



## 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

May 14, 1951

Number 20

### SHADOWS OF THINGS TO COME

May 19-20. Old Rag. Leader: Johnny Reed.

Parties will be going up Saturday and Sunday. Individual commissaries. Sleep at leanto (capacity 6) or on top of mountain near summit spring. Leave word at Woodley 4268 if you have space in your car or desire transportation. Johnny will be back in Washington Friday evening to sort out and return calls.

(See UP ROPE 1-11, 17; 2-1; 3-20; 4-8; 5-6, 15; 6-5, 18 for descriptions of climbs on the mountain. The Beginner's Climb is a "B" climb.

June 5, 8 P.M. Program Meeting. At Ray and Susy Moore's, 301 W. Myrtle St., Alexandria, Va. Overlook 1437. Three movies from the Seattle Mountaineers: "Ascent of the Tooth", Class 4; "Lighthouse Tower", Class 6; "Instruction Film". Total showing time, about an hour.

June 30-July 1. Schoolhouse Cave. Leader: Art Lembeck, Oliver 8322.

Leave Friday night or Saturday morning, in time to go into the cave at 10 A.M. More details in next issue.

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### SCHAFER'S ROCKS NEAR HERMITAGE SHELTER, PENNSYLVANIA

(This series was begun in 7 - 18, and will be continued in future issues.)

### THE UNFINISHED SYMPHONY CLIMB

This Class 5 climb is between the Easy Exposure Chimney and the Hermitage Hoverhang. It is essentially a face climb but follows an angling crack, because few horizontal piton cracks occur on the vertical to overhanging pitches.

The start is made up the face of a 15-foot high block which from the front appears separated from the cliff-face by eroded joint and bedding planes. The more elegant route passes an overhang on barely adequate hand and friction holds on the left third of the block. The left edge of the base block may be climbed as a semi-chimney which terminates with a chockstone resting on the top of the block. The right edge of the block is one side of the Easy Exposure Chimney. Two small hemlocks grow on the top of the block.

The next pitch is an overhanging face with exfoliated slabs of no use as handholds because they are upside down. Solution cavities where quartz has eroded away form fairly adequate handholds, but two or three pitons make the leader more comfortable. A small but welcome hemlock greets one on this belay point. The ledge is wide enough to sit on, but one finds even a hemlock is pleasant company until the second man comes up.

The narrow crack which starts above the base block continues on up to the summit ledge, angling up to the left (south). The route is straightforward, following the crack over the vertical to overhanging face. Unfortunately, no adequate piton cracks were found in the upper third of this 20-foot pitch. It was this condition which supplied the name of the climb when Art and Arnold, alternating leads, made the climb to this point on 16 October 1949. They finished, using an upper belay, finding the going difficult, but not severe.

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### UPS AND DOWNS

April 28-29, 1951. Schaffer's Rocks, The Hermitage, Pa.

Art Lembeck	Skeet Rodger	Johnny Reed	Joel Gross
Win Lembeck	Mickey Campbell	Peg Keister	Felix Peckham
Johnny Johnson	Steve Lembeck	Stan Thomas	Betty Blair
Lou Johnson	Arnold Wexler	Dorothy Thomas	Jimmy Robertson
	Charlie Gallant		

The first 12 listed above left Washington around noon on Saturday, and after a stop in Frederick for the traditional banana splits, arrived at the Hermitage in the late afternoon. The wood chopping detail immediately went into action and stocked up enough good chestnut for several future parties. Some of the boys then dashed out and scooted up the Swiss Guide Climb to sharpen their appetites for the very superior spaghetti dinner which Lou and Win prepared. (Lou would have received a rising vote of thanks had any of us been capable of rising from the table.)

The next 4 on the list arrived somewhat later in the evening in the rain, and proceeded to the nearby leanto for the night. Canasta and conversation finished off the evening.

The rain continued most of the night, so that in the morning, in spite of the warm and welcome sunshine, many of the more interesting climbs were too slick to tempt even the experts. Hence the S.G.C., the only one to have dried to any extent, was given a thorough workout by climbers and photographers. We hope soon to see a detailed Kodachrome record of this climb. Some short and easy climbs were made on the rocks to the left. Johnny Reed then led his rope up the chimney behind the S.G.C., which, since it was damp, turned out to be, shall we say, "interesting".

The man who is last but not least on our list arrived sometime Sunday to join the climbers. During lunch, we had a brief but vigorous thunder storm, which squelched all hope that the rocks would eventually dry off. When it passed, an aerial traverse was rigged for those who desired practice in this mode of travel. Some more sensible people chose to hike.

Late in the afternoon we packed up and departed, stopping once more in Frederick for dinner, before joining the Sunday stream of traffic back to Washington.

Also April 29. WINGS OVER WEST VIRGINIA.

Ray Moore

Tony Soler

After climbing without a belay to 4000+ feet, we proceeded to Petersburg for gas and lunch, and then for an hour's cruise over the familiar rocks of West Virginia. From this vantage point a number of new potential climbing areas were observed. Further reports will be forthcoming after a weekend of ground reconnaissance.

R.M.

Ed. Ray waxed a little more eloquent orally, and led us to believe that he had seen rocks which dwarfed Seneca and a river gorge with tempting vertical walls.

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Don reports that on April 29 he breakfasted in solitary splendor at the Hot Shoppe, and not even a ghost of a rockclimber appeared.

May 6, 1951. Carderock.

Betty Blair

George Kamm

Chris Scoredos

Peter Blos

Peg Keister

Helen Scoredos

Charlie Gallant

Art Lembeck

Stanley Thomas

Sam Brown

Jim Robertson

Charles Fort

Joel Gross

Frank Sauber

Betty Meyer

Don Hubbard

Don Hubbard was a cheering section of one which saw the group off from breakfast at the Hot Shoppe.

The local climbers have at last solved the problem of the British weather. Stan attracts<sup>1</sup> -- at least we had no showers after eight o'clock. Offers are anticipated from those people we read about who oppose the carbon dioxide snow, silver iodide rain makers, etc., proceeds to go to a fund for indigent mountaineers.

The cliffs at Carderock dried slowly on the nearly windless day, but in the afternoon they were in proper condition for the more exacting climbs. No time was lost waiting for the rocks to dry. The Beginner's Climb, Ronnie's Leap and the Barnacle Face, plus sundry routes in the vicinity kept the ends and sometimes the middle of five ropes busy.

Peter Blos, who learned his climbing in the course taught as part of the curriculum at Antioch College, Ohio, joined us for postgraduate studies. Both he and Betty Blair preferred bare feet to sneakers on some of the climbs, braving even lacerations from quartz crystals to defend their discalced technique.

Another almost-stranger came strolling down the path with Chris -- Helen Scoredos -- almost two years, isn't it, Helen? The day was a special one for Helen and Chris -- their wedding anniversary. A proper way to celebrate, since they met on a climbing trip.

After lunch we moved to the chimney and faces near the Jam Box and then explored most of the Easter Egg Climbs. Charlie went up the Courte Echelle Climb, a fact which several attributed to the rope-soled shoes he wore. These scoffers were quickly persuaded otherwise when Charlie lent them the shoes, but not the

<sup>1</sup> We have an explanation of Stan's weather problems. It seems that once upon a time, he disturbed a small cloud which had up till then been living peacefully in a cave on Ben Nevis. The irate cloud has followed him ever since. We hope, however, that his penance is nearly over.

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

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Subscription: \$1.00 for 20 issues.

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2262 Hall Place, N.W.

Washington 7, D.C.

Make checks payable to Sarah Goldman.

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

technique.

The dried-out rocks induced the gang to move upstream to the Crossover, permitting much belaying practice, since only one of the numerous attempts was successful on the complete Crossover and extension.

All in all it was a very successful practice and a surprising amount of climbing was accomplished on a day which lasted until after 6 P.M.

On the way back to the cars, two hikers, Charles Fort and Betty Meyer, were met en route to Great Falls. Charlie, it developed, is an experienced speleologist from the Nashville area, now stationed here with the Army. The two joined seven of us at the Lembecks' for a pickup supper and slides of the local climbs.

A.L.

May 13, 1951. Maryland Side of Potomac Gorge - Miles of it.

Betty Blair	Martin Heyert	Wade Marshall	Johnny Reed
Jim Bullard	Wayne Houston	Louise Marshall	Ted Schad
Jean Burnstad	Don Hubbard	Alice Marshall	Chris Scoredos
Nancy Fordell	Peg Keister	Tommy Marshall	Arnold Steckler
			Arnold Wexler

Having flipped coins to determine our destination, we headed for Great Falls, Md., but found our usual climbing area under water. Therefore we continued downstream and finally took off along the Billy Goat Trail. We stopped first at a minor outcrop opposite Cupid's Bower, where two little climbs occupied us for some time. We initiated several newcomers, who made very creditable efforts on these rocks.

We then followed the trail to more exposed cliffs on the river. In the Pendulum-Purple Horse region, a lazy crew ate lunch and basked in the sun. Since the Purple Horse was under water and Don was not there to lead the Pendulum, we had some excuse for limiting our climbing to the easier part of the cliff. Again the beginners struggled while the oldsters belayed.

Moving upstream, we paused at the Spitzenberg (we hope that's correct, Chris). Most of the climbing was concentrated in the chimney left of the main face, where many were called but few chosen. Nearby a formidable corner juts into the river. After Chris had tried and abandoned it, Jim entertained us by testing his theory that if one swung around the corner on the rope, he might find good climbing. Making the swing, he demonstrated the elongation factor of nylon, narrowly missing a dunking. Unable to go upward on the outer side, he had to make the return swing. No one cared to repeat his venture.

One more move brought us to that infuriating Little Balance Climb. A few overcame gravity and the determination of the rock to shed these parasites, but most found themselves suddenly and unaccountably dangling in the rope. With this effort we came to the end of our energy and took our sunburns and scratches back to the cars.