

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 14

MAY

1970

NO. 3



This photo of North Palisade from the glacier was taken by the late Niles Werner in the late 1950's and is shared with us by Louise Werner, his wife.

Bob Michael will be in another part of the country and cannot present the June program as scheduled. As a fortunate replacement there will be a movie of an expedition to the Cordillera Carabaya by the Kiwis, the Auckland Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club. Fourteen major peaks were climbed with several first ascents. Gordon Palmer will narrate the film.

HINDU KUSH EXPEDITION

Did you see the Tuesday, May 5, showing of "Once Before I Die" on NBC-TV? It told the story of seven amateur climbers who scaled a 20,000-foot peak in the Hindu Kush. Jack Dozier of the Mother Lode Chapter, one of the participants in this climb, sends us the following announcement:

"Attempt on Koh-i-Marchech (21,200') and first ascents (19,000') in upper Bashgal, Afghanistan. Stable weather, isolated high mountain tribesmen. New York nt. July 18-August 15, all costs \$900. Three spots available. Write re. experience and condition to Jack Dozier, 305 N. El Dorado St., Suite 301, Stockton, Ca. 95202, leader of three prior Kush expeditions."

ECHO STAFF

Published ten times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$2 per year.
Subscription to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS.

REMITTANCE:

Should be sent to the SPS Treasurer: Bob Mason
428 So. Spalding Dr.
Beverly Hills 90212

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

May 18, 1970

NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

BEST WISHES to Sy and Ellen Ossofsky who announce the arrival of William Eli, born March 18, weighing 6 lbs. 11 ozs.

* * *

IT HAS TO BE SHASTA --
May 28 - May 31

The S.P.S. and Ski Mountaineers Section have joined in planning an exciting trip to Mt. Shasta (14,161') which enables participants to enjoy three days of climbing and skiing without the long drive. The Greyhound bus will depart Los Angeles at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28, and will make a pick-up in the San Fernando Valley at 7:30 p.m., returning to downtown Los Angeles at midnight on Sunday, May 31. Participating mountaineers must have a BMTC Certificate or comparable winter experience with knowledge of the use of an ice axe. Skiers must have passed the ski mountaineering test.

Cost of the round trip will be \$35. Interested climbers should contact Randy Bernard, 3427 Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena 91107, for complete details. LET'S SUPPORT OUR SECTION'S ACTIVITIES!!!!!!!

WINTER LEADERS SOUGHT

Qualified leaders who are interested in scheduling trips between October 31 and February 28 are asked to contact Schedule Chairman Jerry Keating before June 1. Hopefully, a variety of winter ascents, some on snowshoes, can be arranged. Proposals for ice axe and rock climbing practices also will be welcomed.

WADDINGTON EXPEDITION PLANNED

A private expedition to the Mt. Waddington, British Columbia, area is being planned for this summer. The three-week trip will start July 11, 1970, at Campbell River, B.C.

The cost will be between \$400 and \$500 per person.

We have room for three or four more "in shape" climbers who are willing to assume a share of the planning and work. For more information, contact the leader Dan Eaton, 4043 East Avenue T8, Palmdale (phone 805-947-0231) or Wally Henry, 10837 East Avenue N8, Palmdale (phone 805-944-1632).

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

1970 Summer Schedule

- Jul 3- 5 Stewart - Eagle Scout -- Fred Hoeptner, Bob Mason
" " Williamson (BFTC) -- Bill Feldman, Frank McDaniel, Brendan Bausback
- 4- 5 +Norman Clyde -- Wally Henry, Steve Rogero
- 11-12 Henry -- Dick Jali, Jim Jenkins
" " Banner - Ritter -- Jay Wiley, Ed Hill
" " Treasure Lakes Family Backpack -- Ted Maier, Izzy Lieberman
- 18-19 Dragon - Black -- How Bailey, Horace Ory
" " +North Palisade -- Ron Jones, Art Wester
" " Cedric Wright - 11,910' - 12,080' -- Andy Smatko, Bill Schuler, Tom Ross
- 25-26 Bear Creek Spire -- Dick Sykes, Bob Strommer
" " +Clyde Minaret -- Art Wester, Eric Schumacher
- Aug 1- 2 Silver -- John Robinson, Ron Jones
" " Winchell -- Bill Hunt, John Thornton
- 8- 9 Lipincott -- Al Fowler, Art Wester
15-16 Onion Valley - Kings Canyon Bus Trip (WIA) -- Ed Ostrenga, Mark Goebel,
Tom Blackburn
- 15-17 Hooper - Seven Gables - Senger - Recess -- Jerry Keating, Art de Goede
Elton Fletcher
- 22-23 Humphreys - Emerson -- Bob Van Allen, Norm Rohn
" " San Joaquin - Two Teats -- Dick Sykes, John Castel
- 29-30 McGee -- Don Anderson, Eric Schumacher
" " Hitchcock - Young - Hale -- Gordon MacLeod, Neko Colevins
- Sep 5- 7 +Kaweah Peaks Ridge -- Dick Beach, Art Wester
Julius Caesar - Merriam - Royce -- Fred Hoeptner, Todd Taylor
- 5- 9 Tehipite Dome - Tunemah - Finger - Reinstein - Spanish -- Elton Fletcher,
Art de Goede
- 12-13 Deerhorn - W. Vidette -- Don Anderson, Ron Jones
" " Virginia - Twin -- Bob Mason, Pat Bertoldi
- 19-20 Silliman -- Horace Ory, Ed Stork
- 26-27 Vogelsang - Florence -- Jay Wiley, Art de Goede
- Oct 3- 4 Alta -- Elton Fletcher, Jerry Keating
- 10-11 Sawtooth - Vandever -- Ron Jones, Art Wester
- 17-18 Smith - Spanish Needle -- Wally Henry, Paul Lipsohn
- 24-25 Pilot Knob - Lamont -- Brendan Bausback, Randy Bernard
- + 4th class

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Jul 8

Aug 12

Sep 9

Oct 14

ASCENTS

CARTAGO-SPANISH NEEDLE, March 14-15 E. W. FLETCHER

Twenty-two climbers showed up for Cartago on Saturday, of which only eight were SPS'ers. The schedule write-up mentioned 6,500 feet of gain, but this apparently was considered a challenge and not a warning to the climbers.

The right roadhead is elusive, and we didn't find it. We left Olancha by a paved road and crossed over the railroad and followed the aqueduct going north on the east side. We parked at Cartago Creek, crossed the aqueduct by means of the culvert, and went straight for the east ridge north of the creek. We later found out that we could have gone north for a mile or so, crossed to the west side of the aqueduct, and then driven up a dirt road to the southwest that would have saved a mile and about 500 feet gain. This road can be reached from Cartago, which would be the easiest way.

We left the cars at 8 a.m., which was too late for the amount of climbing ahead. Although the party moved slowly, the leaders were patient, as the climb was described as a conditioner. Perhaps some of the slower ones should have been turned back in order to keep the group moving at a more reasonable pace. Eventually, 16 of the 22 reached the low third class summit at 5 p.m., and everyone was back at the cars at 11 p.m. Some of the experienced SPS'ers like co-leader Art Wester, Bob Herlihy, Wally Henry, Ed Hill, Rich Janecky and others did a remarkable job of encouraging, helping, and leading the new hikers back to the cars. The bright moon was also a big help.

Special thanks should be given to Wally Henry for finding the right summit (10,539 USEM) which is about three-quarters of a mile southwest of high point 9910. The summit shows east of the crest on the quad map. A new register was left by Art Wester.

For Spanish Needle, 15 climbers started climbing out of the Sand Canyon roadhead at 8 a.m. Again, only eight were SPS'ers, and only six of the Cartago climbers showed up, proof of the hard climb the previous day.

Bernie Petitjean accepted the responsibility of co-leader, and along with Don Anderson, became in charge when leader Fletcher pooped out. (Blame it on the previous long day!) The group climbed correctly to the ridge, but alas, they climbed a pinnacle to the south. Time did not permit an attempt on the true summit, so they returned to the cars at 5:30 P.M.

It should be noted that the false summit to the south had been climbed by other parties, so the route is tricky. For the nature lovers, bear tracks were observed close to the false summit.

A D D E N D U M

SPANISH NEEDLE, March 28 (Non-scheduled) Bernie Petitjean

Eight eager hikers left the roadhead in San Canyon at 6:20 a.m. to begin the climb of the true (north) summit of Spanish Needle. The writer, in an effort to atone for his error of two weeks previous, gathered as many of the March 15th conquerors of the south summit of Spanish Needle as he could for a repeat "vengeance" climb. Four of the eleven hikers who had reach the south (wrong) summit two weeks earlier were joined by three newcomers to the peak, plus Elton Fletcher who came down for another go at it. This time the trip went beautifully, with some interesting rock scrambling up along the eastern ridge, climaxed by the climb of a vertical chimney of approximately 40 feet which was encountered just below the summit. The view from the top was superb -- clear sky with snow-capped peaks filling the entire northern horizon.

The descent was made in good order, roping up for the chimney, with Don Anderson and Paul Lipsohn rappelling down. A festive celebration with cake and wine provided by Lu Petitjean was enjoyed by all upon return to the cars.

Notes in the register, which now reside in a brand new official SPS canister, indicate that several other parties had also mistakenly climbed the south summit -- one entry referring to it as "Polly's Needle."

* * *

MT. MORRISON, April 11 Frank Riseley

On a beautiful spring morning 15 people left the Convict Lake roadhead at 6:15 a.m. and climbed up good firm snow over Gillet Creek to the base of Morrison. One climber, grossly out of shape, gave up after ten minutes. The remaining 14 stayed together all the way. We climbed the snow chute between Morrison and Peak 11,108' from the east almost to its saddle. Then we climbed up steep snow on the south side of the chute to the east ridge of Morrison, which we followed to the top. Snow conditions required us to do about 100 feet of climbing easy third class rock about two-thirds of the way up the mountain. The climb took five hours, and the view was magnificent. Rock Creek was delightful.

* * *

CRAG AND LAMONT PEAKS, April 18-19 Wally Henry

As the sun rose over Kennedy Meadows on April 18, 1970, 21 shivering, eager hikers urged the leader to stop talking and get going before they all froze to death. Two miles up the trail these same 21 people faced the moment of truth when confronted with a knee-deep stream crossing. All survived the icy water but were haunted for the rest of the day with the knowledge that this painful experience would be repeated before they could get back to camp. Crag Peak and the usual two false peaks were bagged by 1st of those starters.

Sunday found a slightly different group merrily caravanning to Smith Mountain roadhead when they were stopped short -- about six miles short -- by a locked gate.

As the group was getting out the rope to hang the leader, someone suggested climbing Lamont Peak instead. The leader was quick to second this motion. Some controversy arose over the true location of this peak. Some say Paul Lipsohn lost over a case of beer before the day was out. At any rate, 18 people signed into a register placed by Burl Parkinson in 1958, that claimed that what we climbed was the true Lamont Peak.

RIO GRANDE OUTINGS

The Rio Grande Chapter publication, the SIERRAN, announces that chapter's spring and summer schedule, which might interest anyone who will be in New Mexico or the area on the following dates. If interested, contact Brant Calkin, Rt. 1, Box 267, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

May 29-31, hiking and/or horseback trip from Navaho Mountain Trading Post to Rainbow Bridge. Two days over-land travel; the third day come out via boat to Page.

June 6-7, overnight backpack from Santa Fe ski basin to Cowles.

July 3-5, narrow gauge railroad trip to Needleton for a backpack from Animas Canyon to Vallecito Campground.

Sept. 5-7, exploration of the upper parts of Canyons de Chelly and del Muerto.

Oct. 3-4, Carrizo or Chuska Mountains for the aspen color. Explore part of the proposed Teec Nos Pos-Canyon del Muerto Trail.

PRIVATE TRIPS

MUIR PASS

Andy Smatko

During the nine days from September 13 - 21, Bill Schuler, Tom Ross and I made a number of ascents near the Evolution region, the Black Divide, the Goddard Divide and Moonlight Lake. One of these was a first ascent of a 13,000'+ peak.

On Saturday we started from the Lake Sabrina roadhead and steeled ourselves for the back-breaking, leg-wearing climb over Echo Col. This col east of Clyde Spires is Class II except for the upper 30 feet which are Class III. We descended along the western shore of the large lake south of the col to the first timber and camped just at dusk.

Next day we backpacked to the Muir Hut and deposited our packs. While Bill climbed Mt. Fiske and Peak 12,782' (along the Class III ridge), Tom and I climbed Peak 13,231' (1 mile north of Muir Pass), Peak 12,800'+, (Mt. Ithaca 1 mile west-southwest of Muir Pass) and Mt. Solomons, 13,016' (0.5 mile south of Muir Pass). Mt. Ithaca was a second ascent after a loose Class II climb via the east slopes. Mt. Solomons is Class II from nearly anywhere, although we climbed it via the west ridge and descended a steep chute on the northwest face.

Next day we three made the second ascent of Peak 12,804' and traversed along the crest to the spectacular summit of Peak 13,046' -- mostly Class II. Descent of the latter was via a loose chute on the west face. Bill went on to climb Mt. McDuffie via the north ridge while Tom and I traversed under the west face of striking Peak 12,880'+, 1.0 mile southeast of Charybdis. We attained a point on the southwest side, and if we had had enough time could have gained the south-southwest ridge and followed it to the summit. Instead we turned back and climbed Peak 12,880'+, 0.6 mile south-southwest of the Black Giant. Ours was a second ascent, the first having been made just a year before by two climbers from Albuquerque. Bill meanwhile climbed the Black Giant, and we all returned to the Hut.

The following day we crossed over the pass southwest of Muir Pass and climbed Peak 12,960'+, 0.4 mile east-northeast of Peak 13,081' on the Goddard Divide. This is an imposing peak, but it turned out to be high Class II up the east ridge except for the exposed Class III summit block. There was no cairn on this block, although there was a cairn on a lower nearby block. No register was found. We built a cairn on the highest point and left a register. This peak we named Cyclops Peak. While Bill descended a very loose steep chute on the southwest side, Tom and I (we did not have a rope with us here) elected to retrace our steps and met Bill shortly.

The three of us then proceeded to climb Peak 13,081'. There was a cairn but no register here; so we left a register and named this peak Mt. Iliad in keeping with the Homeric names in this region of the Ionian Basin. We could not traverse along the ridge because it turned to Class IV, so we dropped several hundred feet to where we could traverse and climbed Peak 13,040'±, one-half mile northeast of Mt. Goddard. Although this summit is close to Goddard, there was no evidence of previous visitation, and we were rewarded by a first ascent. A cairn was built and a register was deposited. We named this peak Mt. Styx. My 40-foot contour Mt. Goddard topo map shows this peak to be 13,000'±. Mt. Iliad looked nearly as high. The north face is sheer while the east and west ridges and south slopes are Class II. Bill went on and climbed Mt. Goddard where he met two young climbers, the first people we had seen since we left Lake Sabrina. Again we camped at the hut.

PRIVATE TRIPS, cont'd.

Next day we dropped north to near Sapphire Lake and ascended Peak 12,350', 0.5 mile southeast of the Hermit (Class II via the southeast ridge). Tom spent a leisurely afternoon, while Bill and I went to the saddle to the northwest and dropped down, traversed, and then ascended the chute on the west side of the Hermit and climbed it. We returned via the scenic McGee Lakes basin and that evening camped at Sapphire Lake.

Next day while Bill climbed Mt. Huxley, Tom and I climbed Mt. Spencer. We then proceeded over the col south of Mt. Wallace -- a loose trudge indeed. Camp was made along the stream below Echo Lake.

The following day we went over the col south of Peak 12,147' and dropped down to just above Baboon Lake. We followed up past Sunset Lake and crossed the crest just east of the steep chute heading towards the summit of Mt. Powell. We did not like this latter chute, as rocks came down frequently, so we dropped some on the south side of the crest and traversed until we could gain the capacious plateau of Mt. Powell. We then climbed the west summit and the higher northeast summit. Not liking any visible route on the north face, and likewise not desiring to retrace our steps, we decided to go down the steep northeast chute. All went well until we hit black, brittle ice -- for about 200 feet the going was dangerous. However, we finally gained safe ground and made rapid tracks for camp.

Our objective the next day was "Echo Peak" -- just east of Echo Lake and a striking peak from any view. Bill, Ellen Ossofsky and I just missed climbing it last year and had a score to settle. Ed Lane made the first ascent with Gary Lewis two years earlier. We were prepared with the necessary hardware and this time made it. However, ours was the third ascent, as a Sierra Club Base Camp party climbed it in 1968. One Class V pitch was encountered on the way, and we rappelled down this place on our way back. The ascent was via the west ridge.

Tom meanwhile climbed Peak 13,040' + 0.3 mile east of Mt. Haeckel -- named Hungry Packer Peak for the lake just below it. I forgot to mention that from the col south of Mt. Wallace Tom climbed south along the ridge to the summit of Grumbly Spire, which might be considered one of the Clyde Spires -- and furthermore it is higher than the Clyde Spire. We three then backpacked to Blue Lake where hundreds of campers and hunters were draped over every available rock.

No peaks were climbed the last day. We had had enough. The mornings and nights were cold -- reaching freezing temperatures most of the time. Climbing time was short and early starts were mandatory. Very few hikers were in the back country at this time of year. Stream crossings were no problem. The air was sparkling clear and the weather generally dependable.



WRONG SIDE OF THE MOUNTAINS

I'm sure you have heard lots of tales of people and happenings in the Sierras, but I believe this is probably the first time you have ever heard of someone ending their hike on the wrong side of the mountains!

This young man (who shall remain anonymous for obvious reasons) is a very experienced backpacker, and during the summer he spent almost every weekend in the Sierras.

WRONG SIDE OF THE MOUNTAINS, cont'd.

As a grand finale to the summer vacation, he planned to spend Labor Day weekend exploring the Gardiner Basin - Rae Lakes area. He began his solo journey by hiking to Golden Trout Lake where he spent the night. The next day was spent in crossing the crest and proceeding to the Rae Lakes area, where he spent Thursday night.

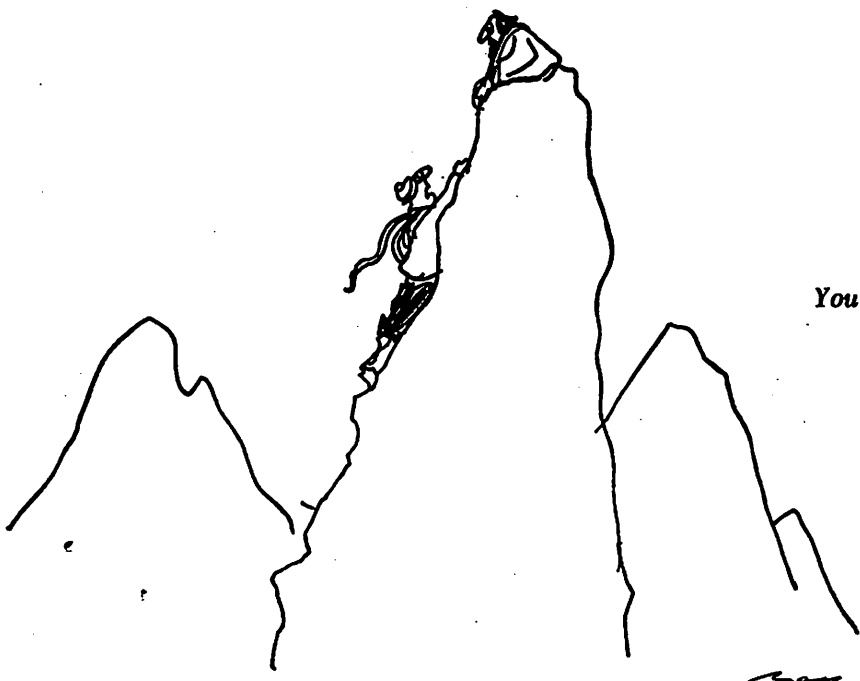
Friday he hiked to Sixty Lake Basin and explored the area east of Mt. Clarence King. Saturday he crossed into Gardiner Basin by hiking over the low ridge to the south of Mt. Cotter. At the Gardiner Lakes he joined the trail which is shown on the Mt. Pinchot quad as following Gardiner Creek and then proceeding over Gardiner Pass. His plan was to follow this trail all the way to the Kearsarge Pass trail, and then follow it back to Onion Valley.

As he proceeded down Gardiner Creek, he somehow missed the point where the trail leaves the creek and heads toward the pass. He entered a brushy area, but the trail he followed was ducked, so he did not worry. After several miles, the ducks disappeared, and the brush was thicker than he had expected. Going through the brush for a while, he finally concluded that he had missed the turnoff. However, the idea of going back through the brush did not appeal to him, so he continued following the creek.

His problem, however, was that he only had a Mt. Pinchot quad with him, and since he had moved off of that map, he did not know where he was going. He spent the night next to the creek, and the next day continued down the creek. He wasn't worried as he was sure that the creek would lead him either to a trail or a larger stream where he could get his bearings. Happily, he reached the Paradise Valley trail which he followed downstream. Not knowing where he was, he was forced to ask the first person he met, "Where am I?" When told, he was rather unhappy, since it was Sunday and he was now almost 20 miles from his car, and he was supposed to work the next day.

Doing the only thing which seemed logical, he continued on to the end of the road below Zumwalt Meadows, where he had to wait for several hours before he could hitch a ride back to Los Angeles. He reached home about 7 p.m. Sunday night. To retrieve his car, he talked his brother into driving him back up to Onion Valley that night, from where he drove it home. He returned home for a second time at 4:30 a.m. Monday (with his car). Tired and bedraggled, he showed up for work several hours later and told us his story.

--Donald Huebner--



"You're not Swami Vivekananda?
You mean I climbed the wrong mountain?"

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

QUESTIONNAIRE

Return to Ron Jones

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1. Do you think the SPS should lead more easy trips, suitable for beginners? | ___ | ___ |
| Suggestions: _____
_____ | | |
| 2. Do you think the SPS should lead more exploratory trips into the Sierra, going into seldom-reached areas or attempting seldom-climbed nonqualifying peaks? | ___ | ___ |
| Suggestions: _____
_____ | | |
| 3. Would you participate in winter mountaineering trips if they were scheduled: | ___ | ___ |
| Suggestions: _____
_____ | | |
| 4. Do you think the SPS should lead more spring snow and ice climbs? | ___ | ___ |
| Suggestions: _____
_____ | | |
| 5. Do you think the SPS should lead technically difficult trips involving rock climbing skills of fourth class or higher? | ___ | ___ |
| Suggestions: _____
_____ | | |
| 6. Do you think the SPS should lead car camps into the Sierra? | ___ | ___ |
| Suggestions: _____
_____ | | |
| 7. Should the SPS schedule more: | Yes | No |
| Snow and ice training sessions | ___ | ___ |
| Third-class rock climbing sessions | ___ | ___ |
| Fourth-class rock climbing sessions | ___ | ___ |

8. Should the SPS become more involved in conservation work?

___ ___

Suggestions: _____

9. Do you have any suggestions for the type of scheduled monthly programs or the conduct of our business meetings?

Suggestions: _____

10. Do you have any suggestions for changes in the section newsletter, the ECHO?

Suggestions: _____

11. Are there any changes in SPS policy or emphasis which you would like to see?

Suggestions: _____

----- RETURN TO RON JONES -----

Mr. Ron Jones
3302 Narino Drive
Palos Verdes Peninsula, Ca. 90274

MEMBERSHIP LIST CHANGES

Fred Hoeptner, Secretary

Due to a misinterpretation by the secretary or lack of communication with the former Management Committee, the following members IN GOOD STANDING were omitted from the membership list:

*Castel, John R.	2801 Rosecrans Blvd., #3, Gardena	90249	327-5124
*Jali, Richard M.	4748 La Villa Marina, Marina del Rey	90291	823-3470
*Lilley, Barbara	9421 Lindley Ave., #18, Northridge	91324	886-4154

The following members have reinstated:

Inskeep, Jon Z.	5224 Bubbling Well Lane, La Canada	91011	790-5461
*McNutt, Ken	6267 Jackie Ave., Woodland Hills	91364	346-8030
**Miller, Charles and Mary Ann	4085 Clover Valley Rd., Rocklin	95677	(916)624-2776
Rose, Keith	4342 Crossvale Ave., El Monte	91732	444-2725
Strommer, Robert	826 Venezia Ave., Venice	90291	392-6117

The following new members are welcomed:

Gedaugas, Jurgis A.	318 Pershing Dr., Playa del Rey	90291
McRuer, Duane	357 S. Meadows Ave., Manhattan Beach	90266

The following correction should be made to the membership list:

**Romero, Ben and Miriam (add stars)

Since the membership list was made up prior to the decision of the Management Committee as to what constitutes an activity, some are listed as members who should not have been so listed (because of lack of activity) and some may not be listed who should have been listed. If anyone notes a discrepancy, the secretary would appreciate notification. The new Management Committee is attempting to make the system work and would like to start by making the records as accurate as possible.

* * * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Probably because I paid for ECHO subscription renewal on time in December to the 1969 SPS Treasurer, Dick Jali, in cash, the record of payment was lost and my name was not included in the new SPS Membership List. There must be some justice in this world, however, because Dick Jali's name was left off the list also! As apparently there is a very good chance of error in the transfer of records to new management, I would like to recommend that, before a new membership list is prepared, some sort of notification, apart from the ECHO, be mailed to those who are to be dropped. This could be in the form of a printed postcard warning the person and also including a statement to the effect "Please notify us if our records are in error." Anyone who learns that they have been left off the 1970 Membership List in error is strongly urged to write to the Management Committee!

--Barbara Lilley--

THE SIERRA ECHO
3300 Corinth Avenue
Los Angeles, Ca. 90066



"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

Chuck Miller
4085 Clover Valley Rd.
Rocklin, Cal. 95677