

THE ROC CAIRN



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

Vol. 14 #3

April 6, 1958

LAKE GEORGE

The ROC's big spring trip sizzled, oozed, and sloshed around both Turtle Island and Sampson Lodge last weekend. The only thing the trip missed was the three-foot waves that were on the lake Friday morning. By evening the lake was sparkling and mirror-smooth.

Friday night was mainly occupied with setting up camp and scrounging cocoa from Holyoke. . . . At about 2 or 3 A.M., Don Harvey and Jerry Schrauf took off on a canoe trip around the island, with several people in tow.

Saturday morning dawned a pure charcoal grey... Highlight—Pete Zvengrowski took a ten-minute swim in the (brrr!) lake. (I'm told the spray had a habit of freezing on the motorboat windshield that morning.)

About 10 A.M. someone spilled a kettle of water upstairs, and from then on

"It may be truly said that there was water on every hand (& knee), rain on every head, and mud on every foot!"

A few trips did go out that day, notably Monjan's "spontaneous" canoe-expedition. Most everybody ducked for the nearest shelter, where you couldn't hear yourself think for the guitars, tonettes, flutaphone, recorder, etc.

About 4 P.M. a move got underway to adjourn to Sampson Lodge in Grafton, N.Y. The last person left the island at about 8:00. Then the rain stopped.

The evening at Sampson Lodge featured mainly square-dancing and a memorable two-man act by Bill Meyr.

Sunday all turned homeward, the last car (except Smolin) leaving at about 1:30.

IOCA Spelunking in W. Va.

This Easter, over 60 IOCA Spelunkers assembled in Franklin W. Va. for two weeks of caving. IOCA members from over 12 schools were in the area from March 29 to April 12. Over 30 different caves were visited, many several times.

I arrived at 4 A.M. Sunday morning, March 30 to find that both U.CONN and U. Va. were already there, and had spent a good day in the caves. During those first few days, spelunkers arrived almost continuously.

For the first two days the weather was slightly cloudy, but turned into typical W. Va. weather Monday -- bright, cloudless, and cool -- till Easter weekend. Trips left almost continuously, whenever there were enough people who wanted to go and a leader could be found. The group averaged almost 5 caves each day, individuals between one and three per day.

A great variety of caves were visited, from the easy "walkins" to the technically more difficult, such as Schoolhouse and Hellhole caves. The emphasis of the trip was on good caving and climbing techniques, equipment, organization, and rescue methods. Practical sessions in biology, geology, and cave-photography were also held. John Koph did some extensive work on the tracing of groundwater, especially at Thorn Spring and Thorn Creek. (My sources in the Pentagon informed me that some alarm was caused by this when the Potomac turned green and stayed that way for three days.)

A small group of U. Conn. spelunkers spent the better part of two days doing some "top-secret" caving. Seems they had discovered a "new" cave. Turned out later that it was no other than the famous Reed's Creek Cave, the site of extensive salt-peter mining during the Civil War and an important station on the "underground railway".

Almost everyone left Franklin Friday, April 11, to be replaced by a group from MIOCA whose vacation was just starting. They were joined by U. Va. and apparently did a lot of spelunking too.

Many thanks to all the people who participated in the trip; My special thanks to Bert Raphael, John Koph, Roger Stafford, Bill Gordon and the rest of the U.Va. crew, and to Don Cotten and his MIOCA leaders.

This was a really great trip, and I am looking forward to another one next Easter.

Dwight Deal

Vassar Square Dance (see next page)

Vassar Square Dance was attended by about 60 persons, two of whom were from R.P.I. The caller was good, the girls beautiful. It is a well-known fact that being mentioned in the CAIRN can make or break a person. Thus it is with the utmost caution that I reveal that there is a beautiful female at Vassar - (Continued next page)

last name is Cromwell — who has never had a date. This creature is so beautiful that she stops ordinary men dead in their tracks. Any R.O.C. member can easily get a blind date with her by contacting Esther Donaldson at Vassar.

Good Luck!

Liv French

(NOTE: The views of the author are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the CAIRN or its staff.)

* * *

THUS SAITH DEAL:
"White-water"?? or, Monjan does It Again"!!

On the bright and sunny afternoon of April 15, Andy and Dwight decided to initiate the R.O.C. white-water season. (The real reason was to prove to Andy that an aluminum canoe can be carried on top of a Volkswagen. This being proved, the two adventurers started out to the Postenkill.

They arrived at this raging torrent, and selected a challenging pitch located under a bridge on route 2. This pitch is easy on the right side, and gets progressively more difficult on the left. The main pitch lies directly under the bridge, is followed by a minor pitch, and then a large, deep pool with a respectable eddy. Andy uttered his gem of wisdom for the day, "You first." Dwight decided to try the right-hand side, but at the last minute chose the center, instead of risking the pitch sideways, and emerged with a canoe half full of water.

Andy, Thinking it looked easy, also wanted to try the center, but fortunately entered the right -hand side. Instead of using his usual technique of entering any and all rapids at an oblique angle, he started this one backwards, but soon managed to turn the canoe skew to the current. Due to the "difficulty" of the water on that side, he emerged with a relatively dry canoe, and a very elated feeling.

Dwight figured the left-hand side would make a more interesting run, so Andy stationed himself at the base of the rapids to record a photographic history of the event. Dwight entered the left side of the first pitch, to discover that it was indeed difficult. Bouncing off various rocks, he was turned sideways and caught in a vicious back eddy, from which he managed to free the canoe, but not before it was swamped. Somehow, he managed to turn the canoe parallel to the current, and avoided upsetting it. Andy was surprised to see him run the second pitch, still kneeling in the canoe, with only his head and shoulders visible above the foaming water, arriving at the shore, still dry above the chest.

Then came the climax of the trip--Andy entered the first pitch at an oblique angle, on the left side, hitting different rocks, but got caught in the same back eddy. When he tried to do the same thing Dwight had done, he fell out on the downstream side of the canoe. He was swept down into the second pitch, by the canoe and into a solid rock. There was a flurry of

foam, paddles, feet, canoe, and Monjan. Dwight was relieved when he saw Andy swimming to shore. After rescuing the battered canoe and paddle, it was discovered that Monjan had done it again! This time he had mangled his thumb and lost his second pair of glasses.

All in all, however, it was still a good trip; they both needed baths. The following conclusions can be drawn from this dissertation:

- 1)-Always enter rapids with the canoe parallel to, not at an angle to the current.
- 2)-If you are turned over, fall upstream of the canoe, and keep your legs pointing downstream to avoid hitting a rock with your head.
- 3)-If you find yourself downstream of the canoe, get away from it QUICKLY!
- 4)-If worst comes to worst, save yourself, not the canoe.
- 5)-After being turned sideways in a rapids, your first and immediate effort must be to turn the canoe back parallel to the current.
- 6)-When doing a difficult pitch, look over the pitch first, and have someone on shore that can conduct an effective and speedy rescue.
- 7)-Monjan is accident-prone, avoid being on trips with him unless you need practice in applied first aid. Go on enough trips with him, and he may issue an Advanced First Aid Certificate.

Dwight Deal

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Lost: 1 pair hunting (or hiking) boots, about size 11 or 12, at Turtle Island. Please return to Andy Monjan.
2. Lost: 1 rubberized raincoat with well-ventilated sleeves. Lent to girl from Alfred at Lake George. Please send to M.O.Rosenheimer, c/o R.O.C.
3. For rent or sale: Guitar
Rent: 25¢ per week (deposit = \$10)
Sale: \$15.00

See Mike Smolin, equipment chairman

STAFF:

Editor - Mike Rosenheimer

Editorial Asst.- Frank Smith

Production Assistants - Larry Rantapas
Walt Lipton

Oct 21-58

Give This A Think

The mark of an individual is not how well he can be different, but how well he can function independently as well as with and for others. The fact that a man can often be found doing nothing proves only that he is taking up valuable time and space. Just two examples, please:

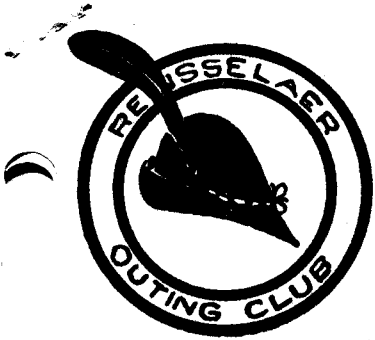
It's not fatal to a Lake George trip to have a certain amount of confusion, but why did it take an ROC"alum" to get things moving, when plenty of -in college members knew the story?

As I see it, the CAIRN is designed to keep people on one trip informed about what went on on another, and to let those who are interested, but did not participate, see what goes; why is there only one article in this issue when so many trips have gon out?

Why do the same handful always wind up doing the work while so many just sit by and adsorb the results?

Look, . . . the ROC'er is the man who will think by himself for everyone, who will put his back into the job before pulling out his seroung-cup, who can be depended upon. An ROC'ercan lead well and follow intelligently. In short, if you don't put wood on the general fire, your own will be pretty cold and grey.

The Editor.



THE ROC CAIRN

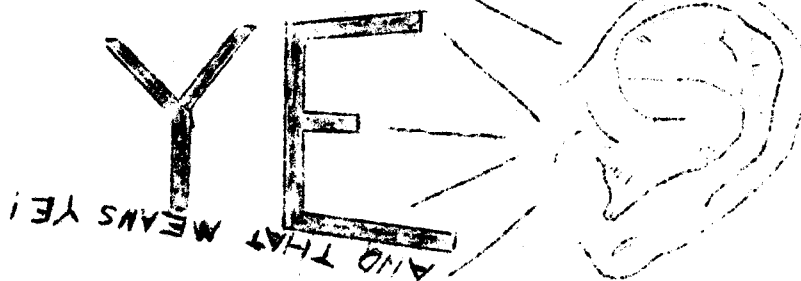


RENSSELAER OUTING CLUB, INC. — 15TH ST. LOUNGE, R. P. I., TROY, NEW YORK

Vol. 1 No. 2

April 22, 1958

HEAR



Apr. 26: VASSAR SQUARE DANCE: Cycling trip to dance in Poughkeepsie, Bill Goldner, trip leader.

May 2-4: SPRING LAKE GEORGE: Annual Outing of R.O.C. and Hudson Valley and invited clubs. Activities include canoeing, rock-climbing, trail-hiking, sleeping, and joining the trip-leader in his annual, involuntary dip. Guaranteed worth-while!

May 10: I.O.C.A. Conference: Official meeting of IOCA. There'll also be square dancing, song fest, Here's a good chance to meet other members of IOCA to exchange views, etc. List is posted in lounge.

WEEKLY: Rock-climbing, white-water canoeing, spelunking trips. Lists are posted in the lounge. Now there's no excuse not to take part in that other sport you always wanted to! Trips go out each weekend.

COLLEGE WEEK — see next issue!

MT. WASHINGTON & SENECA ROCK

The Easter Vacation climbing trip to Seneca Rock, W.Va., left Saturday noon, March 29. Frank Sandy rode as far as New York City with us (Andy Monjan and me) because he wanted to go ice-climbing. This is logical because we went by way of Mt. Washington which is right on the way from Troy to West Virginia.

The first day on Washington was bright and clear, with the temperature around 60° in the shade and 150° on the snow! We climbed about half-way up Huntington Ravine, and then sunbathed on some dry rock for the rest of the day. ——— Rugged Mountainclimbers! The second two days were foggy, with snow most of the time, so we did some easy ravines and got slightly lost in the overcast.

On Wednesday, April 2, we packed out from the H.M.C. cabin and drove to Seneca Rock — this is a huge flake sticking up out of the West Virginia hills with nearly vertical walls on both sides ranging from 300 to 500 ft. (This flake is so thin that when climbing on face another party is needed on the opposite side to bend over the pitons as they are driven through.) On the way we dropped off Sandy and picked up Bill Homeyer and Jerry Schifman.

At Seneca the weather was mixed — sunny and warm, overcast and cool, thunderstorms and a minor flood of the local river in which we nearly lost the car. We did the Grand Traverse of the Knife Edge in three days, and then some face climbing on the fourth. Andy claims he took a four foot leader fall, but from where I sat it looked like he jumped off to test Jerry's belay. The exposure was about ten feet, which bears out my suspicion.

Tuesday we drove back to Troy, with a total mileage of 1645, and a resolution to ski Mt. Washington next Easter, and drive less.

Dave Noyes

BREAKNECK RIDGE —the warm one

On the "18th of April in '58", I.O.C.A. ran what was supposed to be a rock-climbing trip to Breakneck Ridge. B.P.O.C. provided us with a brush fire which they started just as we arrived at the bottom of the mountain. We wish to thank BPOC for the warm reception. We also thank the rangers for giving us the opportunity to fig'† the fire without equipment. (The fire was stopped by sundown and the rangers arrived at 2 A.M.) The ranger, a big-hearted man, offered to let us pay his men for walking around the fire area in the middle of the night and saving us from dying in our sleep from over-sleep.

Four of us did climb the Ridge the next morning. Neither Vassar nor Holyoke showed up and the total turn-out was smaller and more unbalanced than expected. Sunday morning about 20 members

of the Adirondack Mountaineering Club came up.

The trip back was uneventful. Since Bill Goldner had shown us all the ways not to get to Breakneck Ridge on the way down, we managed not to take any side-trips on the way back.

Liv French

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. At the meeting of April 15, 1958, the following members of the Board of Directors were elected:

Joseph H. Smith, Jr. (E.E.)
Wayne E. Taft (E.E.)
William E. Meyer (Phys.)

2. The proposed amendment, printed in last week's CAIRN was also ratified at that meeting.

3. The following chairmen have been appointed by the President and the Executive Council:

Equipment	Mike Smolin
Membership	Wayne Taft
Trips Director	Dave Noyes
Cycling	Bill Goldner
Rock Climbing	Dave Noyes
Spelunking	Bill Meyer
Square Dance	Liv French
Winter Mountaineering	Andy Monjan
White-water Canoeing	Dwight Deal

4. The following is submitted by Don Overton:

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Genius.
4th Chapter forming. ME5-5200
(N.Y.TIMES, April 5, 1958)

R.O.C. YEARBOOK:

This year we are trying to put out a yearbook for the first time. It is supposed to be a summation of the best of the year's activities, told mainly in pictures. If you have any snapshots or slides (or anything else) that seems fitting, Please leave them on the rear desk of Cassatt 24 (head of the stairs, second floor). If you have your name on everything, I guarantee that all shots will be returned in the same condition as they were received.

CLASSIFIED ADZ:

1. Guitar — Rent - \$ 10 deposit, +25¢ per week
Sale - \$ 15 See Mike Smolin