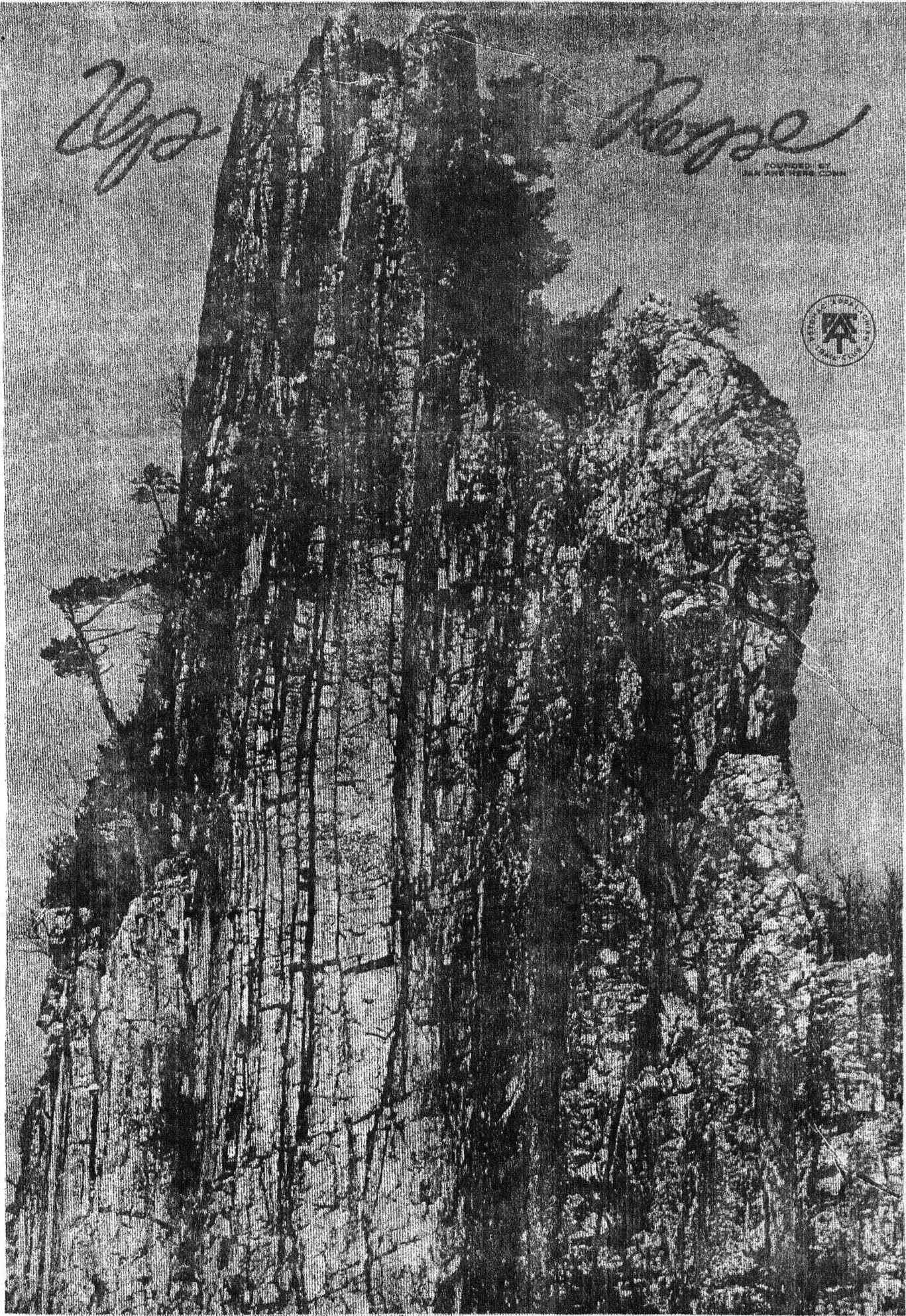


*Wya*

*Wya*

COVERED BY  
ALL THE BEST



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THE COVER - THE FACE OF A THOUSAND PITONS

The basic photograph was taken by Ross Chappel with the assistance of Thais Weibel and Cris Buckingham. Our thanks to Ross and his assistants for allowing our use of his photograph.

THE PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

The Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club welcomes all individuals who wish to participate in its weekly outings and to share in the freedom of the hills. Sunday day trips leave from Howard Johnson's at Wisconsin and Western Avenue, N.W. at 8:30 am. Come early and have breakfast. If you are late, check behind the Southeast drainpipe for any change in scheduled activities. Climbing lasts all day. Groups stop for supper on the way home. Bring Lunch and water. Wear clothing suitable for climbing. For further information, contact the trip leader. For information about the Mountaineering Section write to: Secretary, Mountaineering Section, PATC, 1718, N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, or visit PATC Headquarters between 7 pm. and 10 pm. any weeknight.

UP ROPE PUBLICATION

UP ROPE is the Newsletter of the PATC Mountaineering Section, founded by Jan and Herb Conn in 1944. Publication is on the last Wednesday of each calendar month at PATC Headquarters. Deadline for submitted material is the next to last Wednesday of the month preceding an issue. Material for inclusion, comments or questions on editorial policy should be directed to EDITOR, UP ROPE, C/o PATC, 1718 N. Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036. Subscription rates are \$1.50 per year. New subscriptions and changes of address should be directed to Business Manager, UP ROPE, etc.

Extra copies of UP ROPE are generally found at the information Dest of the PATC should anyone wish one or two for passouts. Please do not take anymore than is necessary for your aims as these are primarily for use by the Information Dest.

To the Editor:

We read with interest Chuck Wettling's letter in the June, 1968, issue of "UP ROPE" relative to the controversy over whether the Act of Congress creating the Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks National Recreational Area (NRA) should or should not contain authorization to take any additional land in the area by eminent domain (which was what the West Virginia Highlands Controversy over how much land should be so taken.) We agree completely with Chuck's suggestion to get the reaction of some of the local landholders. We have talked to Mr. Harper at Mouth-of-Seneca, and I shall send him a copy of Chuck's letter, this letter, and suggest that he and any of the other landholders who wish to write down their views for publication both in UP ROPE and the Social Climber. Furthermore, we find ourselves very much in sympathy with the landowners in the North Fork and adjacent valleys. The valley is not wilderness. There are areas within the NRA, mostly on the ridge tops, which are wilderness and should be kept that way; but the valley is a sparsely settled area with a charm all its own and it is worth preserving for its own virtues. To us that means keeping out any large scale buildup such as heavy industry, mass tourist facilities, high speed roads etc., but it does not mean clearing it of its present population.

The "tentative" NRA plan, currently proposed, calls for the almost total elimination of the village of Mouth-of-Seneca, replacing it with a visitor center, parking lots, campgrounds, and a large lodge. The landowners involved are understandably against this; and some of us who have been most involved with the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy agree. A reproduction of "Old Faithful Village" at Mouth-of Seneca would hardly be an improvement. We feel that alternatives exist, however. Of all the proposed facilities, only the visitor center must be publicly operated. Other facilities could be created by the establishment of a small business administration type of loan service to enable the landowners to develop them on a privately owned basis. There is precedent for this method in the west, and we have found that there are privately operated campgrounds out there which are much nicer than the crowded National Park Campgrounds. We do feel that regulatory power would have to be retained by the NRA administration to prevent private development from becoming too gaudy and out of keeping with the charm of the valley as it is-somewhat perhaps as is done when concessionaires operate facilities on public land, though perhaps a more loosely constructed type of "regulation" would have to be created, since we would be dealing with private rather than public land though within an area designated as being of value to the public. With careful consultation of everyone involved we think this could be done in a manner acceptable to the landowners, and that this way may be better than large scale purchases (though the apparatus for purchase should probably be retained in the law for limited use.) One might, in fact, question whether the visitor center needs to be right under the rocks. Perhaps several smaller ones on the periphery of the NRA would be aesthetically better, and could be educationally more effective.

All the foregoing, however, will be an academic discussion if we allow an even greater danger to go unchallenged. This danger, not so well known at the moment, is that the "Appalachian Development Highway", currently proposed to run from Petersburg up the North Fork, Seneca Creek, and White's Run Valleys to Elkins, is to be a limited access, four lane, divided highway,

designed for high speed and heavy commercial traffic, with very restrictive maximum grade and minimum curve requirements and at least 300 ft right of way (we have heard that the right of way can run to as much as 1100 ft if much blasting or filling is required.) This highway, which is being built by the Appalachian Regional Commission-not by the Forest Service (and is therefore not really a part of the NRA)-would in effect wipe out the North Fork Valley, the Seneca Creek Valley and destroy the beautiful Whites Run Valley. There are places in the North Fork Valley where it won't fit without blasting out a good deal of the mountainside. It would uproot almost the whole population of the North Fork Valley, and ruin the valley as a scenic resource, thus negating the whole concept of a National Recreation Area. The Forest Service is apparently aware of and quite unhappy about this prospect-but seems unable to prevent it.

For climbers, the idea of a visitor center, parking lots, Yosemite-type campgrounds, and a perpetual traffic jam at the foot of Seneca Rocks may be none too pleasant. Band as that picture is, though, try to visualize a superhighway (with an interchange to connect Route 33 going south), built to Interstate Highway specifications rounding the bend at Mouth-of-Seneca and slicing on up Seneca Creek Valley. The point is that, irrespective of the NRA plans, the Appalachian Development Highway alone practically insures that there will be little, if any, private land left in the North Fork and Seneca Creek Valleys. Nor will the area be as accessible or as spiritually rewarding as we have known it is the past.

Nor is this destruction necessary; we can construct at least one alternate route which would largely resolve the problem and make the road more useful to boot. The highway could be run from Petersburg northwest through Maysville Gap (in New Creek Mountain), then west up a long, relatively gradual knee on the Allegheny Front to a point between the two high reservoirs on the Stony River, then northwest to approximately where Route 93 is now, then to Davis, Thomas, Parsons, and Elkins. This route would enable toe road to serve several thousand additional people-people who would be bypassed if it is routed up the North Fork Valley. We who attended the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy workshop in January, 1968, have ascertained that there would be support in Davis at least for running the highway near Davis which now has a developing tourist business and would like to bring in more.

Unfortunately, our present information leads us to believe that the decision as to where the road will go will be based entirely on engineering and construction costs and achievement of minimum mileage and elevation changes for vehicles travelling the road-the scenic and human destructiveness in the North Fort, Seneca, and Whites Run Valleys, and the opportunity loss along the Davis-Thomas-Parsons route, all being virtually ignored.

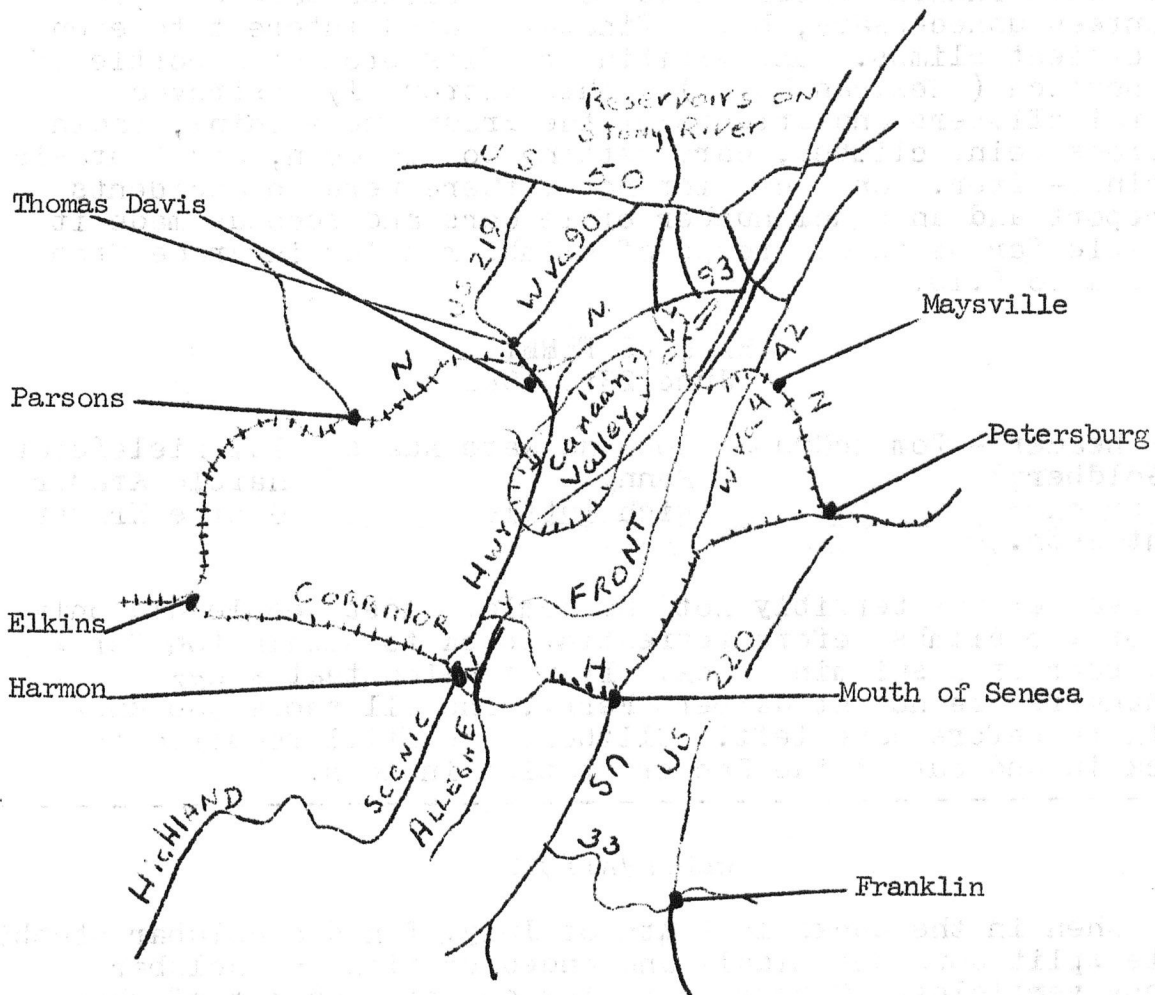
This, at least, is likely to be the course of events unless all interested individuals and groups can pull together enough at least to get the road planners to think in terms of human beings and beauty, instead of money, cars, and asphalt.

Sue and Bob Broughton

SUGGESTED ALTERNATE ROUTES and PROPOSED ROUTE

("A" & "B" on the Highland Scenic Highway mark the present tentative proposed route through wild area at the top of Red Creek, and preferred route nearer Davis respectively.)

indicates the Appalachian Development Highway: "Corridor H" is the North Fork-Seneca- White's Run proposal. "N" is the Davis-Thomas Parsons proposal.



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
SHAWA NGUNKS

Trip Leader - Penny Pierce	Judy Hoskins	Tom Evans
Sallie Greenwood	Ben, Jill Shapiro	Rodger Hammill
June Lehman	Thais Weibel	Beth Sebring
Jerry Archibald	Dick Goodwin	Richard Sidemann
Lorelie	Chips Janger	Matt Hale
Bob, Joan, Suki Robinson	Bob Lyon	Mark Carpenter
Meg, Tony, Stephanie Gray	Arnold Wexler	Chuck Sproull
Tom McCrumm	Mary Eldridge	Don Schaeffer
Al Weiss	John Standard	Mike Hill

Fair to middling weather - with rain on Friday and Sunday mornings only. FAMISHED gnats munching madly - Three first leads; Beth Sebring on Northern Pillar (5.2), Ben Shapiro on Southern Pillar (5.1), and Mary Eldridge on Southern Pillar. Meg, Tony, and Stephanie Gray came down from Buffalo, N.Y. Cold running water on 90% of the climbs made carrying a canteen unnecessary, but definitely added interest to even the easiest climbs. One visiting ratfink brought a bottle of Sobonovitch (Mexican Vouka). This thoroughly destroyed several climbers and friends of the group one evening, ending in trees being climbed, cars getting bogged down, and fantastic mornings-after. On a happier note, there were no accidents to report and an equal number of leaders and seconds made it possible for us to do groups of climbs ranging in grade from Class 4 to 5.10.

HARPERS FERRY  
June 23rd 1968

Trip Leader - Tom McCrumm	Bob and Kate Adams	Tal Bielefeldt
Al Goldberg	Penny	Harold Kramer
Leo Frank	Rich Tuttle	George Kramer
Eight Anon.		

The weather was terribly hot and humid. Most people did only one or two climbs before retreating back to Washington for cold beer or a swimming pool. It was noted that a new set of Rangers are now at Harpers Ferry, and all those who knew us there before have left. Climbers are still required to check in and out at the Ranger station in town.

OBSERVATIONS

When in the Gunks last 4th of July, I had a Holubar stubby angle split down the middle and ended up with two Holubar stubby verticles. Chrome moly pins do not mash out of shape like maleable pins, they develop flaws and crack. Now I check my pins to see if any flaws have developed and retire any that I have doubts about.

A good idea was observed at Carderock last Sunday. An enterprising soul had taken an old garden hose, cut it into

three foot lengths and then cut one side along its length. The result of this bit of surgery was a shield easily emplaced so as to prevent a sling rope from being cut over a sharp edged rock.

Any one who has any good ideas on homemaking or climbing, forget Heloise. Send them to Gwladys, care of this newsletter. Ideas accepted for publication will be acknowledged in these papers, and the contributor will be awarded a tiny goat skin sack containing a tiny goat.

Gwladys

HARD HATS  
AGAIN!

Last weekend a rope of four student climbers fell two thousand feet from the north face of the Eiger to the glacier below. All four of the climbers landed on their heads. Three of the climbers, who were not wearing hard hats, died instantly of head injuries. The fourth man, who was wearing his hard hat, received no head injuries. Unfortunately, he suffocated before rescuers could pry him out of his helmet. WEAR HARD HATS.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The following persons have been nominated for membership in the Mountaineering Section of the PATC. The prospective member and his sponsors should be present at the next scheduled business meeting of the Mountaineering Section.

Applicant

Sponsors

Mary Eldridge

June Lehman  
Lanny Hughey

Tom Richards

June Lehman  
Bill Thomas

Don Schaeffer

June Lehman  
Bill Deutermann

The next scheduled business meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, at 8:00 P.M.

## COMING EVENTS

- September 7 Bull Run Mountain Virginia  
Trip Leader: Art Wilder
- September 13-14 Seneca Rocks West Virginia  
Trip Leader: Bill Deutermann
- September 21 Juliet's Balcony  
Trip Leader: Joe Nolte
- September 28 Cupid's Bower  
Trip Leader: June Lehman

The Cupid's Bower trip will be a joint venture with the Sierra Club. The Trip Leader for the Sierra Clubbers will be Mr. F. J. Dahlhaus of 2444 Shenandoah Street, Vienna, Virginia 22180. Mr. Dahlhaus's Phone number is 560-1925

The Oscar Committee is proud to announce that Oscar is alive and well at Cupid's Bower and will be put into action for training purposes at this outing. All those who feel the need of Oscar training should plan to be in attendance as Oscar climbs into the trees and soars to the ground with the wind whistling in his concrete ears. There are those among us who have never been Oscar trained and are participating in lead climbing activities. You should take advantage of this opportunity, especially if you have never seconded for the clumsier among us.

