

2-1967

# Cat Tracks

Bates Outing Club

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## Recommended Citation

Bates Outing Club, "Cat Tracks" (1967). *Cat Tracks Newsletter*. 24.  
<http://scarab.bates.edu/cattracks/24>

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# Cat Tracks

## of the Bates Outing Club

Editor: Faith Ford                      Issue IV                      February, 1967

### LAUDAMUS...

Perhaps I am taking too much for granted by the use of the literary "we" as I make known my own appreciation of the people on the Council who have worked so hard this year.

I think that to stand on the assumption that the work is appreciated is valid, but the necessity of voiced praise still exists. The group is a service organization and praise to the people who do the work is unexpected. The individuals work together as a group so that singling out of particular people is impossible. Praise of the group extends to each one who works to make the group unified and effective - to carry out the purposes and ideals of the organization.

I feel that we owe one another the credit due to each one and extend my congratulations to each person whose efforts have been felt throughout the year for the Club.

F.F.

### SPRING

Spring is a time of newness and although our present Bates calendar rushes the season by a few weeks, it is a time of new life and changing form for the OC Council as well. New officers and directors are sinking their roots and gathering strength for the ensuing year's work. New life is stirring in these roots and the Council prepares itself for the activities ahead.

One of the greatest strengths of the Council is the fact that each year brings a chance to going anew with fresh enthusiasm and to determine what form, be it oak or alder, it will show itself as for a year. We are never bogged down by permanent members who become set in their ways. Tradition has its proper place and OC tradition must stand before a new set of critics each year to be evaluated before being continued. Such a structure enablesthe Council to better keep with the times and develop and change with the student body whom it serves. It also has its inconveniences. Each term accurate reports of activities must be kept, files of helpful advice and suggestions must be poured over by each incoming officer and director. These files do their part in quickly developing attitudes and backgrounds needed to operate a student organization on as large a scope as the OC.

If I may make just one observation as an old timer looking back;

make sure that these Spring roots grow strong and deep. Over the coming year you'll find the storms will tear at the leaves and limbs of your organization. Your bark will be scarred by passing children flinging their axes as they go. Your branches will bend under strain nearly to the breaking point. These very roots which develop in the Spring will be relied on time after time to bring strength back to the branches, to push out new leaves and to repair scars that often penetrate deep into the core. No one person can halt the wind or bind the wounds. It must be a group effort, a real life giving sap that flows from these very roots which are set in the Spring. The common goals of the OC will bring you together, you must nurture this unity and give it life and strength. The Spring is the time to share those talents you have brought to the union, the time to grow together, to discover each other, each with his strengths and weaknesses, and to lend help to each other in order to meet the challenges of those goals you will set together. When this takes place you will find that no storm seems overpowering and the Outing Club will emerge for another year as a creature of strength and rough hewn beauty.

That's enough for an old man to say, so just remember that Spring is a wonderful time of year and one of the most important.

Don Bean

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The Outing Club has unlimited possibilities in the future. One of these is buying a camp or a large cabin on a lake relatively near to a ski mountain. This cabin could serve as a basis for canoeing, sailing, and water skiing in the Spring and Fall; and as a ski cabin in the Winter.

This could be financially possible with a little work. With the 50th Anniversary of the Outing Club coming up, a couple of the past OC presidents have talked about organizing an alumni drive to raise money for some sort of substantial gift such as this. The actual groundwork, such as deciding what type of camp and the location, would have to be done by the Council. Perhaps this is something that the new Cabins and Trails Directorship should start looking into in the near future.

Joel Davidson

#### WINTER CARNIVAL

January 26 through 29, the dates of the Bates College Winter Carnival of 1967 have just passed. Whow! From Thursday evening until Sunday several activities kept many busy and excited. With each event, campus interest seemed to increase.

The co-chairmen of the weekend thank all those directly concerned with the preparation and execution of their specific events. Without exception, there was a spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm that is so necessary for a successful Carnival. Communication between the chairmen and their committee members of Outing Club and other campus organizations was excellent.

The results of the several committees showed much originality in adapting to the sequence of the theme, "Shipwrecked". Decorations of fish nets and balloons introduced people to the "Bon Voyage" spirit of the weekend at the dance Thursday night. "The Innkeepers", a local band, came over "loud-and-clear". Coming aboard for a pre-ball banquet Saturday evening, guests enjoyed the treat of a buffet as fine as any served aboard a luxury liner. After the delicious meal, the crowd moved to the Ball, "Underwater", and danced to the rippling rhythms of Chris Pwers and his orchestra. Criss-crossed crepepaper of blue and green above, a central area enclosing relics of the ocean floor, and the misty lighting added to the aquatic atmosphere. A soothing soiree "On a Desert Isle", complete with palm tree, parrot, waterfalls, and tropical flowers awaited them afterwards. Chase Hall was completely transformed as a result of unique and imaginative planning.

Good planning on the part of all co-chairmen enabled their committees to keep within our limited budget. Ingenuity and resourcefulness of everyone contributed to the end products of a successful Carnival.

Both Krause and Dave Burt

#### EQUIPMENT ROOM

After having worked hard all year, the equipment room directors are about to bow out. Hildy and I are very sorry to leave, because this will mean we now have to do the dirty work, instead of ordering others around.

All in all, though, we feel it has been a successful year. Much has been accomplished and some new equipment bought. Among our newly acquired equipment are four brush hooks; four new pairs of skis and bindings; two pairs of ski boots; pails, wrenches, and other assorted tools; and 300 feet of lumber.

Our canoe patching has come to an end, what with the snow fall in the last two months. To explain how to finished patching the canoe, I will now attempt. A layer of fiber glass resin is painted over the desired area and then the piece of glass is laid over it. At this point, all the air bubbles must be removed. Another layer of resin is now applied, until the surface of the patched area is completely smooth. After drying, the edges are sanded and the canoe is ready for paint. We were all happy to note that the canoe got some use at the Carnival soiree. It was at the scene of a desert island that everyone saw our Old Town filled with flowers. A little far from home "ch what"? Very effective though, and our congrats go to the soiree committee for

the idea and for keeping our equipment in good shape.

The equipment room was pretty busy of late what with Carnival and ski classes. We hope now to get back to a regular routine and be friendly again. For those who don't like ogres, never fear a new regime is about to enter into being. For those of you who missed him, Ray Danforth, last year's director, was here for Carnival. His first comment as he stepped into his old domain was, "Ye gods, Cutcliffe, where'd you get such a mess."

That about winds up this month's news from your "friendly" equipment room. All that remains now is the election of new officers for the "morality patrol".

Steve Cutcliffe and Hildy Spooner  
Makers of fine sawdust since 1920.

### BEECHER'S BIBLES

Beecher's Bibles, the rifle and pistol club at Bates College, was formed during the first semester of this scholastic year. While waiting for our NRA affiliation to be processed, the club was limited in activities to sight-in sessions and informal target practice; however, now that the club status with the NRA has been secured, club members are on the way to qualifications on the 50-foot small-bore rifle course.

The club title is taken from an amusing, albeit somewhat obscure detail of American History. Not long before John Brown's raid on the Harper's Ferry Arsenal, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher had been conducting a campaign designed to lend support to Brown's anti-slavery activities. As a part of this support, Beecher arranged for several crates of Sharps rifles to be shipped south, ultimately for use by Brown. Interception of this cargo was prevented by innocently labeling each shipment, "Bibles". Sharps rifles subsequently came to be known as "Beecher's Bibles", a name which appealed to us because of its distinctiveness and its historical background.

Club members assemble at Commons every Monday evening at 5:15 for supper and a brief meeting. Non-members who would like to come shooting should be at the Chase Hall bulletin board at 6:00. The Lewiston Armory, our home range, is only a block or so away, and it is reserved for our use until 10PM.

Non-member guests are more than welcome. No previous knowledge of firearms or shooting is required, for the club is eager to give instruction to those who show enough interest in firearms to go to the range. Since many members are willing to loan their rifles to a guest for an evening, it is not necessary to own a gun or have it immediately on hand. There is a 25¢ range fee for non-members to help cover the cost of targets, and ammunition is available through the executive officers of the club. Come along shooting with us Monday nights and bring a friend!

Eric Bye, President Beecher's Bibles, O.C. member

The skiing season has finally started for us, after skiing on rocks and ice for our first two trips and Carnival, we have some real snow! As we all saw (and skiing felt) the snow came when the Carnival ski trip got back. A miracle in timing. However, some fanatics did appreciate the skiing at Mt. Abrams, and the not so fanatic did ski, some were unhappy but the trip was a financial success.

Now with the new store of snow and the weatherman promising more we are ready to push even more people into the buses and off again at Sugarloaf, Sunday River or anywhere we hear of excellent skiing. With the prophecy of a Hickories director I promise more snow and exciting adventures every weekend.

The Hickories Board has been elected and is in feverish activity already. Liz Tyler and Laurie Nothnagle have informed us that we can have a Winter Vacation trip to that wonderland of the North, Sugarloaf, for only \$43.00. All interested should communicate their interest to Liz, Laurie, Martha, or myself, and their enthusiasm to everybody else.

This year we in Hickories have been very active in scheduling ski movies. Our next film showing is February 28th. We have 3 short films sponsored by Old Crow distilleries, hopefully, our audience will get some real enjoyment from the advertising in these films.

February 23 finds 3 Warren Miller shorts, and on March 9 we go Continental with a short film from France.

Think Snow and I'll see you on the slopes!

Don Scarles

#### CABINS AND TRAILS FINAL REPORT

The Cabins and Trails Directorship for 1966-67 rose phoenix-like from the ashes of Joel and Beth's venture in cooperation, flapped its wings heavily as it rose suddenly skyward amid torrential rains, has managed to fly backwards most of the time, without really going anywhere and will very shortly cast itself down upon its funeral pyre in a subpecunian cave far below the red-black interface of Jim Bristol's books, leaving next year's directors to untie the Gordian Knot of its demise.

I have been called upon to reminisce of past glories and of greater things to come, and it is expected that any tendency towards verbosity will be curbed by the memory of the fate of a Cat Tracks article in the none-too-distant past. We shall see.

Rain and mass confusion took their toll on the Fall Appalachian Trail Work Trip. Rain once again played Ogre of the Dawn on the Annex Trip as it eliminated all thoughts of completing the trail before winter. (It should be noted that the male co-director did not go camping

once this fall when it didn't rain, and his summer wasn't much better). Blind luck, in the personage of Harold Perham enabled the Outing Club to turn in an "all cleared" report to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. Mr. Perham had a better year than we did, and 7 of the thirteen miles of Section 22 are attributed to his hand. However, hope is not lost, and, spurred on by the heady mood of a work trip to Thornerag Cabin that accomplished what it was supposed to accomplish, the Directorship will attempt a snowshoe work trip to paint at least half of the trail.

This was the Year that Was for Thornerag Cabin as the Council sat in judgment on its right to live. Cabins and Trails submitted and analyzed suggestions, costs, and plans for rebuilding and replacing the cabin, and finally brought the question of maintaining Thornerag any longer to a vote. In a very confusing set of moves, the Council voted to tear down Thornerag in its entirety. It should be pointed out that this was by no means unanimous and feelings and confusion were noticeable by their presence. Many that voted for disassemblage were of the graduating class. Keeping this in mind, the Directorship proceeded slowly, with the clear intention of passing the hot potato to the next directorship only partially carried out, thus giving the Council the opportunity of making the unparliamentary move of reneging on the original vote and rebuilding the cabin. Only the porch, which was a hazard due to the removal of supporting beams, and the two back rooms, considered worthless by most, were torn down. The cabin is now boarded up and the debris is piled in a semblance of order underneath a nice blanket of snow.

Sabattus Cabin has a very heavy ladder in it, hand crafted from sturdy tree trunk by this Directorship, but at the same time it lacks a table inside and more bricks and mortar are needed to rebuild the chimney to the desired height. And no one has figured a way to keep it from sliding downhill towards the lake. Pray.

A motion has been made to give up maintenance of Section 22 of the Appalachian Trail, and this has been tabled indefinitely. This is a motion made by the male co-director alone, with very little solid backing from the female side.

My personal thoughts on the directorship are these: I am disappointed that we did not accomplish what I hoped to accomplish. I am acutely aware that some laziness was present on my part and in the Directorship as a whole. But I do not feel we have done terribly, as quite a bit of what we had to do was difficult and had been passed by past directorships as a matter of course. The buck stopped with us. Our luck was not of the best. I will say, now, that, for all the grief I gave her and for all the grief she gave me, I found Judy Harvell a capable co-director and I'm glad we worked together. It has occurred to me that Judy may feel differently about the Directorship. This article reflects only my own feelings. That is the price one must pay for having the other co-director write the Cat Tracks article at 3 in the morning.

And there's one thing that must be said for us, and I confess that our laziness inspired it; we used our subs!!

Bruce Wilson

## HIKES AND TRIPS

Hikes and Trips is always a much sought-after directorship among those who seek after such things: like a pic throwing contest, it looks marvellously exciting from the grandstand. The two hikes and trips directors rule a complex dynasty of mountain climbers, bungling bus drivers, peanut butter sandwiches, canoes and people who tip them over, hikers who fall in brooks, and beachwalkers who make touchdowns in the ocean - certainly an impressive collection of responsibilities.

However, Hikes and Trips, unlike Bates College entire, has had the misfortune this year of being unable to balance its budget. This practice of operating in the red - while flagrantly adverse to truth, justice, and the American way - has allowed Hikes and Trips to run 15 trips this season (Mt. climbs, canoe trips, beach walks, snow shoe hikes, a camping trip, and a gem hunt). The deficit results from such factors as paying for a whole bus and filling half of it, running trips to exotic and faraway places (such as Acadia), and running several of them.

It has been surmised from time to time that Hikes and Trips is actually a syndicate whose true purpose is to save money. The present directors, while duly impressed with this worthy piece of logic, were forced to conclude that the true purpose of Hikes and Trips was to run trips. So we ran trips and lost money. Unless the directors start running trips to nearby areas such as Mechanics Falls and East Buckfield, and people come down to sign up for trips in busload-units, Hikes and Trips will remain a fiscal disaster area.

It might be interesting to contemplate the financial plight of Hikes and Trips, had the directors run all 24 of their planned trips. As it was, nine trips were eliminated by cancellation - a case of curing a sick cow by shooting it. People can ignore a sign publicizing a mountain climb, but when you cancel the trip because nobody has signed up, everyone in the world knows about it. Six trips were cancelled due to lack of a faculty chaperone.

The situation with regard to faculty chaperones, while responsible for the cancellation of only one trip, this season, is always a lemon passed from one set of directors to the next. The problem could be solved by casting out the present chaperone system and sweeping in the progressive student chaperone policy (the Great Leap Forward). I am inclined to think, however, that a few simple manoeuvres on the part of the Council might be more practical (though less dramatic).

Dr. T.P. Wright, venerable former adviser to the Outing Club, was always of the opinion that OC trips provide one of the few opportunities for the faculty and students to get together on a truly informal basis; Appalachian Trail goulash is a great equalizer. Many faculty members express an interest in Outing Club activities but are often unavailable because of previous commitments or uncertainty as to how to contact the Outing Club to express their interest.

At the very beginning of the season Hikes and Trips (and Cabins and Trails) ought to make up a list of what trips they plan to run on each weekend throughout the year. The list need not specify locations, but merely the type of trip planned: a list of possible locations for Mt. climbs, canoe trips, and a description of what each particular trip involves could be made separately and lined up with dates later.



A copy of this tentative calendar could then be given to each faculty member. If he is really interested (and there are such people) he will be able to pick out which trips he would like to go on and not make conflicting plans for that weekend.

This list ought not be sent through the mail, but rather given to the professor personally by a council member in his class. In this way we will be able to know exactly which faculty members are really interested. The ones who are not will then be free from constant harassing by various chaperone mongers. If he does express interest, the particular council member in his class is available to explain what the various trips entail and to explain what changes have been made in the schedule from week to week. The Council member serves as a contact between interested faculty and the Council, and also supplies information to the faculty members who rarely get over to Chase Hall to see the bulletin boards.

This system can work efficiently if it is positively organized to any degree. There are enough Council members floating around campus to cover most of the professors. Faculty will know what is going on and who to contact: the Council will know who is interested and will not be chassing around after those who are not. Planning ahead and personal contact are the keys: both must be done early, and in an organized way.

The directors of what has become Hikes, Trips, and Chaperones may eventually find that, rather than racing around campus looking for Chaperones, they can concentrate on running trips - that is if their money holds out.

Brent Costain

#### ALUMNI NOTES

Surprise, surprise: Charlie Love was in the East at Christmas time and a few people had a chance to see him and talk to him. He says he is doing well and enjoying his work - I also understand that he is converting a portion of the Montana population into folk music fans!!

Both Ginny Griscom and Carol Sue Stutzman are in Providence, R.I. teaching and they seem to be content.

Larry Brown has been seen on the Bates campus in recent weeks (ends) and all is well with him.

Sue C. Smith wrote to me (ed.) some time ago and she is in New York.

Now for the more social gossip:

Bill and Sue Dye had a baby boy on January 1, 1967 - our congratulations to them.

Dr. T.P. Wright is getting married a little later this month.

Hildy Spooner and Ray Danforth have settled upon July 15th for their wedding.

Martha Tillson and Rich Pfirman are planning on June 10th for their wedding.

(And I can't think of anyone else with news.)

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I realize that in this year I have managed to step on a few toes, hurt a few people, and antagonize a few more - especially those who couldn't seem to get their articles to me but I want all of the people who are connected to this paper to realize that I am more than aware that it could not have existed without them and that I am grateful for their assistance. And with a simple Thank You I will close my directorship for this year.

F.F.

(Editor's note: this poem came anonymously to Cat Tracks, from whence it comes and whither it goes, I do not know.)

A nobody but to himself  
His only job to carry arrows  
A tribe in battle for the good  
Carry he did, but need he more?  
My job is this, what of that?  
We will win, of this I know  
Fish the more to my design  
Then checking bow and shield  
The war is present, always was  
What I offer can't change much

A four day battle came  
Some left home  
Others ran or hid  
But I painted the face of the king

Win? I do not know  
But to myself I'm true  
Or am I?

Others fought and sweat  
Some even cried at times  
Perhaps more could be done  
Make a new bow or  
Groom and feed the horse  
Preparation many, there was a need,  
For the carrier of the king

In the battle a few are used  
Some not needed for this time  
Standing by if they're wanted

Oh arrow carrier of the king,  
The battle is over,  
but not the war.

Loki

(ed. note: according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Loki" is a Norwegian giant associated with the gods. He is the Spirit of Strife and the god of evil.)

Issue IV

February, 1967

### WINTER

Winter is a time of rest and reflection by the use of the literature we read to help understand our perception of the people of the world. It is a time to look back on the year.

I think that to stand on the assumption that the year is over is a mistake, but the necessity of winter months still exists. The year is a continuous organization and process to the people. It is not a time to rest. The individuals work together as a group or that single act of particular people is impossible. It is a time to extend to each one the works to make the group unified and effective - to carry out the purposes and ideals of the organization.

I feel that we are another the credit due to each one and extend my congratulations to each person whose efforts have been felt throughout the year for the Club.

R.P.

### SPRING

Spring is a time of newness and although our present duties are not relaxed the season by a few weeks, it is a time of new life and changing form for the GC Council as well. New officers and directors are showing their roots and gathering strength for the upcoming year's work. New life is stirring in these parts and the Council prepares itself for the activities ahead.

One of the greatest strengths of the Council is the fact that each year brings a chance to bring new ideas and enthusiasm and to determine what form, be it old or new, it will take itself as for a year. We are never bogged down by precedent matters and become set in their ways. Tradition has its proper place and GC tradition must stand before a new set of criteria each year to be evaluated before being continued. It is a privilege to be elected to better keep the old ideas and values and change with the student body whom it serves. It also has its limitations. When very active reports of activities must be kept, files, records, and organizations must be prepared to be kept up to date. It is a privilege to do their part in such a developing attitude and background needed to operate a student organization on as large a scale as the GC.

If that were just one observation as an old time tracking back.