



PETER MCGILL 1925-1999

Peter McGill joined Ramblers in the early 70's after immigrating from New Zealand and getting established in a geology career during which he did field work from the Canadian Arctic Islands to Belize. He was a very powerful man, seemingly bigger than life, whose hearty laugh could be heard for a great distance. He carried a big two-bitted axe on backpacks so he could chop logs off of the trail. He also loved ski touring and canoeing. Peter did everything in a big way. When he built a fire to heat water in his billy for tea he didn't just use sticks and logs; he put whole small trees on the fire. Peter's appetite was as big as his warm heart and strong body. I'll quote an Anecdote I wrote for the club history.

PETER'S LUNCH

On a trip up Brewster Creek Sunday, Jun 3, 1973, the following was witnessed by 12 Ramblers: With disbelief we watched Peter McGill pull his lunch out of his day pack. A bottle of beer was followed by a loaf of bread, a pound of butter, a pound of cheese, a pound of honey, a fresh grapefruit and a whole fresh pineapple with top and all. There was still a grapefruit left over for later on.

I should add that he carried these heavy loads in an old N.Z. pack that looked like a laundry bag with straps on it.

In 1978 Peter married Esther Jeffrey, a fellow Rambler. At that time he was serving on the executive as Leaders' Chairman and later as Equipment Chairman.

Peter's and Esther's loving marriage lasted until death did them apart on Oct. 15. At Peter's funeral service we learned from his son, son-in-law and granddaughter what a loving and caring family man he was. The fact that he was loved as much by his in-laws as by his own family says a lot. Peter McGill was a colorful Rambler who will be missed but not forgotten.

-Wally Drew