



THE ROC CAIRN



RENSSELAER OUTING CLUB, INC. — 15th ST. LOUNGE, R. P. I., TROY, NEW YORK

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A PARTING WORD

(Ed. Note. Any organization, especially an outing club, strongly reflects the character and personality of its leaders. During the past year, the president of the ROC, Cliff Ostergaard, has used this influence to great advantage in furthering the ideals of the chubbing program on the R. P. I. campus. In order that we might glean one last bit of benefit from his influence before he leaves us, Your Editor has asked him to give us the traditional "Parting Word". When approached on the subject he expressed the desire to set down in black and white that which we all have felt but ---- but us no buts but enough of this. Let's let Cliff say it.)

What is an Outing Club? Many of us have participated in outing club activities for some years. We feel that we have experienced the spirit of outing club and we feel that we know what it is but we have seldom if ever put it into words.

To me an outing club is a group of people who have joined together in one group to better promote their one broad common interest, the love of the great out-of-doors. An outing club is an organization wherein a person can meet with others like himself to plan and to take part in outdoor activities according to interests and desires.

Primarily then it would seem that outing club activities are meant to be purely recreational. But on this point I must take exception, especially as far as collegiate outing clubs are concerned. A collegiate outing club has a responsibility that extends beyond providing an active program for its members; it extends to the rest of the student body of the university or college which sponsors it

We in the outing clubs are attracted by the clean feeling of spirit, of soul and of comradeship that we derive from active participation in those activities directly connected with the elements and away from the pressures of civilization. To us it is a way of life dear to our hearts, far superior to that fostered by an urban environment or that commonly found on the campus. It is a way of life that should at least be shown to our fellow college students. (cont.)

Herein we find the added responsibility bestowed on a college outing club. It is a responsibility seriously to be considered and one requiring the highest form of leadership, the type of leadership to be found only in the experienced chubber. College outing clubs owe it to themselves and to their college to provide an active program based on the high ideals of the IOCA not only for themselves but also for their fellow students.

Note of interest: Cliff will be taking graduate work at Carnigie Institute. We expect that campus will soon be added to the ranks of IOCA.

IOCA COLLEGE WEEK - SEPTEMBER 8 - 15

You say you don't know what you'll be doing before school next fall? Come now, surely you must be planning to go to College Week! What's College Week!? Why that's the week when guys and gals and all their pals from schools all over the North East converge on some camping area in the Adirondacks (Lake Colden this year). There surrounded by all of nature's splendor and in that good old mountain air the gang goes hiking, climbing, square dancing, singing, and Mm-m-m-- cooking!

College Week is unique in that it has no definite organization. There are seven lean-tos in the mile long region of Lake Colden. First come first served with no reservations placed is the standard policy. Some bring tents, others rely on the weather, and Everyone has a good time regardless. You can come when you want, with whom you want, and bring what you want. Then you do what you want while you're there and finally leave when you want. In order that there might be some official week, though, September 8 - 15 has been delegated as College Week for 1950.

Drop around or write to the ROC office. We can give you lots more information on College Week and perhaps you can pick up a camping partner while you're at it. ROC'ers, as usual, will definitely have permission to register late for classes, so don't get left out. Start off the next term with a good time!

YEP, SUMMER TRIPS!!

CANOEING, CLIMBING, CAMPING - CANADA, MAINE, THE ROCKIES

Can't say just what or where, but sure as you're reading the CAIRN the ROC will be running summer trips. Of course to make things convenient the trips will be going out mostly the week before College Week, that is, probably around September 1st.

So, if you think you will be free after August 31, come around the ROC office and sign up for a summer trip. Then when we find out what the response will be, we'll make definite plans. We are still open for suggestions!!

NEW OFFICERS

Recent elections in the ROC and the Rensselaer Grotto determined officers for the coming term as follows:

ROC President - Franzl Mohling; Vice President - Len Nelson; Treasurer - Harvey Golub; Corresponding and Recording Secretary - Dick Shumaker; Publicity Director and Cairn Editor - Pete Dollard; Members-at-large - Dean Borden, Herb Fishman, and Dick Gross

Spelunkers Chairman - Grange Simmons; Vice Chairman - Leo Nolan; Secretary Treasurer - Don Thomas.

Good luck to all of them during the coming year!

ORIGIN OF THE CAIRN

"When our savage ancestors first took possession of the soil then covered with forests, where to-day our towns and cultures are laid out, it was their custom, if they arrived on an eminence, to erect a heap of stones, a cairn, as English Alpinists still call it, they having preserved this old Celtic word. Thus do we always when we attain a virgin peak of our mountains, obey rather a sort instinct than an immemorial tradition; and this cairn, for us as for our ancestors, is not merely a monument of personal vanity; it means before everything to say: Man has come here; henceforth this spot of the globe belongs to him."

by Emile Javelle in his
Alpine Memories, London, Unwin, 1899

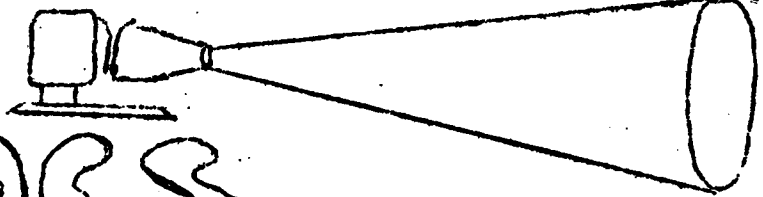
WHITE WATER CANOEING

"Hold her steady while I take a look. Guess we can make it over there to the left. Let's set her over. Backwater on your left. Hard! Harder!! Now pull on the right! We're going through, now. Backwater, watch that swell! We made it, let's take it easy a while now. Did you get very wet?" This monologue with the answer, "Yes, very!," can mean one thing. Another man is being initiated into the thrilling art of white water canoeing. This is a sport requiring a high degree of skill and judgement with an ice cold dunking ready to bring quick but harmless retribution for each mistake or failing, as many ROC'ers can well testify. (See Rock Slides, next page.)

For any readers who might like to try it, here are a few pointers which our editor managed to pick up in about twelve hours and thirty miles of freezing, rushing stream. The most effective manuver in a strong current is the "set". It consists of backwatering while holding the canoe at an angle to the current so as to let the current itself carry the canoe across stream without losing distance to the current. The ordinary "jey", "draw", and "sweep" strokes have much the same use as in calm water but slightly different techniques are necessary which can only come with practice. The watchword is; Go SLOW, take it easy! The swells are far less likely to swamp the canoe.

Like to try it? Good luck!

ROC SLIDES



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE - APRIL 11, 12

Over Easter vacation the Executive Council of the ROC, Inc. held a conference at Charlie Hine's leanto. Some of the topics discussed were: A more precise definition of the status of the associate organizations of the ROC; membership requirements and aims of the ROC for the coming year. The committee took advantage of the spare time to develop proficiency in the art of "sack-wrestling".

WHITE WATER CANOE TRIP AT DARTMOUTH - APRIL 28, 29

Dartmouth played host to the initiation of the ROC and MITOC into the art of white water canoeing. The location of the fiasco was the swift, ever-changing, White River in Vermont. The troops were freezing cold from numerous duckings at the end of the first day, but good chow and a warm camp brought them up ready and raring to go in the morning. Duckings were fewer the next day due partly to their day's experience and partly to the fact that they were joined by more experienced canoers from Dartmouth.

CAMPUS CARNIVAL - MAY 6

Over 1300 people found an evening of pure fun and frolic at the jointly sponsored ROC-IFC Campus Carnival. Features of the evening were 20 carnival booths operated by fraternities and other organizations, dancing to both square and round dance bands, two performances of the famed Vassar Swupper Club's aquacade. Net profit to each of the organizations was about \$225.

VASSAR SQUARE DANCE - MAY 13, 14

Yes, another truly sensational Vassar weekend! Fun, frolic, good chow, and good singing gave this weekend a ripping fine start. Ruben Merchant officiated at the dance, and seemed in particularly excellent form. The scene of activities shifted next morning to Mt. Mohonk. Here the Yale, Union, and ROC Mountaineers, with a few more adventurous Vassarites, promptly took to the cliffs, while the others took the trails up to the Ranger Station at the summit.

ROD AND GUN CLUB - MAY 13

The Club was the recipient of the gracious hospitality of Dean Baker's privately stocked ponds for a good day's fishing. Because Dr. Baker is still in the process of stocking the stream and ponds, barbless hooks were used and all trout were returned to the water. The sport of matching wits with these fighting beauties more than compensated for the loss of the usual good meal to follow.