

THE ROC CAIRN



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February 5, 1939

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

LOCAL ICE CLIMBING

by W. Millea

About ten miles south-east of RPI, the Poestenkill drops about 50 feet. In summer it's just another waterfall, but in winter, it freezes into a respectable icefall, which has the outstanding advantage of being near by.

On December 13th, three ROCers tried their luck at ice climbing. After we had readied our crampons, ice axes, and other gear Andy Horgan drove an ice piton to which we were officially belayed. This ice piton, driven as an experiment, proved to be so successful that it was almost impossible to remove.

Like most such things it takes time to get used to walking on crampons, chopping steps, and avoiding being skewered by the tang (or is it the point or pick?) of the ice axe. We then each tried a self arrest. (A method of stopping a fall on ice)

Just then an eleven year old native appeared. His first words were "What is all that junk for?" as he pointed to our crampons, etc. He was informed about various safety practices, but was not impressed. He was observed the next day climbing the steep face (which we had avoided) aided only by his trusty ice pick. Ah youth.

Despite this sort of distraction, Poestenkill falls is a good place to get ice legs, a practical thing to have in winter-time Troy

2.

WINMOUSE

by Andy Monjan

"Winmouse," (a Schenectadian term) or winter mountaineering school has now become an established winter activity of our club. A Father sorted group from the ROC went there this year to join in the climbing (snow and ice), skiing, and general frolicking.

Unlike the past few years, this year's school included snow, ice, and some unmatchable weather. It was only towards the end that the sky clouded over. Parties went out to climb the standards,--Cascade and Porter, Phelps, Algonquin, Wright, Iroquios, and Marcy. In addition there was an overnight bivouac to Dial. and, of course, ice climbing was tried by most,--some successfully and some not quite so.

Evenings found the various college groups, e.g. RPI, (naturally), Cornell Univ., Univ. of Toronto, and Mt. Holyoke, cooking and swapping their choice dishes with those of other clubs. Fully satiated, people then gathered in the loj to warm up. Awakening in the morning was no chore, in fact, it might be said that the horn blew at dawn.

The above gives only the barest outline of the trip. After all, words cannot adequately let one experience the beauty of freshly fallen snow on the pines, the exhilaration of the cold air and of the blood rushing through the body, and the pleasures of companions as fresh and exciting as the out-of-doors they enjoy. No, the only thing one can do is to go mountaineering and experience all this for himself.

ROC CABIN

by Dave Noyes, Cabin Chairman

Spring is a-coming and the nesting instinct has hit the ROC. Actually, this project started last fall when we realized that the cabin which had previously been at our disposal had been enclosed with a Cyclone fence with a padlock on the gate. After discussing various methods for re-entering the property, we decided to build our own cabin.

The firm of Gilmore and Terryberry, Inc. was employed as architects and a cabin chairman was appointed by the executive committee. So far, a tentative design has been drawn up and approved and framing timber purchased from the wrecking company that is tearing down the Proudfit building on campus.

Financing and Institute approval are, as yet, uncertain but the engineers are blundering through the project, undaunted by such details. Before the spring thaw, the architects will complete the surveying and after the ground thaws, we will be able to start digging the foundation. This and the front office politiking will demand time from all ROC members but they're a fighting crew who should be able to whip this project into shape by at least 1967

Laurentian Ski Trip

by Dwight Deal

Early Tuesday morning, January 20, Joe Morein and I piled our gear into the VW and started out for the McGill cabin in Shawbridge, P.Q. We were off to a good start - Joe had been up all night finishing a term paper and I finishing a few problems. We made the border just after the banks closed, and bought our supplies with U.S. cash. Contrary to expectation, we had no difficulties other than a slightly higher than official exchange rate. Since Joe and I were going to be in Canada two more days than the rest of the party, we purchased pork chops and a big steak for our stay and then bought for the rest of the group.

We found that we had the cabin to ourselves, at least until the weekend when McGill was to show up. After supper (Gee those chops were good) we hit the rack for a well deserved rest.

I might mention that "cabin" is hardly the word for our lodging - McGill owns two, two story houses in Shawbridge one designated "Boy's House" and the other, appropriately, "Girl's House". In addition, half the people in Shawbridge can't speak English. (At least the half we tried to speak to.) Since our directions to the cabin consisted of " Go to Shawbridge and ask." Joe got to use his one term of French.

Wednesday dawned dark and forboding, and we set out for Mt. Tremblant. The skiing was good in spite of freezing rain. As we returned to Shawbridge, the freezing rain turned to rain. (The steak was a good supper) Thursday was a cold clear winter day. The wind (40 mph with gusts to 72mph) and the thick icy crust meant no skiing in the area that day, but we made the best of it and went on a sight seeing trip to Montreal. The rest of the group arrived that night and Friday we skied Mount Gabriel where they had snow cats with chains out breaking up the crust. It was fast anyhow.

That night the Canadians arrived in force and the weekend of fun, song festing, and socializing began. McGill proved excellent hosts and their oversupply of women was welcomed by the lonely ROCers. In midst of all the activities, an international domino contest raged with U.S. contenders Deal and Rubin waging a valliant fight against heavy Canadian oppisition.

The skiing Saturday was much like the day before and we split up to visit the various areas around Shawbridge. Saturday night brought fresh snow which was enjoyed on the slopes Sunday morning.

Sunday night was a cold one (33 below in Shawbridge) and Monday morning a group got up at 6AM to leave for Tremblant, and after getting the cars started at 9:30, they enjoyed a fine half day of skiing. The upper trails were still good but the beginner's trail was rather icy. McGill had left by the time we returned, but a party from Hamilton was there. They were a good crew but lacked somthing of the McGill crew. (i.e. Women)

New Year's Skiing
by Dwight Deal

Eric Lippez and I embarked on a skiing trip leaving from ADK Winmouse and returning to Troy for classes on January 5. The 31st we skied at Whiteface, with Curt Bebee (U.Vt.) and Dave Rutenberg (UTOC). Skiing was good with a few icy spots.

We drove to the White Mountains on the first, dropping Curt (and the packs and snowshoes, etc. that were tied to the front, sides, and fenders of the VW) off at Burlington, and tried to find the rest of UTOC. Dave said that he expected to meet them at one of the UNH cabins. We found the UNH Franconia cabin populated with people from UNH and U.Conn. but no UTOC. Eric and I had made plans to stay at the WOC cabin in North Woodstock and so took Dave there. We found most of WOC leaving because of poor skiing but decided to stay and look for UTOC in the morning. As luck would have it, it snowed that night. Much to everyone's relief, we found UTOC and BPOC at the UNH Jackson cabin, and then skied Wildcat (Those fool gondola lifts are really the way to go up a mountain) where skiing was good and the trails are really tops. (A note to novices - watch that first step, it's a big one) Eric and I stayed again that night at WOC cabin and skied Cannon (along with everyone else in the White mountains) the next day. After spending the night at UNH Franconia, we returned to Troy on Sunday.

A new Black and Sons order will be sent out in early March. All interested persons and clubs should write to: Blacks, 78 ROC, 15th St. Lounge, RPI, Troy, N.Y.

A ski bus will leave on Sunday, Feb. 8 for Hogback Mt. Tickets will be \$1.25 round trip. Contact Pete McCorison, Ar3-6925

Found: A Vebur camera, in my car, circa Lake George, owner contact; Dave Noyes (see Below)

KL7BQB, "Dave", is selling out. Everything must go! Ham radio, HiFi, commercial, homebuilt, surplus, record collection, 12v dynamotors, heath kits, NC-300, racks, coax, and hundreds of components. Come or write to: Dave Noyes, 903 Peoples Ave., (3rd floor, front) Troy, N.Y. As 2-7052, Tuesdays Thursdays or any day after 4PM.

Several weeks ago some ROCers re-discovered some passages in Dewey's (or Onesquithaw) Cave. Due to the interest caused by this, a map of the cave, compiled from various sources, is on page 5 of this issue. In the future there will be trips into the passages which have not been entered in five years, and perhaps an article on them. On the last trip they were entered but the ends were not reached due to lack of time. Who knows what will be found?

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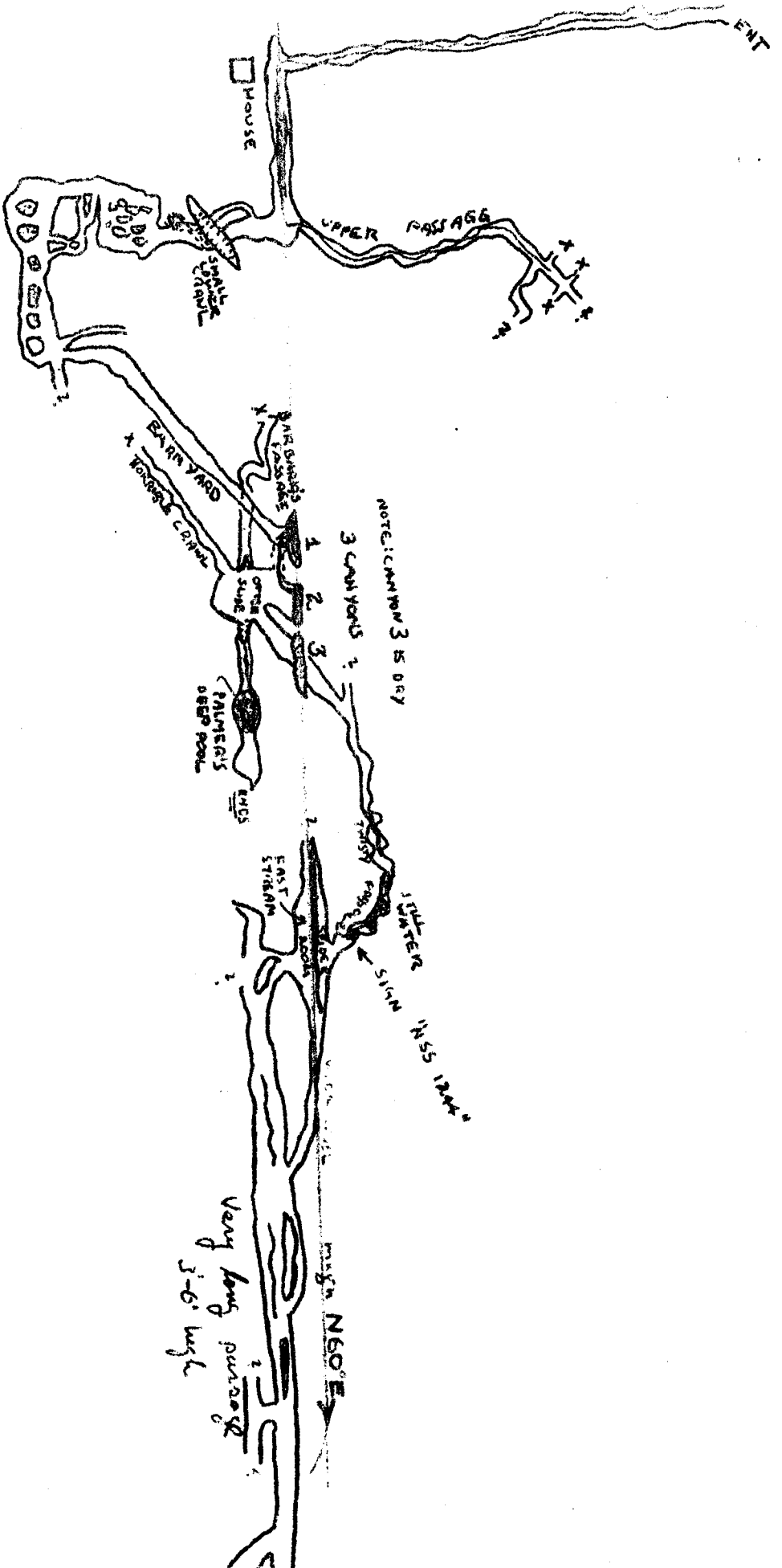
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FROM ENTRANCE TO
CANYON 1, NSS MAP COPY.
CANYON 1 ON IS
GRADE 2 & 3
TWISTY PASSAGE IS
GRADE 1

ONESQUETHAW
CANYON

W. Epstein
Yates
RANSMEAR GARRO

~ Stream
● Pool
2 - UNEXPLORED
X - too small to
conting