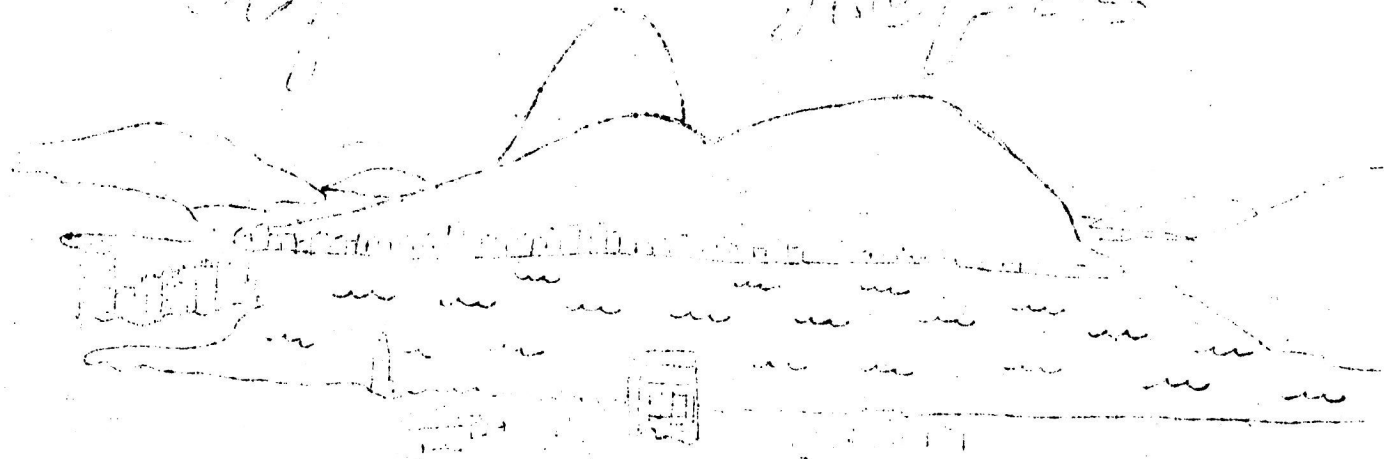


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Sugar-Leaf Mt., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 5, no. 9

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Editor

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Founders

Jan and Herb Conn

FIVE CENTS A COPY

February Meeting

TIME. Saturday, February 26, 1949 at 8:00 P.M.

PLACE. Tom & Stelle Culverwells' home, 6005 Welborn Drive, Woodacres, Maryland. Telephone, OLiver 0215.

PROGRAM. The World Premier of the Rock Climbers' own motion picture, "Up Rope." In addition our Chairman promises a surprise for those who attend, in the nature of a special unveiling.

DIRECTIONS. To reach the Culverwells' by bus take an N-2 (starts at 17th & K, across the park from Connecticut) or an H-2 Crosstown (marked Westmoreland Circle) to 49th and Massachusetts. Here change to the N-8 (marked McArthur Blvd. or Persimmon Rd.) to the 7200 block of Massachusetts. This bus does not run often, so allow plenty of time. The following connections are suggested:

<u>Bus</u>	<u>Leaves</u>	<u>at</u>	<u>or</u>
N-2	17th & K	6:44	7:24
H-2	16th & Irving	6:50	7:26
N-8	49th & Mass.	7:15	7:50

VALUATION IN BRAZIL
By Eleanor Tatge

This summer's outing in Brazil frankly did not offer much in the way of rock climbing, but such "mountaineering" as fell in my path had exciting moments, in a civilized way. I left the States by airplane the first part of August for a month's stay, mainly in and near São Paulo, where I spent the mornings studying Portuguese at the União Cultural and the week-ends visiting nearby areas. My introduction to Brazilian topography came as the plane arrived at Rio de Janeiro, where I was to change planes. The weather was clear and glistening, the visibility perfect, but on the runway of our landing field, on a small island in the Atlantic Ocean offshore of the city, sat a round fluffy white cloud. Waiting, we circled the city three times, and were treated to a panorama of breathtaking beauty--mountains, long arcuate beaches, rippling blue ocean, tall rocky islands, until the little cloud slid off our runway.

On a week-end trip I travelled by bus to the Atlantic port of Santos. São Paulo is on a plateau about 3,000 feet high, not more than 50 miles inland, and the descent to the sea is steep and rugged. The scenery was wild enough for any mountain enthusiast. I was particularly enthralled by fleeting glimpses of the great hydroelectric plant, at the very edge of the plateau before we started the descent, and by the twisting and doubling back of the road, opening new vistas before us every second as we snaked our way downward, and of the gorgeous waterfalls we passed. In the town of Santos I climbed Monte Serrat, a delightful little mountain with a view of the harbor docks and warehouses and of the imposing cathedral from one side, and from the other the long arcs of Atlantic beaches backed by scattered tall apartment houses, and in the distance the island of Guarajá, where I was to spend a most delightful week end on the sands and in the surf. The method for climbing Monte Serrat is particularly unique and admirable; by elevator!

My second mountain climbing venture was similarly unique. In Rio de Janeiro, where I spent the last five days of my visit, I was hardly settled in my hotel on the famous Copacabana beach before I set out to climb Sugar Loaf Mountain, which stands guard at the entrance to the harbor of Rio. The mountain is delightfully tall and steep, and I think would make a fine rock climb for anyone with a free week end to spare who doesn't mind spending his nights tied to a piton. But the tourist goes up by aerial tramway. The tram is about half the size of a streetcar. The first car swings up the cable to the half-way point on top of Mount Urca. There one changes to a second car which rises to the casino perched on top of Sugar Loaf. It's quite an experience.

The highest mountain in Rio (more of the terrain within the city is mountains than plain, really, and marvelously scenic) is the Corcovado, on top of which stands a huge statue of Christ with outstretched arms. I started to climb the Corcovado on foot, but was persuaded to complete the ascent by cog railway by three earnest and well-meaning Brazilian gentlemen who showed me their pistols and insisted that I would be robbed and in great danger if I continued alone. The great statue was very imposing. On leaving Rio our plane took off shortly after dusk, after the city lights were turned on, and the Casino atop Sugar Loaf twinkled gaily, and the Christ of the Corcovado, bathed in flood lights, became our last recollection of beautiful Rio.

February Trips

Ice Climbing (*) Trip February 12 and 13. Andrew J. Kaufmann will lead this trip to White Oak Canyon or elsewhere that ice climbing can be found. A one or two day trip, according to the desires of those attending. Please notify Andy as early as possible if you are going.

The Trail Club Trip to Clark's Cave and vicinity will be on February 19 and 20. The Rock Climbers are welcome and urged to attend.

Those who attended the January 29 trip will be needed as guides, and those who did not will want to form their own opinions of this

A - MAZE - ING CAVE.

Spring Trip Schedule

Date	Place	Leader
March 13	Sugar Loaf Mountain	Ped Schad
April 10	Old Rag Mountain	Art Lembeck
May 1	Devils Garden	Paul Bradt
May 28-30	Grandfather Mountain	To be announced

Deviations from and additions to the schedule will be announced in future issues of UP ROPE. Please register your intention of going on these trips with the leader well in advance of the date scheduled, except for the Sugar Loaf Mountain trip, which will be a regular Sunday trip, leaving from the Wisconsin Avenue A/V Mot Shoppe at 8:30 A.M.

Ups and Downs

Don Hubbard
Chris Scoredos
Johnny Reed

Eleanor Tatge
Arnold Wexler
Earl Mosburg

Jan. 2, 1949. This Sunday, the first in the New Year, the Potomac was high and most climbs were under many feet of water at Great Falls, Maryland, the locale besieged by the little band of climbers with ropes and hardware. The only climbing that was not amphibious was aerial. Traverses were set up across two channels of the Potomac. These were negotiated by a number of techniques. A dunking awaited anyone pulling a boner, but no one would perform for the hopeful photographers. A face was located after lunch that permitted some piton leading and tension climbing--up a terrific height of ten feet.

Arthur Lembeck
Arnold Wexler

Donald Hubbard
John Meenaghan
Eleanor Tatge

Dolores Alley
Betty Alley

Sunday, January 9. Thurmont, Md. On a gray morning, with Art and John providing transportation and a coalition of vague recollections providing directions, the group eventually located an outcrop of low but interesting quartzite cliffs at Wolf Rock, a short 15-minute hike

by trail from Camp Miss, where the cars were parked. The climb to the top provided a delightful viewpoint for lunch. A gorge about 15 feet across, at the feet of the lunchers, inspired an aerial traverse. The sun came out rather hesitantly but enough to permit a photographic record of Arthur's standard and Tyrolean Traverse techniques. For the traverse a gruesome crack was located in the side of the gorge calculated to be sufficiently overhanging and devoid of holds to perfectly suit Don's technique. It was Art, however, who finally climbed the crack to the tune of deep philosophical discussions, such as "Using a piton for direct aid on a Class 5 climb."

While the men then worked on the problem of transferring themselves from one pit in the gorge to another via a 2-foot shelf piton-lead traverse, the women found a long vertical cliff reminiscent of Carderock ripe for exploration. With Betty overseeing operations, Dolores and Eleanor belayed each other, then roped in for a 2-man horizontal traverse. Returning to base, they found Arnold, Don, and Art busily engaged on a free rappel off a projecting beak. On the hike back to the cars great satisfaction with the day's activities was expressed, and it was resolved to revisit the area for further investigation.

Chris Scoredos	James D. Kennedy	Donald Hubbard	Howard Bakerman
Eleanor Tatge	Pim Karcher	Gaby Rosenberger	Andy Kaufmann
Dick Goldman	Ken Karcher	John Meenehan	Betty Kaufmann
reflex blonza	Jane Showacre	P. E. Stephens	Ena Russell
	Bob Tiemann		

Sunday, Jan. 16, 1949. From the quarry at Great Falls, Virginia, the climbers walked up to Oscar's Leap where a free rappel was set up. The weatherman was on the side of the cameramen this day, and the clicking of shutters accompanied each rappel. Ascents were made of the inside corner left of the rappel, and of the wall adjacent, while Don taught Pim's uncle, James Kennedy, to tie a bowline. The group moved on up to Juliet's Balcony where, on the opposite face, a rappel swing was demonstrated for gaining foothold on a little ledge difficult of access, and two roped traverses were made to the Balcony. John's cave rope ladder with wooden cross bars was hung off the Balcony and several practice climbs were made with it, and later with a loop ladder at the same place. On the return trip an aerial traverse was set up at the George Washington Canal lock, especially for the beginners; that constituted the last operation for the day.

* * *

Arnold Wexler	Chris Scoredos
Eleanor Tatge	Don Hubbard

Sunday, Jan. 23, 1949. A small group at Carderock continued tests of rope and equipment, the results of which will be reported, says the Club Chairman, at a later date. Rocks were collected also for a young friend of Chris', and an infinitesimal quantity of stale and dry mushrooms.

* * *

Art Lembeck
Win Lembeck
Lowell Bennett
Hank George

John Meenan
Arnold Wexler
Nancy Rogers
Ted Schad
Dick Goldman

Tim Karcher
Ken Karcher
Eva Russell
Paul Bradt
Clarence Simpson

Leo Mead
Jack Wilson
Eleanor Tatg.
Chris Scoredos
Leo Scott

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 29-30, 1949, Clark's Cave, Virginia. Meeting at the store in Millboro Springs at about 9:30 Saturday morning, nineteen of the Rock Climbers formed a six-car motor caravan and proceeded to Clark's Cave on the Cowpasture River. A short hike up the hill behind Mr. Clark's house brought them out at the top of the cliffs in which the entrances to the Cave are located. While some of the group were safetied down a rustic ladder, the more adventurous rappelled down to the Cave entrance.

After assembling in the palatial Ball Room of the Cave, the party split into four or five small bands to explore. At least five additional entrances were visited, mostly inadvertently by groups who thought they were penetrating deeper in. Many passageways additional to those shown on the Speleologist's map were explored. Art Lembeck and Leo Scott even found some rock climbing. Their group, the Leophytes, bravely urged them on, even when this resulted in no little physical inconvenience, as when Win was heard to call back after a particularly tortuous squeeze thru a narrow passage, "Oh Leo, will you please pick up my foot and push it thru?" Meanwhile Nancy and Leo Mead banded bats.

Toward the end of the afternoon several of the parties merged, and all reached the rendezvous point in the Ball Room by 6 o'clock or shortly after. At the entrance it was discovered that night had fallen and the weather had turned colder. After ascending the ladder the party drove back to Millboro Springs, then south to Porter's Cave, located about 100 yards east of the highway and, it seemed to the weary cavers, 100 yards above it. Camp was quickly established in the entrance room, and the smell of cooking food soon pervaded the atmosphere. Several pack rats, smoking cigars (presumably filched from an earlier party of cave visitors) lurked behind stalagmites, awaiting their chances. After dinner most of the party retreated into the more comfortable inner rooms to sleep, and, after retrieving a sleeping bag which had been tossed down a 40-ft. pit in the floor of the main passageway, were soon fast asleep. The pack rats seized the opportunity to make away with several loaves of bread (white only--they scorned the vitamins etc. of whole wheat bread), cookies, and various and sundry other items, after chewing holes in the pack in which the articles were contained. The Karchers found the bed in their new Nash Airflyte quite comfortable, altho ice had formed on the inside of the windows.

After sleeping late, and a slow breakfast, some of the party explored portions of Porters Cave; Paul, with a shovel, prepared soft beds in the cave rooms for the expected Trail Clubbers in February; and the duffle was packed out to the cars. The party then divided, three cars taking in the view from Reddish Knob; Paul making further arrangements for the Trail Club trip; Ted investigating grinding noises in his car (which were found to be caused by a lack of grease in the differential); and Art heading for the Skyline Drive to look for promising places for ice climbing. He covered the South and Central sec-

...ing, finding ice at ice deposits sufficiently extensive for practice climbing. The best, he says, is down the trail from the Doyle River Shelter.

Notes

At the last meeting of the Rock Climbers Arnold Jexler was re-elected Chairman of the group for the coming year, for his third term (Editorial note: we believe, in defiance of the Constitution of the Club!). In addition, Arnold is the Chairman of the Rock Climbing Committee of the Trail Club.

The next editor of UP ROPE will be Eleanor Tatge. The retiring editor wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Eleanor and to John Moenahan, who have so cheerfully performed much of the work involved in getting out the paper under the present editorship.

Many hands make light work. This applies in putting out a paper such as UP ROPE. Volunteers to assist the editor will be appreciated. Please notify Eleanor on Sunday or phone her at Randolph 8066.

The State University of Iowa, Iowa City, has recently announced a course in Mountaineering, to be given under the auspices of the Department of Physical Education.

A hiking trip along the Pacific Crest Trail, following the Sierras and the Cascades from Mexico to Canada, is being organized for this summer by a member of the Sierra Club. The trip will take upwards of five months, and arrangements are being made to reduce backpacking to a minimum by the use of roads which cross the trail at intervals for the transportation of supplies. In those sections where there are no roads, supplies will be cached ahead of the trip. Applications for the trip, or portions of it, on a paying basis will be accepted. For further details call Ted Schad.

The Mazamas, Portland, will hold their annual summer outing in the Tetons, July 16-31.

Iowa Mountaineers summer outings will be held in the Pacific Northwest in 1949 at Lake O'Hara, Canadian Rockies in 1950, and tentatively have announced a six-week outing to Alaska for 1951, culminating in an attempt to climb Mt. McKinley by a selected group of climbers.