



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 31 Number 12

December 1976

Page 1

### SENECA ROCKS

John Stannard

John Christian has relinquished some of his duties for the Mountaineering Section with regards to Seneca Rocks, and I have been asked to help. Presently we are asking members of the Section for help, and we are trying similarly to enlist the aid of other groups and individuals who are interested in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA and Seneca Rocks itself. The Forest Service will soon make available for its last public comment, the Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest and the NRA. This will be the public's LAST OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE PLAN FOR THE NRA, MOUTH OF SENECA, and SENECA ROCKS.

Short of active interest by a large number of people and a large number of clubs, I see no way for us to affect what is planned for the NRA and for Mouth of Seneca. In the past the Section objected long and strenuously to the plan to construct a Class A Trail (suitable for use by 2-3 wheeled vehicles) to the North Peak of Seneca Rocks. That plan was abandoned but only after a fatal

fall by a sightseer convinced the Forest Service such a trail could have serious consequences. Presently the Section is responding to a Forest Service suggestion that two coin operated telescopes be installed at the Visitor Center so that the climbers to be featured in a Visitor Center exhibit may also be observed in action. I am not sanguine as to the outcome of even this.

About a year from now the Visitor Center should become operational to one degree or another. The Forest Service is considering closing to camping at that time the areas around both the Visitor Center and Roy Gap Road. This will reduce greatly the camping area available to hikers, climbers, cavers, fishermen, etc. Buck Harper is presently trying to resolve difficulties with the Pavilion, but it appears he will have to make sizeable expenditures. It is possible that even the Pavilion area may be closed down in the near future.

(continued on page 3)