

HISTORIA NATURALIS DE MONTIS RUINA

It seemed as though there had been a week of rain, yet the down-pour on Wednesday, May 29, 1968, was by far the heaviest. This was the kind of day that even keeps a woodsman inside. Nelson Shultis, owner of the Wittenberg Lumber Company, certainly had had no intention of going out that morning, but the log truck from Dolgeville had arrived to be loaded. So there he was, loading logs in Moonhaw Hollow. He was wet, muddy, and unhappy. And so was the truck driver.

The ridge which rises above Moonhaw and Maltby Hollows in a giant semicircle is one of the most rugged in the mountains. On its crest are four of the major CATSKILL peaks. Its face is extremely steep and is well known for its ledges and cliffs. The days of driving rain were beginning to leave their mark on this ridge. Here and there along its great arc, the water-logged soil was slipping down the smooth rock of the ledges, but only to be stopped by the firmly rooted earth below.

Four miles away from the ridge and three thousand feet lower lies the hamlet of West Shokan. There, the water in the rain guage was rising rapidly. It was well on its way to the record reading for the day of 4.88 inches.

The time was 11:00 a.m., and the loading operation in Moonhaw Hollow was nearing completion. Both men were thinking about dry clothes and hot coffee. Suddenly, the truck driver pointed to the stream and yelled, "Look at that!" It was no longer water, but a fast-moving chocolate pudding of mud. Then sniffing, he added, "It smells just like freshly plowed earth. What's going on here?" Mr. Shultis did not have to think of an answer; he knew what had happened back in the mountains.

Unlike the other places on the ridge, the movement of wet earth on the easterly arm of Friday Mountain was not stopped. After pulling away from a small outcropping rock, it was actually guided on its downward plunge by a small gully. As the slide gained momentum, tons of mud and hundreds of trees were hurled down the mountainside. At several spots the grade of the slope eased a bit, but this only caused the slide to become wider before continuing its relentless descent to the stream between the eastern tongues of Cornell and Friday. Fortunately, the main force of the slide was dissipated within 300 yards after it reached the relatively level streambed. All that continued downstream was the slime, which was neatly channelled in its rush to the floor of the Ashokan Reservoir.

During the Memorial Day week end the weather cleared. As the clouds lifted, a 2300-foot scar with a vertical rise of 1000 feet was unveiled on the northeast flank of Friday Mountain. It is possible that this slide track was first seen from a low-flying airplane. More probably it was viewed first of all by a holiday hiker, pausing on the summit of Wittenberg. Mr. Shultis and his crew were the first to make an on-the-spot investigation of the slide track.

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

William J. Hentschel, President, 144 McCosh Rd., Upper Montclair, N.J.  
 Franklin B. Clark, Editor, Athens, N.Y. 12015  
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The mud on the slide track has long since turned to hardpan. On it you can occasionally spot the tread mark of a pair of Vibrams, for mountaineers are discovering this new route for the ascent of Friday Mountain. It is a challenge, and it is a climb with continuous views. Far from being an ugly scar, the slide track on Friday is a beauty mark on the face of the CATSKILLS.

--Rev. Ray L. Donahue, Downsville, N.Y.

WINTER WEEK ENDS

January 18-19: CATSKILL 3500 CLUB will gather at The Mountain Gate, Oliverca (rea rhymes with sea). All hikers welcome.  
 February 21-23: joint week end with the New York Chapter of ADK at Adirondak Loj.  
 Registrations and inquiries should be sent two weeks in advance to W. J. Hentschel, telephone 212-944-1700 (days), 201-744-7885 (nights).

ROSTER OF MEMBERS

The roster, distributed at the annual dinner in March 1968 ended with #45. While they last, a copy may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the editor. Following are the addresses and telephone numbers for members who have qualified since then.

#46	Donald Hagen (3/16/68) R. D. 1, Box 109, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-9601
#47	David Hoffman (4/6/68) R. D. 2, Box 429, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-4651
#48	Dr. James H. Marshall (4/20/68) 2872 Alfred Court, Oceanside, N.Y. 11572	516-536-7554
#49	George W. Greene, Jr. (4/27/68) 6 Kalina Drive, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572	914-876-4830
#50	Charles Linett (4/28/68) 163-19 130th Ave., Jamaica, N.Y. 11434	212-276-1342
#51	James E. Daley (5/11/68) Clapp Hill Rd., LaGrangeville, N.Y. 12540	914-223-3747
#52	William Whitney (5/18/68) 3 Bard Ave., Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-8058
#53	Linda Dapcic (5/19/68) R. D. 2, Box 373, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-3937
#54	Carolyn Yantz (5/19/68) Yantz Road, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-3404
#55	Rev. Allan R. Wirth (6/20/68) 15 S. Fourth St., Hudson, N.Y.	518-828-1907
#56	Kenneth A. Shuker (7/14/68) 21 Spring St., Pawling, N.Y. 12564	914-855-1256
#57	Richard L. Goldin (10/6/68) 108-50 66th Ave., Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375	212-459-0423
#58	F. Irwin Smith (11/3/68) 81 Stony Lane, Short Hills, N.J. 07078	201-379-5393

SNOWSHOE MAINTENANCE

Owners of Westover snowshoes with abraded rubber lashings should know that there is a product on the market superior to the electrician's tape some have been using to delay the inevitable. The product is called Duro Plastic Rubber, and is available in a 4 ounce tube for \$1.00. Clean the area to be coated with benzine or naphtha. Sandpaper to roughen the surface, and squeeze out a coating. If only an amber liquid emerges from the tube, stand it on its cap for a few minutes before using, so that the black rubber mixes with the bonding agent. This vulcanized patch becomes an integral part of the lashing.

Another product, superior to the old spar varnish for recoating frames, is polyurethane varnish. Various brands are available, such as Zar, UGL, and Interlux. Be sure the brand you choose is for exterior or marine use. Sandpaper to remove any remnants of old finish and to roughen the surface, and apply. At least 2 coats are desirable, with a light sanding between coats. Wait 48 hours between coats to insure adequate drying. Polyurethane has excellent abrasion resistance, durability, and water resistance.

--Kenneth A. Shuker, Pawling, N.Y.

MEMOIRS

On October 12, 1935, my wife and I were camped at Woodland Valley and from there we walked up the red trail to the summits of Wittenberg and Cornell. Little did I know that on that day I was starting to qualify for CATSKILL 3500 CLUB membership. In 1937 my employer moved me to Atlanta where I became interested in the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club. In May 1938, as a prospective member, I was given a copy of the GATC Georgia Mountaineer in which was a paragraph about one Elizabeth Cowart who was leaving Georgia because of matrimony to one Jerome Hurd of Clintondale, N.Y. I didn't meet Miss Cowart at that time, but on May 11, 1968--exactly 30 years later--I was wearing my Japanese pack with my GATC emblem attached on the 3500 Club trip up Hunter. Betty Hurd recognized the emblem, and soon we found lots of common ground.

In 1940-41 I carried a paint brush on the entire 100 miles of Appalachian Trail in Georgia. In 1941 I was President of the Club and erected the sign on Mt. Oglethorpe to mark the then southern terminus of the Trail.

In 1962 I joined Appalachian Mountain Club, serving first on its Trails Committee, and later as Chairman of the Hikes Committee. Currently I am on the Membership Committee. Two years ago I organized a 32-day 300-mile trek from Kathmandu, Nepal, to the base of Mt. Everest. The party consisted of ten men and four women from the New York area. We were accompanied by 9 Sherpas and up to 34 porters who carried our tents, sleeping bags, food, etc.

In addition to membership in AMC and GATC, I am a member of Woodland Trail Walkers, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Eastern U. S. Section of Alpine Club of Canada and, of course, the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB. I am especially proud of the last because it had to be earned.

--F. Irwin Smith, Short Hills, N.J.

EXCELSIOR

Adirondack 46'er on July 20, 1968, with ascent of Marshall.

CATSKILL 3500'er on Oct. 6, 1968, with ascent of Doubletop.

End-to-End on the Long Trail on Oct. 31, 1968, upon arrival at Canadian border. Total distance: 260.8 miles.

Appalachian Trail. Have completed the A. T. from Vermont Route 12 south to Pennsylvania Route 34, a total distance of 592 miles.

Have climbed only 7 peaks in New Hampshire and one in Maine, but have strong aspirations of scaling the remaining 39 in New Hampshire and 11 in Maine toward the 111.

--Richard L. Goldin, Forest Hills, N.Y.

II CHRONICLES

1965-1966.....President, Bill Spangenberg; Vice-President, Bill Leavitt; Treasurer, Brad Whiting; Secretary, Nancy Locke; Committee Member, Betty Hurd; Canisters, Bill Leavitt. (Donahue Transcription)

THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

The owner of Hunter Mountain, with a clerical friend and a carpenter's water level, made the ascent a year or so ago; and believing--as was the general impression--that the mountain was the highest of any in sight, began to verify his impression by carefully sighting over the level at many of the prominent peaks--east, north, and west. At last he was considerably taken back when looking at a prominent peak in the southwesterly direction, for the level did not seem to work well--must be out of order--but, sure enough, the water bubble was exactly in the center of the glass tube, and the mountain peak 16 miles away was evidently higher than his favorite mountain; and not until then did it get noised about, and afterward proved to be a fact, that the Slide Mountain is the highest of the CATSKILL range.

--Van Loan's CATSKILL MOUNTAIN GUIDE 1886

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Except for #3's dog, Snokie, Linda Dapcic, at age 15, is the youngest being to complete the 3500. \* \* \* \* #14 has been in the hospital for a hernia repair job since he finished the 111 over 4000 feet in New York and New England. \* \* \* \* #16 and his daughters have been learning domestic science during his wife's convalescence from bone surgery. \* \* \* \* #1 was the only taker for the Slide-Peekanoose marathon led by the triumvirate #37, #38, #39. After setting a fine compass course, someone put the compass in his pocket, with the result that the Friday canister made a second appearance from the opposite direction. Perhaps they were distracted by the separation of the tops from the soles of #38's sneakers. With all these delays, it took them 10½ hours to do 10½ mountains. #23 was with them in spirit, having preceded them the day before, when he left cheery remarks in the registers. Having only one car and no Sherpa, he used Denning as the trailhead for his horseshoe hike.

KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK IN FEBRUARY

I have always marvelled at the winter beauty of the CATSKILLS, so my friend Roy asked me about a winter overnight in an area where he could earn some 3500's at the same time. It was a cold and greyish day when we arrived on the afternoon bus at Palenville. After crossing the frozen Kaaterskill, we started to climb up the easy slope towards Kaaterskill High Peak. When we reached the level of Hawkeye, we could see our mountain in the last light of the day, looming darkly some distance away. Taking a short rest, we munched Studenten Futter and shivered from the sudden evening cold.

While pushing along through the light undergrowth by starlight, we reached the very steep base of Kaaterskill summit. At the beginning we pulled ourselves up from tree to tree; then, when we got to almost vertical cliffs, Roy felt his way up a steep chute with the aid of some fallen tree trunks. At the end of this chute, we had to balance along a narrow ledge, until we got to a dark, empty gap. Roy, who was leading, took his pack off, and with a dare-devil jump reached solid ground on the other side. Scrambling up to a tree, Roy let the line down to pull up packs, and to give me a safe feeling while doing that jump across the gap. From there on the terrain leveled off, and after struggling through a balsam thicket, we came out at the trail junction at the top of Kaaterskill High Peak.

We followed the trail to the cliffs above Platte Clove, but the second we stepped out into the open, an ice-cold wind went right through us and made us feel naked. After a retreat for catching our breath, we ventured out again to find the trail leading down to Platte Clove. This was not easy in the dark with the snow cover, and we were already thinking of a night camp on the mountain, when I finally hit the spot of descent off the rocks. Since the trail was icy under the snow, we had to use the line to belay each other. The lights down at Platte Clove looked warm and welcome, yet we had a long bushwhack ahead of us, sometimes heading for the lights below, sometimes going by the lights of the stars above, with our hands and arms raised to keep the annoying sharp twigs out of our eyes, as we could not see them ahead.

When we finally reached the road, it was getting quite late and we were tired and hungry. A cold wind was howling through the valley, so we decided to spend the night on a lee-side porch of one of the summer houses along the road. A table was laid down to protect us from the draft, and behind it we slipped into our sleeping bags for warmth. Once the primus stove was singing its homely, pattering song, and hot chocolate was warming our bodies, we were quite comfortable. Roy could not keep warm in his tight, light sleeping bag, so he got into my big warm one, while I experimented on keeping warm in his. By keeping very straight so I would not compress any down, I kept warm all through the night. At times I worried about our food supply, as the cans were expanding with loud pops during the deep freeze of the night.

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Next morning we woke into a bright sunny day. A man from the house across the road came over to check on us, and after a while came back with a pot full of good hot coffee. He told us that it had been 20 below zero during the night. After we had thawed our water and food, we had a real good breakfast, and later left the porch as neat as we had found it. The day saw us climbing Sugarloaf and sliding down the icy trail on the other side. At a coffee shop in Tannersville we enjoyed the end of another wonderful trip in the CATSKILLS.

--Ted Wolfrum, Seattle, Wash.

III CHRONICLES

1966-1967.....President, Brad Whiting; 1st Vice-President, Bill Hentschel; 2nd Vice-President, Clancy Bechler; Treasurer, Elinore Leavitt; Secretary, Ray Donahue; Committee Member, Bill Spangenberg; Canisters, Peter Fish; Outings, Bill Hentschel. (Donahue Transcription)

THE TENDERFOOT ON STOPPEL POINT

Later that summer of 1908 I returned to the Winter Clove for another ten days. Two of the young veteran climbers came up for the weekend and Burt Whitcomb took us up Stoppel Point. How I ever kept up with them I don't know, except that I was wearing sneakers, and two of them had on slippery leather shoes. From the first lookout the view was fine, and Cairo Round Top looked like a reasonable size hill. The trail from there along the spur was the finest I have ever seen. It was clear of underbrush and wandered among the big trees. It was a grand place to catch your breath before the final pull to the top.

That was also tree covered. We climbed one tree and crossed over into another for an unobstructed view in all directions. Only the Blackhead Range was higher than we were.

Coming down, we followed along the high ridge, where the new ridge trail has just been opened, and then broke down to the old wood road at the 2500 foot level. This was the road they brought the horses up to pull the logs from the higher part of the mountain to the edge of Winter Clove Basin. They then shot the logs over the edge and down into the basin, from where they took them out over the main road. Leaving after a 1:00 Sunday dinner, we were back for 6:00 supper. In the Fall of 1966 I led a similar hike, and we took from 9:30 A.M. till 5:00 P.M. to make it. It was not only the extra 40 pounds and 58 years I was carrying, but the condition of the trail and the fact that we came down too soon and had an extra 1000 vertical feet of bush whacking.

--Alfred S. Clark, Bellevue, Md.

The most beautiful winter view of the CATSKILLS we have seen is from a ledge at about 2300 feet on the old West Shokan Boy Scout trail on the northeast shoulder of High Point. The sweep from Peekamoose to Overlook is stupendous. From the top (3080), the limited view of Peekamoose to Wittenberg is even better, and in the other direction is the best view of the Ashokan Reservoir. To the south, on a clear day the monument at High Point, New Jersey is plainly visible, and the top of the V which is the Delaware Water Gap may be discerned by one who knows where to look. Although the 2180-foot climb exceeds the easiest routes up Slide, Blackhead, Panther, or Balsam, the trail is so well graded and the ascent so steady that it seems less of a climb than it is. The beginning is on posted private land, and permission to use his property should be obtained from the owner, Mr. William DeSanna, High Point Road.

FRIDAY MOUNTAIN SLIDE TRACK

Near the top of the West Shokan U.S.G.S. topo, follow the westerly branch of the stream from Moonhaw Gun Club to the confluence at the 1960-foot contour, where the foot of the slide is located. From this point the slide track ascends the ridge of Friday at 220 degrees to the 3000-foot contour.

WINTER PATCH

Nine more persons have qualified for the winter patch by climbing all 34 of the 3500 foot CATSKILLS in winter: #6W Dana Helsley, #7W Dan Machell, #8W Walter Gregory, #9W William Hentschel, #10W William Whitney, #11W Spiro Kavarnos, #12W Marion Greig, #13W Paul Mueller, #14W James Ross. Tally sheets are available from any of the officers.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#59 Henry L. Young (2/1/69)	194 Spencer Place, Ridgewood, N.J. 07450	201-445-6745
#60 Spiro Kavarnos (3/12/69)	43 S. Highland Ave., Ossining, N.Y. 10562	914-762-0559
#61 Missy Cookingham (3/16/69)	Applewood, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-8511
#62 Marion Greig (3/16/69)	R.D. 1, Box 86, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-1911
#63 Philip LoPresti (3/16/69)	5 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12602	914-454-2949
#64 R. Sebastian Eggert (3/23/69)	75 West Market St., Red Hook, N.Y. 12571	914-758-3112

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

#27 caught up with the hike he was scheduled to lead just as they reached the new slide on Friday. The rocks were icy and no one had full crampons, so much of the ascent was made on all fours, but slowly. In the end, everyone left the slide at the final pitch and took to the woods. \* \* \* \* We have noticed that #33 seldom hikes alone these days. His companion wears an ADK patch on her pack, a diamond on her finger, and has a New York Chapter accent. \* \* \* \* #12 is the new Forest Ranger at Ellenville, where his territory includes our once peaceful Peekamoose. \* \* \* \* The owner of the last winter parking spot in Ryder Hollow, the Mapledale approach to Balsam, charges \$2.00 a car. \* \* \* \* In January, Jonathan Flanders tested his lungs for the first time, and he is already planning to hike in the CATSKILLS in 1974.

ANNUAL DINNER - MARCH 29 - 6:00 P.M. - GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL - KINGSTON, NEW YORK

1969 SPRING SCHEDULE OF THE CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

<u>DATE AND TIME</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>TRIP</u>
*March 29 9:00 A.M.	Phoenicia Bake Shop Phoenicia, N.Y.	Peter Fish P.O. Box 179 Claverack, N.Y. 12513 518-851-9496	Mt. Tremper (Date of Annual Dinner - 3/29/69 - 6:00 P.M.)
April 5 9:00 A.M.	Phoenicia Bake Shop Phoenicia, N.Y.	Walter Gregory 8 Wall Avenue Valhalla, N.Y. 10595 914-949-7567	Double Top and Graham
April 19 9:00 A.M.	Phoenicia Bake Shop Phoenicia, N.Y.	Norman Greig R.D. #1, Box 86 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571 914-758-1911	Holcott to Vly
May 3 9:00 A.M.	Village Green Woodstock, opposite News Shop	Bill Spangenberg 12 Tanglewood Road Woodstock, N.Y. 12498 914-679-2554	Hutch Hill to Twin Mountain
May 17 9:00 A.M.	Phoenicia Bake Shop Phoenicia, N.Y.	Henry Young 194 Spencer Place Ridgewood, N.J. 07450 201-445-6745	Slide on Cornell Mountain
**May 24 8:30 A.M.	Friendship Manor Pine Hill, N.Y. (Spring Outing ADK)	Rev. Ray Donahue St. Mary's Church Downsville, N.Y. 13755 607-363-2565	Fir, Big Indian, Eagle and Balsam Mt., etc. Pine Hill to Biscuit Brook (Strenuous)
**May 25 8:30 A.M.	Friendship Manor Pine Hill, N.Y. (Spring Outing ADK)	Bill Hentschel 144 McCosh Road Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043 201-744-7885	Holcott
June 7 9:00 A.M.	Boiceville Route Nos. 28 - 28A	Rev. Ray Donahue St. Mary's Church Downsville, N.Y. 13755	Hanover and Balsam Cap
June 14 9:00 A.M.	Five State Motel East Windham, N.Y.	Jerry Hurd Hurd's Road Clintondale, N.Y. 12515 914-883-9327	Windham High Peak

\*There will be sufficient time after the hike to drive to the Governor Clinton Hotel, Kingston, N.Y., where you may change for dinner. \*\*In conjunction with Spring Outing of Adirondack Mountain Club, Friendship Manor, Pine Hill on Route No. 28.

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS - REMOVE ALL LITTER FROM TRAILS  
ALWAYS TAKE TRASH HOME (In your pack)  
CLEAN WOODLANDS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

NOTE: If you are planning to attend a trip, please notify the leader, if possible, a few days in advance. Notify W. J. Hentschel, 144 McCosh Road, Upper Montclair, N.J., 201-744-7885, if you have any comments or suggestions concerning this schedule.



## NOTES OF A NOVICE

With five 3500's accomplished, arrive at head of vehicular navigation, Moonhaw Road, Maltby Hollow, West Shokan, 7:30 a.m., July 4, 1967, with visions of doing six in one day. Strike out bravely to south over logging trails, then straight up the side of Friday--or is it Balsam Cap? Reach ridge crest between the two and opt for Balsam Cap first. Move on easily toward Rocky, which turns out to be the southern point of Balsam Cap. That's Rocky off to the right. Conquer Rocky at the price of heavy bushwhacking, but find no register. Now 12:30. Can I do Lone? Yes; can't come this far and miss just that one. Summit of Lone, find register, eat second lunch and depart 2:45. Aim toward the saddle between Slide and Cornell and hit the trail. 3:45, darn it, why can't I see Slide through these interminable trees? 4:00, cloudy, sun gone, no direction signals now, no compass either. 4:15, ah, here's the stream my map shows. 5:00, where in heaven's name is the trail that should be in this saddle? Am I getting into Woodland Valley? 6:00, a summit ahead, maybe it's Cornell. At least I can get a look. 6:30, don't panic! 6:45, on top, and here's a register. It's Rocky! Well good, I'll sign in. That's Lone I can see that way, so my car must be the opposite way. Get going. 8:15, haven't reached the ridge crest yet, so let's stop in this little rocky glen for the night. Lie down on poncho. 8:45, sprinkle of rain, rumble of thunder, put poncho on. Stand up under three-foot overhang leaning against vertical rock all night long. Me and Rip VanWinkle with the thunder and lightning. No let up, feet soaking. At least I've got my own private Fourth of July fireworks. Crack of dawn 5:15, rain letting up; let's move out. 6:00, on the ridge crest again between Friday and Balsam Cap. Magnificent! Rush of clouds streaming from my left over Friday and trailing off into Maltby Hollow. All greys and whites and blacks: wet trees, wispy clouds, thick clouds, thin cloud layers, brilliant Ashokan, fantastic greys, no color except two slim golden shafts of early sunlight over Ashokan Reservoir. Too tired for Friday, going down now. Won't make the office today, just bed.

Lessons learned: take compass when there are no trails; take better than small-scale CATSKILL region map; don't depend on visual orientation when leaves are on the trees. Also, I would do it all again for that one ten-minute view from the ridge of a storm breaking up at dawn over the CATSKILLS.

--Arthur B. McComb, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

According to GEOLOGY OF NEW YORK, the Shawangunk Conglomerate was laid down about fifty million years before the CATSKILL rocks, which are Medial Devonian.

"In southeastern New York the continuing erosion of an eastern source had piled up about 1000 feet of white sand and quartz pebbles. The result was the highly resistant Shawangunk Formation, visible today at the east face of the Shawangunk Mountains. Excellent quartz crystals, zinc and lead minerals have been collected from it in the past."

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HYDROPHOBIA IN MAINE . . .

In 1967 I interested the family in a Labor Day week-end at Baxter State Park, since North Brother was the key to my finishing the New England 4000 that year. We left on Saturday morning in the best weather of the summer but as we arrived in the Bangor area it became cloudy and within 25 miles of Millinocket we were in steady rain. Sunday we floated our car through Millinocket and on to the Park. We had lunch in a deluge, beyond the Katahdin Stream Camp Ground. By this time the road was washing out and people were fleeing the disaster area. We settled on the location of the North Brother trail, and navigated our craft back to our motel, with the hiker's eternal optimism for a better day tomorrow.

On Monday we again left for North Brother, windshield wipers still working. By the time we came to the trail, weather conditions had subsided to just wet air. We pulled ourselves up to the cloud cover at the top of the slide and during lunch we were again swamped by a deluge. We reached the summit in dense fog.

It was raining spasmodically on the return and the trail was virtually a river. We regretted we had not portaged a canoe up the mountain. At the slide, the weather began to clear, and by the time we reached the road, we could see the slides and all the ridge tops but Katahdin. That remained shyly aloof in its own cloud, and my wife insists it's not there. I, however, from the smugness of prior experience, am content that I have now climbed them all.

--W. J. Hentschel, Upper Montclair, N.J.

. . . EUPHORIA IN THE CATSKILLS

On that same Saturday, Ernest Kent and your editor did Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide. Between Wittenberg and Cornell, they met Werner Bachli, Art Beach, and Walter Gregory, scouting the hike from Moonhaw that the last would lead during the winter. Between Cornell and Slide, Ed West was seen with a pack basket full of photographic equipment. "I've been waiting all summer for a day like this!" On Slide, Father Donahue and some natives were spending the afternoon, reluctant to leave the extraordinary view. He pointed out 33 of the 34 CATSKILL 3500 peaks, only Thomas Cole being hidden (although it shows from Wittenberg). Then came an amazing climax. Not only the monument at High Point, New Jersey, was strikingly visible in that Alpine air, but even the Delaware Water Gap, 85 crow-miles away.

If this story has a moral, it is that the clearest days come singly, and should be used for hiking, not travelling.

In 1871, he (Prof. Arnold Guyot) visited the Rocky Mountains and the Coast Range of California. Mostly, however, his "vacation work" continued to focus on the mountains of the East, particularly the Catskills, a "plateau of piled-up strata owing its mountain forms chiefly to sculpturing waters." Despite being near New York City and the Hudson River, and frequented by thousands of tourists, large portions remained untracked forests. Sometimes his only chance for making triangulations was by climbing the tops of the highest trees--and then he would likely encounter difficulty in identifying distant, featureless, nameless summits. Yet he pursued this work until the close of the summer of 1879, when he was seventy-two, discovering during the course of his exploration nineteen summits higher than the highest previously known (High Peak?).

STRANGERS IN HIGH PLACES

By Michael Frome, Garden City, 1966

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #65 Werner O. Bachli (3/28/69)  
44 N. Broadway, Apt. 1L(N), White Plains, N.Y. 10603 914-761-2099
- #66 John J. Mitchell (5/11/69)  
226 Main St., Fishkill, N.Y. 12524 914-896-6526
- #1D Snokey the Spangenberg (9/2/68)  
12 Tanglewood Rd., Woodstock; N.Y. 12498 914-679-2554

1969 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

Rev. Ray L. Donahue, President; William J. Hentschel, Past President; C. Peter Fish, 1st Vice President & Outing Schedules; Will D. Merritt, 2nd Vice President & Winter Activities; Hedwig S. Oliver, Secretary; Rev. Allan R. Wirth, Treasurer; John Fish, Trails; Norman Greig & Seb Eggert, Canisters; Elinore G. Leavitt, Membership; Franklin B. Clark, Publications; Kenneth A. Shuker, Publicity.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

One of our cousins watched the Slide raccoon in the moonlight as he went up the back of the fireplace and dexterously snatched #56's pork chop right out of the frying pan. The rascal had the nerve to panhandle and snoop for another hour. Afterwards, Coz moved right into the fireplace. \* \* \* \* #23, #32, and #44 were witnesses and #56 was best man when #33 exchanged vows with Winifred Schreiner May 3. We understand that the ADK romance began in Norway in 1966. \* \* \* \* #37 is maintaining the AMC trails this summer. \* \* \* \* #38 has been accepted by the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London. Since there are no political appointments, entrance depends upon a written examination, an interview, and a physical examination, for which hiking in the CATSKILLS is recommended. Only 1 in 10 make the grade; we congratulate #38.

Sept. 13      PLATTEKILL and OVERLOOK

The old carriage road from Platte Clove to Leads provides a route with easy grades. An optional bushwhack of 500 vertical feet is available for those who would like to complete the Indian Head range by standing on the top of Plattekill Mt. (3135). Overlook has spectacular views of both the Hudson Valley and of the high CATSKILLS.

Distance: 10 miles      Ascent: 1200 feet      Elevation: 3150 feet  
 Leader: Ken Shuker, 21 Spring St., Pawling, N.Y. Phone: 914-855-1256  
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville, 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 27      DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM

Two of the 3500, one of them trailless.

Distance: 8 miles      Ascent: 2670 feet      Elevation: 3870 & 3868  
 Orders: 7 and 8  
 Leader: Gary Klee, 25 Holly St., Walton, N.Y. Phone: 607-865-5392  
 Meeting Place: Intersection of N.Y. 28 and Delaware County 39  
 (Dry Brook Road to Seager), 9:00 a.m.

Oct 4      LONE and ROCKY

The two most remote of the 3500 over a route new to most of us from the East Branch of the Neversink. Both mountains are trailless, and Rocky is the one where the canister was destroyed by an alleged bear.

Distance: 9 miles      Ascent: 1800 feet      Elevation: 3721 & 3508  
 Orders: 16 and 34  
 Leader: Bill Hentschel, 144 McCosh Rd., Upper Montclair, N.J.  
 Phone: 201-744-7885  
 Meeting Place: Claryville Post Office, 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 25      NORPE LAKE TO BATAVIACKILL

This is the escarpment trail which was cut two years ago. Our route starts with the world-famous Mountain House view and culminates with the magnificent view from Blackhead 1740 feet higher up.

Distance: 11 miles      Ascent: 2930 feet      Elevation: 3940 feet  
 Order: 5  
 Leader: Rev. Allan Wirth, 15 S. 4th St., Hudson, N.Y.  
 Phone: 518-828-1907  
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville, 9:00 a.m.

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BLUESTONE

"I wish I had that in Rhinebeck." - - - - "The makings of a lovely patio." These are excerpts from a conversation heard between 3500 aspirants as we took a breather in an old quarry near the top of Plattekill Mountain on September 13, 1969. The subject of the conversation was a pile of one inch thick flagstones left many years ago by the quarrymen.

Several claims have been made as to when and where the first bluestone quarry was opened. It appears safe to say that the time was between 1826 and 1832. However modest or obscure its beginning may have been, it became an industry that flourished for nearly a hundred years.

Bluestone is that stratum of bluish gray stone lying above the Marcellus shale. It is an extremely hard fine-grained sandstone found in the strata of the Upper Devonian. It extends from the Helderbergs in Albany County to Pike County, Pennsylvania. It varies in color and quality, but the dark blue stone found in the eastern Catskills is considered the best.

The story of the bluestone business may seem at first glance to consist of dry description and dull statistics as prosaic, hard, and cold as the slabs we saw on Plattekill. If one had the time, space, and ability to tell them, however, there are stories as dramatic, thrilling, and full of human interest as any ever told of the gold rushes of California or the Klondike; stories of wealth rapidly and unexpectedly acquired, and often as rapidly lost, of joy and of despair, of success and of disappointment. For the bluestone quarry was a lottery, and the quarryman who expended his time and money removing tons of earth and loose stone from a promising looking block might win a prize, or draw a blank. No quarryman could tell what was underneath until the top had been removed and the stone actually quarried. The work had to be practically complete before he could know whether he was to make a profit or to lose the time and money he had expended in digging out a lot of worthless rubbish.

Occasionally, as we travel through the Catskills and the Hudson River Valley, we see certain round stone horseblocks, used in olden times to step on when entering or leaving a carriage or buggy. These horseblocks are about two feet in diameter and, standing on end, a foot or so high. Behind them is an interesting side light. George Davidson, Superintendent of the Bigelow Bluestone Company at Malden, invented a machine for cutting a circular hole two feet in diameter through a block of bluestone a couple of feet thick. Hundreds of these blocks with holes were used for manholes to sewers in New York, the solid circular core being cast aside as refuse until some economic genius discovered they were just right for horseblocks.

The Catskills have turned out hundreds of millions of dollars worth of bluestone. From the Lawson Quarry alone, at West Hurley, four million dollars was taken during the thirty years it was operated. The benefit of the bluestone business was widespread because the cost of

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finished bluestone was nearly all for labor, and the profits were divided and subdivided among thousands of people. It was the man who operated on his own who took the chances. It was to him that the business might mean success and happiness, or failure and despair. But by far the greater number were those who worked for wages, quarrying, driving teams, cutting, running saws and other machinery, or handling the stone at some stage of its progress from the Catskills to the great cities. To these came the benefit that aggregated the millions of dollars.

When we use one of the old quarry roads to start up one of the Catskill peaks, and at its end come to an excavation in the ledges with a heap of quarry rubbish on the lower side, let us, as we pause for breath, reflect for a moment on the past. This excavation may be a memorial to departed greatness, or to a project representing failure, disappointment, and heartbreak. One thing is certain, As the moss, ferns, and vegetative growth cover the rocks, Nature is slowly but surely healing the wound and scar that many years ago was made upon the mountain side.

And, when we see old stone houses and modern buildings in which stone has been used; when we walk on a flagstone sidewalk or stone steps, or the patio previously referred to, we must think how appropriate it is that Mother Earth, who has never been unfriendly to man, has given us a part of Herself for our comfort and enjoyment.

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

"Ulster County Bluestone," by A. W. Hoffman, is the source of much of the above data.

L E T T E R S

After receiving the CATSKILL CANISTER, I realized how much I miss the mountain folk and their lore. I imagine that you think all of us out here are probably far out of shape for the rigorous task of climbing the CATSKILLS, but, believe me, we have plenty of practical experience for climbing. To name just a few, there is mandatory doubletipping in the halls and up the stairways; for those of us who enjoy rock-climbing, there is the rigging on the EAGLE; and for those that like to take their mountains all at once, there is an eight-foot wall that we jump over every day on the obstacle course.

But, the Academy hasn't just given me the exercise for climbing, it has also given me the equipment. For instance, I now have a foul-weather gear outfit that will stand up to Will Leavitt's, but better yet, mine is yellow. I also now have a parka, whose lining is thicker than the fur on Smokey the Spangenberg, and I have a pair of sneakers, whose soles are guaranteed never to break away from the bottom!

I hope to come home around Thanksgiving and I hope to go out over that long weekend, maybe Slide if it's a nice day, but probably Friday if it's not. Anybody interested? Or, if somebody plans one for that weekend, would you let me know? The next time you see the CATSKILLS, say "hi" for me, I miss them a lot.

--Dana C. Helsley #38 Box 948  
United States Coast Guard Academy  
New London, Conn. 06320

We are pleased to inform you that at its recent meeting the Board on Geographic Names approved for Federal use the names Friday Mountain and Mount Sherrill in New York. These decisions will be published in Decision List 6903 and the entries will read as follows:

Friday Mountain: mountain, elevation 3694 ft., 0.6 mi. s of Cornell Mountain and 4 mi. WNW of West Shokan; Ulster Co., N.Y.; 41 59'15" N, 74 21'45" W. Not: Cornell Mountain.

Sherrill, Mount: mountain, elevation over 3540 ft., 1.2 mi. W of North Dome and 2.4 mi. SSE of the village of West Kill; named for Elia-kim Sherrill, a tanner in the Shandaken area during the mid-nineteenth century; Greene Co., N.Y.; 42 10'32" N, 74 22'24" W.

--Letter to the Club 8/22/69

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#67 Katrina VanTassel (9/21/69)  
Northern Blvd., Germantown, N.Y. 12526 518-537-6105

The Vly canister has been moved. It is now on the west end of the summit, at the USC&GS triangulation station.

There is now a canister on Table Mountain. This register will indicate how much use the Club's section of the Long Path is receiving.

In the June-July 1960 issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST, there is an article, "Catskill's Treasury of Water," by Richard F. Ward.

Mr. Ward states that probably the heaviest single rainfall known occurred in the Catskills. He quotes from an old report in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE describing a Catskill storm in July, 1819:

"...A powerful rain commenced...The air became so obscure that trees, buildings and other large objects could not be discerned at the distance of a few yards...the descent of rain was most copious between a quarter before 6 o'clock and a quarter after 6. In this half hour... the descent of water...exceeded twelve inches upon the level."

It would seem highly likely that this was the storm which precipitated the slide on Slide Mountain. The date usually given for the slide is "about 1820."

H I K E S

-4-

- Nov. 8      INDIANHEAD & TWIN      Two of the 3500 with trails.  
 Distance: 5 miles      Ascent: 2113 feet      Elevation: 3573 & 3640  
 Orders: 29 and 22  
 Leader: Bill Spangenberg, 12 Tanglewood Rd., Woodstock, N.Y.  
 Phone: 914-679-2554  
 Meeting Place: The News Shop in Woodstock at 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 15      BALSAM CAP TO SAMUEL'S POINT      Four of the 3500 (Balsam  
 Cap, Friday, Cornell, & Wittenberg); combination bushwhack  
 and trails. Exceedingly strenuous.  
 Distance: 9 miles      Ascent: 3507      Elevation: 3623, 3694, 3865, 3780, 2885  
 Orders: 24, 18, 9, 14  
 Leader: Rev. Ray Donahue, Downsville, N.Y. Phone: 607-363-2565  
 Meeting Place: Junction 28A and 28 at Boiceville at 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 6      SLIDE MOUNTAIN      The highest of the 3500 by trail; more  
 mountains can be added by desire of group.  
 Distance: 6 miles      Ascent: 1540 feet      Elevation: 4180  
 Order: 1  
 Leader: Phillip LoPresti, 5 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
 Phone: 914-758-3112  
 Meeting Place: Phoenicia Bake Shop at 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 13      BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME, & THOMAS COLE      Three of the 3500  
 by trail in a joint hike with the Red Hook Mountaineers.  
 Distance: 6 miles      Ascent: 2435 feet      Elevation: 3940, 3990, 3945  
 Orders: 5, 3, and 4  
 Leader: John Fish, 53 Montgomery St., Tivoli, N.Y. Phone: 914-759-2314  
 Meeting Place: Rock Face Diner, Cairo, N.Y. at 9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 10      PANTHER      Joint hike with the New York Chapter of A.M.C.  
 Distance: 10 miles      Ascent: 2420 feet      Elevation: 3720  
 Order: 17  
 Leader: Walter Gregory, 8 Wall Ave., Valhalla, N.Y. Phone: 914-949-7567  
 Meeting Place: Phoenicia Bake Shop at 9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 25      WINDHAM HIGH PEAK      One of the 3500 by trail.  
 Distance: 6 miles      Ascent: 1524 feet      Elevation: 3524  
 Order: 32  
 Leader: Jerry Hurd, Clintondale, N.Y. 12515 Phone: 914-883-9327  
 Meeting Place: Five State Motel on Rt. 23 at 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 8      WESTKILL      A 3500 bushwhack; joint hike with N.Y.A.M.C.  
 Distance: 6 miles      Ascent: 2280 feet      Elevation: 3880  
 Order: 6  
 Leader: Peter Fish, Box 249, Wawarsing, N.Y. 12489 Phone: 914-647-5781  
 Meeting Place: Phoenicia Bake Shop at 9:00 a.m.

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