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NEWS OF THE TORPID AND COMPLACENT PROCRASTINATORS MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

Often Found in Quiet Nooks

Volume XXXXXLI Number 334

April 1, 1962

COMING EVENTS

April 1 KANCHENJUNGA

8 ACONCAGUA

15 THE EIGER, Southwest Face

24 Weekend trip to SENECA, West Virginia. Trip leader is Al K. Lovedoll, who has volunteered to take a selected party of women into Hell Hole. With a break in the weather, an assault on the South Peak of Seneca itself may be attempted.

29 ARARAT

36/

NOTE: Beginners bring lunch, canteen, and sneakers. These local trips are intended to prepare participants for serious climbing during the summer. In case of extreme bad weather or showers, look behind southeast drainpipe and proceed directly to the clubhouse for slide viewing practice.

APRIL MEETING will be held on Wednesday, May 13, in the vacant lot behind the ~~41st/42nd~~ Cabin John firehouse. The program will be a talk and demonstration of the slide raffle by H. H. Doerrenpflaume. See article below for background information on this useful technique. Punch will also be served.

THE SLIDE RAFFEL

Developed and perfected in the 1961-60 season by the team of Hermann Rutabaga, Karl von Foolum, and Richard Roe, on their famed Whitmore-Roebeck expedition, the slide raffel has been steadily gaining attention in mountaineering circles. Although not at first attempt simple for novices, it is sufficiently easy for even the most experienced of climbers to adopt. Its most remarkable advantage is, of course, its ability to swing freely, both left and right, under any strain and under a certain degree of ultimate tension. This is decidedly superior to other types, and has the added quality of being just the right size, a matter of utmost importance in some situations.

Naturally it has provoked wide discussion, and opinions both pro and con have been registered. The most recurring of criticisms has concerned its powers of infraction. After prolonged testing by the National Bureau of Standards, the following table has been developed to help answer the question:

No.	TYPE	Fracture	BTU	Pull Strength*	Elast.	Vit.A
1	standard	27.0	8	4,006	none	B
2	standard modified	23.8	7	3,984	none	B1
3	modified 1	14.0	10	98	none	D
8	modified 2	20.4	6	1,964	?	B
6	Bunsen	21.0	37	5,203	none	C

* Vertical distance divided by K (1.643) plus normal deviation west

As can be seen, modified 1 is far superior in three out of five categories, and in the other four is not far behind. Further testing is projected for the future, both for other qualities (leavening, ratocination, etc.) and of the more recent models, issued after the commencement of the study.

It would be advisable, therefore, not to entirely discard the old style for the new, despite its advantages, but rather to borrow someone else's, pending publication of further results, probably in the fall of '65.

RABIES IN BATTS

According to latest scientific research, batts are prime carriers of rabies, better known as hydrophobia. Rabies is so contagious a disease that not only the bite of a batt but the mere presence of one, or of his or her excretion, can cause a virulent outbreak in humans. Some veterinarians warn that the discussion of rabies alone may bring on the symptoms of hydrophobia. These are frothing at the mouth, wild gesticulation, and the appearance of hysterical siezure.

* Reprinted without permission from Journal of Doxology, Vol. PQ, No. 33, pp 36-8.

(Batts, continued)

Spelunkers, or any who emulate them, are in particular danger from batt-spread rabies, and are cautioned to stay as far away as possible from their haunts. Members of the medical profession conservatively estimate two miles as a safe distance.

An additional danger is present from contact with people who have had contact with batts. Most particularly, avoid biting or being bitten by such persons.

STORMLIGHT AND STARS

The empire of civilisation had scarcely touched upon this bleak and forbidding outpost of the great trade route between Mecca and Rome. Here was only the white stone building with brilliant orange-tiled roof known as the caravanserai of HoJo. Heavily armed, uniformed men patrolled nearby, doubtless to curb the wild impulses of the lawless mountaineers who refreshed themselves here on the journey toward their native hills.

The plainsmen, too, flocked in and out the gates, opened promptly at 7 by the village partiarch. The women, in particular, were worthy of study, in their flowery, befeathered headgear. A splendid field for a Rational Geographic photographer, except for the local custom of covering the upper body, a practice to which no exceptions were noted.

Within, the servants of HoJo moved in unhurried serenity, deaf alike to offers of baksheesh and cries of anger, intent only on forwarding complaints to the vast kitchens, vocal only to proclaim their little territory in the bustling hall.

From many places we had come our separate ways to meet here, a small, silent group, each with our own untold reason for joining forces to face the grim challenge of Kar Der-Ock. There was--

Robert J. Aiguille--our leader, whose hawk-keen eye ever demanded new worlds to conquer

Ronaldo--silent, destined to an icy fate at the hands of one he trusted

Juan--none knew what passion had etched that look of pain haunting his youthful countenance

Chazz--never without a bitter black ichor carried in a Dewar flask--an elixir culminating centuries of research by demonologists, yet powerless to save him from the fate he was to share with Ronaldo at the hands of

Kitty--whose Irish charm concealed a dangerous saboteur. It was she who threw the rock plunging the ill-fated pair from their icy footing into the depths below. Worse still, it was her trusted hand that put the Worcestershire sauce in the beer

Alexei--what great naval power had sent him on the expedition? and why?

Elizabeth--darkly devastating, amid the tangled threads of intrigue she remained sphinx-like--seeing, knowing, comprehending, dealing in ancient mysteries

and I, Gaston Rubberfat--meteorologist to the expedition, a man of superhuman climbing ability, a very devil with the women, overly modest, with a gift for understatement.

(Stormlight, continued)

The tense little gathering exchanged significant glances as our leader consulted his hourglass, then nodded affirmatively. As one we rose and silently filed out under the hostile stares of the natives.

Up the broad valley of the Po Tomak our expedition moved slowly, to the spot where man had flung a narrow bridge across the chill chasm-- a last gesture of defiance at the wilderness beyond. As we trudged undaunted across the perilous span we little knew the rigors we would face on the forbidding bastions of Kar Der-Ock before we would again pass this way, grinning racing for aid and succour at the friendly hospice of St. Tuohy.

(continued on page 27)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Just thought ROP&OB readers might like to try our favorite high-altitude rations:

4 cups rice krispies

2 tsp. baking soda

Mix: 2/3 cup marshmallow fluff

1 cup diced leverwurst

parsley flakes

salt to taste

Lace well with warm jello and let stand 1/2 hour. Serve with mustard.

Please cancel our subscription.
Humbert & Maude Okie

Dear Editor:

Having high time. Won't be back. Please cancel subscription.

Charles

(Ed.--Postmarked Bikini. Picture on card may explain message.)

Dear Editor:

Why don't you tell people why you're leaving the country?

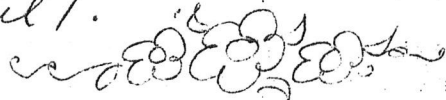
Congratulations.

Former staff members

to whom it may concern:

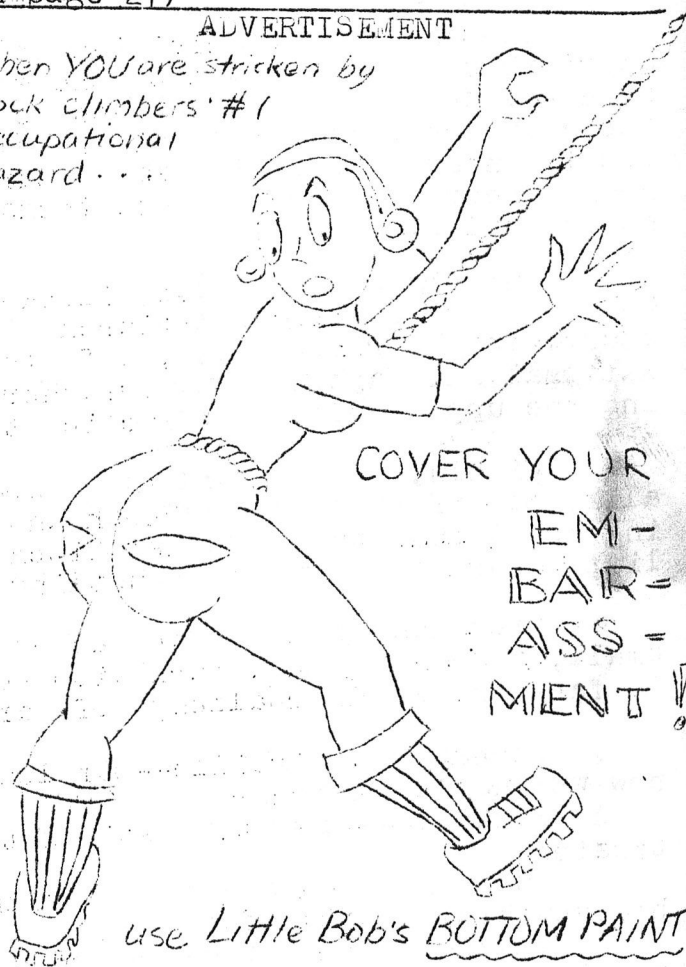
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April 1.



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