

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
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MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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John Dew, Editor
Walt Walker, Publisher
Dona Towell, Artist

\$USTAINING MEMBERS—

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

This month we thank the following people for new and renewed sustenance:

New —

Robert Bristow
*Joseph Patella
*M/M Richard Kelly
in memory of Roger Bengtson

Renewing —

*Al Korber

Gary & Lee Anderson
Esther Briggs
Philip Moedt
David & Rita Harrah
Sylvia Broadbent
Mary Doris Powers
Robert Spenger
Laura Hudkins
Barbara Brickman
John Gilbert
Carlos Serna
Donald Jeffrey
*George Ruptier
*Sorooptimist Club of Banning
Riverside County Pomona
Grange No. 31
*Theodore Young

***Century Club** member,
donation of \$100 or more.

Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7644A

28 Nov., Sun.
San Jacinto Mountains

Sunday morning, November 28 at 0815 the phone rang. Al Andrews, the co-ordinator, said, "We've got two boy scouts in Palm Canyon (about 1½ miles up from the road head) who didn't come out last night. Can you go?"

Immediately, Hal Fulkman and I rolled from Hemet and headed for Palm Springs. We contacted Jim Fairchild who was rolling in the van and found he was about five miles ahead of us. Just as we were passing the scales on Interstate 10 near Cabazon, we received word from the Indio Sheriff that the subjects had been found.

We turned back and stopped at the Banning Sheriff's office where we learned that more of our other team members were rolling. These men did not get the radio message to turn back and went all the way to the road head before learning that the subjects had been found. ■ RMRU

TRAINING



Familiarization

19 & 20 Nov., Fri. & Sat.
Skyline Trail
San Jacinto Mountains

By Ron Barry

November training was to be a day hike down the Skyline Trail which begins just south of the tram mountain station and descends down several ridges and plateaus to eventually end up in Palm Springs. The trail was built about thirty years ago, and today is not maintained by the Forest Service, so several places are a little difficult to follow. The trail has

spectacular views of the desert below, as it drops over 8000 feet in only 9 miles.

Seven RMRU members went up Friday evening via the Palm Springs Tramway, and camped for the night about a half mile down the trail. Then, Saturday morning seven more including myself - took the tram up on its garbage run (the first tram up taking workers and food for the mountain restaurant) and caught up with the Friday night party in no time.

The trail descends rapidly down numerous switchbacks, with Chino Canyon in view to one side. Soon we broke out of the clusters of Jeffery and Sugar pines, into the first plateau area, where the trail was choked over by manzanita, and eventually lost. Jim Fairchild led some of the group one way, while Bud White, myself, and a few others blazed through the thick brush, eventually intersecting again with the trail. Several minutes later, Jim and the rest of the gang appeared up the trail, and after a brief stop, we set off



again with Bud leading the way.

The hike became very casual now, as it wound through a hilly plateau where many yuccas were in bloom and the ground was carpeted with green grass. It seems that the heavy rains last September have brought out an early spring.

From here we could view down into the upper reaches of Tahquitz Canyon and way up behind us was a small bright speck that was the tram mountain station.

We took lunch on a cluster of boulders that viewed down on Palm Springs and the mouth of Tahquitz Canyon. There were still several thousand feet to lose in elevation.

After lunch break, the trail was soon descending sharply downward in countless switchbacks that really got my feet's attention. I was break-



ing in new boots and by now my toes were really taking a beating. The downhill became endless. Bernie McIlvoy, John Muratet and Pete Carlson pulled out ahead of the rest and were soon lost to sight.

The pace began to slow as the continuous downhill began to take its toll on the body. My feet ached with every step. I was just about ready to tear my useless boots off in frustration, when the end of the trail came into sight and somehow I managed to hobble the rest of the way.

Though the hike was long and rough on one's physical being, it will be of great value in any future searches in this area. Many of the team members had traveled the upper or lower portions of the Skyline Trail, but very few had hiked the entire length. All in all, it was a very pleasant hike, but next time I'll take my trusty "old" boots. The descent took roughly seven hours, the only trauma being several people with sore feet and when Bud White lost the rubber tip of his walking stick.

■ RMRU



The Road Runner Sez- By Jim Fairchild

The longevity of improper procedures in connection with serious injury to humans is incredible. If a person takes a nasty fall, onlookers rush over to get him up; the first people to the scene of a bad auto crash immediately try to drag the victims out of the vehicles; then, in nearly every instance, there's a great effort to rush the injured to the hospital. In fact, "get them to the hospital" is the magic cry, inferring that the hurt ones will survive the trip, and that at the hospital they will get immediate, curative attention. We have on numerous occasions watched helplessly as other "first aiders" did these things, with resultant increase in seriousness of injury, length of recovery, or death.

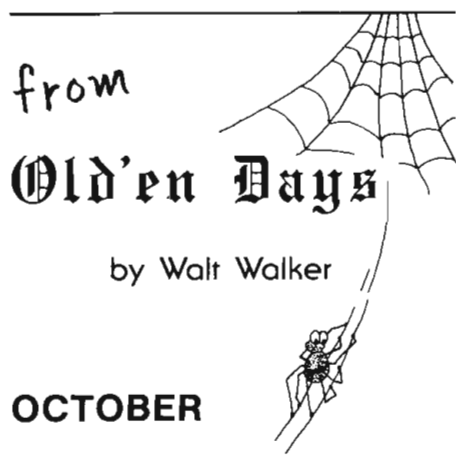
As the wheels of true progress grind slowly forward, we now see ambulance crews becoming well trained. Their ambulances are often equipped with life-support equipment that nearly duplicates that of the hospital's. Many hospitals have emergency rooms equipped and man-

ned to handle any problem almost instantly. Maybe there's even an upswing in the number of competent first aiders — the first people to reach those who are sick or hurt. We hope that soon enough people will be aware that in caring for trauma victims the key word is "stabilize." This means we perform the necessary hurry up first aid, do further care as dictated through examination, and transport only when the victim(s) are up to the trip.

In the kind of first aid search and rescue people do there's an added circumstance, that of long delay before getting the injured out of the wilderness. Often a helicopter takes care of that kind of delay, but only when weather, visibility, and terrain permit. We can find ourselves caring for sick or injured people much longer than if we were back in town.

One really wonderful factor is that in the wilderness the SAR group rarely finds that someone else did something wrong to the victim and that no one is around clamoring that we do this or that, also wrong. We have the whole situation in our own hands, a responsibility that is much easier to manage.

Our informal Monday evening trainings in January will be geared to review and improve our skill in caring for victims of trauma in the wilderness. ■ RMRU



Ten Years Ago -

Once again, as in September of 1966, the newsletter was only one page. The whole page was devoted to information, as there were no SAR missions to report.

Five Years Ago -

The front page had a group of photographs with a big 10, all white, right in the middle of them. RMRU was about to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary.

A rescue of two climbers off the East Face of Mt. Whitney was reported on by Pete Carlson. RMRU members Art Bridge, Bernie McIlvoy, Dr. Joe Bell and Pete worked with members from other MRA teams. The young men were stranded, cold and hungry. They were helped off the face by the combined efforts of members of the assembled MRA teams.

What started out as a search for a wounded man in the hills near Sage, ended quickly when the Riverside Police Department helicopter found the missing man dead. Dick Caffroy

and I were the only RMRU members who got into the field. The rest of the team was turned back as they arrived.

The next mission reported on, by me, will be long remembered by my wife Sondra. It was a Sunday afternoon and I was painting my sons bedroom when I received a call for a rescue in Deep Canyon. Leaving the painting to my wife and son I quickly loaded gear into my Wagoneer. The report was that a group was stranded between two waterfalls. RMRU members spent half the night searching, only to find the group, not stranded and asleep in their sleeping bags. We gave them food and water and hiked out. They were planning to wait till morning to hike out.

A mock mission in the Strawberry Creek area below Isomata was the training written up by Hank Schmel. Jack, alias Sheriff "Big Dome", Schnurr advised the assembled RMRU members that an airplane had crashed. Members of the Idyllwild Fire Department were playing the parts of the victims. The injuries were many, dis-embowelment,

amputations, broken back, compounded femur, depressed skull fracture, 2nd and 3rd degree burns and of course the ever present shock. After this mission was completed, an afternoon technical rescue of fellow member Art Bridge, was completed with much knowledge gained. ■ RMRU

NOVEMBER

Ten Years Ago—

One page newsletters were the order of the day ten years ago. They were primarily published to inform the regular members of RMRU matters. The November issue had all the regular announcements plus an interesting reminder at the bottom: ARE YOU AND YOUR GEAR READY TO GO (in 15 minutes) FOR A WINTER MISSION.

Five Years Ago—

The front page of the November issue of the *RMRU Newsletter* had a portion of page 4 of the September 2, 1971 issue of the *Palo Verde Valley*

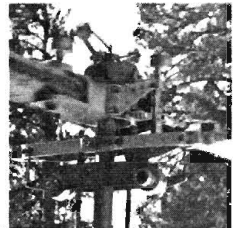
Times. It was the editorial page and it praised RMRU for our volunteer service to others. It specifically mentioned the mission where we rescued a man from the Little Maria Mountains near Blythe.

A search for the **Non-existent Victim**. RMRU spent 66 manhours searching for a man missing from the Fern Valley area. Through the sheriff department's diligence it was finally learned that the missing man was safely in bed at his mother's house. **Drat!**

Again we searched, this time for a woman thought to be lost in the Ice House Canyon area. RMRU along with many others, spent the night searching and hiking. We continued until late afternoon, when we were advised that she had probably left the area with a man she knew. **Drat, twice in one month!**

My 'Past President's Box' commented on the success of RMRU's Tenth Anniversary Dinner. It had been a tremendous evening long to be remembered. I also thanked Bud White for the kind words concerning RMRU's two past presidents. ■ RMRU

Five year old Jeffrey had been lost, an afternoon and most of a night, when he was found by RMRU members at 0300. He had strayed, from Long Valley (below the upper terminal of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway), while playing in the snow with his older sister. He had lost his shoes and was very cold when found. After being rescued and while being warmed in the upper tram terminal, his breathing slowed to an extremely low rate. We hurriedly carried him to Long Valley and placed him inside the helicopter with an RMRU member. He was then flown to the Desert Hospital. On the way his breathing sped up and he awakened and began to talk. Upon examination in the emergency room he was pronounced to be in good condition by the attending physician.



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