

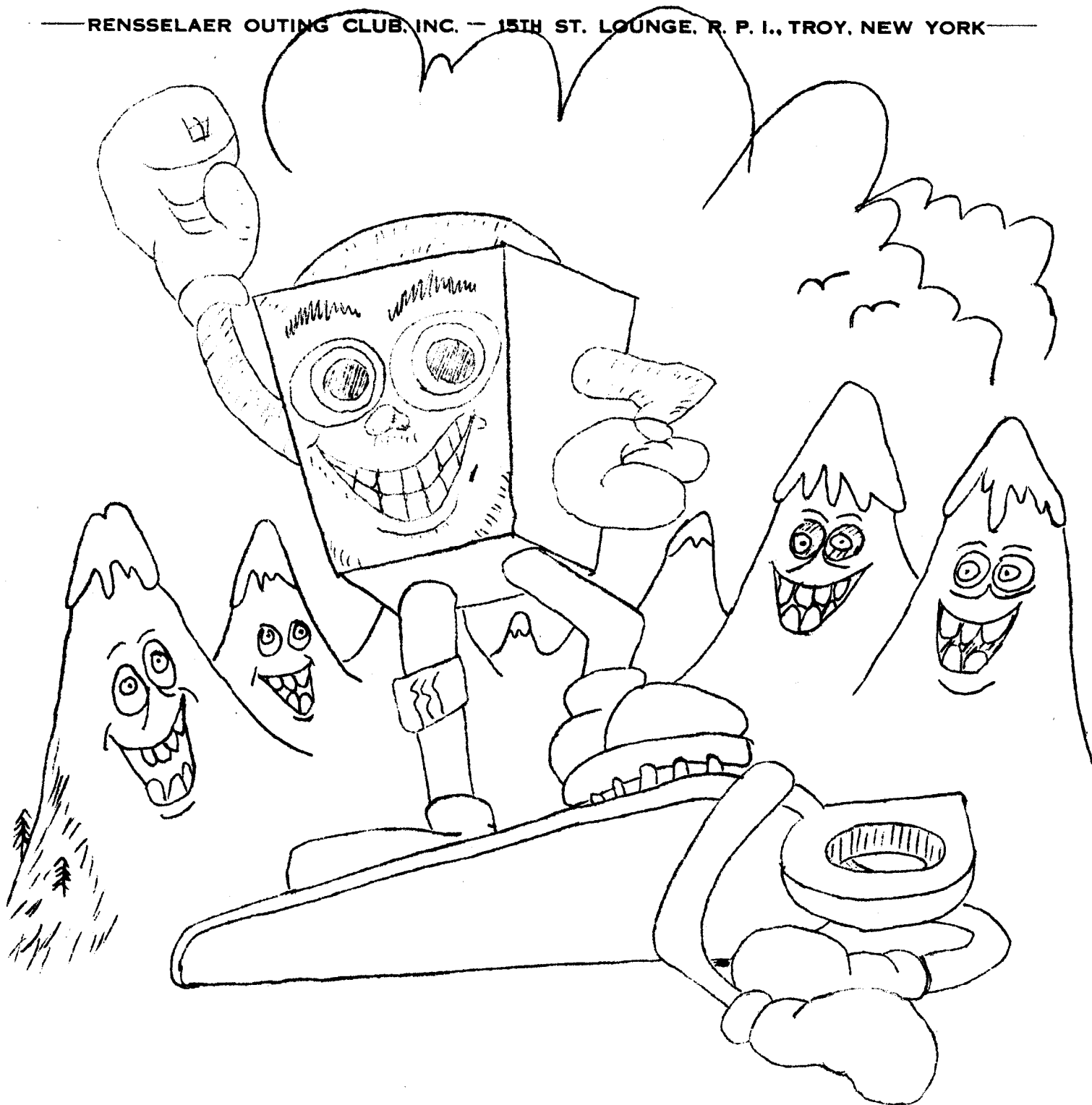
SEPTEMBER, 1974



# THE ROC CAIRN



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

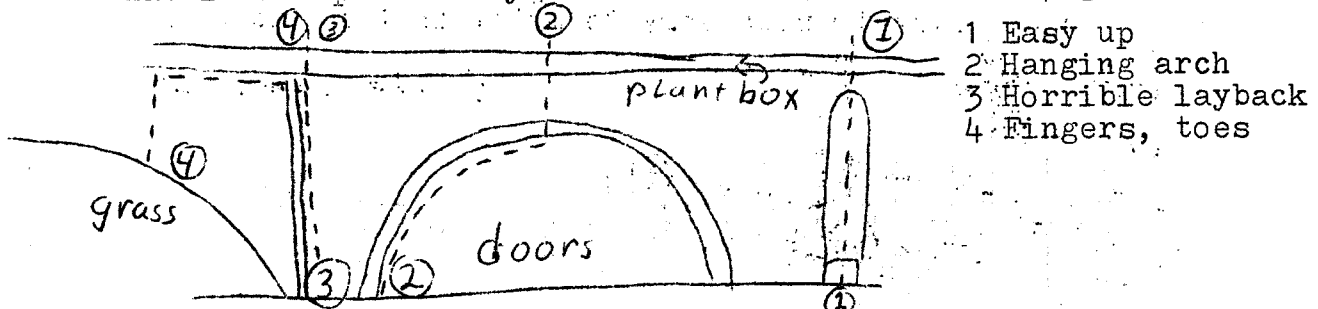


CAMPUS BOULDER PROBLEMS #4

Boulderhead Harris

With the arrival of another Spring, it's time for this semi-irregular department of the cairn.

I shall repeat descriptions of some boulder problems that I have previously described with revised ratings.



The Rensselaer Union: This cliff is found on either side of the Rathskellar entrances.

1 Easy-up: Chimney up 2-3 ft. chimney, reach and pull up. Tight chimney practice with some arm strength necessary to finish. (5.3)

2 Hanging arch: With both hands and one foot, fight out the arch to the center. Pull up and reach for the ledge. Pull up and over you go. (5.5 for tall climbers, 5.6-5.7 for you short guys)

3 Horrible layback: Layback up the recess in the brick. When you get high enough, grab the ledge. (5.8)

4 Fingers: Standing on the sloping grass, (mud) finger traverse toward the arches and exit upward when you reach the point that your fingers are giving out. You might try going all the way out to the main arch, if you don't destroy your fingers. (Depending on how far you get, 5.3-5.5)

Toes: Same ledge, but walk along it, balance practice. The 87 Gym:

Clockwork Mickey: this is for you people who like to decorate clocks. Climb directly up from below the clock. When on large ledge lasso a projecting brick and stand in the egress to do the evil deed. This is not a boulder problem. Use a belay and clip into the window screen and the projecting brick and DO NOT FALL.

The Gym pillar (on Sage Ave.): Climb either corner (5.1), or center (5.4) and sit on top to study between classes

MRC Building:

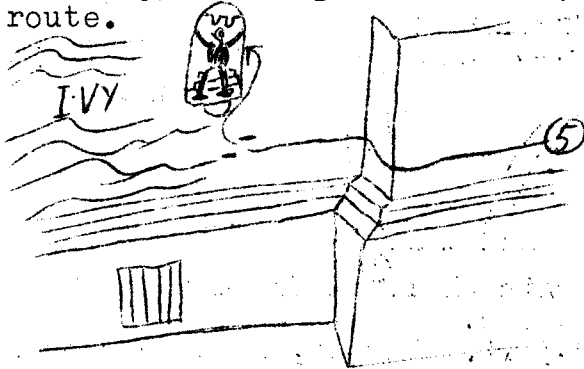
Crazy corner climb: At any corner of the building. Feet in center and hands around the sides. Move across floor partitions by grabbing buckets at top of ledge. Named because I know I'm crazy because I went halfway up the building unroped. (5.6)

Marvellous Remarkable Chimney (MRC): Located near the entrance closest to the new library construction. Chimney up to roof. Yeah. Well, go as high as you like. (5.2 but downclimb is 5.3-5.4)

## The Old Library:

Several good boulder problems. My favorite is:

- 5 The Ornament: On the end of the library near the Science Center, traverse along the ledge until you reach the base of the ornament. Surmount the bottom of the ornament and sit inside and gross out passing nurds. (about 5.5), some ivy clearing is necessary to maintain this excellent route.



5 The Ornament

Most of the brick building on the old campus area have ornate doorways which make nice climbing. Try to look in-conspicuous. Campus officials frown on this sort of activity. Describe a climb, Submit it to the Cairn. Kept on climbing(sic)

Are you an equipment freak? Write for these catalogs:

- | Code |  |
|------|--|
| 1    | Eddie Bauer PO Box 3700 Seattle Wash. 98124 Clothing, misc.  |
| 1    | LL Bean, Inc Freeport Me. 04032 Clothing, misc.  |
| 3**  | Bluewater, Ltd. PObox 129 carrolton Ga. 30117 Vertical caving gear   |
| 1    | Camp and trail Outfitters 21 park pl. NY, NY 10007 Diverse   |
| 1    | Co-op Wilderness Supply 47 Tamal Vista Blvd. Corte Madera Ca. 94925 Mostly their own stuff                   |
| 3    | Forrest Mountaineering box 7083 Denver Co. 80207 Specialized rock gear by Bill Forrest                       |
| 2**  | Fostline Kits box 589 Broomfield Co. 80020 Clothing kits quality depends on how well you make it             |
| 0    | Don Gleason Campers Supply Pearl st. Northampton Mass. 01060 Ewsting Geo hammers                             |
| 3**  | The Great Pacific Iron Works box 150 Ventura Ca. 93001 Manufacturers and distributors of Chouinard equipment |
| 2    | Highland Outfitters 3579 Univ. Ave. 8th st. box 121 Riverside Ca.  |
| 2**  | Holubar box 7 boulder Co. 80302 Carikit kits   |
| 2    | Kelty 1801 Victoria Blvd. Glendale Ca. 91201 some neat stuff as well as his packs                            |
| 1    | Moor and Mountain concord Mass. 01742 good selection of Eastern mountaineering gear                          |
| 1    | Mountain Products Corp. 123 South Wenatchee Ave. Wenatchee Wash. 98801 Their own stuff                       |
| 3    | Mountain Safety Research 631S 96th st. Seattle Wash. 98108 Controversial                                     |
| 2**  | Recreational Equipment 1525 11th Ave. Seattle Wash. 98122 A membership co-op. Cost \$1 to join               |
| 1    | Swiss Ski Sports 559 Clay st. San Fransisco Ca. 94111 Another equipment store                                |
| 2**  | Ski Hut 1615 University Ave. Berkely Ca. 94703   |
| 2    | Sierra Designs 4th. and Addison st. Berkely Ca. 94710 Their own gear, very good and sometimes very slow      |

- 2\*\* Eastern Mountain Sports 1041 Commonwealth Ave. Boston  
Mass. 02215 They have a very wide selection but have  
some significant deletions. A favorite ROC haunt  
West Products box 707 Newark NJ ~~07101~~ 07101  
Sailing, foul weather gear, hammocks, alcohol stoves,  
cable and cable crimping, rope might be of interest  
0 Camp supply 1151 South 7th St. Louis Mo. 63104  
Chut cord in 2100' reels  
1 Northwest Recreational supply box 70105 Seattle Wash.  
~~XX~~ 98107 Mt. Master packs  
2 ~~X~~ Wilderness Ways 12417 Cedar rd. Cleveland Hts. Ohio  
44106 Alp Designs gear  
1 Blacks 930 Ford st. Ogdensburg NY 13669  
British gear- Karrimor  
3 Lowe Alpine Systems box 151 Louisville Co. 80027  
Specialized gear by the Lowe Brothers  
2 Sherpa Designs distributed by Vermont Tubbs Inc.  
18 elm St. Wallingford Vt. 05773 Snowshoes and related  
1 Alpenite Products box 627 Claremont Ca. 91711  
Wrap around pack frame  
2 Gerry 5450 North Valley Highway Denver Co. 80216  
Lightweight camping and hiking gear  
2 A-16 10056 BertACosta st. Santee Ca. 92071 Packs & tents  
2 Camp 7, Inc. 3235 Prairie Ave. Boulder Co. 80301  
Sleeping bags and down gear  
2\*\* Paul Petzold Wilderness Equip. box 78 lander Wy. 82520  
Fiberfill II Nols Leader  
1 The Mountaineer 91 N. Main st. Manti Utah 84642  
Their own stuff

Code (arbitrary) \*\* A must Catalog  
0 Tourist junk  
1 Some tourist type stuff and backpacking  
gear- the average catalog.  
2 Quality gear- Packing and climbing  
3 Technical gear

Roger Harris

You Know You're A Mexican caver When...

You jettison a case of oatmeal into the nearest sotano  
in favor of Mexican corn flakes after 6 weeks of awakening  
to the sound of "soups on , come and choke it"

You habitually carry a roll of TP in your back pocket  
along with a bottle of Kao-Con.

The pasta patrol drains the spaghetti with a rappel rack

Your main concern before a day of caving is to see who  
braves the market in town to buy "pan". Sometimes there are  
different varieties such as Zima"pan" and Jal"pan"and...  
no pan intended. Just don't try to explain your problem  
to the natives.

You can change a truck tire in 15 minutes without a  
jack, the "uno, dos, tres... 7 man lift, stuff rocks under  
the differential" method.

the most important job after dinner is sharpening machetes  
for those "spontaneous" nocturnal jungle trips you know  
you're going to be making.

The first aid kit consists of 1flashlight, 1roll of TP,  
1 bottle of Kao and a machete.

You find yourself saying , "heck, it's only a 700'  
drop" - and you really mean it!

Mexico Caver cont.

You cavè in t-shirts and jeans and still sweat!

You have so many loose oranges in the vehicles that you habitually have "orange battles" ...usually at 50 mph on the Pan Am highway.

You have 8000' of rope and are afraid it won't be enough.

You have 600' of the 8000' stolen and dont realize it till a week later.

You rappel to the end of a 300' rope without reaching bottom in a new pit for the fourth time in on week.

You Hike 7 miles to a "500meter" pit and are ready to kill the guide when it turns out to only be a 400 foot drop.

You politely ask a Mexican in Spanish if there are any caves in the area and he says, "Of course, there are many in the valley." And you reply "Caromba, no lo crei' gue hay tan muchos sotanos aqui!" To which the Mexican says "Oh, you don't speak English?" - At which point you wonder if you've been there too long.

You truck out into the jungle hunting for a sotano reading a map drawn by a local and you read the last line which says "Cuidado con los tigres" (Watch out for the panthers)

You lose six weeks "tan" at the "Banos Guadalupe" (Public Bath)

You truck into a Macdonald's when you finally get back to the states and say "Quiero dos hamburguesas con papas fritas y un coca larga."- Then You know you've been there too long!

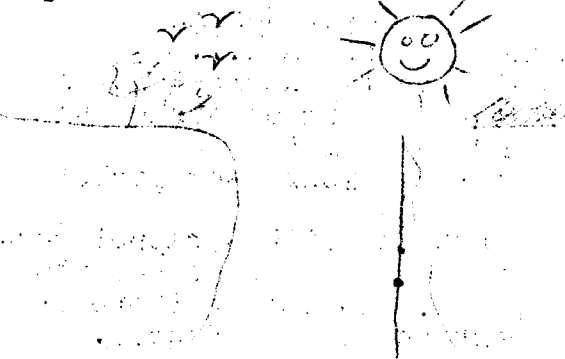
You carry 8 innertubes from the US to cross underground lake rooms. (Like Sotano de Soyate- 81<sup>o</sup>, 800' long, 150' wide and 200' high (180' deep)

You have to tie a carbide lamp to the bottom of your rope so you can find it from the other side of the room.

After 8 weeks you have serious debates about not returning to the US for a year or so...

Exploran Los Sotanos De Mexico.

Sotano Sam



(Some of you may wonder about the authenticity of some of the incidents mentioned above. Well, I'm not telling. Ed.)

I will, however, give a few short words on an abortive attempt by five ROC cimbbers to get down to N. carolina where it's warm over spring break. After Bill ended up in the hospital with some holdover from the Mexican Zoomes, Roger H. the Noodleman, and Don perly tied to drive down in Don's car. They got as far as New Jersey before Don's car died. It was not a serious death but they decided to hang it up anyway and stay north. Meanwhile, Dave Builder and I decided to go to the Gunks for the week. I went down to NJ to spend

a couple days with one of my roomates. We drove down in a raging snowstorm, I wished i'd remembered my Mitten shells. But by Monday most of the snow was gone and we spent a couple hours bouldering in relative warmth. Don P. showed up Tuesday morning so in the cold and rain we fiddled with some aid by Disneyland. Wednesday, luckily was nice so we did a couple climbs and the week went downhill from there. By the time the next ROCs (Stones truck full of people) showed up on Saturday, Dave and I were so tired of the cold and wet that we just packed up and went home. Sunday of course, was a fine day.

The next installment comes one week later when two carloads of a bob Harris beginners trip went down Sat. It rained in the morning so we left early, obviously, it cleared up as we were reaching Troy. Was I never to find that beautiful day at the Gunks. Ah, the weekend of the 19th. We went down ~~xxx~~ Friday with plans of returning Saturday night. Well, Dave and I and Andy did layback in reasonable warmth. Saturday, Ginny K. showed up. WE did Rhododendron, Disneyland, Fancy Idiot, and Arch. Fantastic weather and everything. Arch is really interesting if you follow the corner over the overhang on the last pitch. The weekend turned into a real reunion on Sunday with all these people there: Roger, Dana, Noodles, Knobel, Jimmy McKenzie!, Al Mcuen!, Ginny and so on: What a great weekend! But I still fel the pain, oh well..\*

### Eating, Drinking and Farcing Dept.

The Super System (to the tune of the super system song)

There was a happy hiker, he hiked in shady dells  
He camped in leafy valleys, and he stayed among the hills  
He never dreamed of climbing those peaks so grim and grey  
'Till he met with James McCarthy, on a most unfourtnate day

#### Chorus

Without belay, without belay  
You can use the super system any day  
"Pass the pitons Percy" \*\*  
Forty carabiners, a thousand feet of rope  
A little bit of friction and an awful lot of hope

"Won't you stay and won't you tarry?" McCarthy to him said  
"I have this super system I found within my head  
"It will save you from destruction, whenc'er you go and climb  
"And Though you be a novice, you can use it all the time"

Chorus (with alternat lines \*\*)

"The system's very simple, the whole thing's don with knots  
"The use of hand and footholds is reserved for ageing clots  
"You simply cleavate yourself on this elastic line  
"All twined about with gadgets, like a hairy porcupine"

#### Chorus

Our hero went and coiled himself in many loops of line  
Nylon knots for nitwits about his shoulders twined  
Well he Waltzed up Shockley's Ceilings, and he ~~xxxxx~~  
Danced on Matinee  
Faith in sliding friction brought him safely home for tea.

Chorus

## The super System (cont.)

Well he climbed the Mighty Tetons, He felled the Alps sublime  
 He almost went to Everest, but he couldn't spare the time  
 His progress was amazing, but not all did agree  
 He was blackballed by the Appies, so he climbed with ROC

## Chorus

He met his end on Birdland, he fell right from the top  
 Whizzing by the Uberfall without a single stop  
 No one gave the time to look as he went screaming past  
 And there upon the carriage road the poor lad breathed his last

## Chorus

Now the moral of this story, as you can plainly see  
 McCarthy's Super System is not for you and me  
 We are only simple dragsmen, and as such do declare  
 That substitutes for sticking on are very , very rare

## \*\* Alternate choruses

Pass the hammer Harry  
 Pass the chockstone Charley  
 Pass the lunchbox Louie  
 Pass the biner Billy  
 Pass the jumars Jerry  
 Pass the pitons Percy

P.K.

Remember folks, this is YOUR Cairn. I don't hve the time,  
 inclination or literary ability to write it. I'm only  
 too happy to edit and print, If you keep those cards  
 and letters coming in. Thanks

*Roger B.*