



THE ROCK CAIRN



RENSSELAER OUTING CLUB — '87 GYMNASIUM, R. P. I., TROY, NEW YORK

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CONSERVATION

Section 2 of Article XIV of the N.Y. State Constitution permits the use of three percent of state owned land for the construction of reservoirs for municipal water supply, for the canals of the state and to regulate the flow of streams. The last phrase of this sentence was included to permit the construction of dams for flood control purposes. However, many of the most scenic areas of the Forest Preserve are now slated for inundation with insufficient factual data to support the claim that such action is essential for flood control. A case in question is the proposed construction of the Piseco Lake Reservoir.

For the most part, the Piseco Lake country is heavily forested. Its lakes and rivers are crystal clear, famous for lake and brook trout and equally noted for their natural wild beauty. The evergreen valleys, predominantly state land, have substantially recovered from old lumbering operations and are a very important segment of the Adirondacks winter deer yarding ground.

It is possible to drive for many miles along winding mountain roads below the proposed high flow line ... roads which contain as much natural beauty as probably may be found anywhere in eastern America.

Creation of the Piseco Lake reservoir will destroy ... as other similar reservoirs have destroyed ... the trout fishing values of this region. And the deer, for which the region is famous, will lose their essential lowland winter retreats, and another vastly important feature of the Adirondack scene will have been seriously impaired.

During one of the most heavy, continuous rainfalls in the history of the state, the gates of the Sacandaga Reservoir (with which the Piseco Lake water flows) were closed for the entire duration of the storm, yet the water level was still more than 10 feet below high flow line in this reservoir, and no personal or property damage occurred. There seems little need for the proposed damming up of the Piseco Lake waters.

A special legislative investigating committee is now studying the entire problem of river regulation. Public hearings will be held in many parts of the State. It is a singular opportunity for all conser-

vationists interested in the preservation of the Adirondack lowlands to make their position known to the legislature now! For all who wish more complete details on the entire picture, the September 1949 issue of The Forest Preserve ... from which this article was condensed ... is now posted on the bulletin board in the ROC Office.

COLLING EVENTS

LAKE GEORGE IOCA -- OCTOBER 6,7,8

Upwards of 170 people are expected to congregate on Big Turtle Island as the ROC plays host to the chubbers from most of the colleges and universities in the East. A complete entertainment program has been planned and Stu Jamieson and his boys will be on hand to provide their excellent talents for square dancing. Old members of the Club have preference on this trip which, in the past, has proved to be one of the Club's best intercollegiate functions.

OCTOBER 9 -- SLOW AND EASY HIKE WITH SAGE

This trip was organized expressly to accommodate the less venture-some Sagcites. (And no doubt some RPI'ers fall in the same category!). It's an afternoon affair, leaving at 12:30 PM, so you can sleep late Sunday morning and save up your energy for hiking. The destination is Buttermilk Falls in the Poetenskills and the number of ROC'ers who may go is limited since transportation will be by private car. As an added attraction, the sign up sheet tells us there'll be a hot-dog roast at the Falls.

OCTOBER 16 -- SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRIP

South Mt. is a 2300-foot peak in the Catskills which was visited by an ROC contingent last Spring. Sights to see are Artist Point, Haines Falls and the Catskill Mt House, a now deserted but one time famous resort dating back to the 1880's. It's not a rugged climb and there's some beautiful scenery at the top.

OCTOBER 22-25 -- OVERNIGHT ON CRANE MOUNTAIN

The summit of Crane Mountain is almost completely covered with tall, majestic evergreens. If you've ever had a pine needle mattress for a bed and a forest of evergreens for your bedroom you know the thrill that is yours when you "sack in" for a night in the open. This trip will be held when the Fall weather is tangy and invigorating. In addition, rock climbing enthusiasts will find small but interesting cliffs at the top to test their skill.

OCTOBER 21,22,25 -- CORNELL DANBY

From the time a Cornell Danby officially starts at supper time on Friday night until the party breaks up all day Sunday there's something going on every minute. For square dancing enthusiasts this weekend should be particularly inviting. There's also hiking in the rolling Danby hills and swimming in cool, cool water for those who don't like tepid bathing. Expenses are very reasonable ... 50¢ per meal, 50¢ per night. 12 men are the maximum that may go on this trip.

OCTOBER 22 --- SQUARE DANCE

At the season's first square dance, held October 1, there were a good many faces present which hadn't been seen at square dances held last season, and there wasn't a sad one in the lot. Everyone initiated into this type of recreation thoroughly enjoyed himself. Round dance music is played from time to time throughout the evening and admission is free. Sound interesting? Then bring yourself and your date to the Ballroom next October 22 and give it a whirl.

OCTOBER 29-30 -- OVERNIGHT LAKE GEORGE CANOE TRIP

Another traditional Fall canoe trip but this time with Green Mountain Junior College. There's a good possibility that Big Turtle Island will give way to another site for variety's sake. We've heard there are some excellent islands a little farther north which are perfect for medium-sized camping trips.

NOVEMBER 6 -- GLASTONBURY HIKE

RPI and Green Mountain will again get together to visit Glastonbury Mt. near Bennington, Vt. It's an easy hike and there's plenty of cool, refreshing water along the way. Glastonbury is a past favorite of the ROC and should prove a very enjoyable hike in crisp November air.

NOVEMBER 5-6 -- HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL MEETING

Perhaps meeting isn't quite the right word. Charlie Hine, one of the ROC's Faculty advisors has invited the Hudson Valley colleges to send representatives to spend a weekend near his home in the Taconic Mts. It most likely will turn out to be a conference, camping trip and social function all in one. Invitations have been sent out to Vassar, Russell Sage, Union, Skidmore, Paul Smith's, and St. Laurence. Because of limited facilities the number participating must be curtailed somewhat.

PAST ACTIVITIES

ROC RALLY -- SEPTEMBER 25

On Friday evening, Sept. 22, the freshmen of RPI were guests of the ROC at its "Let's Get Acquainted" Rally in the 15th Street Lounge. The program included talks by the officers of the Club on the history of the Club, its aims and policies. There was also a fine equipment display which was divided into specialized units; mountain climbing, rock climbing, skiing, canoeing, spelunking, fishing and hunting. An item which drew a great deal of interest was a cage of bats which the spelunkers had procured from Haile's Cave.

Len Nelson, self-styled Scotsman from the old country, started things off as M.C. by welcoming the Frosh to the Rensselaer Outing Club. He explained several phases of the Club's activities, mentioning along the way the trophies the club had won last year.

The first speaker was Bob Woodbury who traced the history of the Outing Club from its humble beginning in 1935 to its present status as one of the leading campus organizations. Bob concluded by calling upon those present to take part in the club activities which are open to all.

Following Bob, Cliff Ostergaard, President of The ROC, presented a brief outline on the functioning of the Club as an organization. He explained the details of running the club and the principle of sub-division of responsibility by having chairmen head the various standing committees. Cliff concluded by introducing each committee-chairman.

Charlie Hine brought to a close the list of speakers. He stressed the benefits and advantages that can be had by being an active club member.

The program concluded with some very picturesque slides taken by Charlie and the ROC while on various trips. The majority depicted scenes from the Mt. Marcy region of the Adirondacks, the IOCA weekend at Sampson Lodge, skiing trips and some of the activities of the winter mountaineering group.

SQUARE DANCE -- OCTOBER 1

The Clubhouse Ballroom had little space to spare when Stu Jamieson et al provided music and calls for the first Fall Square Dance. Popular dance music through the medium of records provided a way to cool off in easy stages after a series of square dances and the coke machine plus the lounge constituted an excellent combination for those who really wanted to relax. The square dances called were easy ones and were all demonstrated beforehand, hence no one had any serious trouble executing the steps. A Kentucky hoe-down and a Virginia reel highlighted the latter part of the evening.

SPELUNKING TRIP TO BENTLEY'S CAVE -- OCTOBER 2

The spelunkers ran a successful introductory trip on Sunday, Oct. 2, to Bentley's Cave near Berlin, N.Y. Almost forty men, mostly freshmen, and half a dozen women climbed, crawled, and grunted their way through Bentley's to see what a cave was like, many of them for the first time in their lives. Everyone succeeded in getting wet, muddy, bruised and tired, but a good time was had by all.

Later in the afternoon the group went to nearby Sampson Lodge where they dried out and got warm from a good hot fire. Hot-dogs and cokes really hit the spot with everyone. Inside the lodge, around a red log fire the guys and gals sang old folk songs and spirituals until darkness started to fall. After a little trouble getting the bus out of the woods and onto the road, the spelunkers finally headed for Troy.

MISCELLANEOUS

REFLECTOR OVENS

Curtis-Stebbins, Long Island, N. Y., offers the following reflector oven (endorsed by the Girl Scouts of America) and the two booklets for sale at the prices indicated:

Sheet Aluminum Baker - folds into flat package 14 x 12 x $\frac{3}{4}$ "
weight - less than 25 oz. Unit includes pan 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Price: \$3.75 plus 20¢ postage, including a cover of light, war-surplus tent-material.

Article on reflector baking - \$.25

Copy of Maine Campcraft Conferences Recipes - \$.25

Address: Curtis-Stebbins, Stony Brook, L.I., N.Y.