



NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

1916 Sunderland Place N. W. Washington 6, D. C.

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 19, 1951 at 8:00 P.M.
at the home of Sterling Hendricks
1118 Dale Drive, Silver Spring, Md.

The annual meeting of the Mountaineering Committee will be held at Sterling's. After the business session, Arnold will describe the 1950 climbs in the Wind Rivers of Wyoming, illustrating his talk with slides. To reach the Hendricks' home by car drive out Colesville Road (Route 29 north) to Dale Drive, and turn left. The house is about 0.3 miles from Colesville Road. (Mrs. K's Toll House is on the northeast corner of Dale Drive and Colesville Road intersection.) By bus, the junction of Dale Drive and Colesville Road may be reached by either the Z4 or Z6 bus leaving the Georgia and Alaska terminal. Sterling's home phone is SHepherd 4603.

* * * * *

IS IT WORTH IT?

This summer Alec Faberge, David Michael, Norman Brewster, Andy and I batted our way through to the Northern Selkirks. Several of the Washington climbers, including Andy, had been in this area before. The Columbia River flows in a huge bend just west of the Canadian Rockies. A so-called Canadian highway (rough road) follows this bend 250 miles from Golden, B.C. to Revelstoke, B.C. The five of us drove forty miles north from Golden, left the cars and, after crossing the Columbia by rubber boat, became mosquito fodder. A precious bottle of liquid insect repellent, calculated to fox the worst of them, was put into use. It gave a little relief -- they still landed on us in swarms but did not bite as hard.

Our job was to follow Swan Creek 4,000 feet up and six miles in, to the base of a beautiful glacier. This "passage" has been described before in UP ROPE. It's the one which Sterling, Arnold, Don, Chuck, and Sam Moore pioneered four years ago. It hasn't improved any. I had had an operation and wasn't supposed to do much, gentle exercise, no six sets of tennis or felling of trees. Luckily, Norman thought he wasn't in good shape either so we sat down when we wanted to, at the slightest provocation. I might say the mosquitoes drove us on. Small, thickly settled, prickly jack-pine, devil's club, and alders tried to hold us back.

Then, the brighter side. Two and one half days later, we arrived at "Fairy Meadow", the most wonderful of all camping spots, if one can pay the price. Soft

moss to lie on, evergreens outlined against a beautiful glacier and the peaks of the Adamant range. There were also some mosquitoes.

Mt. Adamant had been climbed thirty years ago, up a steep route from the other side. We looked at the several hanging glaciers on this side and visualized a second ascent.

The first day we chose a broad, fairly gradual slope for a try at Adamant. It was cut by several crevasses near the summit so we could expect some bridge-crossing and step-cutting. By midmorning, we had gained a respectable height and our eyes followed a route to the summit. It was an arctic view, a fantastic sight in the bright sun, with gleaming white all around us. A few minutes later, we faced a wall of ice, no bridge, just as suddenly as I have written it. Enthusiasm can't be cut off like that. We chopped steps, crossed back and forth and tried to get around each end but we had to give it up and retreat down the slope. However, after lunch, we decided to conquer a lower pinnacle next to Adamant. We had a similar surprise, again, nearly at the top. This day served to whet our appetites for a real battle.

The men left me in camp the next day for a much needed rest. A new route on Adamant had been planned, but this with grave doubts as to whether it would go. As they approached, they saw the slopes held avalanche dangers so they continued westward to Mt. Austerity where, I understand, some good rock-climbing was found. From the top of Mt. Austerity, Norman spied a possible alternative on Adamant.

Two days later, in spite of threatening weather, the five of us started up again, using the newly discovered route. There was lots of steady plodding through deep snow with a winter wind blowing and with considerable fog. We reached the rocks near the summit but realized that they were covered with ice, making the route highly unlikely for that day. Alec and David chose to go over to the Gothics neve. We three (Norman, Andy and Betty) experimented with the ice. The climbing was touchy but good fun while it lasted. We couldn't go far, so we retreated to camp.

Norman had to get back to his job and I had played my "six sets of tennis", so the next day he and I pushed through the tangle and the mosquitoes to the Columbia River. We went astray in a forest of little jack-pines growing about two inches apart. I hate to recall it, and anyway it is not the important part of the story. But it was the toughest day I have ever had in the bush.

David and Andy made Adamant by the route which had been so icy the day before. Our steps were a help, but the climbing continued to be interesting to the top. The route-finding was extremely difficult and much of the climbing hard -- three pitons were used and five rappels on the descent. Yet the route was safe.

On the following day, Alec, Andy and David trudged over to the base of Mt. Edfalls, north of the Granite Range. On the way, they made a first ascent of Mt. Sir William (ca. 10,000 feet). Next day they climbed Mt. Edfalls and returned to Fairy Meadow. Subsequently they made first ascents on Mt. Sir Benjamin (ca. 9700) in the Wotan-Gibraltar group and the Gargoyle (the most easterly peak of the Gothics). Finally they went on a quick trip to the Sir Sandford area where they climbed Mt. Belvedere before a final return to Fairy Meadow and the Columbia River.

Betty Kauffman

* * * * *

FLASH: MORE MOORES. On December 23rd, James Bernard, weighing in at 5 lb. 5 oz., arrived and scotched Susy's hopes of going on the New Year's trip but he did make a nice Christmas gift for Ray.

UPS AND DOWNS

December 17, 1950. Great Falls, Virginia.

Jim Bullard
Charlie Gallant
Peg Keister

Johnny Reed
Hans Scheltema
Bob Stevens

Chris Scoredos
Eric Scoredos
Arnold Wexler

The group wandered out to Great Falls and braved low temperatures and a high river to climb on the rocks opposite the Fish Ladder. A short warm-up exercise on 8' of vertical rock put everyone in the mood for more strenuous efforts. The Inclined Crack was successfully negotiated - in spite of verglas on some of the essential holds. After roping up into two parties, traverses were made downstream from the Reverse Chimney. Arnold, Hans and Jim climbed Chris' Crack to the water's edge and then worked upstream, attempting to intersect the Stocking Climb. High water made it impossible to complete the route, forcing the party to retreat. One conversation overheard during the day bears repeating:

Hans: "Jim, was the Bird's Nest Climb very hard?"

Jim: "Gee, I dunno. I was too scared to notice."

December 24, 1950. Rocks below Chain Bridge.

Jim Bullard Marion Glawe Art Lembeck Mary Sturgeon Arnold Wexler

For a long time, Art and Arnold had wanted to investigate the rocks near Chain Bridge. So the five of us started off to see what they were like. It was a clear cold morning and the ground was covered with the last of the pre-Christmas snow. Our destination reached, it proved to be far from inviting or very enjoyable. Art, belayed and encouraged by Arnold, began an ascent of a crack leading up a wide slab putting in quite a few pitons. While driving in the pitons, he tried to demolish a finger but didn't quite succeed; he did succeed in demolishing a number of hand holds, throwing them to the ground in an extravagant manner. Arnold suggested the climb be called the "Quaking Aspen".

After lunch, and after Art's departure, Arnold and Jim set forth to rescue the pitons he had left. They didn't like the treacherous slabs and dissolving hand holds. Meanwhile, Mary and Marion, who had worked hard as audience, departed for a hike along the canal. It was agreed that, although these rocks can provide exercise of a kind, they are not worthy of a climber's nobler efforts.

December 30, 31, 1950 and January 1, 1951. Pine Grove Shelter, Pennsylvania.

Ilsa Benzinger
Rolf Benzinger
Angela Benzinger
Monika Benzinger

Mickey Campbell
Sally Goldman
Dick Goldman
Peg Keister

Art Lembeck
Win Lembeck
Steve Lembeck
Johnny Reed

Skeet Rodger
Ellen Wallace
Arnold Wexler

Saturday morning dawned clear and bright and, by mid-morning, three cars were finally on their way north. We arrived without mishap other than that encountered on the last mile. The road into the shelter was covered with about six inches of unbroken snow and a few well-directed pushes were needed to get all three cars in. The afternoon was spent getting settled and, after a spaghetti supper, we sat around reading, canasta-ing, talking and consuming cider by the gallon.

Sunday produced a warmer day and Art, Arnold, Peg, Johnny, Sally and Dick went off down the road to find Lewis Rocks. Win and Mickey baby-sat with Steve and the balance went off up the A.T. to do a little hiking. The hikers returned

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UPS AND DOWNS (continued)

early and the Benzingers gathered up their skis and went back to a small clearing to get in a little practice on the not very good snow. The climbers, on their return, reported they had reached Lewis Rocks by hiking about a mile up Dug Road. The rocks stick out of the hillside and offer several routes on two sides, each route a single pitch of 50-70 feet. The east face, which was climbed with an upper belay, was complicated by cold wet rock, snow and an overhang at the top with loose hand holds. The north side of the rocks were nearly vertical and sheathed in glare ice. They were filed away for a nice, warm summer day.

Early evening found everyone involved in canasta, except for Johnny and Arnold who preferred to read. When one group finished their game, the popcorn was brought out. Johnny presented the tribulations of Sam McGee and of Sam's Alaskan friends. Art busied himself with jugs and cups and came up with a rather tasty concoction guaranteed to be Swedish Glog. Everyone had a different time on his watch and since we weren't sure how close we came to drinking a toast to the local New Year, we followed time zones across country. Many songs in English and a few in German and then we tumbled into bed.

Monday was colder, much colder, and the climbers weren't the least interested in climbing. The skiers went back to their slope and a few brave souls set out on a hike. But they, too, decided the warmth of the shelter was more inviting and after watching the efforts of the Benzinger skiing troupe, turned back. Due to the condition of the road, we left while there was plenty of light. A few pushes were needed and chains proved essential, but we all got back to town safe and sound.

* * * * *

With, or in spite of, the help of directions from previous explorers, on the evening of December 28th, a group of Washington climbers found their way through the Virginia Wilderness to the Karchers' Arlington base camp. From here, with Ken as leader, they climbed via the Kodachrome route to the Moraine Lake-Larch Valley area in Alberta for a look at the Ten Peaks and other high spots. Fortified by suitable food and drink, the armchair expedition continued into the Badshot Range to marvel at the beauty of the country and to shudder at the difficulty of the climbing. (For a more detailed account, be sure to see Pim's forthcoming article.)

Returning to sea level, the gang voiced their admiration of Ken's pictures and their thanks to both Pim and Ken for a delightful evening. They also said au revoir to Ken, who is about to set off to North Carolina in pursuit of a Ph.D. Good luck, Ken -- and hurry back.

* * * * *

Peg Keister is now driving a new Chevrolet hard top convertible. Hotsy-totsy. Not to be outdone, the Lembecks acquired a new baby-blue Studebaker. Ditto.

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