



Editors

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News of the

Washington Rock Climbers

Founders

Jan & Herb Conn
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April 17, 1946

THE HORROR TWICE RECLIMBED

(see April 14, 1946 ups & downs)

Chris Scoredos
Helen Scoredos
Don Hubbard
Arnold Wexler
Helen Baker
Andy Kauffman

Betty Kauffman
Dolores Alley
George Pemental
Leonard Bolz
Eleanor Tatge
Jan Conn

Margaret Balcom
Lowell Bennett
Ellen Bennett
Tom Culverwell
Estelle Culverwell

April 7, 1946

The girls arrived at Carderock first by virtue of an automobile ride coiled their ropes, and set to brushing off the beginners' climbs for warm-up. By the time they got to work on Jan's Face the men arrived with wild vegetables. Loaded down with Don's hardware Helen Baker made a first-rate piton lead of the Cape of Good Hope and the Golden Stairs with George, climbing barefooted (and no adhesive tape either, Sterling) as second man, and Leonard bringing up the rear. A serious attack on Herby's Horror lead to some near-successes, and provided a keen analysis of difficulties by Arnold which proved a real inspiration to all who watch him. Chris worked up enthusiasm for the Jackknife as a piton lead, and understand Helen did some rare and fancy climbing here, not to be recommended to the amateur.

At noon Jan and Margaret appeared, Jan equipped with her guitar. The skin was made to ring with Conn specialties, including the finest Yodeling this side of Switzerland, or the other side either so far as we know. The performance was capped by the presentation by Don of a solid gold hammer and a platinum piton to celebrate the occasion of Jan's leaving Washington to join Herby in Kentucky.

In the afternoon Helen Baker and her party worked on the beginning section of the Chris-Wex-Don while Chris' group played around with the Section Cup Climb. The Bennetts and Culverwells appeared briefly with their respective Sink Stoppers. The Helens had been practicing sink Stopping, and finished their day by rowing on the canal to the Model Basin where the cars were parked.

Chris Scoredos
Helen Scoredos
Wally Chamberlin
Beth Anderson

Andy Kauffman
Betty Kauffman
Eleanor Tatge
Robert Reasoner

Mrs. J. Marble
Katherine Marble
Wally Bejnar
H. F. Stimson

April 14, 1946

After warming up on the easier climbs the Carderock group gathered around Herbie's Horror where the real deeds of the day were performed as

Betty Kauffman and Helen Scoredos made successful ascents. That delicate face is now possessed by the women three to two. Herbie and Jan Con and Major Dick Leonard were the only previous negotiators. Today's climb was especially intriguing because it was belayed by the Kauffman's brand-new white nylon climbing rope. Betty and Helen stoutly maintained that it was Arnold's groundwork of last Sunday that really put them up. To the rest of us it seemed that delicate balance and determination had quite a little to do with it. The remainder of the day was given over to Sink Stoppe ring and numerous attempts on others of the well-known climbs.

Don Hubbard
Dolores Alley
Arnold Wexler

Josephine Bradt
Paul Bradt

April 14, 1946 Old Rag

The Alley & Bradt youngsters had been parked for the week-end when pulled up at the Bureau of Standards 5 P.M. Friday. Within five minutes Dolores, Don Arnold and Paul were aboard for a model start to Old Rag Mt. The five inch snow fall that had occurred on the preceeding Wednesday was still very much in evidence at the lean-to; and it will be pleasant next August to remember the way my old sleeping bag let the air come through.

Early next morning we moved up to the open slabs beside the top spring. From here, under Arnold's direction, Don lead Dolores and Paul on a proposed exhibition climb for the coming Potomac Appalachian Trail Trip on Old Rag. This was felt so satisfactory that no one did anything on Sunday but scrambling, speculating on possible difficult climbs, and visiting Old Rag's one big laurel tree-Circumference 33 inches.

The major object of this trip had been the inspection and repainting of Paul's trail, Jo sandwiched this chore between the meal preparations. While painting trail blazes she saw Bill Kempor and Os Hurd attempting to band duck-hawks.

NOTICES

The Capitol Transit is now running a bus to Carderock from 29th Massachusetts Avenue N. W. The fare beyond Westmoreland Circle is 20¢.

The Mountain Club of Maryland has devoted nearly all of its Spring Bulletin to Rock Climbing. For information concerning the Mountain Club of Maryland Bulletin write to Editor-in chief: Ruth E. Lenderking, 634 Gorsuch Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Editors:

Enclosed is a little verse written by that budding poet and song writer Christine Behrenberg. The present outburst was inspired by a superlative climb made by Betty Alley on Herzog which gave rise to applause and all things like that there. The climb got the ovation not Christine or the poem.

The Climbers of Herzog

You've seen climbers at Herzog	They climb the rocks like monkeys
Like a Jam Crack Joe and the rest.	With seldom a slip or fall,
We have with us the "Invalid"	But, Betty Alley, out little one,
And the "Strawberry" who are best.	Will soon be best of all. CB

The great Arthur Lembeck has met the great Charles Daniels in Japan full details will come out in the next issue.

Current Correspondence:

Paul's comment in the last issue has turned out to be of real value for it brought forth the following:

April 6

Dear Paul:

In the last "Up Rope" I was much interested in Sam Moore's comments on the naming of climbs and your editorial remarks regarding alliteration. I was inspired to sit down and work out a little data of my own.

I listed all the climb names I could think of (excluding Schoolhouse, where the names have a color all their own!) and came out with the amazing total of 90 names. Of these 29 were named for a person -- Sterling's Crack, Arthur's Traverse, etc. There were 10 "chimneys", "Traverses", 7 "Cracks", 5 "Corners", and 5 "Faces". 17 were named for some specific feature of the terrain (Chockstone Chimney, Bird's Nest Climb). 16 celebrated some situation connected with the climb (Donald's Ducks Traverse, Indigestion Climb). 14 of the names had to do with the climbing itself (Big Toe Traverse, Dancing Climb). 10 were in a class one might term "metaphorical" (Socrate's Downfall, Jack-knife). And of the 90, only 16 (18%) were alliterations.

These figures don't prove much, except that there's plenty of variety in the way the climbs have been named. I believe that's the way it should be.

It seems to me there are "serious" climbs -- of a type one might be proud to show to a visiting mountaineer -- and there are also numerous climbs which are little more than exercises, which have little to speak for them but an amusing incident connected with them and a catchy name. Climbs of the first type should certainly not be given a "juvenile" name such as Percy's Plunge or Dora's Death-Defying Dash. But for climbs of the second type -- why not? And if the Biceps Buster is just that, why, I'm for it (the name -- not the climb!) For the "serious" climbs, however, why, let's put our literary talent to work!

I've been getting a lot of news and entertainment out of my "Up Ropes" since I've been in the Army. I'm beginning to understand now what it means to all the out-of-towners, as so often expressed in their letters. The paper gets more interesting with each issue!

Janny is going to join me here Tuesday. We've got a little-but-nice sleeping porch to call home in the nearby town of Elizabethtown.

Have seen some promising looking bluffs along the Ohio River near here, but haven't had a chance to investigate.

Say hello to all the climbers until we're back some Sunday.

Happy Climbing,

HERB.

(Pvt. Herb Conn
306 No. Mulberry
Elizabethtown, Ky.)

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April 31

Dear Paul & Jo:

I am writing to give you my present permanent address and place where you can send my copy of "Up Rope" and the bill for it whenever it is due.

School opened with a bang on March 4th and the initial load of work floored me so that I have been struggling to get up ever since. It is very hard to get back in the groove after a long absence from books. It is not so much a question of application or patience as it is trying to remember all the forgotten formulas and tricks in addition to keeping abreast with the new work.

Needless to say I not only have not had time to go rockclimbing during weekends but I have not had time to do anything but work, study, eat, and sleep. To keep from absolutely stagnating I spend about a 1/2 hour in the pool, swimming each day. I'm afraid this condition will have to continue until I can either get back on the ball or until the lead lightens.

One of the principal reasons for my dilemma is having to work half time in addition to carrying nearly a full semester's schedule. I shall have to plan my future courses with more discretion if I can finish what I started without becoming disqualified. Hope you are all in the best of health and having fun.

STEVEN YURENKA
Room 406A, Graduate House
Mass. Inst. of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

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Guam, March 30

Dear Paul & Jo:

Just thought I'd scribble you a few lines about coming home, pitons, and typhoons. First of all, I'll be leaving in just a few days, I hope. Whee! I'm all set to have a big vacation when I get home, and have been revolving lovely pink thoughts of the Tetors, the Olympics, the Smokies, the Sierra, the Rockies, and so on. I'll probably end up by going to Shenandoah Park for a weekend, but even that will be wonderful. I expect to have you demonstrate all the new climbs that have been invented since I left.

The typhoon may disrupt the shipping a little and delay my departure. It's just now dying down. The gusts hit better than 60 miles per hour. A few trees were blown over but that's about all the damage here. Quite an experience!

Last Wednesday P.M. I finally got a chance to test the pitons in coral, and the results were interesting. The coral proved to be harder than I thought. It's remarkably cohesive stuff - almost impossible to fracture it. I performed one stunt that would hardly be possible on the rocks we know. I drove one of the small flat pitons in at an angle of only 30 degrees from the face of the coral wall (not a line perpendicular to the face) and then hammered on the back side of the piton in a direction away from the wall - toward me. The small flake behind which I drove the piton refused to even budge. The rock was hard enough to blunt the pitons, but at the same time it would powder up under repeated blows, so that it was relatively easy to remove the pitons.

I, of course, didn't have a chance to experiment with an Oscar, but believe I did a fair job of exploring the characteristics of this very intriguing material, coral. Wish you could have a crack at it.

Give my best to the Gang. Am looking forward to seeing all of them again. Hope Don and some of the other adventuresome souls will take it easy for a few weeks until I get home. I don't want them to get laid up at this late date.

Be seeing all of you soon.

SAM.
(Capt. S. V. Moore)

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