

## NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 6, No. 3

August 24, 1949

### We're Back

With hosts of vacationing rock climbers returned from the western mountains the rocks of the local Washington area are once again a-ring with the clang of hammer on piton and the shouted "May I climb"s echoing from sundry faces and chimneys from the multitude assembled. Ye Editor, too, is back from the West--West Virginia--and behold herewith the account of What has Transpired Since she Left.

### Ups and Downs

John Buck  
Bernard Weitz  
Dolores Alley

Ray Moore  
Suzy Moore  
Mike Moore  
Patsy Moore

Helen Scoredos  
Eric Scoredos  
Irene Kelly  
Roy Kelly

Sunday August 7, 1949. An expedition wended its way to Carderock, Maryland. After cleaning up a messy situation left there by careless campers, ropes were brought out and prowess was exerted on such old favorites as Ronnie's Leap, the Beginners' Climb, Barnacle Face, and Jan's Face. Later a great deal of energy was exerted on the Jam Box, but, as usual, in vain. Suzy and the little Moores managed to get in a Sunday School class before joining the climbers.

Thursday, August 11. In the afternoon John Buck, Irene Posner, and the Lembecks drove to Carderock, using the new route found by John and Peg Keister for the hike in. This new route leaves the road 1.0 miles from the upper Model Basin entrance. A narrow path is followed to a plank bridge crossing the canal; thence a left turn, downstream, to the Carderock cliffs. (Ed. note: Sounds like the route pointed out a year ago or more by Bill Schlecht, and used by the rock climbers on several occasions since.) The group used two

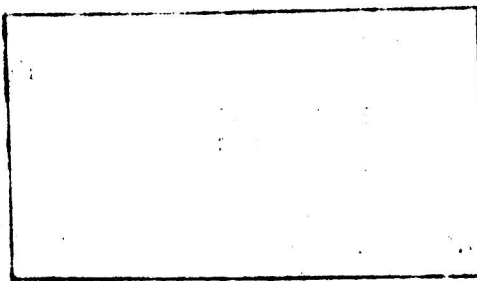
ropes on various climbs in the Texler's Worst area. He acquired a series of three rope burns on her neck while doing a free rappel; the raw areas furnished proof to a gullible questioner next day for Lin's story that she had tried to hang herself.

August 14. SUGAR LOAF. Don Hubbard in his Sunday best turned up at the Hot Shop just for breakfast but was speedily kidnapped, driven home to change, and back again in proper climbing garb.

Hannes Benzinger	Don Hubbard	Win Lembeck	Bob Stevens
Monica Benzinger	Marian Jackson	Hugh Martin	Marian Warmolt
Ralph Benzinger	Bob Knox	Charlotte Kitzinger	Mike Moore
Hank Fowler	Wylyno Fowler	Art Lembeck	Ray Moore
			Suzy Moore

There were classes in the usual knots, rappelling, belaying and climbing signals for the beginners. A session on loop ladders was added for the edification of the several speleologists who were present. Don and Art led ropes up and down the Overhang and the Eutterfinger climb and then finished with an upper rope drag through the crack and traverse of the Eutterfinger occupied in the afternoon while the small fry were subjected to "rescues" from the Overhang.

#### STUDIES IN WHITE NO. IX

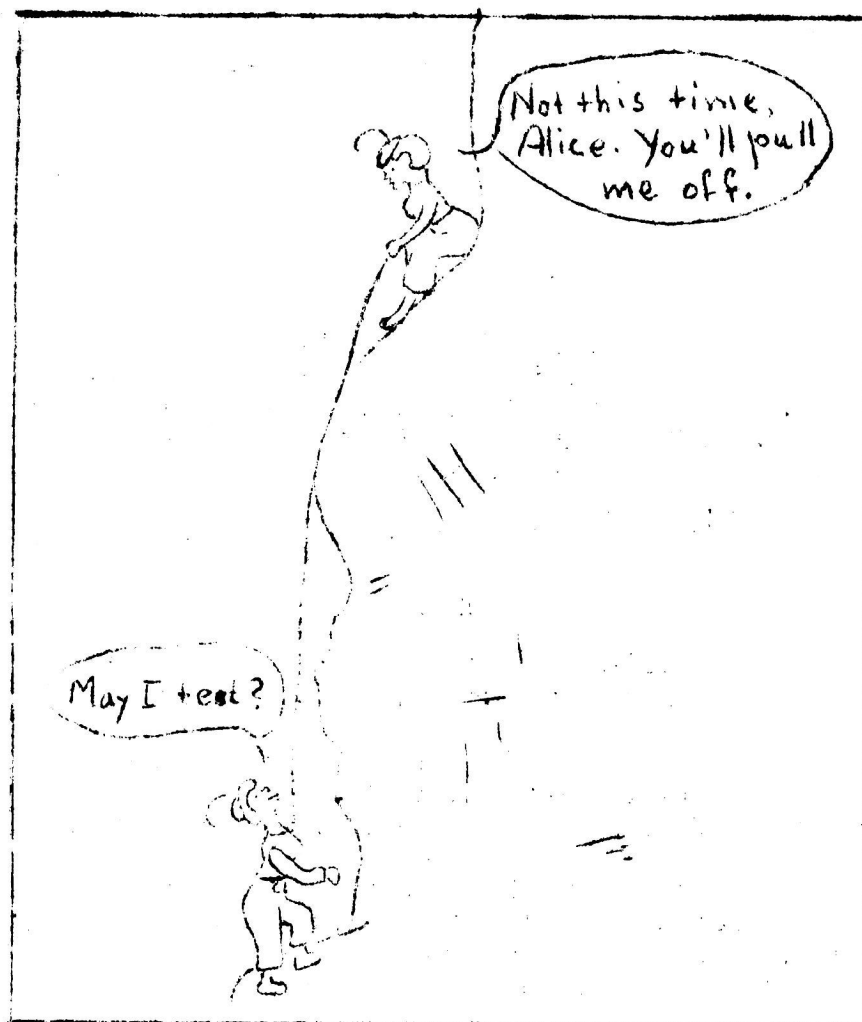


Amanita virosa  
(or phylloides)\*

SOUTH RIVER FALLS AND LITTLE STONY MAN. Knowing that visitors and the Navy would prevent their attending the next two Sunday climbs, the Lembecks persuaded Arnold Mexler to dash off to the Blue Ridge. Friday night they spent a cool night under a full display of stars at Big Meadows. Saturday the cliffs of South River Falls some three miles north of Swift Run Gap were investigated. The lower sections of the 1.3 mile trail from the car to the Falls were a mushroom hunter's delight. Several unusual species were observed for reporting to the Hubbard Key.

The cliffs at South River are about 80 feet high where they are interesting to climbers. A section where the falls are split by a cleaver would be climbable at low water. Another adjacent to the falls on the true left bank gave plenty of exercise on an upper belay. Downstream a few hundred feet and also on the true left bank the nearly vertical--to slightly overhanging rocks offer several interesting routes. Holds are adequate due to a nicely cooperating strike of the rock. One route only was climbed on this section and then the threesome moved back to the car and up to Little Stony Man.

\*A magnified view (slightly overexposed) of one of Don's mushrooms, a soup of which will nicely cancel your worst enemy (or your best friend) if he should survive the cutting of his belay rope.



The new aluminum carabiners were put to good use on the Stony Man cracks. An amusing incident occurred just after Art had settled himself in belaying position. Several hikers rounded the bend on the trail below and sighting him on the skyline ridge shouted up to ask him how he had gotten up there. Their derisive disbelief of a route up the sheer face was abruptly stilled as Arnold came into view below, climbing around a concealing overhang. --Art & Win

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|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Norma Goldstein | John Meenehan  | Ray Moore   | F. Graham Stephenson |
| Betty Alley     | Pim Karcher    | Suzy Moore  | M. F. Wormald        |
| Dolores Alley   | Ken Karcher    | Eva Russell | Bob Wormald          |
| Dick Gaylord    | Chris Scoredos | Ken Wood    | Gaby Rosenberger     |
| Arnold Texler   | Irene Posner   |             | Betty Kauffman       |
| Donald Hubbard  |                |             | Andy Kauffman        |

Sunday, August 21, 1949. GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA. The climbing was somewhat miscellaneous as the group split up into small parties and spread their efforts along the banks of the Potomac. Don and

his group of amateurs went through the elements in the area opposite the Fish Ladder. Here the Reverse Chimney was climbed by Arnold, Don, Chris, and Steve. Pim, Dick, and Ray climbed on Juliet's Balcony and the crack opposite, Romeo's Ladder. On the Flat Iron Pim led a rope around the face. The inside Stratocorner was climbed by Pim, Gaby, Eva, Irene, Ken Wood, and Arnold. Upstream of the Reverse Chimney an inside corner was successfully surmounted by John Meenehan, Ken Karcher, and others. Probably other significant events transpired, but this at least gives an idea of the tenor of the day.

### Inside Corner

We've the cheerfullest sort of news to start this Inside Corner with--Wedding Bells, for Dave Waddington. Congratulations, Dave! He reports them as follows:

"Please send my 'Up Rope' to me at 310 E. Maple, Denver, Colorado, where I am now living with my wife. Yes, things have changed since I last climbed with you, but she likes the mountains as well as I.

"Incidentally, my last climb was the snow and ice trip down at the Shelter near Old Rag, and I think I unintentionally gave Don Hubbard two karabiners. If he does have more than are rightfully his, I would appreciate his sending them to me unless they have saved his life a couple of times and he wants to keep them for sentimental reasons, or else they are no good.

"My wife and I made it up Mount Holy Cross last week end with a group of the Colorado Mountain Club kids. We got into a snowstorm near the top and had terrible weather all day, but it was a pretty good trip anyway.

"Come and visit us if any of you are ever out this way."

"May and Dave Waddington."

Helen Baker, Clara Lee, and two friends are starting out for Canada on a camping trip September 1 to 18. Good luck, gals!

Open letter from the Editor to Mr. Art Lembeck: With respect to your objection to our use of the word "Sierras" in the plural, (see UP ROPE, Vol. 5, No. 15, April 27, 1949, p. 6), we beg to quote the following from p. 2332 of Webster's New International Dictionary, Unabridged: "Sierra, in pl. (cap.), a specific mountain chain; as, to leave Los Angeles and go up into the Sierras (Sierra Madre)."

Mrs. Holubar, of Boulder, Colorado, writes: "We have been more than busy this summer. Friends who went to Europe, left their four-year-old daughter to play and stay with our girl of the same age. It's been loads of fun to have 'twins.' Our 'business' has taken lots and lots of our time--many people just love to talk mountaineering and, of course, we enjoy it too. Roy's schedule at school (he teaches math in the Engineering School) has been heavy, and garden canning, and house, and fighting drought have been major chores. Our two weeks off in September may possibly find us in the Tetons--if we still have enough steam to pack up and go. In the meantime we are working on a decent catalog."

### Clippings

From THE IOWA CLIMBER: "Local Activity Movie. A full length color movie covering the local activities of the Iowa Mountaineers throughout the year is in the process of production. The project has been undertaken by Reuben Scharf, who intends to complete this record of the club's week-end outings, hikes, horseback rides, and winter-time activities some time this next fall. Reuben Scharf, who made the Devils Tower film will be behind his movie camera again when the club moves into the Pacific Northwest in August of this year."

"In his annual report to the meeting of active members of the Iowa Mountaineers, President John Ebert listed the following club accomplishments as outstanding contributions toward the betterment of the club in particular and the sport of mountaineering in general during the year just completed. The ascent of Devils Tower was made by the largest group in history, with the party consisting of many amateur climbers. This milestone in mountaineering proved that even difficult ascents can be made possible for large groups when all safety precautions are taken...."

From MUGELNOOS (Sierra Club Mountaineers and Rock Climbers): "For the benefit of future climbers (in Yosenite), two Park Service Rules must be observed. These are: 1....Notify Park Headquarters.... 2. Don't yodel, call or make any sounds at any time not essential to the climb. Traffic jams on the Valley roads can be most vexing to the Park Service and the motorists, when a few people stop to gaze at bergsteigers. Furthermore, it only makes you thirsty and drives the game to the Tuolumne."

MUGELNOOS has made Paul Bradt famous even in California by reprinting considerable proportions of his "Some Technical Aspects of Friction Climbing" published in UP ROPE April 30, 1948. The reprint is in the August 11 issue.

And, from Mrs. Ruth Mendenhall, Secretary of the MUGELNOOS Publications Committee, we have an interesting description of the Sierra Club: "Yes, the Sierra Club is a big club. I think it now has about 6000 members, most of them in the Los Angeles and San Francisco chapters, but there are about 4 smaller chapters throughout the state. Its official interests are largely in conservation. No doubt many many of the 6000 members never exercise! Many I suspect belong for social reasons. There are the hikers or "local walkers." Our interests and activities are almost entirely with the skiing and climbing group down here, since of course one cannot do everything, and this group is more in accordance with our interests. So you see the MUGELNOOS represents only a small section of the Sierra Club; I think there are about 150 members in the Ski Mountaineers Section, and 50 or 60 in the Rock Climbing Section (most of whom are also Ski Mountaineers)."

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