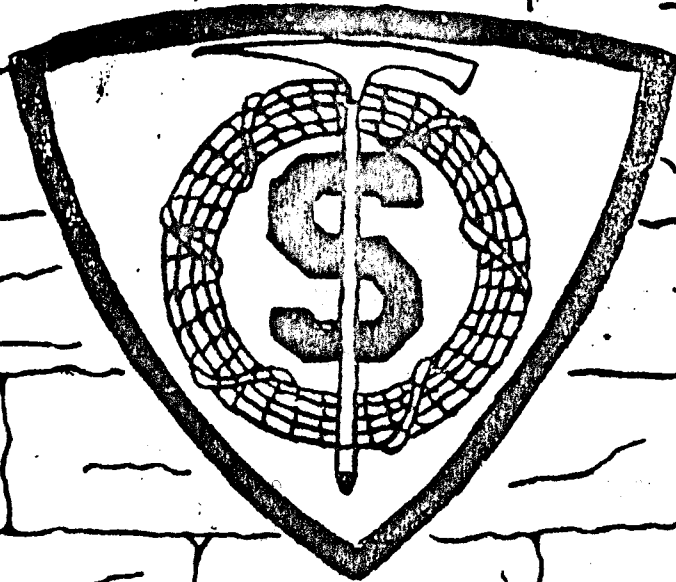


MOUNTAINEERING:

FREEDOM OF  
THE QUAD



SAC

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The reappearance of MFTQ is justified by the scarcity of the First Edition and by various changes in Stanford Park itself, rather than by the number of climbs developed since its original publication. There are a few worthwhile new routes, the most notable being the Southeast Buttress of Memorial Church.

Relations between climbers and the rangers seem to have improved, and all climbers are urged to notify the ranger headquarters before doing any roped climbing within the Park. This permits more effective crowd control and hopefully will prevent the climber's being mistaken for a spoiler of the environment.

Seasonal fees at the Park have increased markedly. To state the present entrance and camping fees would serve only to date this edition.

Many routes are still Class 4 and should remain so. The rock will not support very much protection and climbs should be done

in the old, bold way.

Climb clean.\*

R. S. C., T. K. W.

Palo Alto  
30 September 1971

\*With apologies to Y. Chouinard.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

## GENERAL NOTES ON THE PARK

Some 33 miles south and east of San Francisco lies the beautiful area of rugged sandstone formations which comprise Stanford Park. The park is easily reached via U.S. 101 (Bayshore Freeway) and Interstate 280 (Junipero Serra Freeway) from the north or south, or by canoe from the east. Some visitors find the many recreational opportunities in the area so attractive that they camp there for the entire season (which usually runs from late September to early June). This may be done for a modest entrance fee (nearly \$3000 for the whole season), plus a small campsite (over \$1000). Although dogs should be leashed, many are seen running wild and occasionally are found in caves and caverns inside the craggy mountains and tors.

The rock formations in the park are generally characterized by even, horizontal strata of light tan sandstone of almost

uniformly excellent quality. Vertical columns of the same sandstone appear in remarkably even rows and add much to the unique appearance and scenic beauty of the park. The sandstone is capped, in many places, by beds of smooth red slate. These are usually thinner than the sandstone strata, and themselves vary in thickness, suggesting erosion in some areas. The red slate beds have an inviting appearance to the climber, but should be approached with great caution because of their tendency to scale off.

Stanford Park affords a variety of climbing conditions, and the novice and seasoned climber alike can find challenges here. The Art Gallery and Main Library traverses provide excellent conditioning opportunities for the weekend climber, while a successful ascent of Memorial Church is worthy of mention beside the stirring names of Cambridge, Everest and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Stanford Park has seen a long history of climbing. Although little is known of the dauntless pioneers who first assaulted its craggy sandstone heights, scattered records are available to document the activities of the first post-war (World War II) generation of climbing greats — Jon Lindberg, Dave Baxter and the rest. Two different teams, in 1949 and 1952, braved death and discovery to blaze a trail on Stanford Park's highest pinnacle, Mt Hoover. Their deed will long be remembered by those who follow in their colossal footprints. Recent years have seen the influx of a new, adventurous breed of climber. New routes, undreamed of only a few years ago, have now been opened up. And improvements in the park itself offer promise of more first ascents in the days to come.

But the Stanford climber truly worthy of the title — before plunging, guide-book in hand, on to new glories — will

4.

want to bear in mind a few points of safety; for it is only the caution, diligence and cool, steady nerve displayed by those who went before that have preserved the area and its climbing possibilities for the present generation:

1) Rangers. The good old maxim that your daddy taught you, that "the ranger is your friend," does not necessarily hold true at Stanford Park. The ranger administrator (Homo establishmentus) can usually be distinguished by his uniform, which consists of a business suit, a briefcase and a suspicious look. On the job from 8 AM to 6 PM, the ranger administrators should be avoided at all costs. The regular rangers (Homo semi-innocuus) wear blue uniforms with eight-pointed rhodium badges, unloaded guns, realistic ballets and loud walkie-talkies; they are on duty 24 hours a day. Climbers planning to use ropes or other paraphernalia are advised to telephone

regular ranger headquarters first for authorization since regular rangers are uncomfortable about climbing in general and tend to forbid it whenever they can. In the 1969-70 season ferocious Santa Clara rangers (Zinjanthropus vigilante) were introduced into the park for the first time. They have thrived in the park's habitat and, whereas they were only occasionally encountered, their presence has increased to the point of being a continuous pest. Some conservationists have advocated an open season to reduce the numbers of these formidable beasts, but legal experts suggest the opposite effect would result. Santa Clara rangers usually travel in herds, wearing riot helmets, riot sticks, loaded guns, tear gas cannisters and loud walkie-talkies; sometimes they are seen in groups of two or three, in which case their appearance may not be very unlike that of a regular ranger. Climbers should avoid close contact with Santa



Clara rangers; above all, do not try to feed them.

2) Use of iron. Direct aid employing the use of old iron (especially drain-pipes) is not recommended. Not only does dependency on such iron tarnish the climber's glory, it may even result in permanent damage to his limbs. Old iron in some areas, however, has been found satisfactory for anchoring belays. These areas are mentioned in the Guide, and most of them involve railings.

3) Wildlife. Stanford Park has an abundance of wildlife. Flora include numerous kinds of palm trees, flowering shrubs, brown grass, the Venus man-trap (Circe enamorans), and the domesticated lotus (Cannabis sativa). Of the park animals, the most commonly seen are the gaping tourist (Perigrinator oculans), the Old Grad (Plutus nostalgicus), and the Stanford student (Donor potentialis). The nighttime climber should be on the alert for the well-known Watchmanus noctis

periculus, who makes his rounds in the wee hours. Less dangerous is the Early Morning Sweener. He is normally just a scavenger, although it is uncertain how hostile he might become if unduly provoked.

4) A word about directions. Contrary to popular assumption, Palm Drive and the park entrance face almost due north, and the "western" foothills behind the park actually lie as much to the south as to the west. For convenience, all directions in the Guide are given as though the park entrance did indeed face due north. Thus the "west side" of Encina means the side that faces Mt Hoover; the "south side" of the Art Gallery is the side facing the Cummins Art Building; and so forth.

## ART GALLERY

Traverse. First ascent: unknown. (Carbon-14 dating on certain blackened handholds suggests circa 1898 as a reasonable estimate.) This traverse is easily the most popular route in the park. It begins on the S face, opposite Cummins, where an easy ascent can be made using lie-back technique at the SE corner, or with direct aid from the iron (railing) about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way W along the S wall. If starting from the iron, traverse right (E) along a narrow and remarkably even ledge, using excellent holds. Rounding the SE corner (here the route begins for those lie-backing up the SE corner), continue traversing N along the ledge for approximately 30 feet. Holds become thinner, but are still ample. The climb ends with a 3rd-class step up and into a spacious alcove and a walk-off down the N side, or else with a ropeless rappel down the E face to

the ground. An experienced climber can execute this climb in less than 6 minutes. For this reason it has become popular as a study break or between-classes diversion — to the wonder and occasional irritation of the rangers.

Traverse II. Climbers in recent years have enjoyed a nearby traverse which is especially popular in poor weather. Approaching the Gallery from the N, enter a high-ceilinged open cavern. Traverse right (W) along the back wall of the cavern on tiny handholds and uncertain footing. After rounding several corners, the climber reaches a smooth, upright "rotten log" which necessitates a 6th-class step. The climb may end with a ropeless rappel down the S face, or may continue E along the S face, ending at the railing where the main traverse begins. If the last pitch of this climb is attempted, cautious use of iron (a drain-pipe) at one point is advised.

Circumnavigation. On 1 or 2 occasions

climbers have traversed completely around the Art Gallery without falling off at some point on the way. The route is a combination of the two described traverses. Two doors and part of the S wall are unprotected and involve some risk to the moderately experienced climber.

## MAIN LIBRARY

Main Library offers a great variety of practice routes. All library climbs are easily accessible and can be done in street clothes at almost any time of day or night.

Chimneys. Across the front (W) side of Main Library stands a series of straight, open-sided chimneys formed by columns. Here the novice climber can practice chimney technique, sit and read his Civ book, or impress his non-climbing friends by doing chin-ups with his fingertips on the ledge at the top.

Liebacks. Also across the W side, about 3 feet off the ground, run narrow ledges broken by wide blocks of sandstone. New and experienced climbers alike enjoy traversing the ledges and practicing pressure, balance, and lieback moves around the blocks.

Traverses. Along both the N and the S faces of Main Library are straight and very narrow ledges. Follow them from W

to E as far as possible (preferably at hours when Library campers are not in abundance).

## HISTORY CORNER

Column Route. First ascent: November 1961, by Judy Lovelace. The outstanding feature of this climb is the degree of exposure and "realistic" atmosphere that it affords. Approaching from Inner Quad, descend via the improved trail (steps) into the narrow valley that runs along the back (S) face of History Corner. The belayer ascends the 3rd-class trail that leads N to Room 214. At the top a wide ledge on the left (W) affords a satisfactory belay position. A fire rail some 8 feet behind and across the trail provides an excellent anchor. The route of the climb follows a 90° dihedral beneath the towering heights of Room 214. Stem the corner on excellent foot- and hand-holds to the base of a column. The short ascent to the top of the column requires several rather difficult moves. Some climbers prefer jam-crack technique between the column and the wall, while others face the wall and use lieback holds to the

---



extreme left in the blocks just above the column, with foot pressure against the wall. Once the column is surmounted, standard Stanford Park stemming technique may be resumed. Proceed upward for some 15 feet more on precarious but quite usable holds. Mantel onto the belayer's ledge, and walk off down the "trail," or rappel down the route of the climb.

Short Corner. First ascent: November 1961, by Rick Litterick. This climb lies just opposite (E) the longer column route described above, and uses approximately the same belay position. The starting point of the route may be approached via a Class 1 traverse N along a cement platform just W of and below the Room 214 trail. The climb begins with a column that calls for jam-crack technique. An alternate method requires a long step upward to a ledge carved into the wall, and a second long traversing step and balance move onto the narrow

ledge at the top of the column. Stem the remaining few feet to the top.

Bear Hug. This is a Class 3 route up the buttress at the base of the Column Route. It consists of a bear hug maneuver up the sandstone buttress and a scramble onto the cement platform above. It is popular with impatient climbers who are waiting to do the Column Route.

**LAW SCHOOL & OLD BUSINESS SCHOOL**

Chimney. First ascent: Unknown.

This popular route is located just E of the center of Memorial Court and can be done safely at almost any time of day or night. Use standard chimney technique, or stem, up a 90° chimney which rises about 20 feet and is remarkably free from debris. Walk off from the top on an improved trail (steps).

Traverse. A variation of the above climb involves a traverse S along the base of the buttress on which the "trail" runs. The first pitch — about 10 feet — ends at a corner. Here one horrendous step takes the climber into a tunnel running E. Short climbers may have difficulty stemming through the tunnel, especially since it widens for two or three steps in the center. A balance move around the final (E) corner leads into the 90° chimney previously described.

Corner. First ascent: Autumn 1961, by Dave Boore, Dave Eddy, Judy Lovelace and others. Some mountaineers believe that this route should properly be named the Law Review Corner. The fact that it begins near the Law Review offices lends support to this view. However, it will probably continue to be called by its popular name. In any case, the route lies on the same massif as the History Corner and Law School Chimney climbs. It is between the two, but nearer the Law School Chimney. As in the History Corner Column route, the belayer ascends an improved trail and the climber descends into a small valley. Roped climbing begins at the NW corner of the valley. After the initial obstacle, a column, is overcome by jam-crack and pressure techniques, the route is smooth and straight upwards for some 15 feet more. Handholds are small, but the climber who remembers to stem with his legs far apart and to apply foot pressure against both walls should have

little difficulty. Walk off.

## JORDAN HALL

Left Statue (or L. Agassiz) Route.

First ascent: June 1962, by Lee Donaghey at midnight. The route starts with a foot-jam between a round and a square column, beneath a statue of L. Agassiz imbedded in the vertical N face of Jordan Hall. Apply friction with the outer foot on the outside of the round column. Rely on hand power a great deal, using first the ledge above the columns, then small handholds in the rock above. Beware of excessive dust. Once the ledge is surmounted, the pedestal and narrow ledge atop the arch afford good handholds. The route continues up the E corner formed by the pedestal and the rock face. Grasp a sloping ledge and then a level ledge directly beneath a window, where the climb ends. The descent from the climb can be hazardous unless the window is open.

Arch. First ascent: June 1962, by Bernard Mayher. Follow the statue route

---

to the ledge above the columns. Then traverse right (W) up a narrow arching ledge, using handholds in the rock and approaching the belay window from the side away from the Agassiz statue. This route has been said to be more challenging than the Left Statue Route. However, both of these Jordan Hall routes offer challenges to even the most experienced climber.

Right Statue Route. This route is perhaps best characterized as the mirror-image of the Left Statue Route; the difficulties it presents seem identical. Yet there is no record of an ascent by this route. Perhaps no one knows the occupant behind the belay window for this climb.

### PHYSICS CORNER

Physics Corner is the NW corner of the Outer Quad. Unlike the other three corners, it bears no descriptive legend such as "History," "Geology," or "Engineering." At some time in ages past, the physics department was housed there.

Statue Route. First ascent: June 1962, by Lee Donaghey at midnight. The strange rock formation resembling a human face near the top of this climb gives the route its name. An aperture in the rock face just to the left (NE) of the statue affords a satisfactory belay position. The route followed in the first ascent begins at the base of two columns that support the left (NE) side of a broad arch, and requires a traverse left along a narrow ledge to the bas relief of the outer arch. The bas relief can also be reached by a first pitch that lies to the left of both columns and begins in the corner separating the outer arch from



from the main rock face. From the ledge, proceed up the face of the bas relief on small toe and finger holds. Avoid the outer, curved surface of the arch until very near the top. This pitch, of about 14 feet, ends at a wide ledge. Grasp the ledge firmly in a thank-God hold, and do a mantel step onto it. Then climb to the belayer through a small, square opening. It should be noted that a nearly identical route lies to the right of the arch. For some reason, however, climbers have found this more difficult, and it is rarely attempted.

History, Geology, and Engineering Corners. These corners appear here in the Physics Corner section because the Statue Route description seems applicable to all. The HG & E Corners may well remain unclimbed, however, since there seems to be no record of any ascents.

## MEMORIAL CHURCH

Direct Aid Route. First ascent: early 1950's, at night, by a party believed to have scaled the W face supported by tension from an upper belay. The belay was set up by throwing a ball with a string tied to it over the church and then pulling the rope over. A drainpipe was also used in this ascent, with rather injurious results. Climbers are urged not to use this route, especially since the far more glamorous and challenging route described below has now been opened up.

Sacred Corner. First ascent: May 1962 at 6:00 AM, led by Frank Cole, with Lee Donaghey, Dennis Wilson, Hal van Zoeren, Judy Lovelace and Lucy Ames also in the party. This three pitch climb is the most complex, and among the most challenging, route in the park. The leader must advance without protection at several points. He should, therefore, be a climber of great skill, courage, experience (and

---

foolhardiness?). Other climbers in the party have the advantage of an upper belay on the perilous second pitch and consequently can make the climb in comparative safety. It is advisable to make this climb during daylight hours, but preferably very early to avoid disturbing conservative campers and rangers (who, by the way, have a station very near the route).

Roped climbing begins at a prominent buttress on the W side of the church. About 10 feet above is a down-sloping ledge of red slate and, above that, a dark patch of stained glass shows on the vertical sandstone wall. The first pitch leads up and to the right (S) of the buttress. A short friction traverse (S) along the slate ends just beneath the dark patch described previously. The second pitch begins in a corner just beyond. Stem the corner as far as possible. An overhang at the top can be bypassed by

a short traverse N onto the face. Then mantel onto a broad ledge. The third and final pitch begins several feet E, across a wide platform, and runs E up a long sloping layer of slate. The climber should stand firmly on both feet and use friction to ascend to the razor-back ridge of the mountain. An optional traverse N along the ridge offers splendid views of the park. Descend to the ledge at the top of the second pitch and rappel the entire length of the buttress to the ground. Note: in the first ascent the rappel was supported by a human anchor, but an alternate method would be to run the rappel rope over the buttress top and anchor one end to the ground.

Traverse. A popular bit of unroped climbing on Mem Chu involves a traverse N from window to window across the lower level of the W face. Also recommended is a chimney-technique ascent up the corner formed by a tower and an arch at the N end.

Buttresses. Several buttresses of varying widths afford opportunities for bear-hug technique or even straight climbing. A favorite is near the back (S) of the church on the E side: the adventurous climber may ascend as far as he desires, without belay, on easy holds (see SE Buttress, infra). Buttresses at the back of the church have been viewed as potential first-pitch routes for future first ascents of the S face.

SE Buttress. First ascent: Spring 1971. This is one of the most continuous and unprotected routes in the park. "The route to the top is obvious and requires no further explanation."

**ENCINA HALL**

This great monolith, the second largest single mountain in the park, stands just E of Mt Hoover, somewhat removed from the main climbing areas of the park. There are no records of major ascents made on it before 1962, when the famous corner route was opened up. However, there is some evidence of climbing activities — chiefly bolts to protect window-to-window traverses, dating from the time Encina was a major Stanford Park campsite. Climbers have noted a number of ridges and corners that should offer additional routes, but the corner route described below provides the most readily accessible belay spot, and for this reason will probably remain the most popular.

Corner. First ascent: 27 January 1962, by Hal van Zoeren. Approaching from the W, follow a wide E-trending valley that parallels the main ridges of Encina, which is on the left (N). Mt Hoover will be clearly in view behind you. The valley

becomes a narrow pass, then widens again. At this point turn left (N) and advance down an improved trail to the NE corner, where roped climbing begins. The route is one of the longest in the park, and even a sturdy climber may tire somewhat. Therefore, it is advisable to have a support party set up a strong upper belay. A bombproof belay point can be safely reached via a winding staircase within the mountain. The belayer should either obtain a license or have friends among park authorities. Belaying may be done from apertures in the N wall at any level, making the climb as long or as short as the climber may desire. A gap in the E wall at the beginning of the climb makes the first few moves rather difficult. Most climbers prefer to do a very wide stem, though some begin on the E wall and traverse N across the top of the gap and into the corner. Once this obstacle is overcome, the route proceeds straight up for some 40 feet. It ends with a traverse

W along an extremely narrow ledge on the  
N wall and a final thank-God grasp at  
the belayer's ledge.



## CHEMISTRY BUILDING

Corner. First ascent: Spring 1962, in several parties that included Lucy Ames, Frank Cole, Lee Donaghey, Dave Eddy, Judy Lovelace, Dennis Wilson and Hal van Zoeren. The corner is located on the N side of the Chemistry Building and is easily recognized by a broad cement platform at its base and metal steps that rise just beside it. The first-ascent party used the top of the staircase for its belay point. If belayed in this manner, the climb represents a true test of the climber's skill in Stanford Park corner technique because the angle of the belay increases as the climb progresses, and any dependence on the rope near the top is likely to result in a free pendulum fall. However, there is some potential for a new and more directly overhead belay point in a window. It is best to make this climb in the very early morning hours and to be especially alert

for unusually hostile rangers who patrol this area. Roped climbing begins in the corner, on top of the platform. Stem upward for about 20 feet on satisfactory holds until a strange rock formation on the N wall comes into view. At a point almost directly level with the belayer, traverse right (W) for a step or two across the face, and then onto the belayer's ledge. Descend via the stairs or rappel down from the belay point against the N face or in a free rappel.

## OTHER MOUNTAINS

Burbank Hall - Tribolet Bolt Ladder.

First ascent: Winter 1970 by Chuck Tribolet. On the S wall of the SE entrance to Burbank is this three-storey bolt ladder. Climbers should bring their own screws and hangers. Beware of particularly wild animals in the vicinity.

Memorial Auditorium - Lillich Chimneys. First ascent: Spring 1971, by Al Lillich. . Beside the E and W doors of Mem Aud, these routes are obvious.

(New) Business School - Liebacks.

First ascent: Spring 1971. On the lower S wall of the Business School (reached by descending any of several improved trails into the dry moat surrounding the building) is a series of vertical cracks running upward about 10 feet to a ceiling. Although fairly shallow, they may be ascended by fairly strenuous liebacking or by quite improbable jamming.

Mt Hoover. Stanford Park's most

3

visible landmark, Mt Hoover towers over the surrounding landscape in majestic symbolism. The first ascent of Mt Hoover is unknown, although it is known that several parties reached the level of the carillon on the first day of the elevator's operation. The first to set foot on Mt Hoover's virgin outer walls was a party in 1949 that rappelled, presumably from the level of the carillon, painting a trail of gigantic footprints behind them. Their feat was duplicated in 1952, with the footprints going in the other direction. The treacherous layer of exfoliating red slate above the carillon has been surmounted and the actual summit reached. This route, beginning at the bells, has been closed by the placing of iron bars all around the carillon to prevent persons from slipping off. In the later 1960's, one intrepid climber sought an interior route via great vertical caves serving as heating conduits; he was apprehended twice in the same

evening after scaring the bejabbers out of the night janitor with the sounds of his exertions; the route has subsequently been abandoned. In a fog of secret mystery, word began to circulate in the 1970-71 season about midnight drilling of a bolt ladder up Mt Hoover's walls and a successful assault of the summit. This exploit remains in the realm of legend or fantasy, just as those who made the climb would have it. It is suggested the route be known as the Lost Dutchman Bolt Ladder. In 1971 lightning struck Mt Hoover, dislodging the 300-pound spherical summit stone, which cratered in an adjacent parking lot. Climbers are therefore urged to check the weather forecast before attempting the lofty heights. Bottled oxygen is unnecessary.

