



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N St N W Washington, D. C. 20036

Vol. 36

No. 10

Nov. 1971

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### Happy Birthday, UP ROPE

UP ROPE will be 27 on November 15. Volume 1, Number 1 was dated November 15, 1944. It was put together by Jan and Herb Conn at their place on Mississippi Avenue in Silver Spring. A nickel a copy, free to those in the service, and \$1.00 for twenty copies. It was published every two weeks. The format was legal-sized, two-columned mimeographed sheets.

The present Editors haven't quite figured how we have gotten to be Volume 36--the job can be ageing--but it's not that bad.

Also like to welcome a newcomer to the mountaineering newsletter scene--"The Eastern Trade"--John Stannard's quarterly newsletter published in New Paltz. Details and subscription information will follow.

### FINALLY!

A Climber's Guide to Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, edited by F.R. Robinson, is available at PATC Headquarters. It is soft-bound, and pocket-sized, and sells for \$2.50. Congratulations to those who contributed to it--persistence paid off!

### Springtime in Yosemite - 1971 by Tom McCrumm

"O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain every day ... and that once a week thin liquid manure and guano may fall from heaven."

### --Karel Capek, The Gardener's Prayer

Remembering the bad rainy weather we had in April in the valley last year, Bob Norris and I took a leisurely trip west this spring, hoping to arrive after the spring rains. We stayed in Boulder with Bill McCullough, and soon contacted Larry Griffin who said that Joe Nolte was staying with him on his way to Seattle. Joe and I did a few climbs together, and then on the weekend we all went to Estes Park to climb on McGregor Slab, a 600 foot high granite dome. That day was highlighted by my standing on a car-sized block which suddenly began to slide off as I was tying into a tree for a belay. It somehow slid under the rope without pulling me off, and as I hugged the tree, I screamed "ROCK!" Then, when I immediately realized how large the block was I yelled "ROCK!" again -- only harder and louder. I had visions of rappelling down to the ledge where Larry was and finding a large spot, like a trodden cockroach. Larry, in the meantime had thought he heard thunder, but soon learned otherwise as

the huge mass appeared above him. Fortunately, the rock missed him by about 20 feet, although some smaller pieces did hit his hard hat a few seconds later. Larry and I finished the climb in two more pitches, climbing rather shakily, as might be expected.

Later that week Bob and I arrived in Yosemite Valley amidst a rain storm. We found Tom Evans in the Village Store and camped with him and another couple that night. Due to the daily camping fee of 4 dollars per campsite, the next morning we rounded up about 8 people and moved into a large and sunny campsite. As time rolled on we gained more and more people in the campsite and began to use two together, with a total of about 24 people in the two sites. Hassles with the Park Rangers were common, usually over petty matters like parking, unleashed dogs, throwing a rock at a tree, tents in the wrong place, etc. Last year I had made good friends with one of the supervisory Rangers so I spent a lot of time talking to him trying to work out some agreement between the Rangers and the climbers. I did manage to get most of the citations thrown out, but due to ever growing numbers of campers and climbers, the hassles are going to increase in the future. Yosemite is no longer the peaceful climbers' paradise it used to be.

For the first three weeks it rained almost steadily, with only a few breaks of day-long sunshine. It seemed as though one low front after another was hanging over the Sierras holding rainy weather. Most of us spent this time doing short hard free climbs, avoiding any of the longer climbs due to the weather. Tom Evans had started the Nose route on El Capitan with Paul Sibley, the owner of the Colorado Nut Co., but they were forced off due to -- you guessed it -- rain.

The weather cleared somewhat after Maitland Sharpe arrived and we were able to do some climbing before he had his accident and could not climb anymore. (See July UP ROPE.) John Stannard was out for a few days but I only saw him leading the second pitch of The Mouth, a 5.9 friction climb on Glacier Point Apron. By mid-May we were sure the bad weather had left us forever and Tom and Paul started again on the Nose. Halfway through their second day, just as Tom was leading Boot Flake (expanding A3), it started to rain and hail. We were watching them through Paul's telescope as they set up rappel ropes and descended two rope lengths to a more spacious ledge to wait out the rain, which lasted 12 hours. There was much Valley discussion as to whether they would wait it out and try to go on, or would attempt to rappel a

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

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## A Quiet Place

by John Stannard

I first saw Seneca in 1961 as a caver on my way to Mystic cave. Even then, as a rural type from upstate New York, I liked West Virginia. A farmer down in Greenbrier County let some of us sleep in his barn one night and, the next morning, found occasion to tell us how his father had had to drive his cows into the hills every time a Rebel army passed through. As we collected eggs for breakfast it occurred to me that, though I had collected eggs on many occasions, I had never sensed it to be the satisfying occupation that it seemed to be—here, deep in the hills of West Virginia. Life seemed to have only slightly less continuity and rhythm than did the hills and their seasons.

As a caver, I was never very good. In time I came to hope that I would not find new passageways at the end of the next crawlway; it seemed to me that being discovered was the worst thing that could happen to a passageway. Eventually I became a climber and, even later, a resident of Washington.

Though I was now closer to Seneca than I was to the Shawangunks, I resisted climbing at Seneca for three years. There were more things to be done in the Shawangunks than I could finish and I did not want to tackle a new climbing area. While in Yosemite during the spring of 1970 Pete Ramins convinced me that there was good climbing at Seneca and George Livingstone provided the final incentive by reminding me of the home-baked pie and bread that grows in West Virginia.

We made a number of trips to Seneca and on one of these George introduced me to the Totem Buttress. It was late one Sunday, after having been finished by a smorgasbord, that George said, "Lets go do Totem." Needless to say, we could hardly get off the ground much less over the ceiling. Several trips later Ramins, Milligan, and I were camped under the Totem ceiling, but this time we managed to get over it. Since there was no smorgasbord that day we planned to celebrate with a supper of homemade strawberry-rhubarb pie. Unfortunately there was no pie to be found anywhere in Mouth of Seneca and we had to be satisfied with Hostess cup cakes heavily laced with benzoate of soda.

After that experience and now full of the spirit of exploration we set off for Nelson Rocks. In the gathering dusk we climbed up the scree slope for a hundred feet amidst a great clattering of falling rock. That slope is at the angle of repose and so is very unstable. We sat for a long time listening to the sounds of nightfall, and I began to sense that continuity of life that I had felt in West Virginia a decade before. The air was clean and very different from that which I have become accustomed to. Then I

noticed that I could tell which rocks I had disturbed by the way the lichen was broken and flaked. Before I had moved them, those rocks had been undisturbed for generations. It was painfully clear that I was an intruder bringing the completely unnatural life experience of such things as the Beltway during rush hour into this otherwise natural and peaceful world. And though I need this world, I can get that close to the experience at Nelson Rocks again only at the risk of turning it into something as "unnatural" as the scree slopes and rocks of Seneca.

Is it really necessary for people who are frustrated by their unnatural existences to seek out and destroy all places that retain some part of that which is natural?

Is it not more reasonable to keep at least one Nelson Rocks as a place where one can go, not to climb, but only to sit beside the road and receive a different kind of strength.

## BELAY LEDGE

## Nominations Committee:

Don Schaefer, June Lehman, and Dave Templeton are on the committee which will present a slate to the Section for officers next year. Please contact them if you have suggestions. Call Don Schaefer at 521-5326.

## Training:

Dave Templeton would like to have it understood that training is going to be carried on regularly. There will be training at climbing areas on the first Sunday or week-end of each month and a training lecture is to be held at PATC Headquarters at 7:15 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. For further details call 933-2174.

## Address changes and new subscriptions:

Steve Arey	1214 48th St. Baltimore, Md. 21222 285-0715
Fred Kitchel	Passumpsic, Vt. 05861 748-2267
Tony Gray	1308 Duncan Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45208
Anne Huguenard	10500 Rockville Pike #1010 Rockville, Md. 20852
Steve Burgess	525 Hillsdale Dr. Charleston, W.Va. 25302
Penny Pierce Archibald	Hill St. RFD 3 Mahopac, N.Y. 10541

## "Old" climber returns:

Jim Shipley is back in the area after a longish stay in California. Jim can be reached at 325 School Lane, Linthicum Heights, Md., phone: 789-3641.

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 for PATC Mountaineering Section members and \$2.50 per year for non-members. The additional dollar may be credited towards membership dues. New subscriptions and address changes should be sent to Business Manager, UP ROPE, etc.

Training Report: Dave Templeton

October 3.

We were permitted a day of sunshine by by that great ruckus in the sky--Hurricane Hecubah, Hecatate or whatever it was called. The sun was pleasant after a succession of overcast, drizzly days. the classroom (an adult "Sesame Street?") was set up at Carderock in the early morn and continued in operation until late afternoon. Five stations were set up: Station 1) body rappel; 2) mechanical rappel; 3) prussik technique; 4) static belays; 5) middleman techniques.

John Wyman, at Station 1, had his rope on the Stolen Handhold. His students were given belays initially by Bob Connor and later by graduates of the Static Belay station. Phil Eddy took the strain off John by placing a rope on the right side of Jan's Face. His students were belayed by those people who had qualified as Static belayers.

Station 2 was run by Chuck Sproull. He had the trainees use the well-established brakebar-carabiner combination for mechanical rappel.

After the trainees came down Chuck's rope on the Rack, Doug Chandler set them to prussiking up the Vulgarian Wedge in the Three Chimney Climb.

The trainees went on to Jan's Face after leaving Doug's Station 3. Dave Templeton, belayed by his wife Joan, taught them the fundamentals of the static belay and how to tie-off an injured climber. Don Schaefer, belayed by Bill Thomas, took the strain off Dave in the afternoon and used the rope that Phil Eddy had put up earlier.

At Station 5 John Christian led trainees up a route by the Laundry Chute.

Not all students needed to, and not all students had the time to complete all stations. The majority qualified as Static Belayers, which gives a whole new crop of people for climbing with at the practice climbing areas. Those who were unable to get to all the stations during this session can pick up the knowledge at the next (Dec. 5 at Buzzard Rocks).

The trainees were (the number after the name indicates the stations which the trainee needs to complete):

Anne Huguenard (5)  
Susan Spier (1,2,5)  
Jane Speir (1,2,5)  
Ken Glasser  
David Thomson (5)  
Celine Soges (3,4,5)  
John Anderson  
Hanna Chandler (5)  
Martha Wyman (1-5)

Bill McKay (2,3,5)  
Johanna Guccione (2,5)  
Kitty Valaer (1,2,3,5)  
Bob Connor  
Hillary Thomson (5)  
Scott Twentyman  
Doug Chandler  
Joe Wagner  
Mary Jane Wyman (4,5)

At the end of the session it was found difficult to round up the trainees for the traditional training critique at Trav's, an old club tradition aptly suggested by John Christian. This tradition shall be carried out on November 7.

It was an enjoyable and rewarding day. John Wyman, Chuck Sproull, Phil Eddy, Doug Chandler, Don Schaefer, Bill Thomas, and John Christian and my wife Joan worked hard in helping to carry out the work of the Training Committee. The trainees are to be congratulated and we shall look forward to climbing with you in the future and in you becoming members of the Section. (Membership is by application and sponsorship of two section members. Membership in the PATC is not required, however voting privileges are extended only to those Section members who are also members of the PATC.)

## Hanging Around

Seneca Rocks  
Sept. 4-6

Sallie Greenwood - Trip Leader  
Bob Norris and Hombros  
Bill Thomas  
John Christian  
Ray Fletcher  
John Pierre-Benoist  
Celine Soges

June Lehman  
Pat Lane  
Betty Boeker  
Robb Reavill  
Arnold Wexler  
Mrs. Pierre-Benoist  
Dick Miller

John Arsenault  
Joe Ebner  
Helen Moorefield  
Bob and Joan Robinson  
Bob Lyon  
Dan Clark

Mel and Elda Banks  
Pat Kenny  
Chips Janger  
Richard Sideman  
Joe Wishner  
Grace McConnell

There were "casts of thousands" at Seneca for the Labor Day weekend--not only from Washington but Ohio, and Pennsylvania as well.

A couple of gully-washer rain squalls made life interesting for some. Spirits undampened--numbers descended on the church of unidentified denomination in Riverton for the annual supper. It was a pleasure--fantastic variety of vegetables, desserts, and good company. Main course of steak was limited in quantity and identifiableness--but good, anyway.

One incident occurred which was thought provoking. A climber who is familiar with top-roped climbing and who has limited experience with continuous climbing could not find a leader; he took an inexperienced novice on a lead climb. Initiative--perhaps. Mostly a threat, both to himself and his second. Somehow those of us who are "experienced" climbers have failed to demonstrate to new associates the necessary qualities of concern and responsibility for others while on the rock--either as a leader or as a second.

Yosemite, concluded from page 1

thousand feet to the ground. Fortunately the next day broke beautifully clear and warm (after over 2 inches of rain), and they spent the morning drying out clothes and gear before going on. Two days later, as they neared the top, Paul dropped his hammer, and they had to finish the climb sharing one hammer.

Shortly thereafter Don, Pat and Mark Milligan arrived for a week and immediately racked up and went off to do the Chouinard-Herbert Route on the North Face of Sentinel Rock, but got too late a start to be able to finish it before Don had to leave. That week Bob, myself and the Milligan boys did an impressive list of classic Yosemite free climbs. I was introduced to 5.8 friction (ghastly sensitive) and 5.9 jam-cracks (ghastly strenuous), but all very educational, rewarding, and most of all fun. After Don returned he and Pat racked up to do the Kor-Fredericks Route on Washington Column, but as the heavens would have it, they retreated from the first pitch due to snow and rain.

By now it was late May -- the rain usually stops in Yosemite in late April -- and it stayed sunny for almost a week when June Lehman arrived. Bob and I took her on many of the moderate Yosemite classics. She also did Arches Terrace with a nice 100 foot friction traverse (part of it 5.8) with Tom Evans. A few days later Tink Peters and Rita O'Connor arrived after their trip through the Southwest. Tink, June and I did The Iota, a "specimen" 5.5 chimney and some others. After a rainy day trip to see the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees in the fog and snow, Tink and I took Rita on her first climb, a short 5.2, and of course it rained. Since it was nearing time to depart, and Steve Tandy and I had been planning to do the Kor-Fredericks Route on Washington Column, we racked up one morning -- but didn't even get to leave camp for the rock due to ... yet more rain.

With over 25 climbers in our campsite, some of them were able to get some Grade V's and VI's done. These were: The Nose on El Cap, two ascents (both in rain); South Face of Mt. Watkins, in rain and snow; South Face of Half Dome, the second ascent, in rain and snow; West Face of El Capitan, in rain; a new Grade V named Illuminata, in rain; South Face of Washington Column and the Leaning Tower, both in good weather.

"Should we leave tomorrow?"

"Let's stay and climb another day if the weather's good." It wasn't. We left.

"For after all the best thing one can do, When it's raining, is to let it rain."

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
The Birds of Killingworth

## CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
Nov. 7	Annapolis Rocks/ Black Rocks, Md.	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)
Nov. 10	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	
Nov. 14	Great Falls, Md.	Don Schaefer (521-5326)
Nov. 20-21	Kline Gap, W. Va.	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)
Nov. 25-28	Shawangunks or Linville Gorge	Tom McCrumm (527-6272) Chuck Sproull (894-4463)
Dec. 5	Training at Buzzard Rocks	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
Dec. 8	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	
Nov. 17	Training Lecture, PATC Headquarters, 7:15 p.m.	Dave Templeton (933-2174)

If more information concerning scheduled trips is required--rides, better directions, who's going, etc.--call the Trip Leader.

## Annapolis Rocks and Black Rocks, Md.

In Frederick, Md. pick up U.S. 40 toward Hagerstown. At the top of South Mountain park at the roadside park on the left (there is a gas station on the right). If you drive under I 70 you've gone a tad too far. Follow the edge of U.S. 40 on the left side toward I 70 following blue-blazed trail along old trolley tracks. AT follows edge of embankment of I 70 under bridge at right. Annapolis Rocks are about 2 miles up the trail. Black Rocks are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles past Annapolis Rocks.

## Great Falls, Md.

From the Beltway take the Carderock exit (15). Go past Carderock exit on GW Parkway to end of Parkway. Turn left on MacArthur Boulevard and follow to Great Falls parking lot (4 miles). Walk downstream on tow path until rocks can be seen below. Follow trail breaking right and scramble down to rocks.

## Kline Gap, W. Va.

Drive through Winchester, Va. on U.S. 50 to New Creek, W. Va. (60 miles past Winchester). Pick up Rte. 42 and stay on 42 through Maysville to Maysville Rd. Follow Maysville Road (Rtes. 42 and 5) 3.8 miles to T intersection. Turn right at intersection for about a mile and bear left at fork in the road (past quarry). Across bridge and park. Walk through the barnyard following grown-over road that parallels the stream on the stream's right.

## Shawangunks, N.Y.

North on the Beltway (405) to Colesville exit, Rt. 29 N, to 70 N East, to the Baltimore Beltway (695). Go left on 695 toward Towson, and at Exit 24, go west on Interstate 83, the Timonium-York exit. In exactly 70 miles (one hr. 10 min.) take Rt. 81 to Allentown. (Do not take 78N to Allentown). 86 miles later, or one hour and 17 minutes later, turn onto Rt. 80, the Stroudsburg-Bloomsbury exit. Drive 46 miles to 209 N. (Note: 80 and 209 join at Stroudsburg). Avoid 209S and 209 Business, which peel off to the left. Take Exit 52, to Milford, exactly one hour after you got onto Rt. 80. 37 miles later turn onto the new Rt. 84 and drive 40 miles (45 minutes) to the last exit, Exit 5. Turn left onto 208 N to New Paltz and prepare for the slowest hour of the entire trip. After 14 miles turn left onto 44-55 and wind your way about 7 miles to the Brauhaus "T" intersection and continue past the hairpin turn about a mile, to Trapp Road. Turn right and go about one mile, crossing two bridges, to poorly-marked Coxing Camp, on the right after the second bridge.

## Linville Gorge, N.C.

Follow Interstates to Greensboro, N.C. (suggested reading: a road map). Pick up I-40 west to N.C. Rte. 18 N (120 miles); north to Morganton ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles) and pick up N.C. 181. Continue north about 25 miles and turn left on dirt road marked "Table Einvil Rock Road, to Gingercake Acres (about 4.4 miles past Table Rock Overlook, .4 miles past the settlement of Cold Springs). Reference all milages to 0 miles at NC-181 and Table Rock Road. Reference all following milages to 0 miles at N.C. Rte. 181 and Table Rock Road. At .4 and 5.2 miles bear left, at 6.2 miles turn right and follow sign to Table Rock, at 6.9 miles bear left; at 7.9 miles turn right and continue up steep switchbacks to top of ridge (9.3 miles). One may camp here at the Table Rock Campground and climb the rocks to the north and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south.

## Buzzard Rocks, Va.

From the Beltway take I-66 west to Gainesville. Bear right to go west on Va. 55 through Front Royal. 6 miles past Front Royal, turn left at the town of Waterlick (note sign for Elizabeth Furnace). Go 3 miles to fish hatchery and park. Trail is on right  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from hatchery. About 1 mile (uphill) to top of rocks.

Up Rope

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