

RHAPSODY IN WHITE

Back in 1869, when summer boarding in Dutchess County was popular among city folk, a Poughkeepsie man discovered the mountains across the river, then a pure wilderness. A friend of his entertained him at a makeshift inn on Lake Mohonk, accessible only by a ragged lane, and catering to a few hunters and an occasional naturalist. By a stroke of genius, Alfred H. Smiley, farmer and boarding house host, sensed the possibilities of a unique hostelry, communicated with twin brother Albert K. Smiley, a school principal in New York, and opted for purchase of the Mohonk property at \$28,000. Coxing Pond, now Lake Minnewaska, was acquired thereafter, with a few thousand acres thrown in, followed by the addition of Lake Awosting and the surrounding cliffs.

A bold financial venture succeeded beyond the expectations of its founders by preserving a contact with an earlier culture which might well be termed the American version of "la belle epoque." There was an atmosphere of peace and serenity about the music rooms and social halls at Mohonk. Well-kept gardens fitted harmoniously into a great natural park, footpaths of easy grade led to rustic bowers, and horse-drawn carriages travelled leisurely along scenic gravel roads. First generation Otis elevators were still in service at the hotels a few years ago, and wood stave pipes with iron hoops are still carrying rivulets of snow melt under the Awosting road. For once, man's structures did not become a discordant part of the landscape.

The Shawangunk range extends for twenty odd miles north-east from its southern terminus at Sams Point to Bonticou crag just north of Mohonk. Cross section reveals a wavelike curve, known geologically as an anticline, where the strata dip from the ridge on either side. If it is true that the name denotes "white rock," the beholder might agree. Gleaming in the sunlight, and accentuated by the verdancy of the evergreens, quartz crystals and pebbles in a white sand-lime cement matrix (Shawangunk grit) give a dazzling appearance to the innumerable crags which characterize the region. More often than not, summits are broad topped, with occasional boulders strewn about, the hard conglomerate slabs showing striations which bear witness to the passage of one or more ice sheets. Vertical clefts up to fifty feet deep can be explained by displacements in the supporting layers, much like cracks in building walls founded on soft ground. Standing in the great amphitheater formed by the cliffs of Stony Falls, one has an excellent opportunity to view substrata appearing in the muckpile left over from the excavation of the Delaware Aqueduct. Pieces of soft shale can readily be split into fine disks which, in turn, will revert to clay upon exposure to the atmosphere.

While rocks are the backbone of these mountains, water in all its ramifications has helped to produce a unique Shawangunk landscape. Nowhere does one have to walk far to come upon a cascading brook, which will ultimately find its way into the Rondout or Walkill. Everyone of the kills is worthy of exploration for its natural beauty and interesting flora, requiring only normal agility and waterproof boots.

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

Rev. Ray Donahue, President, St. Mary's Church, Downsville, N.Y. 13755  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 So. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assistant Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 21 Spring St., Pawling, N.Y. 12564

Listed in the order of this writer's preference are Stony Kill, dropping 130 feet to the valley floor; not far behind, Verkeerder Kill and Falls; the picturesque ravine of the Palmaghatt with rock falls, swamps and bogs; the meandering Fly Brook whose pools may excite a fisherman; Beaver, Sanders, Coxing and Peters Kills, in areas away from civilization.

The lakes: A profile drawn longitudinally along the watershed will reveal a characteristic stepladder formation which broadly follows the northeast slope of the range: Maratanza at 2150 feet; Haseco and Awosting at 1850 feet; Minnewaska at 1650 feet; and Mohonk at 1250 feet. All of the above are true glacial mountain lakes in a trough under the cliffs. Mohonk and Minnewaska are resort enclaves; Awosting, with a circumferential dirt road, well-kept former camp buildings and a few summer homes, is clear and deep, and affords excellent swimming in summer and snowshoeing in winter; Maratanza serves as water supply storage; Haseco is true wilderness.

Luxuriant growth of trees is evident in the gorges near the water, while thickets of windblown scrub crown the ridges. Most of the regional evergreens can be found in the park, but the unmistakable aroma of pines permeates the air predominantly. In a land of all seasons, springtime has a definite edge by displaying a variety of colors through blooming pinxter, shadbush, laurel and dogwood. In early summer delicious wild strawberries can be had for the picking, and later on huckleberries and blueberries. The clear air of autumn opens wide vistas, and in wintertime the yard-long icicles formed under the cliff overhangs glitter in the sun.

A variety of dirt roads, marked trails, overgrown former trails, berry picker avenues, stream beds, and bushwhack possibilities are available to the hiker. As the best approach to the heart of the region (avoiding crowded Highway 44-55 and the resort area), the Beaver Brook trail from the Dashner residence on Upper Mountain Road to Lake Haseco is recommended. (Obtain Mr. Dashner's permission.) Once upon the ridges, you will generally find yourself in open country compared to the densely wooded CATSKILLS, whose imperial skyline is visible from all higher elevations. To the east, glance down upon the farming country of the Walkill River; observe the haze of the Hudson Valley, and the Taconics beyond. To the south and east, view Breakneck Ridge and the Fishkill Mountains, and to the west a seemingly endless wooded wilderness, out of which emerges the tower on High Point. For winter exploration, snowshoes or touring skis are a must, with unlimited possibilities for the latter. Never forget compass and map.

That a large portion of this area has become a New York State Park, is now common knowledge. Palisades Interstate Park Commission (P.I.P.C.) through its headquarters at Bear Mountain will administer

the Minnewaska Tract. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is charged with recommendation for development of a trail system.

Land acquisition by the State must be hailed as a major conservation victory, but only a first step. The problems ahead are those of other parks bordering large population centers: the impairment of natural beauty by the vandalism or carelessness of the very people for whose benefit the acquisition was made. Envisaged are the clandestine invasion of the woods by motorcycle brigades and snowmobiles, conventions of the pot-smoking community, camping and picnicking by litter-bugs, starting of forest fires, and wilful destruction of trees and plants.

Granted the best of intentions and the proven know-how of P.I.P. C. in administering parks, in view of budgetary restraints, reasonable doubt must be expressed as to the Commission's ability to stretch its manpower to include the Minnewaska Tract. One simply cannot afford to adopt a wait-and-see attitude; preparedness is of the essence. It would appear that a large pool of dedicated people living in the Mid-Hudson area and being members of out-of-door organizations (e.g., ADK, AMC, Sierra Club, IBM Outing Club) could be enlisted to help in policing of the area and in the formulation of further plans. Ample precedent is set by the fire patrols and litter removal parties in the Interstate Park. There is no earthly reason why a permanent auxiliary organization could not be set up at this time and given official status by the Commission.

--Frederick C. Lowy, Rhinebeck, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#87 Diana Harrington (1/9/71)  
15 Trow Blvd., Red Hook, N.Y. 12571 914-758-6508

WINTER PATCH

Two more persons have qualified for the winter patch by climbing all 34 of the 3500 foot CATSKILLS in winter: #18W Clyde Babb, and #19W Vincent Williams.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Mohonk cousin reports that the composer of Rhapsody In White spent his honeymoon at that haven for newlyweds. \* \* \* \* #19 wears her CATSKILL 3500 CLUB patch in Alaska, where she has used cross country skis since Halloween, and uses a one-dog sled to haul groceries up the mile-long driveway. \* \* \* \* #58 has carried his patch to the tops of mountains in Kenya, Tanzania, Greece, Austria, Germany, and Italy. \* \* \* \* #34 did not wear his patch to the ADK (N.Y.) dinner when his keys were locked in his car.

~~~~~  
CATSKILL 3500 CLUB ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Governor Clinton Hotel, Kingston, N.Y.

March 27, 1971

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

-4-

Mar. 13 RUSK Via Ox Hollow

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elevation: 3680' Order: 20  
Leaders: The Eickhorns, 29 Ratterman Rd., Woodstock, 914-679-6135  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.

Mar. 20 BALSAM CAP From Moonhaw Hollow

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elevation: 3623' Order: 24  
Leader: Jim Daley, Hibernia Rd., Salt Point, 914-266-3007  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.

Mar. 27 SHAWANGUNK CIRCULAR Via High Point (2240')

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1840'  
Leader: Peter Fish, Box 249, Wawarsing, 914-647-5781  
Meeting Place: Coachman Diner, Ellenville, at 9:00 a.m.  
Rooms will be available at the Governor Clinton Hotel, Kingston  
for changing prior to the annual dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Apr. 10 PANTHER Scenic bushwhack from Fox Hollow

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2420' Elevation: 3720' Order: 17  
Leader: Ed West, Shandaken, 914-688-5488  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.

Apr. 24 MOONHAW CIRCULAR Joint hike with N.Y.A.M.C. This is  
a strenuous bushwhack including  
Samuel's Point (2885'), Hanover Mt. (2540'), Wittenberg,  
Cornell, Friday, & Balsam Cap. Orders: 14, 9, 18, 24

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3957' Elevations: 3780, 3870, 3694, 3623  
Leader: Ray Donahue, Downsville, 607-363-2565  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A at Boiceville, at 8:00 a.m.

May 2 SLIDE Joint hike with N.Y.A.M.C. Strenuous bushwhack  
with long concentrated climbing.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elevation: 4180' Order: 1  
Leader: Bill Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, 518-828-6907  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.

May 8 ESCARPMENT TRAIL North Lake to Big Hollow including  
Blackhead Mt.

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2930' Elevation: 3940' Order: 5  
Leader: Allan Wirth, 15 So. 4th St., Hudson, 518-828-1907  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.

May 16 PANTHER Joint hike with N. J. ADK

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1550' Elevation: 3720' Order: 17  
Leader: Clark Galloway, 35 Sunset Dr., Delmar, 518-439-3476  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.

May 22 BLACKHEAD From Purling - joint hike with ADK

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elevation: 3940' Order: 5  
Leader: Franklin Clark, Athens, 518-945-1413  
Meeting Place: Winter Clove House, Roundtop, at 9:00 a.m.

THE MALTBY HOLLOW COAL KILNS

"There is nothing more fervent than charcoal, for to it, when properly ignited, the most obdurate metals will yield."

On December 5, 1970, Franklin Clark and Fred Lowy came off Han-over past the famous coal kilns of Maltby Hollow and paused for a moment to contemplate these old reminders of the past. I first saw them in 1924 while running the line between the Towns of Shandaken and Olive.

When in use, the bee-hive-shaped stone structures were packed full of wood which, with controlled draft, was allowed to burn slowly to charcoal. The charcoal was then shipped to ironworks and foundries.

On the slopes of Belleayre and in the Big Indian Valley may still be found curious round depressions in the ground, making one think that meteorites had sometime hit there. These are the bases of another type of coal kiln. They were not made of stone, as were the Maltby Hollow or Allaben Kilns, but were made by packing earth over and around the stack of wood being converted into charcoal.

It is noted that all of the kilns were near a brook or run of water, presumably so that water could be deflected, by means of a weir and flume, into the kiln in case the burning wood broke out into flame, and to cool the fire at the end of the burn.

The exact date at which mankind discovered the technique of smelting iron ore to produce usable metals is not known. The earliest iron implements discovered by archeologists in Egypt date from about 3000 B.C. The comparatively advanced technique of hardening iron weapons by heat treatment was known to the Greeks about 1000 B.C. Modern steelmaking employs methods which are merely refinements of those used before the invention of the Bessemer furnace or the open-hearth process.

In 1755, exactly 100 years before the introduction of the Bessemer furnace, the ironworks at Ancram, owned by Robert Livingston, Jr., the Third Lord of the Manor, was engaged in manufacturing war materials for use against the French. The land on which the Pine Hill coal pits are located was owned by the Millerton Iron Company. This raises the question as to whether there was any connection between the Millerton Iron Company and the Livingston iron works at Ancram. Perhaps some of our readers may have some knowledge of this.

In any event we have here some evidence of another attempt to industrialize our CATSKILLS that may have come to an end through more economical and faster methods of making charcoal. It seems too bad that the lapse of time should lay waste and destroy so many valuable monuments of antiquity upon which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed.

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

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

Will D. Merritt, Jr., President, R. D. 1, Riverview Rd., Rexford 12148  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 So. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assistant Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 21 Spring St., Pawling, N.Y. 12564

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ninety-four persons have qualified for membership in the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB, ranging in age from under 7 years to over 70 and living in nine states, from Massachusetts to Washington, and Alaska to Arizona. Twenty-one of these members have qualified for the winter patch and three of man's best friends have earned the "dog patch".

Men are leading women by a score of 74 to 20. Husband and wife teams number 8, father and son 1, mother and daughter 2, brother and sister 1, brothers 1, and three-family-members 2.

We have had 4 marriages involving members, 2 of which were performed in the mountains with our 2 members of the clergy officiating.

Annual growth has been as follows: 1963-4, 1964-3, 1965-20, 1966-4, 1967-5, 1968-22, 1969-9, 1970-19, 1971-8 (to March 27).

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #88 Ruth Robinson (1/17/71)  
40 East 89th St., New York, N.Y. 10028 212-427-0426
- #89 Anneliese H. Lawson (2/15/71)  
97 Ryckman Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208 518-489-7832
- #90 Erika C. Lawson (2/15/71)  
97 Ryckman Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208 518-489-7832
- #91 Manfred d'Elia (3/5/71)  
144 Spencer Place, Ridgewood, N.J. 07450 201-445-6029
- #92 Samuel D. Steen (3/16/71)  
6 DuBois St., Kingston, N.Y. 12401 914-331-1010
- #93 John S. Signorelli (3/19/71)  
61-A Ryerson Ave., Newton, N.J. 07860 201-383-1192
- #94 Newell Mitchell (3/27/71)  
29F Heritage Village, Southbury, Conn. 06488 203-264-6349
- #95 Thomas Duchesneau (4/3/71)  
116 1st Street, Troy, N.Y. 12180 518-271-8729
- #96 Walter C. Espenlaub (2/28/71)  
56 Hillside Lane East, Syosset, N.Y. 11791 516-921-0956

H I K E S

An innovation to our outing activity will be reflected by the inclusion of trail clean-up work. Here is the simple way to express concern for the once-pristine CATSKILLS. As a starter this spring, the aim will be to unlitter the trail from Woodland Valley to the summit of Wittenberg, including the area around Terrace lean-to. Lots of hands will be needed. John Burroughs will beam at us from the other world as we lug out sacks of junk. For this day bags will be furnished, and a shuttle service for them will be arranged between the trail-head and a suitable deposit point. Please notify the leader in advance if you can join in on this day.

June 19      WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP

Leader: Spiro Kavarnos, 43 S. Highland Ave., Ossining (914-762-0559)  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN CLUB

Twelve CATSKILL 3500 CLUB mountaineers are among the select group of thirty-three charter members of the recently formed 111 Club who were announced at the Annual Awards Meeting of the Appalachian Mountain Club in Boston on April 3. Rudy Strobel, representing the Adirondack 46'ers, has been actively concerned with the formation of this latest organization of "peak baggers", and with the design of the coveted patch and scroll. Rudy and Ray Donahue served on the awards committee for the annual meeting.

The brand new patch will soon be seen on the packs of Art Beach, Charles Brayton, Ray Donahue, Walt Gregory, Norman Greig, Norman Greist, Bill Hentschel, Bill Leavitt, Elinore Leavitt, Newell Mitchell, Rudy Strobel, and Henry Young.

Mountains over 4000 feet required for membership include the Adirondack 46 plus Slide and Hunter in New York, 46 New Hampshire 4000 footers, 5 in Vermont, and 12 in Maine. The inclusion of Slide and Hunter in this group of "counters" will surely help to promote more interest in the CATSKILLS and may lure more of our New England neighbors into the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB.

--E. G. L.

CATSKILL CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Inc., is a voluntary organization formed to help citizens of the CATSKILL region to "work together effectively in efforts to shape the optimal environmental development and conservation of the region." The organization has recently asked Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller to appoint a study commission for the CATSKILLS. Individuals and organizations concerned with the future of this beautiful region should take the time to write to the Governor supporting this suggestion. Membership in the new organization is \$5.00 or more per year. Send to The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Inc., Box 52, Shokan, N.Y. 12481.

WHERE IS PEEKAMOOSE LODGE?

"Members of the New York Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club who made a week-end climb through the high southern CATSKILLS over the Labor Day weekend had a curious mishap owing to confusion regarding the location of Peekamoose Lodge.

"Peekamoose Lodge as shown on the Slide Mountain sheet of the United States Geological Survey is incorrect; the place thus indicated is really the abandoned Dimmick estate, high up in the Rondout Valley, where that stream breaks off Peekamoose Mountain in a fine waterfall, and turns sharp west. When I came off Peekamoose three years ago, the caretaker, Ezra Green, gave me shelter, but Frank Oliver, in the Adirondack M. C. party, says there is no one living there now."

Those two paragraphs are taken from a yellowed clipping of Raymond H. Torrey's column "The Long Brown Path" in the New York Post. The Labor Day weekend was in 1924! Torrey's name was inscribed in granite on Long Mt. in the Harriman State Park when he died in 1937. Torrey went on to write that the real Peekamoose Lodge was a small boarding camp maintained by a family named Anderson, about 3 miles west of the Dimmick place, on a side road, very poor, uphill to the north. It was this lodge that led to the mishap.

But let's go back to the beginning, with memory refreshed from old notes and a photo album. The ADK party, led by Prof. B. T. Butler of City College (N.Y.), took the West Shore R. R. to Kingston where they spent the night at a sleazy hotel near the railroad station. They were up at dawn to catch the 6:40 a.m. train on the Ulster & Delaware to Phoenicia. Detraining at 8:30, the party walked to Woodland Valley and ascended Wittenberg where they spent the night in a cave. Sunday saw the hikers go over Cornell and Slide and down a narrow woodland defile to the Denning leanto on the East Branch of the Neversink.

From there the original plan was to walk out to Livingston Manor, but since the party was behind schedule, the decision was made to head back toward Ashokan Reservoir via the Rondout Gulf. Next morning at breakfast, Hartwell W. Webb, of Leonia, N. J., an ADK member, turned up in his "Lizzie" (Model T Ford) and offered to take the packs of the party around to Peekamoose Lodge by road while the hikers did a cross-country bushwhack around Woodhull Mt. and down Bull Run Brook to the Rondout. The hikers readily accepted the offer since there was a long day ahead.

To continue Torrey's description, Mr. Webb reached the lane leading to the Anderson camp, saw a brass sign, "Peekamoose Lodge", drove up to the camp, found no one there, and left the packs on the porch, and then departed, thinking he had done a good deed, and drove home.

About noon the hiking party came east through the valley, passed the sign without noticing it and stopped at the Dimmick place, which the map called "Peekamoose Lodge." There was no sign of their packs. Fortunately, one man had carried a pack with their lunches. They went



THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

Will D. Merritt, Jr., President, R. D. 1, Riverview Rd., Rexford 12148  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 So. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assistant Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 21 Spring St., Pawling, N.Y. 12564

on to Cold Brook station (now West Shokan), thinking Mr. Webb had taken the packs there, but no sign of them there, either. They thought he might have taken them home to Leonia and took the train home.

There was eight miles of road walking to the station on the U. & D., and the party made connection at Kingston for Weehawken via the West Shore. The present writer, who lived in New Jersey, recalls ferrying to New York and walking down to the Erie ferry to Jersey City with no jacket but with a conspicuous sheath knife in his belt.

Later that evening, a phone call was made to Mr. Webb. "Where have you left the packs?" "Why, I left them at Peekamoose Lodge". More questions.

Professor Butler later retrieved the packs by hiring a man with a wagon to look up all the houses along the upper Rondout. He finally found them just where Mr. Webb left them at the Anderson's Peekamoose Lodge.

The Peekamoose Mt. quadrangle put out by the Army Map Service in 1943 still showed Peekamoose Lodge at the head of the Rondout at the 1450 ft. level. Where is Peekamoose Lodge today?

--Frank Oliver, Teaneck, N.J.

WILDERNESS SANITATION

You are about to take a step beyond civilization, a step into the rugged, untamed wilderness. Disposing of waste and refuse is a most important part of your wilderness experience. Improper disposal of refuse will spoil and pollute these areas. If you handle sanitation properly, you will leave the land clean and attractive for yourself and others to enjoy.

Human waste: Fortunately, nature has provided in the top 6 or 8 inches of soil a system of "biological disposers" that works to decompose organic material. Keeping this in mind, you should:

- a. Carry with you a small digging tool. A light garden trowel is good.
- b. Select a suitable screened spot at least 50' from any open water.
- c. Dig a hole 8 to 10 inches in diameter, and no deeper than 6 to 8 inches--to stay within the "biological disposer" soil layer. Keep the sod intact if possible.
- d. After use, fill the hole with loose soil and then tramp in the sod.
- e. Nature will do the rest in a few days.

Camp waste: Carry out cans, bottles, aluminum foil, and anything else that will not burn. Cans are easier to carry if they are scorched and flattened. Burying is not satisfactory because the cans usually will be exposed by animal or frost action. Burn in your campfire all paper and other burnable material.

--United States Forest Service

1971 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

Will D. Merritt, Jr., President; Rev. Ray L. Donahue, Past President; Spiro Kavarnos, 1st Vice President & Conservation; Rev. Allan Wirth, 2nd Vice President; Kenneth A. Shuker, Secretary & Publicity; Ann L. Clapper, Treasurer; Peter Fish, Trails; Missy Cookingham & Marion Greig, Canisters; Franklin Clark, Publications; Elinore Leavitt, Membership; James Daley, Outings; Walt Gregory, Winter Weekend.



LOST & FOUND---An aspirant lost an altimeter on Halcott July 18. Anyone finding it is requested to notify the editor.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #97 Roy Messaros (5/16/71)  
249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, N.J. 07417 201-337-5004
- #98 Ralph B. Gibbs (6/13/71)  
101-B S. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601 914-454-3036
- #99 Frederick C. Lowy (6/16/71)  
R. D. 2, Box 77, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572 914-876-6968
- #100 Robert Y. Fox (6/20/71)  
Sussex Hall, Apt. 1-G, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522 914-693-2272
- #101 Richard A. Hudson (6/20/71)  
Box 52, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520 914-271-4864
- #102 John T. Reilly (6/20/71)  
Sussex Hall, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522 914-693-2772
- #103 Joshua Levin (7/10/71)  
35 Whittier Blvd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603 914-454-8275
- #104 Dr. Seymour Levin (7/10/71)  
35 Whittier Blvd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603 914-454-8275
- #105 Madeline Libolt (7/10/71)  
54 Rochdale Rd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603 914-454-5719
- #106 Randall W. Libolt (7/10/71)  
54 Rochdale Rd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603 914-454-5719

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #79 has qualified for the 111 Club. \* \* \* \*The Wittenberg clean-up crew hauled 400 lbs. of junk from the top to the leanto, where 5 ECD men with 2 trucks completed the job. The thanks of all hikers and forest dwellers are due to #1, #2, #12, #51, #60, and #79. \* \* \* \* There was not much left of the Annual Dinner when #64 showed up at the Governor Clinton 24 hours late. \* \* \* \* #81-#82 and #103-#104 are father-son teams who have been seen on all the peaks.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

-4-

Sept. 11      PEEKAMOOSSE, TABLE, & LONE      Joint hike with Albany ADK

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elevation: 3843', 3847', 3721'  
Leader: Bill Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, 518-828-6907  
Meeting Place: Contact leader for details. Order: 12, 10, 16

Sept. 26      BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM      Joint hike with Triple Cities  
Hiking Club, Binghamton

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elevation: 3725', 3868' Order: 16, 8  
Leader: Lena Hevey, 100 Murray St., Binghamton, 607-722-6390  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rt. 28 & Dry Brook Rd. (Arkville) at 9:30 a.m.

Oct. 9-11      WEEKEND BACKPACK      Columbus Day might make this over-  
night backpack more attractive for  
some.

Equipment: Your own camping gear and food.  
Leader: Spiro Kavarnos, 43 S. Highland Ave., Ossining, 914-762-0559  
Meeting Place: Must contact leader in advance.

Oct. 16      BREAKNECK RIDGE - BULL HILL      A trailed circuit of the  
new Hudson Highland State  
Park.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300'  
Leader: Jim Daley, Hibernia Rd., Salt Point, 914-266-3007  
Meeting Place: Parking area  $\frac{1}{4}$  mi. N. of auto tunnel on Rt. 9D, 3.5 mi.  
S. of Beacon, at 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 23      ESCARPMENT - NORTH LAKE TO BIG HOLLOW      Over Blackhead

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent 3600' Elevation: 3940' Order: 5  
Leader: Phil LoPresti, 5 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, 914-454-2949  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville, at 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 30      BALSAM CAP VIA HANOVER      Maltby Holloween bushwhack

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elevation: 3623' Order: 24  
Leader: Newell Mitchell, 29F Heritage Village, Southbury, Conn.  
203-264-6349  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 28A at Boiceville, at 8:30 a.m.

THE SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO

On February 3, 1970, I boarded a bus in Nairobi for an all day ride to Marangu, Tanzania. One who hasn't patronized East Africa Road Services, Inc. hasn't really lived. Just buying a ticket is a notable accomplishment. There is no line at the ticket window. Hands holding paper money are thrust from all sides through the grillwork of the ticket seller's cage, while the lone ticket seller laboriously writes out the tickets in triplicate. How he knows which hand wants to go where is a complete mystery. It is only by a fortunate circumstance that I get my ticket without a long delay. Possibly I am recognized as an outlander. But if buying a ticket is confusion, boarding the bus is mayhem. Although Nairobi is the starting point, fully as many are getting off the bus as are getting on, as the busses are unmarked, and getting on the right bus is a matter of trial and error. It is standard practice for four passengers to occupy a seat built for two, and often two of the four are carrying small children.

I am fortunate to have a seat beside the driver and am thereby spared much of the crush. My only problem is the tall young African who sits next to me and often becomes sleepy and falls over on me. I try various tactics such as exchanging seats with him occasionally--- but the shoulder prop and the straight arm prove best, though tiring.

There is a respite at each rest stop, which is most colorful. In our walks in the mountains in the U. S. we have rest stops, but these are timed with what we call a "separation," i. e., men versus women. Not so in Africa. The bus stops and there is the roadside. Everything is informal. Then everybody climbs back on the bus and we dash madly on. At the Kenya-Tanzania border we go through customs, buy visas, and bring our duffel down from the top of the bus (14' high) for inspection. Inspection in my case means only that the inspector places a chalk mark on my duffel bag. Apparently my statement that I will climb Kilimanjaro explains everything.

At the Kibo Hotel my hosts, 60-year-old Curt Meyerhoff and his vivacious, efficient and charming 25-year-old Belgian Congo-born wife, Antoinette, are waiting for me. I am to be the only American in a group of 17 Germans, Austrians, Swiss and French to climb the big mountain. Mr. Meyerhoff is impressed by the fact that I am fully prepared for the mountain and need no equipment of any kind. The next morning we are each handed a bag into which we put our duffel (35 lb. maximum) and on which we mark the weight. Then, before the bags are closed, the head porter adds food and other community supplies to make all bags the same, thereby giving the porters equal loads to carry on their heads.

Our first day's walk is to Maranda Hut at 9000'; our second day to Horombu Hut at 12,335'; and our third day to Kibo Hut at 15,520', total 30 miles. Here the real climb is to begin. Temperature is uncomfortably cold. At 7:00 P.M. we remove our hiking shoes and slide into our sleeping bags fully clothed (long underwear, heavy wool socks,

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

Will D. Merritt, Jr., President, R. D. 1, Riverview Rd., Rexford 12148  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 So. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assistant Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 21 Spring St., Pawling, N.Y. 12564

down jackets, heavy cap, mittens) for two reasons: it is the best way to keep warm, and we will rise at 1:00 A.M. This we do, and at 1:20 we start our slow five-hour trudge up through the scree of the steep mountainside, our footsteps lighted by kerosene lanterns carried by the guides and porters. I soon learn that my footing is secure if I walk closely behind the climber immediately ahead and step exactly where he steps. At 45 minute intervals we rest briefly and look at the Southern Cross and the Big Dipper--but not at the North Star, which is below the horizon here. Then the guides and porters say "Okey Doakey" and we move on. After some  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours the sun begins to lighten the eastern sky. At 6:30 we are at Gillman's Point (18,635') where we rest a half hour and watch the sun rise. Then on for two more hours on snow around the rim of the crater to Uruhu Point at 19,340', the highest point in Africa. Only seven of us reach Uhuru Point. The major problem in climbing Kilimanjaro is the adverse effect of the altitude. Some of those who have fallen by the wayside are the rugged, burly type, whereas the runty type (like me) seem to fare better. I have only a slight headache, but that could be because of no breakfast. Only one of the six women reaches the top--a young woman from Vienna who was ill earlier but made a satisfactory recovery.

After a round of hand shaking and picture taking at Uhuru Point, we gallop back to Kibo Hut in two hours (compared with seven hours going up). And after a brief stop for lunch, we ramble 10 miles to Horombu Hut for the night. On our last day we walk 10 miles to Mandara Hut for lunch, where the porters present us with the mountain-flower halos they have made for us--the traditional gift to those who reach the summit. After lunch we walk the remaining 10 miles to our hotel. We have covered, in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days coming down, what had required  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days going up. My feet are sore from the downhill pounding they have taken, but after a short rest, a hot shower, and two beers, they feel better.

No tips are given individually. Instead, each is assessed his share of the tip, and the hotel management (which has organized the excursion) gives each guide and each porter his standard tip. This neatly forestalls dissention, which could result from inequality of individual tipping.

The next day I ride 24 miles to Moshi in a Volkswagon bus. We pick up and discharge passengers at any point along the route. Sometimes we have as many as 23 passengers in seats for 16, and usually each passenger carries a basket of fruit or vegetables, a bunch of bananas, a chicken or what not. It's real cozy. But after all--25 miles for two shillings (28 cents)--who could complain? I made the same trip in the opposite direction by taxi for \$7.00. From Moshi a more comfortable bus takes me 40 miles to Arusha, and the following day a larger and even more comfortable bus takes me back to Nairobi. These buses also pick up and discharge passengers at any point. Several of our short-haul passengers are members of the Masai Tribe who carry

spears. East Africa Road Services, Inc., however, requires that, upon entering the bus, the Masai lay his spear on the floor in the aisle-- a sensible rule. At Nairobi I find stalled traffic and no taxis. So I put my pack on my back and my duffel bag on my head and walk 1½ miles to the hotel. It works quite well.

Kilimanjaro will be a lasting memory.

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The Vermont State Agency for Environmental Conservation is preparing legislation to bar snowmobiles from a number of wild areas, including the peaks of Mt. Mansfield and Camel's Hump and along the Long Trail. Said Ben Huffman of the state's Forests and Parks Department: "This is not because of any environmental problems, but so we can provide some place on God's green earth for man to spend some time without hearing a damned motor."

--THE TRAIL WALKER

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #107 Donald R. Sweet (6/20/71)  
79 Washington Place, New York, N.Y. 10011 212-477-1466
- #108 C. Basil Dearborn, Jr. (8/7/71)  
220 Summit St., Norwood, N.J. 07648 201-768-0277

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Maine cousin reports that #1, #2, #13, and #55 rested their feet by floating around the Alligash Wilderness in canoes. Are the charter members becoming effete? \* \* \* \* After #18 and #23 discovered a memorial plaque to Judge Charles Freeman Cantine on a shoulder of Hemlock Mt., they respectfully cleared the trail to it. \* \* \* \* #55 is showing his versatility by teaching science at Hudson High School. \* \* \* \* The altimeter lost on Halcott Mt. was found by hawk-eyed #23. \* \* \* \* We do not remember seeing her in the CATSKILLS, but we understand that Christine Root is now the wife of #68. \* \* \* \* The Finger Lakes Trail Conference is looking for sponsors to help them push their connecting trail east to the CATSKILLS. They are bogged down at Walton, where #29's sector terminates. \* \* \* \* #29 was surprised to find 21¢ in the canister on North Dome. Was it someone's 21st mountain, or a donation towards a new canister? \* \* \* \* The record for being the youngest member is still held by #90, who qualified at the age of six. \* \* \* \* #'s 1, 2, 13, 23, 51, 60, and 6 aspirants waded to Spiro's Sink on the Neversink for the Columbus Day Weekend. The canisters on Lone, Rocky, and Balsam Cap were still above water when they signed the registers.



FOUND--- a hat, head net, and gloves on Moonhaw Road, June 5, 1971.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 6 TRAIL & LEAN-TO CLEANUP Our second cleanup hike concentrates on the Plateau & Mink Hollow area. Participation is the vital measure of success.

Leader: Gary Klee, 25 Holly St., Walton, 607-865-5392  
Meeting Place: Devil's Tombstone Campsite, at 10:00 a.m.

Nov. 20 PANTHER A traverse of the mountain from Winisook to Fox Hollow.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elevation: 3720' Order: 17  
Leader: John Webb, Deerwood Dr., Hopewell Jct., 914-897-5838  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 4 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK & ROUNDTOP "Well, there's the High Peak and the Round Top which lay back like a father and a mother among their children---" - Leather-Stocking in THE PIONEERS.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elevation: 3655' Order: 21  
Leader: Philip Houghton, 34 Pine St., Watertown, Conn., 203-274-8654  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 19 WESTKILL A bushwhack out of Spruceton. Our 1969 poll rated Westkill the second most difficult CATSKILL PEAK.

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elevation: 3880' Order: 6  
Leader: Frederick Lowy, R. D. 2, Box 77, Rhinebeck, 914-876-6968  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.

Jan. 8 HUNTER & RUSK Resolved to start working on your Winter Patch this year? This pair provides a strenuous beginning.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elevation: 4040' & 3680' Order: 2, 20  
Leader: Roy Messaros, 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, N.J. 201-337-5004  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.

Jan. 22-23 WINTER WEEKEND Walter Gregory, chairman

Hikes will start from Alpine Inn, Oliveira, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. (See information and reservation page.)



Please try to give our leaders advance notice when you plan to attend an outing. This is especially important for the Nov. 6 trail cleanup where ECD help is being organized.