



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

1916 Sunderland Place N. W. Washington 6, D. C.

FOUNDED BY  
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COMING EVENTS

Gala New Years Eve Party at the Hermitage, Wednesday evening through Sunday, Dec. 31 to Jan. 4, if you want to stay that long. Anyone interested contact Johnnie Read, 6637 Barnaby Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., (WOODLY 6-4268). Group commissary provided by Johnnie, so let him know no later than Tuesday night, Dec. 30, if you plan to come. Unannounced skiers without snow can expect to eat their own grub or go hungry.

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UPS AND DOWNS

15, 16, November Minor Rexrode and Simmons' Mingo Caves

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jerry Jankowitz | Tony Soler  |
| Bob Lutz        | Bill Wright |
| Ray Moore       | Bill Youden |
| Gerry Morgan    |             |

On a previous trip (Sheets Cave, etc., July 4), Bill Youden noted a promising lead in Minor Rexrode Cave, just south of Franklin, W. Va., and pestered the rest of us until we finally broke down and planned a return trip. Just to make life interesting, Bob Lutz suggested a side trip to Simmon's Mingo, about 15 miles south of Elkins. Most of the group went out from Washington Friday evening and sacked out in Bob's place in Elkins, but Jerry, who tends towards the sadistic side, wanted to leave at midnight and meet the others in Elkins. Jerry, Bill Youden, and Gerry therefore stifled their yawns, and left Washington early Saturday morning. Bill and Gerry drove, through a blinding rainstorm, while Jerry slept in the rear.

After a rendezvous at an Elkins restaurant for breakfast, the group headed for Simmon's Mingo, on the way to which Bob's car demonstrated a remarkable ability to wallow through very muddy cow pastures. The cave proved to be quite extensive, having two main passages, and also proved to be rather hazzardous because of the enormous amount of loose, fresh breakdown. The lower passage is supposed to penetrate through the entire 600 foot thickness of the Greenbrier limestone, and is reached via a 50' to 75' vertical dropoff composed of loosely piled rock. (Don't ask me how loosely piled rock can make up a vertical face.) Because of the danger of a rockslide on this face, Ray, Bob and Gerry decided to forego the lower passage, but Tony, the Bills, and Jerry went on down. They followed the passage until stopped by a deep water-filled well, roughly 30 feet across. The return trip was made without incident.

(Continued...)