

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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December 1979

GUT-BUSTING IN THE ALPS

by Bill De Lano



Alpinist De Lano on the Arête Cosmique

Imagine waking up at 7am with four hours of sleep and seven hours of disco dancing and drinking behind you. Would you want to drag yourself out of bed to face eight straight hours of climbing? Evidently I did because I was soon outside and joined by two other climbers. Up the mountain we strode towards the huge limestone cliffs that promenade over the Swiss resort town of Leysin. During the next six days I made

climbs of towering rock buttresses, high-altitude ice couloirs, rock and snow arêtes, misty fog-shrouded peaks, and even in the rain.

Gary Glueckert, one of my roommates here in D.C., joined me on this trip. We were guided on our climbs by Pete Boardman, direct of the International School of Mountaineering, and by Gordon Smith, one of his instructors.

(continued on next page)

GUT-BUSTING (continued)

Pete was doing his first climbing since his successful ascent of Kanchenjunga. In previous Himalayan expeditions, he had climbed Mt. Everest, Southwest Face, Changabang (alpine style), attempted K2, and is presently out there again seeking to climb Gaurisankar. Gordon Smith is a well-known Scottish ice climber who prefers the Scottish terrain and European Alps to "Himalayan snow slogging." He has also traveled in the States, where he climbed Bridalveil Falls in Colorado with Steve Shea.

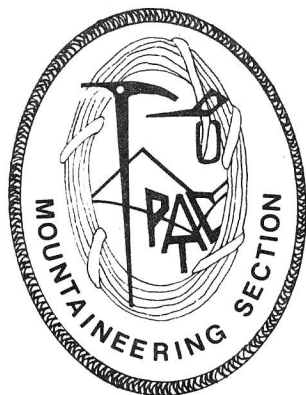
Alpine climbing proved to be exciting and demanding. Staying in the hostel in Leysin or in a French Alpine Club hut at 11,000ft at the base of Mont Blanc, I enjoyed the experience of total immersion in climbing. Here in Washington, it's hard to remove oneself completely from the working world on two- or three-day weekends. The Alps provided a completely different climbing culture from what most of us rock jocks are used to.

Protection on some of climbs was nonexistent. On the first day alone I took two blows on my helmet from falling rocks, had a boulder peel away from a wall onto me during a delicate traverse, and gashed my neck with the rope when another climber fell, pulling me off off my stance. Luckily, these mishaps didn't continue through the week.

Carderock and Castle Finn training paid off on most of the climbs. But several of the routes, particularly on limestone, consisted of greasy, slimy chimneying, which, with packs and mountain boots, were a bit beyond my technique. The routes we climbed were all either alpine Grade 4 or 5.

The Chere Couloir on Mont Blanc du Tacul was the climb I'm most pleased with. Gordon and I did this climb while Gary and Pete were off on a traverse of the Midi Plan. The 1000ft Chere Couloir is ten pitches of ice climbing with three crux pitches of up to 80 degrees. This was a very straightforward climb

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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.

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

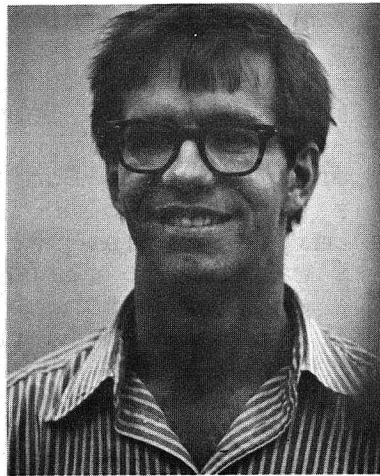
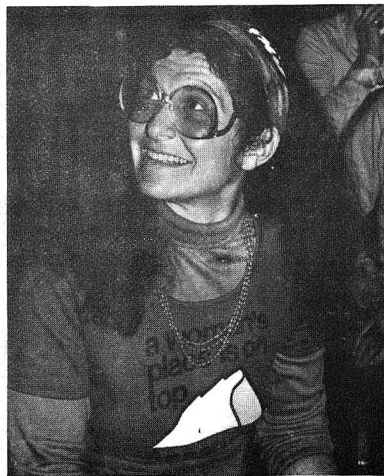
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MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

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.

PATC HOSTS BLUM, REICHARDT, TRIMBLE

left to right:
Phil Trimble;
Arlene Blum;
Lou Reichardt.
Photos by
Charlie Dorian.

November was an outstanding month for mountaineers in Washington. MS and PATC sponsored visits by members of the major American mountaineering achievements of the past few years.

On November 1, Phil Trimble, leader of the American Bicentennial Everest Expedition, spoke to 200 PATC members at the parent club's annual dinner. On November 7, MS hosted a slide show by Lou Reichardt, one of the first Americans on K2. Approximately 60 people attended his presentation at George-

town University. Finally, on November 19, MS sponsored a slide/lecture by Arlene Blum, leader of the 1978 all-woman Annapurna expedition. About 220 people paid to see her show at the Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase.

We should all be proud of this month's activities. Attendance indicated significant nonmember interest and support of our programs. Thanks to all who helped - room and equipment arrangers, introducers, notice-makers, money-takers, and to all who came.

GUT-BUSTING (concluded)

with Gordon leading the hardest pitches but allowing me to lead three of the more moderate ones. Gary, in the meantime, had tried to make a quick trip to Chamonix during their traverse. He caught his crampons on gaitors and plunged head first over the thin arête towards the Bar National. Fortunately, he arrested himself with his axe immediately, much to Pete's relief and that of a Danish nurse who was climbing with them.

Other climbs we made were on the Aiguille du Midi, Aiguille de l'M, the Argentine(Switzerland), and the Tour D'Ai(Switzerland).

I was very satisfied with the time spent climbing with Pete and Gordon. Our personalities meshed extremely well, and conflicts were nonexistent. Both Gary and I felt we were wise to have hired Pete to guide us on our first Alpine climbs, in terms of money, efficient use of our vacation time(two weeks), and the added safety of having extremely experienced climbing companions.

Oh, you were wondering what I did my second week of vacation? Well, it began with this disco in Leysin. There I was at 2am with three Canadian girls and all this wine....

ECUADOR CLIMBING TRIP

I am organizing a climbing trip to Ecuador during the first two weeks of January 1980. I intend to limit the trip to eight members. Snow and ice experience is required: this is not a beginner's trip. The goal of the trip is to climb Chimborazo (6310 meters) alpine style. We will acclimatize by warming up during the first five days on Cotopaxi (5897 meters). Chimborazo is the largest peak in Ecuador and is of moderate difficulty. Call me for more information.

Don McIntyre
536-6122 - h
252-4152 - w

MOUNTAINEERING PLACEMENT SERVICE

Expedition Research, Inc. is a staffing and marketing service for expeditions. For a registration fee of \$20 per year, individuals with appropriate expertise (physicians, scientists, photographers) receive a monthly newsletter listing expedition and job opportunities. ERI sends their resumes to expedition leaders in search of experts. ERI, P.O. Box 467, Annapolis, Md. 21404. Its information package is in the "Mountaineering Expeditions" file.

LOTUS RETURNS AND LEAVES

Lotus Steele returned from her two-month climbing trip out west and helped her parents move to New Mexico. Now she's moving out west too, and Washington is losing its best woman rock climber.

A partial list of her climbs with partner Paul Clark: Cirque of the Towers, Wind Rivers: Warbonnet, Pingora, Wolf's Head. Eldorado Canyon: Outer Space, Yellow Spur, Hair City, Rosy Crucifixion, Green Spur, Green Slab Direct, Darkness 'til Dawn. Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Sierra Needles, Southern

ExpeditionsPAMIRS AND CAUCASUS

December 31 is the deadline for applications for the Pamirs and Caucasus international climbing camps. At least three people are required for a team. Don McIntyre has the letter describing the camps. (A copy is in the "Mountaineering Expeditions" file in the PATC library.)

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL EXPEDITIONS

Mountain Travel's offerings fill a 71-page catalog. Its treks go all over the world. Its mountaineering expeditions go to Aconcagua, Huascaran, Popocatepetl, Mt Logan, Mt McKinley, Kolahoi, and Mt Kenya. Mountain Travel's address is 1398 Solano Ave., Albany, CA 94706. The catalog is in the "Mountaineering Expeditions" file.

HIMALAYAN TREKKING SERVICE

This outfit offers to "handle all the details of mounting and conducting" a trek through the Himalayans. It's already set up a trip to the Manaslu Range and is advertising for a trek physician. It offers a substantial reduction in the cost of the trip and promises, "Duties will be very light." Its address: 5730 Rising Sun Ave., Philadelphia 19120.

California. Yosemite Valley: Paradise Lost, Outer Space, Rixon's Pinnacle, West Face, Beverly's Tower, Salathé Wall.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI FAIR

PATC Ski Touring Section is sponsoring a fair on Tuesday, December 4, at 8pm in the Blue Commons Room at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd Street South, Arlington (almost at the intersection of Glebe Road and Route 50). The fair includes a ski swap and sell, demonstrations on ski care, and a slide show.

Publications

Yurac Janka, Guide to the Peruvian Andes, Part I, Cordillera Blanca & Rosko, by John Ricker. Published jointly by the Alpine Club of Canada and the American Alpine Club, 1977, \$11.50.

For those who may be interested in climbing in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru, this is the first comprehensive guidebook yet published. For those of us who merely want to learn about these mountains, their people, local history, languages and customs, geology, fauna and flora, the opening and closing sections contain many valuable and informative accounts by guest contributors. As one who has thrice visited Peruvian mountains, I nevertheless learned much which I wish I had known earlier. John Ricker as a compiler is to be congratulated for what must have been an exhausting and time-consuming task.

The route descriptions are necessarily minimal because of the size of the terrain covered and the number of peaks and subsidiary ranges. As with all guidebooks of this nature, specialists will in time uncover a number of errors which in no way detract from the book's general merits, but which should be communicated to the author so they may be corrected in future editions.

Most of the photographs, in black and white, are excellent, and many brought back fond memories. So, indeed, are the maps, presumably the work of Oliver Perrottet, which accompany the volume as a reader's dividend and without which the text would be almost useless to the uninitiated. Most interesting for me were the sections, by a variety of contributors, which deal with the region, early mountaineering in Peru, mountain climbers and mountain dwellers, essentials for mountaineering expeditions, medical problems, geology, glaciation, snow and ice conditions, weather and climate,

access, and the final, superb section on the Quechua language. This last, however, seems out of place, being relegated to a back part of the volume where it does not properly belong. Some sections, notably that by Evilio Echevarria, appear to have suffered in translation. But these criticisms are not intended to condemn the merits of this fine work.

The volume is small enough to be easily transported into mountain areas as part of a person's rucksack equipment, though one wishes the paperback cover could be made of somewhat more durable material.

It will be interesting to see further volumes in what John Ricker is obviously planning as a series and to read about other worthy climbing areas of Peru. Meantime, Yurac Janka is a must for anyone wishing to visit the Cordillera Blanca. It also makes a worthy addition to any climbing library.

reviewed by Andrew J. Kauffman

Men for the Mountains, Sid Marty. Vanguard Press, 1978, \$12.95.

Sid Marty, a park warden in the Canadian Rockies, describes the changes made in Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks to keep up with expanding civilization. One of Marty's duties is to assist park visitors. His recollections of the numerous epics he was involved with make for enjoyable and exciting reading. He has a fine gift for being able to describe events ranging from encounters with wildlife to rescues of fallen climbers. His book provides insight into the problems of wilderness management while keeping you right in the thick of things. I think a good book to read while enjoying the indoor comforts on a cold winter night.

reviewed by Rick Todd

Publications

Fifty Short Climbs in the Midwest, by Alan Bagg. Contemporary Books, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, \$6.95, 234 pp.

I hope I never need to use this book for two reasons. One, I would have to live in the Midwest. Two, the book itself leaves much to be desired. It is relatively large-sized for so few route descriptions. Obviously aimed at the rank beginner, there is a how-to section along with one on equipment. Also included is a glossary, a list of manufacturers, and a list of climbing schools. Quite a number of areas are mentioned - mostly how to get to them and where to stay. But, little is said about the

routes themselves. A few have no more description than the grading of the route. It is a shame that the best-covered area is Devil's Lake, which already has an excellent guide. It seems more time could have been spent on other areas. One will have to rely of word of mouth once he arrives at most of the climbing areas mentioned.

So folks, rest safe, unless you have to move to the Midwest, your climbing library is still complete without this one.

reviewed by John Bremer

(These books were recently received in the PATC library.)

Meeting Report

November 14

Martha zipped through the business meeting, announcing upcoming events and a mountain-theme photo contest. The photos will be judged by a panel of professional photographers. Submit entries to Stan Halpin by January 15.

Rick Todd of the Nominations Committee reported a modified slate

for 1980 officers: Chairman-Martha Hale; Vice Chairman-Don McIntyre and Vivian Mendenhall; Secretary-Charlie Dorian; Treasurer-Ian Cruickshank. Elections will be held in December.

Howard Doyle showed us his slides of Verdon and other nearby climbing areas in southern France. It was a good show.

Hanging Around

SUGARLOAF - July 8

Aah! A weekend without rain. Can one think of a better place to be at such a time than at the Gunks? How about Sugarloaf, which was ninth choice after the Gunks - but who can be choosy. Climbing was hampered by two Great Danes that left mine fields in their wake. Entertainment was provided the "Perils of Penelope." The

crowd felt helpless as they watched, but cheered, the young heroine to the very end, when she finally freed herself from the jaws of the "bottomless climb." The part of the heroine was played by Penelope Cote. In supporting roles as The Crowd were Bob Berger, Janelle Boisvert, James Eakin, Ryan Pierson, Gary Roan, Mark Uhrich, and

John Bremer

James Eakin, Mike Warburton, John Teasdale, Ian Cruickshank and four veiled persons* pulled off some good climbing despite rain and forecasts of snow. Most of us arrived early Saturday morning to apparantly ending rain, which, to our dolor, began again before daylight. We breakfasted, then shopped all over New Paltz. About noontime, James' rash thought of climbing precipitated soaked ascents of Classic and Jackie. Cruickshank and Teasdale had already begun their two-day aid route on Wasp Stop. Martha and Barbara took a hike. That evening everyone enjoyed the film, "Yanks." Sunday our routes list lengthened to include Hawk-Min-Tree, Raunchy, Wonderland, Glypnod, and the Eakin 5.7 Combo. As it became dark, and the rain began again, Cruickshank and Teasdale rescued an unidentified climber who was hanging upsidedown by his heel on the 5.9 move of Airy Aria. More eating and drinking. Our California guest, world-traveled Mike Warburton, remarked that he'd never before participated in such consumption. Case in point: Barbara had two sundies at Friendly's. Monday became blue right after breakfast. Our octet tuned up and played Retribution, Son of Easy 0, Middle Earth, Classic, Gelsa, and CCK.

Lin Murphy

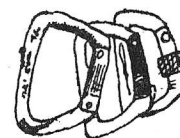
* Barbara Llewellyn, Martha Hale, Sallie Greenwood, and Lin Murphy

On Sunday, October 21, two climbers from Baltimore attempted an uncertain route, which may have been Le Gourmet Direct Start. The leader climbed about seven feet and

clipped into a fixed pin. He climbed past the pin and fell onto a ledge, the belay taking most of the force of the fall. The climber again climbed past the fixed pin, went one or two feet higher than before, and came off again, this time striking the same ledge with enough force to sustain a fracture just above the ankle. The victim returned to the parking lot partly by being carried by the belayer and partly by crawling.

On Saturday, October 27, Larry Lempert and I were standing on the first pitch of Skyline Traverse when we heard a blood-chilling cry of "falling" from above and to the right. We saw a large rock (2ft by 1ft) and a climber falling. The rock landed near the start of Worrell's Thicket. The climber landed on a large flat-topped block protruding from the face about 50ft above the place the rock landed, striking his hip, leg, and back. The belayer could not see the leader, so I described his position to him. Then, to our surprise, and relief, the leader sat up and called, "off belay." He said he wanted to rest a minute and answered questions about his fall. He was leading Kauffman-Cardon and had gone off-route to the right. In a difficult position he had made a desperate grab for a hold that turned out to be loose. His protection, one small Copperhead, had held. After resting about five minutes, the leader checked himself out, asked for his belay, and climbed out. Larry and I completed Skyline Traverse, dodging rocks dislodged by some moron on Broadway. That night Larry bought a helmet.

Don Barnett



MOUNTAINEER'S BABY

Betsy Guthrie reports that Mary and Doug Howard have named their second child Sarah Stacy. She was born on September 21 and weighed eight pounds, five ounces. They're all staying with Doug's parents until his fellowship is over in December. Their address: 38 Parker Road, Wakefield, Mass 01880

will be assistant archivist for the mountaineering files. If you have materials (e.g., old UP ROPES, photos) that either record Mountain-eering Section history or describe the development of rock climbing in the area, please consider giving them to the Archives collection. They would be relatively secure because access to the locked files is controlled by the archivists, yet provide valuable background material for anyone researching the history of climbing in the area.

Lin Murphy

MOUNTAINEERING ARCHIVES WANTED

Ruth Schairer has succeeded Dave Bates as PATC Archivist. She will be assisted by fellow long-time PATC member, Mary Jo Williams. I

MOUNTAINS OF FOOD

Arlene's pot luck dinner: I can't believe we ate the whole thing!

Climber's Calendar

December 2	Crescent Rocks	Parker Hill(931-7487)
December 9	Sugarloaf	Barbara Llewellyn(871-6197)
December 12	MS meeting 8pm PATC Hd	Election of Officers; "Go for It"
December 16	Carderock-leader rescue practice	Lin Murphy(533-8412)
December 23	White Oak Canyon	Parker Hill(931-7487)
December 30	Nelson House outing	Parker Hill(931-7487)
January 9	MS meeting 8pm PATC Hd	Ski Mountaineering- lecture & film

For ice climbing trips arranged on an impromptu basis, call Stan Halpin(340-2593), Ian Cruickshank(484-5108), or James Eakin(598-6042). For information on club trips, call the leader or Parker Hill(931-7487).

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