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JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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### ORDEAL ON THE FINSTERWALD (Conclusion)

Norm Wallach

Editors' Note: Back by popular demand, our peripatetic peregrinating correspondent Norm Wallach climaxes his thrilling story of the Finsterwald disaster. Begun in April, promised in June, ended in July, and reaching the public in September, ORDEAL ON THE FINSTERWALD.

When I regained consciousness on that rocky ledge so far above the valley of the Feca, I knew instantly that I was in trouble! Terrible waves of fear and self pity broke over me as I lay there. I could not see the point from which we had fallen, and had no idea how far above me the fatal accident had occurred. All I knew was that I had to get down, injured though I might be. I slowly tested my limbs, and was relieved to find that I had not only survived, but that my injuries were not as bad as I had first supposed. Though I'd lost quite a bit of skin and had some bad cuts besides, all bones seemed to be intact. I still had about 25 feet of rope about me, and my climbing sack with a bit of sausage, cheese and a bottle of Valkenkrone Johannesberger Riesling, 1964. I took out the bottle, thrusting it into a nearby snow bank on the ledge so as to allow it to chill. Then, lighting my tourist cooker, I sliced the sausage into 5 thin pieces, browned it a little in the pan, pouring off the fat, decanted a bit of the wine into one of my saucepans, and added some of the cheese, a lovely Roquefort. These I warmed gently together until the cheese had melted, being careful not to heat it too abruptly, nor to so high a temperature as to scorch it but only enough to allow the subtle nuances of the separate flavors to blend and awaken new soft aromas and tastes in the whole. Adding a leaf from a nearby sage brush and a pinch of pepper, I held the sauce at this temperature for about 4 minutes while re-heating the rendered sausage. Then, arranging the sausage quincunxially (1), I poured the sauce over the sausage and toasted the whole with some more of that quintessential wine. Ah rapture -- lest I digress.

Cheered by this meal, I looked about me. My situation, though bad, was not hopeless, but I knew that I must start down before my abrasions began to stiffen.

I will spare my readers the details of my bitter descent from the Finsterwald. My life-long climbing companion lost, my body bruised and painful, I lurched from hold to hold and down the easier slopes little caring that I might plunge to my death at any moment. Below me, the little town of Feca lay sleeping in the morning sun. I could see the peasants as they went about their daily chores -- tiny dots in the fields, and meadows, around the barns, houses and stills.

Charcoal manufacturing, one of the leading industries of this region, is carried on by the peasants of the Feca Valley who cut the wood and distill it in large ricks. It is later bought up by shippers and sent to the bigger cities to be

pressed into briquets, or lumps. The briquets of the Feca Valley, or Fecal lumps, are known throughout the world as a rich fuel for barbecues.

By late afternoon, my wounds had become so sore, my abraded limbs so stiff, that I was reduced to crawling. Having reached the scree slopes, I decided to rest, knowing full well that to do so meant almost certain death. The heat of the sun and my intense pain so drove me back into the darkness.

Some hours later, I awoke to see stars shining up above me. It had become bitter cold, and I found that I could barely move my stiffened limbs. Again I began to crawl, when suddenly, I heard shouts on the slope below, "I'm here," I croaked weakly. Soon I saw a party of climbers with a litter, food, water, and something to drink. But, wonder of wonders! Nom de Nom! At the head of the rescue party strode my bosom friend Hermann Eusterford himself!

"Sacre!" I exclaimed, "Hermann, what are you doing here?"

"Alors," roared Hermann, "You are alive, mon ami!"

"Sacre Dieu," I shrieked, "But Hermann! How did you get here?"

"Por La Plume de ma Tante," exclaimed Hermann, exhausting his knowledge of French, "Somebody had to guide the rescue party!"

<sup>1</sup>QUINCUNXIAL: In the manner of the members of a pentamorous bud or flower so imbricated that two are exterior, two are interior, and one has one edge exterior and one edge interior. Webster's 7th New Collegiate Dictionary.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST. NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9.

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the suggestion that a "walk in" campground could be provided for the climbers. For the immediate future it seems that, although the 7-day limit may be enforced, an active climber can manage to stay beyond this limit.

The question of the Golden Eagle Passport was brought up and whether or not if again available, would it cover both the dollar per day park entrance fee and the daily campground fee. Mr. Hadley reported that from his most recent information, the motion in a Special House Sub-committee to re-issue the pass was passed by only one vote. In his analysis, this meant that it would probably not ever get passed by Congress. However, if it does, it will not cover the total daily campground fee, but will only give credit for one dollar per day towards the total daily fee.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that, at the present time, Yosemite National Park is working on a master plan which covers the future of all of Yosemite National Park. There is no definite date for the issuance of this plan, but it should be soon. The superintendent also agreed to meet personally with some of the Valley climbers to see how he could help with problems met by them in the Valley as climbers. A great round of applause followed.

As climbers we should all be concerned with the future of Yosemite Valley, home of the world's best rock climbing, as well as the future of other government controlled climbing areas. Be concerned...write your Congressmen. For Yosemite Valley, write to the Superintendent showing support for special facilities for the climbers. Superintendent Hadley, Yosemite National Park, Calif., 95389.

Tom McCrumm

## Chairman's Corner

### REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF YOSEMITE CLIMBING

On Saturday evening, May 9th, the Sierra Nevada section of the American Alpine Club had its meeting at the National Park Service Visitors Center in Yosemite Valley. Royal Robbins and Park Superintendent Hadley discussed the future of Yosemite climbing. There was an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the speakers.

Royal Robbins stated that the limits of aid climbing in the Valley had about been reached, and that no future breakthroughs in technology are expected that will help the direct aid climber. In all, we now have all the cliff-hangers, nuts, bolts, mashies and mechanical paraphernalia to help the aid climber; but the big advances will be in speed and free climbing. In the future we will see the major walls climbed in much less time. Winter ascents will become popular, and solo ascents will become common. Because of the prevalent destruction of many of the piton cracks on the popular aid routes, permanent bolts may become necessary. In the future, we will come to see queuing up for climbs, and perhaps even making reservations far in advance to do the popular big wall ascents.

Yosemite National Park superintendent Hadley spoke on the future of rock climbing within the park in relation to the National Park Service. We all know that, at the present time, Camp 4, the perennial climbers' camp in the Valley, has been closed for indefinite improvements at an undisclosed time. This item of course was of prime importance to the climbers attending the meeting. Mr. Hadley reported that the situation at Camp 4 was that the park needed more camping space, and that Camp 4 was being improved into a "Class One" campground from its previous unimproved state. However, because of the cut-back in the budget, work has been held up for lack of funds. When Camp 4 is again opened it will be like all the other campgrounds and will no longer be the "Climbers' Camp." Superintendent Hadley said that the Park Service did recognize climbers as a very important special interest group that was using the Valley, and will do all that it can to provide suitable camping facilities for the climbers in the future. In respect to regulations on climbing in the Valley, he stated that the only regulation that he could foresee would be mandatory registration prior to climbing. Because of the very large number of climbers expected in the Valley in future years, this mandatory registration will also become a method of "signing up" for climbs. This summer there will be, in addition to the usual one dollar per day entrance fee, an added daily campground fee. Superintendent Hadley was not at liberty to say what this fee would be, but Valley rumor has it set at \$3.00 per day. The resident Valley climbers cannot, of course, afford this campground fee, and this was mentioned to Mr. Hadley. Of prime importance too, was the impending 7-day camping limit. It was brought to the attention of the superintendent that, for those persons who come to the Valley and wish to do a big wall route, such as those on El Capitan, it is just not possible for them to get into the proper condition in less than 7 days. A suggestion was made that perhaps a time limit extension on camping could be made available for this purpose. Mr. Hadley seemed to think this was possible. He also spoke favorably of

## Hanging Around

Caudy's Castle  
May 9-10

Mike Hill - Trip Leader  
Bill Thomas  
Piro Kramer

Bob and Kate Adams  
Janet Gladfelter

Bob, Kate and I started Saturday off with a moderate climb in the big inside corner. After lunch Fearles (read Senseless) Trip Leader led the crack up the big wall only to find himself without an adequate belay spot. Bob went all the way to the top and threw a rope over to secure the belay, walked back to the base of the climb, did the pitch, and led the next pitch after deciding it would be nearly impossible to change the belay. The aesthetic qualities of this climb rival those of Arrow in the Gunks although it isn't as hard.

Bill and Janet spent the afternoon hiking, swimming, and visiting with the two couples in the cabin by the swimming hole. Bob and Kate went back to Washington that evening and Piro pulled in at sunset.

Piro and Bill aborted a Sunday morning attempt on an impressive edge while Janet and I did practice climbs. After swimming in the afternoon some high school group from Washington set the forest below the rocks ablaze while playing with firecrackers. Things looked bad until we gained control of the fire after three hours of exhausting work. If the wind had been blowing even moderately, we wouldn't have been able to contain it. I had never before realized how dangerous a forest fire could be: one can't get equipment in to fight

Up Rope

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it; the needed manpower increases tremendously as it spreads; and fire trenches can be crossed easily with the aid of a light breeze. An unforeseen danger was hot rocks shooting down the slope: they could either wipe you out bodily or start new blazes where they stopped. When we left about two or three acres had been turned to ashes.

Shawangunks  
Memorial Day weekend, 1970

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader	Noel Grove
Roger Hammill	Dennis Sheffield
Sallie Greenwood	Harold Meyer
Larry Lange	Four Goldbergs
Eric Rosenfeld and wife	Dick Sideman
Chuck Sproull	Art Wilder
Joe Nolte	Dcn Schaefer
Linnea Stewart	Sallie Jordan and Moses
Penny Pierce	Chips Janger and friend
Jerry Archibald	Don, Pat, and Mark Milligan
Al Weiss and family	Bob Waldrop
Terry Robinson and 2 friends	Roger Birch
Pete Gardiner	Deanna Ballou
Mike Hill	Piro Kramer
June Lehman	Kate McCrumm
Mary Eldridge	Bob Lyons
Tom and Viv Evans	Helen Morefield
Wes Stiles	Dale Parrot and friend
Nick and Lydia Segal	Bill Thomas
Ben Ocampo	Mary Cameron
Bob and Kate Adams	Nick Kelly and wife

The Memorial Day weekend at the Shawangunks was probably the best weekend in that climbing area that we have ever had. The turnout was something just less than fantastic, with over 50 climbers from this area there -- and the weather held absolutely perfect for three days -- a bit different from Memorial Day weekend 1969!

We were all surprised and delighted to see the Adams' at the Gunks -- real strangers to the area as this was their first trip there since 1958 when the AMC ruled the area. I hope they will be able to join us more often. Jerry Archibald has fully recovered from his leg injury and is back on the rock again on a regular basis.

Friday was spent by most people enjoying the perfect weather doing as much climbing as they could. The Milligans and the Adams' assisted in a minor rescue by helping lower down a climber who had taken a leader fall and was slightly injured. After a hard day of climbing, most everyone had a cool swim and then descended upon various eateries. Later in the evening many of those present descended upon Terry Robinson's plastic tarp for a party. Attendance at a climbers' gathering reached an all-time high; entertainment was provided by Terry, Chuck, and Kazoo.

Saturday morning rolled around too early for some of us. Chuck, Noel, Don, Art, Sallie Jordan and Al Weiss made a trip to climb at Millbrook Mountain for the day. They did some of the moderate free climbs there and reported that the area was very enjoyable. Even Moses had a good time doing a variation on the first pitch of a climb there. Pat and Mark Milligan led a 5.9 and Mark even managed to do Never Never Land, a 5.10.

Appropriately enough, the most popular route for the weekend was High Exposure. Updraft was also done by quite a few people. 5.3 it isn't. And I've heard anything up to 5.7 for the second pitch.

Sunday noon came much too quickly after a beautiful weekend in our own "Incomparable Valley" and we thought bad things like having to drive home and return to work on Monday. In the end, I estimated that the Washington group drove over 28,000 miles for their climbing weekend and ascended over 64,000 vertical feet of rock.

Annapolis Rocks  
June 21

Sallie Greenwood - Trip Leader	Art Wilder
Don Schaefer	Sallie Jordan

About the time Art got a fire started (Mike, it was a very small fire and well controlled,) Don Schaefer arrived, raising

the number of our drenched mini-group of persevering, intrepid puddle-splashers to four + Moses. We bouldered on some over hanging, wet lichen, did the Short Schaefer Traverse, paddled back down the trail, and sampled some of the goodies along the way such as currants and cherries of the semi-ripe variety.

For a rainy day, it was very pleasant.

Shawangunks  
June 13-14

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader	Art Wilder
Sallie Greenwood	Sallie Jordan and Moses
Roger Hammill	Chuck Sproull
Penny Pierce	Jerry Archibald
Peter Gardiner	Thom Rippon
Don and Betsy Schaefer	

Lady Luck was with us again for the second Gunks weekend in a very short time as the weather was perfect. Roger Hammill, Thom Rippon, an old college friend of mine, and I got there a day early and hit the only bad weather. In spite of the intermittent rain we managed to do a 5.7 and Thin Slabs Direct, which really isn't as hard as it looks, but it took me quite a while to get up the neck to venture out on that hand traverse. After a dousing by Mother Nature we returned to the Mountain Brauhaus to sample their brews.

Saturday dawned bright and clear and we all made quick haste to the rocks. A multitude of climbs were done, including the top pitch of High Exposure by "Lighttoes" Schaefer -- in his tennis shoes.

Sunday was a long day. As we were getting ready to leave in the afternoon three of our party were still missing in the Near Trapps. Because of some rope tangles and some confusion, Roger, Thom and Betsy were still hung up near the top of Yum Yum Yab Yum II and we had to perform a mini-rescue to get them up. That called for dinner at the Brauhaus followed by a long, long night headed home.

## Belay Ledge

August meeting:

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 9.

Greenland Gap climbing:

Cease and desist, basically. The Greenland Gap Preservation group has asked that climbing be stopped in the Gap until the question of liability is worked out. As soon as a definite release of some sort has been worked out climbing can resume.

Address changes and new UP ROPE subscribers:

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Paula Strain

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Oscar volunteer:

Bill Thomas needs a volunteer to rig Oscar for the next training session. Please call Bill at KE6-7948.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN

In 1902, Gordon Strong, a Chicago patent attorney and realtor, fell in love with Sugar Loaf while vacationing in Washington. With the idea that people who have an appreciation of natural beauty are better people, he bought up about 3,000 acres of surrounding land and opened it to the public in 1926. Strong died in 1954, leaving his wealth in a trust fund with the profits going for maintenance and development of the property. The land is now run by Stronghold, Inc., a non-profit corporation headed by a twelve-man, non-paid board of trustees. In June, 1969, Sugar Loaf was designated a "natural landmark" by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mike Hill

# CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
July 8	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 pm	
July 12	Old Rag	Terry Robinson (OX3-4188)
July 18-19	The Hermitage	Janet Gladfelter (333-3509)
July 26	Cupid's Bower Clean Up Session	Roger Birch (527-6272)
Aug. 2	Carderock (training)	Bill Thomas (KE6-7948)
Aug. 9	Sugar Loaf	Bill Deutermann (363-0757)
Aug. 16	Edes Fort	Mary Eldridge (652-1958)
Aug. 23	Great Falls, Va.	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)

Trip leaders are reminded of their responsibility to arrange for a report and, if a leader is unable to make his assigned trip, to appoint a substitute leader.

## Old Rag, Va.

From the beltway take I-66 to Gainesville and follow U.S. 211 west to Sperryville. Turn left on U.S. 552 south for 1 mile. Then right on Rte. 231 south for about 8 miles. Right on Rte. 670 to Nethers. The long way up is up the Fire Road which is straight ahead and the short, easy way is up the blue-blazed trail to the left.

## The Hermitage, Pa.

Take I-70 S to Frederick and U.S. 14 to Thurmont and Emmitsburg. Turn left on Md. 97 at the light in Emmitsburg, continue to the Pa. State line where it becomes Pa. 16. At the west end of Rouzerville turn right (zero point) at the Septic Tank works on a macadam road with new houses. Go 5.2 miles; turn left onto the Swift Run Road and ascend to Monument Rock turnout at 6.4 miles on a sharp, left turn in the road. Park here and walk right on the blue-blazed trail .2 miles to the cabin and rocks.

## Cupid's Bower, Md.

From the Beltway take the Great Falls-Carderock exit in Maryland. When the Parkway ends turn left onto MacArthur Boulevard to the Old Anglers Inn. Park in the dirt lot on the left and cross the canal. Walk right (upstream) toward

Widewater. Take the blue-blazed trail left near Widewater to the river. Cross the river to the island. Cupid's Bower is near the foot of the island nearest D.C. (BRING AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF PLASTIC TRASH BAGS!!)

## Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway take the Carderock exit (15). Go 1 mile bear right at sign, go left over overpass, turn right after passing under canal, and park in the last lot. The rocks are 100 yards past the comfort station.

## Sugar Loaf Mountain, Md.

From the Beltway take I-70 S north. Get off on Md. 109 to Comus. Turn right in Comus and go 2 miles to a four-way intersection. Go straight on a narrow cement road (note sign to The Stronghold) 100 yards and turn right. Go to the top and walk 100 yards up the summit trail. The rocks are on the right halfway to the summit.

## Edes Fort, W. Va.

From the Beltway take I-70 S north to Hancock, Md. (past Hagerstown). Get on Business U.S. 40 through Hancock and at the far end of town turn left on U.S. 522 S. At Berkeley Sp Springs, W. Va. turn right on W. Va. 9. Go 4 miles to Great Cacapon, W. Va. and turn left in town at the sign to Rock Ford Road. Go about 4 miles to a long, steep hill. Go 1 mile past some cabins and down an overgrown, rutted section to a small parking lot. Hike straight ahead 100 yards to the rocks.

## Great Falls, Va.

From the Beltway take the second exit entering Virginia from the Cabin John Bridge (Va. 193 north). Go about 6 miles and turn right at the light (sign for Great Falls). Go 1 mile to the entrance (50¢ fee) and park inside. Walk down-river on the Nature Trail past where the old canal emptied into the river. The climbs start 100 feet from there and extend to the end of the gorge.

## Book Review

You're Standing on My Fingers! H. Warren Lewis. Berkely, Calif., Howell-North, 1969. 268 pages. \$5.95.

This recent addition to PATC's Library describes how a family of four became climbers and what happened to them on the rocks during the dozen years in which the kids were growing up. Lewis, a mechanical engineer with IBM, writes with a suprisingly light touch. His photos make you wish you were there on Magic in the North Cascades, Teewinot in the Tetons, or the Minarets in California. It's a good gift for your family.

Paula M. Strain

*Up Rope*

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