

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 5, No. 15

April 27, 1949

Schedule

TRIP

Devil's Gardens
May 1st week end
Paul Bradt, Leader

Directions for the Devil's Gardens trip may be obtained from the Leader, Paul Bradt, 6626 First Street N.W., GEorgia 3917. Please get in touch with Paul if you can offer transportation, or if you would like to have it.

Indoor Acti vities

On Friday, April 22, the Rock Climbers enjoyed the hospitality of Lowell and Ellen Bennett at a meeting brightened by the interesting kodachromes of the Bennett-Culverwell excursion last summer to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Some truly gorgeous views of western cliffs and mountains were shown, altho the "human interest" remained at their foot despite the appearance of one tightly coiled rope. The evening was topped off by a series of slides taken by Hope Dawson, showing bright moments in the Dawson-Baker-Lee journeyings, in part over much the same territory, with a few slides thrown in, by Mrs. Dawson, of which wild animals taking their own pictures were particularly interesting.

The suggestion has been made that our next meeting be a showing of kodachromes of local climbing. Some of us have some mighty purty shots of Juliet's Balcony and the Carderock Beginners' Climb, and

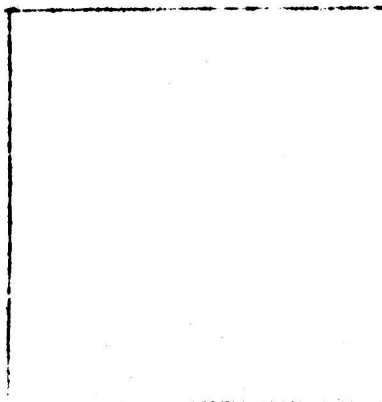
we'd like to see 'em all. Arnold tells us that 150 to 200 pictures is a good evening. If we say 150, to allow time for discussion, changing of speakers, and re-showing of top-notchers, then if 10 people turn up at the meeting with slides, each will be able to show 15 of them; if 15 people, only 10 apiece will be shown. So far no limit on subject matter has been suggested; you may get in that luscious shot of Junior in the bathtub, or a tricky angle on the sun-burned beauties of Virginia Beach if you think your neighbors will enjoy it. Mrs. Leo Dawson has kindly offered her living room for the showing, but the date, some time in May, hasn't yet been set.

Ups and Downs

Art Lembeck	Ted Schad	Mr. Hinkson	George Kamm
Win Lembeck	Kay Schad	Bill Kemper	Roger Foster Sr.
Paul Bradt	Howard Watkins	Art Jones	Roger Foster Jr.
Lois Barnes	Dutch Watkins	Virginia Jones	Bob Stephens
Eleanor Tatge	John Meenehan	Charlotte Jones	Mrs. Stephens
	Don Hubbard		

At Old Rag on April 15 to 17, Art Lembeck's party arriving Friday about midnight, dropped Paul at the Ridge Trail to chop out logs, and proceeded to the Leanto, where they found Mr. Hinkson already sound asleep in his tent. Saturday morning Lois and Eleanor set out up the Saddle Trail equipped to spend a night on top of the mountain, where Paul, having broken his axe, handled, met them, suggested a good camping place, and led them down the south side of the mountain to investigate a hollow, which he named the "Reflecting Oven" because the sun shone directly in, backed by a high vertical cliff. Meanwhile the Lembecks came up by the Ridge Trail and joined Paul's group on Traverse. Bill Kemper and the Jones' later climbed the Saddle Trail and were met by the climbers at the Fire Warden's lookout.

Studies in White No. III



On Sunday the of Dutch, Howard, Don, Ridge Trail in the 25 min., ate at the and went on up to the back to their cars.

Article of Clothing Worn by the Youngest Members of the Club

and the Lembecks climbed the Saddle Trail and on to the Reflecting Oven, where they met Paul's climbing group, which had slept on top and been joined early in the morning by George Kamm. Paul had found a route up the headwall cliff to the A-Cheval Traverse, for which the name "Sunnyside Up" climb was proposed. Paul's account of his group's climbing follows:

Schads and their party and John climbed the record time of 4 hrs. Luncheon Shelf, made Summit before hiking The Kemper-Jones party



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE ONLY
ROUTE ?

EASTER CLIMBING ON OLD RAG
By Paul Bradt

Saturday morning the strong west wind was blowing snowflakes when Eleanor, Lois, and Paul reached the top of the mountain, so they headed for the Reflecting Oven to take advantage of the intermittent sunshine. First came a couple of practice climbs to get the feel of the rock and for each others climbing. Lois, as second man, got considerable feel of the rock when a 150-lb. hunk came off in her lap. Paul, as third man, got considerable feeling for Lois' climbing when she held it long enough for him to duck. The main event of the day was the traverse of the headwall from right to left where it is

somewhat broken up one-fourth of the way down. The climb had hardly started before Win and Art Lembeck roped down to join the team. The traverse is recommended for its variety. Included were a layback, some dainty friction steps, a very sharp à-cheval, a couple of easy finger traverses, a final shallow finger and toe jamb crack, and three chinning ledges surmounted by Eleanor with a technique that may roll, described below. Upon finishing, the sun was low and the wind was high, so we called it a day. The Lembecks joined the Kemper-Jones party and returned to the leanto, while Eleanor, Lois, and Paul slept on top.

Early Sunday morning the party on top was joined by George Hamn and returned to the Oven. In the center of the headwall there is a laterally sloping face with bushes on it. This afforded Paul, Eleanor, and George a route (name suggested: Sunnyside Up) up to the traverse of the day before. Joined with the traverse it made a good climb, so the two Rogers Foster were led over it by Paul, while Art Lembeck and Bill followed to remove pitons. Also Art L. scouted the bottom thirty feet of a flashy-looking crack up the left end of the headwall, but, being alone, had to come down.

This week end proved that Old Rag offers pleasant cold-weather climbing. Also it will go down in history as the first attack on the Reflecting Oven headwall, and a most successful attack it was!

Route to Reflecting Oven: The Ridge Trail on Old Rag Mountain winds thru the woods and proceeds southwestward along a fairly straight rocky ridge. At the top of this ridge the trail turns sharply right along a narrow sparsely wooded crest toward the summit. If one fails to make the right turn mentioned but continues directly ahead for 200 feet or so, he will find himself looking a hundred feet downward into a cirque-like gash in the side of the mountain. One hundred yards to his right is its sheer 200-foot granite headwall. Across the cirque the slabs slope gently enough to be easily climbed. Because of the position and shape of the depression, its floor is completely shielded from west and north winds; since it is bathed in the direct and reflected light of the forenoon sun, it may be called appropriately the Reflecting Oven.

The easiest way into the Oven is to follow the Ridge Trail to the right until, at a smooth stretch of the trail just opposite the headwall, one passes a good-sized oak tree on his right. Here, to his left he can follow a talus and boulder slope directly to the foot of the headwall. This wall appears to afford several spectacular rock climbs. From the bare slab at its top one can bushwhack 100 yards leftward to the mountain top spring or back above the headwall to the trail.

Eleanor's Roll is used to get on a wide high ledge with a good pull hold on the edge. Both hands are placed on the pull hold and the right (in the left-hand roll) foot is placed high below them and slightly to the right. A quick spring with the left leg accompanied by a hand pull and right leg thrust enables the climber to raise his chest to the handhold and simultaneously hook his left toe over the shelf edge three or four feet to the left of the handholds. This toe takes sufficient weight to free the left hand for rotation to a pushing position. Its pressure, with or without help from the right toe, finishes a roll of the body onto its left side on the ledge.

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This movement can be executed as quickly as the more difficult process of chinning. Tho it takes more ledge space, it has this to recommend it: The ledge is surmounted with less work since at the end of the movement the body is nearly in the lowest possible position, that is, recumbent.

Chris Scoredos spent Easter Sunday climbing at Carderock.

Ken Karcher
Pim Karcher

Bob Tiemann

Judy Macklin
Abe Birnbaum

The Karchers and friends spent their Easter holiday on Stonyman Mountain, that is climbing Little Stonyman with the purpose of trying again to photograph a ravens nest they'd located. They walked the trail until the cliffs were in sight, at which point Ken reverted to his role of Mr. Boone and took to the woods. They climbed to the summit, then rappelled down to the nest; Ken put a piton in on the nest ledge. There were three young ugly ravens, all mouth. The sun was shining, but the nest was in the shade. After waiting for the sun to get in the right position, the sky clouded over at the crucial time. By then mamma was making quite a fuss and the babies were getting more & more hungry, so the project was abandoned without any pictures. By then Ken had taken on the role of Simon Legree and drove Judy and Pim back on the trail to get the car and pick up the men near Skyland, after a much shorter walk.

Helen Baker and Clara Lee were out on Old Rag the Friday before Easter with their friends, Helena McKibben from Seattle and Joan Decker from Benton Harbor, Michigan, but they did no climbing, and went on to see other sights in Shendogah National Park.

Chris Scoredos
John Meenehan
Peg Keister

Dick Goldman
Sally Lindsley

George Kamm
Eleanor Tatge

Sunday, April 17, found a busy group at Carderock amid a super-duper environment of dogwood and redbud in full bloom, and tender green leaves in delicate tracery. The major feat of the day was Dick's easy ambling up Sterling's Crack. The rest of us sweated on the Beginners' Climb, Buckets of Blood Chimney, Margie's Chimney, Jan's Face (Peg says her complexion is too smooth!) Wexler's Worst, and the Easter Egg climbs.

Inside Corner

Ken and Pim Karcher have a telephone now--Chestnut 5372.

Stimmy's Belgian friend, Georges Marchal, whom he visited in Paris and Switzerland, was up at Cupid's Bower with the Stimsons last weekend, where the Bradts, Bill Schlecht, and Don Hubbard had the pleasure of making his acquaintance. He will be in this country three weeks, and hopes to visit our climbing area again before leaving.

The Editor has several little booklets to distribute listing mountain climbing and camping equipment and prices available from Roy and Alice Holubar, 1215 Grandview Ave., Boulder, Colorado.

Lois Barnes is convalescing nicely from a minor operation. We hope to see her out again soon.

With greatest sympathy we read of the horrifying predicament of the Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club as it appears in Mugelnoos, quote:

END OF THE ROPES? All the R.C.S. ropes & hardware have disappeared, probably in some member's closet or garage. RCS Chairman Chuck Wilts, 2887 Wagner Ct., Altadena, Sy. 4-0113, requests that whoever has them notify him NOW?

Gosh, we hope they are found!

Letters to the Editor and other Corrigenda

Dear Editor:

How about a correction in the next issue: the Gerry Mountaineering address is, Gerry Mountaineering Equipment, Box 128, Ward, Colorado.

Information from MUGELNOOS indicates the new climbing boot will have a steel shank, grooved heel and square toe; that it comes in men's half sizes. Several of the local climbers will be testing this latest effort at providing a satisfactory snow and rock climbing shoe when delivery is made in June.

Another correction, this one to regain my good standing with the Sierra Club. Certain purists of that organization are highly sensitive to the letter S when it is tacked on to Sierra. Apparently the word Sierra is already plural, or else the singular and plural are spelled the same way. Anyhow, my note on the Sierra Club trips, perhaps because they were taking place in the fertile California soil, grew one of those fatal letters. ...Please...whack it off....

Yours very truly,

Art (Lembeck)

Helen Scoredos says she did not climb Socrates Downfall from the bottom as reported for April 10--it was Cowhoof Rock. The reporter, requested to keep an eye on Eric during this event had both eyes on him.