

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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THE CARIBOO MOUNTAINS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Arnold Wexler

Fifty miles west of Jasper in the Canadian Rockies, and 300 miles north of the U. S. border, rises a cluster of lofty peaks that attracted our group this summer for its annual mountaineering expedition. Eleven people expressed an interest and desire to climb in this group of mountains. To make it easy and convenient to enter and to travel through the region, they formed two groups; this account is concerned primarily with the party whose personnel consisted of Sterling Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Chris Scoredos, Alec Fabergé, Art Lembeck, and Arnold Wexler.

We arrived in Tete Jaune on the 11th of July and were met at the station by Nod, a 12-year-old youngster of the 'Neighbors', who showed us the way up Tete Creek to an attractive campsite on the high canyon rim. A day and a half later we were conveniently based at a camp at 6800 feet, on a shoulder overlooking Tete Glacier in the heart of the Cariboo Mountains. The route up the valley had proved unexpectedly easy and we had made rapid progress, travelling part of the way over gravel beds in the river. We had arranged to have our food and supplies dropped to us by airplane on the 15th of July. On the 14th we explored the upper reaches of Tete Glacier, climbed Mt. Penny and the next peak northeast. The morning of the 15th dawned clear, and we went up into the névé to await the drops. The plane failed to show up that morning, and the weather quickly deteriorated as time wore on. By midday we were engulfed in rain, fog, and snow, and the prospects of receiving supplies seemed dim. Three of the party went back to base camp and three remained until the afternoon and then descended in a snowstorm. Half an hour later the roar of the plane was heard as it came up the valley, circled once or twice, and left. The plane came over twice more before it eventually found us on the Glacier, in satisfactory weather for completing its mission, much to our relief, for we would have been forced out of the country for lack of supplies in another day or so.

During this time the second party had joined us in the mountains and part of our group had made the ascent of Mt. Withers at the head of the main McLennan River. We decided on returning to the McLennan to ascend some of the other attractive peaks in that region, so one day at noon we took sleeping bags and headed for the Carpe Mountains. The weather turned bad but we managed to ascend Mt. Carpe in a snow-storm before we returned to our base camp the following day. We next moved over into the Canoe Valley and established a second camp in a high alpine meadow. Andy Kauffman, Betty, and Jane Showacre joined us at this camp from which we climbed Sir Wilfred Laurier and Sir David Thompson. The Kauffmans and Jane and Art Lembeck left us then to return to Tete Jaune and home.

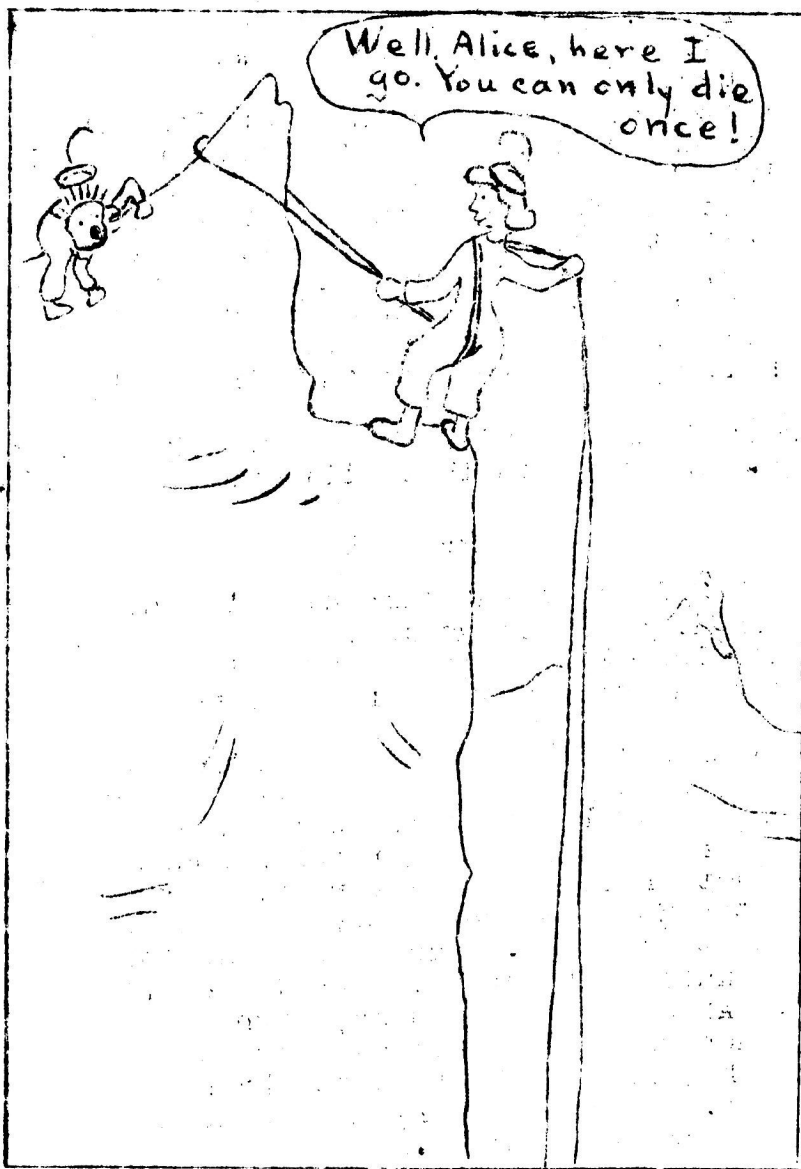
We succeeded in climbing Mt. Hostility and Mt. Crescent, two virgin peaks, and then returned to our former base camp in Tete Valley. From this region we travelled to the head of the third fork of the McLennan River where we ascended an unclimbed peak. Again bad weather forced us to return to base camp without attempting any of the other hoped-for peaks in the McLennan region. A final ascent was made up Mt. Eivouac. On reaching the top the weather closed in on us and our visibility became limited to 50 feet. Our original plan for climbing Sir MacKenzie Bowell was abandoned and we retraced our steps back to camp. The following day we moved out of the country. In all our party climbed ten peaks, of which five were first ascents.

Schedule

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| Fri.-Sun. Sept. 16-18 | Old Rag Mountain |
| Fri.-Sun. Oct. 14-16 | Schaeffer Rocks at the Hermitage Shelter, Pa. |
| Friday, Oct. 21 | Gerry Cunningham, on "Light-Weight Mountain Equipment" |

Mr. Arthur C. Lembeck, 8810 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, Md., Shepherd 0421 is the man to get in touch with for either of the two trips. He will try to get you a ride, or to get your car filled up with lively and entertaining passengers if you ask him. (However, if they turn out to be dull and sleepy passengers by the end of the trip, he is not responsible!) For either outing one, two, or three day excursions may be taken depending on the sentiments of the group you go with. The Leanto will be headquarters and meeting place for the Old Rag trip. Climbing is planned chiefly in Paul Eradt's "Reflecting Oven" on the Sunnyside Up and A Cheval climbs described in an UP ROPE issue last spring. Art has reserved the Hermitage Shelter for Friday and Saturday nights; there is room beside the shelter for tents.

Gerry Cunningham, lecturing on Light Weight Mountain Equipment, will demonstrate with kodachromes how to be fully equipped for one week with a load not over 25 lbs. The meeting place will be announced.



Ups and Downs

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| Donald Hubbard | Ken Karcher | Ted Schad | Gaby Rosenberger |
| Jean Cowperthwaite | Pim Karcher | Ellen Kann | Dick Gaylord |
| Arnold Wexler | Si Scholnick | Marion Harvey | Oliver Westfall |
| N. Goldstein | Bob Wormald | Irene Posner | Bob Tiemann |
| | | | Eleanor Tatge |

August 28, 1949. A goodly group gathered at Carderock for fun and exercise. Don and his amateurs started out with chimney work on Jan's Chimney, later worked in the region of the main cliffs, downstream of the Billygoat Trail. The rest tried out various climbs upstream of the Trail. After lunch, the Spider Walk was found simply impossible due to slight but sufficient moisture on the rock. Swimming brought a happy end to a busy day.

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| John Ulinski | William Kirkland | Juno Mosburg | Dolores Alley |
| Roger Scattergood | Ed. J. La Chapelle | Ellis MacLeod | Betty Alley |
| F. C. Stephenson | Oliver Westfall | Horace Wester | Billy Alley |
| Donald Hubbard | Chris Scoredos | | |

Sunday, September 4, 1949. An unexpectedly large group left the Hot Shoppe to climb the cliffs at Great Falls on the Virginia side. The party split into two groups, Don leading one, Chris the other. After climbing on an inside corner and a short traverse, Chris and his party joined the others, who were working on the Reverse Chimney, which was climbed by William Kirkland, Stephenson, and Ellis MacLeod.

On the way back to the cars a stop was made at Juliet's Balcony, where Horace Wester, William Kirkland, Stephenson, and Dolores Alley climbed Romeo's Ladder, while some of the others climbed on Juliet's Balcony.

William Kirkland, still full of energy, asked Don to stop at the Bird's Nest Climb. Don reports that Bill made the climb.

SENECA ROCK

Labor Day week end was spent camping and climbing in Pendleton County, West Virginia, by three groups, or rather four, counting Mary Neilan (who doesn't look like a group offhand, but who carries plenty of weight with us!) A brief resumé of activities follows:

Andy Kauffman
Betty Kauffman

Sterling Hendricks
Jane Showacre

On Saturday Sterling led a climb to the top of Nelson Rock. Excitement was caused by a 2-foot long rattler found on a ledge (opinion is divided as to whether it was a baby rattler or an adult). Jane and Andy saw it after Sterling and Betty had passed right by. The night was spent on Spruce Knob. Sunday brought forth a long walk on the ridge from the Knob, with climbing on the cliffs on the Franklin side of the knob. After spending Sunday night at Armentraut's Camp Ground with the other groups, on Monday Andy, Jane, and Sterling ascended Champe Rock, and were found later by Mary and Betty who had gone up the easy way. Sterling, Mary, and Jane made a climb down a spectacular set of three chimneys.

Ted Schad
Irene Posner

Arnold Texler
Peg Keister

Tents were pitched at Armentraut's Camp Ground for both Saturday and Sunday nights. Saturday afternoon the Old Women's Route was taken to the top of the South Peak, which was descended by a rappel off the Coxcomb. Sunday the group climbed Nelson Rock between the first and second pinnacles, then on up the second, with a rappel down after lunch to join Mary Neilan. Monday the group took a side excursion to Blackwater Canyon, finishing the day with a swim at the quarry near Hall'stown, not far from Harper's Ferry.

Ray Moore

Suzy Moore

Eleanor Tatge

The Moore's pitched a tent at Armentraut's Camp Ground, while Eleanor spent one night out under the stars, the second sleeping on the bed of her new Nash just to see how it felt. Saturday they climbed the west wall of Seneca Rock directly up to the Gunsight,

then traversed northward to the trail at the north end of the north
rock, down the east side of the rock and back to camp. Sunday they
traversed the north ridge a ways, descended the east side to have
lunch in a big, cool, shady crack, were stopped by an unfortunate con-
tact with a hornets' nest, retraced their steps to come down the west
face of the rock, through a crack back of a large separated flake,
traversed southward partly on ledges, partly at the top of the talus,
to pick up the road at the extreme south end of the rock, after vari-
ous stops to extract pitons and explore a bit. Monday they drove home
stopping at the Bull Run Mountains for a drink at the spring and a
brief climb.

Inside Corner

The Lembecks have returned from a back-packing trip in the south-
ern section of Shenandoah National Park. They spent four days hiking
from Rockfish Gap north to Swift Run Gap, a distance of 43 miles,
stopping at several shelters they hadn't met before. The fifth day
they stayed at Big Meadows with the Mountain Club of Maryland.

Bill Kemper is apparently in good health; he threatens to come
out with us again some day.

Gus Gambs sends congratulations to your Editor and to Lucy (Lucy
McClendon, who wrote the article about us in the STAR). "The pictures
are imposing and the writeup has a touch of modesty and tact; just
as it should be. There was, of course, a restriction on the number
of words. The allotment bestowed upon me might have been trimmed to
make room for people more deserving like Don Hubbard, who is always
willing to arouse interest with youngsters and coax along the de-
crepit. The front picture naturally is apt to bring up questions
concerning casualties; the belayed rope, slung over the sharp edge of
the protruding rock may arouse critical fans. By stressing our ever
present vigilance, concern, and caution, we might have helped to re-
assure fearful souls. Please give my best regards to Lucy, she cer-
tainly made a good job of it."

Clippings

From CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS of Aug. 8, 1949, we find that
W. R. Hainsworth, vice president in charge of engineering of Servel
Inc., was one of a four-man party climbing Mount Vancouver in the
Yukon a few weeks ago, until this event, the highest unscaled moun-
tain (17,500 ft.) in North America.

Editor, Eleanor Tatge, 5811 14th Street NW, Washington 11, D.C.
Tel.: RANDolph 8066