

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 14

NOVEMBER

1970

NO. 9



NEWS

SIERRA TRAGEDY REPORTED

Jerry Keating reports that the mishap described in the following writeup taken from the October 9, 1970, Los Angeles Times did not occur on Mt. Abbot; rather, it happened on Peak 12,866', northeast of Bear Creek Spire.

"Two Berkeley men were killed when a rock slide pitched them 800 feet down the sheer face of a peak they were climbing in the High Sierra.

"The Inyo County Sheriff's office identified the climbers as Carl Rollins Greene and Peter Goodwin, both 25. Both men, described as experienced climbers, were linked by rope when the slide came, officials said.

"The accident occurred at 4:30 p.m. Saturday as the men were nearing the summit of Mt. Abbott. Their bodies were recovered late Sunday night by rescue teams."

CONGRATULATIONS!

Two SPS emblem holders, the former Joyce Davis and Randy Bernard, were married in Pasadena on October 23. The Section extends its very best wishes to them.

LAST CALL FOR TRIP PROPOSALS

Persons wishing to propose trips for the period of March through the July 4th weekend of 1971 should contact Schedule Chairman Jerry Keating immediately, as he is finalizing the activities calendar. His address is 224 Gila Way, Placentia 92670, and the phone is (714) 524-3862.

NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following new members and to our new mascot member!

Eugene Hartnell, 7801 Slater Ave. #1, Huntington Beach 92647
Nathan Hoover (11 years old), 1511 Green Valley Rd., Danville, CA. 94526
Mike Morrison, 10714 Grovedale Dr., Whittier 90603; tele. 943-8379

REINSTATED MEMBER

*John Isaac, 1555 Artesia Blvd., Manhattan Beach 90266

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sid Davis, 1046 So. Robertson Blvd., LA 90035; tele. 652-5502

ERRATUM

This editor must have been dreaming when she reported on page 10 of the October, 1970, issue that Dave Dunaway of the U.S. Forest Service had spoken about the bighorn sheep problem at the September meeting. Actually, a letter from Dunaway was read at the meeting. He'll be speaking at a future meeting of the Section.

ECHO STAFF

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Subscription to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS.

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

Nov. 18, 1970

COVER PHOTO

BANQUET

Thanks once again to Tom Ross for this dramatic picture of Mt. Sill and its glaciers taken from the summit of Kio Mountain on April 4, 1970.

SPSers will undoubtedly be interested in the fine article entitled "Mt. Williamson: Giant of the High Sierra" appearing in the October, 1970, issue of SUMMIT magazine. The article was written by section member John Robinson, while the photography was done by both John and Tom Ross.

Dan Eaton and Wally Henry will present an exciting program on their Mt. Waddington expedition at the SPS annual banquet Thursday, December 17, at Sir Michael's Restaurant, 6309 E. Washington Blvd., City of Commerce. Five dollars covers a club sirloin dinner, tax, tip, and a chance at an exciting door prize. Don't delay--use the convenient coupon at the end of this issue of the ECHO to send for your tickets, available from program chairman HORACE ORY.

ASCENTS

HOOPER, SENGER, SEVEN GABLES AND RECESS, August 15-17 Art de Goede

Fourteen of us took the boat ride across Florence Lake (starting time 8 a.m.) for a three-day loop trip graced by perfect weather. After catching the somewhat poorly marked shortcut trail toward Selden Pass -- also dry, steep, with switchbacks -- lunch was had in meadowland at the Muir Trail junction. Thus fortified, then continued to Selden Pass and climbed Hooper, the summit block being conquered by four different routes, including the ladder. Then two went over to climb Senger while several enjoyed a soaking in a pond near the pass. Ultimately all gathered at Marie Lake where there was a good supply of wood and good campsites.

Independence Day [sic] was honored on the second day of climbing as six climbed Senger from camp; Seven Gables was climbed by thirteen in four separate groups, and three climbed peak 12,287' on their way to unreached Hilgard. Except for the two who backpacked out this day, all moved their packs to Sandpiper Lake for the climb of Seven Gables and regrouped on Bear Creek at about 9,100' for the night's camp. The upper part of the Bear Creek watershed is very picturesque with numerous lakes, meadows, and open spaces. The next morning, a less than careful reading of the map led us to climb to mark 11,338' (2,200' in one hour ten minutes) rather than the broad draw to the north. However, all nine of us reached Recess Peak after dropping a few hundred feet on the way. We returned to camp and backpacked out the Bear Creek trail, passing through Kip Camp along the way and reached our shuttle car about three miles along the jeep road from the Bear Diversion Dam.

While Paul Lipsohn performed yeoman service in shuttling people to their cars, several of us adjourned to the store at Mono Hot Springs for refreshments. Rock climbing practice was held on the boulders out front where Steve Rogero's prone position on easy Class 2 was judged most representative of the high levels of skill for which the SPS strives, in rock climbing, that is.

MT. MCGEE, Aug. 29-30 Don Anderson

Eleven climbers met at the North Lake roadhead for the climb of Mt. McGee. After a short distance, we lost the main trail and found ourselves following an "on-again off-again" secondary trail. Our route took us around the west edge of upper Lamarck Lake over large talus and finally up a broad chute that soon spilled out onto a wide, rather flat bench that followed on up to the "col." Because of lost time following this route, plus waiting for slow climbers, we stopped for lunch, during which time Wally Henry had taken a group of four to climb Mt. Lamarck.

Soon thereafter we rendezvoused with the Mt. Lamarck group and proceeded over the col down Darwin bench. The party soon got separated going down the bench. At the last lake three people had officially separated from the group due to their inability to keep pace.

Getting troops together again, we proceeded in unity to the John Muir trail, past Evolution Lake and on to the south end of Sapphire Lake, whereupon we turned due west cross country over a low pass, the other side of which dropped down into McGee Lakes basin. All climbers were in camp by 6 p.m.

As dawn came, only three people were set to go for the peak. The other five set out for the return trip to North Lake with the assistant leader.

Proceeding due west, we three peak baggers soon encountered the northeast spur of Mt. McGee, which we followed over intermittent Class 3 rock. Following the ridge to its end, we then proceeded directly up the east shoulder over loose and broken Class 3 directly up and over the false eastern summit, then down and then up over several secondary ridges and chutes before reaching the large main chute, the west wall of which forms the east face of the true summit of the peak. Our spirits dropped, since the climb of this wall appeared nearly impossibly without necessary ropes, etc., which we did not have. I still recall Wally's remark: "I don't think it can be as bad as it looks." We did go over and the only possible route appeared to be up into a dihedral and then into a wide crack on a very sheer, steep face that seemed Class 5 to me. I declined to go, as did the other climber. If it had been one short, difficult pitch -- then okay; but this was a hundred feet of sustained, very exposed high angle rock without protection.

Notwithstanding, Wally proceeded on his own to climb this face. My friend and I moved down the loose steep chute looking for another route, which we never found. Eventually we ended up nearly at the base of the mountain on the south side, at which point we could have traversed talus around to the west and followed the standard, rather loose and cruddy Class 2 route to the summit. However, due to lack of time, we abandoned the idea, thereby admitting defeat, and proceeded on back to base camp.

In the meantime, Wally had successfully attained the summit and proceeded down. We had been out of sight and sound of him for some time, but we soon met near the fringe of timber as we were proceeding back to camp, independent of one another.

The three of us maintained a good, steady pace on the trip out, which was uneventful to Lamarck col, where we had to leave our friend behind because of exhaustion. His plan was to spend the night there and come out the next day. Wally set a scorching pace for us to North Lake, doing the distance in one hour 55 minutes, getting us back to the cars just as darkness set in.

Notwithstanding, it was a truly great trip and a great Sierra weekend. We'll be back again, Mr. McGee!

TEHIPITE DOME - REINSTEIN LOOP TRIP, September 5-9 Art de Goede

Ten people gathered at Wishon Dam in nippy weather for the five-day Tehipite Dome loop trip. Tim Treacy kindly agreed to act as co-leader, Elton Fletcher having torn the ligaments in his knee on a previous weekend. After three miles of good road and one mile of jeep trail, the latter stretch of questionable value, we struck off by foot along the jeep trail, sometimes in ankle-deep dust. At Garlic Meadow, the ridge was taken to Spanish Mountain, our first peak with nine on top. The weather was pleasantly cool with ragged clouds obscuring the view to the south. Hardly a cloud was seen after the first day. Lunch at the lower of Geraldine Lakes was followed by the hike to a campsite on the Tehipite Trail at Crown Creek.

The next morning an hour's backpack brought us to the turnoff for Tehipite Dome. Much has been written about the best elevation to leave the trail and appropriate routes thereafter. Tim's brush-free return route leaves no question but that one should leave the trail at 7,700', contour to the saddle just to the south, proceed down and over the ridge on the left so as to strike the deep canyon at about 7,300', and then proceed toward the Dome, first crossing a slight ridge. Essentially an almost straightline south-southeast course is taken from the saddle near the trail. With some using a belay and the already fixed rope on the slab, eight of us arrived at the top of the Dome for a spectacular view down the granite apron to the Middle Fork of the Kings River, 3,500 feet below. Lunch preceded our descent into Blue Canyon (somewhat warm), which we followed up to the cabin at 8,400'. Here we found and followed the trail which goes up to the 10,000' saddle just north of Burnt Mountain and then contoured into Alpine Creek for camp at 6:30 p.m. -- a relatively long day.

Tunemah was climbed by all eight the next morning and, after returning to camp and our packs, we headed back to Blue Canyon (the upper part this time via col 11,046') and rejoined two members of the party who had spent the previous night in Blue Canyon. After lunch five made off for and climbed Finger Peak, dropping their packs near the saddle just to the east of the peak for the final climb. Shortly after regrouping at the saddle, a somewhat disconcerting view opened up. The cirquelike basin northeast of Finger Peak was rimmed on the west by a ridge with vertical cliffs of approximately 30 to 40 feet everywhere underlying it. Our route was across this ridge, and the somewhat broken cliffs below the single notch appeared nonetheless imposing. However, Class 1 ledges led us through the notch and another long day ended with a campsite at beautiful Chapel Lake at 6:30 p.m.

Nine climbed Reinstein Tuesday morning, and the trek through Blackcap Basin past Pearl and Division Lakes was thoroughly appreciated. (Goddard didn't look too far away, did it?) A leisurely lunch was coupled with dips in Chapel Lake. Going southwest from Midway Lake, we dropped into Crown Basin and followed Crown Creek down huge granite slabs and on to the crossing of the Mountain Meadows trail, which trail we followed to a campsite on Scepter Creek. The fifth day was most leisurely, an early lunch being enjoyed at Spanish Lake and the cars being reached via Garlic Meadow and the jeep trail at 1:40 p.m. Thus ended a fine trip, the fair size of the groups perhaps establishing that one doesn't necessarily need a holiday for a good turnout on a trip exceeding the normal two days of a weekend.

* * * *

SAWTOOTH PK, NEEDHAM MTN. AND VANDEVER MTN., October 10-11 Ron Jones

Routine ascents of all peaks were made by a large group of climbers. Saturday morning at 8 a.m., 37 climbers set out for Sawtooth Peak by way of Sawtooth Pass. This route, remaining on trail the entire distance, was chosen because of the large size of the party. Assistant leader Dennis Lautz was responsible for all 37 persons reach-

ing the peak, with the last climber arriving after seven hours on the trail. About noon 13 persons left the summit of Sawtooth for Needham Mountain, an ex-emblem peak. All 13 made a successful ascent and an additional two persons, who were not authorized to leave the main party on Sawtooth, successfully followed the main group to Needham, making a total of 15 on the summit.

On the return from Needham to Sawtooth three climbers left the group without notifying the leader of their decision. One of these persons was known to have suffered altitude sickness en route to Needham. Some time was spent looking and calling for the three, particularly the one ill climber. Finally he reappeared, having traveled about half a mile looking for water. The other two persons were not seen again until late that night when they returned safely to camp. Prior to leaving the roadhead that morning the leader had reviewed the responsibilities of participants and leaders with all climbers, including the rule stating that persons leaving the party should notify the leader of their intentions of leaving the group. This action by several individuals could have resulted in an unnecessary rescue attempt, had they met with trouble.

Sunday morning, in a continuation of the beautiful weekend weather (the thermometer stood at 38°; last year on my October trip in the southern Sierra the temperature was 9°) 18 persons met to climb Vandever Mtn. All but one climber made the peak.

Special thanks should be given to Dennis Lautz and Donald McLean who volunteered to serve as assistant leaders in the place of Art Wester. Special mention should be made of the limited camping facilities now in Mineral King, with five campsites located at Sunny Point campground and 28 sites at Cold Spring Campground and with no group camping allowed.

* * * *

MT. SILLIMAN, Sept. 19-20 Horace Ory

Late summer is a delightful time to visit Sequoia National Park. Most of the crowds are gone; wildlife seems to be more visible; and the weather is crisp enough to make the warmth of sunshine pleasurable. Our group found many comfortable camping sites at the Twin Lakes, which are set in a heavily wooded aread bordered by granite slabs. Saturday afternoon eighteen of us summoned the energy for the short but interesting rock scramble up Twin Peaks; otherwise, peace prevailed through evening.

Dawn broke Sunday with a piercing whistle, echoed by shouted threats, and (fairly) soon we were following the Silliman Crest toward our summit. Most of the way this is a wooded ridge, where we saw deer, grouse, and quail. Near the peak the ridge becomes a stark arete, which we passed about two hundred feet low on the west. After filing up a short, loose cude south of the peak, we walked up a rocky slope to the summit, which is a jutting perch with sheer drops on two sides. After an extended time spent snacking, sunbathing and enjoying the unique view (including a distant forest fire), we left a new register on Mt. Silliman with forty fresh signatures and returned to camp for an early departure. At the roadhead we learned a lesson about inflation -- or infiltration. Of the 48 people who had signed in, 50 people signed out. But that's better than being in the red.

* * * *

PILOT KNOB AND LAMONT PEAK, Oct. 17-18 Brendan Bausback

Saturday, October 17, at 8 a.m. on a brisk autumn morning we met at the Emporium in downtown Onyx. As the hike got underway, we waded through the beautiful swampy Kern River (Huckleberry Finn - Tom Sawyer style). Twenty-seven people started the climb

across brushy, auster terrain. As the day warmed up one person turned back due to leg cramps approximately one-third of the way up the mountain.

The warmth of the day and dryness of the mountain helped John Linden enjoy his twenty-fifth summit beer that much more. John earned his emblem on this one. Later -- much later -- over a cool refreshment at the Emporium in beautiful downtown Onyx, we all agreed that Pilot Knob is a most deceptive peak. It looks a lot easier to climb from the road than it is in reality.

We spent the night in the clean Chimney Creek campgrounds near Lamont Meadow. Sunday morning four miles south of the campground at the high point along the road we started for Lamont, following up the ridge just under the first false summit. Contouring to the right we missed another false summit, arriving on the true summit at 11:30, where Dick Johnson and Bill McAuley climbed their sixth Sierra peak; also Kent Davis' friend Barbara Scharf climbed her first Sierra peak. A leisurely half hour was spent on the pleasantly cool summit.

Everyone agreed Lamont was just the right peak after Pilot Knob the day before. We all returned to the cars by 1:30 for an early start for Los Angeles.



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

EAST HORN OF MT. WILLIAMSON, Oct. 10-11 Andy Smatko

On the weekend of October 10-11, Barbara Lilley, George Wallerstein, Ed Treacy, Bill Schuler and I backpacked up Shepherd Creek to where Williamson Creek joins it. This is a spectacular junction with steep walls all around. Fortunately the creek bottom can be followed with side deviations all the way. We camped at 9,700', and while Barbara and George relaxed in camp, we other three went on to ascend Peak 12,480'+, just east of Polychrome Peak. A snowstorm just below the summit thwarted our attempt, and we returned to camp in darkness. It had rained at the camp. Next day we were awakened around 6 a.m. by a prolonged roaring sound coming from the north wall of Mt. Williamson. It was a tremendous rock avalanch, and we wondered if it came down our proposed ascent route. It had not, as we saw no evidence of it in our chute of ascent. The climb will be detailed, as the route is intricate.

When viewed from the north, the eastern end of the north wall presents as a striking feature two prominent dry waterfalls (descended on the side by Rogero and Beach), one above the other. Above the upper fall extends a long talus chute up to the visible ridge line. The actual top of the east horn is not visible from the floor of Williamson Creek. To the left (east) of the waterfall area, a ragged, reddish buttress comes down to the canyon floor, and extending part way up the lower end is a scantily treed rocky slope. The route lies up this buttress to the base of a very steep, ragged wall which would be Class 4. This steep wall can be bypassed by going into a narrow chute just to the east, going up a short distance and then ascending up and to the right to gain the ridge again above the wall. Continue up the ridge till it is obvious that you must again go left

(east) into another chute which is followed up for a short distance and exited again to the left (east) onto a loosy, easy, reddish slope (easily visible from the canyon floor). Ascend up to a saddle just to the left (east) of a sharp peaklet. Traverse into a broad, shallow chute which becomes a slope (northeast) of the east horn. Ascend to the top of the peak. The route is mostly Class 2 except in the steep lower quarter of the route.

The 8,300' descent left us with shaky legs, especially since the last hour was made in total darkness, using flashlights. The backpack up Shepherd and Williamson Creeks is not difficult and is very spectacular. We could not assess whether one could continue up Shepherd Creek. Perhaps someone may know whether this can be negotiated or may try it in the future.

* * * *

MTS. BEAR CREEK SPIRE, ABBOT, MILLS AND DADE, September 5-7. Al Fowler

Friday evening, under overcast skies and in a howling wind, Jerry Aikman, Jerry Snyder and I started up the trail towards Long Lake. We were planning on stopping there, but because of the overcast sky we walked right past. When we discovered our error, we were at the Gem Lakes, so we bedded down for the night. We were awakened the next morning by a snowstorm and freezing weather. We had intended to climb Abbot and Mills Saturday but the weather changed our plans. So we decided to go up to the Reasure Lakes and set up our base camp. The weather improved, so Snyder and I climbed Bear Creek Spire by route 4 in the Climbers Guide. It was still cold, but the view from the summit was the best in the area. On returning to camp we met a Bay Area group camped at Dade Lake.

Sunday morning we started for Mts. Abbot and Mills. In route we met Diana Heiman and Dennis Lance, and they joined us for the climb. We took the northeast buttress route, which is over relatively easy, but rotten, Class 3 rock, and we were on the summit by noon. After Abbot, Diana, Jerry Snyder and I headed for Mills. We took the east face route, and it was the sandiest Class 3 rock I've ever climbed. We met Lu and Bernie Petitjean who were descending while we were ascending. Fortunately we met them before they had descended very far down the couloir or it could have been very dangerous. For greatest safety peaks such as these should be climbed early in the day so you are the first ones on the mountain.

Since Mt. Dade was to be Jerry Snyder's emblem peak, we departed early Monday morning. On the ascent we met Pete Backes and his party who were also doing Dade. Since we had iceaxes and crampons, we were able to climb the glacier and avoid the crud slope. On the summit the three of us enjoyed champagne carried by Jerry Snyder to celebrate his emblem peak.

It was a beautiful climbing weekend until we got back to the car. There we discovered that all the seats and climbing gear and clothes had been stolen out of my car. I'm glad I had insurance coverage, as it covered most of the loss. Thanks to Ellen and Sy Ossosky, who provided us with an excellent orange crate and burkap sack seat, the trip back to LA was not as backbreaking as it might have been.

* * * *

RED AND WHITE, STANFORD AND MORGAN, August 29-30 Art de Goede

Climbs from the McGee Creek basin should be more frequently scheduled, as the area has fine lakes and meadows and most colorful mountains. Bill Wickmer and I left the McGee creek roadhead at 8 a.m. and dropped our packs at the Grass Lake trail junction.

After continuing up the McGee Pass trail to beyond Big McGee Lake, the Hopkins Pass trail (not shown on topo) was taken a short distance, and we then contoured up and over to the left to the southeast face of Red and White. Loose rock at first and later good climbing brought us directly to the summit. We returned for our packs and made the short hike to Grass Lake for camp.

Sunday morning the trail was taken to Steelhead Lake and then talus cross country to the saddle west of Stanford from which Stanford is easily ascended. Here one gets good views of Pioneer Basin and the Mono Recesses. Morgan is not too far away, and it's best to travel the ridge all the way to the high saddle just south of 12,984', as efforts to contour earlier to the high basin between that peak and Morgan can prove very frustrating. This saddle also provides a very convenient route for the return to Grass Lake from Morgan.

About 13 miles and 4,200' gain each day and a short and easy backpack (four-and-a-half miles and 1,600' gain) make a fine two-day trip. Steelhead Lake has better camping than Grass but a poorer route to or from Morgan. And Grass Lake had abundant ripe gooseberries on the slopes to the east.

SIERRA

Conservation

NEWS

COURT GRANTS STAY FOR MINERAL KING

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has granted the Sierra Club's motion for an order staying that court's decision to dissolve the preliminary injunction barring construction of a Disney resort in Mineral King. The Club will file a petition seeking review of the case by the Supreme Court, and the stay granted by the appellate court will remain in effect pending the filing, consideration, and disposition of the Club's petition by the Supreme Court.

The motion filed by the Club in the Court of Appeals pointed out that, if the preliminary injunction were dissolved, the federal government would be free to issue permits for construction of the resort in Sequoia National Forest and an access road and transmission line across Sequoia National Park. Once this bulldozing and blasting, which would produce irreversible ecological effects, is allowed to begin, the Supreme Court will not retain jurisdiction over the entire subject matter of the suit -- namely, the Mineral King Valley and Sequoia National Park in their present condition.

PEOPLE-PRESSURE ENDANGERING MT. WHITNEY

Liz Cuadra has drawn our attention to a glum article in the Orange County Register. Mt. Whitney is in danger of becoming America's highest trash can. The park service hauls tons of garbage out by regular pack trains and sometimes by helicopter. So overwhelming is the problem that the National Park Service is considering building a heliport on the summit to facilitate trash removal!

In the month of July this year 2,000 people signed the summit register. It is estimated over 10,000 will climb the peak before the year is out.

It is time to ask ourselves if we will permit horrors like a heliport on Mt. Whitney, or will we favor "wilderness experiences" on a limited reservation basis in order that the wilderness may survive?

--Ann Hunt--

NEW POLICY ON SIERRA NEVADA FIRES (from an article in the Inyo Register)

Lightning fires are again being allowed to run their course as they did in prehistoric times in designated sections of Sequoia and Kings. This unique research program, the only one of its kind in this country, is aimed at restoring natural processes to park wildlands. McLaughlin said years of fire suppression have largely eliminated the

influence of fire in certain areas, resulting in unnatural conditions. Thus, the National Park Service is restoring natural fire in the environmental process.

Originally, lightning fires exerted a selective influence on Park vegetation, encouraging certain species and suppressing others. The end result was that forests tended to be more open and greater amounts of sunlight penetrated to the forest floor. This condition encouraged the growth of many varieties of grasses, shrubs, and wildflowers. Natural fires periodically thinned out the forest and reduced fuels so that when fires occurred, they did not burn so hot or so severely damaged forests as they now may. Nature's ways are now being allowed to dominate where possible, and considerable monetary savings are also being realized as fires burn themselves out, often within a few days.

This is the third year that the program has been in effect. The natural fire areas are mostly above 8,000 feet in elevation and do not include areas of high visitor concentration. Since May of this year there have been more than 50 fires started by

lightning which have been permitted to burn naturally. Most have gone out since fuels are limited within the high elevation forests included in the "let burn" areas.

If there is any possibility that these fires may endanger park visitors or burn into areas of adjacent national forests, state or private lands, they are extinguished, McLaughlin said. All fires are examined daily when park aircraft are on their regular forest fire detection flights. A special park group of professional fire control experts continuously evaluates the fires and may order the fire put out if problems occur. So far there have been none.

In lower elevation sites, where developments and high fire danger preclude letting lightning fires burn, controlled burning is being carried out by park crews. Here, fires are ignited only when burning conditions and weather permit. These burns are well documented and closely monitored for research purposes in order to record experience and knowledge in the use and effects of controlled fire in wildland management.



ECHOES FROM THE PAST Ten Years Ago in the SPS

Ron Jones

On October 15, 1960, an honorary SPS emblem was presented to Norman Clyde at the Angeles Chapter annual banquet. Jerry Keating, chairman of the SPS, presented the emblem and an honorary Section membership to Mr. Clyde. There are now 49 emblem holders among the 176 Section members.

Mountaineering committee chairman Rich Gnagy announced that Mt. Johnson, 12,868', has been added to the SPS qualifying list, making a total of 229 peaks of qualifying status.

On September 10-11 Tom Amneus led a group of seven SPS'ers on an anti-litter outing in Big Pine Creek canyon. Between the first and fourth lakes, 21 sacks of smashed cans and three five-gallon cans of glass were collected, leaving the campsites and trail between these two lakes in much better condition than previously.

The final SPS scheduled outing of the year (November 5) was a 20-mile hike in Sequoia National Park to Cahoon Rock. Nine Sierrans made the 5,600-foot climb from Clough Cave in miserable weather. Rain fell during the entire climb, and at the higher elevations more than eight inches of snow had fallen. Ted Maier and Jerry Keating led this "fun" outing.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Andy Smatko clipped the following item, written by Bud Bingham, from an old ECHO and sent it along with a note stating, "I think it is very apropos to remind our present SPS management committee about such feelings in the SPS past, and I'm sure also the present. Bud Bingham was a past president and a tiger in his own right. He felt that way then and I'm sure still does, and I'm inclined to agree with him."

"It is becoming more apparent that other groups under the L.A. Chapter and elsewhere are scheduling more and more trips to the Sierra. Why? Because the SPS is not scheduling the kind of trips the average hiker wants. We need leaders who do not care primarily whether they themselves reach the summit but are interested in seeing to it that as many of their party do! The "baggers" represent a small percentage of the SPS membership, yet they usually control the section and the type of activities scheduled.

"What's in store for the SPS in 1963? You, the members, will have a chance to put your nominees on the ballot for SPS management committee at the Oct. 10th meeting. There is an obvious need for changes which will promote better trips for the average SPSer.

"If these observations have a disquieting effect upon a segment of the membership, and if you perhaps have overemphasized peaks at the expense of enjoyable camaraderie, your skill and knowledge you have gained are valuable assets which the group would welcome in helping others gain the satisfactions and pleasures of mountain trips without the uncomfortable feeling that they might irk the leader of hold up the whole party should they wish to stop to take a picture, examine the flora, pause to drink in the view or just huff and puff a bit.

"Shaping the SPS of the future can be in the hands of the average SPSer.....

Bud Bingham"

THE SIERRA ECHO
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