

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

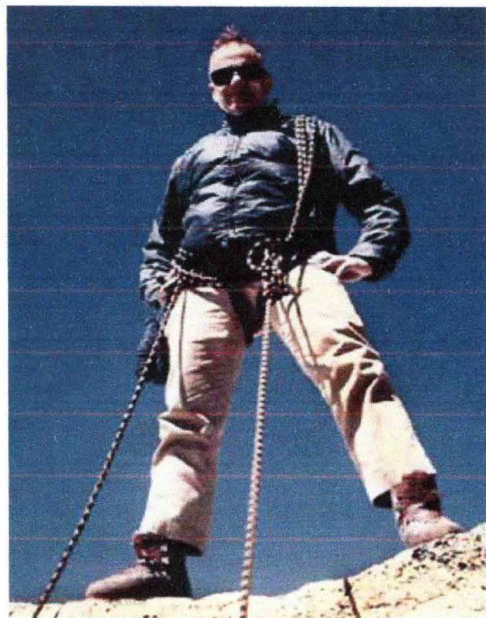
Chad Christine: Master of Mountains

Chad Christine has scaled many heights that awe and inspire. In fifty seven years of mountain climbing, he has faced danger and pursued adventure all over the world.

When Chad was a Boy Scout, he relished hiking and camping trips in his native Kentucky. As a Scout leader, he took groups on overnight excursions and savored outdoor exploits. When he was 16, his father asked him to examine some travel brochures and choose a vacation destination. Chad picked the Grand Tetons of Wyoming. That summer he completed his first ascent, going to the height of 13,766 feet in two days with a guide and another young man. Thus began his climbing quests.

In North America, Christine has trekked or climbed almost all major mountains, including Mt. Rainier, Long's Peak, other Rocky Mountains, the Smokies, the Appalachians, the Sierra Nevadas, the Canadian Rockies, and the Bugaboos. (To clarify terms, trekking a mountain is hiking on it, and climbing a mountain is reaching its summit.) As a member of the American Alpine Club and the Canadian Alpine Club, he ascended peaks with renowned climbers. He also traveled to other continents from the Alps to Asia and all over the globe pursuing his sporting passion. He has climbed the Matterhorn and Mt. Elbrus, the tallest peak in Europe. He has been to the Himalayas several times. His goal was visiting a mountain every year.

Physical fitness is mandatory for climbers. Chad Christine maintained his superior fitness with a variety of cardio vascular sports and intense training. In addition to many local races, he ran the roads of Indian Hill (often starting from his home on Keller Road), and across bridges in downtown Cincinnati at lunchtime. He went spelunking and caving, as some techniques were similar to mountain climbing. An avid bicyclist, he traveled throughout southern Ohio with an elite group that annually rode 400 miles in 4 days and 200 miles in one day. He trained on Nautilus equipment, played lots of tennis, swam and skied. He was always in peak condition.



Mountain climbing has always been a risky sport, with unexpected crevasses, fragile snow bridges, avalanches, and difficult weather conditions (whiteouts, lightning, rapid temperature changes). Having witnessed all of these, Christine exercised constant caution. He admitted that some of the best decisions he ever made were to turn around and go down the mountain. Quoting a friend, Christine said, "Getting up is optional; getting down is mandatory". When asked about his most dangerous climb, Christine singled out Nevada Huascarán, a 22,205 foot peak in Peru. The expedition lasted 24 days and the group carried their own tents and food in heavy packs. Braving icy conditions in hazardous snowfall, only a few climbers attained the peak. Chad was one. Another

perilous event occurred during a descent in the Canadian Rockies, when Chad and his oldest son, Chad III, (age 15) rescued their guide who had fallen into a crevasse. Despite some harrowing climbs, Chad and other mountaineers have seen sights that few others will ever see.

Among members of the alpine fraternity, there is a bond. They are aware of the inherent dangers of the sport; still they strive for its high adventure. On expeditions, climbers depend on one another and often form lifelong friendships.

When asked about the rewards of his sport, he noted the camaraderie, the adventure and majesty of it, as well as its spiritual component, and mentioned identifying with nature in a beautiful world. A focused sportsman, Chad Christine has been rewarded by numerous triumphs at the top.

Thanks to Chad and Treon Christine for assistance with this article.