

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 14

JULY

1970

NO. 5



NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following new members who have each climbed at least six qualifying peaks:

Harry Brumer, 1116-D West Ave., Fullerton
92633, 879-6029

Kent Davis, 5904 Tampa, Tarzana 91356
Geoffrey Glassner, 3810 Wilshire Bl,
Los Angeles, 386-8220

Carol Miller, 19261 Bernetta Pl.,
Tarzana 91356, 345-1611

Clyde Newman, 3225 N. Marengo, Altadena
91001, 794-3604

Jack Votion, 18100 Roscoe Blvd, North-
ridge 91324, 345-4568

Additional and very special CONGRATULA-
TIONS to our two newest mascots:

Barney Mason, 11917 Gorham, LA 90049

Sheila Mason, 11917 Gorham, LA 90049

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 mem-
bership in the SPS.

REMITTANCE:

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

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

July 13, 1970

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Palo Alto SPS'er Bill Rausch and his
bride, the former Louise Wilson. They were
married on May 16 in Yosemite Valley. For an
account of the wedding, see page 11.

ED LANE PEAK NAMING DENIED

Andy Smatko regretfully passes on the
following reply from the U.S. Department of
the Interior Board on Geographic Names:

"Dear Dr. Smatko/We regret to inform
you that at its recent meeting the Board on
Geographic Names did not approve the name
Ed Lane Peak upon the recommendations of
the California Advisory Committee on Geo-
graphic Names, the U.S. Forest Service, and
the National Park Service. It was felt
that there is not a significant associa-
tion between the proposed name and the
peak in question."

TRIP REPORTS SOLICITED

Trip reports are certainly one of the
most important and interesting aspects of
the ECHO. Regretfully, the editor reports
that these have not been coming in promptly
and that due to a trip to Michigan and a
move into a house from an apartment, she
does not have time to "bug" trip leaders
personally. Would the leaders of the fol-
lowing trips please send their writeups
to the editor at her new address (see
masthead) as soon as possible:

Mar 28-29 Rock Climbing Practice
May 23-25 Cobblestone & White #2
May 23-24 Mt. Perkins
May 28-31 Mt. Shasta Bus Trip
Jun 6-7 Kennedy & Harrington
Jun 20-21 Matterhorn
June 20-21 Rixford, Bago, Gould

CHRISTMAS TREK PLANNED

Timothy Treacy plans to spend this coming
Christmas-New Year period in Mexico climbing
the Mexican volcanos. If you are interested
in making such a trip and would be willing
to share an auto rental for ten days in
Mexico, contact him at 165 Pfeiffer Street,
San Francisco 94133.

Calendar

Although included among scheduled trips listed in the May issue of the Sierra Echo, the writeup for the following outing was not received in time to meet the printer's deadline for the Angeles Chapter Schedule. Prospective participants are invited, therefore, to make note of the details:

OCT 17-18

SAT-SUN

SIERRA PEAKS

Smith Mtn. (9515'), Spanish Needle Pk (7879'): Meet 7:30 a.m. PST Sat at store near junction of Ninemile Canyon Rd and Kennedy Mtns Campground road. We'll climb Smith, 10 mi r.t. with 2100' gain, Sat, then carcamp somewhere in Sand Canyon. Bring wood and water. Sand Canyon turnoff is 4 mi N of Green Acres Cafe on Hwy 395. Sun climb Spanish Needle, 8 mi r.t. with 4400' gain. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Sand Canyon camp. Lug soles mandatory as peak has some third class rock near summit. Leaders: PAUL LIPSOHN and WALLY HENRY.

COVER PHOTO

This month's striking cover photo (slightly cropped by the editor) depicts a clearing storm on Mt. Williamson. Photographer TOM ROSS shot the picture from Fort Independence in April, 1970.

SIERRA

Conservation

NEWS

REINSTATED MEMBERS

*Robert Herlihy, 2801 W. Rosecrans, Gardena 90249, 323-9337
Chet Rowland, 13902 Fiji Way 223, Marina del Rey 90291, 823-1494
Gerald Snyder, 165 Olinda Dr, Brea 92621

ADDRESS CHANGES

George B. Davis, PO Box 93, Topanga 90290
Fred & Judy Hoeptner, 2434 Fairmount, La Crescenta 91214, 249-8914

SIERRA SNOWPACK

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power reports that the 1970 runoff from that portion of the Sierra snowpack which they measure annually (south of Tioga Pass) is estimated at 87% of normal. This compares with 250% of normal for the winter of 1969.

YOSEMITE ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees for Yosemite National Park were suspended June 17. Therefore, Tioga Pass travel will now be free. Charges will continue for camping in the park, except for back country camping, of course.

CAMPING LIMIT SET

A one-day camping limit per party at any one site will be in effect in the Pear Lake area and along the Rai Lakes Loop Trail this summer, as a measure to relieve pressures on the most heavily traveled sections in the back country of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Park Superintendent John S. McLaughlin announced recently. The greatly increase visitor use of the back country has made management measures imperative to protect the fragile high mountain resources and prevent pollution of water supplies. The National Park Service hopes rotation and spreading of visitor use will accomplish this purpose.

Kern Plateau Trail Vehicle Problem

The Sierra Club opposes the use of trail bikes in areas of the Kern Plateau that qualify for Wilderness classification. Specifically the Sierra Club opposes the use of trail bikes on the trail from Willow Meadows Camp to Hole-in-the-Ground.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Last month I hit you pretty hard about the bighorn sheep problem in the Sierra. The subject is the same this month, but it is not necessary to hit so hard.

I have been in contact with the Inyo Forest wildlife biologist, Dave Dunnaway. Dave is an interesting guy who seems to have a real love for his job in general and wild things in particular. He mentioned a number of species which are found only in the Inyo Forest, such as the black frog, indigenous to a ten-acre area near Bishop and nowhere else in the world.

We are setting up a meeting to find a common ground for minimizing the bighorn sheep problem in August. Unfortunately, I cannot extend an invitation to all of you for this vital meeting, since it is to be a working meeting and thus limited to a small number. I will report on what happens here later.

The Forest Service is considering the following:

1. Require permits to enter the bighorn management areas.
2. Limit the size of parties entering the area.
3. Restrict travel to designated trails.
4. No overnight camping allowed within the area.
5. No new trails will be constructed in the management area.

On another subject, even more vital to us all, SAFETY. We have had several close calls already this season in which members of the climb became separated from the rest of the party. In two instances, rescues were in the process when the missing members were found. These times we had no tragedy.

With the ever increasing number of newcomers attracted to mountaineering, and with our perennial problem of developing and securing qualified leaders, we are facing the likelihood of accidents more frequently.

As many of you know, I personally am concerned with our conduct on ice and snow. I urge you leaders to offer Saturday seminars in self-arrest techniques, even at the loss of that second peak, if demand warrants.

When the angle is steep and the consequences of a fall severe, use a rope. Make it fixed, if possible; demand belays if necessary. For those of you new to the SPS, we have had our tragedies with both snow and streams. Think about it. Read the AAC Accident Report.

--Dick Sykes--

* * * *

TRIP NOTE REGARDING AUGUST 15 - 17 OUTING TO HOOPER - SEVEN GABLES - SENGER - RECESS

Muir Trail Ranch (Box 176, Lakeshore 93634), which operates ferry service across Florence Lake, reports it now operates a new 28-foot boat that can carry 20 or more passengers. The one-way fare, regardless of the party's size, is \$2 per person.

ASCENTS

MT. BRADLEY, May 16-17 Bill Wickmer and Dave McCoard

On a perfect Saturday morning 15 climbers met at Pinyon Creek Campground for the start of a spring snow climb. Due to a late start we found ourselves battling the heat and gnats. We followed slight trail to about 8,500 feet; from there on it was snow to the campground at 10,100 feet. We arrived at the campground by 2 p.m., and around 3 o'clock five of us decided to have a look around. We then decided to kick steps in the chute to the plateau for the following morning. On reaching the plateau we had the urge to climb the last 1,200 feet but decided to wait until the next morning. The glissade to camp was fast and exhilarating. Saturday night proved to be mild and pleasant.

Sunday morning we left camp at 6:30 a.m. Reaching the chute we followed the steps we had previously kicked. Now frozen, they were like a trail to the plateau. From there it was an easy climb to the summit, which was reached by 13 of us. The views from the top were spectacular. The perfect weather and views added together for a memorable weekend. The leaders were fortunate to have a well-conditioned group of climbers.



MT. EMERSON and MT. GOETHE, May 30-31 Horace Ory

On a beautiful May morning 16 of us left the Memorial Day crowd behind and set out from North Lake campground toward Piute Pass. There was a little snow along the way, but when we dropped our packs above Loch Leven we saw that hopes for a snow climb of Emerson had melted away. Instead, a group of 15 scrambled up the west edge of the granite rib that runs down to Loch Leven, staying on easy rocks and slabs until a few hundred feet below the summit, then dropping into the adjacent chute that led directly to the summit, with some minimal Class 3 near the top. There seemed to be just enough room for everyone on top, as photographers jostled for position to snap Humphreys' best side. Scree and some remnants of snow expedited the descent. Even so, for several this was the first time at altitude this year, and there was only limited enthusiasm for pushing on toward Goethe. So we compromised and camped on the spot.

That left a long snow haul to Goethe for next day, but in the optimistic spell of a cheery campfire it seemed only a matter of distance, and several eager beavers made plans to trod on Goethe. In the fresh light of dawn, with clear heads after a good night's rest, the number shrank to four, as the majority settled for a hike up to Piute Pass. The four hard-heads (no hats) made good time over the pass, past Muriel and Goethe Lakes, and up to Alpine Col, traveling on hard snow with some step-cutting and even a little clear ice above Goethe Lake. There were brief hopes of being on top by ten, but the hopes were dashed into hip-deep holes in the sun-warmed slope beyond the col. The pattern for the rest of the day was set as every other step was bottomless, and it was noon by the time we mushed onto the summit. The view was a fitting reward -- a bleak landscape of snow and rock, brightened by a sparkling blue pool centered in Goethe Lake. Best not to mention the language used as we sloshed back to camp through soft, wet snow, but only the pleasure of removing wet boots after we lugged our packs down the trail.

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

MTS. PRATER and BOLTON BROWN, June 13-14 Dick Jali

Amid clouds, occasional rain and howling cold winds, 13 SPS'ers left L.A. and drove up the Owens Valley. By dawn the winds had ceased and it was clear, although a few clouds and a dusting of new snow hung ominously on the peaks.

By luck or skill, one leader did not show up, so Gordon MacLeod alone led the caravan from Independence up the very poor road to the Tinemaha Creek roadhead, as shown on the topo (Big Pine quadrangle, USGS 15' series). This road is hard on low-slung cars, although only one got stuck, and only one ruined tire and a small oil leak were incurred.

The trailless, rocky, brushy canyon almost immediately claimed two victims -- one out of condition and the other "discouraged" when a large rock upon which he was standing overturned and scraped his shin. They started back for the cars and were never seen again. The remaining 11 continued up over rock faces and through thickets to an above-timberline bowl for lunch.

As the party was going up, the weather was coming down, and the earlier clear skies were now covered with clouds, while the wind blew with occasional snow flurries. Somewhere in here (about 10,700 feet) the stream forked and, instead of going right, the group stayed left. Thus, somewhat later when the group had really gotten up high (12,000 feet) and the weather (i.e., wind and snow) was really coming down, it was realized that we were in the wrong canyon. Instead of being the one with Prater and Bolton Brown at the end of it, it was the cirque immediately to the south. By now it was too late to do anything about it, so the group made a miserable, waterless camp on snow patches amid rocks.

On the next day, still cold and cloudy, three people had now had enough and started down. The remainder set out for a col in the ridge to the north -- still entertaining the idea of trying Bolton Brown. Getting up the col was no problem, but getting down was complicated because the north side was steep and covered with loose rock. Belays were used. Five more turned back at this point, thereby missing the "marvelous glissade" encountered when the remaining three slipped and slid 200 feet down the extremely hard snow (ice) below the rocky part of the col. Traversing this was not possible without crampons, and it was still not possible to see the peak, so now even the last, most adventurous, climbers turned back.

The weather did not deteriorate further, and the retreat was completed without further incident.

* * * *

MT. SHASTA BUS TRIP, May 28-31 George Shinno

Ed's. Note: While no formal writeup has been received from the SPS leaders of this jointly-sponsored SPS-Ski Mountaineers trip, the following article was received from George Shinno, chairman of the Ski Mountaineers:

Bill Feldman, SPS and Ski Mountaineer member, broke his leg on the descent of Shasta. Bill was descending on skis, failed to make a turn, fell, and his bindings failed to release. The accident occurred at approximately the 9,200-foot level in Avalanche Gulch about 4 p.m. Saturday, May 30.

First aid was given by member skiers directed by Rich Gnagy. Charles Rugg, on skis, went down to Horse Camp for help. A large party of climbers, 20 or 25, mainly composed of SPS members, climbed back to aid in the evacuation. A Stokes litter which was fortunately in the hut was fitted with Bill's skis and slid down the mountain with the aid of the evacuation party to Bunny Flats at about 7,100 feet.

The evacuation was efficiently organized and carried out by Jim Powers and Randy Bernard, and the prompt and valuable action in bringing Bill down the mountain has minimized the seriousness of the accident.

The Ski Mountaineers appreciate the unique opportunity of climbing and skiing which was made possible by the joint trip with the SPS. We further encourage such trips, and also encourage SPS members to become Ski Mountaineers.

In addition, Dick Sykes passes along this letter which he received from accident victim Bill Feldman.

"I would like to express my thanks for the fine job the SPS and SMS members did in evacuating me from Mt. Shasta. If it had not been for the fine job Jim Powers, Randy Bernard and Barbara Lilley, along with everyone else on the trip, did for me, I would have been in real trouble.

"It appears the injury to my left leg was caused by the failure of my toe binding to operate. It appears this binding is frozen solid, and I'll pull it apart to see what failed as soon as I'm up.

"The lesson to be learned from this accident, which I could have prevented, is for skiers and climbers to constantly check their gear and keep it in shape. I was trying to get a lot done during the week and skiing or climbing every weekend, which caused me to get careless and neglect the condition of my bindings. Also I had a set of "Marker" toe bindings which would have been safer with cable heels but couldn't find time to install them.

"Fortunately, my leg is broken in a few places with no joint damage, so I hope to be climbing in the late fall and skiing sometime after the first of the year. Also because of good insurance, my losses will probably be confined to the loss of a summer and fall climbing season and a Mt. Logan expedition."

* * * *

P R I V A T E C L I M B S

MEYSAN LAKES, May 30 - June 2 Timothy Treacy

I decided to spend Memorial Day exploring the Meysan Lakes area, heretofore unvisited by me, and duly arrived at a crowded Whitney Portal at 7 a.m. on May 30. I packed to Meysan Lake in about four-and-a-half hours, passing only one intermittent stream before reaching the first lake. After a leisurely lunch in the warm sun, I climbed up a 3d class gully to a point below the westerly summit of Lone Pine Peak. The ridge leading to the westerly summit was definitely 4th class, which I decided to forego, returning to my camp. After darkness, the evening was enlivened by the light of a flashlight emanating from high on the northwest face of Lone Pine Peak. Since the light was not moving, a bivouac or more serious problem was indicated.

P R I V A T E C L I M B S , cont'd.

Sunday promised to be another fine day, and I made an early start, cramponing up the firm snow to the base of Mt. LeConte. When I started up those slopes, I heard the first whirrings of a helicopter, which was to come and go all day long from the summit of Lone Pine. I later learned that a Southern California climber had been hit by a dislodged rock and his skull fractured. He had to be winched to the summit and air-lifted from there. To return to LeConte: at the base of the summit mass, I dropped over the west side a short distance and ascended a gully until I reached a chockstone. The base of this obstruction was icy, as were the potential bypasses. I decided that this was beyond my ability to safely solo and returned to the northerly saddle. There I met Art De Goede, Elton Fletcher and one other. We climbed out on the northeast face and examined a chute rising to the summit. The lower part of the chute was filled with unstable-looking snow on slabs and was deemed unsafe for our group. Three of us proceeded over the saddle and again up the gully, but with no more success in passing the chockstone collectively than I had had singly. I was disappointed and reluctant to leave LeConte for another day.

After lunch, the others proceeded directly to Mallory, while I decided to walk the ridge between LeConte and Mallory. A high spot on the ridge had a register listing an elevation of 13,650'+; Mallory itself was an easy scramble. The now-thawed snow provided a rapid glissade path to my camp, just as a short hailstorm broke.

Monday I decided to climb Irvine via the ridge northwest of Upper Meysan Lake. I stayed atop it or slightly right until about 200 yards from the summit, when I stepped through a large crack onto the easy summit ridge. I returned by the same route and continued on the ridge to climb Candlelight. Surprisingly, the register contained very few entries. Returning to Upper Meysan Lake, I was diverted by numerous unfamiliar tracks, not those of a deer or large rodent. My fancy speculated on some local "Yeti," but my reason suggested an errant mountain lion. Early the next morning, I climbed Lone Pine by the usual "loose chute" route. The ascent is made easier by adhering to the left side of the chute all the way. From the lower Meysan Lakes, two hours got me to a now deserted Whitney Portal, and I began the long trip to San Francisco.

* * * *

MOUNT FUJI, JAPAN, JUNE 19-20, 1970 Tom Jenkins

Although the climb did not commence until June 19, the expedition, like all good expeditions, started months in advance, in February when the author met Kyoji Miyazaki, a Japanese-born member of the San Francisco RCS in Berkeley. The American contingent, consisting solely of the author, embarked for Japan on May 1 aboard the Coast Guard cutter Minnetonka, which took six weeks to reach Japan, via Honolulu, Midway, and Ocean Station Victor.

In Japan, the expedition was given excellent support by Kyoji's father and was joined by Kyoji's friend Tadashi (Tad) Shichiri, who had spent a year in the U.S. and has climbed in the Rockies, Japan and Formosa. He had climbed Fuji once before, on Christmas day ten years ago, using crampons. This, and his ability to read signs and buy tickets, made him the expedition leader.

We started off early in the morning of June 18, travelling by train and bus through modern cities, suburbs, and neat rice farming areas. We arrived at the hut at the Fifth Station, the highest point reached by motor transport and the only lodging open in the off-season, about 2:30 p.m. If one hikes the entire sacred and traditional trail from the First Station, it takes two days, usually spending the night at the Seventh Station and making the remaining ascent and entire descent the second day. A wooden souvenir hiking staff may be branded at each station in the summer, and the fifth and tenth (summit) marks are available at Fifth Station in the off-season.

PRIVATE CLIMBS, cont'd.

At the hut we met Ricard Farris of Yorkshire and Chris Ukleja of Melbourne, who were staying at a youth hostel near the First Station and had hiked up from there that day, in the mistaken belief that the entire trip took four hours. Mount Fuji is 3,774 meters (about 12,400 feet) high, and the ascent from the Fifth Station, not including the descent, usually takes that long. As we had already met Pete Schneider of Austria on the bus, the expedition was now feeding five. As planned, the author brought enough American food for two, plus some extra in case Tad didn't like something. Tad prudently brought enough food for himself and then some, in case he didn't like anything I provided, so the five-man expedition supped well on Wilson's hamburger, rib-roast rice, Japanese noodles, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, chocolate pudding, Wylers drinks, and Japanese tea, supplemented by ricecake, the Japanese survival food.

We turned in early, piling up all the quilts we wanted on top of the straw mats on the floor, and slept soundly until 5:30 a.m. when we woke to the pounding of huge rain-drops on the tin roof. We dawdled over breakfast until a phonecall to the weather station on the summit brought the news that it was not raining there. At five after seven we started out. Both the rain and the wind varied in intensity frequently, but neither ever ceased. We entered the clouds an hour after the start and stayed in them from then on.

The trail is mostly scree, well-graded even in the spring, with occasional solid rock stretches protected by chain guardrails and occasional steps cut into the rock. Slippery conditions made three spots second class. Fuji is a near-perfect volcanic cone, last erupting in 1707, surprisingly settled considering its newness, made up of cinders varying in color from black through all shades of gray to orange and brick-red. This gave an appearance of a mulch garden where tiny pines grew up through the scree. Very little else in the way of scenery was noted, as visibility was 50 feet downwind and nearly zero into the stinging rain.

The summit is a nearly-circular crater rim with a trail all the way around. The crater is 720 feet deep and contains a lake. We arrived on the rim in the respectable time of three hours and 15 minutes, driven by dreams of tea and shelter at the weather station. Ten minutes later we reached the highest point, where we believed the station to be, but it wasn't there. In two more minutes we were out on a spur with sharp dropoffs on three sides. The trail appeared to descend into the crater, and due to the fog, we elected to backtrack.

Two hours later, back at the Fifth Station, we learned from the hut manager that the station was sheltered by that spur, and the downward trail led right to it. The descent was by the same route as the ascent, going very slowly on the slippery rock and nearly running in the scree. We wrung out and changed our clothes, roundly but privately cursing the weathermen on the summit, where it WAS raining, lunched and caught the 2:50 bus down the mountain.

The return trip, by a different route, included a ride on the new Tokaido Line express, the world's fastest, and possibly fanciest, train. On the whole, we were very lucky, as this period is still the height of the rainy season in Japan, and we could easily have been chased off the mountain by lightning or a severe storm. Had we been able to wait a day, we might have been even luckier, as the storm moved downward again, clearing on the top half of the mountain by late evening.

* * * *

EAGLE PEAKS' PINNACLE #5, May 9-10 Jim Jenkins

The rigors of mountaineering, whether embraced singly or in small groups, always seem to leave time for an active mind to roam; perhaps stumbling through the arena of ghosts and haunting regrets and not leaving before the pain of old wounds returns to sear the memory; perhaps the occupation of endless longing for things you don't have;

and maybe if the perplexity is in you strong enough, there is time for thought, for conjuring up images and piecing together the fragments of life and trying to make some sense of it. A recent horrifying and joyful ascent of Eagle Peaks' Pinnacle #5 on the Sierra's Monarch Divide with Dick Jali brought out these feelings in me, and I would like to share them with you, as I would like to think that they are not unique.

A nervous hive of activity, the city; splintered land of promises to keep, psychologists to feed and clothe, asphalted maze of corroded copper tubing whose promise had once been bright, a demand for current and production tacked on the door of every import, and the tumult of confusion when the valves are thrown wide open. Just as in bleak-shelled machines, cities of men have weaknesses, tender shins that can take the barking only so much and then no more; they burst, this delicate china eggshell of individual hopes and dreams and lusts, long bruised and pecked at, is crushed inadvertently under the collective weight of a society pressing for perpetuance. There was the moment of sorrow in the land of those who knew and remembered him and wasn't it a wasteful shame and the psychologist's threadbare coat that might have been but will not be, for somewhere in the hive's lonely maze there is another who is finding society's pressures too hard to bear; another yearning for release to spread light, for perspective, some time to think. Maybe if I could get away to the mountains sometime, why, I'd have time to put it together and everything would fall in place

All mountaineers hold in their hands this sweet, precious thing, this release, whether they are aware of it or not. As with all fragile, lovely things many who do not know or do not care (beats there a hear so dead?) will invert and gouge and make of the key a cruel, misshapen tool of competition and ego and pressure, reducing nature to a stack of papers at the office: that faceless clod in the crowd you don't want to know. But it is important that we remember this; that achieving release in the mountains helps one find himself, his relation to others, and his place in our teeming, struggling, paradoxical society: for without it, or at least some form of it, one cannot expect to survive for long in sanity.

The mountains' soothing balm can be crippled and maimed and voided too, by simply not knowing or understanding or putting forth the willingness to work for this understanding, and in that first stiff, oftentimes anxious and frustrating, hour of climbing, who in his depths has not at one time or another entertained the thought of giving up, for, after all, what could be worth all that effort? Frustration and fulfillment are close companions, the former glaring with the heat of the sun, wrenching and nettle-scratching bare and diffident suntan-salve-scented (or, if you are like me and searching the rumpled and disorganized files of your mind becomes a frenzied, chaotic rummage), warmed and lightly reddening, rebelling calves straining up the dusty path; obscuring as if jealously protective of fulfillment to all but those who sacrifice willingly and gratefull the time, salt, and effort working to attain this shining release and peace within themselves. And it is not all surprising that many people simply cannot understand this; that they feel threatened by it for their failure to understand; that they would seek vengeance on those who differed because they could understand through tactics of mass-recreation, "opening up the wilderness" and cheapening its values, down to simply withholding the experience because of fancied inadequacies, the herding prod of wives and parents: of ambition and responsibility and the children and raising social esteem to think of and ohmigosh, what will the neighbors say? In such a way society has since its creation been tugging, and sometimes not very gently, to draw those who stand out for a purpose back into its self-protective coloring. And in those who stand out I am speaking of all of us, mountaineers the world over; for this potential, this joy of creation, wells deep in every one of us, whether realized or not.



NUMBER OF PEAKS UNCONQUERED BY THE SECTION DWINDLES

Jerry Keating, Schedule Chairman

Assuming certain scheduled trips will meet with success this summer, the number of SPS qualifying peaks unclimbed by the section during its 14-year history will stand at 22. A recent check of the records indicates that 220 qualifying peaks have been ascended on scheduled trips and that another three (Observation, Pettit and Volunteer) were scheduled but not reached. Prospective leaders are invited to ponder these possibilities, many of which are quite remote, for 1971:

Ericsson	Black Giant	Round Top
Stanford (S)	Scylla	Disaster
State	Emerald	Highland
Wheel	Electra	Elwell
Devils Crags	Pettit	Lola
Observation	Volunteer	English
Disappointment	Black Hawk	Adams
McDuffie		

YOSEMITE WEDDING JOINS CLIMBERS

--by Dana Isherwood, as reported in the May, 1970, issue of SCREE--

For climbers Bill Rausch and Louise Wilson, Yosemite Valley was an appropriate choice for their wedding. At 2 p.m., Saturday, May 16, Bill, Louise, family and friends met under the trees directly across from Rixson's Pinnacle. Guided by a "fixed-rope", they made their way out onto Leidig Meadow where Rev. Lowell Smith (a newly-ordained minister of the Universal Life Church) performed the wedding ceremony written by the groom. With words of caution -- they must now leave the comforts of "basecamp" and climb the mountain of life together -- Rev. Smith "tied the knot," roping the pair together with goldline. The groom called "on belay," and they proceeded with their guests to Camp Seven for a steak-beer-wine reception.

Since Rev. Smith's heretofore untested ministerial ability was as impressive as his well known climbing ability, several spectacular wedding sites were suggested for next time (Lost Arrow??, Cathedral Spire??). Will anyone volunteer?

ECHOES FROM THE PAST Ten Years Ago in the SPS

--Ron Jones--

The Lamarck Lakes were the SPS headquarters over the 1960 Fourth of July holiday. Lothar Kolbig led 31 climbers to Mt. Darwin, everyone reaching the summit without difficulty with the use of fixed ropes at the icy spots. The return to camp was marked by a three-hour hail and lightning storm.

An exploratory trip into the Sentinel Dome area of the Sequoia National Forest was led by Sy Ossosky and Chuck Gerckens in mid-June 1960. This was a 28-mile backpack capped by a near ascent of Sugarloaf Rock. (The group of 14 was stopped just short of the summit by several 5th class pitches.)

June 12 saw a large number of persons making a successful ascent of Sirretta Peak from Horse Meadow. This trip was led (or herded) by Monroe Levy and included 55 persons, only one of whom did not make the summit.

Sixty-six persons took advantage of the Memorial Day weekend to participate in the SPS backpack to the Meysan Lake area. Fifty-three persons reached base camp, and more than 65 ascents were recorded between Lone Pine Peak, Candlelight Peak, LeConte, Mallory and Irvine. One climber suffered a freak accident while he was resting below the summit of Irvine. He dislodged a large rock and it rolled, hitting his ice axe. The ice axe penetrated into his leg and caused a very painful injury.

James Allen Keating was born to Nancy and Jerry Keating on June 15. (James is now a mascot member in the SPS.) * * * *

SPS QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

--Ron Jones--

More than seventy persons responded to the questionnaire which appeared in the May ECHO. Not every person answered each question, but each question received enough replies to indicate the trend of thought of the Section membership.

Questions receiving the largest number of affirmative replies were: "Do you think the SPS should lead more exploratory trips," to which 94% answered yes; "Should the SPS become more involved in conservation work," to which 88% answered yes; and "Should the SPS schedule more snow and ice training sessions, lead more snow and ice climbs and more third class rock climbing," all of which received 80 - 82% affirmative replies.

Questions receiving the most negative replies included: "Should the SPS lead trips involving 4th class climbing skill and higher," to which only 52% answered yes; "Should the SPS lead Sierra car camps," 55% yes; and "Do you think the SPS should lead more easy trips, suitable for beginners," which received a 56% affirmative vote.

In addition to the activities replies, there were many well-thought-out responses to those questions concerning monthly programs, the ECHO and SPS policy. A report on the vote tally and selected comments and suggestions are listed below.

1. Do you think the SPS should lead more easy trips, suitable for beginners?
YES - 56% NO - 44%

Comments: Perhaps one additional trip per year.
Give the beginner a chance.
Get some family participation.

2. Do you think the SPS should lead more exploratories, going into seldom reached areas or attempting non-qualifying peaks?
YES - 94% NO - 6%

Comments: Ash Peak and Castle Rock in Sequoia, Balloon Dome, Kettle Dome, State, Marion.
Perhaps one exploratory trip per month.

3. Would you participate in winter mountaineering?
YES - 70% NO - 30%

Comments: Joint with Ski Mountaineers.
No reason for SPS to become inactive in November. The first winter trip each season should be an instructional trip for newcomers.

4. Do you think the SPS should lead more snow and ice climbs?
YES - 81% NO - 19%

Comments: Let's have some fall ice climbs with proper training sessions.
Snow climbing techniques should be practiced every trip on Saturday afternoons. Save the peak climb for Sunday.

QUESTIONNAIRE, cont'd.

5. Should the SPS lead trips involving 4th class climbing skill and higher?
YES - 52% NO - 48%

Comments: No, leave it to the RCS
Yes, but only 4th class. Leave 5th class to the RCS.

6. Should the SPS lead Sierra car camps?
YES - 55% NO - 45%

Comments: Might get the girls to participate.

7. Should the SPS schedule more:

Snow and ice training sessions	YES - 80%	NO - 20%
Third class rock climbing	YES - 82%	NO - 18%
Fourth class rock climbing	YES - 70%	NO - 30%

8. Should the SPS become more involved in conservation work?
YES - 88% NO - 12%

Comments: An activity too long neglected.

Possible that the SPS is in places no other conservation group will ever be.

Trail cleanup and camp cleanup on the way out.

Monthly conservation column in the ECHO.

We are a climbing section and should concentrate on climbing. Let the San Francisco headquarters take care of conservation.

Individuals should be encouraged to write elected officials.

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

Shorten the business meeting.

Limit the business meeting and allow adequate time for the program.

Please allow sufficient time for the program and refreshments, since these have been scheduled months in advance. Discussion should be ended at a certain time, no matter what.

More emphasis on conservation at the meetings.

10. Do you have any suggestions for the ECHO?

It would be nice if it were mailed sooner after the meeting.

Publish every month, May through October, because there is so much news at that time; then publish every other month November through April.

Avoid the "I did this" type of article. Conservation should be moved out from the stragling shadow of peak bagging.

Since we pay a \$2 subscription, it was my understanding that the ECHO would be printed monthly, every month.

Why not add an information section or technical article on climbing. Also equipment notes to aid in the selection of climbing equipment.

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

Stricter enforcement of regulations on SPS trips.

Occasional trips ought to be designated as training trips for members lacking a rounded background.

Stress exploring and start an active conservation committee.

I don't even know what the current policy is.

Have first aid classes available for the Section.

More communication between Management Committee and trip leaders.

SPS must lead safe, well-run trips and must get over the attitude of "get the peak at all costs."

A periodic questionnaire is excellent and should keep those in charge aware of the feelings of the membership.

More emphasis on enjoyment and preservation of the Sierras.

THE SIERRA ECHO
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"to explore, enjoy, preserve"