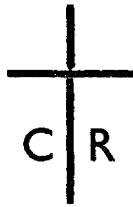


LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC
RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION



LIVERPOOL

NEWS LETTER

Socials 7-30 p.m. each Thursday.

~~Socials 8-0 p.m. each Wednesday~~

at

~~Cathedral Buildings~~

~~Brownlow Hill~~

~~Liverpool 3~~

Building and Design Centre,
Hope Street,
Liverpool.

Registrar: Miss Mary Jackson, 18 Altcar Avenue,
Wavertree, Liverpool.15.

Editor: Mrs G.M. Penlington, 43 Alexandra Drive,
Bottle.20. Lancs.

Many weeks of planning and training culminated in success over weekend 15/16th July. Three completed the endurance test in nine hours 51 minutes, two in 9.59 and one in 11.00 hours. The club's previous record was therefore well and truly beaten and we say "thank you" although we know the achievement is its own reward.

As one of the highlights of our 40th Anniversary Year it most certainly made its mark. Another highlight yet to come is our Dinner-Dance at Dovedale Towers on Saturday, 21st October.

This is to be a truly splendid affair, commencing with a dinner as only Butlers do it, followed by dancing until 11-30 p.m. to a 1st class band. The guests will include Bishop Harris and many former ramblers of 30-40 years ago.

Two thirds of the seats have already gone and if you don't want to be left out in the cold, **Book now**. It may well have to be "**FIRST COME? FIRST SERVED**". The cost, we know is 35/-, but you can't have the evening intended at anything less. If this is too much to pay at one go our Treasurer will take anything you care to pay him on account each week as he goes round the clubroom.

This is going to be a great occasion. Give your name now to Chris Dobbie - if you leave it much longer it may be too late!!!

'Editor'

Rambling Programme

- Sept 17th X Cader Idris
A & B Walks.

Meet St. John's Lane
Departure 9-30 a.m.
Cost approx 11/6d.
- Sept. 24th No ramble

Annual Mass at St. Nicholas
- Sept 29th/
Oct 1st Chalet Weekend
- Oct 8th X Cnicht (Welsh Matterhorn)
A & B Walks.

Meet St. John's Lane
Departure 9-30 a.m.
Cost approx 12/-
- Oct 15th X Chirk Tunnels (Joint Ramble)

Meet St. John's Lane
Departure 10.00 a.m.
Cost approx 7/-
- Oct 22nd X Operation Where

Meet St. John's Lane
Departure 10 a.m.
Cost approx 6/6d.
- Oct 29th X Edale
A & B Walks

Meet St. John's Lane
Departure 9-30 a.m.
Cost Approx 11/6d.

X Coach - Names to be given three weeks beforehand,
and all bookings render members liable to the
full cost.

SOCIALITE

Since my last notes we have "moved house" to the very solubrious surroundings of the Design Centre, Hope Street. The change-over appears to have gone off very smoothly and attendances at the weekly socials since moving have been most encouraging. The hall is ideal both in terms of size and layout, and the well equipped kitchen in one corner of the room ensures that the ladies delegated to the chores can still see what is going on at the same time.

In conjunction with the move to new premises, the Social Committee has for the first time produced a 'Social Programme' which has been incorporated into the printed Rambling Programme and covers the period from May to September. Among the special social events held so far was a "Folk Song and Country Dance" night. The earlier part of the evening was devoted to the dancing side whilst the later part consisted of folk singing under the able direction of Pete McGovern, who with his guitar provided a very entertaining hour with the accent strongly on Liverpool ditties. The film about the cathedral and also the full length feature film "The Mountain" were shown on 8th June and were both very appropriate in the circumstances and enjoyed by many. As there appears to have been some adverse comment made by members regarding the holding of films and slide shows on club nights, I have been asked by the social committee to mention that they are anxious to provide a varied and entertaining programme for members, and would be grateful for suggestions and ideas for future social events. From personal experience I can vouch for the fact that it is a very difficult job arranging new social functions, and it is only by experimenting that the best results can be achieved. I trust therefore that you will give them every encouragement in the future in their efforts to provide entertainment for you.

Your comments so far have been welcomed and I am advised that for the future full length feature films are discontinued, and slide shows will be limited to approximately half-an-hour.

It seemed possible a few weeks ago that we might have been able to include in this edition of the News Letter a despatch from our correspondent in the front line regarding the Middle East troubles. This was brought about by the fact that Fred Norbury's holiday, a visit to the Holy Land, clashed with the impending hostilities in that area. However, our scribe in position in the front line with pen poised was obliged to pack his tin hat and retreat to the tranquillity of the Lake District. A disappointing end to the holiday, but a case of digression being the better part of valour.

We are pleased to welcome back to the club Albert Downing, home from his travels. Few of the current members will know Albert, but he must be number one contender for the title of the most travelled club member the Association has ever had. Albert has spent the last seven years abroad working in the Refugee Relief field in camps as far apart as Australia and Austria. In a nutshell he has been a third of the way round the world, and only started out with a camera and £22 in his pocket - an amazing feat. Considering the 'bus fares one pays just to get to work and back - perhaps its cheaper to go abroad after all....

'Socialite'

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Thursday night socials at the Design Centre, Hope Street, commence and finish earlier than at Cathedral Buildings - 7.30 to 10.30 p.m., and in order to make it a successful evening, it is essential that members arrive for 7.30 p.m. so that dancing can commence promptly at this time.

The Social Sub-committee would greatly appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Ramblerite

After many months of training and preparation a team of eleven club members left the summit of Snowdon at 4.30 a.m. on Saturday, 15th July, to attempt to climb the 14 peaks in less than 10 hours.

In less than half-an-hour the whole team through nerves, excitement and very heavy mist had lost their way. One team member slipped and damaged his leg so much he had to go to hospital and have four stitches. Two other members twisted their ankles badly, causing them to drop out of the attempt. The remaining team members reached the first check-point more than an hour behind their target time. With doubts as to whether the remaining eight could complete the attempt, let alone beat the target time, they set off on the next stage.

I am glad to say that, despite what appeared to be a disastrous start, six members of the team were able to finish the walk, five actually completing it in less than the target time of 10 hours.

The first three to finish were Bill Clay, Ray Anderson and Ron Gaul in a time of 9 hours 51 minutes.

The next two, finishing in a time of 9 hours 59 minutes, were Tom Chambers and Joe McKrell. Last, but definitely not least, was Mike Parr in a time of 11 hours 7 minutes. Congratulations to these six, especially Mike Parr, it required terrific effort from him to complete the last half of the course by himself without any assistance.

Congratulations and many thanks to all the helpers, too numerous to mention here. Without your help the attempt could never have taken place. So whether you were sitting on top of a mountain or just making tea, thank you.

Although the 14 peaks has overshadowed most other rambles, one has stood out because of its difference from everything else. I mean, of course, the midnight ramble. On what must have been one of the worst nights for thunderstorms I can remember, 19 ramblers left to climb Moel Famau.

Fully expecting to be soaked within a few minutes of starting the walk, we were surprised to find the clouds had cleared and we were treated to the sight of countless stars twinkling above us. After one of the best walks I have ever been on, we had breakfast and started sunbathing at 5-30 a.m.

Although we can be proud of what we have achieved so far this year, the rambling sub-committee are not prepared to let us have a little rest. Even now they are thinking up some more torture for us poor innocent ramblers, so you have been warned. If you are a regular Rambler please continue to give us your support over the next few months. If you are a new member and have not been out rambling, take a chance and give it a try, you may even like it. If you want to come on a ramble, but you are not sure what you need, see either the leader of the walk, if you know him, or any committee member, they will help you, we need your support.

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Tennis

The men's team has completed their fixtures for the season, and having regard to the fact that our playing strength was some what depleted at the start of the season, have acquitted themselves quite well. 8 matches were played, 4 being won, 2 drawn and 2 lost. Details of results are as follows:-

| <u>Opponents:</u> | <u>Venue:</u> | <u>Score:</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Electric Supply B | Away | Won - 3 - 2 |
| Kraft | Home | Lost - 5 - 1 |
| Salisbury | Home | Lost - 5 - 1 |
| Littlewoods | Away | Lost - 6 - 0 |
| Thingwall | Home | Drew - 3 - 3 |
| Dunlops | Away | Drew - 3 - 3 |
| Sandheys | Away | Won - 4 - 2 |
| Oddssey | Home | Won - 4 - 2 |

Total points gained 14 out of 24.

Continued on page 8

Dates for your Diary and Changes to the Programme.

September 21st - Annual General Meeting of the
Thursday. Association to be held at 7-30
p.m. in the Design Centre.

September 24th - Annual Mass at St. Nicholas'
Sunday. Church, Hawke Street, Copperas
Hill, (behind the Adelphi Hotel)
at 11.a.m. followed by a visit
to Ferry Halgh shrine.

✕

September 28th Display of members Arts and Crafts.
Thursday. The display will be non-competitive
and any work in the widest sense of
Art & Craft will be accepted.

✕

October 5th - Holiday Slides. This will consist
Thursday of members colour slides taken
while on holiday or out on club
events during the year. Listen
out for further details at the
clubrooms.

October 21st. - Dinner-Dance at Dovedale Towers,
Saturday. Penny Lane. Cost 35/- - one of
our 40th Anniversary celebrations.
Bookings to Chris Dobbin.

November 15th Irish Show Band - at the Irish
Wednesday Centre.
The Associations Grand Dance
is to be held at the Irish Centre
with an Irish Show Band to
entertain. Cost 6/- per ticket.

✕ Please note the changes on your Social Programme.

John Burns was captain and the other members of the team were Mike Marsden, Hugh Molloy, Chris Dobbie, Eric Kavanagh, Jim McEvoy, Bill Potter and Brian Kelly.

The American Tournament arranged for June had to be postponed and was rearranged for Saturday, 29th July, to be followed by a barbecue.

At the time of writing there are thirty-one members in the section, and it appears that it will 'break even' financially this season - thanks to the donations of £20 from the tennis members.

'Umpire'

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Notes from our correspondent in Central Africa. June 1967

On Safari

"Ah Doctor Livingstone I presume." I said as I eyed his great statue overlooking the great precipice of doom where the great wide and majestic Zambesi commits a suicidal act across its 1,800 yds width and plunges 300 ft. into a narrow chasm with a roar of agony and wonderous surge of spray 600 ft. into the air. Yes the wanderer, I, had at last seen the Victoria Falls. The beauty of this phenomena is over powering and leaves me awe struck. I rambled through the everglades of palms and deciduous ever cloaked in rain out of the clear blue sky and edged my way to cliff edges at clearings to espy yet another aspect of the falls and found myself enveloped in a multitude of rainbows of many sizes. Some appearing like vague apparitions while reality taught me that I was getting very wet - and cold! At a vantage point on the brink of the gorge I was enveloped in cloud in incessant rain unable to see anything, but feel exhilarated by this unfettered powerful force of nature. I no longer wondered at great hippo being swept into this rocky

turmoil of a cauldron. This visit was in May when the river is very full after the summer rains. By October the winter drought will have reduced the flow to a comparative trickle. This is when photographers enjoy the beauty of the falls and the perspective becomes complete. I was wet through and retreated from the shadows into the sunlight again whereupon my clothes quickly became dry in the warm afternoon sun.

To complete our visit to Livingstone and Victoria Falls, my companion, Keith, and I rose early the following morning to explore the Game Park along the banks of the Zambesi and saw the sun rise over the wide expanses of fast flowing river with clouds of mist clinging to the restless waters. Our drive in the car took us down dirt tracks near the bank on the South (Rhodesian) side of the river and soon we saw some baboon and a couple of warthogs and there, gracefully trotting across our path was an impala and a nyala both graceful antelopes. And then the great sable antelope but no elephant or buffalo! Ah! what was that movement through the bushes?! Yes a rhinoceros grazing. And so we returned to our rest hut for breakfast before our final treat for the day; a flight over the Falls in a small aircraft for £1.10. 0. This final perspective was very fine and rewarding. Africa here is a flat paleau with the wide Zambesi idling along until it reaches a zig-zag of trenches into which it disappears.

So we said farewell to Victoria Falls and continued our car safari to Bulawayo (the great Rhodesian City of Matabeleland) and its adjoining Matopos, a large natural park reminiscent of the Lake District with its hills and lakes of which I will relate in a later issue.

We completed the 1200 mile circuit to Lusaka via Salisbury during our 6 day journey from 23-28 May. Commonwealth Day (24th) and Africa Freedom Day 25th were bank holidays so I think I took full advantage to see a major part of Rhodesia and live in luxury.

Cheerio for now

Chris Scott.

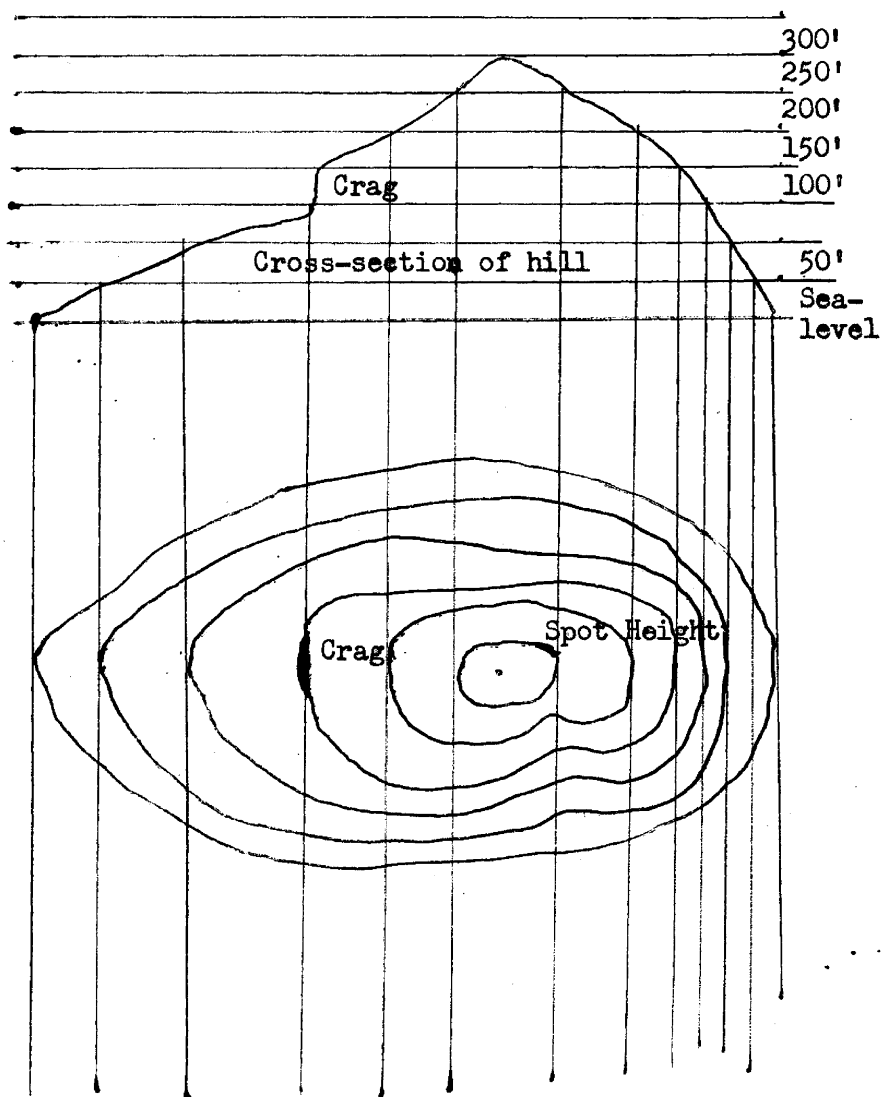
MAP READING

The first step in learning to use a map is to understand the symbols used and the scale involved. After all a person can't read a book until he understands the words used. Most maps have a legend of the symbols printed with the map sheet. This should be learnt and understood before any field work is undertaken. It may be found easiest to practice use of a map without using the contour lines for a first exercise. This is because to the uninitiated contour reading can be difficult and confusing, and is something to be build up to gradually. A good territory for the practise of first usage of a map is the relatively flat land in the Maghull-Ormskirk area. By plotting a circular route upon the map along ground unknown to the user, taking a 'bus to the starting point and touring the course back to the start, a useful introduction to the use of a map will have been obtained. If this exercise is undertaken it is advised that the lanes and footpaths be used, taking every opportunity to compare the map with the actual terrain and to accustom oneself with the idea of scale. Instead of wasting the long summer evenings watching television try this exercise. It will be worth your trouble.

Having done this, or something similar, a few times the idea of contour lines is the next thing to be absorbed. A map is essentially a two dimensional representation of a three dimensional object. To indicate length and breadth is relatively simple, the representation of height is slightly more complex. This is normally done using contour lines - or in somecases by use of different colours or shades to represent height relative to sea-level. Since most of the maps used by the L.C.R.A. are of the 1 inch ordnance survey type using contour lines a short outline of this system only will be included.

The following diagram shows how a mountain is "pictured" using contours:-

N.B. The author apologises for the slight inaccuracies in the diagram below, but nevertheless hopes that it will still convey the idea of how contour lines are built up.



These lines are drawn to connect points the same height above sea-level, and are shown at increasing 50ft. intervals. As can be seen from the diagram these lines are furthest apart in areas of least slope and closest in areas of steep slope. A cliff is also shown upon the drawing. In order ^{to} gain experience in the reading of contours it is suggested that the Clwydian Hills of North Wales be tried. These hills are safer than mountains for the unexperienced map reader, but nevertheless provide useful examples for the reading of contours.

Undoubtedly our map reader, who now understands the symbols used, contour lines and is used to the idea of scale, will have noticed the two sets of parallel lines which run north to south and east to west across his map. These are the "grid lines" which provide a systematic reference for the whole of the British Isles, at least in the 1 inch and 2½ inch Ordnance Survey maps. These "grid lines" are numbered up and along the map. Where the lines intersect we have series of squares which are one square kilometre in area. These grid references can be used to pin-point an area of approximately 110 sq.yds. upon the ground. This is done using 6 figure references. The square containing the required reference is first picked out upon the map. Next the numbers of the "grid lines" which intersect at the bottom left hand corner of the square are quoted. The number of the "grid line" which runs west to east is always quoted first. Thus so far the map reader will have a four figure reference which will enable him to pick out a special kilometre square upon the map. If this square is then divided into two sets of ten numbered lines, one running south to north and the other at right angles west to east, and the numbers of the lines which cross at the point required quoted in the order as for the kilometre square then a six figure map reference will be obtained. These two subsidiary numbers are inserted in the third and sixth places in the total reference number.

The map "Grid Lines" also provide an important service in the use of a compass with the map. This is the final step which our potential map reader needs for sufficient knowledge to travel with confidence in open country. The major uses of a compass are to march on a bearing, orientate the map and its user and to give a position using cross bearings of landmarks. Of all the compasses upon the market at present the "Silva" models will be found most useful. They are cheap, light, rugged, compact and above all accurate when used correctly. Probably the most often used function of a compass is to provide a walker with a bearing between two points. This is done quite simply using a "Silva" compass. First of all the compass is placed upon the flattened map with its edge between the two required points. Care must be taken to have the direction of travel arrow pointed in the right direction or else a bearing of 180° out will be obtained, and the user will walk in the opposite direction to the one required. The compass housing is then rotated so that the arrow (or parallel lines) in the base of the compass housing are parallel with the "Grid Lines" of the map, with the north on the in line with the north of the map. Next the compass is taken off the map and the magnetic deviation of 8° added onto the measured bearing. Finally the compass is rotated so that the magnetic needle points exactly north on the housing. The direction of travel arrow should then be as it says.

To take a bearing of a given object the direction of travel arrow is pointed at the distant object and the compass housing rotated until the north of the housing is in line with the north of the magnetic needle. Next the magnetic deviation of 8° is subtracted and the reading over the direction of travel arrow gives the true bearing of the object from the point measured. If this is repeated for a second object then the map may be referred to so as to give the exact position, since the two bearings traced back from the objects will cross at the point measured from.

Continued on page 15

LAKE DISTRICT WEEKEND - MARCH 17TH 1967

On Friday evening thirty ramblers left the Cathedral Buildings by coach for Keswick, with the choir section of the party celebrating the feast of day with various Irish songs. After a pleasant journey with a stop at Milnthorpe to quench the thirst of the singers, we arrived at the Gales to be welcomed by much-needed refreshments, before settling in,

Next morning we set out for the Langdale Valley where we split up into two walking parties and a photography party. We then began our trek up Bowfell. After a long climb we reached the snowline where the girls became the targets for many snowballs. In places where the snow had settled deeply in hollows between the rocks, a few members of the party sunk up to the knees in it, to the great delight of the others, and had to be rescued by some gallant gentleman. Fortified by Bernards barley sugars, we began the last part of the climb over some steep slabs, in a strong wind. On reaching the top we again refreshed ourselves with what was left of our packed lunches, before starting down the other side of the Fell. On the way down again the unfortunate girls were set upon and rolled down the slope in thick snow, where their cries for mercy attracted the attention of some other ramblers down by the tarn, who at first thought they were cries for help. We soon reached the bottom, in spite of being led along the wrong path finishing in a steep drop.

In the evening most of the party spent a pleasant couple of hours in the Pheasant, accompanied by Bill on the piano. Afterwards we returned to the Gales to finish off the evening with a Social, where we had to take turns at Cumberland Square dance due to lack of space.

On Sunday morning after attending mass in Keswick and followed by breakfast, the more energetic of us set out for a ramble around Derwentwater, whilst those who were feeling the effect of the clock being put forward an hour the night before, occupied themselves playing rounders. We had an easy stroll

Continued from page 13

Orientation of the map with the ground is one of the easiest operations using a compass. The compass is simply placed upon the map with its north and south of the housing in line with the north and south of the grid, and the two turned around until the magnetic needle lines up with them. The map will then be lined up, roughly, with the ground. This technique is often used to help give an approximate location of position.

Again the Clwydian Hills provide a good practice ground for compass use, as do moorlands such as the Winter Hill area. It is again advised that these be tried before more severe mountain regions. Once a person has mastered the use of map and compass reading then he or she has a greater chance to roam with greater ease and safety, without relying upon others.

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Change of Address

One of our longstanding members and one of the trustees of the association has just moved house and we give his new address as follows:-

Mr. Cyril Kelly
20 Hillside Avenue,
Ormskirk,
Lancs.

,, , , , ,

For Sale

One fairly large rucksack in good condition, traditional style, £6 when new - best offer will be accepted.

See Billy Clay for details.

Lake District Weekend continued from page 14

around the lake, squelching through muddy fields and farmyards and we finished our walk at a cafe in Grange, where we spent the time drinking tea while waiting for the coach to pick us up.

After dinner we set out for home, again stopping in Milnathorpe on the way.

Thank you Tom and Des for a very enjoyable weekend.

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Penyrolewen Ramble - April 9th, 1967.

'A' Walk

This was without doubt the best walk up to now. You all know the usual details about the coach leaving St. John's Lane etc. so I'll leave that part out. Alighting from the coach at the foot of Penyrolewen the 'A' party set off in ideal walking conditions led by Bill Potter. The party consisted of people who have nothing better to do with their Sundays. The climb up is quite a test on anyone who is making their first attempt like myself. At about 2,000' the snowy conditions started underfoot and made the climb a bit more difficult. On reaching the summit we had a break, and a few joined in a dance.

On resuming the walk we ran into a small blizzard and the cloud was low. It was like "Scott goes South". It was shortly afterwards we started the descent which was fairly difficult also because of the slippery rock. Everyone made it in the finish, wet but happy.

On the coach home Paddy Willimas was in good voice with his band of followers. A short break and a sing-song at a small inn finished off a great day. Thanks Bill and all concerned who organised the trip.

'B' Walk

Having been lulled into slumber on the coach by the melodious merrymaking of Terry and Co. I was thrust into consciousness by the mad dash of the adventurous 'A' party to quit the coach. Continuing to the other end of the lake the undaunted 'B' party clambered from the coach, crossed the road and climbed over a stile. Here we had our first stop - it was only to muster the party, homestly! We Set off on our momentous rock climbing expedition, braving the elements of nature. After our first sojourn over the rocks we had a halt to allow the (redfaced, breathless, perspiring) group to admire the view and also to allow the separated brethern to rejoin us. With frequent stops - to admire the view, of course, we came within sight of the sought after goal - the top! Unfortunately the slippery climb had taken longer than expected and the skies were darkening and the mist creeping ominously nearer, so our illustrious leader made the momentous decision to skirt the mount below the snow line. The gallant forerunners retraced their steps - a mere figure of speech, as some people unintentionally travelled in a novel but uncomfortable position. We eventually returned to the snow line whence the party were once again re-united for a well earned rest.

We were making our way round the lake when Eileen leapt in, what will now be a famous imitation of a ballerina while Thelma gave an excellent high jump from the top of a rock and both ended up two feet smaller, having jumped into a marsh. Eileen extracted herself with another imitation of the dying swan but Thelma seemed reluctant to leave her lowly position - her boots were firmly embedded in the mud! After great difficulty she was hauled out and owing to the pulling and heaving is now six inches taller.

Squelching back to the coach and having dried out a little everyone decided they had enough surplus energy to go leaping off for a cup of tea. We passed the gallant 'A' party on the way and there was a merry exchange of words such as "keep on going" and the like. It was here, of course, that Des gave us a wonderful imitation of a earwig. (I'm glad he didn't move the wrong way or he'd have been a flattened, throttled earwig!)

Many thanks to our leader, Hugh, for his patience and for the interesting rock climbing with plenty of excitement and hair raising escapades.

'Semi-detached'

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Sunday, 23rd April, 1967.

St. Mary's Church Stretton 6 v L.C.R.A. 4

The customary end of season soccer match between the Catholic Ramblers' and St. Mary's brought a party of 68 to Church Stretton on a somewhat sultry but not altogether unpleasant afternoon. St. Mary's sporting their new all blue strip - a present to them by a Liverpool club - were quickly into the attack and it was therefore against the run of play when L.C.R.A. opened the scoring after 5 minutes thanks to an "own goal" by the home Centre Half. This was quickly nullified by the home team who equalised from the penalty spot after Peter Marsden, diving into a melee in search of the ball, emerged clutching an opponents leg. L.C.R.A. were however soon in the lead again, with a second "own goal" by the home pivot, who this time deceived his own 'keeper with a most decorous flick. St. Mary's fought back and took a 3-2 lead, but just before half-time, the persistent Tommy Chambers on the visitors right wing made it 3-3 at the half-way mark, St. Mary's having scored 5 of the goals.

The second half saw St. Mary's in command, scoring 3 further goals including a second penalty. The visitors staged a revival, but could only manage one goal, again through Tommy Chambers, who pursued a long ball down the middle and harassed both centre half and goalkeeper into allowing the ball to bounce over the line into goal, and complete the scoring.

This was the usual hard fought sporting tussle with

our old rivals, with the home team just about worth the victory, by reason of their better finishing. The visitors were best served by Peter Marsden, Geoff Martin and Frank Handley in defence ably assisted by Mike Marsden, but in attack only Tom Chambers shone to any degree.

After Benediction and Tea, our hosts entertained us with some lively singing and mouth organ playing, and everybody entered into the spirit of the evening. Ted Burn (mouth organ) and Jack Patterson (guitar) provided L.C.R.A.'s main contribution to the evening's proceedings, which rounded off a very enjoyable day.

TEAM: P. Marsden, S.Hall, B. Martin, G. Martin,
M. Marsden, F. Handley, T. Chambers, W. Burns,
T. Williams, R. Gaul, M. Parr.

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MOONLIGHT FLIT (Midnight Ramble 24th/25th June, 1967)

Thunder rolled ominously in the black, mirky night and great flashes of lightning shot across the heavens as we rode towards our destination - Loggerheads. This was a night for Dracula or Frankinsteen, but certainly not for our assault on Moel Fammau. However, when 18 mad people (especially when they are ramblers) decide to complete a task there's no force in heaven or earth strong enough to stop them .

Just before Loggerheads a bedraggled threesome tried to hitch a lift, but being the usual warmhearted, charitable lot we are, we grinned, waved, and drove on. It so happened that the threesome were Terry O'Connor, Ray Anderson and Mike Parr, clad in shorts and little else. After they eventually joined us 'friendly' greetings were exchanged and our little band (now 21 in number) eagerly clambered from the cars and started out on the first ever midnight ramble. The rain had long since ceased to fall and that fella Thor had stopped banging his little hammer in the heavens so consequently the night was a very pleasant one.

In orderly fashion we rambled through the undergrowth, but, as usual, certain boys tried to alarm the ladies by pretending to be dogs, weir wolves, etc. Will they never grow up! Believe me John Keenan one of these days

you'll turn into a dog - Oh stop barking, I'm only joking.

Our first moonlight butty break was taken within sight of Moel Fammau and during our repast a satellite was spotted and followed with great interest by one and all. We were content to sit breathing in the night air and star gazing, but the three little boys in shorts were feeling rather chilly about their knees (confidentially so was I, I've seen apes with better looking knees). Anyway, as no-one fancied carrying three corpses to the top of Moel Fammau we decided to move on.

When we eventually reached the top we found another group of young people enjoying the air and eagerly awaiting sunrise. They kept us entertained with pop records on a portable record player, etc. Tom and Des were rather disappointed at the fact that there was no room on the top to stage a demonstration. I can't quite recall what it was in aid of, but I think it was something to do with peace and love in the world. Better luck next time boys.

The descent was made and the girls waited at the bottom of Moel Fammau while the boys went to collect the cars so that breakfast could be commenced. After 'feeding our faces' we were all flat out - don't get me wrong; the food wasn't that bad - we were sunbathing. Just imagine, sunbathing at 6 a.m. It was great.

A friendly game of passball was played between the boys and the girls, but true to form, it turned out to be a free for all, the boys being their usual vicious, nasty, rough selves. The poor defenceless girls were left nervous wrecks, but thanks to Sheila's strong arm tactics they didn't get off scot free - watch out Emma Peel.

Sunbathing and football over, we went to Church in Mold and refreshments were later taken in a pleasant little place in New Brighton, Wales.

Thank you Billy for a very enjoyable and unusual ramble. Thank you also to the other rambling committee members who helped to arrange it. I'm sure everyone will agree with me when I say that I hope to see more of these midnight rambles introduced into the programme.