

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Vol. I, No. 1

Winter 1968

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE II PURPOSE

"Section 1. The Club provides incentive for hikers to visit mountain peaks and areas not usually seen by the average hiker in the CATSKILLS."

HIKING IN THE CATSKILLS

Last summer, I had the opportunity to do some hiking in Colorado. I would like to tell you about one of the mountains climbed, Longs Peak. As I slowly plodded up the trail of this mountain, I could not avoid making comparisons with mountains in the CATSKILLS with which I am more familiar. Similarities were balanced and differences were contrasted between the features of the hike up Long Peak with those of a hike up a CATSKILL Mountain.

For example, the Longs Peak hike is a twenty mile trip--ten miles in and ten miles out--and a climb of about one mile straight up. When we hike in the CATSKILLS, we can accumulate a similar mileage and change in elevation by bagging a family of mountains all in the same day, but that is where the similarity ends. When hiking in the CATSKILLS, we are exerting at elevations between 1500 and 4000 feet, but, in contrast, when climbing Longs Peak, we are exerting at 9452 feet to 14,251 feet. Climbing at higher elevations has an exhausting effect on a hiker, especially one who has not taken a week or two to condition himself to rarefied air.

Many of our CATSKILL hikes start with a 9:00 coffee break at the Phoenicia Bake Shop or Warms Restaurant. The actual climbing of the mountain begins about 9:30. In contrast, the Longs Peak hike starts for some hikers as early as 2:00 A. M., but certainly no later than 7:00. The Ranger will not permit you to start the climb after 7:00, because he fears that you will not get off the top before noon. Unless you don't mind being electrocuted in a lightening storm, you should not be on the top after noon.

Another interesting comparison might be made of trails and routes. The first half of the Longs Peak trip was through a magnificent forest on a wide well-maintained trail not unlike many trails in the CATSKILLS. The second half of the trip, in contrast, was above tree line, over boulders, up rock slides, and frequently with considerable exposure, which made it different from any CATSKILL climb.

I must admit that when I registered on the top of Longs Peak, I had a strong feeling of accomplishment, but not too different from the feeling experienced when I had completed the 3500 in the CATSKILLS.

--Rudolph W. Strobel, Pittsfield, Mass.

William J. Hentschel, President; Clancy E. Beehler, Jr., First V. P.;
Rudolph W. Strobel, Second V. P.; Rev. Ray L. Donohue, Secretary;
Elinore Leavitt, Treasurer; C. William Spangenberg, Past Pres.;
C. Peter Fish, Outing Chmn.; F. B. Clark, Editor, Athens, N. Y. 12015
Subscription: Send 3 self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the editor.

March 1963

"NO SCHEDULED HIKES"

--Founding Fathers

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE ADIRONDAC: May I use your column to inform your members of the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB? Its purpose is to encourage those who hike in the CATSKILLS to broaden their knowledge of the mountains. Many who have climbed some of these mountains four or five times have never climbed others in the CATSKILLS at all. They are missing some beautiful spots and we hope that the 3500 CLUB will give them an incentive to visit the lesser known peaks. . . We hope that most of the ADK members will be interested. We are not scheduling hikes so it must be done through your group. . . Nancy Locke"

H I K E S

Jan 21 (Sunday) NORTH DOME This will be a moderate hike over a route new to most of us, starting from the West Kill valley northwest of the mountain and following Bennett Brook up to the col between Sherrill and North Dome. A bit of spruce on top. Round trip: 6 miles Ascent: 2000 ft. Elevation: 3610 Order: 25
Leader: One of Elinore Leavitt's hiking family.
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, 9:00

Feb 3 (Saturday) WESTKILL The Schenectady Chapter Chairman (ADK) proposes to run the ridge, which should be strenuous enough to satisfy the stalwarts, while permitting moderate hikers to stop at the first summit, and leisurely hikers to turn back anytime. For those who stay the course: 7 miles Ascent: 2300 ft. Elevation: 3880 Order: 6
Leader: Will Merritt
Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant, Tannersville, 8:30

Feb 17 (Saturday) HEMLOCK, SPRUCE, FIR Starting at the height of land at Winnisook Lake, the compass course will take us over the ridge to the northwest, ending at the Bushkill a mile south of Oliveria. This is an excellent place to practice compass hiking, as there are two cols and three obscure summits to be located. A lunch spot with a view has been promised within a half mile of the canister, and a prize (ADK Trees by Ketchledge) will be awarded the first person finding an indigenous spruce on Spruce Mountain. Easy bushwacking with no thickets.
Distance: 5½ miles Aggregate Ascent: 1400 ft. Elevations: Hemlock 3240, Spruce 3380, Fir 3620 Order: 23
Leader: Franklin Clark
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, 9:00

The third annual dinner meeting of the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB will be held in the Crystal Room of The Governor Clinton at Kingston, Saturday, March 16, about 6:00. Since the dinner is a buffet, and cocktails are available, the time of arrival is not critical. Anyone who is not on the mailing list of the dinner committee may send \$ 5.50 per person to the treasurer. Rooms may be had for \$ 9.50 and \$ 13.00. Rudy Strobel, our spring outing chairman, has scheduled a hike up Tremper Mountain for that day "with the thought of being certain that the hikers will have ample time to get to the banquet." Like all mountains with a fire tower, Tremper has an exceptional view and a good trail. The hotel will set a room aside for the convenience of hikers to change before dinner. Meet at the Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

1 William Leavitt	13 Ann Fish	25 Clarence Bechler
2 Elinore Leavitt	14 Rudolph Strobel	26 George Gyukanov
3 C. W. Spangenberger	15 Gertrude Bohm	27 John Fish
4 Kay Spangenberger	16 William Hentschel	28 Robert Hutt
5 Elizabeth Hurd	17 Arthur Beach	29 Gary Klee
6 Bradford Whiting	18 Walter Gregory	30 Bruce Clark
7 Dorothy Whiting	19 Carol Geisler	31 Charles Brayton
8 Jerome Hurd	20 Ted Wolfrum	32 Lena Hevey
9 Paul Almer	21 Arthur Pass	33 Franklin Clark
10 Lee Bowker	22 Will Merritt	34 Frank Oliver
11 Chris Burchill	23 Ray Donohue	35 Hedwig Oliver
12 Peter Fish	24 George Whitbeck	36 John Burnley

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

A champagne cork popped high into a fir tree on Camel's Hump in Vermont when #16 and #23 finished their 111 on Columbus Day. And the following day #18 completed the 63 New England peaks over 4000. * * * #28 has climbed solo all of the CATSKILLS-that-count. Last fall, #1 and #12 led a search party over Balsam Cap in the middle of the night. Who will be the first to do them all at night? #34 claims the record for the longest time between first and last peaks, forty-two years. Some of the all-in-winter tally sheets are so nearly full that #13 is designing a special patch. #3 is working hard to be the first to climb them all with a dog. And I gave #33's pointer a good swat the day that #21 locked his keys in the trunk. * * * #2 is scheduled to receive her 111 certificate in Boston the same day she leads the North Dome hike by remote control. Everyone who has stood on Slide and Hunter has started his 111--only 109 to go! #1 and #17 finished a year ago. * * * #23 established a new AMC record when he completed the 46 in two weeks. * * * Thirty-three persons, including eight guests from New Jersey and one from Virginia, turned out for Balsam Lake Mountain, led by #32. * * * #27 sponsors a hiking club in the high school where he teaches. Several of the students have nearly finished the 3500. #29 is the sponsor of twenty-six miles of the proposed Finger Lakes Trail, which will link the CATSKILLS to the Alleghenies. #12 will enter Wanakena, the N. Y. S. Ranger School, on Oswegatchie River (west of Tupper Lake) next March. The CATSKILLS will seem strangely quiet while he is away.

MY FAVORITE CATSKILL HIKE

It is difficult for a hiker who is interested in the flora, fauna, brooks, waterfalls, history, and scenery of the Catskill Mountain area to pick out the most interesting, exciting, or difficult spot, peak, or valley that has enthralled him over a long period of years. But that is what your editor has ordered, so I will select my favorite where all may be found: the southeast escarpment from Windham High Peak, via Acra Point and Black Head, to Stoppel Point--known as the Wall of Manitou to the Indians. It is interesting because it was the northeast line of the famous Hardenburg Patent, and because it started a controversy that is still being debated.

Take two days for the trip. Start at little Utsayantha outside Stamford, a famous and important survey mark on a small island in a small pond. It was the northeast corner of the Patent and the southwest corner of Albany County. The line is supposed to run straight along the ridges to a point near Pine Orchard, the site of the old Catskill Mountain House, on a little dyke between North and South Lakes.

The focal points of the trip for me are Windham High Peak, for scenery, and the Stoppel Point area, where one can explore for a week and find something new each day. Ravines, hollows, and cloves radiate from Stoppel in all directions. It's a wild area and it's very easy to start down the wrong clove and land many miles from where you left the car.

One way down Stoppel is almost perpendicular into Winter Clove, where bears like to roam, and mushrooms thrive in many varieties. Half way down, the writer found a clump of Holly Fern, rather rare south of the Mohawk River. Other rare ferns are found here, exciting to a botanist; also all the wild flowers, Mt. Laurel, Azalea, Dogwood, Orchids, Blueberries, Etc.

The next clove to the north leads into the Countryman Kill valley and to my favorite spot, the old Yankee Smith Farm with several miles of artistic stone walls, and an old and unusual stand of Red Pine. There is many a backache in an old stone wall. The trail down the brook tumbles over many waterfalls and through a stand of "John Burroughs" hemlocks. I have seen pileated woodpeckers here, also many bear signs, and all the CATSKILL wildflowers and ferns.

The other clove to North Lake, or the ridge to North Lake Campsite has everything for an observant hiker and nature lover to get excited about. What's more, if you are not noisy, you may see a bear or wildcat kittens. "Be quiet in the woods. They were God's First Temples." Amen.

--A. T. Shorey, Bridgton, Maine 04009

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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THE DINNER COMMITTEE

The ninety of us who attended the Annual Dinner are grateful to Betty Hurd, chairman and decorations; Elinore Leavitt, roster and invitations; Hedwig Oliver, invitations; and Clancy and Alice Beehler, reception; and to Ed West for his fascinating projection of the best slides we have seen of the CATSKILLS. The pleasure was enhanced for qualified members by the ability to recognize the peaks, and for this we thank the founding fathers. It was a grand evening.

NO TRESPASSING

The route to Balsam Cap and Friday from Moonhaw Hollow Road is over private property. Hikers are requested to obtain permission from the owner, Nelson Shultis, before entering, so that we may continue to have the privilege of using this route.

LETTERS

On behalf of the Riverdale School Outing Club, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for joining with the Catskill 3500 Club on several winter hikes. We were impressed with your hospitality, knowledge, and helpfulness. --Leon W. Bills, Bronx, N.Y.

I say with much regret that I'll be unable to attend the Catskill 3500 Club annual dinner. I have completed my basic training at Fort Dix, and on Feb. 26, I'll be shipping to Fort Lee, Va., for special training in small arms supply. --L. Bruce Clark #30, Walton, N.Y.

I am finishing my last semester at SUNY at Cortland, and next year I'll be following my husband-to-be out west. I was just 19 when I became member #19. Still hiking.--Carol Geisler #19, Cortland, N.Y.

Sorry not to see you all. --Charles L. Brayton #31, Elmira, N.Y.

Hello to all, and good climbing! --Harry Eldridge, Lake Placid

We'd like to know the CATSKILLS better---especially in winter---that weekend, however, is our Chapter trip to Adirondak Loj. --Eleanor Brown, Schenectady, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB note paper can be ordered now. Send \$1.00 to Mrs. William Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534, for 10 notes & envelopes. These notes were designed by Nancy Finklestein of the Columbia County Arts and Crafts Guild. Also available, CATSKILL 3500 CLUB "emblem" notes. Same price. Please specify your choice.

The route was from the West Kill valley, following the Bennett Brook up to the col between Sherrill and North Dome, and then along the height of land between the Schoharie and Esopus watersheds to the summit of North Dome. About a half mile from the col, we noticed an old bark road leading straight up to the left. This old road had not been used in over a hundred years, and could be discerned only by looking fifty yards ahead.

For two hundred years after Henry Hudson saw the CATSKILLS from the deck of the Half Moon, little interest was taken in their development. The mountains were rugged and forbidding, and the tales of wild animals, Indians, and supernatural creatures filled the imagination of the settlers with terror.

As a result of the War of 1812, the United States could enjoy free commerce with the rest of the world. Shiploads of hides were brought from South America to the United States to be converted into leather. Thus, a use was developed for a resource which the CATSKILLS had in abundance: hemlock bark.

These mountains were almost a continuous forest of hemlock. Men flocked to the tanneries and the woods by the thousands; employers became wealthy, and prosperity was general. In order to make leather, large quantities of bark were necessary; one cord of bark was required to tan ten hides. The bark was all that was wanted and the giant trunks were left to decay where they fell under the axe of the bark peelers. Even today the half-rotted logs, with perfectly sound centers, may be found on many of the slopes.

In 1817, a man named Palen erected a tannery at Palenville. In the same year, Col. William W. Edwards built one at Hunter. Shortly afterward, Col. Zadoc Pratt erected at Prattsville one of the most complete tanneries in the region. Tanneries then sprung up everywhere throughout Greene, Ulster, and Sullivan Counties.

The tanning industry flourished in the CATSKILLS for fifty years and came to an end after the Civil War. Export trade in leather was slow, but probably the main reason was that the hemlock itself was exhausted. The Simpson tannery at Phoenicia is said to have been the very last in operation and ceased in 1870.

And so, in following an old bark road on the side of one of the CATSKILLS we note with some nostalgia the fading evidence of another generation.

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

STARTING THE CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

The story of the start of the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB is a very simple one. In 1949 my wife and I got the idea of climbing all the mountains in the CATSKILLS that are 3500 feet or over. We had been hiking the same mountains over and over again and thought it would be fun to try something new.

We discussed the idea with the Leavitts and, although they were interested, they did not go through to completion as Kay and I did. We discussed the matter with others, but were unable to motivate any real interest. We, however, derived a great deal of pleasure in hiking

the mountains, the list of which was somewhat different at that time. When the new geodetic survey was made, it was found that some of the mountains that were shown as 3500 feet (example, Dry Brook Ridge) no longer qualified, and others like Friday and Sherrill did. To the best of our knowledge no one was interested in the project after we finished in 1952, and the subject remained dormant until 1962.

Brad Whiting was Chairman of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of ADK at that time and he approached me one day with the statement, "Wouldn't it be interesting to get a group and organize a club to hike all the CATSKILL peaks 3500 feet and over?" My reply was, "An excellent idea, but not a new one, as Kay and I have done it". In any event, this was the beginning of what is now formally called the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB.

There were five people who spent a great deal of time organizing the club and getting it off the ground, so to speak. They were Gunter Hauptman, Nancy Locke, Dan Smiley, Bill Spangenberg and Brad Whiting.
--C. W. Spangenberg, Woodstock, N.Y.

WINTER PATCH

The new winter patch may be worn by those who have climbed all 34 of the 3500-foot CATSKILLS in winter. Five persons have qualified to date: Rev. Ray Donahue, Peter Fish, John Fish, Norman Greig, and Rudy Strobel. Tally sheets are available from any of the officers, and this is a good time to record last winter's activities.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#37 Dan Machell, #38 Dana Helsley, #39 Norman Greig, #40 James Ross, #41 Donald Farris, #42 Joseph Burud, #43 Paul Mueller, #44 Robert Pierson, #45 Edward West, #46 Donald Hagen.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

The Humane Society has been after the editor since our last column stated that we gave a dog a good swat. Some readers did not get the point, but the pointer did----34 quills in his mouth, one for each mountain. * * * * George Whitbeck came from Rutger's, where he is a graduate student, to go on the Tremper hike. Tremper has a 1900-foot climb, more than Slide, Panther, Blackhead, or Balsam (via Rider Hollow). * * * * #45 claims the new record for longest time, 46 years. * * * * #44 bought that red windshirt in Switzerland last summer. * * * Jerry & Betty Hurd became Milford Track Walkers in New Zealand last month. * * * * A dozen CATSKILL 3500 CLUB-ers invaded the Adirondacks on Washington's birthday. The wind nearly blew them off Algonquin. It blew #1's snowshoes right off his pack, and it blew #33's hood off six times. Only the valet service of Peter Fish saved him from having a frozen brain. Saturday was clear and still, and #1, #12, #13, #23, #33, #36, and Horace Lindo ate lunch on Marcy, where #33 temporarily mislaid his snowshoes above the tree line. * * * * The Spangenbergers did their winter hiking in the Bahamas. * * * * Smitty, George Dangman, and Ken Shuker have finished their four winter climbs, meeting on Panther on the wettest day of March. * * * * The Red Hook Mountaineers are trying to move a mountain into the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB. "No Name" is what they call the shoulder of Hunter which ends at Diamond Notch. If they dig out the col a little and carry the rocks to the top of "No Name", they will be the first to construct an artificial 3500 ft. peak. * * * * Take a banana in your pack, Carry the skin as you go back.

A TENDERFOOT IN THE CATSKILLS

Sixty years ago this July, I thought I would try a mountain vacation instead of one at the seashore. I had never done any walking that I could avoid. After a twelve-hour trip from New Jersey I reached the Winter Clove by train, ferry, Hudson River Day Line, narrow-gauge railway, and finally an eight-seater drawn by two slow horses.

One day the premier walker took us on an all-day hike. Up through fields of buckwheat to an old wood road, we climbed 500 feet to where it crossed the Webster Brook. Then it leveled out for what seemed a mile to where it switched back and went up to the higher level.

Many chestnuts were still alive. One had just fallen, and some of the party were stung by bees as we worked our way around it. Last Spring pieces of that tree still were lying there.

After another switchback we came to the trail the present Mr. Whitcomb's grandfather laid out to reach his work at the Catskill Mountain House. Stepping off this trail you could get a good view out over the Hudson Valley. It wound over the shoulder of North Mountain and down to another wood road that came out on the old carriage road to the Mountain House. The wood road crossed the Sleepy Hollow Brook and followed the level. (On a later hike we were examining bear paw prints in the mud when something went "Woof" nearby. We left.) We entered the old carriage road just at the so-called long level, although it is anything but level.

The first sight of the Mountain House, hanging on the cliff ahead of us, was one that I have seen in many illustrations. Its thirteen pillars and classic proportions showed up best from that point in the road. The last bit of road along side of the famous Otis Elevating Railroad that came up from Kiskatom Flats was almost too much for some of the tenderfeet in the party. We knew we were not welcome among the aristocratic \$20-a-week boarders at the House, so after a look at the wonderful five-state view we slowly hiked our way to the Laurel House, where our leader got his Pilsner along with some fine sandwiches.

Never have I seen a finer view from the mountain House. It was one of those rare cold days that sometimes come in the summer after a heavy thunderstorm. The White Mountains gleamed over the Green Mountains, a sight you seldom see.

Sad to relate, that beautiful trail is a wreck today. The carriage road was abandoned in 1924 after a storm tore out bridges and culverts. Blowdowns make the eastern part of the wood roads a nightmare. I have laid out a new section on the Winter Clove side up the old road to the Little Quarry, and along a deer trail above there to near the end of the first level to avoid the washouts on the old wood road and break the continuous 500-foot pull up from the Clove. To a seasoned hiker this account must seem a bit tame, but to a tenderfoot from the city, it was a thriller.

--Alfred S. Clark, Bellevue, Md.

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I CHRONICLES

1963-1965.....President, Bill Spangenberg; Vice-President, Dan Smiley; Treasurer, Brad Whiting; Secretary, Nancy Locke; Committee Member, Gunter Hauptman. (Donahue Transcription)

PERMISSION AT MOONHAW

Mr. Nelson Shultis will permit hikers to cross the property of the Wittenberg Lumber Co. provided they leave a note on their car identifying themselves as hikers or CATSKILL 3500 CLUB members.

Our secretary had a very pleasant conversation with Mr. Shultis, who lives at bearsville. He is happy to have us use his property. The reason for the car note is to help him sort out the fish and game poachers from the hikers. He also said that he would gladly tell us what he knows about the country. He suggested a hike to Balsam Cap via Hanover as being much easier than the direct approach but a bit longer. (He would describe how to negotiate Hanover's maze of logging roads.) It was interesting to note that he called the hollow which provides the approach to Hanover, Balsam Cap and Friday as "Maltby Hollow." The trail which goes to the Wittenberg-Cornell col through Moonhaw Hollow is known as the "Van Benschoten Trail."

RED HOOK MOUNTAINEERS

Red Hook's mountain-climbing students received official athletic recognition and their faculty advisor was granted a coach's pay at the meeting of the Red Hook Board of Education meeting April 22. John Fish, a member of the English department, was granted pay of \$220, the same as for such sports as cross country, tennis and golf. Organized in the spring of 1966, the club now has 83 members.

--Red Hook Advertiser

INVITATION TO FLTC

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference extends an invitation to attend their Fall Campout at Bear Spring Game Management Area between Walton and Downsville in Delaware County, September 14-15 at the Launt Pond camping area. Facilities include fireplaces, tables, water, toilets, trout fishing, horse trails, swimming, planned hikes and a short program. Hosts will be Gary Klee and the Triple Cities Hiking Club. Write to Gary at Walton, N.Y. 13856.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| #47 David Hoffman | #50 Charles Linett | #53 Linda Dapcic |
| #48 Dr. James Marshall | #51 James Daley | #54 Carolyn Yantz |
| #49 George W. Greene, Jr. | #52 William Whitney | |

NOT ME

Back in the 30's I climbed my first mountain---Marcy. I was too young---I nearly died! However, a quarter century later, on Aug. 10, 1958, I finished the Adirondack 46 and 2 in the CATSKILLS over 4000.

Then someone mentioned the Whites. Where are they? Just over in New Hampshire and there you will also find 46 over 4000. What a challenge---gotta do them! So in August, 1966, I hung up my well worn boots on #46, Middle Carter, and vowed never to count again.

Then they told me there's Vermont and Maine---just a few more 4000 footers. But not for me! Oh well, let's see how many I do lack. Now, how do you like that, only about a dozen. So with brand new Limmers, I started on the last lap, reaching 111 on Hamlin in August, 1967. I was too old---I nearly died!

Now the A. M. C. has a new gimmick to keep you going---the 100 highest in New England. Not for me! I cannot carry another patch on my back. There has to be an end to this counting.

I ask, what's next for the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB now that we've added all-in-winter members? How many more ways can we climb them---after dark, in the rain, barefoot? You count them, NOT ME!

--Elinore G. Leavitt, Hudson, N.Y.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

"The lady doth protest too much, methinks," for we notice that she is charter member #2, indicating that she managed to stagger up the CATSKILLS ahead of all the men except #1. And our New England cousins believe that she is the only woman who has counted 111. * * * * We have chastened another dog: thirty-four quills into Smokey, the Spangenberger. But we shall not repeat the names the Founding Father called himself that April day on Plateau when he had to turn back with the neophytes instead of going on to Olderbark with the prudent ones who had carried their snowshoes up the mountain. * * * * Rudy Strobel herded his third annual hike over the Taconic Crest Trail, 28.8 miles and 6704' ascent, in one long day. * * * * Bill Leavitt flew from N.Y. 23A to 23 in seven hours, touching down at South Mt., North Mt., Stoppel Point, Blackhead, Acra Point, Burnt Knob, and Windham High Peak on the way, 22 miles and 5950' ascent. * * * * Peter Fish is still sojourning in the Land of the Midnight Oil, where the other students call him "Pappy". * * * * Ken Shuker discovered a shorter and easier route off Fir when he omitted the critical bearing from his compass course plan and led his party down the wrong ridge in a fog. Fortunately, there was a bridge across the Esopus, and it was only one mile down the road to the car. * * * * Thirteen of the Red Hook Mountaineers qualified for the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB before John Fish turned pro. * * * * Now that Werner Bachli is an ADK 46er for the fifth time, we hope he will have time to finish the CATSKILLS.

THANKSGIVING IN THE CATSKILLS

It was one of those long Thanksgiving weekends which happened to be fairly good down in NYC. Arriving at Phoenicia, the weather looked quite different. Larry and I hired a taxi to take us to the foot of Peekamoose and there started up an easy-going wood road. This, however, did not last long, and soon we found ourselves bushwhacking thru the damp undergrowth. The clouds were hanging low, and a steady light drizzle made the climb rather wet. Once at the summit ridge, the marked trail took us to the top of Peekamoose and then down to the saddle of Table. By then we were soaked and had to find an acceptable site for the night camp. On a terrace just below the trail, our plastic sheet shelters were put up in a hurry. Some sandwiches had to do for supper, and the sleeping bags for much needed warmth.

The rustling plastic sheet woke me up some time later. It had turned very cold; wind-torn clouds let some stars shine through; below one could see the lights of the Hudson Valley. For a while my mind travelled down into the comfortable looking homes, and then again far away with the clouds and the stars.

The first daylight saw us squatting around a little fire in underwear and damp boots, watching our frozen-stiff clothing over the fire to thaw and dry. A cup of hot tea warmed the shivering body. Well, we made it to the saddle between Friday and that hump just before Cornell. It was a most beautiful autumn day with clear panoramas from many of the rock ledges on the summits. We enjoyed some rock-climbing problems on Lone and Rocky, but also cursed the almost impenetrable thickets on Rocky, Friday, and the approach to Balsam Cap.

The night camp was a terrace just west of the saddle from Friday; it had a streamlet and we made ourselves quite comfortable with a full supper. Next morning, however, the water had disappeared, and whatever was left of small puddles was frozen to ice, leaves and needles, not very good for melting, so we skipped breakfast with a thought of the coffee shop down in Phoenicia. We hit the trail at the bottom between Slide and Cornell. The rest of the day was easy, though at times slippery going, as we had the first snow of the season. The whole trip had been quite a success as we had bagged six new 3500' peaks for our list, besides having a great Thanksgiving in the wilderness of the beautiful CATSKILLS.

--Ted Wolfrum, Seattle, Wash.

CATSKILL TREES

One of the particular pleasures of hiking in the CATSKILLS is the observation of the dramatic change in the flora above 3000 feet. In the Adirondacks, you start with some of the same spruce and balsam at the Loj as you find at the tree line. But in the CATSKILLS there is never a native red spruce or a fir in the valley. Hemlock is everywhere; white pine and red cedar sometimes accompany it.

William J. Hentschel, President; Clarence E. Beehler, Jr., First V.P.; Rudolph W. Strobel, Second V.P. & Outing chairman; Rev. Ray Donahue, Secretary; Elinore G. Leavitt, Treasurer & Asst. Editor; C. William Spangenberg, Past President; Ann L. Fish, Register chairman; Kenneth A. Shuker, Circulation; Franklin B. Clark, Editor, Athens, N.Y. 12015.

After climbing for an hour or two, perhaps just after finding your way up or around a ledge that makes you stop for a few breaths, you suddenly realize that the hemlock has vanished and that the evergreens are balsam and spruce. It has the effect of a shot of adrenalin, for it confirms your hope that you are getting up there. Now it is a different world, an exotic land where only the beech and black cherry remain of the familiar trees. Soon they are left behind, and the yellow birch alone of the deciduous trees stands up to the winter blast.

Coming down at the end of the day, the reverse change is equally pleasant. Tired feet make the sight of familiar maples and oaks doubly welcome, and the hemlock surrounds us again on the gentle slope that leads to the car and home. --F. B. C.

TWO BEARS

During July of 1961, I explored the trails around the North Lake Campsite. Near Inspiration Point on the South Mountain Trail, I heard an animal crashing through the woods to the north of me. When I finally saw what was making the noise, it was not a deer as I had thought, but a half-grown black bear. Since it was running directly toward me, I let out a war whoop which changed its direction of travel. That frightened young bear crossed the trail less than a hundred yards in front of me, and then rolled and crashed over the edge of the escarpment into the Kaaterskill Clove. I still laugh as I think of the wild flight of that bear going off South Mountain.

The only other bear I have seen was on the shoulder of Big Indian that leads to Fir. It was in the fall of 1963, when I first began my CATSKILL peak-bagging. I was a little uneasy as I left Big Indian for Fir, because this was one of my first solo bushwhacks. You can imagine how startled I was when a full-grown bear rose from the ground right in front of me. That bear must have been more startled than I, because it thundered off the ridge without ever looking back. Since then, I have been on many bushwhacks, but none have been as exciting as the one on Big Indian.

Bears are seldom seen, for they are shy creatures. There are more than a few bears in the CATSKILLS, however, because 73 were shot by hunters in the 1967 big game season. Throughout the mountains their droppings and tracks can be seen. Just this spring, one bear left its mark by destroying the newly installed canister on Rocky. With all these bears in the CATSKILLS, I hope to write someday about the Three Bears.

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

Have you seen Kaaterskill Falls? Park at the site of the old gift shop on 23A; walk down road to new C D trail at horsehoe falls.

CONTRAST WITH THE CATSKILLS

I had the opportunity to hike in the Far West last summer (1967) and was also struck by the contrasts with hiking in the CATSKILLS. I started from the Crystal Mountain Ski area in the State of Washington.

The first contrast with the CATSKILLS was the horse-shoe prints on the Silver Creek Trail leading up from the valley through an imposing coniferous forest. The next contrast was a mountain meadow at the point where the trail left Silver Creek and started climbing to Bear Gap.

The Cascade Crest Trail goes through Bear Gap and then climbs Pickhandle Ridge. The trail was markedly different from those in the CATSKILLS. First, in many places there was a half-inch layer of fine dust underfoot. Second, the trail, which was mostly above tree-line, was graded so that the ascent or descent was steady. Third, the trail had been cut out of the steep mountain side. In order to give a trail 18 inches wide, the cut was shoulder high in some places. In others, the trail builders must have blasted, for the solid rock had been cut back.

The most vivid contrast with the CATSKILLS, however, was the constant panorama of views. Since Mt. Rainier was only twelve miles away, it was the most eye-catching feature. Although it was August, the meadows were full of wild flowers. Perhaps I am prejudiced, but the spring flowers in the CATSKILLS seem much more appealing to me.

--John J. Mitchell, Fishkill, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#55 Rev. Allan Wirth

#56 Kenneth Shuker

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Carol Geisler, #19, was married to Robert Schlentner on June 14 at the foot of Ester Dome Mountain, Fairbanks, Alaska. Their honeymoon was spent hiking in Mt. McKinley National Park with map, compass, and head nets. * * * * #53 and #54 have started on the ADK 46 via the Trap Dyke with #1, #12, and #13. * * * * #55 survived the Trap Dyke test with #1 last fall, doing Wright, Algonquin, and Colden on his first day. We notice that he did most of the CATSKILL bushwacks solo. * * * * #56 had completed just 13 of the CATSKILLS when an accident shattered one leg and left him with an unenthusiastic ankle. He has since worked his way to success with the help of two stout staffs, a sleeping bag, and a large bottle of aspirin. * * * * #51 never signed in on Rocky; it was he who discovered that the canister and register had been destroyed by an alleged bear. * * * * The publicity committee infiltrated the ADK Austrian trip, with the result that some Europeans who noticed the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB patches are under the impression that the whole group were Catskillians. "Ach, ein Klub, das ist gut!" And ADK did hear from the CATSKILL contingent, who started all evening reports: "The CATSKILL 3500 CLUB..." Item: #33 and #56 went hiking the day of the snowstorm. Item: #56 was the leader and #33 the sweeper of the longest group hike. Item: #44 and #33 went swimming in the frigid Zeller See. We have not heard from them since.