



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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GUS GAMBS 1868-1958

Gus Gambs was born less than three years after Whymper's ascent of the Matterhorn and lived until five years after the Hillary ascent of Everest. Of all this time he spent as much as he could in the mountains. His wife says that as a youth he would wander off into the Vosages Mountains of his Native Alsace. This hold that high places had on him seemed to only increase with time. Week ends were for the woods and nearby hills; vacations were for the high mountains, - the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Caucasus; in Norway, in Greece, Central America, Mexico, United States, and, most of all, in the Canadian Rockies.

As he was drawn to the mountains so did he also feel a kinship with other climbers. He was always willing to teach a bit of mountaineering to any who showed an interest. To him, teaching meant climbing for it is by doing that one learns. More than his seniority it was his teaching that entitled him the father of the local climbing group.

Such a figure of speech does not deny that a group of climbers would have evolved had there been no Gus Gambs. Elsewhere groups started without him. They had other "fathers"; but all fathers are not alike nor are all climbing groups. Perhaps an appraisal of the traits of our group inherited from Gus is in order.

One trait is that of climbing strenuously as opposed to the casual climbing of some groups. True, Gus did not climb strenuously himself but he certainly knew how to get others to do so. It was not just his interest and suggestions. His premature shouts of triumph just as the climber was about to collapse could drive the last erg of energy into service better than a black snake whip.

Another trait is freedom from regimentation. Such is by no means universal. Gus was by nature a rebel and to him the mountains meant freedom. Loving freedom he never imposed a restraint on another. When he saw an exhibitionist he ignored him for they come and go. If someone seemed accident prone, it only gave his other students practice in assisting or rescuing.

Perhaps our most striking distinction is in our girl climbers. Their counterpart isn't found elsewhere. Dick Leonard said Jan Conn had the reputation in California of being the best girl climber they had seen. Eleanor Pugh led a rope in Schoolhouse Cave that had three toughened mountain troop instructors exasperated and exhausted. At a New England Safety Conference Jane Showacre passed up the ladies' belaying rig and handled a load twice its size as well as any of the men. Ladies making first ascents of major peaks in the Pim Karcher - Betty Kauffman - style don't just happen at random. These names only start the list. Some of the girls hardly knew Gus but if he had not started a receptive group they would not have done as well. Did some girl somewhere, possibly Joan of Arc, teach him what was possible?

Gus has said that if one plotted the number of climbing fatalities against the heights they had fallen, it would be apparent that six foot falls are the most dangerous. It is ironical that his climbing career should have terminated in such a fall. He stumbled on a cracked D. C. sidewalk. A broken femur led to an amputated foot and confinement ended in death.

It has been so long since he was out that the younger climbers don't remember him. Yet if they love the rocks and mountains it is sufficient for him. This love was his creed in a rich and long life.

Paul Bradt

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UPS AND DOWNS

August 30 - September 1, Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

Rob Coe
Karl & Barbara Edler
& Family
Betty Johnson

Jim Maxwell
Art Lembeck
Bob Mole
Alan Talbert

Carmen Torrey
Arnold Wexler

In spite of the large turn out this weekend, there seemed to be relatively few people on the rocks much of the time, except for Saturday afternoon. Carmen and Karl who have just started leading, led among other climbs, the Old Ladies' Route and the Gendarme, respectively.

The highlight of the weekend and already an established annual affair, was the supper for the climbers and cavers prepared by the ladies of the Riverton Methodist Church. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. We hope the custom continues.*

Our camp on Spruce Knob was marked by sobriety, somewhat greater efficiency than is usual at Seneca, and musical utterances of rare quality.

Alan T.

* Our thanks certainly go to Suzy Moore who organized the supper from this end. Ed.

September 7, Carderock, Maryland

Bob Adams & Family	Alex Lukshin	Dick Sanders
June Eanet	Toby Lynch	Alan Schreiber
Gregory Goncharov	Fred Lynch	Jim Shipley
Joel Gross	Tom Marshall	Alan Talbert
Betty Johnson	Bob Mole	Carmen Torrey
Art Lembeck	Dick Osgood	Arnold Wexler

Today, Oscar had a real work out and so did Alan who presided at the day's activities. Ropes were active on the Beginner's Crack and Ronnie's Leap as well as the Kindergarten Climb, where Alex (tall man) and Bob A. discovered a short problem climb for tall men only. Jim S. (bored with the old folks I guess) amused himself and us too by climbing Jan's Face blind-folded.

BJ

September 14, Echo Cliffs and Potholes, Virginia

Jack Doolan	Norma Mohr	Ted Schad
John Brehm	Henry Mohr	Jane Showacre
June Eanet	Bob Mole	Hal Swift
Betty Johnson	Bob Murray	Alan Talbert
Bill Keasby	Marcia Newell	Carmen Torrey
Tom Marshall	Dick Osgood	Arnold Wexler

Cool and pleasant, the day was perfect for rock climbing and compensated the aesthetes for the lack of certain advantages enjoyed on a recent visit to this area.

The Ten Foot Devil was challenged and defeated by Alan. Dick Osgood climbed Socrates Downfall and just about everyone did the Four Year Old.

After lunch we moved down stream to the Potholes where one belayer reported watching a spider web being built using the belay rope as a point of support. Since this was not verified by twelve competent, reliable, and sober witnesses the name of the climber is being withheld.*

Bob M.

*(Ask the editor, she'll tell)

September 21, Great Falls, Maryland --Rained Out!WHERE WERE YOU

On September 21, the PATC Program Committee presented two movies at the Cabin John Field House, Maryland.* The first was made at Johns Hopkins University Medical School and dealt with mouth to mouth resuscitation. This is now considered the best method for restoring breathing and although all of us have read or heard about it, it's a lot different when you see the method demonstrated. If there is enough interest shown, it may be possible to show this movie again.

*See the October PATC Forecast

The second movie was made by The Mountain Rescue Council of Seattle, and called Mountains Don't Care. The location was Mt. Ranier and the subject was safety on snow and ice. Kay Blinn was the technical Director and she tells us that this meant giving advice as well as belaying the photographers Bob and Ira Spring. Refreshments were served and there was dancing afterwards to Larry Gage's Folk Dance Orchestra.

SPECIAL PROGRAM MEETING

Dr. Daniel T. Hale, a member of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, will show his slides on "Operation Deep-freeze" on Friday, October 3 at 8 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Building. Dan spent a year in the Expedition. Refreshments will be served.

COMING EVENTS

October 10-12 BUSHWHACKERS- TROUT POND AREA again. We will spend Friday night at the camping spot below the "Rocks". Saturday night to be decided. Exploration started in July will continue. Bring your camera - you might get some good shots of deer. Swimming is a possibility. Call Jeannette Fitzwilliams (ST. 3-9200 Code 112 x 2662 or HO 2-5491 by Wednesday the 8th. She will call you that night with directions of what to bring and where to meet.

All Rock Climbing trips for October have been listed in the September issue of UP ROPE. Don't forget that belay practice will be on October 19th this month, when the Pittsburgh Social Climbers will be down for the weekend.

PERSONALS

It was nice to see the new Vice-President of the Toiyabe branch of the Sierra Club in Nevada, Dr. Bill Welsh. Bill is to be married October 4 to LT. Dolly Stohr (NO) USN in Gabbs Nevada. Congratulations!

Kay and Hal Blinn are new members of the UP ROPE staff, and will operate the mimeograph machine. Any one else interested in helping please call the editory. Contributions and suggestions are also welcome.

Ted and Kay Schad announce the arrival of Rebecca Christina on the 19th of September.

John Reed, who has been away for months also dropped in at Howard Johnsons along with others we haven't seen for some time, last Sunday the 28th of September. John's canoe used to be one of the more familiar sights along the Potomac.

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