



THE ROC CAIRN



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

VOLUME VII, NO. 4

MARCH 25, 1952

ELECTIONS TONIGHT - MARCH 25TH - CLUBHOUSE LOUNGE

Nominating Committee Announces Results

At a meeting held on the eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-two, the nominating committee of the Rensselaer Outing Club arrived at the following results. These nominations are only the opinion of the committee, and nominations from the floor at the time of elections will not only be accepted, but encouraged.

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| Nominations: | President | Carl Henrikson |
| | Vice President | Ilmar Ratsep, Dick Shumaker |
| | Secretary | Jim Wells |
| | Treasurer | Richard Opsahl |
| | Cairn Editor | Robert Radulski |
| | Members-at-Large | Dan Behm, Don Bailey, Win Oaks, Jorge Houghton |

Elections are tonight, March 25th, at 7:30, in the Clubhouse Lounge. All members are urged to attend. (In conjunction, there will also be a short business meeting.)

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING CONFERENCE - MARCH 29TH

This Saturday, March 29th, the ROC will be host to the delegates of the Fourth Annual Winter Mountaineering Conference. The conference, with Robert Radulski as Chairman, is scheduled to commence at 1:00 p.m. in the Rensselaer Student Union Clubhouse. Some of the subjects to be discussed are the winter mountaineering advanced emblem, problems of trophies, and the future promotion of the sport. The new trophy, replacing all previous ones, will be awarded to that college outing club which has contributed most to the cause of proficient winter mountaineering this past season.

TRIP UP GIANT

This past weekend, March 15th, Don Bailey, Jerry Connor, "Gus" Nashbendi, and Jim Wells took off for the mountains, with Giant as the objective. A very worthy camp was built from snow blocks and canvas at Chapel Pond. Unfortunately, no water could be obtained except by melting snow, but the commissary, under Jerry's supervision, was commendable.

We arose early Sunday, and, after a quick breakfast, took off for Giant on snowshoes. The snow was about two feet deep in the valley, but we could no longer measure it once the heights were reached. Jerry once went down to his armpits without touching ground, just for a rough idea.

It was a poor day, but not cold, and the ascent was made with little incident. Wells found an ice axe very handy for steep pitches, while the rest of the party had no trouble with snowshoes alone.

The descent was rapid and equally uneventful, but everyone was quite satisfied with the day's work. This trip was probably the conclusion of a very active winter's season for the ROC in the Adirondacks.

A Report on:

IMPERMEABLE BARRIER BOOTS

When Col. Walter Wood of the Arctic Institute spoke at RPI, he told about a new type of boot which was being issued to the Korean troops. These boots introduced a new principle in boot design. Up to that time theory maintained that to be warm, the foot must remain dry at all times. As a result, in cold weather, if the foot sweated excessively, the feet became cold and damp.

The new boots, a radical departure in design from previous standards, are made of two rubber bootlets, with an insulating blanket of glass wool between them. The high insulating value of the glass wool prevents heat losses from the inside and the rubber bootlets prevent moisture from entering the boot. (Thermal conductivity of glass wool - 0.29 BTU per hour per foot squared - foot of area, that is). The feet still get wet in these boots, but it is from sweat and not from leakage. It is recommended that the wearer use only a thin pair of socks when wearing the boots. The socks are to prevent chaffing of the foot, and not to keep the foot warm.

I've used the boots, first on a very rugged trip into Winter Camp one weekend. We went into WC by way of the "scenic" route over Rooster Comb, without benefit of snowshoes. The snow was knee-deep in most places. The boots gave me no trouble even though water leaked down into them from my pants legs. By the time the trip was over, I had quite an accumulation of water in my boots. However, the water was warmed by my feet and it was quite a pleasant feeling to squish water between my toes (Ed. note - not recommended for those who do not like to squish water). My feet stayed comfortably warm at all times. If anything, the boots were too warm.

I purchased the boots in a surplus store at home for \$9.95, and they are the best I have used so far. The only drawback is that they are large compared to a regular boot because of the insulating filler, and a pair of crampons will not fit them. Snowshoes, however, fit well on them.

Bob Radulski.

(Anyone wishing more information, contact Bob).

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING - FEBRUARY 2-3

On the weekend of February 2nd & 3rd, Bob Radulski, Jim Wells, and I went up to Winter Camp for the second time this season. One of our objectives in going there was to eat some of the food left from a previous trip. We left Troy early Saturday morning and arrived in Keene Valley about 10 a.m. Upon noticing that there was only 4-5 inches of snow, we elected to go on without snowshoes. This proved to be a mistake as you shall see.

Since we had 6 or 7 hours of daylight left, we decided to go in via the "scenic" route. The route was on the south side of Johns Brook via Rooster Comb, and Lower Wolf Jaw. The ascent of Rooster Comb went easily, the trail being well marked. We noticed that we were breaking through the crust but this mattered little for the snow was not more than a foot deep. It seems that there is a portion of this "scenic" route between Rooster Comb and Lower Wolf Jaw that is labeled "unmarked" in the guide book. We found out that this really was the case. After fumbling around for a while just below the summit of Rooster Comb, we came upon a survey line running east and west, and decided to follow it. The line paid no heed to natural obstacles for it went straight as an arrow, despite underbrush, cliffs, or anything else. About this time we began to notice that the going was becoming considerably more difficult. The snow now was about 2-3 feet deep and it was becoming a chore to extract one's foot each time one took a step.

We never did get to climb Lower Wolf Jaw, because the line passed slightly to the north of it. When we were next to Lower Wolf Jaw, our survey line came to an abrupt halt. The next step of our journey was to head north and hit Johns Brook. The South Trail was reached in about an hour and we then continued on to Winter Camp. We arrived tired but satisfied; we had successfully changed an easy 2 hour trip into a 7 hour adventure. After a hasty meal, we hit the sack at about 8 p.m.

The next morning dawned with sunlight streaming in through the windows. It was a perfect day. The crust had frozen during the night and it would now support the weight of a man. Wells and I elected to climb Upper Wolf Jaw and Armstrong. The climbing was superb; views were excellent. On the summit of Upper Wolf Jaw we climbed the tallest tree and took pictures in all directions. The wind velocity was around 5-10 mph, with a temperature of about 28 degrees.

Upon returning to the cabin we had a fine meal which had been prepared by our faithful porter-coolie radulski. We also talked briefly with a group from Cornell which had just returned from packing in an emergency cache to Sno-Bird Leanto.

The trip home was completed without mishap and we arrived in Troy at about midnight on Sunday.



Dick Opsahl

MID-TERMS SKI TRIP

Thursday, the 24th of January, was the start of another mid-terms vacation for the ROC. Ken Marti and Hank Ledyard packed their skis, boots, and sleeping bags (doubles) into Ken's car and took off for the scenic and snowy Laurentian Mountains of Canada to spend a week with the McGill Outing Club.

We arrived at Shawbridge after 11:30 p.m. and immediately went to the MOC house where we went to bed. Several skiers from Sir George William College in Montreal were there and they spread the welcome mat for us. The next day we went to Mont Gabriel where there was an empty slope and an excellent T-bar tow. (Ledyard made the cocoa that night). (Was it anything like Lake Georges?)

McGill came in on Friday and Saturday nights, along with the MIT ski team. A group of us went to St. Adele on Saturday in the midst of a snowstorm for a top day of deep powder snow skiing. Late that night, or early in the morning, Cornell decided to drop in on us. They had found no snow at Whiteface, so forty or more climbed into their bus, and proceeded to awaken everybody at the MOC house on arrival. They wanted beds and there were already eight or ten people sleeping on the tables and floor.

Someone finally arranged for the COC'ers to stay at a local country club, and there was no speaking to them from then on. (I never thought that they were the type to be snobbish or snooty, but I have certainly had to change my mind).

There must be some advantage in having girls in the Outing Club, and I think I've come across it. They can't cook; they can't ski, hike, or climb; they can't do much in the woods except complain and get in the way. But they sure have a knack for pulling the right strings to get themselves into a plush country club for practically nothing. (Females - PHOOHLE - Creampuff Mountaineers).

On Sunday, after being so rudely awakened, we went to Mont Tremblant. There was about two inches of powder snow on top of a hard-packed base. Those who had visited this paradise before said that it had never been better. It was quite crowded, but the North slope and the T-bars were empty enough to ensure a quick ride to the top.

Monday morning the rest of the ROC came in, looking the worse for the drive and the roadside hamburger joints. The addition of Sadowski, Clark, Gehente, Oaks, and Moore added to the confusion in a kitchen already crowded with McGill, Sir George, St. Lawrence, Clarkson, Cornell, MIT, and RPI. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the whole crowd skied at St. Sauveur's famous Hill 70, with the equally famous Nymarks Lodge at the foot.

Not only did Cornell take over a private country club for the week, but one girl even asked us for a ride to Troy. Of course we couldn't refuse her so we loaded down the car and returned to the fair city of higher education.

The only blot on a perfect picture was the temperature. While most of the time it was between 10 and -60, there was one night when the thermometer rose to 20 above - but that must have been caused by the hot air of Cornell's arrival.

Everybody agreed that the trip was a success and a trip list has been posted for the next mid-terms vacation when we hope to have a larger crowd to visit the great ski area of the Laurentians.

faithfully reported and
misconstrued by
Hy Q. Benzwanger.

(Editor's note - The above represents the opinions of Hy, and are not necessarily those of the ROC).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(finally the Editor gets a letter)

Sir:

In answer to the "Question of the Month", in the October issue of the ROC CAIRN, the "Mangy Moon Mountaineer" is none other than my good friend and constant companion, Brühilde, i.e., Miss M. Lorelei Nuthouse of the Kornballian Outdoors Kleptomaniacs.

Miss Nuthouse has asked me to inform you that your illustration is slightly in error. There was a full moon on the night of the incident in question, and you are well aware, she believes, that it is an engineer's duty to strive for accuracy.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Princess Little White
New-tepee of the
Ithaca Tribe.

Thank you, MLN, and PLWN for your answer to the question, and the correction. To avoid mistakes in the future, we shall consult our almanacs.... Editor.

Ramblings from the Editor:

A few words on why this issue is so late - It's been a combination of finals, mid-term vacation, and too many good weekends for skiing, and other trips.

As I sit here typing this issue in the wee small hours of the morning, drinking my pipe, and smoking my coffee (or vice versa), there comes the realization that this is my last issue as Editor, so a few words in parting:

Thanks to those of the ROC who have assisted in the publication; and good luck to the new Editor.

Thanks to you who have returned the post cards so that we could get our mailing list up-to-date.

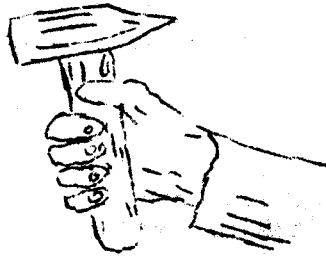
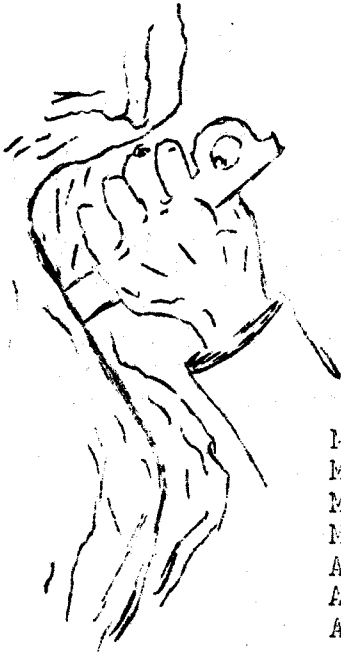
And to the IOCA OUTING CLUBS: Remember to, please, bring with you to the IOCA Conference, your tentative schedules for the coming year so we'll be able to work out a better program between the clubs.

Dick Shumaker.

NITE SKIING (?)

On March 4th, the ROC held their Tuesday night meeting at Darrow's nite ski slope near Saratoga. The weather really didn't cooperate. It was raining when we left Troy; it was raining when we got to Saratoga; and it rained while we skied. Skates were the order of the day (or should I say night) as the slope could be likened to a skating rink with one end propped up. The tow was shut down soon after it was started because of the small crowd, (five ROC'ors) and an increasing downpour. The evening was interesting and novel, even though the April showers were slightly early.

Carl Henrikson.



SPRING SCHEDULE

- March 25 - ROC Elections
- March 29 - Winter Mountaineering Conference at RPI
- March 30 - Rock-Climbing (weather permitting)
- March 31- April 4 - Grand Marshal Week at RPI
- April 5-6- Fraternity Initiations at RPI
- April 5-6- Tentative Hike
- April 9-16 - Easter Vacation
 - White Mt. or Adirondack Trip
 - RMC Katahdin Trip (Apr. 9-20)
- April 18-20- IOCA Conference at Cornell's Danby
- April 26-27- Vassar Square Dance
- May 3-4 (Soiree) Rock Climbing-and/or Hike
- May 10-11 - Skidmore and/or Sage Canoe Trip
- May 17-18 - Vassar Canoe Trip
- May 24 - ROC Banquet
- May 25 - Tentative Saddle Trip led by Dick Snodey
- June 2-7 - Final Exams

