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News of the  
Washington Rock Climbers

Founders  
Don & Herb Conn  
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VOTING TIME AGAIN!

The annual voting meeting of the Rock Climbing Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club has been set for Thursday, December 12, 1946, at 8:00 P.M. at the home of the Chairman, Chris Scoredos, 1717 R Street N.W. A second year under the able leadership of Chris is drawing to a close, and it is time for us to choose a guide for the plans and policies of 1947.

MEETING  
Dec. 12

At this meeting Chris will show some of his numerous climbing and mountaineering pictures and slides, which he has not yet shown to the Club. We understand from his loyal better half that a real treat is in store for us.

UPS AND DOWNS

Chris Scoredos  
Helen Scoredos  
Arnold Wexler

Helen Baker  
Bea Howells  
Bob Stephens

John Reed  
Eleanor Tatge

November 24, 1946. On the Virginia side of the Potomac the Rock Climbers walked from the quarry to the bank opposite the fish ladder and started their day with the Indigestion Climb and the nearby cracks which were first climbed during the 1941 flood when they stood conspicuously alone above water. Chris, Arnold, and Bea made the Indigestion Climb. This was followed by climbs on a favorite face of Don Hubbard's directly across from the fish ladder and upstream of the Reverse Chimney, which latter was successfully climbed by Arnold and John. After lunch the Stocking Climb was stretched stocking-footed by John, but fully shoed by experts Chris and Arnold. Chris used an extra-fancy layback technique on the Stocking Climb which was something to see. Down the river a ways a free rapel was set up at Oscar's Leap for a warm-up before leaving for home.

\* \* \*

Paul Bradt  
Arnold Texler  
Eleanor Tatge

Mary Neilan  
Ted Shad  
Dolores Alley

Andy Kauffman  
Betty Kauffman

Thursday through Sunday, November 28 to December 1, 1946. Paul, Arnold, and Eleanor arrived at the Smoke Hole area about noon on Thanksgiving Day. After setting up camp at Mr. Rohrbach's farm (W. H. Rohrbach, Cabins, West Virginia), they went down to Redman Gap on the South Branch of the Potomac. The gap cuts through a limestone anticline parallel to the river. Paul, Arnold, and Eleanor roped in and climbed up the east slope of the anticline on the south side of the Gap, where they found evidences of previous Army occupation in the form of rusty pitons, and climbed down the end of the anticlinal exposure into the Gap.

Friday the team forded the river in Paul's Sink Stopper I, and walked south upstream to Blue Rock. They scrambled a bit on it, then went across to nearby Green Spring Rock. Here on top of the mountain they roped up, Arnold leading, Paul third, and made a most interesting climb down about 250 feet on the face of the cliff. The rock was much shattered and loose, and the leader's task was ticklish, the third man's precarious. At the bottom of the cliff they practiced glissading on the scree and reached the river bank in short order.

Saturday morning Mary came into camp. The group went down to Austin Gap, below Redman Gap, where Eleanor led a rope of Paul and Arnold on a traverse while Mary watched from below. They moved along the face of the cliff on the north side of the Gap, and progressed nicely upwards to an overhang where Eleanor put in a piton and turned the lead over to Paul. He pounded in a second piton to safety his belayer, and, belayed by Arnold, inched out from under the overhang onto the left wall of an inside corner below it. The handholds, on a wide crack about eye level, were the very best, but the footholds, except for a large one about the middle of the face, were negligible. Arnold and Eleanor followed Paul and pronounced the route a truly gruesome lead.

At lunchtime Paul went back to camp and brought Ted, Dolores, Betty and Andy back with him. While Andy, Betty, and Mary took a short hike, the rest of the group watched Paul hopefully start up a chimney featuring some really loose and complicated detail. Twenty feet up, due, he says, to nervousness, Paul retreated along the face of the cliff to the left--after first safetying Arnold up to a good belay point. Dolores followed Arnold, and Eleanor as end man removed the pitons.

Sunday morning the group Sink Stopped across the river, scrambled up Blue Rock, and glissaded down the scree slope at its foot. The weather, which for three days had been wonderfully sunny in the daytime with clear starlit nights and a beautiful quarter moon, had become threatening, the skies rolling with great black clouds, and slight showers falling lightly at intervals. Camp was broken about noon. Mr. Rohrbach had been most generous in allowing camping on his property and the use of his spring, and he cordially invited the group to come again. A great many thanks are due him, and the group wished him a sincere farewell.

\* \* \*

December 1, 1946. After some solo scrambling at Carderock by Chris Scoredos in the morning, he enlisted Helen Scoredos and his niece, Gloria Zaby, in the afternoon for a serious workout. For her first climbs Gloria accomplished the Beginner's Climb, the Tree Frog Climb (on the first inside corner downstream of the Spider Talk), and the Barnacle Face. Good going, Gloria.

THANK YOU, "MR." JACKMAN

Some fifty members and friends saw L. H. Jackman's "Operation Musk Ox" pictures at Sterling and Mrs. Hendricks' home November 22. Whether it was the pictures, the speaker, the hospitality, or the sight of each other, one couldn't say; but the meeting was one of the best we've had.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

The original plans for holding a photographic contest at the election meeting have been altered. Mr. O'Malley says that slowness in deliveries in nylon rope prevents an immediate award. Further, the judges haven't been able to get together to formulate rules for the contest. However, it has been decided by the Chairman that, in this, our first contest, climbing pictures taken in past years will be fair entries. In order to permit judges to enter their own pictures it has been suggested by one judge that actual decisions be made by vote of those attending the contest meeting. Another judicial opinion indicates that color slides will be in a separate contest from mounted black and white prints. No opinion has as yet been heard as to the kind of finish and mounting to be requested for prints. We know of no official limitation as to subject matter. The date remains indefinite.

--Barnaby

## OPERATION EVEREST

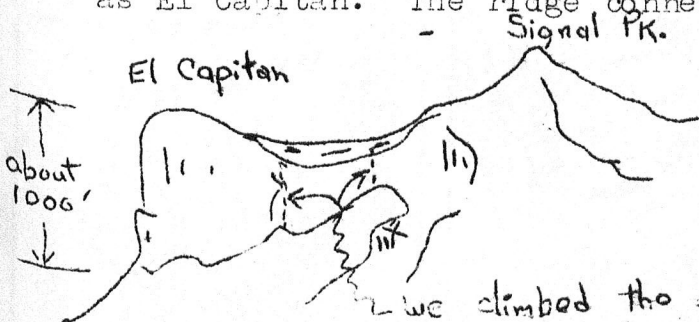
We have a medical report on "Operation Everest" submitted by Arthur Lembeck. It was a low-pressure chamber study of acclimatization in which four "climbers" exercised for a month as their apparent altitude was altered. As carried out "mountain sickness" was not observed, but a gradual decline in appetite and ability to work was noted with increase in height. While the men didn't acclimatize as rapidly as mountaineers, measurements made on them indicated that they reacted to the oxygen shortage "by an increase in pulmonary ventilation, which continued over a period of weeks, and caused a lowering of the arterial carbon dioxide content, a decrease in alkaline reserve, and an increase in the alkalinity of the blood. These chemical changes, together with the increase in hemoglobin, sustained the arterial oxygen content at close to the sea level value, and minimized the fall in arterial oxygen pressure and saturation."

"Two of the men remained for five hours above 25,000 feet, of which time twenty minutes was spent at 29,000 feet, without supplementary oxygen; the other two required oxygen after four hours above 25,000 feet, at an altitude of roughly 27,000 feet. On the following day two men stayed for one hour above 45,000 feet, reaching 50,000 feet for a few minutes while using ordinary oxygen equipment. The altitude of 42,000 feet is commonly considered the ceiling for men using this equipment, and only a few men have remained for as long as a few minutes at 45,000 feet breathing oxygen under pressure. Furthermore, the average duration of consciousness in unacclimatized man is less than ten minutes at 25,000 feet, and less than three minutes at 29,000 feet. These two high runs, therefore, demonstrate that the men had increased their tolerance for high altitude, both with and without supplementary oxygen, by approximately 6,000 to 8,000 feet."

The report is titled "Operation Everest; a study of acclimatization to Anorexia--Lt. Comdr. C.S. Houston, (MC)USNR.

## A TEXAS NOTE

According to Herb Conn: "A few days ago we climbed Signal Peak, highest point in Texas, and a huge limestone buttress known as El Capitan. The ridge connecting the two mountains is extremely narrow, and on the other side



(west) it's about the most tremendous thing we've ever seen. The cliff as it runs around the point of El Capitan gets higher and higher. We dropped a rock off from the saddle and counted 10 seconds. Then we couldn't follow it any farther, but it still hadn't hit. By our calculations that means over 1600 feet--sheer! This same cliff

runs for miles without a break. Here we climbed, things were more reasonable. Some of the pitches were pretty interesting, though."



## —AND FOUR TO GO!

Nothing much has been said about that Nov. 8-11 trip to Droop Mtn. But just for the record let's run over the main events. The trip down was the usual "Fitz-Blitz" — The mountains all black and silver under a full moon, and Don's admonitory remarks more or less lost in the howl of tires on the curves. And here we have the personnel bedded down for the night in Ek Cutlip's hayloft —



② At the breakfast table, Saturday morning, we tested our reach and coordination —



③ And then launched a highly mechanized attack on Scuttlebutt Cave —



④ Forty feet down, we had a situation like this — We slogged away at that crevice for about an hour (That's a wrecking bar Don's using, not the cane he claims he needs!)



⑤ Leo makes the final attempt. What a struggle — It's got him by the hips — the shoulders — the ears —

**HE'S DOWN!**

⑥ IT'S A RECORD FOLKS! NOBODY HAS EVER BEEN THAT LOW BEFORE



⑦ "SPLENDID! BUT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE NEXT TIME LET THEM PULL YOU OUT BY THE OTHER ARM!"







Some mention should be made of Fitzhugh's Deluxe Curbside Service. (Marquee and Red Carpet at slight extra charge)

THAT'S CLOSE  
ENOUGH, FITZ-  
WE'LL LOOK THE  
REST OF THE  
WAY!

WANTS THAT HUMP  
JUST TO THE RIGHT  
OF KENNISON MTN?

TO THE RIGHT?  
LET'S SEE-  
IT'LL BE  
THE SEAT OF  
YOUR PANTS!



2

Briary Knob Lookout  
Tower, where we  
laid all the landmarks  
on the line with  
the alidade

3 Don  
Strikes  
it rich  
in the old  
coal mine-

"IT'S  
EDIBLE!"



Hills Creek Cave - where the ceiling closed down  
recently



The Support party  
was only a glimmer  
of light behind us.  
The safety man's  
lamp flame was  
barely above water.  
His morale was  
very low.

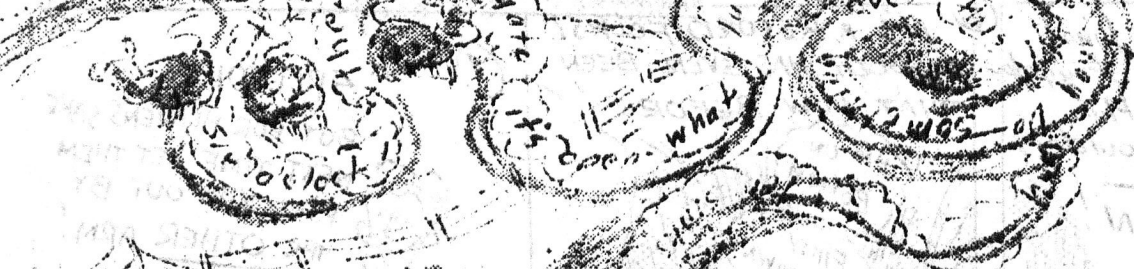


But Don was happy  
with only two inches of  
air space. What a man!  
Nothing restrained him  
but all our rope at  
full stretch.



While counting on Don to lead  
us thru Deep Mtn one of  
these days.

Three Cans



"LOG JAMS  
OLD WATER  
AND MISERY  
SEEMED AS  
COAL MINES  
THE BLOCK &  
TACKLE  
AND NOW,  
THIS"

THE  
THICKER

THIS

