

HIGHEST POINT IN EACH STATE - Part I

When I retired from the General Electric Company in 1966, many of my friends asked me how I was going to keep active during my retirement. I explained that my wife, Catherine, and I planned to tour the United States in our camper. While traveling and camping were rewarding, I longed for my primary activity of mountain climbing especially when I was enticed by the sight of so many spectacular peaks in the West.

Having a background of climbing the Adirondack "46", the Catskill "3500", and the New England mountains that are designated on various established lists, I had a natural inclination to expand my aspirations to mountains on a national list. In 1970, I climbed to the highest point in each of five western states, and I had, before then, hiked up Mount Marcy and the high points in the New England states except R.I. So, at the end of 1970, realizing that I had been on the highest point of eleven states, I resolved to ascend the highest point in each state in the conterminous United States.

The year 1971 was a very good year because I reached 29 more high points. By the end of the year, I had completed 40 of the high points, but the most strenuous and the most challenging peaks were still to be faced. Before I describe the details of these more challenging climbs, I will explain some general characteristics of the high points.

A study of the structure of the names of high points is revealing. Of the two words selected for each name, one indicates the class. This word shows some regard for the topography but also is expressed in local terminology. For example, many of the high points in the West include the word "Peak" in their title such as in Granite Peak. Yet some are named by using the word "Mount" as in the name of Colorado's Mount Elbert. Surprisingly only a few high points have the word "Mountain" contained in their name such as used in Arkansas' Sassafras Mountain. Local color delightfully appears in the selection of the last name of such high points as Black Mesa, Spruce Knob, Brasstown Bald, Timms Hill, White Butte, Charles Mound, and Clingmans Dome.

There is no risk of trespassing when climbing more than half of the high points since these are on public lands such as National Forest, National Park, State Forest, and State Park. Permission to hike on the private land, where the remainder of the high points is located, was easily obtained. Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Stiefel charged Catherine and me a dollar each as an entrance fee to permit us to walk to the top of Charles Mound in Illinois. We considered the fee reasonable since they had cut the swath of lawn from their farm house to the observation tower on the summit.

--Rudolph Strobel, Pittsfield, Mass.

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BOOK REVIEW

WALKS IN THE CATSKILLS By John Bennett & Seth Masia

About the time the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development agreed to cooperate in the publication of this book, I consented to read the galley proofs and to offer general comments and suggestions on behalf of the Center. Excerpts of three or four trail descriptions were sent to me. It may have been that my criticism was too severe. In any case, that was the only opportunity I had to do any work on it, and most of the corrections I made were disregarded.

This book, in my opinion, fails to contribute anything of value to the hiker or climber of the CATSKILLS. Not only is the material poorly assembled, but there are dozens of serious historical and geographical errors and omissions.

For example, on page 29 they tell us that one-fourth to one-third of state land in the CATSKILLS is virgin timber. As a forester, I would estimate 1%. Surely not over 2%.

Page 37 informs us that the Hardenburgh Patent was granted to 8 patentees. Actually there were seven. How the eighth came into the picture is a story in itself.

On page 47 they tell us that the Catskill Mountain House built carriage roads including one around North Lake. There was no road around North Lake until the development of the campsite by the State.

On page 49 we learn that the "Dry Brook Ridge Trail joins the Millbrook Road and circles back to Route 28 at Arena." Arena has been under water since the construction of the Downsville Dam, and as a matter of fact it never was on Route 28.

On 84 is another example: "Joseph L. Beach was on hand when the Hotel (Catskill Mountain House) was built in the 1820's and managed it until three years before his death in 1902." There never was a Joseph L. Beach at the Mountain House. They are thinking of Charles L. Beach, who was 15 years old when the Mountain House was built in 1823. On page 87 they refer again to Joseph Beach as building the Otis in 1892. Again, it was Charles L. Beach. The Beaches had no connection with the Mountain House until 1839, when Charles L. Beach leased and started running it. Charles L. died in 1902 leaving two sons: Charles and George H. Charles died in 1913 and George H. in 1918. Mary Lindsey Beach, a daughter of George H., married John K. VanWagonen, who managed it for several years.

Page 93: "The Hotel Kaaterskill owned its own railroad." I never heard of the Kaaterskill owning any railroad. I should like to know where it was.

Page 116: "Incredible view" from the summit of Blackhead Moun-

tain. We all know there is no view from the summit. However, there is a fair view a little way down toward Arizona, and a good view five or six hundred yards further. The "unnamed summit" on page 123 is Arizona.

On the Devil's Path, they do not mention the good spring at Devil's Acre, Danny's Lookout on Plateau, the view from Sugarloaf, nor the views going east from the top of Indian Head.

On page 157 the unmarked trail from the Wittenberg-Cornell col "goes down Maltby Hollow." Actually, it is Moonhaw. In going from Wittenberg to Cornell no mention is made of the Bruin's Causeway nor the Crown of Cornell.

On page 177 we are told that the Pine Hill-West Branch Trail goes over the summit of Big Indian Mountain. Evidently the authors never got on either the true or the false summit of Big Indian. They speak of the "balsam-lined summit" and "first rate views" on Big Indian. On page 175 we find in the description of this Pine Hill-West Branch Trail: "The next ten miles of trail, from the summit of Bel-leayre to Biscuit Brook, takes you through woods which have never been logged or desecrated in any form. This is the longest stretch of trail passing through virgin timber in the Catskills."

On page 189 reference is made to the Henry Ward Beecher family on a small pond north of Quaker Clearing. I do not know if they are referring to Balsam Lake or Tunis Pond. The Beechers came to Beecher Lake (which still bears their name) and it is some miles northwest of Quaker Clearing.

These are just a few of the many errors and omissions. It seems to me the authors did neither their homework nor their leg work. People who know the area will be disappointed and disgusted. Those who do not know the area will be confused, if not lost.

--Edward G. West, Shandaken, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- |      |  |                       |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| #198 | Ludwig C. Bohler 11/9/74<br>51 Schmidt Lane, Apt. 54B, North Brunswick, N.J. | 201-297-2126<br>08902 |
| #199 | Norman J. Smith 12/21/74<br>Box 154, Circleville, N.Y. 10919                 | 914-361-3970          |
| #200 | John Leyden 12/26/74<br>Fox Hollow Road, Shandaken, N.Y. 12480               | 914-688-7353          |
| #201 | Andy Burgher 10/14/73<br>Moonhaw Road, West Shokan, N.Y. 12494               | 914-657-2758          |

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Feb. 8 PANTHER Moderate hike by trail from Winnisook Lake.  
A winter requirement.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1250' Elev.: 3720' Order: 17  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Deborah French (#159), Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429  
914-384-6649

Feb. 16 ESCARPMENT TRAIL An easy circuit hike along section  
(Sunday) between Kaaterskill Falls and North  
Mountain; joint hike with Albany ADK.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 850'  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 23A & 32A in Palenville, at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Chris Root (#150), 5 Sawyer Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208  
518-438-0439

Feb. 23 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK Very strenuous bushwhack from Wild-  
(Sunday) cat Ravine. Leader requests full  
winter gear, incl. snowshoes, crampons, ice axe, or ski  
pole, and good clothing and footwear. Those not properly  
equipped will be turned away. Joint hike with N.Y. AMC.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2750' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 23A & 32A in Palenville, at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Jack Reilly (#102), Sussex Hall, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522  
914-693-2772

Mar. 1 BLACKHEAD Moderately strenuous circuit - including  
Acra Point. A winter requirement.

Distance: 7½ mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5  
Meeting Place: Cairo Diner, Cairo, N.Y., at 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: Jim Daley (#51), Upton Lake Rd., Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514  
914-266-3007

Mar. 15 HUNTER & RUSK Strenuous trail & bushwhack hike starting  
in Spruceton Valley.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 4040', 3680' Order: 2, 20  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken, N.Y., at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: William Jones (#162), 377 Chesterfield St., Ridgewood, N.J.  
201-445-8754 07450

Mar. 22 WESTKILL Moderately strenuous trail hike & bushwhack  
from Diamond Notch, Lanesville side.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Fred Lowy (#99), R. D. 2, Box 77, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572  
914-876-6968

Mar. 22 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AT GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL, KINGSTON  
Rooms available for changing clothes after the hike.

Mar. 29 INDIAN HEAD & TWIN Moderately strenuous hike on the  
"Devil's Path."

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 29, 22  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Doug Robbins (#153), 29 Willis St., Apt. A3, E. Hartford,  
203-568-5781 Conn. 06118

Apr. 12 EAGLE & BIG INDIAN Strenuous trail hike & bushwhack including Haynes.  
 Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3605', 3680' Order: 26, 20  
 Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Lucile Davison (#76), 50 Tomlinson Rd., Woodbury, Conn. 06790  
 203-263-4207

Apr. 26 SHERRILL & NORTH DOME Moderately strenuous bushwhack from Spruceton Valley.  
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2350' Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 30, 25  
 Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia, at 8:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Bruce Wilder (#142), 14 Pleasant Ridge Dr., West Hurley, N.Y. 12481  
 914-679-8832

ADVANCE CONTACT WITH THE LEADER IS DESIRABLE FOR WINTER CLIMBS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO CONDITIONS AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

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1975 DUES NOTICE FOR MEMBERS

Annual dues (\$2.00) now payable. Please send to Mrs. William H. Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534

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Annual subscription fee (#1.00) now payable. Please send to Mr. Kenneth A. Shuker, 20 Cedar Lane, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518

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GEORGIA TO MAINE - II

On June 4, after several pleasant but restless days at home, I returned to the Trail with Chris. We ascended to the crest of the Blue Ridge, climbing steeply from the James River. Leaving the Jefferson National Forest, we spent the next several days hiking through the Pedlar District of the George Washington National Forest. This particular section of the Trail was quite rugged and at one point left the Blue Ridge to cross the Priest Mtn. (4063') and Three Ridges Mtn. (3920') to the east. The 3000' ascents and descents caused Chris some knee problems, but with an ace bandage in place she was able to move along at a pace comfortable for both of us, and we covered more ground than I had anticipated. When the Trail returned to the Blue Ridge, we began passing through "deadn'in' grounds," land which had once been cleared by the early mountain settlers for farming and grazing. The trees had been killed by "deadn'in'" (girdling). Crops were planted between the dead trees, and the lumber was used as needed for building or firewood. All that remained were stone walls and a few chestnut snags, survivors of the reclamation of the land by the forest.

On June 11, after a day off the Trail in Waynesboro, Va., we continued northward, entering the Shenandoah National Park. The Trail through the Park provided some of the most pleasant hiking since leaving Georgia. The area was very popular however, and because of overuse and misuse, the trail shelters could not be used except during severe weather. A tent or tarp was essential. A stove was also necessary, because of fire restrictions and the scarcity of firewood. The animals in the Park were very tame, and it was not uncommon for a deer to follow one along the Trail begging for food. One night I found myself face to face with a skunk which was investigating the mosquito netting of my tent. A bear almost got our food at one campsite, as he pulled it from the tree from which I had hung it. I retrieved the stuff sacks by hauling in on the rope, and took off to the nearest mens' room, where I hung them safely for the rest of the night.

After hiking a fast  $17\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Swift Run Gap, we left the Trail again on June 13, catching a bus back to Waynesboro. After a day's visit with some friends in West Virginia, Chris drove me back to the Trail, and I hiked on alone, looking forward to seeing her again in Harper's Ferry. I left the Park on June 19, having about 50 miles left of the Trail in Virginia. That night I stayed in Mosby Lean-to, an old log shelter named after a confederate soldier who had been well known in the area. I shared the shelter with a friendly boy scout troop which was heading south in pursuit of 50 Mile Merit Badges. The Troop leader had little control over the group and had unwisely bought each of them a quart of Ripple Wine which they'd stashed in the spring. They had also bought fireworks at a souvenir stand along the Trail. It was not the most restful night I had.

The next morning I joined two young women who had been tenting near the shelter. They were also heading for Katahdin, and were completing the sections of Trail which they had not hiked the previous

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summer. The next 30 miles was predominantly on roads, because land-owner trouble had caused Trail closings. Water was a problem, and one had to stop at private homes to obtain it. That day we passed by the high fences of the Mount Weather Government Installation, an underground communications center to be used by the President and his staff in the event of nuclear war. Just beyond the high barbed wire fence, the Trail returned to the forest for a few miles. A kind landowner had kept open this short section, including the Three Springs Shelter. It was a welcome sight after a 22-mile day of road walking.

I saw my first live venomous snake at the shelter, a copperhead which lived in one of the several fireplaces. It emerged when someone began burning paper. We let the snake be, as a note on the shelter provided adequate warning about its presence. There are some who would criticize us for not having killed it. To me it would have been counter to what I had been experiencing during my trek.

I reached Harper's Ferry on June 22, after taking the C & O Canal Trail along the Potomac River and crossing the railroad bridge into the village. Chris met me there, and after visiting some of the historic sites in the area, and driving up to see Gettysburg Battlefield, hiked with me from the Potomac River to Turner's Gap in Maryland. There we parted company again, this time planning to meet at Delaware Water Gap on the Pa.-N.J. line. Just north of Turner's Gap, I passed the milk-bottle-shaped tower which had been built in 1827 by the citizens of Boonsboro, Md. It was erected in honor of George Washington, and is said to have been the first Washington Monument. I crossed the Mason-Dixon Line on June 26 at the tiny village of Penmar. Little remained of what used to be a huge summer resort during the late 1800's, the "Coney Island of the Blue Ridge."

The Trail through southern Pennsylvania followed the South Mountain crest, descending occasionally to cross over gaps, or pass through valleys. I saw numerous anthills along the way, some of them three feet high. The iron industry had boomed in the region from the Revolutionary War days through the early 1900's, and the Trail crossed many circular hearths where charcoal was produced for furnaces. At Pine Grove Furnace State Park, the Trail passed the old iron furnace and the old mine, now a lake used for swimming and boating. The Trail made use of the former railroad grade on which the ore had been transported. The Trail shelters in this section of Pennsylvania were the old log type, built in the 1930's by the CCC. They were in relatively good shape, but overused as most were near highways. Pilferage of packs, and harassment by local yokels was not uncommon.

On June 28, after a very rainy night in my tent, I hiked across the Cumberland Valley. Although the Trail followed hardtop roads for the most part, the beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch farmland helped make the walking more enjoyable. Somewhere in that valley I crossed the halfway point of my trip. The next day, I reached Duncannon, Pa. I was 1042 miles from Springer Mountain, and had 1000 miles to go.

--Jonathan Clement, Albany, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #202 Erwin Conrad 3/1/75 201-361-2298  
342-106 Quaker Church Rd., Dover, N.J. 07801
- #203 Andrew Fountaine 3/1/75 201-464-8264  
50 Johnson Dr., New Providence, N.J. 07970
- #204 Wayne Phillips 3/5/75 212-986-4409  
2 Tudor City Place, New York, N.Y. 10017

REGISTER REMARKS

TABLE

- 7/72 Trail cleared from Denning Leanto - Mizzuble job - 200  
flies per sq. in. (#12)
- 8/72 100 flies per sq. in. (#29)
- 9/72 Beautiful blue sky - no flies. (#137)
- 10/72 Poor dragged-up wife of #131.  
Bless her. (#131)
- 12/72 165 users between 10/71 and 12/72. (#12)

NORTH DOME

- 11/70 Water pure as the air up here. Contact us if you care!  
(Anderson Water Treatment Co.)
- 11/70 Send note explaining what Catskill 3500 Club is.

ROCKY

- 10/74 You oughta make a trail from on the bottom.
- 10/74 There oughta be a law!
- 10/74 Keep your box off my mountain. Causes litter!

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

May 3 FIR & BIG INDIAN Moderate trail hike & bushwhack from  
the West Branch highway.  
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2005' Elev.: 3680', 3625' Order: 23, 20  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: William F. Davis (#132), 2400 Hudson Ter., Fort Lee, N.J.  
201-461-7716 07024

May 17 SCHUNEMUNK IN ORANGE CO. An exploration of this mountain  
which is composed mainly of con-  
glomerate rock with good examples of glacial polishing.  
If the weather is good, there may be a 350° view includ-  
ing the Catskills, Shawangunks, Ramapos, and east of the  
Hudson, Beacon, and Breakneck Ridge. No children under  
10 (except by special arrangement); no dogs or pets.  
Joint hike with Schenectady ADK.  
Distance: 7 mi.  
Meeting Place: Outside tollgate at Thruway exit 17, Newburgh,  
at 9:30 a.m.  
Leader: Clark Galloway (#136), 35 Sunset Drive, Delmar, N.Y.  
518-439-3476 12054



- May 31      WITTENBERG CLEANUP      A litter pickup is badly needed in this area. We hope to obtain DEC's help with trucking out the trash. Volunteers are urged to bring packframes and cord with which to lash plastic bags to the frames.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3780' Order: 14  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia at 8:00 a.m. or Wittenberg trail jct. in Woodland Valley at 8:30 a.m. Late comers are welcome to join on the trail or summit.  
Leader: William Lawson (#78), 58 Meadowland St., Delmar, N.Y.  
518-439-7736      12054
- June 7      KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK & ROUND TOP      Moderate trail hike and bushwhack. The leader will show the possible location of an old Tory fort on Kaaterskill H.P., and relate the interesting history of the area.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1560' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Edward West (#45), Shandaken, N.Y. 12480  
914-688-5488
- June 14      CORNELL, FRIDAY, & BALSAM CAP      A very strenuous bushwhack up Petie Ridge from Moonhaw Valley to Cornell; then over the ridge to Friday & Balsam Cap.  
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3120' Elev.: 3865', 3694', 3623'  
Order: 9, 18, 24.  
Meeting Place: Contact leader for time and place.  
Leader: Ray Donahue (#23), St. Mary's Church, Downsville, N.Y.  
607-363-2565      13755
- June 21      RUSK      A moderate bushwhack from Ox Hollow.  
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1580' Elev.: 3680' Order: 19  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Vincent Griska (#114), 45 S. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
914-452-0128      12601
- June 28      JUG END TO BEAR MTN.      A moderate to strenuous hike over a very scenic section of the Appalachian Trail. Cars may be spotted at two locations for those wanting shorter (7½ mi.) or longer (16½ mi.) routes. Joint hike with the Pioneer section of the Green Mountain Club.  
Distance: 14 mi.  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 41 and 44, in Salisbury, Conn., at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), 5 Sawyer Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208  
518-482-7256

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB PRICE LIST

- Membership application - includes first year's dues, patch, certificate and "Canister" subscription.....\$3.00
  - Winter membership - includes patch and certificate.....\$1.00
  - Annual dues - includes "Canister".....\$2.00
  - Family dues - for 3 or more family members.....\$5.00
  - Extra patches - regular.....\$1.00 - winter.....\$ .50
  - Extra decals.....\$ .25
  - "Canister" subscription - for non-members.....\$1.00
- One copy of each issue of the "Canister" will be mailed to each family unless otherwise requested.

HIKE LEADERS NEEDED

The Catskill 3500 Club is in need of volunteers to lead hikes. All 35ers are urged to share their favorite hikes with fellow members and aspirants. Hiking areas are not restricted to the Catskills. Trips in the Shawangunks, Berkshires, Taconics, or other nearby regions can also be considered.

The information below will help the outing chairman prepare the schedules. Dates and other details will be arranged later.

Please send to Jonathan Clement, 5 Sawyer Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208

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HIKE LEADER INFORMATION SHEET

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to lead a hike in the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ area,

in the Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Winter \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_.

Comments:

HIGHEST ELEVATIONS FOR TREE SPECIES IN THE CATSKILLS

It may be of interest to some 3500ers to learn how high up on the slopes each species of tree grows. The following records have been compiled from about a half-dozen summers of field notes on the Vegetation of the High Peaks, and although a list for each peak has been made, there is always the possibility of new and higher stations for the species discovered by more careful searchers.

It must be emphasized that in many instances, the elevations are maxima, and that species seldom attain these great heights. It is the belief of this writer that soil is the single most important environmental factor determining plant distribution in the CATSKILLS--not climate, although the latter is certainly important. If a pocket of more fertile soil occurs at a higher elevation than is normal, the more nutrient-demanding species will grow there despite the shorter and colder growing season, provided of course that a seed source was present. For example, sugar maple most often becomes absent above 3200 to 3400 feet, but will do well above 3700 feet on rich sites on Slide, Blackhead, and Doubletop. Here, the sugar maples are in groves surrounded completely by the less demanding conifers and birches which can grow on the poorer sites.

All the following locations are natural, i.e., none are plantations:

| Species         | Highest elev. | Peak         | Species       | Highest elev. | Peak       |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Ash, Mtn.       | 4150'         | Slide        | Hornbeam, Hop | 3200          | Eagle      |
| White           | 3185          | Sugarloaf    | American      | 2925          | Dry Brook  |
| Aspen, Bigtooth | 2495          | Hunter       |               |               | Ridge      |
| Trembling       | 2825          | Overlook     | Maple, Mtn.   | 3945          | T. Cole    |
| Basswood        | 2875          | T. Cole      | Red           | 3940          | Slide      |
| Beech           | 3900          | Slide        | Striped       | 3950          | Slide      |
| Birch, Black    | 2430          | Belleayre    | Sugar         | 3745          | Slide      |
| Paper           | 4180          | Slide        | Oak, Chestnut | 2190          | Shokan Hi  |
| Yellow          | 3960          | Slide        | "             | "             | North Lake |
| Black Gum       | 1850          | Shokan Hi Pt | Red           | 3375          | Dry Brook  |
| Butternut       | 2515          | T. Cole      |               |               | Ridge      |
| Cherry, Black   | 3870          | Doubletop    | White         | 2440          | Ticetneyck |
| Red             | 4040          | Hunter       | Pine, Pitch   | 2380          | North Mtn. |
| Choke           | 3930          | Hunter       | Red           | 2720          | North Mtn. |
| Chestnut        | 2750          | Shokan Hi Pt | White         | 3070          | Balsam Cap |
| Dogwood, Flower | 1850          | Shokan Hi Pt | Spruce, Red   | 4040          | Hunter     |
| Fir, Balsam     | 4180          | Slide        | Sycamore      | 1680          | Seager     |
| Hemlock         | 3700          | Balsam Lake  | Tulip Tree    | 700           | Traver     |
| Hickory, But-   |               |              |               |               | Hollow     |
| ternut          | 2400          | Tremper      |               |               |            |
| Shagbark        | 2060          | Cave         |               |               |            |

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LETTERS

I would like to mention some of the wildlife experiences we had, there were so many. Actually the time spent looking for animals was almost three months, and it was the most fantastic and rewarding time I have ever had. A week or more each was spent photographing Elk, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats, and also unsuccessfully looking for Grizzly Bears, since none of these share a habitat. An idea of how good Yellowstone was is the amount of time spent there, 6 weeks.

Our first Buffalo was seen in the primitive campground in the Badlands at dusk perched on a hilltop against the sunset. The next morning one walked right past our tent. In the Black Hills I developed some interesting techniques to photograph the Buffs at close range. One thing that worked well was to find a herd crossing one of the many dirt roads of the area. I would drive to the crossing point and climb out of the window onto the roof of the car, if the animals were only a few feet off. They would never touch such a foreign object as a car and were not concerned about me as long as I was on it. Another method I used when the herd was moving and there was no road handy was to climb a tree in what I figured would be the herd's route. After 5 or 10 minutes they would pass under the tree or close to it, and I, unnoticed above, would get my pictures. If the herd was a big one I might be stranded for 20 minutes. Fortunately they never decided to bed-down under the tree I was using--which could have been a problem.

When it came to photographing Elk up close, there were no roads to help me out. All I could do was to walk up to them and hope they didn't mind. Three times when I got too close (about 20 feet) they did mind, and I was forced into a staring contest with them as they walked up to me, investigating. Moving quickly at that time would have been dangerous. Here I am speaking only of the bulls, because the cows were very docile.

We only saw two Black Bears, one of which gave us a hard time. We were up early and driving along a Yellowstone road about 6 a.m. when I saw a Bear on the side of the road by a pullout. I stopped the car to have a look, but never had a chance to get out. The Bear walked over to Stephanie's side and stood on its hind legs putting its front claws into the slightly opened window trying to pry it open. That was enough for us and I started to pull out slowly, but the Bear wouldn't let go and walked along beside us on its hind legs, claws still grasping the crack. A little more speed was the only solution for an animal that had been fed too many times.

Bighorn Sheep were a lot of fun. In October we found them on the summit of 10,200' Mt. Washburn in Yellowstone, where the ewes and lambs were very approachable. Back in December I chanced on a herd of 30 moving down for the winter. I sat on a snow-covered rock for an hour, by which time they didn't consider me a threat. Then

moving slowly, I was able to walk freely among the herd with little attention paid to me as long as I kept a distance of 10 feet. That was my favorite day in Yellowstone. Sheep were also seen mating in the Gardiner Canyon and doing acrobatic rock-climbing that no human would dare try. I saw one ram jump down a 20-foot vertical wall and land on a 45-degree slope in complete control, and ewes were observed standing on nubbins on a vertical wall, jumping from one hold to another just to play. I have photographs to prove it.

But the most beautiful and impressive animal I encountered was the Mountain Goat. I found them high in the Black Hills. We found Goats in the Olympics on the last two sunny days of 1974 that the coast ranges probably saw. Some of the billies were so tame and curious that they would walk right up to me so I would have to back off to get a picture. The kids were the cutest little things imaginable. If you go to that area it would be worth your every effort to see them; besides, you'll have to climb a mountain to do it.

--John Burnley, Bethpage, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #205 Frances A. Jones 5/26/75  
134 Union Ave., Nutley, N.J. 07110
- #206 Samuel P. Owen 6/9/75 201-548-5875  
52 Newman St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840
- #207 Paul N. Prentice 6/8/75 914-229-2995  
29 Lawrence Rd., Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538
- #208 Lawrence Leslie, Jr. 6/10/75 518-943-5727  
19 William St., Catskill, N.Y. 12414

1975 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

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CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Aug. 23-24 HUNTER & SLIDE Joint hike with Glens Falls Chapter  
ADK. On Saturday the group will hike  
up Hunter from Stony Clove Notch and camp in the Devil's  
Acre area. On Sunday, Slide will be climbed via the  
"Old Winisook Trail."  
Distance: 5 mi. & 6 mi. Ascent: 2040', 1580' Elev.: 4040', 4180'  
Order: 2, 1  
Meeting Place: For Hunter, trail jct. in Stony Clove at 10 a.m.  
For Slide, contact leader. If planning to camp with  
the group, please contact leader.  
Leader: Gary Klee, Sr. (#29), 12 Centennial Drive, Glens Falls, N.Y.  
518-792-3824 12801

HIKES (cont'd)

Sept. 6      ECHO LAKE      Moderate hike on trail & old carriage road to this scenic lake near Overlook Mt.  
 Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1000'  
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Bill Leavitt (#1), Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
 518-828-6907

Sept. 20      HIGH POINT      Moderate hike by trail to this prominent peak overlooking the Ashokan Reservoir.  
 Joint hike with Albany ADK  
 Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1980' Elev.: 3080'  
 Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store on Rt. 28 in Shokan at 9:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Jim Ackerman (#137), 10-B Circle Drive, Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144  
 518-463-0054

Sept. 27      PEEKAMOOSE, TABLE, LONE, ROCKY, BALSAM CAP, FRIDAY  
 Very strenuous. Hike will follow the Long Path to the first two peaks, with the remainder reached by bushwhacking. Hikers must be in good shape for this trip.  
 Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4000' Elev.: 3843', 3847', 3721', 3508', 3623', 3694' Order: 11, 10, 16, 34, 24, 18.  
 Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store on Rt. 28 in Shokan, at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Will Merritt (#22), 242 Stockbridge Rd., Lenox, Mass. 01240  
 413-637-2821

Oct. 4      GOTHICS      Strenuous hike in the High Peak region of the Adirondacks. May include Armstrong (4400') & Upper Wolfjaw (4185'). Leader has floor space to accommodate ten (+/-) friendly and compatible people; also some level outdoor space. Advance contact with the leader is suggested if staying over.  
 Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 3210' Elev.: 4736'  
 Meeting Place: "The Garden" at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: C. Peter Fish (#12), Hulls Falls Rd., Box 559, Keene, N.Y. 12942  
 518-576-4796

Oct. 18      THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME      Moderate to strenuous hike on the Blackhead Range. Blackhead will be included, time permitting.  
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200' (2700') Elev.: 3945', 3990', (3940')  
 Order: 4, 3, (5)  
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 29 Willys St., Apt. A-3, E. Hartford, Conn. 06118  
 203-568-5781

Oct. 25      DOUBLETOP & GRAHAM      Moderate to strenuous bushwhack, leaving the West Branch-Seager trail at the height of land between Big Indian and Doubletop.  
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3870' Order: 7, 8.  
 Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken, at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), 5 Sawyer Place, Albany, NLY. 12208  
 518-482-7256

HIGHEST POINT IN EACH STATE - Part II

I was appalled at the TV towers, lodges, fire towers, observation towers, and roads that were constructed on so many of the high points. Only about a third of them, like Idaho's Borah Peak, have no construction, not even foot trails, on them. And about six more, like Mount Marcy, have no construction except foot trails and lean-tos. Half of the 48, like Mount Greylock, have auto roads to the summit or virtually to the top. Most of those with auto roads also have foot trails. One high point even has a railroad running to the top.

In preparation for a trip to a high point, especially the ones that are a considerable distance from Pittsfield, I studied maps and searched for information relative to the mountain before I left home. For example, the preparation for the trip to Colorado and the climb of Mount Elbert, which was done in conjunction with other high points in nearby states, was typical. I obtained a Colorado road map from a Texaco gas station. On this map, I located Mt. Elbert near the city of Leadville with the notation "Mount Elbert 14,431' Highest Point in Colorado." The map also showed the location of the Halfmoon Campgrounds near the base of the mountain. The campground was conveniently placed for those climbing the mountain. The road map also showed Mount Elbert located in the San Isabel National Forest so, before going to Colorado, I wrote to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, District Ranger, P.O. Box 970, Leadville, Colorado 80461. I was sent, without charge, a forest map of the San Isabel National Forest, a small leaflet on climbing Mt. Elbert, and a pamphlet about Smokey the Bear.

With the help of this free literature, I drove into Halfmoon Campgrounds one day in July to be greeted by Adirondack 46er, Bob Banks, and two of his students. They were from Massachusetts and had noticed my Mass. license plates. They intended going up Mt. Elbert the next day too so we agreed to join forces. I had had similar good fortune on climbs of some of the other high points, when being reluctantly prepared to climb the mountain alone, at the last moment, was joined up with another lone climber, who was as happy as I to have found a climbing partner.

The next morning after a hasty, early breakfast, we left Halfmoon Campgrounds and drove about a mile up a rough forest road to a trail crossing where we parked. We were at 10,064 feet, where we started hiking, so we had about 4,000 feet of elevation to ascend. We became aware of the thin air--lack of oxygen--soon after taking a few steps upward so we just slowed down and took our time. The best progress was made by slow but steady steps. After a mile on the trail, we left it and started bushwhacking through the forest. In another mile or so, we got above the tree line and started climbing on the rocks. Here the climbing became more difficult, but because of being in the open, we were constantly rewarded with views. The higher we went the more extensive were the views. While on the rocky half of the mountain, the only wild life we saw were ptarmigan, but

Elinore G. Leavitt, President, Joslen Boulevard, Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 So. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 20 Cedar Lane, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518

I have never seen so many of them, nor such tame birds before. We had to be careful not to step on them! Finally, we reached the summit and then the vistas were in every direction. I could not disagree with the statement that most of the fifty odd 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado can be seen from the top of centrally located Mount Elbert. We descended by the same route and got back to Half-moon Campgrounds well before dark.

All climbs to high points did not immediately end as successfully as the Mount Elbert climb. On several climbs, the first attempt was not successful so I had to try again. In some cases, the second try was made the next year after I had had an opportunity to redesign the trip to overcome the problems of the first attempt.

For example, the first plan to climb Mt. Mitchell had to be rescheduled. I was at Asheville, North Carolina, and had expected to drive north on the Blue Ridge Parkway to the turnoff to the Mt. Mitchell access road. I was told that because of winter conditions I would have to drive by a much longer circuitous route over a narrow precipitous mountain route if I must get to Mt. Mitchell during winter. Since I saw very little snow on the ground at Asheville, I questioned the reason for closing the direct parkway route because of these "winter conditions." I was surprised to learn that the parkway was closed not because of deep snow on the ground but because of ice hanging from the ceilings of the several tunnels. The ground water had seeped through the ceiling of the tunnels and had frozen into giant stalactites of ice. I had to drive around by the longer route to avoid the icicles on the blocked parkway so as to reach Mt. Mitchell. The walk to the top was easy after I drove to the parking area provided by the National Park Service.

My first attempt to climb Guadalupe Peak in Texas was unsuccessful because of a miscalculation in time. I drove from a campgrounds in White City, N.M., where we had been after exploring Carlsbad Caverns, to the base of the mountain and started to climb. I finally discovered myself at least an hour from the top at two in the afternoon. I turned back because I knew then I couldn't make the summit and return to the car before dark.

On a later day, I camped at the base of the peak and started climbing at daylight. I got to the summit and back to the camper well before dark. An unsuccessful attempt was not a completely wasted effort because the initial trip served as a reconnaissance providing an opportunity to select the best route and to estimate time and other critical factors that would facilitate the next attempt.

In 1972, I went to Pinedale, Wyoming, to ask about routes up Gannett Peak from the west side of the Continental Divide and to inquire into the possibility of joining a party that might be climbing the mountain. I talked to the District Ranger of the Bridger National Forest in Pinedale who knew of no party planning to climb the



mountain. While camping in Bridger National Forest, I turned on the radio in the camper one morning to get the weather report and heard that a climber had died on the summit of Gannett Peak. (He had expired from hypothermia.) I gave up all hopes of climbing the mountain that year, and I came to the conclusion that it was the most inaccessible peak of the 48, and probably required more technical skill to climb than any of the highest points.

In 1973, we drove to the West again and I was fortified with plans to climb the remaining three peaks including Gannett. The first two peaks were climbed with dispatch. Each one required only a full day because of fine weather and no climbing problems.

Then, after enjoying other attractions in the West, we finally arrived at Dubois, Wyoming, on the east side of the Continental Divide, in position to climb Gannett Peak. I was more than two weeks early to join a group of four climbers from Colorado. One of these was Dr. Glenn Hewitt whom I had met two years before while climbing Kings Peak.

Dubois is almost 7,000 feet above sea level with 11,000-foot mountains around it. My plan was to spend the two weeks in these high altitudes acclimating myself for the final climb. Unfortunately, because of sudden sickness in the family, we had to return to Pittsfield as quickly as possible. I sadly telephoned to Glenn that I could not be with his group on the Gannett trip.

--Rudolph Strobel, Pittsfield, Mass.

#### BOOK REVIEW

GUIDE TO THE CATSKILLS with trail guide and maps by Arthur G. Adams, Roger Coco, Harriet Greenman and Leon R. Greenman, \$6.95

CATSKILL MAP PAC, \$5.95

At last we have a much-needed, and long over-due, guide to the CATSKILLS. Here is a book that should be in the pack of every CATSKILL hiker and camper. The more I read it, the more wholeheartedly I recommend it.

My first impression, as a hiker, back-packer and mountain climber, was that the book covered too many extraneous subjects that have been adequately covered by other writers. But then, on looking at the title again and digging in a little deeper, I was reminded that this book is not just for ridge runners but that anyone with any interest at all in the CATSKILLS will discover in the "Guide" a wealth of absorbing material.

It is good for the person hiking the trails; it is good for one sitting in an easy chair who wants to know more about this "Land in the Sky," its romantic and gilded periods, its legends and historical personalities, its post-revolutionary development, and its facts and fiction.

The Gazetteer of place names with its coordinate grid reference

is most complete, and throughout the trail guide section this coordinate system is used in connection with the maps. It is the best method of location. In the trail descriptions distances are given from both ends. This saves calculations when going the other way or telling one how far he has yet to go.

Naturally, a work of this scope must have some errors. I have noted a few but they are not of any great consequence. At the bottom of page 97 we find that from the summit of Slide Mountain "every one of the other 34 peaks (except Thomas Cole Mt.) exceeding 3500' is visible". Thomas Cole can also be seen from Slide. It was an exercise of the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB that settled this fact once and for all. The canister mentioned as being on the top of Westkill has been removed. But then, things change faster than books can be written. It is my understanding that the "Crown of Cornell" is the high ledge of rocks that completely encircles the summit, not the stand of dense spruce on the top. Perhaps it is the combination of both.

While at times I look for a bit more detail in trail descriptions, especially with respect to certain lookouts, I am, on the other hand, frequently surprised at the amount of fine detail reflecting a vast amount of homework in research and hundreds of miles of footwork on the trails.

I was pleased that they retained the name of Danny's Lookout on Plateau. This was named for Danny Showers who was with the old Conservation Department for so many years as assistant of survey crew, observer on Hunter Mountain, and Forest Ranger at Tannersville.

Throughout the trail description are parts of maps clarifying the text above and showing topography by 100' contours. The main map section shows all features except contours.

As a supplement to the Guide, the publisher offers a "Catskill Map Pac," consisting of a region map and a dozen 11" x 17" sections of USGS maps, giving 100' contours, to a scale of 1 1/4 inch equals one mile, or about half the scale of the USGS sheet.

--Edward G. West, Shandaken, N.Y.

REGISTER REMARKS

WESTKILL July 8, 1975, 10:00 a.m. First official canister removal, hopefully the last. Westkill register officially closed.  
--Kenneth Kleinberg and Paul Lomax

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #209 Mark Schaefer 7/27/75 914-246-9451  
4 Hilltop Apts., Saugerties, N.Y. 12477
- #210 Thomas Millard 8/9/75 914-352-5649  
332 Haverstraw Rd., Suffern, N.Y. 10901
- #211 James G. Cunningham 9/28/75
- #212 James G. Cunningham III 9/28/75 201-263-2798  
92 Lake Dr., Mountain Lakes, N.J. 07046





CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 23-25, 1976, at Sunshine Valley House, Spruceton Rd.,  
Westkill, N.Y. 12492. Phone: 518-989-9794.

Rates: \$22.00 per day, per person (includes tax & gratuity) for  
supper, breakfast, trail lunch & lodging, based on double  
occupancy. Please indicate preference of roommate, if any.

Reservations must be in by January 12, 1976

.....cut here and mail to.....  
Walter L. Gregory, 8 Wall Ave., Valhalla, N.Y. 10595 with \$5.00 each

Please reserve the following for CATSKILL 3500 CLUB weekend, Jan. 23

|                        |                      |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Friday, Jan. 23</u> | <u>Sat., Jan. 24</u> | <u>Sun., Jan. 25</u> |
|                        | Breakfast _____      | Breakfast _____      |
|                        | Tr. Lunch _____      | Tr. Lunch _____      |
| Supper _____           | Supper _____         |                      |
| Lodging _____          | Lodging _____        |                      |

For \_\_\_\_\_ male, \_\_\_\_\_ female, deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Arrival time \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND - LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

February 20-23, 1976.....Reservations must be in by Dec. 31, 1975.

|                                  |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                  | <u>ADK Members</u> | <u>Non-members</u> |
| Bunk with three meals            | \$18.05            | \$21.25            |
| Plus tax and 10% service charge. |                    |                    |

.....cut here and mail to.....  
Mrs. W. H. Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534 with \$5.00 each

Please reserve the following for ADK Loj, February 20-23, 1976

|                | Bkfst | Lunch | Dinner | Lodging |
|----------------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Friday, 20th   |       |       |        |         |
| Saturday, 21st |       |       |        |         |
| Sunday, 22nd   |       |       |        |         |
| Monday, 23rd   |       |       |        |         |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_