

Published  
Biweekly

# UP ROPE!

Five Cents  
Per Copy  
May 2, 1945

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 1, No. 13.

## Keep 'Em Coming

Your editors want to take this opportunity to thank UP ROPE subscribers for their interesting letters, and the many words of commendation and encouragement which they have written. We regret that we have not had space to quote all of these letters, and have sometimes cut and compressed quoted paragraphs to fit limited column space until we fear that their authors would hardly recognize them. We are particularly happy to hear from our subscribers abroad, who assure us that UP ROPE forms a "nifty link" connecting them with home.

## Sterling's Corner (A-2)

The northwest corner of the Throne of Zeus on Bull Run Mountain is a severe balance and arm climb on 90 degree rock known as Sterling's Corner. The climb starts in the gulley due west of the corner and leads directly to the summit of the throne. The main pitch on the corner is about 20 feet in height.

From the rocks at the foot of the cliff forming the western wall of the throne the climber may reach his hand onto pull holds close to the corner on the edge of a protruding rib five feet from the ground. By means of a semi-layback he then brings his feet onto an adequate ledge and raises his hands to higher holds. When the necessary elevation has been gained and the weight has been correctly balanced, he should reach his right hand around the corner to the left onto a high and prominent knob on the north wall of the throne. On this support the body is shifted around the corner. Although there is nothing here that is

properly termed a foothold, ~~the feet~~ feet may still be used to advantage as the body is lifted upon the right handhold until one or two fingers of the left hand may be hooked over a tiny quartz nubbin three feet higher. Another strenuous arm pull follows until a foot can be placed upon the first knob, and the right hand finds a small hold near the left hand. An excellent hold may now be reached on the brow of the cliff and the pull to the top of the corner made. Here the climb is theoretically over, but it is wise to stay roped until the final pitch to the summit has been accomplished.

Sterling's Corner was first climbed by Sterling Hendricks about 1933. Not as popular as Charlie's Crack and the Overhang, the climb has never been subjected to mass assault. Nevertheless, it has been climbed by perhaps a dozen people. This spring it was first descended, and first climbed by a woman, Jan Conn

## Sterling's Little Quartz Slab (B-1)

Nearly a mile north of the Throne of Zeus section of Bull Run Mountains, and several hundred yards south of Peak Gambs is a 75- foot cliff topped by a table top rock. The climb begins directly below this table top in a tall inside corner that may be climbed by chimneying and easy scrambling up a crack. A more elegant approach, just pioneered this last winter, is by means of a tiny layback crack in a 135° V somewhat north of the usual approach. However, it is the upper section of the route that gives merit to the climb. At the top of the inside corner one traverses left, placing either the feet or the hands upon the "quartz slab"—a small quartz hold adhering to the vertical face of the cliff. Contin-

Editors: Jan & Herb Conn  
60 Elm Ave., Takoma Park, Md.  
Tel.: SLigo 2458

uing, one may traverse to the skyline and up onto the table top, or one may climb directly up in the crack angling left from the quartz slab. Exposure makes this climb spectacular. Arm work and balance are required, altho the holds are large and substantial.

The "Slab" was first climbed as another of Sterling Hendricks' 1930 "firsts." It has never been led, nor has it been climbed down. A second useful quartz slab came off of the climb early in its history.

#### Ups and Downs April 22, 1945

Chris Scoredos	Don Hubbard
Helen Reasoner	Leonard Bolz
Andy Kauffman	Steve Yurenka
Betty Kauffman	Dolores Alley
Sterling Hendricks	Arnold Wexler
Harriet Hulbert	Chuck Haworth
Honey Lou Kundin	Eleanor Tatge
Zeno Zabawsky	Lee Sosman
Jimmy Maxwell	Dick Galusha
Bob Reasoner	Jan Conn
Harold Deary	Herb Conn
Bob Huetis	
James McDonough & friend	
Various & sundry Hostellers	

A big turnout appeared at Carderock to help Chris entertain the Hostellers, who were few and intermittent. In the morning the climbing was chiefly at Carderock where many climbs of note were made. While Arnold made his first ascent and descent of the Suction Cup Corner, Sterling did likewise on Leonard's Lunacy, the first descent ever made. Jan and Chuck rounded the Kindergarten Corner (the Extension to the Extension).

Don was at his usual job of giving beginners their first experience with continuous roped climbing, this time on the face upstream from the Lunacy. After leading the climb, Don returned to the bottom and climbed ropeless beside each succeeding climber pointing out handholds and footholds to those who had difficulty.

In the afternoon the Hubbard ferry service to Herzog Island functioned by means of the Sink Stopper, resulting in several unsuccessful assaults on the Chairman's Chimney and some interesting climbing in the Fingertip Balance Climb region. Helen and Harold made beautiful climbs of the so-called "Amateurs'" Face.

Harriet and Sos climbed the Face just downstream. Jan and Herb climbed the Fingertip Balance Climb.

High spots of the day were: Zeno's saying brightly "I'd rather climb something not so dangerous" as he grabbed hold of a grapevine which snapped and cracked him on the head producing a 4-inch gash on the temple, the most serious wound ever produced at Carderock; Jan's pulling off a 2-pound handhold as she tried to cross the Loose Slab Traverse; the bravery of Sterling and Bob, who scorned the boat to swim the river.

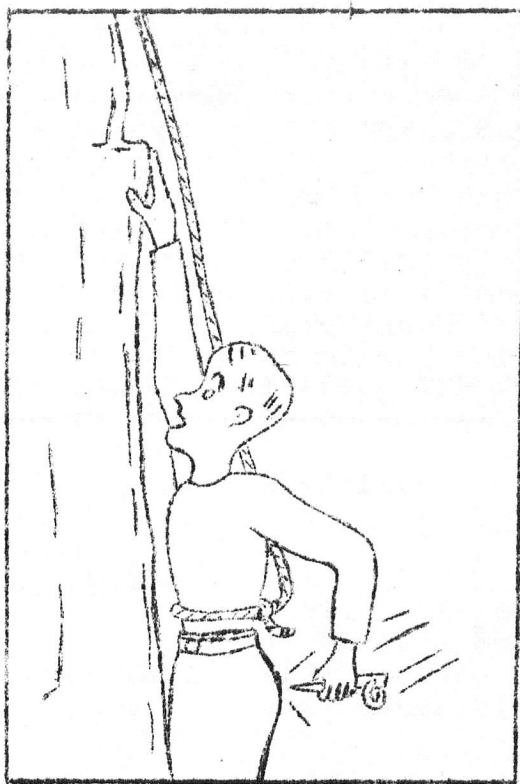
#### April 29, 1945

Sterling Hendricks	Don Hubbard
Eleanor Tatge	Lee Sosman
Jimmy Maxwell	Dolores Alley
Christine Behrenberg	Betty Alley
Andy Kauffman	Billy Alley
Betty Kauffman	Jan Conn
Bob Stevens	Herb Conn

The crowd of 14 squeezed into 2 coupes and drove to the quarry a mile below Great Falls on the Virginia shore. The group split, Don guiding the tenderfeet to Juliet's balcony region, while the rest climbed on the faces immediately upstream from the Corkscrew Climb. Three climbs of particular interest were found on these faces. The first, farthest downstream, was an inside corner, part off-balance layback, which was finished off with an airy cat-walk around the top buttress. The second was a knobby face climb; and the third was interesting chiefly by virtue of the ticklish chimney at the top. A number of well-known old climbs were tackled during the day. Among them was the crack opposite Juliet's Balcony, which Dolores and Jimmy climbed up and Dolores climbed down again; and the Bird's Nest Climb, which Herb and Dolores climbed. Both these B climbs were climbed, we believe, by a woman for the first time. Herb and Sterling completed a spectacular climb a few yards upstream from the beginning of Laurence's Last, a climb first worked on in 1942 by Paul and Herb, but never conquered until now. The most startling feature of this climb is a 3-foot cornice which must be surmounted while dangling by the hands 40 feet above the amused spectators. One group of climbers ended the day on a nameless but well-known climb just upstream from the Bird's Nest Climb, while Andy was making a practice rescue by pulling Sos from a "crevasse" with 2 ropes.

*Sterling's shot at*





### Scheduled Trip

The scheduled trip to Car-derock for this month will be on May 20. It is expected that Don Hubbard will have charge of a group of Hostellers on this same day.

Box 288  
Winter Haven, Fla.

### Correspondence

Somewhere  
E of Suez

Hayn't arrived yet, but I'm well on my way. Have already seen things I've never dreamed of seeing--the Sahara Desert, the Sphinx, and the Pyramids. Another chap who is going to the same place and likes the things I do explored the Great Pyramid of Cheops with me inside and out. A combination of rock and cave climbing. It was the thrill of a life time to stand in the King's Chamber--far inside the great mass of the pyramid.

In the afternoon we were strolling along the banks of the Nile when we saw a very trim sailboat and two little Arab boys very anxious to rent it too us. After much haggling we arrived at a price--one Egyptian pound, or 100 piastres. It was really a beautiful little boat, and we sailed to our heart's content. Then off again by air over the desert--a fascinating sight from 7,000 feet aloft that kept my nose glued to the window.

--Tom Culverwell

I am afraid you are misinformed maybe in crediting Charlie Daniels with being one of the pioneers of the Bull Run Overhang. I can't prove it because that goes back before my time even. However, Charlie was admitted to the PATC in either July or August of 1939, according to the October 1939 Bulletin. I first met him on July 16, 1939, on the Appalachian Trail Trip No. 3, one of that series in 1939 to 1941 which covered in order, north to south, the AT from the Susquehanna River to Rockfish Gap. In fact Charlie is in 2 pictures I took that day, one at the MCM Monument on Center Point Knob, and the other at the MCM Dark Hollow Lean-to. The next time I saw Charlie was on the AT Trip No. 4 on September 17, 1939. On this occasion Paul Bradt took along a rope and Charlie astounded those present by a climb up the Pole Steeple (Pa.) Cliffs with Paul holding the rope. I have a kodaslide of this pair in action. I am not sure that this was Charlie's first time on a rope, but I think it may have been. An interesting side light on this climb was that I (the Trip Leader) was approached by a veteran PATC hiker and physician with the request that I use my authority and forbid such death defying activities pronto.

A comment on the climb (A-1) might be in order: This climb can be made considerably easier for any one with a rather long reach (6 feet

or over) by simply ignoring the delicate preliminary underholds and reaching out and grabbing the corner of the slab and starting the muscle work directly. Another point is that this climb is somewhat more difficult for parties with extra wide builds as this throws the center of gravity well out when in the kneeling position at the top of the slab. It strikes me that an interesting essay might be written on the handicaps on certain climbs imposed on parties of unusually short or stocky physique. Another case is the Triangle where heavy set persons have to go up outside instead of sliding up the slanting chimney.

--Laurence Curl

Somewhere in  
the Pacific

These darn Japs have the obnoxious habit of withdrawing to the mountains and dog-in-the-manger-like barring them to us. There are some beautiful hills around here I'd sure like to climb, and some few miles from here (deep in Jap country) my map shows a "prominent vertical rock extending 125 feet." Now ain't that tantalizing? Keep up the good work and best of luck to you always. Cheerio,

--Charlie Daniels

Capt. C. H. Daniels 0483182  
41 Malaria Survey Unit  
APO 705, c/o PM  
San Francisco, Calif.