

NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE
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Founded by
Jan and Herb Conn

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SHADOWS OF THINGS TO COME

May 1, 1952. 8:00 P.M.. George Bell will show his pictures of the expedition into the Clemenceau region taken last summer. The meeting will be held at the home of Wade and Louise Marshall, 105 Everett St., Kensington, Md. Phone - Olympic 9066. Everett St. is best reached by driving out Connecticut Ave. beyond Chevy Chase Circle. Shortly before reaching the center of Kensington, turn left on Everett.

May 3-4. Seneca Rock - Ray Moore, leader. Ray plans to leave Friday P.M. Commissary by cars. Call Ray (Overlook 1437) for details and transportation. We will probably camp on the Armentrout property opposite the Rock. If you have been to Seneca before you won't need to be urged to go. If you haven't, you haven't lived. So everybody out!

Looking for summer vacation suggestions? Try these.

Alpine Club of Canada - Assiniboine from July 21 to Aug. 3. L.C. Wilson, Sec.
1408 Gladstone Rd., Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Appalachian Mountain Club - Wind River Range, Wyoming, main camp in Dinwoody Canyon. Herbert C. Towle, 22 West St., Reading, Mass.

Iowa Mountaineers - Aug. 8-Sept. 1 base camp Aug. 13 to 21 in North Palisades in California Sierra, followed by 3-day outing at Whitney. Return via Grand, Zion and Bryce Canyons. Complete outing \$140, base camp \$45. John Ebert, P.O. Box 163, Iowa City.

Mazamas - Mt. Adams, Aug. 10-24. Richard Quinn, Pacific Bldg., 520 S.W. Yamhill, Portland 4, Oregon.

Seattle Mountaineers - July 19 to Aug. 3 in Glacier National Park. Miss Betty Fenton, 4710 22nd N.E., Seattle 5.

Sierra Club - All trips are in Sierra of California unless indicated:

High Trip - Onion Valley to Sawmill Pass July 13-26; via Cartridge Pass to South Lake July 27-Aug. 9; via Mather Pass to Sawmill Pass Aug. 10-23.

Base Camp - in Evolution Basin at Florence Lake; 3 two-week periods beginning July 6.

Burro Trip - Three trips from the Carroll Creek area going round trip over the various passes (Cottonwood, Army, Siberian) and a fourth trip over Whitney pass and down Army Pass. Four two-week periods beginning July 6.

Knapsack Trip - Kings Canyon Natl Park from Cedar Grove to Sixty Lakes Basin and return, 2 weeks, starts July 5. An additional trip follows the Wonderland Trail around Mount Rainier, Washington, starts Aug. 3 at end of West Side

Summer Trips (cont.)

Highway, ends at Paradise, Aug. 15.

Saddle Trip - 10 days starts June 29 at Carroll Creek Pack Station near Lone Pine.

Family Burro Trip - new this year. Two 2-week burro trips for families with children. Trips start Aug. 3 and Aug. 17 from Tuolumne Meadows and will be in the area north and west of the Meadows. Trip fee provides 3 burros, each family provides own food and equipment. Age 4½ or over recommended.

Address inquiries to Outing Committee, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

(These inviting announcements come, via Art Lembeck, from the American Alpine Club News Letter and the Sierra Club Bulletin.)

CONFIDENTIALLY - the following very welcome letter from the Conns was found in our folder just this evening.

"Dear UP ROPE:

"Please send our UP ROPES to Box 218, Custer, South Dakota, as we are home again after working in Arizona thru the winter.

"Thought the rock climbers might be interested in a brief tale of our recent climbing experience in the wilds of Arizona -- as a warning that in strange country the best planned expedition may get fooled. Baboquivari Peak is visible from the hills above Tucson as a gaunt rock pyramid, dominating the southwestern skyline despite its great distance of 70 miles. It was too far to get to and climb on our scattered days off, but we did reconnoiter the automobile approaches to the peak. Also inquiries revealed that it had been climbed by mountaineer, author, Congressman Wm. O. Douglas, that ropes were needed for the ascent -- which had been written up in a recent number of ARIZONA HIGHWAYS. Research at the Public Library revealed that the issue in question must be among those off being bound.

"Equipped with this fund of information, ropes, pitons, and the usual paraphernalia, we finally found ourselves tackling the climb. From our camp at a deserted Forestry Cabin in the Papago Indian Reservation we determined that the direct approach to the peak itself, by way of a steep gully, was too arduous to be practical. An easier but more indirect way to gain elevation appeared to be by using a rather well-built trail cutting southward up the slopes. This might be an old Indian trail across the range, we speculated, and a weather-beaten sign with a missing word:

THIS TRAIL IS

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

added intrigue to the mystery. Whether our risk could be hostile Indians, snakes, or heat prostration under the Arizona sun, we could not imagine.

"At last our trail rounded a high shoulder and Babo's towering rock peak came into full view. To our amazement the trail headed straight for the peak, and furthermore a defunct telephone line now accompanied the trail. These had been highly developed Indians, far past the age of smoke signals!

"When we reached the cliffs the trail changed character. A long flight of wooden stairs, and another, and another, led straight on up. Another sign was fastened to them:

THESE STEPS ARE

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Close inspection proved the missing word to be "DANGEROUS," but the red paint used to make it stand out had long since bleached in the sun. The grunting of rotting wood as we climbed led us to agree with the signs and to commend Douglas for good judgment if this was where he used his rope. (Cont. on p. 3)

CONN letter (cont.)

"On top is a collapsing fire lookout, and a register of more recent origin containing the names of everyone in Tucson except those we had asked about the climb.

"Has any UP ROPE reader chanced to see Douglas' article? We're still looking for it.

Sincerely,"

(Signed) Jan and Herb Conn.

THE WINNER ! Friends of Arnold Wexler will be pleased but not surprised to learn that his group of Kodachromes was voted the best in the recent P.A.T.C. annual competition. Arnold claims he had packed the hall with friends, so we will claim he paid us for this publicity.

UPS AND DOWNS

April 13. Thurmont.

Dolores Alley
Barry Bishop
John Brehm
Jean Burnstad

Donna Campbell
Os Heard
Frances Heard
2 small Heards

Don Hubbard
Jerry Jankowitz
Peg Keister
Bill Kemper

Johnnie Reed
Jane Showacre
Tony Soler
Jim Willard

Drizzle, mist, fog and a cold cold wind made this a memorable day. Since this was a scheduled trip and since we expected visitors from Baltimore, we went anyway, although enthusiasm for climbing was noticeable mainly because of its absence. Most of us huddled under tarps or ponchos, watching the young enthusiasts like Don and Jerry climbing slippery cold rocks. Some folks did find a few chimneys dry enough to climb, or to hide out in with their lunches. Agitation for an early departure was frowned upon by the old maestro, but he finally compromised, and said he would agree to leave if Jean, Peg and Johnny would agree to climb the overhanging pinnacle and rappel off. In the hope of reaching shelter, warmth and food they did it, then high-tailed for Frederick and supper.

We were pleased to have with us on this trip Barry Bishop, who accompanied Brad Washburn on the climb by a new western route of Mt. McKinley last summer. Barry was here from Cincinnati to speak at an MCM meeting on April 15. Seven of us went to Baltimore to hear him give a very entertaining account of the trip and to see his excellent slides.

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Let's see some new names here soon.

UPS AND DOWNS (cont.)

April 20, 1952. Echo Cliffs and the Pot Holes, Va. side of Potomac Gorge.

Joan Ascher	David King	Tommy Marshall	Chris Scoredos
John Brehm	Dot King	Wade Marshall	Eric Scoredos
Walter Downes	Jack King	Felix Peckham	Helen Scoredos
Don Hubbard	Sterling King	John Reed	Johnnie Scoredos
Peg Keister	Alice Marshall	Frank Sauber	Bob Stevens
Ken King			Jonathan Wittenberg
			Barbara Yenzner

This was a day that tried to make up for preceding wet and dismal Sundays. The fine clear hot weather brought out a large and - mostly - lively group. Johnnie Reed lost no time in realizing his ambition to lead Donalds Ducks, with Arnold prepared to fish him from the river, and Joan following to remove pitons. Other members of the group, particularly the family groups, had moved down immediately to the Pot Holes. They were a bit startled to see Johnnie's famous red hat floating down the river on the strong current, but no sign of Johnnie following it appeared. Another team also made the Ducks, but your editor was sun-bathing and guarding valuables and missed out on the details.

Don's contingent at the Pot Holes made various traverses above the water and enjoyed one of Don's famous aerial traverses.

The first "Ducks" finally returned to their starting place - aw, shucks, they were still dry - and Johnnie joined some of the eager beavers who were trying to climb Socrates' Downfall from the bottom. Johnnie gave a fine demonstration of how to do the lower portion and would have made the entire climb, had not his trick knee taken that moment to act up. This gave us a chance to do some mild rescue work.

The day was finished up by a couple of successful climbs of the FourYearOld Climb, and several unsuccessful attempts on the adjacent cracked face. Some one should be able to think up a good name for this climb now, since Helen left a sneaker in it, and Chris complained that it pinched his bunion.

April 19-20. Jerry Jankowitz, George Kamm, Gerry Morgan and Walt Kane spent the weekend in the neighborhood of Seneca Rock. They explored Schoolhouse on Saturday and climbed on the south peak of Seneca on Sunday.

April 26-27. Old Rag Washout.

We think Paul Bratt, Hans Scheltema and a friend of the latter actually went to Old Rag (by rubber boat?) and we hope they got back. We haven't confirmed yet. Everyone else got discouraged - or got sense - and spent a relaxed weekend in the vicinity of Washington. We hope to have an eye-witness account of the mountain swimming party in the next issue.

PLEASE NOTE: Some of us have recently observed signs of irritation - justified, we think - on the part of some of the Hot Shoppe employees when they fall over packs and ropes or find their way blocked by groups of climbers standing around in the aisle. We strongly suggest that those would do not intend to eat in the Hot Shoppe wait outside, particularly now when the weather is mild or warm. The Hot Shoppe has been tolerant and cooperative for a long time. Let's try to keep their good will.