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NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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Business and Pleasure

Last Thursday at the Conns' the rock climbers gathered for a meeting of mixed business and pleasure. The serious part of the program was dispatched speedily. Chris reported that each question on the ballot recently mailed to all members had been voted in the affirmative. As a result our group is governed by 3 new laws, which are reprinted at the end of this article. New members Helen Scoredos, Mary Neilan, and Steve Yurenka were voted into the group.

Roy Leonard presented a reel of colored movies of the Skagit River country in north central Washington. These pictures were taken by Mr. Leonard for the City Light Company of Seattle to show off the wilderness area in which a power project has been established. The region portrayed includes rugged 8,000 to 9,000 foot peaks, many of which are unclimbed. Besides impressive shots of the granite cliffs and glaciers, there were many floral close-ups and action pictures of wild life, showing newborn deer learning to walk, and demonstrating the reality of the supposedly mythical "ice worm."

The scheduled part of the meeting was concluded by color movies taken by Chuck Haworth of rock climbing along the Potomac. During the remainder of the evening Helen and Chris Scoredos were fêted and showered as becomes a bride and groom.

Results of the ballot are as follows:

It has been proposed that membership in the Trail Club be required as an additional qualification for voting membership of all new members admitted to the group after July 1, 1945. Do you

favor this proposal? YES 10;
NO 8.

In order to keep voting in the hands of active members and to encourage continued climbing by members, it is proposed that the voting privilege be withdrawn from any member who in the preceding calendar year has not climbed at least one qualifying climb (A or B) until such time as he may again earn voting privileges by climbing a qualifying climb for each year of such inactivity or by re-qualifying as if he were a new member. This proposal shall become effective on January 1, 1946. Do you favor this proposal? YES 14; NO 4.

It has been suggested that the voting on admission of a member to the group might more nearly represent the true opinions of those present if voters did not feel that undue weight is given to a single opposing vote. It is accordingly suggested that instead of the present unanimous vote, ^{a favorable vote be required} or at least three-quarters of the voters present at a regularly scheduled business meeting, such vote to be by secret ballot. This change shall become effective July 1, 1945. Do you favor this proposal? YES 13; NO 5.

Butterfinger Climb (A-4)

On Sugarloaf Mountain, near Dickerson, Md., the group of rocks most commonly visited is 100 yards below the top, beginning 20 or 30 yards to the right of the stairway as one ascends the trail. Crossing the boulder field at the foot of the cliffs, one passes the low cliff nearest the trail to reach the main formation, some 60 feet in height. The Butterfinger Climb is on the forbidding and somewhat overhanging nose near the beginning of this formation.

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The first 10 feet of the climb are in a right angle inside corner to the right of the nose. A hand traverse to the left brings the climber under an overhanging block, which must be surmounted. From the sloping top of the block the climber traverses left around the corner in extremely delicate balance. The next few steps upward are accomplished with finger and friction holds against the pull of a confused gravity, which assumes a horizontal component away from the rock especially for this climb. The remainder of the route is comparatively straightforward, directly to the top of the cliff.

The climb is chiefly one of balance and circumspection, altho endurance is also required due to the length of the route. A certain amount of nerve is also needed to counteract the ferocious appearance of the cliff.

The Butterfinger Climb was pioneered one summer day in 1942. Three successful ascents were made, by Paul Bradt, Jean Clark, and Don Hubbard, while many another less fortunate climber experienced a wild swing and the long ride down. It was on this climb that Paul's rope jammed above him, and when another rope was thrown to him he learned to untie and tie a bowline with one hand. Jean is still the only woman to negotiate the climb.

Traverse and Ascent, Peak Gambs (B-3)

Near the northern end of the rock formations of Bull Run Mountain is Peak Gambs, an isolated rock peak rising 20 to 40 ft. above the surrounding terrain. The famous Peak Gambs aerial traverse is made from this peak across the 18-foot gap to the main cliffs to the south.

The peak has been climbed by many routes. The climb here described is one affording an interesting combination of various types of climbing.

Starting beneath the eastern face of the peak near its southern end, the climber proceeds directly up the sloping face on friction holds until further progress upward is blocked by a smooth vertical wall. Here he traverses left on small footholds to the southeastern corner. The corner is rounded with th fingers in a narrow crack on a sloping ledge beneath an overhang. A wide spraddle across the slightly overhanging south face brings the

climber to a vertical crack which furnishes sufficient pull and jam holds to complete the ascent to the top of the peak.

This climb was first made in 1937 by Paul Bradt, when a direct route up the east face of Peak Gambs proved undoable. The portion of the climb on the south face, however, had been climbed earlier.

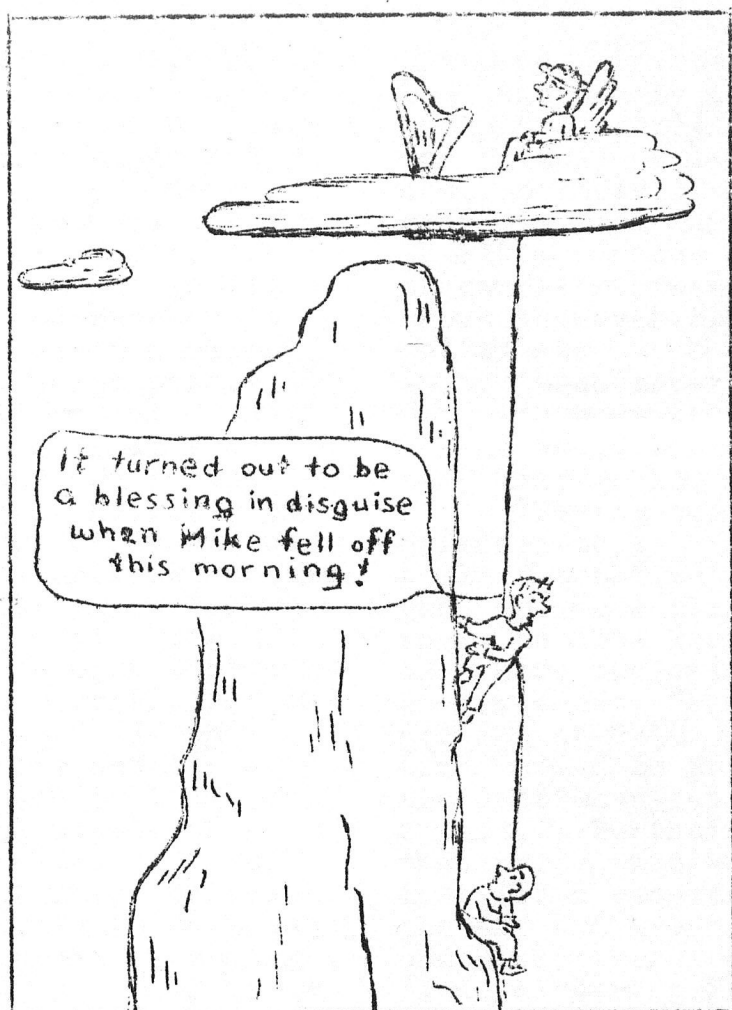
Ups and Downs

May 20, 1945.

Chris Scoredos	Sterling Hendricks
Helen Scoredos	Robert Reasoner
Elizabeth Vos	Elizabeth Sheffer
Bert Vos	Ernest Heiby
Emma Proctor	Chuck Haworth
Cliff Proctor	A.L. Robertson
Shirley Proctor	Arnold Wexler
Andy Kauffman	Eleanor Tatge
Herb Conn	Mort Harfenist
Jan Conn	Blair Wood
Guinevere Scott	Honeylou Kundin
Leo Scott	Betty Kauffman
Martha Scott	Gus Gambs
Steve Yurenka	Geraldine Clark
Mable Hilton	Fitz Clark
Ruth Schlecht	Margaret Clark
Bill Schlecht	Mary Judy
Ingrid Schlecht	Ellen Bennett
Harry Rheem	Donnie Bennett
Donna Elling	Barbie Bennett
Dot Hagerman	Walt Graham

The Carderock scheduled trip of May was well attended and highly successful. A bright sunny day, a cordon of Youth Hostellers, and babies all over the place furnished zest to the usual rock climbing activities. Few indeed were the known Carderock climbs which were not attacked, and several bright new items were added to the Carderock Climbers' Repertoire. Some of the babies successfully climbed the cliffs via the Billy Goat Trail, clearly evidencing budding climbing ability to proud parents and friends. A number of older "beginners" happily struggled up the various beginner's climbs and tackled unfamiliar rappelling techniques with tense faces and torrid seats.

Among the more illustrious feats of the day ranks the new, brief, but difficult Key Climb, first ascent by Sterling, who furnished the key and the name. Sterling also made the first lead of the Suction Cup Climb. Herb made a piton lead of Leonard's Lunacy. Helen and Betty each made their first ascents of Sterling's Crack.



May 27, 1945.

Arnold Wexler
Marian Churchill
Fitz Clark
Steve Yurenka

Chuck Haworth
Don Hubbard
Jan Conn
Herb Conn

This group assailed the bold buttresses of Devil's Garden, near Wardensville, West Virginia, after an early morning ride thru unpromising weather. Sunshine greeted the climbers, however, by the time they reached the rocks. The group split to form four ropes of two climbers each which corkscrewed among the chimneys and traversed the airy faces. Steve and Chuck looked vainly for piton cracks, in the end completing their climbs without the aid of hardware. Marian and Arnold earned success and scarred fingers in a jam crack. Don and Fitz made a piton lead around one of the projecting noses. Jan and Herb were balked trying to traverse a corner, which they later tackled belayed from above, still without success. Late in the afternoon the gang concentrated upon this cliff, thinking it might be the A climb at Devil's Garden requested by Charlie Daniels (see the extracts from his letter in this issue). The most interesting part of the climb turned out to

be the belay, which employed two 120 foot ropes tied in a circle, 2 belayers, a cherry tree, and a carabiner-shaped hole in the rock. The climb was finally conquered by Herb and Chuck, who doubt that the climb is of A caliber for the climbers altho it is definitely an A for the belayers. Fitz, while trying to fathom the belay system, nearly stepped upon a rattlesnake coiled in the brush. Marian proceeded to kill the snake, ably advised by the menfolk who stood at a discreet distance. (Four of the rock climbers later laughed at the meat shortage as they munched upon fried fillet of rattlesnake à la Hubbard.)

A Captain Comments

Accompanying the questionnaire returned by Charlie Daniels from "Somewhere in the Pacific" Chris Scoredos received a letter from which the following is quoted:

"I was much interested in the ballot and in the account of the meeting reported in UP ROPE of April 4 which put in an appearance this afternoon. Having read both over, I can't resist dropping you a note with my two-bits worth of comment.

"1. In regard to climbs, whereas the list of qualifying climbs seems to be, in effect, a listing of all climbs known and beloved by a majority of the rock climbers; and whereas the perusal of such a list will be the incentive for new members to locate the named climbs; and whereas it would seem desirable for members to keep in mind climbing possibilities in several areas; I would suggest that: A. A Group A or Group B climb be defined in the Devil's Garden, on Big Schloss, on Champe Rocks, and possibly in one or two other locations known to the group, or, B. A listing or 'climb catalog' be compiled with the present two groups plus a 'Group C--Non-qualifying but specifically defined and satisfying.' I don't mean to try to define and tie a label onto every path followed by all climbers in the course of a day's outing. With interest focussed on listed climbs, the possibilities for variety in climbing areas may be overlooked by coming crops of climbers.

"2. Is 'Committee' the right term for our group as it relates to the PATC? According to the Collegiate Dictionary, a committee is '2. A body of persons appointed or elected to take action upon some matter of business, as by a court.' In harmony with this, the 'Rock

Climbing Committee' would be a body elected by the rock climbing group preferably, or for that matter by PATC at large, to take action upon, promote, foster, and supervise all rock climbing activities of PATC. In our case, it would of course represent the climbing group whenever matters of PATC policy etc. were taken under advisement. Counterparts of the Rock Climbing Committee in the PATC set-up would be the Trails Committee, Membership, etc. etc.

"Having questioned our being referred to as a committee, what would I substitute? I would suggest the rock climbing group be known as 'The Rock Climbing (or in a more inclusive description of our interest, "Mountaineering") Section of PATC.' The word 'section' would be proper as defined in the dictionary, i.e. 'Mil. Part of a unit.' Furthermore I believe that precedents are available in that (if I remember correctly) both the AMC and Green Mountain Club comprise several sections such as 'Mountaineering Section,' GMC's 'Canoeing Section,' etc. I think one or the other has a 'Riding Section.'

"Regardless of what name they go under or with whom they are, or are not, affiliated, rock climbers will be rock climbers and I know of no group I admire, or enjoy being with, more.

Charlie