

THE ROC CAIRN



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

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SAMPSON LODGE TRIP

(This year, right after the usual Freshman Rally, we decided to hold a weekend of assorted trips tied together by a square dance at Sampson Lodge, in order to show new members the sort of activities the ROC goes in for. We got a very impressive turnout and the weekend was a great success. The trip was held jointly with the Russell Sage Outing Club and we got one of their new members to write about it. Ed.)

At eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, Oct. 3, a group of Sagites and R.P.I. men started out for a day of cave exploring, trail clearing, and canoeing. A party of twelve, mostly R.P.I. boys and a few of the more daring Sage girls, braved the mud and water of Wards, Church, and Hailes Caves. They seemed to enjoy the underground adventure very much though some of them weren't very careful, and got a little dirty.

Two parties of eighteen set off on the opposite ends of a part of the Taconic Trail and were to meet on the top. Unfortunately, however, somebody goofed and we never did come together. But, at the expense of a few broken backs, most of the trail was cleared for future use. Eight people set off to explore the upper Hudson River in canoes. The water was rough in some spots, but it was a comparatively nice trip, though there were some pretty sore muscles the next morning.

The weather was overcast most of the day, but the rain held off until everyone reached Sampson Lodge. There we received a substantial meal of stew, bread, tea, and ice cream. It was served on drippy paper plates by a staff of excellent dieticians. After supper was over, everybody assembled in the main lodge for the square dance. The music was supplied by a real "gone" group of guys who played a mean bunny-hop that sent the crowd jumping through the windows.

Cider, apples, potato chips, and marshmallows were passed around as the night wore on. The square dance ended about ten o'clock with everyone in good spirits except the bus driver who had an awful time getting his bus turned around. He finally did, though, and that concludes my report!

Ann Marsden (RSOC)

IOCA LAKE GEORGE TRIP

Again this year Lake George proved to be a big success - perhaps the biggest IOCA trip (in size) ever. Assault parties totaling 200 clubbers headed toward the island at all hours during Friday afternoon and night. Troops continued this assault in large numbers Saturday morning and the position was considered secured by the time Saturday evening rolled around.

A total of 352 people and 105 canoes were involved. This is 3.35 persons per canoe whereas the number of people per outhouse is only 2.87. The moral of the story is, if you gotta go, better take an outhouse; they're less crowded.

On Saturday a number of people went on trips via canoe and foot to Tongue Mtn. and Black Mtn. and some of the other islands. The ROC's representation of about 55 required production line type cooking *. Somewhere in the confusion, a burnt sneaker was placed between two slices of bread and put in a sandwich bag. Some frosh was heard to exclaim that the meat was tough.

Ruben Merchant did a swell job of calling at the square dance on Mohican Island. During the intermission the Raunch and Herman trophies were awarded to Canton Agricultural and Technical Institute and Cortland, respectively. Rain at about midnight cut both the square dance and the songfest short but stopped as soon as everyone had returned to Turtle.

Sunday showed something new on the program. An interfaith worship service was held at the center of the island. Rev. Harry Chase, RPI Chaplain, conducted the service which was liked by all. It is hoped that we will be able to continue this service in future years.

Also new this year were a second generator which brought our total power output capacity up to 2,500 watts and the fact that we didn't lose money on the trip. Actually about \$25 was made after last year's deficit was paid off. All in all it was a successful trip and we are already making plans for next year's (additional canoes have been located).

Dave Shearer, Fall Lake George Chairman

(* Some people's concept of this "production line" was broad enough to include the entire island - giving rise to the following lines:

A green outing clubber once said:

"'Stead of working, I'll scrounge for my bread!"

At the first camp they met him,

Killed, cleaned, cooked, and et him,

And sent back his patch with his head.

Ed.)

ASSORDID TRIPS

Late in September Dan Behm, Fred Evans, and Art Corte set out to climb Wallace in the Adirondacks. Conditions were very messy with cascades of mud coming down the cliff and continuous rain. A new technique called the "belayed piton" was used. Here one poorly driven piton is tied in to another poorly driven piton so that the leader will benefit from the extra braking force of an additional piton pulling out. They only made about a hundred feet in all. I think Wallace was climbed by Pete Oliver of the ROC about four years back.

- * 1. One day as I wandered I heard a complaining/ and saw a poor woman, the picture of gloom./ She glared at the mud on her doorstep, 'twas raining,/ and this was her wail as she wielded her broom:

Oh, life is a toil and love is a trouble,/ and beauty will fade and riches will flee,/ and pleasures they dwindle and prices they double/ and nothing is what I could wish it to be.
- * 2. There's too much of worriment goes to a bonnet,/ there's too much of ironing goes to a shirt;/ there's nothing that pays for the time you waste on it;/ there's nothing that lasts us but trouble and dirt.
- * 3. In March it is mud, it is slush in December;/ the midsummer breezes are loaded with dust;/ in fall the leaves litter; in muggy September/ the wallpaper rots and the candlesticks rust.
- 4. There's worms in the cherries and slugs in the roses/ and ants in the sugar and mice in the pies./ The rubbish of spiders no mortal supposes/ and ravaging roaches and damaging flies.
- 5. It's sweeping at six and it's dusting at seven,/ it's victuals at eight and it's dishes at nine;/ it's pottng and panning from ten to eleven;/ we scarce break our fast ere we plan how to dine.
- 6. With grease, grime, and cobwebs from corner to center/ forever at war and forever alert;/ no rest for a day lest the enemy enter;/ I spend my whole life in a struggle with dirt.
- * 7. Last night in my dreams I was stationed forever/ on a far little isle in the midst of the sea./ My one chance for life was a ceaseless endeavor/ to sweep off the waves as they swept over me.
- * 8. Alas, 'twas no dream, for again I behold it:/ I yield, I am helpless my fate to avert./ She rolled down her sleeves and her apron she folded/ then layed down and died and was buried in dirt.

THE JOHN B. SAILS

- 1. Oh, we come on the sloop "John B.",/ my gran'fadder an' me./ Round Nassau Town we did roam./ Drinkin' all night, we got into a fight,/ I feel so break-up, I want to go home!

So hoist up the "John B." sails,/ see how the main-s'l set,/ send for the capt'n ashore, Lemme go home!/ Lemme go home! Lemme go home!/ I feel so break-up, I want to go home!
- 2. De first mate he got drunk,/ break up de people's trunk,/ constable come aboard and take him away./ Mr. Johnstone, please let me alone./ I feel so break-up, I want to go home!
- 3. De poor cook he got fits,/ tro' way all de grits,/ den he took an' eat up all o' my corn!/ Lemme go home, I want to go home!/ Dis is de worst trip since I been born!

I RIDE AN OLD PAINT

1. I ride an old Paint, I lead an old Dan, / I'm goin' to Montan' for to throw the hoolian. / They feed in the coulees, they water in the draw, / their tails are all matted, their backs are all raw.

Ride around, little dogies, / ride around them slow, / for the fiery and snuffy are a-rarin' to go.

2. Old Bill Jones had two daughters and a song, / one went to Denver and the other went wrong. / His wife she died in a poolroom fight, / and still he keeps singin' from mornin' till night.
3. Oh, when I die, take my saddle from the wall, / put it on my pony, lead him out of his stall. / Tie my bones to his back, turn our faces to the West, / and we'll ride the prairie that we love the best.

SWEET BETSY FROM PIKE

- * 1. Oh don't you remember sweet Betsy from Pike, / who crossed the big mountains with her lover Ike, / with two yoke of cattle, a large yellow dog, / a tall Shanghai rooster, and one spotted hog.

Hoodle-dang, fol-de-di-do, hoodle-dang, fol-de-day.

2. One evening quite early, they camped on the Platte, / 'twas near by the road on a green shady flat; / where Betsy, quite tired, lay down to repose, / while with wonder Ike gazed at his Pike County rose.
- * 3. They soon reached the desert, where Betsy gave out / and down in the sand she lay rolling about; / while Ike in great tears looked on in surprise, / saying, "Betsy get up, you'll get sand in your eyes."
4. Sweet Betsy got up in a great deal of pain, / and declared she'd go back to Pike County again. / Then Ike heaved a sigh and they fondly embraced, / and she traveled along with his arm 'round her waist.
- * 5. The Shanghai ran off and the cattle all died, / the last piece of bacon that morning was fried; / poor Ike got discouraged, and Betsy got mad; / the dog wagged his tail and looked wonderfully sad.
6. One morning they climbed up a very high hill, / and with wonder looked down into old Placerville; / Ike shouted and said, as he cast his eyes down, / "Sweet Betsy, my darling, we've got to Hangtown."
- * 7. Long Ike and Sweet Betsy attended a dance, / where Ike wore a pair of his Pike County pants, / Sweet Betsy was covered with ribbons and rings, / quoth Ike, "You're an angel, but where are your wings?"
- * 8. A miner said "Betsy, will you dance with me?" / "I will, you old hoss, if you don't make too free; / but don't dance me hard; do you want to know why? / Dawgone ye, I'm chuck full of strong alkali!"

Divers Trippes (cont.)

Vassar Square Dance was very good this year, except for supper Saturday night, which was abdominal. Seriously, for that much money one ought to eat better. On Sunday something called a hare-and-hound race was featured. Most of our members were climbing in the Shawangunks.

The weekend of Oct. 30-31 was busy, with the Smith Square Dance and a mountaineering trip to the Adirondacks. We had about 15 people at the square dance. Calling was done, very well, by Jed Prouty. On Saturday Dan Behm, Ed Breen, Chuck Stoyer, John Olver, and Ned Gulbran climbed Mt. Dix in what was probably one of the fastest trips ever. They started out Saturday afternoon, hiked in that evening via Round Pond, and stayed at the Bouquet River leanto. Started climb at twenty to eight the next morning, reached the top at 9:20, ran down, had lunch, and drove back to Troy to arrive by 4:00 in the afternoon.

Hudson Valley Conference last weekend was unusually good. Holyoke was invited "in the interest of improved interconference understanding". People hiked, spelunked, talked, sang, and had fun generally. Square dance was terrific, especially when caller Courtland Hart called some fine Western figures after enough people had dropped out so you could move. Ann Shepherdson of Sage was railroaded into the office of Hudson Valley Conference Secretary (a travesty of justice). Fred Evans did a fine job of running the whole show.

RULES FOR THE USE OF THE ROC CANOES or

A FINE THEORY

1. Appoint a chairman for canoeing (present chairman is Ned Gulbran). The chairman is to coordinate canoe trips and is responsible for the upkeep and rental of canoes and canoeing equipment.
2. The rental fee will be \$1.50 per canoe per weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). The fee is 75¢ per canoe for one day, and \$3.00 per week.
3. A \$5.00 deposit will be left with the chairman for the use of a canoe. (To be paid in advance for each canoe.)
If there is no damage the deposit is to be returned when the canoes are returned to the chairman.
If there is slight damage, the damage must be repaired before the next weekend: the deposit will then be returned. If the damage is not repaired by the next weekend, the cost of repairing the canoe will be deducted from the deposit. The maximum charge for damage will be ten dollars.
Lost equipment will be charged for at a rate of seventy five per cent of the new cost. The chairman will be responsible for evaluating damage.
4. All money obtained from rentals and lost equipment will be put in the general treasury. However, the canoeing chairman must keep an accurate account of all money spent and received.

Ned Gulbran, Chairman

WHY BE HYPOCRITES?

In 1807 (just five years before the War of 1812) Sam Bass coupled off with a Holyoke freshman in the Marcy shelter, which had just then been completed. Let it be said in the name of justice that it was very cold outside (it being midwinter). They named the child Ioca.

In Volume VIII, No. 1, of the Cairn (just about two years ago), Our Radulski, after protesting "... I haven't developed my crusading instinct ..." cites the case of an ROC trip "in connection with some girl's schools" on which the leader was, so to speak, hors de combat, due to "the fact that he was coupling off". He continues "I consider this matter important enough to warrant censure in the CAIRN which usually is not conducted too seriously."

Pete Oliver once said (grinning from ear to ear) "I frown on it." (I guess you have heard that one.) Similarly, any IOCAer, asked straight to his face, will probably tell you that coupling off represents a danger to the spirit of IOCA, namely "... to have fun in a group of several people, not in a group of two." (more Radulski).

This reminds me of the attitude of an older and still wiser person, the Vicar of Bray. Do you remember? "Old principles I did revoke, set conscience at a distance ...". For my money, the Adam-and-Eve principle is the oldest going, and it may not be revoked for a while yet (see Kinsey).

What I have been trying to say is that there is an awful lot of hypocrisy in all this talk about coupling off, and that a given trip will not necessarily be ruined if a small amount of coupling off goes on: otherwise every mixed trip in the history of IOCA would have been so ruined. I think (and I am talking seriously now) that it is a pity that our organization should have, on the surface, so prudish an attitude when, digging a little farther down, so few of us think that way.

I think that if a couple wishes to form a personal relationship nothing is going to stop them. We all know the actions and attitudes which do not belong in IOCA and which would ruin our good name, and we must see to it that newcomers to IOCA know them too. However, a simple companionship between two people, which can exist, need not ruin the trip for others and whether it does or not depends largely on the attitude of the others.

Outsiders frequently snicker lewdly when they hear of mixed groups sleeping in leantos miles from nowhere. We know that we go on these trips from a love of the outdoors and we know how to behave ourselves. The spirit of IOCA has nothing to fear from coupling off if we remember that we have a good organization here and are considerate of all the other people in it.

Bernard Gottschalk

For some odd reason, this was never sent out.

B.A.



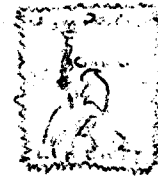
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Hi FROSH

WISH YOU WERE
HERE. WE ARE ENJOYING
THE ANNUAL COLLEGE
WEEK THIS YEAR AT
MT. KATAHDIN WITH ABOUT
150 GUYS & GALS FROM
COLLEGES IN THE NORTH
EAST. HOPE TO SEE
YOU HERE NEXT YEAR

ROC



MEMBER
CLASS OF '59
RPI
TROY
N.Y.

The above is a copy of what we of the Rensselaer Outing Club would be sending you if we knew you individually. It explains our absence at the activities fair booth as most of us in the club are attending College Week. This is but one of the many activities of the ROC during the year. But before going on about activities, let me tell you more about the club.

The ROC is a loosely organized group of individuals at RPI who like to enjoy themselves in the great out doors. Our constitution - here I am at a loss for words. Come to think of it I don't believe I've ever seen it but it must be in the files somewhere. I guess I don't know our official motto either. It might be "Be Prepared" but I think some other organization already has that. "If the outing club interferes with studying, stop studying" would be appropriate but the dean wouldn't approve. This leaves the old maxim "If in doubt, sack out." One thing I do know is the official password, which isn't very secret, being heard from mountain peaks to the dorms at Vassar. Its a good loud Ca-oo-h-wah.

The ROC is a member of the IOCA (Intercollegiate Outing Club Association) which is a group of College Outing Clubs in the northeast. It is composed of about 50 member clubs to aid in coordinating activities and to make possible the many inter-club events. The friendship gained with others in the IOCA is one of the rewarding features of the Outing Club.

Now to give you a run down on our activities. College Week is the year's highlight - a full week just before school each fall. It is a week spent in hiking and exploring trails, swimming in cold mountain lakes, enjoying the company of your friends in song fests and square dances, and generally having a good time.

Naturally most trips are limited to weekends but these abound in number. There is at least one trip each week of the school year and some over vacations including the summer. Types of trips can be grouped as follows:

HIKING In the nearby Adirondaks and Catskills trails beckon. The ROC maintains a stretch of the Taconic trail which means a few trail clearing trips. Some members are also interested in cycle trips.

CANOEING The ROC annually sponsors the Lake George canoe trip which is the largest IOCA trip. Last year about 350 people enjoyed the weekend which will be October 7, 8, & 9 this year. There have been Easter trips to the Fulton Chain Lakes and the Delaware River. Whitewater canoeing is popular in the spring. The proper attitude for this sport is that the canoe and canoeist are expendable.

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING The Adirondaks take on a different aspect under 10 feet of snow. This along with ice and sub-zero temperatures are a challenge to one's very existence but skiing, climbing and snowshoeing can be enjoyed with the proper equipment and instruction.

SKIING This is the major activity in the months when snow covers the ground. In the past snow has often held out til July 4 in Tucker's Ravine. Weekend trips are run to many of the nearby tow areas and the annual mid-term trip to the Laurentians in Canada is the season's highlight.

ROC CLIMBING This is a sport perceived by the public as being fool hardy. Actually the climber controls his danger or safety and the most perilous part of any trip should be that part spent on the highway to the climb. Training sessions are held in the nearby Grafton Mountains. The Shawangunks (near Vassar) provide the best "rock" in the east and are the site of many weekends for those of experience. Some members are able to avail themselves to the opportunities offered by the Colorado Rockies, Tetons, Wind Rivers and other Western ranges.

SPELUNKING This is the fancy name for cave exploring. It is a popular pastime in the fall as Troy is situated in a limestone area and caves are numerous in the vicinity. Trips vary from a half day to a week in Virginia. A flashlight and sneakers put you in business.

SQUARE DANCING This perhaps sounds out of line with the other phases of outing clubbing but is an activity in which everyone participates. Square dances are often held at nearby girls schools some last year being Skidmore, Vassar, Smith, Mt. Holyoke and Russel's Cage. These may include a whole weekend of activity or be a single night affair. Square Dances are usually a part of IOCA trips. Notable among these are Spring Conference, our Lake George trip and regional conferences.

What does this all mean to you? If you've read this far you're probably interested in some phase of the club but this sheet being limited, you would like to find out more about the club. The answer is the ROC rally which will be held soon. Its purpose is to acquaint you with the ROC and there will be an equipment display, pictures and free refreshments. Plans for the first few trips will be announced so watch for the date and come on and find out how you can become a member. Hope to see you soon on some future trips.