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CLIMBING "ELEGANCE" by Paul Bradt

Let me say a few words about climbers who finish a pitch and thereupon apologize about the lack of elegance in their climbing. A man who, beforehand, wastes fifteen minutes to one-half hour trying to start a climb properly apologizes for taking so much of his companions' time. But the following advice is meant for the man who wishes to be thought of as an expert or near-expert, and apologizes for a lack of elegance much in the manner of a girl apologizing for not being beautiful. Elegance and grace in climbing are beautiful to watch, but they are not matters of first importance.

The most important things about the way one does a climb are these: (1) the safety with which it is done, (2) the time required to do it, and (3) the energy spent in doing it. The safety is cared for by a proper belay and has nothing to do with individual climbing elegance. The least time spent on a climb, and the least energy exerted on it, automatically provide the most elegance.

The quick way of doing a climb is almost always the easy way, and the combination of ease and quickness makes up elegance. There is no other ingredient. If the quickest and easiest way to get there is by getting on your back, knees, or stomach, then that is the most elegant and beautiful for the expert to watch. Rather than apologize for his lack of elegance, which is in effect apologizing for being slow, or for doing it the hard way, the climber might actually benefit his companions by suggesting specifically what would in his opinion have made his climb easier or more rapid. My advice is that if you can't do this, then hold your tongue; after all, maybe they think you have done well.

HEY HEY, WE ALL SAY

Your UP ROPE editors take this opportunity to insert the following ad:

WANTED

One fairy godfather. Fully equipped with office machinery, both willing and able to produce one mimeograph machine on request.

Our present machine has been kindly loaned us so far by Mr. Bien, Jan Conn's father. Unfortunately business calls; Mr. Bien will need to use his machine himself in the future, and the Club will be faced with the problem of continuing UP ROPE. If you have any suggestions, please cough up. Sooner or later we'll have to convoke a meeting to suggest ways and means, and perhaps to draw on member pocketbooks!

U \* P \* S \* \* A \* N \* D \* \* D \* O \* W \* N \* S

Paul Bradt  
Jan Conn  
Helen Baker

Herb Conn  
Bob Stephens

Ted Shad  
Jimmy Maxwell

June 30, 1946. Leaving the cars at the Quarry, the group went to the vicinity of Laurence's Last. After a little scrambling, Jimmy made a piton lead from below the cornice to the top of Laurence's Last, followed by Herb. Then Jan and Herb pointed out a vertical 90-degree corner about 50 yards upstream that they had climbed a few days earlier. Jimmy made short work of it. A shower interrupted further serious climbing, and the day was ended with practice on slippery rock.

\* \* \*

Chris Scoredos  
Helen Scoredos  
Herb Conn

Paul Bradt  
Alan Bradt  
Jo Bradt

Ted Shad  
Eleanor Tatge

On Sunday, July 7, 1946, the scene of rock climbing activity was a group of low cliffs on the Maryland side of Great Falls. Paul, Jo, and Alan made up one team with Alan sitting on Paul's shoulders and Jo leading. The remainder of the party investigated various traverse possibilities. It was the first time the group had climbed in this area, on the islands close to the main falls, since the Park Service bridges were built after the War. The Bradts located a tiny but serviceable gravel beach and promptly dunked their son. Then, while Helen and Eleanor soaked themselves and kept an eye on Alan, bold but unsuccessful attempts were made by other members of the group on The Little Handhold that Isn't There.

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On the Fourth of July Herb Conn and Eleanor Tatge, after trying in vain to gather cohorts (yes, they did), betook themselves to the Bull Run Mountains. On the way they had a hearty breakfast eaten beside a side road and cooked on Eleanor's brand new Coleman stove. At the Bull Runs they went directly to Gambs' Peak and with high courage and no hardware made an aerial traverse from the Peak to the cliffs across from it and did their traversing backwards just to prove that Don Hubbard is always right. Herb then led an elegant traverse almost as far as the Little Quartzite Slab. In the afternoon Herb successfully made the Two Inches More.

In order to prevent any suspicion among Our Readers that Jan wasn't performing in top style at this time, we are quoting here Mrs. Conn's account of adventures in New England:

"On the weekend of July 4th Mary Neilan and I climbed with the Boston A.M.C. rock climbing group in the White Mountains. About twenty of their members were camped near North Conway, N.H., under the leadership of their chairman, Walter Howe. We found them most hospitable, and we made four different climbs on their ropes.

"Close to camp were White Horse Ledge and Cathedral Ledge, two of their favorites. The former is a 600-foot climb whose long friction pitches tax the balance of the climber. Most notable pitch on the climb is the 'Brown Spot,' a traverse which entails rounding a dubious corner on a more dubious hold. Cathedral Ledge is a more severe climb. It follows a vertical crack which varies in width from a foot at the bottom to 8 or 10 near the top. Circumventing large chockstones which choke the crack, and occasionally detouring onto the airy face on either side make the climb something to remember. Mt. Willard, in Crawford Notch offers another long friction face climb and gives the climber practice with the treacherous rotten rock.

"On Saturday I had the fun of showing the A.M.C.--Irvin Davis (leading) and Don Dolan--the route which Herb and I pioneered on Mt. Cannon last August. We used 19 pitons on the ascent, leaving the best ones in and taking out the others with a hammer or in some cases with our fingers! One fell out of its own accord after Irvin had just used as a foothold!! However, the route seemed to pass their approval.



with the exception of one rotten pitch which later parties should be able to circumvent without too much difficulty.

"On the way home from New Hampshire Mary and I stopped at Boston, where we climbed again with the A.M.C., this time on their practice climbs. We watched Don and Jean Dolan demonstrate all the notable climbs and tried them ourselves. Later other climbers joined us and the resulting accumulation of ropes and enthusiastic climbers reminded us of Carderock on a lively Sunday afternoon."

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Sunday, July 14, found our intrepid climbers, partly at Carderock, partly at Great Falls, Maryland. They included the following:

Paul Bradt	Dolores Alley	Bud Temin	Jan Conn
Jo Bradt	Betty Alley	Honeylou Kundin	Herb Conn
Alan Bradt	Billy Alley	Helen Baker	Eleanor Tatge

The Carderock group got started first, on various beginner's climbs. The Bradts and Alleys left for Great Falls where the scrambling was more to the taste of Alan. After Herb and Eleanor had performed a "prodigious" piton traverse with the new pitons and hammer that Jan brought back from New England (the weather was so hot that anything involving the stretching of one single muscle was prodigious), the Carderockers had a try at Herb's new climb, a ticklish corner at the end of Arthur's Crossover. No one but Herb climbed it successfully, but Helen Baker would have if a tree hadn't got in her way.

Meanwhile the Bradts and Alleys were led by Paul to the Little Handhold that Isn't There. By the time they arrived ambition had dwindled, and Paul took the two mothers successively on scrambling trips. The lead was shared sufficiently to make them feel that each had added something valuable to his or her day.

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Book Notice: The July Trail & Timberline goes among the reference books, with a map showing Colorado's 52 peaks over 14000 feet in elevation and the highways leading to them.

News of Our Readers: The people getting this UP ROPE out are among the few left in town, and even one of their number threatens to leave for the Teton Mts. next Thursday--Eleanor Tatge. Chris and Helen Scoredos were last heard from in Iowa on their way for a three month's stay in the Wind River and Teton regions.

Betty and Andy Kauffman are in Alaska, and among other things are attempting the second ascent of Mt. St. Elias.

Cards received from Sam Moore and Chuck Haworth from B.C., dated July 2, 1946, tell of everything being O.K. with their expedition to the Selkirks. Sam says: "This country is really out of this world and the mosquitos are very definitely in it (Ed. note--Too bad Leo's insect repellant, for sale at P.A.T.C. Headquarters for 25 cents a bottle did not get here before they were off on their trip). Imagine--all the local people are talking to one another about how bad they are this year. Isn't that just fine! So far everything has gone fine. Tomorrow is the big day when we turn mules. Maybe if I could harness a few mosquitos I wouldn't need to carry my pack. Gang sends their regards." --Sam. Sam, Chuck, Sterling Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, and Arnold Wexler make up the total party for the Selkirks.

Jan Conn has been in New Hampshire climbing with the A.M.C., as related in Ups and Downs, above; and

Ellen and Lowell Bennett are in Mt. Desert, Maine, and may go over to Katahdin. This will make the second time in as many months that members of our group have been on Katahdin, for Arthur and Win Lembeck were there in the first part of June.

Arthur and Win are now settled in San Diego (as permanently as Navy people may be settled anywhere). They seem to be sold on the West the more they see of it.

Letters: Sally Chamberlin has become "Miss F. S. Chamberlin of 315 West Preston St., Hartford 6, Conn." She wrote it that way herself in a letter to the Bradts renewing her subscription to UP ROPE. She also enclosed some Cabin John car tickets to be used by any one without other transportation. "Since I probably won't be climbing again with the Club for some time, I'll just fill up this last space wishing you all lots of swell climbing."--Sincerely, Sally. Good luck to you, Sally, and happy days in Switzerland. Let us know how you like it there. Some of our peripatetic members may get the urge to be over to go along on some of your jaunts.

Laurence Curl has been wandering again. This time he went West from Florida and back through Indiana and Kentucky. He saw no climbing in the Ozarks, but reports that at Cumberland Gap he "took the toll road up Pinnacle Mountain and had a look at the Pinnacle. It looked climbable, tho it had the remarkable property of overhanging on all sides." On the whole he seems not to have seen or done much climbing. However, in the fall he says he may be in North Carolina or Virginia. Maybe we can get together at Grandfather Mt. then.

We hear that the Fritz Wiessners' "are off for Wrangell, Alaska, and hoping to climb some peaks in the Stikine River area." Fritz says, "We certainly were delighted to have you climb with us in the Shawangunks, and we hope that you will join us again some time in the fall."

If any of our readers knows someone who would like to join Bill Kemper to try the climbing on Oahu he can get in touch with Bill at Staff Commander Joint Task Force 1, USS Haven, AH 12, FPO San Francisco.