



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

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

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

PRICE
5 CENTS PER COPY

VOL. 7

April 5, 1951

Number 18

SHADOWS

- April 14-15 Climbing on Little Stony Man, Shen. Nat'l Park. Overnight campers will take up residence at either Hawksbill Leanto or at the Big Meadows Camping Area. Individual commissaries. Leader: Art Lembeck, 4840 Bradley Blvd., Chevy Chase 15, Md. - OLiver 8322.
- April 29. Shaffers Rocks, Hermitage Shelter area. Sunday only, so start early.
- May 1. "The Ascent of Devil's Tower", a motion picture in color of the climb of this rock spire which rises a sheer 867' out of the Wyoming plain. The film was made by the Chicago Mountaineering Club on one of their climbs of the peak. An exhibit of mountaineering equipment will also be presented. At the Board Room of the District Building, 14th and Pennsylvania Aves., N.W. at 8:00 P.M. Use the 14th St. entrance.

A letter from Mary Sturgeon has arrived. Her new address is P.O.Box 2021, Juneau, Alaska. Her picture of the area is most inviting....

"Juneau is a quaint town, in a very beautiful setting. It is surrounded by steep, wooded hills, and snowy peaks. We are completely cut off by road, and visitors must come by plane, boat or aerial traverse.....There is no hustle and bustle. We seem to have lots of time to do things and life is very pleasant.

The hills are all around, absolutely beautiful....This is the glacier country and I have visited the local monstrosity, Mendenhall Glacier, twice. The second time I succeeded in getting right up on it and spent quite a while trying to capture the sinister beauty of the ice caves and crevasses with a camera.....

When I ask about actually climbing these mountains, they tell me to be

patient and wait until June.....the hiking club starts activities then, when the danger of snow slides is comparatively over....

I would appreciate hearing from any and all of you, and would love to receive a stray photo or two....Anyone desiring muk-luks, parkas, maps of Alaska, etc. has only to write and ask. Please send remittance for muk-luks and parkas tho...".

The trip to Little Stony Man (above) is being planned with the hope that those with knowledge of the climbs there will show up and instruct some of the newer members of the group with the intricacies of the routes. We also hope to take photos and make sketches (Lorraine, are you busy that week-end?) so that the climbs can be written up in UP ROPE for the sake of posterity and the fast-growing progeny. Families might find Big Meadows the best place to camp.

SHAFFERS ROCKS - HERMITAGE SHELTER, PENNA.

The outcrop of Weverton quartzite known as Shaffers Rocks (one buttress is called Monument Rock) is only 50 yards from the door of the PATC Hermitage Shelter. The synergistic effect of the two has promoted many a trip to the cliffs since they were first climbingly noticed in March of 1949. The holds are usually firm with only an occasional surprise; there are plenty of scrambles for the beginner, a satisfying number of multiple pitch climbs for the experienced, and a few un-scratched faces for the rock-engineer.

THE SWISS GUIDE CLIMB

The favorite ascent in the Hermitage Area is the Swiss Guide Climb, recording the time when the last person in the rope was to a large extent, hauled up two pitches. The climb traverses the face of Monument Rock and ascends the left (west) edge.

Don Hubbard and Arnold Wexler are credited with pioneering this climb on March 13, 1950. Don figured out the first pitch and Arnold led the remainder of the way. The start is a tricky one over a 6' bulge which threatens to push one off minimum finger holds. On the primary ascent a sling was used to place a wafer for safety. This piton has been left in place and is quite convenient for bringing up the second man in case he needs direct aid, or to prevent a mean slide across the face if he slips. Once on balance holds above the bulge, one can reach a fine hold on the right and balance up to the level of the wafer piton 12' above the start. A traverse on sloping nubbles takes one to a wide shelf below an 8' high flake on the left edge of Monument Rock. The second man is brought up to this point.



A piton to protect the belayer is optional here, as is placement of one just below the large flake for protection of the leader. Hand and foot holds to cover the 8' or so to the base of the flake are adequate. Two rather elegant courses can be followed in surmounting the flake -- a layback on its inner edge or pressure holds at the lower part of the flake and then climbing the airy left face on holds which improve as one goes higher. The chimney responds to jamming, utilizing some holds on the face to the right of the chimney, especially in the lower section. This method seems most inviting to those who are concerned about the exposure on the other routes.

The top of the flake provides a fine belay position. The remaining pitch is a scramble to the summit.

Don Hubbard engineered an interesting escape from the summit the day the climb was first made by constructing an aerial traverse to the opposite side of the gully to the west. A massive detached block across the way is roped for one support and a piton driven into the furrowed summit holds the near end of the bridge.

A.C.Lembeck

Ed. Hermitage Climbs will be continued in future issues.

UPS AND DOWNSMarch 24-25, 1951. Shaffer Rocks, Hermitage Shelter, Penna.

Jean Burnstad
Peg Keister

Art Lembeck
Johnny Reed

Arnold Wexler
Bob Butler

The above party was lucky. They reached the Hermitage just as the previous occupants were leaving and had the pleasure of a warm cabin and a going fire in the fireplace without earning it. After getting settled, they used more than the last daylight surmounting the Swiss Guide Climb. Supper was followed by a pleasant interlude around crackling chestnut logs in the fireplace with the usual Service by Reed, Jam Crack Joe by all, etc.

The next morning, Jean found out it was really Easter Sunday when her spoon unearthed a colored egg, bearing her name, in the depths of her oatmeal. Win had provided the rest of the group with similar reminders. The day was rather cold and windy with icicles on the shady rocks. Finger exercises on the Unfinished Symphony were abandoned in favor of easier practice pitches.

After lunch, an aerial traverse was rigged on Monument Rock and various crossings managed. The Southern Restaurant in Frederick was visited on the way home and their booming holiday business pleasantly prolonged the party. A.C.L.

March 25, 1951. Carderock, Maryland

Jim Bullard
Mrs. Bullard
Miss Bullard

Jim Holland
Tom Holland
Pim Karcher

Andy Kauffman
Betty Kauffman
Paul Bradt

Paul found no note as to destination of the earlier arrivals when he arrived late at the Hot Shoppe so he failed to locate the group. (Ed. For sometime the cashier has graciously helped us by keeping our note as to the locale of the day's activities at her station.)

Jim brought his sister along as a new recruit -- his mother is a veteran spectator of the Sugarloaf jaunt a few weeks ago. We understand the Bullards were still going strong after the others were enroute home.

Climbing centered around the Beginner's Climb, Barnacle Face and attempts on the Spiderwalk, according to the Kauffman grapevine.

March 31-April 1, 1951. Schoolhouse Cave, West Virginia.

Jim Bullard
Jean Burnstad
Wayne Houston
Hans Scholtema

Arnold Wexler
Peg Keister
Win Lembeck

Ray Moore
Tony Soler
Lorraine Snyder

Al Webb
Bob Hinshaw
Felix Peckham
Joel Gross

A start at 4:30 A.M. Saturday got us to the cave at 10:00 A.M. (we get around those state speed laws by having drivers who can't read). After descending the Cedar Pole, Ray thoughtfully put down a rope ladder over the overhang leading to the Grotto. The only complaint we had to make with this kindness was that the first loop was separated from the second loop by a good six feet of rope and nobody has legs that long with the possible exception of Ray. When Leader-Rear Guard Wexler got everyone down the rapel over the Mud Slope and had descended himself, he found waiting three muddy damsels and two slightly soiled lads. The others had disappeared into the inky blackness.

Ray had started off leading Al and Bob up to the Judgement Seat and on back to the ladder at the end of the cave on the Grand 50% Tour. Tony had descended a wire ladder with his party and was taking them on down to the Rib Fiddle and points that-a-way on the shorter 25% trip. So, Arnold decided to head in a different direction and took us into Charley's Groan Box, up to the Inner Well, down the Rain Well (in the midst of a thunder shower), and back to the Balcony.

In the meantime, Tony had returned and was now headed for the Angels' Roost

UP ROPE, published semi-monthly by the Mountaineering Committee of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1916 Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

UP ROPE STAFF

Editor: Win Lembeck
Business Manager: Sally Goldman
Helpers: Sally & Dick Goldman,
Art Lembeck, Paul Bradt

Subscription: \$1.00 for 20 issues.

Send now subscriptions and renewals to:

Mrs. Richard Goldman
2262 Hall Place, N.W.
Washington 7, D.C.

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

----- UPS AND DOWNS (continued)

via the Gargoyles, etc. From there they went on to the Judgement Seat. Arnold's team ate lunch, at 4:00 P.M., and then struggled up to the Judgement Seat via Ray's fixed rope and the wire ladder. From there they tailed Tony's group into the Hodag Room. Here we came face to face with Ray for the first time; he was headed back out. They had really made the grand tour in double quick time, three on a rope being quite an advantage. By this time, Arnold had added two more to his long rope of six and before he was able to get all eight across the Hodag Ledge, Tony was back from exploring the inner recesses with his rope of three.

Because some of Arnold's party were on their last patch of skin and last bundle of nerve, and because everyone else was going out, we reversed the climb and rappelled down to the Judgment Seat. A free rappel of 100' or so took us back down to the bottom of the mud slope under the Judgement Seat and a scramble back under the Guillotine.....and through the Key Hole brought us to the Balcony. Then the climb up the Mud Slope, the ascent of a wire ladder in place of Ray's loop ladder to the Cedar Pole, and we were soon back in the Ante Room and our sleeping bags. By 1:00 A.M. Sunday we were snoring peacefully (or someone was anyhow).

Sunday proved to be cloudy and rainy so we took the long way home, via Blackwater Falls. Ray, Tony and Loraine went on to "open up" a new cave and we presume they reached Washington sometime. Taking words out of Jean's mouth: "We did it -- and we're glad!"
wm1

April 1, 1951. What the Ones who were left behind did.

Paul Bradt	Chris Scoredos	Andy Kauffman	Harris Schettel
Don Hubbard	Eric Scoredos	Betty Kauffman	Jo Bradt
Ted Schad	Mary Neilan	Charlie Thomas	Constance Louise Bradt
		Alan Bradt	Peter Bradt

The initial five began climbing on Gus' Gambit, on the towpath opposite Cupids' Bower. Billy Goat Trail workers, Harris and Charlie, were trapped by the climbers and Harris was induced to try a bit with Don and Paul. What permanent effect this will have on the Billy Goat Trail, we await with trepidation.

Long time away visitor from Somerset, Pa., Mary Neilan arrived with the Kauffmans and tried the Gambit and other climbs in the area. Jo and the remaining Bradts relieved the second group on the Gambit, which at this point was becoming resigned to the tread of rockclimber's rubber soles.

Don and Ted continued on upstream to the Purple Horse section, earning their lunches by alternating leads on a tension climb. They returned in time for Don to join the Kauffman party which proceeded back to Washington to enjoy the turkey Mary had brought with her from home.

P.B., D.H., and B.K.

=====

New Camping Equipment Chairman Ray Moore takes over Art Lembeck's old job on the PATC Council, leaving Art the single job as Chairman of the Mountaineering Committee. Rumor has it that Suzy is resigned to that usual fate of chairmen's wives--unofficial secretary.