

The Sierra



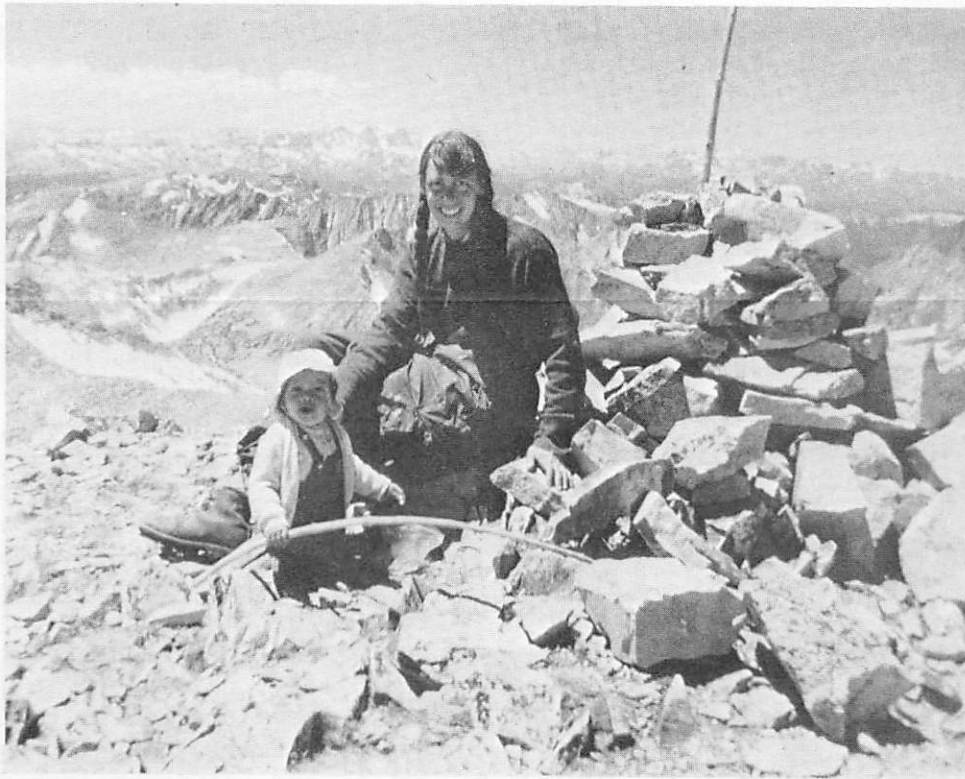
ECHO

VOLUME 15

DECEMBER

1971

NO. 10



BILLY OSSOFSKY and his mother ELLEN enjoy the view atop Red Slate Mountain (13,163') July 6, 1971. Daddy SY OSSOFSKY wrote in the register, "Highest recorded diaper change." Read about this and other firsts in Andy Smatko's article beginning on page 4.

REGISTERS NEEDED

Diana Dee reports Granite Chief and Tinker Knob (NW of Lake Tahoe) both need register books and containers, which can be obtained from Jerry Keating.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

KARL BENNETT, 1801 Centinela Ave., 14H,
Santa Monica 90404
ROY KEENAN, 15 Cayuse Lane, Rolling Hills
90274
BEN NEFFSON, 18400 Colville St., Fountain
Valley 92708
TODD & WENDY TAYLOR, 404 Oak Lane, San
Gabriel 91775

SWAN SONG

The next issue of the ECHO will be a combined January-February one to be mailed following the February meeting. I do not yet know the new editor's name, but I wish him or her well and hope the task continues to be as pleasant as it has been for me during the last four years. I thank all of you for your cooperation and interest!

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 Treas-
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Los Angeles 90066

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

January 31, 1972

NEWS

1972 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The SPS continues to be in good hands, as it will be led in the new year by AL FOWLER, PAUL LIPSOHN, ROY MAGNUSON, HORACE ORY and BARBARA ROSEN. Congratulations and best wishes for a good year at the helm!

NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS also to our final group of new members for this year. We bid you welcome:

W. C. BRADLEY, 13217 Hadley, Whittier,
90601
BOB EMERICK, 770 W. Imperial Ave., #6
El Segundo 90245
MIKE JELF, 1819 W. 254th St., Lomita
90717
DALE VAN DALSEN, 1937 Valley Dr., Her-
mosa Beach 90254

SPS TOPS 227 PEAKS IN 15 YEARS

The number of qualifying peaks unclimbed on scheduled trips since the SPS' first outing May 5-6, 1956, dropped from 22 to 15 during the past year as a result of successful attempts on Ericsson, Stanford (S), Wheel, Devils Crags, McDuffie, Black Giant and Black Hawk.

Of the 242 listed peaks, only these remain for the section: State, Observation (scheduled in 1966 but unsuccessful due to rain; climbed in 1971 by a member of the Devils Crags party but not an official part of the outing), Disappointment (attempted in 1967 as an alternate to Middle Palisade but halted at Balcony Peak by hail and poor visibility; rained out in 1971 at roadhead but climbed unofficially the following week by four SPSers), Scylla, Emerald, Electra, Pettit and Volunteer (scheduled in 1967 but unsuccessful due to excessive snow on the approach), Round Top, Disaster, Highland, Elwell, Lola, English and Adams.

Climbs of Scylla and Emerald are planned for the coming schedule period, and Electra, Pettit and Volunteer have been mentioned for the following schedule period. Qualified leaders are invited to consider the remaining peaks in making decisions for trip proposals to John Robinson, schedule committee chairman. -- Jerry Keating

TIOGA PASS CLOSED

The National Park Service announced that the Tioga Road was closed on November 12.

GREETINGS FROM AFAR

(The following is the text of a Christmas letter from Dick Jali, our man with the Peace Corps in Malaysia. His address is: Kolej, Tanjong Lobang/ Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia.)

To All My Friends,

Note the new address! Since last Xmas a lot has happened. I got caught in the aerospace crunch; so after a lot of thought, travel and jobhunting, I joined the Peace Corps in August to teach science in Malaysia.

After stops in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, I arrived in Sarawak in the island of Borneo. Training started, learning Malay on a wide sandy beach with 80° surf. Then practice teaching in Kuching, where I taught physical science and math to a bunch of cute little girls at St. Teresa's Secondary School. I really loved it and was sorry to see it end so soon, just as I was getting to know my students.

Now I have been posted to Miri, to teach physics at Kolej Tun Dato Tuanku Haji Bujang. Kolej (College) is a Form VI school (upper senior high school/junior college); one of the few in East Malaysia. The school is very good, and the kids are really great. And it is on a bluff overlooking the ocean and three beautiful swimming beaches. For those who know Los Angeles, it's like Palos Verdes.

There has been some hiking. I climbed Gunong Serapi, near Kuching, on a jungle path passing the ruins of Rajah Brooke's tea plantation and have plans for some real back-country climbing on Mt. Murud in northern Sarawak in December. And I hope to get to Mt. Kinabalu in Sabah in April. Aitule (sp?) later, I hope.

I do not miss smog and pollution, traffic jams, or city noise and rush. I do miss the high mountains and skiing, good plays and concerts at the Music Center, and you, my friends.

For me, it will be an exciting and adventurous new year. I hope it will be as happy and rewarding for you. Anybody for New Guinea in December, 1972?

* * * *

LOCATION OF CROSS MOUNTAIN IN DOUBT

Jerry Keating

Paul Lipsohn has discovered the relocation of Cross Mountain on the 1967 revised versions of the 1956 Mt. Whitney and Triple Divide quads, and the U.S. Geological Survey views the change as correct from the standpoint of history. From a qualifying peak standpoint, however, the "new" Cross Mountain falls far short of the mark.

The 1967 revision places the peak at Point 12,185 -- one mile south of the former location and 220 feet higher. Although higher, the new location is just above the Sphinx Lakes basecamp (10,520') commonly used by westside Mt. Brewer parties, and the climb from there to 12,185 is mostly a Class 1 walk.

Adding confusion to the issue is the elevation of 12,140' cited for Cross on the SPS Peaks List. This figure was carried for Cross in the 1956 printing of A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra but was amended to 11,920'+ in the 1965 edition. Point 11,920+ is clearly labeled Cross Mountain on the 1956 Mt. Whitney quad and is a good Class 2 climb from Sphinx Lakes or Sphinx Creek. The traverse between 11,920+ and 12,185, reports Lipsohn, appears to be Class 3 and tedious.

If the 12,185 location is maintained by the U.S.G.S., I believe Cross should be deleted from the qualifying list. Andy Smatko, who has climbed both points, reports, "11,920 is by far the better peak, and I for one would prefer to see this one on our list. If Cross Mountain is eventually settled on 12,185, I'd just as soon see it deleted from the SPS list."

Following is an excerpt from a letter written to me November 8, 1971, by Morris M. Thompson, for R. H. Lyddan, chief topographic engineer, U.S.G.S., Washington 20242:

"The evidence available to the editors when the Mt. Whitney 1:62,500-scale map was compiled in 1956 indicated that Cross Mountain was located as shown on that

CROSS MOUNTAIN, cont'd.

map. Later, however, in 1967, during a limited revision of the Mt. Whitney and Triple Divide Peak maps, it was learned that the 1905 edition of the 1:125,000-scale map showed Cross Mountain to be located as currently shown on the Triple Divide Peak quadrangle map. It was on the basis of this inadvertently overlooked earlier evidence that the location was changed.

"We believe that the location of Cross Mountain, as shown on the current Triple Divide Peak map, is historically correct. However, in the absence of a Board on Geographic Names decision relative to the location of Cross Mountain, we have entered a note in our correction file to field investigate this matter when a standard revision is made of the Triple Divide Peak map."



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

HUNDRED-PEAKING IN THE HIGH SIERRA Andy Smatko

The suggestive heading may cause tempers to flare in the Hundred Peaks Section, but nevertheless this Section is noted, among other attributes, for the ease with which several peaks can be climbed in a single day.

Over a period of nine days (July 3 - 11) Ed Treacy, Bill Schuler and I climbed forty-two summits in the area south of Mammoth Lakes and along the Silver Divide and the main Sierra Crest north of McGee Pass. A half dozen or so peaks were short climbs along the Mammoth Crest but were deemed definite summits.

We started out on Saturday and under heavy loads backpacked over Duck Pass, cached food near the outlet of Duck Lake, and went along the John Muir Trail and climbed Peak 11,147', 0.6 northwest of Lake Virginia, cached more food near Lake Virginia, and then climbed Peak 10,720'+, 0.55 west-northwest of Tully Hole and finally dropped into Tully Hole where we met Sy, Ellen and Billy (age 15 months) Ossosky. The following day (July 4) we set down Fish Creek along the John Muir Trail and then headed south to Papoose Lake and then along a trail past Grassy Lake and then south toward Marilyn Lake. From here we climbed Peak 11,227', making the second ascent of this peak via the north ridge -- Class 2. Descent was via the very loose Class 2+ east ridge to the pass and then up Peak 11,336', down the southeast slope and up Peak 10,960'. Both these peaks were essentially Class 2 with a few easy Class 3 pitches. We then went along the ridge to Peak 11,363', Class 2. The east ridge of this peak gave us some interesting Class 3 down to the Goodale Pass trail which we followed back to camp. This was a 13-hour day with over 6,500' gain.

Monday we headed up to Horse Heaven with backpacks, dropped them and then continued south to Mace Lake and gained the saddle southwest of the lake. From here we proceeded north-northwest and climbed Peak 11,600'+, Class 2. On returning to the saddle we proceeded to climb Peak 11,840'+ which lay to the southeast. The last 50 feet or so was Class 4, and imagine our surprise to find out that this peak was called Izaak Walton and that it was first climbed by Norman Clyde and Jim Harkins on July 20, 1938. This is not the Izaak Walton shown on the topo map, but it is a more interesting summit. We had our eyes on VABM 12,221' but had to drop down to Bobs Lake and climb it via the west slopes -- loose Class 2. The northwest face is Class 4, as is the northeast ridge. We descended via the northeast slope down a steep chute and started out for the real Izaak Walton. En route to it, Ed Treacy detoured and climbed Peak 12,000'+ 0.2 mile west-southwest of Izaak Walton and made a first ascent. To our complete surprise Izaak Walton was a first ascent also. There was no evidence of previous human visitation. We built a cairn and left a register. We descended the Class 3 northeast ridge to a saddle and then hightailed it back to Horse Heaven.

HUNDRED PEAKING, cont'd.

The following day Ed, Bill, Sy, Ellen, little Billy and I headed up to McGee Pass. Ed went on and climbed Red Slate, and Sy and Ellen with Billy in his kiddie pak also climbed the peak. I'm sure Bill is the youngest human to stand on the summit of Red Slate Mountain. Ed, Bill and I had planned to climb Red and White Mountain via the north ridge. We climbed Peak 12,426' on this ridge and proceeded about one-quarter mile beyond, but the ridge became very loose and about Class 4 in difficulty. A descent to Red and White Lake appeared to be the logical step, but we decided to leave well enough alone and headed back down a steep, loose chute to regain the trail back to camp.

Wednesday, July 7, we headed up to Lee Lake and from there climbed to the main crest northwest of Red Slate Mountain and climbed Peak 12,240'+ 0.75 west-northwest of Red Slate. It proved to be a first ascent, Class 2 via the southeast ridge. This is a gray granite peak lying between Red Slate and another red mountain to the north, so we called it Intered Peak. We proceeded north to climb Peak 12,320'+ (a first recorded ascent) and from here went directly west to climb Peak 12,160'+, another first ascent Class 2-3 over huge blocks of granite. Heading northeast we went on to climb Peak 11,840'+ on the crest (another first recorded ascent) and then dropped down to the southwest and proceeded westward and climbed Peak 11,920'+ via the Class 2 east slope. This being our last peak of the day, we headed down to Tully Hole along the stream and on back to Horse Heaven. Arriving there we packed up and backpacked up out of Tully Hole and on to a camp at the end of Lake Virginia where Sy and Ellen were waiting for us.

On Thursday we went back along the trail and headed up to Peak 11,625' -- Class 2 to easy Class 3 via the east slope and ridge, then over to Peak 11,915'. Both these peaks were first recorded ascents. Going north now we climbed Peak 12,354', a most striking double-summitted peak -- Class 2 via the south slope. Continuing north-northeast we climbed Peak 12,080'+ and then Peak 12,277'. This latter peak was first climbed by Dave Brower via the north ridge. We descended the same ridge Class 3 to the pass, which had a cairn on it and was called Pretty Pass, an apt name. From here we climbed the peak immediately north-northeast of the pass (Peak 12,080'+), another first ascent and Class 2 - 3. We returned to Lake Virginia, picked up our packs and backpacked to Purple Lake.

Friday we backpacked along the John Muir Trail to a point northwest of Peak 11,348', stashed packs and climbed this peak, Peak 11,526' and Peak 11,787', returned to our packs and backpacked to the pass northeast of Peak 11,647' (northwest of Duck Lake), stashed our packs and climbed Peak 11,647', 11,617', 11,600'+, then Peak 11,280'+ just west of Barney Lake (a first ascent) and another peaklet between the "O" in Mono and the "E" in Fresno on the Mammoth Crest. This latter peaklet was called Fawn Peak and also was a first ascent. Descent to Deer Lakes was made for a campsite.

Saturday saw us backpacking along the trail up to the Mammoth Crest and from the trail we headed (with summit packs) east and climbed Peak 11,360'+. This peak was first climbed by A. J. Reyman, who in my estimation has climbed a greater variety of Sierra Peaks than anyone else. (I have his records and know what he has climbed.) We called this peak Deer Peak. We then traversed along the crest climbing over the high points -- which were several, including Peak 11,348', Peak 10,458', and Peak 10,005' and dropped down to Mammoth Pass and back to our car at Lake Mary.

Sunday we capped the trip with a climb of Crystal Crag and a tram ride to the summit of Mammoth Mountain and finally a swim in Hot Creek.

This trip netted us 42 peaks, 12 first ascents and 14 first recorded ascents, a total elevation gain of 38,000 feet, and about 99 miles of hiking and climbing. It is a readily accessible area, and the peaks can be climbed via easy or very difficult routes to suit one's taste. It is a region one will want to visit again and again, as we plan to do some day.



P R I V A T E T R I P S , cont'd.

CATHEDRAL PEAK, et al, November 6-7 Ed Treacy

Cathedral Peak apparently -- and inexplicably -- has never been immortalized by an ECHO writeup. Dave King and I were in the Tuolumne area over the weekend and were fortunate enough to have been able to climb this fine peak. Saturday was spent hiking in and climbing the Lyell/Maclure combo, which went routinely. We returned to the car Saturday evening to enjoy the gracious living that characterizes car-camping. Sunday we moved to the west side of Tuolumne Meadows to the Cathedral Lake trail-head, from where an hour's hiking got us to the crest of the trail -- the obvious departure point for climbing Cathedral via the west face. The first 700 feet or so went well over good granite slabs and firm talus. Then the talus gave way to a ledge complex that protects the last 250 feet of the peak. Ascending these ledges proved entertaining -- moderate to high three with one difficult four pitch (Dave led) prior to reaching the final 15-foot summit block array. There are probably several routes up and through these ledges, and perhaps a better choice of routes would have avoided that Class 4 pitch. The last 15 feet to the summit includes a 10-12 foot ascent via a vertical crack of moderate difficulty; then one person at a time sits on the top. We were back to the car early enough to enjoy the ride out of Tioga Pass in the daylight.

A rope, of course, is a must for Cathedral. Slings are desirable.

* * * *

KAWEAHS - GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE, September 11-19 Doug Mantle

Vi Grasso, Dave Gladstone and I made a nine-day swing through the Kaweahs and the Great Western Divide in mid-September, baggin 12-2/3 peaks each.

A late start from Mineral King Saturday brought us (peakless) over Glacier and Black Rock Passes. Next day we dropped into the Big Arroyo, then topped Mt. Kaweah and Red Kaweah.

Monday involved us in a long, fine traverse to Black Kaweah where our register entry read: "It's hailing big ones!" Being on such a dangerous peak in a storm subdued us momentarily, so we scurried back to Big Arroyo for our usual unsatisfying meal.

Tuesday renewed our brashness, as we scaled Lion Rock (a fun scramble) and Triple Divide Peak to go with three passes. That night we voiced our hunger below Colby Pass in a heavy rain.

Day five brought a little relaxation, Milestone and Midway, but no extra food, although fishing was attempted in Milestone Basin's heralded waters.

Thursday's fine climb up the south side of Table Mountain was preceded by a rock in the head for Vi Grasso, eliciting her now-famous indescribable scream. Our spirits were later dampened, however, by the several register entries recorded via helicopter. We finished the day ambling up under Thunder Mountain in a frigid wind. We carried wood, though, and thoroughly enjoyed our fire at 12,600'.

Friday we scampered up Thunder (despite the Guide's incorrect description -- from the saddle to the east follow the ridge on the south side). Then the men made quick work of Mt. Jordan. (The "delicate five-foot leap" is actually an intriguing, long, airy step -- especially with a howling wind.) Finally we all packed over South Guard to a grassy camp below Brewer.

Next morning we (1) stormed up Mt. Brewer and North Guard, (2) saw at a distance our first fellow men in seven days, (3) laid plans for an afternoon stab at Cross Mountain, and (4) watched Vi Grasso take a vertical fall (with her heralded scream) of two-and-a-half feet and lie motionless.

Since she had posed as cook on the trip, we were somewhat ambivalent about helping her, but with her annoying moans we ignored our first impulse and examined the body. We found Vi has sustained "the first sprained ankle" of her life. You can imagine how concerned we were -- how could we make Cross Mountain now?

Thirty-three hours, 14 miles and countless moans later, a bit cross and quite Crossless (sorry, Dave), we limped into Cedar Grove in time to find all restaurants closed. The long shuttle and drive brought us to LA just after dawn Monday.

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

Our SPS bylaws state that to retain active membership a member must ". . . participate in at least one section activity per year (such as a climb or service on a committee)." It is clear from statements by older members, including those who helped write the bylaws and those who have served on previous management committees, that the intent was to require active participation. This requirement has been only loosely enforced because of confusion about what qualifies as an activity, but it is considered important in order to insure that the Section remain vigorous. Therefore, the SPS Secretary was directed to clarify the meaning of activity.

The key word is active, and this implies a positive contribution to the activities of the Section. Voting, although important, does not qualify as an activity, since that would not support the purpose of the requirement. Also, passive attendance at meetings does not qualify as an activity. In general, passive enjoyment of member benefits is insufficient.

As pointed out in the bylaws, participation on a climb or service on a committee satisfies activity requirements. Other possibilities include:

- publishing an article in the EHCO (but not a letter to the editor)
- serving refreshments at a meeting (i.e., committee)
- presenting a program
- representing the Section at a meeting or invited climb
- assembling or mailing the ECHO
- attending the annual banquet

In general, action which provides a positive contribution to the Section's activities meets the activity requirement.

There are more possibilities than can be enumerated here, and the judgment of whether a member is active really rests with him on an honor basis, just as other membership qualifications are accepted as presented on an honor basis. Please cooperate when renewing your ECHO subscription and indicate whether your status is active or inactive. And more important, strengthen the Section through your active participation.

--Horace Ory, Secretary --

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"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

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