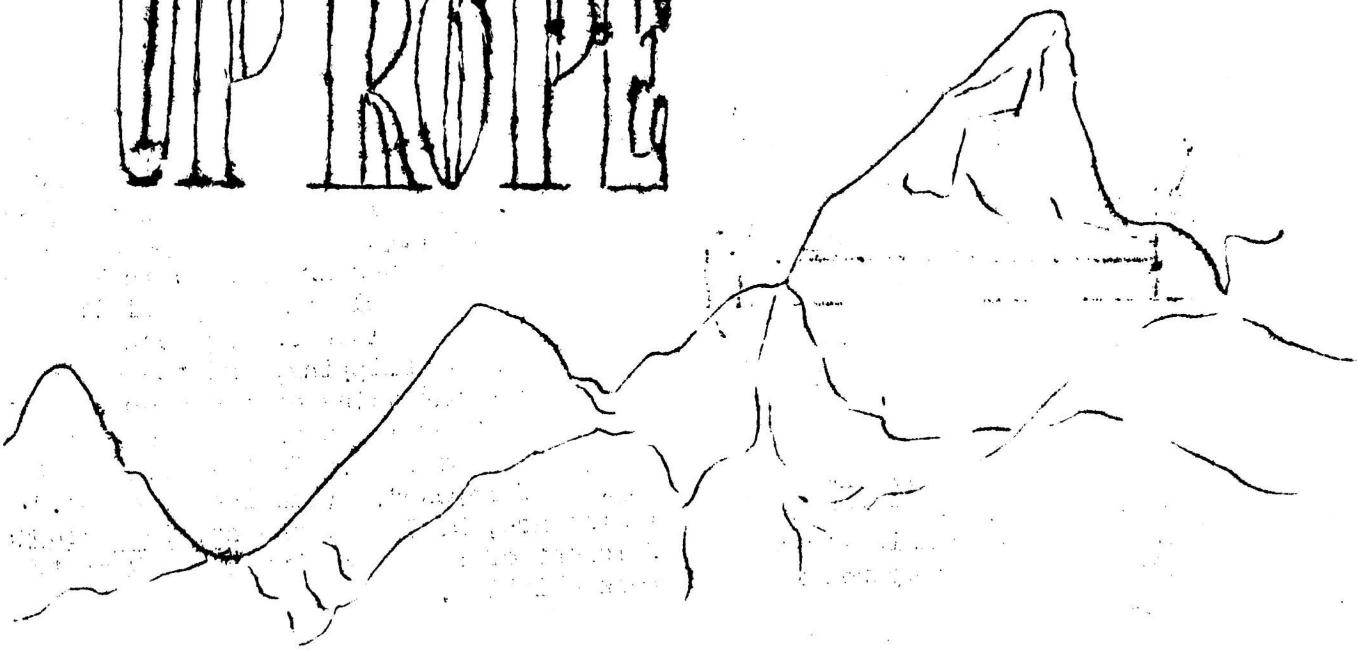
UP ROPE



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SOME TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ROCK CLIMBING.

by Paul Bradt

Part 1 - Friction

Preparatory to making a few technical notes on climbing, I looked around for some data on the relative merits of different shoe soles. Along with the meagre handbook information one finds considerable caution given about variability of friction, as on different parts of the same rock. No climber needs to be told about such variations. He learns about them the hard way.

Two publications of the National Bureau of Standards (each obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. for 10¢) have merit. The one on "Relative Slipperness of Floor and Deck Surfaces." (BMS-100) by Percy A. Sigler lists the data in my Table 2. The other, from the Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards, is by Frank L. Roth, Raymond Driscoll and Wm. L. Holt on the "Frictional Properties of Rubber", (RP-146[3]). It is a thorough treatment of the subject on which much of my discussion is based. The references left something to be desired in the way of diversity of data. I accordingly hinged a couple of timbers together (Fig.1) to provide a tiltable surface. My