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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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COMING EVENTS

- 18 December - Prospect Rock, Va.
- 25 December - Stay home and play with the kids.
- 31 December - 2 January - Hermitage Cabin, Pa. New Years Eve Party.
Bring climbing gear and/or skis plus whatever else one might need.
- 8 January - Carderock, Md. Belay practice with "Oscar".

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AT CHRISTMASTIDE....

"And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying, Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men."

St. Luke 2-13-14

We might look back upon our year and reflect Have we had "good will toward men"? Have we acted in the highest -- curbing our own desires to the benefit of our climbing partners? If not, let us try--for there is coming another year and another summer and another expedition.

The Mountaineering Committee wishes all a happy Christmastime and a New Year of First Ascents.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jane Showacre, Chairman, has appointed Chris Scoredos and Ted Schad as the Nominating Committee for next year's Mountaineering Committee officers.

Give your suggestions for nominees to Chris or Ted.

ARMY AIR MATTRESSES

Repaired "new defective" or repaired used Army tapered air mattresses are available for \$8 and \$6, respectively. Send your order, with payment, by December 18, to;

Bob Schnauss, Apt. 304
1420 Abingdon Dr.
Alexandria, Va.

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ACCIDENTS IN AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING

This eighth annual report of the Safety Committee of the American Alpine Club might well be required reading for all mountaineers, and from which the following are excerpts.

"...it became apparent that classification of routes per se was of only limited value; of much more importance was the need to instill in the climbers during their training an ability to recognize their own limitations and capabilities. Routes can change greatly depending upon the weather; wet, icy rock is very different from warm, dry rock. In addition one's ability may vary from day to day and a recognition of this is essential."

"...(A) suggestion was made that standards be established for equipment. In respect to equipment we would like to emphasize that the equipment is only as good as the knowledge of the person using it. Excellent equipment improperly used has little value."

"A breakdown of the accidents that occurred during 1954 and cumulative totals .. (indicate) .. no marked change (from the previous years). The descent still seems to be more hazardous than the ascent. The proper use of rappels and glissading techniques must be taught to the climbers. If they have not been through a training period in these techniques they should not be allowed to use them on the club climbs, except during controlled training periods. The dangers of falling rock are more evident this year than before."

"Failure of nylon shroud lines accounted for one accident this year.insufficient emphasis (has) been placed on the ease with which nylon rope can be abraded. This is extremely important when nylon is used as a rappel sling."

A review of the reported accidents is presented, each with an analysis. A considerable number occurred on snow and ice and due to inexperience in the mountains. We might take heed as we are so remote from mountains and are able to gain such limited experience during any one year. And experience with one group or type of mountains will not always be applicable in another range. One death might have been prevented had a party on Mount Olympus in the State of Washington been acquainted with Prusik slings or the Bilgeri method to rescue a man from a crevasse.

* * * * *

BILL YODON recently returned after two years in England. Welcome back, Bill.

DEVIL'S TOWER CELEBRATION

Devil's Tower will celebrate its 50th year as a national monument next year. The Wyoming Mountaineers are going to have a "Mountaineer's Week" at the Tower the week of July 14th. They have invited other clubs to send parties to climb the Tower that week.

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MARRIED

Lee Lowinger, of Baltimore, is now Lee Egerton. We were happy to see Lee and her husband out climbing recently at Peg's Progress.

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NOVEMBER MEETING

We had a wonderful double-barreled program at our November meeting at the Marshall's home. Blondie Worrell treated us with an account of their trip to the Wind River Mountains and the Tetons. Jim Hawkins completed the program with an account of his summer in Greenland above Thule.

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"Wheee! No more skiing, no more fishing trips, no more long hikes, no more having to be an outdoor girl!"

1955, The Register and
Tribune Syndicate.

SOUTH PEAK REGISTERS

Johnnie Reed found an old register book from the South Peak of Seneca Rocks among his climbing papers and has donated it to the Mountaineering Committee. These old registers should not be lost for they are the histories of the climbers and of the Rocks. Why don't we gather them together and provide a resting place?

Here are some excerpts from this one register, as is:

April 11 Johnnie Reed
Shirley Jackson
Norma Hart
Peg Keister
Barry Bishop . . . The remains of three teams with changeable minds. By a combination of routes-- part of the Skyline route, the Old Man's route, with variations

Bruce and Ann Remington Skyline & ?

May 1, 52 Yesterday at 3 am we arrived on summit. Today at 4 pm we return with a new book---via southeast ridge.
Jim Bullard
Jean Burnstead
Jerry Jankowitz
" The Thee Jays "

May 30 1952 Old Lady's Route Ted Schad
Felix Peckam
Arshad Munir of Pakistan

Training crew for Canadian Rockies
George and Jerry
Straight up east face to north side of Cockscomb;
and Gunsight th South Peak. And now to supper!

March 22, 1953 Pittsburgh A.Y.H. group
418 Denniston St.
Pgh 6, Pa.
Climbed very slowly from Gunsight 11:15-2:20
st top.
Walt Williams
Ed Worrell
Jean Mc Dowell

March 29 1953 Ray Moore Jack Wilson Midge Lawson
Old Ladys Route
Weather overcast and snowing a little.

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