



THE ROC CAIRN



Vol. XV No. 2

April, 1959

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

West Virginia IOCA Spelunking

After going from Troy to West Virginia without buying a meal (scrounge) Dwight Deal and I arrived at Thorn Spring Park about 10 pm the 21st. U. Va., Dartmouth, and U. Conn. groups were already there. Sunday I got my first look at West Virginia caves as a group from U. Va. and U. Conn. led the way to Sinnet Cave, a really dry cave (what dust!) Sinnet is more or less flat and uninteresting except for a 90 foot sloping "silo" leading to the big room (900 feet long and 60 feet high), the really impressive feature of the cave. In the room are some gypsum flowers. Otherwise, Sinnet is generally formation bare.

Monday Dwight had recovered sufficiently from his cold (he'd stayed in his tent Sunday) to try Propst Cave, so we took off with a group from U. Conn, and Johns Hopkins along with Walt Lipton, who had arrived with Hub Seward like Rosenheimer and some of U. Conn Monday morning. Propst is a short, somewhat tight crawl to a main room divided by breakdown. The rope work needed to get over the 60 foot barrier was rewarded by the high-spot of the cave, a hundred foot dome-pit formation resembling a waterfall.

Tuesday groups from Bates (with many women!) U. Mass., and U. Pa. had arrived. Fine weather and lack of leaders prompted a technique practice trip to Trout Rock, where both sexes prussicked and rappelled all over the rocks until hot mid afternoon, when everyone went swimming in the surprisingly warm creek.

After a little Tuesday night incident during which Thorn Creek ran for a half-mile or so, Roger Stafford (U. Va.) took up a trip to Schoolhouse Cave. Our group of five started in about noon. Six or seven rappels and many hand fulls of gorp later, we emerged at midnight, thoroughly tired. Schoolhouse, except for the entrance tunnel, which was cut by salt peter miners, is up and down continually with several drops, the largest necessary being 40 feet, plus a climb or two. We managed to reach the Pittsburgh Explorers Club register past the second balcony.

We were the first people to get all the way back since January 3. After Schoolhouse we were ready to rest a while (At least I was!) but Thursday a group (including one Bates girl) headed for Hell Hole, so I tagged along. Hell hole is generally

a technique run requiring plenty of rope work on the 180 foot entrance drop and 60 foot drop into Little Hell Hole. Except for a connection between the entrance and Little Hell Hole, nothing of interest except the deep deposits of bat guano (if that's interesting!) After a time-consuming prussic out, we arrived back at Thorn Spring just in time for a much appreciated supper (11 pm), prepared by the Bates girls. The first rain of the trip fell that night.

Friday I pulled out (just in time to miss a downpour,) leaving Dwight to his rock climbing at Seneca Rocks and the three remaining ROC'ers to more caving. Bob Herendeen

On account of the above mentioned rain the two ROC'ers who were planning to leave that evening decided to leave that day and after gettin the car (from U. Conn.) into the sheepshed we packed our gear into the trunk and a much welcomed but slightly bruised car rack and stuffed six people (four U. Conn.; two ROC,) and one guitar (U. Conn.) inside and started off.

Spring Lake George

EDMUND SWIFT DINNERS (to borrow a Monjanism) will be held on May 1, 2, and 3, come rain or . . . This is a good chance to relax before exams start. Or, if you want a work-out, try striding up Black Mountain.

Cars will leave from the 15th St. Lounge all Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. You'll be back sometime early Sunday afternoon.

A deposit of \$3.00 will be collected on April 21 just before and after the meeting (7:30, 15th St. Lounge.) The total cost, including food, transportation, and canoes is usually about \$6.00.

P. S. You'll cook (and eat) your own breakfast. Problems?-- see me!

Mike Rosenheimer
Ar3-2893

New Business

At a meeting in early March, two proposals were voted on and passed.

1. Amendment to the ROC Constitution. To the present patch requirements of three accredited trips (one overnight), was added a new requirement, ten hours of approved work.

2. The ROC is now responsible for the managing of the RPI ski Team. Note: Skiers or others are needed to help on the ski team committee. Those interested see Jerry Schrauf.

Notice To all non-patch members, to be able to vote on ROC affairs, you must go on three trips and do 10 hours of work. Trips leave almost every weekend and two work parties are leaving on the 13 and 19 for Conference and Lake George. These will probably have 16 hrs. each. Also I need Help in addressing and sending out 175 copies of The CAIRN each issue.

Editor Hub Seward

Assistant Editor Marty Maltz