

1956

- * 26th January. County Hotel. 9th Annual General Meeting. Vice-President now called Captain - G Fisher. President - Lt Col Westmorland. MO - Dr Lyth. Secretary - V Chilton, Treasurer - T E Holt. QM - D Oliver. Committee - M Nixon, R Richardson, J Graham, L Sandham, E Ray and Mrs P Lyth.
- * 5th & 30th July. Royal Oak. Extraordinary General Meetings to arrange another Exhibition - even more elaborate than previous year.
- * The Treasurer is to buy 2¼ bottles of brandy to replace the port wine in the rucksacks.
- * Enquiries were to be made to see if a bell or siren could be obtained for the vehicle.
- * A Davy Escape Outfit was ordered and paid for by the Round Table - £23/7/6d.
- * A new battery was bought for the ambulance. Decided to see if a bell or siren could be used on the ambulance.
- * First Annual Report printed (for 1955).
- * Balance at the end of the year: £108-14-9d.
Income: £294-10-5d.
- * A casualty on 31 March offered to pay for her expenses and buy, for example, a Tilley lamp. She was asked to pay for an Ever Ready hand lamp and 6 gallons of petrol for the ambulance and 2 team cars.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION FROM QUOTATION FOR DAVY AUTOMATIC FIRE ESCAPE

- 1 The centre of the rope consists of 49 strand wire core and is practically indestructible but if the rope passed repeatedly over a rough rock face this would cause abrasion of the outer cover. It would not weaken the rope but it may cause the internal mechanism of the Escape to clog when the damaged part of the rope passes through it.
- 2 The cost of replacing the worn rope is 1/5d per foot and can be replaced quite easily at our works. The reason why the rope would have to be repaired at our works is that the wire core in the rope makes it extremely difficult to fasten the ends and a special tool is required for this purpose.
- 3 The maximum safe load is 5 cwt. Variation in the weight of the load will not effect the speed of descent.
- 4 The maximum rate of descent is 4' per second. This can be slowed down to approximately 1½' per second by the addition of extra internal weights.
- 5 The weight of the Drum is approximately 8 - 9 lbs.
The weight of the Wire Rope is approximately 6 lbs.
The weight of the Stretcher is approximately 8 lbs.

We wish to point out that when these machines are used as fire escapes they are anchored to the wall in a suitable position. If you purchase a machine for use as rescue equipment it would be necessary to carry some type of pointed steel bar which can be driven into the rock as an anchor point for hooking the Davy on to. To prevent possible chafing of the rope when in use a smooth piece of circular wood such as a pick handle can be inserted between the rope and the rock face. The weight of the persons on the end of the Davy would ensure that such a piece of wood was held in place.

- 1 26 February 1956 Whiteside**
Boy (14 yrs) broke his leg while skiing. KMC members were in the vicinity on a club meet and gave assistance.
- 2 31 March 1956 21:00 High Crag, Buttermere**
A request to assist Cockermouth MRT with the rescue of a woman (45 yrs) who had got into difficulties while trying to find a route down High Crag and had fallen into a gully breaking her leg.
- 3 2 April 1956 Shepherd's Crag**
A rock climber (20 yrs) had fallen 60' while leading and broken his spine.
- 4 14 May 1956 15:00 Raven Crag - Pedestal Wall**
A climber (24 yrs) had fallen while soloing receiving a fractured skull and severe lacerations.
- 5 10 June 1956 Great Gable - Kern Knotts**
Rock climber, leader, pulled off by second. Killed.
- 6 14 June 1956 Great Gable - Needle Ridge**
Rock climber (59 yrs) with a fractured femur.
- 7 30 July 1956 21:00 Sty Head**
3 boys set out from Coniston to walk to Black Sail Hostel in gale force winds and driving rain. At 3 pm at Sty Head one boy (15 yrs) was left near the First Aid Box while the other 2 continued to Black Sail. From there, the alarm had to be conveyed to Buttermere. The boy was found suffering from exposure and was carried as far as Taylorgill on the backs of 4 members.
- 8 10 September 1956 Stake Pass - Langstrath**
A female walker had collapsed with an epileptic fit.
- 9 29 December 1956 Langstrath**
A youth was suffering from exhaustion and had been assisted with hot drinks by staff from the Langstrath Hotel when the Team arrived.
- 10 30 December 1956 Scafell area**
Search by 46 people for 2 missing walkers in bad weather. They were found to be safe having spent the night in a farm at Eskdale.