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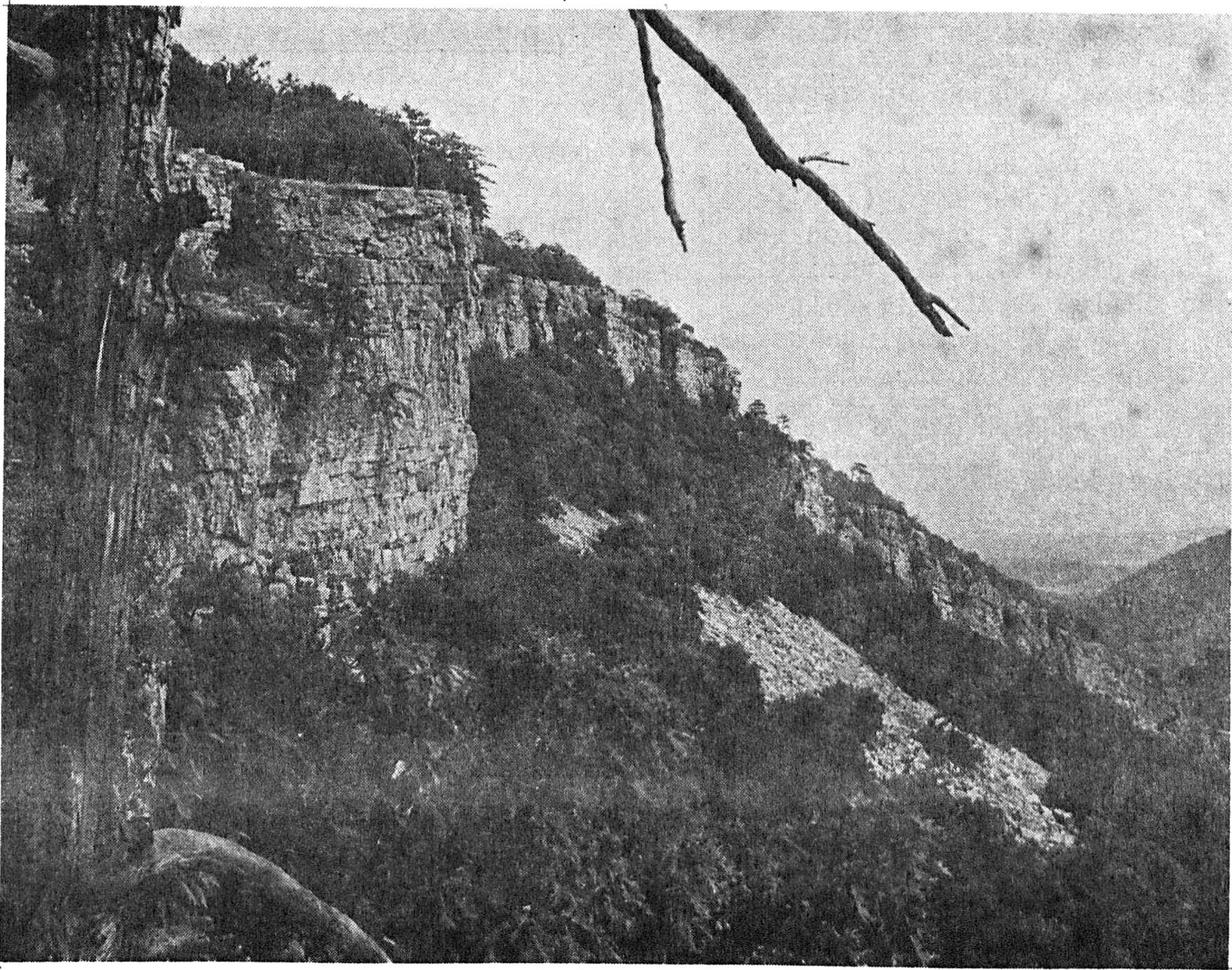
NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 35, Number 11

November 1980

Hanging Around



Greenland Gap - photo by Charlie Dorian

GREENLAND GAP

September 27 and 28 found a small but resolute expedition from MS at Greenland Gap, near Scherr, W. Va. The limited camping facilities (side of the road) were enhanced by a pleasant trout stream, complete with swimming hole and a diner within a reasonable drive.

By mid-morning Saturday Martha Hale, Ian Cruickshank, and I were climbing a beautiful talus slope of white, Volkswagen-sized blocks to the high point of a broad anticline of conglomerate. We scouted various lines, picked a fairly obvious one, and started up. After our first pitch, James Eakin, and Janet and Neil Arsenault arrived to begin their climb--a first

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ascent. When asked, they revealed that their route went "up," and was called Feces. (For obvious reasons. The vultures and feral goats have not been chased from the area yet.) We finished our climb, walked around and down, and found them still sweating their way up. Luckily, the west-facing rock held the daylight and warmth to the last, but their descent was by flashlight.

When grilled later (a hibachi had been prepared for a rustic repast), James offered the following, dry, guide book description: From Scat Ledge (large ledge below yellow buttress--I told you about the goats already) ascend a left-facing corner on far right of ledge (75 feet, 5.5-5.7 climbing). This is also known at the first pitch of Frosting. From the white, bird-dropping covered ledges, go straight up to the obvious fracture in the overhang. Go through the overhang and follow crack past the next ledge to the top. (130 feet; felt like 5.9+) Excellent protection can be placed on both pitches. This variation on Frosting was called Samurai's Walk--the TV series, "Shogun," providing inspiration for the Japanese-dialect climbing calls and the joke, "Why do Samurai walk funny?....."

Neil complimented James, who led, after following the crux overhang with,

"Eakin-san, you one scared bear when you pulled overhang. You definitely Samurai!" Then James let Neil know the truth of it--the only protection he could get in at the lip of the overhang was a number five wired stopper in a solution pocket--definitely psychological!

Sunday morning rain coming down slowed us down, but did not drown us out. After the climb, a swim, a drive home, and Noah's sign--a rainbow, the best I've ever seen over the Sugarloaf valley.

Charlie Dorian

OLD RAG - October 4 and 5

The eight o'clock start from A0 was revised to ten. This procrastination, etc., yielded time for only one climb Saturday, on the two-pitch slabs to the east of the Ridge Trail. Friction climbing along a crack to its end, then over to a rotten flake and up. Good protection, 5.6ish. Second pitch starts with an unprotected boulder move--mantle over a bulge. "Fantastic lead," shouts James to Ian. At the top, warm sun, warm rock. Great day.

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UP ROPE

UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Climbing articles, letters, and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Lin Murphy, 2314 N. Harrison Street, Arlington, Va. 22205. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription price for nonmembers is \$4. Current PATC members interested in receiving UP ROPE may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS members must belong to PATC. Applicants for membership and PATC members can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship from a current MS member. Send subscription and address changes to Mountaineering Section-Secretary, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds meetings at PATC headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) the second Wednesday of each month except August. There is a brief business session followed by 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 climber's calendar for scheduled trips.

Beginning and intermediate training are offered once a month. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions may be placed on participation in club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top rope climbs. However, we ask that you have some experience or training prior to the trip. The weekend trips are usually for lead climbers only, and you are expected to find your own climbing partner.

Hanging Around

Sunday started grey and cold. It stayed grey and cold. We bushwacked to the Ampitheater on the southwest side, looked up and down, and found a likely-looking line. Were we wrong! Bombay chimney arching right, slightly overhanging, topped by a right-arching lay-back crack. It looked hard. James spent three hours leading just the one pitch. The day was cold, and the rock was cold, rough (blood even with taped hands), and wet. The dark stain at the top half of the crack was moss-soggy and slippery.

Going up the chimney was OK, but how to get out of it? Feel over head. Can't see. Fingertip-size crack...means number five stopper. Toss it in, clip rope, loud sigh of relief. Fingertip pullup out of crack, try to lay-back up crack.

Time for aid. Moss in the crack, on the wall. EBs. Crack is the same size all the way; rack is not. Climb up; slot nut; climb down; reuse pieces. At last the top--a dirt-covered, sloping ledge. Seemed 5.10 A2. Good protection. Seconds come up fast. Amazing! Not really. Prussiks!

On the rap down, only tip toes can touch the rock. James Eakin, Ian Cruickshank, and

Charlie Dorian

CLIMBING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE & WYOMING

--two reports by Ian Cruickshank and Rick Todd

The summer of '80 provided the chance to climb in two areas I had long coveted. Opportunity arrived in the person of Rick Todd. Just back from the PATC Andes trip, he was moving to Seattle and had plenty of time enroute.

The second week of August saw us staring up at Cathedral Ledge in North Conway, New Hampshire. It's a Carderock-jock's kind of place. You can park at the base of the ledge. Better, beer joints and swimming holes are just a couple of minutes away, not to mention two fine climbing shops. The Ledge commences with a short scree slope and rises some 500 feet to a tourist gallery on the summit.

Thin Air, the best easy route on the cliff, strikes up steep smooth granite and pushes through a cleft in a

series of overhanging flakes, to easy ledges above. Refuse, directly below the tourist gallery, has for a second pitch a forty foot pine tree. Rick led this one, gingerly stretching himself off the top-most branches as the tired old tree slowly bent away from the ledge above. We finished Refuse by the 5.8 crack leading to the rail of the gallery, to the delighted applause of the crowd.

Rich soon established himself as something of a ham, solemnly explaining the equipment and demonstrating moves to curious tourists. In the ensuing weeks he was to become a showman, shamelessly basking in the "oohs" and "aahs" of the admiring crowds.

Next day we sampled Whitehorse Ledge, less than a mile from Cathedral, but quite a different animal. Whitehorse swoops up like the cowcatcher of an old steam locomotive, its granite smooth but just enough surface roughness. The climbing is at the same time intimidating due to long runouts and joyful. You start out terrified on 40° friction and end up marveling at your (or your EB's) ability to hang onto nothing.

From North Conway we moved west to Cannon Mountain. Twice the height of Cathedral, it has an alpine feel and an alpine reputation. On a nice day (and we had nice weather) it's just a bigger wall of the same beautiful rock.

Lakeview takes eight pitches to its finish on the top of the "Old Man of the Mountain," from which you can wave to the multitudes in the notch below who are staring up at the symbol of the Granite State.

The guidebook (Ross and Ellms) describes the Whitney-Gilman Ridge as the classic climb of New Hampshire, and a classic it was. As you stand on a thin ledge above a sheer drop of several hundred feet, studying the 5.7 crux, how humbled you are to remember that the first ascenders in 1929 used no protection. A 1.5-inch pipe stuck in a crack below the crux in 1931 "protected" the pitch for many years, and today you can stand on it if you are gripped enough. (Of course we didn't.)

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Back in D.C. Rick spent a week preparing his car and packing a rented trailer with his worldly goods, while I returned to the bureaucratic shuffle, and then we were on the road for the Tetons. The oppressive Washington heat was lifting as Rick waved good-bye to his folks, who stood bravely in the front yard.

Devils Tower is a mandatory stop, and on the afternoon we arrived it was indeed impressive. We studied the Durrance and talked to the locals who warned us not to go near the rock if it was wet. Sure enough, next day it rained, and we turned West again. On our way through Gillette, Wyoming we ran across a former Washington-area climber, Frank Sanders, in the local climbing shop. He had paused there on his way West and stayed for five years. He has put up many of the new hard routes on the Tower over the past several years.

Sallie Greenwood, coordinator of the AWHE second annual women's meet, greeted us at the AAC Climber's Ranch in the Tetons. Her tale of cold, wet weather was not encouraging, and we were satisfied to hike up Granite Canyon next day as a conditioning and acclimatization measure. We drank in the heady brew of peaks surrounding us -- the Grand, the Middle, Teewinot. The big time.

Symmetry Spire is a small outlyer of a larger mountain mass, and from the Valley road looks like two or three easy pitches. The southwest ridge is seven pitches with a two and a half hour approach. We found the ratings in Ortenburger's guide hardly the inflated Western grade we had expected. Many of the pitches are under rated. A newer guide, more expensive and more elaborate, has more realistic numbers, although its coverage (you buy separate sheets) is limited to the popular climbs.

Later, fearing the weather would not hold, we humped up to the Lower Saddle between the Grand and Middle Tetons. Fresh snow covered the trade routes on the Grand, and we elected to try the Underhill Ridge, easternmost of the three ridges buttressing the south face of the mountain. Leaving camp at the leisurely hour of 8 a.m., we romped up the six or seven pitches of the ridge. Rick led the crux without knowing it, and we topped out below the summit slabs as the usual

thunderheads began forming in the southwest. On the summit, our festivities were cut short by a bolt of lightening which sent us scampering down the the Owen-Spalding. Rick's hair stood on end as he made the famous rap to the Upper Saddle. We made the season's fastest descent to the Lower Saddle and a camp.

Later in the week, between showers, we knocked off the Guide's Wall on Storm Point, probably the finest rock climb either of us had ever done. Eight pitches all 5.6 to 5.8, jamcracking right up the nose of a buttress overlooking Cascade Canyon and Mount Owen. Rick, who called himself a 5.5 leader at the beginning, was flashing 5.7!

We did one other climb, Baxter's Pinnacle, but snow on the peaks and continuing bad weather put an end to it. There were fewer climbers each day at the Ranch, and the smell of fall was in the air.

We'll all miss Rick. By himself he carried the training program for years and made it a model. He's the kind of guy you want around when the going gets tough.

-- Ian

High Gang,

Well, its definitely been a while since I've been in touch with you. In the interim, Ian and I managed to pack a lot of climbing into this past summer. We started with a warm-up spree in the mountains of New Hampshire...(Editor's note: He liked it.)...The only sad thing was that just as I decided to leave the East Coast, I discovered the enjoyable climbs located in New England. If you can go there to climb, do it....

With everything crammed into a 5x8 foot trailer, Ian and I set out for the big time--the Tetons and points West. On the drive out we managed to do some sight-seeing. We stopped at the Dakota Badlands, Mount Rushmore, and Yellowstone. (See Ian's account, for the Devils Tower episode).

We drove on and finally arrived at the Tetons. They were quite impressive, but after climbing in Peru, my first

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reaction was, "Is that all?" I soon found out that the Tetons offer tremendous challenges in all types of mountaineering, and ate my words....

By August 31 the weather was deteriorating and it was time to think about moving on. I arrived in Seattle and stayed with Dave Dailey, whom I had met in Peru this summer....

Within two week I found a job doing exactly what I wanted. Dave and I spent a weekend climbing in Leavenworth, Washington. Superb climbing just 1½ hours from my new home. So, as of this writing, I am gainfully employed and living in a nice two bedroom apartment in Kirkland. There's plenty of space for visiting climbers.

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--Rick

MORE N.H. CLIMBING - Late September

Right after I returned from Nepal, Sallie Greenwood and I drove leisurely north to more familiar mountains. Though we didn't climb anything outstanding, we had a very pleasant time, and I just want to say that it's good to be home. Our nonexpedition to woods whose leaves had pretty much decided to turn red and gold felt great.

It always takes time to get oriented to a new climbing place. We discovered that it's very convenient to climb at Cathedral Ledge: a lobster restaurant and a commercial camping place are nearby. The fudge-covered ice cream brownie at Horsefeathers is superb.

It's a relatively short walk from the parking place to the base of the climbs, and it's easy to hitch a ride down from the road at the top to the parking area. It's also easy to select your first routes there since the guide book lists only a few that aren't formidably rated 5.7 A2, 5.11 and such. Thin Air (5.5) is OK, but the Standard Route with the 5.7 variations is worth doing. A #3 Friend protects the famous cave wall.

We moved on the Cannon Mountain and stayed with a friend in a nearby town. It was cold the day we did the Whitney-Gilman. Ice had already formed in the Black Dike. The crux happens with surprise. Fantastic exposure and the pipe confirm the impression that this must be the place. Hassler Whitney, who helped put up the route in 1929, was on my 1979 Bolivia trip. Deceptively slow but steady, he soon outdistanced younger climbers on Huyana Potosi.

We spent too long the next day on Reppy's Crack. You need big chocks and tough toes to lead it comfortably. It links up with Moby Grape, a nine-pitch climb that must wait till our next trip to Cannon.

Lin Murphy

Meeting Report October 8

Progress on maintaining the Nelson House, whose fund now has less than \$25, is due to the heroic efforts of Vivian Mendenhall and Stan Halpin. Alas, Vivian says that the inside airflow was adjusted by a broken window sometime within the last two weeks. Sources of lumber for rebuilding the front porch were examined; Stan says we may need to file a grant application with Weyerhaeuser! The approach road is now graded, but there's no firewood at the house for this winter. We can cut some at Stan's (nearby) property.

Charles Nelson and his wife were in a car accident recently. While they both broke ribs, he is still in the hospital with a broken wrist and facial injury. Best wishes for a quick recovery.

Steve Jensen previewed the November meeting, a slide show of the MS climb in Peru, preceded by refreshments and a tent auction. Attitude adjustment begins about 7:30pm.

The entertainment for the night was "Cliffhangers," a BBC-produced film of Joe Brown, Ian MacNaught Davis, Tom Patey and Royal Robbins (continually identified as the American master of aid climbing) at Seastack (British Isles). The climb up the red wall, after the green buttress, preceded by an approach march that consisted of a muddy rappel, an inflatable two-man dingy row, and a Tyrolean traverse, seemed almost tame.

Conservation Report

Minnewaska-Marriott Update

Late in October Marriott placed drilling rigs on Lake Minnewaska resort property and signed the area with "no trespassing" notices. Minnewaska owners tried to have the sheriff arrest a Friends of the Shawangunks research ecologist for trespassing when he went on resort property to collect more field data.

It was such Friends field data that discredited Marriott's water studies presented during the first set of State Environmental Quality Review hearings last July. Friends' studies demonstrated that the Marriott development's water consumption would drain Lake Minnewaska. Marriott requested a recess of the hearings and is now looking for new sources of water.

Marriott spent \$400,000 on the first set of SEQR hearings. It's now pumping another \$100,000 into trying to refute its critics' testimony. Marriott's July 1980 "financial highlights" for shareholders list corporate assets at \$1,188,920,000.00. The Friends have hardly any assets and need money to continue their efforts to protect all of the Shawangunks. Tax-deductible donations should be made payable to Friends of the Shawangunks/Open Space Institute--Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 177, Accord, N.Y. 12404. Mr. Liff, Friends research ecologist--(914)244-8543--will be happy to talk to you about it. For earlier reports on Marriott's proposed development, see UP ROPE, February and March 1980.

Bull Run Mountain...

Right after Bull Run Mountain was closed to climbing and hiking last December, PATC-MS began negotiating with the new owner, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, to continue our traditional trips there. A complete account of what we've been through would wear out both writer and reader. In short, last spring, VOF's president promised us special consideration: MS members would not have to wait two or three years; we could climb in September 1980 if we wrote asking for special permission. We did, and he responded demanding individually signed liability waivers from all climbers and PATC-paid insurance coverage for VOF, in case of accident or damage. MS members went to the October 7

PATC council meeting asking for support and help. At Phil Pascall's suggestion, we addressed our request (with waiver agreement and insurance certificate) directly to the VOF Board of Directors, which was scheduled to meet in Richmond October 10. Sallie Greenwood worked all day to get the letter and supporting materials ready for PATC President Hutchinson's signature and into Thursday's Express Mail. The post office tried to deliver our express request Friday 7:45am before business hours and returned the letter to PATC headquarters several days later. Norma Hoffman told the mail man how we felt about this and sent the letter back to Richmond.

So...our request complying in every respect with VOF's latest demand is in Richmond. We missed the Directors' meeting and do not yet have a reply, but it surely is not for lack of trying.

Belay Ledge

*Vivian Mendenhall, Nominations Committee, has presented the following slate for MS officers for 1981:

Chair-Martha Hale
Vice Chair-James Eakin
Secretary-Charlie Dorian
Treasurer-Ed Cummings

*Ron Yokim, who left D.C. three years ago to go to law school in Portland, Oregon, is getting married.

*Bill Delano, who left last January for California, was here visiting his family and friends in early October.

*The membership list is being revised. Call Charlie Dorian or Steve Jensen to add, correct, or delete entries.



AAC INVITES LOCAL CLIMBERS

The American Alpine Club, the national mountaineering organization, will hold its 1980 annual meeting in Washington at the Shoreham Hotel on December 5 through 7. The local Blue Ridge section, which is organizing the affair, invites all PATC members to attend, and especially those in the MS. Members of the public are also welcome.

Illustrated talks will begin Friday evening and run through Saturday evening. Highlights will include mountaineering in China: the 1932 first ascent of Gongga (formerly Minya Konka), a classic that included exploration of unmapped country, presented by expedition member Terris Moore; and the 1980 ascent of Mustagh Ata in the Chinese Pamirs, followed by a descent on skis, given by author and photographer Galen Rowell with his own superb slides. The program will also include a talk by Galen Rowell and Bruce McElfresh (illustrations editor for the National Geographic Society) on the techniques of mountain photography, including hints for people who hope to publish or sell their work. Douglas Heck, former ambassador to Nepal, will discuss relations between expeditions and foreign governments. Admission to all lectures is \$10, payable in advance or at the door.

There will be a banquet Saturday night, which will offer a further chance to get to know climbers from all over the country. Cost is \$20, payable by November 28. Among those attending will be PATC officers and representatives of several embassies and government agencies.

Sunday there will be informal seminars and workshops all day (they're free). They will include expedition planning (share your experiences that work or don't, or learn how to organize for two or fifty people); mountaineering medicine (acute mountain sickness, activities planned for the 1981 Mount Everest Medical Research Expedition, and answers to any and all questions); technical ice climbing (from basics to fine points); and a session just for talk and discussion by everyone on issues of current interest (ethics, regulations, poetry, whatever people suggest), for everyone, but especially younger climbers.

Manufacturers will exhibit mountaineering and rockclimbing equipment. Mountaineering books will be on display and for sale. We expect climber-authors Ridge-way, Blum, and Moore, as well as Galen Rowell.

For further information, contact any AAC member in the MS (e.g., Andy Kauffman; Joe Wagner, Neil Arsenault, Sallie Greenwood, Lin Murphy). An info sheet and reservation forms are available from Dr. P.V. Cardon, 2209 Parker Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902; (301) 933-6579.

Come and meet some neat people. Share places you have been and drool over ones you'd like to go to. Learn about new equipment and techniques, the best way to climb a waterfall, package jerky, or get to China or Yosemite. The AAC meets in a different part of the country each year, so this will be the best mountaineering get-together in D.C. for quite awhile.

Vivian Mendenhall



AVALANCHES IN THE HIMALAYA

The sad news is beginning to come in that avalanches have killed members of post-monsoon expeditions and caused survivors to abandon their climbs.

Lyn Griffith of the American Women's Expedition to Dhaulagiri was swept into a crevasse by an avalanche at 18,372 feet on October 7. Four other expedition members were slightly injured. AWED abandoned its attempt on Dhaulagiri's unclimbed Pear route, which was reported to be relatively avalanche free.

Jonathan Wright was killed on October 13 when an avalanche at 20,000 feet swept four climbers over 60-foot cliffs and through ice chutes. This was on China's Gongga Shan (Minya Konka). Kim Schmitz, Yvon Chouinard, and Rick

Ridgeway were injured. This Mountain Travel expedition was led by Al Read; their route was the northwest ridge.

Another American expedition was attempting Gongga's previously unclimbed south face. Lance Owens, Andy Harvard, Henry Barber, Lou Reichardt, Jed Williamson, and Gary Bocarde reported very close calls with avalanches and abandoned their climb at about 20,000 feet to help the Mountain Travel climbers.

Tim Mutch of Kensington, Md. slipped and fell while descending from the 23,410-foot summit of Nun in Kashmir. His companions went for help but Mutch was gone when they returned later the same day, "We assume he was swept away," they reported.

Climber's Calendar

November 7-11	Linville Gorge, N.C.	Lin Murphy 533-8412
9	Annapolis Rocks, Md.	Bill Hieronymus 280-2667
12	MS Meeting, 8 p.m. PATC Headquarters	Peru slides
16	Sugarloaf, Md.	Jeff Grove 656-5240
23	Little Stoney Man, Va.	Pete Grant 528-7792
30	Cupids Bower, Md.	
December 5-7	AAC Annual meeting, Shoreham Hotel	
10	MS Meeting, 8 p.m. PATC Headquarters	"Above the Cowline" Nepal slides

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