

## NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

Vol. 7, No. 5

June 22, 1950

### Ups and Downs

Jan Conn	Charlie Gallant	Walter Downs	Peg Keister
Herb Conn	Paul Bradt	Betty Kauffman	Arnold Wexler
Chris Scoredos	Jo Bradt	Andy Kauffman	Ted Schad
Eric Scoredos	Alan Bradt	Pim Karcher	Mary Sturgeon
Maxine Haleff	Peter Bradt	Marilyn Lesh	Sioux Hughes
George Stoertz	Hale Bradt	Ken Karcher	Ferebee Mitchell
	Valerie Bradt		Eleanor Tatge

Sunday June 11, 1950. Climbing was initiated at the Corkscrew Climb and the Wailing Wall just upstream from it on the Virginia cliffs of the Potomac below Great Falls. A rope of amateurs grew into two ropes as Mary led a waterline traverse upstream with five roped teammates and as many unroped kibitzers chiefly met along the route. Juliet's Balcony saw two teams, one male, one female, cross it. Don stoutly denies the rumor that he climbed the Overhang Corner first climbed by Herb Conn recently. Laurence's Last, we hear, offered its share of thrills. Romeo's Ladder, across from the Balcony, was simply mobbed by such experts as Charlie Gallant, Walter Downs, le, Pim, Ken, Arnold, George.

Jan Conn	Duncan Burchard	Maxine Haleff	Tony Soler
Herb Conn	Marion Harvey	Ray Moore	Lorraine Snyder
	Norman Goldstein	Arnold Wexler	

June 17-18: Baker and Seneca Rocks Trip, West Virginia. Up with the birds--because of an inoportune shower, the Conn Climbers, Inc. were met by the rest early Saturday morning at Baker Rock. The morning was spent limbering up on the pinnacles and main face of Baker--interesting climbs led by Jan, Herb, and Arnold. Mid-afternoon found Norm leading a climb up a chimney we thought we'd have to smoke him out of, while Ray Moore led up a concave slab that proves man is at least part beast. Dinner around the new Optimus stoves made us realize that even "rock" climbers are mechanized. Oh, what has happened to the romantic campfire?!

Sunday morning was beautiful--Arnold said it was "ladies' day" in favor of the two sheer novices present. The Conns, Marion, and

Norm got an early start up the East Face of Seneca Rock. Arnold, Duncan and Maxine started one climb, while Tony led Ray and Lorraine up another, now called Tony's Nitemare. About 250 feet up the face one comes to a shallow chimney that is straddled up to an overhanging chockstone into another chimney. This is traversed (looking down at the sky), around a blind corner with sparse handholds, to meet another overhang-- But--relax! This was "ladies' day." Arnold had said so! A tired but happy group straggled back to the cars and civilization.

On Friday, June 16, as a prelude to the Baker-Seneca trip above, "Just To Get In Shape For the Weekend Climbing," Jan Conn, Norm Goldstein, and Duncan Burchard went to Carderock, where they all climbed Sterling's Crack, Duncan and Norm climbed Jan's Face, and Jan climbed Herbie's Horror in her new "Wonder Sneakers."

Chris Scoredos	Walter Downs	Andy Kauffman	Pim Karcher
Eric Scoredos	Emma Downs	Betty Kauffman	Jane Showacre
Oliver Westfall	Suzanne Downs	Lowell Bennett	Sterling King
Louise Kiernan	Mary Sturgeon	Charlie Gallant	Eleanor Tatge
	Ferebee Mitchell	Paul Bradt	

Sunday, June 18, 1950. Cars were left at Great Falls, Maryland, as the climbers set out for the cliffs. Cleft Island proved accessible dry shod, and its upstream cliffs resounded all morning with cries of "up rope" and "slack." Jane tried out for the first time her new 3/8" nylon rope. She claims 4 lbs. instead of 6 is a welcome relief. Several interesting pitches were explored with varying success. Shortly before lunch Charlie set out with a team for a short traverse. After circumtraversing the island the team, hungry, returned about 3:00 o'clock, to find the remaining climbers leaving, watersoaked, abandoning the swimming pool to the late arrivals. Three-quarters of Charlie's team took to the water and finished up the day drying on a big rock in the sun.

#### Classified Climbs

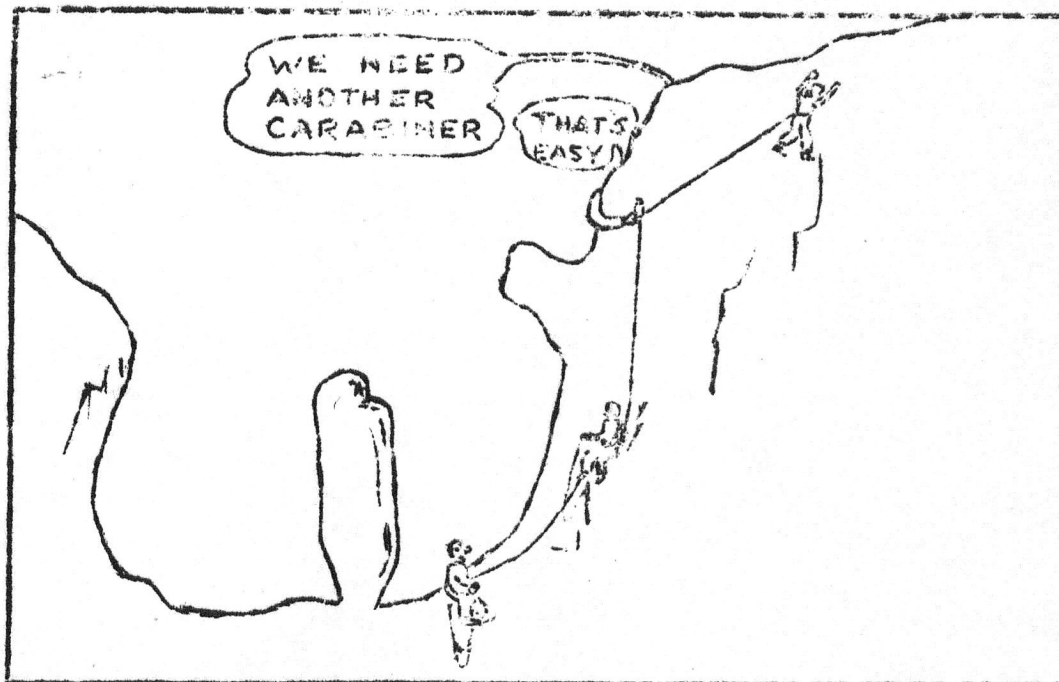
On Cleft Island last Sunday Charlie Gallant's team on its long traverse stopped at the lower end of the island to have a look at an A climb:

#### THE LITTLE HANDHOLD THAT ISN'T THERE

A-5

At the eastern tip of Cleft Island, facing the Maryland shore of the Potomac across the estuary, is a large climbing face. The extreme southeastern section of this face, however, is a 15-foot wall having but one handhold, which, as the name of the climb implies, isn't there at all.

The climb is one of delicate balance and judgment under fire. Quoting from the Rock Climbing Announcement of December 10, 1942: "A few pretences of holds enable the optimist to reach a horizontal seam which he had hoped would afford a handhold. It does not. It is thought that those who went up the rest of the way did so because of the difficulty in coming back down."



After an initial assault which baffled all who attempted the climb, Arthur Lembeck made the first ascent in 1939.

--UP ROPE, June 13, 1945

### Lost and Found

Herb and Jan Conn announce that they will be glad to return to its owner a canteen picked up at Carderock a few weeks ago if he or she will step forward and claim it.

Jane Showacre lost a rain jacket on the Sterling King's Cabin trip--probably not in the cabin. If you picked one up or know anyone who did, please call Jane at Union 0535. She didn't say anything about a reward, but there's nothing like trying.

### Exchange News

YODELER (Sierra Club, San Francisco): The members of six climbing groups were represented in Yosemite for four days of rock climbing. "For once the gods who control rains and storms were with us, and held back the annual deluge which usually accompanies the rock climbers in Yosemite on Memorial Day." East and West here meet on common ground: Our annual Shawan-gunk trip on Memorial Day week end is likewise invariably rained out.

Phil Bettler and Bill Long established a new "high point" 800 feet up--about halfway--on the North Face of Sentinel Rock.

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