

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 6, No. 15

February 15, 1950

Schedule

Feb. 19. Hermitage Shelter, Pa. Art Lembeck, leader.
Feb. 20 (Monday). 8:00 P.M. Vos home near McLean, Va. Pictures & movie.
Feb. 25-26. Cave trip. John Meenehan, leader. Destination unknown.
Mar. 4-5. Trail clearing and rock climbing on Old Rag with Paul Bradt.
Mar. 7 (Tuesday). District Building. Cariboo Trip; colored slides by Arnold Wexler.

A group of climbers are planning to spend next Sunday on the rocks at Hermitage Shelter, Pennsylvania. Directions may be obtained from Art Lembeck, OLiver 8322.

Please note especially that the meeting at the Vos home will be held Monday, February 20, rather than on the non-existent Fricay mentioned in the last issue of UP ROPE. If all plan to arrive there early, it is hoped even those who get lost will turn up in time for the movie just received from the Kachinas of Phoenix, Arizona, entitled "Desert Mountaineering." We're hoping for pictures and kodachromes from all who care to contribute. For directions to reach the Vos' you are referred to the preceding issue of UP ROPE. Your Editor will pick up passengers along her route (14th & Military Rd.--Nebraska Ave.--Loughboro Rd.--Chain Bridge Rd.) or at Cabin John streetcar stop No. 20 at about 7:20 P.M. Please let her know at RANDolph 8066 if you would like a lift.

Paul Bradt's Old Rag trip required plenty of help to make that trail an easy route to the summit rocks. Trail clearing on Saturday will be followed by climbing on Sunday at the Beginner's Climb or over in the Reflector Oven area, where you may relax while the JAW Chimney climb is completed (we'll have expansion bolts this time, says Art). For further information call Paul, GEorgia 3917.

Arnold Wexler's lecture will be given at a P.A.T.C. meeting in the Board Room of the District Building on the southeast corner of 14th and Pennsylvania Ave; the entrance is on 14th St., and an elevator takes you to the third floor. Time: 8:00 P.M.

It has been agreed to defer the Bull Run Mountains trip scheduled for April 16 a week to April 23 because of a P.A.T.C. hike on the 16th which several of the rock climbers plan to attend.

A SOBER LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Amid the confusion of organizational problems which beset the Rock Climbers it may be enlightening to look ahead in the direction our current trend is leading. Altho we have been blessed with two unusually mild winters, freezing weather will inevitably return to Washington some day. Let's consider our next cold winter.

Sunday after Sunday the climbers will bring ice skates instead of ropes to spend the day gliding merrily upon the frozen canal above Carderock. Of course there will still be a minority group of Old Guard Rock Climbers who insist upon continuing to the rocks to freeze their fingers upon the Binnacle Face, but this group will be regarded with amused scorn by the growing horde of Ice Skaters. Bad feeling between the factions will soon develop, chiefly on the part of the Old Guard either because of jealousy that they don't know how to skate or perhaps mostly because with frozen fingers feeling is bound to be bad.

The first real rift occurs when it is discovered that the pretty little girl doing the fancy figure eights has been elected Chairman of the Ice Skating Subcommittee. With horror it is learned that she has never made even one qualifying climb! The matter is generously overlooked for a time, but more serious problems follow, such as whether it is proper for Ice Skaters and Rock Climbers to ride to Carderock in the same car or to warm themselves at the same fire.

Some hot-blooded individuals loudly clamor for secession of the Ice Skaters from the Rock Climbers. Other more peace-loving souls try to unify the diverging interests with the suggestion that the ice half-way up Sterling's Crack should be ideal for skating. All hope of a friendly settlement is finally abandoned, however, when the freshly sharpened blade of an Ice Skater accidentally severs a brand new nylon climbing rope. The Rock Climbers can't even bring suit for the price of the rope since the Ice Skating Club has no legal entity and can't be sued.

It is indeed a dismal picture. We can only hope for the best.

Ups and Downs

Feb. 4 & 5

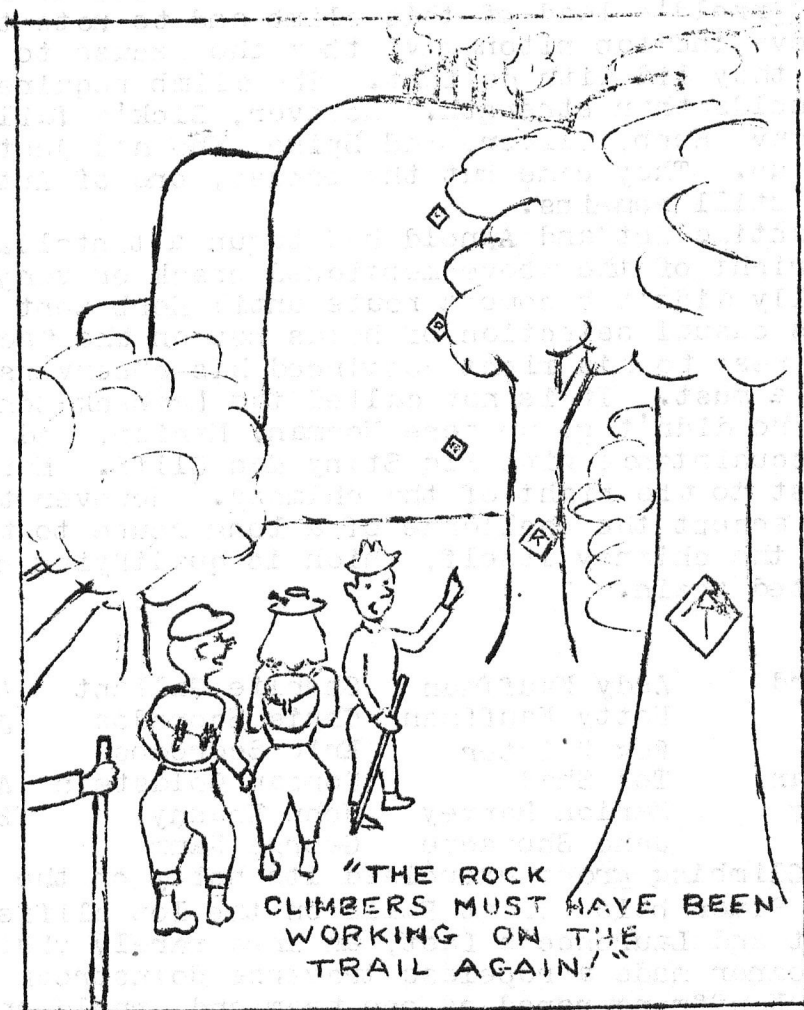
Andy Kauffman
Betty Kauffman
Arnold Wexler
Dick Goldman
Norman Goldstein

Marion Harvey
Art Lembeck
Win Lembeck
Peg Keister
Paul Bradt

Feb. 5

Herb Conn
Oliver Westfall
Spike Gewiski

The first contingent, of ten climbers, established themselves at Rock Spring shelter Saturday morning. Andy and Betty went in search of the White Oak Glacier while Dick hiked and the others rode to Little



Stony Man cliffs. These cliffs have the delightful way of always being twice as high as one remembers them. Perhaps that is because the basalt breaks into such fine holds and satisfying piton cracks here and there; and one remembers only the fifty feet that lacked these features.

Divided into two ropes, four different routes to the top were led by Art, Arnold, Norman and Marion. Then Art and Arnold went up the Little Stony Man Chimney to be followed by Dick bringing up Norman and Paul. The big event of Saturday, however, was Arnold's Face Climb. (This is not to be confused with the Stony Man face seen in profile on the mountain.)

The climb comprises an ascent between the Little Stony Man chimney and the left (north) end of the cliff. Arnold pioneered it in 1945. The route is not conspicuous as a route, but can be located by a crack or very shallow chimney that marks the upper part of the cliff. It enters this crack at its bottom but after following it for 10 or 15 feet, moves to the left a comparable distance and then turns up again to the top. In this last section a small stone bridge thru which a rope climb may be passed identifies the route.

Dick had just brought his teammates to the top of the chimney in time to admire Arnold's lead of this climb and to note that Marion's failure to remove the top piton gave them the excuse to try it next morning. This they did with delight. The climb requires more judgment in the use of holds than strength. However, Dick's failure to remove the top piton gave Herb, Oliver, and Spike, who had just arrived, the excuse to come up. They came but the excuse, one of Art's cherished channel irons, still remains.

In the meantime Art and Arnold had begun a tantalizing route a little to the right of the above-mentioned crack or very shallow chimney. This really didn't become a route until Herb went to work on the top pitch. His casual selection of holds now on the face and now on the 8-foot buttress to his right convinced his observers that this five piton lead was a must. It is now called the Lembeck-Conn route. The only climbers who didn't go up were Norman, Marion, and Paul who were off to renew acquaintance with Big Stony Man Cliff. Marion led an easy route up it just to the right of the chimney. However there wasn't enough time to accept the challenge of a long route to the left of the chimney, or of the chimney itself, which is qualifying climb B-4 and should be visited again.

February 12.

Donald Hubbard	Andy Kauffman	Charlie Gallant	Art Lembeck
Jan Conn	Betty Kauffman	Chris Scoredos	Johnny Reed (vi-
Herb Conn	Peg Foister	Eric Scoredos	sitor)
Andrea Oberman	Ted Shad	Norman Goldstein	Arnold Wexler
Dolores Alley	Marion Harvey	John Krasny	Eleanor Tatge
Billy Alley	Jane Showacre	George Kamm	

The Rock Climbing group exercised its hobby on the Maryland side of the Potomac River below Great Falls on the low cliffs across from the Bird's Nest and Laurence's Last, an area rarely visited. Andy Oberman and Eleanor made a ropeless traverse downstream where they met and passed the Kauffmans roped as one team and Arnold and Art as another exploring an area of bucket holds and terrific overhanging cornices. The remainder of the party climbed first on an arduous layback made by Jan, Norm, Jane, and Marion. Don started Jane leading an easy route nearby in which two pitons were used., then he directed a strenuous tension climb near the layback crack. A large part of the group moved to a balance face involving a tricky ascent. Later in the day Arnold and Art kidded each other up an overhanging cornice which Arnold climbed first, with more ease than looked possible for even a human fly like himself. Miscellaneous short pitches finished off the day.

Inside Corner

A note from Chris Scoredos reads: "Eric did his first chimneying Sunday (Feb. 5), a step nearer to the conquest of the Jam Box!

"As a result of the current issue of UP ROPE I checked the membership list of the P.A.T.C. and found that 48 persons known to me listed therein climb rocks. Of this number I do not know how many are listed as being members of the Rock Climbers."

A brief note from Sally Chamberlin sends greetings to the Rock Climbers. Sally is back in Switzerland working as a secretary for Nestle's.