

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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May 12, 1950

May 14	Sugarloaf Mountain
May 27-30	Shawangunk Mountains, Paul Bradt Leader.

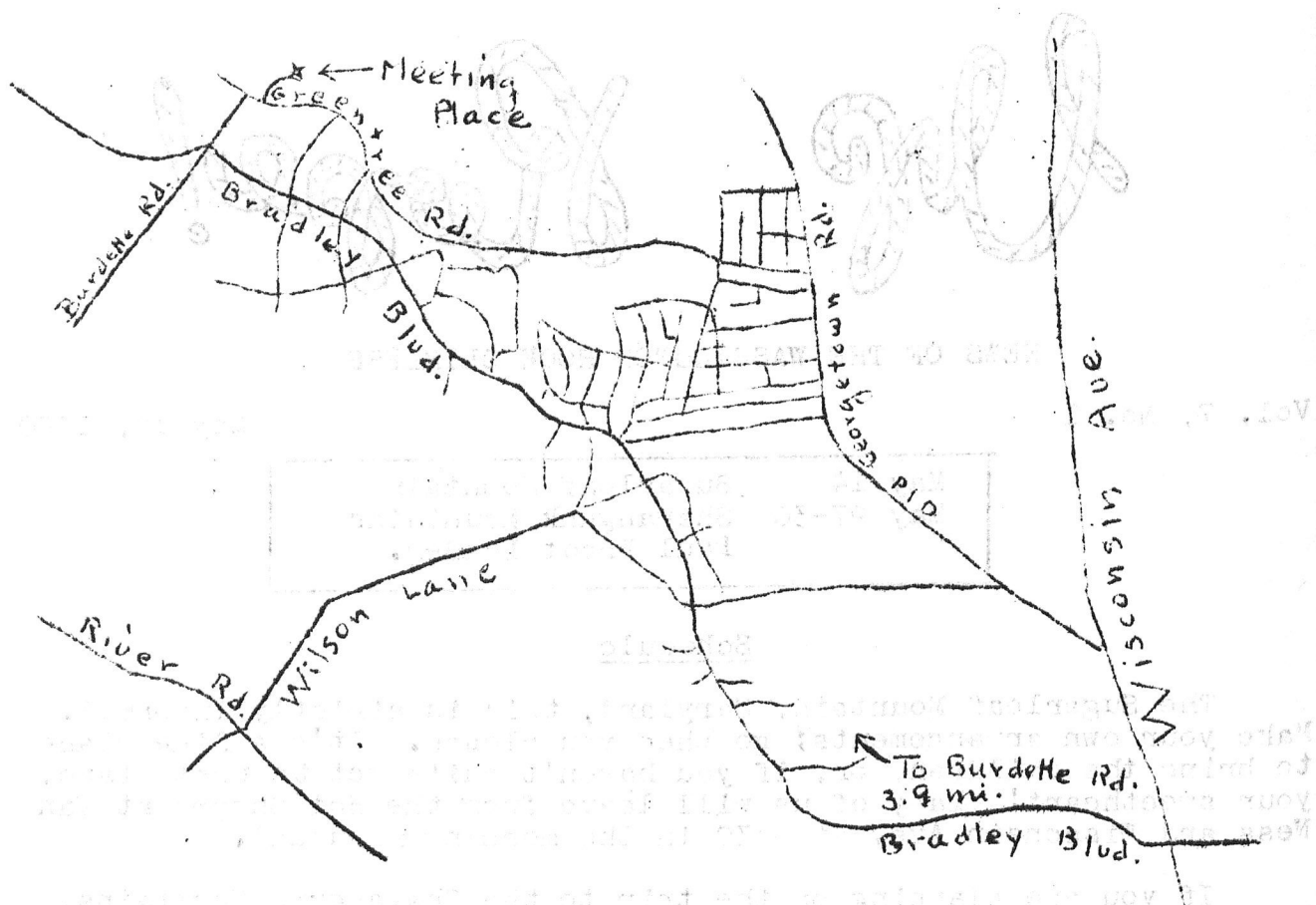
Schedule

The Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland, trip is strictly informal. Make your own arrangements; go when you please. It's a fine place to bring the children, or, if you haven't quite got to that stage, your sweetheart! Many of us will leave from the Hot Shoppe at Van Ness and Wisconsin Ave. at 8:30 in the morning as usual.

If you are planning on the trip to the Shawangunk Mountains, New York, get in touch with Paul Bradt at GEorgia 3917. The cliffs are exquisite climbing, and, as most of us know, camping with Paul is always an unforgettable experience.

Meeting

Mr. and Mrs. Bien, Jan Conn's parents, have invited us to hold a meeting at their home, 8945 Greentree Road, Thursday evening, May 25, at 8:00 p.m. Our own movie, "Up Rope" will be shown again for the benefit of those who didn't see it before and those who'd like to see it again, and the results of the recent voting will be discussed at the business meeting following. Driving directions: Connecticut or Wisconsin Avenues north to Bradley Blvd; left on Bradley Blvd. about four miles to Burdette Rd.; right on Burdette Rd. to the next crossing which is Greentree Rd.; right on Greentree Rd. to the first driveway on the left, which leads to the Bien-Conn domicile. It is possible to go by bus, but much more practical as well as chummy to ask a friend for a lift if you are not driving. The Conns are ready at Cliver 4810 to dispense aid, comfort, and the phone number of a neighboring rock climber upon demand. We trust the map on the following page will help to orient you.

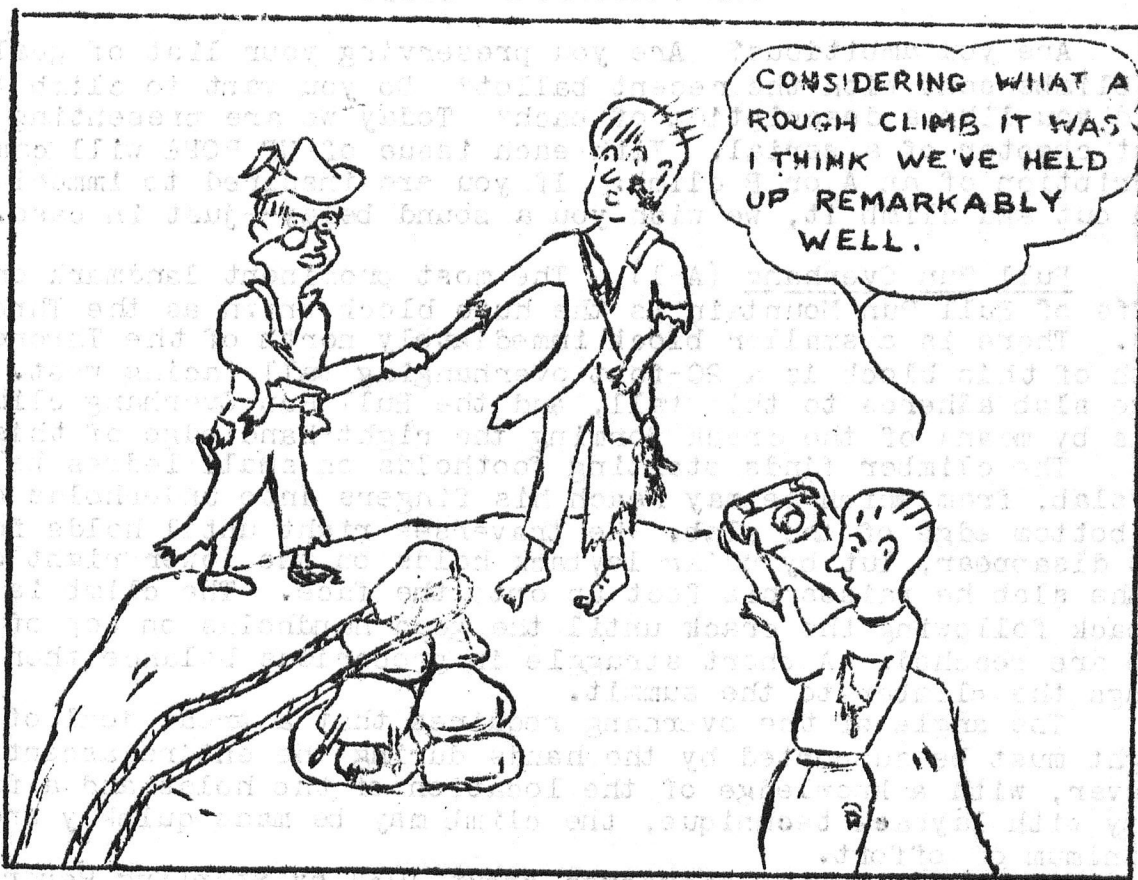


WE LEFT THE ROPE AT HOME

Friday night, April 14, 1950, abandoning ropes and pitons for the week end, five of us, Peg Keister, Arnold Wexler, Norman Goldstein, Win Lembeck, and Art Lembeck, loaded sleeping bags and other accoutrements on the car rack and drove to South River Falls Picnic Grounds in the central section of the Shenandoah National Park for a stroll along the Appalachian Trail. Bill Kemper and Ben Gurnley were already there, putting up a tent for protection from the wind and the rapidly dropping temperature.

Four thirty came all too soon, and in the windy darkness we shivered into sweaters and parkas to brave the 15 degree F. morning. Fortified by hot chocolate and rolls, we started, in the car, for Swift Run Gap--cheered also by the arrival of the Moores, Ray, Susie, Pat and Mike, who preferred a 2:00 a.m. rising from their Alexandria inner springs. Win and Susie, with Mike and Pat, ferried the three cars and did yeoman service providing breakfast at Bear Fence Mountain Leanto, lunch at Hawksbill Leanto, and snacks and encouragement at points where the Trail crossed the Skyline Drive.

The day was rather cold and quite windy, with the sun often hidden by a varying cloud cover. The Trail was in rather good condition throughout with not too much difficulty caused by frost upheaval. In gathering darkness, Norman, Bill and Art stumbled down over



the rock-strewn Mary's Rock slopes to Thornton Gap at 7:35 p.m.--14 hours and 3/4 miles after the start, about 11 hours actual hiking time. The faithful advance guard had gone ahead to set up camp in Elkwallow Leanto and supper was about ready when the hikers, homing on the light of a gasoline lantern, came creaking in.

The night was much warmer and a bright sun made reveille at 0730. Cautious inspection of muscles, joints, blisters and dwindling stocks of moleskin decided some to continue the second leg of the hike and caused others to join the ranks of the spectators.

At 10:00 a.m., two cars drove to Thornton Gap and the hikers started up Pass Mountain to catch up with the PATC group, which had a 45-minute start. The day was a fine sunny one and soon loosened tight muscles and made an enjoyable time for the walkers and support group as well. The fifty-four-day PATC group, which dwindled to seventeen "finishers," were pleasant company to meet and walk with before picking up speed once more on the downhill stretches. The support cars were even more important than on Saturday, providing water, oranges, salt tablets, and food to the whim of the strollers--hiking deluxe. At Compton Gap, the 22 miles of Trail had been covered by the seventeen Sunday-only hikers, and by Peg, Bill and Art of the two-day jaunters.

Everyone enjoyed the Arton Hotel cube steaks which had been arranged for by the PATC hikers. But no climbing all day--no roped climbing that is--but about 11,700 feet of the Class I variety. The "discovery"--who'd like to join us on the outcrop on the south face of North Marshall?

--Art Lembeck

THE CLASSIFIED CLIMBS

Are you ambitious? Are you preserving your list of qualifying climbs sent with the recent ballot? Do you want to climb them? Would you like a description of each? Today we are presenting the first chapter of a serial. With each issue of UP ROPE will come the description of an A or B climb. If you are inspired to immediately rush out and climb it, we wish you a sound belay--just in case.

Bull Run Overhang (A-1). The most prominent landmark on the cliffs of Bull Run Mountain is the huge block known as the Throne of Zeus. There is a smaller block immediately north of the Throne, and north of this block is a 20-foot overhanging wall facing west. A large slab adheres to this wall, and the Bull Run Overhang climb ascends by means of the crack forming the right-hand edge of this slab.

The climber finds starting footholds on small ledges below the slab, from which he may reach his fingers into underholds on the bottom edge of the slab. He traverses right until holds for the feet disappear, but by using layback holds on the lower right corner of the slab he raises his feet up onto the face. The climb is a layback following the crack until the good handholds on top of the slab are reached. A short struggle in precarious balance then brings the climber to the summit.

The angle of the overhang requires that a great deal of weight must be supported by the hands during the entire ascent. However, with a knowledge of the location of the holds and a familiarity with layback technique, the climb may be made quickly and with a minimum of effort.

The Overhang was pioneered about 1934 by Sterling Hendricks, Charlie Daniels, Jimmy Lamb, and John Southard. It has been climbed down as well as up, and has been ascended by Sterling without a rope. The climb first achieved international fame in 1937, when it was recommended as a "good climb" to George Marchal, a Belgian mountaineer. After George had hauled his 200 pounds bodily to the top by sheer strength of arms, he declared amid gasps that it was "more than good." A key foothold near the bottom became detached some years ago but this disaster has not decreased the quota of ascents which normally occur on visits to the Bull Run rocks.

--UP ROPE, April 18, 1945

Ups and Downs

Art Lembeck	Lorraine Snyder	Herb Conn	Johnny Reed
Hannes Benzinger	Bobbie Thompson	Jan Conn	Eleanor Tatge
Rolf Benzinger	Arnold Wexler	Peg Keister	

Sunday April 30. The Hot Shoppe turnout was tremendous in spite of the threat of damp weather. Part of the climbers decided to take the risk of rain and set off for the Bull Runs. The more conservative element went out to Carderock and managed to get in a few hours' climbing before the weather closed in. Beginners' Crack, Ronnie's Leap, Spiderwalk, were the main routes used. As the rain started, sanctuary was taken in the Buckets-of-Blood Chimney where lunches were eaten on two levels by the hungrier faction. The day was com-

pleted with damp attacks on the Spiderwalk observed from under the cozy ledge to the right of it by those lucky or quick enough to get there, from between the raindrops by the more unlucky.

Jack Wilson Norman Goldstein Spike Gewiski John Meenehan
Alice Wilson Marion Wormald Oliver Westfall Abbey Hammack
Lorrie Wilson Frank Macnamara Jessie Woodwell Mary Sturgeon

Sunday, April 30. The Bull Run section of this day's climbing decided to join Ray and Susie Moore there, but the Moores sought to avoid the threatened downpour by a trip to Roger-Belmont Cave near Front Royal, Virginia. The continuous drizzle which arrived did not dampen the ardor of all the climbers, and lunchtime saw Mary, Frank, Marion, and Norman huddled in a cave on top of the mountain while Spike, John, and Jack built a fire. Johnny walked on back to the cars after lunch while the rest of the group slipped around on the wet faces of a couple of short pitches. Visibility from the top was nil. Mary, Frank, Marion, and Norman had pizza at Luigi's before seeing Frank off to Baltimore. Mary will probably testify that the finish at Luigi's was just the right touch for damp, hungry climbers.

Hostelers

George Kamm
Donna Willmann
Connie Sleeper
Charlotte Freedman
Dorothy Pratt
Jane Showacre
Luther Warren
Howard Bloom
Edith Bloom
Sandy Gassaway
Bob Jones
Dot Thornton
Jim Goldsborough
Ruth P. Taylor
Stanley Weintraub

Rock Climbing Club

Ken Karcher

Herb Conn

Suzy Moore

Pat Moore

Nancy Nicolet

Donald Hubbard

Chris Scoredos

Charlie Gallant

Johnnie Reed

Andy Kauffman

Marion Harvey

R. Phelps

Bob ???

Pim Karcher

Jan Conn

Ray Moore

Mike Moore

Maxine Halett

Peg Keister

Eric Scoredos

Duncan Burchard

Skip Crosby

Betty Kauffman

G. Stoertz

T. Griffith

Al Webb

Sunday May 7, 1950. So much took place at Carderock this Sunday that only the surface can be skimmed here, but we'll try to touch the high spots. The day was wonderful; the Youth Hostelers, invited by George Kamm, turned out in force; and the amount and quality of climbing done was prodigious.

First thing in the morning ropes were dropped along the cliff in the vicinity of Beginners' Crack and Barnacle Face in such profusion that they formed a fringe almost hiding the rock, and traffic lights could have been used to advantage as climbers found it necessary to wait for each other when their paths crossed. During this hilarious melée a team led by Don found it necessary to retreat from the Chris-Wex-Don when it came face to face with Andy's team of Johnny Reed, Sandy, and George Kamm traversing from the opposite direction. Eleanor's team of three courageous pioneers heroically ascended via the Nubble Face clear to the top of the cliff in three pitches, then rappelled off, most of them for the first time. After several more lessons to "first" rappellers, Chris Scoredos arrived to

set up an aerial traverse across the Billy Goat Trail, and lunching and traversing went on simultaneously as the lunchers traversed and the traversers lunched.

Later activities spread out over the entire area. Don, Al and Bobby went off to Jan's Chimney and the Jam Box. Ray Moore had a most exciting experience exploring Herbie's Horror by wandering over it until, we understand, he'd left no possible handhold or foothold untouched save those at the very top which he happily circumvented via the Chockstone Chimney route. The Spiderwalk was busy all afternoon as one attempt after another ended chiefly in flying descents. Marion Harvey is reported to have a busy time teaching rappelling. In Tom a barefoot devotee was found when in that guise he worked on the Barnacle Face, Buckets-of-Elwood Chimney, and eventually even went quite a way up the Spiderwalk.

Among the notable events were the Classified Climbs made by those not often in the news for their prowess along this line. Ken Karcher positively glowed as he topped the Spiderwalk, which Al also achieved. Charlie Gallant and George Kamm each made one leg of their voting qualification on Sterling's Crack and Leonard's Lunacy respectively. And Lowell Bennett and Eleanor cinched their votes this year on Arthur's Traverse and the Chris-Wex-Don lead, respectively.

Marion, Herb and Jan worked out on the climb just downstream of Leonard's Lunacy. No one succeeded in climbing it altho it has been climbed at least twice in the past. This climb and the one just to the right of it are stinkers and worthy of names and more attention.

Inside Corner

Spring has come and with it rock climbers are on the move. Mary Neilan was in town for a few days, just taking a short jaunt from Somerset, Pa. Laurence Curl and his wife stopped off long enough to say "hello" on their way from California to New Jersey. And Skip Crosby came all the way from New Hampshire just to come climbing with us on Sunday--at least that's our side of the story.

Up in Phila spring is having its effect too, for we hear that Joe Walsh and Margaret Dimmit are engaged.

Lowell and Ellen Bennett announce a brand new baby daughter Mary Katrina, 6 lbs. 10 oz., born Sunday, April 30.

Notes and News

The new Holubar catalog makes mighty interesting reading, on a somewhat less ambitious scale than Sears Roebuck's mighty tome. Art Lembeck reports that two nylon rope prices are interchanged on the second page: the 5/16" should be 9, the 1/4" 6 cents per 100 ft.

Don Hubbard is in print again with an article entitled something like "Climbing and Clouds in the Caribbos," in the April PATC Bulletin. We found this out from Don; PATC remains uncommunicative.

Saturday and Sunday May 20-21 you are cordially invited to meet Joe Walsh and the Philadelphia climbers on Old Rag.