



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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COMING EVENTS

29 January - ELECTION MEETING. The nominating committee will submit candidates for this year's term. Meeting will be held at Joan Grosby's, 35 West Lenox St., Chevy Chase, Md. (CL-4-6618) at 8:00 PM.

Please send new telephone numbers to Alan Talbert. There will be a new subscribers list in the near future and Alan would like to have this list complete.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

December 10, 1956

Mr. John F. Christian, Editor, "UP ROPE"
1916 Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Christian:

In your October 28, 1956 issue of Up Rope, you printed an article entitled Are We Our Brother's Keeper? which you based on a personal letter to you from a student named Bevin Hewitt at the University of Virginia. As this article is quite obviously a misinformed and intentionally, perhaps also maliciously, misinterpreted account of a trip which the undersigned took to Seneca Rock this past August 25, we wish to dispute a number of your statements and request that you promptly correct them in an issue of Up Rope. (Ed.: The letterwriter is a conscientious climber well aware of the dangers of climbing from association with cavers and rock climbers).

Although Bevin has assured us that you did not quote directly from his letter, we will deal with what you represented to be a direct quotation as such, since we have not seen the original letter. Furthermore, since we do not even know "quite a few" people interested in climbing, much less know anything about them, we will speak only for ourselves. We shall refresh your memory with four statements made in the article and comment on each of them in turn.

"None of them know anything,..." - Although we would be the last to say we know a great deal about climbing, we do know something. The leader of the trip (Greever) has had close to three years experience caving, has been on approximately twelve climbing trips, is acquainted with the standard belaying, rappelling and prusiking techniques, and has been shown sufficient confidence by his colleagues to be elected

president of the University of Virginia Grotto of the N.S.S. The non-climber (Miller) has had four years caving experience, including a fair amount of rope work, and is an ex-president of the U. Va. Grotto. Mrs. Miller had been on approximately eight caving trips. While the sum total of the experience perhaps does not compare with that gained through the "fifteen or twenty trips" which Bevin informs us he has made with Washington climbers, we think it comes close enough to leave doubt as to his ability to judge us, particularly since he neither accompanied us nor discussed our trip with us before writing you. (Ed.: We classify leaders and second men not on number of trips attended but on their judgement and their ability to belay. Their "acquaintance" with belaying consisted of stopping free falls of at least 15 feet of a 150 pound body.)

"According to the account I heard, their wives were in the middle of the rope for 'safety'!" - In going up the last pitch to the base of the Cockscomb and in descending onto the ledge on the East Face, our leader was always belayed by Miller. The leader, after each of his "climbs" then belayed each of the other three up separately. This same technique was also used on the steep pitch at the end of the Old Ladies' Route. In walking the ledges along the East Face, we all felt that little belaying was necessary and did tie the girls in the middle in order to steady them a little. They were never tied in the middle when there was need for a belay and neither of the girls ever belayed the leader. In fact, the leader did all of the belaying except when it was necessary for Miller to belay him. (Ed.: It is generally accepted good practice not to untie and retie when on a climb as was apparently done here.)

"As it turned out, one of the women got hysterical, and they wound up tying themselves on a ledge and spending the night." - While Mrs. Greever became very definitely nervous and upset toward the end of the climb up, we do not think she was "hysterical". We did find that we had misjudged her ability, or rather her lack of confidence in exposed places, which slowed our pace to such an extent that we reached the top shortly before dusk and hence decided to spend the night on a wide ledge above the last steep pitch rather than risk being caught in a ticklish spot by darkness. We of course tied ourselves in, as we intended to sleep. (Ed.: It is also good practice for the leader to frequently reevaluate the condition of his team, the weather, the amount of time remaining and the length of the climb, or assumed length of the climb, and to turn back early enough to insure a safe descent.)

We have mentioned this trip to several of our friends, some of your readers are quite able to guess the identity of the persons to which your article refers. You have therefore printed several erroneous, misleading and insulting statements concerning our trip which could easily be taken as factual by those of our acquaintances which subscribe to Up Rope. Also we resent the possibility of the climbers of our school and N.S.S. Grotto being slandered by irresponsible reports of our activities. We think it not unreasonable, therefore, to request that you "set the record right" in Up Rope. You have our permission to quote from this letter, if you will quote directly and not lift remarks from context in a misleading fashion. (Ed.: The writer prefaced the statements with "According to the account I heard").

Surely there are in the climbing fraternity enough of those who like to boast, impress their friends and improve their reputation by exaggerating and criticizing the actions of other climbers that the Editor of Up Rope could use more caution in printing statements from subscribers away at college? (Ed.: Again, the letterwriter is a conscientious climber.....).

Thank you.

John J. Greever III
David Young Miller

(Ed.: Thank you! This issue would have been rather dull without your letter. There was nothing malicious intent in the editorial. It was intended to provoke some discussion about the possible consequences of a serious accident on Seneca. Witness the Shawangunks. I personally hope that I will have the pleasure of meeting you at Seneca some 3-day weekend and would like to include you in our rope for some good climbs.)

UPS AND DOWNS

21 October 1956 - Sugar Loaf Mountain, Md.

Joan Broomfield	Bob Murray	Marshall Shore	Alan Talbert
Don Feder	Warner Peticolis	Mignon Shore	Chuck Wettling
Dave Heilbron	John Reed	Marshall Shore, Jr.	
Don Julie	Ted Schad	John Shore	
Peg Keister	Bob Stevens	Larry Shore	
George Magee	Bob Spindler	Guri Shore	

The rain which had dampened Washington early Sunday had not reached Sugar Loaf, so we enjoyed dry rocks, al beit a little foggy in the morning. By noon it had cleared considerably, and in the faint glow of the sun one could see J. Reed rigging a curious aerial traverse at a 45 degree angle down from the top of the Butterfinger, while muttering under his breath something about "evacuation of casualties". After trying the traverse, the general consensus was that it would be better to roll the victims of casualties down the mountain. The Shores swarmed all over the rocks. Numerous climbs were made by all including several ascents of the Butterfinger. In the evening we enjoyed the Feder's hospitality for supper.

T.S.

18 November 1956 - Prospect Rock, Va.

Don Hubbard	John Reed	Bob Murray	John Meenehan
Pete Peterson	Peg Keister	Bob Adams and	Ted Schad
Betty Johnson	Eddie Willmann	Children	
Chuck Wettling	Don Feder	Richard Dupree	

25 November 1956 - Great Falls, Md.

Jackie Dupont	Don Feder	Earl Reed
John Crowder	Bob Murray	Eddie Willmann
Betty Johnson	Johnnie Reed	Alan Talbert
Don Hubbard	Frank Sauber	Ed & Blondie Worrell

Names, names, names we know - but no deeds!

MAP READING COURSE

The program committee of the PATC will give a Map Reading Course with Johnnie Reed as the teacher. Course will be given at PATC Headquarters, 1916 Sunderland Place, N. W. starting at 8:00 PM. The first meeting will be 17 January, the second on 24 January. There will be a Saturday afternoon field trip and a Sunday trail trip. Bring Map #10 and protractor, pencil, plain paper, and compass. Plan to attend all meetings. Call Johnnie Reed at WO-6-4268 for further information.

Bill Welch was here for the holidays and says hello to all his friends.

Incidental Information

An American edition of Gaston Rebuffat's account of mountain climbing will be published Feb. 15 by Dutton under the title "Starlight and Storm: The Ascent of Six Great Faces of the Alps". The author, a famous Alpine guide and a veteran of Annapurna, describes each of the classic peaks and gives a brief history of previous scaling attempts. He also relates his own experiences. Translated from the French by Wilfrid Noyce and Sir John Hunt, the book has a foreward by Sir John. (From the New York Times).

The Yale Mountaineering Club announces publication of Volume II of its Journal. The publication date for the second volume has been set at March, 1957. The following excerpt from the table of contents indicates the scope of this issue.

Paradise Regained: The Return to Sleeping Giant

The 1952 Yale Logan Expedition

An Englishman Looks at American Climbing

Highlights in the History of Mountaineering

A Rock-Climber's Guide to Southern Connecticut

Accounts and unpublished photographs of climbing in most of the major North American ranges.

Copies of Volume II at \$1.00 and of Volume I at \$.75 may be obtained by writing to: Philip C. Ritterbush, 1752 Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut.

Bill Shockley and two fellow workers were awarded a Nobel Prize for inventing the transistor while at the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Got a Christmas card from Damon and Thea Phinney in Boulder, Colo. Big news is that Huntley Ingalls paid the Phinneys a call and was hardly recognizable with a crew cut and 20 additional pounds. They are planning a trip with Huntley to the San Juans as soon as they can manage after their papoose arrives.

BOOK REVIEW: "A Picture History of Mountaineering" by Roland W. Clark. (Published by the Macmillan Company, N.Y.C., \$5.95) Mr. Clark has gathered a wonderful collection of drawings and photographs, including some of the earliest mountaineering photos by the Bisson brothers and the great Vittorio Sella, to illustrate his book.

There is very little text but enough to interestingly brief the reader on the early history of mountaineering and adequately complement the illustrations.

The only unfortunate thing is that Mr. Clark, in this history of mountaineering, manages to dispose of North America climbing in only ten photographs from a total of 352. I have a suspicion that we North Americans have contributed more than 2.84% to the history of mountaineering.

Editor

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