



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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The Ballad of Idwal Slabs

by

Showell Styles

from *The Mountaineer's Weekend Book*.

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revised

I'll tell you the tale of a climber; a drama of love on the crags;  
A story to pluck at your heart-strings, and tear your emotions to rags.  
He was tall, he was fair, he was handsome; John Christopher Brown was his name;  
The Very Severes nearly bored him to tears -- and he felt about girls much the same.

Till one day, while climbing at Ogwen, he fell (just a figure of speech)  
For the President's beautiful daughter, named Mary Jane Smith-- what a peach!  
Her figure was slim as Napes Needle, her lips were as red as Red Wall;  
A regular tiger, she'd been up the Eiger North Wall, with no pitons at all!

Now Mary had several suitors, but never a one would she take,  
Though it seemed that she favoured one fellow, a villain named Reginald Hake;  
This Hake was a cad who used pitons, and wore a long silken moustash,  
Which he used, so they say, as an extra belay -- but perhaps we are being too harsh.

John took Mary climbing on Lliwedd, and proposed while on Mallory's Slab;  
It took him three pitches to do it, for he hadn't much gift of the gab.  
He said: "Just belay for a moment--there's a little spike close to your knee--  
And tell me, fair maid, when you're properly belayed, would you care to hitch up with me?"

Said Mary, "It's only a toss-up between you and Reginald Hake,  
And the man I am going to marry must perform some great deed for my sake.  
I will marry whichever bold climber shall excel at the following feat--  
To climb headfirst down Hope, with no rubbers or rope,  
At our very next climbing-club Meet!"

Now when Mary told the Committee, she had little occasion to plead,

For she was as fair as a jug-handle hold at the top of a hundred-foot lead.  
The Club ratified her proposal, and the President had to agree;  
He was fond of his daughter, but felt that she oughter Get married, between you and me.

There was quite a big crowd for the contest, lined up at the foot of the Slabs;  
The Mobs came from Bangor in Buses, and the Nobs came from Capel in Cabs.  
There were Fell and Rock, Climbers', and Rucksack, and the Pinnacle Club (in new hats)  
And--sight to remember! -- an Alpine Club Member, in very large crampons and spats!

The weather was fine for a wonder; the rocks were as dry as a bone.  
Hake arrive with a crowd of his backers, but John Brown strode up quite alone;  
A rousing cheer greeted the rivals; a coin was produced, and they tossed.  
"Have I won?" cried John Brown as the penny came down.  
"No, you fool!" hissed his rival. "You've lost!"

So Hake had first go at the contest; he went up by the Ordinary Route,  
And only the closest observer would have noticed a bulge in each boot.  
Head first he came down the top pitches, applying his moustache as a brake;  
He didn't relax till he'd passed the Twin Cracks, and the crowd shouted, "Attaboy, Hake!"

At the foot of the Slabs Hake stood sneering, and draining a bottle of Scotch;  
"Your time was ten seconds," the President said, consulting the Treasurer's watch.  
"Now Brown, if you'd win, you must beat that." Our hero's sang froid was sublime;  
He took one look at Mary, and -- light as a fairy -- ran up to the top of the climb.

Now though Hake had made such good going, John wasn't discouraged a bit,  
For that he was the speedier climber even Hake would have had to admit.  
So, smiling as though for a snapshot, not a hair of his head out of place,  
Our hero John Brown started wriggling down -- but look! what a change in his face!

Prepare for a shock, gentle ladies; gentlemen, check the blasphemous word;  
For the villainy I am to speak of is such as you never have heard!  
Reg. Hake had cut holes in the toes of his boots, and filled up each boot with soft soap!  
As he slid down the climb, he had covered with slime every handhold and foothold on Hope!

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## P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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## CHAIRMAN

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768-6485

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527-6272

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Sallie Greenwood  
683-5091

## PRINTER'S DEVIL

Tink Peters

## BUSINESS MANAGER

Chuck Sproull

## Belay Ledge

## Carderock Annual Picnic -- Number III:

The pavilion at Carderock has been reserved for Sunday, June 27. Come on out and catch up with what's happening among the climbers. Whatever did happen to Pinky Wheatly, Tom Culverwell, John Meenehan, Tom Marshall? Maybe they will show up in person!

## Paint-out at Harpers Ferry:

The Mennen sign on the rocks at Harpers Ferry has begun to show through the fine paint job that Section members did some years back. The Park Service has asked for volunteers to paint the sign out again. Contact Terry Robinson (768-6485) if you would like to lend a hand. (An Earth Day project, perhaps?)

## Environmental Picnic, April 24-25

A gathering of environmentalists will take place at Fort Hunt Park from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No paper plates are to be used and only returnable bottles allowed. The emphasis will be on wild and natural foods--bring your own and a communal dish for a smorgasbord. Beer will be allowed but it will be appreciated if the beer-drinkers pitch in for a beer license. Bring frisbees, etc. For more information call Doanne Haines at 765-0981.

## PATC Officer:

Don Schaefer, formerly the Mountaineering Section's Vice Chairman, has been elected Second Vice President to PATC.

## Hanging Around

Big Devil's Stairs  
Feb. 7

Don Schaefer - Trip Leader  
Bob Adams  
Dave Templeton  
Chuck Sproull  
John Pierre-Benoist  
Fred Kitchell

Betsy Schaefer  
Kate Adams  
Joan Templeton  
Yvette Thivierge  
Peter Gardiner  
Karen

"Thank God Dave," cried Joan, "I didn't think you would ever come back." With those words ended one of the more amazing rescues in the annals of modern mountaineering.

It had all begun on a somber February morning. A group of us met at the Frost Diner in Warrenton. The fact that we all arrived without getting lost made us a little apprehensive. Our usual foul-up hadn't yet occurred. It was still morning when we arrived at the gorge. There we met the Templetons and John and Karen.

The gorge, for those who have never been there (about 90% of the Mountaineering Section), contains a multitude of short ice pitches (in season) and much lead and practice climbing

rock. The rock climbing is better higher up the sides of the gorge and towards the head of the gorge. For the Shenandoah Park, the rock tends to be quite solid and unbroken in many places.

We proceeded to the head of the gorge and had lunch. Finally, when it became obvious that we could procrastinate no longer, three climbs (two rock and one ice) were set up. Betsy, Joan, Karen, and Yvette took off on a circuit hike -- they were to meet us at the cars.

Bob, Dave, John, and Fred successfully negotiated the ice climb and the easier rock climb while Chuck, Peter, and I took the measure of an overhanging jam crack.

Then it started raining, sleeting, and snowing and we quickly raced down to the cars. Chuck and I drove after the women who were on the road about a mile from where the cars were parked. They managed weak smiles as they had been somewhat protected from the snow by parkas and ponchos. Yvette in her sneakers held the slip record (at least twenty times).

But where was Dave? We had assumed that he was right behind us. But after 10 minutes it became obvious that he was not. A quick check at our former parking place pointed out that Dave was missing. No car was in sight. To make a long story short, Dave had taken this opportunity to go in the opposite direction and to then head for the hills on foot. When we finally caught up with him he claimed that he had thought that the women were doing a different circuit hike.

Joan finally believed him and we all went to the A & B Restaurant in Warrenton for a warm and friendly dinner (in contrast to other places in the area where we have eaten). They even let us move some tables together. Wonders never cease.

Cupid's Bower  
Feb. 14

Linnea Stewart - "Leader"  
Fred Kitchell - Reporting

Leo Frank  
Peter Apple

A small party of climbers, deterred from crossing to Cupid's Bower by a swollen Potomac, retreated downstream to Carderock and some finger-numbing scrambles. One of the climbs (not attempted by all) was enhanced by an ice covering over its normally mossy holds. We attempted an overhang and found it possible if one didn't ponder routes so long that one's fingers disappeared.

(The Hot Shoppes "crowd" -- Linnea Stewart, Al Goldberg, Joan Templeton, and Michele Leveille -- visited Don Hubbard, who will be back at his regular spot there soon.)

Old Rag  
Feb. 20-21

Sallie Greenwood - Trip Leader  
Peter Sprouse  
Chuck Sproull

Ted Schad  
John Pierre-Benoist  
Dave Templeton.

No horrendous routes were done this week end. Ted spent most of the time point routes on the summit. We all reveled in the unseasonably warm weather. Too bad more folks didn't make the trip.

At any rate...

Up Rope

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.

Saturday morning (and afternoon) in the Syria parking lot would have been worth the drive for anyone with a fiendish sense of humor. He would have witnessed four of the Section's best trying to "encourage" a Dodge Duster out of the muck and mire. After a couple of hours of noble effort Duster was left to its own devices while the four plus the cheering section headed on up the trail hoping for a freeze which would make it easier to get the car out.

Dave stayed at the first shelter while the rest of us figured, "Well, we've come this far and haven't died yet, and it can't hurt any more than it does now. On to the top."

So we did. We camped at the next shelter up, and walked to the summit. We could see forever. Such a day!

A troupe of Boy Scouts had moved into the shelter in our absence as had a couple of high school boys from Fairfax County who were doing some of the AT. Dinner, the U. Va.-North Carolina basketball game at 110 decibels (from two transistors) and to bed. Yea, rah!

Sunday we scrambled to the base of the climbs on the southern end of the summit. Much thrashing through undergrowth and consulting of a line diagram from a January, 1948 UP ROPE of the climbs in that area. Ted kept telling us that back then they didn't use many pitons; just scrambled on up. We kept telling Dave that as he struggled to get in a pin on the "scramble" up through Clark's Chimney. By that time Chuck had arrived and was cheering us on. Most of the climbing for the rest of the day was top-roped. Chuck did lead a bit of Donald's Traverse which has several "interesting" moves in it.

We had to leave early Sunday afternoon to complete excavation of Duster. John's skillful driving and the addition of Chuck to the crew made it a short operation.

Bull Run  
Feb. 28

Mike Hill - Reporting  
Nellie Widmayer  
Art and Sallie Wilder  
Mike Bromley  
John Pierre-Benoist  
Tom McCrumm  
Chips Janger  
Helen Moorefield  
Fred Kitchell  
Bill Thomas  
John Birch

Dave and Joan Templeton  
Ed Goodman  
John Canvonieri  
Jim Donovan  
Dean Mills  
Tink Peters  
Julie Golden  
Bob Lyons  
Maitland Sharpe  
Billy Thomas

It was a grand way for February to go out: unlimited sunshine, 60° temperatures, and gusty winds. An unusually large crowd enjoyed the hike up the mountain and many new or infrequent visitors were impressed with the quality of the climbing. Noticeably absent were the Adams who usually bring most of the ropes and do most of the rigging. Because of this and the fact that most people arrived late, we only did about half the climbs.

Most frequented were the Snicker-Snee and Charlie's Crack areas; the Two-Inches-More and M&M areas went untouched. Two things were very noticeable: the large number of new climbers within the club and the large number of non-club climbers who were there coincidentally. On the way out I noticed that there is quite a bit of litter in the area. Is this beautiful (and usually solitary) place to become another Carderock?

Carderock  
Mar. 7

Bill Thomas - Reporting  
Debbie and Emily Best  
Billy Thomas  
Dave and Joan Templeton  
Ed Goodman  
Harold Meyer

Evelyn and Kenny Schwartz  
Judy Lehman  
Dawn Banks  
Art and Sallie Wilder  
June Lehman  
Maitland Sharpe

What started as a gloomy, rainy day turned to a crystal clear and crispy cool day.

A half dozen newcomers were trained in basic climbing. There was much discussion of the rash of accidents at Carderock that have happened recently (all appear to be due to rope or hardware mismanagement and by non-club members).

Concern was expressed for the degree of responsibility that we have for training and controlling non-members and for setting good examples for safe climbing.



Terry Robinson caught Duane Douglas doing a crux move on Roy Roger's Revenge at Carderock. The climb will be described in loving detail by Terry in the May UP ROPE.

"The Ballad of Idwal Slabs," concluded

Conceive (if you can) the tense horror that gripped the vast concourse below,  
When they saw Mary's lover slip downwards like an arrow that's shot from a bow!

"He's done for!" gasped twenty score voices. "Stand from under!"

As he shot down the slope, he was steering down Hope -- still fighting for life and for love!

Like lightning he flew past the Traverse -- in a flash he had reached the Twin Cracks --

The friction was something terrific -- there was smoke coming out of his slacks --

He bounced on the shelf at the top of Pitch Two, and bounded clean over its edge!

A shout of "He's gone!" came from all -- except one; and that one, of course, was our Reg.

But it's not the expected that happens -- in this sort of story, at least

And just as John thought he was finished, he found that his motion had ceased!

His braces (pre-war and elastic) had caught on a small rocky knob,

And so, safe and sound, he came gently to ground 'mid the deafening cheers of the mob!

"Your time was five seconds!" the President cried. "She's yours, my boy -- take her! You win!"

"My hero!" breathed Mary, and kissed him; while Hake gulped a bottle of gin,

And tugged his moustache as he whispered, "Aha! my advances you spurn!

Curse a chap that wins races by using his braces!" And he slunk away, ne'er to return.

They were wed at the Church of St. Gabbro; and the Vicar, quite carried away,

Did a hand-traverse into his pulpit, and shouted out "Let us belay!"

John put the ring on Mary's finger -- a snap-link it was, made of steel,

And they walked to the taxis 'neath an arch of ice-axes, while all the bells started to peal.

The Morals we draw from this story are several, I'm happy to say:

It's Virtue that wins in the long run; long silken moustaches don't pay;

Keep the head uppermost when you're climbing; if you must slither, be on a rope;

Steer clear of the places that sell you cheap braces -- and the fellow that uses Soft Soap!

# CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
Apr. 4	Carderock	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)
Apr. 10-11	Linville Gorge or Kline Gap	Chuck Sproull (894-4463)
Apr. 14	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	Adak--sights and sounds. Terry Robinson
Apr. 18	Big Devil's Stairs	Chuck Sproull (894-4463)
Apr. 24-25	Shawangunks	June Lehman (522-0105)
May 2	Little Stony Man	Al Goldberg (593-8124)
May 8-9	Kline Gap	Don Schaefer (521-5326)
May 14	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	
May 16	Wolf Rock	Mike Hill (336-1471)
June 27	Annual Bash at Carderock. Bash No. III	

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. If directions to climbing areas need revision please note the necessary changes and send them to Editor, UP ROPE, 1718 N St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

## Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway take Carderock exit (15). Go to Carderock Recreation Area. Turn right at first stop sign and go to last parking area. Rocks are 100 yards past comfort station.

## Linville Gorge, N.C.

Talk to Chuck Sproull.

## Kline Gap, W. Va.

Drive through Winchester, Va. on U.S. 50; continue to New Creek, W. Va. Follow Rte. 42 through Maysville to Maysville

Road. Turn right onto Rte. 42/5 and go 3.8 mi. to "T" intersection. Right at the intersection for 1 mile. Bear left at fork of road past a quarry. Cross bridge and park. Walk through barnyard and along stream's right bank. Cliffs are across the stream. (Camping area is on the left bank.)

## Big Devil's Stairs, Va.

Go into Washington, Va. on U.S. 211. Where 211 takes a sharp left in the center of town, go right onto a secondary road. 100 yards to Rte. 622; left on 622 for 4.5 miles. Park and follow blue-blazed trail to the rocks (about .6 miles).

## Shawangunks, N.Y.

North to Baltimore -- Rte. 29, Rte. 1 or the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. West on I-83 to Harrisburg. Follow the Interstate signs to Allentown (I-81 and I-78). East on I-78 and U.S. 22 to Pa. 512 North. Get on Pa. 115 North to Wind Gap and onto U.S. 209. Follow U.S. 209 past Ellenville, N.Y. and turn right onto N.Y. 55 and U.S. 44 East. Go about 8 miles and turn left onto Traps Road and camp in 1 mile at the Coxing Camp (no dogs and 75¢ per night per person). The rocks are two miles up N.Y. 55. (The Interstate north from Harrisburg has been completed which shortens the trip a bit. The Editor will be happy to revise directions when more information is in hand.)

## Wolf Rock, Md.

Take I-70 S to Frederick. Pick up U.S. 15 north to Thurmont. Get on Md. 77 west and go three miles to the Visitors Center of Catoctin Mountain Park. Turn right and go a half a mile (on the road past the Visitors Center) and park in a small lot on the right. Follow the trail signs to Wolf Rock--one mile.

# Conservation

## SST: Voting Record

The House of Representatives voted against the SST on March 18. Representatives Broyhill (Va.) and Gude (Md.) voted against it. Representatives Scott (Va.) and Hogan (Md.) voted for it.

The Senate defeated the SST on March 24. The Virginia Senators Byrd and Spong voted against it; Maryland's senators Beall and Mathias voted in favor of the SST.

## Air pollution violations:

When reporting what one thinks to be a violation be able to give times of day and specific locations. To report motor vehicle exhaust violations, give the correct license number and location.

To report violations: In the District call 629-3748; Arlington Co. 558-2664; Fairfax Co. 691-2541; Montgomery Co. 948-6442.

Heavy exhaust smoke violations: District call 629-3751 and in Montgomery County call 279-1501.

*Up Rope*

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