

## Search and Rescue

### RESCUE

#### Mission No. 8023A

**3 June, Tues.  
Horsethief Creek  
Santa Rosa Mountains**

RMRU received a call from the Indio office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a young woman while on a hiking trip in the Horsethief Creek area had been stung several times by wasps, and when her boy friend left to get help she was beginning to have a reaction to the stings.

Quickly RMRU members were paged out and the team was on the way to Pinyon Flats fire station where the rendezvous point had been set for. As the team arrived they were informed that a Hot Shot crew from the Forestry had also been dispatched into the field. The deputy had radio contact with the crew in the field, and they said that they would be able to handle the operation. RMRU members decided they would go ahead and hike in to help in the carry out, since it was quite a hike out. Just as members were preparing to leave the road head the forestry crew radioed out that the woman had refused aid as she did not have a bad reaction to the stings. So everyone concerned was released from the operation.

• RMRU

### SEARCH

#### Mission No. 8024C

**3 June, Tues.  
North Face  
San Jacinto Mountains**

At 11:00 P.M. RMRU member Walt Walker received a call from the Banning office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that RMRU member Dave Ezell and two other people were overdue

in completing a climb of the North Face. Since it was late at night it was decided to wait until 5:00 A.M. and if they had not returned by that time the team would be activated. Luckily Dave's group had made the summit sometime after midnight. Dave knew that the team would be called, so he and his party quickly hiked back to the Long Valley Ranger station and called the Sheriff's Department to let everyone know they were in good shape. • RMRU

### SEARCH

#### Mission No. 8025M

**6-7 June, Fri.-Sat.  
San Jacinto Mountains**

*By Jim Garvey*

I arrived at base camp late Friday morning expecting a quick evacuation of an injured hiker based on the initial information received in the call-out. As usual, the situation developed into something a little more complex, a two-day search involving not only RMRU, but MRA teams from Southern California (Altadena,

China Lake, Los Padres, and Sierra Madre), many hours of helicopter searching, a scent dog and numerous rides up and down the Palm Springs tram.

Timothy Hoy, age 20, of Buena Park had hiked the two miles from the upper tram station to Round Valley to spend Wednesday night. He was due out Thursday.

This mission, like most, came at a bad time. RMRU was preparing to host a joint MRA search out of Idyllwild for Gregory Tanner, missing since December 20th.

RMRU searched Friday with ground teams, including Jim Fairchild and his scent dog. Also helicopter pilot Don Landells air searched with negative results for several hours. The decision was made to divert MRA teams scheduled to arrive Saturday morning from the Tanner operation to our base at the lower tram station to search for Hoy.

Field teams went out early Saturday morning, 30 trained mountaineers combed all the trails, camp-sights, ridges and drainages on the tram side of the mountain.

Don Landells arrived at 0700 hours and took off with Don Chambers and myself.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

NEW & OLD - RMRU's No. 2 Van and recently completed No. 1 Van were set up during the CR-MRA search for Tim Hoy at the base of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.

We spent several hours air-searching Tahquitz Canyon and other areas not searched the previous day. Just as Landells was preparing to drop Don and I off in Skunk Cabbage Meadow for a hiking assignment we heard over the radio that Hoy had been found.

He had apparently lost the trail on his way back to the tram station and ended up spending Thursday night in the upper end of Tahquitz Canyon. Luckily Hoy

realized his error and spent all day Friday climbing back out of Tahquitz Canyon. He spent Friday night near Caramba Camp and was found by an Altadena team on the trail headed toward Willow Creek.

Landells dropped us off in Long Valley and picked up Hoy at Hidden Lake. He was flown to base and headed home in good shape, if only a few days later than he originally planned. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

**SAFE RETURN** - RMRU member John Dew guides Tim Hoy away from Don Landells Jet Ranger, while Altadena team member Chuck Ballard and RMRU member Kevin Walker remove gear.

## SEARCH

**Mission No. 8026M**

**7-8 June, Sat.-Sun.  
Lower Western Slope,  
San Jacinto Mountains**

*By Kevin Walker*

After completing the search around at the Tramway (Mission No. 8025M), and then getting a good lunch in Banning, courtesy of the Sheriff, RMRU and four other MRA (Mountain Rescue Association) teams moved up to Idyllwild to start on the re-search for Gregory Tanner missing since December 23, 1979. Originally, plans called for the MRA teams to start searching early Saturday morning, but due to the other mission we were slightly postponed in starting.

Since we were getting such a late start operations leader Walt Walker, and asst. operations leader Larry Roland decided to have the teams hike directly to a high

point and camp, and then get an early start on Sunday searching back down the mountain. With that announcement team members from Los Padres, Sierra Madre, China Lake and RMRU started for the Strawberry Cienega junction on the Deer Springs Trail. A hiking team from Altadena was assigned to search the area surrounding Suicide Rock. After everyone arrived at the junction, camp was set up and the evening meals were started. (Editors note to the other region teams: We thought you would all bring gourmet food, that's why we brought the steaks and such.)

The following morning after a quick breakfast, everyone from the region gathered around the RMRU camp to have assignments handed out. With all, huddled around a topo map Walt radioed up the assignments. China Lake was the first to leave, followed by Los Padres, Sierra Madre, and lastly RMRU. The best way to explain what went on for the rest of the day, is to say that all the teams slowly

worked their way down the Western ridges and drainages to Idyllwild. At approximately 4:00 the last crew led by "Sierra Madre Hound Dog" Lynn Kroll arrived at base camp. Nothing pertinent to the search operation was found that day, so with all teams out and the debriefing complete everyone headed for home.

We of RMRU would like to thank China Lake, Los Padres, Sierra Madre and Altadena, all members of the California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association for helping in this re-search operation. And to the Tanner family, again we offer our sympathy. • RMRU

## SEARCH

**Mission No. 8027C**

**9 June, Mon.  
Dark Canyon,  
San Jacinto Mountains**

RMRU received a call from the Hemet office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a family camping in the Dark Canyon area was reported overdue. While still in the call out stage the mission was cancelled. • RMRU

## RESCUE

**Mission No. 8028M**

**13 June, Fri.  
Tahquitz Rock,  
San Jacinto Mountains**

*By Jim Fairchild*

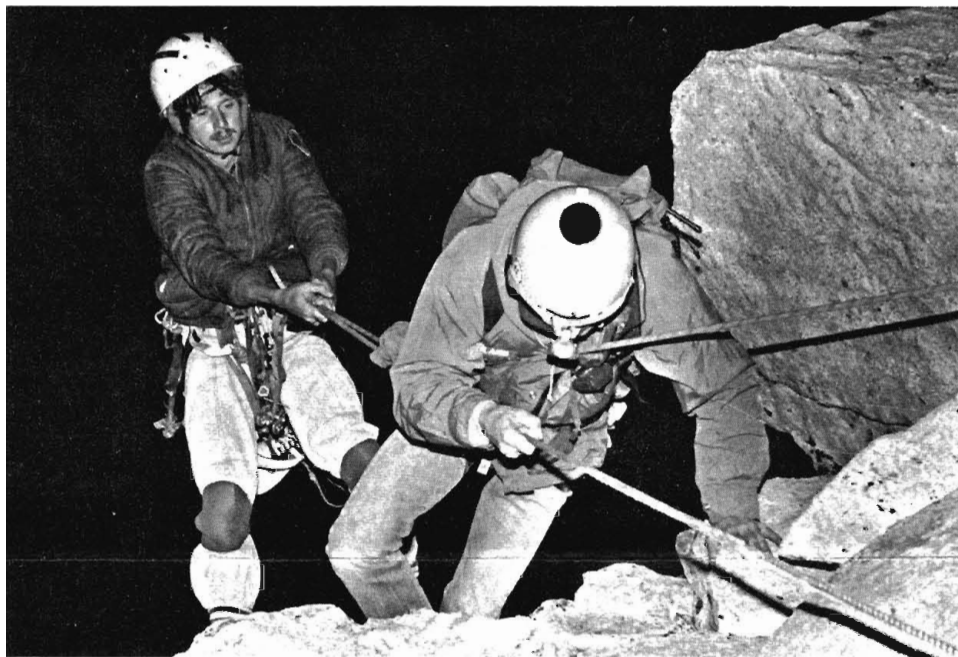
Our first information about this mission was that a hiker was stranded near Idyllwild. As Pete Carlson and I drove van number two up the mountain we overheard messages to the effect that a man was stranded high on Tahquitz Rock. Upon arrival at Humber Park we found Walt Walker, Kevin Walker, Larry Roland (of RMRU) and five men from the Hemet team ready to begin the climb up to the base and around the backside of the rock. They departed, and as Pete and I readied ourselves, Jack Schnurr drove up, and the three of us were soon lumbering up the trail with appropriately heavy loads of ropes, radios, and hardware. Lunch Rock, the climbers' meeting place at the base of Tahquitz, was visible through the trickling sweat. Our ascent was halfway done, and now we went behind the rock to continue to the top. At a really flat, sheltered spot just below the summit we rested because we overheard our teammates' radio message that they were still trying to make voice contact with Charlie Felbraum, the stranded "hiker." Soon they had him, and we clambered up to the top, then down nearly a hundred feet on the west ridge of the

rock to encounter their beehive of activity in setting up anchors and rigging. Larry Roland was to go over the edge to retrieve Charlie. Really, that's the fun part because he was lowered on a twisted-type Goldline rope while I belayed on a kern-mantle Perlon rope. About 150 feet down Larry reached Charlie, tied him on below with his goldline, then the men above raised the pair using a 4 to 1 mechanical advantage with pulleys, clamps, and other

hardware. As they came over the edge I was able to take a picture, then the cliff-side adventure was over.

Now all we had to do was descend, very carefully, the 1600 feet elevation loss to Humber Park. This was a smooth, "text-book" operation, but we still marvel that Charlie's partner was able to finish the climb unroped and report the stranding.

• RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

BLACK HOLE - RMRU member Larry Roland (foreground) guides Charlie Felbraum, as they are raised up the side of Tahquitz Rock. The inky darkness silhouetting them, is that of Humber Park some 1,500 feet below

## SEARCH

### Mission No. 8029M

19-20 June, Thurs.-Fri.  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Ed Hill

Thursday afternoon, Greta Elliot and Jackie Kovak, leader and member of a Girl Scout Troop from Huntington Beach left the Mountain Station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to take the mile and a half loop trail through Long Valley. When they failed to return, the other Scout Leaders notified the sheriff who in turn called us.

I was just getting ready to shower after three sets of tennis when Walt called me. I called my people and got my gear together and drove out to the Valley Station of the Tram.

We had a quick conference and decided what we would do first. We decided to send three teams into the field. Bernie McIlvoy and his son, Eugene, would hike

towards Round Valley. Jim Fairchild, his dog Cody and I would look around Hidden Lake. Kevin Walker and Brian Hixson would search in Long Valley. Hank Schmel would act as relay, and Mary Bowman would hold down base. We were given a description of the two women and were told what kind of tracks they would leave. In a search like this we would spend most of our time attempting to cut tracks.

Jim and I went up the trail toward Hidden Lake and in the soft dust we could see tracks that might have been theirs. These tracks were heading toward Hidden Lake. At the junction of the trail to Round Valley we carefully checked to make sure that they did not go to Round Valley. We ran into a hiker who was coming back from Willow Creek crossing. He told us that he had not seen the two women or had talked to anyone who had.

Kevin and Brian reported that they had seen plenty of tracks in Long Valley that might have been the right ones. They had followed them over the escarpment toward the desert but each time they had followed the tracks back up to Long Val-

ley. When they had reached the creek in Long Valley, they searched back up the creek to the ranger station and then bedded down for the night.

Jim and I looked around Hidden Lake and then went over to Desert View so to see the lights of Palm Springs. We hoped that the two women had not descended into Long Canyon attempting to walk out that way. We went down a draw that leads down to Long Valley and started to follow the creek into "the Narrows" where it drops down into Long Canyon. We found once again tracks similar to the ones that we had been following. We were entering very steep rocky country, and were forced to climb out of the gully we were in and into the next one to the north. We found a good track going down this gully to the creek. We decided to bivouac for the night and search down canyon in the morning.

At five thirty, we woke up and were hiking by six. The canyon was less forbidding in the daylight than it had been the night before. We dropped about three hundred feet down the slope and soon ran out of tracks. We climbed back up and continued along the escarpment.

When we reached the saddle that the old Skyline Trail used to go through we spread out to check the adjacent slopes. Jim yelled and from far down the slope we heard an answer. Jim sent Cody on ahead, and we started down the trail. The trail has not been maintained for thirty years and is badly eroded in places. We found the women sitting on a ridge overlooking Chino Canyon. They were hungry, thirsty and scratched from the chaparral down below.

They had started out on the trail in



Long Valley and somehow ended up on the Skyline Trail. They had followed it down to the 3800 foot level where they had lost it in the thick brush. That evening they had decided to climb back up rather than try to force their way down to Palm Springs. They had gotten part way up when it became dark, and they spent the night behind a log. At four in the morning, the cold had woken them up, and they had continued climbing.

We fed them and gave them canteens of water from our packs. When they were ready we started back up to Long Valley and the tram station. Jim and I took a good look at their soles. Both were wearing running shoes, and their sole patterns were different from what we had been following. However, we had looked in the right places. • RMRU

## SEARCH

### Mission No. 8030M

19-20 June, Thur.-Fri.  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker

While still in the middle of a search operation (Mission No. 8029M), base camp operator Mary Bowman at the base of the Tramway radioed up news of an overdue hiker who had come through Round Valley in the late afternoon enroute to Mt. San Jacinto from Humber Park in Idyllwild. So for the rest of the night we not only searched for two girl scouts, we also watched out for the solo hiker.

The following morning Don Landells was summoned to join in the search with his Bell Jet Ranger III. Just before Don arrived the girl scouts were found. So now we only had to find the solo hiker. Once Don landed in Long Valley, fellow team member Hank Schmel and I climbed in and prepared to leave for Caramba so that Hank and I could cut for tracks to make sure that the hiker hadn't somehow got into Tahquitz canyon. As we lifted off Don said that he had seen a group camping up on the Wellman Ridge as he arrived, and said that it would be a good idea to check that out before we were set off at Caramba. With a minute we were up to the Wellman divide where the group of campers was preparing to hike out. With the group of well dressed hikers was one man in short pants (still cold in the morning with snow on the ground), so Don found a small boulder to make a one runner landing. Hank climbed out, and sure enough the man in shorts had wandered into the campers sometime after dark. The group convinced the bewildered hiker to stay with them. With Hank and the hiker back in the bird, we made a quick flight back to the Tram to complete another successful mission. • RMRU

## RESCUE

### Mission No. 8031M

22 June, Sun.  
Tahquitz Rock,  
San Jacinto, Mountains

By Walt Walker

It was early in the afternoon when RMRU received a telephone call from the Hemet Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, that there was an injured climber on Tahquitz Rock. The information relayed to us sounded rather serious, a climber had fallen and was reported to have broken both legs and received severe head injuries. With that information we requested that a helicopter be called for.

The call out process was put into motion and Brian Hixson, Kevin Walker and I were quickly on our way to Idyllwild in the No. 1 Van. We were met at Camp Marantha by Mary Bowman. Mary started up the operations center in the No. 1 Van while we started selecting equipment to be used.

The Idyllwild Fire Department volunteered the services of one of their engines to wet down the field where the helicopter would land. This does a couple of very important things - visibility is improved by the lack of dust, which is a safety factor - and it greatly lessens the amount of dust that is sucked into the air intake of the helicopter and this is another safety factor.

While the above was being accomplished, Pete Carlson, Jim Fairchild, Hal Fulk-

man, Jim Garvey and Mike Daugherty arrived at base. They were followed by Jack Schnurr and Tom Aldrich. We had called the Hemet Search and Rescue Team for additional help. They responded with Greg Wright, Jim Snodgrass, Steve Vaughn and Mike Kincaid.

We were forming up the helicopter loads when Don Landells arrived in one of his Bell Jet Ranger helicopters. Kevin and I climbed in, along with our packs, and we were on our way towards the rock. As we gained elevation I filled Don in on the information we had. We flew around to the south side of the rock and quickly spotted a group of people gathered on one of the routes used frequently as a way to descend after finishing a climb.

As we circled for another look we spotted Bernie McIlvoy and Ron Barry near the summit. They had just finished an afternoon of sport climbing. Don located a good ledge for a one runner landing and Kevin and I climbed out. Don circled back around and picked up Bernie and Ron and let them off on the ledge. Many more loads of members and equipment followed.

As the above was being done I climbed down to Ron Bottorff, who had fallen while free climbing down the descent route. He had slipped and fallen about 30 to 40 feet. Upon examination I found a laceration on the forehead and another completely through the lip. He also had numerous abrasions and it appeared that he might have fractured his left femur.

While the members above set up a mechanical advantage to lift the injured



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

HORIZONTAL RAISE - RMRU member Mike Daugherty makes an adjustment in the litter system that moved injured climber Ron Bottorff up to the ledge that was used as the helispot.





RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

**RESTING** - The camera captured injured Ron Bottorff in a quiet moment while waiting for the helicopter pick-up on Tahquitz Rock

climber, I put additional dressings and bandages on Ron. The Stokes litter, Mike, Jack and Hal came down to the ledge where Ron and I were. With the usual problems of no space to work, we began the task of getting Ron into the litter and secured. With that completed we connected the hauling and belay ropes to the litter. Mike got the nod to go with the litter. He tied into the system and the lifting process was started.

In a very short time we had the litter up to the ledge where Don had let us out. We discussed loading plans and then radioed Mary at base to have Don fly up to the rock.

When Don arrived Kevin was in position to give Helitac hand signals. With one runner down on the rock, Don gave the nod and I climbed into the back seat area. The litter was passed into the bird and I secured the head end of the litter



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

**DELICATE PICK-UP** - RMRU member Kevin Walker gives Don Landells the thumbs up okay to pull away, as Bernie McIlvoy (center) steps back after making sure that the right skid does not get stuck in a crack while the one runner pick-up is made. Walt Walker rides in the back as the attendant, while the RMRU members in the foreground cling to the small rock ledge

while the foot end was being secured. Kevin signaled that the litter was secured and Don lifted off and we headed for the Hemet Hospital. The members collected up all the equipment and then hiked out to Humber Park.

Don then landed in the hospital parking lot and we took Ron into the emergency room. Having worked in the E.R., and there were numerous patients, I washed up and assisted with Ron's care. He was X-rayed and found to have a fractured femur that required surgery. He also had to have numerous sutures on his forehead and lip. As the suturing was being completed Brian and Kevin showed up at the E.R.

I wished Ron the best luck, he thanked us for all our efforts, and we headed home shortly before midnight. • RMRU

## RESCUE

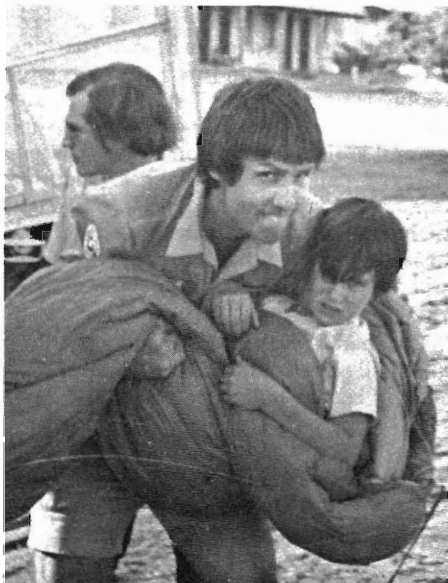
**Mission No. 8032M & 8033M**

**28 June, Sat.  
Tahquitz Valley & Caramba  
San Jacinto Mountains**

*By Hal Fulkman*

"Two for the price of one" is a worn out cliché but is appropriate to describe this mission. Surely the most expensive aspect of search and rescue, as far as the Sheriff's office is concerned is helicopter expense. The helicopter adds speed and accessibility to difficult terrain. We use it to evacuate injured and sick persons, and to search large areas rapidly. It has proven, over the years to be invaluable to us. Because it is such a valuable tool, RMRU realizes it's responsibility to use it prudently and only to its best advantage. An opportunity to use the helicopter in such a prudent manner came about one Saturday when the Banning Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, received a request for help from a Scoutmaster who had a Boy Scout suffering from heat exhaustion at Tahquitz Meadow and earlier that day the forestry was made aware of an ill hiker at Caramba. The rescue team arrived at Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild and upon setting up base camp it was decided that either circumstance could facilitate the use of a helicopter. The helicopter was summoned by the Sheriff's Department and with Walt Walker and myself aboard with Don Landells flew in to Tahquitz Valley to evacuate the young Boy Scout and fly him down to a waiting ambulance, at Camp Maranatha. We then returned to the high country to locate and recover the ill hiker. The ill hiker turned out to be suffering from an inner ear infection and would not have been able to hike out on his own due to a loss of equilibrium. We quickly helped the hiker into the waiting chopper and

then flew back to Idyllwild. The opportunity to consolidate two rescues comes rarely but when it does it cuts our major operating expenses drastically. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

**RESCUED** - RMRU member Hal Fulkman carries Boy Scout John Sutton, of Hemet who had suffered heat exhaustion, away from the rescue helicopter

## From the Editor's desk—

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I announce that RMRU now has two rescue vans in use for search and rescue operations. As you may recall back in June of 1977 RMRU purchased a new Ford Van from our friends at Warren Anderson. Immediately the van committee comprised of Walt Walker, Al Andrews and Rick Pohlers began planning a floor plan for the new van, which would receive the title of No. 2 van. Soon after, under the direction of Rick Pohlers, work began on the cabinets and shelves. Once that was completed Al Andrews took over on the electrical wiring and radio installation. By the end of July all the gear was moved out of the old van (No. 1) into the No. 2 van.

For a little over a year and a half the No. 1 van was kept in storage at Rick Pohlers house. After that period of time the van committee reorganized adding myself to the group. The plan called for removing all the cabinets out of the No. 1 van and starting over. We would make the No. 1 van an operations center with room to carry enough gear for a "quick attack" team to get into the field sooner. Rick and I started working on the new cabinets, but the work progressed very slowly, as I had to drive 60 miles one way and Rick was starting his own business

which took most of his spare time. But progress we did. By May of this year the van was ready for Al and Walt to start on the electrical and radio installation. With a planned MRA joint search (No. 8026M) coming up in June, we were slightly pressed to complete the No. 1 van in time. But with a little burning of the old midnight oil, mainly on Al's part, the van was ready. So, after three years, an old friend was put back into service.

If you would like to see our two vans, which we are quite proud of, and made possible by your support in donations, please plan to attend the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 17th at the Town Hall in Idyllwild. I know you would have an enjoyable time at the breakfast, and we would like to talk to you. Once again, thank you for supporting RMRU.

## \$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY WALT WALKER

As promised in the May issue, we are now recognizing the people and organizations that contributed during the month of May. However, there is one problem that has not

been solved yet. We are still working on passing the information of **new** or **renewing** Sustaining Members to the newsletter staff. I sincerely believe we will have it solved shortly.

That was the bad news — the good news is — that the Sustaining Members have been as active as the regular members. Through the end of June, RMRU has been called 33 times. That is only five less than the total calls for help in 1979 of 38!

Once again we want to thank all those people who believe in RMRU —

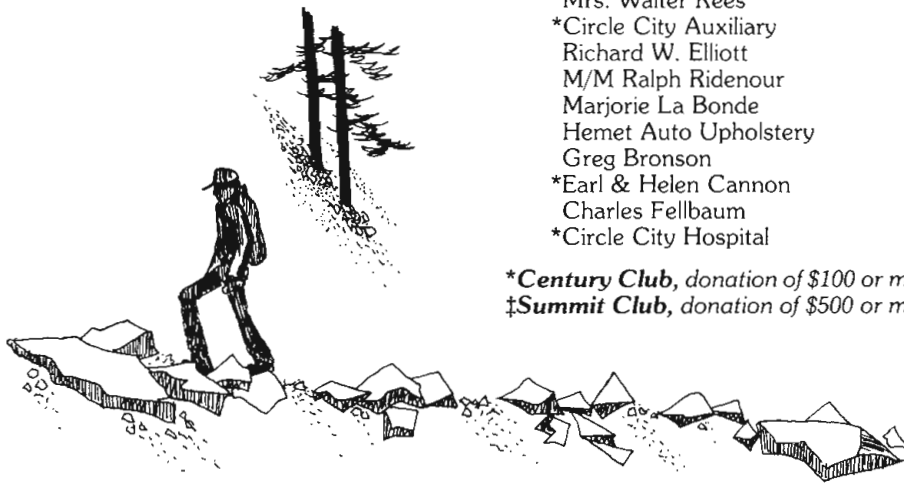
### May

Farold Westwood  
\*Circle City Auxiliary  
Jane & John Wiefels  
\*Circle City Hospital  
†Ernie & Shirley Edwards  
Kathy Kiliadko  
\*M/M Kenneth Andrews  
M/M B. E. Graham  
Idyllwild Animal Clinic  
Mrs. W. A. Schweiss  
Canyon Lake Lioness Club  
Harry & Olga Hein  
Jurupa Unified School District

### June

Jane & John Wiefels  
\*Tom Aldrich  
\*John & Edna Gilbert  
\*A. Norton Younglove  
Charles Johnson  
Mrs. Walter Rees  
\*Circle City Auxiliary  
Richard W. Elliott  
M/M Ralph Ridenour  
Marjorie La Bonde  
Hemet Auto Upholstery  
Greg Bronson  
\*Earl & Helen Cannon  
Charles Fellbaum  
\*Circle City Hospital

\***Century Club**, donation of \$100 or more.  
†**Summit Club**, donation of \$500 or more.



## Notice!

The **RMRU Newsletter** is published 12 times per year by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc. It is intended primarily to inform the Regular and Sustaining Members.

If you would like to receive the newsletter on a regular basis, and at the same time become a Sustaining Member, send your tax deductible donation of \$25 or more to:

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit  
Post Office Box 5444  
Riverside, California 92517

## SPECIAL EDITION OF:

from  
**Old'en Days**

by Kevin Walker

Ten years ago—

June 25, 1970 to be exact. An eleven year old boy and his best friend had just been picked up from summer school by his mother. She said that there was a rescue mission in progress and that the helicopter would be landing soon at the hospital in Hemet. Both boys were very excited about seeing the helicopter land in the parking lot at the Hospital. The one boy was myself and the other my best friend and now also a member of the team, Brian Hixson. We watched from across the street as the police cleared the parking lot for the chopper, but at about 12:30 pm the parking lot blockade was removed and cars started pulling back into the lot. My mother walked across the street and asked an officer why they were letting cars back in. When the policeman told the curious citizen that the helicopter had crashed, he did not know that she was the wife of the man who had been involved in the crash. As my mom drove home to wait for news of what had happened, I had no idea of what had really occurred. Below is an excerpt from the newsletter 10 years ago.

Reed ran up the engine, checked the mags and instruments and lifted off. We rose up and started forward, north, out of the meadow. The trees in that direction are all shorter and we cleared the first ones by about 20 feet. As we headed forward there loomed two trees much taller than the others and we were no longer gaining altitude. I thought to myself that we could probably bust through the tops and then we would be in the open.



REPRINT FROM JULY 1970

A WOUNDED "BIRD" stuck in the trees.

That thought, then became immaterial, as we began to settle down toward the thick stand of Lodgepole pines. The helicopter was slightly nose high when a tremendous vibration went through the ship. All I could think of was 'fire.' Although I had on a seat belt and a single shoulder harness I could feel myself twisting forward. The next feeling I had was that of hanging somewhat upside down. All I could still think of was 'fire,' and this became stronger as I could smell gasoline. I was vainly reaching for the main switches when Reed shut them off. Now I began to take stock of the situation. I didn't hurt anywhere and asked Reed if he was all right. He said that he was o.k. As I looked around I could see that we were up in the trees, in fact a rather large limb was protruding into the cabin from the front where the bubble was split open. The bird had come to a stop just slightly upside down.

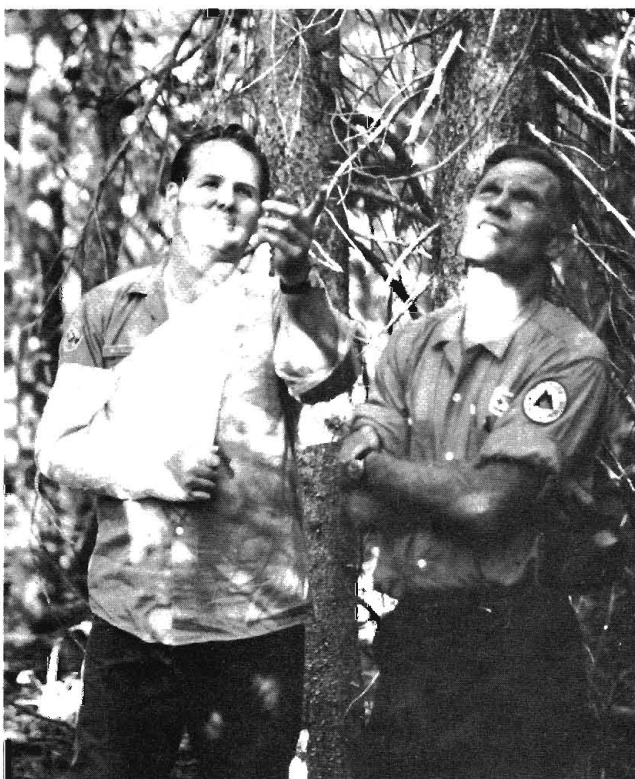
As I began to move I could feel blood run-

ning down my back. The thought then came to mind, will I be too weak to get the pilot and myself out of the bird. I leaned down and asked Reed if the blood was spurting or running fast. He said that it was just barely running. After bracing myself I released the seat belt and climbed up and looked out the open door. It looked like it would be better to try and go down through the pilot's door except that there weren't any trees close enough to get a hold of. About this time the Scouts and the Assistant Scoutmaster showed up. I yelled down to them that I needed the pack so that we could get down. As I moved about I touched the edge of the shattered bubble and quickly cut a thumb. Have to remember that, I thought, and keep the rope away from the sharp edges.

Walt was indeed able to lower the pilot and then himself down to safety. The team was quickly activated and within a few hours the entire team

had responded. Even Norm Mellor, the team doctor responded and hiked in to meet the group as they slowly moved down the Marion Mountain trail. Both Reed and Walt were lucky to be alive. In the weeks to follow an investigation by the FAA showed that a pillow block bearing leading to the tail rotor had completely seized up causing a loss of RPM in the engine. The apparent cause of the bearing seizing was that when the chopper prepared to lift off, the tail rotor picked up a small piece of orange poncho, (seen by the Scouts) in doing so it bent the tail shaft, this caused the bearing to overheat and seize.

On June 25th of this year Walt, Don Landells and myself went up to Little Round Valley and visited the crash site. After a little searching we found the tree stumps that had supported the helicopter 25 feet in the air. And the three large chop marks that the main rotor made in one large tree could still be seen. I will long remember that day ten years ago when



REPRINT FROM JULY 1970

Walt describes to fellow team member Art Bridge how he got out of the crashed bird



someone I care a great deal about nearly lost his life while working to help someone else. Mainly, for that reason I wanted and waited for the day that I could become the teams first second generation member, to be a part of something very good, to share that feeling with a man that I respect and love. • RMRU