



the catskill canister

Vol. IX, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 7 6

THE RAILROADS AT DEVIL'S ACRE

At the Devil's Tombstone we cross the outlet of Notch Lake, or, as some of us prefer to call it, "Stony Clove Lake," and climb the steep slope on the west side of the notch. The trail zig-zags back and forth under ledges and then on top of them, until at elevation 3500 feet, it suddenly levels out and nearly follows the contour for two-thirds of a mile to the Devil's Acre lean-to. How many travelers of the scenic Devil's Path realize that 75 years ago the area around this lean-to was the scene of one of the most spectacular lumbering operations in the CATSKILLS?

The last two-thirds of a mile on the 3500-foot contour is along part of an old lumber railroad grade. The operation was by the Fenwick Lumber Company of Fenwick, West Virginia. You may have noticed some old rails just north of the lean-to, or perhaps the remains of foundations just west of the spring, where the power plant stood that let the cable cars, loaded with logs, down the mountain to the mill in Myrtle Brook. This tram road was second only to the old Catskill Mountain House Otis Incline Railroad. It went through cuts in ledges and over trestles in a dead straight line from the donkey engine at the Devil's Acre Spring to the mill in Myrtle Brook, more than a mile away and 1500 feet lower in elevation, an average 28% grade.

The incline tram road was connected at the top with the railroads running east, west, and north from the col between Hunter Mountain and No-Name. To the west the railroad runs slightly down grade along the north side of No-Name (S.W. Hunter), heading in the general direction of Diamond Notch. How far it goes I do not know; I have followed it only a couple of thousand feet.

Going east it follows the trail to Devil's Tombstone for two-thirds of a mile. After the trail turns down the mountain, the railroad continues and is well defined with substantial retaining wall on the lower side. I have followed it for some distance beyond this point, but where it terminates, again, I do not know. Some day I should like to find out where it goes in both directions. From the col we observe what appears to be another branch running northerly along the west slope of Hunter.

The Fenwick Lumber Company finished its operation about 65 years ago. I first noticed these railroads and the tram road while on a survey crew for the Conservation Department in 1919. At that time they were much more evident than they are today. However, the old mill foundations in Myrtle Brook are in a fair state at the present time.

Recently, accompanied by Dr. Michael Kudish (#147), John Leyden

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

OUR NEW FLAG

Our new flag, the familiar profile that some call "The Old Man of the Mountains," and others "Old Rip," as seen from the eastern side of the Rip VanWinkle Bridge, was designed by local artist Ralph Ferrusi (#122). Ralph is devoting much of his time to painting, photography, and lecturing. Since completing the Appalachian Trail in July, he has talked to school and scout groups on the history of the A.T., his personal adventures, and his experiences in the CATSKILLS. Some of his oils and sketches will be shown at the annual meeting in March.

RAILROADS (continued from page 1)

(#200), Clarence Vredenburg and Karl Van Valkenburgh, I re-examined the site and Mike made a nice little sketch map of it showing the various features.* If others would like to look at this area, I should be glad to lead a hike, making a circuit via the Devil's Path and tram road, and eating lunch at the spring at Devil's Acre. This would be a moderate hike of 2000 feet ascent and five or six miles round trip, allowing for some exploration.

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#213	Lawrence Braun 10/13/75 79 Locust St., Floral Park, N.Y. 11001	516-354-8507
#214	Donald E. Deem 10/19/75 35 Henry St., Succasunna, N.J. 07876	201-584-4717
#215	Donald E. Seeger 10/19/75 32 N. Hillside Ave., Succasunna, N.J. 07876	201-584-4681
#216	John Olm 11/1/75	
#217	Rick Olm 11/1/75 R. D. 3, Box 103B, Hudson, N.Y. 12534	518-828-6026
#218	Charles Beach 8/20/75 6 Driftwood Dr., Albany, N.Y. 12205	518-459-9127
#219	Gary Zelner 11/30/75 41-10 70 St., Woodside, N.Y. 11377	212-458-1426

* A copy of the map may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope and 10¢ in stamps to cover cost of copying to Dr. Kudish, Box 52, Paul Smiths College, Paul Smiths, N.Y. 12970.

BAN CAMPING ON HIGH PEAKS

Look at what is happening to the peaks of the Catskill and Adirondack mountains! Trees are destroyed for the pure hell of it or to make rustic bowers with balsam bedding of a bygone age. Fireplaces are abandoned because no one emptied them of their broken bottles and rusted cans. On major weekends, when all other camping spots on the peaks are taken, new clearings are being created by overflow campers. Tents and sleeping bags compact the fragile soils and vegetative cover of the peaks that we cherish.

I suggest that the Club request the DEC to adopt a regulation: "Camping is prohibited above 3,000 feet in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks unless the ground is covered by at least one foot of snow; no open fires are permitted above this elevation."

If we cherish our mountains as we say that we do, let's do something about it.

--C. Peter Fish, Keene, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Feb. 7 PLATEAU A traverse of this peak, from Mink Hollow to Stony Clove Notch. May include Sugarloaf.
Distance: 5-6 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev.: 3840' Order: 12
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Deborah French (#159), Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429
914-384-6842

Feb. 14 CORNELL Very strenuous bushwhack via Petie Ridge. Hikers must be in good shape. Other peaks may be included if time and conditions permit.
Distance: 5-8 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3865' Order: 9
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store on Rt. 28 in Shokan, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Ray Donahue (#23), St. Mary's Church, Downsville, N.Y. 607-363-2565 13755

Feb. 21 APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN MASSACHUSETTS Joint hike with the Pioneer Valley Section of the Green Mtn. Club. Through the October Mountain State Forest.
Distance: 7-8 mi.
Meeting Place: Large white factory bldg. at Lee Exit (#2) of Mass. Turnpike, at 9:15 a.m.
Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), 5 Sawyer Pl., Albany, N.Y. 12208 518-482-7256

Feb. 27-29 WEEKEND AT ADIRONDACK LOJ

Mar. 6 HUNTER Strenuous bushwhack from Spruceton Valley.
Distance: 6-8 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 4040' Order: 2
Meeting Place: DEC parking lot in Spruceton Valley at 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Bill Leavitt (#1), Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534 518-828-6907

Mar. 13 BALSAM LAKE Joint hike with the Ski Touring Council. Graham may be included if time permits.
 Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1200' Elev.: 3725' Order: 15
 Meeting Place: Belleayre Ski Center, off Rt. 28, 2 mi. west of Pine Hill. (Base Lodge for Intermediate-Expert Trails. Do not stop at Novice Lodge) at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Samuel Owen (#206), 52 Newman St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840
 201-548-5875 (914-657-6736 after Dec. 25.)

Mar. 20 HIGH POINT & MOMBACCUS Joint hike with North Jersey ADK. Strenuous trail & bushwhack.
 Distance: 8-10 mi. Ascent: 3200'
 Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28 in Shokan at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: Thomas Millard (#210), 332 Haverstraw Rd., Suffern, N.Y. 10901
 914-352-5649

Mar. 21 SHERRILL Strenuous bushwhack from Deep Notch (Sunday)
 Distance: 8-9 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 3540' Order: 30
 Meeting Place: Junction Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville, at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: Sam Steen (#92), 6 DuBois St., Kingston, N.Y. 12401
 914-331-1010

Mar. 27 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING in Kingston, N.Y.

Apr. 3 PANTHER & SLIDE Very strenuous. Ascents will be bushwhacks; descents by trail.
 Distance 8-10 mi. Ascent: 3500" Elev.: 3720', 4180' Order: 17, 1
 Meeting Place: Rts. 42 & 28 in Shandaken, at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), 5 Sawyer Pl., Albany, N.Y. 12208
 518-482-7256

Apr. 10 BALSAM & EAGLE Moderate hike by trail. May conclude with bushwhack off of Eagle.
 Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3600', 3605' Order: 27, 26
 Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: Jim Daley (#51), Upton Lake Rd., Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514
 914-266-3007

Apr. 24 LONE & ROCKY Strenuous bushwhack from Denning to Moonhaw Road. May be numerous stream crossings. Balsam Cap may be included if time permits.
 Distance: 11-13 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 34
 Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store on Rt. 28 in Shokan, at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 29 Willys St., Apt. A-3, E. Hartford, Conn. 06118
 203-568-5781

ADVANCE CONTACT WITH LEADERS IS SUGGESTED FOR WINTER HIKES, IN REGARD TO SNOW CONDITIONS AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT. LACK OF SNOW AT LOWER ELEVATIONS IS DECEIVING. BE PREPARED WITH SNOWSHOES IN APRIL.



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Vol. IX, No. 2

S P R I N G 1 9 7 6

GEORGIA TO MAINE - III

Duncannon, Pa. was the place where I nearly ate and drank myself off the Trail. It was a hot day as I followed the blazes through town. I had several beers at two conveniently located bars, followed by a large butterscotch sundae. Hiking the eight miles to the next shelter was rather difficult, and I spent a rough night. I "stayed in bed" for several hours the next morning, and then left the shelter after getting an alkaseltzer from a fellow hiker. I managed to hike seventeen miles that day, the ordeal offset somewhat by my overtaking Mike Martin, a through hiker who had left me behind in Cloverdale, Va., 430 miles to the south. We eagerly exchanged our adventures and news about other through hikers we knew. We hiked on together toward Delaware Water Gap over relatively level, but very rocky trail. Occasionally the route would dip into a deep gap where a major river cut through the ridge. The Trail took us through the ruins of Yellow Springs Village, and the area of St. Anthony's Wilderness. The region had once boomed during the coal mining era over 100 years before, and the woods still seemed to stir with the life of that time. One night we camped near the Pilger Ruh (Pilgrims' Rest) Spring, a stopover place of Indian Missionaries during the 1700's. Water was scarce along the Pennsylvania ridge, and the spring was one of the most dependable. Occasionally we had to hike a half mile off the mountain to find water.

The Fourth of July was one of the hottest days I had experienced on the Trail. One six-mile stretch followed a gravel State Games Road. Shade was non-existent, and we wondered why the Trail had not been routed in the woods. Late that afternoon after a long hot twenty miles, we hitched into the town of Hamburg and checked into the American Hotel, an establishment bordering on a flophouse. We at least had a good shower. Later that evening we joined the throngs of local people at the town park to listen to country music and watch fireworks. The next day we headed back to the ridge crest to battle the Pennsylvania rocks. It was one section in which I could have used heavier duty boots.

On July 10, Mike and I descended into the famous Delaware Water Gap. The haze obscured the spectacular view of the Delaware River as it cut through the ridge. Mike and I parted company at the Gap, and I had a three-day rendezvous with Chris at the home of my uncle in a nearby town. I gained back six of the thirty pounds I had lost on the Trail, bought a new pair of boots to have ready for use if needed, and just loafed. On July 14 I set off alone, travelling along the Kittatiny Ridge of New Jersey. I was surprised by the relative isolation of the Trail in that State. There were plenty of other hikers, however, and shelters were usually full. I preferred using my tent, because the mosquitos were at their height. After passing

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

High Point, I left the ridge and entered my home state of New York. Walking on hardtop roads became commonplace, with a few welcome stretches in the woods where the Trail crossed an uninhabited ridge. In one such place the Trail swung back into New Jersey travelling along a scenic ridge overlooking Greenwood Lakes. I made an unscheduled stop in the small resort town there after the heat and humidity as well as lack of good water, drove me into the comforts of civilization. A thunderstorm that evening cleared the air, and the next day was clear and cool as I entered Harriman State Park. I was even able to see the N.Y.C. skyline from West Mt. The following day I crossed Bear Mt. and fought my way through the crowds of people in the park. There I met Chris who planned to hike the next 300 miles with me to Hanover, N.H. I packed the supplies she had brought and crossed the Bear Mt. Bridge with her, stopping at the toll booth to pay the toll of 10¢ each. The remainder of New York consisted chiefly of road walking with an occasional respite in the forest. One particularly interesting stretch was near Fahnstock State Park, where a recent relocation had placed the Trail on the bed of an old iron mine railroad. All in all, however, I was disappointed with the Trail in New York.

On July 24 we reached Connecticut. We were finally in New England. The hiking improved markedly, and although the weather was hazy, and the views obscured, the forest land through which the Trail passed was some of the most beautiful I had seen. Particularly enjoyable were the sections along the Housatonic River and the spectacular gorges of Dean, Entry, and Sage's Ravine. The towns through which the Trail passed were those of old New England, a marked contrast to the ticky-tacky housing developments of New York. We enjoyed an overnight stop in Kent, Conn., and mail and ice cream stops in Falls Village and Cornwall Bridge. Just north of Salisbury we reached familiar territory, travelling over the old charcoal road and crossing Bear Mt. The 100-year-old stone tower at the summit, which had been leaning ominously the winter before, had started to fall. Just beyond Bear Mt., in Sage's Ravine, we reached Massachusetts, the eleventh state along the Trail. After crossing the scenic ledges on Race Mt., we left the ridge, descending the steep Race Brook Falls trail to Rt. 41. There we met Chris's mother, who drove us home for a two-day supply and cleanup stop. At this point I decided to retire my L.L. Bean Hiking shoes, as I noticed that one of the uppers had begun to split. With 1400 miles under their soles I figured they were ready for a rest. My sleeping bag was ready for a cleaning, as it could be compared to a gigantic sweaty sock.

On August 1, Chris and I returned, huffing and puffing up the Race Brook Trail. My goal was still 650 miles away. I was about five days behind schedule and would have to step up my pace if I was to outrun Old Man Winter to Katahdin.

--Jonathan Clement, Albany, N.Y.

LETTERS

Question. Is there one number to call for a search or rescue situation? --Richard Furman, Huntington, N.Y.

Answer. Call the Catskill office of the district ranger 518-943-4030, or any state police station. --F. B. C.

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- #220 Paul D. Siegfried 11/29/75 914-664-5414
137 Primrose Ave., Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10552
- #221 Phyllis Wirth 12/13/75 518-828-1907
3 Knickerbocker Ave., Hudson, N.Y. 12534
- #222 Dr. Raymond J. Spics 12/27/75 201-334-5945
Meadowbrook Rd., R. D. 2, Boonton, N.J. 07005
- #223 Mathew F. Seddon 12/28/75 914-338-2200
80 St. James St., Kingston, N.Y. 12401
- #224 Andy Smith 12/29/75 914-361-3971
Box 154, Circleville, N.Y. 10919
- #225 James Ianora 1/11/76 516-488-5679
969 Cherry Lane, Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010
- #226 Chai-Kyou Mallinson 1/18/76
#227 Richard Mallinson 1/18/76 607-772-1092
1243 Front St., Binghamton, N.Y. 13905
- #228 James Lynch 8/17/73 914-586-4400
Box 403, Margaretville, N.Y. 12455
- #229 Jack Rosa 3/27/75 914-586-4677
Margaretville, N.Y. 12455
- #230 Joseph A. Oxnard 1/18/76 212-458-3390
51-58 Manilla St., Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373
- #231 David Thorsland 2/21/76 518-869-8275
5 Vincent Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12205
- #232 Fred G. Bier 3/13/76 914-876-3507
Mt. View Ct., Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

May 2 LONG PATH TRAIL CLEARING Help is needed with the Spring
 (Sun.) maintenance of our section of
 the Long Path over Peekamoose & Table. North Jersey Chapter of ADK
 will be working with us. Please bring trail tools if you have them.
 Distance: 1-9 mi. Ascent: 500-2300' Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order:
 Meeting Place: Grocery store in Sundown at 8:00 a.m. 11,10
 Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), 116 Summit Ave., Waldwick, N.J.
 201-444-4387 07463

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES (continued)

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- May 8 HUNTER-DEVIL'S ACRE Here is your chance to have a guided tour of the remains of the Fenwick Lumber Co. operation on the shoulder of Hunter, described by Ed West in his recent article in the Catskill Canister. Joint hike with Mt. Top Historical Society of Greene Co.
Distance: 5-7 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 4040' Order: 2
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Ed West (#45), Shandaken, N.Y. 12480 914-688-5488
- May 15 BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE Moderate to strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Joint trip with New York Chapter AMC.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3940, 3990, 3945 Order: 5, 3, 4
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts 296 & 23 near Hensonville, N.Y. at 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Lucile Davison (#76), 50 Tomlinson Rd., Woodbury, Conn. 203-263-4207 06798
- June 6 WESTKILL Moderate to strenuous bushwhack with the Connecticut Chapter AMC.
(Sun,) Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800" Elev.: 3880" Order: 6
Meeting Place: DEC parking lot at end of Westkill-Spruceton Road and beginning of Spruceton trail to Hunter (firetruck rd.), 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Norman Greist (#85), 4000 Ridge Rd., North Haven, Conn. 203-248-2528 06473
- June 12 BALSAM Moderate to strenuous hike from McKinley Hollow to Pine Hill via Belleayre Mtn.
Distance: 6-7 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3600' Order: 27
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Fred Lowy (#99), R. D. 2, Box 77, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572 914-876-6968
- June 19 SCHUNEMUNK IN ORANGE CO. An exploration of this mountain which is composed mainly of conglomerate rock with good examples of glacial polishing. If the weather is good there may be 360 views including the Catskills, Shawangunks, Ramapos, and (east of the Hudson) Beacon and Break-neck Ridge. No children under 10 except by special arrangement. No dogs.
Distance: 7 mi.
Meeting Place: Outside tollgate at Thruway Exit 17, Newburgh, 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Clark Galloway (#136), 35 Sunset Drive, Delmar, N.Y. 12054 518-439-3476
- June 26 PANTHER Strenuous but scenic hike from Woodland Valley to Fox Hollow via Giant Ledges & Panther.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3720' Order: 17
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: F. Irwin Smith (#58), 81 Stony Lane, Short Hills, N.J. 201-379-5393 07078



the catskill canister

Vol. IX, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 7 6

HIGHEST POINT IN EACH STATE - PART III

Shortly after returning home because of sickness in the family, the patient's condition improved so much, that I was free to fly out to Denver, Colorado, in time to join Glenn before he left for Gannett Peak. The five of us with all our camping gear assembled at Lander, Wyoming, where we spent the night in a motel. The next morning, after a late start, we drove to Dubois and then over a gravel mountain road through the largest antelope range in the United States to the start of Glacier Trail. After shouldering our 45-pound packs, we started the long 23-mile trek to the base of the mountain. Starting at 7,500 feet, the trail gradually but steadily climbed along switchbacks to a high plateau at nearly 11,000 feet. Then, starting down-grade, we entered the drainage basin of Dinwoody Creek. It was getting dark when we reached our first good water where we set up our overnight camp at 10,500 feet. We had gone about 8.5 miles that day but with a late start that was not too bad.

The next morning, back on the trail again, we continued to descend, which none of us appreciated since we were supposed to be climbing a mountain, but we knew this loss of precious elevation was necessary to approach the east side of Gannett. The only consolation was the string of beautiful mountain lakes that we passed: Phillips, Double, Star, and Honeymoon Lakes. After Honeymoon Lake, we began to follow Dinwoody Creek, and now the trail began to climb. Before nightfall, a level place beside Dinwoody Creek was reached which made a delightful campsite. The place, known as Wilson Meadows at 9,800 feet elevation, is used by some climbers as a base camp for an ascent of Gannett Peak. Since all of us were quite tired, we welcomed it as our base camp too although we really should have gone about three miles farther, to shorten the climb to the summit on the following day. We were about 8 miles and 4,000 feet from the top, but we could not foretell what difficulties might delay us.

The next morning at six, when we were supposed to be getting out of our sleeping bags, we heard the unwelcome sound of sleet falling on our tents accented with an occasional peal of thunder echoing between the surrounding peaks. We discussed the alternatives, and the only sensible one was to stay in the sleeping bags to wait for an improvement in the weather. At about eight, the sleet stopped falling, and we heard no more thunder, so we arose, ate breakfast, and started for Gannett although the sky was cloudy, and we were several hours behind schedule.

We made good time over the scree at the base of the glacier and then moved quickly up Dinwoody Glacier. When we crossed over to Gooseneck Glacier, we roped up and affixed crampons because this

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Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#233	Paul L. Staffin 4/18/76 P. O. Box 199, Rosendale, N.Y. 12472	914-658-9368
#234	Richard C. Davis 5/1/76 4156 Old Stage Rd., Saugerties, N.Y. 12477	914-382-1428
#235	Michael B. Barrett 4/20/76 54 Clay Hill Rd., Tivoli, N.Y. 12583	914-759-3861
#236	Jeffrey Miller 5/8/76 19 Aspinwall Rd., Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-6194
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#239	Joseph H. Whitaker, III 5/22/76 51 Lamb Ave., Saugerties, N.Y. 12477	914-246-6329
#240	John A. Danielson 4/24/76 47-16 163rd St., Flushing, N.Y. 11358	212-318-8726
#241	Victor Hafner 5/25/76 3 King Dr., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603	914-462-0948

HIGHEST POINT (continued from page 1)

glacier is steeper and because of the possibility of falling into a hidden crevasse. We circumvented two crevasses at the base of a 50° ice covered slope extending up for 150 yards to the top of the ridge. Extreme care was taken as we moved on the 50° slope. By using ice-axe belays and only one man moving at a time, we reduced the chance of an accidental fall. The top of the ridge was reached safely where we stopped to rest and to review our position. We were now on the Continental Divide at an elevation of 13,200 feet. We could see the snow-covered summit ridge leading to the coveted half-dome shaped summit less than a half mile away and 600 feet above. Then, it started to thunder again. We had feared that the weather might deteriorate, but hoped that the disturbance would be without lightning. Under the circumstances, we could do nothing but turn back. The others in the party could not take an extra day--in addition to the two days required to hike out to the car--to attempt to climb the mountain the following day. We were downhearted to have been so close to success, but without safe weather, we would not continue. The hike out to the car was anticlimatic after being so close to the top of Wyoming.

During the following winter, Glenn and I corresponded and formulated plans to try Gannett during the summer of 1974. So in July 1974, I drove to Dubois again and after a week of hiking locally was joined by Glenn.

We were at the start of Glacier Trail on the morning of July 24, 1974, with a plan to climb Gannett with three essential differences from the method used in 1973. First, a hired packer toted our packs in to Wilson Meadows and because the packer brought along an extra horse, Glenn and I took turns riding half way over the eighteen miles. Packing in had the double advantage of saving a whole day of time and also of conserving our energy for the climb. The second improvement in our plan was to move our base camp, on the second day, as close to the base of the mountain as possible. We, therefore, set up our base camp at 10,800 feet on the last grassy spot just before the piles of glacial moraine. Thirdly, both of us had previously arranged to take a couple of extra days, if necessary, should the weather unexpectedly make it impossible to go up the mountain on the scheduled day.

The good weather held and on July 26, 1974, we climbed Gannett Peak. The details of the climb were about like those experienced in 1973 except that there was sunshine instead of thunder, and we started climbing the mountain hours earlier and from a point closer to the base. With more than an hour used on the summit, we spent slightly less than twelve hours on the round trip from our base camp.

I was elated to have finally gotten to the top of Wyoming's highest point. Glenn too was satisfied with our accomplishment. At the base camp that evening, we discussed this and the fact that I had now successfully climbed to the highest point of the 48 conterminous states. How did I feel about the completion of the project? I was satisfied that I had reached a goal that I had voluntarily assigned to myself. The real pleasure did not evolve from the completion as much as it did from the memory of the many exciting experiences I had enjoyed while pursuing the various parts of the whole project.

What is next? As we sat at our base camp that evening, we could count about a dozen peaks over 13,000 feet, and we had climbed only one of them. So there are many peaks in Wyoming to be climbed. We talked about other peaks, like those in Colorado where fifty-four are over 14,000 feet and 1,500 are more than 10,000 feet in elevation. I have climbed only two of these so there are many remaining peaks in Colorado which I have not climbed. So this account of climbing 48 peaks doesn't really end. It may be only the beginning.

--Rudolph Strobel, Pittsfield, Mass.

<u>STATE</u>	<u>HIGHEST POINT</u>	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>HIGHEST POINT</u>	<u>ELEVATION</u>
Cal....	Mount Whitney.....	14,494	Ky.....	Black Mountain.....	4,145
Colo....	Mount Elbert.....	14,433	Kan.....	Mount Sunflower.....	4,039
Wash....	Mount Rainier.....	14,410	S.C.....	Sassafras Mt.....	3,560
Wyo....	Gannett Peak.....	13,785	N.D.....	White Butte.....	3,506
Utah....	Kings Peak.....	13,528	Mass....	Mount Greylock.....	3,491
N.M....	Wheeler Peak.....	13,161	Md.....	Backbone Mt.....	3,360
Nev....	Boundary Peak.....	13,140	Pa.....	Mount Davis.....	3,213
Mont...	Granite Peak.....	12,799	Ark.....	Magazine Mountain...	2,753
Idaho..	Borah Peak.....	12,662	Ala.....	Cheaha Mountain.....	2,407
Ariz...	Humphreys Peak.....	12,633	Conn....	South slope of Mount Frissell.....	2,380
Ore....	Mount Hood.....	11,235	Minn....	Eagle Mountain.....	2,301
Tex....	Guadalupe Peak.....	8,751	Mich....	Mount Curwood.....	1,980
S.D....	Harney Peak.....	7,242	Wis.....	Timms Hill.....	1,952
N.C....	Mount Mitchell.....	6,684	N.J.....	High Point.....	1,803
Tenn...	Clingmans Dome.....	6,643	Mo.....	Taum Sauk Mt.....	1,772
N.H....	Mount Washington....	6,288	Iowa....	Unnamed.....	1,654
Va.....	Mount Rogers.....	5,729	Ohio....	Campbell Hill.....	1,550
Nebr...	Johnson Township....	5,426	Ind.....	Franklin Township...	1,257
N.Y....	Mount Marcy.....	5,344	Ill....	Charles Mound.....	1,235
Maine..	Mount Katahdin.....	5,268	R.I.....	Jerimoth Hill.....	812
Okla...	Black Mesa.....	4,973	Miss....	Woodall Mountain....	806
W.Va...	Spruce Knob.....	4,862	La.....	Driskill Mountain...	535
Ga.....	Brasstown Bald.....	4,784	Del.....	On Ebright Road.....	442
Vt.....	Mount Mansfield.....	4,393	Fla.....	Sec30, T6N, RsoW.....	345



the catskill canister

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A U T U M N 1 9 7 6

THE JOSEPH BRANT FORT

Bill Lawson was leading a Catskill 3500 Club winter hike to Kaaterskill High Peak and Round Top on January 13, 1973. There was not much snow, but what there was made it so slippery that even with crampons it was difficult to stay upright. As we were coming down the northwesterly ridge of High Peak toward Round Top, not far from the col I glanced over to the right and observed about fifty yards away a large overhanging ledge partly walled up in front with stones. Facetiously, I called to Bill, "There is Joseph Brant's fort over there." We did not bother to look at it, and at the time I thought of it only as a joke. As the days and weeks went by, however, the possibility of its being the old Indian fort grew on me, and on May 12th several of us returned for a closer look. We still do not know what to make of it.

For background data we need to go back to the time of the Revolution. It is known that Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk Indian chief, maintained a lookout post and a fort on what is now High Peak. The lookout, where they could observe activities in the Hudson Valley, is well recognized as being on the high ledge on the south side near the top of High Peak. The old records tell us that the lookout and the fort were on Round Top, but it must be remembered that about 1879 Arnold Guyot reversed the names of Round Top and High Peak. The mountain formerly known as Round Top is now High Peak, and what was formerly High Peak is now Round Top. The old names were more descriptive of their shapes from some views, and the confusion is unfortunate.

Anyway this overhanging rock is strategically located. A man on the top can observe one's approach from any direction; there is a spring of water nearby; smoke from a campfire could not be seen in the valley; it is only a ten-minute walk, with very little climb, to the ledge lookout.

Charles Rockwell, in his 1867 book, "The Catskill Mountains and the Region Around," says, "The prisoners were led by way of the mountains, and spent one or two nights in a small fort, on the southwest slope of Round Top, beyond the Cauterskill Clove, midway between Round Top and High Peak. The remains of this fort were visible as late as 1848."* (Remember that in 1867 High Peak was Round Top.)

If the overhanging ledge is the old Indian fort, then Rockwell is off in his direction, because it is on the northwest slope rather than the southwest, but nevertheless correct in saying "midway between Round Top and High Peak."

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

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

The 1880 Guyot map shows the location of the "Old Fort Ruin" slightly west of south from the summit of High Peak and just about a mile distant. This would put it near the reservoir on the Police Camp trail at elevation 2300 feet. It seems more likely that it would have been higher up, say about 2800 feet at the very head of the Plattekill and about where the snowmobile trail passes. This would have enabled them to approach it from the Plattekill or from the Kaaterskill, via either Wildcat or Hillyer Ravine, and thence through the South Mountain Col.

Since then we have been back twice more to explore the area along the south and southwest slopes of High Peak without finding anything, but with a stronger conviction than ever that the overhanging ledge may be it.

I should like to lead a group in there sometime to get other opinions. If we could identify beyond much doubt this old Indian fort of Revolutionary fame, it would be of historical importance, and should bring additional credit and prestige to the Catskill 3500 Club.

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #242 Marilyn J. Fancher 7/11/76
 - #243 Norman G. Fancher 7/11/76
- 405 Wellington Rd., Delmar, N.Y. 12054 518-439-6385

1976 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

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THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #85, #92, and #122 have all completed the Appalachian Trail and #150 has completed the Long Trail in Vermont. * * * * #170 and the son of #177 have both been named semifinalists in the annual Merit Scholarship competition. * * * #62 won a bronze medal at the Olympics in Montreal, where she was a member of the U.S. Women's eight rowing team. She also was the first person to qualify for the winter patch and membership in the Catskill 3500 Club simultaneously.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 6 CORNELL, WITTENBERG, & FRIDAY Strenuous bushwhack & trail
hike from Moonhaw Valley.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3865, 3780, 3694 Order: 9, 14, 18
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28 in Shokan at
8:30 a.m.
Leader: Richard Jewett (#237), 127 Western Ave., Altamont, N.Y.
518-861-7256 12009

Nov. 20 - Dec. 4 weekends DEER HUNTING SEASON in CATSKILLS

Nov. 21 MT. GREYLOCK, WILLIAMS, FITCH & PROSPECT Strenuous hike
(Sun.) on trails in the
Massachusetts "high peak" area to escape the N.Y. hunters.
Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3300' Elev.: 3491, 3000, 3220, 2600
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 43 & U.S. 7, approx. 3 mi. south of
Williamstown, Mass. at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Barney Kinahan (#111), U.S. Rt. 20, Brainard, N.Y. 12024
518-794-7734

Dec. 18 PEEKAMOOSE, TABLE & LONE Strenuous trail and bushwhack
hike.
Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3843, 3847, 3721 Order: 11, 10, 16
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28 in Shokan
at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), 5 Sawyer Pl., Albany, N.Y. 12208
518-482-7256

Dec. 26 NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR An easy hike, good trip for novice
(Sun.) skiers. Leader has plenty of good
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 300' advice.
Meeting Place: Entrance or North Lake Campsite at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Sam Owen (#206), 52 Newman St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840
201-548-5875 (914-657-6736 - Dec. 25)

Jan. 15 OVERLOOK Moderate hike for snowshoers & skiers starting
at Meads. Joint trip with Ski Touring Council.
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1300'
Meeting Place: Woodstock Town Parking Lot, rear of Orange County
Bank (near center of town) at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Sam Owen (#206), 52 Newman St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840
201-548-5875 (914-657-6736 - Jan. 13 & 14)

Jan. 21-23 WINTER WEEKEND AT SUNSHINE VALLEY HOUSE

Jan. 29 PANTHER A winter requirement. Ascent will be a stren-
uous bushwhack from Woodland Valley. Bring
snowshoes & crampons.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2620' Elev.: 3720' Order: 17
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Wayne Phillips (#204), 8 Apple Hill, Burrville, Conn.
212-623-4875 (weekdays) 06790

Feb. 25-28 WEEKEND AT ADIRONDACK LOJ

Mar. 26 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

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