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Cat Tracks

Bates Outing Club

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Cat Tracks

of the Bates Outing Club

Editor: Sara Chatterton

Issue 3: May, 1959

NEW OFFICERS

As a result of the All-Campus elections, the officers for the coming year are: President--Dave Nelson; Vice-President--Joe Oliver; Secretary--Rita (Twig) Bentley.

The new Directors, chosen by the Council, are: Carnival--Judy Sternbach, Jim Carignan; Equipment--Candy Oviatt, Carl Ketchum; Cabins and Trails--Barb Cressy, Pete Achorn; Hikes and Trips--Sue Hurd, Ray Leibfried; Publicity--Trish Morse, Leo Rosano; Hickories--Carol Gilbert, Bill Anderson. Sara Chatterton will take over the position of CAT TRACKS editor.

SPELUNKING TRIP: FUN ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND

"All set?"

"Yep. I've got my gloves, kneepads, extra carbide, water, and a flashlight. Do you think it'll be mostly crawlways or canyons, dust or mud?"

"I dunno. But we'll soon find out."

Such a conversation was typical on the IOCA sponsored cave exploring trip which nearly twenty Bates students enjoyed over spring vacation. With base camp located above ground in Thorn Spring Park near Franklin, West Virginia, the IOCAvers took daily, or nightly, trips to caves in the surrounding countryside.

As with most sports, specialized equipment is needed in spelunking. A helmet is used for protection as well as for holding your carbide lamp. This ingenious little gadget contains two chambers--one for water and the other for chunks of calcium carbide. When the two substances combine, acetylene gas is formed which burns with a warm bright flame in front of a circular concave reflector. Also helpful are long legs for chimneying in crevices, a good sense of direction, and an enthusiasm for wading through underground rivers. A good trip leader is a big asset, and Pete Achorn proved a fine one.

One day we were lucky enough to have Dwight Deal from R.P.I. instruct us in the rock-climbing techniques of belaying, rappelling, and prussiking. Later some of the kids had a chance to test the rope and their nerve in Hell Hole's 180 ft. drop entrance.

The West Virginia farmlands were sprinkled with little "shops" and calves and rickety barns. Although the fields were still brown with winter, the promise of spring shone in the warm sun that thawed our bones after a frosty night. We won't forget the shock of seeing

the camp's stream dyed emerald green (an R.P.I. trick?), or the consequences of fishing without a license, or the sight of carbide lamps strung out along a passageway, glimmering like fireflies. It was the kind of trip that makes you want to go again next year.

--Bonnie Richman

A.T. CONFERENCE

On April 12, Bates was again host to the annual Appalachian Trail Conference. About eighty people attended. In the morning there was a business meeting, and in the afternoon a meeting was held for the general public. A tape from Dr. Roy Fairfield, now teaching in Ohio, was played. We were particularly interested to hear that he is backing the development of a trail from Ohio to connect with the A.T. The rest of the afternoon meeting was concerned with the reports of the directors on the conditions of the Trail.

The evening meeting was particularly interesting to all the B.O.C. members who climbed Mt. Katahdin at Thanksgiving. Maurice Day showed slides of Katahdin in the winter, and also slides of wildlife we can see along any trail if we keep our eyes open.

After the meetings were over, several B.O.C. members talked for a couple of hours with Jean Stevenson, treasurer of the Maine A.T. Club. We picked up some tips about food-buying, sleeping bags, etc.

On the whole, the Conference was quite successful, and we're looking forward to welcoming the Maine A.T. Club back next year.

--Mary Stafford

SPRING OUTING

Spring Outing 1959--a weekend of faces around a soft firelight, running across campus to leave for work projects, the feel of an axe in your hand, wondering whether that rain will hold off for a while. This was the Outing Club's version of the annual Spruce-Up Weekend. Combining elements of Spruce-Up Weekends of previous years with some new ideas, the Council and co-chairmen Ray Leibfried and Jan Baker tried to come up with a weekend especially designed to welcome spring to the Bates campus.

The activities started on Friday night with a songfest held in the O.C. room. Ben Gatchell with Pete Schorn and his guitar led the group in singing folksongs around the fire. The turnout for this songfest was one of the largest that an evening such as this has had.

Saturday morning arrived cloudy and cool and the co-chairmen along with the rest of the Council anxiously wondered if rain would force the events indoors. However, they were in luck for a while. At 1:15 around thirty people gathered in front of Roger Bill to leave for work projects at Thornerag and Sabattus cabins. At Thornerag the group worked on the exterior of the cabin and cleared trail. Building a corduroy bridge, cleaning the cabin and repairing its fireplace were the projects for the afternoon at Sabattus. Around 5:00 the workers were more than willing to prepare for a cookout as a reward for their labors. Sitting around the fireplace, eating hotdogs, and listening to the rain (it finally came) on the cabin roof was the end to a perfect afternoon.

The weekend events came to a climax on Saturday night with a square dance in Chase Hall. Howie Davidson, the popular caller for past Spruce-Up Weekends, led the group in both old and new square dances. Eight to ten sets quickly filled up Chase Hall ballroom and "a good time was had by all."

In this year's weekend, the Council tried, by changing the name and introducing the cookout supper, to alleviate the general campus apathy towards the traditional Spruce-Up weekend. An adequate and enthusiastic turnout seemed to indicate its success. Certainly everyone participating enjoyed the aims of the weekend--to get outdoors, to have fun, and to officially welcome the spring spirit.

--Jan Baker

TUCKERMAN'S RAVINE CLIMB APRIL 19th

It was a rather doubtful, murky April day in Lewiston when two busloads of Bates hikers started off to scale that peak of peaks, Mt. Washington. The trusty old Blue Line got us there at about 10:45 and we proceeded up a rather wet trail along with many others, most of whom had come to ski in Tuckerman's Ravine. With the Bates group were some Outing Clubbers from the University of Mass.

After the usual stop for a spectacular view of Crystal Cascades the group proceeded along the winding trail. The snow was quite deep along the way; any one who wandered off the side of the trail and had to be hauled out will testify to that. As the morning drew to a close the weather cleared off completely, affording some wonderful views of wildcat Mt. behind the ravines ahead. On arriving at the Howard Johnson's the group enjoyed watching some wonderful skiing exhibitions (we still don't know how the fellow who rolled all the way down the headwall got up in one piece.). After lunch we scaled the little headwall, where a monstrous snowball fight ensued!

It was lots of fun seeing Jody (Ruby) Perley, and Mare Miller and her fiance, Terry Gildea. On the way down we played a game of "roll-people-down-the-little-headwall." Joining in the fun were chaperones (?) Sampson, Walsh, and Cummins. Slipping, sliding, running, rolling, flopping and falling down the slippery trail brought the day to an end, a day which, as far as Mt. Washington weather is concerned, should go down as one of the best we've seen.

With a little energy left over, we sang all the way home and then had a "grubbiness party" at Luiggis. That early sack sure felt good at the end of a perfect day!

I-Jingles

ADVANCE MAY 8-10

Another wonderful Advance is over. Beautiful weather and fine fellowship were present the whole time. We even had the honor of Jody and Lusty's company.

The early arrivers put the cabin in order for the rest of the tribe. The weekend was spent doing what one pleased...canceing, hiking, sunning, even swimming (although often involuntary. Pixie, how many times were you thrown in?) Both Saturday and Sunday morning,

Pancakes the size of small pillows
Rainbow irishes games--inventions of the Martians.

active souls were early to rise to prepare breakfast. (Those cinnamon buns were delicious, Jean.) Luring the day, if one wanted to be active, a frisbee gathering could easily be found. Or one could enter in the canoe battles. Saturday evening, when darkness settled in and the baseball game was completed, we had our meeting (short and successful). Afterwards, some fetched their sleeping bags and mattresses and tripped down to the waterfront. Others remained in the lodge, listening to the piano and guitar.

Sunday morning was a leisurely one. It took much effort to climb into a homeward-bound car Sunday afternoon. But the crucial hour had arrived to return to Bates and bid goodbye to our pleasant camp.

--Sara Chatterton

PUSSY FOOTIN'

Who were the members of the "lunatic squad" who went swimming in Andrews Pond on April 11 after the last Hickories meeting?

Bob--what did you say was Nebulous?

Prue's trip to Lake George for the IOCA outing must have been mighty colorful.

Ray Thompson is doing a good job stirring up interest in a Bates team to compete in the Woodsmen's Weekend. Johnnie Follet went down to Dartmouth to observe as a Bates representative and will report back to the Council.

As for the Advance:

Is it really hard to play leap-frog when zipped in sleeping bags? Ask M.J., Ray, Joe and Jingles.

Leve Nelson's hat hasn't dried out yet.

And when the dust, or rather the spray, cleared away, that scething spiral of splashing humanity was found to be none other than Mr. Sampson and Ben Getchell. Both sides have claimed victory.

"Get them with a bow shot" was the cry as so-called chaperones Mr. T.P. and Mr. S. opened fire on poor unsuspecting canoes with a bilge pump and hose concealed in their boat. But the pump was no match for the pail of water wielded by murderous Joe Oliver. "Hasn't anyone got a dry pair of pants?"

Scenes seen on the Advance:

- Leo--commuting
- Lots of pigtails
- Sara--hiking with both feet again
- Twig and Trish--camp cooks par excellence
- Lee's Model A (Made it there and back)
- Good ol' Persephone (" ")
- Pancakes the size of small pillows
- Rainbow frisbee games--invasions of the Martians.