

# NEWS LETTER

Vol. II - No. 1

Nov 6, 1947

## LAKE GEORGE CANOE TRIP WITH SKIDMORE

On a Saturday, Oct. 11, afternoon, a group of ROC's joined an equivalent number of Skidmore coeds and traveled up to Lake George for a canoe trip that proved to be one of the most successful trips taken by the ROC so far this year. The weather proved to be perfect for camping, warm during the day, and cool at night. Two hours were spent in vigorous canoeing to Turtle Island, a new experience for many, but one enjoyed by both new and old hands alike. Upon arrival at the island, a camp was set up and a fine meal prepared. The evening was spent singing 'round a roaring camp-fire, consuming doughnuts and cider, and enjoying a fine display of Nothern Lights. There was also some excellent square dancing under the able leadership of Al Hartheimer and the tuneful fiddlin' of Ed Eagen. Popping corn with makeshift equipment ended the evening on the

On Sunday, Turtle Island provided a base camp from which a canoe trip was taken to Northeast Bay. A second group paddled across the lake and hiked to the top of Tongue Mountain.

## IOCA SONGBOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

The latest report on the IOCA Songbooks (ordered last June), is that Dick Best is on page 142. Harry Van Dyke spoke to him at College Week and learned that Dick is still busy at work on the book and that no definite date for release has been set. To those of you who ordered them - Hang on!

## ROC RALLY

Early arrivals to the Rally were treated to a well-rounded display of outing equipment, each item was tagged with its approximate retail price and stores from which it could be purchased. After several business announcements, three student speakers were introduced: Harry Van Dyke spoke on "College Week", Deane Woodward on "Sampson Lodge", and Jed Prouty on "OC Square Dances". The program continued with two excellent movies: "White Water" a 15-minute picture of a Ledyard Canoe Club trip down the turbulent Ammonoosuc River in the White Mountains, and "Dangerous Mountain Climbing", a graphic presentation of superb climbing in the Tyrol. The meeting ended with trip sign-ups.

## NEWLY ACQUIRED SAMPSON LODGE

We have discovered the outing that isn't ruined by a rainy Sunday afternoon! Two weekend parties at the lodge this fall have convinced the members who participated that we have a retreat which could hardly be rivaled on a made-to-order fitting.

The completely undignified atmosphere of the lodge has a potent relaxing power. If it never served any function except to tear us away from the tense and precise life at R.P.I., the lodge would be worth far more than its upkeep. We anticipate the day when house parties, conferences, work parties and Sunday outings will keep the lodge booked up most of the time.

In its present condition it is impossible to have winter outings at the lodge. The school intends to install a new water system which will make it possible to obtain water any time during the year without having to melt the snow off the roof. There is also a good chance of having electric lights installed as soon as the maintenance department of R.P.I. gets the "all clear" to start work on the lodge.

After several visits to the lodge a lot of information has been dug out which is indispensable for a successful stay at the lodge. At present there are only a few people who are well enough acquainted with Dr. Sampson's idiosyncrasies in design to be put in charge of a weekend trip at the lodge. If any group of ROC members wishes to occupy the lodge for a weekend, they may do so by making plans through Deane Woodward, ROC Lodge Chairman.

## ROC MEMBERS JOINING ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

It has been apparent for sometime that the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) has slowly yet effectively been luring R.P.I. students and faculty into their fold. Latest to travel this well worn path are; Dale Brown, instructor in the ME Department, Deane Woodward, John Wall, Bob Woodbury, Bud Jederlund, Deane Borden and our versatile coed, Charlotte Jackson. The older campus ADK members - Charlie Mine, Harry Whippo, Prof. Clark, Lars Erickson and Dick Bailey - extend a warm welcome to these newcomers and hope they reap as much from such an association as they have.

## BLUEBERRY PIE A LA MODE

Did Harry Van Dyke ever get rid of the blueberry stain in his sailor hat? That's what he gets for trying so hard to impress that ravishing Radcliff gal!

## OPERATION ROCKBOUND

Mr. R.C. Black of the History department and four fellows from the OC went to Thatcher Park, Albany on November 2, to try their luck at rock climbing. Only two of the party had had previous experience so they started off by doing some simple repelling and belaying, gradually working up to decending a vertical face. Exausting this face of possibilities they began looking around for another when the local ranger drove by and ordered them to get back behind the guard rail. He didn't remain long enough for an explanation so the group decided to leave the area and find another spot. The only other place that was suitable was a small outcropping behind "Tin Town". Dusk finally halted operations and they returned for some chow.

Rock climbing on this scale is a new activity for the ROC, and now that several of the members have had a little experience they can show anyone interested some of the fundamentals.

## COLLING WEEK

On Sept. 6, some 170 young people, weighed down with fifty pound packs and representing most of the schools in the northeast, assembled at Lake Colden in the heart of the Adirondacks for a week devoted to the out-of-doors. Each year the Inter-OCA sets aside one week in Sept. for this annual get-together of all of its members. The site is always the same place, Lake Colden, Conveniently located 10 miles from civilization.

This year it was a week well spent in climbing such mountains as Marcy, Colden, MacIntyre and Wallace. Evenings were devoted to square dancing in the Ranger's cabin, informal meetings and song-fests around numerous campfires, and restful sleep in the overcrowded lean-tos.

The delegation from R.P.I. consisted of Dick Bailey, Charlotte Jackson, Jack McLane, George Segre, Harry Van Dyke, John Wall and Deane Woodward, and, unlike some of the others, arrived individually by various means of transportation. The best organized group was the Cornell Outing Club who arrived almost en masse, giving the appearance of a Cornell reunion.

Much to the surprise of all concerned, the non-existent Russell Sage Outing Club was represented, along with most of the member colleges of the IOCA.

## SQUARE DANCES

ROC's first square dance was a thundering success. The Clubhouse Ballroom was jammed to capacity. The crowd's enthusiasm was a sufficient incentive for the Club to sponsor a bigger and better affair this past Saturday in the gym. Halloween decorations, corn stalks, pitchforks, numpkins and stable gear lent a seasonal air to what is usually a basketball court.

The "Hayseeds" outdid themselves in providing excellent music on both evenings. General square dancing instruction was given first. A demonstration set went through the various dances, and the rest then went through the steps. To provide variation, the "guys & gals" also tried their skill at polkas and a russian fold dance. During the intermissions, cider and doughnuts provided a very welcome "pause that refreshes".

## BUSINESS MEETINGS

At the year's first business meeting the officers and old members were surprized and pleased to see over ninety fellows in attendance. For the benefit of the new faces, Pres. Dick Bailey gave a brief account of the club's history and past activities. The fall program was outlined and the meeting ended in a mad scramble to sign up for the coming trips.

A report was made at the next meeting on the question of transportation to ski areas this year, to reach near-by ski areas, (Bromley Dutch Hill, Snow Valley and North Creek, etc.), buses probably will be used again this year, and a special car on a ski train to North Creek or Snow is a possibility. An invitation from Albany State Teachers was read to have several ROC officers speak before a group interested in forming an outing club at State. The administration of the ROC was reorganized with committees taking much of the work from only a few officers.

Our last meeting consisted of a report on the preparations for the square dance in the '87 Gym on November 1. Sign-ups for rock climbing cave exploration and a hike with Russel Sage ended the meeting.

## OFFICERS FOR 1947-1948

President.....	Dick Bailey
Vice President.....	Deane Woodward
Recording Secretary.....	Harry Van Dyke
Corresponding Secretary.....	Lars Erickson
Treasurer.....	John Wall
Trips Director.....	Bob Woodbury
Publicity Chairman.....	Cliff Ostergaard
Transportation.....	G. Perry
Membership.....	John Wall
Publications.....	Canny Clark
Equipment.....	Al Ragati
Sampson Lodge.....	Dean Woodward
Square Dances.....	Jed Broudy

## SHORT REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

An applicant for initial membership shall attend three official trips before presenting a written application, (form provided) bearing the recommendation of an Executive Council member, to the Secretary. Members are entitled to all privileges and benefits of the Club and must agree to abide by all its rules and regulations, most important of which is that "No intoxicating beverages will be allowed on any Outing Club trip." Dues are \$1.00 per term in addition to an initiation fee of \$1.00 plus cost of Club emblem. Wives, dates, and guests of members are invited to participate in all Club activities except where number is necessarily limited, in which case members shall have preference over non-members.

## MECHANIZATION OF ROC

The automobile situation within ROC's ranks is definately on the upswing. A late count credits Jack McLane, Nano Lopez, Dick Yoder, Lev Hill, Les McHerron and Dick Peters with these important means of transportation. Of course to this list we must add Charlotte Jackson's motorcycle. What a parade!

## CRANE MOUNTAIN TRIP WITH ALBANY STATE TEACHERS

Under a beautiful sky, on Oct. 12, a busload of outing enthusiasts made their way to Warrensburg, New York, and from there to Crane Mountain. The climb to the top was made in an hour's time neglecting the frequent stops to gasp at the glorious pageant of Autumn. The foliage was in its prime and those with colored film had a banner day. Beneath the fire tower the gang munched on their sandwiches and then descended to a tiny lake below the summit. Ropeless rock climbing was done all afternoon on the superb granite cliffs of the mountain, and it was suggested that instruction in this sport be given this fall while the rocks and ground are dry.

## SPELUNKING

Last Sunday, November 2, six ROCers set out to explore some nearby caves. The group met Clay Perry, well known speleologist and author in Stephentown. The first cave was an unknown quantity as it had not been entered for 25 years. The owner Mr. Spielf, showed the group the entrance and a descent was made. Unfortunately, there had been a cave-in near the entrance and it was impossible to proceed any further. One man many years ago is said to have penetrated about 400 yards before his light went out. How much farther the cave extends is anyone's guess. In the future it may be possible to dig down and enter the cave at a point below the cave-in.

Disappointed but still determined, the group entered Bentley's cave in Berlin. This cave consisted of a passageway about 150 feet long leading to a large room. This passageway followed a brook part of the way and it was necessary to crawl on hands and knees through some of the way. Upon entering the large room, the group was eager to prove the claim that it was possible to follow the stream and come out about 500 yards away from the entrance. Following a constantly restricting passageway they came to a point where only two of the smallest fellows were able to wiggle through. The passage didn't seem to get any larger, so thoroughly soaked, they returned to the room. Everyone welcomed the sunlight & fresh air on returning to the outside world.

Everyone thought the trip was very interesting and they are planning to form a student grotto, which is a local division of the National Speleological Society.

## STRATTON MOUNTAIN TRIP

Two carloads of ROCers headed over Bennington-way on Sunday, Oct. 5, and took in a portion of the famous Long Trail. Stratton Mountain and Pond were the day's objectives. The tower on the mountain provided an excellent view of the surrounding countryside. Inspection of Camp Willis Rocks and lean-tos on the lake occupied a delightful hour in the afternoon, and while this was going on, two of the fellows took a dip in the frigid waters. The trip back was highlighted by a delicious dinner in Bennington and several flat tires.

## WHERE TO OBTAIN YOUR EQUIPMENT

The following items are obtainable from Bob Woodbury, Church I,  
Dorm Room GI:

### Boots

Army ski boots.....\$6.25  
"Main style" mountain boots.....\$6.95-\$7.95  
Combat boots (unavailable) Formerly.....\$5.95

### Jackets

B-15 Type AAF.....\$13.00  
N-I Navy "F-W".....\$10.00  
Pants to match N-I.....\$5.95

### Sleeping Bags

Cloth type (OK for summer use).....\$4.00  
Arctic (Available at Goldstock's Schenectady only)  
New.....\$1.95  
Used.....\$2.95  
Covers for above.....\$1.95

### Ponchos

Camouflaged.....\$1.50  
Rubber.....\$4.00  
Nylon.....\$6.00

### Miscellaneous

Tube steel frame pack.....\$3.95  
Coleman stove.....\$9.95  
Hatchet......95  
Canvas water bucket......75  
Canteen......90  
Canteen cover......60

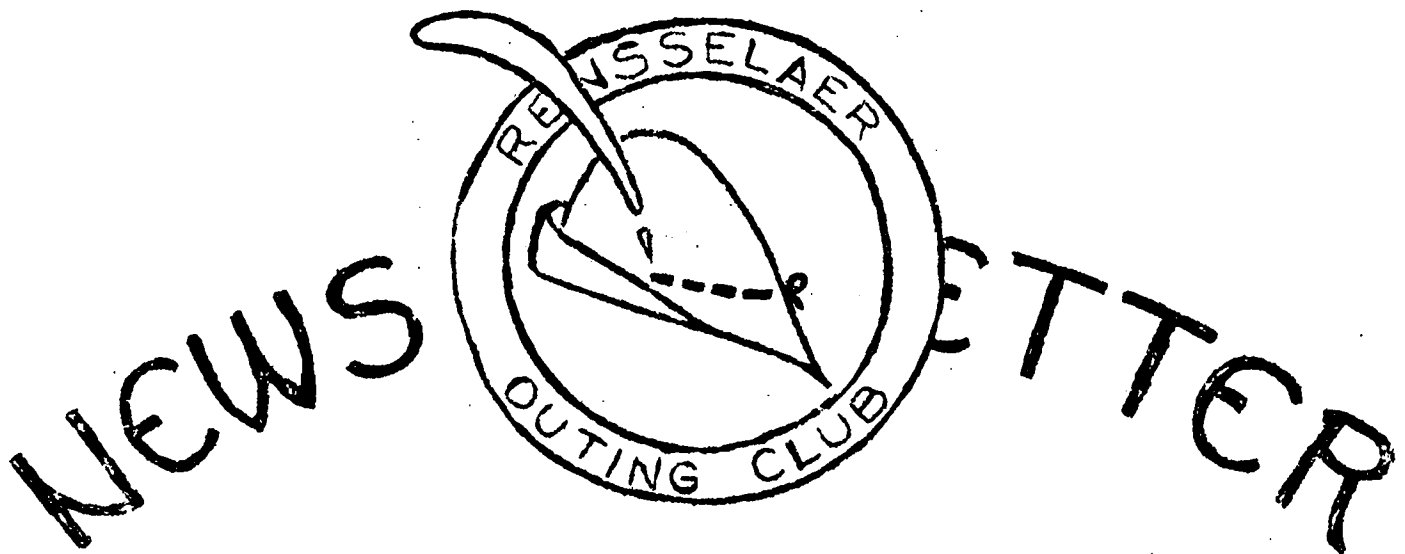
## COMING ACTIVITIES

Nov 8-9 - Long Trail Weekend  
Nov 9 - Slide-Wittenburg-Cornell Mountain Trip with Russell Sage  
Nov 15-16 - ROC-Adirondack Mountain Club Weekend  
Nov 21 - ROC Rally - Movies on "Tragedy of Mt. Everest," Equipment  
display of skiing clothes, skis by Cahill's  
Nov 21-23 - RPI-DOC White Mountain Trip

LATE FLASH!

## JOHN JAY'S "SINGING SKIS" TO PLAY IN ALBANY

Skiing enthusiasts at R.P.I. will have an opportunity to see one of the year's best ski movies when the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club brings one of skidom's top movie makers to Albany on November 25. John Jay, famous for many years for his masterful ski movies, will show his latest film, "Singing Skis," in the Albany High School Auditorium (Western Avenue and Lake Street) at 8:15 PM on that date. Highlights of the film will include a baseball game played on skis at Stowe, Vermont, and slow motion and telescopic close-ups of many of the probable members of the US Olympic Ski Team competing at Sun Valley, Tetons, Snow Bowl, Aspen, Bell Mountain, and other famous ski centers of the West. For an evening of superb entertainment, remember the date: November 25 at 8:15 PM. The price is \$.90 including tax.



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### THE TRAGEDY OF MOUNT EVEREST

In 1921 permission was granted by the Tibetan Government for a full scale attempt to climb Mount Everest. Single men had explored its approaches disguised as missionaries and traders, but a well organized team was necessary to get to the top.

Two expeditions were planned; the first, in 1921, was to determine the best route for ascent and the second, in 1922, to attempt the climb. The 29,141-foot mountain is almost a perfect pyramid with 4000-foot ice walls on all sides except the Northwest, where a ridge runs nearly to the top. This was the only possible side from which an ascent could be made.

George Mallory was the most prominent member of the expedition because of his terrific drive and urge to conquer the mountain. Once asked why he wanted to climb the mountain, he replied, "Because it's there!" He was the only man to go on all three trips.

On the first ascent base camps were established within an easy days walk of each other up to about 26,000 feet. Because of the high altitudes, the slightest physical exertion was very tiring, so climbing consisted of fifteen minutes of climbing and a long rest. The farthest anyone was able to get was about 28,000 feet, only a quarter of a mile of snow-bare rock from the top. Tragedy struck the expedition when an avalanche carried seven native porters to their death; many others narrowly escaped.

In 1924 another attempt was made to gain the summit. In some of the most remarkable climbing ever done, thousands of steps were cut in solid ice within a week after a blizzard had interrupted communications between the established camps. Mallory and a student, Andy Irvine, attempted the assault from an advance camp well above 26,000 feet. The last time they were seen was through a break in the clouds, a bare 800 feet from their goal. Whether they ever attained that goal or how they met their end is still unknown today. A later expedition in 1929 found Mallory's ice axe but that was the only trace of the pair.

The movie to be shown tonight was taken on this 1924 trip when Mallory and Irvine met their death.

## BASH-BISH FALLS TRIP

Getting several sleepy Sage gals out of bed, on Sunday November 9, caused a last minute change in plans for a group of ROCers. Instead of heading for the Catskills, the group headed toward Bash-Bish Falls. It was lunch time before they got there so several forgetful people had to beg some food from several well stocked knapsacks.

After lunch the group divided into rockclimbers and non-rock-climbers. Some simple instruction in rappelling was given to those who wished it. After practicing rappelling for awhile, the climbers started up the gorge which afforded excellent opportunities for climbing on either side. Several not too difficult faces were climbed during the afternoon.

The non-climbers spent the afternoon hiking to the top of a nearby mountain which afforded a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside.

## ADIRONDACK LEAN-TO WORK PARTY

A work party of several ROC members spent last weekend at the Adirondack lean-to on Charlie Hine's property in Petersburg. A nearby old trail was cleared of rocks and brush. The trail was cleared to a width of between twelve and twenty feet, and a quarter of a mile was added to the length to make the total about half a mile. There was plenty of food to satisfy the large appetites that were worked up, and plenty of soft boughs in the lean-to to rest weary bones.

## BUSINESS MEETING

At the November 6 meeting of the ROC, Dick Peters reported on the success of the recent square dance in the '87 Gym, which 225 people attended, reaping a profit of \$40 for the club.

A lengthy and detailed report of the cave exploring trip to the "Unknown" Cave and Bentley's Cave was given by Dick Rhyns and Ken Sweitzer, both of whom have done a lot to arouse the interest of the club in spelunking.

Bernie Chamberlin and Les McHerron were introduced as new members. Congratulations fellows! The policy of introducing new members to the club is a new one, and something worth making into a tradition.

Due to a change in the method of student government at Rensselaer, many clubs and organizations through representatives will have a hand in the formation of school policy. Upon the request of the president of the Rensselaer Union, R.O.C. had nominations and elections for the office of representative to the Union. Cliff Ostergaard, a member of the executive council was elected.

New Rule: Rensselaer Outing Club shoulder patches will be worn on the right shoulder with the wording and not the design arranged asymmetrically.

## REMINDER

Don't forget that next Tuesday, November 25th, at 8:15PM in the Albany High School Auditorium, John Jay will present his latest ski movie "Singing Skis". It's a picture that you ski fans won't want to miss. Admission is \$.90 including tax.

## ON THE TRAIL

Mountain cooking kits are obtainable from Dartmouth Coop, Hanover, N.H. for \$2.00 C.O.D.

An excellent ski parka can be made from \$3.99 parka at Army surplus stores plus \$3.50 for waterproofing mixture.



## NEW SKI TRAILS FOR NEW YORK SKIERS

New York State's Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves are kept wild under detailed provisions of the State Constitution. A special Constitutional Amendment is required to permit the construction of anything within their borders. Admendment No. 6, which was passed by the voters in the elections on November 4th, should be of good news to ski enthusiasts. It permits the construction of new ski trails on the mountain in the Catskills and three in the Adirondacks. According to the new legislation, not more than twenty miles of ski trails on the the slopes of Belleayre Mountain in Ulster and Delaware counties, and not more than thirty miles of trails on the slopes of Gore, Pete Gay, and South Mountains in Warren county may now be constructed. Together with tows, lifts and necessary buildings, the new trails will provide full recreational enjoyment for many more people.

### LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND RENTAL FEES

Item	1st night	Each night thereafter	Weekly	Quantity available
Sleeping bags				
Single	\$ .50	\$ .25	\$2.00	5
Double	1.00	.50	4.00	2
Frame packs	.25	.25	1.00	7
Tents	.75	.50	3.00	2
Canteen with cover				1
Light oilskin duffle bags		No charge		2
Frying pans				2
Pots				2
Knives, spoons, ladles, etc.				

Fees above are for members.

For non-members add \$.25 to each charge above.

### DEHYDRATED FOOD

The items on the following list of dehydrated food can be obtained from Camp and Trail Outfitters, 112 Chambers St., New York 7, New York.

BRAND	DESCRIPTION	NET WGT.	GROSS WGT.	SERVINGS	PRICE
Bussler	Mixed Vegt.	8 oz.	12 oz. tin	7	\$ .90
"	Carrots	8 oz.	12 oz. tin	7	.60
"	Diced Potatoes	8 oz.	12 oz. tin	7	.50
Kraft	Whole Milk	8 oz.	9 oz. ppr	2 qts.	.45
Kanana	Banana Flakes	5½ oz.	8 oz. tin	?	.65
Stir	Lemon Powder	4 oz.	5 oz. tin	?	.60
"	Sliced Rye Brd.	1 lb.	1½ lb. tin	?	.35
"	Sliced Pumpernicle	1 lb.	1½ lb. tin	?	.35
Plymouth	Beef in Gravy	15½ oz.	18 oz.	?	.70
Richter	Whole Egg	8 oz.	10 oz.	18 eggs	1.25
"	Salt Butter	14 oz.	16 oz.		1.10
Carpentieri	Argentine peppermint candy	½ oz.			.05

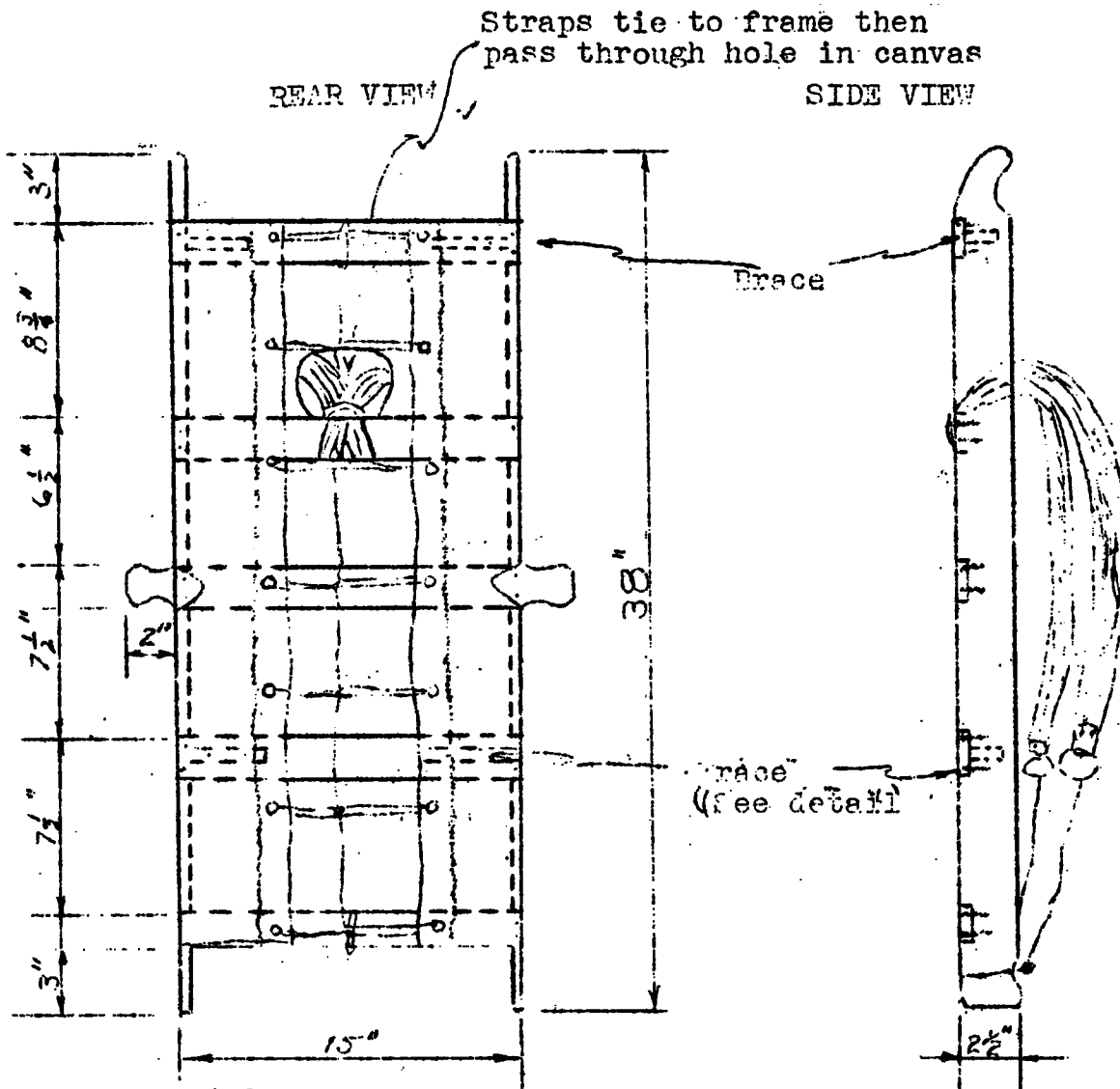
To rehydrate vegetables, simmer for 25 minutes using one gallon of water for each pound of vegetables; add salt to taste. Cover of the pot must not fit snugly. After cooking drain and serve as cooked fresh vegetables. Complete directions are on all packages. All dehydrated foods must be kept tightly covered to prevent spoilage.

## CLIMBING IN THE GRAND TETONS AND COLORADO

On November 11, about fifteen Outing Clubbers turned out to see some colored pictures of the Grand Tetons and the mountains in Colorado taken by Mr. Black, of the Economics Department. Mr. Black is a native of Colorado, and has climbed many of the mountains in Colorado and the surrounding states. The pictures were taken on a trip last summer with a group of Troy Boy Scouts.

### DETAIL OF A PACK BOARD

Below is a rough sketch of a packboard. It is easy to make and can be put together in an evening or two. It is excellent for carrying heavy loads long distances because the weight is evenly distributed over the back.



#### List of Materials

Clear dry spruce

Cross pieces 5/8" X 1 3/4"

Side rails 5/8" X 2 1/2"

7 grommets 1/2"

30" X 36" 16 oz canvas

5' heavy webbing

24 thin 1 1/2" wood screws

18 thin 1 1/4" wood screws

Brace  
Detail