

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 40, Number 9 October 1986

THE WAY WE WERE

UPROPE TAKES A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

"Can it be we were all so different then? Or has time rewritten every line?..."

Back in January 1956, the Mountaineering Committee published qualifications for its voting members. They didn't let just any old cragrat vote like we do now. And how 'bout those "qualifying" climbs?

Sportivas weren't around back then to let you climb two grades better than you deserved to. UpRope chronicles the arrival of PA's at Carderock in 1962.

We used to sing rousing climbing songs while climbing things like Jan's Semi Chimney and Wexlers Worst and Stretch and ChirisWexDon Traverse at Carderock. If "Gory Gory" didn't elevate you, we can only hope it didn't make you fall either.

We were also more analytical then--UpRope explored the Zen of rockclimbing as well as the murky underpinnings of the climber's Id. (See "The Psychopathology of Rock Climbing, or the Reasons Why Rock Climbers Have Ups and Downs") Take a look at this issue's drawing board to see how our sense of humour has evolved--or regressed.

In short, take a sentimental journey through the years with UpRope.

--The Editor

OCTOBER 1953						
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THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF ROCK CLIMBERS, OR THE REASON WHY ROCK
CLIMBERS HAVE UPS AND DOWNS

November, 1961

This is a very abstruse subject which has troubled the Establishment ever since Moses climbed Mount Sinai twice and Mahomet went to the Mountain. Jesus, too, had an association with a Mount; although Buddha preferred trees he was probably a cloud watcher. However, it is not my intention to impute that the motives of these honorable gentlemen were in any way similar to those of our latter-day climbers. I think that our modern purpose is better served if we turn, as I intend to do, to that modern Messiah, Sigmund Freud.

Now, Freud invented the Unconscious and the Oedipus complex, amongst other things, although I have no record of him as a mountaineer. Let us first examine the unconscious in relation to this human breed, the rock climber.

[...I would like now to consider "Freud's" second discovery, the Oedipus Complex, in relation to rock climbers. This term alludes to Greek mythology and involves some rather uncivilized things of which, I trust, you all know. Essentially it deals with Mother-Son relationships and, at first sight, may be much more applicable to spelunkers than climbers and, indeed it probably is, but I think it has some relevance to the latter even if they never venture underground.

In the original, Oedipus had to become king before he achieved his greatest desire. Now, climbers cannot become kings, but can try, strive in their particularly symbolic fashion to do the seemingly impossible. Thus, they stand out as unique among the plebians of the plains. They are as if endowed with abilities beyond the mortal ability to overcome gravity. They are superhuman. Will they then not be acceptable to the Mother? It has even been known for climbers actually to cry out "mother!" after they have achieved some particularly fine achievement and thus revealing their insight, but alas, this is more the exception than the rule. Unfortunately, most are ignorant of their secret wish, but continue to be driven by it, and climb, and climb and climb again.

[...] Of course, we must not ignore the group dynamics of the climbers, for theirs is a subculture which lays great stress on mutual protection. The repression of individual desires is reinforced by the powerful taboos in the group. For instance, every climber must have a rope tied to him so that, if he becomes over-blatant in seeking the secret prize of them all, the other members of the group can pull him down. This is the special duty of that functionary called the "belayer". Belay'er: the name signifies the responsibility. If the climber abides by the rules, he is caught; if not...Another example is that of the lead climb where only one person is allowed to move at a time so that the other can scrutinize him to make sure that he takes the most difficult path available and does not cheat by holding onto the rope or the carabiner. If he does, retribution comes quickly, usually in the form of a loose rock, or a yank on the rope when

he is off balance. Justice in this culture is inexorable and fast, hence we find a great deal of brotherly love in the group.

The errant ones have been eliminated the evolutionary natural selection.

On this note, I would like to end this treatise with the hope that my erudition has brought enlightenment to my remaining readers, and with this message to the world at large. Rock climbing produces brotherly love. Let the leaders of the world rope together.

--Dr. Samson Goldin

FIRST ASCENT, TRIPLE S

July, 1960. Joe Faint led Fred and Jim up Ecstasy route (on the south face, near the west edge, first put up by folks from Carnegie Tech last Fall, and climbed two weeks previously by Mike Nicholson and Joe); Jimmy puffed contentedly on his carved briar and turned Verticalsville into Coolsville; sitting on top of a big flake in the upper part of the climb--the first relaxed belay stance in a while--Joe gazed down to the tops of the trees and said, "Ecstasy, huh! More like Insanity!".

Later, Jim Shipley made a first ascent of the prominent inside corner that lies about 75 feet north of the Lunch Ledge, named the Ship-Shivering-Shimmy. The first forty feet of this climb are fairly straightforward, then the walls of the corner are almost free of holds for about thirty feet. In this section Jimmy mostly laybacked with his fingers on the corner crack, with rests on tension--the crux of the climb, and a very fine performance. [...] Ten pitons were used, of which eight were retrieved the next day. Joe Faint repeated the climb and collected the snaplincs.

PA's COME TO CARDEROCK

December 1962. Those still at the rocks were pleased to meet Pat and Mike Banks. Mike is a British Marine stationed at Quantico and is a Himalayan climber. Mike showed us how to climb the Spiderwalk at first sight as a balance climb. As a result of this performance, the Kronhoffer Klettershuh is declared to be obsolete; the official footgear is now the Pierre Allain climbing shoe.

PATC. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman: Stuart Pregnall	202/575-3158
Vice Chairman: Pete Grant	703/960-6033
Secretary: Selma Hanel	301/724-7594
Treasurer: Karen Roussell	202/575-3158

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Nelson House: Nori Gessler	703/524-2068
Carderock Conserv.: Janet Young	202/966-9091

UP ROPE

Nori Gessler, Editor	703/524-2068
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Up Rope is published monthly, except during August, by and for members of the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club of Washington, D.C. Editorial contributions are welcome and should be sent to: Editor, Up Rope, Mountaineering Section, PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 before the 20th of each month.

In view of the coming elections the end of this month, we give below the voting qualifications of the PATC Mountaineering Committee:

"In order to vote at business meetings of the Mountaineering Committee, PATC ..., each member must meet both the following requirements:

1. Each person who desires to cast a ballot must (a) Be a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club; OR (b) Must have been a member of the Mountaineering Committee (formerly and colloquially known as the Washington Rock Climbers) who met the climbing requirements for voting prior to June 1, 1950.

2. In addition, each person who desires to cast a ballot must have participated, during the preceding twelve months, in the climbing activities of the Mountaineering Committee, as outlined in Paragraph a below, or, alternatively and electively, in Paragraphs b, c, d, e, or f, and must be a dues-paying member in good standing:

a) Completion of two Class A, or one Class A and two Class B climbs.
OR

b) Participation on ten trips and completion of ten climbs of a classified nature. Only three of these trips must be official Committee trips; the remaining seven need merely be reported to the Editor of UP ROPE.
OR

c) The ascent of a glacier-hung peak, requiring mountaineering techniques, and participation in three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs.
OR

d) The ascent of a rock peak, requiring mountaineering techniques, which extends more than 2,000 feet above timberline, and participation on three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs.
OR

e) Participation in an expedition which requires back-packing into remote country for the purpose of mountaineering, and participation in three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs.
OR

f) Exploration of a cave requiring mountaineering techniques, and participation in five official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of five classified climbs."

QUALIFYING CLIMBS of the PATC Mountaineering Committee
(as of January 24, 1952)

"A" Climbs

Bull Run Overhang
Sterling's Corner, Bull Run
Charlie's Crack, Bull Run
Butterfinger Climb, Sugarloaf

Fingertip Balance Climb, Herzog
Face Traverse and Jan's Semi-
Chimney, Herzog, as a lead
Arthur's Traverse, Carderock

Little Handhold That Isn't There Cleft Island	Sterling's Crack, Carderock Spider Walk, Carderock
Donald's Ducks Traverse, Echo Cliffs, as a lead	Leonard's Lunacy, Carderock Herbie's Horror, Carderock
Socrates' Downfall, Echo Cliffs from the bottom	Angels' Roost Climb, School- house Cave
Bird's Nest Climb, Potomac Gorge, Virginia, as a lead	South Peak, Seneca Rock, by crack from Gunsight Notch
Coffin (Ph D), Cupid's Bower	East Face, Camp Lewis Chairman's Chimney, Herzog

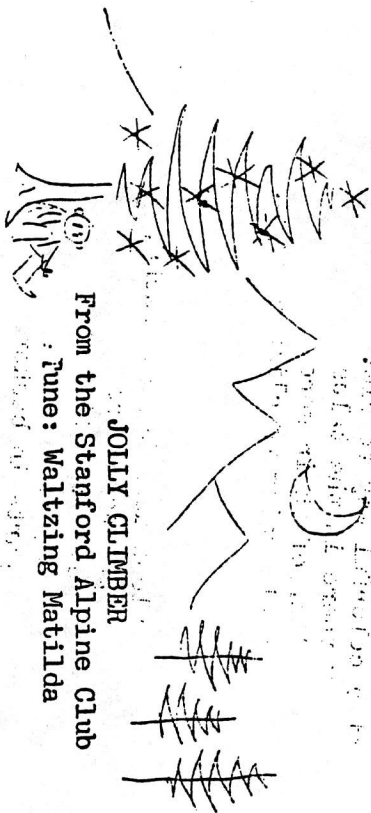
"B" Climbs

Little Quartz Slab, Bull Run Traverse SE Corner and ascent S face of Peak Gambs, Bull Run	Two Inches More, Bull Run Chimney Climb, Stony Man Charlie's Lead, Md. Hgts.
Beginner's Climb, Old Rag Socrates' Downfall, from top Climb to the Woods, Echo Cliffs	Harper's Ferry Cockscomb Overhang, Seneca Rock Big Toe Traverse, Echo Cliffs
Bird's Nest Climb, not as a lead Chris' Crack and Stocking Climb, Great Falls, Va.	Vertical Crack facing Juliet's Balcony Potomac Gorge, Va. Inside Corner, Flatiron Rock Great Falls, Va.
Dancing Climb, Boucher Rock Face Traverse and Jan's Semi- Chimney, Herzog, not as a lead	Jan's Face, Carderock, from bottom center Wexler's Worst and Stretch, Carderock
Elsie's Edgeface, Carderock Friction Layback, Carderock ChrisWexDon Traverse, Carderock as lead	Arnold's Arduous Ascent, Carderock Either of Sterling's Twin Cracks Carderock

"C" Climbs

(Except when classified higher, climbs which are "A's" or "B's" for the leader are "C's" for others on the rope.)

Ronnie's Leap, Carderock ✓ Golden Stairs, Carderock Face to right of Butterfinger and around corner from cave, Sugarloaf	Three Chimneys, Carderock Face on Cleft Island 25 ft. upstream from Little Hand- hold That Isn't There
Long Chimney (Squeeze Box), Bull Run	Zeus' Throne, Bull Run Vertical Crack facing south toward Zeus' Throne on Overhang massif
Sam's Pinnacle, Loudon Cliffs Chockstone Climb, Loudon Cliffs Nubble face opposite Betty's Face, Chimney Rock, Thurmont	The easy lead around corner from Hoverhang, Shaffer Rocks, Pa. Any ascent to South Peak of Seneca not otherwise described
Ascent of Champ Rock Ridge except by trail at back	Face Climb at Flatiron Rock, Great Falls, Va.



JOLLY CLIMBER

From the Stanford Alpine Club

Tune: Waltzing Matilda

Once a jolly climber camped below a mountain top
Under the shade of an old pine tree,
And he sang as he sat
And waited till his Primus burned--
You'll come a-climbing, Matilda, with me.

Chorus: You'll come a-climbing,
You'll come a-climbing,
You'll come a-climbing, Matilda, with me;
And he sang as he sat
And waited till his Primus burned--
You'll come a-climbing, Matilda, with me.

Down came a boulder, bouncing off the mountain top,
Up jumped the climber and laughed with glee,
You're a jolly boulder,
Bouncing through my camping spot--
You'll come a-climbing, Matilda, with me.

Chorus: Up came the ranger, mounted on his thoroughbred,
Up came the rescuers, one, two, three,
And they laughed as they stuffed that
Climber in their duffle bag--
You'll come a-climbing, Matilda, with me.

Chorus:

GORRY, GORRY

Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic

"Will it go around the checkstone?"
Cried the belayer looking up,
Our hero feebly answered yes
And slowly inched on up.
He was pounding on a piton
When his foothold crumbled out,
And he ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus: Gorry, Gorry, what a helluva way to die,
Gorry, Gorry, what a helluva way to die,
Gorry, Gorry, what a helluva way to die,
And he ain't going to climb no more.

He rattled down the chimney
And he quickly gathered speed.
He shot past his belayer
Who'd forgot the climbers' creed.
An anchor to his piton
Would have satisfied his need,
But he ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus: The belayer felt the rope go taut,
He tried to let it run.
It jerked him from position
And he knew his time had come.
He left the ledge he stood on
And it shot up to the sun,
And he ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus: (onward)

They hurtled down the buttress
And across the southern col.
They had such good exposure
That they had a lovely fall.
They slithered across a friction pitch
And sped on down the wall,
And they ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus:

The days they'd lived and laughed and loved
Went flashing through their minds.
They thought about the girls back home,
The ones they'd left behind.
They thought about the ranger
And they wondered what he'd find,
'Cause they ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus:

A medic in the valley
Watched through his telescope,
And as they neared the bottom
His eyes grew bright with hope.
For it had been a week or more
Since the parting of the rope,
And they ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus:

One had a sling rope 'round his neck
And a piton through his spleen.
The handle of his ice axe
Had split the other's bean.
Two stripes of blood marked their descent
As they neared the slopes of green,
And they ain't going to climb no more.

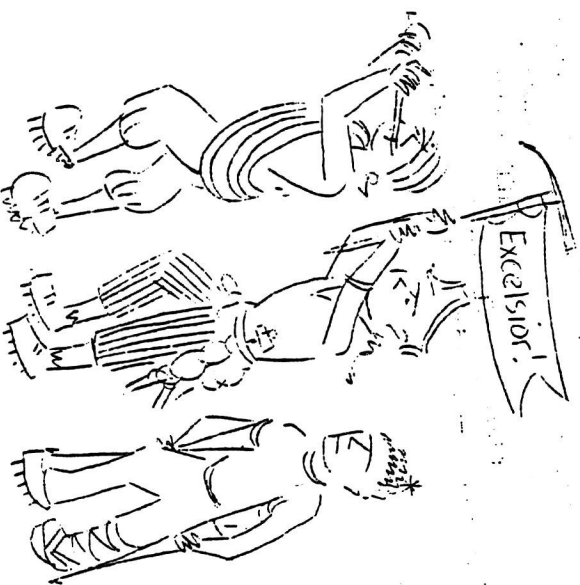
(yet onward)

They hit the ground--the sound was splat.
The blood it spurted high.
Their comrades all were heard to say,
"What a colorful way to die!"
They lay there in the talus
In the welter of their gore,
And they ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus:

There was blood upon the rucksacks,
And brains upon the ropes,
Intestines were a-spilling out
Across the rocky slopes.
We swept the parts in baskets
After salvaging the ropes,
'Cause they ain't going to climb no more.

Chorus: Gory, Gory, what a helluva way to die,
Gory, Gory, what a helluva way to die,
Gory, Gory, what a helluva way to die,
And they ain't going to climb no more.





THE BLOTTER SONG

By Jan Conn

Tune: Dark Town Strutters Ball

I'll be down to get you with a blotter, honey,
A nut-pick and a spare canteen,
'Cause where you're trying to lead
There ain't a foothold, handhold to be seen.
That old "thank God" is high above
And I don't want to follow when you make
the lunge.
Though it's not the thing to do,
I'm going to cut that rope in two,
And I'll meet you at the bottom with a sponge-

BLACK CHRISTMAS

By Elenore Tatge

Tune: Aw, You Know

I'm dreaming of a black Christmas
In Schoolhouse Cave deep underground,
There the bats are thickest,
The mud slopes slickest,
Of any cave we've ever found.
I'm dreaming of a black Christmas
With every flashlight bulb I pack,
May your safety never go slack,
And may all your Christmases be black.

UNTITLED*
A song of the University of Colorado
climbers

Tune: They Had to Garry Harry to the Ferry
last line "... and a haircut, six
bits"

Oh, we drink to the rocks and we drink
to the ice,
And we drink to the sun on the cold granite
heights,
For the cold granite heights are a part
of us,
Especially when tangled with the climber's
Guts.
Sing glorious, glorious,
One strand of rope for the four of us;
Glory be to God that there are no more of
us,
For one of us would surely die alone---
On an ice axe, clean through.

* From an article by Marion Kingston Stock-
ing in the CMC's Trail and Timberline,
No. 449, May 1956.



BASE CAMP

September Section Meeting.

After a discussion of who had been how high on summer trips, Stuart Pregnall began the meeting by telling those present about the importance of release forms and asked those who had not signed them to do so; the Secretary will collect them. Schedules of monthly slide shows ahead were discussed as well as the schedule of weekly climbing trips. A future trip to Bull Run will be a work trip to spread the gravel for the parking lot.

Guidebooks of Great Falls are still in demand, the reprint is selling very well. John Gregory, author of the now out-of-print Carderock Guidebook has expressed interest in having his book reprinted by the PATC. Further discussion will take place before a decision is made. A brief summary of members in the news and in climbing books concluded the business meeting. Jacques Tamisiere showed his excellent slides of a trip to Peru. Several members adjourned to the Dupont Villa to rehydrate their systems.

Those interested in helping with the rock climbing training sessions or in coordinating the training sessions next year should call John Teasdale (301/262-9128).

WOMEN ROCK CLIMBERS IN THE '80'S

PATC is cosponsoring the excellent "Women Rock Climbers in the '80's" with the Washington Women's Outdoors. If you missed the show last time it was in Washington, be sure you catch it this time around, *Thursday, November 6.*

Rosie Andrews of New Paltz will give the show, an exciting multi-media presentation of slides, lecture, music and discussion. Slated for 7:30 p.m. in the American Red Cross Building at 2025 E St., N.W. Admission is \$2.00.

Ageing of Ropes

An article on the ageing of Climbing ropes appeared in the C.A.F. (French Alpine Club) journal *La Montage et Alpinisme*, No. 2, 1985. The article was translated by N. Bendeli and summarized in the New Zealand Club Bulletin of December, 1985, from which the following is extracted:

The study on rope ageing involved testing a sample of thirteen ropes. This is a relatively small sample, but the conclusions are sufficiently interesting to keep in mind.

The study concluded:

(1) A well-protected new rope does not age. It keeps its characteristics even eight years after manufacture
PROVIDED:

- (a) It is stored in a cool, dry, lightproof area, preferably in its original packaging, and
- (b) It has absolutely never been used. Once it has been handled (even once) it seems that an irreversible process of ageing is started.

(2) After two years, a rope does not conform to UIAA standards for falls, no matter what its appearance. A professional or keen amateur must be aware that he should change his rope every year, or at least every second year. An occasional climber must not keep his rope for more than eight years.

—B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter

SUMMER BASE CAMP

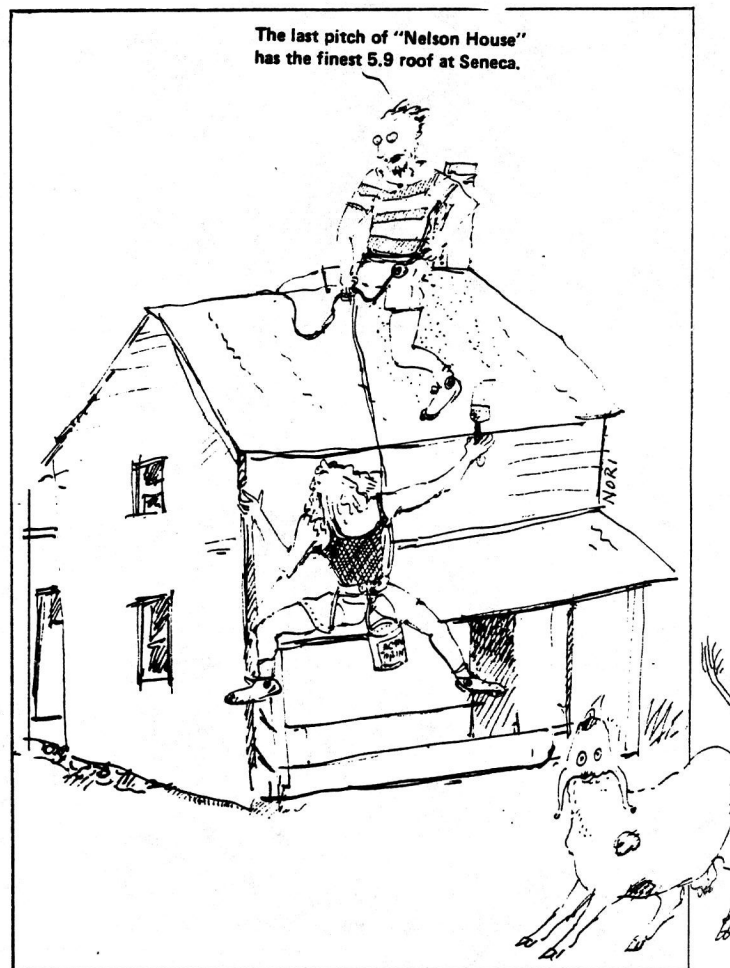
The June and July meetings were both brief in business and adventurous in spirit. At the June meeting Pete Grant, in the absence of the chairman, asked if there was a motion from the floor to accept the release of liability agreement form. A discussion followed about their distribution to members and guests who come on club trips, and then those present voted to accept the release form. At the July meeting it was decided that in the future, the liability forms will be available when the yearly dues are sent out. Currently, they are available at the monthly meeting and trip leaders also have them.

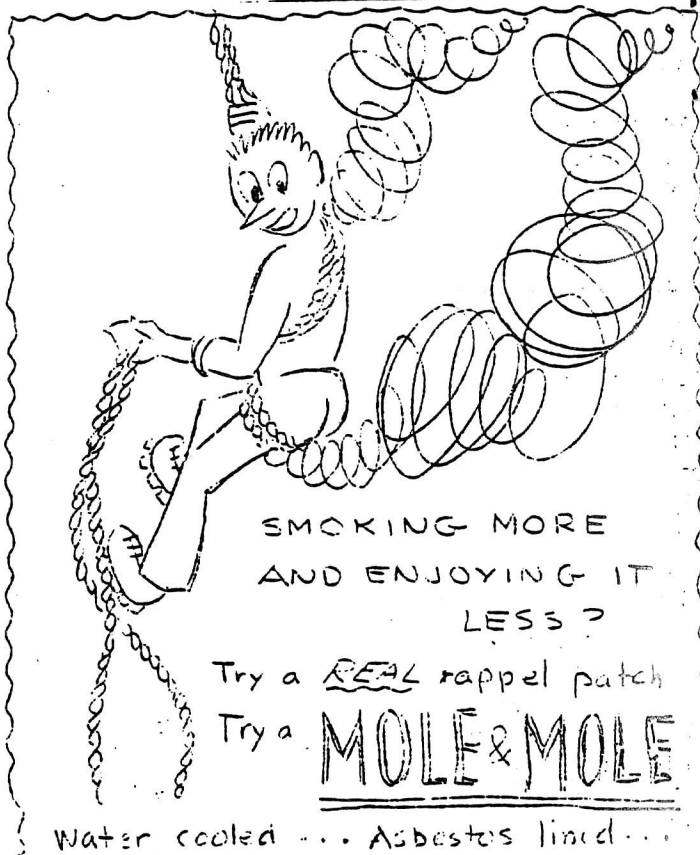
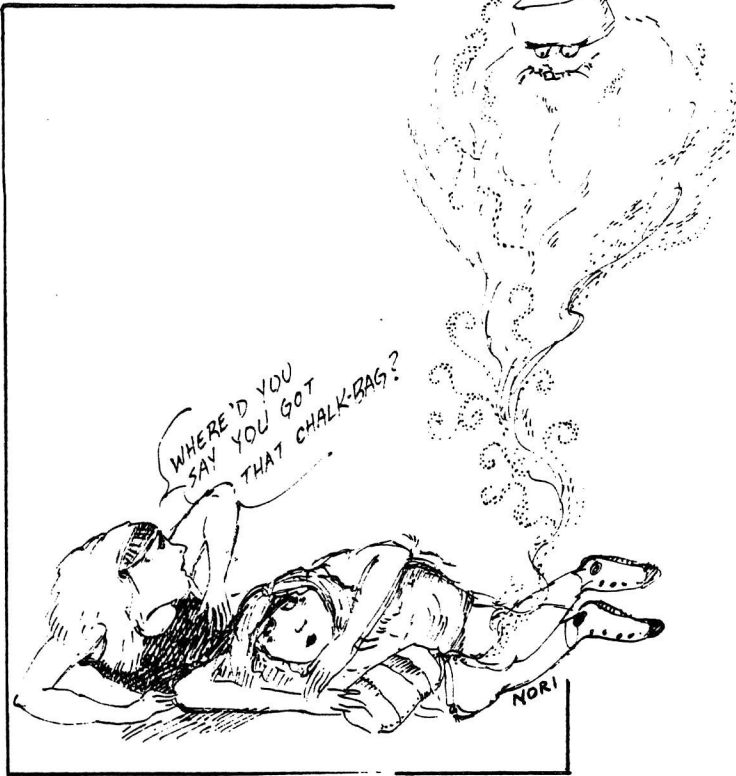
The Bull Run parking lot and trail are nearing completion; appreciation was expressed to Gretchen and Charlie Dorian especially, and to all those who helped in the initial trail blazing. There also exists a plan for a swimming hole, which would be built by the owners.

In the June slide show Dave Atkinson showed a "believe it or not" slide of two people anchored to one pin and belaying a third up one of the cliffs at La Paz. July was somewhat closer to home--how to get from Roadhouse to Roadhouse via McKinley summit in twelve days by Tom Marshall.

--Selma Hanel, Secretary

The Drawing Board





Water cooled ... Asbestos lined...

CAVE HARD HAT

... new spring style

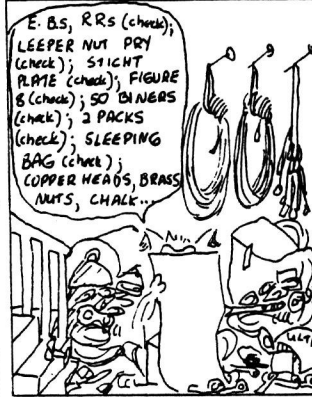
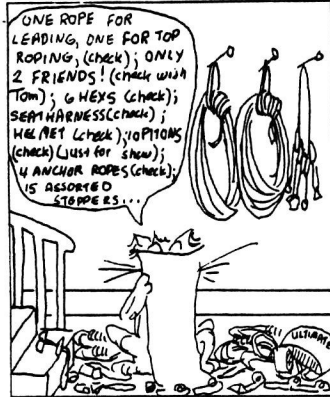


No need to look like a coal miner.

Ugly carbide lamp cunningly concealed.

Don't look like a lost turtle.

HUMMEL



Janet & Harold



Annapolis Rocks, M.D.

August 24, 1986. "Oh, what a beautiful morning..." was the song to sing on this sunny August morning--our first decent climbing weather in weeks. A dozen climbs were rigged, mostly the same ones we always climb at this Garden of Overhangs. **Faint's Roof** almost got lead on this trip. I attempted it and got as far as placing all the protection, then popped off while pulling the crux. The pro held and I took an insignificant leader fall. Tom Isaacson took over and finished the lead easily.

About four climbs were rigged around the Prow area, four more around and to the right of Faint's Roof, and three at Pine Tree Crack and vicinity. While the crack was done by several climbers, Pine Tree Face was done only by Rich and Tom Isaacson.

Participants:

~~Paul Anzelson, Ann Baron,~~
~~Rich Cunningham, Helen and Pete~~
~~Grant, Jeanette Helfrich, Tom~~
Isaacson, Karen and Stuart
Pregnall, Tom Russell, Tim and
Joe Wagner.

--Pete Grant

The Way We Were

A Sentimental Journey

"Could it be we were all so different then...or has time rewritten every line...?" In January, 1954 UpRope outlined voting qualifications of the Mountaineering Committee--back then they didn't let any old crag rat vote like we do these days. How 'bout those "qualifying climbs"?

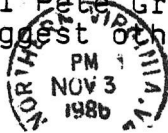
Sportivas weren't always around to make you climb two

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Oct 4	Cowhoof Rock, VA	*	
Oct 5	Bull Run, VA	Tom Russell	301/869-8058
Oct 8	Monthly Section Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.		
	Polish Winter Expedition to Kangchenjunga		
Oct 11-13#	Shawangunks, NY	Ed Cummings	202/530-6806
Oct 12	Great Falls, VA	*	
Oct 18-19#	Hermitage, PA	Tom Russell	301/869-8058
Oct 19	Old Rag, VA	*	
Oct 26	Annapolis Rocks, MD	*	
Nov 2	Great Falls, MD	*	
Nov 6	Women Rock Climbers in the '80's 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross 2025 E Street, N.W., Admission \$2.00		
Nov 9	Waterfall Mt., VA	Pete Grant	703/960-6033
Nov 12	Monthly Section Meeting, PATC HQ, 8:00 p.m. Climbing in the Pamirs. Snow Leopard Randy Starrett will give a slideshow on ascent of Peak Pobody.		
Nov 16	Crescent Rocks, VA	*Tom Russell	301/869-8058
Nov 22	Cupid's Bower, MD	*	
Nov 23	Chimney Rocks, WV	*Pete Grant	703/960-6033
Nov 27-30#	Southern Rocks, NC	*	

#Weekend trip to multi-pitch lead climbing area. Experienced leaders and seconds only. Please arrange your own climbing partners.

*Trip coordinators needed. Please call Pete Grant 703/960-6033 if interested in leading a trip, or to suggest other climbing areas.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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