



JUN 25 1979

FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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### Hanging Around

#### Shawangunks - Memorial Day Weekend

In spite of a severe gas shortage, about 20 Washington climbers trooped to the Gunks over the Memorial Day weekend. And, despite cold and damp and outright rain, a lot of good climbing was done. Our rough count shows 10 MS members climbing Classic (5.7). Somewhat more sensational was Howard Doyle's soloing Pas de Deux - a serious 5.7.

Is there gas in Harrisburg??

Those present included Rick Todd, Martha Hale, Doug Howard, James Eakin, Bill Hieronymous Don Barnett, Gary Glueckert, Stan Halpin, Bill De Lano, Lin Murphy, Ian Cruickshank, Margaret and Chuck Wettling, Lotus Steele, Howard Doyle, Bob Ryan and Janet, and Herando Vera.

#### Great Falls - June 3

A lot of folks sure got wet!

No sooner than we'd all walked down to somewhere near Corkscrew, it started really pouring. It was hopeless, and we all walked back. Those drenched were Stan Reeves, Stan Halpin, Rick Todd, Martha Hale, Bill De Lano, Lin Murphy, Ian Cruickshank, Herando Vera, Ute Christoph and Angie, Bill Hieronymous, Roger White

### From Other Peaks

#### CLIMBING IN CANADA

The Alpine Club of Canada is sponsoring the following climbs and camps. For information, write the Club at Box 1026, Banff, Alberta TOL OCO (762-4481). Also, Lin Murphy has a copy of the Club's 1979 program brochure.

General Mountaineering Camp -  
Glacier Lake (\$275 per week)  
week one: July 28 - August 4  
week two: August 4 - August 11

Training Week (for novices)  
ACC Clubhouse, Canmore and Columbia  
Icefield (\$260)  
July 21 - July 28

Maligne Lake Camp (for experienced  
climbers) (\$185 per week)  
week one: August 11 - August 18  
week two: August 18 - August 25

Great Peaks Adventure -- Louis,  
Assiniboine, Sir Donald (\$675 -  
three participants per guide)  
August 4 - August 18

## Meeting Report

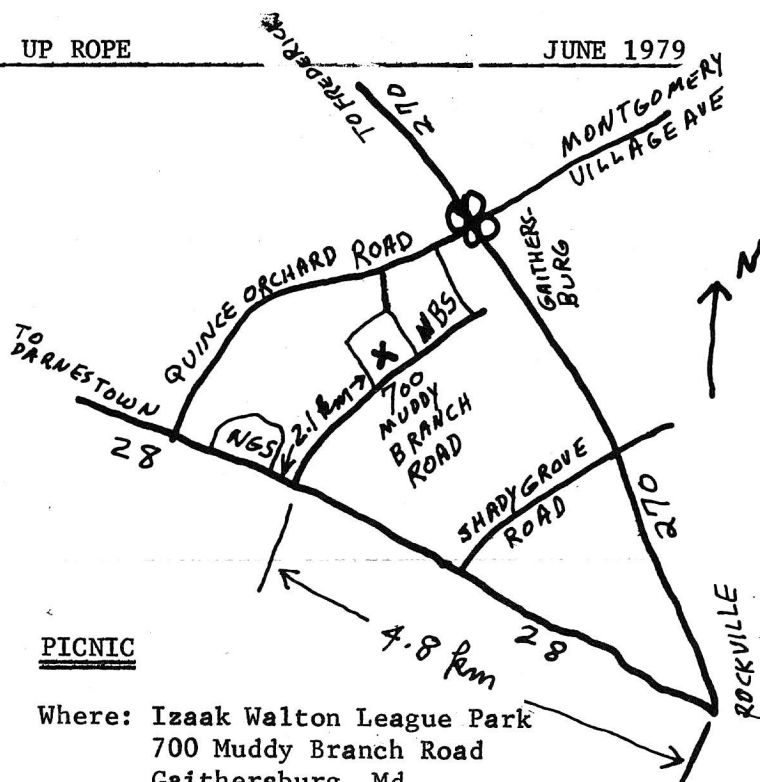
May 9, 1979

The MS picnic is on July 1 at the Izaak Walton League Park in Gaithersburg. See Ryan Pierson's map for how to get there.

**Nelson House Report Correction:**  
Doug Howard said that the stove in the living room doesn't work and that the one in the kitchen is the one whose damper gets turned.

We had a relatively intense discussion about the training program. Stan's view of the training policy is that the MS should teach the minimum required to climb safely, rather than seek to train/produce a bevy of new climbers. Someone thought that we shouldn't teach climbing at all, and a voice from the back of the room wanted the MS to set climbing standards.

John Teasdale showed his slides of Alpine climbing in the e western U.S. and Canada.



### PICNIC

Where: Izaak Walton League Park  
700 Muddy Branch Road  
Gaithersburg, Md.

When: July 1, 1979

Directions: 4.8 km of 270 along highway  
28; right on Muddy Branch Road  
for 2.1 km; left into IWL Park

Other: BYO

no pets

bring frisbee, horseshoes, croquet



### UPROPE

UPROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Editorial contributions, letters, and comments are welcome and should be addressed to either Lin Murphy, 2314 North Harrison Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205 or Bill De Lano, 1012 Ellison Square, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. Deadline is the 25th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription for nonmembers is \$4.00. Current PATC members interested in receiving UPROPE may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS membership is restricted to PATC members. New applicants and current members of PATC can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship of a current member of MS. Send subscription and address changes to Secretary, UPROPE, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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### MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds monthly meetings at PATC Headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) to conduct a brief business session and present a slide show, film, or other form of entertainment. Sunday trips to nearby climbing areas and/or weekend trips to more distant areas are sponsored every weekend. Check the schedule on the back page for details on planned trips. Beginning and intermediate training is offered once a month. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions are placed on participation in club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top-rope climbs, from easy to difficult. However, we ask that you have some instruction or experience prior to the trip. The weekend trips are usually for lead-climbers only and you are expected to find your own climbing partner. For more information on trips, call James Eakin, 598-6042, Chairman of the Trips Committee, or call the designated trip leader. For information on training, call Rick Todd, 431-2236.

## Publications

### HIMALAYAN ODYSSEY

by Trevor Braham

Himalayan Odyssey begins with a half-apology. This book, Trevor Braham tells us at once, "lays no claim to respectability by the criterion of some singular achievement or success." Yet, the outstanding feature of the book is its uniqueness as a personal account of some 30 years of the author's experience in the Himalayas, beginning with a three week journey in 1945, and including numerous expeditions in which he participated or organized. Much of the material is drawn from his diaries.

But this is a highly impersonal "personal" account. While the book parallels TB's life, it is organized geographically, with chapter headings "Sikkim," "Kangchenjunga," etc. It is interlaced with geographic description, historic background, commentary on the local population, and previous expeditions in the areas. TB steers clear of mention of his family, work, date of birth, or other personal details. For whatever reason, the author's style is detached, and the reader cannot help but feel some of this detachment in the midst of fascinating episodes.

TB is an explorer. He is not interested in conquering peaks, although he has climbed many, and he is not interested in seeking difficult technical problems. He contrasts his approach to that of younger climbers, but again, his view is detached and non-judgmental: "To attempt to define modern attitudes to climbing or to compare them with those of the pioneers would be futile...Each new generation creates its own trends and introduces different standards of acceptability. As each passing generation recedes into the background it should wisely recall its own earlier attitudes and attempt to find

a measure of comparability towards its successors...The greatest satisfaction is a feeling of gratitude for having seized one's chance at the proper time, without recrimination or envy over the future."

This book can be both fascinating and unengrossing simultaneously- a unique accomplishment. Because of its evenness, it is possible to begin or end reading almost anywhere, and the reader can easily read as much or as little of it as she feels inclined.

### CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO DEVIL'S LAKE

By William Widule and Sven Olof Swartling

Univ. of Wisconsin Press  
198 Pages      Price \$8.95

Travelers to and through Wisconsin should scan this new guide book to the Devil's Lake area. Nearly two hundred climbs are described in this pocket-size guide to an area of considerable climbing history. Joe and Paul Stettner are said to have introduced true alpine style rock climbing to these cliffs and outcrops. These same brothers were also known for their impact on climbing in Colorado during this period.

A variation of the National Climbing Classification System (NCCS) is used and it's explanation should enable any feeble minded climber like myself to sort out the routes around the lake.

My only complaint is about the quality of photographs in the guide. I evidently share this gripe with the authors' because they made sure there were excellent diagrams of the scenes the photos show. This is a very solid guide and reflects the years of research that went into it.

All books reviewed here are currently available in the PATC Library!!

## Publications

### THE GAMES CLIMBERS PLAY

By Ken Wilson

Reading this book proved to be an adventure in itself. The fact this book and I survived drippy tents, dusty car trunks and assaults by squadrons of airborne pop-tops before I finally turned it's last page has made us comrades forever.

"Games" is a huge collection of climbing stories. In it one reads of courageous climbers, hysterically funny ascents, ethics, and gossip. That isn't really what its about but if there's a segement of your life that is touched by climbing you'll probably relate to at least some of these stories. It helps to be a somewhat worldly mountaineer to

understand what many of these authors, mostly British, are experiencing in their expositions. Robin Smith writes of a particularly memorable ice climb in his "The Old Man and the Mountains." At one point during the climb just after he'd dropped a "monster ice piton" into the abyss below him, he relates how to lose an ice axe as well. "Then I lost my grip of the axe and it started somersaulting in the air with both my arms windmilling trying to grab it and my feet scarting about in crumbly holds." "Somehow all was well....." Sounds fun, huh?

It's time to turn this book over to ya'll so have fun with it.

BD

### Climber's Calendar

June 9-10	Seneca Rocks	Ian Cruickshank	484-5108
June 13	MS Meeting	PATC Headquarters Program- Charlie Sherwood Slide Show of K-2	
June 17	Annapolis Rocks	Martha Hale	762-4769

*Up Rope*

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