



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

1619 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

Dear fellow Antarciticans:

The annual spring garden party of our Society will be held at the Stronghold Estate on Sugar Loaf Mountain near Dickerson, Maryland (map attached) on Friday, June 18, 1971, from 3:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. This is the site of last year's very successful party. The party will consist of a social hour with cocktails (cash bar) from 3:30 until 7:00, at which time a dinner buffet (menu attached) will be catered by the near-by Comus Inn.

As some of you already know, the United States will issue on June 23 a stamp commemorating the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty. The Antarcitican Society is a co-sponsor of this stamp, and is having special envelopes printed to mark the occasion. First day of issue cancellations will be available at two locations in the Washington, D.C. area (only). In the though that many members who normally are not interested in stamps may want to acquire first day of issue covers for themselves or for their friends, our program following the buffet will be on polar stamps and covers. Society Director Tom Kelley, a long-time member of the American Society of Polar Philatelists and a stamp expert of international repute, will explain how the stamp was designed, our Society's involvement in the ceremonies attendant to its issuance, and give some suggestions on unique "covers" that members may acquire with a little imagination and trouble. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime U.S. Antarctic Treaty Commemorative Stamp.

The Georgian-Colonial mansion, Stronghold, is being made available exclusively for the Antarcitican Society party. Weather permitting the party will be held in the extensive gardens adjoining the residence. If it rains, come anyway, for we will move inside the large mansion. You may want to bring informal or casual clothing, especially if you decide to arrive mid-afternoon, as it is only a short distance to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain.

The cost for the garden party will be \$6 per person. Children 10 and under will be the guests of the Society and will receive a special buffet and soft drinks at no cost. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a repeat of last year's most enjoyable occasion in a very delightful atmosphere. Friends of members are, of course, welcome.

Please complete the attached reservation form and return it with your check as soon as possible, but not later than June 11, Reservations may be made by telephone to Fred Brownworth or me at the Geological Survey, (202) 343-8995, or to me at home (703) 560-4372. WE KNOW THAT FRIDAY MAY BE INCONVENIENT FOR MEMBERS, BUT PRIOR COMMITMENTS, ETC., MADE THIS SCHEDULING NECESSARY. WE HOPE YOU FIND IT POSSIBLE TO COME ANYWAY. (AN HOUR'S LEAVE, MAYBE?)

Pete Bermel, Chairman
Program Committee

STRONGHOLD-IS

April 1, 1969

First, a small mountain, geologically unique; second, a man, Gordon Strong, who "discovered" it and recognized its possibilities and then, in 1946, organized Stronghold, Inc., a non-profit corporation to develop the potential of the little mountain. He had some idea that people who have an appreciation of natural beauty are better people, people who treat each other better and that the mountain offered a means of bringing about that appreciation. Lastly, it is a dedicated staff, headed by a Board of Trustees of eleven men who serve without pay.

After "discovering" the mountain in 1902 (it was previously discovered in 1707 by Swiss, Louis Michel) Gordon Strong, a Chicagoan of Scotch ancestry spent over 50 years acquiring the mountain, until, at his death in 1954 he held 2350 acres. In 1926 he made arrangements that permitted the public to share with him and his wife the more spectacular parts of the mountain.

Gradually, the property was improved with roadways, landscaping and buildings, including his own residence. The natural-looking lake at the foot of the mountain is not natural at all; it was once a flat field where killdeer nested among the stones. The Georgian-Colonial residence was built in 1912 and enlarged in 1928. It is only one wing of an intended imposing structure that will be used to further the aims of Stronghold, Inc. that now owns the mountain property. The principal aim of the corporation is to do the thing that Gordon Strong conceived, "the teaching of an appreciation of natural beauty."

Since all his relatives were well-provided for in the will of his father, Henry Strong, and by the trust fund set up by it, Mr. Strong, in writing his own will could devote most of his assets to the mountain. Accordingly, a trust fund was arranged with The Riggs National Bank of Washington and the modest income thereby arising was directed to be paid to Stronghold, Inc. This income is now used by that corporation to maintain and develop the mountain.

In its administration of the now nearly 3000 acres in its care, the Board of Trustees proceeds on the principle of maintaining the area in as near a natural state as possible. Sugar Loaf Mountain as well as being possessed of considerable scenic attraction is geologically important. Geologists have said that the determination of its formation and subsequent history may well provide the key to the structure of the western Piedmont area.

A motor road permits driving to near the foot of the sugarloaf-shaped top of the mountain and at its terminus is ample parking hidden among the trees. From this point a trail leads to the top, 1283 feet above sea-level, and at its beginning Mr. Strong had erected a sign which reads:

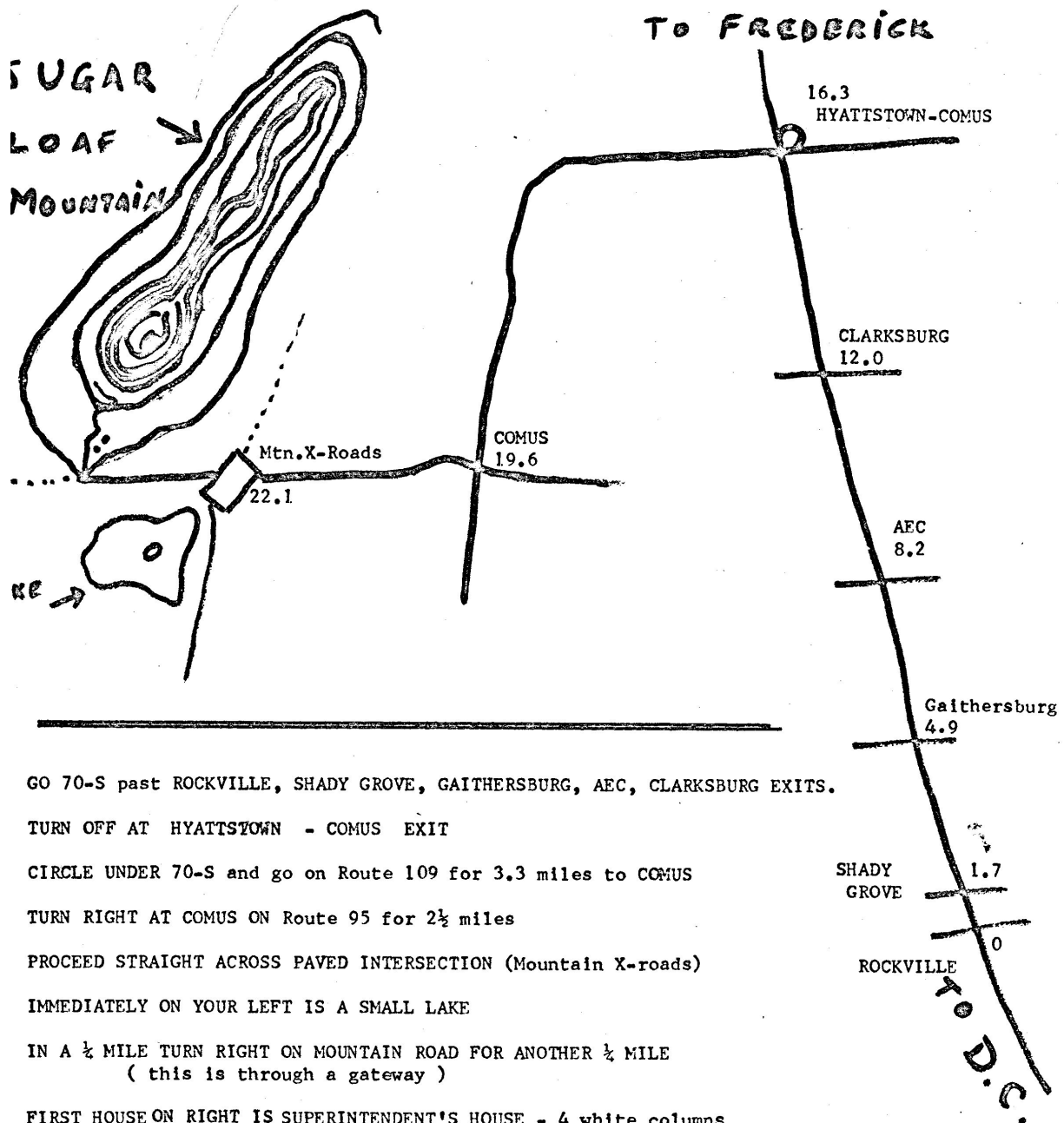
"One quarter mile horizontally (but it's not horizontal)

325 feet vertically (but it's not vertical either)

Tetanda est via (a trail well-worth trying)"

We feel sure that those who visit and walk about this little mountain will enjoy it and will benefit both physically and mentally.

When he "found" it, Sugar Loaf Mountain was far off the beaten track, a wilderness surrounded by lovely farming country and accessible only by rough dirt roads, always dusty when not impassable with mud. Now it is an easy 50 minutes from the Nation's Capital, northwest on Interstate 70-S toward Frederick. Its wooded and rocky peak overlooks farm country, still lovely, but daily becoming more crowded with dwellings, government offices, laboratories and the many service facilities that population requires. We shall preserve this "gem."



GO 70-S past ROCKVILLE, SHADY GROVE, GAITHERSBURG, AEC, CLARKSBURG EXITS.

TURN OFF AT HYATTSTOWN - COMUS EXIT

CIRCLE UNDER 70-S and go on Route 109 for 3.3 miles to COMUS

TURN RIGHT AT COMUS ON Route 95 for 2½ miles

PROCEED STRAIGHT ACROSS PAVED INTERSECTION (Mountain X-roads)

IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR LEFT IS A SMALL LAKE

IN A ½ MILE TURN RIGHT ON MOUNTAIN ROAD FOR ANOTHER ½ MILE
(this is through a gateway)

FIRST HOUSE ON RIGHT IS SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE - 4 white columns

AROUND THE BEND IS THE STRONG RESIDENCE - PARKING LOT THIS SIDE OF IT

NOW IF YOU PREFER TO STEER BY SPEEDOMETER: Start at Rockville 0 and
find mileages indicated on this map.

DINNER BUFFET

MEATS

Baked Ham

Turkey

Roast Beef

Swedish Meat Balls

Shrimp Salad

Fried Scallops

Chicken Salad

VEGETABLES

Au Gratin Potatoes

Baked Beans

Peas with Mushrooms

SALADS

Tossed Salad

Cole Slaw

Fruit Jello Mold

RELISHES
HOT ROLLS
BEVERAGE

ICE CREAM FOR DESSERT

1. Cost per person is \$6.00.
2. Children 10 and under will receive a "mini" portion of above menu at no cost.

I will attend the Garden Party with_____ guests.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ .

Number of children 10 years and under who will accompany
me as guests of the Society. _____

(Name)

Make checks payable to the "Antarctican Society" and mail
with this form to:

Peter F. Bermel
8505 Cottage Street S.W.
Vienna, Va. 22180