

THE GOOSE DOWN GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

VOL. 1, NO. 4

JANUARY 31, 1979



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

DEAR MEMBERS:

LATELY IT HAS BEEN APPARENT TO ME THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE HESITANT TO SIGN UP AND GO ON TRIPS FOR THE REASON THAT THEY DON'T THINK THEY HAVE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEG OR BORROW IT. SO I'D LIKE TO DIRECT THIS LETTER TOWARDS SOME OF YOU NEWER MEMBERS AND TELL YOU WHAT TYPE OF GEAR YOU DO OR DON'T NEED ON SOME OF OUR MORE COMMON TRIPS.

FIRST OF ALL, DON'T LET "SHOP TALK" SCARE YOU OFF. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF PEOPLE AROUND TALKING ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE. ALL OF US, I GUESS, EVENTUALLY BECOME "EQUIPMENT FREAKS," AND SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL BE RIGHT THERE AMONG US. BUT WE ALL STARTED OUT IN TENNIS SHOES AND K-MART PACKS, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THE MOST IMPORTANT TRIP TO BE PREPARED FOR IS THE BACKPACKING TRIP, AS MOST OTHER TRIPS REQUIRE THE SAME EQUIPMENT WITH A FEW ADDITIONS. WHAT I WILL DO IS TO BRIEFLY LIST THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR YOU TO REMEMBER. PERSONAL ITEMS ARE UP TO YOU, SUCH AS TOOTHBRUSH AND CAMERAS. ITEMS WITH A STAR IN FRONT OF THEM CAN BE BORROWED FROM THE CLUB - JUST SEE TOM SIMPSON. REMEMBER, THAT'S WHAT YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR!!!

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 * THE GOOSE DOWN GAZETTE *
 * IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE *
 * UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI *
 * MOUNTAINEERING CLUB. IT IS PUBLISHED *
 * MONTHLY SEPTEMBER - JUNE AND ONCE *
 * DURING THE SUMMER (TIME AND MATERIAL *
 * PERMITTING). THERE IS NO CHARGE TO *
 * UOMC MEMBERS EXCEPT THOSE REQUEST- *
 * ING MAIL DELIVERY. *
 * *
 * EDITOR: MARK HARTINGER *
 * 3552 REEMELIN RD. *
 * CINCINNATI, OHIO *
 * 45211 *
 * *
 * PUBLICATION DATES ARE THE LAST *
 * WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH. ARTS- *
 * CLES ARE DUE ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE *
 * OF PUBLICATION. *

!!!!!!WINTER!!!!!!

JANUARY

31 SIGN-UPS FOR OKEFENOKEE SWAMP TRIP OVER SPRING BREAK
 NSS SLIDE PROGRAM

FEBRUARY

3 - 4 WINTER BACKPACKING - HOCKING VALLEY (MARK)
 7 LECTURE - GEOLOGY OF GLACIERS
 DR. DURREL
 8 CAVING CLASS LECTURE
 10 CAVING CLASS OUTING
 12-14 CPR COURSE, 3 NIGHTS (FRANK B.)
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 JANE RIELLY

MARCH

3 - 4 CAVING - CAVE CREEK SYSTEM
 7 LAST QTR. MEETING
 LECTURE - NATURE PRESERVES OF ADAMS COUNTY, OHIO
 DR. CARL OSTERBROCK
 12-16 WINTER QTR. EXAMS
 16-25 SPRING BREAK TRIP - HEAD SOUTH WITH BOB'S TAN TO OKEFENOKEE
 WINTER MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION TO WHITE MOUNTAINS (CLOSED)

OTHER TRIPS WILL BE PLANNED AS USUAL AT THE MEETINGS, BUT IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING DEFINATE OR EVEN A PIPE DREAM, SUBMIT IT TO THE GDG FOR A LITTLE PUBLICITY.

 UOMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: MARK HARTINGER
 481-8149
 SEC'Y-TR. BOB KESSLER
 574-8080
 EQPT. MAN. TOM SIMPSON
 281-3631

THE COVER OF THIS MONTH'S ISSUE IS OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE SVEA TEAM ON A CAVING TRIP. THE QUESTION IS, JUST WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO GO? ANYWAY, THANKS TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF BOB KESSLER.



RAIN AND TWO MISSING TIRES IN THE RED

IT STARTED ONE COLD THURSDAY NIGHT WHEN I TOOK THE RUSTMOBILE DOWN TO RED RIVER FOR A NEW YEAR WEEKEND BACKPACKING TRIP.

UPON ARRIVING AT THE CLOSED GATE TO KOOMER RIDGE, I PROCEEDED TO OPEN IT WHEN A STATE TROOPER PULLED UP, AND SAID THAT THEY WERE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER. AFTER INFORMING HIM OF MY INTENTIONS, HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT TO PARK OFF THE ROAD.

THE NEXT MORNING I SET OFF DOWN KOOMER RIDGE TO ROUGH RIDGE TRAIL WITH MY FINAL DESTINATION BEING ROCK BRIDGE. THINGS WENT WELL, UNTIL THAT NIGHT WHEN IT BEGAN TO RAIN. SO THE NEXT MORNING, WITH IT STILL RAINING, I DECIDED TO BUG OUT AT SKY BRIDGE RD. AND HEAD HOME. AFTER BEING FOOT-SORE FROM THE WALK OUT, I WAS HAPPY TO SEE MY CAR. UPON GETTING CLOSER, IT'S THEN THAT I NOTICED BOTH FRONT TIRES WERE GONE. AFTER FURTHER INVESTIGATION I FOUND MY BATTERY MISSING, TOO.

AFTER CONTACTING THE STATE TROOPERS AND GIVING ALL THE INFO, THE TROOPER TOOK ME TO THE STANDART STATION IN CAMPTON WHERE I WAS ABLE TO GET AN OLD SPARE OUT OF A '65 CHEVY AND A USED MARINE BATTERY.

AFTER PUTTING THE TIRE AND BATTERY ON AND NUMEROUS TIMES OF TRYING TO START THE CAR, I FINALLY STARTED HOME MINUS \$35.

BRUCE WILLIAMS

ALASKA

"THANKS TO THE VISION AND COURAGE OF AN ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS OF ALASKA NOW HAVE A GREAT DEGREE OF PROTECTION. CONGRESS ADJOURNED IN OCTOBER WITHOUT PASSING NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS LEGISLATION. ON DECEMBER 1, 1978, USING HIS AUTHORITY UNDER THE 1906 ANTIQUITIES ACT, PRES. JIMMY CARTER SIGNED PROCLAMATIONS DESIGNATING 17 NATIONAL MONUMENTS COVERING APPROXIMATELY 56 MILLION ACRES OF ALASKA."

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN -3-

AN EXPEDITION FROM THE PLANET RICTOR

WHEN AUTUMN ENDS, YOU CAN SEE A LITTLE MORE CLEARLY THROUGH THE WOODS BECAUSE THE HUMID GREEN SHROUD OF SUMMER GROWTH IS DRIED UP AND GONE. NOW IT COVERS THE GROUND, SOFTENING THE LINES THAT FALLEN BRANCHES AND ROCK MAKE. THE DOMINANT COLOR OF THE FOREST ISN'T GREEN OR RED-GOLD ANYMORE; IT'S GREY, OR BROWN WHEN THE SUN SHINES. IT'S BELOW FREEZING MORE OFTEN THAN ABOVE. THERE IS EITHER COLD POWDERY SNOW WHICH WHIPS ACROSS THE TRAIL LIKE SMOKE, OR THERE IS A WARM STILL SNOWFALL OF FAT FLAKES. WHEN THE FLAKES ARE THAT BIG IT'S EASY TO SEE THEIR CRYSTALLINE STRUCTURE: VERY DELICATE - NO TWO ARE THE SAME.

FOR THE PERSON, IT REALLY DOESN'T GET THAT COLD, OR AT LEAST YOU GET USED TO IT. YOU GET USED TO COLD, HURTING HANDS, WATERY NOSE, AND THE CONSTANT STIFFNESS AND SHIVERING. YOU STOP NOTICING THE ITCH OF THE SKIN LAYER OF WOOL, AND YOUR THICK, STINKING HAIR. YOU SURE DO EAT A LOT OF FOOD BUT YOU BURN IT UP RIGHT AWAY. IF YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT YOU EAT LESS, SHIVER MORE, AND BURN THE FAT OFF YOUR GUT. BUT THEN SOMETIMES YOU GET SO WARM HIKING THAT YOU STRIP DOWN TO THE SKIN (IT'S COLD OUT - YOU MIGHT AS WELL NOT SWEAT) UNTIL THE WIND BLASTS AT YOUR BACK. THEN YOU GET SEVERE BOOSE BUMPS, YOUR NIPPLES GET HARD, AND YOU SHOVE YOUR ARMS INTO A "GOOSE DOWN."

I THINK I KNOW WHY SOMEONE STUMBLES UP A MOUNTAIN IN DECEMBER IN VIRGINIA BEFORE SUNRISE FOR THE SAKE OF COLOR SLIDES FOR SOME CLOWNS IN CINCINNATI, AND WHY HE DOES UP AGAIN THAT AFTERNOON FOR MORE PICTURES, AND AGAIN FOR SUNSET PICTURES; ALL THIS IN SOLID RUBBER BOOTS. I HAVE A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF WHY A SMALL LADY WANTS TO BLISTER HER FEET UNDER A PACK THAT IS ALMOST HALF HER WEIGHT JUST TO LOOK OUT OVER A VALLEY IN VIRGINIA, AND WHY A GUY SNEAKS OFF ON A WINDY NIGHT TO SIT UNDER A HEMLOCK TREE. THESE PEOPLE MUST GET A FEELING FROM THESE EFFORTS. MAYBE IT'S THE SAME FEELING THAT THREE BUDDIES WHO ARE JUST GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER FEEL WHEN THEY MAKE ANIMAL NOISES AND WRESTLE DOWN THE SHOULDER OF A VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN UNDER A LATE EVENING FULL MOON OF DECEMBER.

CONT'D

THE GRUB CITY NEWS

WINTER QUARTER SPELUNKING CLASS

THE CAVING CLASS FOR THE YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING, AND AS OF PRESTIME, ONLY FIVE PLACES ARE REMAINING FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS. THE COURSE IS HELD ON ONE THURSDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 8 WHEN A LECTURE DESCRIBING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CAVING AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE GIVEN BY THE INSTRUCTORS, MARK HARTINGER AND BOB KESSLER. THE OUTING WILL BE HELD FOR ONE DAY ONLY THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10. IF THE WEATHER PERMITS, THE CLASS WILL GO TO SLOAN'S VALLEY CAVE SYSTEM WHERE STUDENTS WILL BE TAUGHT METHODS OF ROUTEFINDING, PIT RIGGING, ASCENSION AND DESCENSION, CABLE LADDERING, LAMP CARE AND RECARBIDING, AND SOME CAVE GEOLOGY.

COST OF THE CLASS IS 10.50.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD EITHER SEE BOB AT THE MEETING OR SIGN UP WITH JEAN MCCARTHY IN ROOM 340 TUC DURING THE DAY. THE COST COVERS THE STUDENTS GAS, EQUIPMENT, AND INSTRUCTION. MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM BOB OR MARK.

MIAMI VALLEY GROTTO

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, THE MIAMI VALLEY GROTTO OF THE NSS HELD ITS SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING AT THE HOME OF DAVE TAYLOR'S PARENTS IN KETTERING, OHIO. MEMBERS OF UQMC ATTENDING WERE MARK HARTINGER, FRED ANDERSON, BOB KESSLER AND KATHY MURPHY.

THE TOPIC OF THE EVENING, BESIDES THE REGULAR BUSINESS, WAS URBAN SPELEOLOGY - 400 MILES BENEATH CLEVELAND. THIS WAS AN NSS SLIDE PRESENTATION OF "SEWERING" IN THE CLEVELAND STORM SEWERS, A SEEMINGLY NEW ACTIVITY TAKEN ON BY CAVERS WHO ARE NOT CONVENIENTLY LOCATED NEAR ANY OF THE KARST AREAS.

A DISCUSSION WAS HELD AS TO THE FORMATION OF THE OHIO VALLEY REGION OF THE NSS AS BROUGHT UP BY DOC DOUGHERTY. MOST MEMBERS CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WASN'T A BAD IDEA AS LONG AS SOMEONE WAS WILLING TO DO THE WORK, AND THAT SOMEONE SURELY

WASN'T ANY OF THEM. LOU SIMPSON ALSO SOLD COPIES OF THE NEWLY PRINTED HAIL SYSTEM & WOLF RIVER MAPS.

THE NEXT GROTTO MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 9 AT BOB KESSLER'S HOUSE IN CINCINNATI. IT IS HOPED THAT A FEW OF THE UQMC MEMBERS WILL PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

MH

WRONG WAY FRED ...

MOST PEOPLE WHO GET LOST ON CAVING TRIPS GET LOST IN THE CAVE. ON A RECENT TRIP TO SLOAN'S VALLEY, FRED ANDERSON GOT LOST IN THE WOODS. IT WAS THURSDAY, DEC. 28. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME FRED HAD EVER LED

A TRIP. OTHERS IN THE GROUP INCLUDED ANN MEYER, JOE PAUL, MIKE PAUL, CHUCK FINNEY, AND CHARLIE BOWYER.

THE GROUP HAD PLANNED TO ENTER SLOAN'S THROUGH THE MINTON HOLLOW ENTRANCE, HEAD BACK THROUGH THE BREAKDOWN TO THE GREAT WHITE CONE ROOM, THEN EXIT BY WAY OF THE SLOT. EXPLORER FRED LED THE GROUP OVER A JEEP TRAIL, INTO THE WOODS. THE GROUP SEARCHED A DRY CREEK BED DILIGENTLY FOR THE CAVE ENTRANCE, BUT COULD NOT FIND IT. FRED, BEING THE ASTUTE OUTDOORSMAN HE IS, REALIZED HE HAD LED HIS SCOUTS DOWN THE WRONG JEEP TRAIL!

"TELL YOU WHAT," SAID FRED, "I'LL CLIMB UP TO THE TOP OF THAT RIDGE AND PEER DOWN INTO THE VALLEY. I'LL CALL FOR YOU TO FOLLOW IF I SEE THE ENTRANCE."

"DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?" ASKED CHUCK.

"JUST FOLLOW ME," FRED ANSWERED.

THEY REACHED THE TOP AND FRED STARED DOWN INTO THE VALLEY.

"I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING. THERE ARE TOO MANY TREES," SAID FRED.

AND SO THE STORY WENT, AS FRED SEARCHED RELENTLESSLY FOR THE CAVE ENTRANCE. NOW ON HIS OWN, FRED STUMBLES UPON THE ENTRANCE.

"HEY...CHUCK! I FOUND IT!" SILENCE.

"HEY...CHUCK!" MORE SILENCE. "OH WELL," THOUGHT FRED, "I'LL JUST MEET THEM AT THE CAR AND LEAD THEM BACK HERE. NO PROBLEM." THAT'S WHEN FRED GOT LOST.

BUT AFTER A SHORT WHILE, FRED FOUND HIMSELF LEADING THE GROUP INTO THE CAVE. ABOUT FIVE MINUTES IN, THEY BEGAN TO SMELL

SPELEOLOGY COURSES OFFERED AT U.C.

WITH THE RECENT ACQUISITION OF PROFESSOR P.M. DOUGHERTY ("Doc") BY THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT, UC WILL SOON SEE THE EFFECTS OF AN AVID CAVER IN ITS SCHEDULE OF CLASSES.

Doc is offering two courses, starting next quarter, which are basically open to anyone with the interest. The courses are listed below, but any further questions should be forwarded to Doc at 475 - 3421.

Geog 579 Field Work & Research Tech.
Spring Qtr.
Tues. 2-5 PM 3ug

INDIVIDUALIZED COURSE IN WHICH THERE IS AN OPTION TO DO CAVE MAPPING, MICRO-METEOROLOGY STUDIES, STREAM-TRACING, ETC. AN INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE.

Geog 396 CAVE ENVIRONMENTAL & KARST LANDSCAPES
FALL QTR.
TBA

INTENSIVE CLASSROOM LECTURES ON CAVE AND KARST ORIGIN, INFLUENCE ON HUMANS, MAPPING, RESEARCH TECHNIQUES, FOLLOWED BY THREE FIELD CAMPS IN IN, KY AND WV. 4-5 WEEKS ARE SPENT IN CLASS, THE REST IN THE FIELD.

NSS MEMBERSHIP IN CLUB

IN COORDINATION WITH EFFORTS BY "Doc" DOUGHERTY TO ORGANIZE AN OHIO VALLEY REGION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, UQMC IS TRYING TO OBTAIN CHARTER AFFILIATIONS WITH THE NSS. THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI IS FAST BECOMING THE CENTER OF OPERATIONS FOR THE OHIO-KENTUCKY-INDIANA AREA, AND THE OHIO VALLEY KARST INSTITUTE OPERATES OUT OF UC. THE MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING CLUB HAS AN OPPURTUNITY TO BECOME A CHARTER GROTTO WHEN 10 OF ITS MEMBERS ARE ALSO NSS MEMBERS. THOSE LISTED BELOW ARE PRESENTLY IN THIS GROUP:

"Doc" DOUGHERTY #14804
MARK HARTINGER #18644
BOB KESSLER N.A.
FRED ANDERSON #19712
ROXANNE BAKER



FRED...
THE AROMA OF SIZZLING MEAT. THEY KNEW THAT EITHER A BAT WAS COOKING A CAVER OR SOME CAVERS WERE CAMPED OUT. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY FOUND IT TO BE THE LATTER.

SIX - COUNT 'EM - SIX CAVERS HAD SET UP CAMP, COMPLETE WITH TENT, COOKING UTENSILS, LIGHTS, BAGS, THE WORKS. THEY WERE SMOKING INSIDE THE CAVE AND THROWING THEIR CIGARRETTE BUTTS ON THE CAVE FLOOR! (ANN FELT LIKE TELLING THEM TO GET THEIR BUTTS OUT OF THERE, BUT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNLADYLIKE). AFTER A SHORT RENDEZVOUS WITH THE CAMPING NERDS, THE UC PARTY HEADED FOR THE BREAKDOWN IN LOOP 2. THE UQMC PATH-FINDERS WOULD HAVE MADE VERY GOOD LABORATORY RATS, AS THEY SPENT TWO HOURS IN THE PILE OF ROCKS JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET THROUGH. THEY NEVER DID. DETERMINED TO REACH THE GNC ROOM COME HELL OR HIGH WATER (WELL, FORGET THE WATER), THE GROUP WENT THE BACK WAY - THROUGH THE INFAMOUS SLOT. AFTER SQUEEZING THROUGH, THE FEARLESS BEXTET SLIPPED AND SLID ACROSS THE MUD BANKS OF THE PASSAGE.

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED?" FRED GASPED. "HAS SOME MAURADER TRAIPIED IN HERE AND CHISELED AWAY NATURE'S HANDIWORK? PERHAPS IT WAS THAT GROUP OF NERD'S WE MET EARLIER. WHAT IF THEY COVERED THE GNC ROOM WITH MUD?" ACTUALLY, THE GROUP HAD NEVER REACHED THE ROOM. THEY WERE UNDER IT, IN A LOWER LEVEL, AS BK EXPLAINED LATER.

FIRST THEY COULDN'T EVEN GET THROUGH THE BREAKDOWN, THEN THEY COULDN'T FIND THE GNC ROOM. WHAT A DAY! GIVING UP ALL HOPE, THE CAVE COMBERS HEADED OUT, DRIPPING WET AND SHIVERING FROM THE ICY WATERS OF THE SLOT.

NEAR THE ENTRANCE, THEY GATHERED THEIR HEFTY BAGS FULL OF DRY CLOTHES. ANN WENT INTO THE LADIES PASSAGE, WHILE THE MEN USED THE MEN'S PASSAGE. THEN ANN STARTED SCREAMING! NOBODY KNEW WHY. JOE WAS ONLY TESTING HIS FLASHLIGHT TO SEE IF IT STILL WORKED!

ALL IN ALL, THE 7 1/2 HOUR TRIP WAS ENJOYABLE, EVEN THOUGH THE GNC ROOM WAS NEVER REACHED. AND ON THE WAY HOME, THE SPELINKERS AGREED ON ONE THING - THE NEXT TIME FRED LEADS A TRIP, IT'LL BE A TRIP TO SHARON WOODS, OR SOME OTHER SUCH PLACE, WHERE HE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING, BUT AT LEAST HE KNOW'S WHERE HE'S GOING!

FRED ANDERSON

DAN LYNCH N.A.
ANN JULIAN N.A.

Laid Back

ONE SNOWY JANUARY WEEKEND

WHEN THE WIND HOWLS, TEMPERATURES PLUMMET, AND SNOW BLANKETS THE EARTH, MOST PEOPLE ARE CONTENT TO SIT AT THEIR WINDOWS AND GRUMBLE IN DISGUST. BUT SOME TAKE COURAGE AND VENTURE OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE SLEDRIDING OR A DAY OF X-COUNTRY SKIING. AND SOME AREN'T CONTENT WITHOUT SPENDING AT LEAST A FEW DAYS BACKPACKING IN THE CRUNCHY, FRESHLY FALLEN SNOW. AND THEN THERE ARE THE REAL DOWN TO EARTH CRAZIES, WHO ATTEMPT TWO DAY ROCK CLIMBS AMIDST NEAR INSURMOUNTABLE CONDITIONS.

IT WAS SUCH A WEEKEND IN JANUARY (27-28) THAT MARK HARTINGER AND BRUCE WILLIAMS STARTED A CLIMB OF 165' CHIMNEY TOP ROCK IN RED RIVER GORGE. BEGINNING THE CLIMB ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON UNDER LITERALLY WHITE-OUT SNOW CONDITIONS, AND THE EXTREMELY HIGH WINDS, THE PAIR REACHED A SMALL LEDGE ABOUT 60' ABOVE THE GROUND, WHERE THEY STRUNG A ROPE AND CLIPPED IN FOR A WINTERY EVENING. WITH ENOUGH ROOM TO LAY TWO SLEEPING BAGS, THE NIGHT WAS SPENT RATHER QUIETLY EXCEPT FOR A SNOWFALL OF 4" AND A RAT WHO FOUND HIS WAY TO THE LEDGE AND THE FOOD CARELESSLY PROVIDED BY THE CLIMBERS. THE VIEW OF THE WORLD FROM THE SMALL HOOD OPENINGS IN THE BAGS WAS ALL OF THE TWO CARABINERS THAT KEPT EACH FROM ROLLING OVER THE EDGE IN THE NIGHT.

SUNDAY MORNING OFFERED NO RELIEF FROM WIND AND SNOW, SO A COLD BREAKFAST WAS EATEN AND THE CLIMB RESUMED. WITH MARK LEADING THE 5.4 ROUTE (A SUMMER RATING!), THE LAST 100' WAS FINISHED IN ABOUT 5 HOURS, BOTH CLIMBERS RISKING SERIOUS FROST-BITE AS SOME OF THE FACE CLIMBING HAD TO BE DONE BARE-HANDED AND NEITHER HAD HAD ANY FEELING IN THEIR FEET SINCE EARLY MORNING. CLEARING SNOW OFF THE ROCK TO FIND HANDHOLDS AND THEN THAWING THE ICE ON THE HOLD WITH ONE'S BARE HAND WERE SOME OF THE LEADER'S PROBLEMS, NOT TO MENTION THE CHOCKS AND CARABINERS STICKING TO FINGERS. BUT THE TWO EMERGED AT THE TOP IN MID-AFTERNOON CLAD IN SNOW AND ICE, AND

QUICKLY REARMED EACH OTHER'S EXTREMITIES BEFORE THEY REALIZED WHAT THEY HAD DONE. THEY HAD BEATEN THE WEATHER, CONQUERED THE WALL, AND ACCOMPLISHED THE CHALLENGE. BOTH MARK AND BRUCE ARE PREPARING FOR THE EXPEDITION TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS IN MARCH.

ALSO ON THAT TRIP WERE GARY GOODMAN AND ANN MEYER, WHO HELPED HAUL EQUIPMENT TO AND FROM THE CLIMB. THEIR WEEKEND WAS SPENT DAY HIKING IN THE NEW SNOW, AND JUST ENJOYING THE BEAUTY AND SERENITY IT BRINGS TO THE FOREST. A HIKE DOWN TO THE RED RIVER WAS PART OF THEIR WEEKEND. COLO WAS NOT, AS BOTH CAME THROUGH EXCELLENTLY IN THE WINTER WEATHER. THIS WAS ANN'S FIRST TRIP OUT INTO THE SNOW BACKPACKING, AND SHE SOON FOUND HOW EASY IT WAS AS LONG AS YOU'RE PREPARED FOR IT.

THE FOURSOME MADE THE TRIP IN MARK'S DATSUN, WHICH IS EVERYDAY BREAKING THE RECORD FOR TOTAL EQUIPMENT AND PEOPLE HAULED TO ANY PLACE.

MH

UCMC RECOGNIZED IN BOOK

RECENTLY A PAPERBACK HIT THE MARKET WHICH RECOGNIZES UCMC AS ONE OF THE MIDWEST'S CLIMBING CLUBS. AMONGST ONLY SIX OTHER CLUBS, UCMC WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSIFIED. THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE FOR \$6.95 THROUGH CONTEMPORARY BOOKS, INC. IN CHICAGO. IT IS:

50 SHORT CLIMBS IN THE MIDWEST BY ALAN BAGG

ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, MARK HARTINGER WAS CONTACTED ABOUT CLIMBING IN THIS PART OF OHIO BY MR. BAGG, AND, BEING THE INFORMATION THE CLUB HAD, A CHAPTER ON CLIFTON GORGE WAS "COMPOSED" OVER THE PHONE AND THROUGH THE MAIL. THE CLUB'S COPY OF THE GUIDEBOOK WAS MENTIONED AS THE ONLY GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR THE AREA.

THE BOOK IS VERY INFORMATIVE ABOUT CLIMBING IN MINNESOTA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, WISCONSIN, IOWA, MISSOURI AND MICHIGAN. IT INCLUDES GEOLOGIC INFORMATION AS WELL AS DETAILED DIRECTIONS ON FINDING THE CLIMBING LOCATIONS.

ASCENDING THE PYRAMID
BILL STRACHAN

"THEN LET THE EMPTINESS FILL! THEY SAID. LET THE WATER WEAVE ITS WAY DOWNWARD SO THE EARTH CAN SHOW ITS FACE! LET THE LIGHT BREAK ON THE RIDGES, LET THE SKY FILL UP WITH THE YELLOW LIGHT OF DAWN! LET OUR GLORY BE A MAN WALKING ON A PATH THROUGH THE TREES! "EARTH!" THE CREATORS CALLED. THEY CALLED ONLY ONCE, AND IT WAS THERE, FROM A MIST, FROM A CLOUD OF DUST, THE MOUNTAINS APPEARED INSTANTLY. AT THIS SINGLE WORD THE GROVES OF CYPRESSES AND PINES SENT OUT SHOOTS, RIVULETS RAN FREELY BETWEEN THE ROUND HILLS. THE CREATORS WERE STRUCK BY THE BEAUTY AND EXCLAIMED, 'IT WILL BE A CREATION THAT WILL MOUNT THE DARKNESS.' "

FROM THE POPOL VOH BOOK OF
THE ANCIENT QUICHE MAYA

"THE CREATORS THEN ASKED, 'WILL THIS SILENCE REIGN UNDER THE TREES FOREVER?' "

IT IS DAWN ON THE WINTER SOLSTICE, THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR, AND OVER THE CARIBBEAN SEA WONDERFUL HUES BEGIN TO FILL THE SKY. AT THE WALLED CITY OF TULUM ON THE EAST COAST OF THE YUCUTAN PENINSULA THE SUN REACHES THE HORIZON AND BEGINS TO SHINE LIGHT THROUGH A SMALL OPENING IN THE WALL ONTO A TEMPLE ILLUMINATING A BAS-RELIEF OF QUETZALCOATL DESCENDING IN FREEFALL FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH. THE PRIESTS OF TULUM, FACING THE RISING SUN, ASCEND A SMALL PYRAMID BUILT INTO THE SEA WALL. THEY LIGHT INCENSE, MAKE AN OFFERING, AND THEN LIGHT A FIRE ON TOP SENDING A SIGNAL TO COBA THIRTY MILES AWAY.

AT THE CITY OF COBA, FOUR MEN IN BRIGHT FEATHERED RELIGIOUS COSTUME, EACH REPRESENTING A DIRECTION AND A SEASON, STAND AWAITING TO ASCEND THE 91 STEPS WHICH RISE ABOVE THEM ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDES OF A LARGE FOUR-SIDED PYRAMID. THESE STAIRWAYS PROTRUDE FROM THE FACES OF THE PYRAMID AS TO FORM A CROSS. THE STAIRS ARE SO STEEP THAT A SLIP COULD BRING A DEADLY HURDLE TO THE BASE. EACH STEP SIGNIFIES ONE DAY OF THE YEAR. NINETY-ONE STEPS PER STAIRWAY (SEASON) TIMES FOUR SEASONS EQUALS 364 DAYS. THE PLATFORM ON THE TOP REPRESENTS

THE 365TH DAY, THE WINTER SOLSTICE, WHEN THE PAST YEAR DIES AND IS BORN AGAIN INTO THE NEW YEAR. THE SIGNAL IS RECEIVED AT COBA AND QUETZALCOATL, A WHITE MAN WITH A BEARD, BEGINS TO ASCEND THE STAIRWAY OF THE PYRAMID WHICH HAS A SERPENT HEAD CARVED ON EACH SIDE AT THE BASE.

RECENTLY QUETZALCOATL HAD BEEN TRICKED BY TEXCATLIPOCA, LEADER OF THE BARBARIAN INVADERS FROM THE NORTH WHO CONQUERED THE CITY OF TEOTIHUACAN. ARRIVING AT TULA AFTER THIS CONQUEST TEXCATLIPOCA PLAYED FRIEND TO QUETZALCOATL, GOT HIM DRUNK AND PUT HIM INTO BED WITH HIS SISTER. WHEN THIS INCESTUOUS SITUATION WAS REVEALED, QUETZALCOATL WAS PUBLICLY DISGRACED AND MARCHED TO COBA TO BE SACRIFICED AS TEXCATLIPOCA ASSUMED RULE.

NOW, WITH HIS VISION CRYSTAL CLEAR FROM THE FLESH OF THE GODS ADMINISTERED TO HIM DURING AN EARLY MORNING MUSHROOM CEREMONY, QUETZALCOATL REACHES THE TOP PLATFORM AS THE MORNING LIGHT BEGINS TO SHINE ON THE TEMPLE. HE FACES THE ULTIMATE TRIAL OF THE SOUL. TWO OF THE OTHER MEN GRASP HIS LEGS AND ARMS AND STRETCH QUETZALCOATL OVER THE ALTER. AS THE SUN ILLUMINATES THEM ON THE PLATFORM TEXCATLIPOCA MAKES AN INCISION WITH AN OBSIDIAN KNIFE BETWEEN THE RIBS SUCH THAT QUETZALCOATL'S HEART POPS OUT AND IS STILL BEATING OUTSIDE OF HIS BODY. SEMI-CONSCIOUS, THE PRINCE OF PEACE CRIES OUT, "LORD THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." THE MAN WITH THE BLACK OBSIDIAN KNIFE THEN LIBERATES THE HEART IN A FOUNTAIN OF BLOOD AND PLACES IT IN A JAGUAR CHACMOOL IMBEDDED WITH JADE. AS THE SOLSTICE SUN RISES AND A SERPENT OF LIGHT DESCENDS THE STAIRS ILLUMINATING THE LARGE SERPENT HEAD, CHRIST LIES DEAD ON THE CROSS. THAT NIGHT THE MOON DISAPPEARS BELOW THE HORIZON AND IN THREE DAYS WHEN IT RISES AGAIN CHRIST RETURNS FROM THE DEAD. AS HE WALKS ACROSS THE WATERS FROM TULUM TOWARDS THE EAST HE PROMISES THE MAYAN PEOPLE HIS RETURN.

LITTLE IS WRITTEN ON CHRIST'S LIFE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WHAT SURVIVES IN LEGEND REVEALS MUCH THE SAME STORY AS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. AS I STOOD AT TULUM THIS CHRISTMAS ON THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE, WHILE BEING NARRATED THE DETAILS BY OUR GUIDE, HAZEL, I FELT A QUICKENING OF THE HEART AND A QUEER FEELING IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH AS THE ENLIGHTENING STORY OF CHRIST IN AMERICA DESCENDED UPON ME.

CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE

ASCENDING THE PYRAMID...

IN PASSING THIS CHRISTMAS STORY ON I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU KEEP YOUR AWARENESS ON THE ONE LIGHT AS YOU ASCEND THE ROCK, THE PYRAMID, AND TRAVERSE THE DAYS OF THIS NEW YEAR.



PLANS MADE FOR WINTER MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION

WHILE HALF OF THE CLUB IS SOAKING UP THE SUN IN OKEFENOKEE OVER SPRING BREAK, FOUR MEMBERS WILL BE FIGHTING SOME OF THE WORST WEATHER IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES WHILE WINTER MOUNTAINEERING IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. MARK HARTINGER, BRUCE WILLIAMS, JANE RIELLY AND GARY GOODMAN WILL LEAVE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 16 AND SPEND 6 DAYS ABOVE TREELINE IN AN EFFORT TO "WINTER IT OUT" AND SKIRT THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE, HITTING AT LEAST TWO MAJOR PEAKS ABOVE 5500'. TENTATIVELY PLANS ARE TO LEAVE OUT MT. WASHINGTON, 6288 (HIGHEST IN NH), AS THE HIGHEST WIND EVER RECORDED ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WAS CLOCKED THERE IN APRIL, 1934 AT 231 MPH.

PRESENTLY, THE GROUP IS WORKING OUT DAILY FOR THE EXPECTED 70 LB. PACKS AND EXTREME STEEPNESS OF THE HILLS. THEY ARE RUNNING, SWIMMING AND CLIMBING TO GET IN SHAPE.

WEEKLY MEETINGS ARE ACCUMULATING THE DETAILS, AND SESSIONS IN SNOW AND ICE CLIMBING, CRAMPONING AND ICE-AXE USAGE ARE STARTING SOON.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS DECIDED WAS TO STOP IN PORTLAND, MAINE AFTER THE EXPEDITION FOR A FRESH LOBSTER DINNER BEFORE RETURNING HOME. AS FOR THE TRIP ITSELF, EVERYTHING IS BEING TEDIOSLY WORKED OUT AS THE CONDITIONS EXPECTED WILL BE QUITE DANGEROUS.

THE TEAM IS IN NEED OF SOME EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT BE BORROWED OR RENTED TO CUT DOWN ON EXPENSES. IF YOU CAN LEND ANY OF THE FOLLOWING GEAR, PLEASE INFORM MARK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED, AS THIS EFFORT CARRIES ALONG WITH THE NAME OF THE UC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB. GEAR NEEDED AS OF NOW INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING (CONSULT TEAM MEMBERS ABOUT OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS):

- CRAMPONS
- ICE AXES
- SNOWSHOES (CREEPERS IF POSSIBLE)
- DOWN OR POLARGUARD CLOTHING
(COATS, PANTS, MITTENS)
- ICE SCREWS AND SNOW FLUKES
- SUN GOGGLES
- WIND PANTS

SAFE RETURN OR REPLACEMENT OF ANY EQUIPMENT BORROWED IS GUARENTEED.

SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM WORKING

THE NEWLY FORMED SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM GOT OUT ON ITS FIRST OUTING OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WITH A TWO DAY TRIP TO NEBO RIDGE IN THE HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST OF INDIANA. TUESDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19-21, SAW MARK HARTINGER, MARTY HEGEMAN, RICK FORRESTER, FRANK BERTRAM AND BOB KASTEN, AND OF COURSE RUSTY THE SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG, HOLDING OUT THROUGH THE UNUSUALLY WET WEATHER TO GET THROUGH A FEW FIELD EXERCISES.

THEIR FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS TO COMB THE SURROUNDING HILLS FOR A CAVE WHICH WAS APPROXIMATELY LOCATED ON A MAP. SINGLE ROW TECHNIQUE WAS USED, AND MANY OF THE PROBLEMS OF THIS METHOD WORKED OUT AMONGST THE GROUP.

ON WEDNESDAY, MARTY PLAYED VICTIM AND GOT HERSELF HURT AND LOST IN THE WOODS. THE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS COMBED THE WOODS IN THE POURING RAIN AND WERE SUCCESSFUL ONE OUT OF TWO TIMES.

MORE WAS PLANNED FOR THE TRIP, BUT INCLEMENT WEATHER WAS DIFFICULT TO TOLERATE AND THE TRIP ENDED. FEBRUARY 25-26 IS THE NEXT PLANNED OUTING.

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION
BOB KESSLER

WE ALL KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENCING OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN GOVERNMENT WHEN BILLS FOR AND AGAINST THE WILDERNESS WE LOVE ARE UP FOR PASSAGE. IT IS VITAL THAT WE LET OURSELVES BE HEARD. NO GOOD CAN POSSIBLY RESULT IF WE PASSIVELY ALLOW OTHERS TO MANIPULATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THOSE OF US CONCERNED FOR THE OUT-OF-DOORS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM BOTH THE DESTRUCTIVE AND IGNORANT PEOPLES IN THIS COUNTRY. CONSEQUENTLY, WE MUST LEARN TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE OUR OPINIONS TO LEGISLATORS.

THE MOST COMMON MEANS OF INFLUENCING THOSE IN GOVERNMENT IS THE ART OF LOBBYING. THIS IS A PRACTICAL TOOL THAT CAN BE USED BY ANYONE. IN BACKPACKER 29, RON JENSEN DESCRIBES IN A COPYWRITTEN ARTICLE, THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF LOBBYING. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE AN ISSUE UP FOR LEGISLATION, YOU WOULD BE WISE TO READ JENSEN'S ARTICLE.

FOR THOSE OF US WHO CAN'T DEVOTE A LOT OF TIME TO LOBBYING, JENSEN HAS SOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN INFLUENCE LAWMAKERS: COMMUNICATION.

"LEGISLATORS WILL TELL YOU THAT NOT ALL CONSTITUENT CONTACTS CARRY EQUAL WEIGHT. THE MANNER OF COMMUNICATION IS USUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT IS SAID. HERE, LISTED IN ORDER OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS, ARE THE VARIOUS WAYS OF COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTED REPS.

PERSONAL CONVERSATION - FOR PERSUASION, NOTHING BEATS A "ONE-ON-ONE" WITH PLENTY OF EYE CONTACT. ARRANGE THE MEETING TO SUIT THE LAWMAKER'S SCHEDULE AND BE SINCERE, COURTEOUS, DIRECT, AND BRIEF. LEAVE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WITH SOMETHING IN WRITING THAT CONCISELY SUMMARIZES YOUR POSITION.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - ALMOST AS GOOD AS A PERSONAL CONVERSATION, PROVIDED YOU DON'T CALL THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OR AT MEAL TIMES. DON'T BE AFRAID TO CALL AT HOME, THOUGH; OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE USED TO IT. AS WITH A PERSONAL VISIT, BE COURTEOUS AND KEEP IT CONCISE.

BRIEF, WELL-WRITTEN PERSONAL LETTER - WHILE LAWMAKERS GET LOTS OF MAIL, IT'S AMAZING HOW LITTLE OF IT MAKES MUCH SENSE. A CLEAR, LOGICAL STATEMENT OF POSITION AND A REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - PREFERABLY HANDWRITTEN - IS LITERALLY WORTH 10,000 SIGNATURES ON A PETITION, SO LONG AS EACH ONE IS DIFF-

FERENT FROM THE OTHERS.

PETITION - THE LONG-TIME FAVORITE OF MANY CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS, PETITIONS PROBABLY DON'T HURT, BUT THEY SURE DON'T HELP MUCH, EITHER. ONE STATE SENATOR RECENTLY SAID, "HELL, I COULD GET A THOUSAND SIGNATURES ON A PETITION TO DO ANYTHING." HE COULD, TOO - THAT'S A FACT WELL KNOWN IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT MOST PEOPLE NEVER READ WHAT THEY SIGN.

POSITION PAPER - FORGET IT. NO ONE READS THEM.

CANNED LETTER - SUCH LETTERS CAN TAKE THE FORM OF A REPRODUCED LETTER, WHICH YOU JUST SIGN AND DROP IN THE MAIL, OR A FORM LETTER WHICH THE CORRESPONDENT MUST COPY BEFORE SENDING IT TO HIS REPRESENTATIVE. EITHER CAN BE WORSE THAN DOING NOTHING AT ALL. AN ELECTED OFFICIAL CAN SPOT THESE CAMPAIGNS BY THE TIME THE THIRD LETTER OR POSTCARD ARRIVES. THEY HAVE ZERO IMPACT BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT ZERO SINCERITY AND EFFORT. BUT BECAUSE IT'S GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT ALL CONSTITUENT MAIL MUST BE RESPONDED TO, SOME POOR OVERWORKED STAFFER GETS STUCK WITH SENDING A CANNED ANSWER. IF THIS IS THE BEST YOU CAN DO, DON'T EVEN BOTHER.

DELIBERATE HARASSMENT - TYING UP LEGISLATORS' TELEPHONES, CAMPING IN THEIR OFFICES, OR PARADING IN FRONT OF THEIR HOMES IS CHILDISH AND BUSH. NOT ONLY DO SUCH TACTICS TURN OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESENT COOPERATION, THEY POISON THE WELL AGAINST FUTURE USE.

THE KEY TO ALL THIS IS, INVOLVEMENT. ONLY YOUR TAKING A FEW MINUTES TO COMMUNICATE YOUR IDEAS AND BELIEFS WILL PRODUCE RESULTS. GET INVOLVED.

HERE'S A LIST OF LOCAL LAWMAKERS IN WASHINGTON WHO ARE FROM OHIO:

SEN. JOHN GLENN (D) 684-3265
428 POST OFFICE BLDG.
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

-OR-
204 RUSSELL BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

SEN. HOWARD M. METZENBAUM (D) 684-3894
8403 FEDERAL OFFICE BLDG.
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

-OR-
405 RUSSELL BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20510

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CLOTHING:

THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY ABOUT CLOTHING, AND THIS GOES FOR ALL TRIPS, IS TO DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. ON A WEEKEND TRIP, PACK ALONG ONE COMPLETE CHANGE AND POSSIBLY A FEW EXTRA PAIR OF SOCKS. ON A WINTER TRIP, MAKE ONE SET OF CLOTHES WOOL, AND DON'T SKIMP ON WARMTH. THE MORE, THE BETTER, BECAUSE AT LEAST YOU'LL BE PREPARED.

BOOTS - STURDY, LEATHER; WORK BOOTS DO FINE FOR STARTING OUT.

PONCHO, RAINGEAR

HAT /

* SLEEPING BAG - KEEP THE WEATHER IN MIND

* ENSOLITE PAD

* STOVE, COOK KIT

UTENSILS

MATCHES

EXTRA FUEL

* COMPASS

WATER BOTTLE

* NYLON CORD

FLASHLIGHT

* TENT OR TARP

PACK COVER - PLASTIC GARBAGE BAG WORKS

* BACKPACK

AS FOR FOOD, ON A WEEKEND TRIP YOU CAN JUST ABOUT FIX ANYTHING AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT ALL THE INGREDIENTS AND A WAY TO COOK THEM. DON'T LET WEIGHT BOTHER YOU - EAT WELL!

IF YOU'RE GOING CLIMBING FOR A DAY, AGAIN DRESS FOR THE WEATHER BUT KEEP THE CLOTHES LOOSE. TENNIS SHOES DO FINE. I CLIMBED IN A \$4 PAIR OF K-MART JIMMERS FOR 2 YEARS BEFORE GETTING ANYTHING ELSE. AND BRING ALONG SOME WATER AND A LUNCH, AND MAYBE EVEN A GOOD BOOK.

WHATEVER THE CASE, IT'S NOT HARD TO BE PREPARED FOR JUST ABOUT ANY OF OUR TRIPS AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE EXTREME WEATHER. MOST EQUIPMENT IS OWNED BY SOMEBODY IN THE CLUB, SO JUST SPEAK UP AND I'M SURE YOU CAN GET WHAT YOU NEED.

Mark

FIRST DISTRICT

* REP. WILLIS D. GRADISON (R) 684-2456
8008-8010 FEDERAL BLDG.
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

-OR-

1519 LONGWORTH H.O.B.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

SEC. DISTRICT

REP. THOMAS A. LUKEN (D) 684-3738
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CLASSIC CARS OF THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

OR

HOW WE GOT THERE IN STYLE

OVER THE YEARS THIS CLUB HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE, MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES TO NEAR AND REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. AND A LOT OF THE TIME, THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF THE TRIP ISN'T THE ACTUAL TRIP, BUT THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED IN GETTING TO AND FROM THESE AREAS. THIS AUTHOR WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE MORE FAMOUS CARS OWNED BY MEMBERS IN THE PAST AND PRESENT AND RECALL SOME OF THE ADVENTURES THEY PRESENTED IN THEMSELVES.

PROBABLY THE MOST FAMOUS CAR IN THE CLUB WAS THE CAVEMOBILE, A '68 PLYMOUTH STATION WAGON OWNED BY MARK HARTINGER. IT'S REPUTATION WAS EARNED FROM LOADING AS MANY AS 10 PEOPLE FOR A WEEKEND CAVING TRIP, AND MAKING THE TRIP ABOUT EVERY OTHER WEEK. NOTHING MUCH SEEMED TO STOP THIS GEM, BUT JEEP TRAILS DID PLAY HAVOC WITH THE EXHAUST SYSTEM ON TWO OCCASIONS. A RECLAIMED CINCINNATI POLICE CAR WITH AN ENORMOUS ENGINE, THE CAVEMOBILE COULD ALWAYS BE DEPENDED ON TO TOTE EQUIPMENT AND PEOPLE. IT WAS PERMANENTLY RETIRED IN APRIL, '78 WITH 135,000 MILES ON IT. LEGEND HAS IT, THOUGH, THAT IT STILL RIDES THE GRAVEL ROADS AND JEEP TRAILS OF PULASKI CO., KY, SEARCHING FOR CAVES AND ITS TAILPIPE.

FORMER PRESIDENT HAL SHAW GOT AROUND QUITE WELL IN HIS DODGE, A '66 MODEL "BOAT" THAT HAD AROUND 120,00 MILES ON IT, BUT COULD STILL GO COAST TO COAST AS LONG AS IT WAS WELL STOCKED WITH OIL. ITS TRUNK WAS USUALLY STOCKED WITH CLIMBING GEAR, THOUGH, AS IT HAD AN ALMOST WEEKLY DESTINATION OF CLIFTON GORGE.

CLASSIC CARS...

ANOTHER LOSER TO MAKE IT OVER THE 100,000 MILE MARK WAS BOB KESSLER'S "FOUR SHADDS OF GREEN" VW FASTBACK. THIS WAS ONE CAR THAT COULD BE DEPENDED ON TO BREAK DOWN ON 90% OF ALL TRIPS. AND NEVER MINOR DIFFICULTIES, EITHER. TIE RODS WOULD BREAK SO THE STEERING GOES OUT, NOTHING WOULD START IT AND IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PUSHED 10 MILES, THE FRAME WAS BENT, AND EVERY OTHER TIME IT WAS TURNED OFF IT WAS BOUND NOT TO START AGAIN, BE IT IN CINCINNATI OR UTAH. BUT IT HAULED A LOT OF EQUIPMENT; AND PRETTY SOON "WILD BOB" WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT CAR. IT WAS RECENTLY GIVEN UP FOR A WHOOPING \$100. (THE CAVEMOBILE BROUGHT \$45).

TODAY THERE ARE STILL CARS THAT WILL SOON BECOME CLASSICS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.

BILL STRACHAN'S JEEP WAGONEER HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BE LEFT AT SENECA MORE THAN ONCE, AND IT REALLY SURPRISES SOMEONE WHEN THERE ISN'T SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE CAR.

BILL WAS ALWAYS KNOWN TO TELL PASSENGERS RIDING IN THE BACK THAT THEY WERE SITTING WITH HIP WADERS THAT HAD BEEN IN RADIO-ACTIVE WATER.

TWO CARS STILL GIVING SEMI-DEPENDABLE SERVICE WENT TO SHENANDOAH LAST MONTH. TOM SIMPSONS' BLUE NOVA HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE DAWN OF THE CLUB, AND FOR ALL INTENSIVE PURPOSES, WILL BE UNTIL TOM IS NO LONGER AROUND. BUT FRED EIBLINGS BUICK HAS TO TAKE THE CAKE FOR THE MOST MILES ON ANY CAR, AS IT SPORTS 178,000 AND IS STILL CRAWLING ALONG. IT HAS ENDURED FRED'S LEAD FOOT FOR MANY A YEAR NOW, BUT JUST HOW MANY YEARS CAN YOU GET OUT OF A CAR. IT HAS TO BE SAID THAT THIS CAR HAS REPLACED THE CAVEMOBILE FOR ITS CARGO-CARRYING CAPABILITIES, AND CERTAINLY HAS SEEN ITS SHARE OF OAVING TRIPS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

THE LAST CAR WE'LL LOOK AT IS THE NOW-FAMOUS RUSTMOBILE, A '66 IMPALA OWNED AND MISTREATED BY BRUCE WILLIAMS. THIS CLASSIC CAR HAS A BAD REPUTATION OF LOSING PASSENGERS THROUGH THE RUSTED OUT BACK FLOOR AND CLIMBING GEAR OUT THE BOTTOM OF THE TRUNK. BUT IT PERSISTS, AS DO ALL THE FAMED AUTOMOBILES WE TRAVEL IN.

MH

THE GOOSE DOWN GAZETTE
c/o MARK HARTINGER
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