

The Sierra



ECHO

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NO. 2



COMPUTERIZED CAMPING

Outdoorsmen who are having a hard time finding a place to rough it will be aided by a new service called Computicket. Originally devised to sell sports and theater tickets in major cities, the computerized ticket system will permit a camper who wants to visit a California State Park to request camping space for his family and his rig on a date he specifies by applying at a bank, store, or wherever a Computicket outlet is located. The answer comes back in a few minutes, offering an alternative date if his first request cannot be met.

NEWSWORTHY SUGGESTION

Those who visit the Sierra both summer and winter may find it worthwhile to subscribe to one of the Owens Valley newspapers, which contain ski and hiking news not usually printed elsewhere. The Inyo Register (P.O. Box 787, Bishop, Ca. 93514) costs only \$5.95 a year. It is a weekly newspaper. (Barbara Lilley - Mugelnoos)

ECHO STAFF

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

April 13, 1970

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to the following new members whose addresses are listed in the Membership List at the end of this issue:

MILOS BENES
ED B. HILL
EARL HYNDS
PAUL KLUTH
DENNIS E. LAUTZ
FRANK K. McDANIEL
HAL PAULSON
EDWARD ROSE
M. A. (MAC) TERRELL

PROJECT FLASH I

You'd like to write a letter supporting a conservation issue but don't get around to it? Project FLASH makes it easy. You receive a postcard, a message to copy, the address, and further facts and details about the most critical conservation problems of the moment. You do not receive material on every issue, as it is distributed on a rotation basis.

To join, call Conservation Chairman Ann Hunt at 376-9143. Project FLASH makes it easy for even the busiest person to make his voice count for conservation.

COVER PHOTO

Thanks once again to Tom Ross and his High Sierra Studio, Independence, Calif., for his fine photo of Mt. Darwin and its glacier with Mt. Goddard in the distance, taken from John Wedberg's Cessna on March 15, 1969.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

Radio and television personality Arthur Godfrey has given an ultimatum to the Colgate-Palmolive Co. to change the format of the commercials he does for Axion so that the public will know that this presoak laundry product is a pollutant. A spokesman said Godfrey had been told that Axion did not cause pollution but that he later found this was erroneous. The spokesman said that if Godfrey continued the Axion commercials, he would "have to tell it like it is." (Los Angeles Times 2/6/70)

EEL RIVER "BOAT-IN"

The Loma Prieta Paddlers will sponsor a "boat-in" on the middle fork of the Eel River in early May to demonstrate to the Department of Water Resources that free-flowing rivers provide recreation and wilderness experience for many people. All white water boaters who are capable with kayak, canoe, foldboat or raft are urged to join this two-day outing which will cover the 29 miles between Covelo and Dos Rios. This section of the Eel is runnable by boaters of modest ability, yet it provides plenty of white water excitement and spectacular wilderness scenery. The exact weekend for the event cannot be selected until April, because it requires a forecast of the date when the water level will be suitable for the different kinds of boats and the capabilities of the participating boaters.

Last spring the Sierra Club and other conservation groups averted construction of a Dos Rios dam which would have flooded the Round Valley Indian Reservation and the town of Covelo. Now, this part of the Eel is again threatened by a proposal to build one or more dams. Planners generally justify the cost of dam construction by assigning values to the sale of water, flood control and recreational use of the resulting reservoir and its surroundings. The sum of these values is compared with the "worth" of the river in its natural state. The results of this calculation can be unfair if the planners do not realize how many people boat on, and otherwise enjoy, rivers in their natural state. A large turnout for the boat-in will remind the planners and the public about the recreational and scenic values that are found only in free-flowing rivers.

If you have the experience and equipment, you can arrange to join the boat-in by contacting Dick Schwind, Route #2, Box 324, LaHonda, Ca. 94020.

ASCENTS

SPS SNOWSHOE TRIP, Feb. 14 - 15 Erick Schumacher

The scheduled snowshoe trip to climb Mt. Silliman in Sequoia came off as planned but with a few modifications. Namely, we had four snowshoers and four skiers, neither group requiring the use of their equipment on the way in. The trip was organized with a leader for each group; two of the skiers, however, began to fall behind and decided to return to the cars after lunch.

Friday night while sleeping at the Hospital Rock campground we were drizzled on by the tail end of a storm that had just passed. Several of us took refuge in the excellent outhouses provided at the campground. Before sunrise the stars appeared overhead, and we were greeted in the morning by a new snowline only a few hundred feet in elevation above us.

After a belated start from the Wolverton parking lot, we started up the trail only to lose it after several miles and a stream crossing. The numerous stream crossings, several feet of snow and the unmarked condition of the trail made staying on route difficult. Saturday night, just short of our destination (Twin Lakes), we camped in the trees. We all stayed up unusually late for a winter snow camp around a fire built on the top of an 18-inch-high pile of bark from a dead Sequoia.

After leaving camp at around 9:00 Sunday morning, we started for Silliman Pass, our revised objective considering the time available to return to the cars. About eleven we reached the pass, but strangely we did not see any lakes on the way. Apparently we had come up the wrong canyon and we were at J.O. Pass (maybe).

In any case, all of us agreed it was an enjoyable trip and well worth repeating. In the future, due to the reliability of the roadhead, the trip could undoubtedly be scheduled in advance, even during the unpredictable winter months and be assured of coming off OK.

A S C E N T S , cont'd.

PILOT KNOB AND LAMONT PEAK, February 28 - March 1 Art Wester

After wandering around the south bank of the South Fork of the Kern River for an hour or so and then finally finding a bridge, ten of us started in a light drizzle for Pilot Knob. By noon, the drizzle became a steady rain, and comments of "Well, the sky looks lighter over there, it will end any minute," had ceased. An hour later, in a white-out, four of us decided to return to the cars.

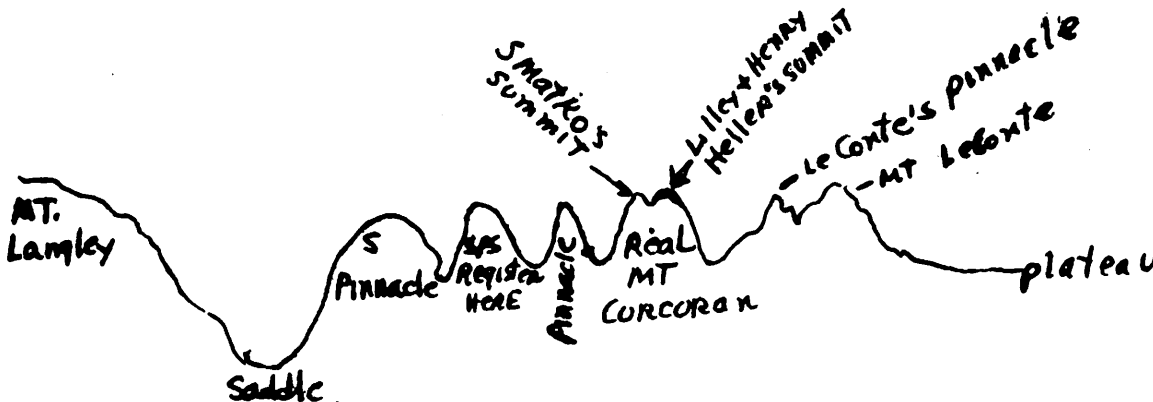
Frank and the rest decided to try for the top, since we were only about 700 feet from the summit. The intensity of the rain (becoming mixed with snow) was increasing steadily as was the density of the clouds. About fifteen minutes after the group split, we could see Frank and the rest coming down too. Fred Bode and DEMIKIRAT lead the way out over slick, muddy roads. Most of the group return to L.A. on Saturday night.

* * * *

P R I V A T E T R I P S

M T . C O R C O R A N R E B U T T A L

by Barbara Lilley



The above sketch might help clarify the issue raised by Andy Smatko's article in the last ECHO, as a misunderstanding was apparently involved. The main mass of the "official" Mt. Corcoran has a fairly large summit area with several high points on it; the Smatko party chose one high point to leave their register and the Heller party chose another; the high point with the Heller register was reached by myself and Wally Henry in September, 1969. As there were four or five people with Carl Heller, there are now more people who believe the northern point is higher. A trip to move the SPS register will probably be scheduled in the next year or so, and an effort can be made at that time to determine which is really the highest point.

I would like to point out that we did not climb the LeConte pinnacle instead of Mt. Corcoran, we climbed it in addition to Mt. Corcoran and returned over the summit of Mt. LeConte. This route was confirmed about two weeks later from the ridge east of Lone Pine Peak, from which the view of the area is about like that in the sketch.

MT. LAMARCK, January 24 - 25 Al Fowler

On Saturday morning Ben Lindenstien, Frank Risley and his son Mike and I started out from Aspendale about 8300' and a mile or so below the turnoff to North Lake. The weather was overcast, and we were expecting snowshowers in the afternoon. It was not necessary to put on snowshoes until after we made the turnoff to North Lake. From North Lake we continued up the road and eventually took the high trail to Grass Lake. From there we headed southwest to Upper Lamarck Lake where we set up camp. The trip in took about seven hours, and by the time we got the tents up, it was nearly dark.

The weather improved and Sunday was a beautiful, clear but not-too-cold day. The climb took about three-and-one-half hours from Upper Lamarck Lake. We did not head directly toward the summit but instead headed south from Upper Lamarck Lake until we reached the ridge. Three of us made the summit and were rewarded with a beautiful view of the snow-covered Sierra. The trip out was long and tiring. We made the car in the dark about 6:30. It was a beautiful climb of an otherwise unimpressive peak. Three of the four of us (one knew better) were using the plastic snowshoes. The opinion after the trip was that they are okay for a cabin at Big Bear or an emergency but not suitable for sustained backpacking or climbing.



CLIMBING AROUND THE BIG ARROYO

by Andy Smatko

For over a year Bill Schuler and I had planned a trip to the Kaweah Peaks Ridge and the Great Western Divide opposite it to climb distant peaks. From August 26th to September 3d, 1969, our plans came to fruition.

Leaving Mineral King with 45-pound packs, Bill and I were joined by Bill Croxson in the climb over Sawtooth Pass. We dropped to Columbine Lake and crossed over the ridge to the north, just east of Peak 11,772'. Near the top this pass is Class III on both sides, but it does save some distance and altitude gain en route to the Big Arroyo. After dropping to about the 10,600-foot level, we contoured near the head of the Big Five Lakes basin, climbed over a pass on the ridge to the north and then dropped into upper Little Five Lakes basin. We stayed on the south side along the lakes, hit the trail below the third lake down and proceeded to a camp on the Big Arroyo. The 1956 topo map is in error in that it shows a trail continuing north from beyond the crossing of the stream coming from Lake 10,175' all the way north to the Big Arroyo. Actually, about one-quarter mile north of said crossing the trail turns down east to the Big Arroyo. Even the latest revised topo map does not show this descending trail in the right place.

Next morning we easily crossed the Big Arroyo and ascended steeply along the stream coming from Lake 11,825' up to the 11,200-foot level, where we were fortunate in finding a good campspot on a small ridge over the stream. After lunch we then climbed the face of Gray Kaweah, 13,860+' and Class II over large talus blocks. The east face is spectacularly sheer, as are most of the Kaweahs on the east and northeastern sides. As the pinnacles to the northwest looked as high or higher, Bill and I climbed these--Class III, and loose besides, but the first summit definitely was the highest.

The next day, Bill and I started out with rope and hardware for the Squaretop Kaweah. There was no problem gaining the saddle southeast of the peak. From here the route up the southeast face looked frightening. From the top of the 50-foot talus pile heading up from the saddle we roped up, and the first pitch went around out of sight to the right. The Climbers Guide says the rock is fairly sound -- it isn't. The ledges are very exposed; in fact, except for the sloping ledge above, the exposure was severe and continuous even along the knife-edged summit ridge. Anchored belays were used throughout the climb. Ours was the fourth ascent; the first was made in 1935 by Ruge and Smith.

On our return to the saddle we eyed the striking pinnacle to the southeast. Although the Climbers Guide says it is Class III from the saddle, we didn't believe it. We took a chance and dropped down southwest from the saddle for 40 feet. On rounding a sharp buttress, we found a steep chute, Class II to III, heading up to the east. Except for one 30-foot pitch on smooth 65° granite, the climb was easy III to high II to the summit. Our ascent was the second; Koontz, Murphy and Peters made the first in 1953. This pinnacle we named Bilko pinnacle. We rappelled over the steep, smooth step lower down.

Next day Bill and I started out to climb Koontz and Pyramidal pinnacles. The south chute (see Climbers Guide), Route I, was very loose and should be done one at a time as there is no place to dodge the rocks that inevitably are loosened by a climber. Up to and around the west face of the Pyramidal pinnacle is loose and steep. The ridge is gained west-northwest of the base of the pinnacle and the route is straightforward -- easy Class IV -- three pitches to the summit ridge which is then easy Class III to the summit. Ours was the fifth ascent, the first being by Dawson and Elchorn in 1932. Koontz pinnacle has an awesome, concave west face. From the saddle between Koontz and Pyramidal the route up to the ridge is very loose Class III -- actually, because of this looseness, it should be Class IV. Because of exposure on loose Class III, we used a rope. Our ascent was the second, the first being made in 1953 by Koontz and party.

The next day the two Bills climbed to about 13,200 feet on the Black Kaweah. Bill Croxson became a bit shaky here and they decided to turn back for safety reasons.

On August 28, Bill Schuler climbed the Red Kaweah solo, and on his return we then descended to the Big Arroyo and followed it up to a camp east of Peak 12,160+'. From this camp a striking summit -- 11,600+' -- was eyed and next day we climbed it via the southeast ridge. The summit block was Class IV and the upper 300 feet were enjoyable Class III. Ours was the second ascent. The honor of the first ascent went to Dr. Pasternak and the four Explorer Scouts who perished in the San Bernardino Mountains last winter. In their honor we named this peak "Post 90 Peak". After descending to the large lake to the southwest, we climbed Peak 12,160+', 0.7 south-southwest of Eagle Scout Peak. Except for a bit of Class III near the top, the ascent was Class II. Ours was only the third ascent, and the last previous ascent was in 1951, 18 years ago. We tried to traverse to Peak 12,022' along the ridge, but soon large Class IV blocks intervened, and we had to drop to the east and regain the ridge further on via a Class IV chute. Peak 12,022' has a benchmark and bore the name Tenderfoot Peak. It has been climbed numerous times -- even by Girl Scouts. Our next objective was Eagle Scout Peak. Intrepid Bill Schuler ferreted out a Class IV route down the north face, and scary it was in spots, along 10-inch ledges with gaps here and there. We gained the saddle between Tenderfoot and Eagle Scout and then ascended the latter via the southeast face.

Next day we three climbed Peak 12,250', 0.6 miles north of Mt. Lippincott. The climb was Class II via the east ridge over large blocks. Surprisingly, this too turned out to be a third ascent, and it too hadn't been climbed in 18 years. We descended via a steep chute on the west face and traversed the southwest face to well below the saddle connecting it to Lippincott. We thence gained the northwest ridge of Lippincott and essentially followed it to the summit. Bill Croxson decided to return to camp while Bill Schuler and I descended the south ridge of Lippincott and headed up the north

ridge of Peak 11,830+' which we hoped would be a first ascent. Alas, we saw two climbers descending this same ridge. They turned out to be Carl Heller and Bill Stein. They told us they had just made the first ascent, so we had to be content with a 20-minute-late second ascent. We left a register in the cairn they had built, and then pushed on toward Peak 11,850+', 0.5 miles to the southwest. This is a double-summitted peak with the west summit being about 50 feet higher and low Class IV in difficulty. Neither summit had a cairn, so we finally got a first ascent. We built cairns and left registers on both summits. We returned via Lake 10,410' and hit the regular trail north to our camp.

On August 31, we backpacked past the SPS encampment in Little Five Lakes and gained Black Rock Pass, from which Bill Schuler climbed Mt. Eisen and Peak 12,080+'. Bill Croxson and I climbed the same 12,080-foot peak via the west-northwest chute, easy Class III near the summit. There was a cairn but no register on this rocky summit. On our return we descended a steep chute on the northeast face and traversed around to the Black Rock trail and waited for Bill Schuler.

The next day we went out over Glacier Pass.

* * * *

E C H O E S F R O M T H E P A S T

Ten Years Ago in the S.P.S.

In February, 1960, while skiing at Mammoth Mountain with Sy Ossofsky and Barbara Lilley, Bud Bingham seriously fractured the tibia and fibula of his right leg. One week later Sy Ossofsky suffered a spiral fracture of his right tibia. Both of the casualties were transported to Los Angeles via the Barbara Lilley Ambulance Service.

Sy Ossofsky was among the first to join the SPS in 1960. Sy claimed that he climbs Sierra peaks in order to stay in shape for skiing.

Graham Stevenson, Bob Bear, Bob Cooley, Robin Ives and three others reported on their recent climb of the three big Mexican volcanoes. Noteworthy was their renaming of Popocatepetel. The new name given was "Pill Hill" in recognition of the principal item in their climbing diet.

The first SPS trips for 1960 were scheduled for April and included Morro Rock at Morro Bay and Cone Peak in the Santa Lucia Coast Range; Scodie Mountain, Sorrel and Plute Peaks, and Mt. Perkins.

--Ron Jones--

* * * *

O U R M E M B E R S W R I T E

Are other members of the SPS aware of a trend of public opinion, i.e., "the Sierra Club wants the wilderness for itself"?

During the past several years I have seen this idea expressed in newspaper editorials (the Bakersfield Californian, in particular, during the hassle about Mineral King), and have heard it in private conversations many times.

We know this is not true, but I'm certain that individual members of the Sierra Club can do a lot to change the person-to-person image that enforces this feeling among outsiders. Each member of the SOS could make a real contribution in this way, if on every trip, at every chance meeting, he would present himself first as an individual enjoy the wilderness, and second as a member of the Sierra Club.

Many residents in China Lake are members of the Sierra Club (some are members both in Los Angeles and Kern-Kaweah Chapters). But because of the geographical location, many of us climb with groups not designated as Sierra Club. Last summer a friend of mine said her pleasure in the climb of Big Kaweah was diluted by the presence of a large Sierra Club group. Because, she said, "they acted as if it were their mountain and I was an intruder."

A second friend was a member of a Mountain Rescue Association exercise to check out a rescue unit on snow and ice techniques. On a "Los Angeles" mountain, this group was met by a skier who berated them on slowness, lack of knowledge, lack of appreciation of the mountains -- and the skier called attention to himself as one who knew about all the proper details because he was a Sierra Clubber!

A similar bad experience happened to me in 1965 when my daughter and I climbed Brewer and met Bay Area Sierra Clubbers, who pointedly resented our presence on "their" summit, trying to sign in "their" register. Earlier, in 1964, when I climbed Bloody with a joint DPS-SPS group, I had the same feeling of being an "outsider" and unwelcome to at least a part of the "insiders."

I, too, prefer to enjoy my summits with a few good friends. But if another climber finds his way to the top, it must be because he too has a really desire to be in the mountains.

Conservation of the wilderness may be a losing battle in this time of population pressure. The few of us who care about the wilderness for itself cannot afford to lose public goodwill in even the slightest, most superficial relationship with any member of the human race. The mountains are not reserved for us, the members of the Sierra Club. Let's be careful that "outsiders" understand that we want to keep the wilderness for anyone who cares enough to come into it.

—Elizabeth Anderson,
China Lake, California--

* * * *

S I E R R A

C O N S E R V A T I O N

N E W S

Mineral King: This lawsuit (Sierra Club v. Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior of the United States, et al.) has been successful to date in obtaining a temporary injunction to prevent a massive ski development in a Game Refuge which integrally should be a part of Sequoia Nat'l. Park. The matter is now on appeal to the Ninth Circuit where the club's standing to sue and other legal questions are at issue.

Yosemite: In a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, Feb. 14-15, 1970, the Club is opposed to use of the Tioga and Glacier Point Roads and other roads in Yosemite Nat'l. Park by snowmobiles whenever those roads are closed to other vehicles.

Granite Chief: After holding a wilderness hearing in October, Tahoe Nat'l. Forest Supervisor Branagh has decided against recommending establishment of a 35,500-acre Granite Chief Wilderness on the northwestern rim of Lake Tahoe Basin, as proposed by the Sierra Club. Instead his management decision establishes a 21,000-acre "vehicular exclusion zone" including Granite Chief, Five Lakes Basin, the North and Middle Forks of the American River, Picayune Valley, and Whiskey Creek, Five Lakes Creek, its side canyons, and Grayhorse Valley will continue to be subject to multiple-use and logging. This decision is unacceptable to conservationists. Christopher Carr, of the Mother Lode Chapter, said a request will be made to Regional Forester Jack Deinema asking that Branagh's recommendation be rejected and the issues heard again. Letters in support of this request should be sent to Deinema, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, 94111.

CLIMBING ROUTE INDEX

Compiled by Ron Jones

Recent rainy weather has given me the opportunity to work on a long-planned index for climbing routes of named Sierra Peaks from past issues of the ECHO. I have attempted to include only climbs with route descriptions, either base camp routes or routes on the peak and have not included many fine writeups which make no mention or incomplete mention of the route. I would like to have included routes on unnamed peaks, particularly the many fine descriptions by Andy Smatko and Tom Ross, but these proved difficult to identify easily in this index. There may have been a few write-ups which were overlooked, and for these I apologize.

Following the name of a peak there will be a series of two numbers; for instance, Tunemah Peak 12-7/8-4. These figures mean that route information for this peak can be found in Vol. 12 issue number 7 and Vol. 8 issue number 4 of the ECHO.

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"to explore, enjoy, preserve"