

## NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 6, No. 18

March 24, 1950

### Schedule

Mar. 25-26. Climbing near Philadelphia.  
Leader, Norman Goldstein.

Apr. 8-9. Old Rag for Easter. Leader,  
Eleanor Tatge.

If you are planning on climbing with the Philadelphia group, you should have notified the leader of the Washington contingent, Norman Goldstein, before now. His telephone is Emerson 6354.

Eleanor Tatge is taking care of arrangements for the Easter trip and can be reached in the evening at Randolph 8066. It is planned to drive to Old Rag leaving Washington at noon Saturday, make camp on top of the mountain, indulge in a little late afternoon climbing, retire early in order to wake up to watch the Easter morning sunrise, and spend Sunday climbing. Herb Conn has gallantly agreed to lead the climbing. If the temperature corresponds to Easter morning a year ago, be prepared for snow flurries.

### SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED!

The Rock Climbing Committee of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club--that's us, folks! has ceased to be. Our gay disregard for such trivial matters as Trail Club membership and our own constitution at the last election has brought action from official quarters.

In line with the discussion at the rock climbing meeting of January 19th, the Trail Club Council last Tuesday officially ended the Rock Climbing Committee and replaced it with a Mountaineering Committee. This seemingly innocuous change of name--besides allowing for plenty of future expansion in our activities--carries with it two important organizational changes. First, the Trail Club for the first time gives legal sanction to our hitherto under-the-table practice of electing our own Chairman rather than accepting one appointed by the Trail Club.

president. Secondly, it rules specifically that Trail Club membership is essential to voting or holding office in our organization. At present the rock climbing membership, both voting and non-voting, seems fairly evenly divided between those who belong to PATC and those who don't.

The motion creating the new Mountaineering Committee, the text of which appears below, represents what is probably the only basis on which rock climbing activity in this city can continue under Trail Club sponsorship. It is now proposed that the terms of the Trail Club motion be put to a vote of the active rock climbers to determine whether the majority of climbers desire to continue their activity under this title, or prefer to function as an entirely separate and independent group.

Since there are points to be considered pro and con, it is believed that the vote should be deferred for a few weeks to give the climbers a chance to consider and digest the significance of the problem. The next issue of UP ROPE will carry two editorials, one giving each viewpoint in the strongest light the authors are able to bring upon the subject. If any reader has definite and constructive ideas contributing to either side, please contact Paul Braß or Herb Conn, who are respectively gathering pro-Trail Club and anti-Trail Club propaganda, in order that everyone's ideas may be included in the forthcoming editorial debate.

Motion passed by the Council of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club on March 14, 1950:

That the present Rock Climbing Committee be discontinued and that a new committee be established in its place to be known as the Mountaineering Committee of the PATC.

This committee will be responsible for sponsoring and conducting in the name of the PATC all phases pertaining to mountaineering encompassed usually by that term.

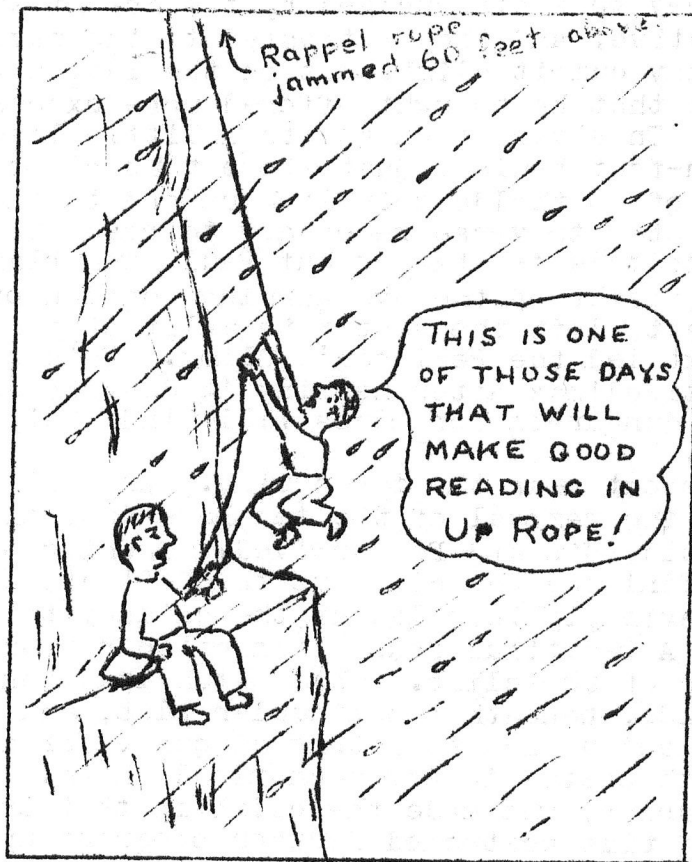
This committee shall be comprised of PATC members interested in this activity and who qualify for participation in mountaineering in the judgment of the committee. The membership thereof will elect annually from among the members thereof a Chairman who will direct the activities of the Committee and represent the committee on the Club Council with full voting privileges.

This committee may supplement its numbers by non-PATC members in an affiliate capacity in its discretion. Such affiliates may not vote or hold elective committee offices.

The Mountaineering Committee is authorized to continue the existing publication UP ROPE as the committee's official organ, financed on a subscription basis or in such other manner as to cause no expense to the PATC.

#### THE CARIBOOS

Arnold Wexler's lecture at the District Building March 7 on the visit of a group of rock climbers to the Cariboo Range of British Columbia last summer was illustrated by color pictures of surpassing beauty. These were gathered in spite of the preponderance of threatening weather during the trip. The views were of scenery and camp



activities rather than rock climbing: big snowfields; snowy ridges; Sterling Hendricks preparing a repast; Don Hubbard taking a swim in an ice cold lake upon the pressing invitation of his suffering comrades who could no longer endure his odor; the airplane dropping supplies; and, especially, a most delightful sequence of shots taken in ice caves in a glacier. The ice pictures were taken up to 100 feet or so under the ice, and showed marvelous effects due to the green light penetrating from the surface and displaying the textures of the icy cave walls.

Arnold's account was furnished considerable support from the cane of Gus Gambs which served as a pointer, and in the end pointed the moral that we rock climbers best succeed through mutual aid and assistance! Arnold as a lecturer shows great presence and exceptionally smooth delivery. His talks are long remembered both for their subject matter and for its excellent presentation.

#### Ups and Downs

Art Lembeck  
Win Lembeck

Marion Harvey  
Norman Goldstein

Arnold Wexler  
Peg Keister

Paul Bradt

Old Rag Trip - March 4-5. Art, Norman, Marion and Paul went up Saturday morning, starting early in the hopes that the preceeding cold snap might have frozen some of the White Oak waterfalls. Once

there, however, they were discouraged by the bright sun, Paul's bush-whacking, and a native; and they retreated to the never-melting rocks. Norman led the sunny summit climb, but on the last pitch took a variation to the right that he thought offered more exposure than the catwalk to the left. This variation starts a little lower than Bill Shockley's. A ten-foot boulder just above this climb offered a tempting sequence of footholds spiraling upward to the left--that is, providing the one-step traverse necessary to reach them could be made. Everyone yielded to this temptation but Paul, who blamed his inability to do so upon the weight of the overhanging portion of his Bramani boots. He, at least, left the spot with a lot of respect for the climb. Marion next led the Beginner's Climb. This she declared was somewhat of an anti-climax after hearing it described. However, those examining her new dungarees for clues will find that she stuck right close to the rock.

Night was spent near the top spring. An early start next morning made possible the removal of the ten logs from the ridge trail almost before Arnold, Win and Peg arrived. Caching our tools, we sought out the unfinished Jaw climb up the Reflecting Oven headwall. This climb had previously been led up the chimney to the deep cave-like belay spot. A beautiful four-piton pitch now extends this progress to the center of the climb. This pitch leads on the face to the right, by underholds, beneath a peninsular slab, and then upward into a narrow chimney, and upward to a tree adequate for a belay spot. This pitch has both aesthetic and mechanical charm. Ask Norman, Paul, Art, Arnold, or Marion, who made the climb in that order.

Shortage of time postponed further progress up the Jaw climb. An easy route to the right and up took us to the top. Art was in such high spirits and form that he insisted on bringing his followers up a couple of tough variations of this easy way. Paul maintains that it was this delay and not a reversion to his own old habits that caused us to miss our Warrenton steak dinners.

Lowell Bennett

Herb Conn

Duncan Burchard

J. Sterling King

Jan Conn

Charlie Gallant and friends

March 5. The main events were the tackline of the Beginner's Climb and Ronnie's Leap; Duncan's trial of Sterling's Crack; and the climbing of the Three Chimney Climb (one third of it, at least), by Duncan and Charlie. The Spiderwalk was looked at, but just looked at. Incidentally, this climbing party had started as usual at the Hot Shoppe, where also Arnold, Wexler, Peg Keister, and Win Lembeck had turned up, but these three drove up to Old Rag to join the party of the above account.

Don Hubbard

Dick Goldman

Dolores Alley

Tony Soler

Arnold Wexler

Fay Calkins

Dora Seu

Norman Goldstein

March 12, 1950. Arnold thought it would be a good time to introduce Tony to the Bird's Next Climb, so the group headed straight to the Virginia side of Great Falls. Norman picked up a couple of his Chicago friends who were visiting in the area to give them a taste of rock climbing, and Don immediately put them through their paces.



After watching Tony, Dick, and Norman fall off the Bird's Next Climb, Tony reached the highest point--the bare spot under the overhang--but wet rock made the climbing more hazardous than possible. Don led Ray, Dora, and Dolores to Juliet's Balcony. Dick and Tony found some interesting piton leads, and Arnold served to finish the day off by setting up a belay practice spot and then cutting his palm against the rock while making use of it.

Lowell Bennett	Jan Conn	Ray Moore	Richard Goldman
Art Iembeck	Herb Conn	Eleanor Tatge	John Meenehan
Chris Scoredos	Marion Harvey	Johnny Peed	George Kamm
Eric Scoredos	Leo Scott	Tom Culverwell	Arnold Wexler

Sunday, March 19. Most of the Hot Shoppe Gang went off to Garderock to warm up while Eleanor and Johnny went after Eleanor's Sink Stopper. While, among other things, Art tested pitons and Ray climbed Leonard's Lunacy, Johnny and Eleanor pumped up the boat and sailed down the Potomac to pick up those who wished to climb at Herzog Island: Marion, Eleanor, Jan, Herb, Arnold, Peg Keister (whose name, we see, missed the roster above), Dick, and Ray, and Johnny. After struggling with Leonard's Tension Corner, made by Herb alone, the remainder of the morning, the afternoon was spent by Dick and Ray on the Hornet's Next Climb, by the remaining Herzogers on the pleasant hubbly face at the V, which most of them climbed successfully. The weather was so exquisite that everyone had a wonderful time except, perhaps for a few minutes, a certain enthusiastic rower whose bottom suffered from the mud and dampness of a certain leaky old tub.

### Inside Corner

If you're handy to a television set Tuesday, March 28, at 3:45 in the afternoon, you can see and hear Jan Conn in person.

From the SIERRA CLUB (San Francisco) YODELER:

#### HELP WANTED - WOMEN TO JOIN THE ROCKCLIMBING SECTION

Current female members find it difficult to comfortably handle ratio of 10 men to every woman.

Need both active and social climbers. (A social climber wears short to sun herself and amuses the active climbers in between climbs--amounting to 90 % of the time!)

Having money--the kind necessary for big trips--will help, but good looks or an eager spirit may be substituted.

Age limit--14 to 55. Greatest need, early twenties.

See Schedule for meeting details.

Our advice to overcrowded Washington females is: "Go west, women, go west!" And my goodness, what am I hanging around here for anyway?

#### Editor:

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

#### Associate Editors:

Jan & Herb Conn  
8945 Greentree Road  
Washington 14, D.C.  
Tel: Wisconsin 2727