



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

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FOUNDED BY  
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### Report of the Annual Meeting

To have the annual meeting of the climbing group at Sterling's home has practically become a tradition. A setting where one can browse through mountaineering books and journals, get homesick over pictures of the high places, and settle arguments with ice axes at thirty paces (Sterling keeps an adequate stock for such emergencies) is just what one needs for such meetings.

New members Hannes Benzinger, Jim Bullard, Walter Downs and Roger Foster were elected to the committee. Bob Stevens was also admitted to the circle.

Voting qualifications for members was broadened to include Class C (easier than A or B) climbs, as well as certain types of glacier-hung peaks, back-packing trips and exploration of caves requiring climbing. Details of the requirements, as well as lists of the new Class C and revised Classes A & B climbs, will be published as addenda to UP ROPE at a later date.

The election of a chairman for the coming year returned Art Lembeck to that position and Jo Bradt and Dolores Alley remain as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The election completed the business meeting.

Arnold Wexler's well-prepared talk on the 1950 Wind River (Gannett Area) Climbing Trip was illustrated with his own very fine Kodachromes, augmented by selections from those of Tony Soler and Art Lembeck. The evening ended with a lunch Edith Hendricks prepared and served.

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A Washington lawyer, Mr. John P. Lipscomb, Jr., has located a source for prints from the original Sella negatives. Negatives of Vittorio Sella's superb pictures of his various trips are in the Istituto di Fotografia Alpina, Biella, S. Gerolamo, Vercelli, Italy. Mr. Lipscomb suggests referring to pictures or plates of one of the following: Clark, Splendid Hills; Freshfield, Round Kanchenjunga; Filippi, Karakorum and Western Himalaya. (Mr. Lipscomb is only interested in the Himalaya so he has had no experience with ordering prints from other areas Sella photographed. Probably Rewenzori and St. Elias negatives are also in the Instituto.) Mr. Lipscomb further suggests specifying air freight, prints to be

(continued from Page 1)

shipped flat, payment to be made by certified check. Prices a few months ago were:

12 x 16	1000	Italian lira	625/1	\$ 1.60
16 x 20	1200	" "	"	1.92
20 x 26	1400	" "	"	2.24
28 x 40	1700	" "	"	2.72

Air freight takes 5-6 days, \$7-8.00 on \$30.00 (total) order.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following was contributed by Bill Kemper some time ago but space was never available for inclusion in UP ROPE:

"Report of an investigation\* of the deterioration of Nylon rope on exposure to weather indicates that the principle factor in deterioration is sunlight. The experiments were conducted in Kampur, India. Two samples of rope were exposed; one to all weather conditions, the other during periods of sunshine only. Samples were drawn for tests at various times up to 225 days exposure. These showed the same rate of deterioration. Rope 1/8" dia. was used. After 43 hours of sunshine these samples lost 20% of their original breaking strength. Loss of strength continued at diminishing rates. After 765 hours exposure to sunlight loss of strength was 70%.

"From this we might conclude it would be advisable to keep rope in pack or carrying case when not in use. Apparently sample tested was the white rope. Effect of added dyes has not been investigated. Rope of 3/8" or 5/8" dia. would deteriorate more slowly. Results might be somewhat different near an industrialized area where less actinic light filters through the atmosphere and where the rain is more acidic. Tests in the atmosphere of a cave would be interesting, since hemp rope has been observed to deteriorate so rapidly there."

\*Exposure Trial on Nylon Cordage - Technical Development Establishment Laboratory, Kampur, India. June 1949 - Report No. Bio/49/72.

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#### COMING EVENTS

Next issue of UP ROPE: First installment of "The First Ascent of Neptune", by Arnold Wexler.

Feb. 9,10,11, 1951. Shaffer Rocks, Hermitage Shelter, Penna. Leader: A. Wexler. Climbing on the excellent Shaffer Rocks outside the shelter, with a guaranteed fire in a traditional fireplace for warming frosty fingers. Meals by Chef Keister begin Saturday evening; earlier arrivals are on their own until then. Make reservations by Thursday evening, Feb. 8, with Arnold Wexler, 2511 Wisc. Ave., Washington 7, D.C. -- Phone, EMerson 3658.

Feb. 17-18, 1951. Cave trip with P.A.T.C. Leaders: Paul Bradt and Ray Moore. Destination still being decided. Announcement will be made in next issue.

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Dolores Alley has gone in for collecting rocks as well as climbing them. Have you seen that sparkler on her left hand?

\* \* \* \* \*

The attached membership list is the result of Win's having picked up the phone once too often, only to hear "Do you know where so-and-so can be reached?" We will try to keep it current by publishing changes and additions in UP ROPE.

UPS AND DOWNS

January 7, 1951. Carderock, Maryland.

Jim Bullard	Andy Kauffman	Mike Moore	Tony Soler
Charlie Gallant	Betty Kauffman	Ray Moore	Hans Scheltema
Don Hubbard	Peg Keister	Johnny Reed	Mary Sturgeon
Pim Karcher	Art Lembeck	Loraine Snyder	Stanley Thomas
			Arnold Wexler

The Carderock cliffs were, fortunately, drier than the towpath down which we trudged from the parking area. Lowering clouds promised the dry weather was only temporary so we wasted no time getting onto the rocks. We had as our guest, Stanley Thomas, a member of the British Mountaineering Council, who is in Wash. on a United Kingdom Scientific Mission. We gave him a fast Cook's tour of the principal climbs, with demonstrations of some and first-hand knowledge of others. Peg pointed out the Spiderwalk to him so well that she completed the entire route - her first ascent of same. In the process of further demonstrations, Arnold led a rope of Stanley, Peg and Art over the Chris-Wex-Don Traverse.

Jim did a fine job on a piton lead of the Open Chimney next to the Jackknife, with Don number two, Mary and Hans following. Jim also climbed the Jackknife with an upper belay.

From stentorian echos bouncing off the adjacent island, it is presumed that Andy had a full morning's exercise. Which end of the rope he was wearing, and who shared it with him, the echos failed to reveal.

All had gathered for lunch when the rain began dampening sandwiches. Desultory ideas of rigging Oscar were abandoned and the group slogged back thru the continuing shower.

January 14, 1951. Carderock, Maryland.

Jim Bullard	Midge Lawson	Hans Scheltema	Stanley Thomas
Charlie Gallant	Art Lembeck	Chris Scoredos	Arnold Wexler
Don Hubbard	Johnny Mennehan	Jane Showacre	Marian Wormald
Peg Keister	Felix Peckham	Dorothy Thomas	

Sleet and rain did not prevent the Hot Shoppe lithophiles from starting for Carderock. A fair proportion of them voted for getting wet, so, with many contemptuous glances at the "sissies" who preferred verbal mountaineering in a comfortable car, they headed downstream, looking like a flock of animated tents. At the rocks, they held belay practice, then braved the Beginner's Climb in spite of its ice-clad handholds. Don had convinced some of the young fry that they wanted nothing so much as to knock themselves out on soggy Prusik knots, so this they proceeded to do. Various items of bad-weather mountaineering equipment were tested. Chris even climbed in a poncho, which, according to Don, was a "weird sight, indeed, and totally ineffectual". When everyone was thoroughly soaked, the group felt justified in returning to town.

Meanwhile, part of the dry contingent had availed themselves of Charlie's hospitality for the rest of the afternoon. Bootless and supine, they spent a luxurious afternoon, with books, music, antique guns and whatnot to stimulate conversation. Later, they struggled to a sitting position long enough to enjoy supper -- and incidentally, Charlie wields a mean waffle iron.

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Washington 7, D.C.

Thanks are due to Ellen and Lowell Bennett for printing the heading and to Tom Culverwell for designing it.

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UPS AND DOWNS (continued)

January 21, 1951. Rogers Cave, Front Royal, Virginia.

Dolores Alley	Wayne Houston	Felix Peckham	Arnold Wexler	Mr. X.
Jim Bullard	Johnny Mennehan	Ted Schad	Jack Wilson	
Abby Hammack	John Osproski	Chris Scoredos	Marian Wormald	

Johnny gathered the above group at the Hot Shoppe to help him investigate a new cave near Front Royal. He reported the caving involved working down a 75' series of slits, mostly ladder work. The cave was fairly extensive and contained pretty formations. There was some climbing in the rear on mud banks, with the only actual climb a thing called the Otter Slide. The last name is supposedly the equivalent of climbing a greased flag pole.

January 21, 1951. Prospect Rock and Difficult Run.

Walter Downs    Don Hubbard    Sally Goldman    Dick Goldman    Johnny Reed    Bill Welsh

The first four named above were not interested in caving and made for Don's old favorite instead. There they found the chilly wind made scrambling more inviting than climbing and eventually even gave up the scrambling for a walk up Difficult Run instead.

Meanwhile, Johnny, who had arrived late at the Hot Shoppe, was scouring both sides of the river for signs of climbers and finally caught up with Don's group -- in front of Don's house! Bill Welsh, after weeks of trying to fit a practice climb into his busy schedule (he's president of his County Medical Society, teaches at Georgetown Med School, in addition to his practice) got as far as the Hot Shoppe and was called back to administer to a patient.

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Gus Gambs, Peg Keister, Win Lembeck and Sam Moore, along with 37 other people, went on the P.A.T.C. hike (also on the 21st) up Dickey Hill Trail to the A.T. and down the A.T. to Chester Gap. Enroute they passed Fort Windham Rocks, on the Dickey Hill Trail and the consensus of opinion is that this formation could stand a day's investigation. The climbers with walking inhibitions would be interested. The rocks can be reached by going a mere .4 m. from the parking area on the Drive.

Over this same week-end, Paul, Jo, Allan and Peter Bradt, Tom Culverwell, Ray Moore, Loraine Snyder and Tony Soler scouted the P.A.T.C. Cave Trip (see Coming Events, page 2). The Bradts left town Friday after the Annual Meeting, Tom left early Friday evening and the Moore group left Very Early Saturday. Total distance, round trip, was approximately 600 miles. They explored Poor Farm Cave on Saturday and report it is a large, dry cave and the kids loved it. Patton's Cave was entered Sunday and is a caver's cave, crawly and wet. The last will stand much more exploration. They still haven't decided which will be the locale of the P.A.T.C. trip.