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# UP ROPE!

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 1, No. 7

February 7, 1945

## ★ BUSINESS MEETING ★

Thurs. Feb. 15--8 PM

at Eleanor Tatge's

6811 14th NW RA 8066

### Yes, You Read It Right!

The rock climbers will gather again, this time for strictly business purposes. A large turnout is expected because of an ever-mounting curiosity among members of the group as to how a rock climber behaves when he is full of business.

New members will be elected, and certain matters of policy will be settled. The club constitution, the official membership list, and other mysterious documents will be de-mildewed by a brief airing. No entertainment is planned, for Chairman Chris guarantees that he will not allow the meeting to degenerate to the point where anyone has fun.

In fact, Chris says, the last meeting would not have commenced without a serious note if he had arrived on time. He was unavoidably delayed en route to the Bradt's; for, as every traveler in that section of Washington knows, Takoma Park and the earth's poles are the three places in the world where the points of the compass are meaningless.

### Rock Climbing Exhibition

Thursday evening, March 15, the PATC headquarters at 808 17th St., NW will be devoted to a display of rock climbing equipment and (if we can arrange it) a

demonstration of climbing techniques. The rock climbers on that evening are in charge of the regular Trail Club "open house." Climbing gear, pictures, and even some typical examples of the genus rock climber will be on display.

Any one having ideas for the show or interesting objects he would be willing to exhibit, please notify Chris Scoredos, Tel. Me 6063. And don't forget the date, March 15th. The hours are 7 to 10. Drop in some time during the evening.

### Ups and Downs

January 28, 1945

Chris Scoredos	Frieda Kunze
Eleanor Tatge	Jan Conn
Herb Conn	

Eleanor and Jan started the day by skating upon the Carderock rink, venturing up the canal out of sight beyond the footbridge. Meanwhile Herb explored the river looking for a place to cross on the ice to Herzog Island. The Culverwells, after hiking down the towpath, reported to Herb that the girls had disappeared--there were no skate tracks leading away from the rink and no holes in the ice. Actually there were both tracks and holes, for Jan twice dunked a foot in the canal. Later Herb, Jan, and Eleanor roped together for the crossing

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to Herzog at the one point where ice connected the shores. The central portion of the ice, which looked solid due to its covering of snow, proved to be a conglomerate mass of slush and small ice particles through which a probing stick passed like so much tissue paper. However, a sidewalk of thin but solid ice was found leading around this crack. It was discovered that two rules must be followed in negotiating the route, namely (1)--All cracking, groaning, and sagging of the ice under foot must be ignored, and (2)--The probing stick must be used ever so gently lest it destroy the footing.

Herzog Island was explored by the trio, as was the small island to the north. But everywhere cold green water cut them off from the mainland, except at the precarious isthmus where they had originally crossed. They returned to Carderock early in the afternoon for climbing on the Easter Egg faces where they were joined by Chris and Frieda who had been skating upon the canal. Chris climbed the inside corner without a rope. Jan, Herb, Eleanor, and Chris scaled the adjacent face. Herb, Chris, and Eleanor climbed the "Courte Echelle Climb" without courte echelle.

Don Hubbard	Fitz Clark
Arnold Wexler	Charlie Clark

The third boat rescuing expedition was successfully launched in the morning complete with engineering apparatus consisting of block and tackle and supporting timbers for hoisting. With the Sink Stopper Charlie put the three rescuers across to the boat from the ice in the morning, then fastened the guide rope attached to the SS and went back to the farm, returning in the late afternoon to help the return trip from the boat to the edge of the ice. In the process of mooring the SS Charlie drove an iron rod into the ice which went through in short order, showing that much to his surprise the ice from which operations were being conducted was only about 3 inches thick. Crossed bars were erected and lashed together above the boat, from which the block and tackle were suspended, and with much labor the boat was gradually shift-

ed into the water. The lateness of the hour and the exhaustion of the crew prevented complete success. It is ardently to be hoped that the ice will hold out one more week, and that success will crown next Sunday's endeavors. Two accidents were suffered: Arnold mashed a finger, and Fitz had an icy bath.

February 4, 1945

Chris Scoredos	Jan Conn
Eleanor Tatge	Herb Conn

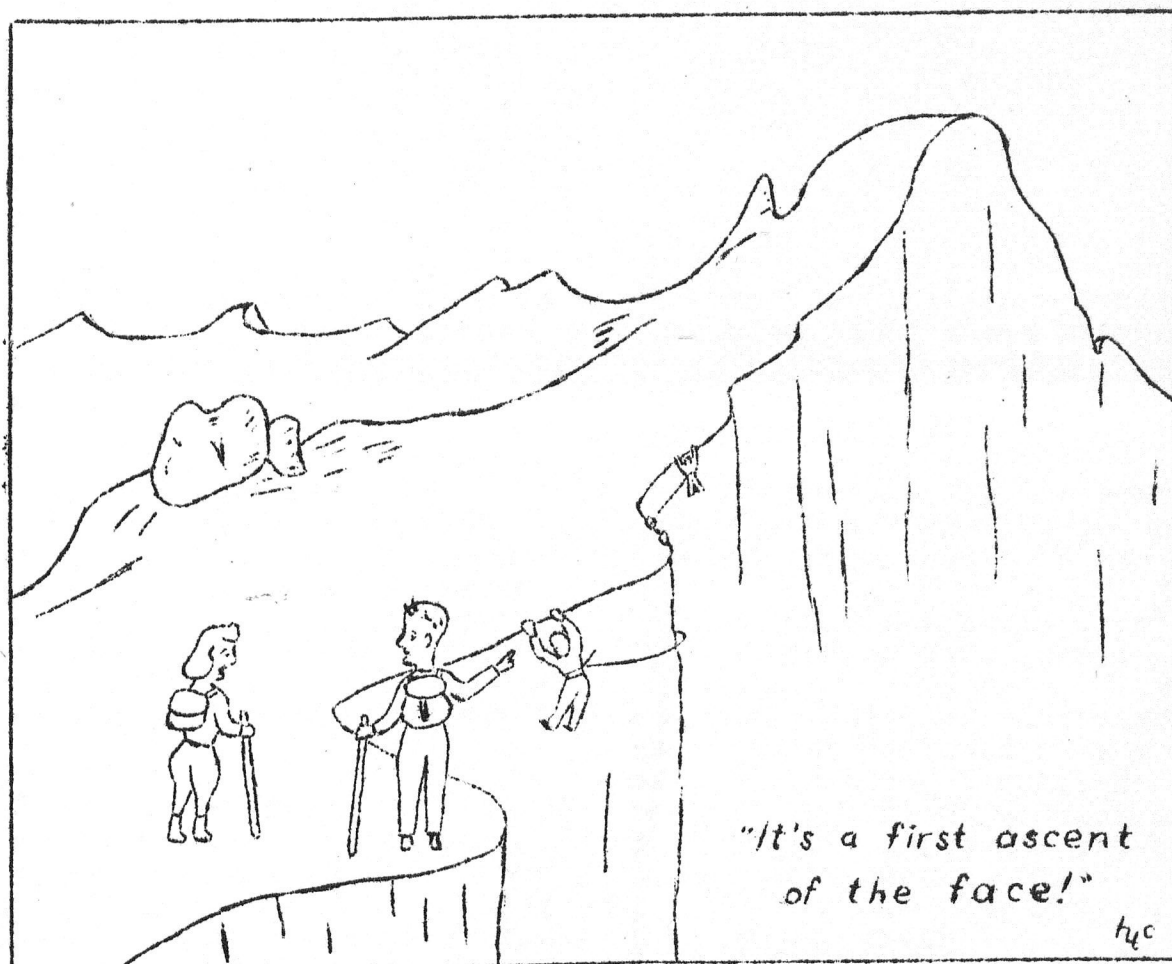
Rock climbing and skating were of equal importance today. The skating was divided between the canal and a stretch of ice as smooth as plate glass on the Potomac near the Carderock Cliffs, where fancy maneuvers and fancier spills were indulged in throughout the morning. Scrambling and rappelling were also in order at Carderock until lunch, which was eaten on the "swimming rock." Jan proved that skating and eating can be done simultaneously, by munching sandwiches tossed to her by her husband as she demonstrated her latest skating triumph, the "Figure 11."

The group crossed on the ice--much solidier than last week--to Herzog Island. Various new climbs were found on the faces immediately downstream from Don's Low Water Traverse. Of particular interest were Eleanor's Cave Descent and the "Overhang!--Ice!--Nasty!" inside corner. Back at Carderock the group ended the day with some ropeless scrambling above imaginary 3,000-foot drops while a light rain froze to the cliffs.

Don Hubbard	Tom Culverwell
Arnold Wexler	Leo Scott
Fitz Clark	

Five rock climbers went boat rescuing again on the Potomac near Seneca Creek. With the help of a rowboat and the Sink Stopper, and block and tackle again, the boat was finally floated and is now moored below the rapids. It is still in a somewhat precarious position with reference to the future breaking up of the ice. It is noteworthy that the rescue crew, including scientists, engineers, and general experts, completed operations with only two blunders. Broken glass from a window of the





boat was tossed into the rubber Sink Stopper. Water pumped from the boat was dumped into the rowboat. Picture if you can Don madly paddling the SS with Fitz furiously manning the air pump, while feverish bailing was going on in the rowboat.

The group met Mrs. Craighead of "How to Survive on Land and Sea," who expressed an interest in coming rock climbing some time.

#### At the Last Meeting

Saturday evening, Jan. 27, found 50 or 60 rock climbing enthusiasts overflowing the living-room of Paul and Jo Bradt. Although Sterling Hendricks was unable to show movies of Mt. Hayes, Bill Kemper showed his movies of a trip to the Tetons in 1938, featuring ascents of Teewinot, Nez Perce, and the Grand Teton, and Andy Kauffman presented slides of the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia where he and his wife Betty vacationed last summer. Also there were shown slides of Mt. Hayes by Sterling, of Carderock and the Bull Runs by Chris, and of Longs Peak and the Tetons by Bill. Sandwiches and punch concluded a most enjoyable evening.

#### News

At the annual meeting of the Trail Club on January 31, Chris Scoredos was reappointed to serve as Rock Climbing Chairman of the PATC for another year. This post should not be confused with the office to which we elected Chris on November 30 (Chairman of the Rock Climbing Club), although until a year ago the two jobs were thought to be identical. Dual-chairmanship is confusing, but what in politics isn't?

Other Trail Club offices which are filled by rock climbers are General Secretary, Elizabeth Vos; Camping Equipment Chairman, Leo Scott; and Program Chairman, Frieda Kunze. Frieda, in her annual report for last year, put in a good word for the contribution of the climbers to Trail Club programs during the year.

Julia Stimson won an Honorable Mention in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search contest. Her essay was on Taxidermy, a hobby at which she has shown considerable interest and skill.

Elizabeth and Bert Vos are expecting to leave for California

on the 14th of February. This is the second time in the past few months they have attempted to reach that sunny clime. Better luck this time.

Eleanor Pugh Jacobs is visiting the home of her parents in Richmond, Virginia, while her husband Don is on the West Coast on business. Eleanor was in Washington on January 23 on her way from Indianapolis to Richmond. She may stop in Washington again on her return trip.

Sterling Hendricks' movies of his first ascent of Mt. Hayes, Alaska, have finally arrived from Boston. He hopes to get the gang together for another meeting. (What, another!) within the next few weeks. At the same time Sterling suggests that we may see pictures of the Peruvian Andes by Andy Kauffman and of the Wind River Range, Wyoming, by Orrin Bonney. The arrival of Sterling's movies renders unnecessary the trip we were contemplating to Seattle, Washington, on February

28, when the self-same movies are scheduled to be shown before the Seattle Mountaineers.

#### Important Notice!!

On February 17 the editorial office of UP ROPE will be moved to new and larger quarters at

60 Elm Avenue  
Takoma Park, Maryland.

All news, notices, advertisements, congratulatory letters, communications, squibs, and blurbs should be sent to the new address after that date. Complaints may be sent to the old address.

#### Last Minute Flash

Since going to press, our Chairman has informed us of his discovery of a conflict in dates between our proposed meeting and a scheduled mountaineering program given by the Trail Club on February 15. For this reason the date of our meeting has been changed to Friday the 16th of February. The time is still 8 PM, the place is still Eleanor Tatge's.