

THE ROC CAIRN



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

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COLLEGE WEEK - 1951

The ROC arrived first at College Week at Mount Katahdin, Maine, when Carl Henrikson and Dick Opsahl reached there on September 4th, after more than a week of hiking in the White Mountains. Other outing clubs filtered in Thursday and Friday, with the rest of the ROC's crew arriving Saturday and Sunday. Phil Norwine, Pete Oliver, and Dick Shumaker pulled in Saturday at midnight in Pete's newly acquired pickup truck (proudly sporting Wyoming license plates). Jerry Nelson arrived early Sunday morning.

Sunday the ROC picked up campe and moved — twenty miles by car and 3.4 miles by foot — from Katahdin Camp Stream to Chimney Pond, where the majority of the outing clubs ended up. It proved an ideal location, being closer to Baxter and the other surrounding peaks, and affording a variety of rock climbs nearby. Our crew joined up with choppers from Vassar, Holyoke, Maine, and Cornell on Monday and started up to Baxter, via the various routes. Katahdin, as usual, had the appearance of a giant ant hill, and Ca-oo-wahs echoed through the peaks as the little "ants" made their way to the top. Carl and Dick signed the register for the third time that week. As it was a swell day for climbing, we continued over the Knife Edge, and Pamola Peak.

Every night there was a song fest and often a make-shift square dance. Trips were made up the surrounding mountains and a few groups did some tricky rock climbs in North Basin and Great Basin.

By Thursday many of the clubs had started home and for school. The ROC finally pulled out on Friday morning, leaving just a few die-hards.

Even though it had to be moved on short notice from the Adirondacks to Katahdin because of the fire hazard, we thought it was a swell college week. Katahdin was a wonderful site, and Chimney Pond provided good camping.

Thanks to Dick Naise for a College Week we won't forget.

Jerry Nelson

Ramblings from the Editor:

To: Outing Clubs receiving their first copy of the Cairn:

While looking through our files the other day, I discovered there were many clubs from whom we once received a copy of their paper, but no longer do. Therefore, in an effort to establish, or re-establish contact with those clubs, we're sending this copy of the Cairn to those clubs which are not already on our mailing list. If you wish to continue receiving a copy, please drop us a post-card, and please place us on your mailing list.

To: Rensselaer Outing Clubbers: Things to start thinking about:

SKI RALLY, now scheduled for December 5th - remember to bring back those skis when you return from Thanksgiving vacation..... This is your paper, and your club - do you have any ideas for improving them? If so, let us hear from you. What type of articles do you want? Humorous, fictional, non-fictional, past trip reports???? The Cairn staff could use some more members - typists, writers, or just plain coolies.

Thanks to our arteest, George Houghton, for his fine pictures which you see in this month's issue.

Your Editor,

Dick Shumaker.

(The following is a paid political announcement):

Some time ago (in fact two years), the Cairn issued a statement casting aspersions on the cooking ability of members of the Cornell Outing Club (to wit: why didn't they learn to cook something besides glop at Colloge Week). In view of the past College Week, the ROC hereby wishes to retract the above statement and say that the COC can cook something besides glop (water?).

(The above was a paid political announcement).



LAKE GEORGE CANOE TRIP - OCTOBER 12-14

(All characters and events depicted in this article are non-fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons, or to actual events, is purely intentional).

NOTES ON THE LAKE GEORGE TRIP

(or cheaper by the dozen and a half)

1. The first view of ROC President Opsahl in shorts reminds me of an Indian Army water-boy.
"The uniform he wore, was nothing much before, And rather less than a ~~and~~ that behind."
2. It's amazing the way cooks will get together for advice, consolation and sometimes even to swap knives.
3. "Wipe the catsup off your face, Don."
4. Why did the ROC food cost twice as much per man per meal as the RSOC food?
5. Why did the ROC food taste twice as good as the RSOC food?
6. Why did the RSOC camp sit close to the ROC?
7. What took you so long to paddle back, Otto?
8. Apparently the VOC and the RSOC think that curves and smiles will cut more wood than axes and saws. They're right, dammit.
9. In spite of our generosity, Blondie still insists that ROC'ers are not gentlemen. Next time she can cook her own food.
10. "Gee that stew looks good!"
11. Why don't we invite a Syracuse man down to call OUR square dances?
12. "That big fire makes me heat around the collar."
13. Beanuts, why did you all come back to the little island Saturday night?
14. Kramer couldn't wait for snow, but water skiing is just as cold, sometimes.
15. You would think there was an architects' convention here by the number of little houses on the island.
16. It's queer that the trip from the Island to Bolton Landing is so much longer and harder than the trip from Bolton Landing to the Island.
17. "Why does the bus driver go so fast? Does he want us to get home?"
18. "Can anyone sew a patch on straight?"

TO SUM IT UP

The only thing wrong with the trip was the length, or lack of it.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

I would like to add a loud clang to this soft tinkle of reminiscence. The cooking was swell, Don. With the food like you gave us (and I hope will continue to give us), ROC camps will always be, not only popular, but populated.

HYMAN Q. BENSUANGER,
(Harry Ledyard).

P.S. Does 250 top all previous attendance records for an IOCA function?

HINTS FROM MY HAVERSACK

The hiker passes through three stages, in respect to equipment, as he trudges the long path from novice to expert. In the first stage he has no specialized equipment and carries his father's boy scout pack with a blanket, a pot, and a few cans of food. If this fellow takes a liking to the sport, he will pass into the second stage, during which he amasses a wealth of necessary equipment, fully approved by L.L. Bean, David T. Abercrombie, or the corner Army-Navy surplus store. His pack is made with a steel frame, and he always carries an ax, stove, and first aid kit for emergencies. His bug-proof, water-proof, snake-proof tent is ever with him, and he owns an array of specialized footwear that would make a cobbler's head spin. In the third stage, he returns to the scout pack and blanket in a futile effort to make his pack buoyant in air. This is the most desired stage.

Getting out of the second stage is extremely difficult, and, in reality, few people succeed. Therefore I present below a few ideas that might help the ambitious tramp.

The toothbrush, although quite necessary, is a source of excess weight. At least half of the handle should be removed and the remaining stub perforated. Some authorities contend that the alternate bristles should be removed, but the value of this is still a subject for debate. (The functional man of the future will undoubtedly have bristles on his left forefinger). Other toilet articles, such as soap, towel, and razor, are, of course, out of the question.

The "one-pot" idea strikes horror into the hearts of many intrepid woodsmen, but it can be quite successful with a moderate amount of practice. The surface of the food in the pot is marked, pie fashion, providing an equal segment for each member of the party. The old rule: "You don't eat on my side and I won't eat of your side" is then followed. In many cases, a protractor is necessary. Of course all spoons must be treated in a similar manner to that described for the toothbrush. Considerable practice is necessary for the consumption of soups with this spoon as speed is the keynote. If all foods are liquid, however, straws may be substituted for the spoons.

Although some of the new down sleeping bags are lighter than a blanket, the outer cover is superfluous and weighty. (Whoever saw a duck with a windbreaker?) The down should be carried in a small cloth bag, or perhaps the pocket of the pack. In the evening, the down is fluffed up and spread evenly above and below the sleeper. Picking up in the morning takes a little longer without the cover. Note: Remember to sleep in a sheltered spot!

Another suggestion, frowned on by rugged outing clubbers, employs the use of a large helium-filled balloon, attached to the heavily loaded pack. This is especially helpful in ascending high peaks.

I hope this article has been of aid to all outing clubbers and if any readers have further suggestions, please send them to:

C. H. Henrikson, III
Camp-Crafty Editor
ROC Cairn.

(Send name, address, and 6 lichens for toothbrush plans).

A WEEKEND AT THE EAST'S HIGHEST

On September 28th, Ken Symington, Johnny (Mark Twain) Down, Dick Cheney, and yours truly, set out to climb Mount Washington, which is located in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. After driving until 3 a.m., we sacked out in a farmer's apple orchard (it was too late to disguise ourselves as traveling salesmen). Eight o'clock found us on our journey again and at 10:00 we arrived at Pinkham Notch.

Checking in at the A.M.C. Lodge, we discovered that there were several other parties prepared to make the ascent. However, the residents of the lodge advised the would-be climbers that the trek up the mountain would be almost impossible under the present weather conditions. The weather chart read: Minimum temperature 14°; Maximum wind velocity 102; State of weather - mountain surrounded in dense clouds; Precipitation and type - snow 4". The four of us decided to go up as far as Hermit Lake Shelter before making the final decision as to whether we should continue. The rest of the climbers stayed at the lodge.

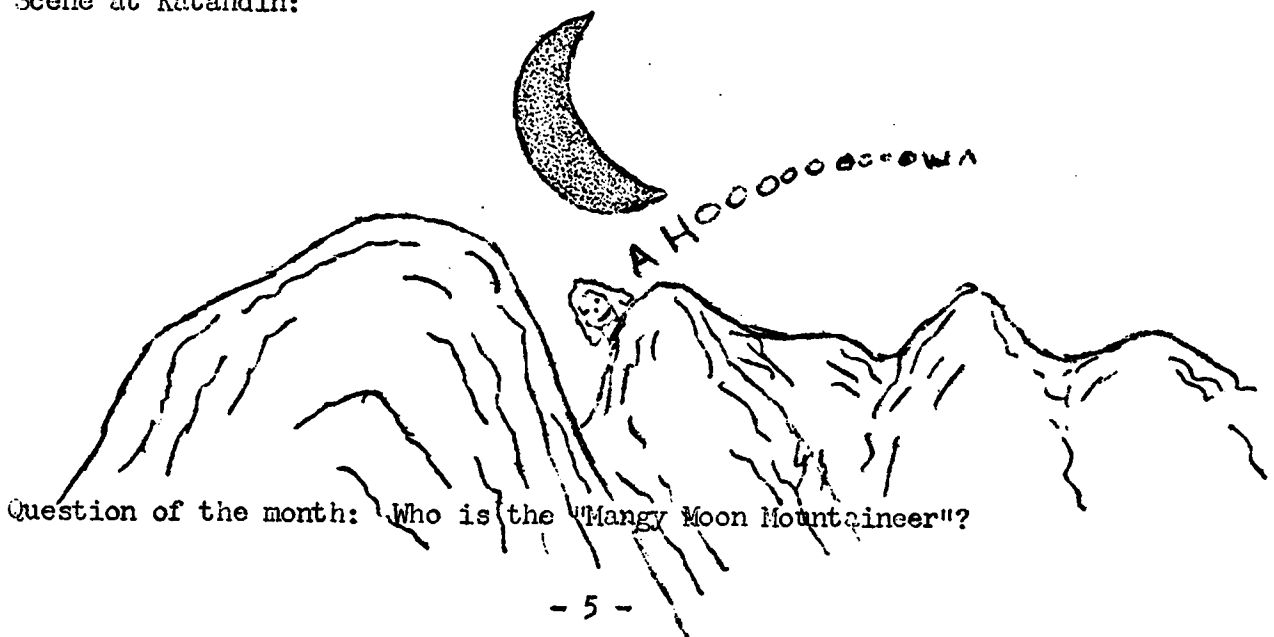
We arrived at the shelter about 1:00 and tried to cook dinner. At first we had rather poor luck with the fire for the wind would whip the flame away from the wood. After eating, we decided to leave our packs and sleeping bags at the shelter and try to reach the summit.

Soon after we started up the headwall, the clouds obscured Tucker-man's Ravine, and the visibility dropped to a circle of about 100 feet. Upon reaching the top, we were confronted with the high velocity, snow-driving winds, the ice-covered rocks, and the problem of locating the cairns which marked the trails. We finally reached the summit and the shelter of the observatory there about 5:00. Fearing the trails after dark, we rested for 15 minutes and started back down. During the descent we did more sliding than walking, but soon after dark we reached the Shelter where we stayed overnight.

The next morning we arose at 5:00 and ascended Boots Spur to see the sunrise. After taking several pictures and securing a few rock samples, we decided that all good things must come to an end, and started for Troy.

Elbe W. Phillips

Scene at Katahdin:



EQUIPMENT FOR RENT

To aid the new members of the club (and old ones too) we publish below a list of the rental charges on ROC equipment. Please, after using, return the equipment to the office as early in the week as possible. Equipment chairman is Harry Ledyard, and all equipment should be obtained through him, or one of his coolies.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quant. Avail.</u>	<u>1st Night</u>	<u>Each Night thereafter</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
Sleeping Bags:				
Single	3	\$0.50	\$0.25	\$2.00
Double	2	1.00	.50	4.00
Frame Packs	7	.25	.25	1.00
Tents	3	.75	.50	3.00
Coleman Lantern	3	.50	.25	2.00
Group Cook Kits	3	.50	.25	2.00
Crampons	10	.25	.25	1.00

ROC PREVIOUS

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL MEETING - November 17-18

RPI will again be host at this third annual meeting, for a weekend of conferring, camping, and hiking, scheduled for Sampson Lodge, with representatives invited from Russell Sage, Vassar, Skidmore, Union, and Paul Smith.

THANKSGIVING TRIPS

Trips are being scheduled for various places during the Thanksgiving vacation, so if you'll be around, drop in at the office, or the next meeting, and indicate our preferences as to date and place.