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News of the  
 Washington Rock Climbers

Founders  
 Jan & Herb Conn  
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MEETING  
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February 20, 1946

Classification of Climbs

The Club has set up a classification by which a person can distinguish himself as sufficiently able to climb and can establish his position in the group with respect to skill. Those so distinguished have the privilege of voting. There are discrepancies in our classification for in some cases physical strength is a criterion, and in others a matter of exposure, particularly in leading. There has been a little dissatisfaction about the list because some of the climbs are much easier than others. We need to consider some time a revision of the list with the elimination of the excessively easy climbs. It is interesting to note in regard to revision that a group in the Sierra Club is advocating that they abandon their present system\* and make Difficulty\*\* more the basis for classification. If they succeed in working out a system we can learn something from it.

How do you feel about it? Should we have a re-classification? Do you know of any climb you think should be re-classified, and why? Discussion is invited.

\*Present system: Class 1. Easy - Rock climbing experience unnecessary. Class 2. Moderate - Ropes should be available on the climb. Class 3. Difficult - Ropes should be used in all cases--continuous climbing. Class 4. Very difficult - Belays should be used--consecutive climbing. Class 5. Severe - Pitons should be available on the climb. Class 5. Very severe - Pitons for direct aid may be used.

\*\*Difficulty: In our opinion the greatest weight in rating a climb should be given to the demand of the climb on technique, regardless of equipment used. Our proposed guide is based upon (a) length of climb; (b) difficulty; (c) route finding; (d) objective exposure; (e) soundness of rock; and (f) physical exertion required.

Ups and Downs

Sterling Hendricks  
 Maynard Miller

Betty Kauffman  
 Andy Kauffman

Jan Conn  
 Herb Conn

February 9, 1946. The presence of Maynard Miller (a friend of Betty and Andy's who has climbed with them in the Selkirks) was an excuse for a Saturday climb in the rain. They played on the Beginner's Crack, Ronnie's Leap, and the N-shaped chimney near Sterling's Crack. Finally there were assaults on Leonard's Lunacy and Sterling's Crack, in which Jan and Herb came out on top.

Donald Hubbard  
 Arnold Wexler

Dolores Alley  
 Sally Chamberlin

Donald Hubbard sends in the following contribution to Ups and Downs for Sunday, February 10, 1946:

I have been asked to give an account of last Sunday's rock climbing activities in six lines or less. Here is the whole story in a nutshell, including the personnel.

It may sound absurd  
But, Alley and Sally  
Climbed Willy and Nilly  
While, Donald and Arnold  
Looked chilly and silly  
Cooking a potherb.

"For those who do not know the Willy-Nilly traverse, it includes two sections, the first being the old familiar 'Crawford Crash' or 'Sally's Silly Slip,' while the second part involves a tension traverse which terminates at the Lizard Ledge. It occupies the entire upstream face of the rock outcrop which lies between the 'Little Horror' and the 'Skull.' (The latter climb is sometimes referred to as the 'Dome.')"

Your Ups and Downs reporter recognizes a few of the above climbs as being located at the Camp Lewis cliffs, which places the general locale of operations within fairly narrow limits, the cliffs not permitting much latitude in that respect. For those who find some difficulty in accurately locating the individual climbs mentioned above, the Editor-in-Chief has been promised an attempt at mapping them when and if further information can be procured.

Chris Scoredos  
Helen Scoredos  
Don Hubbard  
Arnold Wexler  
Bob Stephens

Jan Conn  
Helen (Tommy) Baker  
Sally Chamberlin  
Eleanor Tatge  
Mary Neilan

Pussy Behrenberg  
Tom Culverwell  
Estelle Culverwell

February 17, 1946. The trip was made to Carderock. The trippers swarmed over the cliffs in true Carderock style, climbing one route after another as fancy led. Probably the most outstanding event of the morning was Sally's climbing of the pull-up known as Sterling's Test. At noon Don and Arnold produced a wild soup from edible plants collected by the wayside, pronounced delicious by many tasters, all of whom had probably very wild-onionish breaths from then on. The afternoon included one B climb (Sally made Jan's Face by the center route) and an A (Helen Scoredos and Arnold both climbed Arthur's Traverse--not for their first time, however). Helen Baker, Jan, and Eleanor Sink-Stoppered back to their car parking place about one-half mile down the canal.

#### Gargoyle Bridge and Angel Roost, Schoolhouse Cave, West Va. (A-19)

Near the back portion of the first Big Room of Schoolhouse Cave (not counting the Entrance Room) is a bridge by which one may cross the edge of the Gargoyle Pit.\* The bridge is easily crossed. From the far side of this bridge one can make a traverse to a hole in the wall. Entering this hole one finds himself in the central portion of a well. Using this well and other wells now visible one may again emerge into the Big Room about 50 feet higher up. An expansion bolt at the point of emergence affords protection for the leader along the wall of the Big Room. The climb ends at the other end of this traverse on the Judgment Seat.

\*This bridge is shown in Tom Culverwell's sketch as "The start of the climb up the west wall" - Appalachia, June 1943, pp. 340-341.

#### Chris-Wex-Don Traverse, Carderock. (B-21)

If one follows the main line of the cliffs to the Potomac and around the corner at Leonard's Lunacy onto the narrow strip of ground between the rock and normal river level, the first easy route to the top marks the beginning of this climb. Half way up this route he traverses to the right. After rounding two corners the route leads slightly upward to a platform occupied by a cedar tree.



The normal climber would proceed only to the right, but, to make this climb officially one detours by retreating a few feet and descending a crack onto a small sloping ledge about 8 feet above the ground. Starting with a pendulum swing he traverses to the right onto the face and again returns to the cedar tree, where he continues as if he hadn't heard about the detour. This takes one down an incline onto a toe-hold ledge. This ledge is followed for about 20 feet to a vertical off-set crack. At the top of this crack one sees more cedar trees. Just beyond these the route descends to the apex of a sharp outside corner. Continuing around the corner onto a sloping ledge with low head clearance one reaches an inside corner. The end of the climb is the top of this corner.

P.S.: Only the leader of the Chris-Wex-Don may count this climb as official.

### Expedition

Major Jackman, our "Musk-ox" man started February 14, 1946, with "Exercise Musk-ox" from Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, in 47 degrees below 0 Fahrenheit blizzard weather. The expedition to test Army and Air Forces equipment expects to cover 3,130 arctic miles in 81 days.

### MEETING

Friday, March 1, 1946

with

Tom, Stel, and Kathleen Culverwell

at 6005 Welborn Drive, CL 0215

Wood Acres, Maryland

For directions see UP ROPE, Vol. 1, no. 19,

July 25, 1945

About 30 feet to the right from the start of the Chris-Wex-Don  
 forces on Made's Hsights. The climb from a prominent inside corner  
 faces upward. This corner may be further identified by a cedar  
 on the wide ledge at its top. Five feet to the immediate right of  
 the inside corner is a narrow, vertical crack in heavy rock that leads  
 to a sharp protruding pathway at the cliff. The climb commences at