



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

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### ERRATA

March 23 - Siler's Cave, near Tomahawk, W. Va. Leader: Johnny Meenehan.

NOTE: This is a one-day trip, NOT a weekend trip as previously announced. Also, the name is Siler's, not Filer's. The Editor's face is red for having so thoroughly scrambled the announcement of this trip. Guess she's still not accustomed to these new-fangled contraptions called telephones.

Meet at the Hot Shoppe Sunday morning, as usual, prepared to leave promptly at 8:30. Bring cave equipment, change of clothes and lunch.

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### COLLOSAL ENTERPRISES OUTDONE

On Sunday, March 2, Chris Scoredos prepared as usual for climbing and started out, presumably with that intention. He paused on the way out, however, to help some youngsters build a snowman. Five hours later he was still there, putting the finishing touches on perhaps the biggest and finest snowman ever seen in Washington. By Chris' own statement, the result made anything Colossal Enterprises ever turned out look mighty puny. We are reminded that this same Chris is the renowned builder of lakes and such notable achievements. In the words of the eminent Dr. Hubbard, "Perhaps there never was a time when such a small fellow got such big results with so little effort." We suspect that some effort went into the construction of the Colossus of Twelfth Street, but we also gather that all the neighborhood children were pressed into service. After hours of rolling monster snowballs, one youngster asked when this would ever end. Chris pointed to Johnny Scoredos and told the boy they could all stop when Johnny said so. Three quarters of an hour later, the boy raised a horrified face and said, "Hey, that kid can't talk yet!" Whereupon, all labor ceased as if the five o'clock whistle had blown. Perhaps we should remind Chris that there are such things as child labor laws around here.

UPS AND DOWNSFeb. 22-24. Washington's Birthday at the Goldmans' Cabin in West Virginia.

Susie Broome  
Pat Broome  
Glenn Collins

B.B. Felton  
Dick Goldman  
Sally Goldman

Sioux Hughes  
Shirley Jackson  
George Kamm

Kurt Kranz  
Johnnie Reed  
Hans Scheltema  
Merion Wormald

The announcement of this trip contained a number of suggestions for those taking advantage of the hospitality of Dick and Sally -- hiking, climbing, skiing, caving -- and nearly all of these things we did.

Friday afternoon, after all of the gang had assembled, Dick led a hike through a meadow dotted with very large, symmetrical hemlocks and massive rhododendron bushes, through a swamp, up over the hill through the woods, and back to the cabin. Sally and Susie found time to gather moss, ground pine and partridge berry for a winter garden. Meanwhile, Johnnie and Glenn took a busman's holiday for geologists and spent the afternoon inspecting gas wells in western Maryland.

Saturday turned out to be overcast, so we decided to do our climbing underground. Mystic Cave, on the property of Luke Raines at Teterton, W. Va., drew our attention. Mystic is developed along a stream in three major passageways, which form a rough T. Two upstream branches converge into a large room which boasts a waterfall. Only one upstream and the downstream passage merited our attention. A number of formations, stalagmites, stalactites, columns and rimstone pools, are present. Due to the wet nature of the cave, these are not muddy, and their actual development can be seen. There are a few bats, principally of the genus *Pipistrelle*, and in the bedrock of the cave there are fossil crinoid stems and small gastropods. The cave is not difficult, and except for a short crawl at the entrance and one steep slope at a waterfall, our climbing was confined to the scrambling, puddle-jumping variety. On emerging, the gang drove to Mouth of Seneca to cast a longing glance at Seneca Rock and to imbibe a cup of coffee.

Baker Rocks, north of Moorefield, was a saving grace. Without the stop we made there Sunday, we would undoubtedly have taken the only climbingless climbing trip in the history of the rock climbers. As it was, our climbing there was minimal. It consisted of the shortest and easiest ascent of the north pinnacle by one team composed of Sioux, George and Marion, and of a few lessons in rappelling and climbing techniques. The hike to the rocks turned out to be far more strenuous than the small amount of climbing we did.

Snow flurries on the way home brought forth laments from those who had taken the trouble to bring their skis to a snowless West Virginia. All in all, the trip was very satisfying, made pleasant by the thoughtful planning of our host and hostess.

- Marion Wormald -

Feb. 24. Prospect Rock, Virginia

Don Hubbard

The Marshall Family

Chris Scoredos

Jane Showacre

Taking advantage of the absence of those perennially opposed to Prospect Rock, Don led his unsuspecting crew to this favorite little outcrop of his on the Virginia shores of the Potomac. With two ropes tied together, everyone participated in the first climb, led by Don. Then Jane took over to lead another climb, on which the personnel changed constantly. While she started work on this, Chris was belaying Tommy on a little nearby pitch. Chris expressed interest in Jane's climb, so Wade took over the belay. Then Tommy, having completed his climb, came over to replace Alice, who had done the difficult part of the climb, but came off higher up. Having exhausted themselves and the possibilities of the area, the group left early to go home and recuperate.

March 2. Difficult Run, Virginia.

Don Hubbard      Jerry Jankowitz      Peg Keister      Jonathan Wittenberg

Another unpromising Sunday brought only a small group to the Hot Shoppe. Jim Bullard and Dr. Carleton Gajdusek joined us at breakfast but declined to join us in our later activities. Johnnie Reed showed up to keep a chairmanly eye on the group, but returned home to deal with a Journal Club assignment. The four listed above set out to hike down Difficult Run, since the chilly weather and the residual snow discouraged any real climbing. Our hiking friends would be amazed at what Don calls a hike. This consists of leaping from one slippery boulder to another down the middle, or from one side to the other, of a rushing stream, and traversing steep, slick rock walls. Guess it must have been easy, though, as we didn't rope up.

We worked our way downstream to a spot near a lovely little waterfall, where Don often takes his young climbers for practice. Don and Jonathan made a short climb in profile against the waterfall, while Jerry took notes. Then we rigged a jump for belay practice. Jerry and Don became intrigued by a possible climb in a cavelike chimney behind a rock slab over a little backwater. They worked at it awhile, but found the opening to the stream itself was too small for them to squeeze through. They tried to persuade Peg that it was just her size, but Peg had become frozen to her belay spot and was disinclined to risk a bath in that icy water.

After a chilly lunch, we decided to "hike" back to the cars and call it a day. There we met George Karm just arriving. Jerry promised to return with him later so that he would not lose out altogether on the day's exercises. The rest returned to town.

Jerry, incidentally, is back from his ski trip, full of enthusiasm for the west and sporting a rosy complexion and a peeling nose.

March 9. Sugarloaf Mountain, Md.

Susie Broome      Walt Kane      Felix Peckham      Chris Scoredos  
Donna Campbell      Peg Keister      Johnnie Reed      The Clarks  
Walter Downes      Gerry Morgan      Frank Sauber      Dick and Sally Goldman

Gray skies and freezing temperatures seem to be our fate at Sugarloaf. Snow on belay spots further complicated matters, so climbing was not as vigorous as we might have desired. Johnnie, Walt and Chris warmed up on a climb to the right of the Butterfinger. Felix led the little traverse to the left of it, and now suggests "Felix's Fears" as a name for this climb. His team was a changeable affair. Gerry, as his second man, froze at the first belay point and gave the rope over to Johnnie and climbed out. Donna, last on this rope, did the climb with more elegance than her more experienced predecessors, though this was her very first climb. Later, Walt also led this climb, Peg followed to remove pitons, and Walter Downes, arriving just after the first piton had been removed, tied in at the end and climbed the crack to the left of the traverse.

Several rappels were set up during the day, and those who got chilly standing around took turns using them to restore circulation and warm at least some areas.

A brief but fairly heavy snow flurry sent us down to the cars, just as the Clark family arrived. Better luck next time! We ate lunch in the cars, then took advantage of Susie's hospitality for the rest of the afternoon and evening. A good fire and good coffee restored us. Supper and a showing of Felix's excellent Kodachromes completed the festivities.

March 9. Carderock.

Betty Alley      Dolores Alley      Jim Bullard      Don Hubbard  
Hans Scheltema      Pat Shaw

No report as yet from these renegades. If anyone climbed the Jambox, we'll no doubt hear about it soon.



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THE EDITOR'S MAIL

We have had a letter from the Lembecks, who, strange as it may seem, have done little climbing in those fine California hills. They are in the process of moving into a new house. Win reports that Steve has learned quite a few words, but limits most of his conversation to "Car-car, bye-bye." She says it's easy to see where he gets his wanderlust, but not so clear where the Colt repeater action comes from.

Blondie Neuhaus writes from Cornell that snow conditions in New York state have been wonderful ever since she got there. We won't repeat all she says out of sympathy for skiers here who are less fortunate. She says she may see us during spring vacation, but not if there is still skiing.

Gerry Cunningham sends his latest equipment catalog, indicating "lower" prices on a number of items. If you don't rate a copy of this, you are welcome to consult mine.

We also have a copy of the Summary of Annual Mountain Climbing Reports from Areas of the National Park System, 1951, put out by the National Park Service. It mentions, under Devil's Tower, that "Highlight of the year was the first ascent of the east side of the tower." Again, anyone interested may borrow this report.

THE MOUNTAINEERS, INC., of Seattle, announce the publication of "Mountaineers Handbook", a manual compiled from years of experience accumulated by members of the Mountaineers, Inc. "Through special purchase this \$3.00 book of 160 pages with illustrations can be had at very low prices as follows, all handling expenses and postage being included:

1 - 4	--	\$1.25	each
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40 -139	---	.90	each
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If anyone is interested in this offer, the address is P.O. Box 122, Seattle 11, Washington. The Handbook Chairman is Pauline Dyer.