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JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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

Volume XLV, Number 10

December, 1958

### WYOMING INTERLUDE, 1958 (Continued)

Robert J. Adams

By one o'clock on the 21st a new expedition had assembled at the Jenny Lake Campground. Tom, Dean, and Bob held down one camp site, Bruce Adams' family another, while Wally and Bob's families shared a third. At 1:30 it started to rain as if it would never stop. So we put up our tarps and loafed the rest of the day. The next morning brought partial clearing, and we all set off in high spirits to climb an elusive little rock on the side of Symmetry Spire called Baxter's Pinnacle. We were probably one of the largest parties ever to sign out for such a small rock - 7 adults and 3 children.

This is a nice little fifth-class climb which we made on two ropes - Bruce, Wally, and Dean; Tom, myself, and Johnny. The summit block is vertical and quite smooth at its base; direct aid from a head-high piton is welcome. This can be avoided by stepping "off the edge" to the right and climbing on adequate holds a few feet farther to the right. Near the top of the rock there is a very exposed six-inch ledge leading upward at a 45 degree angle beneath a moderately overhanging wall. The ledge itself provides layback hand holds. All-in-all, this block would be considered an interesting climb even at Carderock. Tom and Bob Spindler went back to climb Baxter's Pinnacle another day.

Bruce and I had been talking about the North Face of the Grand Teton ever since Bruce climbed it with 3 other park-rangers - Dick Emerson, Bob Bowen, and John Fonda - in 1956. Wally and Tom had also expressed an interest. This was a good year for the North Face, with little snow and fairly warm temperatures. In fact the ranger said more people are signing out for it than the Owen Route. There are two difficult rock pitches on the North Face, but the greatest deterrent is the awkward place the climb starts - from the Teton Glacier. It is customary to camp on the glacier above the ice-fall, in fact as near the bergschrund as falling rocks and prudence will allow. This point is reached after a good 5-hour hike from the valley over endless moraines; the pity is that much of it must be repeated, after the climb, to retrieve the camp. As the four of us discussed strategy Saturday morning, Bruce proposed we eliminate the camp by starting up the trail at midnight and making the climb in one day. This seemed like a good idea and we signed out. But by nine P.M. it was raining; this continued most of the night. Also a roving bear in the campground prevented sleep in the early evening hours. By eleven o'clock we had abandoned the trip and started to cook a big supper preparatory to going to bed.

The next day dawned fair; at noon Bruce and I started up the Glacier Trail carrying a minimum camp. Wally had taken his family to Yellowstone; Tom and Bob Spindler were climbing Templeton's Crack on Symmetry. By five-thirty we had selected our campsite - a gentle snow slope half way between the top of the ice-fall and the bergschrund at the base of the Face. We had air mattresses, sleeping bags and a thin polyethylene tarp to keep us off the snow. If I were to do this again I would take the Primus (though Bruce disagrees); a hot meal does wonders for the morale in an isolated spot like this. Once above the ice fall we could see nothing but the snow, a ring of cliffs, and the stars. It occurred to me that the craters of the moon could scarcely be more desolate.

The best sleep came just before daylight. Then we swallowed a little food, climbed into our shoes and were off at five-thirty. We dropped down into the schrund and climbed out in the corner formed by the junction of the North Face and the Grandstand, where the attached snow had fallen away. Then we were on the rock, with the sun warming us and the way clear ahead.

Contrary to what I had anticipated, most of the climbing is very easy and would not require a rope. Exceptions are the well-know Inverted Chimney, Pendulum Pitch, and Friction Pitch. The Chimney must be home to a hundred marmots, judging by the condition of the rock. This, together with generally moist conditions, makes the going a little treacherous. The Pendulum Pitch is faintly reminiscent of Butterfingers at Sugar Loaf, though certainly less difficult. It has some of the same elements - the problem of standing on a narrow ledge with an overhanging wall, a hand travers, and high-angle climbing on minimum holds. The difficult part of the Friction Pitch consists of two large steps across a 75-degree face on barely adequate foot-holds and with very little for the fingers - even by Herbie's Horror standards. Also, the piton is a little farther away than you would like. We hesitated a while and then walked across without incident.

Our greatest difficulty was encountered where one would least expect it - on the 100-foot wide First Ledge. This was so easy that we walked side by side carrying rope coils. Presently we found ourselves on a 45-degree slab, just too steep for walking but having no holds whatever. Bruce backed down and proceeded by another route, promising to belay me. I was too proud to give up and clung to my precarious position. Finally I placed a direct-aid piton and was ready to climb, when I heard the familiar cry "Rock!" This one was all mine. With neither time nor maneuvering space to avoid it, I caught the rock on my right cheek. Eventually I needed a few stitches, but on the whole I still think it is better to look up and watch them hit rather than duck and get them in the back of the head.

We arrived at the summit at one-thirty in high spirits, just as two teams of Yale climbers emerged (in hard hats) from the Petzoldt and East Ridge Routes. They were kind enough to let us make the Owen Rappel on their ropes, as we had only one. And after that it was just a long walk back by way of Teepee's Glacier to retrieve the camp, climaxed by a luxurious and fashionable 10 o'clock dinner in Jackson.

The weather had been perfect, but on Tuesday thunderstorms were threatening as we pulled down the tents to leave Jenny Lake. Tom, Dean, and Bob left for Washington the same day. A leisurely 2-day trip brought us to Park Ranger Ted Hackett's office at Devil's Tower at 4 o'clock on Wednesday. Bruce had climbed the Tower in 1948 with a large party of Iowa Mountaineers. He had been assigned one of the belay spots and brought up innumerable climbers, then packs, and finally, as the day grew late, bed rolls. In the end 16 people spent the night on top. This is no longer permitted because of the danger of electrical storms.

Ed and Blondie Worrell and Jim Shipley climbed the tower last year, and we profited a great deal from their description of the route. Ed had advised us to take a minimum of 2 quarts of water per person, as it is a long hot climb. I ran into massive resistance from Bruce and Wally on this point,

who could see no point in taking any water, especially since the campground water is so unpalatable. They turned out to be exactly right due to the cool overcast weather, but at my insistence we hauled 3 quarts of water up the Tower and used it to irrigate the struggling vegetation in the neighborhood of the sign that says "No climbing above this point." For the record, we didn't even have a drink when we got down!

The climb itself was pleasant but somewhat anticlimactic. We started up the inclined column at six, were on top at nine, spent an hour looking around, and were back signing out at eleven-thirty. We didn't have much of an audience during the climb, but as we emerged onto the trail one small boy asked us to pose for a picture. We were so flattered we forgot to charge him for it.

So ended the 151st ascent of Devil's Tower. For all we know, it may have been the first ascent by three brothers.

After all that mountaineering the problem now is to get into condition for rock climbing.

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#### THE SNICKERSNEE

November 16, Bull Run Mountains, Virginia

Conveniently located under the lunch ledge at the Zeus Throne area is a worthwhile climb that has gone unnoticed until Dick Osgood climbed it recently. About 30 feet high, it is overhanging all the way with a vertical crack furnishing good handholds for using a layback technique. It is difficult to evaluate a climb but this is similar to the well known Bull Run Overhang in height and difficulty. Dick feels that it requires a strong right arm - hence the name Snickersnee.\* Personally I felt a great need for both arms.

Bob Mole

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#### UPS AND DOWNS

October 13, Bull Run Mountains, Virginia

Jack Doolan	Betty Johnson	Alan Talbert
Christine Hansen	Bob Mole	Carmen Torrey
Hugh Hansen	Dick Osgood	Donna Willard
		Jim Willard

Pictures of Chris Scoredo's climbing Charlies Crack were studied and criticized, but in spite of these fine examples the only one to make the "select" list was Bob Adams. Almost every one tried though not only once but many times, so that by the time the Little Quartz Slab was reached only Bob Adams was in any condition to complete this climb.

The other item of note was Carmen's success on the Overhang.

Meanwhile, at Carderock, Don Hubbard reports that everyone had fun, Don at the questionable sport of being a live Oscar and Rod Glascock celebrating his return to the rocks by climbing The Beginners Crack four times in a row.

\* "With a frightful, frantic, fearful frown, I bar'd my big right arm."

The Mikado

October 18, and 19, Great Falls Virginia and Carderock, Maryland

Bob Adams	John Hartsuck	Jane Showarcre
Gene Atherton	Jake Haun	Tom Smyth
Dave Barbour	Betty Johnson	Kay Thompson
Sallie Churchill	Peg Keister	Carmen Torrey
Rick Dill	Fildes Lane	Chuck Wettling
Jack Doolan	Art & Win Lembeck	Arnold Wexler
Bob Dufty	Bob Mole	Gretchen Warmbein
Jay Edwards	Dick Osgood	The Worrells
Karl & Barbara Edler	Ann Rammers	Ellen Yolton
Bob Gebhardt	Jean Rodman	
Rod Glascock	Sayre Rodman	
Hugh Hansen	Ann Rodman	
Christine Hansen	Ted Schad	

This was the weekend for the Pittsburgh climbers, hence the long list of names. If your name isn't here it's because you either didn't sign the book or write clearly enough so we are sorry if any one was missed.

Saturday evening, Bob Adams showed slides of the 1958 Wind Rivers Trip and then delighted everyone with his local climbing shots. It's obvious that we all like to see pictures of ourselves.

October 24-26, Wolf Gap Shelter Virginia

Hal Blinn	Art Lembeck	Dave Varmette
Kay Blinn	Bob Mole	Chuck Wettling
Jack Doolan	Pete Peterson	Arnold Wexler
Jake Haun	Alan Talbert	
Betty Johnson	Carmen Torrey	

Thirteen people enjoyed this weekend which will be remembered for its extracurricular and its exploratory activities. Thanks to Carmen's exotic contributions to the larder, Friday evening was enlivened and we were "Bright eyed and Bushy Tailed" on Saturday Morning. We arrived at Big Schloss by 11:00 A.M., and divided into two groups, one of which climbed on the Southeast Face while the other climbed around the Wagon Tongue. Pete left the groups to hike on to Sugar Knob.

After about two hours of warm up climbs, we ate each others lunches and Art took a group to a fresh spot on the Southeast face of the Big Schloss. There many were called but only Alan was chosen to entertain all spectators by making a difficult lead. Meanwhile, Carmen, Jack, and Betty were finding a new climb on the south side of the bridge.

At about five o'clock we began a loosing race with rain back to the shelter where Arnold, a late arrival, was waiting by the fire. After an enjoyable meal of Lembeck Stew, a bullfight and the ensuing festivities' all present were ready for their sleeping bags.

Sunday after breakfast we drove to some new rocks near Trout Pond which Art and Arnold had discovered this summer. Here we spent a most enjoyable day on all new climbs and returned to Front Royal via Wardensville for dinner. Enroute, Betty, Jack, and Jake stopped to inspect some new rocks between Water Lick and Elizabeth Furnace.

J. H.

November 2, Little Stoney Man, Virginia

Karl Edler	Jack Doolan	Betty Johnson	Bob Mole	Dick Osgood	Alan Talbert
Carmen Torrey					

It rained, in spite of Don Hubbard's prediction. Enough said!



November 9, Thurmont, Maryland

Bob Adams and Family  
Jack Doolan  
Rick Dill  
John Eggenberger

Betty Johnson  
Ruth Johnson  
Bob Mole  
John Ohrenfchall

Dick Osgood  
Alan Talbert  
Carmen Torrey

November 16, Bull Run Mountain, Virginia

Bob Adams & Family  
Jack Doolan  
Irmgard Emmel  
Don Hubbard

Betty Johnson  
Jimmy Lane  
Bob Mole  
Dick Osgood

Alan Talbert  
Carmen Torrey

"How Long, How Long, in Infinite pursuit, of This and That endeavor and dispute" - No longer for Alan who finally climbed Charlie's Crack. A good thing too since this obsession would surely have resulted in some cold winter trips to Bull Run. Several people climbed Dick Osgood's new climb, the Snickersnee, described elsewhere. So much time was spent with nearly every one climbing the Overhang, that none was left to locate Sterling's Corner. Don showed us that quite a bit more leading is possible on Zeus' Throne than is usually done. A practically perfect day ended as usual at Tuehey's.

O. K.

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, November 23, 1958

Bob Adams & Family  
Jack Doolan  
Karl Edler  
Irmgard Emmel  
Jake Haun

Don Hubbard  
Betty Johnson  
Norma Mohr  
Bob Mole  
Marcia Newell

Dick Osgood  
Ted Osgood  
Dottie Osgood  
Jane Showacre  
Alan Talbert  
Carmen Torrey

Harpers Ferry climbs are widely separated and those participating never did assemble at one spot -- even for lunch. Alan led a climb on the West Virginia side, and Bob Mole another further upstream. A wind out of the West Virginia Hills is said to have brought remarkable warmth to the shady side. Meanwhile on the Maryland side of the river, the remainder of the group met at the railroad station and after a thorough inspection of the T.P. Rappel, (See sign on rocks or ask Jake) chased Don Hubbard to a quaint formation known as Sams Pin. On top, everyone signed a register whose last entry was made in 1939 by Jim Maxwell. After rappelling down and eating a seafood dinner the group proceeded to Weverton Cliffs, picking up followers from the West Virginia side. The cliffs were another of Don's contributions to newer members knowledge of climbing sites.

J. H.

November 30, 1958, Carderock, Maryland

Bob Adams & Family  
Karl & Barbara Edler  
Jake Haun  
Betty Johnson

Peg Keister  
Bob Mole  
John Reed  
Jane Showacre

Caren Torrey  
Bill Keasbey

The days first project was a partial success. Though many climbers tried to take Don Hubbard to Carderock, only Rod Glascock was able finally to take him to the Virginia side. The remainder proceeded to Carderock where a brisk run to the Jungle Rocks was necessary to prevent freezing of the exposed parts. While a fire was being built, Johnny set up a Bilgheri rescue on the Spiderwalk

and all hands recieved able instruction. An aerial traverse was the next project and was enjoyed by all except our shorter members who had dismounting difficulties. Bob Adams did a graceful job of the Swayback Layback and then all retreated to the Fire for lunch. Afternoon activity centered around the Easter Egg climbs and the nearby chimney.

J. H.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Chuck Wettling has appointed Jane Showacre and "Pete" Peterson as members of the nominating committee. The election of officers will be held in January. (Date to be announced) Please give Jane or Pete your suggestions in the near future.

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LOST AND FOUND

Someone picked up Rod Glascock's hat at the Cabin John Recreation Center after the last meeting. The hat he has doesn't fit either so call him at Ja. 7-2656 if you have his, and get yours in return.

CONGRATULATIONS

Doramay and Bill Keasbey announce the arrival of twin boys, Clifford and Jim born on September 25th.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Richard Goldman, 242 Juniper Drive, Schenectady 6, New York  
Ed & Blondie Worrell, 1912 Tadcaster Road, Baltimore 28, Md. Tel., Ridgeway 4-5114

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The December 1st, 1958 issue of Sports Illustrated contains a useful Guide to Ski Areas. This includes major eastern and Canadian ski resorts. In addition to giving the usual information, the name and phone number of the individual to call for information on snow conditions is also listed.

Another article of interest is A Famous Scientist Looks at Sports by Dr. Vannevar Bush. What other scientists do in the realm of sports is the subject and of course Arnold Wexler is represented in Mountaineering.

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Local climbing trips leave Howard Johnson's Restaurant at Western and Wisconsin at 8:30 A.M. sharp! The schedule of trips is listed in the November issue of Up Rope. If a change is made the morning of the trip, you may find out by calling Karl Edler at Ap. 7-8851 between 8:30 and 9:00 A.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

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