



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

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### SPECIAL SENECA ISSUE

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#### THE CLASSICS ON SENECA

by John C. Reed

More than fifteen years have elapsed since Paul Bradt, Don Hubbard and Sam Moore first reached the South Peak of Seneca Rocks. On the highest part of the peak they found the inscription "D.B. Sept. 16, 1908". Who "D.B." was, or how he reached the peak they never learned, but there were reports of at least five men having reached the peak prior to their ascent. Mr. Harper, (who runs the store at Mouth of Seneca) told Paul that he had climbed what we now call the Old Ladies Route as far as the crest of the ridge, but whether or not he ever reached the top is uncertain. Since 1939 hundreds of names have been entered in the register in the cairn that Paul, Don and Sam left on the peak, and dozens of routes have been pioneered. Many of these routes are so short or so easy that they hardly deserve mention. Most of the more spectacular ones have been previously described in Up Rope, but recently several new ones have been climbed which seem to me to be particularly worthy of mention, and this is as good an opportunity as any to summarize briefly what might be called the classics on Seneca. Some of these routes (e.g., the climb from the Gunsight Notch to the South Peak, the climb of the Gendarme, the Cockscomb) may not be considered outstanding climbs today, but when they were first climbed they truly deserved to be ranked with the classics.

#### I. The Skyline Traverse (1) (2)

The Chimneys on the south end were first descended by Sam Moore, Don Hubbard, and Paul Bradt in the Spring of 1939.

The climb over the Old Man and the Cockscomb (via the Overhang) to the South Peak was first done by the same party over Easter, 1939. Who pioneered the detour of the Cockscomb Overhang via the Pine Tree route we don't know.

The climb from the Gunsight to the South Peak via the crack on the west face was pioneered by Paul, Sam, and Don in July, 1939.

The Gunsight Gendarme was climbed by the same group in July, 1939. Paul, seconded by Bill Kemper, climbed it on Labor Day, 1939, without throwing a rope over the top.