



Pat Conn

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

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

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

PRICE
5 CENTS PER COPY

Vol. XII, No. 1

November 20, 1955

COMING EVENTS

- 27 November - Great Falls, Md. (Peg's Progress area)
- 29 November - MEETING at the Marshall's, 4209 Everett St., Kensington, Md., at 8 PM. The Worrells will show slides of their Wind Rivers trip, and Jim Hawkins will show slides of his summer in Greenland above Thule. Directions: Drive out Wisconsin Avenue, turn right at first traffic light past Naval Hospital, 1 mi., right on Everett St., OR, drive out Connecticut Ave., and turn left on Everett St. (about 2 miles north of East-West Highway).
- 4 December - Carderock, Md. Belay practice with Oscar. Novices should be sure to come out - there will be a lot of fun.
- 11 December - Camp Lewis, Md.

* * * * *

WHEN IN ROME

Everyone has heard the saying, "When in Rome do as Romans do." The same thought also applies on a climbing club outing. Local experience - whether it be the "hard knocks method" or through controlled tests - and local conditions, i.e., the nature of the climbing areas, the type of people (intellectual officeworkers or muscular blacksmiths), have all determined certain climbing rules for a club. It is for the safety of all that these climbing rules be followed regardless of how unnecessary or foolish, or even how unsafe, they may seem to any one climber.

Our "one climber" may be a "giant" - capable of holding three men on a three-hundred foot fall with a standing static belay in the Slobovia Mountains (rather unusual person and rope, I must admit). But in another club's climbing area he is an undeterminable quantity. He may still appear to be a giant - but one who is standing on a wobbly chockstone!

It is for these reasons that our "giant" should adhere to the climbing rules on a club outing, and should he desire to instruct any cute little novices it should be in the techniques of the Romans and not in his own gigantic techniques.

The value of, or the logic behind certain rules can always be questioned, but the questions should be brought to the club officers. In return, the club officers have not discharged their responsibility until they have conclusively proven to our "giant" the correctness of the rules they climb by.