

Photos of window exhibit in the Seward Museum atrium





Some of Dennis's achievements:

- * Applicant to the Mountaineering Club of America
- * Outdoorsman
- * 1963 Mt Marathon Seward race captain (team won 1963 civilian race trophy)
- * Seward High School student council
- * National Honor Society
- * Demolay member
- * School chorus and band
- * Accepted at UAA Science Training Program
- * Instrumental in creating junior division in Mt Marathon race



The Hitt family included Vance, Amy and their son Dennis. Permission to join the climb had not come easily. His parents, especially his mother, were reluctant to let him climb and had refused previous requests to join me on local climbs. His mother was out of town, she was to return the day of the climb, and Dennis talked his father into letting him go. - Don Stockard



We finally broke out of the brush onto an alpine meadow. Some mist floated across, reducing visibility to no more than 50 feet. We soon climbed above the mist and onto the south rim of the cirque. It was a spectacular view. The cirque was entirely filled with mist, which boiled up as if from a giant cauldron. We spent several minutes admiring the view before moving on. - Don Stockard

From left to right: Dennis Hitt, Vin Hoeman, Mike Campbell, Don Stockard. (Photo Dave Johnston)

Don Stockard shared his recollection of the day before the climb: Dennis always cleaned the Alaska Shop after it closed. All of us helped and he treated us to ice cream at the fountain. From there we went to his place and listened to music - Joan Baez mainly - and talked. Being included in the group was important for Dennis. At 18 he was the youngest, although the age difference was not that great (Vin was the oldest at 26 and I was only 20), they were important years. Years that included travel, college, and climbing peaks with exotic names. Dennis would be starting college in the fall and the climb was a step toward his new life.



Climbing captures the allure and mystery of life for me. First peacefulness of being high on a mountain as the sun peeks around the Earth. Then there is the camaraderie of friends being roped together as they work up a mountain not as individuals but as a team. Finally, there is the challenge of taking a step on a steep slope knowing that a mistake could be deadly but the next step will be rewarding.

- Alan Arnette