



THE ROC CAIRN



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

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 565

MAY 23, 1951

CORNELL DANBY

The weekend of May 4th to 6th saw another COC Danby come and go with its usual assortment of fun and frolic. As Spring Danby's go, it seemed smaller than usual, but what it lacked in size, it more than made up in enjoyable entertainment and variety. The President of COC had an impromptu birthday party complete with a cake and candles; Tom's embarrassment at not being able to cut the plaster-of-paris masterpiece added lots of extra chuckles. Alfred University took top honors in a chilling canoe tilting contest, and several ROC'ers were members of the winning team on the orienteering hike. The highlight of the contest program was, of course, - from the ROC's point of view - the tug-o-war between the COC and ROC. Supplemented by two new members, our engineers succeeded in pulling to Cayuga crowd all over the lot. The trophy (donated by Cornell) is on display in the office. A song fest suffered from lack of cooperation, and a snipe hunt backfired on its perpetrator, but reliable sources report that the square dancing lasted until 4:30 in the yawning. There's no place for square dancing like Danby! All this, coupled with chow that was FAR and beyond usual standards, means that another successful Danby is now history.

ROC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Just prior to Easter vacation, elections for officers in the ROC were held, and the following men elected:

President - Dick Opsahl
Vice President - Pete Oliver
Secretary - Jim Wells
Treasurer - Fred Hochgraf
Cairn Editor - Dick Shumaker
Members-at-Large: Don Bailey
Carl Henrikson

Appointed as Office Manager - Bob Radulski

TRAIL CLEARING

Although it is important to nearly all phases of hiking and mountaineering activities, trail clearing is generally overlooked by Outing Clubbers. Without the extensive trail network in the Adirondacks, for instance, a major portion of college outing activities would be greatly diminished.

There are several phases of trail clearing. To put in a trail, the first step is to plan a tentative route on a map of the region. The second step, and a very important one often forgotten, is to secure permission to run a trail over the land, whether the land is owned by the state or by individuals. Next comes the scouting, deciding on the route the trail should take. Here it is important to run the trail where it will be easiest to clear and keep open. Good views along the trail are desirable, but steep climbs should be avoided as much as possible. Finally, the trail must be blazed and cleared. Blazes should be painted at fairly frequent intervals so that the hiker can easily see each blaze from the previous one, and will have no difficulty following the trail. Clearing should be thorough, since hiking is more enjoyable if the hiker doesn't have to continually watch his footing. Edges of the cuts, and at junctions with other trails should not be forgotten.

Maintaining a trail, once it has been finished, may sometimes be quite a chore, especially if windfalls like those of last November occur. Sometime re-routing of the trail around the windfalls is easier, where possible.

The Rensselaer Outing Club has been doing some trail work on the Taconic Crest Trail, a good hiking trail in the Taconics which was created by the Taconic Hiking Club. Seventeen continuous miles of trail extend from Petersburg Pass on the north to Berry Pond on the south. At present, plans to extend the trail have been postponed until the blowdowns produced by the big wind last November can be cleared. Latest word on blowdowns on the trail comes from a group of ROC'ers and RSOC'ers who hiked from Bentley Hollow south to Hancock a couple of weeks ago. The heaviest blowdowns occurred from Bentley Hollow (north end of Misery) to the summit of Misery Mountain, with the rest of the trail to Hancock relatively clear.

SUMMER TRIPS

Whether it will be canoeing, camping, climbing, cycling, or hiking, or a combination will be up to you, the members. When? Usually summer trips are run the last week of August and the first two of September, but this can be extended to include anytime during the summer. Where? Again up to you; trips in the past have been run to the Adirondacks, Canada, the Fulton Chain, to mention a few.

Sign up now in the office, so you will receive information on what is planned during the summer.

Other Outing Clubs, please note - if you are planning on running summer trips, please send us a list of interested members, their summer addresses, and preferences as to time and place, and we will reciprocate, by sending our list. Perhaps IOCA summer trips are possible.

OUR CREED - LET'S NOT FORGET IT

Whether you people realize it or not, there is an ominous cloud hovering over IOCA. Fellows and females, be it written in a book or pondered in our minds, the IOCA has a creed - a theme. It has been the butt of many jokes and the source of many arguments, but its spirit and wisdom have kept us together for quite a while. Lately it has been put to task by some of our fun-loving, but unthinking, members. These people have unwittingly unleashed the wrath of some of our lady chubbers, one chaperone, and possibly a school, by their playfulness. Perhaps the only result will be the souring of the interest in Outing Club activities by a handful of girls - which is serious enough in itself - but it might mean the end of a girls' school's cooperation in the IOCA.

Seven girls were frightened recently - frightened and indignant because of their innocence of a few fellows' brand of humor. There was nothing ostensibly wrong with their little joke - they just forgot that not all of us are veterans of innumerable IOCA campaigns. But such forgetfulness can have far reaching effects, and we just plain can't afford unfavorable publicity. In the future, let's be a little more thoughtful and considerate - give our future leaders a chance to get accustomed to our peculiarities before we harrass them.

ANNUAL IOCA COLLEGE WEEK - SEPTEMBER 7th - 14th

College Week, officially, is from September 7th to 14th this year, in the Lake Golden area of the Adirondacks, but you're sure to find IOCA'ers there earlier and later than that.

To give those chubbers who have never been to College Week an idea of what goes on, we present a few sketchy highlights. It's a week where IOCA'ers from all over the Northeast have the opportunity of getting together with each other and the great out-of-doors of the Adirondacks; a week of hiking, climbing, swimming, square dancing and singing at the ranger's cabin; and of course, eating. So if you want a week of relaxation (perhaps a better word would be recreation) between that summer grind of work, work, and the college grind of study, study, drop in at the ROC office and sign up. Full particulars have just been received from Dick Maise, College Week Chairman. This week will be your last chance to get on the list that will have permission to register late for classes next fall.

VOC - ROC CANOE TRIP

Last weekend the ROC-VOC canoe trip came off with a bang - banged up canoes, that is.

The ROC almost went into debt because of broken paddles and punctured canoes. We have found that playing Capture the Flag in canoes, especially at night, is fun, but rough. It's a good way to learn to handle a canoe in a tight situation.

Everyone was suitably cooled off in Lake George on Sunday. (It's amazing how easy it is to turn over canoes if you really try).

Advice from one who went: If you missed this trip, be sure not to miss the one scheduled for next fall.

Reprinted below is an article, written by G. H. Perry, ROC Alum, taken from the Cairn of two years ago, and which, in view of the present campaign on campus, is still very timely.

CONSERVATION - LET'S BEGIN ON CAMPUS

Conservation means many things to many people. Agriculturists think of it as a measure to slow down soil erosion; sportsmen think of it as replenishing or protection of dwindling game populations; to some it is the preservation of woodlands.

Actually it is all of these activities and more. I propose that we start practicing conservation on campus because conservation, like charity, begins at home. We could begin by trying to conserve what is left of the grass on our campus. Everywhere you go on campus you see muddy paths beaten across the grass. It looks and is disgusting. It's hard to believe that some 4000 healthy people haven't energy enough to walk around on the sidewalks but must be always cutting across the lawn until it looks like a mudhole.

Walkways have been laid in some of the strategic spots by the Department of Grounds and Buildings and landscaping crews are now re-filling the gulleys caused in the terraces by mowing by dragging feet. Let's attempt to keep what grass we have left and to let some more grow.

ROC'ers SING ON

Dick Snoddy has written a song, both words and music, for the ROC, copies of which are available at the office. The words:

Comrades we here in the R O C, ROC'ers in song, sing on.
True friends we will forever be, ROC'ers in song, sing on.
To the Outing Club of Rensselaer, ROC'ers in song, sing on.
ROC'ers sing on, sing on, sing on.

As we tramp over the trail and swamp, ROC'ers in song, sing on.
When we strike for the mountain's top, ROC'ers in song, sing on.
Thru-out every stream and meadow green, ROC'ers in song, sing on.
ROC'ers sing on, sing on, sing on.

WE SAY ADIEU

Fifteen of our members have just about reached that day when they will receive that for which they have been striving during the past four years- their "sheepskins". We say congratulations from the rest of the ROC to: Thomas Bell, Dean Borden, John Coffin, Tris Coffin, Dave Dolliver, Ray Eresman, Dave Fletcher, Walter Fred, John Gallagher, Dick Gross, Harv Golub, John Lightstone, Franz Mohling, Len Nelson, and Robert Westbrook. To those actives who, as officers and members, have given freely of their time and energy to further the ideals and principles of the Outing Club and the IOCA, we say thanks for a job well done. We who are left will strive to fill your shoes. To many we say goodbye, but prefer to say just "so long", since we know that those graduating actives of the ROC are taking with them a new concept which they possibly didn't have when they joined - that feeling of the freedom of the out-of-doors, the enjoyment of exploring the unknown. We know that someday, somewhere (perhaps at a College Week, or IOCA Conference), we will recognize one of them by his red shirt, and ROC patch, and be able to greet him with a Ca-ooo-wah!



RENSSELAIER OUTING CLUB MEMBERSHIP RALLY

INTERESTING
TALKS

WONDERFUL
SLIDES

This is your chance to see in action the ROC that you've all heard so much about. The ROC is throwing a gigantic, rip-snortin' rally where you can meet the ROC. Come on out and get to know the fellows who help make the ROC the tremendous organization it is, fellows whom you can make your companions during numberless days of pure, care-free pleasure. See and hear of the ROC in all of its many phases; activities which include hiking, camping, canoeing, rock climbing, square dancing, skiing and winter mountaineering, cave exploring, hunting and fishing. Learn about those glorious ROC trips with Vassar, Sage, Holyoke, Skidmore, and Albany State. In short, learn how you can share in all the sensational fun that college life should bring you. Anyone and everyone are invited to attend, especially the Freshmen. And for your own sake, remember the time and place:

this THURSDAY, September 21 at 7:30 in the 15TH ST. LOUNGE.

FREE
COCKETS

EQUIPMENT
DISPLAY