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APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

50TH ANNIVERSARY

1921 - 1971

51st Annual Report

October 30, 1971

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## CHAPTER CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since our Annual Meeting last November, 1970, the Council of the A. M. C., in Boston, voted to pass an amendment to the By-laws of the club which particularly affects the eight chapters of the club. In essence this change permits every club member, whether able to get to the Boston meetings or not, to vote on any major issue affecting the club's laws and by-laws. For two years officers of the chapters and club itself have worked to make this more democratic move a reality. So now it's up to us to make our wishes known and to cast this vote wisely.

For this change imposes an obligation on us. We will need to become more knowledgeable in club affairs; more aware of the changes and needs of club work; and, hopefully, more involved ourselves in chapter and club activities. How else can we vote wisely on issues affecting so many thousands of A. M. C.'ers . . . and even more thousands of the public?

Fifty years have passed since the Merrimack Valley (now New Hampshire) Chapter became a full-fledged chapter of the A. M. C. Now we are close to being the second largest of them all, with only New York (with over 2300 members) and Connecticut (with about 1300) larger in membership, and only Maine larger in area. Within our chapter bounds lie the heart and soul of most general club activities, in our White Mountains, where we can participate and enjoy them with a minimum of preliminary travel. How lucky we are!

This year has seen the addition of an important segment of club executive staff to the Pinkham Notch Camp, as well as the transferral of the Trail Crew headquarters to its new building there. This means not only closer attention to hut, camp and trail matters is possible, but a vast expansion of participation by the club in matters of public interest has been opened up. The staff, under Tom Deans, has earnestly urged our chapter to utilize these expanded facilities, and indicated that they, in turn, need our help, both as a chapter and as many talented individuals, to strengthen this work with the public.

As you browse through the following reports of officers for the past year, you will see that we've been busy. A few chapter members, perhaps fifty, all told, have been involved one way or another with making this an active, interesting chapter for us all. With over 1100 members in our chapter (as of summer!) many, many more are needed to make this a well-rounded relationship. Your opinions of club matters are needed: your thoughts on conservation issues, your wishes as to types of activities you enjoy, your skills to acquire for those activities. Your participation is urgently needed: your presence at meetings, on chapter trips, on committees, and ultimately as a leader. The officers listed by the Nominating Committee as this coming year's panel, will welcome your word in any of these capacities.

One special word of thanks: our Secretary, though new to the job, has done a terrific task for us by changing over our mailing system to the Addressograph plates; with an accurate card-filing listing of members in triplicate (one each for the Secretary, the Membership Chairman and the Chapter Chairman). This represents long tedious hours, many trips to the printers for corrections, and even forfeiting a few climbs for him, but chapter growth made the change imperative, and he has done it. Many thanks, Joe!

Much hard work has been done this past year by your officers and their committees. We have done well in trip activities, membership growth, in public service and as represented at club affairs. My sincere thanks to every one of you for serving so well during this fiftieth year!

Dorothy G. Burak, Chairman

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year Oct. 20, 1970 - Sept. 10, 1971

October 20, 1970, Balance on hand \$ 2,442.41

### Receipts

N. H. Savings Bank Dividends	\$ 79.16	
Dinner Meeting Reservations	2,124.00	
Sale of "21-71" Insignia	158.00	
Membership Quota - AMC	1,992.00	
Miscellaneous (gift)	10.00	
	<hr/>	4,363.16
		<hr/>
		\$ 6,805.57

### Expenditures

Dinner Meeting Reservations	\$ 2,229.35	
Secretarial Service	680.49	
Use of AMC Postal Permit	91.72	
Meeting Expenses (speakers fees, etc.)	62.37	
Officer and Committee Chairman Expenses (Postage, telephone, transportation)	384.74	
Contributions (Mt. Wash. Obs., Society for Protection of N. H. Forests, etc.)	586.78	
Miscellaneous (registers, canoe films, etc.)	45.41	
Petty cash (postage)	1.25	
Bank of N. H. Service charge	9.90	
	<hr/>	4,392.21
Sept. 10, 1971, Balance on Hand:		
Bank of N. H.	\$ 86.16	
N. H. Savings Bank	2,290.90	
Petty Cash	36.30	
	<hr/>	2,413.36
		<hr/>
		\$ 6,805.57

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara B. Buttrick, Treasurer

### AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of Barbara B. Buttrick, Treasurer of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club for the period from October 20, 1970 to September 10, 1971, and found the record of receipts and expenditures set forth above to be correct. All items of income have been identified and traced to the bank account, while expenditures have been verified and checked against vouchers, a few of which were found to be missing. The closing check book balance has been reconciled to the bank statement and the closing savings account balance has been verified by examination of the passbook. Petty cash was not counted.

Robert J. Hill, Auditor

Concord, New Hampshire  
September 17, 1971

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In February the New Hampshire Chapter passed the thousand member mark. Having reported 47 members at the time of our second annual report in 1922 it took us 6 years to double to 104 members, 35 years (1957), to reach 200, another four to reach 300, and two more years to reach 400 in 1963. In 1964 we had 489 members, 555 in 1965, 656 in 1966, 701 in 1967, 769 in 1968, 845 in 1969, 977 in 1970 and now as of September 21, 1971, we have 1055 with 85 applicants in process. We are now the third largest chapter, with only New York and Connecticut having more members.

The official figures for November 1, 1970 are:

Total members	977
Regular members	750
Life members	80
Paid members	16
Junior members	118
Corresponding members	3
Honorary members	2

In November the Chapter received 7 new members. December saw the addition of 11. 13 joined in January and 20 in February. 8 became members in March, 10 in April and 21 in May. 12 were added in June, 38 are listed as applicants in the August-Sept. bulletin, 12 are to be processed in October, and 35 in November. This makes a total of 152 new members in 1970-71. 49 members were affiliated with our Chapter during the year while 38 moved away to other areas, and 35 failed to renew.

At this anniversary it is interesting to note that we have one Charter member of our Chapter, Miss Margaret Whipple, who joined in 1913. We have also two members who joined prior to 1921 but lived outside the boundaries of the Chapter as it was then set up (but within the current boundaries). In addition we have 15 members who were Appies when this Chapter was founded who have since moved into New Hampshire. One of these joined in 1904, one in 1914, one in 1917 and one in 1919. The other eleven joined in 1920 and 1921, our first year as a chapter.

Many of you would like to know how applications are handled. The first step is for the potential member to locate two sponsors. There are several ways to go about this — being a guest on various club activities, locating friends who belong to the club through the membership register (which lists members all over the country as of September 1, 1968 and costs \$1.00 at 5 Joy St.), being invited to join by friends, or through the help of your Membership Chairman. The completed application and the two sponsor's letters may be sent either to 5 Joy St. or to the Membership Chairman. Either way they are routed to the Chapter for approval and then are published in the BULLETIN. The club Membership Committee (attended by your chairman) then acts on them and finally the Council considers them. The new member is then billed and the Chapter officially notified. The Chapter receives \$2.50 for each regular member on the membership list as of November 1 each year, plus \$1.00 for each junior member (so if you leave the Chapter do wait until November 2nd — or better yet, request continued membership in the Chapter wherever you may be living.)

Finally, I again want to express my gratitude to the Chapter for electing me the Membership Chairman. It is a thoroughly enjoyable task.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice Johnson, Membership Chairman

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As Program Chairman, the position I accepted was at the outset formidable and challenging, but certainly not insurmountable. A short meeting with the Chapter Chairman after the November 1970 Annual Meeting established some guidelines for programs.

A subsequent meeting of the Chapter Executive Board set definite dates and tentative areas for meetings. We planned meetings for various geographical areas of the State to accommodate more members. Various outdoor activities were scheduled in conjunction with the meetings.

We had highly successful, well-attended meetings in February at Pinkham Notch Camp, Gorham; in March at The Riverside Inn, Peterborough; in April at New Hampton School, New Hampton; and in May at Loon Mountain, Lincoln.

As of this writing, the Chapter Mountaineering Committee is hoping for a successful turnout for their Cardigan Climbing Seminar at Cardigan Reservation on September 25.

An entertaining program is planned for celebration of our Chapter's 50th Anniversary at the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 30, 1971 at Tilton School.

I hope that this brief resume of past ventures has rekindled an interest in Chapter activities by the membership. I must express sincere thanks to all who helped in any way to make the past season so successful. Program and activity ideas and suggestions from members are most welcome to keep our programs interesting and entertaining.

In closing, let us not look back on old glories, but rather look forward together to a new, challenging and richly rewarding season for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles P. Woras, Program Chairman

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## EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

This year, 23 New Hampshire Chapter leaders volunteered their time and some expense to lead 63 **Bulletin** trips, drawing participants from all over New England. I made quite an effort to see that as many different types of trips were offered as possible and I am deeply indebted to all those who took time to help the Chapter to lead them.

As with last year the most popular months for group hiking were January and February and the more rugged the trip the more popular it was. The least popular months were July and August, with many good trips cancelled due to lack of interest.

This year was our first full year offering "bootleg" trips and our list of leaders grew to eight. Although I do not consider the program a rousing success, a few calls were received by many of the leaders indicating that the need is there.

The Excursions Committee in cooperation with the Mountaineering Committee offered two trips to give experience in special skills — basic winter camping for the beginner and intermediate snow climbing. The Excursions Committee also cooperated with the Trails Committee and offered a Mt. Lafayette Litter Pick-up.

I wish to thank to the fullest extent possible all the members of our Chapter that helped me with the excursions program during the past two years. Had it not been for them there would have been no program.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia R. Willard, Excursions Chairman

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## MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

This year our attempts at winter training trips were well watered down — every one rained out. Our summer activities were a little more successful.

Your Mountaineering Committee was represented at two important meetings this year, both at Pinkham Notch Camp. The Winter Trails meeting concerned the improvement of trails for winter climbers. Safety and preservation of the environment were the prime considerations for any future trail improvement. The Harvard Cabin meeting initiated improvements to the cabin and proposed new camping accommodations in Huntington Ravine for U. S. F. S. consideration.

In June the Mountaineering Committee conducted a course in basic rock climbing for N. H. State Parks, N. H. Fish and Game and U. S. Forest Service personnel. Their enthusiasm indicates that this may become a continuing program.

New Hampshire Chapter candidates to the 1971 A. M. C. Leadership Workshop were David Emerson, Canterbury, N. H. and Philip Woras, Nashua, N. H. There was no Winter Leadership Workshop this past winter. Plans are being made to hold a Winter Leadership Workshop in December 1971 at St. Mary's In The Mountains, co-sponsored by the A. M. C. - A. D. K.

The Cardigan Climbing Seminar in September was the most notable event for us this year. Eight persons, knowledgeable in mountaineering, shared their experiences through informal trailside discussion and demonstrations while conducting a trip for thirty-six participants. This activity was very well received and we have been requested to provide more of this type of program.

The Chapter meeting in September was held at Cardigan with the Climbing Seminar and the Mountaineering Committee providing the evening program. The film *By Nature's Rules* was presented and the guest speaker was Garth Quillia, A. M. C. Ridgerunner, who related his experiences this summer and emphasized the need for each of us to assume our responsibility for preservation of the wilderness we all enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brodien, Mountaineering Chairman  
Nate Adams, Concord  
Dan Allen, Durham  
Roger H. Damon, Jr., St. Johnsbury, Vt.  
Paul Massie, Winooski, Vt.  
Dr. Harry McDade, Littleton  
William S. Nichols, Littleton  
Dana P. Rowley, Nashua  
Berton C. Willard, N. Billerica, Mass.  
Mountaineering Committee

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## TRAILS COMMITTEE

I would like to say at the outset of my Trail Report that space limitations do not allow me to individually name and thank all the people who helped me with my job during the past year, but I and they know who they are, and I hope the Club can somehow appreciate their efforts as sincerely as I do.

Last fall weekend caretakers were furnished at Liberty Spring up until mid-October. This will be repeated this year along with two other locations: Garfield Shelter, new with platforms but relocated almost a mile on the opposite side of Mt. Garfield from the old site; and Guyot, with the old shelter and new platforms. Next year there will also be a caretaker in charge at Ethan Pond Shelter.

The Lonesome Lake trail had to be relocated because of **overuse**. The same is under consideration for the Old Bridle Path up Mt. Lafayette; the work has not yet been started although the re-route has been established.

There have, in general, been fewer complaints about litter, but still they come — i.e., the Webster Cliff Trail last fall. Carry out what you carry in!

In April I attended the New England Trail Conference in Northampton, Massachusetts. I was in the company of some 300 people with mutual concerns and trail interests — it was a fine experience, and I thank the Chapter for providing me with the opportunity!

A meeting of several experienced winter mountaineers was called in May by Tom Deans with the purpose of discussing the idea of special cutting and trail-blazing of A. M. C. trails for **winter** hikers. It was the general opinion that this would not be advisable to do for several reasons.

In closing, an appeal — we need more volunteers to either be on or assist the Trail Committee. Your support and help would be appreciated — please let me hear from you!

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nichols, Trails Chairman

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**LAST YEAR'S MINUTES**  
**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB**  
**New Hampshire Chapter**

Minutes of the 50th Annual Meeting, November 7, 1970.

The 50th Annual Meeting was held at Tilton School, Tilton, New Hampshire, on Saturday, November 7, 1970. About 80 members and guests enjoyed a social hour at the library and a most excellent roast beef dinner at the dining hall.

Mr. Terrence Frost, chairman, opened the meeting at 8:15 p.m. He called upon the following outgoing Chapter officers for remarks.

1. Florence Harris, treasurer, reported that the Chapter now has about \$1,900.
2. Gale Burak said that by writing Sylvia Willard, 24 Savoy Street, Billerica, Massachusetts, members could receive her conservation bulletin.
3. Reverend Carleton Schaller said members should become involved in conservation problems and that we need political leaders who are genuinely interested and active in this field.
4. Bill Nichols told about the new set up at Liberty Springs. The new tent platforms are working out satisfactorily. In spite of signs and other advertising, hikers are still arriving at the site thinking that the shelter is still there.

Mr. Frost read the following slate of officers for 1970-71 submitted by the nominating committee. They are:

Chairman: Mrs. Dorothy G. Burak, Lincoln  
Secretary: Edward J. Creager, Jr., Reeds Ferry  
Treasurer: Mrs. Barbara Buttrick, Hopkinton  
Membership: Miss Bernice Johnson, Manchester  
Mountaineering: Dan Brodien, St. Johnsbury, Vermont  
Conservation: Glenn Stewart, Durham  
Excursions: Mrs. Sylvia Willard, Billerica, Mass.  
Program: Charles P. Woras, Nashua  
Publicity: Mrs. Linnea Staples, Candia  
Trails: William Nichols, Littleton  
Canoeing: Frederick T. Comstock, Concord  
Nominating: Terrence P. Frost, Concord

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. Lawrence, Chairman  
Ursula Sanders  
Ray Chaput  
Stephanie Pearson

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There were no other nominations from the floor and it was voted to accept the above slate of officers.

Mr. Frost then turned the meeting over to the new chairman, Mrs. Gale Burak. Mrs. Burak asked for a moment of silence for four members who died this past year. She then introduced the following guests:

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest P. Mellor, Narragansett Chapter  
Dr. Robert E. Wagner, Worcester Chapter  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Parker, Director of Development, Boston  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Buffum, Vice President A. M. C.  
Frank Allan, Portland Chapter  
Mr. Gardner Moulton, President A. M. C.  
Miss Margaret Whipple, Charter Member of the Chapter, 1921.

The chairman then called on Mr. Gardner Moulton, President. He told about discussions with the White Mountain National Forest personnel about future use of the forest. A. M. C. will become more active in educating people in the use of the back country. Mr. Moulton said Beals Island (Maine) is a most excellent place for members to visit. Also, that the 1972 Appalachian Trail conference will be at Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Mr. Kenneth Parker reported on the current fund drive.

Timothy Buffum told about his job working with the Chapters. Reported briefly on Cold River meeting, the preparation of a brochure for new members and non-members and methods of handling by-law changes and balloting.

Charles Woras, new program chairman, introduced the feature speaker, Bruce P. Sloat, manager, A. M. C. Hut System. Mr. Sloat told the group about the present day problems in operating the A. M. C. Huts. Considerable discussion was about trash, the increasing number of people and their behavior. His talk was most interesting and enlightening.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard V. Ashton, Outgoing Secretary

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## NOMINATIONS FOR 1972

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for 1972, to be considered at the Annual Meeting on October 30, 1971. All candidates with the exception of Mrs. Katherine W. Brown, Excursions; Warren D. Hastings, Publicity; and Miss Rhoda M. Peck, Conservation are incumbent of office.

Chairman: Mrs. Dorothy (Gale) Burak, Lincoln  
Secretary: Edward (Joe) Creager, Merrimack  
Treasurer: Mrs. Barbara Buttrick, Concord  
Membership: Miss Bernice Johnson, Manchester  
Program: Charles P. Woras, Nashua  
Conservation: Miss Rhoda M. Peck, Durham  
Publicity: Warren D. Hastings, Concord  
Excursions: Mrs. Katherine W. Brown, Concord  
Mountaineering: Dan Brodien, St. Johnsbury, Vt.  
Trails: William S. Nichols, Littleton  
Canoeing: Frederick T. Comstock, Jr., Concord

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence F. Frost, Chairman  
Theodore Brayton  
Stephanie Pearson  
Virginia Walsh

1971 Nominating Committee

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Appalachian Mountain Club  
New Hampshire Chapter History Notes  
1921 - 1971

prepared by Joe Creager, October 30, 1971

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"It was unanimously voted that we become a Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club under Article 12 of the Standing Rules of the Council.

"Moved that the name of this Chapter be the Merrimack Valley Chapter in New Hampshire.

"Moved that the membership vote to accept the terms and conditions of connection with the Parent Organization.

"so voted unanimously."

That's how the A. M. C. began in New Hampshire. These words are taken from the minutes of the organizational meeting held at 7:45 P.M. on Tuesday, May 24, 1921. That meeting was called to order by Frank S. Mason of Boston and the first order of business elected Frank E. Heald of Manchester, Temporary Chairman. Frank Heald then conducted the remainder of the organizational meeting, which dealt with the mechanics of organizing the new Chapter.

In addition to the organizing motion above, the new Chapter members also voted to hold the annual meeting on the first Tuesday of December. Other business meetings could be called by the Chapter Chairman upon one week's notice and provisions were included whereby executive meetings could be called when certain other conditions were met.

The final item of business involved the election of Merrimack Valley Chapter (M. V. C.) officers who would serve until the first annual meeting in December. The first Chapter officers included the following members:

Chairman: John R. McLane, Manchester  
Secretary: Miss Mabel E. French, Manchester  
Treasurer: Louis P. Elkins, Concord  
Walks and Excursions: John C. Chase, Derry  
Membership: Frank E. Heald, Manchester  
Trails and Camps: Robert L. Manning, Manchester  
Entertainment: Miss Agnes Hunt, Manchester

Three weeks later on Tuesday, June 14, 1921, the Appalachian Mountain Club Council met in Boston. Among the various items of business considered at that meeting, the Council voted:

"To extend the consent of the Council to the organization of the Merrimack Valley Chapter of N. H. of the A. M. C., and to approve the rules adopted by said Chapter for its government and to note upon the records that the following are the officers of said Chapter . . ."

The Council vote completed the mechanics of organization and the Merrimack Valley Chapter of N. H. of the A. M. C. was a reality. The dreams of many club members were at last realized.

The early years of the Chapter saw frequent and regular officer meetings. Owing to the close proximity of the members to one another, getting together for a meeting was a relatively simple affair. The location for the meetings was not always so simple, however. The usual meeting places included the N. H. Savings Bank, officer's homes, and various downtown offices. However, the record also shows officer meetings being held in the Dartmouth Outing Club cabin on Moosilauke, the Eagle Hotel, and the summit of Oak Hill to name just a few. But irrespective of the meeting location, Chapter business was conducted and the M. V. C. grew.

A major item of business at the officer meetings was Chapter excursion planning. All Chapter officers participated and this planning method continued until the major Chapter reorganization in the mid-1950's.

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The first annual meeting of the M. V. C. was held on Tuesday, December 6, 1921 at 8:00 P.M. in Frank French's Studio, 83 Hanover Street, Manchester. Robert Manning served as temporary chairman in the absence of John McLane. The first items of business were the reading of various officer reports, followed by the nomination and election of the new executive committee. The thirteen members and three applicants present then conducted an informal discussion relative to future Chapter activities. The meeting adjourned and entertainment was provided in the form of an address by John H. Foster, N. H. State Forester. The address was followed by refreshments and a social hour, thus bringing the evening to a close.

Chapter government for the first fourteen years provided for the election of a Chapter executive committee at the annual meeting. The executive committee then elected the Chapter officers at their first meeting held a few weeks later. This procedure continued until November of 1934 at which time the Chapter membership voted to change the election procedure to the method presently used. Namely, the nominating committee presents a slate of candidates, additional nominations are accepted from the floor, and the membership then votes for the Chapter officers directly. This election is part of the business meeting at the annual meeting.

Chapter government in general has undergone many changes over the past fifty years. A detailed, chronological listing of changes in the Standing Rules of Council, Chapter Constitution, and By-laws over the years, while interesting, would consume far greater space than we have available. However, a number of these changes have had a profound impact on the M. V. C. and are worthy of special mention.

The original rules governing the Chapter were defined at the organizational meeting. These were rules voted by Council and meant to provide general guidelines for all Chapters. While adequate for the purpose of running a Chapter, they lacked the individuality needed to deal with unique situations and people within the Chapters. The need for separate rules was recognized early and at the second annual meeting the members voted to draft a series of rules for Chapter government and to submit these rules to Boston. These rules were subsequently acted upon by Council and at the fourth annual meeting on December 10, 1924, the members voted to accept the new Chapter Constitution and By-laws.

The new Constitution and By-laws were hardly voted into existence before the rumbles for revision could be heard. By the executive meeting on June 30, 1928 the rumbles had reached the action stage and it was decided to prepare a revision to the By-laws at the annual meeting. This revision concerned enlarging the boundaries of the M. V. C. to include all A. M. C. members living in New Hampshire. The proposed revision was not presented at the annual meeting, however, and very little was heard concerning Chapter enlargement until 1933.

On June 10-11, 1933, an A. M. C. Committee on Chapters meeting was held at Ponkapaog Camp. The conclusions reached at this meeting along with the subsequent action by Council had a very profound affect on the M. V. C. as well as the other Chapters in the Club. Four major points were debated and policy statements were drawn up. These points involved Chapter boundaries, applicants, membership and government.

The Chapter boundaries point introduced the concept of a central zone and optional zone. Prior to this meeting, the boundaries of the M. V. C. were defined as the Merrimack Valley — about as definitive as an early New England Land Grant. The zone concept, however, divided the M. V. C. into two zones. The central zone was defined as the Merrimack Valley of N. H. from the Mass.-N. H. border on the south to Franklin, N. H. on the north. The optional zone covered the balance of the State.

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Applicants for club membership were assigned to a Chapter on the basis of the defined boundaries. If an applicant lived in the central zone of a Chapter, he was automatically assigned to that Chapter upon election to membership. If, however, the applicant lived in an optional zone between two central zones, he could choose his Chapter affiliation.

The point on membership actually dealt with the religion of proposed members. In previous years, the Club had exercised certain reservations with respect to Catholics. This fact was brought up and debated and as the meeting statement shows ". . . it was revealed that a member of the Catholic Church would be permitted to join providing his standing in the community warranted it, and he was generally accepted by both Chapter and Council."

The debate on government centered around the need for updating Club rules. This debate resulted in a vote to draw up new Standing Rules and to submit a program of local rules and suggestions to each Chapter.

Armed with these new policies and rules, the M. V. C. continued to expand and grow with only a minor change in 1940. At the executive meeting on July 11, 1940 a letter was read from the Club president. This letter stated to the effect that Rockingham County would no longer be considered part of the M. V. C. However, present M. V. C. members living in Rockingham County would be permitted to continue their affiliation if they so requested it. This resulted in the M. V. C. central zone now consisting of Merrimack and Hillsboro Counties only.

Following this change the M. V. C. continued on its merry way until another boundary change was voted into the By-laws at the annual meeting on November 6, 1954. This change stated that any A. M. C. member living in Merrimack, Hillsborough, Belknap or Sullivan Counties in New Hampshire would be considered a member of the M. V. C. unless they notified the recording secretary to the contrary. Also, A. M. C. members living in New Hampshire, but outside these four counties, could become M. V. C. members by notifying the recording secretary of their desire.

Life once again settled down in the M. V. C., but this time not for long. A crisis arose in 1956 which nearly dissolved the A. M. C. in New Hampshire. The first outward sign of a problem came in September 1956 when the nominating committee realized they could find no one to accept the nomination for Chapter chairman. Boston was consulted and the possibility of dissolving the M. V. C. was considered. After some discussion however, it was decided that the M. V. C. was needed and that every effort should be made to save the Chapter. Club officials suggested that another search for a chairman be made and that the Chapter should curtail its program as necessary.

The renewed search for a chairman was rewarded when Florence W. Harris agreed to serve. She subsequently served two terms as chairman and then went on to other Chapter activities including five years as treasurer, which she completed in 1970.

A new lease on life for the M. V. C. came in 1956 with a major revision to the Chapter organization. At the annual meeting on November 3, 1956 the Chapter By-laws were revised to reflect pretty much the By-laws as we know them today. The name of the Chapter was changed to "New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club" and the Chapter boundaries were at last extended to include A. M. C. members living anywhere in New Hampshire without qualification. This By-laws revision also defined the Chapter objectives to be:

"... to encourage greater interest of members in the State of New Hampshire in the Club and its objectives; to cultivate interest in geographical studies; and to encourage explorations in New Hampshire."

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Following the major reorganization in 1956, the Chapter experienced its greatest growth in both membership and activities. This growth continues even today and shows signs of even more rapid expansion in the future.

Annual meetings, By-law revisions and Chapter government were not the major preoccupation of the membership. Excursions and outings led the list. Four weekend outings were held the first year and the number has been increasing yearly ever since.

The first trip held by the M. V. C. was a Memorial Day Weekend outing to New Boston, N. H. on May 28-30, 1921. The following trip report tells the story best.

"The initial outing and hiking trip of the Merrimack Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was taken to New Boston, N. H., May 28th to 30th, 1921. Headquarters were made at "The Tavern".

"The party included Misses French, Burgess, and Currier of Manchester and Hill of Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Gilman of Tilton, and Mr. and Mrs. Edmands, Miss Bourne and Messrs. Burdett, Hardwick and Norton of Boston, also several guests from Manchester on Memorial Day.

"Sunday, the 29th, most of the party climbed Joe English Hill from which were had some very fine views. A strenuous descent on the steep south slope to the meadow below was rewarded by an appetizing lunch eaten beside the brook. Monday forenoon short walks were taken. In the afternoon a soldiers' memorial was unveiled and dedicated, the address being by Rev. Mr. Palisoul of Manchester. The party then departed for home motoring as far as Goffstown and Manchester."

Trips during the early years of the Chapter centered around the southern half of N. H. Members went north to the White Mountains, but these were usually Club trips rather than Chapter trips. Since transportation was more of a problem in the 1920's than it is today, the early Chapter trips were necessarily weekend affairs. The members depended on trains and trolley cars to get to the trail head. When someone used an automobile, this fact is mentioned in the trip report.

As time went on, the automobile became more commonplace and as a result, more day-trips started showing up in the schedule. However, the weekend trips continued with the members still staying at inns, farms, and hotels. It was not until the mid to late 1940's that the backpack trip started showing up in abundance on the schedule.

Although the Chapter members often stayed in hotels and inns on weekend trips, these places should not be confused with the comfortable motels of today. An excerpt taken from the trip report of a weekend excursion to Waterville Valley on October 11-13, 1929 clarifies this point.

"... Arriving Friday evening, 10 of the party at once took possession of the cottage assigned them, and the leader commenced his hourly duty of keeping the fires going. Heated flat irons made the night endurable."

How times have changed. That particular leader was O. M. Pratt, who was quite active in the Chapter over the years.

When reading the reports from early Chapter trips, one quickly finds the same geographic locations showing up. Places like Kearsarge, Ragged, Cardigan, Belknap, Red Hill, Moosilauke, Corbin's Park, "The Tavern", Joe-English, Electric Woods, The Cobb House, Mink Hills, Mt. Jerry Observation Tower, The Pinnacle, Elliott's Hotel, and Owl Brook Farm are only a few. Many of these places are gone today, but they surely remain as wonderful memories for those who were a part of these trips.

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The trip reports also show that the early Chapter trampers were no different than the hikers of today. They were thrilled by the view from an open summit, but often enough they got clouds, fog, and a good soaking for their efforts. Many Chapter trips were in winter where deep snow or no snow took its toll. Interesting rock formations, birds, and trees also receive frequent mention in the trip reports.

Not all Chapter excursions were hiking trips. On June 29, 1930, the M. V. C. entered the canoe business with a day trip on the Contoocook and Blackwater Rivers. A report of the trip indicates that:

"Twelve people were included in this party — an all day canoe trip, a new venture for our Chapter. Ten people paddled by canoe from Contoocook River Park to the Blackwater River, a stream of exceptional beauty and followed this for some distance, in due time reaching the appointed picnic place and meeting two other members of the party. A cold spring and a place to make a fire make this an ideal spot for camping. The party returned home in the late afternoon, having accomplished 15 miles of paddling.

Jeanette S. Crowell, Leader"

Not all M. V. C. outings were just "fun and games" in the woods. There was plenty of trail and camp work and the Chapter members rose to the challenge. Trails in the 1920's were as much a concern of the A. M. C. as they are today in the 1970's. However, the specific items of concern in the early days were a little different than they are today.

The main problem in the 1920's was how to get people out of the cities and villages and into the hills where they could appreciate the woodland charms. It was felt that more people would venture into the woods if the trails were better defined and marked and were equipped with places of rest and safety.

Efforts were underway in the early 1920's to secure established trails from Long Island Sound to the major points of natural beauty in New Hampshire. The New England Trail Conference was working toward this end with help from the A. M. C., Green Mtn. Club, Dartmouth Outing Club, and various local outing and hiking clubs. The trend among hikers in these early days was to walk from distant cities into New Hampshire through woods and fields. However, the lack of adequate trail facilities often forced these hikers into trespassing, thus creating ill will on numerous occasions.

At an executive meeting held in Holderness, N. H. on May 3, 1924, the Chapter officers voted to cut a trail on the east side of Cardigan between Alexandria, N. H. and the summit. This trail was completed in 1925 and named the Manning Trail in memory of Robert L. and Charles B. Manning. These two Chapter members along with their brother Francis B. Manning were struck and killed by a train while hiking near Glencliff, N. H. on February 11, 1934. The Chapter continued to maintain this trail until it was taken over by another group in 1961.

The Manning Trail is only one of many trails in New Hampshire which the Chapter cut and/or maintained. Others included a Monadnock-Sunapee Trail, various trails in the Mink Hills, a North-South trail through N. H., and portions of the Appalachian Trail in N. H. to name just a few. The Chapter members also helped open up trails throughout N. H. following the very destructive hurricane in September, 1938.

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By the ninth annual meeting in 1929, a number of the members were talking about building a cabin near the summit of Cardigan. By the following year words had turned to action and the membership voted to contribute \$200.00 toward construction of this cabin. This money along with additional donations from individuals provided the funds needed and the cabin was completed in 1931. The cabin was located about 400 feet below the summit and had bunks for eight people.

The Chapter provided some funds and labor to help maintain the cabin. However, after about eight years the members realized that this was just too much of a burden for the Chapter. At the annual meeting on November 16, 1939 the membership voted to relinquish all rights and interests in the Cardigan Cabin and to turn over same to the Parent Club. Thus the M. V. C. left the real estate business.

One final point in the Chapter history, which must not be overlooked is public service. From the earliest days of its history, the Chapter has participated in non-A. M. C. activities. For many years the Chapter participated in the Manchester Winter Carnival. The Chapter worked with and donated funds to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in their successful drive to save Franconia Notch. This drive by the way was not the Interstate 93 affair. The 193 affair is another example of non-A. M. C. activity. Conservation camp scholarships, mountaineering seminars, conservation issues — these are just a very few of the many outside activities which interest the A. M. C.

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**CHAPTER OFFICERS**  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER OF THE A. M. C.**  
**(AND MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE A. M. C.)**

<b>Elected</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
May 24			
1921	Frank E. Heald (Temp.)		
May 24			
1921	John R. McLane	Miss Mable E. French	Louis P. Elkins
Dec. 6			
1921	Wilbert F. Gilman		
1922			
1923	Louis P. Elkins		Frank E. Heald
1924		Miss Victoria Burgess	
1925		Mrs. Margaret E. Carr	
1926	Wilbert F. Gilman		
1927	William C. Brunel	Miss Marjorie P. Rowell	
1928			
1929			
1930	Julius C. Sturm		
1931	Dr. John H. Worthen	Miss Edna C. Bean	
1932		Miss Evangeline Given	
1933	Julius C. Sturm	Mrs. E. Given Piper	
1934	Samuel P. Hunt		
1935	Clifton A. Smith		
1936	Julius C. Sturm		
1937	I. Reed Gourley	Miss Ruth M. Chase	
1938			Julius C. Sturm
1939	Walter T. Winch		
1940			
1941	Miss Avis Cross		
1942	Miss Elizabeth Crosby		
1943			
1944	Arnold Perreton		
1945			
1946	Ernest C. Goland		
1947			
1948	Osgoos E. Waite		
1949			
1950	Almon G. Harris	Mrs. Julius Sturm	
1951			
1952	Dr. H. Shirley Dwyer	Miss Elizabeth Crosby	Clifton A. Smith
1953	Harry Birch		
1954	Charles V. Tallman		
1955		Miss Caryl E. Jones	
1956	Miss Florence W. Harris		
1957			
1958	J. Clifford Gallant		
1959			
1960	John P. Chandler	Mrs. Rachel P. DeSantos	
1961	Dr. Harry C. McDade		Miss Caryl E. Jones
1962	Mrs. Luther G. Dearborn		
1963		Miss Margaret Lamb	
1964	Robert Hill		
1965	Dr. Ursula Sanders		Miss Florence W. Harris
1966	Mrs. Miriam Underhill	Miss Miriam York	
1967			
1968	Terrence P. Frost	Richard V. Ashton	
1969			
1970	Mrs. Dorothy G. Burak	Edward J. Creager	Mrs. Barbara Buttrick
1971			

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## CHARTER MEMBERS

### MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE A. M. C.

Miss Agnes Hunt	Manchester
Miss Mabel E. French	Manchester
Mrs. P. S. Eldridge	Manchester
Miss Victoria Burgess	Manchester
Burton I. Welcome	Manchester
John R. McLane	Manchester
Charles P. Porter	Manchester
Robert L. Manning	Manchester
Frank E. Heald	Manchester
Reynolds W. Smith	Manchester
Miss Theodora Richardson	Manchester
Miss Florence Richardson	Manchester
Miss Harriet Richardson	Manchester
Miss Marion Sawyer	Manchester
Samuel P. Hunt	Manchester
Wilbert F. Gilman	Tilton
Miss Margaret Daniell	Franklin
Miss Margaret Whipple	Bristol
Walter L. McDuffy	
Louis P. Elkins	Concord
C. C. Schoolcraft	Concord
Miss Frances Abbott	Concord
Mrs. E. F. Keene	Concord
George Bunker	Concord
Hon. Allan Hollis	Concord
John C. Chase	Derry
Walter C. O'Kane	Durham

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