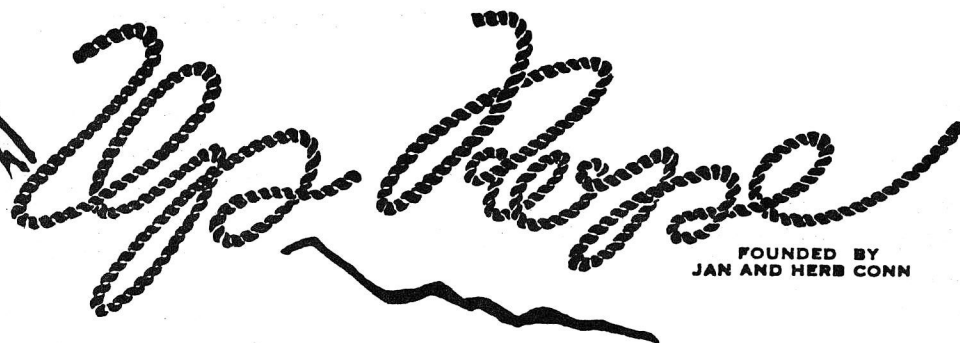


FEB 20 1979



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 34, Number 2

UP ROPE

February 1979

Chairman's Corner

It's that time of year when I get to nag you gently, reminding you that our Mountaineering Section is only as strong and active as the people who are its members. Will we continue to have a training program? Can we expand training to include a good introduction to seconding climbs on multipitch climbs? Will we continue to have good programs every month? Will UP ROPE be published regularly, with interesting contents? Will novice climbers or climbers new to the area find our trips cancelled due to lack of interested leaders? Will we have a mountaineering medicine course? Will there be a picnic this year? For the answer to these and other questions, ask yourself whether you have done anything for the Section lately. Even though we have a number of individuals unselfishly spending a great deal of time on Section projects, it is like pulling teeth to find anyone new. Who is going to replace Doug Howard as Trips Committee? What can we do if Barbara gets sick of twisting arms and calling fly-by-night film distributors in attempts to find entertainment for us? For a small group, we accomplish a great deal, due in large part to the support of our parent organization. But if a larger portion of our membership were more active we would have

fewer good ideas put off year after year. PATC is built on the concept of volunteers working for the good of the general hiking public. The MS provides an avenue for work for the climbing community. Let's use it!

MS INVITED TO WHITE ROCKS

There are within perhaps 20 miles of Frederick, Md., two areas with good climbing potential, which, I believe, are unknown and untried by the rock climbing community. One of them is about to be "discovered" because of the publication of a map in the October, 1978, Potomac Appalachian describing the new Northern Peaks Trail blazed by Bill and Kim Hutchinson. It is identified as White Rocks on that map and lies perhaps a 15-minute steady climb off Mt. Ephraim Road, between Stronghold and Park Mills. White Rocks is secure quartzite, like the rest of Sugarloaf, and has a superb view. There is a vertical face with several possible routes and a feeling of exposure, good top belay positions, and (north just a bit) what is probably the best practice chimney in these parts. It well warrents a visit from a small exploring group.

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