



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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### COMING EVENTS

The Mountaineering Committee meets each Sunday morning at Howard Johnsons restaurant, Western and Wisconsin Avenues, at 8 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and sneakers for climbing. A note is left behind the south east drain pipe so latecomers may know where we have gone. There will usually be a Sunday trip on the out of town weekends. Please do not phone the restaurant.

- June 5      CARDEROCK, Maryland. Belay practice with our dummy Oscar for all novices and old-timers as well.
- June 12     BULL RUN MOUNTAINS,, Virginia
- June 19     POT HOLES and ECHO CLIFFS, Virginia. Better bring your bathing suits.
- June 26     CUPIDS BOWER ISLAND, Maryland. Swimming here too.
- July 1-4     SCHOOL HOUSE CAVE and SENECA, West Virginia. The cave trip is not for beginners and if you think you can qualify, check with Bob Adams at Cherry 8 2543
- July 10     CARDEROCK, Maryland. Belay practice. We understand that the Cornell Guting Club has a live Oscar arrangement. Staws are drawn to see who will be the lucky victim, with special preference given to those who do not attend meetings regularly. Any volunteers?
- July 17     THURMONT, Maryland
- July 31     STONEY MAN, Virginia

### LOST!

Somewhere at the foot of the cliffs, between the Hollywood climb and the Beginners Crack at OLD RAG, the UP ROPE book was lost. Please let the Editor know if you find it as there was some pretty important information contained between it's covers -- phone numbers etc. So if your name doesn't appear in our trip listing, we're sorry and will make up for it next month.

ANTICS WITH SEMANTICS

or

ETYMOLOGICAL TEARS \*

by

Samson Goldin

It strikes me as grossly unfair that these poor rabbit-warren cousins of ours should be graced with such a glorious name, in fact, a choice of two names, whilst we, far more deserving and admirable, can only be described by such simple, common terms as rockclimbers or mountaineers. Anyone can understand in a jiffy what a rockclimber does, or a mountaineer, but a spelunker or a spelilogist; what glorious mystique is inherent in these terms.

SPELUNKER -- it rolls so lovingly around in one's mouth just like one of these big black and white striped candies, making its presence felt by taste and form. Spelunker, nobody knows what it means, but it culls up all sorts of strange visions of little elves squatting on their hunkers around the witches' cauldron in the grassy dell under a full moon, each bearing a stoat's ear or a weasel's tooth or a twig of hemlock and so on, ready to be tossed into the stew at the critical moment during the recitation of the spell. Or we can see four burly brawn bald uncles chewing on their cigars under the glare of a naked electric light, speling the cards at 2 o'clock in the morning, with the sweat dripping off their seared brows onto their well-waistcoated paunches far below. Spelunkers, h'm.

As for speleologist, it is so obviously Greek, it makes me weep with envy. I consulted my Webster and true enough the word for cave in Greek is SPELAION -- stick on 'LOGIST' and you get, 'scientific studier of caves.' Now, you must agree, it just is not fair or accurate. If they have to label themselves with a Greek root, why not give the unadulterated word SPELAION? Of course, we could not allow them the suffix, 'LOGIST'; it is not exactly appropriate. I would suggest that good American corruption of the word 'potter', namely 'putter', which my dictionary tells me means 'to walk or go desultarily or idly', etc. This gives us 'SPELAION-PUTTER', a possible alliteration of which could be SPELAPUTTER. My readers will be able to supply many other suitable variations; the principle is the main thing. If these cavers really want to be bright they can follow the custom of such groups as the Narcissists or the Bacchanalians, by taking their pick of the Greek Pantheon. I would sincerely commend for their consideration Persephone for she spent one part of the year with Hades, her husband, in the nether regions and the other part on the surface. Then our caver cousins would be called, Persephonians and no one would begrudge them that. (I would steer clear of the label, 'Hadist', if I were they.)

But what of us poor plain Jane rockclimbers, do we not merit a more glamorous name? Are we not the cream of outdoor society who (have mercy on the punner) rise above the milky herd? Let us raise the banner of la gloire; throw up the barricades; kick the cloudwatchers; \*prusick up the flagpole; expand the bolts; peton the enemy's guns and let the whole world ring with our gallant motto; our battle cry, "Up rope, forever," and let us roar out our marching song;

\*Author's footnote. Etymological tears is defined here as meaning 'sorrow for the roots of things', not to be confused with crocodile tears.

\*\* CLOUD WATCHING -- Bob Mole. UP ROPE. January 1960

Hack away the rope, me lads,  
The leader fell away,  
Cut that snaking rope, you cads,  
The leader's had his day.

Pardon me, I was carried away. Now what about a decent name? As far as I can see the geologists have cornered the Greek rock market. Not being a classical Greek scholar, I have no idea of the Greek for mountain so the field is wide open in that direction for more knowledgeable types than I. Considering that mountaineering is a modern British\*invention, I thought perhaps that a Scottish name would be appropriate, but my familiarity with the Gaelic is not of the best and all I could come up with was, "Ben" and "Brae." I would not dare try to concoct a word from such roots and so we will must have to wait another year so that I can brush up on the Celtic tongue.

But perhaps the inhabitants of Olympus may have something to offer us. Alas, there were no Greek gods who specialized in rock climbing and neither is there a god of the mountains like Poseidon of the seas or Hades of the Underworld. Still there was the lord of them all enthroned on Olympus itself, namely Zeus. Perhaps we can call ourselves, 'Zeusians' or 'Olympians.' Do we not strive to conquer nature? I think these titles would justly describe us. Or, if you like, see what we can make of Hermes. Etymologically, it is claimed by some that his name means a 'stone' or 'rock' and he is also the god of athletes. I think we could justify stretching the spirit of the thing and coin the label, 'Hermonians' or 'Hermesians' or 'Hermesians' or Hermologists.'

I do not think we should be outdone by the cavers who have Cybele for a goddess. Now Artemis was a fine, upstanding god-girl fond of the chase(animals) and all that, and she was a great one for scaling the mountains when on the hunt. I, therefore, would like to nominate her to be goddess of rockclimbers and mountaineers. Then, we could be 'Artemites.' Agreed? Thank you.

S.G.

#### UPS AND DOWNS

April 17, 1960 SUGARLOAF, Maryland

The usual\*\* morning gathering at Horrid Johnson's was not so usual: a bodaceously bedecked agglutination (do you hate crowds, too?) of Easter break-fasters eyed us and our outfits with that I-am-the-standard-of-normalcy-from-which-everyone-else-deviates look. Anyway, the food tasted the same.

The Capitelines met the two lone Baltimorons, Jim Shipley and Walt Kuckes, at the parking area and all trudged up to the rocks. Sam Goldin carried the basket stretcher,\*\*\*a gift from the Bethesda Rescue Squad. It's very pleasant to snooze in, eh Sam?

Ropes were soon dangling from the Beginner's Crack, the Butterfinger, the rib between the latter and the Cave, and from the Pine Tree and the face to the left. The Butterfinger was climbed by many; some clambered clumsily, others

\*(Pay no attention! Our author is from Scotland and is somewhat biased. ED.)

\*\* (Except for the seven who left early to go caving.)

\*\*\* This is a Stokes Stretcher conveniently cut in half for back packing. It is then fitted together whenever the occasion demands, such as the above. Ed.

greatheartedly gripped and grasped; one trier said, "I didn't have any luck with it" (luck? phooey!). Jim Shipley chimneyed out of the Cave about 10 feet above the ground and then climbed the rib to the left; two other climbers huffedly and puff-edly repeated this route (chimneys sometimes don't fit so good). After lunch a small but earnest group attacked the face just to the right of the beginner's crack. Bob Adams came over to watch, pointed to the place where an important foothold had been broken off some time before, and then suggested holds to several climbers. Our Leader then got on the climb and in three winks was 15 feet higher, at the impossible place. Jim S. and Hal Kramer also ascended this pitc.

In the late afternoon a small band went over to the cliffs on the other side. One of the belayers took this airy opportunity to cloudgaze (albeit without official sanction from the C.W. Society). He saw the shadow of a linear, man-made cloud cast onto a lenticular, natural cloud--surely an extra-Molar phenomenon, and of course of paramount (also MGM) importance to Cloud Watchers. (Were you really happy in that old cave, Bob?)

The trail up Sugarloaf is a very interesting route; redheads, blondes, etc. etc.

Fred Barker

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor of Up Rope:

April 3rd summary in Up Rope does not contain any notation on climbing. This is my report. It applies to all the other wet or snowy days.\*

Have you ever been out climbing  
On a really wet day?  
See! Climbers just love it  
And they make them too. (You mean the climbs? Ed.)  
Their fathers taught them how to climb  
When they were hardly grown.  
So now they climb everywhere  
Even if they must do it in the rain.  
Thank you.

Chris Scoredos

Dear Chris,

It is obvious that you qualify and we invite you to join the Cultural Society which meets almost any rainy Sunday at the editors apartment to decide the days activity. For the record -- we were out on the very rainy May 8 -- even three severely handicapped Folk Dancers who did some remarkable climbing.

The Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

If anyone has any information on the whereabouts of the following, will he or she send the information to the Edlers.

Larry Lepley  
Dave Rippin

Ron Perla  
Dr. Sven Nissen Meyer

Bevin Hewitt  
Dick Usen

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