



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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The Mountaineering Committee meets at Howard Johnson's restaurant, Western and Wisconsin Avenues every Sunday morning at 8 a.m. for breakfast, and leaves for the climbing areas at 8:30. Instruction is offered for beginners. Due to poor weather conditions during the next few months it may be necessary to change our trip schedules, so be sure to meet us at the restaurant or look behind the southeast corner drainpipe for a note telling you where we have gone. Please do not call the restaurant.

### COMING EVENTS

- February 5 CARDEROCK, Maryland or island hopping, ice permitting. First Aid.
- February 12 PURPLE HORSE, Maryland or island hopping, ice permitting. Final First Aid session.
- February 19 BOUCHER ROCK, Virginia.
- February 26 HERZOG ISLAND, Maryland. Program at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m.
- March 4-5 There will be a cave trip led by Ted Sched. This trip will have to be limited both in number of participants and by their experience. Please contact Harold Kramer or Alan Talbert later in the month for details.

SOME NOTES ON SENECA ROCKS

During our last trip to Seneca Rocks on November 11-13 Mr. Harper discussed the past and future of this favorite climbing area. Mr. Harper is one of the owners of Seneca Rocks and a long time resident. His family lived at Mouth of Seneca before the Civil War. As a boy he learned from his grandmother of the 22nd Georgia Regiment that wintered there during the early years of the war. Sheltered only in makeshift lean-tos, built of rails taken from a rail fence, some of the troops did not survive the winter and are buried in an old slave cemetery on a hill above the town. Men of this regiment tried without success to reach South Peak.

Mr. Harper remembered stories his grandmother told of unsuccessful attempts to reach South Peak. As he became older his interest increased and he began to search for a possible route to the top. After numerous attempts he finally found what we call the "Old Ladies Route" and was able to reach his objective. To his knowledge he was the first to reach South Peak.

Years later a civil engineer and experienced mountain climber named Bittinger spent considerable time in the area while making maps for the Park Service. He became interested in Seneca Rocks and may be the unknown "D B Sept 16, 1908" whose initials were found when Paul Bradt, Don Hubbard, and Sam Moore first reached South Peak.\*

During 1942 and 1943 Seneca Rocks served as a training area for mountain troops of the U.S. Army. Many of these troops later took part in the storming of the Alps in Italy. It is reported that the officer who was in charge of the training program at Seneca was killed during the assault.

West Virginia has plans to acquire Seneca Rocks and develop the area for a state park. According to rumors there will be a new road, bridge, and a camping area. Flood lights may be used to illuminate the rocks at night as a tourist attraction. The state probably will be careful to maintain the scenic value and natural beauty of the rocks. We hope any development of Seneca Rocks as a tourist site will not interfere with continued use of the area by climbing groups.

\* Rock Climbing on Seneca by John C. Reed, P A T C Bulletin, April, 1955

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - NEW OFFICERS

Bob Adams presided at the Annual Mountaineering Committee Business Meeting on Sunday, January 29. The main order of business was the election of new officers. By unanimous vote Harold Kramer was elected Chairman of the Mountaineering Committee of the PATC and Alan Talbert was elected Vice-Chairman.

The duties of the Chairman have always seemed to be somewhat nebulous but we wish to thank Bob Adams and Bob Mole for leading us through the past year. However, one of the duties of the Chairman, as was discovered to everyone's delight at the Annual Meeting, is to keep the assorted real property of the Mountaineering Committee. These symbols of office, not quite the scepter and orb of the British monarch, include one beautiful conch shell horn, one 5-gallon jerry can (slightly rusty), 4 ropes of varying length and reliability, 1 incomplete first aid kit, and several slings and carabiners. We wish the new officers well and hope the retired officers enjoyed their office as much as we enjoyed their leadership.

NEW PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Along with other changes of office, a common occurrence in Washington these days, "Blondie" Worrell has been named our new Program Chairman. She would appreciate any ideas for slide shows or talks and any suggestions for possible meeting places. Her address is 1912 Tadcaster Road, Baltimore 28, Maryland.

UP ROPE STAFF

UP ROPE gains a new editor and staff with this issue. We wish to extend our warmest thanks to Betty Johnson for her outstanding work as editor. UP ROPE, as we understand the story, was never really expected to last more than a few months when it was started seventeen years ago in November, 1944. We think that its continued existence has in large part been due to the spirit of editors like Betty.

EDITOR: Hardy Hargreaves

BUSINESS MANAGER: Continue to send one dollar for 12 issues to  
Hardy Hargreaves at the Club House, 1916  
Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

PRINTERS DEVILS: Carmen Torrey, Alice Lane, Chuck Wettling,  
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