



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

Volume 8

October 16, 1951

Number 10

SHADOWS OF THINGS TO COME

November 4. Paul Bradt is leading a PATC hike along the Billy Goat Trail between Cabin John and Great Falls. The notice indicates that the hikers may expect to see Rock Climbers in action on some of the climbing areas along this route. Hope most of our climbers will plan to be out in this vicinity on that day.

A NEW ROUTE ON DEVIL'S TOWER, WYOMING - THE SOLER ROUTE

by Arthur C. Lembeck

Thirteen parties had mounted the Leaning Column of the Durrance Route, which is a pebble toss from the (first ascent) Wiessner Route, before Tony and Ray arrived at Devil's Tower on the morning of August 29th. Obviously a look at others of the long fluted columns was the reaction of this redoubtable pair. Fresh from "standard conditioning exercises" in the Black Hills Needles (courtesy J. and H. Conn Rock Climbers' Finishing School), they made a tour of the truck-sized talus and by afternoon had ferreted out many vertical blind alleys. At 4 P.M. when Art arrived, they had left a doubled climbing rope hanging in one Gerry expansion bolt and several pitons, and were very much through for the day. Worm's eye views from the ground of where they had been looked even worse than the high ones, and it was decided to make a try on some other section next sunup.

Supper at the campground was enlivened by a family of three friendly skunks, three friendly kittens masquerading as skunks, and one year-old boy who wanted to be friendly with all six. By a narrow margin, general social ostracism was prevented, and everyone retired for the night. At some indeterminate time, Herb drove in from Custer, making the climbing team complete.

Next morning before sunrise, the Optimuses (we use that brand of gasoline stove because it sounds so encouraging) were buzzing merrily cooking a four-way breakfast. Well fortified with food and carrying armfuls of hardware, climbing rope, cameras and six canteens of water, we stumbled up the trail to the far side of the Tower.

While Tony and Art were retrieving the rope, pitons and bolt of the previous day's reconnaissance, Herb and Ray began working on a lead farther east. Here sloping faces and a jumble of talus allowed an easy ascent to near the height of the Leaning Column. By the time the four were together again, Ray and Herb were resting from having pushed the rope up over half its 120-foot length. The first 30 feet were 3rd class and the rest 5th class. Two ropes were tied together, and Tony and Art took turns with pitons and struggles. Fifty-five feet above the talus, a wide crack in the left side column begins working toward the angle piton crack which forms the principal joint-plane between the columns. Seventy feet up,

DEVIL'S TOWER (cont.)

the left crack became the piton crack as the right-hand crack widened out. For 40 feet this status continued.

A short, bulging overhang was then passed as a layback and then 40 more feet of mostly layback. Pitons had to be inserted while the climber was in a semi-layback position, holding on with one hand. It was on this section that Tony fell from 12 or 15 feet above his piton, sliding to a graceful stop on Ray's dynamic belay. (The piton was an Army angle rescued after years in Seneca Rock; the carabiner an Army aluminum.) Above this point, the slope became slightly less and the twin cracks more cooperative.

During the earlier sections of the climb, the lead had been changed by using the rope as an elevator. The lower pitons were removed by the descending leader. With climbing ropes knotted together, a different system had to be devised, because the knots were too bulky to pass through the carabiners. Tony, who was leading at the time, tied into a piton, and Ray Prussiked up the climbing rope, removing pitons en route. Then Ray tied into a piton and Tony continued.

Layback piton pounding was just too much, so Tony used six pitons for direct aid, balancing up to use each piton as a foothold from which to drive the next higher one. A beautiful maneuver to watch.

The 23rd piton was placed in a horizontal side crack on the left, overhanging column which had widened, it seemed, to the proportions of a wall as we ascended. This crack was the first one on the climb which would take pitons, except for the two main vertical cracks. Here the left column was broken enough to form a belay platform, the first on the climb. It was reached via a short traverse and retablissement up the overhanging column. There were now 240 feet of rope between leader and belayer. The "retable" was onto an outward-sloping, splintered column top with a shallow fingergrasp crack a few feet back. Other sections of the column requiring 3 more pitons for safety led to the top of the Big Ledge near its eastern end.

Prussik knots soon saw the party joined on the Big Ledge, and, unroped, the four scrambled up the rock jumble to the summit. The late hour made the stay on top a brief one just for registration, a task Ray performed while the others swatted at the clouds of flying ants which inhabit the grassy, cactus-sprinkled mesa.

The Durrance Route was selected for the descent, traversing to the far end of the Big Ledge and then dropping in several rappels to the Leaning Column and below.

The actual climbing had begun at 7:30 A.M., the descent shortly after 5:00, and camp was regained at 7:30 P.M., a delay being caused by a rappel rope which jammed halfway down the last pitch. Twenty minutes were spent retrieving it, and the gathering darkness made progress to camp somewhat slow. Twenty-four of the twenty-six pitons used were angle pitons (those used in rappelling were not included in this count). The climbers are grateful to Win, to Wade Marshall, and to Mr. McIntyre, the Superintendent of Devil's Tower National Monument, for their services, especially in explaining to the numerous visitors why we were climbing; that we weren't risking our necks -- much --; and just how that rope got up there in the first place.

(The reader is referred to UP ROPE, Vol. 5, No. 5, Oct. 1, 1948, for an account of Herb's and Jan's ascent (on July 4, 1948), and to APPALACHIA for accounts of the original Wiessner and Durrance climbs. All references are available in the PATC Library.)

UPS AND DOWNSOld Rag Mountain, Virginia

Sept. 22 and 23

Marion Harvey
 Andy Kauffman
 Betty Kauffman

Peg Keister
 John Reed
 Jane Showacre
 Arnold Wexler

Sept. 23

Kay Schad
 Ted Schad
 Kay's friend Irene

On Saturday morning, Arnold and the Kauffmans left for Old Rag. Around noon, Johnny, Jane, Marion and Peg, and the food, followed. Finding the fire-road from Nethers blocked by a substantial padlocked chain, we went around by way of Syria. Here also the road was closed because of the dryness of the woods, but backpacking from here was not quite the chore it would have been from Nethers.

The first three arrivals climbed the Saddle Trail, and we hear that Arnold picked out a nice little easy hard climb (this is Andy's terminology) above the Hollywood Climb. It involved a squeeze through a needle-eye, and Andy's companions eyed him with a speculative gleam, no doubt betting as to whether he would prove to be the proverbial camel or the rich man.

The next four staggered in under the chow in time to start supper preparations. We found three young men, somewhat the worse for a longish hike with full packs, at the Leanto. They shortly trudged off up the trail to look over the possibility of camping on top for the night, but since they left all their gear behind, we were not surprised when on their return they decided to share our campsite.

When the first contingent returned, they broke out a very welcome jug of cider, which had been cooling in the spring, then fell to to help with supper. Johnny fed us bountifully on delicious veal steaks and fixin's. After supper, we enjoyed a fireside songfest in which our three new acquaintances joined.

Sometime in the early dawn, the Kauffmans' dog decided now was the time for all good climbers to be out of the sack. He found that he could do an efficient job on all the lower-level sleepers by licking one face while brushing another with his plummy tail. For his pains, he got dragged outside and tied up, but retaliated with mournful music. Eventually Tippy won.

Oatmeal consumed and third cups of coffee downed, Andy and Betty gave up their fight against colds and hay fever, and departed for home. The rest of us climbed the Saddle Trail in leisurely fashion, enjoying the perfect weather and the view points along the way. On top at last, Johnny led the Hollywood Climb, under the misapprehension that he could then retire for the day. He was accompanied by Jane, Marion and Peg, while Arnold seemed to derive some sort of amusement from watching our struggles. We then all worked on the tricky little layback in the nearby gully. Marion requested something requiring less effort and more finesse, so Arnold put her on the adjacent nose. Her finesse consisted of a new a ventre technique. Delicately balanced on her tummy across the narrow crest of the climb, she traversed upward by means of a series of lateral squirms. Effective, if not elegant.

While we lunched at the summit, Ted, Kay and Irene appeared on the Ridge Trail. Thereafter, Johnny and Jane repeated Arnold's Saturday lead, while Arnold, Ted and Marion explored some of the chimneys below the lunch spot. Peg got her exercise by scrambling up and down chimneys trying to keep track of both parties.

Although Arnold complained that 'twan't normal to leave so early, we started down around 4:30, and finished off the cider before packing down to the car. We all gathered once more at the Warrenton Coffee Shoppe before starting the last lap home.

Sept. 23, 1951. Up and Down the River

Margaret Drucker
 Ann Green
 Bonnie Green

Susie Green
 Don Hubbard
 Sioux Hughes

Walt Kane
 Lloyd Richards
 Hans Scheltema

Chris Scoredos
 Eric Scoredos
 Helen Scoredos
 Johnny Scoredos

After assembling at the Hot Shoppe, where Jo and Paul joined the group briefly

before leaving for parts unknown, members of the group set out for the Rocks.

Practice in rappelling and elementary climbing was held under the able instruction of Don. The group also played on the Washington Tower.

Later on, an aerial traverse was set up by Don and thoroughly enjoyed by the junior climbers.

Since it was such a lovely day, the group hiked along the river to Cupid's Bower, where Helen, Walt, and Chris climbed the Coffin Climb. The day was finished by fording the river and hiking along the canal to the cars. C.S.

Sept. 30, 1951. Carderock and Herzog Island.

Betty Alley	Jim Bullard	Alice Marshall	Frank Sauber
Billy Alley	Marion Harvey	Tommy Marshall	Ted Schad
Dolores Alley	Don Hubbard	Wade Marshall	Hans Scheltema
Karl Bakke	Walt Kane	Blondie Neuhaus	Bob Stevens
Susie Broome	Peg Keister	John Reed	Arnold Wexler
			Jim Willard

By a combination of bullying, cajoling, and buck-passing, Don got the group started toward Herzog Island (without a boat), but mutiny en route split the group, and Carderock got the larger faction. Don lured Karl, Hans and the two Jims across the river, and except for a yodel or two around noon, they were not heard from again.

At Carderock, we practiced as usual on the Beginner's Crack, Ronnie's Leap (which Alice and Tommy both conquered) and the Barnacle Face. Many notable efforts were made on more difficult climbs. Tommy did a nice job on the lower half of the Spider Walk, and Arnold and Johnny knocked themselves out and wore out a belayer on the Swayback Layback. Peg led Johnny and Blondie on the first half of the ChrisWexDon Traverse. At the digression below the cedar tree, she lost her third man, and after considerable delay, acquired a new one, but lunch time had come and almost gone, so the climb was abandoned. Meanwhile, Walt had conducted Susie and Ted up the Golden Stairs and were discovered lolling in the sun at the top, eating lunch.

After lunch, we gathered at the bottom of Jan's Face, which Arnold, Johnny and Walt climbed, and others attempted with little success. Returning to the CWD, Walt led Johnny, Marion and Frank over the entire route, while Arnold, Bob and Peg climbed the Layback Crack, then lazily watched the traversers.

Overcome by the early dusk and healthy fatigue, the survivors took themselves downtown for an Italian supper, before disbanding.

Oct. 7, 1951. MCM Day at Great Falls, Maryland

			MCM
Betty Alley	Susie Buck	Walt Kane	
Dolores Alley	Jim Bullard	Peg Keister	Barbara Baumann
Joan Ascher (AMC)	Tony Bullard	John Reed	Marion Bee
Iris Beck	Jean Burnstad	Frank Sauber	Carl Bock
Alan Bradt	Helen Carlson	Hans Scheltema	Bill Kemper
Jo Bradt	Walter Downes	Chris Scoredos	Jean McElhaney
Peter Bradt	Dick Goldman	Eric Scoredos	Elissa Meykar
Paul Bradt	Sally Goldman	Helen Scoredos	Orest Meykar
John Brehm	Joel Gross	Johnny Scoredos	Mary O'Connor
Alan Buck	Phyllis Gross	Jane Showacre	Dorothy Old
Elisabeth Buck	Don Hubbard	Bob Stevens	Francis Old, Jr.
John Buck	Sioux Hughes	Arnold Wexler	Francis Old, III
Judy Buck	Jerry Jankowitz	Lloyd Wright	Nicholas Old
Peter Buck	Blondie Neuhaus		

In spite of a low and threatening ceiling, the MCM had a good turnout, and the PATC Mountaineering Committee responded nobly to the call, giving us a record crowd. Of course, the count was upped considerably by an even dozen juniors, but they were no slouches when it came to attacking the rocks.

Beginners and experts alike checked out on dynamic belays before spreading

out all over the rocks to climb. Obviously, it was impossible to keep up with everyone and to record all the climbs made that day, so if your spectacular accomplishment for the day is omitted from this account, please forgive your feeble editor, and report it for future publication.

The Red Overhang and the adjacent Sturgeon Struggle on one side of the gully got a work out, while several parties scrambled up the easy route on the opposite face. Johnny Reed took Peg and MCMers Barbara and Carl up a variation of Peg's Progress, which kept them tied to pitons while everyone else was eating lunch. Arnold, John Brehm and Chris (and doubtless others* also) accomplished the difficult face climb on the canal side of this outcrop. Paul was heard to remark, on this climb, "Oh, well, I'm going to scramble -- like an egg, that is."

Moving toward the river later in the day, your reporter's startled eyes fell upon what appeared to be a spiders' convention. The cliff was enmeshed in ropes and arms and legs. Don had set up a tension climb, a couple of teams were diagonalling across the face, upper belay ropes dangled in all available interstices, and a rappel rope threatened to ensnare the climbers further.

The rain considerably held off until nearly everyone was "plumb clumb out", but then started making up for lost time. A mad scramble ensued to coil the last of the ropes and gather up packs and race for the cars.

Eight die-hards, who hate to let our pleasant Sundays end, went out to the Bucks' house in Kensington, for one of Elisabeth's special Chinese dishes. Afterwards, we enjoyed some of John's pictures of Ranier and the Canadian Rockies.

* Our Operative X has just informed us that Helen Scoredos and Dolores brought honor to their sex by climbing this face beautifully, and that Walt Kane also made it.

HERE AND THERE

We hear from the Lembecks that Art has reported for duty at Inyokern, while Win and Stove have been staying with friends in Long Beach until their house i shall be ready. They had an argument with a bear in Yellowstone. The bear neatly removed the ventilator wing from the front window of the car, scratched up the paint, and tore up the tarp covering the supercargo. Art has declared war on all black bears. They saw Bryce, Zion and the Grand Canyon on their way to California. Stevie is walking, so he will undoubtedly be climbing everything in the Sierra in short order.

Sam Brown, who is off on a business trip for a month here, there and everywhere, dropped in on Art at Inyokern recently. We hear from Art that Sam has some fine Kodachromes of the Sierra, and from Sam that Art has some good pictures of his trip. Sounds like some interesting Sunday nights ahead.

Charles Fort extends an invitation to rock climbers and spelunkers to accompany him on some cave crawling whenever they are in the Louisville area (see new address on page 6).

George Kamm is back from Alaska. He also is a prospective entertainer at a Sunday evening seance. Perhaps he and Johnny Reed can get together to give us the word on the north country.

Quote from Mugelnoss, Aug. 9: "What Goes Down Must Rappel Up"

"Sport or Suicide" in EYE magazine for August shows climbing pictures by Georgia Englehard. True to journalistic tradition, captions twice describe rappelling as ascending: - 'They use this tricky, human fly stunt, known as "ice rappel", to climb their way out,' and 'Toughest stretch of the entire climb is this ascent -- the one up the sheer rock wall...' Another technique mentioned which certainly should come in handy is this: - '... a man will do strange things. He will climb a wall of sheer rock, where every toe hold must be laboriously chipped out by hand...' "

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

Subscription: \$1.00 for 20 issues.
Send new subscriptions and renewals to:
Mrs. Richard Goldman
2262 Hall Place, N.W.
Washington 7, D.C.

UP ROPE STAFF

Editor: Peg Keister
Business Manager: Sally Goldman
Feature Writer: Art Lembeck
Reporters: Chris Scoredos, Peg Keister
Crankers and Stuffers: Jean Burnstad,
Frank Sauber, Dick and Sally
Goldman
Heading Designer: Tom Culverwell
Heading Printers: Lowell and Ellen
Bennett



New UP ROPERS and Address Changes

M. Louise (Blondie) Nouhaus - 2224 Pelham Ave.
Baltimore 13, Md.

Helen (Susie) Broome - 511 Fern Place, N.W. (12)

Gerald (Jerry) Jankowitz - National Bureau of
Standards

John and Ruth Mendenhall, 335 Sequoia Dr., Pasadena 2,
California

Joe and Margaret Walsh - 92 Lansdowne Avenue
Lansdowne, Pa.

Charles Fort - 1426 S. 3rd St., Louisville, Ky.

Harold Drewes - Box 2766, Yale Station, New Haven,
Conn.

Bill Thomas - 4615 Knox Rd., College Park, Md.

Charles Daniels - c/o Karban, 7011 Harwick Road
Washington 16, D.C.

From the YODELER (Aug. 27) we learn that "Dick Leonard has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Appalachian Mountain Club. This is an honor conferred on persons distinguished in the fields of mountaineering, exploration, and geographical science, or for public spirit in the conservation of natural resources."