

# UP ROPE!

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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## CHAIRMAN MARRIES!

### He Gone and Done It

Helen Reasoner and Chris Scoredos were married on Sunday, May 6. Following a 4-day honeymoon on the Blue Ridge, the pair returned to Washington on Thursday.

Chairman and Mrs. Scoredos are setting up housekeeping at Helen's home, 1717 R Street NW, until the end of the war when they plan to build their own home.

Congratulations, Helen and Chris! We predict your route ahead will be as exciting as Charlie's Crack and as safe as Scoredos belays can make it.

### Meeting Next Week

On May 24 at 8 PM rock climbers will combine business with pleasure. Replies to the questionnaire-ballot mailed on March 28 will be reviewed and discussed. In addition, Roy Leonard will show 16-mm. kodachromes of the Skagit River country in northwestern Washington. Some splendid mountain photography of the Mt. Baker region is included.

To reach the Conns' (see address in box below), take a Takoma bus to Laurel and Eastern, the end of the line. Walk one block southeast on Eastern Avenue, turn left one block on Walnut Avenue, and bear right a few steps on Elm Avenue. No. 60 is on the left.

### Charlie's Crack (A-3)

Around the corner north of the Bull Run Overnang is a 30-foot

wall facing north, split by a vertical crack a few inches in width. This is Charlie's Crack, reputed to be the toughest climb in the Washington vicinity. The angle of the wall is slightly more than vertical, and the holds provided by the crack are not encouraging, so that besides muscle work, balance and dexterity are required of the climber.

The climb was originally started as a layback in the lower part of the crack, although a later method of straddling between the crack and another small crack to the right provides an easier ap-

proach to the upper pitches. Ten feet above the ground is the famed "woops" spot, where the hands search vainly for holds in the main crack above. However, balance may be obtained from an insecure jam hold for the left hand on a flake of pink quartz, while the body is shifted into a layback position to the right. The climb continues as a layback until handholds are found on the series of small chockstones in the crack, which serve as stepping stones for the next pitch. Above the topmost chockstone the crack widens, allowing the left leg and forearm to be jammed in the crack until sufficient elevation is gained for the right hand to reach a "thank God" handhold on the top.

Charlie's Crack was first climbed in the fall of 1939 by Charlie Daniels. Charlie was sicced upon the climb by some of the earlier pioneers of the Bull Run region,

Business and Pleasure  
← MEETING ←  
Thurs., May 24--8 PM  
at the Conns'

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who had proclaimed the crack impossible. "Well," said Charlie, tying in, "this is not for me. But possibly one could put his hand here---and do this---and then this---," and Charlie was up. The climb has since been attempted by more persons than any other A climb, but only 8 have succeeded in the ascent. It is still no "easy day for a lady," as no ladies have yet passed the "woops" spot. Nor is it an easy day for most gentlemen, altho it has been climbed in 70 seconds by Don Hubbard. The crack has not been climbed down in its entirety, nor has it been led, altho Chris Scoredos once found himself (quite inadvertently) halfway up without a belay.

### Two Inches More (B-2)

"On Bull Run Mountain proceeding southward along the foot of the cliffs from the Throne of Zeus one passes a large formation just above the trail before coming to this small formation rendered noticeable only by the slick white rounded surfaces on its upper southwestern corner. It is about 15 feet high in all and has a weathered crack extending nearly to the top of its south face. This crack is climbed until one can reach within two inches of the necessary handhold on top."

The above is quoted from the Rock Climbing Announcement of December 10, 1942. The problem encountered at the top is one of leaning out and to the left on a jam finger hold for the right hand, reaching with the left hand for the elusive "two inches more" hold. Some climbers claim to spraddle to a distant knob for the left foot during this maneuver. Long limbs are helpful on this climb, and a willingness to use the jam fingerhold is essential.

The history of the climb begins November 20, 1938 on a Trail Club trip to Bull Run. To Paul Bradt goes the credit for the first ascent, but it was Bill Kemper who first pointed out the climb and first tried it, with Paul belaying. Paul, seeing Bill's hand groping

frantically over the top, uttered the now classic words: "Just two inches more, Bill. Just two inches more."

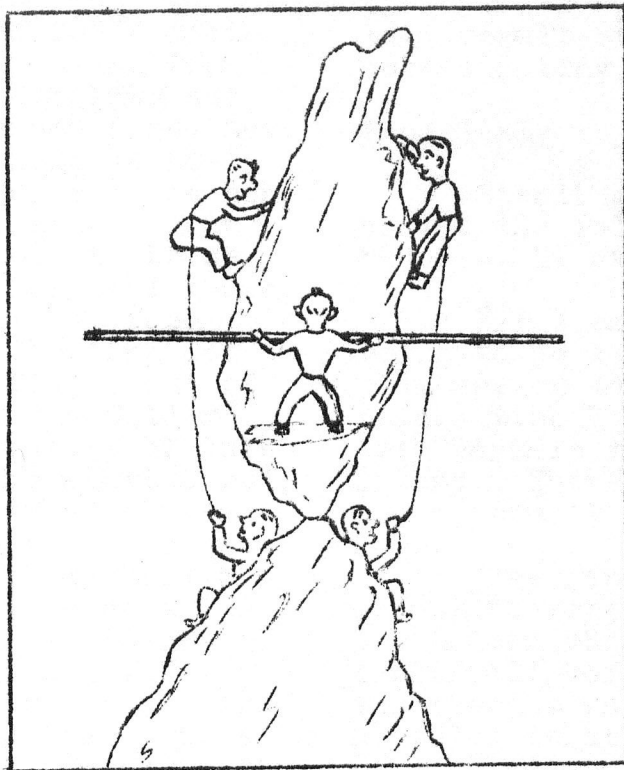
### Ups and Downs

May 5th and 6th, 1945.

Don Hubbard	Steve Yurenka
Fitz Clark	Jan Conn
Paul Bradt	Herb Conn
Jo Bradt	

A weekend trip to West Virginia afforded a general tour of the high and low spots of the state. After a cold night at Armentrout's camp ground, near the village of Mouth of Seneca, the group spent Saturday making a north-to-south traverse of Seneca Rock. Spare moments were put to good use retrieving pitons, which had been left by the hundreds by the Army during the period when Seneca Rock was used as a training ground for mountain troops. Cold rain and threatening storm clouds caught the climbers on the top of the North Peak, but undaunted they continued into the Gunsight Notch, where Steve led the climb up the Gendarme, followed by Jo. Sun, rain, and gusty wind alternated during the rest of the day. While Jan made another lead of the Gendarme, Paul led the party to the summit of the South Peak by way of the crack on the west face. As the leaders approached the top they fancied they saw Jam Crack Joe astride the peak, but it turned out to be only Don, who had unroped and gone ahead in order not to be a drag on the party.

The register on South Peak contained the names of many soldiers, and pithy remarks showing the impressions of trainees at Seneca's two-way exposure: "This is for the birds!" "Live Dangerously-- This is it!" Leaving the top the group climbed on across the Skyline for lunch on the ledges east of the crest. Paul, Herb, and Jan traversed the western face of the Cockscomb, a route pioneered by the Army, judging from the pitons which appeared at strategic points. Don and Fitz descended by means of the



200-foot chimneys of the south face, where Fitz complained the Army pitons were so numerous they played tunes on his ribs.

Saturday night a steady rain drove the group into the shelter of the car and a lean-to made with Fitz' tarp. Sunday brief visits were made to the entrances of Schoolhouse Cave and Hell Hole, where old-timers rehashed former trips and newcomers were duly impressed. Judy Spring, Champe and Baker Rocks were also pointed out. Views across the valley showed fresh snow on the high ridges north of Spruce Knob. Thrill of the day was provided at a ford, where the station wagon stalled with water inches above the floorboards. While Fitz made a water-line traverse of the fender to remove the fan belt, the rest of the gang plunged into the swift waters to push. The engine was restarted and the shore reached, the only casualty being the oil which had to be drained from the crankcase and replaced. Fitz is now working on the problem of making his car completely amphibious.

May 6, 1945

Chuck Haworth	Eleanor Tatge
Peggy Beale	Marion Murray
Rob Robinson	Louise Kelly
Jim McDonough	Anne Watkins
Ella Fradford & friend Bob	

Marion, Louise, and Eleanor arrived at Carderock first, early in the morning, with the Sink

Stopper as baggage. The River was higher and the current stronger than it was the week before, but the trio succeeded in reaching the Herzog shore safely. After a morning of wading and ropeless scrambling, they returned across the river where they met Chuck, Peggy, and Rob. Chuck had a rope, and his party had been practicing rappelling. During the afternoon his rope received considerable use. First Marion, belayed by Eleanor, climbed the nubble face below the Spider Walk. Peggy and Rob climbed the Beginner's Climb, belayed by Chuck. Then the party moved to Jan's Face and Margie's Chimney; here Jim, Anne, Ella, and Bob showed up and did some very good climbing and rappelling. Later all moved down to the Beginner's Corner and worked on it. Thus a bright and sunny day was well utilized.

May 13, 1945

Chris Scoredos	Donald Hubbard
Helen Scoredos	Sterling Hendricks
Andy Kauffman	Jim McDonough
Betty Kauffman	Anne Watkins
Chuck Haworth	Honey Lou Kundi
Dolores Alley	Herb Conn
Betty Alley	Jan Conn
Billy Alley	Eleanor Tatge

Usual and unusual Carderock climbs were the order of the day. Jan's Face received the first workout by some of the greater and lesser lights; the right-hand route was climbed by Honey Lou and Dolores. Then, while Don was treating Chuck

to the intricacies of Don's Piton Lead (part of the Chris-Wex-Don Traverse) Chris and Sterling succeeded in making the now-famed Suction Cup Climb, Sterling in adhesive tape in lieu of the too conventional sneakers. After lunch Jan made a crossing of the Loose Slab Traverse by an original route, amid of cries of "Unfair" from Sterling. Herb and Sterling completed the new Cave Climb, out of the overhang next to the Spider Walk section. The history of this climb was doomed to be short lived, as the one essential handhold was then removed piecemeal in two successive attempts by Betty Kauffman and Helen. About this time a loud shriek followed by a series of wails announced Betty's Bath to the assembled rock climbers; hasty investigation disclosed that little Betty Alley wading at the edge of the swimming rock had reached too far for a leaf and tumbled into the broad Potomac. Later Chuck, Anne, and Jim climbed the Chris-Wex-Don, while little Billy Alley made some ambitious and dexterous climbs in the general vicinity of the Beginner's Corner. The remainder of the climbers were in the vicinity of Arthur's Traverse, where Helen climbed the Jackknife, and Betty Kauffman made the Crossover and climbed the face above it. A brisk shower chased further climbers off of the Crossover and put an early end to the Chris-Wex-Don.

### Next Sunday

On May 20 the monthly scheduled trip to Carderock will be combined with a joint climbing trip with the Youth Hostellers. The hostellers will meet at Cabin John at 9:30 AM. Other climbers will leave from the Wisconsin and Van Ness Hot Shoppe at 8:30 AM or will journey independently to the Carderock cliffs at any time that suits their convenience.

The following is quoted from the May, 1945 issue of the POTOMAC HOSTEL NEWS:

"Hostellers want to extend their thanks to members of the Rock Climbing section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for their excellent leadership of rock climbing trips during the past year. Scores of people have received their first instruction in rock climbing from PATC leaders. The Thrill of the sport has been voiced to hundreds

as a result of the past year's rock climbing excursions."

### From Italy

Sterling Hendricks has received the following letter from Major A. H. Jackman:

"If I am any judge this is going to be a great year for rock climbers on the Potomac. Certainly wish I could spend some lazy days in the sun on Herzog Island. There have been many fine deeds done by our friends over here.

"The finest of a purely mountaineering variety was led by Lt. McCown whom some of the Washington climbers took cave climbing when he was at Seneca Rock. He fixed (that is, performed the reconnaissance and led the parties for) a set of three ropes up an ice and rock cliff, and led one platoon in the assault, a surprise attack on Campiano Ridge. After that ridge was taken it was possible to attack Mt. Belvedere successfully. McCown was killed as he led his platoon over the top of the ridge.

"You will be glad to know that the equipment all seems to be holding up in fine shape. I carry a mountain cook set and a case of 'C' rations with me in my jeep. As a matter of fact, when loaded with full field equipment my jeep is quite a sight. Working back I first have a wire cutter on the front. That keeps me from being decapitated by low hanging wires. Then a camouflage net and one of Bestor's pink fluorescent air-ground identification panels over the hood. The driver, myself, and radio operator complete with carbines, field glasses, map case, dispatch case, cook set and rations, bed rolls and all the equipment we own, a radio, some odd shelter halves and a saddle blanket (I use it as a lap robe on cold nights), an extra ten gallons of gas, canteens and extra ammunition, and you have a work picture of Jackman Combat loaded. Oh yes, we all carry entrenching tools, and I have a captured pair of Jerry wire and cable cutters. They are great for cutting wire fences, etc.

"Since we broke into the Po Valley, we have had roses, lilacs, bread, and cheers thrown to us as we passed. Every farmer stands at his gate with a bottle of vino and a glass to help out the thirsty

soldier. They are all thirsty too. The Valley is extremely flat, and the River itself must have been much like the North Platte before the dikes and levees were built, but up to the north hang in the haze more and more mountains.

"Our S-4 just came in from delivering the rations. He had one Bag, Mountain, complete with water repellent cover over his arm. It was a little muddy. He said he slept in a culvert last night and it rained. Tonight I'm sleeping in a bed with sheets in a big farmhouse. Last night I slept in the bottom of a concrete swimming pool in the rain. The S-4 said the sleeping bag was the finest thing he had ever seen."

#### Pitons for Public Pounding

Don't turn back for lack of a piton! The Army pitons retrieved from Seneca Rock are available for use by anyone who can beg, borrow, or steal the carabineers to go with them. They have been donated to the organization by the finders and

may be borrowed by climbers at any time. This pool of hardware is at present in the custody of the Conns.

#### Definitions

Exposure--The existence of a formidable amount of empty space along a line drawn between the climber and the center of the earth. Similarly, a climb possessing exposure is said to be "exposed." Exposure is the spice of rock climbing. On an exposed pitch a beginner is likely to be needlessly frightened; The experienced climber, however, with many years of experience to steady his nerves, will be calm and level headed throughout the proceedings--until he is asked to try the climb himself.

Balance climbing--A climbing technique by which the feet are depended upon for support and the arms are used only for balance. Experts at this art can knit a sweater or strum a guitar while engaged in the most difficult of climbs.