

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 15

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

1971

NO. 1



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CONGRATULATIONS

To Susan and Art Wester on the birth of their first son, Brian Herbert, on November 23. Brian weighed in at 6 pounds 11 ounces. Brian was born in New Jersey, where Art and Sue now make their home at 90 Harding Road, Glen Rock 07452.

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo, thanks once again to Tom Ross, depicts impressive Mt. Ericsson and Ericsson Crags from Ouzel Creek. The dramatic shot was taken October 27, 1970.

ECHO STAFF

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11808 Navy Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90066

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

March 15, 1971

NEWS

MEET YOUR LEADERS

BOB MASON is Chairman of the Section for 1971; FRED HOEPTNER is Vice-Chairman; HORACE ORY is Secretary; DICK BEACH is Treasurer; and IZZY LIEBERMAN is the Alternate Officer.

The following members have agreed to serve as committee chairmen for the year:

- JOHN ROBINSON -- Schedule
- JERRY KEATING -- Mountain Records
- WALLY HENRY -- Mountaineering Safety
- DON ANDERSON -- Conservation
- JUDY HOEPTNER -- Publications
- CAROL MILLER -- Program

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

Congratulations to three new emblem holders who finished climbing the required peaks in 1970:

- DAVID JANECKY
- MARY KEMPER
- JAY WILEY, JR.

FIRST AID KITS MISSING

Although all climbers have been accounted for after the 1970 SPS season, a number of Section first aid kits are missing. If you have one or know where one is, please contact the Mountaineering Records Chairman, Jerry Keating, 224 Gila Way, Placentia, (714) 524-3862, so arrangements can be made to put it back into circulation on 1971 trips.

NEW MEMBERS

- GENDREAU, ROBERT H. and ROB, 260 Olinda Dr., La Habra 90631
- INMAN, DON, 14291 San Feliciano Dr., La Mirada 90638
- CLEMENTS, FRED, 3005 Bayview Dr., Manhattan Beach 90266

NEXT ISSUE

The next ECHO issue will be a combined March-April issue which will be mailed following the April meeting.

WANTED: CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

Rex Spaith, a club member in Fresno, is interested in buying climbing equipment that you no longer use. He wants to buy pins, biners, ascenders, nuts and stones, down products, crampons and wind gear. Contact him at 8259 Sanders Court, Fresno 93727. He is also interested in finding a climbing partner to do Yosemite big walls.

YOSEMITE SNOW CAMPING

This winter anyone interested can take beginners classes in snow camping in Yosemite Park under the supervision of the Yosemite Mountaineering School. Classes are offered every weekend while there is enough snow on the ground. The classes, which meet at 10 each Saturday morning, are open to adults and children who are able to hike one mile into the winter camping area. A hot dinner and breakfast in camp, plus the use of snowshoes, are included in the enrollment price.

Fees are \$20 per person, \$35 for two members of a family and \$10 for children under 13. For an equipment list and reservations, write Mountaineering School, Yosemite Park, 85389.

Potwisha, South Fork and portions of Lodgepole campgrounds in Sequoia National Park, and portions of Azalea campground in Kings Canyon will remain open during the winter. Meals, overnight accommodations and gas are available only in the Giant Forest-Lodgepole area. Visitor centers at Lodgepole and Grant Grove are open daily from 9 to 5 except Mondays and Tuesdays until spring operations are resumed. Entrance stations are closed except weekends, holidays and school vacation periods. Entrance fees are collected at the Ash Mountain administration building and at the Grant Grove visitor center.

SIERRA GLACIERS

The Los Angeles Times reported on January 13, 1971, that "six Sierra Nevada glaciers in the Tioga Pass area should increase in size after this winter's heavy snows, a glacier study team has reported.

"Storage of water in the form of ice on the peaks is critically important," said Edwin C. Rockwell, a U.S.G.S. representative on the study team.

"Should these glaciers disappear, most of the streams in the Sierra would be dry by August of each year and many lakes would disappear completely," Rockwell said.

SKI TOURING

Enough inquiries have been made at SPS meetings by SPS skiers and would-be skiers about equipment used on ski tours led by the Ski Mountaineers Section that it would seem reasonable to include this information in the ECHO at this time, both to aid experienced skiers and to serve as a guideline for those wanting to learn to ski in order to participate in tours with the Ski Mountaineers, so that their initial purchase of ski equipment will be suitable for both purposes. (SPS skiers, with their conditioning and mountain travel experience, are ideal recruits for the SM Section!)

The Ski Mountaineers Section schedules Alpine ski tours to mountainous areas (rather than Nordic-type "cross country" trips). Therefore, regular "downhill" skis with safety-release bindings adaptable to both uphill travel and downhill skiing, and stiff-sole ski boots are required. Specifically, skis should be reasonably flexible (metal preferred, such as Head "Standards"); boots should be leather lace-type downhill or "ski mountaineering" boots; heel safety-release bindings should be full-cable type, such as Kandahar or Marker (with two sets of cable hitches -- one at rear of boot to hold heel down for normal downhill skiing and one set near the toe to permit heel lift for uphill travel); the Marker safety-release toe unit is recommended as being compatible with a cable binding. Regular ski poles are satisfactory.

For uphill travel, the only additional equipment required is a pair of climbing "skins," which fasten on bottom of ski to keep skis from sliding backward, and a touring attachment--

a beartrap-like plate to hold boot in place on ski when heel is lifted. Both are removed for descent.

Additional information may be obtained by coming to Mugelnoos meetings at 7:30 p.m. November through April, the third Wednesday of each month, also at Lemon Grove Playground, at which time ski touring equipment is discussed. Barbara Lilley also has ski touring equipment information sheets which she will mail upon request.

-- Barbara Lilley

A N N U A L B A N Q U E T

Section members again filled the banquet room at Sir Michael's restaurant to enjoy a fine evening arranged by Horace Ory. The group loudly cheered Dick Sykes' presentation of a beautiful plaque to Jerry Keating, who has served the group as Schedule Chairman for several years. This is a key position, and all who have enjoyed Section outings in the past have Jerry to thank for his outstanding service!

A second presentation was made to Dick Sykes, outgoing Chairman of the Section. Bob Mason, the 1971 Chairman, presented him with a Chairman's guard for his pin. In addition, Bob commented that the watchword for the coming year is "Let's have fun!" Bob promised, "On any trip I am leading this summer, anyone competent to play a musical instrument, other than a piano or drum, I personally will carry it." He added, "Let's not have any more people driving 350 miles to a roadhead alone. It's no fun, and it's dangerous."

Janet Treacy drew the winning numbers for the doorprizes. Ada Pearson won a bota bag donated by Jonas Ski and Hike; Ted Meier an Alpsport summit pack from Kelty's; Maryann Miller a Bleuet stove from Kelty's; Cheryl Dinga a Hideapack from the Sports Chalet; Horace Ory a book "The Mines of Death Valley" from Walt Wheelock's La Siesta Press; Eli Wolfman an enlargement of a photo done by SPS'er Neko Colevins; Maureen Brubaker jerky from Dri Lite Foods; Jay Wiley, Kent Davis and Suzanne Duval Bleuet stoves from West Ridge Sports; and Ed Treacy an ice hammer from Palmdale Skiing and Mountaineering store. In addition Art de Goede and Miles Brubacher won Ken McNutt for a day of climbing instruction, courtesy of California Climbers.

Dan Eaton and Wally Henry topped the evening with a presentation of slides and comments on their summer, 1970, trip to Alaska's Mt. Waddington. Both men's wives accompanied them, and Connie Eaton reached the summit along with the two men.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION AND US

(Reprinted from BONANZA; published by the Mother Lode Chapter)

Sierra Club skiers are painfully aware of the conflict between downhill skiing and our conservation interests. Few realize that the Sierra Club, as a dedicated pioneer, is a member of and supports most of the activities of Far West Ski Association. We don't seem to be able to get together on the relative importance of ski lifts and accommodations or landscape preservation at a few locations. However, we do support FWSA in the need to:

- 1--Encourage ski operators' associations to secure safe, economical facilities.
- 2--Support the ski patrol.
- 3--Secure information services, weather, road, and snow condition reports.
- 4--Encourage ski touring as well as racing.
- 5--Provide services such as foreign air charter flights.

Sierra Club skiers who wish to help the club redirect FWSA activity to the latter subjects should send \$6 for adults or \$3 for spouse and junior memberships to FWSA, 812 Howard Street, San Francisco 94103, together with a statement that as a Sierra Club member you are entitled to the member club rate. To assure that Sierra Club is credited with your membership for voting at conventions, send a card notifying Frank Shoemaker, 1412 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94705 of your membership.

-- Ken Turner

Calendar

1971 WINTER - SPRING

- Jan 10 Rock climbing practice at Stony Point -- Dick Sykes
- Feb 13 - 14 Sierra snow climb -- Barbara Lilley, Don Anderson, Randy Bernard
- 27 - 28 Gould -- Tom Ross, Jay Wiley
- Mar 6 - 7 Cartago -- Dan Eaton, Wally Henry
- 13 - 14 Rock climbing practice at Hidden Valley -- Al Fowler
- 20 - 21 Ice and snow practice above Poopout Hill -- Dick Sykes
- 27 - 28 Homers Nose -- Brendan Bausback, Harry Hayer
- Apr 3 - 4 Tinemaha -- Tom Ross, Don Anderson
- " " (or later) So. Morgan -- Howard Stephens, George Toby
- 10 - 11 (Easter) open
- 17 - 18 Gilbert -- Bob Boyles, Roy Keenan, Ted Maier
- 18 Rock climbing practice at Stony Point -- Dick Sykes
- 24 - 25 Independence - Kearsarge -- Roy Magnuson, Paul Lipsohn
- May 1 - 2 Eagle Pks. -- John Robinson, Tom Amneus
- 8 - 9 Deer -- Art de Goede, Norm Rohn
- 15 - 16 Sherman-Sirretta-Taylor Dome-Rockhouse -- Jay Wiley, Brendan Bausback
- 22 - 23 Acrodetes-Baxter -- Tom Ross, Jerry Keating
- 29 - 31 Wynne-Pinchot-Striped-Goodale -- Don Anderson, Jerry Keating
- " " Angora - Coyote -- Paul Lipsohn, Bob Herlihy
- Jun 5 - 6 Split - Prater -- Al Fowler, Jay Wiley
- " " Four Gables - Basin -- Horace Ory, Paul Kluth
- 12 - 13 Smith-Crag -- Joan Hack, Erick Schumacher
- " " Bolton Brown -- Gordon MacLeod, John Robinson
- " " Mendel-Darwin -- Jay Wiley, Ed Hill
- 19 - 20 Goode - Agassiz -- Bob Mason, John Isaac
- " " Thunderbolt -- Wally Henry, Dick May
- 26 - 27 Keith - Junction -- Jay Wiley, Roy Magnuson
- " " Matterhorn -- Bob Mason, Bill Hunt
- Jul 2 - 5 Clarence King - Gardiner -- Paul Lipsohn, Wally Henry
- 3 - 5 Clark - Starr King -- Gordon MacLeod, Tom Cosgrove
- " " Tableland, Coppermine Pass, Pk. 12,340' exploratory -- Fred Hoeptner, Guy Williams

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Mar 10 Apr 14 May 12 Jun 9

ASCENTS

SMITH MTN. AND SPANISH NEEDLE PEAK, October 17-18 Paul Lipsohn

Eleven climbers assembled at the appointed time, their pace quickened by the crisp 24° weather which signaled the arrival of fall to Kennedy Meadows. Following a lengthy caravan through Fish Creek Meadow, we began our trip along the Jackass Creek Trail. Above Jackass Meadow we discovered a magnificent stand of oak and aspen ablaze with reds and yellows -- a worthy challenger to the best of New England. After a protracted photography stop, we continued to the summit, climbing the minimal third class south face. Lunch was punctuated with sobs from one member upon discovering that his malt refreshment had inadvertently been left in his car. Retracing our route, our group policed the trail as we went, collecting in excess of ten pounds of beer cans and affiliated debris.

All of our group elected to stay over for our Sunday climb of Spanish Needle, so we proceeded in semi-caravan to our campsite in Sand Canyon. Our ranks were swelled to 15 by the arrival of four more climbers, and all were treated to an exceptional desert night.

Sunday morning, after a brief and dusty caravan to the stream crossing, we began the steep, trailless ascent of the peak. Our route followed the jeep trail for about a mile, then turned northwest paralleling a major wash, which we followed to its intersection with the main ridge. We guided on two large brown rock outcrops on the main ridge, passing just below them, and crossed slightly north to the next wash, which leads to the crest. Care must be taken to gain the crest north of the summit, rather than the obviously inviting saddle south of the peak. At the crest we passed under a chockstone, dropped slightly to the west, ascended a 50-foot chimney (easy third class) and scrambled to the peak. After a hearty meal, we retraced our route, regained the cars and refreshments and enjoyed an early start home.



VIRGINIA PEAK AND TWIN PEAKS, September 12-13 Bob Mason

Nineteen made the long drive to Green Lakes roadhead for this climb, including the Hoover family from San Francisco. The weather was sunny at all times but with very high winds, especially at higher elevations. Base camp was reached without incident at lunchtime. Eight people, new to SPS trips, despite an easy pace, decided to remain in camp, while eleven took off for Virginia Peak.

Because the group was relatively inexperienced, the most simple visible approach was taken, via a saddle to the west of the peak, above the lake. Three of the weaker members were burned off during the ascent of a rather steep scree slope.

The remaining eight climbers quickly determined an eastward traverse of the south face was much more feasible than of the forbidding north face. Considerable rock scrambling, some of it low third class, brought us to the final approach via the south-east ridge. At this time two climbers decided that the pitch looked too steep for them, even though it was only about 300 feet to the summit. The remaining six started up, spurred on by the enthusiasm of Duane McRuer, whose emblem peak it was, Fred Clements, who needed the peak to make his sixth for membership in the Section, and young Nate Hoover, anxious to achieve mascot status.

After ascending approximately 100 feet, the quantities of rock being dislodged, the extremely loose hand and footholds, and the sight of Nate's younger sister, Frances, being escorted up the peak parallel with the rest of the party, roped to her mother and both climbing simultaneously, discouraged further thoughts of attaining the summit. Despite its importance to three of the six, all cheerfully abandoned the climb in the interests of safety and made a quick return to base.

On the following morning Twin Peaks was of vital concern because of Saturday's disappointment. Despite the difficult appearance of the route from camp, it turned out to be surprisingly easy, and all were on top in less than two hours. The stay on top, which included a view of Matterhorn, Whorl and Finger Peaks to the north, was admired only very briefly because of enormous gusts of wind which made it very difficult to stand and to walk, and the descent was accomplished with dispatch. The hike out was very pleasant, including an inadvertent detour by way of Summit Pass instead of Virginia Pass. Fortunately this added only about one mile to the route and included some new and pleasant scenery.

The trip was marred only by the burglarizing of several cars left at the roadhead, an event which appears to be becoming more common in the Sierra.

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

KAWEAH PEAKS RIDGE, September 5 - 8 Dick Beach and Barbara Lilley

At first light (with the temperature 20° F!) Dick Beach, Jim Backus and Barbara Lilley headed up the Sawtooth Pass trail from Mineral King on Saturday morning. From the pass Jim and Dick climbed Sawtooth Peak (12,343') while Barbara, who had fortunately already climbed it, enjoyed a nap in the sun. After lunch at Columbine Lake they crossed the knapsack pass south of Blackrock Pass, contoured over to the Little Five Lakes trail and descended to the cabin in the Big Arroyo. (That last 600 feet of sand up to Sawtooth Pass convinced them that the Glacier Pass - Blackrock Pass route is still the best way to reach the cabin.) A temptation to stay at the cabin was quickly overcome with the arrival of rangers and mules, and they placed camp about a thousand feet higher, on a stream descending from the Kaweah Peaks Ridge.

Sunday they ascended a chute to the ridge north of Pyramidal Pinnacle and climbed it (13,600') via the north face, Class 4. After descending the north face, they traversed below the west face on a broad ledge to and up the chute leading to the Pyramidal - Koontz Pinnacle notch. From the notch, they climbed Koontz Pinnacle (13,600') via the Class 3 - 4 northeast ridge. Returning to the ledge, they then descended the chute south of the one leading to the notch, as described in the Climber's Guide. This is also the recommended route of ascent for both pinnacles as to the chute to the north of Pyramidal is dangerous, loose high Class 3 crud!

Monday Jim packed out and Dick and Barbara climbed Squaretop Kaweah via the southeast face; this is listed as Class 4 but pitons were used both for anchors and on the climb. While descending the north side, an easier route of ascent was discovered, as follows: From the west, a Class 2 - 3 couloir leads to the notch just north of the summit -- at a large chockstone just below this notch, climb the northwest face of Squaretop; two 4th class pitches lead to the summit.

After descending this couloir, the two traversed across numerous gullies to the Class 2 slopes of Second Kaweah and up to its summit (13,680'), then returned to camp and packed down to the cabin that night. Tuesday they returned to Mineral King via Blackrock - Glacier Passes, climbing Empire Mountain (11,509') en route and reached the car by 3 p.m. Although Saturday was cold and partly cloudy (including a few snowflakes), the weather for the remainder of the trip was clear and mild, "typical" Sierra weather.

WILSON PEAK, COLORADO Bob Michael

The cluster of three challenging fourteeners known as the "Wilsons" in the San Miguel Mountains of far southwest Colorado beckoned Bill Quinn of Denver and me one long weekend in July. The San Miguels are an east-west trending spur projecting out into the Colorado Plateau from the main mass of the San Juan Mountains near Telluride. Because of their isolated westerly position, they take the brunt of winter storms sweeping in from the west. Glaciation in this area was, therefore, especially intense, and the glaciers here hewed some of Colorado's most scenic peaks out of this small igneous massif. Broad-shouldered Mt. Wilson (this one minus road and telescope) at 14,246' is the second highest in the San Juans. It is connected by a long third and fourth class ridge to El Diente Peak (14,159'). A slender glacial horn confusingly named Wilson Peak (14,017') completes the group. This high country is protected in the small Mt. Wilson Wilderness. (Old Wilson, whoever, he was, must have been on a really ego trip.) These are the closest big peaks of the Rockies to California, and are an excellent sample of the Colorado mountains in their great contrast to the Sierras -- both favorable (the cool, green approach, with dense timber alternating with shimmering aspen glades and vast rolling grassy meadows, and the Nirvana meadows brimming with wildflowers at timberline) and unfavorable (the frequently terrible rock, and the predictably-so weather).

As we had been on an assignment in Arizona, we approached the peaks from Cortez, taking State Highway 149 towards Lizard Head Pass, a broad, verdant saddle which separates the San Miguels from the San Juans. A few miles south of the pass, we turned west on a dirt road which climbs onto the 10,000-foot mesa south of the peaks, and drops to the roadhead at 9350' on the West Dolores River. Here we hoisted packs for the five-mile trip to Navajo Basin. The west shore of the lake offers beautiful campsites on a flowery lawn sloping gently to the water. The richly iron-stained northwest buttress of El Diente Peak rises from the south shore of the lake. Here the geologic anatomy of these peaks is wonderfully exposed. The high peaks of the Wilsons are "held up" by a small but complex granitic stock -- related genetically to the great lava flows of the San Juans but occurring somewhat later and at a lower level in the earth's crust. The granite has intruded Cretaceous sandstone and black shale, with here and there a remnant of the overlying San Juan volcanics. Contact-metamorphic or "cooking" effects were intense in the intruded rock, and the granite itself has undergone considerable chemical alteration. Thus the rottenness of the rock. Wilson Peak is probably the worst of the three in this respect.

Next morning we started up the old miner's trail past the lake to the head of Navajo Basin. The previous afternoon the gloomy mass of coalesced thunderheads had blown away, giving us a beautiful evening and hopes for the morrow. But soon the cursed cumuli popped up out of nowhere, thunder rumbled, and rain squalls lashed Navajo basin -- another typical summer day in Colorado. My friend and I, grimly used to this sort of nonsense but determined to get a peak, kept working up the basin between squalls from shelter to shelter. Soon we had spent too much of the day hiding from the weather to attempt the lengthy Mt. Wilson - El Diente traverse, so we set our sights on the shorter Wilson Peak climb. We headed for the old buildings of the "Rock of Ages Mine" at 12,800' on the southwest flank of the peak and hoped for a late-afternoon clearing like the day before. These old mining ruins, sometimes in the most extraordinary places, are a typical feature of Colorado and are not without their charm. A modern mining operation in such a place would be an outrageous eyesore, but these little shacks and scratchings have long since weathered to the color of the mountains. "Time heals all wounds," especially the minor wounds of the pre-supertechnology era.

Sure enough, towards four o'clock the clouds dispersed, and we set off for a quick scramble up the peak. The summit of Wilson Peak is a salient on a ridge extending one-quarter mile northeast of the rim of Navajo Basin. Climbing soon began in

earnest as we gained the southwest end of the summit ridge via a short but frighteningly loose chimney. The ridge to the summit is sharp and frequently somewhat exposed, although always below the difficulty where a rope would be wanted. Just short of the summit, the peak is cleft by an intimidating gash. After a few moments of despair and choice expletives, we climbed down into the cleft -- "Good Lord, how can a mountain be so loose and still stay up?" -- and out the north side along a wide, dirty maxi-crack to the summit.

From our peak the low-lying sun cast drifting cloud shadows over the immense serrated "subcontinent" of the San Juans to the east. The effect of mountains without end was not unlike that from some choice vantage points in the Sierra. Just to the southwest was the most difficult and dangerous summit in Colorado, 13,113' Lizard Head, a freakish 300-foot vertical spire of fifth class volcanic froth. (The Guide to the Colorado Mountains gives directions for getting to the base of the spire and then advises, "Take photograph and go away.") The Mt. Wilson-El Diente ridge was well displayed just across the basin to the south. To the west, the vastness of the Colorado Plateau stretched off to the Henry Mountains on the far side of Canyonlands, the Lukachukai Mountains in Arizona, and even a genuine DPS summit -- Navajo Mountain.

Lipton's "Ham Cheddarton" called us down from our summit meditations through the fading light to camp.

* * * *

EMBLEM FINALE, September 25 - 27 R. V. Keenan

After some judicious planning, we decided that the quadrangle of Matterhorn, Whorl, Virginia and Twin Peaks above Twin Lakes at Bridgeport would be an optimum set for a three-day weekend and allow both of us to complete our emblem requirements under the new rules. A trip to the same area last year for Matterhorn would have completed our requirements but we were snowed out; so, several additional peaks later, here we were.

Matterhorn proved to be an unspectacular peak when climbed on Friday from Horse Creek Pass and up the southeast crud slope. The only excitement occurred when it was discovered that evening that a Kodak Instamatic had been left on the summit. Saturday morning we set out for Whorl which proved to be a magnificent peak with at least a thousand feet of intermixed low and high third class solid granite climbing below the summit. If one sets out from the pass, contouring along the right side of the valley, a broad level bench is reached which runs south for approximately one mile. Some residual snow and a small tarn are passed with many signs of sheep commuting to the water. The ascent begins where a sharply rising granite slab shoulder intersects the bench. South Whorl can be seen high above on the left (south) side. The route is up the shoulder, bearing slightly left toward what appears to be a scrub pine covered horizontal ledge running below the face of South Whorl. Maintaining this bearing, the route ascends across the left shoulder of the ridge to where some selective route-finding allows passage into a sharply-defined couloir. The route then follows the couloir over steep granite with several sections of high third class. We would have been much more comfortable with a rope! The couloir branches approximately 300 feet below the summit ridge at the face of a summit-type granite projection. The left couloir ascends to the summit ridge and terminates at a point approximately one hundred feet north of South Whorl. The right couloir opens into a short scree slope immediately below the main summit. A short Class 2 scramble gains the summit, and a spectacular view of the Matterhorn ridge on the north and Toulumne Meadows on the south. Only one other party had climbed Whorl this year. After noting in the register that this was Bob Boyles' twenty-fifth and final qualifying peak for emblem status, we descended for lunch at the valley creek.

EMBLEM FINALE, cont'd.

The afternoon climb of Virginia (a gigantic crud heap) was uneventful. On Sunday morning we elected not to climb Twin Peaks but instead decided to pack out to the car, drive to Saddlebag Lake off the Tioga Pass Road and attempt North Peak for my final qualifying peak. On our way out, we met two climbers on their way to Matterhorn with whom I left my name and address for return of my camera. North Peak, impressive in appearance and situated in a beautiful area, proved to be an easy Class 2 climb up the south slope. The round trip was completed in five hours with the assistance of a ferry back across the lake. Whiskey sours at Hot Creek with the "Bishop Virgins" an hour later was a refreshing finish to a three-year climbing program.

(Note: Would the climber (an SPS emblem holder) with whom I left my name and address, please contact me for a status report on my lost camera at 378-7737?)

SOME CLIMBING NOTES

F. J. Meyers

Route down Picket Creek: (1968) The Climber's Guide says (under Kaweah Pass) ". . . work across to Picket Creek, which is descended on the west side." This really means about a half mile west, on a ducked route going north from the last large lake. Picket Creek goes down a steep, brushy gorge and finishes its descent with waterfalls. I wonder if anyone has followed the creek and had to climb back up.

Mt. Ruskin: (1969) We ascended the southwest face to the south ridge just south of the flat-topped gendarme. Then (mistake) we tried to go around the gendarme on the right (east). When this didn't go, we crossed the southeast face and climbed to the upper east ridge 200 feet east of the summit. The last 80 feet, straight up to the ridge, was Class 4, cracks and ledges, solid but at 75 degrees. The south ridge, our descent route, is easy Class 3 if you turn the gendarme on the west or climb up the southwest face to just above it.

Amphitheatre Lake via "pass" south of Sawtooth Peak: (1970) The low point south of Sawtooth Peak is barred by a large cliff on the east. By walking up toward Sawtooth Peak a Class 3 to 4 route can be found. The descent is via a face with a broken cliff at the left forming a sort-of gully for the upper three-quarters of the cliff. After a 75-foot, 60-degree descent, hardest in the lowest 15 feet, follow broad ledges south over Class 2 to 3 rock below.

Mt. Muah: (November, 1970) There is a cattle trail up Wormhole Canyon. The rocks at the top of the canyon appear to make this a Class 2 or 3 approach.

Lion Lake Pass, Triple Divide Pass: (1970) After crossing Lion Lake Pass south to north, go up near the boundary between dark and light rock to get to Glacier Lake, which cannot be seen from the pass. Triple Divide Pass has loose, large-size scree near the top on the west side. The Class 2 route back south after crossing west to east was not clear to us, but there seem to be several Class 3 routes. We went south up the ridge to peak 12,320+' and easily climbed Triple Divide Peak from there. You must descend into the Kern-Kaweah River via the small stream southeast of Triple Divide Peak, as the cliffs continue northeast for miles.

* * * *

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts . . . There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

--Rachel Carson--

Conservation

NEWS

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SIERRA CLUB, Dec. 5-6, 1970:

Mineral King: The Club reaffirms its resolution to save Mineral King and to enlarge Sequoia National Park by the addition of Mineral King, the Kern Plateau, and other contiguous areas of park quality.

Mt. Whitney-John Muir Wilderness: The Club opposes the revision of the boundaries of the John Muir Wilderness to exclude certain approach areas, particularly the trail to Mt. Whitney.

Yosemite Wilderness Plan: The Club supports in principle the proposal for a Yosemite National Park Wilderness prepared by its Tehipite Chapter.

Owens Valley Land Exchange: The Club is opposed to S. 3191 and H.R. 15426 (bills that would effect land exchanges between the Bureau of Land Management and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the Owens Valley) and asks the Southern California Regional Conservation Committee to offer alternate recommendations for management of those lands in the Owens Valley.

Pine Creek: The Club opposes the expansion of mineral processing facilities in Pine Creek Canyon, Inyo County.

FOREST SERVICE TO APPLY NEPA TO PRIVATE LANDS: The U.S. Forest Service recently announced that it will use "an environmental sieve" to evaluate future subdivisions on private lands within the boundaries of the national forests in California. The Forest Service action is taken to conform with the National Environmental Policy Act, and will affect the approximately 4 million acres of private land within the national forest boundaries of California. "We cannot agree to any developments on private lands inside the national forests until we have conducted studies and are assured that the ecology and environment of adjacent national forest lands will not be adversely affected. We want to look at

sewer and solid waste disposal, storm drainage, water, road and powerline requirements, (And) fire protection and prevention" the announcement said. "I was gratified to read of the Regional Forester's announcement that high environmental quality standards would be enforced on private lands within the national forests of California. I hope the Forest Service will enforce the same standards on the national forest lands," Gordon Robinson, consultant forester to the Sierra Club, said.

LETTERS

In regard to a letter from Abe Siemens in the October Sierra ECHO, I have some thoughts. However, I am writing without the letter in front of me and will answer only the points I can remember clearly.

1. The Sierra Club needs to recruit members who understand and sympathize with the conservation aims.
2. The Sierra Club does not need to insist that all members surge into the wilderness areas.
3. The BMTC should be continued, I feel, because the thirty or so members with whom I came in contact last spring and summer were so thoroughly conservation-minded that the wilderness is safe in hands of people "brainwashed" as they were!
4. The Sierra Club could perhaps only for one year try one-day trips into the Sierra Nevada (and other ranges and areas) and satisfy many of the members who speak fearfully of "death marches." Why drag them 10 miles into fragile country, when they (dozens of them) are happy just two or three miles from the roadhead?
5. The Sierra Club should encourage members to carry gas stoves and leave the idea of cooking in the coals to the western novelists. It's very nearly a thing of the past at this time.
6. Talk more cleanup; talk more trailbuilding. Many people I talk to are looking for a positive approach to conservation. How about one day of every long knapsack, burro and highlight trip being used for cleanup of some area? We have to act in a creative way to counteract the many ignorant people who act destructively.

-- Elizabeth Anderson --

Editor's note: Abe Siemens' original letter was reprinted in the October, 1970, issue of SCREE, the publication of the Loma Prieta Chapter's Peak Climbing Section, by its 1970 editor, Roger Bjelk. I cannot recall another article in the ECHO which has brought so much response. It's good to hear from you!

MORE ON STOVES

Barbara Lilley

As a confirmed believer in "old-fashioned" Primus-type gasoline (or kerosene) stoves, I found the article on Bleuet (sometimes referred to as "blow-up") stoves quite amusing and hope it will discourage their purchase. Imagine, in addition to the stove itself, one needs to carry aluminum foil, stove pad, scale, notebook and pencil to record weights (and probably an extra cartridge in case you make an error in calculations). And of course, from a conservation point of view, consideration should be given to the fact that the cartridges are merely something else to be added to the waste products which we are trying to reduce.

Since stoves will now be required on scheduled trips, a very economical (priced under \$2) one is the little alcohol stove. A combination heat shield/pan support can be made by punching numerous air holes in a can wide enough to fit around and above the stove. (Remove both ends also.) Fuel is sold in hardware stores under the title of "shellac thinner." This stove works best for quick-cooking meals which do not require varying temperatures, such as instant rice or potatoes, and is especially suitable for items such as instant cereal or "Tea Kettle" dinners which require only the addition of hot water.

BY-LAWS
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
(As amended November, 1969)

ARTICLE I: NAME OF SECTION

Section 1. The name of this group shall be THE SIERRA PEAKS SECTION of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section 1. The purposes of the Section shall be as follows:

- (a) To develop and expand interest and activity of the Sierra Club membership to the Sierra Nevada.
- (b) To promote weekend knapsack trips and mountain climbs in the Sierra Nevada, and to cultivate close comradeship among hikers and mountaineers.
- (c) To aid in the conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas of the Sierra; the maintenance of good trails and clean campsites, and the dissemination of the general knowledge concerning the range.

ARTICLE III: PLACE OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The place of business shall be Los Angeles, California, and business meetings shall be held at Los Angeles.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Regular members: Any member of the Sierra Club may become a member upon:

- (a) Climbing any six mountains on the qualifying list maintained by the Section, this list to be established and modified by the Section Management Committee. At least two of these peaks shall be climbed on trips scheduled by the Section.
- (b) Making application for membership in writing to the Secretary. Such members will retain membership as long as they are members in good standing of the Sierra Club, participate in at least one Section activity per year (such as a climb or service on a committee), and subscribe to the Section newsletter (one subscription is sufficient for related members living at the same address).

Section 2. Voting: Only members shall have the right to vote. This includes qualified members from any other chapter of the Sierra Club.

Section 3. Qualifications for office: Only members who are qualified to vote may hold office. No Section member may hold the same office for more than one term, or for an unexpired term and one term, during a five-year period.

Section 4. Honorary members: Any member of the Sierra Club who has performed outstanding service for the Section, and who is otherwise unable to qualify for membership under Section 1 of this Article, may become an Honorary Member by majority vote of all ballots cast at an annual business meeting. Honorary Members shall not be entitled to hold offices or vote.

Section 5. Mascot members: Any person under 12 years of age whose parent or guardian is a member of the Section may become a Mascot Member by climbing any six mountains on the qualifying list maintained by the Section Management Committee and by applying in writing to the Secretary. The person's birthdate shall be stated in the application. Mascot membership shall expire when the holder reaches the age of 12 years.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular annual business meeting shall be held in October of each year. At this meeting at least five nominees will be selected. These names will be put on a ballot and mailed to members of record at the date of the mailing. All ballots must be received by the Secretary prior to the regular November meeting at which time they will be counted. The five nominees with the highest number of votes will constitute the Management Committee. Within two weeks they shall meet and select various officers from their number. These officers shall include: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Alternate Officer. They shall then be installed in January to supervise the affairs for the ensuing year or until their successors have been confirmed in office by the Chapter Executive Committee.

Section 2. Business meetings of the members shall be held when called by the Chairman. Upon the written request of a majority of the members the Chairman shall call such a meeting within thirty days after receipt of the request.

Section 3. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at the annual and other business meetings of the membership. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Notice of meetings of the membership shall be given in writing to the members by the Secretary, or his designee, of the Section at least two weeks prior to the date of such meeting. Notice of such meeting will be sent to the address of the member as shown on the records of the Section, or through announcement in the Chapter Schedule or the Section newsletter. Such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, the matters to be considered and the place at which the meeting shall be held.

Section 5. At business meetings of the Section, the order of business shall be as follows:

- (a) Minutes of the previous meeting read.
- (b) Reports of officers.
- (c) Reports of committees.
- (d) Introduction of new members since last meeting.
- (e) Unfinished business.
- (f) New business.
- (g) Election of officers.
- (h) Adjournment.

Section 6. Meetings of the Management Committee shall be held when called by the Chairman or any three members of the Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum and three affirmative votes shall be required for the transaction of any business, or approval of any resolution.

Section 7. Should a vacancy occur on the Management Committee, the remaining members shall, within thirty days, elect a member of the Section to fill the vacancy. Preference shall be given to those members who were voted upon for the Management Committee at the last annual membership meeting.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Chairman: The Chairman shall preside at the meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; shall administer these By-Laws; shall call meetings of the Section and Management Committee as required; shall make reports on the activities and financial status of the Section as required by the Chapter Executive Committee; and shall, with the advice and consent of the Management Committee, appoint committees to plan and carry on the activities of the Section.

Section 2. Vice-Chairman: During the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall act in his place.

Section 3. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; shall have custody of the records; shall attend to the correspondence under the direction of the Chairman; shall have a copy of these By-Laws and those of the Angeles Chapter available for inspection at all meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; and shall give notice of meetings.

Section 4. Treasurer: Under the general supervision of the Management Committee, the Treasurer shall have the custody of the funds, and keep an accurate record thereof; shall make disbursements when authorized to do so by the Management Committee or Chairman; shall prepare a financial statement itemizing all receipts and disbursements, to be submitted upon request from the Section Management Committee or the Chapter Executive Committee and in any event at the annual business meeting; shall maintain all records necessary for a complete and satisfactory audit and shall collect and disburse all funds for special events. Any officer may collect funds which will then be turned over to the Treasurer. In addition, the Treasurer shall from time to time secure badges as needed to supply the membership.

Section 5. Alternate Officer: The Alternate Officer shall attend all membership meetings and assume the responsibilities of any officer not present except where this conflicts with the provisions of Section 2 of this Article. He has full voting privileges as a member of the Management Committee, and also has a right to vote when all members of the Management Committee are present.

ARTICLE VII: FUNDS

Section 1. No dues shall be assessed or collected. Voluntary contributions may be accepted, however, to pay for supplies, equipment, decorations, prizes, refreshments, and to meet other incidental expenses.

Section 2. The funds acquired by the Section shall be placed in Section accounts to be established by the Treasurer. Access to this account shall be by the Treasurer and the Chairman.

ARTICLE VIII: BADGES

Section 1. This Section shall adopt a badge, and all members of the Section who have climbed ten of the following fifteen peaks on the qualifying list maintained by the Section, have climbed a minimum of fifteen additional peaks on the qualifying list and who have been a member of the Section for at least one year shall be entitled to a badge upon applying to the Secretary in writing and forwarding payment therefor: Olancho Peak, Mt. Kaweah, Mt. Whitney, Mt. Williamson, Mt. Brewer, Mt. Clarence King, Split Mtn., North Palisade, Mt. Goddard, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Humphreys, Mt. Abbot, Mt. Ritter, Mt. Lyell and Matterhorn Peak.

ARTICLE IX: APPEALS

Section 1. Any member may appeal in writing to the Chapter Executive Committee for a final determination regarding action of the Section or of the Management Committee.

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing and special committees shall be appointed as required to plan and carry out the activities of the Section. These committees will be responsible to the Management Committee.

Section 2. The standing committees shall include a Mountaineering Safety Committee, Mountaineering Records Committee, Publications Committee and Conservation Committee.

- (a) The Mountaineering Safety Committee shall establish and enforce safety standards for the climbing activities of the Section, and formulate training and testing procedures to implement them. This committee shall maintain lists of those who have passed the tests which have been established, and the Chairman of this committee shall have passed the highest of these which is currently in use within the Section.
- (b) The Mountaineering Records Committee shall maintain the list of qualifying peaks, including recommending additions to or deletions from such list subject to the provisions of these By-Laws; shall maintain a record of mountaineering activities of the Section, including a record of persons participating in those activities; and shall keep other records of a mountaineering nature (e.g., condition of Sierra summit registers and those placed by the Section) as may be required by the activities of the Section.
- (c) The Schedule Committee shall plan the mountaineering activities of the Section in the ensuing year. These activities shall include, but not be restricted to, climbs of the qualifying peaks, and, when possible, of one or more Sierra peaks not on the qualifying list. (The Section Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be ex-officio members of this committee.)
- (d) The Program Committee shall arrange the activities of the Section which are not of a mountaineering nature. These activities may include, but are not necessarily restricted to, the programs and refreshments at the monthly meetings and the annual banquet.
- (e) The Publications Committee shall publish, or cause to be published, the Section newsletter, copies of the list of qualifying peaks and, at least once a year, a list of all members of record for distribution with an issue of the newsletter.
- (f) The Conservation Committee shall plan activities related to conservation in the Sierra Nevada in areas of interest to the Section and which utilize its unique capabilities. This committee shall also maintain liaison with Chapter and other Sierra Club activities in the conservation area.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the regular members submitting written ballots, provided that ballots are sent to all regular members at least three weeks prior to counting. Following adoption by the Section, the Chapter Executive Committee must give its approval before the amendment is effective.

LAST MINUTE FLASH

The SPS has agreed to assist the BMTC by instructing their instructors (not their students) in snow and ice techniques. They will have about 80 instructors for about 1,000 students. Our training sessions for the instructors (about 40 each day) will be on Sunday, March 14, (Dick Sykes in charge) and Saturday, March 20, (Dick Jali in charge) on Mt. Baldy above the San Antonio Ski Hut. If you are able to help on either or both days please call or write Sykes (1038 East Fernrock, Gardena, 90247, 639-6991) or Jali (4748 G La Villa Marina, Marina Del Rey, 90291, 823-3470). Last year's sessions were very successful.

Bob Mason

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I am an active Section member. NOTE: Bylaws require at least one SPS activity each year for active membership. Please list your 1970 activity:

I am an inactive Section member as I did not participate in an activity last year.

I am an ECHO subscriber only.

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