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JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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### COMING EVENTS

- February 4 CARDEROCK, Md.  
11 GREAT FALLS, Md.  
18 ECHO CLIFFS, Va.  
25 CUPID'S BOWER, Md.  
March 4 CARDEROCK, Md.

NOTE: Any of the above trips may be changed due to the unpredictable weather we experience in February. As usual, a note will be left behind the drainpipe at the Howard Johnson Restraunt where we gather on Sunday mornings if the trip leaders decide it is necessary to change the day's trip.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Mountaineering Committee held its annual meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Wade Marshall on January 30. The meeting was opened by the temporary chairman Bob Adams who, having gone through this exercise last year as chairman, ran an exemplary brief meeting.

Ed Worrell was unanimously elected chairman of the Mountaineering Committee for 1962 and Al Klov Dahl was similarly elected vice chairman. All those present felt that Bob Adams, Chuck Wetling and Arnold Wexler of the nominating committee had done their work well.

Chairman Ed Worrell officiated at the rest of the meeting which included a report on last summer's expedition to Shiprock

(Annual Meeting from page 1) which was narrated by Al Barbour and Bob Adams. Earlier in the evening Al and Ron Bell gave a verbal report on the climbers' brief deviation into caving on the week-end of January 27.

In addition, Blondie Worrell volunteered to continue acting as Program Chairman, the unsung but important job which let's the committee have meetings at a variety of places besides the clubhouse. Blondie continues to hope that the climbers will give her suggestions for meetings and volunteer to help with the refreshments.

The evening ended on a pleasant note with refreshments and general discussion of projects for the coming year. These include perhaps most importantly the selection and outfitting of a new Oscar tree for belay practice.

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#### A LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO "UP ROPE"

On the Sunday morning, following the Annual Meeting and Dinner of the American Alpine Club last December, three fortunate members who had the time and baggage weight allowance sufficient for the inclusion of climbing clothes, met at the appointed hour with their hospitable hosts and hostesses of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

After a short drive and pleasant walk along a winding tow-path beside the quiet mirrored reflections of trees and cliffs in the old canal waterway, we found ourselves confronted by the challenging cracks, crevices, faces, and overhangs of Carderock cliff. Here in the finest of sunny climbing weather we tested the upward navigational problems presented by tension and friction holds, enjoyed a picnic lunch during the noon siesta interlude, and a conversational give-and-take on mountaineering topics, before the climbing began again in earnest.

If we, their guests, could only have equalled in climbing skill the excellence in technique of our patient Potomac belayers, our cups of climbing pleasure would have been filled to overflowing, -but one of us found that the Golden Stairs lacked an adequate number of steps, while another eyed the Spider Walk with the appropriate awe and respect which it inspired; and not one of us so much as attempted the Jam Box which necessitates the adhesiveness of an octopus, the tensile strength and deliberation of movement of a giant sloth neatly combined with the nimble skill of an agile orb weaver. We would not have missed for anything Bob Adam's demonstration climb up its overhanging outthrusts. Our only regret was caused by the absence of Arnold Wexler who had been instrumental in making possible this unforgettable outing.

Mary Bird Young  
Christopher Young  
Christine L. Reid

Cupid's Bower, Md., December , 1961

Dear Mountainclimbers,

It is my turn to report on a small trip we took to Cupid's Bower. I should have written it some time ago but there was one big reason why I always postponed it. I'm not perfect in English grammar. If you will find some dreadful mistakes then, please, keep smiling. (They may be our mistakes anyway, ED.)

Our objective that Sunday was Cupid's Bower on the Potomac River. It was a miserable rainy day, but anyway, some very cold-blooded people found the way to Howard Johnson's Restaurant. One of the delightful moments on this day was the sight of snow covered hills and trees. The area between the parking lots and the river was like a slide or chute and we proved our steadfastness. (John Harschberger had none.) In the next ten minutes the fateful event of the day occurred. As usual we crossed the river by jumping from one stone to another. But it was impossible because the river was at high tide. We didn't have many choices. Therefore, we removed our shoes and socks and crossed the river making faces. I can't describe how glad we were to sit on the boulders on the other side and rub our frozen toes.

We reached Cupid's Bower at 10:30. Chuck Wettling, an old naturalist, started to make a fire, under a rock, which was difficult to keep burning because all the branches were wet. Little by little we got warm and Chuck's black bitter coffee helped too.

Our attention was divided between an icy rock and Chuck's attempt to discover another route back. Neither group had any success. Early in the afternoon we returned and the river had to be crossed a second time!!

Dinner at an Italian restaurant was followed by a gay evening at Betty Johnson's house. We listened to dance records and tried some steps which Betty taught us. This was a delightful climax to a very unusual day.

Christl Scherer

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Carderock, Md., January 7, 1962

Vigorous climbing under the influence of springlike sunshine gave Carderock a busy appearance all day long. Activities started with newcomers working on the Beginner's Crack under supervision, while the adjacent more difficult climbs were assaulted by experienced climbers wearing heavy packs. This hard work approach to familiar practice climbs is gaining adherents, if not popularity.

The morning also saw the end of the Oscar Tree as a Belay practice device. Stripped of all removeable hardware, it is now

(Carderock from page 3) just an old dead forest tree, wormy and rotten, in danger of falling down of its own weight. Long in sight, the end came when a great portion of the upper limb was found lying almost on top of the winch and engine bed. Those who had recently operated the winch were not surprised by the discovery. With every release of Oscar they had anticipated just exactly this happening and in fact, belay practice was suspended several months ago for that reason.

Since a new Oscar Tree is planned, the hardware was removed from the old tree for reuse. Chuck Wettling led the work party by climbing the questionable remainder of the top branch and removing the block chained in place there. On the way down, the platform and rungs were also removed, leaving the tree bare. Some difficulty was experienced with stubborn bolts.

Afternoon saw the most vigorous activity in the areas of Kindergarten Corner and Herbie's Horror. It also saw mud generated by the warm sunshine thickly deposited by lug soles on the best and only holds. Both mud and carriers were roundly denounced and became the subject of many fine excuses during the evening repast at T.

The climbers<sup>9</sup> included Bob Mole, Alcie Lane, Christl Scherer, Chuck Wettling, Al Barbour, Frank Herman, Betty Johnson, Ron Bell, the Adamses, Bill Keasbey, Sam Stulberg, Dick Crompton, Ed Goodman, Jan Plastera, Michel West, Edward Hug, Louis Matacia, Mary Vincett, and Dave Horvick.

R.B.

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SPECIAL NOTICE: Anyone interested in a 6 week wilderness expedition in July and August in southeast Alaska--the Chitina Valley area, roughly north of Mt. Logan--to hike and possibly climb, and take pictures please contact: John Ackermann  
Middle Kenyon  
Gambier, Ohio

Don Hubbard has a communication from John which has further details.

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UP ROPE is happy to take note of the marriage of Suse Schrade, one of the German girls who added so much to the climbing group last year, to Herr Hermann Bergengruen. The wedding is to take place on February 10 in Esslingen, West Germany.

NOTE!! FEBRUARY MEETING on Wednesday the 28th at the home of Dr and Mrs Silsbee, 2620 Quebec, N.W., Washington--go east on Quebec from the intersection of Quebec and Connecticut as far as possible.

EDITOR: Hardy Hargreaves

Assistants: Alice Lane, Sam Stulberg

\* Dr Silsbee will speak on  
\* "South of the Border from the  
\* Retired Climber's Point of  
\* View."

Subscriptions: Send one dollar to the Editor at the PATC clubhouse, address on page one, for 12 monthly issues of UP ROPE.