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News of the  
Washington Rock Climbers

Founders  
John & Herb Conn  
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MID-NOVEMBER TREAT  
Operation Musk-Ox Slides

The Sterling Hendricks' are opening their game room to Rock Climbing Clubbers and their guests on Friday, November 15, 1946, at 8 P.M. to see Canadian Expedition Musk-Ox. The shown by Lt. Jackman, former Major in the who was as- pedition by as American Ob- Sterling's home Georgia Avenue and turn right Pike. At Dale

★ Musk Ox Pictures Shown ★  
by Lt. Col. A. H. Jackman  
at 1118 Dale Dr. Silver Spring  
8 P. M. Fri, Nov, 15

slides of the dition Operation slides will be Col. A. H. merly Artillery Mountain Troops, signed to the Ex- the General Staff server. To reach by car, follow to Silver Spring on Colesville Drive (Mrs. K's

Tea House) turn left. Sterling's house is no. 1118, about 0.3 mile from the turn. The junction of Dale Drive and Colesville Pike may be reached by either the Z-4 or Z-6 buses, which start from Georgia and Alaska. Sterling's phone number is SHEpherd 4603.

UPS AND DOWNS

Chris Scoredos  
Helen Scoredos  
Don Hubbard

Arnold Wexler  
Eleanor Tatge

October 13, 1946. Helen: "Let's go to the place where the Little Handhold That Isn't There isn't there!" Chorus: "Let's." And we were off for the Maryland cliffs at Great Falls. The Potomac River was very low, and rocks exposed that are not always in climbable position. On the way to the L.H.T.I.T. (in Swimming Hole Gulch), we stopped at a fine corner which had been pioneered some time before by Paul Bradt and Ed Siggers. Chris and Helen conquered the climb by inventing a fine traverse across the adjacent face to overcome the difficulties in the take-off. (We parenthetically note Don's hair-raising ascent without a rope as something which should never have been.) Paul Bradt suggests the name "Red Overhang Climb" for it. The climb starts with a high handhold and infinitesimal ledge-like footholds, all of which, with a good bit of agility on the part of the climber, permit elevation above the severe part of the overhang. On the face adjacent, to the left, and slightly downstream of the Red Overhang,

Eleanor pioneered the Zigzag climb, starting with a tiny toehold for the left foot, a narrow ledge above and far to the right for the right foot, a rounded bump high and far to the left for the left foot, then another ledge high to the right and a far stretch for the right foot, from which point the top was easily accessible. Then Arnold led a piton traverse of a face adjacent to and upstream of the L.H.T.I.T., followed by Chris, Don, and Eleanor, while Helen painted the group in water colors. Lunch was followed by a bit of scrambling, after which Arnold and Chris did some fancy work on a corner some distance upstream of the morning's activities, while Don walked down to Carderock where the whole group met him on the way home surrounded by mushrooms, his nose buried in an identification book. E.T.

\* \* \*

Don Hubbard  
Arnold Vexler

Betty Kauffman  
Andy Kauffman

Betsy Swift  
Helen Eaker

October 20, 1946. Carderock it was again, altho the rain did not put the rocks in optimum condition for climbing. We started with the Beginners' Crack, Helen and Betty going up first, Betty giving instruction to our newcomer, Betsy Swift. Betsy followed up the wet rocks, showing quite a knack for climbing. Then it was up the Earnacle Face and down the Buckets-of-Blood Chimney; and the party left for the dryer conditions of Jan's Chimney.

Lunch was eaten under the Jam Box, socks dried over Betty's fire, and attention was given to numerous ascents and descents of Jan's Chimney. Betsy handled the chimney very well under the capable tutoring of our two professors, Don at the top, and Arnold standing at the foot. Meanwhile, Helen tried an adjacent little crack without a rope, just to see if she could do it as a piton lead. After we had some practice at rappelling, Don suggested that since the weather was clearing and the rocks drying we try some other rocks. At that moment the rains broke loose, and altho it was only 2 o'clock, the party willingly took the Kauffmans' suggestion that we start back at this almost unprecedented departure hour. Helen Baker

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Don Hubbard  
Chris Scoredos  
Helen Scoredos

Billy Alley  
Betty Alley  
Dolores Alley  
J. Oliver Westfall

H. F. Stimson  
Bea Howell  
R. J. Corruccini

October 27, 1946. OUR DAY.

With autos to spare, in a flash we were there  
Out along the Canal and down by the cliff.  
Howell climbed rocks with ease, while Chris did the trees  
And Betty's spanking produced many a howl and a sniff.

From almost the start, Helen took to her art  
Painting trees, rivers, cliffs and the like  
While Billy did tricks with matches and sticks  
Dolores rested her hand by taking a hike.

After Wes lost his glasses among the leaves and the grasses  
He climbed himself blue in the face  
With many a puff, he showed he was tough  
By climbing Sterling's Overhang chimney with grace.

Then came Stimmy and friend, who did climbing no end  
Of traverse, overhang, and painful lay-back.  
Up Jan's Chimney and down they climbed across and around,  
Doing stretches, faces, and vertical crack.



Then for piton instruction, Howell led the Chris-Wex-Don  
And: I'm sure I heard Chris Scoredos squall  
My feet are a-slipping, I think I'm gonna fall  
So, drive in a piton, hook a karabiner Howell quick!

Odee o leo e dee

Howell answered, Hang on Chris  
I'm driving in a piton but something's gone amiss  
I've hit my thumb, I bruised the rope,  
I've dropped the karabiner and the hammer broke.

Odee o leo e dee

Don Hubbard

\* \* \*

Chris Scoredos  
Helen Scoredos

Don Hubbard  
Arnold Wexler  
Dolores Alley

Bea Howell  
Eleanor Tatge

November 3, 1946. Leaving Helen behind with her watercolors and a fine view, the group wended its way downstream from the Great Falls, Maryland, parking area towards the Red Overhang. Most of the day's climbing, both before and after lunch, was done on the cliffs nearest the C. & O. Canal across from the end of Cleft Island, and upstream from the Little Handhold That Isn't There. Bea and Eleanor successfully completed the first climb, up a wide crack which was in places almost a chimney. Chris and Arnold tackled an adjacent face, finally satisfying their admiring spectators by arriving at the top. After lunch a glance or two was cast at the Red Overhang, and the serious climbing continued on the same cliffs as before, a little downstream of the morning's activities. Don's spectacular piton lead aroused no enthusiasm, and Arnold and Chris struggled to no avail on a nearby overhang with interesting but impracticable possibilities which would have been much bettered by a few more holds here and there and a little less overhang.

#### CINCINNATI HOSPITALITY (Continued)

Don Hubbard asks for further details of Bill Schlecht's reception in Cincinnati. Bill says the uniformed band that played "Jam Crack Joe" had the letters "S. A." on their collars; no doubt it stands for "Society of Alpinists," or something of the kind. (P.S. In personal communication Bill adds that the M.C. who invited him to speak did it with the words, "Come forward, brother, and testify." We still don't quite understand Bill's speechlessness.)

#### A NORTHERN GEORGIA TRIP

We hear from Laurence Curl that he spent some time last summer exploring the mountains of northern Georgia, chiefly the Blue Ridge. He speaks of climbing Yonah Mt., a high monadnock 15 miles or so from the main ridge, which had a huge cliff upon it. "Rock exposures were fairly common and were quite extensive on Blood, Cowrock and Yonah Mts., but on the first two were not cliffs or not much so. Yonah was another kettle of fish. This high peak is just north of Cleveland, Ga. and stands out very prominently from all sides. The south and west sides of it just below the summit were a solid mass of rock, there being an initial cliff about 200 feet high, with various other ledges farther down. There is an abandoned fire tower on the summit, and there formerly were two trails up the mountain, but it is now highly overgrown, so that it involves a good bit of bushwhacking. The cliff is something tho, as it is a solid mass of rock a quarter of a mile long or so, with very little in the way of major breaks but with numerous minor cracks and roughnesses. I didn't climb the main part of the cliffs from the bottom, don't know whether it is possible or not, but I would guess it is. If it were near Washington I would guess it would be a favorite haunt of rock-climbers, but I don't know whether it has ever been seriously climbed upon. Two wild goats inhabit the area." He adds: "Somewhere recently I saw a picture of

the cliffs on the south side of Whiteside Mt., which is east of Franklin, N. C., and they looked to be very high. I was past Whiteside last fall and noted some very sizeable cliffs on the north side of Whiteside, the formation known as the Devils Court-house, I believe, but these on the south side appeared to be very high." Laurence still promises to get up to Washington to visit us some day. We'll be glad to see you, Laurence!

#### NEW CLIMBING FIELDS IN WEST VIRGINIA?

The Editors did a wee bit of exploring themselves on the way to Indiana two weeks ago. From Moorefield, W. Va., they went north 5 miles to Old Fields; thence west thru Williamsport, Falls, Greenland, and Scherr. The campsite in the grassy saddle of Patterson Creek Mt. was beautiful, but the climbing prospects are in Greenland Gap. This could be reached more easily, perhaps, by driving south from New Creek on U.S. 50.

Remember that North Fork Mt. is the somewhat worn down south end of the New Creek Mt. anticline. South of the North Fork of the Potomac this anticline is broken down so that its quartzite shell forms Seneca, Champe, etc. rocks and the backbone of North Fork Mt. North of this river the quartzite is exposed at three water gaps as a continuous rainbow-shaped cliff on each side of the gap. The gaps, reading northward, are Kline, Cosner's, and Greenland. At either side of any of these gaps is a traverse, a mile long, on a substantially vertical wall curving so as to allow the leader to study the route ahead. If we have need of practice in rapid continuous climbing here is a field. Each gap is traversed by a road giving easy access to all cliffs. The profusion of mountain vegetation is unusual.

#### A NEW MEXICO NOTE

From Jan Conn we hear that "Herbie and I are living in a delivery truck at the moment, and so far it has been fun. The main advantage is that we don't have to pack up for week-end trips. We just drive off.

"Last weekend we did some climbing near the Shield on Sandia Peak where the Jacobs' and Chuck Haworth did some climbing a year or so ago. We hope to get back again soon, and also to do some climbing on some of the sandstone mesas around Albuquerque.

"Do you have any idea when the sleeping bags Leo has on order are coming through? Our delivery truck is going to be mighty cold this winter."

#### AND FROM LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

A card from Sally Chamberlin tells us that she is actually in Switzerland, and "No climbing yet, but soon." Her address now is:

Miss Sally Chamberlin  
Av. Buchonnet 51  
c/o Bettex  
Lausanne, Vaud  
Switzerland

#### U.S.G.S. MAPS

We are informed by a reliable source that the price of the United States Geological Survey Quadrangles has doubled. The inch to a mile topographic sheets which were 10 cents apiece are now 20 cents apiece. We do not know whether a reduction is still allowed on quantity purchases.