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# Along Route '66



- President: **Stephan P. Lanfer**, 66 Binney Lane, Old Greenwich, CT 06870
- Secretary: **Charles D. Vernon**, 28 Beckwith Drive, Windsor, CT 06095
- Treasurer: **David Johnston**, 22 Beverly Road, West Hartford, CT 06119
- Co-Head Agent: **Mike Clapp**, 209 Battery Street, PO Box 988, Burlington, VT 05402
- Co-Head Agent: **Rick MacMillan**, 884 Pueblo Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
- Mini-Reunion Chairman: **Jack T. Stebe**, 13 Winter Berry Drive, Amherst, NH 03031
- Alumni Councilor: **Donald P. Graves**, 1232 Brian Street, Placentia, CA 92670-3604
- Editor: **F. Allan Anderson**, 3850 Washington St., San Francisco, CA 94118 (415) 221-9402

**September 1989**

Dear Classmates, Mates and Friends,

What did you think of that new double column format for the last *Along Route '66*? I was surprised to see it. Although I had some warning, I did not expect it for an issue or two. I thought that it was more readable... a fact as much attributable to the better print quality as to the two column approach. I must alibi as far as the spelling errors went. My draft, carefully sculpted on my Apple IIe, had to be retyped to meet the Mac format that you received. In so doing a couple of typos worked their way in. (Dosher and Ukica were the ones I spotted.) No problem, Paul had his name spelled correctly more times than not, and Coach Joe doesn't subscribe.

Back to business... let me iterate the **ANNOUNCEMENT** from last issue about

the forthcoming **MINI-REUNION**. Mark it down and set your calendar for...

Homecoming Weekend  
October 13 - 15

Dartmouth vs. Yale Football  
Hanover, New Hampshire

**Jack Stebe** reports a brisk response to his room reservations at the Howard Johnson's in White River Junction, but don't presume that you have been shut out. Call Jack at (617) 545-2542 (Home) or (617) 258-1432 (Work) to set the wheels in motion. Have your credit card in hand as Jack is serious about this business. Call now!

I have heard via the green cards and from my other sources that there will be a very good turnout apart from the people contacting Jack. Apparently a lot of you had put this on the calendar some time ago and already made the necessary room arrange-

ments. Call Jack if you are coming so he can make the appropriate reservations and arrangements for dinner, even if you do not need a room. Some modifications have been made to the program, so let me update.

The Saturday night program at our dinner will feature the presentation by our Class Project sponsored student. The research being underwritten by the Class of 1966 is on the sociological and psychological phenomenon of "The Deadheads", that persistent subculture that follows The Grateful Dead around. Since we were there at the beginning and now seem to be sustaining this during our children's generation, the subject and the presentation should be of unique interest. Also in attendance will be the sponsored student's faculty advisor.

The football kickoff has been moved up to 12:30 to accommodate the broadcast on ESPN. Consequently, our time at the soccer game, at lunch preceding, or whatever will be shortened. I have confirmed arrangements at Heorot (nee Chi Phi) for the pre-game. This is right across the street from the Field House for those of you who have forgotten. We will sponsor a keg and will plan to convene on the veranda in front. We can also assemble there after the game as well.

Since we have shifted the student presentation around to Saturday night, the morning program on Saturday will include a 7:45 AM Breakfast with the President at Thayer Hall. According to my guide... "President Freedman speaks and answers questions." So, everyone bring your toughies, and if you cannot make it, send them in to me and I will ask them... with proper attribution.

The class meeting will follow at a site to be determined. Early arrivals on Friday I expect to join me on Chase field to have a look at the Pea Greens versus Yale. Kickoff is slated at 2:00 PM.

This current study on the Grateful Dead caused me to reminisce about two summers I spent in San Francisco right after graduation. The first rooming with **Ric Worland** and **Mac Whitaker**, the second with **Karl Andrews**. We were right in the middle of the emergence of The Dead and so many other groups. The Fillmore was a regular scene for us as well as Winterland and Speedway Meadows at Golden Gate Park. Amazing, isn't it, that the Dead are having a more pronounced impact on this generation than they did on us, or is that just me? Well, see what the scholars say on the evening of the 14th,

I have not had the kind of response we need to get the Big Reunion in 1991 off and rolling. My plea for volunteers thus is renewed. We need ideas as well as volunteers. Express thyself!

I did have response to several of the items run in recent issues. **Chuck Weil** noted that he learned more about **Chuck Faerber** in *Along Route '66* than when they were fraternity brothers. I have to admit I have temporarily misplaced Chuck's card... I was using it on a recent trip to LA. Turns out Chuck and family have moved to LaLa-Land where Chuck now heads up the Carnation Pet Food operations (Friskies, et al). Chuck moves on from General Mills where he had built up a reputation as a top consumer marketing guy (at least that is what my sources say). It's good to have Chuck out our way, and I promise to have addresses and such in the next letter.

You know, I mentioned the **Oberdorfer Bell** ascent on Kilimanjaro recently, well **Eric Treisman** checked in with a fine piece on his climb of Mount Elburus. (No need to go to the Atlas, it turns out this Elburus is the highest peak in Europe and is located on the edge of Georgia, SSR that is, adjacent to the Balkar Autonomous Region.) Eric had this piece in the *WSJ* and I include

it for your enjoyment. It's shorter than his Great Pizza Caper and communicates a good deal of the Treisman style that I find such a good reflection of one of our better wits in the class. Eric is now a Contributing Editor of *Harpers* where the Pizza article ran. This dealt with a lawsuit Eric handled against Pizza Hut (Pepsico). Well, it sounds like Eric has done better the next time around in Court since I received the following... "With Mike Gross (a Brown Trustee) as lead counsel, I just won a \$4,816,620.23 jury verdict in a potash mining case. We think that there is another \$3,912,000 plus in interest. We's happy! That's good money in New Mexico." Eric, that's good money. I'm happy for you. Eric gave his telephone number as (505) 983-3033, Alumni Fund reps make note.

Now I just rechecked and I see I did not mention **Pete Dorsen** in the last issue, so here goes the update from Peter (like Eric he is at least a part time writer and *Along Route '66* is a regular publisher)... "First, you [he means me, Thanks Pete] are doing a superb job. Keep it up -- we need this reconnection with that era of ourselves that should not be lost: John Sloan Dickey, bless his soul, emphasized that this was a time in our lives that would be our best... in the sense that we were the most innocent, untainted by the hard knocks of life. I have (thanks to Lee Michiliades of the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*) a piece in the *Dartmouth Medical Alumni Magazine* Spring issue which tells my own saga of trying to switch careers, applicable to anyone in their 40's and disillusioned with this part of their life (it goes with the territory)."

Peter goes on to recount success in his cross country skiing competitions this past winter and the arrival of Katarina Marica Dorsen on December 27th. He also would like to hear from **Roger Kline**, as we all would. Pete's still in Minneapolis and can

be reached at home at (612) 377-6745.

Speaking of writers, I am putting together this edition on my family's annual (kind of) vacation on Nantucket. In addition to returning my wife to her Coast, this spot puts me three hours out of synch with my office which is a blessing. That coupled with long stretches at the beach, make me almost unreachable. Anytime any of you need a little break, this island is perfect. This leads me up to a news item from **John Gullet**. Turns out John's sister, Ann, and his mother are just down the street (near to where I ran into **Bob Cowden** a year or so ago). His sister and family were friends back in San Francisco before their move East. From them I get a more recent update on John, who had jotted off a few notes on his own.

"One wife, two kids, three mortgages; drive an old Benz, fly an old Navajo, and live in an old house in Sausalito. Got an old cabin in Squaw Valley. The kids, Johnny (6) and Alexandra (5) go to the French-American Bilingual School in San Francisco. Received my M.D. in 1973 from the University of Geneva in Switzerland. [Am in the] private practice of infectious diseases in San Francisco, and I buy a lottery ticket every week (hope springs eternal)". John's office is at 909 Hyde Street, SF, CA 94109, and he can be reached at (415) 885-5700 (office). John's family have updated the old Navajo mentioned above. Turns out that John and family managed to survive a rough landing in Denver recently (problems with air traffic control and so on), but the plane did not. John, if there is more to the story, please share it with us.

I have some weighty matters to share with you, but before turning to them, a couple of folks out there deserve to have their news shared. Over the course of the last several newsletters, I have received a couple of updates, and the news has yet to appear! My apologies for the delay, but here

goes.

First, after nine (9) years abroad, my old fellow IR major, **Allen Keiswetter**, returns. Allen filled me in with a series of green cards so I will pull this all together... After 6 different postings [Tours of Duty?] in the Arab world, Allen is returning from his last hot spot in Riyadh. What prompted this return was Allen's promotion into the Senior Foreign Service. [Congratulations, Allen!] Allen had been the Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh. Back in the U. S. Allen will be attending the Senior Seminar, a ten month program which will allow him to reacquaint himself with what all of us have been doing in the U. S. of A. after his long sojourn abroad. Allen's previous assignments had included Tunis, Khar-toum, and Samoa. For at least these ten months, Allen will be at home at 1011 North Roosevelt Street, Arlington, VA 22205. Allen, Will we see you in Hanover this fall?

And while we are in Alexandria, **Steve Hayes** had advised me sometime back of his move from the Reagan administration to "private life" as Vice-President of the Air Transport Association, the airline trade association in D.C. Steve and Barbara have been married 16 years and have established themselves with the two kids (Emily, 6; and Peter, 2), a stone house, and station wagon. Or as Steve phrased it in the words of Zorba, when he was asked if he was married... "Married? Wife, Children, Home... the full catastrophe!" And I am sure he's loving it, in Alexandria at 2116 Bellhaven Road; Telephone (703) 765-2292 (Home); and (202) 626-4173 (Office).

**Rob Cleary** has checked in a couple of times to reflect on the way things change and yet stay the same out in Colorado. Lately, Rob observes, "Denver remains good for my work as 'Landscape Associates,' a landscape design services firm with mountain and urban projects. I visited with **Karl**

**Andrews** of Colorado Springs last week over lunch. He remains a thin athlete and works on land development speculations. Having recently received my Dartmouth ticket applications, I plan a week (7 Oct to 15 Oct) in the Hanover area and will join you for the parade." Thanks, Rob, and bring your friends. Parade starts at 7:30 and we need to marshall up by the south end of the stadium just down from Topliff. Rob can still be reached at 528 Williams, Denver, CO 80218, or give him a call, if you want to be sure and see Robo in Hanover: (303) 355-9221 (Home) and (303) 388-5815 (Work).

Somehow, I managed to misplace both of **Bob Vogel's** cards of recent months, and he has some major news to share. First, he offered, "I have much to be thankful for... now a full (as opposed to associate) partner in Keyes Associates, a 150 person architecture and engineering firm. It only took 18 years! Also good health. Also Cyndi (Colby Jr. '71)." Then Bob, added a short while later, "While most classmates are contemplating the upcoming empty nest syndrome, Cyndi and I are contemplating our first experience of parenting. With any luck the little one will show up in time to be a tax deduction." On this second card Bob also reported a change of address to Box 322, 40 Surfside Road, Minot, MA 02055. Seems as if there may be a big jump when you make partner at Keyes, either that or Bob and Cyndi have been real conservative about family planning... probably not a bad idea given the cost of education. Bob, and all you who have recently become parents, do you realize that Dartmouth's \$20,000 per year cost and 8% annual increases will have you at almost \$75,000 per year in 17 years. Sobering thought. It's gonna take one hel-luva summer job to make a dent in those numbers!

Our globe-trotting geologist **Ed Grew** has returned "home" to the University of

Maine at Orono after a six month fellowship in Japan. Ed was at the National Institute of Polar Research as an invited scientist with all expenses picked up by the Japanese government. For the rockhounds among you, Ed stated his research topics included "petrological studies of Antarctic rocks with emphasis on the Sor Rondane Mountains." Ed noted that his language skills improved enough to keep him from being stuck in the Tokyo subway like Charley on the MTA. Ed has some local connections based on the tenure of his great uncle, J.C. Grew who was U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 1931 to 1941. Probably was a good time to leave. Ed can be reached at the office now at (207) 581-2169.

Moving down the coast from Maine to New Hampshire, one of our original locals reports from Dover, **Dick Krans**. [That's not Hamilton now, is it, Dick?] Dick admits that "I have to get out my Greenbook to recognize the names [in *Along Route '66*]." Dick practices law in Dover with his younger brother.... Krans and Krans. Dick married Pam Lilly in Miami some 17 years ago. [Remember when Dick left the Hanover plain and New Hampshire in general to find the sun and good life at SMU? Well it sounds like what he didn't find in Dallas he found in Miami, and we all had the benefit of having Dick back after his winter term of '64 abroad... kind of a fore runner of today's Dartmouth Plan.] Pam and Dick have two children: Heather (15) at Brewster Academy and Hamilton (13) in eighth grade [probably a Krans, Jr. I bet]. At Krans and Krans the number is (603) 742-3766.

And just down the road, where **Pete Titcomb** reports, "I have just passed 10 years as an engineer at Compugraphic Corporation in Wilmington. My wife, Marge, has just opened a specialty coffee store here in Windham. Daughter Becky is a freshman in high school in Santa Fe, New Mexico and

younger daughter Amy just started first grade." Pete enjoys the cold of New England and the opportunities to cross-country ski and ice skate... "they have the still north...". Home for Pete and Marge in Windham is 8 Park Street, Windham, New Hampshire 03087; Telephone: (603) 434-4218.

I think that we can count on **Alan Rottenburg** to show up for the mini-reunion... "Debbie and I are excited that Dan will be entering Dartmouth this fall having been accepted for early admission last December. I visited Hanover several times last year - both for Dan's interview and when representing a developer who has entered into a joint venture with the College for the development of land next to the Medical School - and it is as beautiful as ever." Allan and Debbie live in Greater Boston at 24 Gould Road, Newton, MA 02168; Tel: (617) 244-5787 (Home) and (617) 482-1776 (Office). [With that telephone number Allan must be with Revere and Adams.] See you in Hanover, right?

Another classmate with some solid Dartmouth connections is **David Owens** down in Rhode Island. David cryptically reported on his little Green Card as follows: "Playing soccer two nights a week - with family - pickup team - mostly foreign students at URI. Working on 1955 Farmall Cub tractor on weekends. Sons Adrian and Jonathan (both Dartmouth '90's) on Woodsmen's Team and Cabin and Trail. Son Greg - Class of '91 at Allegheney College, plays rugby and music. Wife Linda - Printmaker - teaches paper making classes." David and Linda live at 129 Hallville Road, Exeter, RI 02822; Tel: (401) 294-6814 (Home) and (401) 294-4634 (Work). Now if David would fill in the missing blanks with some nouns and verbs we could get a fuller picture. Sounds interesting, and for all of you who thought that you needed linebackers, forensic stars, or cello players you may want to ask David

about the buck saw and the log splitting as far as opportunities at Dartmouth.

**Tom Lips** wrote a thoughtful letter several months back that I would like to share in part,

"While I regret the turmoil that has occurred at Dartmouth, my sense is that the College may very well be a catalyst for a long-needed examination of higher education, an American institution which has enjoyed a special and unchallenged standing until only recently. Such disturbing trends as selective morality and politicization within faculties and administrations reveal, it seems to me, a flawed institution that needs both examination and change. Unfortunately, it appears that Dartmouth is at the forefront of such change and that has hurt -- and will continue to hurt -- the College in many ways. But perhaps the ultimate outcome will be to Dartmouth's benefit and, even more importantly, to the larger benefit of high education.

"On a less philosophical and more personal note, I find myself becoming more of a New Englander than I had ever thought I would be. Not unlike a number of college graduates in the mid sixties who attended law school for no particular reason but to defer career decisions for another three years, I had enough taste of the legal profession (with Bronson, Bronson & McKinnon in San Francisco) to know that my interests lie elsewhere, and career and geographical change brought me to Connecticut and ultimately my association with Drexel Burnham Lambert. At Drexel, I manage an Investment Partnership which interestingly enough includes Fred von Pechmann '67 and Galan Daukas '83. We manage money for individual, corporate and pension fund clients. We now have in excess of \$200,000,000 under management but could always use more!

"Personally, my family and I see a fair amount of **Dan Boyer** and his family. Dan is also in the securities business and remains the patriarch of Boyertown, PA. We all rendezvoused for a memorable week of skiing in the Austrian Alps this past January and I can assure you that 'Dib' has lost none of his abilities on the slopes, at the bar, or on the disco over the years!

I look forward to catching up with Tom this fall at the Reunion as he has been one of the regular attendees of our Executive Committee. Bring big Dan Boyer back as well, Tom. Address for Tom at DBL is One Financial Plaza, Hartford 06103; Tel: (203) 522-2900. Your thoughts on the College are timely. I personally think that we (Dartmouth) can be best served by being out in front of some issues and trends rather than somewhere in the mainstream.

Back towards the conclusion of the Alumni Fund drive in June, I had a chance to catch up with **Tom Brady** in Toledo as well as put in the last minute plug for the campaign. [Tom has more than a casual opinion on the College today, fundraising, mutual commitment and so on, but that can be left to a later discussion.] At this point, Tom and wife Betsy are in the midst of riding the euphoria of Tom being named Northwest Ohio "Entrepreneur of the Year". Tom and his 4 year old company Plastic Technologies, Inc., emerged as the winner from the regional competition and now move on to the Nationals to be awarded in November.

For those of you not familiar with the program, this national program of recognition has been sponsored for several years by *Inc.* magazine and the Arthur Young accounting firm. As with all entrepreneurial concerns, getting to the point of nomination is real hurdle [read, survival], and Tom's winning in Ohio is a real coup.

After our conversation, Tom copied me on a letter to Thayer School that filled in a

lot of the details although I have been sort of first hand at the birth and emergence of PTI. Both Tom's company and my own Peco Controls serve the beverage industry so we show up at all the same trade shows. Tom's presence is a lot more pronounced as I have heard him introduced as "the father of the PET bottle"... that's the big two liter job that you lug home regularly from the supermarket. He did that work while at Owens-Illinois, then founded PTI in 1985 to carry on further research and development including the means to recycle those little devils. Any mention of an entrepreneur makes an implicit reference to the wife and family... Tom's case is no exception and I would like to make it explicit for a change. In all the comings and goings of Tom that I have been witness to, Betsy has never been absent. The driving force behind all entrepreneurs is the firm support one gets at home. Betsy's brother, Russ Carson '65, is a leading venture capitalist, to the Bradys' credit PTI has flourished without that financial connection [Or perhaps because of it?] Congratulations to Tom and Betsy!

When we spoke, Tom was figuring to hook up with **Rick Godfrey** for a college tour to Northwestern. Tom's daughter Kathy is in the midst of the college application season with Dartmouth on the list [High, I hope since she sounds like a great applicant]. I hope that Tom and I have a chance to catch up some more either at Hanover for the mini-reunion or at the next Interbev. To contact Tom PTI is located at 333 14th Street, Toledo, Ohio 43624; Tel: (419) 321-6750.

I am going to close out this issue of *Along Route '66* with a presentation and a plea. The plea is to enlist your support and encourage your involvement in The Big Reunion. The presentation is on how we can

do it. **David Johnston** is our Reunion Chairman. Dave would like to establish a positive focus for our reunion that goes beyond the hoopla and handshakes of a long weekend in June 1991. Toward that end Dave has prepared a proposal that the Class is actively considering as an important part of our reunion plan. I would like to share some of Dave's thoughts with you and invite your response to me or to Dave.

**Purpose.** To demonstrate the commitment of the Class of 1966 to community service in a way which reflects the enduring application of a liberal arts education to shared community and social problems.

**Background.** Class reunions offer each of us the opportunity to reflect on the past, renew old friendships, make new friendships, re-examine the reasons for commitment to the College and share with classmates our various interpretations of what we each value in life... Much has happened to each of us since 1966, and much more has happened in the world around us. We draw on our various strengths, including our liberal arts education, to confront the challenges of contemporary life: career development, marriage and children for many of us, concern for our parents, and our individual and collective responsibility for the health of our families, communities and nation (not to mention College)...

Within this broad social fabric, we are all challenged by a variety of issues... each of which affects us... in many direct and indirect ways. The family often stands at the center of these impacts.

Obviously, the family as many of us knew it in 1962 when we headed for Hanover is no longer the same. Most wives and mothers work; many husbands and fathers work harder; there is often insufficient time for quality communication between spouses and children. At the same time many of us are more involved with our children than

our fathers were with us. The pace of life for us and our families has surely quickened despite our intelligence and reliance on 'time-saving devices.' Each of us, and especially our children, live in an accelerated world with many opportunities and temptations. Some of us, and no doubt some of our children, have experienced substance abuse.

Contemporary Dartmouth students are also affected by such issues and the pace of change. They face an uncertain future. Like most of us, they seek a balance between challenge and security. Twenty-five years apart, they and we share many common concerns about the future.

### Goals of The Reunion Project.

The Class Executive Committee, in cooperation with the Tucker Foundation, would like to develop a 'Class of 1966 Reunion Community Service Project,' to demonstrate our commitment to community service and the Dartmouth community. The Committee believes that the class can do something symbolic and tangible without making inappropriate moral judgments about the choices each of us makes.

The purpose of the Project will be to sponsor dialogue between members of the Class of 1966, Dartmouth students and other members of the Dartmouth community about the changing family and the challenges confronting it. Specific goals would include:

1. To help the Tucker Foundation expand its student retreat program -- through intellectual and financial support -- so more students can participate and a broader range of subjects can be explored (e.g. substance abuse, parenting, changing careers);

2. To involve members of the Class of 1966 in this program.

3. To develop ways for the Class of 1966 members to communicate their views

on family issues to the Dartmouth Community in Hanover;

4. To initiate the project in 1989 and have it culminate at the reunion in 1991 (e.g. through a panel discussion at the reunion);

5. To use the existing Class of 1966 Study Award in 1990 to further the goals of the project; and,

6. To explore ways of continuing class support for the project beyond the 1991 reunion.

### Process.

David has outlined an approach to move the project forward and is personally making that commitment. The Executive Committee of the Class will be reviewing the Project in October to determine the best means for implementation, including funding, and ratification of the Project. But the critical element in the Process is you, the Class of 1966. Involvement on a broad scale is both the means and ends in measuring the success of this very positive reunion statement. Dave has suggested a number of different forms for Classmate Involvement, and you may have some of your own. Here are Dave's suggestions:

1. Survey classmates re family issues.
2. Discuss the Project in *Along Route '66*.
3. Solicit ideas from classmates with expertise or personal experience with family issues.
4. Convene meeting of same in Hanover or in various regions; meet with Tucker Foundation reps and/or organization reps in Hanover.
5. Solicit articles from classmates on family issues to be published in the *Daily Dartmouth*; and,
6. Invite selected classmates and



spouses to participate in one or more retreats prior to the Reunion in 1991, and to publicize the results of these retreats.

In summary, our Reunion will have all the bells and whistles of any other Reunion, but beyond that it can have a much greater impact. The reunion can serve as the catalyst for involvement for each of us regardless of whether we get to Hanover or not, and give us a role in the service to our community, not only in Hanover but at home. Please share with us your ideas, thoughts, suggestions and reactions. Just in case the masthead changes before this is published, David Johnston's address is 22 Beverly Road, West Hartford, CT 06119.

So long and Happy Trails till then,



## LEISURE & ARTS

# Spend Those Rubles, Head for the Hills

By ERIC TREISMAN

*Mt. Elbrus, U.S.S.R.*

Rubles are little bills the size of monopoly money. The threes are green, fives blue, tens buff, 25s rust, 50s green again. Like monopoly money they tend to pile up, so that the unwary traveler may end a stay with more than he began, an economic crime.

In theory, there is prison for Soviet black marketeers, yet they openly work the hotels, museums, department stores and monuments of Moscow, wherever tourists congregate, approaching boldly. "Hey, are you American? Got anything you want to trade?" Affluent, multilingual, cosmopolitan, black marketeers appear to enjoy high prestige.

Official rates, shortages and local prejudice notwithstanding, the Soviet Union does have things to buy. The trick for Western speculators who would take advantage of systemic disparity is to buy ordinary merchandise at ruble stores and ship it home parcel post. Sporting goods are subsidized: a hand-sewn leather soccer ball with an interesting insignia is 6 rubles 50. A very solid 35mm camera, 70 rubles. Coffee-table art books, 12 to 20 rubles.

Despite all these opportunities for bargain shopping, the Mt. Elbrus mountaineering expedition I joined recently—housed in Moscow with the Soviet national boxing team and the Swedish women's volleyball champions at the exclusive Sport Hotel—was glad to leave for the Caucasus after a day in the capital.

Mt. Elbrus, 18,481 feet, on the border between Soviet Georgia and the Balkar Autonomous Region, is the summit and southeastern boundary of Europe. When Germany hoisted the swastika there in November 1941, at the end of its long advance, the photos flashed round the world. But beyond Elbrus are the mountains of Asia, and the only road is the road back, the same one the Russians took after Stalingrad. No few souls have ascended from these slopes. All around the mountaineering hut, an incongruous overblown airstream precariously set at 13,860 feet, are lugubrious memorials to Soviet war dead, even more to postwar mountaineers. There is no monument to the Germans, who supposedly came to the Caucasus justing for Baku's oilfields. Why they took a fairly major detour to conquer the summit of Europe isn't clear. But they wanted it. And

the Soviets wanted it back. And now I wanted it, less than 10 months after I promised God on a trivial peak in Arizona that if He would get me down, I would never climb a mountain again. So much for my reliability.

So there I was at Mt. Elbrus, a non-trivial peak in terms of altitude, but not one of those grey eminences that requires major gymnastic feats of dangling and derring-do on the way up. Nevertheless, a mountain may be completely nontechnical (a "walk-up" in climbers' jargon) and still be very hard. Our leader, Peter Whittaker of Seattle, said Elbrus is harder than Kilimanjaro (Tanzania, 19,340 feet) but not so hard as Aconcagua (Argentina, 22,835 feet). (His core group is doing all seven continental summits: Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua, Elbrus, Everest [Nepal-Tibet, 29,028 feet], McKinley [Alaska, 20,320 feet], Kosciusko [Australia, 7,316 feet], the Vinson Massif [Antarctica, 16,864 feet].) The Soviet guides said that on average one climber makes the summit of Elbrus for every 10 who set out from the hut. Six of our group of nine summited on July 30, the most successful expedition of the year to that point.

The evening of our summit day, half a dozen Soviet guides approached Mr. Whittaker and asked him to teach them his techniques of rest stepping and pressure breathing, secrets that cost us \$1,500 per person, which he gave them free. Behind the guides clustered 60-odd holiday mountaineers from Soviet Socialist Republics as far-flung as Latvia and Uzbekistan, flatland city kids with entry-level questions. Should they carry water? Did they need sunscreen? When we moved on to more general topics of life, love, music and politics we were surprised to learn that a large majority liked Ronald Reagan, though they favored Michael Dukakis over George Bush. In general it was a refreshing relief after Western Europe to be among people who were unabashed in their admiration for things American.

The hut and Mountain Tourhotel Itkol at the mountain's base were free of Moscow's seedy currency exchange. There was simply no need for it. The mountain guides are an obvious elite. Many of them are science professionals nine or 10 months of the year, full professors and theoretical physicists who have attended international conferences. They own many gaudy American T-shirts, authentic and upscale: Telluride Jazz Festival, T&C Surf Designs. They

have Vuarnet sunglasses; Patagonia, North Face and Sierra Design gear; Sony Walkmans. They all also have enormous supplies of titanium ice screws.

Such screws, produced only in the Soviet Union, are climbers' gear of choice throughout the world, retailing for as much as \$100 a piece in the West. Not only the guides but the Hotel Itkol management, photographer and maintenance engineer had boxes upon boxes of the lightweight tubular items, crafted out of scrap parts by workers on breaks in the very efficient Soviet aircraft industry. Leningrad screws are the best in popular opinion, and the guides had limitless access to them, but certain Siberian plants may in fact produce screws of even higher quality, which the guides also had in bulk. Some members of our group emerged with hundreds of ice screws. I myself traded a blank 8mm video cassette I had accidentally spiked with a crampon, two rolls of expired Ektachrome, a day pack mended with dental floss, a UV filter, two T-shirts and a pair of crew socks for 27 of the objects, enough to suspend a fixed rope system across a major face.

Atop Elbrus, one has views from the Black Sea to the Caspian. An earlier American expedition reported a small bust of Lenin. We found the bust gone but the pedestal still in place. Bankamerica Corp. commodities broker Tom Neukranz of Los Angeles wedged a little Stars and Stripes on a pole in a crack of the pedestal. There was no Soviet resistance. Three days and four summit parties later our flag was still there. Clearly the correlation of forces favors us.

*Mr. Treisman is an attorney in Santa Fe, N.M., and a contributing editor of Harper's Magazine.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1988

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL