

UP ROPE!

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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Activity Afield

The duties of war may prevent many of our service men from active climbing, but their letters indicate that their thoughts are still true to the hobby. In the South Sea jungles we find Charlie Daniels studying maps of nearby rock outcrops. Tom Culverwell and Dick Leonard, in the Orient, gaze longingly and admiringly at the lofty mountain ranges that pierce the Asiatic heavens. According to Tom, "We have our mountain ranges--a vast circle of them, all around--and great blue lakes nearby.... A G.I. whom I met in Calcutta, who has his eye on the mountains west of here, wants to get a closer look at those big cliff faces and jagged peaks before we come marching home."

Art Lembeck, however, has evidently found the time and the place for real rock climbing. We quote from a letter received by the Bradts:

Hospital Corps School
San Diego 34, Calif.

"The last few weeks I have managed to get a few workouts on some fair rock. It was really just chance that started all of it. On several trips to the Cuyamacas, the 6,000-foot chain of peaks about 50 miles from here, I noticed a rocky peak which seemed rather interesting and not many miles out of San Diego. Finally, with a car and gas available, a girl named Bernadine and I started off to see what it looked like. It was a lot of fun figuring out an approach, and best of all the rocks seemed to get better as we came closer to them. The peak itself was relatively insignificant as far as height goes, but as

we have evidence in West Virginia etc., elevation doesn't mean much. El Cajon Mt. is 3680 feet and standing near El Monte Park and El Capitan Dam, controlling a reservoir supplying part of the city's water. The base of the peak is grazing land which rapidly increases in angle and turns first to scrub mauranita and mesquite with some California Holly plus rocks and boulders of all sizes. Higher up the rock gets steeper and finally becomes Class 3 and some 4. We have been up twice and so far haven't reached the top. The main idea is practice and fundamentals of how to handle the rope. The rock is mostly granite with a little quartzite and some strange sections of what looks like a very massive conglomerate. Off the blunt knife edge there is a good deal of polished sections from rock slides.

Regards to the gang,
Art."

Scheduled Trip

July 29 is the date set for this month's scheduled Carderock trip. Be sure to come. We're counting on Chuck Haworth's climbing the Jam Box.

Socrates' Downfall (A-7) and (B-8)

Near the upstream end of Echo Cliffs and set back from the river is the 50-foot overhang of Cowhoof Rock. Upstream from the high point of this rock, near the summit, is a hemlock tree which identifies this climb.

The "A" climb begins at the bottom of the cliff in an inside corner directly under the hemlock tree. A chimney maneuver brings the climber into a moderately severe layback crack, which may be

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

climbed for the next 20 feet, or the crack may be deserted by reaching for an elusive handhold on the face to the right and continuing upward on sloping ledges. A breathing spot is reached on a platform under and right of the hemlock tree. Using good handholds the climber traverses left around an outside corner into a cramped alcove beneath an overhang. Although the rock provides little in the way of holds for the pull above the overhang, the climber is warned that it is strictly illegal to use the tree for support. Should his foot push upon the temptingly convenient but uncooperatively swaying branch, he will find, like Socrates, that hemlock has caused his downfall.

The "B" climb starts at the top of the cliff 15 feet upstream from the hemlock tree, down a V chimney for 10 feet, around a delicate outside corner, across the face, and joins the "A" route for the Hemlock tree finish.

Exploration of this region began early in 1941. Arthur Lembeck, leading a party of girls, followed the upper (B) route until he reached the off-balance pitch beside the hemlock tree. Art finished the climb by shinnying up the tree, but his followers fell into the rope. Don Hubbard first completed the climb without use of "vegetable holds." Art and Charlie Daniels pioneered the route from the bottom later in the same year.

For a further description of this climb, the reader is referred to that popular but hard-to-find book, "The Ascent of Socrates' Downfall," by Chris G. Scoredos.

Cockscomb Overhang (B-7)

South of the South Peak of Seneca Rock, West Virginia, is the prominent spur known as the Cockscomb. Beginning in the notch between the Cockscomb and the next pinnacle to the south (the Old Man), a chimney leads upward toward the summit of the Cockscomb. From the top of the chimney two routes are available for climbing the Comb. The less formidable follows ledges onto the west face to a pine tree, where a steep face climb leads to the top. But the Cockscomb Overhang Climb follows the skyline directly upward from the chimney along the overhanging structure of the ridge. The rock

is smooth, and at the critical spot provides little for support except friction between the rock and the climber's clothing. Severe exposure looms to the south, east, and west.

Paul Bradt made this climb as a piton lead on Easter 1939, when he, Sam Moore, and Don Hubbard were making their first skyline ascent of the South Peak. Besides Paul, Chris Scoredos has made the only other known lead of this climb.

Ups and Downs

July 1, 1945

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Chris Scoredos | Mary Frances Rogers |
| Helen Scoredos | David Prudden |
| Bob Reasoner | William Allis |
| Mary Neilan | William Hewlett |
| Marion Murray | Hamilton Warren |
| Eleanor Tatge | Denis Koester |
| Jim Wortham | M.W. Miller |

The weatherman provided an unusually hot day for this week's Carderock excursion, and for most of the climbers a large proportion of the day seemed most suitably spent in the Potomac rather than above it. So far as is known no new or unusual climbs were made. Probably the most outstanding contribution was Chris' demonstration once again that he is indeed master of Sterling's Key Climb. In the afternoon part of the climbers waded and swam across to Herzog Island, walked across the island, then swam downstream, around the end of the island, and back up to the Carderock cliffs. A second group walked upstream from the Carderock cliffs to the rapids and wading place, and bathed and swam there. William Allis' group of five men, however, proved ardently devoted to climbing and remained on dry land. With suggestions and advice from Chris they picked out climbs from the Wexler-Conn article on Carderock and, apparently undismayed by their initial lack of success with the Spider Walk, they struggled along with right good will on several of the well-known climbs.

June 30 to July 3, 1945

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Fitz Clark | Sterling Hendricks |
| Mary Judy | Arnold Wexler |
| Jan Conn | Dot Hagerman |
| Herb Conn | Gloria Manguson |
| Chuck Haworth | Steve Yurenka |



Climbing on Seneca started with an assault of the South Face. Mary, Dot, and Fitz, led by Sterling, climbed the chimneys, which Fitz reports are easier up than down. Dot and Mary are the first women to have experienced the joys and uncertainties of this section of the rock. Arnold led Steve and Chuck on a skyline traverse which started by the southeast corner. Both ropes continued over the Cockscomb via the pine tree climb on the west face. They met Herb, Gloria, and Jan, who had climbed the east face by a new route, judging from the absence of army pitons and the presence of lichen. Altho it was their first experience on rock, Gloria did some excellent climbing. She agreed that Seneca is a tough initiation for a beginner.

No new names appeared in the South Peak register since the last group trip on May 5. Fitz took Mary, Dot, and Gloria down the Old Women's route, while the rest continued climbing into the Gunsight notch by the crack on the west side of the ridge. Chuck and Herb climbed the gendarme; then the crew continued traversing the north peak skyline to the end of the rock. Swimming in the North

Fork completed a warm and eventful day.

Sunday Fitz drove the group to Schoolhouse Cave, where Sterling, Steve, Chuck, and Jan had their first look into the much talked of Cave. Time permitted only a rappel into the Big Room, a look around, and an exit by means of fixed ropes. The station wagon left for Washington at 1 P.M. leaving Jan and Herb to spend two days "vacationing" in the cave. Jan discovered a 40-ft. continuation of Sam's Struggle, leading west-southwest into a cozy room 8 feet in diameter. The passage appeared to widen and lead on beyond this room, but access was blocked by a small group of stalagmites. Equipped with little first hand experience but much valuable instruction from Paul Bradt and a copy of Tom Culverwell's map from "The Survey of Schoolhouse Cave" by H. F. Stimson, the Conns journeyed to the south end of the cave via the rock climb up the huge resonance chambers of the Inner Wells to the Upper Window, where the climber perches 150 feet above bottom on either side. The 20-hour round trip, the Conns calculate, was made at the amazing rate of 4 feet per minute.

Chris Scoredos	Sterling Hendricks
Helen Scoredos	Andy Kauffman
Don Hubbard	Betty Kauffman
L.H. Maxwell	Lee Sosman
Dolores Alley	Jim Wortham
Betty Alley	Arnold Wexler
Billy Alley	Chuck Haworth
Jan Conn	Leonard Bolz
Herb Conn	Joyce Paradine
Eleanor Tatge	Steve Yurenka
William Allis	Susan Kovarik
Hamilton Warren	Denis Koester

Climbing today was divided between Carderock and Herzog Island. Don instructed beginners in rappelling at Carderock and then led Dolores and Max on the Chris-Wex-Don and unnamed Traverses. Max had his introduction to climbing with bare feet.

On the Island between swims and snoozes in the hot sun some very interesting climbing was done. Sterling, who had found a "good face climb" earlier in the day, persuaded the Kauffmans, Lee Sosman, Arnold, and Chuck to try it. Chuck shared honors with Sterling for the only successful ascents. Chuck obtained a movie record of Sterling's "easy" method of climbing the Chairman's Chimney. Ascents of the chimney were made by Sterling, Herb, Jan, and Chuck, and near ascents were made by Chris, Helen, and Steve.

Back at Carderock the Kauffmans, Sos, and Jim Wortham engaged in more climbing before leaving for home.

Both Doing Fine

Elizabeth Louise Vos was born Sunday, July 8, to Elizabeth and Bert. Little Elizabeth weighed six pounds, twelve ounces. Both Elizabeths are doing fine.

California Bound

Don Jacobs is to work at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, California for an indefinite period, and Eleanor is planning to join him there. With Stimmy, Don, and Eleanor together in the Sierras, there is no telling what climbing feats will be accomplished.

Could Be

Bill Schlecht has gleaned the following from his linguistic studies, and passes them on for the information of rock climbers.

Rappel--(n., masculine)--fit of madness; mad freak or whim. Muet-Sanders Germ.-Engl. Dictionary. --rage, madness, staggers. Patterson, Germ. Engl. Dict. Chem.