



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

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FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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Future Trips

June 20 - Sugarloaf Mountain, Md. Leave the Hot Shoppe at the usual time.*

July 3,4,5 - John Christian will lead a trip to West Virginia, camping at Armentrout's, climbing on Seneca and an exploratory trip on the mountain near the north end of the South Fork Valley.

Until further notice, climbing trips will start every Sunday from the Hot Shoppe, destination to be determined at the Hot Shoppe on Sunday mornings. A note will be left behind the drain pipe whenever we remember, advising of the day's climbing spot. When UP ROPE resumes publication later on this summer, we will again schedule our Sunday climbs in advance.

The ANNUAL PATC PICNIC will be held on June 26 at PATC's camp site at Woverton. It has been suggested that some of the climbers might like to make a weekend of it, camping at the Woverton site, and climbing at Loudoun Cliffs on Sunday. Details of the picnic will be in the forthcoming Forecast.

Unless someone would like to volunteer for literary work during the summer, UP ROPE will suspend operations until late August or early September. Our editor, Johnnie Reed, is off on June 24 for McKinley Park, where he will geologize for six or seven weeks by helicopter and on crampons. Business manager Peg Keister leaves about the same time for three weeks with the Lembocks in California. She will try hard to deliver all messages faithfully. Frank Sauber, John Christian, Joel Gross and Chuck Wettling are heading for the Totons in July, with sidoglances at Devil's Tower as a possible climax. The Hendricks-Karcher-Showacre team will again make climbing history in British Columbia. Oh boy, how the UP ROPE material should roll in in the fall!

* As we go to press we learn that through some foul-up the group went to Sugarloaf on June 13, a week early. Also, by the time this reaches you, gentle reader, June 20th will have come and gone. Therefore, in one word, tohellwithit.

UPS AND DOWNSOld Rag - May 8-9 - by Ellen Davis

We had an exciting weekend at Old Rag Mountain off the Skyline Drive. Didn't get started until Saturday morning but were glad we didn't, since it rained like mad Friday. There were five of us in the car, and we had a pleasant drive down, but were late arriving. Ted Schad had made arrangements to meet us at the fire road near Syria at 10:00 A.M., since Johnnie Reed had a key and could drive up the fire road to the lean-to carrying all camping equipment. Well, this turned out to be a comedy of errors, as we were almost two hours late, so Louise Marshall met Ted and his party and brought them up to camp. After we pitched tents and set up camp -- (27 of us spread out over the area from the lean-to down the hill to the road intersection) we started up the trail in small groups. Johnnie, Peg and I decided -- (that is, Johnnie decided, and Peg and I tagged along) -- to leave the trail and climb a ridge of rocks which comes out under the fire tower. It was not an entirely successful venture, since we never reached the "topt", but it proved to be a most interesting combination of scrambling, bushwhacking, crawlways and chimneys, and J. Reed descended the trail feeling quite satisfied with the afternoon's torture. (Peg and I were ready for bed long before we got there.) A song fest had been scheduled for the evening, but daylight, dawning time and enthusiastic climbers pushed the day well into the evening, so suppers were still in progress when I left the company.

Sunday morning I was up at 6:30, but managed to get the rest of my crowd out only after breakfast was prepared and they had all had coffee in bed. We broke camp, packed the car, and arrived at the lean-to about 9:45 to find the "early" risers still at breakfast. Peg and Johnnie started slowly up the trail, and by the time I caught up with them had discovered a large barred owl, who we enjoyed watching and pointed out to Arnold and Thoa when they came along. A number of other birds were observed along the trail, and we stopped for a closer look at plants and rocks, with Johnnie doing a little geologizing. The trillium was in full bloom and we had seen large patches of them Saturday along the Drive, so I was anxious to get a closer look. There were lots of azaleas in various stages of bloom as we ascended, and we were pleased to note that the dogwood was still in evidence in the valley and on the surrounding mountains. There were large fleecy clouds which cast purple shadows on the range and enhanced the delicate coloring of the spring foliage. The clouds gradually closed in, and we were threatened with rain and cold wind. Johnnie, Peg and I were detached from the rest of the group but could see many of them climbing on the cliffs across the way and enjoyed watching them make difficult ascents. Johnnie insisted that I follow him on a "little" climb - WOW! (a "first ascent" which turned out to have expansion bolt holes and pitons conveniently placed). I made it, but the rains came, and we made a quick descent to seek the shelter of a little cave, where we three built a fire and sat out the shower. In view of the inclement weather, we all decide to descend the mountain but were forced to seek shelter again in a larger cave, where we built another fire and sat out a hail storm -- the ice was falling so thick it piled up like snow drifts in each crack and crevice of the rock and bounced off the sides like machine gun pellets. Most of the crowd gathered here and enjoyed the fire and discussions of the day's activities. After the hail we made a hasty descent of Old Rag and headed for Warrenton and steak dinners at the Coffee Shop.

Carderock - May 16

Arnold Wexler
Thoa Welch
Chris, Helen, Eric, Johnny
and Jane Scoredos
Ray, Susie, Pat, Mike
and one Moore
Ike, Mike and Dave
Nicholson
Jimmy Shipley
Bob Struble

Bob Stevens
Bill Komper
Joan Schreiber
Jane Showacre
Moir Armstrong
Joannette Fitzwilliams
John Reed
Ellen Davis
Peg Keister
Ted Schad
John Moonchan

Joel Gross
Pin and Ken Karcher
Gerry Morgan
Marion Harvey
Wade, Louise, Tommy
and Alice Marshall
Julia?
Jim Willard
Donna Willmann
Dolores and Betty
Alley and friend

This sunny Sunday in mid May found the rocks at Carderock swarming with climbers. After Arnold pronounced the Spiderwalk too damp, Dave climbed it no less than four times, and then went on to climb the Jackknife and several other classified climbs. A group worked out on the Easter Egg Climbs. Ray & Co. floated down the river to Brookmont on a life raft. Jane led an all girl team on the ChrisWexDon. In fact, there was a continuous procession of climbers swarming over all the climbs, so your reporter was completely unable to keep up with the day's activities.

-T.S.-

Wolf Rock, Thurmont - May 23, 1954

Ed Worrell Leo Lowinger
Chuck Wotling Bill Komper
Bill Welsh Pin Karcher
Joan Schreiber Ken Karcher
Ted Schad Bob Hinshaw
John Moonchan

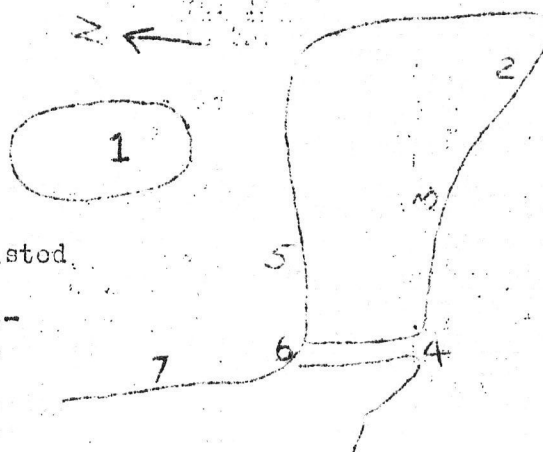
A large part of the day's efforts consisted of trying to name several climbs at the insistence of your reporter. The above map attempts to show their location with reference to the North Pinnacle (1).

Ed Worrell made the first assault on the climb of the day, the north-east side of the North Pinnacle. After his success, which, in the tradition of Charlie's Crack, he later repeated, Ken and Ted climbed the other side. Meanwhile, John discovered Moonchan's Fly-Paper (2), named for its non-sticky properties, climbed it, and was followed in various degrees of profanity by Ken, Ted and Bill K. Not content with this, John then found a chimney which began with a serious "psychological" hazard, namely stepping off into thin air. John, Ted, Ed and Chuck climbed it with several variations, and Pin salvaged the Karcher honor by also climbing the Konkant (4), as it was later named.

There is now a Beginner's Climb (3) at Wolf Rock. It earned its name by being climbed not only by Bob, Pin, Ted, and Jean, but also twice by Leo. Ed, after lunch and the departure of most of the party, found a face (5), climbed it, and named it Ed's Bed for its conduciveness to sleep. Chuck, Bob and Bill K. also slept there. Less, not feeling sleepy, went up the corner chimney (6) instead.

The Non-Logit (7) still remains to be climbed legitimately because none of its climbers (Ed, Chuck, Bob and Bill K.) started at the bottom. Ted and Jean went thru Moonchan's Cul de Sac (UP ROPE, Vol. X, No. 20) successfully, but, alas, the next victim dislodged a rock which now effectively closes the crevice off.

Chuck wins the Day's persistence medal for climbing the northeast face of the North Pinnacle late in the afternoon, after repeated attempts. Bob also made the traverse from NE to NW side while trying the climb. Joan ended the day by climbing the Wolf's Head Rock.



-LLL-

1953 Park Service Summary of Mountain Climbing

We have just received the "Summary of Mountain Climbing Reports from areas administered by the National Park Service" for 1953. Interest in mountaineering has increased considerably and the problem of climbing safety is one of the chief concerns of the Park Service in areas where mountaineering is popular.

Three fatalities were reported as against four in 1952. Non-fatal accidents were reported on the increase. Most of these resulted from inexperience and lack of proper equipment.

Big Bend National Park reported one non-fatal fall suffered by a hiker who left the established trail.

Grand Teton National Park - 573 registered climbers, 421 parties and 1256 individuals made ascents of major peaks. The main climbing season extended from June 16 to October 6. A winter ascent of Middle Teton was made on February 3. Three climbing accidents occurred, but no fatalities. Norma Hart fell 35 feet while rappelling off the Grand Teton and broke her back in two places. One man fell and slid down a snow slope on Teewinot, suffering a fractured skull, but was able to descend without a rescue party. Two hikers slid 300 feet down a snow slope in descending from above Holly Lake on the Faintbrush Divide trail, but were not seriously hurt. Park personnel aided climbers on two other occasions, once in the case of an unauthorized solo climber, once to assist a party stranded on Disappointment Peak after loss of their rope.

Lassen Volcanic National Park - Lassen Peak was climbed by 6,750 visitors. It does not require mountaineering technique.

Mount McKinley National Park - Mt. Mc Kinley was climbed by one party on July 12. Another party of four men and one woman turned back at 14,600 feet after two members suffered frostbitten feet.

Mount Rainier National Park - 299 climbers reached the summit. 132 were not successful. Two climbers fell into crevasses, but were retrieved unharmed. One of these was the last man in a party of 22---life's darkest moment!

Olympic National Park - 110 persons registered at the summit of Mt. Olympus. No accidents were reported.

Rocky Mountain National Park - 1,856 people climbed Longs Peak, 111 via the East Face. Two fatalities occurred among a group of nine girls climbing the Little Matterhorn. One fatal fall was followed by another which befell a member of the group descending for help. Both the girls were unroped when they fell and neither had had any mountaineering experience. Several non-fatal accidents, mostly to hikers who strayed on to snowfields or steep rock were reported.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks - Some climbing activities by Sierra club members and one near accident resulting from the use of old pitons were reported.

Yosemite National Park - Registration totaled 756 individuals in 242 separate groups, mostly from the Sierra Club and the Stanford Alpine Club. One hiker was killed in a fall after leaving an established trail and several others became stranded on steep rock and had to be rescued.

Zion National Park - The Great White Throne was climbed by a party of three on June 8. In nearby Zion National Monument Fred Ayers and A.E. Creswell made the first climb of the large natural bridge on August 13.

Devils Tower National Monument - The Tower was climbed by eight parties totaling 26 climbers (actually 25 climbers and 1 Up Rope reporter) all via the Durrance Route. One unauthorized solo climber suffered a broken leg in a fall from some of the lower columns.

We note from the foregoing accounts that no actual mountaineering fatalities occurred in the Parks. The impetuous hiker seems to be in far greater danger than the serious mountaineer.

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The June, 1954, assue of Appalachia (which can be borrowed at PATC headquarters) contains several articles of interest. Bradford Washburn has an article on a proposed route on the south buttress of Mt. McKinley; Bill Putnam has an article on "Peaks and Routes of the North Selkirk Range." There is also a short account of the rock climbing safety conference at New Haven in 1953 which was attended by several Mountaineering Committee members.

A review of a recent book by Phil D. Smith, Knots for Mountaineering, indicates that the book would bear looking into.

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We have received (or hope to in the near future) accounts of several spectacular and hitherto undescribed routes on Seneca. We are planning to collect them all in one issue to be published first thing this fall, so if there are any other Seneca routes which haven't been written up, your editor would certainly like to have them.

Technical-minded UP ROPE readers should refer to the May, 1954, issue of the Social Climber (Pittsburgh Climbers) for a learned paper by J. Winne entitled Grimm's Coefficient, which describes an old but long unuded climbing technique.

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And speaking of knots, Jim Willard and Donna Willmann were recently married. Also, on June 12, Joan Aschor and Phil Cardon tied a knot in New York. Their new address: 1730 Crestwood Drive, N.W.

On June 9, Jimmy Bullard was graduated from Sidwell Friends' High School.

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