

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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GERRY AND THE FLY-WEIGHT PACK

For several years Washington climbers have corresponded with Gerry Cunningham of Ward, Colorado, concerning mountaineering equipment. With a great deal of pleasure they and many members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club gathered in the Board Room of the District Building to hear Gerry's illustrated lecture on a week's backpacking trip in the Colorado mountains not far from his workshop in Ward. Evidently bad weather followed all the climbers this year, for Gerry described his Kodachromes as few in number because of lack of cooperation from that unpredictable quantity. However, the transparencies of the Navaho Peak area were a fine addition to the evening.

The equipment which Gerry and his wife carried totalled exactly fifty pounds and included food, tent with stakes and poles, gasoline stove and fuel, and 8.5 pounds of climbing rope and hardware. His food lists allowed an average of 1.3 pounds per man per day, which included a breakfast and supper ration compounded by Gerry and described as a balanced diet in pre-cooked form, requiring only heating to furnish a palatable, easily prepared meal. A most useful part of the evening was spent examining the actual equipment carried on the trip. Packs were built to maintain a center of gravity which would make for comfortable load carrying. Niceties of design and finish were evident in all of the articles exhibited. Use of nylon twill in the body of all packs, of stainless steel wire for pack frames, and of non-rusting fittings was noted. A packboard which substituted a loose nylon panel for the usually tightly laced canvas, thus cradling the wearer's back, was pronounced very comfortable by many of those who tested it in the Board Room. It was described as an improved modification of the frame carried by one member on last summer's Cariboo trip.

After the formal meeting, it is understood that several of the climbers and Gerry were up until 1:30 in the morning discussing the design of rock-climbing hardware and of two-man tents. It is hoped that this midnight conference will result in some prototypes of improved equipment for eventual field testing on local climbs.

- A. C. Lembeck -

Ups and Downs

To start off with, your Editor, having apparently got tangled up in the UP POPE completely omitted a Carderock item from the last issue. On October 9 (Sunday), the Moore's conducted a trip there comprising Suzy, Ray, Patsy and cousin Tommy with 8 years apiece, and Mike, age 5. We feel that an important contribution to rock climbing history was made by the ascents of the Beginners' Climb by Patsy and by Tommy.

Also, for some completely incomprehensible reason, Bill Kemper and Betty Fisher were omitted from the list of those present at Hermitage shelter on the Shaeffer Rocks trip of October 16 week end.

Ted Sched	Betty Kauffman	Sterling Hendricks	Art Lembeck
Norman Goldstein	Andy Kauffman	Ken Karcher	Lois Barnes
John Meenehan	Abbie Hammack	Pim Karcher	

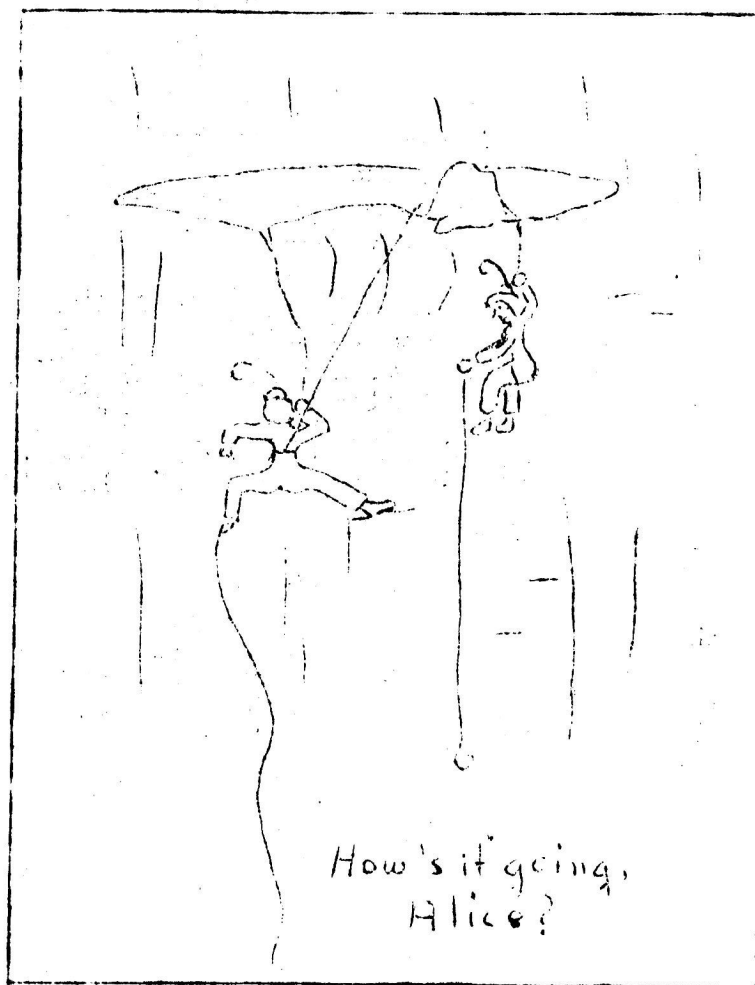
Sunday, October 23: by Pim Karcher. Andy, Betty and Sterling were already at Wolf Rock, Thurmont, Maryland, when the remainder of the group arrived from the Hot Shoppe. They found Sterling doing some impossible feat on a face in the sort of Pit where Wolf Rock Climbing activities seem always to center. Andy found a little overhang which he and Pim climbed, Ted offering a variation by climbing it over a small bush which offered considerable impedance. Activities were transferred to a high pinnacle with the take-off on a little overhang. Art, Ken, John, and Norman climbed it, then after Pim didn't, Art climbed it a second time. After lunch the scene was shifted to Chimney Rock where the afternoon was spent chimneying and cave-exploring. The day was completed back at Wolf Rock again, where John Meenehan reported making a piton lead of an interesting traverse while the reporter and Abbie were watching the sunset.

Chris Scoredos	John Reed	Dolores Alley
Eric Scoredos	Marion Harvey	Eleanor Tatge

Sunday, October 23. A second group left the Hot Shoppe the same day for Carderock. Here as usual the Beginners' Climb was first on the program. After Marion squeezed through the Buckets-of-Blood Chimney, followed by Eleanor and Dolores, Chris and Johnny climbed Sterling's Crack, at the top of which Johnny risked life and limb to trim out some thorny vines which were making the top of the climb most unpleasant. Some polishing up of Ronnie's Leap was followed by Johnny's trip across Wexler's Torst and the Stretch. We were all hungry enough by then to enjoy our lunches. Most of the afternoon was spent basking in the sun down on the Swimming Rock in the Potomac. The water was very low, and clear (for the Potomac). In the face of utter relaxation spirits were maintained at a somewhat bubbling level by the pranks of Eric. Chris and Marion completed the day by paying due and worshipful reverence to the Spider Walk.

Andy Kauffman	Arnold Wexler	John Meenehan
Betty Kauffman		Don Hubbard

Sunday, October 30 was a damp and dusky day, finally even drippy. Morning strolls were about all that was attempted. The Kauffmans did theirs at Great Falls; the other members of the group in the vicinity of Carderock.



Inside Corner

From ROGER SCATTERGOOD we have a postcard from Switzerland with a lovely picture of the Jungfrau on it. He says, "Just to say that in passing thru this land got a bare taste of mountains in the Unter-gabelhorn. Nothing difficult there, at least easier than some cliffs at Great Falls, but of course there was plenty within reach (?) which was well beyond my present ability. Should be back in Washington in a month or so."

MARY NEILAN sends us a Pittsburgh newspaper clipping with some rock climbing pictures of a group led by Mr. Jirak, with the comment: "I will say he is enthusiastic. Part of the group he organized is exploring some sink holes about 30 miles from here, and we went over to watch last week. They found some bones of an obsolete eastern elk some time ago, and the Museum (Carnegie) is giving them some help. However, the bones are rabbit, shrew and mouse just now. We've been having the most beautiful weather here this fall. I'm afraid it will be an open winter without much skiing. There's usually some snow by this time, and I was swimming last weekend! T'ain't natural."

FRANCIS E. OLD, Jr. of the Mountain Club of Maryland writes: "Concerning the Maynard Miller lecture announcement in UP ROPE, 19 October 1949: If you want any more information about his climbing on Mt. Vancouver, there was an article by him in SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED, March 1949. The mountain has been climbed, whether or not Miller made the first ascent I do not recall, but there was an article in the local newspapers at the time the first ascent was made, within the past year, I believe. If interested, you could check the date through the index to the New York TIMES at the Public Library."

JO and PAUL BRADT send us an announcement of the publishing of a new book by Commander Finn Ronne, ANTARCTIC CONQUEST, on October 14, by G. P. Putnam's Sons, price \$5.00. The announcement reads: "This story of the Ronne Expedition of 1946-1948 is in the great tradition of books of adventure. It is the story of an amazing trip to the end of the world--told realistically and vividly, superbly illustrated with maps and 32 pages of photographs." Lowell Thomas and Admiral Byrd both approve it.

From MUGELNOOS of the Los Angeles Sierra Club rock climbing section we have news of the death of Norman Nevills, widely known river guide, and his wife Doris, in an airplane crash September 19. And also (from the Los Angeles TIMES) "Five thousand enthusiastic mountain climbers joined in a mass assault on Mt. Popocatepetl October 9. An outing club invited these amateur mountaineers to attend special religious services. The mountain is 18,772 feet high. Only 40 people were injured and two died from falls."

NEW HIGH POINT ON SENTINEL NORTH FACE (Abstracted from the San Francisco Sierra Club YODELER)

Our party, the first to attempt the North Wall of Sentinel Rock in Yosemite since last November, consisted of "Gentleman" Jim Wilson and three ruffians--Phil Bettler, Bill Long and myself.

Jim led up from the ledge at about eight Saturday morning. (Two successive 6th class leads) brought us to the previous high point. From this point the climb leads up a 4th class crack for about 30 feet; (two tension traverses) brought me to a good belay spot where I could bring up a second man.

Two more 6th class leads and we reached a ledge composed of three chockstones--loose--just below an overhanging, open chimney. Jim grabbed his slings and a handful of angle pitons and nailed his way up a sound crack--115°--to a point where the chimney became vertical again. Here his hand muscles cramped and as he had a place to stand, he called Bill to finish the lead. Phil and Bill passed Jim in the chimney and went on to survey the next lead, while I remained on the ledge below the overhang. Trying to make the best of an impossible situation, we managed to SEAT three on the chockstones while the fourth slid into a crevice to the rear of the chimney.

Our high point, eight leads--700 feet--above the tree ledge, was reached at noon the next day. We estimate another 250 feet to the summit of the pinnacle located in the middle of the wall. From what we could see, these 250 feet would require more 6th class technique. That lies beyond will only be found by some enterprising climbing party willing to spend 3 or more days on the wall.

- Al Steck -