



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

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

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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UP ROPE

February 27, 1955

COMING EVENTS

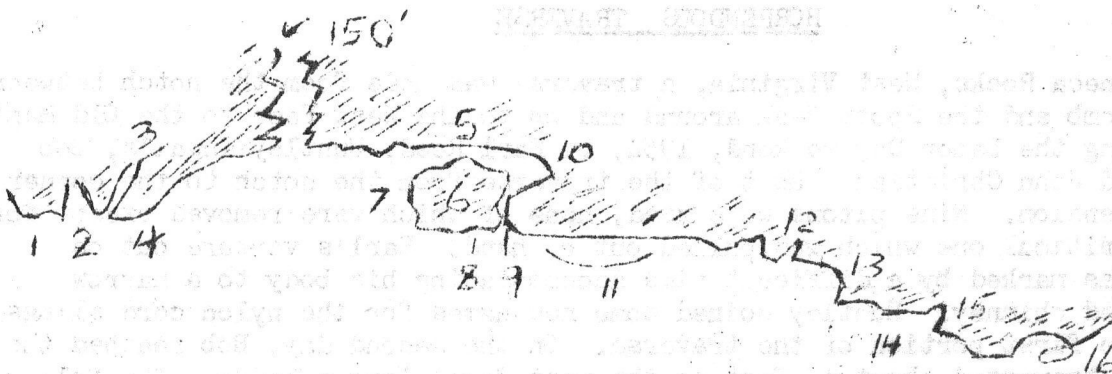
12-13 March Hermitage Shelter, Peg Keister, Leader. Details below.

20 March Great Falls, Virginia (Juliet's Balcony Area)

27 March Sugarloaf Mountain

DETAILS FOR HERMITAGE TRIP

Make reservations for Saturday supper and Sunday breakfast by March 10th with Peg Keister (OL 4-2078). Bring your own lunches. If stuck for transportation or directions, call Peg.



LOCATION OF CLIMBS AT SCHAFER ROCKS. (HERMITAGE)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Beginner's Pinnacles | 6. Monument Rock | 11. "Unclimbable" Face |
| 2. Gully | 7. Swiss Guide | 12. Chamney & Chockstone |
| 3. Lowell's Lead | 8. Mezzanine | 13. Hermitage Overhang |
| 4. Unnamed Overhang | 9. Hermitage Chimney | 14. Unfinished Symphony |
| 5. Hubbard's Beginner Exercises | 10. Gully | 15. Easy Exposure |
| | | 16. Leaning Block, 20' high |

(Reprint from "Up Rope" Vol. VIII, Nos. 6 & 7

FOUND

At Herzog Island: a poplin jacket. Call Ed Worrell, Arbutus 882.

Above the Pinnacle at the Rocks, Md.: a woman's grey wool 'Zephyr' sweater. Call Elondie Neuhaus, TU 9-0283.

Jeanne and Joel Cross send their best wishes to everyone. Their address is: 250 Cabrini Boulevard, New York 33, N.Y. Telephone: WA 3-8192.

OMISSION

Credit for some of the illustrations in J. Reed's article on Seneca Rocks in the forthcoming P.A.T.C. Bulletin is due John I. Williams (whom we forgot to mention last issue).

HELEN BAKER

A letter was received from Helen Baker with comments on the Netherlands, a portion of which appears below. The letter will be in the Up Rope file for those who may wish to read it. Her address is: Milletstraat 19, Amsterdam Z, Netherlands.

".....No rocks, here, unfortunately--you can hardly even find a pebble. They tell me there are cliffs in Belgium--and I have found--lo and behold--a tribe of climbers who go to Belgium--about as we go to Bull Run, and to Switzerland every summer. However, I haven't been on any of their trips. Last week I had my first airplane ride. I had met a Dutchman who is instructor for glider pilots, so this was a glider ride--sure felt funny and with no belay....."

HORRENDOUS TRAVERSE

At Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, a traverse was made from the notch between the Cockscomb and the South Peak around and on to the West Face to the Old Man's Route during the Labor Day weekend, 1954, by Earl Reed, Huntley Ingalls, Bob Hinshaw and John Christian. Most of the traverse from the notch to the corner required tension. Nine pitons were used, none of which were removed except for the most critical one which was pulled out by hand. Earl's venture out on the face was marked by a difficult time accommodating his body to a narrow wedge-shaped chimney. Huntley coined some new names for the nylon cord slings used on the first portion of the traverse. On the second day, Bob reached the corner and traversed about 15 feet on the west face along a ledge. The following day, John led out to the corner, belayed Bob over, and then traversed about 50 feet on an ever narrowing ledge to the wide ledges on the Old Man's Route. Six pitons were used on this last pitch.

J.C.

UPS AND DOWNSJan. 16, 1955 - Carderock

Moira Armstrong	Peg Keister	Mike Nicholson	Ted Schad
Chick Beard	George Magee	Dave Nicholson	Jimmy Shipley
Marion Harvey	Tommy Marshall	John Reed	Bill Welsh
Jim Hawkins	John Meenehan	Chris Scoredos	Chuck Wettling
Erich Heinemann	Blondie Neuhas	Bill Shockley	Ed Worrell
Robb Heinemann	Ike Nicholson	Bob Stevens	
Huntley Ingalls			

A cold morning found the customary group of eager climbers clamoring to get closer to the fire at Carderock. As the day warmed up, there was considerable activity on the rocks as well, so much that your recorder was unable to keep track of all the climbs made.

T.S.

Jan. 23, 1955 - Camp Lewis, Maryland

Steve Anderson	Susan Feder (dog)	Mark Post	Thea Welsh
Moira Armstrong	Erich Heinemann	John Reed	Arnold Wexler
Chick Beard	Robb Heinemann	Chris Scoredos	Jack Wilson
Mike Brady	Peg Keister	Johnny Scoredos	Laury Wilson
John Christian	Tommy Marshall	Jane Showacre	Patty Wilson
Joan Crosby	John Meenehan	Romney Vildzins	Ed Worrell
Don Feder	Blondie Neuhas	Bill Welsh	6 Explorer Scouts
Joan Feder	Lewis Post		

Camp Lewis, or Poison Ivy Cliffs, is a place visited by rock-climbers when the ivy is too cold to be a threat. Warmed by a two-mile stroll and desiring to stay that way, the unhampered one scampered up rock faces and suffered only occasional numbness. John C., Tommy, Jane, Joan, and Arnold inched over a formidable bulge called the Forward Dome. Another short climb, the Lifted Eyebrow, submitted to Chris (who left his eyebrow), Arnold, Tommy, Joan, and Romney. Meanwhile, those of us who were slowly turning blue built a fire and watched the explorer scouts conduct operation icebreaker on the partially frozen Potomac. Easily the most spectacular climb of the day was Tommy's romp up the East Face, done on the first attempt. Although other climbers have completed it, this is the first time it has yielded on the first attempt. Just to show how much one can do on two coffee rolls, Tommy also climbed the Little Horror. In the late afternoon, the tired and cold ones joined Moira in front of her fireplace and chawed on steak à la Wexler.

T.W.

Jan. 29-30, 1955 - Laurel Mountain, Pa.

John Christian	Suzy Moore	Gale Remington
Arthur Delefont	Ann Remington	Jane Showacre
Marion Harvey	Bruce Remington	Tony Soler
Ray Moore		

It is acknowledged, unofficially, that another sport called skiing exists and that it may be of some value in supplementing rock climbing during the cold winter months.

J.C.

Jan. 30, 1955 - Operation Ice Cube, Carderock, Maryland

Dolores Alley	Huntley Ingalls	Kathleen Meenehan	Bob Stevens
Steve Anderson	Shirley Jackson	Blondie Neukaus	Bill Welsh
Bill Calary	Peg Keister	Pete Peterson	Chuck Wettling
Don Feder	Millard Maienthal	Eari Reed	Eddie Willmann
June Feder	June Maienthal	Johnnie Reed	Jack Wilson
Jim Hawkins	Tommy Marshall	Frank Sauber	Lorraine Wilson
Erich Heinemann	Abbie Meenehan	Chris Scoredos	A smaller Wilson
Robb Heinemann	John Meenehan	Bob Spindler	Ed Worrell

In spite of the deplorable fact that both our chairman and our editor were off indulging in that foolhardy pastime--skiing, and in spite of the further calamity that Don Hubbard, who breakfasted at the Hot Shoppe, refused either to lead an ice climbing trip or to go rock climbing, a few hardy souls set out to brave the cold. Those listed above are the ones who had put in an appearance by the time the author left in the early afternoon.

These individuals fell into four categories, according to their talents and/or inclinations: 1) rock climbers; 2) skaters; 3) rock climbers and skaters; and 4) sissies, who spent the day admiring a fine fire. The first order of the day was to warm up those beginners who do not yet have the temerity to refuse to climb because of the weather. Peg and Blondie took over the coaching and belaying of this group on the Beginner's Crack, Ronnie's Leap and the Barnacle Face. Methods of removing the snow from holds varied. Some blew it off, some fanned it with a glove when a hand could be freed, and some preferred to wipe it off during a hurried descent. By lunch time, nearly everyone was gathered around the fire, thawing fingers and toes, but the real enthusiasts, among them Huntley and Bill Calary, were working on Sterling's Crack. Success?

Erich Heinemann demonstrated that the Spider Walk can be done with snow on it, if you first have your wife remove the snow for you. Johnnie Reed demonstrated that the official route on Jan's Face is unlikely to go in boots and snow. He took pity on his belayer sitting in the snow at the top and came up the easier route to the right.

At this point, the author's desire for coffee overcame her sense of duty, so if anyone else arrived or anyone made a really important ascent, we promise to put out a special bulletin to cover our omissions.

M.L.K.

Feb. 6, 1955 - Great Falls, Maryland

Moirra Armstrong	June Maienthal	Tommy Marshall	Chris Scoredos
John Christian	Millard Maienthal	Ted Schad	Chuck Wettling

Snow on the rocks, ice on the roads, and sleet everywhere else. Clearly a day for not climbing, so the Editor and the rest of the lunatic fringe went to Great Falls, Maryland. As John said, "The tourists won't be there today." The tourists weren't. And soon Ted Schad wasn't (he left muttering about the weather being better during his administration; others commented you couldn't expect good weather with a chairman who spent her Sundays skiing). Nor was Millard (he went to read his New York Times in the museum). Chris didn't mind the weather, but he did most justifiably object to snowballs in the eye. The hard core, John, Chuck, and Tommy, climbed a layback, and the soft core walked up a staircase. They all wanted to stay out longer but Up Rope had to be got out so they tore themselves away and drove back to spaghetti and coffee with the Maienthals.

M.E.A.

Feb. 12-13, 1955 - Laurel Mountain, Pennsylvania

Moira Armstrong John Christian Marian Sayres Elizabeth Thomas

The experts said the skiing was very good. On Sunday Moira had a sprained ankle. On Monday Marian had a stiff back. And on Tuesday John fell off a one foot high lumber pile in the office and sprained his ankle.

J.C.

On the subject of mountaineering.....

"The fetish of the 'first ascent' has as little value in mountaineering as in personal relations. If it were applicable, we should lose all interest in widows, divorcees, married women, and.....the majority of spinsters. The attraction of a mountain as of a woman is inherent." *

Sequel to the Recent Reprint of Herb Conn's "First Ascent of El Capitan"

Shortly after republishing Herb's article on El Capitan, we received the following paragraph of a letter from Will Siri of the Sierra Club:

"I was thoroughly delighted and greatly amused with Herb Conn's story 'The First Ascent of El Cap.' in Up Rope. We did not have quite so much 'hardware' and it took us only 3 days and 2 nights, but it was a good climb. Also we did not climb the steepest and smoothest part--there were one or two cracks where we did it. The party consisted of Mr. Long, Allen Steck, William Unsoeld, and me. I've forgotten the date except that it was, I believe, May 1953. It was reported in the Canadian Alpine J. 1953 or 1954."

HOCKER'S TETON TRIP

Craig Merrihue, Pete Ludwig, and I left Schenectady in Craig's hearse on the 26th of August, 1954. We made fairly good time until reaching mid-Nebraska, where the engine froze up and refused to go any farther. After much deliberation we sold the whole thing for seven dollars. There is really not much market for Packard hearses in Sheldon, Nebraska. After a week of free transportation, we arrived in the park, where met met the fourth of our party, Pete Luster, who had been in the Purcells.

We intended that night to put our camp in Garnet Canyon, but in the dark missed the cutoff and wound up at Amphitheater Lake instead. The next day we moved to the campground platform low in Garnet Canyon. From there we climbed the Middle Teton from the north, the Grand Teton by the Exum route, Teepee's Pillar, the dike route on the middle Teton, and the Red Sentinel. We made one unsuccessful attempt at the north face of Nez Perce. Everything went pretty much as anticipated except perhaps the descent of the Grand. It was there that we discovered that our rappel rope was of sub-standard length. Fortunately, the first man on the rappel had asked for a belay.

* J.Federico Fino, "Notes on the Psychology of Mountaineering", Appalachian, Vol. XV, Dec. 1949, #12, p.425.

HOOKER'S TETON TRIP (continued)

We had hoped to do both the Red Sentinel and the West Face of Disappointment Peak the same day. However, by the time we got to the top of the Sentinel, bad weather was threatening so we went down to Jenny Lake. We found the Red Sentinel quite challenging even though only two leads long. Ours was the third ascent of this pinnacle.

We loafed one day, and then did Symmetry Spire, two by the southwest ridge, and two by the Purrance route. By way of exploration, Craig and I descended by way of Hanging Canyon, the valley just north of Symmetry. The two upper lakes are very beautiful and since there was plenty of firewood, we decided to come back later.

Craig and I did Mt. Moran the next day, going outside the East Horn on the way up, and outside the West Horn on the way down. We were quite tired after that, since Moran is sometimes rated as a two-day climb.

The next afternoon the four of us packed up to Hanging Canyon and camped by Ramshad Lake. From there two of us did Rock of Ages, a thing with impressively vertical sides, while the other two did Mt. St. John. The only problem of St. John was finding it among the other peaks making up the ridge of the "St. John Group."

By that time our food was getting low. We gorged ourselves on what was left and then went down to Jenny Lake and did the same thing again. For the trip back we split up into twos to hitchhike but met again in Nebraska. Our timing was a bit close, for we reached school an hour and a half before the fall term registration deadline.

Bill Hooker

Kay and Ted Schad present a new member, as yet unnamed. On February 21st they had a baby girl, weight 7 pounds 14 ounces, at the George Washington Hospital. Ted is very proud and Kay is doing well.

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Editor: John F. Christian.

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LATE NEWS FLASH

The baby's name is Mary Jane!! Congratulations to Kay and Ted and Welcome to the new baby!!

Notes found in tree trunks.

Gerry Morgan writes that he find his new job most interesting and that the skiing at Cannon Mt. in New Hampshire is terrific. No climbing as yet but he plans to ski every week-end, money permitting. Write Gerry at 181 A South Marshall St. Hartford, Conn.

Mary Jane/W.W.

Many thanks to big UP ROPE crew. J.C.