

ROCK UP

APRIL 1968

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
ATPC CLIMB-ROCKING
SECTION
(CONN JAN & HERB BE FOUND)



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THE ATPC CLIMB-ROCKING SECTION

The Climb-Rocking Section of the Appalachian Trail Potomac Club welcomes all interested individuals who wish to participate in its weekly outings and to share in the rocking of the climbs. Sunday day trippers leave from Howard Johnson's at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, N.W. at noon. Come early and have breakfast by yourself. If you are late, forget it. Group stops for supper on the way home. Wear clothing.

ROCK UP PUBLICATION

ROCK UP is the newsletter of the ATPC Climb-Rocking Section, founded by Jan & Herb Conn in 1944, founded by the present editor, & funded by a bunch of misers. Material for inclusion, comments, or questions on editorial policy should be directed to the Potomac relocation site, especially questions on editorial policy. Cash subscription fees should be given to the Business Manager at the corner of New York Avenue & 14th Street, N.W.

APRIL BOOK REVIEW

A CLIMBERS GUIDE TO THE FEDERAL RANGE By P. Bunyan and Yeti. \$4.98, Olympia Press. 665 Pages, folio size with 114 color photographs. Review by Glen Reid.

This book is one of the latest and finest additions to the growing literature of mountaineering in particular and the ecology and geology of mountain ranges in general. It is actually more than a climbers guide in that many things are discussed. among them: geology, geography, ecology, anthropology, comparative religions, political science and the transportation and living conditions within the Federal Range. Doctor P. Bunyan who is Munchausen Professor of Pychoceramics* at the Roaring Creek Center for the Performing and Visual Arts, Onego, West Virginia and Yeti, his famous Sherpa Guide and traveling companion, need no introduction here.

The Federal Range, as is pointed out in the introduction, is one of the least known of the worlds minor mountain ranges. This is surprising in view of the fact that it is located in the eastern United States. It is located mainly to the north of the Potomac River, is completely encircled by Interstate 695 and is crossed by such well traveled roads as Interstate 95, US 1 and US 29. The mineralogy and the geology are extremely interesting in that some of the rock formations exist nowhere else in the world. Granite, limestone and sandstone predominate although there is much ossified sedentary material and a rather peculiar deposit of asphalt. This latter material exists at the bottom of practically all of the canyon in the area and is believed to be the result of a prehistoric volcanic flow. The deposits range from 10 to about 12 inches thick and are broken up into blocks and gravel. An unfortunate result of this deposit is the effect on local agriculture. There is little arable land and what there is is of poor quality due to deposits of trash by the local populace. This necessitates importation of foodstuffs and water from outside the area.

The mountain chain is broken up into large blocks by faulting. Most of the fault lines run at right angles although there are several notable exceptions to this. The main peaks are Old State; the Capitol; The White House; Mount Rayburn; The Museum or, as it is more commonly known, The Smithsonian; and the Monument. There are three other peaks that are considered as extensions of the range although there is some controversy concerning this point. These are Mount Cia and the Pentagon south of the River and Mount Nsa at Meade. All of the main peaks are interesting and have many class 4,5, and six climbs. The most challenging climb is, however, that of the granite pinnacle known as the Monument. This latter was climbed by Professor Bunyan and Yeti in what is believed to be a first ascent. Others claim to have climbed the peak, however, there was no record in the register at the top. In fact, there was no register. The Monument is 555 feet tall and is situated on a little knoll in the middle of a grassy plain. It required seven tension pitches and four days. The party climbed on the north side which had the advantage of being in the shade. The face is extremely smooth and is inclined about 10 to 15 degrees from the vertical. A total of 107 paper clips were used in the ascent. Pitons had been tried but it was impossible to fit them into the extremely smooth rock face. The climb was watched by many of the local natives who seemed distraught that some one was defiling their sacred peak by climbing it.

The easiest climbing was Old State and the Museum. These have many bucket holds and little exposure. The climbs were considered something for the advanced beginner. One of the most difficult was the White House. When the party reached the top the register was found to have just 34 names and these were entered over a period of 190 years. The climb is extremely slow and requires an outstanding knowledge of two climbing techniques known as partying and politicking. There is much argument as to the relative merits of those and Professor Bunyan presents the pros and cons of each.

* A course for advanced crack pots.

He says there are three new partys who are going to attempt this climb next summer or fall, although he is betting against their making it. The parties will be led by Reagen from California, Romney from Michigan and Rockefeller from New York.

The author in a separate chapter discussed the natives of the region and many of their quaint religious customs. He points out that all the peaks of the region have extensive cave systems and that these caves are the centers for various warring and competing cults. Services are held regularly in each of the cave temples and range from the rather simple one called "Granting" at the Museum to the more bloodthirsty ceremony held in secret at Mount Cia and known only as the "cloak and dagger" ceremonial. He cautions against trying to climb Mount Cia because of this "cloak and dagger ceremonial". Also, the Pentagon because of the "Sanguinary nature of the Green Suited Priests" and the opposing "Blue Suited Priests". People have disappeared into the Pentagon and never been seen again and are thought to have been eliminated in a ceremony called Riffing or Cost Cutting by The High Priest, Macna Mara.

The doctor reports on a phenomenon that is observed nowhere else in the world. At odd intervals, blasts of hot air are emitted by several of the cave systems, especially the Capitol and the White House. There is no known reason or explanation for this hot air flow as there is no volcanic activity in the region.

One last anthropological note is given by Professor Bunyan. It is pointed out that there are large numbers of eligible native girls running loose in the area. This surplus of girls is believed due to the migration of the native men to work in the field and farms of surrounding areas where agriculture is practiced. Those men that are left, especially those members of the semi-secret organization known as "The Congress" are not to be trusted. This latter organization holds lying, cheating and stealing to be among the greatest of virtues and will go to any extreme to protect their members from Justice and the Law.

The cost of expeditions to this area are quite high being \$40.00 to \$50.00 a day per member. Food is expensive and even the simplest lodgings in native inns costs \$25.00 a day. As a result the party was forced to camp out in various woodsy areas. One especially nice area was found to have many wild cherry trees growing in it. However, even with the high costs and unfriendly natives the party felt that the expedition was a success.

MEET THE ATPC

In 1960 when experts predicted the eventual drying up of the present Potomac River, a small band of conservationists concerned with its protection formed a group under the leadership of Dr. Neptune Fluvius with the express aim of determining the means by which the Potomac River could be kept meandering on for posterity. This group gave itself the name "The Potomac River Protection Society".

Search was begun by PRPS in the West Virginia-Maryland area for replenishing springs. A cache of desalinized Atlantic Water was created and maintained at Hancock, Maryland against the days of aridity. Constant surveillance of the River together with continuous measurement of its pollution allowed the maintenance of a separate cache of conglomerated garbage and trash at a secret site in Kenilworth, Maryland.

Frustration ensued when the Corps of Engineers revealed plans for a Hinterland Expressway to be laid in the eventually dry riverbed. Announced Kludge Whooley, Chief Engineer, "Come the week-end, people wanna get out in the country and, by God, we're gonna get 'em there". It was at this point that PRPS decided to relocate the Potomac River along the Appalachian Trail and changed its name to the Appalachian Trail Potomac Club.

The club was soon augmented by the Skin Diving Section (the aquatic members of a Canadian religious group in exile.) The members of this section went about mapping the river bottom for eventual replication. Following this expansion, a group

of itinerant mountaineers formed the Climb-rocking section and have been building up boulder piles in the relocation zone for use in eventual duplication of the Potomac Gorge. The last and most recent arm to be added to the ATPC is the Bock-packing section, a group of beer connoisseurs, who have been busy breaking bottles along the relocation zones extent and who have accepted responsibility for keeping a steady inflow of litter into the area. It is they who originated the slogan, "Don't discard trash on the trail. Carry it out and throw it in the River."

TRIP REPORTS

(Reports are still coming in for trips taken prior to our involvement in the Potomac's relocation. They are somewhat the worse for wear, attendees names have been lost, but some of the report has been salvaged in each case.)

BUNKER HILL, MASS.

June 16, 1775

After the usual breakfast at the Old Crown Inn, we made our way to the climbs. We were waylaid at Breed's Hill by a bunch of British potholers and the resulting scuffle broke into quite a battle after some farmers joined in with pitchforks and scythes. Prescott, who's somewhat blood thirsty, picked up a pistol somewhere and ran around yelling, "Don't fire, men, until you see the glow of their hard hats." Later in the day---(illegible from here on).

PLYMOUTH ROCK, MASS.

November 12, 1620

A hearty breakfast at the Mayflower and then we proceeded to the climbing area. We approached the rock in the longboat and after much sloshing about, Miles Standish made the first climb of the day in his full armor. Looking at the sun bounced off the armor, John Alden suggested he be installed as a permanent lighthouse. Miles shot a round at John with his blunderbuss and immediately a half a dozen Indians came tearing out of the woods yelling something about the turkey season. At that point we went back to the boat, leaving--(impossible to read from this point).

BULL RUN, VA.

July 21, 1861

Got down to Bull Run and ran into a local Grange meeting or something. Stonewall started up Snicker Snee and almost got stabbed by one. We finally gave up and straggled back to D. C. but we told those damm farmers we were going to come back and give 'em what for. Abe had his usual anecdote to tell and we had quite a time tearing Seward away from his throat but when we--(script fades out here).

CORNERED EDITOR

Now we all realize that it takes a heap of heaps to have enough rocks for the average climb, but that does not warrant the recent action by some of our more, I am sad to say, irresponsible members. I refer, of course, to the snatching of the cornerstone of the Capitol building for use in the replication of Socrates's Downfall. This is no doubt the same group that has been surreptitiously dismantling the Jefferson Memorial.

Too bad the Gorp Committee doesn't move with the same speed and dispatch. Five years, twenty rucksacks, two and a half tons of assorted cereals, raisins, and candies, and there is still widespread disagreement regarding a standardized Gorp recipe. At last count the club had 50 voting members and 51 recipes for Gorp. Surely something can be done to end the incessant debates and endless rounds of voting. Personally, I am convinced that either of my two recipes would serve equally well.

Several letters, a serrated brickbat, and a double handful of buckshot came my way recently. The letters contained forthright criticism regarding editorial policy. The missiles, I assume, were delivered in the same general, moody vein. After having read the letters and seeing they were unfit for publication, I decided to present an illustration of a truly poor newsletter format. The following are some excerpts from one of our exchange publications, UP ROPE, the newsletter of the Mountaineering Section of the PATC:

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE HALLS OF KSU

Hi gang:

Heres my \$3.50 for membership in the PATC Mount. Sect. and UP ROPE Sub. for 67-68.

Since I left the D. C. area in July of 64 to pursue higher education the names I have read in the UP ROPE are getting less and less familiar due to turnover. This summer I hope to remedy the situation by working and of course climbing in the Washington area. Then in the fall I'll come back to Kent for the last time, last quarter, as an undergraduate and will finally pick up my B. S. in Math in December of 68.

I still have 120' of 7/16" Mountain Nylon coiled hanging in my bedroom and the only use recently I've found for my hard hat is to ask a co-ed if she has ever seen a hat that glows in the dark and then turn all the lights out in my apartment to show her that it really does glow.

I'm really looking forward to this summer to meeting a lot of old friends, meeting some new ones.

If anyone knows where I might find work this summer in the D. C. area I'd appreciate hearing from them.

All for now -- Off Belay
Ray Hair

Ed. note: You say you haven't used the rope?

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOUNTAINEERING FELLOWSHIPS

The American Alpine Club
announces

THE CLIMBING FELLOWSHIP FUNDWARDS 1968

... to encourage mountaineers (generally below age 26) who wish to undertake expeditionary mountaineering ventures or research in alpine related science. Grants of \$100 - \$150 are available for mountaineers of demonstrated ability. Awards are based upon need, past mountaineering record, letters of recommendation, and worth of the specific project proposed. Applicants need not be members of the American Alpine Club. Deadline for applications is May 1, 1968. Recipients will be notified by May 31, 1968.

Address inquiries to:

Samuel Silverstein, M.D.
Chairman, Climbing Fellowship Fund Committee
American Alpine Club
113 East 90th Street
New York, New York 10028

FOR SALE

150 ft. Lengths 7/16" Goldline rope, \$23.00.
Nylon sling webbing, soft white tubular variety, 4000 lb. test. 7¢/ft.
Call Tom McCrumm at 527-6272.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MARCH 30-31 Seneca Rocks, West Virginia *
For information call Joe Nolte (836-6650)
- APRIL 7 Annapolis Rocks, Maryland
Trip Leader: Tom McCrumm (527-6272)
- APRIL 10 Business Meeting. Meet at 8:00 P.M. at the Templeton's at
2313 Ring St., Rockville, Maryland. Bring your slides.
Coffee, punch, and snacks will be served. Wear informal
clothes. Seating is on the floor.
- APRIL 14 Great Falls, Maryland
Trip Leader: Pete Hackett (527-6494)
- APRIL 21 Little Stony Man, Virginia
Trip Leader: Robert Adams (292-1340)
- APRIL 28 Rocks State Park, Maryland
Trip Leader: Alan Goldberg (552-2378)

* These areas are areas in which continuous climbs predominate. Beginners ready to attempt continuous climbing are advised to arrange to get on a climbing team with an experienced climber prior to the trip date, as teams usually form in advance. Other beginners and non-climbers are welcomed as observers.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLIMBS

Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII No. 6, June, 1967, Page 7

Little Stony Man, Virginia

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII No. 9, September, 1967, Page 10

Great Falls, Maryland

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII No. 12, December, 1967, Page 8

Rocks State Park, Maryland

An area with several interesting practice climbs and some short leads.
Refer to a Maryland-Virginia-West Virginia map.

Above Baltimore on either U.S. Route 40 or the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway turn left onto State Route 24. Follow Route 24 about 15 miles to Rocks, Maryland. Turn left in Rocks as directed by the Rocks State Park signs and drive roughly a mile to the park. The rocks are hard to miss. A parking area is on the right below the cliffs.

Annapolis Rocks, Maryland

Take U.S. Route 40 west from Frederick, Maryland to the point at which the Appalachian Trail passes across it. (Approximately 12 miles). From the parking area walk south on the Trail roughly a mile and a half to the rocks.

DIRECTIONS TO THE TEMPLETON'S

Get onto the Rockville Pike (Wisconsin Ave. extended), and drive to Twinbrook Parkway. The parkway is at the 8th light after crossing or coming off the Beltway. Turn right and drive to Pinneberg Street (First street on the right after passing a light at Viers Mill Road.) Turn right, take an immediate left on McIntyre, an immediate right on Ring, and proceed to the next to last house on the right.

SUMMER TRIPS

If anyone is planning to visit National Parks in the western U.S. at anytime during June & July, please contact Else Litjens. Letter: 4536 Avondale St., Bethesda, Maryland, 20014. Phone: 652-2468.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Robin Craft

Sponsors:

George Livingston

Mark Carpenter

Leo Frank

Sponsors:

Hal Kramer

Art Wilder

Roger Hammill

Sponsors:

Hal Kramer

Lanny Hughey

Obviously UP ROPL is a "Free Press" for conservatives.

APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 7 Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts
 Trip Leader: Hester Prynn
- APRIL 14 Molehill, Maryland
 Trip Leader: Miles Standish
 (Note: This is our big climb-rocking session of the
 month. Bring enough boulders for a mountain.)
- APRIL 21 Llanduthlenbalacymwdd
 Trip Leader: Hugh G yfdd
- APRIL 28 Capitol Hill, D. C.
 Trip Leader: Lyndon B. Johansson

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLIMBS

Plymouth Rock, Mass.

Refer ROCK UP, Vol II, No 11, November 1960, Page 3

Molehill, Maryland

For detailed directions, call Priscilla Alden. If John answers, hang up.

Llanduthlenbalacymwdd

Whenever we asked anyone, they'd either stand and stare or break up.

Capitol Hill, D. C.

Never mind where it is, put that cornerstone back!