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

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FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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Numbers 4 and 5

BUSINESS AND PROGRAM MEETING

Time: August 22, 8:30 P.M.

Place: Home of Phyllis and Joel Gross, 4712 Homer Ave. (Suitland Manor)
Washington 20 (Suitland, Md.) across from Bureau of Census.

Agenda: Election of new chairman; Kodachromes by Andy Kauffman, and others
if time permits.

Invitation: Phyllis and Joel Gross have very graciously invited all members of the rock climbing group to a house-warming supper before the meeting (7:30). Everyone is welcome, but please put yourself in their position of trying to prepare quantities of food for an unknown number of people and notify them in advance by postcard if you plan to come to supper.

Directions: Take the South Capitol St. Bridge to Suitland Parkway. There are two exits marked Silver Hill Road. Take the second or farther one of these and go under the underpass. A big water tower is the land mark. From here you should have no trouble locating Suitland Manor. (About 6½ miles from Washington.) Call Peg Keister (OL 2078 evenings or OL1400, ext. 2011 daytimes) if you need a ride or have one to offer.

Remember: A card to Joel if you plan to come to supper; a call to Peg concerning transportation.

* * * * *

THE MAIL BAG

We have had cards from:

Sam? Arnold Wexler from Golden and Kinbasket Lake, saying that his party were on their way into the high country (Clemenceau region) according to Schedule, and that the situation is normal -- rain!

Stan and Dorothy Thomas, from Wyoming and Montana. They are enjoying a nodding acquaintance with our western mountains, although they have had no opportunity to climb.

Letters have been received from:

Marion Wormald, at the U. of Colorado. She has done some climbing with the group on campus, including an ascent of Mt. Audubon (13,500). She

Letters (cont.)

hopes to climb Long's Peak before returning east.

The Conns, who are still urging any or all of us to join them in the Black Hills this summer. They hope to be on hand, either as climbers or observers when Art, Tony and Ray climb Devil's Tower later this summer.

John Buck and family, who spent July 3-5 in the Olympics, and were honored with occasional glimpses of the mountains through the mist.

* * * * *

UPS AND DOWNS

June 24, 1951. Sugar Loaf Mountain, Md.

Charles Fort Sue Hughes Dick Meyer Frank Sauber Hans Scheltema

The group straggled into the Hot Shoppe bright and early (it sez here) and found the usual welcoming committee of one, Don Hubbard. Breakfast over, a lengthy discussion ensued over where to climb, how to climb since no one had a rope, who would lead, and would there be swimming afterward. The group solved the first problem by selecting Sugar Loaf, and the welcoming committee solved the second by lending a couple of his own ropes. The other problems were left to themselves, and, as all agreed, worked themselves out quite nicely.

A leisurely drive through the quiet Maryland countryside and up the hair-pin-curve road on Sugar Loaf brought us to the parking lot, which was already surprisingly well filled. We started up the trail but soon abandoned it for the rocks on the western side of the summit. Richard took the lead, and we roped up and started up the cliffs. With the two ropes joined behind the third man, and impeded by our packs, we made rather slow progress. Lunch in the shade on top provided a welcome break. Afterwards we practiced rappelling and some of us got our first taste of the free rappel, playing to the full gallery that one finds on Sugar Loaf on Sundays. Another climb to the summit by a different and more interesting route, and we were ready for the ole swimmin' hole.

In case any reader is not acquainted with the spot, let me point out that the swimming is excellent in the abandoned quarry in the woods behind the Methodist Church in Dickerson. It was a day no one was anxious to end, and we prolonged it as long as possible with stops for cold drinks and dinner at the Hot Shoppe.

F.S.

June 24, 1951. Champ Rock, W. Va.

Tony Soler and Ray Moore spent Sunday afternoon on Champ Rock. From what we can extract from Tony, they attempted the north face direct, finding some old army pitons on the upper middle portion of the route. The pitons, which had evidently wandered on from the side rather than followed the direct route, petered out below a rugged overhang which has a recess under it. There are no upper cracks for pitons on the reachable further overhanging upper lip. Tantalizing but inadequate handholds tempt the leader to exceed his safety factor here. The pair wisely retreated from this point because of the late hour and the need for an expansion bolt.

(Reviewer's note: It was in a remarkably similar spot that Charlie Daniels started a tremendous 85 ft. lead on July 4, 1940, when he, Paul Bradt and Art Lembeck made the first ascent of this face.)

ACL

June 30-July 1, 1951. Schoolhouse Cave, W. Va.

Peter Blos	Phyllis Gross	Jerry Jankowitz	Dick Meyer
Charles Fort	Sue Hughes	Peg Keister	Ray Moore
Joel Gross	Marion Jackson	Art Lembeck	Tony Soler

A late start Friday evening and a stop at the Dairy Bar in Front Royal

brought us to Schoolhouse Cave well after midnight. By majority vote, we camped outside on the edge of a field of timothy. Unburdened by sleeping bags and extra food, we entered the cave at a reasonable hour Saturday morning. Under the leadership of Ray and Tony, half of the group set off for the grand tour via the Angel's Roost, whence came many grunts and groans before the party finally assembled on the Judgment Seat. Art, stuck with three less ambitious climbers, led his group through the Keyhole to watch the "Angels" among the Gargoyles, then beat a hasty retreat from the shower of stones and debris released by the party above. Art's group then descended to the Cascade Pit. Peg, cooling more than her heels while waiting for the second man at this point, amused herself by studying the blond centipedes on the walls and counting the skeletons of flashlights which had met an untimely end here (four flashlights, two hats and three unmatched gloves were food for the imagination). A scramble over the Pan Cakes brought us to the Sand Room. In the low passage between this and the Dome Room, we disturbed a sizable colony of long-eared bats, which in great indignation fanned our faces as they whizzed back and forth through the passage. Retracing our steps in a leisurely fashion, with Charles making us pause for pictures, we found the first group on their way out. From above the Grotto, the sound of pounding aroused our curiosity. Joel, with much consideration for tired climbers but complete disregard for tradition, was building a ladder at the old Cedar Pole to facilitate escape.

Ray's group, surfacing first, set off for Riverton, to clean up and cool off in the river. After dinner, they staged a Kodachrome show at the store for some of the local people who have cooperated so well in finding caves for us. Art's group, burdened with ladders, lanterns, and extra ropes which they managed like dodos to tangle up, took longer getting out, and decided to pass up the swim and spend a second night in the timothy. Intermittent showers disturbed our slumber. Some commuted between the cold, damp cave entrance and the hot, wet field, while others alternately crawled under tarps to escape the rain and crawled out again to avoid a steam bath. The Riverton group fared somewhat better, invading a parked school bus and a local front porch.

Sunday morning the showers continued, so plans for climbing Seneca were regretfully abandoned in favor of more caves. The first was entered by a long tortuous crawlway which eventually led to a fairly large room. Beyond this, we found a shallow well almost completely surrounded by steep flowstone walls. Passing an immense white column, we chimneyed up to a grotto containing some fine formations - "Christmas trees" and figurines. Two new passages were explored for some distance. One led to a small opening through which a ladder was dropped. It was found that Art and Marion were the only explorers sufficiently snaky to get through this. They reported that the passage below terminated in breakdowns in both directions, so the party went into reverse and squirmed up into beautiful weather.

One more newly opened hole in the ground was explored by part of the party. From their appearance we judge it was a nice muddy one. After another swim for those who wanted it, we started on the long drive homeward.

July 1, 1951. We learn with great concern that a group of neophytes met at the Hot Shoppe on this Sunday with nary a rope nor a leader among them, due to the fact that most of our experienced climbers had either gone underground or left for British Columbia. We hope that this situation will not arise again, and that these aspiring young climbers will not be discouraged from coming out in future.

July 8, 1951. We hear that Ray, Tony, Peter Blos and Betty Blair spent the weekend in West Virginia climbing various things. Gentle hints have not elicited a detailed report of this trip, and since your editor mislaid her bull whip for several weeks, guess we can just mention the trip in passing.

July 8, 1951. Great Falls, Md.

Dolores Alley	Peter Bradt	Margaret Lewis	Hans Scheltema
Betty Alley	Charles Fort	Wade Marshall	Chris Scoredos
Billy Alley	Walt Kane	Alice Marshall	Helen Scoredos
Paul Bradt	Peg Keister	Tommy Marshall	Eric Scoredos
Jo Bradt	Douglas Kruse	Linda Parham	Johnny Scoredos
Alan Bradt	Norman Kruse	Frank Sauber	

This well assorted crew was pleased to find that the river was low enough to permit access to a favorite climbing area. Paul immediately organized a rope of young men and made a fine piton lead on the corner and face opposite Chris' Red Overhang. While Paul and his satellites worked on this, Peg belayed beginners and intermediates on the Sturgeon Struggle across the way. Young Alice and Tommy performed this climb with considerably more aplomb than some of the older and more experienced climbers. Meanwhile, Helen and Jo supervised the small fry who were dunking in the shallow pools. One shy water snake occasioned much discussion as to whether or not it was a "moccasin", and whether it should be killed, merely observed or left strictly alone. The snake settled the problem by retiring under a rock.

After lunch, several people were prodded out of their supine positions to try the climb Paul led in the morning. Some did and some didn't (make it, that is). After further scrambling on nearby cliffs and some rappel practice, the group rapidly dwindled in the afternoon heat, seeking cold drinks or the good old bath tub at home.

July 15, 1951. Sugar Loaf Mountain, Md.

R. Betchov	Norman Kruse	Richard Meyer	Eric Scoredos
Charles Fort	Margaret Lewis	Jean Pietras	Helen Scoredos
Joel Gross	Wade Marshall	Frank Sauber	Johnny Scoredos
Phyllis Gross	Alice Marshall	Hans Scheltema	Norman Smith
George Kamm	Tommy Marshall	Chris Scoredos	Jim Willard
Douglas Kruse			Donna Willman

The Rockclimbers met at the Hot Shoppe as usual. After greetings and introductions were exchanged, it was decided that the cooling breezes of Sugarloaf Mountain would be a welcome change from the heat and humidity of D.C.

The group found they had the mountain to themselves at least in the early hours. Later on the spectators gathered with the usual remarks, including the standards: "It's all right, if you don't mind breaking your neck!"

Joel made some very fine leads, one on the face near the cave, and later in and out of the cave itself. Chris was busy assisting and encouraging the novices wherever possible. Easy but interesting climbing was done on the face near the cave by Alice, Tommy, Frank, Richard, Charles and Helen belayed by Wade.

Late in the afternoon the entire group made its way to the quarry where the day was finished with a dip in the cool, clear water. C.S.

July 22, 1951. Herzog Island, Md.

Dolores Alley	Ann Green	Chris Scoredos	Norman Smith
Betty Alley	Peg Keister	Helen Scoredos	Tony Soler
Robin Brant	(Art Lembeck)	Eric Scoredos	
Charles Fort	Hans Scheltema	Johnny Scoredos	

In mid-flight between Edgewood and Camp Lejeune, Art paused for breakfast at the Hot Shoppe, thus stepping into the shoes of our absent Don as host and emeritus consultant. Bidding him good luck and a reluctant goodbye, the climbers departed for Herzog via Carderock and Chris' family-sized Sink Stopper. Johnny Scoredos and Smoky Alley were the only ones who gave evidence of not enjoying

the boat ride.

Everyone worked on the 70-ft. nubble face, which affords good practice in balance climbing for beginners (and others). Nearly everyone made it, by one route or another, and with varying amounts of perspiration. Betty, who is practicing for her August trip to the Tetons, did the climb nicely. Chris, climbing in his swimming trunks, provided camera bait. The merciless sun, mercilessly reflected from the rocks, discouraged most people from further efforts. Tony, Norman and Hans, however, wandered a little way downstream to work on an overhanging corner previously explored by Tony and the Conns. But the river beckoned, and most of the afternoon was spent cooling off in the Potomac and acquiring sun burns, poison ivy, chiggers and punkie bites.

* * * * *

A PLEA ! !

The Chairman of the Mountaineering Committee and the Editor of UP ROPE join in making a very urgent dual request. For the continued success of our trips and for the very existence of our publication, it is imperative that someone take the responsibility each Sunday for:

1) Leaving a note with the cashier at the Hot Shoppe stating where the rock climbers have gone, so that people arriving late or telephoning in may join the group;

2) Keeping a list of all trippers and writing a report for UP ROPE, to be sent either directly to the current editor, or to UP ROPE, at PATC headquarters.

Whether the responsible person is selected on the basis of senility, ability, agility, or just docility is immaterial, as long as SOME ONE does it. The second request applies also to trips not starting from the Hot Shoppe. We're interested in where you go and what you climb, but your editor is tired of nagging people for reports. Please send them in voluntarily and help to give variety and readability to your paper.

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HERMITAGE CLIMBS (SCHAFFER ROCKS)

This series was begun in the April 5th issue of UP ROPE (Vol. 7, 18) and continued in the May 14th issue (Vol. 7, 20). The descriptions of the climbs so far named will be concluded in the next issue.

The Hermitage Hoverhang (To the left (east) of the Unfinished Symphony)

The main line of the cliffs west of Monument Rock is broken by an overhanging wall of rock some 10 feet wide and 60 feet high, forming an angle of about 105°. The Hoverhang is in this angle.

The crack at the angle serves as a water course early in the spring and after rains, so the lower and inner sections of the climb are frequently wet and mossy.

The initial problem is to pass a 2½ foot overhanging block on the left wall -- the right wall has the familiar Hermitage upside-down "holds". An angle piton has been left in the main crack about 12 feet above the ground and a quarter of the way up the overhanging block to facilitate this maneuver. The top of the block allows a fine, if irregular, 8-inch by 20-inch platform for the next move.

The elegant way is up the left face, which becomes a 4-foot and then a 3-foot-wide rib, as one reaches another overhang some 18 feet above the first pitch. The crack at the angle of the faces is available for pitons, the number varying with the wetness of the face. The left face has small footholds on exfoliated slabs at convenient intervals. (It is safer to use the angle-crack for pitons, since the partially exfoliated slabs on the face may be prized off -- and they are essential as footholds.) The rib can be turned to the left and

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it.

Hoverhang (cont.)

climbed on edge to the overhang.

Just under the overhang are two Thank-God handholds which are actually narrow ledges. Protected by a piton fixed here, one can stand on these handholds and with a partial layback surmount the overhang. Another piton is a comfort at this point. A good belay position is found a few feet higher.

Originally, when Art and Arnold made this climb, it ended here by scrambling up the right hand gully. A variation, now considered an official part of the climb, was introduced by Tony Soler on Nov. 19, 1950 (UP ROPE 7, 10). One traverses left on a 6-inch ledge, turning the left face. A good crack 5 feet above the ledge takes a spoon-bladed piton, giving ample protection while ascending the edge of the face on friction holds. A small overhang 10 feet above the ledge can be climbed with a retablissement, using the crack under the overhang for a final piton, especially in damp weather. A carpet of spruce needles offers a soft seat, and good foot braces are present for the leader while bringing the others up to the top.

ACL

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Nelson, Adrian	1873 E. 15th St., Eugene, Oregon
Soler, Tony	3318 Jones Bridge Court, Chevy Chase, Md. - WI 3692

Keep your address list up-to-date. Make these changes in the lists published in UP ROPE, January 23 and April 30, 1951.

Art's present address (until around Aug. 19) is:

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U.S. Marine Barracks
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