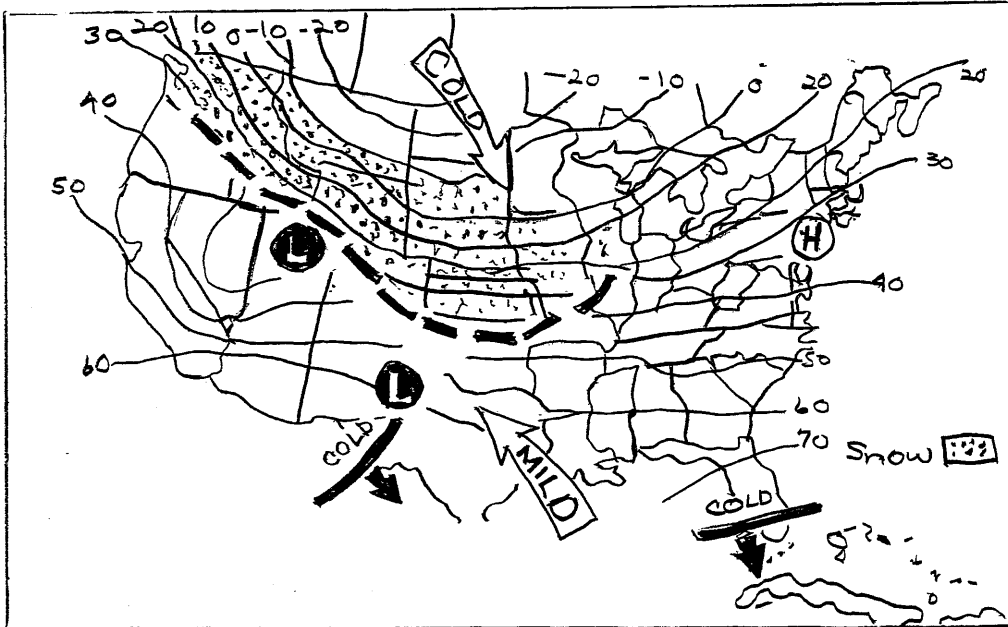


Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

Vol. XI No. 5 Feb. 1972



"Man will always find a warm
and sunny spot --- in the
memories of his youth."

D. R. Wasley



THE MOUNTAIN EAR

Vol. XI, No 5

February 1972

Published eight times a year by the Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 1575, Missoula, Montana, 59801. Subscription by membership (\$4/ year single, \$5/ year family; out-of-town address \$2/volume).

OFFICERS 1971-72

President - Al Day, Bonner, Montana 258-6993
Vice President - Jane Benson, Missoula 543-8629
Secretary - Mary Thurman, Missoula 549-7878
Treasurer - Adele Wolff, Grant Creek 549-4923

* NOTICE *
*Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1972, *
*7:30, at the Western Federal Savings and Loan *
*Building on Brooks Street. The program will be *
*slides of hiking and climbing in the Himalayas *
*shown by Jyoti Shamar. *
*After the regular meeting, those persons who are *
*interested in leading hikes for the Montana *
*Wilderness Association will meet to schedule the *
*trips. If you wish to propose a trip, please *
*bring with you a brief description of the route, *
*including the distances and time length. *

Results of the membership survey on the Lappi Lake cabin will be presented at this meeting.

FEBRUARY HIKES -----

Saturday, Feb. 5 - Ski-touring and snowshoeing trip for beginners (and all others interested) up Granite Creek Road in the Lolo Pass area. Meet at 7:30 am at the Western Federal Savings and Loan Building on Brooks St. For further information, call Dave Line, 549-8444.

Sunday, Feb. 13 - Ski-touring and snowshoeing hike at Slide Rock Mountain near Pattee Canyon. Meet at the Western Federal Savings and Loan Building on Brooks St. at 8:00 a.m. For further information, call Bill Meyers, 549-3606.

Both hikes are day-long trips.

In April '71, the Mountain Ear published an abstract of a speech given by a member on the pro's for the use of DDT. A rebuttal has been awhile coming and now Barbara Honkala brings the following book review to our attention. It was published in the National Wildlife Federation "Conservation News". Good or bad, can't we (people of this earth) go easy on the use and utilization of substances until we really understand the effect produced?

Virginia Vincent

Chlorinated Hydrocarbons in the Marine Environment, a Report by the Panel on Monitoring Persistent Pesticides in the Marine Environment of the Committee on Oceanography. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. 1971.

The National Academy of Sciences has published a little red book that is full of sobering statements. It isn't very long, but it is quite long enough to confirm the grim warnings scientists have been giving for the past 10 years. And such a report from the prestigious National Academy of Sciences should silence forever those chemical enthusiasts who claim the anti-pesticide people are all ignorant, emotional "little old ladies in tennis shoes."

"The oceans are an ultimate accumulation site for the persistent chlorinated hydrocarbons," the report begins. "As much as 25 percent of the DDT compounds produced to date may have been transferred to the sea. The amount of DDT compounds in the marine biota is estimated to be less than 0.1 percent of total production, yet this amount has produced a demonstrable impact upon the marine environment."

And if that isn't enough, it continues: "Populations of fish-eating birds have experienced reproductive failure and decline Continues release of these pollutants to the environment can only accelerate the accumulation of unacceptable levels of persistent chlorinated hydrocarbons in the tissues of marine food fish."

The document then notes that, "The rate at which such substances degrade to harmless products in the marine system is unknown; the half-lives of some of the more persistent materials are certainly of the order of years..."

It concludes, "The more the problems are studied, the more unexpected effects are identified. In view of the findings of the past decade, our prediction of the potential hazards of chlorinated hydrocarbons in the marine environment may be vastly underestimated."

The scientists include in their study three recommendations; ---that a massive national effort be made immediately to reduce drastically the escape of persistent toxicants into the environment with complete cessation being the goal in the shortest possible time.

---that studies should be made to determine the rates various

chlorinated hydrocarbons are entering the marine environment and to make base-line studies of distribution followed by monitoring of long-term trends.

---that laws relating to the registration of chemical substances and the release of production figures by government should be examined and maybe revised in view of the environmental degradation some of the substances cause.

Memberships renewals for the past month included:

Bob Benson and family
 Bill Myers and family
 Florence Elliott
 Jim Ullrich and family
 Francis Harmon and family
 Tom Frangos and family
 Sam Haddon and family

Welcome to the following new members:

Stèven Wilson - interested in backpacking, hiking, bicycling, ski-touring, snowshoeing, and conservation
 Andy Butcher - (sorry we don't have his interests)

SKI TOURING INFORMATION !!

We were about to let expire our subscription to Wilderness Camping. This is the new magazine promoted last year by Dale Burk (he's a contributing editor), which has an admirable philosophy but is of uneven quality and only sometimes value to us. Then along came the November-December issue. It's devoted entirely to ski-touring -- almost the whole 47 pages -- even the advertisements. There is good basic coverage of equipment, tips on technique, list of places to go, and do-it-yourself hints. We recommend this issue as a good primer on ski-touring for beginners. And the experts might find something too!

Address: Wilderness Camping, P.O. Box 1186, Scotia, New York, 12302.
 Single issue \$.75 or yearly subscription \$4.00 (soon to be raised). Ask for Vol. 1, No. 4, Nov.-Dec., 1971.

Bob and Jane Benson

Following are excerpts from a very informative pamphlet entitled "How To Keep Warm", by Gerry Cunningham (of Gerry equipment). Copies of the entire brochure may be obtained by writing Colorado Outdoor Sports Corp., P.O. Box 5544, Denver, Colorado 80217, which copyrighted the pamphlet in 1967.

"Here are half a dozen cardinal rules to comfort:

1. Remember - THICKNESS is warmth. It is the THICKNESS of insulation used that counts, not the material it is made of.

