

THE GOOSE DOWN GAZETTE

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THE SPRING BREAK REVIEW

THE OKEFENOKEE SWAMP: GATORS NEED NOT APPLY.

SLOWLY DAN LYNCH AND JOHN WALLACE MOVED FORWARD, THEIR CANOE SILENTLY CUTTING THROUGH THE WATER. AFTER A FEW MOMENTS OF FRANTIC LENS CHANGING AND FOCUSING, A FLURRY OF SHUTTER CLOSINGS—NOT UNLIKE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF JACKIE O. MADE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT AN ASSOCIATED PRESS NATIONAL CONVENTION—ENBUED. THE OBJECT OF THEIR ATTENTION, AN ALLIGATOR, CALMLY SANK INTO THE DARK WATER WITHOUT A RIPPLE.

MARTY HUSEMAN WANTED A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SNAKE IN THE TREE BRANCHES ALONG THE BANKS OF THE WATERWAY KNOWN AS THE SUWANEE CANAL. NADINE FOLINO, FEELING PRECARIOUSLY CLOSE TO HER BOW POSITION, HAD SEEN ENOUGH, THANK YOU. NADINE WON—THIS TIME.

DAVE WEBER WASN'T GOING TO LET HIS FRIENDS VACATIONING IN FLORIDA BEAT HIM IN GETTING A TAN. SOUTHEAST GEORGIA WAS JUST AS GOOD AND HE HAD THE PINK SKIN TO PROVE IT!

RUNNING INTO OCCASIONAL LOW TREE BRANCHES AND OVERGROWN BANKS DIDN'T BOTHER RICK FORRESTER AND AMY OSTERBROCK. THEY WERE ABSORBED WITH FISHING. BUT THE ONLY THING BITING WAS RANGER RICK AS HE CHEWED OUT EVERYONE FOR BREATHING OKEFENOKEE AIR WITHOUT A FEDERAL PERMIT. IT'S ALL PART OF THE REFUGE, 'YA KNOW.

PHIL WALTZ AND CURT COUCH WEREN'T GOING TO LET ANYTHING OR ANYONE INTERFERE WITH THEM. THEY WERE TOO BUSY CHECKING OUT THIS TRIBUTARY OR THAT FAR AWAY LAKE OR PRAIRIE. OR NAPPING PEACEFULLY ON BILLY'S ISLAND WHILE 31 TOURISTS MILLED AROUND GAWKING AT ALL THOSE TENTS.

AND OF COURSE BOB KESSLER WAS GETTING IT ALL ON MOVIE FILM AND AUDIO TAPE. NOT A MOMENT WOULD GO BY WITHOUT HEARING THE MURMUR OF THE CAMERA—OR WAS THAT CINDY BICK, MUMBLING DISCONTENT ABOUT THE BOREDOM OF FILMMAKING!

CONT'D ON PG. 3

REFLECTIONS ON THE WIND...

SPRING BREAK WAS COMING AND WE WANTED TO DO SOME AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING, BRUCE, JANE, MARK AND I, SO WE DECIDED TO CLIMB MOUNT WASHINGTON. UNFORTUNATELY JANE GOT SICK, BUT THE THREE OF US HOPPED INTO THE CAR AND SPLIT FOR NEW ENGLAND.

BEFORE LONG WE WERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. WE TURNED A WIDE CORNER AND REVEALED TO US FROM BEHIND THE TREES SMOOTHLY MOVING OUT OF VIEW, WERE THESE HUGE FAT MOUNTAINS, WITH SNOW-CAPPED PEAKS, TOO BIG TO SEEM IN PLACE AMIDST THESE MOORLANDS, BREAKING IN AND OUT OF STORMY CLOUDS! MY EYES FELL OUT OF MY HEAD FROM SURPRISE.

WE "OOHED" AND "AHMED" FOR A FEW MILES, BUT THESE PEAKS WEREN'T THE ULTIMATE, THE HIGHEST, OR MOST IMPRESSIVE. WE WERE GOING TO THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE: "A LITTLE PEECE OF SWITZERLAND" STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. TEN MINUTES LATER THE "PRESIDENTIALS" CAME INTO VIEW. IT WAS ASTONISHING IN IT'S BEASTLY MAGNIFICENCE. WE FINALLY PARKED THE CAR AND JUST STARED UP AT IT. IT WAS THE ENEMY, THE ANIMAL, AND WE WERE GETTING PSYCHED TO SLAY IT.

IN SILENCE WE PACKED UP AND DROVE THE NEXT MORNING TO THE RANGE, STILL IN THE CLOUDS. WE STARTED HIKING UP THROUGH THE FOREST ON HISTORIC CRAWFORD PATH. AS WE NEARED THE RIDGE I HIKED FASTER. WE CAME INTO VIEW OF THE FIRST PEAK OF THE RANGE, MT. CLINTON. ALL AROUND US FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS WAS INDESCRIBABLE ALPINE SCENERY, 360 DEGREES OF DISTANT MOUNTAINOUS HORIZONS.

NEAR AND ABOVE TREELINE THE NOTORIOUS PRESIDENTIAL RANGE WIND, A CONTINUOUS WESTERLY COLD BLAST, WAS TO ME THE MOST STRIKING ELEMENT. THERE ARE NO BRANCHES ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF SHRUBS. ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF EVERY PROTRUDING OBJECT IS A PERFECTLY STREAMLINED SNOWDRIFT. WE WERE ALMOST CONSTANTLY IN A REALM OF TURBULENCE; EVEN WHEN WE CAMPED IN THE REFUGE ROOM, A BOX-LIKE BRICK ROOM AT THE BASE OF MT. WASHINGTON; THERE WAS ALWAYS THE DOOR RATTLING OF SCREAMING WIND. ON THE NICEST SUNNY DAYS HIGH WINDS WERE STILL THERE, THOSE TIMES WITH DANGEROUS REFLECTED LIGHT.

CONT'D ON PG. 3

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

DEAR MEMBERS:

AHH YES! THE SOFT, GENTLY FLOWING BREEZE BECKONING ME TO THE CLIFFS. THE AURA OF SPRING AND THE FEELING THAT GOES ALONG WITH IT. I COULD SPEND EVERY MINUTE SITTING BENEATH THE SHADE OF A WHISPERING HEMLOCK IN EASTERN OHIO.

BUT, AS WITH MOST OF US, I AM WHAT IS CALLED A FULL-TIME COLLEGE STUDENT, AND THE SPRINGTIME MEANS A FULL LOAD. IN MY CASE IT'S 17 HOURS, 14 OF WHICH ARE ADVANCED TECHNICAL COURSES IN MY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CURRICULUM. EVEN UNDER THE HEMLOCK I CAN'T ESCAPE THE THREAT OF A NETWORK ANALYSIS EXAM FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING. SO I MUST SUCCUMB, TAKE MY PLACE AMONGST THE DIE-HARD STUDIES I AM IN COMPETITION WITH, AND MEMORIZE APPLICATIONS OF MAXWELL'S EQUATIONS JUST SO THAT I CAN EKE OUT A C OR D ON THE TEST.

SOME TIME LATER TONIGHT I'LL HAVE TO GET STARTED ON SOME OF THOSE OTHER PROJECTS I'M INVOLVED WITH BESIDES THIS STUDY ROUTINE. THE OPEN HOUSE NEEDS SOME PREPARATION; THE WILDERNESS SKILLS COURSE IS GOING TO SNEAK UP ON ME UNLESS I GET THOSE INFORMATION SHEETS TYPED AND COPIED; MAKE SOME DECISIONS ON THIS COURSE AS TO INSTRUCTORS, ETC.; THE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM IS AWAITING ME TO ORGANIZE AN OUTING AND WRITE TO THE FOREST SERVICE; THE GUIDEBOOK NEEDS PUBLISHING; THE GOOSE DOWN GAZETTE HAS TO BE TYPED (HERE I AM ON PAGE TWO LOOKING AT THE REST OF THE ISSUE); DISPLAY CASES AND BULLETIN BOARDS TAKING MORE TIME THAN I HAD FIGURED; A TRIP EVERY WEEKEND TO PLAN; GOT THREE OR FOUR PHONE CALLS TO MAKE; AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MIAMI VALLEY GROTTO I'D LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED, AT LEAST WRITE A LETTER; THE NEW UCMC STUDENT GROTTO NEEDS SOME ORGANIZATION (WONDER WHO I CAN PASS THAT OFF TO); GET THAT LETTER OFF TO ODNR SO THAT WE CAN START TRAIL BUILDING AT A STATE PARK; MORE WORK ON THE WILDERNESS SKILLS!

SOMETHING POSSESSED ME TO GO UP AND SEE WHAT TIME IT IS. 1:30 AM. OH CRAP! THAT TEST IS AT 8. STILL HAVE 28 PROBLEMS TO GO OVER. WELL, I WONDER WHAT THE CLUB WOULD THINK IF MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE THIS WEEKEND? YEA, SURE. THERE'S ANOTHER TRIP GOING ON. GOOD, MAYBE I JUST WILL GET SOME OF THAT STUFF DONE!

Mark

SPRING QTR. CALENDER

APRIL

- 14-15 EASTER WEEKEND
- 14 LEAD CLIMBERS TRIP TO RED RIVER GORGE. BILL S.
- 18 ELECTION OF '79 - '80 OFFICERS ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND!!!!!!
- 21-22 SIGNUPS FOR WILDERNESS SKILLS CANOEING - ROCKCASTLE RIVER, BRUCE BIKE RUN - ANOTHER EVENT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BIZARRE ACTIVITIES MARK AND RICK
- 25 LECTURE - NATURE PRESERVES IN ADAMS CO. OHIO. DR. CARL OSTERBROCK
- 28-29 CLIMBING - SENECA ROCKS, W.VA. GARY GOODMAN
- 18 BAKE SALE IN TUC LOBBY
- 27 MIAMI VALLEY GROTTO MEETING, MASON, OHIO

MAY

- 2 MOUNTAIN MUSIC CONCERT MEETING IN ROOM 414 TUC
- 5-6 RAFTING - NEW RIVER, W.VA.
- 10 WILDERNESS SKILLS COURSE LECTURE (EQUIPMENT)
- 12-13 CLIMBING - SENECA ROCKS
- 17 WILBERNESS SKILLS COURSE LECTURE (TRIP PLANNING)
- 16 LECTURE - ECOLOGY OF CAVES TOM CAIN
- 19-20 CLIMBING - CLIFTON GORGE INSTRUCTOR'S TRIP TO ROCKCASTLE MEETING AT EDEN PARK (CLEANUP)
- 23 WILDERNESS SKILLS COURSE LECTURE (FIRST AID)
- 24
- 25-28 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND WILDERNESS SKILLS COURSE OUTING
- 30 LAST MEETING OF THE QUARTER LECTURE - LONG DISTANCE HIKING

JUNE

- 4-8 FINAL EXAMS
- 9-17 BICYCLING IN NOVA SCOTIA (CLOSED)
- 9-24 CLUB TRIP - SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS, COLORADO (TOM S.)

UCMC OFFICERS

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

OKEFENOKEE...

THESE WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A TRULY FANTASTIC TRIP. THERE WERE MANY, MANY MORE.

THE PLACE WAS THE OKEFENOKEE WILD-LIFE REFUGE, A VAST SWAMPLAND. ALLIGATORS AND BIRDS ABOUND. THE TERRAIN IS FLAT, RANGING FROM VAST OPEN AREA CALLED PRAIRIES, TO DENSE STANDS OF CYPRESS TREES COVERED WITH SPANISH MOSS - INUNDATED BY CALM, COOL WATER.

IT'S A PARADISE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE NATURE. THOSE WHO WENT WILL NEVER FORGET THE SIGHTS, THE INCREDIBLE SOUNDS, AND THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT WERE CULTIVATED.

Bob Kessler

WIND...

IT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED THAT NO MOUNTAINS ARE JUST HUGE BEAUTIFUL PROMONTORIES; THEY'RE BEAUTIFULLY TWISTED, UPTHRESTED MASSIFS. THEY HAVE NOT MUST FROZEN STREAMS IN WINTER, BUT TURBULENT FLOWS WHICH DEFY FREEZING POINT AND SOLIDIFY ONLY AFTER PROLONGED SEVERE CHILLS. THE DEEPLY GREENED SLOPES ARE STRIPPED AND THOSE ROCKS UPHEAVED AND FROST-SHATTERED INTO THEIR CRAGGY BEAUTY. WE MISS HALF THE BEAUTY OF MOUNTAINS BY OVERLOOKING THESE RULING FORCES. IT IS THE BEAUTY OF A STRENGTH WHICH IS A MILLION-FOLD GREATER THAN ANY HUMAN EFFORT, NOT ONLY GREATER, BUT INFINITELY LONGER LASTING. I EXPERIENCED IT WITH ALL MY STEPS IN THE 115 MILE AN HOUR WINDS CROSSING OVER THE RIDGE OF THE PRESIDENTIALS ONE NIGHT.

WE FINALLY HIKE OUT OF THE WINDS INTO A BREATHTAKING WOODED VALLEY VIA AN AVALANCHE CHUTE. NOW THE FORCE WASN'T WIND, BUT HEAT, OR RATHER, MELTING SNOW. EVEN IN SNOWSHOES WE WOULD AT TIMES SINK TO OUR HIPS. I HAD NEVER SNOWSHOED BEFORE AND THE GOING WAS FRUSTRATINGLY SLOW AND LONG, YET THE SCENERY WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL I'D EVER SEEN. WE SLEPT TIGHT THAT NIGHT AND ROSE BEFORE THE SUN IN ORDER TO HIKE BEFORE THE TEMPERATURE ROSE ABOVE 0°C AND THE SNOW TURNED TO MUSH AGAIN. WE HAD TO ORIENTEER BECAUSE ALL THE TRAILS WERE OBLITERATED BENEATH THE FIVE FEET OF SNOW. WE CHOSE A ROUTE THAT WAS ALL UPHILL - IT WAS AN EXHAUSTING MORNING.

I WAS FINISHING UP MY LUNCHEON ON THE SLOPE WHEN BRUCE HOLLERED FROM WAY UP AHEAD THAT THEY'VE FOUND THE HUT. THIS WAS THE AMC HUT; IN OTHER WORDS, WE'D HIT THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL, ALMOST EXACTLY WHERE WE'D SET OUT FOR. PERFECT ORIENTEERING!

I STUMBLED THE HALF MILE THROUGH MUSH TO THE HUT. THERE WAS MARK AND BRUCE, SITTING ON A STONE WALL WITH THEIR SOAKED BOOTS OFF (STEAM MISTING FROM THEM), AND WARMING THEIR FEET IN THE SUN. THEY WERE GRINNING. MARK SNAPPED A CANDID PICTURE OF ME AS I ROUNDED THE CORNER. I STROLLED TO THE LITTLE OUTHOUSE WITH THE DOOR JAMMED OPEN BY SNOW, AND TOOK A SEAT. I GAZED OUT INTO THE WARM DAY AT THE ONLY CLOUD CLOUD IN THE SKY. WE WERE NEAR TREELINE AGAIN AND I COULD SEE NAKED PEAKS UNDER THE SKY. THERE I WAS IN THAT OUTHOUSE ON THE WARM, BREEZY SECOND DAY OF SPRING, ONLY THREE MILES FROM THE CAR ON A FOLLOWABLE PATH, AND I THOUGHT HOW WORTHWHILE THE 60 MILE PER HOUR WIND AND 65 POUND PACK WAS, REGARDLESS OF THE SNOWSHOES AND GRAMPONS AND UNREAL BLISTERS THEY GAVE ME.

WE ROMPED THE LAST THREE MILES TO THE CAR - IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR! I COULD SMELL THE ASPHALT BEFORE I COULD SEE IT. IT'S FUNNY, BUT STEPPING ONTO TOE ROAD AS LIKE GOING OUTSIDE, AS IF THE WOODS, DEEP SNOW, AND ALPINE HEIGHTS WERE AN ENCLOSURE. BUT THEY'RE NOT; THEY'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A SWEET ORDEAL.

GARY K. GOODMAN

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ELECTIONS
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OF THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR OF '79 - '80

WILL BE HELD

AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

ALL MEMBERS WILL PLEASE ATTEND!

GRUB CITY NEWS

A DELAYED APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

WHEN I DUTIFULLY AWOKE IN THE SILENT DARKNESS OF 3:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, I FELT WORSE THAN WHEN I HAD ASSUMED THAT POSITION A MERE THREE HOURS AGO. BUT I HAD TO PICK UP "DOC" OVER IN DELHI AT 4, AND DRIVE 4 HOURS TO THE FIELDHOUSE IN SLOANS.

DOC WAS JUST MAKING AN APPEARANCE WHEN I ARRIVED, SO WE DELAYED AWHILE TO EAT SOME GRITS AND SHUFFLE HIS SOMEWHAT CLEAN CAVING GEAR INTO MY DATSUN. WE WERE THROUGH LEXINGTON BEFORE THE SUN CAME UP, AND IN FACT MADE IT OFF I-75 BEFORE STRICKEN WITH THE MORNING RAYS. CURSING FRED ANDERSON ALL THE WAY FOR TELLING US THAT HIS GROUP MIGHT BE GONE BEFORE 7:30, WE DISREGARDED THE 55 LIMIT AND GOT TO THE FIELDHOUSE AROUND 8. WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR AND WALKED INTO THE DARK ROOM, I ALMOST SUMBLED OVER FRED, LYING BEAUTIFULLY ASLEEP IN HIS TOASTY SLEEPING BAG. THESE CAVERS WERE CERTAINLY FAR FROM RIGGING THE PITS WE WERE TO PUSH THAT DAY. HOW I WISHED I WAS WEARING MY CRAMPONS NOW AS I NUDGED FRED INTO A STATE OF WALKING DEATH.

STILL IN A STUPOR MYSELF FROM ONE OF MY TYPICAL WEEKENDS, IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I WAS DROPPING THE FIRST 45' PIT ON THE CLUB'S BLUEWATER. THIS EXTREMELY LARGE EXAMPLE OF A PIT WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE. A CONNECTION WAS BEING ATTEMPTED TO SALLY TURPIN CAVE IN WAYNE CO. AFTER LOU SIMPSON, FRED ANDERSON, BOB? AND MYSELF GOT DOWN THE SECOND PIT (30'), WE PUSHED OUR ONLY LEAD, A SMALL ONYON BLOCKED BY A BOULDER WHICH WAS PARTLY REMOVED FOR BYPASS. DOC SPENT THE DAY WITH BARB SIMPSON AND JOHN BARNES DRY CAVING WHILE WE SAT IN WATER AND HIKE THROUGH POURING RAIN.

THE CONNECTION ATTEMPT FAILED, SO AFTER EMERGING FROM THE PIT, LOU AND I DECIDED TO RIDGEWALK THE AREA LOOKING FOR PROSPECTIVE SINKHOLES. FOLLOWING SALLY TURPIN HOLLOW FOR ABOUT HALF A MILE, A LARGE SINK WAS SPIED. JUST MY LUCK - A WATERFALL POURING INTO THE OPENING. SO WE TRIED TO DAM THE

FLOOR, BUT AFTER THAT FAILED I JUST DIVED THROUGH THE WATER INTO THE CREVICE, RIPPING MY PANTS AND SKIN SIMULTANEOUSLY. BUT WHO CARES, BECAUSE IN FRONT OF ME WERE 20' HIGH WALKING TRUNK PASSAGE. WITH ONLY A SMALL FLASHLIGHT, NO DEADLINE LEFT TO RETURN TO THE FIELDHOUSE, AND A GENERAL FOUL ATTITUDE, THE CAVE WOULD WAIT FOR MY RETURN.

APRIL 7: BOB KESSLER, DAN LYNCH, RICK FORRESTER, MARY?, AND RUETY LEFT UC 2½ HOURS LATE FROM WAITING FOR DAN, AND ARRIVED AT THE FIELDHOUSE 4 HOURS LATER. SLEEPING WITH VISIONS OF ENDLESS CAVERNS, THIS GROUP WAS REPRESENTING THE UCMC STUDENT GROTTO OF THE NSS IN THEIR FIRST ORGANIZED SURVEY. A BEAUTIFUL MORNING DELAYED THE START, BUT UNDERWAY LATER WE FOUND OURSELVES HIKE THE MILE TO THE ENTRANCE. STILL POURING VIOLENTLY, WE AGAIN FAILED AT DIVERTING THE WATER AND SUFFERED SOME DAMPNESS BY AVOIDING MY PREVIOUS ROUTE AND TAKING AN UPPER PASSAGE. AFTER GETTING THE FIVE OF US IN, WE QUICKLY TROTTED DOWN THE ENORMOUS TRUNK, TURNED A CORNER IN ABOUT 40 FEET, AND CAME TO AN ABRUPT STOP. "QUICKSTOP CAVE" WE CALLED IT LATER. THE ONLY OTHER LEAD WAS THE STREAM PASSAGE UNDERNEATH THE CANYON, WHICH I EXCITEDLY PUSHED AFTER ATTEMPTS TO DIVERT THE FLOW OF WATER ON THE FLOOR. THIS ALSO PETERED OUT SOON IN A SUMP MARKED BY A DEAD TURTLE, AND I GOT RIDICULOUSLY STUCK BACKING OUT OF THE CRAWL AS WATER FREELY FLOWED THROUGH MY COVERALLS. SO IT GOES.

WE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY RIDGEWALKING WITH NOTURNUPS (NO LUCK!), AND FOUND OURSELVES BACK IN CINCY BEFORE 9:00 THAT NIGHT, A NEW RECORD.

BY THE WAY, WE MAPPED THE CAVE FOR THE HELL OF IT, GETTING A TOTAL LENGTH OF 79.5 FEET IN 5 STATIONS. WELL, FELLOW GROTTO MEMBERS, WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO!

MH

MIAMI VALLEY GROTTO

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MVG WILL BE HELD AT THE HOME OF JEFF ARTHUR IN MASON, OH. FEATURED WILL BE REPORTS OF SCOOPS IN FENTRESS CO., TENNESSEE, AND PROGRESS IN SALLY TURPIN. SEE MARK FOR MAP AND DETAILS. MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY,

THREE CLUB MEMBERS DESERT

AFTER COMPLETING THE GRUELING TESTS OF WINTER AND THEY GAVE US NO QUARTER. JOHN KOZIATEK, CRAIG PATTERSON, AND I, WHO LIVE TOGETHER AT THE INFAMOUS 444 FORGOT ABOUT THE CLUB TRIPS, FORSAKING THE ALPINE CLIMBS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS TRIP. IN DESPERATION FOR LEAVING THE SIN CITY WE HEADED FOR THE SOUTHERN BORDER AND THE OPEN COUNTRY OF THE CHIHUAHUA DESERT LYING BETWEEN THE TWO RANGES OF THE SIERRA MADRE, ALL IN CRAIG'S LIMPING VW RABBIT WHICH HAD TO CARRY A TURTLE (CAR TOP CARRIER) WITH A BROKEN LEG (MOUNT).

AFTER ABOUT TWO DAYS OF DRIVING WE ENTERED A CURIO SHOP OUTSIDE OF BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK IN TEXAS. I OBTAINED A HUGE GEOLOGIC MAP AND PLANNED OUR HIKE WHILE CRAIG AND JOHN OBTAINED THE CURIOS. WE THEN WENT TO THE RANGER STATION AND OBTAINED BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS TO BACKPACK TO THE 1600' DEEP CANYON OF THE VERY TIP OF THE BIG BEND. HERE ALSO WE FILLED UP 2 GALLONS/PERSON OF THE LAST FRESH WATER WE WOULD SEE FOR FOUR DAYS. WE HIKE ACROSS BADLANDS, TALLEY MOUNTAIN (WHOSE THORNY CACTUS VEGETATION WAGED A TALLY ON OUR BODIES), TO A GHOST MINING TOWN AND THEN ACROSS THE STINKING DESERT TO THE RIO GRANDE RIVER. THIS HIKE OF WELL OVER 20 MILES TOOK TWO DAYS, YET WE ACTUALLY HAD FOUR HIKEs. DURING THE HEAT OF THE DAY, OF OVER A HUNDRED DEGREES, WE FOUND WHAT SHADE WE COULD AND TOOK SIESTAS. OUR HIKEING WAS IN THE MORNING AND EVENING.

WE BAPTISED OURSELVES IN THE MUDDY WATERS OF THE RIO GRANDE TO OUR RELIEF SOON AFTER ARRIVING ON ITS SUNNY BANK. JOHN AND I DAY HIKE UP TO THE CANYON (WHICH INVOLVED HIKEING THROUGH A JUNGLE!) WHERE WE FOUND THAT THE CLIFF WAS MADE OF LARGE ROCK CRYSTAL. CRAIG STAYED AT CAMP AND SOAKED UP SUN. WE HIKE OUT 16 MILES TO THE CAR THE NEXT DAY AGAINST A NORTH WIND WHICH SAVED US FROM THE HEAT OF THE SUN.

ON OUR DRIVE HOME WE TOOK A LIESURELY PACE, STOPPING IN THE HOUSTON - GALVESTON AREA TO VISIT HAL SHAW, EX-CLUB PRESIDENT, AND TO SIGHT-SEE. HAL TOOK US OUT TO AN AMAZING ALL YOU CAN EAT SEAFOOD RESTAURANT WHERE WE PIGGED IN THE CLUB FASHION. THEN WE WENT TO FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS THE NEXT DAY TO PLAY ON BOURBON ST.

YOU CAN SEE SLIDES FROM OUR TRIP AT A HOT NIGHT IN THE DESERT PARTY AT 444 DIXMYTH TONIGHT AFTER THE OPEN HOUSE.

MORE CLIMBING

TWO WEEKENDS BEFORE FINALS SAW AN ADVENTUROUS COUPLE ATTEMPT TO CLIMB THE ROCKY, PRECIPITOUS AREA KNOWN AS CLIFTON GORGE. "A.J." OSTERBROCK AND "EAGLE GRABBER" FORRESTER WINGED THEIR WAY NORTHWARD TO ENCOUNTER AN EARLY MORNING FLAT TIRE, A 45 MINUTE WALK AMIDST FROZEN STREAMS, HEPATICA LEAVES AND A WOODLAND POISED ON THE VIRGE OF SPRING.

WINTER'S CHILL SEEPED FROM THE ROCK FACE, NUMBING THE FINGERTIPS, AS SEVERAL CLIMBS WERE ATTEMPTED. 8) MORE MILES WERE ADDED TO THE TRUSTY VEGA AS SUNSET APPROACHED AND THE TRUENTUROUS, SAKISFIED CLIMBERS HEADED SOUTH.

RICK FORRESTER

FORRESTER'S FACTS

FROM THE GREAT PACIFIC IRON WORKS CATALOG...

"ADOLF JUSI AND WALTER MARTI INVENTED THE JUMAR (JUSI-MARTI, JU-MAR) IN THE EARLY '50s. JUSI WAS A GOVERNMENT BIRD BANDER AND WITH MARTI HE DEVELOPED THESE ASCENDING DEVICES TO CLIMB TO EAGLE NESTS IN SWITZERLAND."

FOR SALE: DUNHAM SPECIALE VIBRAM BOOTS SIZE 10½, WELL BROKEN IN, BUT TOO SMALL FOR ME. CALL JEFF AT 579-0476 AFTER 7:30 PM. PRICE NEGOTIABLE.

LEAD CLIMBERS UNITE!

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS REMAINING IN THIS QUARTER, BILL STRACHAN WILL BE ORGANIZING AND LEADING CLIMBING TRIPS WITH THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF THE MORE ADVANCED CLIMBERS IN THE CLUB GETTING TOGETHER AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADVANCING THEIR LEAD CLIMBING SKILLS. THE FIRST SUCH TRIP WILL BE TO THE RED RIVER GORGE. SUBSEQUENT TRIPS WILL BE TO SENECA ROCKS. ROPE TEAMS WILL BE ORGANIZED AND MULTIPLE PITCH WILL BE THE MAJOR TYPE OF CLIMBING DONE.

TEACHINGS FROM THE PINNACLE

"OH! PRAISED BE TO YOU, ALMIGHTY ONE! I HAVE CLIMBED THIS STEEP AND DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN TO ITS PINNACLE TO POSE YOUNTHIS QUESTION. WHICH IS THE FOOL? IS IT THE MAN WHO STATES THAT THE NUMBER OF WILD FLOWERS GROWING ON THE IMPASSABLE MOUNTAINS ARE RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF OLD MAIDS IN THE VALLEY OR IS THE FOOL THE MAN WHO DENIES IT?"

"MY SON, YOU ARE THE FOOL FOR THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS. THE OLD MAIDS, HAVING NO HUMAN COMPANIONS, SEEK THE LOVING NATURE OF KITTENS AND CATS. AS IT MUST BE, A BALANCE EXISTS WITH ALL THINGS, THE LOVING NATURE OF THE CAT FOR THE MAID IS BALANCED WITH THE CAT'S VIOLENT HUNTING OF MICE."

"TEACH ME MORE OF LIFE, ALMIGHTY ONE."

"MY SON, THE MICE LIVE IN THE DECAYING SOIL ROOTING OUT THE UNBORN INSECTS SUCH AS THE STINGING WASP. THESE WASPS OF VIOLENT NATURE FLY TO THE IMPASSIBLE MOUNTAINS IN SEARCH OF THE TIMID BUMBLE BEE WHICH THEY KILL AND FEED TO THEIR UNBORN WHICH HIDE IN THE DECAYING EARTH. THE WASP KILLS TO GIVE LIFE TO ITS OWN - ANOTHER BALANCE."

"OH! ALMIGHTY ONE! THE CLOUDS ARE LEAVING MY EYES AND I UNDERSTAND."

"MY SON, YOU NOW UNDERSTAND. WITHOUT THE TIMID BUMBLE BEE WHICH SOARS THE UNBRIDLED MOUNTAINS, THE FLOWERS WOULD NOT BE TOUCHED BY LIFE AND THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS WOULD DIE."

"OH, ALMIGHTY ONE, I NOW UNDERSTAND THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH, MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY, BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LONELY MAID DIES?"

"MY SON, THE SOUL OF THE LONELY MAID GIVES LIFE TO THE NEW-BORN CREATURES OF THE FIELD WHILE HER BODY JOINS THE DECAYING EARTH WHICH IS THE PLACE FOR MICE TO FORAGE AND UPON WHICH THE WILD FLOWERS GROW."

"ALMIGHTY ONE, YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME AND I HAVE LEARNED. LIFE IS LIKE A WHEEL - THE CYCLE OF EXISTENCE. WITHOUT THE FRAGILE SPOKES OF LIFE AND DEATH, MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY, AND THE TIMID AND VIOLENT CREATURES, THE WHEEL OF EXISTENCE WOULD CRUMBLE."

RF (BS)

WHERE THE SOGGY BUZZARDS ROOST

OVER THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 30-APRIL 1, SOME MEMBERS OF THIS CLUB TOOK OFF FOR A SHORT VISIT OF A FEW SCENIC SPOTS IN OUR HOME STATE. THE RAIN WAS THERE, AND SO WAS RICK FORRESTER, AMY OSTERBROCK, PAUL SCHULTZ, FRANK BERTRAM, MARK HARTINGER, KATHY MURPHY, AND ANNA JONES.

FIGHTING THE RAIN AND MUD, AND THE COMBINATION ON RUSTY'S PAWS TRYING TO END UP ON YOUR COAT, THE GROUP DECIDED TO START HIKING A TRAIL WHICH WOULD LEAD THEM $5\frac{1}{2}$ MILES THROUGH A GEOLOGIC AREA PECULIAR TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO AREA. DAY BACKS WERE GRUDGINGLY PULEED OVER K-MART PONCHOS AND PARKAS, EFFORTS TO HALT THE PRECIPITATION FROM ENTERING THE WORLD OF THE SEMI-DRY. AFTER FORDING SWOLLEN, MUDDIED STREAMS AND PASSING ALONG HILLSIDES IN BLOOM WITH THE FIRST WILDFLOWERS OF SPRING, THIS INTREPID UOMC GROUP EXPLORED WHAT WAS AT FIRST BELIEVED TO BE AN OLD LOG CABIN BUT TURNED OUT TO BE SOME SORT OF ANIMAL STALL.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP WAS REACHED DURING A MIRACULOUS BREAK IN THE NASTY WEATHER, AND THE SEVEN THOROUGHLY EXPLORED THE LIMESTONE OUTCROPPING OF A RIDGE KNOWN AS BUZZARDS ROOST ROCK. TRUE TO ITS NAME, A MULTITUDE OF THE LARGE AVIARIES WINGED THEIR PATHS AROUND THE GROUP DURING THE MIDDAY JAUNT. A SUPERB LUNCH WAS UNDERTAKEN WHEN THE RAIN RESUMED, AND THE DAMPENED MARCH WAS QUICKLY BEGAN AGAIN TO THE NEXT OUTCROP, RED ROCK, WHERE A QUICK STOP WAS MADE BEFORE RETURNING TO THE CARS.

THE BARN AT AMY'S PLACE PROVIDED THE EVENING'S SHELTER IN STYLE AND ALSO PROVED TO FIT THE PROPER SETTING FOR THE GROUP TO DELVE OVER TALES OF THE MACABRE AND SUPERNATURAL WHILE GORGING THEMSELVES ON THE CLUB'S TRADITIONAL WINE AND CHEESE.

MARK, KATHY AND ANNA LEFT SATURDAY NIGHT, BUT THE OTHER FOUR REMAINED SUNDAY TO SPEND THE DAY REMOVING LITTER FROM THE SURROUNDING FARM.

MH

WHAT IS A BIKE RUN?

A BIKE RUN IS AN ACTIVITY REQUIRING TWO PERSONS AND A BIKE, AND SOME AMOUNT OF LUNACY, OF COURSE. ONE PERSON RIDES THE BIKE WHILE THE OTHER PERSON RUNS (JOGS). THEY TRADE AROUND EVERY FIVE MILES, CONTINUING THIS FOR 2 DAYS. WANT TO TRY IT. JOIN RICK FORRESTER AND MARK HARTINGER OVER THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 21-22.

ASK THE QUACK

The following First Aid procedures were taken from "First Aid For Snake-bite" distributed by the American Red Cross under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. This is the most recently revised information that can be obtained.

"Poisonous or nonpoisonous, a snakebite victim should have medical attention. A snakebite victim should be taken to the hospital as quickly as possible, even in cases when snakebite is only suspected.

FIRST AID: 1. As stated above, get the victim to a hospital fast. Meanwhile, take the following general first aid measures: Keep the victim from moving around. Keep the victim as calm as possible, preferably lying down. Immobilize the bitten extremity and keep it at or below heart level. If a hospital can be reached within 4 to 5 hours and no symptoms develop, this is all that is necessary.

SYMPTOMS 1. Mild to moderate symptoms include mild swelling or discoloration and mild to moderate pain at the wound site with tingling sensation, rapid pulse, weakness, dimness of vision, nausea, vomiting, and shortness of breath. 2. Severe symptoms include rapid swelling and numbness, followed by severe pain at the wound site. Other effects include pinpoint pupils, twitching, slurred speech, shock, convulsions, paralysis, unconsciousness, and no breathing or pulse.

FIRST AID 2. If mild to moderate symptoms develop, apply a constricting band from 2 to 4 inches above the bite but NOT around the joints (i.e. elbow, knee, wrist, or ankle) and NOT around the head, neck, or trunk. The band should be from 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches wide, NOT thin like a rubber band. The band should be snug, but loose enough to slip one finger underneath. Be alert to swelling; loosen the band if it becomes too tight, but do not remove it. To ensure that blood flow has not been stopped, periodically check the pulse in the extremity beyond the bite.

FIRST AID 3. If severe symptoms develop, incisions and suction should be performed immediately. Apply a constricting band, if not already done, and make a cut in the skin with a sharp sterilized blade through the fang mark(s). Cuts should be no deeper than just

through the skin and should be 1/2 inch long, extending over the suspected venom deposit point (because a snake strikes downward, the deposit point is usually lower than the fang mark). Cuts should be made along the long axis of the limb. DO NOT make cross-cut incisions; DO NOT make cuts on the head, neck, or trunk. Suction should be applied with a suction cup for 30 minutes. If a suction cup is not available, use the mouth, but it is recommended that the venom not be swallowed and that the mouth be rinsed.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: 1. Shock: Keep the victim lying down and comfortable and maintain body temperature. 2. Breathing and heartbeat: If breathing stops, give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If breathing stops and there is no pulse, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be performed by trained personnel. 3. Identifying the snake: If the snake can be killed without risk or delay, it should be brought with care, to the hospital for identification. 4. Cleansing the bitten area: The bitten area may be washed with soap and water and blotted dry with sterile gauze. Dressing and bandages can be applied, but only for a short period of time. 5. Cold therapy: Cold compresses, ice, chemical ice packs, spray refrigerants, and other methods of cold therapy are NOT recommended in the first aid treatment of snakebite. 6. Medicine to relieve pain: A medicine not containing aspirin can be given to the victim for relief of pain. DO NOT give alcohol, sedatives, aspirin, or other medications."

-----The Quack

BAKE SALE!!!

On Wednesday, April 18, the culinary staff of the Mountaineering Club will be offering tasty delights on the TUC BRIDGE from 9 am to 2 pm. Nudge your friends that direction and pick up on some of the goodies.

Volunteers are needed to man the stand as well as making the food. If you have some recipe you've been dying to try out, or if you just love to meet people early in the morning, give Marty Huseman a call at 661-1666.

WILDERNESS SKILLS COURSE READY

WITH APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH BEFORE THE FIRST LECTURE, COORDINATORS MARK AND BOB HAVE GOT THINGS PRETTY WELL UNDER WAY FOR THE CLUBS FIRST WILDERNESS SKILLS, AN IN DEPTH CLASS LOOKING AT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIVING AND VACATIONING IN REMOTE OUTDOOR AREAS WHERE FACILITIES ARE NOT PRESENT.

PRELIMINARY LECTURES WILL COVER THE TOPICS OF EQUIPMENT, TRIP PLANNING, AND FIRST AID. VARIOUS GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE FEATURED AT THIS PART OF THE COURSE. THE OUTING ITSELF WILL COVER A MYRIAD OF SUBJECTS, MAINLY DEALING WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SURMOUNTING OBSTACLES IN A WILDERNESS SITUATION (STREAM CROSSINGS, ETC.) AND SEARCH & RESCUE.

FIVE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WERE CHOSEN AS THE INSTRUCTORS FOR THE COURSE, BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES. THOSE FIVE WILL BE:

MARK HARTINGER
BOB KESSLER
JANE RIELLY
BILL STRACHAN
RICK FORRESTER

AN ALTERNATE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CASE OF A PROBLEM WITH ANOTHER INSTRUCTOR (BRUCE WILLIAMS WILL BE THE ALTERNATE). ALL INSTRUCTORS WILL GO TO THE AREA THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH IT.

"IN GOD'S WILDERNESS LIES THE HOPE OF THE WORLD - THE GREAT FRESH, UN-BLIGHTED, UNREDEEMED WILDERNESS. THE SALLING HARNESS. OF CIVILIZATION DROPS OFF, AND THE WOUNDS HEAL ERE WE ARE AWARE."

JOHN MUIR

ATTENTION!!!!

THE WEEKLY CLUB MEETING ON MAY 23 WILL BE HELD AT EDEN PARK NEAR THE OLD RESERVOIR WALL. AFTER A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING, WE WILL CLEAN UP THE CLIMBING AREAS OF GARBAGE AND GLASS. THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH PEOPLE DRIVING TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR EVERYONE.

HELP NEEDED ORGANIZING A UNIQUE MEETING...

THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, WON'T BE VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONES YOU'RE PROBABLY USED OVER THE PAST SIX OR SEVEN YEARS. SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT IS BEING PLANNED, AND IF THERE IS A LITTLE HELP FROM A FEW OF THE MEMBERS, IT JUST MIGHT COME OFF AS A BIG SUCCESS.

A CONCERT FEATURING FOLK MUSIC WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF MARK AND BOB FOR THE EVENING, AS A FEW PERFORMERS WILL PUT ON A SHORT CONCERT IN ROOM 414 TUC, STARTING AT 7:00 AND LASTING TILL AROUND 9:00.

IF PERSONS CAN HELP IN ARRANGING PERFORMERS (ONLY TWO OR THREE ARE PLANNED), SETTING UP, AND CONTRIBUTING DONATIONS TO BE GIVEN TO THE ACTS, THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE SOMEWHAT OF A LARGER DEAL IN THE FUTURE. SO START THINKING AHEAD AND PLAN ON BRINGING A FEW FRIENDS!

INSECTOLOGY 101

AS WARMER WEATHER ARRIVES IT BRINGS WITH IT AN ABUNDANCE OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE THAT STIR FROM THE WINTER COVER. BUT AS THE WARMTH BRINGS SPRING INTO FULL BLOOM IT ALSO GIVES RISE TO THE MANY INSECT PESTS THAT PLAGUE THE WILDERNESS ADVENTURER. IT IS THE DANGEROUS INSECTS WHICH CONCERN ME THE MOST. FIRST, BECAUSE I HAVE HAD SEVERAL ENCOUNTERS WITH SUCH INSECTS WHILE ON CLUB TRIPS AND SECOND, BECAUSE EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO IDENTIFY DANGEROUS FROM NON-DANGEROUS ONES. I DECIDED TO DIG INTO AS MANY RESOURCES AS I COULD IN IDENTIFYING STINGING INSECTS AND SPIDERS. THESE RESOURCES CAN HELP TO NOT ONLY IDENTIFY BUT AVOID THESE PESTS.

STINGING INSECTS:

THERE ARE TWO BASIC DANGERS WITH STINGING INSECTS SUCH AS BEES, WASPS AND HORNETS. FIRST, THEY CAN LIVE VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE, WHETHER IT BE IN OLD LOGS OR UNDER ROCKS. THIS POSES A SPECIFIC DANGER FOR BACKPACKERS WHO MUST TRAVEL OVER TERRAIN WHICH MAY VERY WELL HIDE A NEST AND WHICH OFTEN CANNOT BE SEEN UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. SECOND, THESE INSECTS MAY ATTACK IN SWARMS WHOSE STINGS CAN BE FATAL. ACCORDING TO STATISTICS MORE PEOPLE ARE ATTACKED BY STINGING INSECTS THAN THACKS AND SNAKES COMBINED.

THE BEST WAY TO AVOID THESE INSECTS IS TO USE COMMON SENSE RULES SUCH AS STAYING ON THE TRAIL AND NEVER ANTAGONIZING A HIVE WITH STICKS OR ROCKS. AVOID BRIGHT,

COLORFUL CLOTHING WHICH ATTRACT INSECTS. ALSO, DON'T WEAR PERFUME OR SWEET SMELLING DEODORANT. WHEN CAMPING, CAMP ONLY IN APPROVED CAMPSITES. CLEAN UP YOUR CAMPSITE OF FOOD AND TRASH (BEES ARE ATTRACTED TO SPILLED SOFT DRINKS BECAUSE OF THE SYRUP IN THEM). ANOTHER PRECAUTION IS TO AVOID SUGARY AND SYRUPY FOODS. THE HIGH SUGAR CONTENT IN YOUR PERSPIRATION WILL DRAW BEES. BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PRECAUTION IS TO BE ALERT AND NEVER ASSUME THAT YOU WILL NEVER BE ATTACKED. I WAS NEARLY ATTACKED TWICE, ONCE AT EDEN PARK WHEN I WAS CLIMBING THE BACK WALL. BEES WILL NEST IN THE CRACKS THERE AND ARE ATTRACTED TO THE WATER FROM THE DRIPPING PIPES. ANOTHER TIME WAS AT CLIFTON GORGE WHILE CLIMBING AN AREA NOT COMMONLY USED (NOW I KNOW WHY). IN BOTH CASES I WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE INSECTS' PRESENCE. FORTUNATELY I ESCAPED UNHARMED.

FIRE ANTS:

THE DANGER FROM FIRE ANTS, RED ANTS WHICH PRODUCE A FIERY STING, IS EXTREMELY EXAGGERATED BY PRESS SENSATIONALISM AND SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS WITH WILD IMAGINATIONS. IT IS TRUE THAT OCCASIONALLY PEOPLE ARE PAINFULLY STUNG BY THESE ANTS BUT INSTANCES ARE NOT COMMON, IN FACT, A LOT LESS COMMON THAN BEES. DEATH OR SEVERE INJURY IS EXTREMELY RARE AND USUALLY HAPPENS ONLY TO ELDERLY PEOPLE. UNLESS YOU ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THE POISON, FIRE ANTS CAN BE EASILY AVOIDED AND ARE A NUISANCE MORE THAN A THREAT. THEIR HABITAT IS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

DON SPELLER

(IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE, THIS ARTICLE WILL CONTINUE WITH A DISCUSSION OF SPIDERS)

A HOT NIGHT IN THE DESERT

A PARTY OFFERED BY THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT US THE SUCCESSFUL SECOND CLUB PIG OUT. JOIN BILL STRACHAN, CRAIG PATTERSON AND JOHN KOZIATEK TONIGHT AFTER THE OPEN HOUSE AT THEIR OPEN HOUSE AT 444 DIXMYTH TO PARTY AND SEE SLIDES OF THEIR SPRING BREAK TRIP TO TEXAS AND BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK.

**MT. WASHINGTON -
A SUCCESS STORY**

PRELIMINARY: ABOUT 8 MONTHS AGO I PLANNED ON GOING TO MINNESOTA OVER THIS PAST SPRING BREAK TO ROCK CLIMB OVER FROZEN LAKE SUPERIOR AT PALISADE HEAD. WHILE WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF THE TRIP WITH BRUCE WILLIAMS AND JANE RIELLY, WE MADE A SLIGHT CHANGE IN PLANS AND DECIDED TO GO TO THE WHITE MTS. IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. OUR ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO BACKPACK IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE, AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE TRIP TURNED INTO A MAJOR MOUNTAINEERING ASSAULT ON ALL EIGHT PEAKS IN THE RANGE, INCLUDING MT. WASHINGTON (6,288'), THE HIGHEST AND MOST DANGEROUS, WITH WINDS EXCEEDING 230 MPH AND EXTREMELY UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER. IT WAS AT THIS TIME GARY GOODMAN JOINED OUR TEAM. WE SPENT WINTER QUARTER CONDITIONING AND GATHERING EQUIPMENT FOR THE SIX DAY ASSAULT. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN JANE CAME DOWN WITH AN INNER EAR INFECTION A FEW DAYS BEFORE WE LEFT AND HAD TO CANCEL OUT.

BRUCE, GARY AND I ARRIVED AT OUR STARTING POINT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10, THANKS TO KATHY MURPHY FOR LENDING US HER BRAND NEW CHEVETTE (WHICH DIDN'T HAVE A TITLE AND THE PLATES WERE IN THE NAME OF A DEAD MAN AND SO THE CAR WAS TECHNICALLY STOLEN - ALL MINOR TECHNICALITIES WHICH I CASUALLY MENTIONED TO BRUCE AND GARY ABOUT 150 MILES OUT OF CINCINNATI).

MARCH 11: BURDENED WITH 65 LB. PACKS (INCLUDING SNOWSHOES, CRAMPONS, ICE AXE, CLIMBING GEAR, ETC.), WE SET OUT ON THE CRAWFORD PATH NEAR 1900' AFTER A WARNING FROM A WOMAN WHO REMINDED ME AN AWFUL LOT OF CINDY BICK IN HER LOOKS AND SPEECH. UNDAUNTED, WE KEPT OUR SPIRITS HIGH AS WE CRAMPONED THROUGH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF VEGETATION AS WE NEARED OUR FIRST PEAK, MT. PIERCE (4312'). GARY SOON FOUND JOY IN HIS NEW CRAMPONS, AND WAS QUICK TO EDUCATE HIMSELF IN FRONT-POINTING WHILE CLIMBING THE STEEP SLOPE THAT DAY. CRAMPONS SOON TURNED INTO A NECESSITY NEARING THE SUMMIT AS THE GROUND TURNED TO SOLID ICE COVER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TRIP, REMINDING ME OF THE DANGER WE WERE WALKING INTO. MT. WASHINGTON EARNED OUR SURNAME OF MT. DEATH.

THE DAY WAS LONG, AND AFTER MAKING AN APPEARANCE ON OUR FIRST SUMMIT, STILL BELOW TREELINE, WE MADE A CAMP IN THE SHRUBS ON THE WAY TO MT. EISENHOWER (4761'). WITH SUNLIGHT REMAINING, AND SOME SMALL AMOUNT OF STRENGTH, GARY AND MYSELF DECIDED TO TRY THE STEEP SOUTH SLOPE OF THE AWESOME EISENHOWER. THIS PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE

MT. WASHINGTON...

MOST ENJOYABLE PARTS OF THE TRIP, AND I THINK ME AND GARY BECAME VERY CLOSE THAT LATE AFTERNOON WHILE GLISSADING AND CLIMBING THE VEGETATIONLESS PEAK.

SUPPER WAS MADE IN THE DARK, BUT IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT. SLEEP WAS INEVITABLE AFTER THE 2900' OF ASCENT THAT DAY.

MARCH 19: ICE COVERED ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING THIS MORNING. WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLOUD AND THE HUMIDITY PRECIPITATED AND FROZE ON OUR CAMP. THE WIND WAS OVER OUR HEAD IN THE HOLLOW WE HAD CHOSEN, BUT ONCE WE CAME OUT WE REALIZED WHAT WIND WAS. THE HIGH WINDS ON MT. PIERCE AND EISENHOWER WHICH MADE IT DIFFICULT TO STAND STILL WERE BUT A SUBTLE PRELUDE TO THE FORCE TODAY.

ENTIRELY EXPOSED ON THE RIDGE, A HELLISH FEELING HAUNTED US INTO MEAGER ROCK WINDBREAKS. ON ONE OCCASION I REMEMBER FALLING ASLEEP BEHIND A LARGE ROCK, EXHAUSTED FROM THE BATTLE I WAS FIGHTING WITH WINDS OF AROUND 100 MPH THAT USED MY LARGE PACK AS A SAIL TO PULL ME AROUND AT WILL. BUT WITH CONSTANT VISIONS OF MT. MONROE (5385') - OUR DESTINATION THE OTHER SIDE - WE CROSSED MT. FRANKLIN (5004') AND TRAVERSED THE 70° SOUTHEAST SLOPE OF MONROE TO CATCH OUR FIRST SIGHT OF OUR ULTIMATE GOAL, THE MOUNTAIN WITH THE WORST WEATHER IN THE CONTINENTAL US. THE WEATHER STATION ON THE SUMMIT (WHOSE TOWERS MARKED THE TOP AND WERE OUR CLUE AS TO THE EXACT LOCATION WHEN THE CLOUDS WOULD CLEAR FOR A FEW SECONDS) RECORDED 115 MPH WINDS AT THAT MOMENT.

WE SET UP IN THE APPROPRIATELY NAMED REFUGE ROOM AT THE LAKE OF THE CLOUDS HUT, AND ENDED OUR DAY WITH A CLIMB OF MT. MONROE, GLISSADING, AND VISITING ONE OF THE CROSSES WHICH MARKED THE LOCATION OF ONE UNFORTUNATE HIKER'S FATAL END - 200 YARDS FROM THE HUT.

MARCH 20 - THIS TUESDAY MORNING WAS INCREDIBLY CALM, SO WE IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR THE SUMMIT OF WASHINGTON WITHOUT PACKS TO QUICKEN OUR PACE. BOULDERS MADE CRAMPON TRAVEL DIFFICULT, BUT AS CLOUDS CLEARED AND WE NEARED THE SUMMIT, OUR GOAL, PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF MY OWN LIFETIME UP TO NOW, WE KEPT UP THE GRUELING PACE OF THE LAST OF THE 1300' FROM THE HUT (VERTICAL), AND WE WERE ABLE TO STAND ON THE SUMMIT MARKER AT AROUND 11:00 AM IN 18° TEMPERATURES AND 35 MPH WINDS (VERY CALM!).

WE SNAPPED A FEW PICTURES AND MADE A QUICK DESCENT FROM APPROACHING STORM CLOUDS WHICH CONCEALED THE SUMMIT AS WE LEFT - IRONICALLY THE LAST TIME WE SAW IT. OUR RETREAT WAS ON THE LEE SIDE AT THE HEAD OF TUCKERMAN RAVINE. THE NIGHT IN THE HUT WAS AGAIN DIFFICULT, AS WINDS RATTLED THE DOOR AND SPOOKED THE THREE OF US.

MARCH 21 - I COULDN'T HOLD IT IN ANY MORE, SO I WENT OUT INTO THE EARLY MORNING DARKNESS TO URINATE. THIS WAS HOW I DETECTED THE 180° SHIFT IN WIND DIRECTION. THIS MUCH OF A CHANGE WORRIED ME, SO I TALKED TO BRUCE AND GARY AND WE DECIDED THAT ONCE WAITING THE NEEDED TWO OR THREE HOURS TILL THE WEATHER SUBSIDED, WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO MAKE IT TO A SUITABLE SHELTER AWAY FROM THE TREACHEROUS RIDGE WHICH HAS UNMERCIFULLY CLAIMED SO MANY LIVES IN THE PAST. OUR DESCENT WAS INEVITABLE. BLOCKED BY A LAND MASS INCREDIBLY LARGE, OUR ONLY ROUTE WAS DOWN. OUR TIME HAD RUN OUT, AND THE LAST THREE PEAKS (JEFFERSON, 5715'; CLAY, 5532'; ADAMS, 5798') HAD ELUDED US. OUR SATISFACTION LAY IN OUR SUCCESSFUL CLIMB OF WASHINGTON IN MARCH, A FEAT OF EXTREME CHALLENGE AND DIFFICULTY IN OUR OWN MINDS, A GRAVESITE FOR OTHERS. THE TOURISTS DRIVING UP THE AUTO ROAD IN MID-JULY WILL NEVER KNOW. SO WE STARTED DOWN OAKES GULF, A STEEP SNOW SLOPE WHICH HAD TURNED TO SLUSH IN THE SUN WHICH WARNED OF ANOTHER DANGER, WETNESS, ON THIS FIRST DAY OF SPRING.

MARCH 22: WE HAD SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY YESTERDAY ORIENTEERING OUR WAY THROUGH THE GLACIAL VALLEY TO OUR PREVIOUS NIGHT'S PARTLY BURIED SHELTER. SNOWSHOEING OVER 4-5 FEET OF MELTING ICE CRYSTALS TURNED INTO SOMEWHAT OF A NIGHTMARE, AND THE DANGER OF THE RIVER WE WERE FOLLOWING FLOODING FROM MELTWATER CAUSED US TO START A DIRECT ASCENT UPHILL TO INTERSECT A TRAIL WHICH COULD BE FOLLOWED DESPITE THE DEEP SNOW WHICH HAD ALL SIGNS OF ANY OTHER TRAIL. SO, FOLLOWING A HEADING OF 283°, WE SUFFERED THROUGH THE MORNING UNDER RELENTLESSLY HEAVY PACKS AND WITH BOOTS SOAKING UP WATER LIKE DISHWATER SPONGES. BUT THE DESTINATION, A HUT, CAME INTO VIEW AFTER 5 HOURS OF UNREPORTABLE FRUSTRATION OF CLIMBING AND GROPING THROUGH DENSE FOREST, BREAKING THROUGH THE SNOW TO OUR HIPS AT TIMES. BUT WE HAD MADE IT, AND THE CAR, ALTHOUGH THREE MILES AWAY, WAS JUST A QUICK WALK.

MARCH 27: I GOT MY FIRST LOOK AT THE SLIDES FROM OUR TRIP TODAY, AND I DON'T THINK THEY'LL EVER DO IT JUSTICE. MAYBE I CAN USE THEM IN ROUTE PLANNING WHEN I RETURN TO FINISH THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAVERSE?

MH