April (between 4th and 8th) were 10 below zero (ground frost). The official record is minus 17° at Braemar on February 14, 1895, although Barrie's diary recorded 26° F. (58° of frost) at Corrou on December 30, 1927.

#### B.M.C. NOTES.

THE British Mountaineering Council is now issuing a Bulletin at approximately quarterly intervals. Members of the Club can obtain this Bulletin for 6s. a year (4s. for the remaining issues of 1947). It covers news of the Council's activities, items of general mountaineering interest, information about equipment and allied subjects. Order from the Assistant Editor, R. S. S. Wood, 107 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. Cheques should be made payable to the British Mountaineering Council.

The Council has decided to form a central fund to assist Clubs in the provision of further huts and bivouacs in the British Isles, particularly in Scotland, open to all members of constituent Clubs. Consideration is now being given to the association of this fund with the proposal for a War Memorial to all climbers killed in the war.

The Council is now empowered to organise lectures and film shows in any district, if a number of local Clubs request it to do so, but not otherwise. A group of the smaller London Clubs recently made such a request and it was possible to arrange the showing of two excellent sound films, one of caving and the other of climbing on the Aiguilles du Diable.

The Council has recently issued certificates of competency to four men practising as Guides in England and Wales. Further applications for certificates are under consideration.

The specification, design, and supply of mountaineering equipment is kept continuously under review. The Secretary of the Rope and Equipment Sub-Committee, A. R. H. Worssam, 85D Marchmont Street, London, W.C.1, will deal with inquiries on these subjects.

Copies of the Pelican book, "Climbing in Britain," which is a practical guide to hill-walking, rock-climbing, and winter mountaineering in this country, can be obtained, price 1s. 3d., post free, from the Assistant Secretary, E. C. Pyatt, 96 Priory Gardens, London, N.6.





TRACING OF DEER'S HEAD ON LANDSEER'S FRESCO.



INTERIOR OF LANDSEER'S HUT,  
AND PART OF THE PAINTING OVER THE FIREPLACE.

LANDSEER'S HUT: INTERIOR

John A. Gavin



**HOW PERMANENT ?**

YES. How permanent are our hills, our roads, our houses ? The thought struck me as I stood looking through the small window of a bothy in Upper Deeside during the first days of May this year. Rain and sleet showers scurried down the glen and battered the window pane before me. The view was grand. Outside the elements raged and stormed. The trees bent before the blast. The hills frowned in gloom one moment, the next lit up and smiled, and in brief moments it was a sunny smile, showing their snow caps and white-streaked mantles. I stood and watched in comfort behind that pane of glass, a big log fire at my back. Yes, these hills were permanent. They would be here when I came back, probably in a different mood, but they would greet me all the same.

But this bothy, would one say it was permanent ? Would the pane of glass be in this window ? Would the box-bed, the deer's antlers, would the bothy itself be here when I came along next time ; or, like many of the houses in our glens, be nought but crumbling walls in a few short years ? In the Quoich, in Slugain, in the Gairn, in the Deskry, I have found good shelter in wild weather, when a tent was useless, and then, after a lapse of a few years, on a second visit, found ruins. And roads ? Not permanent, I thought. There was a road between Delnadamp and Inchrory. I cycled along it once. On a second visit the road had disappeared. It had gone back to heather. In the Corrieyairack only Wade's bridges and a few dykes mark the road—Wade's work is lasting. Something permanent here.

It surprises me that there is still a roof on Corrour Bothy in Glen Dee. Forty years ago it had its box-bed, armchair, and rough comfort, and a polite bearded keeper at the door. I remember he would not let us climb Devil's Point that day because the deer feeding in Glen Geusachan had not to be disturbed. The bothy still stands, and it has a roof too—just. In Glen Feshie there was Landseer's Hut. From a collection of sketches made during holiday walks and climbs I came on these of Landseer's Hut, date 1929. It may be of interest to climbers to have a record of its condition then. The famous painter used the hut around 1850. In 1929 the place was still intact, though approaching a ruin. Part of the deer fresco over the fireplace was still there, as the sketches show. How it looks to-day I cannot say. Little remains of it, I expect. The hut was situated on the east side of the river above Glen Feshie Lodge.

Yes, only the hills are permanent ! They will be here when I come back, but this bothy window might be out, and the log fire too, and I may not view this wild scene in such comfort. I said to myself, " Drink your fill of this, young man. It's good, and the memory of it, in future days, will do you good."

J. A. GAVIN.



**REGARDING INSIGNIA.**

THE device on the Club button is a representation of Lochnagar; the Library stamp is an ice-axe, entwined with climbing rope; the decoration on the *Journal* cover brings the total of Club emblems to three, where, it has been suggested, one token would suffice. The Committee is considering a proposal that the cover design be adopted as the single badge, book-plate, and voucher, but would welcome other suggestions, with designs, if necessary. No prize is offered! The stock of Club buttons is now exhausted.

**NEW CLIMBS.****LOCHNAGAR.**

*Gargoyle Direct.*—This route is on the west buttress between Gargoyle Chimney and the west gully, starting a little to the right of the lowest rocks of the buttress and ending at the Gargoyle. The route started from the snow slopes in a shallow cave at the foot of a conspicuous fissure in the great slabs towards the right of the buttress, and then by a low wall on the left on to and up a smooth slab to a prominent flake on the right. A traverse to the right along a crack in the flake and up grass leads to a face with a square, trenched recess, from which a penthouse roof is climbed to the easy rocks below the terrace.

On the middle section the route follows a groove to the right of a small subsidiary gully on the right of Gargoyle Chimney to a grassy terrace. A sloping rock terrace is then traversed to the small gully, which is entered and climbed to a cave. The chockstone is turned, with difficulty, on the right wall. Above this a cleft in the right wall of the gully (marked by a sentry-box and a chockstone) leads to a neck between two gullies. The route then goes up a slab and to the right, across a narrow gully to a chimney with an overhanging top which is climbed on the right wall. This leads to a window behind a pinnacle, from the top of which a platform is gained. Four great rock steps then lead to the amphitheatre below the Gargoyle.

The route on the upper buttress follows the ledges and fissures of the woolsack rock formation to the right and up by a ledge to a sentry-box. It continues to the right up a crack and round a corner on to ledges over the west gully. A crack with a chockstone is then climbed to a slab below the Gargoyle. The window above the Gargoyle is attained by a rock rib on the right of the crack and a traverse leftwards.

The climb was made after a fresh fall of snow and was rated "hard-severe." (D. H. Haworth (J.M.C.S.) and G. J. Ritchie, May 19, 1946.)

The following variations on established routes have been reported. Falls of rock have resulted in various changes in the climbs previously



recorded, some details of which are given below. The greatest change is in Raeburn's Gully, where the old crux has been swept away entirely, altering the whole character of the gully.

*Shadow Gully.*—Hendry and Walker repeated this climb in November 1940 on snow and Auld and Hendry climbed it again in May 1944. The climb is very steep and treacherous, with much loose rock and vegetation at a steep angle and without belays. After the first two pitches it is necessary to make a wide detour to the left to the foot of a very difficult vertical wall. When this difficulty is passed there is easy ground to the Central Buttress Pinnacles. (The climbers who made the first ascent had nothing good to say about it.)

*Shadow Buttress "A": Variation.*—Walker and Hendry climbed the "obvious alternative" suggested in the original account (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XIII, p. 153) in June 1944. A grass chimney leading up to large, smooth slabs with a narrow crack of 40 feet provides an exposed and difficult start.

In July 1941 J. H. B. Bell and Miss N. Forsyth climbed to the Spiral Terrace by a route immediately on the edge above Shadow Chimney (*S.M.C.J.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 29).

*Gargoyle Chimney.*—The chockstone blocking the long chimney was climbed direct, after much gardening. This is harder than the original movement to the right (W. T. Hendry). The Tewnion brothers, finding the boulders of the 3rd pitch iced up, climbed the pitch *via* the chimney on the right, abandoned on the first ascent on account of loose rock (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XIII, p. 224).

*Parallel Gullies "A."*—On his second visit to this climb Hendry found it necessary to cut out the steep and exposed section below the Hexagon Block (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XII, p. 193 *et seq.*). A route was found up the right-hand branch of the gully instead and thence up a steep wall, thus regaining the original route on the buttress at the niche below the rectangular block. This is less difficult than the original route, but is to be preferred if the soundness of the rock of the buttress is in doubt. The final rib, about 200 feet high, is very steep, and appeared sound enough on the first ascent (1930).

*Raeburn's Gully.*—A great rock fall from the Tough-Brown Ridge has demolished the double cave pitch in Raeburn's. This I regard as a catastrophe of the first magnitude, fit to be classed with the Fall of Constantinople, the Union of 1707, Hammond losing the toss at Sydney, and things of that kind! The magic was perhaps as much in the name as in the climbing, which was nowhere very difficult (although the thread belay at the crux had become blocked up latterly), but the interest was sustained throughout and the problems varied. The first boulder pitch remains and above it the gully becomes impossible. Here Hendry and Ross climbed the left wall for some 20 feet and so reached the bed beyond the impasse. This upstart, this mushroom, they tell me, is difficult; but it has no history! The rest is moderate.



## CAIRNGORMS.

*Carn a' Mhaim Slabs.*—These are on the east slopes overlooking Glen Lui. Walker and Hendry climbed these from bottom right corner to top left in July 1940. Auld, Lumsden, and Hendry made a direct route up the centre and over an awkward overhang in April 1943.

*Devil's Point Slab Route.*—Hobson, Walker, and Hendry climbed straight up the steep smooth slabs behind Corrour Bothy in March 1940. An overhang has to be negotiated and 200 feet from the top a wide shallow gully comes in from the right. Steps were cut in ice to the top. Difficult in boots.

The south-east and south-west gullies are both long, wet, shallow, and slabby with much loose rock. The first is almost difficult, with some exposure; the other is moderate, if that.

*The Chockstone Gully of Sgòr an Lochan Uaine* now harbours a series of piled block pitches. The escape below the final impasse is on the right wall (25 feet), which is vertical, and the holds are small.

## CREAG AN DUBH LOCH.

*South-east Gully.*—W. A. Russell, M. Smith, and W. Stephen climbed this gully under snow conditions on January 27, 1947. The party cut steps to the chockstone pitch, which was iced over, and there worked their way up fairly soft snow banked against the right wall. Near the level of the 3rd pitch the angle steepened and handholds had to be cut for about 15 feet. A knife-edge of snow running up against the left wall was used to surmount the cornice. The time taken was three and a half hours.

The through route on the penultimate pitch has undergone considerable alteration and now presents insuperable difficulties in summer. A route might be found on the left wall, by-passing the pitch.

W. T. Hendry and George Lumsden climbed the buttress (or ridge) on the south side of the north-west gully on May 5, 1946, after a fall of snow. This is the ridge described in greater detail below, but Hendry and Lumsden started much closer to the gully, so that the two routes are quite distinct below the grassy terrace. After a promising start the angle became easy, but the party enjoyed a splendid scramble on sound rock. At times the climb was on a definite ridge, but escapes were too often possible. Haworth and Ritchie appear to have deliberately closed their eyes to the easy alternatives.

*Edinburgh University Climb.*—This route is on the north-west buttress, near the left end of the rocks immediately to the right of the false gully which cleaves the buttress about the middle. It goes obliquely up to the right to the grassy terrace and then follows the crest of the ridge overlooking the north-west gully. It was climbed by D. H. Haworth and G. J. Ritchie on May 18, 1946.



A prominent face in the lowest rocks, recessed at the foot, is cleft by a narrow crack, by which the ledge above is reached. Thirty feet up a shallow gully a crack leads out to the right, where the corner is turned from the edge of a flake and the slabs there surmounted with a left traverse at the top to reach a mantel. Above this a recess with a flake is left by a chimney, to come out on the crest of the slabs, which are left, however, only after an awkward traverse right, under a hanging slab. Up the easy slopes towards the right a short, steep face is followed by a grassy slope, whence an overhanging corner is turned to reach an arête leading to the grassy terrace. A traverse is now made to the arête overlooking north-west gully.

Ledges on the wall of the gully assist progress up the arête to a point where a narrow crack on the edge gives trouble before it fades out, and an exposed and delicate move must be made to a hanging groove to the left. The flanking strips of grass spoil the next section of steep, razor-edged arête. Above this, the chosen route crossed easy ground and traversed left across a slab to an exposed, recessed corner with an overhang which is cleft by a crack housing two chockstones. A momentary lodgment between these enables one to reach over and pull up on the overhang. The rest is easy walking.

### BOOKS AND JOURNALS.

LIMITATION of space makes it necessary to curtail the notes on books and journals. The following have been added to the Library:—

“Taratua Story.” Published in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of the Taratua Tramping Club, 1919-44. An illustrated record of climbing in North Island, New Zealand (1946).

*Climbers' Club Journal*, 1945-46. This number contains two Scottish articles: “Skye in August,” by H. J. F. Cairns, and “Cape Wrath to Fort William,” by A. J. Young, an account of a walking and climbing holiday in the Northern Highlands. Some valuable information on the properties of nylon is given in “Specification and System of Tests for Climbing Rope (Report to B.M.C.),” by R. P. Mears.

*Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1946, has also two Scottish articles: “Skye in Sunshine,” by G. T. H. Crawford, and “Scottish Holiday,” by G. H. Wiltshire, a record of climbs in Glencoe, Ben Nevis, and Skye.

The *Open Air in Scotland* is a new magazine, issued quarterly, devoted to open-air sports in Scotland, tramping, camping, climbing, cycling, canoeing, skiing, fishing, and cruising. It is published by Messrs Wm. McLellan of Glasgow, to whom subscriptions may be sent. The price of a single copy is 1s. 6d.; four copies cost 6s. 6d., post free. Contributors have included G. W. Young, F. S. Smythe, J. H. B. Bell, Alastair Borthwick, B. H. Humble, John R. Allan, etc. It is readable, up to date, informative. Current Number 5, May 1947.



"Rock Climbing and Mountaineering," by Carl Brunning, is a new and revised edition, covering much the same ground as "Climbing in Britain," by J. E. Q. Barford (Pelican Books, 1s.). Both aim at presenting a practical guide to climbing in Britain. Of the two, the first is the more pleasant to handle and is nicely printed and illustrated, but it costs five times as much. Mr Brunning distinguishes, and rightly distinguishes, between expert rock-climbing and mountaineering, but when he says that there is no expert rock-climbing in the Cairngorms he is out of date. I would agree that the Cairngorms form a good mountaineering area, and that being so, would say that the beginner deserves to hear much more about snow conditions, cornices, etc., than Mr Brunning or Mr Barford, for that matter, tell him. The latter, indeed, suggests that Scottish avalanches have not been really dangerous, whereas, in fact, they have resulted in odd cases in loss of life, e.g., the Gaick affair. The deer killed in the recent Clova avalanche also point to the opposite conclusion. Both books, however, should prove exceedingly helpful to beginners and of interest and value even to experts.

"Mountain Holidays," by Janet Adam Smith, is an attractive account of climbing holidays in the Highlands and Alps, written to recall, as the author says in her foreword, the enjoyment of days on the mountains and the pleasures of inns and villages, glens and pastures. Lively sketches of people and vivid description make this pleasant reading. (Dent, 15s.)

*The Alpine Journal*, Vol. LV, Nos. 270-273. No. 270 contains three papers on "Mountain Rescue in War and Peace"; by Dr Raymond Greene on "General Principles and Materials Available"; by F./Lieut. J. C. Lloyd on "R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Service"; and by A. S. Pigott on the "F.A.C. of the Mountaineering Clubs." This is continued in No. 271, with illustrations of various types of stretcher, followed by an article on the Greene carrier. No. 270 has an article on the "First Ascent of the North Face of Mount Kenya," by P. H. Hicks, and, in No. 273, Mr Hick's companion on the north face climb, Mr Arthur H. Firmin, describes an "Ascent of the South Face of Kenya." References to the Cairngorms in the *Alpine Journal* must be few; one occurs in Geoffrey E. Howard's "A Mountaineering Family and Other Memories." In the same number (271), "Mountains under Deep Snow," by T. C. Paynter, contains notes on snowshoes, the build of ski, and properties of ski-ing boots, etc. This article is supplemented in No. 272 by a short note by Gerald Seligman. In No. 273 Lord Malcolm Douglas Hamilton has an article on "A.T.C. Training in the Cairngorms" and J. E. Q. Barford one on "The Use of the Rope in Rock Climbing." This number also carries the "In Memoriam" of W. P. Haskett Smith, the pioneer of climbing in England.

"On Scottish Hills," by B. H. Humble (Chapman & Hall, 1946). This is one of the better of the recent crop of mountain books. It



seems to get the atmosphere of the hills both in the pictures and in the text, and the reason for this is not difficult to find. The author, who is also the photographer, was primarily interested in the hills and not in writing a book. This is seen from the fact that the photographs cover hills all over Scotland, in summer and winter, by day and night. Such pictures as that of the sunlit ridge of Na Gruagaichean in snow, and the snow slope of Buachaille Etive Bheag, are alone a justification of the book. Club members who are seldom on the more southerly of the Scottish tops will find much of interest in the pictures of the hills around Arrochar, particularly those of the Cobbler.

“ On Scottish Hills ” was presented by Mr William Garden, and “ Mountain Photography ” (C. D. Milner; The Focal Press, 1945), by Sir Frederick Whyte. “ Mountains in Flower,” by Volkmar Vareschi and Ernst Krause (Lindsay Drummond, 1939), has been added to the Library.

*The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, No. 137, 1946, and No. 138, 1947. The price of this *Journal* has gone up from 4s. to 7s. 6d., a steepish rise in the cost of climbing; but both *Journals* are packed with informative material and splendidly illustrated. The Editor completes his Survey of Scottish Climbing Clubs commenced in No. 136. W. M. Mackenzie offers some sound advice on Bivouacs and Bad Weather, and B. H. Humble surveys Scottish Mountain Accidents between 1925 and 1945. The major contribution to New Climbs is by the late B. P. Kellett (A Record of Ben Nevis Climbs), continued in No. 138, while R. Frere has some notes on new climbs in the Cairngorms—Savage Slit, Cairn Lochan; Cripple’s Cleft, Sgoran Dubh; Clach Bun Rudhtair, Ben Avon.

In No. 138, W. M. Mackenzie writes on the Winter Climbs in Glencoe, drawing attention to the great increase in standard of difficulty that hard winter conditions may bring even to routes normally easy. W. H. Murray contributes notes on new climbs in the same area, as do Messrs Curtis and Townend in Arran. Dr G. K. Fraser discusses the future of Highland Forestry, and the survey of accidents is carried to 1947.

An In Memoriam of James A. Parker, late Honorary President of the Cairngorm Club, appears in No. 138.