



Go Beyond

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 - 19 Aug. - Beach Trip, Atlantic Coast: somewhere. Call Betty Johnson (OL-2-4717) for details.
19 Aug. - Local trip: somewhere
26 Aug. - Cupid's Bower Island, Md.
31 Aug. - 3 Sept. (Labor Day) - Champe and Nelson Rocks, W. Va. Details later or call Jane Showacre (UN-4-0535)

Local trips meet at 8:00 at the Howard Johnson's, Wisconsin at Western Avenues, NW. Bring a Sie Wasser und luncheon.

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MOUNTAINEER'S WEEK AT DEVILS TOWER

It is something new in the annals of mountaineering when the National Park Service invites you to come and climb. Most of us who have sought permission to climb in the national parks are familiar with the ranger's grudging consent -- if indeed permission is granted at all.

But at Devils Tower last month all this was changed. Invitations were sent by way of the various climbing organizations requesting that as many qualified climbers as possible join in the activity at Devils Tower during Mountaineer's Week. Devils Tower is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as a National Monument this summer with a series of special events. Mountaineer's Week was a novel idea that appealed to both climbers and local Chambers of Commerce. The Wyoming Mountaineers, a nearby climbing group at Casper College, got behind the event and handled most of the correspondence and the scheduling of climbs.

Activity commenced on July 9th, a few days ahead of the official beginning of the week. A detachment from the Army's Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command at Fort Carson, Colorado, arrived, complete with helicopter and eleven rock climbing instructors. Officially the helicopter was for photographic purposes only, and it was not allowed to land on top of the Tower. This ruling came from Monument Superintendent McIntyre who says, "The rock climbers got here first. It's their rock and should be kept for them." However we heard no complaints from climbers when the helicopter hovered a few feet above the summit and lowered case after case of canned fruit juice -- enough to quench the thirst for all those climbing through the remainder of the week.

After what must have been a frustrating week of hovering and circling, helicopter pilot Moody was finally rewarded for his patience and flying skill with one permitted landing on top. He signed the register: "Second descent, by a variation of Hopkins' route (George Hopkins parachuted to the top in 1941.). In good physical shape. Time 1 minute 30 seconds from cafe."

The Army climbers left Devils Tower as studded with pitons as was Seneca Rock after the Army's stay there during the war. Most of the climbers made three or four ascents each. The Soler Route (Tony Soler, 1951) and the original Wiessner Route were repeated, and five new routes with varying amounts of tension climbing were pioneered. Jerry Gatlin and Fred Beck scampered up the "easy" Durrance Route in 1 hour and 36 minutes one morning, and were feeling so good when they got down that they climbed it again before lunch -- this time in 1 hour and 29 minutes. This latter record has been discredited however -- their rappel rope was dropped to them from the helicopter when they started down!

A very worthwhile demonstration of climbing and rescue techniques, as well as Army methods for moving troops in mountainous terrain, was staged by the soldiers each afternoon while they were there. Of particular interest in their bag of tricks was a friction brake, with the rope running through a chain of carabiners, which enables one man to easily lower an injured man in a litter accompanied by another climber tied to and guiding the litter.

In spite of all this Army activity, at least as much climbing was done by civilians. Climbers from at least nine states participated. The one group representing the Appalachian Mountain area included Dave Rearick, Mike Shor, and Mary Sylvander from the New York A.M.C. A group from Casper spent a night on the summit with a minimum of bivouac equipment (two ponchos for four people). And of course that night proved to be the rainiest of the week!

Eighty climbers in all reached the summit of Devils Tower during the period July 9th to 22nd. Twenty-nine parties climbed, twenty of them by way of the Durrance Route, nine by alternate routes.

High spot of the week for us was a campfire program at which Al Auten (Colorado Mountain Club of Denver) showed some remarkable movies he had taken of a previous Devils Tower climb. One got the impression he and his camera had drifted effortlessly up the route, a few yards out in space from the climbing party!

Prize remark gleaned from the great tourist audience, after two teams had finished parallel routes a few columns apart: "It's been nip and tuck all morning. I certainly hope that they signal down which team won!"

The Devils Tower safety record is still perfect -- no serious injuries to climbers have yet occurred. After watching some of the better climbers in action one begins to feel that the climb has degenerated to an easy stroll. But it has not. It may even be getting a little harder as the handholds and footholds acquire a slight polish. As the total of climbers in the country increase in number -- as they are doing fast -- it is obvious that there will be more good ones, and the best ones will be better. There are also more unsafe climbers, and more accidents to be expected. The job of screening qualified climbers is more difficult than ever. We think the Park Service deserves warm praise in the record it has maintained at Devils Tower.

Your Devils Tower Reporters,
Jan and Herb Conn

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Editor:

Camp Tuto, Greenland
1 Aug. 1956

On a recent trip up on the Greenland Ice Cap I happened to come across a very shaggy looking crew who were trudging along, dragging a lightweight sled loaded with a ton or so of the oddest looking junk imaginable. A flag flying from the top of the pile proclaimed it as the "H.B. Goober Lemmingological Expedition". Seems that they were searching for the Arctic rodent known as the lemming, as a sidelight they had done some mountaineering. The leader, Hartley Benson Goober, wrote out a letter on a musk ox skin with lemming juice and gave it to me when he learned of my connection with the PATC. It was rather lengthy but boils down to this:

"Dear Mr. UP ROPE,

It has come to my attention, via partnigan, that certain peoples in Washington and Tibet have to be spoil sports, poor losers, and etceteras. Now here is the true story which will explain the nasty things said about my first ascent of the true summit of Sir Crunchly Humus. There are those who claim we ascended the false peak! It's true, we did! When we discovered our error we then climbed the so called true summit and with our lightweight blasting equipment removed it completely and very carefully made it ten feet lower. So you see, the false peak is the summit now, the true peak is lower than the false peak which is the true peak because it is higher than the true peak.

As to the second letter, from our comrade in Tibet. I regret to say this man is following in true form. He informed us that the mountain was actually named "The Peak of the Collectivist Farmers" obviously a bit of propaganda. He went on to tell us he had climbed Everest, K-2, Kangchenjunga and Nanga Parbat. I suspect he was lying because he has never been able to walk since a yak stepped on him at age three. As to the spying charges, we are guilty. We were engaged in a little clandestine activities for a well known cigaret manufacturer. "Tibetans prefer _____ to any other cigaret".

I hope this will settle any doubts in the minds of the public as to the integrity of H.B. Goober and the boys from Plotchfutt's Bar and Grill.

(Signed) Hartley Benson Goober"

I have the musk ox skin and would have sent it (but regulations prohibit that) as he seemed very anxious to have it delivered to you. Mr. Goober has headed north now to look for Lemmings, he says there is a 25,000 foot mountain up there he intends to climb.

Well that's all the news from the northland for now.

Yours truly,

Jim Hawkins

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SUBSCRIBER'S LIST CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Changes:

Winslow, Alan, 1072 30th St., N.W., City
Baker, Dr. Holon, 4829 Terrace Drive, Seattle 5, Washington
Brehm, John, 1924 Eye St., N.W., City (6)

New:

Treadway, Allon, 104 "C" St., N.W., City (2)

UPS AND DOWNS

15 July - Lost Weekend - a delinquent reporter.

22 July 1956 - Sugar Loaf, Md.

Bob Adams & Family	Jackie Dupont	Irene Ortenburger	Earl Reed
John Bragdon	Erich Heinemann	Leigh Ortenburger	Elna Thiele
Duncan Burchard	Robb Heinemann	Jimmie Ostergard	Chuck Wettling
John Christian	Betty Johnson	Ted Shad	Eddie Willmann
Claire Dupont	Alice Marshall	Bob Spindler	

The group was entertained at the Howard Johnson by Don's blood-curdling stories of living on mushrooms and berries for a week somewhere in the wild and wooly Selkirks. When the drizzle finally stopped drizzling and the last of the stragglers came straggling in, the climbers tore themselves away from Don's fascinating yarns and set out for the rocks. Since it was agreed by all that the river was too high for Cupid's Bower, it was decided to go to Sugar Loaf. Don, of course, didn't join the party; his excuse: recuperating from the Selkirks.

Although the rocks were a bit wet in the morning, Jimmy climbed a face to the right of the Cave Climb and John Bragdon fought a good but losing battle with the Butterfingers. An interesting face climb to the left of the Cave Climb and around the corner from the Butterfingers was done by Duncan, Alice, Robb, Betty and Jackie. By lunch time the mist had cleared and the rocks became rather hot. John C, Irene and Leigh showed up in time for John, along with Earl, Chuck and Erich to do the Butterfingers, while Alice and Irene took the grand swing from the platform. Bob Spindler and Chuck did a murderous looking overhang on the extreme right of the cliff for which the name "The Wicked One" has been suggested.

By this time the rocks were too unbearable for comfort so some sizzled off in the Dickerson Quarry (which can be swum in for 50 cents parking fee, incidentally), while others cooled off in the thunder storm that exploded on the way home. Your reporter heard rumors of dinner at Frank Sauber's apartment and she trusts it was a success.

A.M.

Your Editor has been goofing off here of late, ogling at girls, buying new foreign-type looking cars, ogling at girls, etc., and has been delinquent in putting out UP ROPE. (And you people that forget to send in trip write-ups are not helping this adult-type juvenile delinquent either.) So - your Editor extends his apologies and hopes all will be forgiven. Forward or something.

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