



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

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EXTRA-EXTRA

TONY SOLER CLIMBS THE JAMBOX !!

Carderock's hitherto "unclimbable" climb fell to our history-making superman (see Seneca, below) on August 19. We stopped the press to bring you this flash. A fuller account will appear in the next issue. Retiring Chairman Lembeck is receiving congratulations for arranging to have this feat take place as one of the last official acts of his administration.

SHADOWS OF THINGS TO COME

Sept. 1-3, Labor Day Weekend. New River Cave and Eggleston Cliffs, Eggleston, Va.

Leaders: Ted Schad and Johnny Meenchan. Caves, cliffs and probably good swimming promise to make this an outstanding weekend. Since this area is almost 300 miles from Washington, plan to leave very early Saturday morning or even Friday night. Ted and Johnny will be down there all week, and will meet us Saturday noon at the Virginian R. R. Station, Eggleston, Va., located on the north or right bank of the New River. We expect to camp on the farm of Wayne Breodon, across the river from the meeting place. Directions will be left there for any late comers. Tentative schedule: exploration of New River Cave Saturday, climbing on Eggleston Cliffs Sunday.

Directions: Eggleston is located on Va. Highway #42, which runs south from U.S. #460 at Maybrook about 12 miles west of Blacksburg, Va. New River Cave is located 5 or 6 miles up the river at Goodwin's Ferry. The cliffs are within a few hundred yards of the R. R. station (see above).

Arrangments: Commissary individual or by cars. Peg has agreed to be the clearing house for transportation problems, so call her if you have room for passengers, or if you can't find a ride (OLiver 2078 evenings, OLiver 1400 (gov. code 179) ext. 2011 daytimes).

UPS AND DOWNSJuly 29. Carderock.

Ray Bessemer	Charles Fort	Wade Marshall	Hans Scheltema
John Brehm	Ann Green	Alice Marshall	Chris Scoredos
Jim Bullard	Bonnie Green	Tommy Marshall	Norman Smith
Jean Burnstad	Peg Keister	Ted Schad	

A day slightly less torrid than usual started us off with enthusiasm to Carderock. Saturday's showers and the pleasant shade of the Carderock Jungle conspired to leave a subvisible film of moisture on the rocks which cancelled friction and enhanced the effects of gravity. Even the Beginner's Crack became a major climb.

However, energy and ambition ran high, and the usual warm-up climbs (Beginner's Crack and Corner) were attacked with vigor. Jean and Norman made valiant and victorious attempts on a greasy Ronnie's Leap - in stocking feet. Around the corner nearer the river, a nice layback crack, leading to a couple of blocks requiring retablissements, occupied nearly everyone for the rest of the morning. This undoubtedly has a name, but no one remembered it. As a temporary one, we suggest the Defrictioned Layback. Jim Bullard managed it in tennis shoes, but everyone else (Hans, Tommy, Norman and Peg) resorted to stocking feet. Chris remarked that he was glad the price of cotton had dropped somewhat, considering the rate at which it was being destroyed. (We assume that Chris and Ted also climbed this or a neighboring climb, since they were at the top belaying when we arrived.)

Immediately after lunch, while most people drowsed, chatted or read the Sunday paper, Tommy and Alice dragged Chris off to give them some chimney practice. The Ghockstone Chimney and other neighboring ones got a workout. Shortly thereafter, some one started dreaming about the cool, clear water of Dickerson Quarry, and the expedition thereupon degenerated into a swimming party. PK

Aug. 5, Little Stony Man Mountain, Va.

John Brehm	George Kamm	Wade Marshall	Oliver Westfall
Jean Burnstad	Peg Keister	Hans Scheltema	Arnold Wexler
Dorothy Grey	Alice Marshall	Norman Smith	
Jerry Jankowitz	Tommy Marshall	Tony Soler	

(Note: Don Hubbard was at the Hot Shoppe for breakfast; Chris was also present, but having only half a day, went climbing locally; Frank Sauber called in, but having the other half of Chris' day, was unable to join us; Charles Fort was pionicking somewhere along the Drive and deserted his party to join us briefly.)

After several weeks' absence, Don was back at his usual stand at the Hot Shoppe, and gleefully packed us off to Little Stony Man Mountain on the Skyline Drive. Never was there such an ideal day for Stony Man !!

Arnold, weary from his resume (Ed: monosyllabic) of his trip to the Canadian Rockies, which he related (Ed: ?) en route, proceeded to lead Jean and Peg on several climbs, including the Little Stony Man Chimney (see UP ROPE, Feb. 15, 1950). Tommy and Alice, arriving later than the others, did the chimney with an upper belay. Meanwhile Tony led the other climbers on several typical Soler acrobatic feats. Hikers on the trail below were heard to remark, "They look like normal people."

The more energetic climbers continued their activities after lunch. Arnold and Tony led Norman, John, Jean, Peg and Hans on an "easy but interesting" climb (Ed: was this Arnold's Face Climb? See UP ROPE, Feb. 15, 1950), which caused Peg to remark, "You can make me do it, but you can't make me like it." (Ed: the tremors generated by certain participants were registered on seismographs throughout the country). Midway on this climb, we heard the sound of a familiar harmonica and there, like Pan, sat Charles Fort on an airy ledge. How he got there we never learned, but he requested a rope to help him off his perch.

Most of us stopped in Warrenton for dinner, then with passengers asleep and drivers struggling manfully, we got back safely to Washington. Jean, plus Peg.

UPS AND DOWNS (cont.)

Aug. 12. The Pot Holes, Va. side of Potomac Gorge

Hot Shoppers only: Don Hubbard, Art Lembeck, John Brehm.

Ray Bessemer	Ann Green	Walt Kane	Louise Neuhaus (Blondie)
Jean Burnstad	Bonnie Green	Peg Keister	Frank Sauber
Charles Fort	Susie Green	Lou Loats	Norman Smith

The group met as usual at the Hot Shoppe, and found two non-climbers there, Art Lembeck and Don Hubbard. The latter was tenderly nursing a great discovery, a large, handsome and poisonous-looking mushroom whose name Don glibly rolled off for our edification. It seems Don picked it up in some remote corner of the Selkirks in British Columbia. He claimed it was a very rare species, but that didn't appear to bother the fruit flies that had made it their base camp. Who knows—maybe they came from B.C. too. (Ed: We are not sure whether this is Don's story or the author's. The object looked too fresh and intact to have survived the trip and the interval, so we disclaim all responsibility for the accuracy of this account.) Art was in town for the weekend from Camp Lejeune and stopped for breakfast with us.

The climbers straggled in one by one, and the last to arrive didn't quite beat the rain. It looked as though nature would continue to saturate the landscape, so we repaired to Frank's apartment for a folk music session. The morning passed quickly with records and Charlie's inimitable harmonica style.

By noon the sun was out, more or less, so we headed for the rocks above the Potholes. Lunch was the first item on the agenda. Then Ray made a truly valiant attempt on a layback climb, but the rocks were just a little too damp from the morning's rain. Peg belayed, while Walt pioneered an interesting balance climb, followed by Ray, Frank, Ann, Jean, Blondie, Charlie (who had to be dragged out of the river and made the climb in his bathing suit), and Peg (Ed: who was, of course, no longer belaying). Then Walt dreamed up another climb - a layback up an inclined plane beneath an overhang. This was more nearly within the reach of the rest of us than Ray's first choice, so everyone tried it. Susie, our youngest climber, expended the least effort of anyone, and climbed it neatly. Here Lou received her initiation into the intricacies of rock climbing. We hope she will be back for more soon and often.

More and more people deserted the rocks for the water. Ann almost had heart failure when she saw her little Susie making like a fish in the middle of the river, but Ray was keeping a watchful eye nearby.

The climbing ended when the somber black storm clouds reconvened. We pulled ourselves together and headed for a Chinese restaurant in Georgetown. Good food and pleasant company - what more could you ask at the end of a day of climbing?

FS

SENECA SAGA

Weekend of Aug. 5. Stanley and Dorothy Thomas, Johnny and Marion Jackson, Ray and Suzy Moore. At the instigation of Stan and Marion, a flying trip to Seneca was organized Friday night. Departure a little after noon on Saturday allowed us time to make camp at Riverton in the schoolyard. While the more sedate (or perhaps just sleepy) members crawled quietly into their sacks, it is rumored that certain of the young ladies indulged in a wild lemonade party at the store. Came the dawn, and Marion, Stanley, Johnny and Ray headed for Seneca. The East Face looked intriguing and proved progressively more interesting as the party ascended. Marion held the bottom end of the rope, while Ray put in four pitons that brought him within about 65 ft. of the South Peak and directly below it; but the climb had been long and the weather was hot, so he retreated to make a traverse along a ledge and over a slight overhang to join the Conn route which was followed to the summit. A leisurely trip down via the Old Ladies' Route, and it was time to

Seneca (cont.)

go home.

Weekend of Aug. 12. Johnny and Marion Jackson, Arnold Wexler, Tony Soler, Ray and Suzy Moore. Saturday, Johnny, Marion and Suzy repaired to Spruce Knob for some cool air and hiking, while Tony, Arnold and Ray returned to the hot rocks on the east face of Seneca. Tony finished the lead that Ray had started the previous weekend. It proved to be approximately 115 ft. long and required 10 pitons (three of which will be there until they rust away). The angle is quite steep, 85 to 90 degrees, and it requires quite a bit of arm work just to stay on the climb, although hand and foot holds were occasionally available. (Ed: Arnold describes Tony's lead as "classic".)

On the return we discovered that Fords still don't swim rivers as well as rock climbers, but at least they don't leak until you open the doors. Tony refused to climb out the window to push the car, saying that he had had enough climbing for one day.

Sunday saw the party on a tour through the Sinks of Gandy (climaxed with another wading session, led this time by Johnny). After the cave tour, we were joined by the Raines family and friends for a fabulous picnic dinner, which included fried chicken, ham, cakes and pies galore, watermelon, and was topped off with fresh corn roasted in a charcoal fire. By the time we were able to walk again, it was time to bid our friends goodbye and start for home. For some strange reason, no one was enthusiastic about stopping at Front Royal for milkshakes on the way back.

Ray Moore.

FIRST OF THE SEASON'S REPORTS FROM WYOMING

Kay Heinmuller (MCM), who has climbed with us on one or two occasions, writes to us as follows:

"With Bob and Dotty Swartz and John Spradley of the Colorado Mt. Club, I went into the Wind Rivers via Burris, Wyoming, on June 29th. We used pack horses to within 4 miles of camp, then double-packed our stuff in the rest of the way. Snowdrifts were still pretty deep but the weather was perfect. We spent a few days getting acclimated then did Woodrow Wilson and a nearby snowdome.... Our second peak was the Sphinx, in whose register I found Arnold Wexler's name! It's a good climb even though the rock is loose, and the glissade back home was fine. The major climb of the area, as far as time goes, was Koven which has a terribly long glacial approach and then some superb rock climbing to the ridge. We dropped down on the west side, and went up a chimney to the summit. The day was too perfect and we spent time looking for a route down the north ridge - which we didn't find - so returned by our original route, the northeast ridge - only in the dark! Great fun, though! Lastly we did Gannett, highest in Wyoming which was peaches and cream all the way - snow clear to the top and a long long glissade down.... We back packed out - 15 miles or so - in 2 leisurely days and John and I headed for the Colorado Mt. Club Outing over in the Tetons. Here on the first climb, the Middle Teton, I managed to sprain an ankle coming down a snowfield and didn't do any more scampering for about 9 days. Just before the Outing closed, though, I hurried up South and finally the Grand. Four of us did the Grand by the Exum route with John Spradley leading. Still, the weather was perfect - old Sol stayed behind clouds on the ascent up the snow and moraine and appeared as we neared the top and the rocks. We managed Wall Street easily and the famous Friction Pitch ... was under snow, so the climb was everything one could ask. The 40 ft. free rappel down was wonderful.....

"It was the best summer I've ever had - wore out every pair of socks I own! Found a copy of "Belaying the Leader" in the food tent in Garnet Canyon in the Tetons....."

INSIDE CORNER

The members of the Canadian Rockies Expedition are back. Arnold's taciturnity and Don's uninformative volubility have left us in the dark as to the details of the trip, but we gather that it was highly successful, that two first ascents were made, and three second ascents by new routes. We promise a full and entertaining account in the near future.

The Bradts have returned from their vacation in the neighborhood of Mt. Katahdin. We hear that Paul met three young climbers, none of whom felt he was a qualified leader, so when Paul modestly admitted that he thought he could lead a little, they joined forces for some rockclimbing. How about a feature article, Paul?

Dolores, Betty and Billy Alley, Oliver Westfall and Hans Scheltema are on their way to the Tetons. Good climbing, folks.

Bill Kemper is back from his ramblings around Europe. Os Heard has departed, bursting with enthusiasm, for Italy and Switzerland, full of plans for climbing in the Alps.

George Komm and his father and another father-son team are driving to Alaska.

The Marshall family are on their way to Utah. They hope to try out their brand new beautiful nylon rope in the Tetons on the way.

Cards have come from Wayne Houston. After spending two months pumping gas in Yellowstone, he is now camping in Glacier National Park. Apparently he is having a wonderful time touring the western National Parks.

The Lembecks depart for California on Aug. 24, by way of Devil's Tour and the Tetons. Ray Moore and Tony Soler expect to join Art for some climbing in Wyoming. The Lembecks' new address will be CWO Arthur C. Lembeck, HC, USN, c/o The Infirmary, U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern; China Lake, Cal.

Hold your hats, folks! Arnold has finally broken down and bought a car! He is the proud owner of an aspen-green, four-door Chevvie. Ray Moore also has a new car, a pale gray two-door Ford, and the Kauffmans are sporting a Plymouth suburban.

HERMITAGE CLIMBS (Schaffer Rocks)

(This is the fourth in a series (see UP ROPE, Vol. 7, no. 18 and no. 20; Vol. 8, no. 4-5.) Description of the climbs so far named on the major outcrop are complete with this issue. The lichenous face across from the gully next to Monument Rock has been referred to as Hubbard's Beginner's Exercises. The route up Monument Chimney is too obvious to need description. Small outcrops 150 feet down the valley from Monument Rock have climbs christened Lowell's Lead and an Unnamed Overhang, the latter being one of Arnold's favorite struggles for beginners. Perhaps someone will see fit to describe them in detail later.

Easy Exposure Chimney

(A nice climb for a neophyte to follow and for a beginner-leader to start on.)

A deep crack just to the right of the Unfinished Symphony rapidly widens to a partial chimney. Handholds on the left wall and in the cleft are used first, then a semi-chimney technique takes one to a wide ledge bearing the usual hemlock. (This ledge continues around to the right meeting the upward sloping ground further on.) The next pitch leads up a chimney which is nearly blocked by a 4-ft. chockstone some 10 ft. up. Bucket holds on the chockstone, which is keystone-

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Hermitage climbs (cont.)

shaped and obviously safely jammed in the chimney, permit one easily to climb over the stone. The leader may use side holds if he is ultra-careful.

Traverse a few feet to the right, reaching a ledge marked by the ubiquitous hemlock, this one 6 inches in diameter. Instead of walking up the easy gully to the right, go left on a narrow ledge with a handhold-ledge 6 ft. above. This is the "exposure" part of the climb. Continue until an upward cleft in the wall is reached. Be careful of large, loose handholds in this narrow chimney. Sideholds in the cleft are quite safe and take one up to the summit.

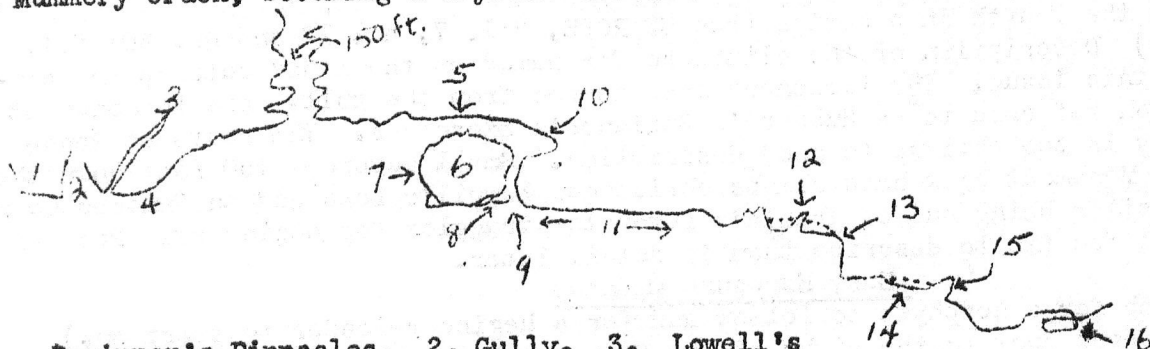
MEZZANINE CLIMB

On the north face of Monument Rock. From the northwest foot of Monument Rock, ascend the Hermitage Chimney about 30 ft. On sloping friction holds traverse left (east) to an obvious triangular ledge. The traverse is accomplished with piton protection once the rare piton cracks are located. One swings out on good handholds, places a foot on a 2 by 3 inch foothold about 5 feet out nearly horizontally, reaches across and upward to a rib which conceals two surprising and adequate handholds. A partial layback puts one on the Mezzanine. (The long wait of the second man on the initial ascent christened the climb.)

Tie the second into a piton and traverse left on a rounded ledge about 3 ft. above. Small holds nearly concealed by lichens allow one to edge around a bulge to a rounded solution crack which ascends irregularly to the summit, opening to a crack in the upper section.

A piton (and possibly a little tension on the rope) permits one to reach an undercut ledge which gives the leader a rest. (This ledge was approached by Don Hubbard or Herbie Conn from the east face in 1949). There is a hemlock on this ledge and the leader will probably use it as a vegetable handhold.

A piton in a crack a few feet up gives protection for the last pitch which is a Mummery crack, becoming a layback the last 6 feet.



1. Beginner's Pinnacles. 2. Gully. 3. Lowell's Lead. 4. Unnamed Overhang. 5. Hubbard's Beginner's Exercises. 6. Monument Rock. 7. Swiss Guide Climb. 8. Mezzanine. 9. Hermitage Chimney. 10. Gully. 11. "Unclimbable Face". 12. Chimney and Chockstone. 13. Hermitage Hoverhang. 14. Unfinished Symphony. 15. Easy Exposure. 16. Leaning block 20 ft. high.