

# UP ROPE!

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 1, No. 2.

November 29, 1944

## Election

Before the next edition of this paper it is expected that a meeting of Rock Climbers will be held for the purpose of electing officers for the year 1945. Announcements giving the time and place of the meeting are being distributed to all members.

This raises the question: Who can vote? According to the Constitution of our Club, to be eligible for voting a member must have successfully completed certain "qualifying" climbs.

The reason for this limitation of the voting privilege is to keep the control of the Club in the hands of those interested in and actively participating in the Club rock climbing trips. It was the belief of our charter members that an organization such as ours might easily back-slide through the years to become a mere clique of Sunday afternoon picnickers or Thursday evening cidersippers. This tragic fate has not yet claimed our Club, and with staunch rock-enchusiasts such as Paul Bradt, Chris Scoredos, and Donald Hubbard at our helm we have little to fear. Nevertheless, the tendency to back-slide is always present, and we may realize how puny our present generation has grown by glancing at the ferocious nature of the climbs listed by the old-timers as of qualifying degree.

In December 1942, the latest revision of the list was issued. The climbs are as follows:

### QUALIFYING CLIMES GROUP A

1. The Bull Run Overhang.
2. Sterling's Corner, Bull Run.
3. Charlie's Crack, Bull Run.
4. The Little Handhold That Isn't There, Cleft Island, Great

Falls, Maryland.

5. Triangle and Coffin Climb, Cupid's Bower.
6. Arthur's Crossover, Carderock.
7. The Gargoyle Bridge and Angel-roost Climb, Schoolhouse Cave.
8. Climb from Gunsight Notch to south peak, Seneca Rock.

### GROUP B

1. Sterling's Quartz Slab, Bull Run.
2. Two Inches More, Bull Run.
3. The Chimney Climb, Stony Man.
4. The Beginner's Climb, Old Rag.
5. Charlie's Lead, Maryland Heights, Harper's Ferry.
6. Cockscomb Overhang Climb, Seneca Rock.
7. Socrates' Downfall, Echo Cliffs.
8. Climb to the woods, center of Echo Cliffs.
9. The Dancing Climb, Boucher Rock.

Two climbs of Group A are needed for a vote. For one climb of Group A, two or more climbs of Group B may be substituted.

On account of gasoline shortages which have limited our field of operations during recent years, many of us have never had the opportunity even to attempt a majority of the above climbs. In addition, our modern members will search the listings in vain for such mighty names as The Spider Walk, The Donalds' Ducks, and Leonard's Lunacy. These and other climbs of a caliber equal to the classics of the 1942 list have been discovered since.

For these reasons many members feel that the list of qualifying climbs should be amended to include new climbs, without raising or lowering the standard of eligibility previously set. For this purpose a Committee for the Revision of the List of Qualifying

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Climbs was appointed by our Chairman several weeks ago. It is expected that this Committee will have a new list in shape for voting upon at the forthcoming meeting.

### Ups and Downs

November 19, 1944

Herb Conn	Arnold Wexler
Jan Conn	Dixon Steele
	Eleanor Tatge

The group went to Carderock in Eleanor's car. The heavy mist which lay on the river in the morning lifted as the day wore on, but very little sunshine was in evidence. The climbing was started with a face climb close left of Arnold's Friction Layback; Eleanor came off in the middle of the climb, but continued to the top. Whereupon the Conns went over to the Arthur's Crossover group of rocks and spent the rest of the morning climbing the Crossover, the Jackknife, and sundry others, while Arnold led Eleanor and Dixon on their first trip over the Chris-Wex-Don Traverse, including the short hand traverse in the middle which can be omitted but adds such particular spice to this climb.

A shout brought the Conns willingly back to lunch. After lunch Jan and Herb climbed the Three Chimney Climb, and Jan, Herb, and Arnold climbed Sterling's Crack, which Eleanor and Dixon attempted. Their packs were collected and taken to the Jackknife Climb, which Eleanor and Dixon tried and Arnold went up to prove it can be done. After Arnold and Herb had played around a bit on an impossible layback, and Jan and Eleanor scrambled for a while, the group left for the towpath and the homeward trek. An excellent dinner was obtained at the Howard Johnson restaurant at Wisconsin Avenue and Military Road.

November 26, 1944

Donald Hubbard	Chris Scoredos
Arnold Wexler	Dixon Steele
	Eleanor Tatge

The group numbly arrived at Clark's place and burst like peas from a pod out of Eleanor's Willys coupe for a climb at Great Falls, Virginia. While Don and Eleanor took an exploratory walk up the river from Great Falls, Arnold, Chris, and Dixon travelled down-

stream to the ~~point where the~~ point where the cliffs die out a few hundred yards above Difficult Run. Here they roped and Arnold led a traverse upstream with Chris for second man. Their trip included delicate work under overhangs, a chimney involving sticking one's head in first and then wriggling through, a couple of noses, and a climb up an 80-degree face with nary a handhold. Here a piton was used, the only one resorted to all day.

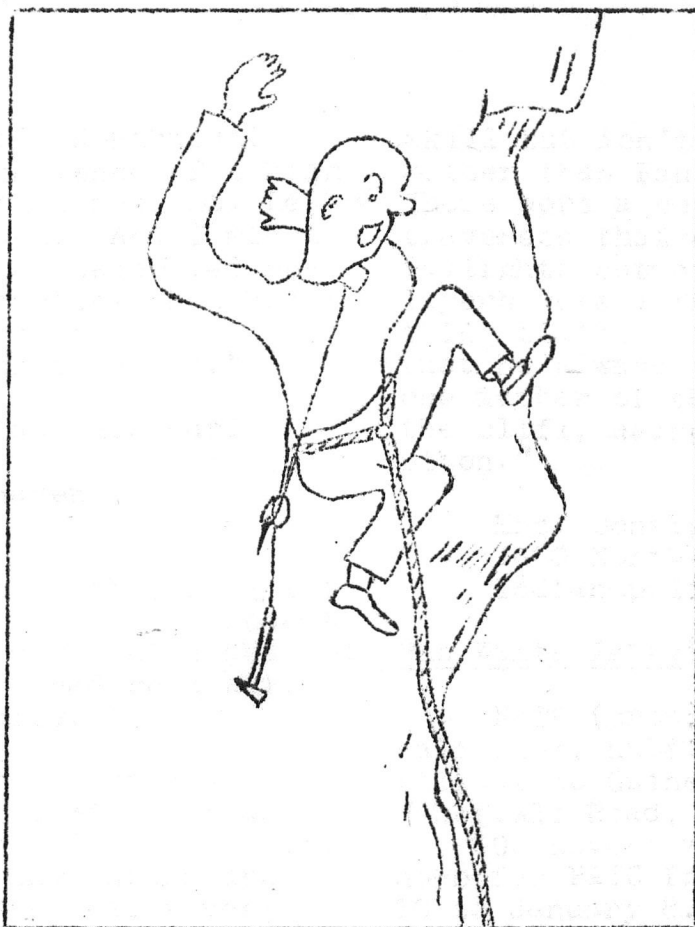
The climbers went back to the beginning of their trip for lunch, then hiked up the river to the Two-Piton-Lead (which is led with 5 pitons) and engaged in plain and fancy rappelling. There Don and Eleanor found them late in the afternoon, and with much discussion and stopping to peer over the cliffs at familiar and unfamiliar climbing places, the homeward trek was begun. The entire group had dinner at the Howard Johnson's at Wisconsin Avenue and Western, and were delighted with the quickness with which they were seated and served and the general excellence of the meal. Arnold's remark about our being seated so hastily was probably not true: "They evidently want to get us out of the sight of their other customers as soon as possible."

News Note: Chris Scoredos has been notably absent from the weekly climbs for several Sundays because of apple-picking activities. His group picked 6,000 boxes of apples, which we figure to be  $8 \times 8 \times 8 \times 2 \times 6,000 = 6,144,000$  apples, if there are 8 apples to a side in each half of a box, which we are not sure of. Quite a few apples, Chris. E.T.

### Our Second Issue

Thanks for the many words of encouragement which we have received in regard to our publication. Your editors wish that it were possible in this space to answer each of the letters commenting upon the first issue of "Up Rope." At any rate, we hope that the ideas and inspiration received from these letters will be reflected by the continuous improvement of future editions.

For the sake of those who may desire to continue to receive the paper but who have not yet found time to enter their subscriptions, we find it necessary to say that



"Tell me again, Arnold, those figures on the breaking strength of manilla!"

this is the last issue which will be distributed without remuneration from the subscriber. The price is still 5 cents per copy. The editors are still at the address shown in the box at the bottom of page 1.

Members of our club who are in the service have been included upon the subscription roll free of charge.

#### Out of Town News

Rock climbers may consider themselves lucky if they live in Washington rather than in the deep south. At least that is the opinion of Laurence Curl, who is now in Florida dehydrating citrus fruit for the government. He writes:

"In the last two years I have been reduced to hiking in the heart of the Florida peninsula. I suspect I am the only hiker in the entire state as most people think our blocks is too far to be walked. However, the country

around here is quite varied for Florida though I have yet to encounter a rock outcrop nearby. But a strange fauna and flora somewhat compensate for other deficiencies.

"I managed to spend six days in the Great Smokies last September and October. I never saw such high and steep mountains so cliffless. I did encounter a high cliff on Mt. Kephart though, one known as the Jumpoff. How high it was I have no idea. I looked down from the top into a thick layer of clouds and saw nothing else. However, On throwing a small log over I did hear it crash several seconds after it passed from view. Rather a weird experience. Alum Cave is a cliff that I think would defy the best of rock climbers. In the first place it is quite shaly rock and in the second place it overhangs even more than the notorious Ph.D. Climb on Cupid's Bower. But mostly the Smokies are wooded and steep hills--but what numbers of giant trees I never thought were



east of the Pacific Northwest!  
And I had the experience of hiking  
down a vertical mile from Mt. Le-  
Conte to Gatlinburg. And I might  
add that there are unexcelled op-  
portunities to practise bushwhack-  
ing through some of the nearly ver-  
tical rhododendron thickets."

Dr. A. Laurence Curl  
Box 288  
Winter Haven  
Florida

Eleanor Pugh Jacobs, in a let-  
ter to Jo Bradt, tells of a recent  
trip to New York upon which she and  
husband Don discovered good climb-  
ing in that vicinity.

"We spent one weekend rock  
climbing with Fritz Wiessner and  
ten others from the AMC rock climb-  
ers. We went to the Shawangunk  
Mountains which are really very  
super, with cliffs from 200 to 300  
feet high. All our climbing was  
continuous climbing on Fritz Wiess-  
ner's rope. He surely treated us  
fine. We were impressed with his

skill but don't think he's any  
better than Paul and Don Hubbard.  
There were a couple of exposed  
traverses that scared the living  
daylights out of me. The be-  
layers were awfully far away. One  
thing that was interesting was  
that he always insisted on having  
one member of the party tied to  
the cliff, using a tree, rock or  
piton."

Mrs. Donald H. Jacobs  
1460 North Gladstone Ave.  
Indianapolis 1, Indiana

#### Who Wants Patsy?

PATC (pronounced Patsy) is  
half chow, half Alaskan husky. She  
belongs to Guinevere Scott, 5013  
Wakefield Road, Green Acres, Md.

Guinevere wants a temporary  
home for PATC from about December  
10 to January 8. She will pay \$10  
and food.

Prospective custodians please  
call Guinevere on OLiver 5013 be-  
fore Saturday, December 2. She  
will be at home any time of the  
day, except for Friday evening.