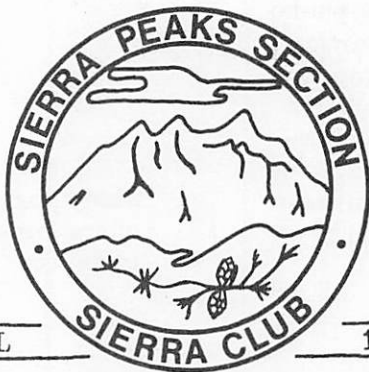


The Sierra



ECHO

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NO. 2



Tom Ross supplied this beautiful photo showing the sunset shadows on Mt. Darwin, left, and Royce, right. It was taken on March 18, 1965, while Tom and Pete Lewis were making a first winter ascent. Tom is still making first winter ascents. Be sure to read his descriptions of his recent climbs of Cardinal Mountain and Mt. Prater in this issue.

RECYCLING THE NEWS

Each month I receive a copy of almost every Chapter's newsletter and scheduled events. (Many SC Chapters are small enough to include their schedules in their newsletters.) So many of these outings sound interesting that I am tempted to leave home immediately and wander with the Uintah Chapter or the Grand Canyon Chapter for the rest of my life. I hate to toss this information out, if there is anyone in our Section who can use it for any reason. Let me know. -- The Editor --

ECHO STAFF

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

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

April 19, 1971.

NEW MEMBER

Congratulations to the one new member who managed to break through the annual changing-of-the-officers confusion in time for this issue: Larry E. Moss
15201 De Pauw
Pacific Palisades

DID YOU NOTICE?

The picture in the circle on our front-page heading now is a true replica of the coveted SPS emblem. HORACE ORY noticed that the previous drawing was not accurate and supplied us with a true copy of the emblem. The mountain portrayed is Mt. Williamson, home of the Sierra bighorn.

WILDERNESS USE PERMITS

The USFS will be instituting a permit system for public use of the 17 wilderness and four primitive areas within the national forests of California. The permit will be a combination "Wilderness Entry and Campfire Permit" that must be obtained prior to entry. The permit will be obtained from forest supervisors or district rangers by mail or in person. "The objective of the permit will be to obtain better public cooperation and more reliable visitor data." The Forest Service will release complete information on the permit system the middle of this month.

PARK VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Officials at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are looking for volunteers to assist in projects that serve people and the environment. A new program, Volunteers in Parks, now offers opportunities to contribute one's services by serving as a receptionist, performing clerical duties at Ash Mountain headquarters, technicians, and acting as a guide for international visitors. Additional positions are expected to be available this summer in other activities, according to Superintendent John McLaughlin. He asks that individuals who feel they have an appropriate interest or skill apply or write to the Park. No pay is offered, and no information concerning lodging or meals is given in the Park's January 29 news release.

AND TV TOO?

The Los Angeles Times reports that a slim, attractive Swiss redhead, Yvette Vaucher, could soon become the first woman on the roof of the world. If all goes well, her glamorous smile will reach the world's TV sets from the top of Mt. Everest about the end of May. The BBC, one of the major sponsors of the trip, plans to get a TV camera up on top.

The highest any woman has yet climbed is 26,198 feet reached by Setsuko Watanabe of Japan when she climbed the South Col of Everest last May.

SNOW TRAILS -- NEW YOSEMITE MAP

"Snow Trails," a new map of Yosemite's winter wilderness, is now available. Published by the Yosemite Natural History Association in cooperation with the National Park Service, it covers all the trails around Badger Pass and the Tioga Road and Snow Creek Trail to Tuolumne Meadows. Two shaded relief maps are included, as well as descriptions of each route including diagrammatic trail profiles showing elevation gained and lost. It is available for \$.50 in the Park or for \$.75 from Yosemite Natural History Association, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite National Park 95389.

MOUNTAINEERS LIST EXPLAINED

The Management Committee has decided to dispense with the present third and fourth class lists in favor of a new list to be known as "The Mountaineers' List." There are several reasons for this action. It had become apparent that there were significant deficiencies in the requirements for admission to the third class list, and the fourth class list was seldom used and had not been adequately maintained. Further, the terms "third class" and "fourth class" as applied to these lists were not entirely accurate, since admittance to the lists required qualifications other than skill in technical climbing.

The new check-off form published here covers the requirements of the old third class list plus some additional skills such as knowledge of fundamental belaying techniques, ability to use crampons and ability to rappel. These abilities are considered essential since frequently third class pitches are belayed for safety, and rappels are used in lieu of downclimbing for speed and safety. Indeed, unexpected weather conditions may require use of these techniques on a route where they would not otherwise be needed.

All SPS members who were on the old third class list were contacted and asked if they felt they qualified for the new list. All who replied affirmatively were considered by the Management Committee and were placed on the list if determined to be qualified. Other members who wish to qualify should have the various parts of the check-off form signed off by one of the qualified leaders listed on the form. Approval by the Management Committee upon recommendation of the Mountaineering Safety Chairman is then required. The list is subject to periodic review by the Management Committee and persons determined to be unqualified may be removed.

All should realize that the basic purpose of this list is to assist leaders of trips involving technical skill or a high degree of physical endurance who must have a convenient way to select qualified participants. The extent to which the list is used in determining these participants is up to the leader.

It is the goal of the Mountaineering Safety Chairman Wally Henry to make these procedures as systematic and foolproof as possible so that safety is not compromised. Also, both the novice and the more experienced mountaineer will have more fun on trips compatible with their skills and abilities.

-- Fred Hoeptner,
Vice Chairman --

Conservation

NEWS

BIGHORN SHEEP PROTECTION:

The Forest Service has proposed establishing a 40,400-acre zoological area in Inyo National Forest to save the California bighorn sheep from extinction. Today an estimated 200 sheep remain, chiefly in the Mt. Baxter and Mt. Williamson herds. The proposed zoological area would encompass the major ranges of these two herds. In the special area top priority would be given to the needs of the sheep through protection and maintenance of the habitat and regulation of human use to a minimum level. Conservationists are supporting this proposal; written comments should be submitted to: Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 2957 Birch St., Bishop 93514.

California Bill to Protect Mountain Lion:

The California legislature is considering a bill to grant complete protection to the mountain lion. AB 660 specifies that a mountain lion may not be taken, injured, possessed, transported, imported or sold, except in those cases where the Department of Fish and Game must remove a degrading animal. Hearings are scheduled by the Assembly Natural Resources and Conservation Committee for March 31. You are urged to write in support of the bill (and ask that your statement be included in the hearing record) to the committee, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA., 95814.

San Joaquin Wilderness:

In the House, 12 co-sponsors joined Rep. Jerome Waldie of California in introduction of a bill (H.R. 4270) to establish the 50,500-acre San Joaquin Wilderness in California. The bill was referred to the House Interior Committee.

Permanent Golden Eagle Program Proposed:

Thirteen senators sponsored a bill to make permanent the Golden Eagle passport program for entry into national park and recreation areas. Last year Congress extended the \$10 entrance fee through 1971, but this proposal would continue the passport indefinitely. Money from this program goes into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for federal and state parkland and recreation acquisition projects.

MINERAL KING: The Supreme Court has agreed to rule on the Club's petition to have its standing to sue on behalf of the general public recognized in the Mineral King case. If the Court rules in favor of the Club, the Club can proceed with its suit to prevent federal officials from authorizing illegal acts which would produce permanent damage in Sequoia Nat'l. Park and Mineral King, an area within the Sequoia Nat'l. Game Refuge. The temporary injunction won by the Club in 1969 barring the Department of Agriculture from issuing permits to Disney and barring the Department of Interior from issuing permits permitting power lines and a road through the Park remains in effect until the high court hands down its decision. It is expected that the case will be heard late this fall.

Disney's master plan for a "controlled introduction to nature" is to construct the following facilities in this alpine valley: an 8 - 10 story parking structure; a hotel complex; a large ski instruction center; a lift system of 22 to 27 lifts; an auto reception center, and employee accommodations.

Helicopters for Wilderness Cleanup of Plane Wrecks: The problem presented by the trash of planes wrecked in isolated wilderness areas was brought to a head when a B-25 (medium-sized twin engine airplane) crashed in the Trinity Alps. Donald Mitchell, Service Trip Chairman, has organized an expedition involving the Forest Service, the National Guard and his own troops to clean up the mess and remove it by helicopter.

At their Jan. 12, 1971, meeting the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club passed a motion approving of the cleanup by helicopter in this one instance, provided the area would not be further damaged to prepare a place for the helicopter to land. The general problem was referred to the Wilderness Classification Committee for the purpose of preparing guidelines for any further cases that might arise.

Symposium on Trails Planned:

The Interior and Agriculture Departments announced a three-day national symposium on trails has been scheduled to start June 2 in Washington, D.C. The announcement said the meetings would stress methods, criteria and problems in establishing urban, state, regional and national trails for public recreation. Participants will be briefed on progress of the National Trails System since its establishment in 1968.

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
MOUNTAINEERS LIST

Applicant's Name (print): _____

Address: _____

I. Instructions

- A. Satisfactory completion of these requirements is required for applicant to be considered for participation in restricted rock and snow climbing trips sponsored by the Sierra Peaks Section.
- B. Only Sierra Peaks Section qualified safety training instructors are authorized to certify that these tests have been satisfactorily completed (see list below).
- C. Completed forms must be mailed to the current SPS Secretary for review by the Management Committee. The applicant will be notified by mail whether he or she has been approved for participation in restricted climbs.

II. Climbing on Rock

- A. Judgment.
- B. Balance.
- C. Not dislodging rocks.
- D. Adept in the dynamics of movement on rock (smooth motion, climbing with eyes, etc.).
- E. Able to tie bowline and bowline on a coil quickly and efficiently.
- F. Demonstrate body rappel of at least 30 feet and at an angle near vertical.
- G. Demonstrate proper use of voice commands and belaying techniques.

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this Section:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

III. Snow and Ice Climbing

- A. Judgment.
- B. Balance.
- C. Handling ice axe -- must demonstrate ability to traverse snow slopes while correctly using ice axe.
- D. Self arrest -- must demonstrate ability to recover from an on-back, headfirst fall at speeds that simulate an actual fall.
- E. Glissade -- demonstrate ability to maintain satisfactory control during a sitting glissade.
- F. Demonstrate proper use of crampons.

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this Section:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

IV. Conditioning, Conduct and Experience

- A. Must have satisfactorily participated in at least one SPS scheduled rock climbing practice session or on a trip where the leader indicates training will be available prior to being tested on the requirements of Section II.

Date of Session _____ Leader _____

- B. Must have satisfactorily participated in at least one SPS scheduled snow and ice practice session or on a trip where the leader indicates training will be available prior to being tested on the requirements of Section III.

Date of Session _____ Leader _____

- C. Must have demonstrated mountaineering ability as follows:

1. On first day of 2-day trip, must complete a backpack of 3500 feet or more elevation gain, including some 2nd or higher class cross-country travel.
2. On second day, must demonstrate ability to climb a peak of approximately 3000 feet elevation gain, return to camp and backpack out.
3. Parts 1 and 2 must be performed in the same weekend on a scheduled SPS trip. List trip with date.

Trip: _____ Date _____

- D. Must have climbed a minimum of twelve peaks and successfully completed six scheduled SPS trips. List peaks or trips below: (Scheduled climbs only)

	<u>Trip</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

- E. Must be an active member of the Sierra Peaks Section.

V. Qualified Leaders

Testing of applicants for Mountaineers List may be performed on a scheduled Section climb, providing the tester is a qualified instructor. Those people qualified to test applicants and sign forms are listed below:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Anderson, Don | 10. Hunt, Bill | 19. Robinson, John |
| 2. Beach, Dick | 11. Jali, Dick | 20. Rohn, Norm |
| 3. Davis, Sid | 12. Jones, Ron | 21. Ross, Tom |
| 4. DeGoede, Art | 13. Keating, Jerry | 22. Schumacher, Eric |
| 5. Erb, Arkel | 14. Lilley, Barbara | 23. Shinno, George |
| 6. Fletcher, Elton | 15. MacLeod, Gordon | 24. Smatko, Andy |
| 7. Fowler, Al | 16. Maier, Ted | 25. Sykes, Dick |
| 8. Henry, Wally | 17. Mason, Bob | 26. Thornton, John |
| 9. Hoeptner, Fred | 18. Ory, Horace | 27. Van Allen, Bob |

ASCENTS

KENNEDY & HARRINGTON, June 6-7, 1970 Art de Goede

Ten, SPS'ers all, met at the Deer Cove trailheads for the effort on Kennedy and Harrington. The weather was reasonably warm and fair time was made to camp on a stream about one-half mile west and across a low divide from Frypan Meadow. Picking up Wally Henry (the only one to find Frypan Meadow, our expected camping site) on the way, nine of the ten who started climbed Kennedy on Saturday using the trail up to Kennedy Pass. Some thunder was heard and heavy showers were seen to the southeast and northeast but our position proved to be a favored one. Return to camp was down the south-southwest ridge and into Lewis Creek where we picked up the trail for the last mile. Having gained about 7,400 feet for the day, we arrived back at camp about 7:30 p.m. Everyone retired reasonably early and were ready to start for Harrington at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Of the nine who started the next morning, one turned back early due to foot ailments -- blisters. The time to the saddle just north of Harrington was fairly slow what with following looping trails and having to descend slightly while contouring toward the bowl below Harrington. However, the climb of the imposing north ridge was faster than anticipated, detours to the right and returns to the ridge solving the apparent obstacles. No one considered it the "extreme" third class of the Climber's Guide. Harrington is an impressive peak from all angles on this approach and had last been previously climbed in 1967. On the way down we went to upper Grizzly Lake and across the ridge to the east, picking up the trail earlier used. This appears to be the best route.

At 4:25 p.m. all were back at the roadhead, a perfect place to end the trip, as the Kings River was used to remove grime, cool bodies and revive any muscles not in first class shape. Everyone then made his way home to such diverse and exotic places as San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Lodi, and El Monte, with most of those heading south stopping in Bakersfield for an immense meal at a Basque restaurant.

* * * *

NORTH MAGGIE & MOSES, May 23-24 Art de Goede

Thirty-two people hiked through the Sequoia Gigantea along the north fork of the Middle Fork of the Tule River on Saturday morning and made camp just above the second stream crossing. The first crossing is Redwood Crossing (a reasonably steep but wide redwood log) and might be rough in wet weather with high water. Conceivably a rope should be taken for safety. We had good weather and low water and no problems.

Since a few were mere idlers or fishermen, only 27 started up North Maggie; 24 climbed all the way. The main diversion on top was attempting to identify the peaks just south of Mineral King. A few used their ice axes for a nice glissade on a slightly different route down, ice axes otherwise being unnecessary.

Sunday a clean, direct route east from camp was taken to the top of the Moses ridge -- a fair distance from the summit to the south. However, the scramble along the ridge to the summit was enjoyed by most, and all 21 who started made the top.

Elton Fletcher deserves special thanks for bring along Vi Grinsteiner (and her husband Ron, and Elton's family too, of course).

* * * *

MT. GOULD, Feb. 27-28. Tom Ross

The meeting place for the climb was at snowline on the Onion Valley road, but as a storm was predicted and a rock face with loose rock could completely block the road, the group moved their vehicles about two miles down the road to about 7,000 feet.

Fifteen people arrived for the trip. As we approached Onion Valley the clouds thickened and snow began to fall. The wind was cold and strong. As we climbed the slope below Little Pothole Lake, a real blizzard hit. A complete whiteout hit at camp at Gilbert Lake. Everyone had tents or could share one. The storm continued all night, and at 6 a.m. it was 2° with strong gusts of wind. It was snowing very hard.

The weather was forecasted as clearing Sunday! We all packed up and started down. Most of the group used snowshoes. One skier accidentally set off an avalanche below the snowshoe group. It was about 40 feet wide and 100 feet long!

The only other mishap on the trip was a member biting into a frozen apple and breaking a front tooth. We all reached our cars in the early afternoon. The first SPS winter trip in the High Sierra was completely snowed out, but all members were well-equipped so did not suffer and were in good spirits, despite the storm and cold.

* * * *

CIRQUE PEAK, Feb. 13-14 Barbara Lilley

Fears of traffic tie-ups through the earthquake zone Friday night proved groundless; unfortunately, reports that the Cottonwood Basin Road was open were also erroneous, as the road was blocked by snowdrifts at approximately 7500'. This added three miles and 2000 feet of elevation gain to the joint Sierra Peaks - Ski Mountaineers trip. The three skiers and 11 snowshoers reached snow at about 9000', following the old Cottonwood Creek trail to campsites near Golden Trout Camp, reached by ten people just at dark. Snow was unconsolidated on north slopes and sparse on south-facing slopes.

Ten, including the three skiers, climbed Cirque Peak (12,900') on Sunday, with the last 1200 feet on bare ground. (Ice ax and crampons were never needed.) The beautiful scenery and good weather made the effort worthwhile. (This could have been the first winter ascent of this peak. In any event, a new register is needed. Someone planning to climb it this summer should take one along.) Four elected to stay in the extra day (holiday). The other six climbed the agonizing 500-foot rise above camp; then skis were an advantage in reaching the road just at dark. Of course, Don Anderson, who runs every day, arrived at about the same time on snowshoes! Return to L.A. was late enough to avoid any traffic problems; both leaders resolved that next time they would pick an area where they knew the road would be plowed!

* * * *

CARTAGO, March 6-7 Dan Eaton

The SPS winter snow camping trip to Cartago Peak included participation by seven persons, warm weather and very little snow.

It was evident at the Cartago Creek roadhead that snowshoes would be of little use. They were left behind. The trip plan was to follow the creek to a point just below the peak, camp, climb the peak the next day and pack out. A 60-foot high frozen water-fall necessitated a change in route. A less interesting but more practical ascent was made of a scree-filled gully, a scree-covered ridge and a scree-covered face -- 5000 feet of scree.

The never-before-used, beautiful campsite was a pleasant reward. We tried to leave it in the same shape for any future group. Feeling the need to use the tents that were carried, some slept in them while the others enjoyed sleeping in the open, the night being warm and clear.

Intermittent snow patches lay between our camp and the peak, which is marked by a large stick. This is important, because Cartago consists of a plateau with about five high points.

For some the descent of the 5000 feet of scree was the high point of the trip. Rates of 1000 feet in 12 minutes were recorded on the upper portion but slowed to the small pace of 1000 feet in 15 minutes on the lower sections.

The usual good dinner was provided by Tokiwas, our favorite Japanese watering spot on the edge of beautiful Antelope Valley.



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

FIRST WINTER ASCENT OF CARDINAL MOUNTAIN (13,397'), Feb. 6-7 Tom Ross

For several years I had been thinking of attempting a possible first winter ascent of Cardinal Mountain along the Stecker Bench route which goes directly to the summit and could be accomplished without skis. The Taboose Creek and Pass route has few timbered places to camp, and the canyon bottom is dangerous in winter because of the possibility of rock and snow avalanches occurring; the route also is long in shadow and very cold.

On the morning of February 6, I left the Taboose Creek roadhead and backpacked to 9,000 feet in big timber on Stecker's Bench and found a good, sheltered and flat location for a camp. It was 21° F. and at 6 a.m. the next morning, there was no wind. I climbed the ridge, using crampons in places at 12,000'. When I reached the summit, no winter ascent was recorded. The view was beautiful in all directions. Arrow Peak was the most impressive sight, and there was also a good view of Mt. Ruskin, Vennacher Needle and the peaks above Lake Basin and Upper Basin. The sheer faces of Split Mountain and Peak 13,803 were nearly free of snow. It was only 26° F. and little wind. I descended by the same route and arrived at the roadhead in almost full moonlight at 8 p.m.

It is rare for climbers to ascend Cardinal by the Steckers Bench route, as in the summer you must carry your water, but in the winter it was a direct route. Few people climb Cardinal even in the summer and then by the Taboose Pass route up the southeast face, but it is really worth the spectacular view.

* * * *

FIRST WINTER ASCENT OF MT. PRATER (13,329'), March 6-7 Tom Ross

Pete Lewis and I left the roadhead at Red Mountain Creek on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. We stayed on the trail until we reached the place where the creek divides and Red Mountain Creek and the Cardinal Glaciers Canyon come together. From here we climbed on very hard, icy snow to camp above the little lake below Red Mountain Lake. It was a mild night, but the wind came up at 2 a.m.

Sunday morning it was 26° and windy. We carried snowshoes and skis on the trip but left them in camp. We left camp at 6:30 a.m. and climbed the canyon just above Red Mountain Lake and sheer-fluted Split Mountain. The snow was as hard as concrete in places and icy blue in color. We put on crampons above the lake and climbed up the chute on the northwest face of Split Mountain. The snow was very hard and icy lower down with wind slab powder up high. The chute is almost 45° near the top in places. We then dropped to the saddle between Split Mountain and Mt. Prater, then climbed up the almost bare east face and up the short Class 3 knife edge to the summit. It was a first winter ascent.

It was partly cloudy and 22° on top, with a 35 m.p.h. west wind. The view was beautiful in all directions. From the rugged Palisades to the Evolution group, to the Kings-Kern Divide area

It was partly cloudy and 22° on top, with a 35 m.p.h. west wind. The view was beautiful in all directions from the rugged Palisades to the Evolution group to the Kings-Kern Divide area. Long shadows crept across the snowfields from rapidly moving storm clouds. We returned to camp by the same route and arrived at the car in almost full moonlight.

* * * *

LONE PINE MTN., January 16 - 17 Bob Boyles

On a relatively warm, lightly overcast Saturday morning Roy Keenan, Frank Snively and I shuffled, snowshoed, onto the Meysan Lake trail from the campground at Whitney Portal. The snow cover was only 18 to 24 inches, and the going was moderately easy thanks to a partly compacted trail left by some other hikers since the last snow. We ate lunch in warm, hazy sunshine some two-thirds of the way to lower Meysan Lake, and just after the grade really steepens up. Camp in a couple of hours seemed a sure thing. However, the steeper grade had apparently discouraged our unknown trail compactors, the drifting snow had obliterated any other evidence of the trail, and the pleasantly warm temperature began to take its toll by way of heavy, soft snow. Our progress slowed to a stagger, measured primarily by the need to exchange the trail-breaking lead. We were partially aided by a couple of long, highly compacted avalanche runouts which held our weight while we ascended directly up their length.

By 3:30 p.m., we were still some 200 feet below the final ridge holding the lower lake -- having made only about one mile in the last three hours. Pretty well exhausted and in a nice grove of trees, there was unanimous agreement that this was the best campsite in the whole area. Later, at sunset, we were treated to a spectacular color display -- not only the usual reds and pinks of the wispy clouds but a unique blue to violet glow in the expanse of clear sky over the Owens Valley.

The morning was warm and sunny and though snowshoes were still required, the snow was firm. We made good time past frozen Little Meysan Lake to the base of the chute which provides ready access to the ridge running out to the summit of Lone Pine Mountain. We gratefully dropped our snowshoes as the mixed hard snow and scree made for pretty good footing. In fact, we were feeling sorry for summer climbers who must slip and slide through this 1500 feet of steep scree. We made the top in a couple of hours and were treated to the clearest viewing I've had in three years of climbing. Four ranges of mountains with snow flagging their high crests were clearly visible to the east.

The trip down was fast with some nice glissading over the lower slopes back to camp. Packed up and we had only downhill to go. But what a trip! The two days of warm weather and today's bright sun had turned the snow to a soft, soggy mess. I guess our trail helped some, but it wasn't obvious. The first half of the trip out was over very steep slopes. The melting snow had caused an icy slush to form at the bottom, which on any fine scree or rock surface formed a virtually frictionless sheer plan. Each step then led to a minor avalanche, followed by an agonizing decision whether to trip to get back up to our old path or to start out over unbroken snow. As I recall, it seemed either way was the poorer choice. What seemingly impossible positions one could end up in while losing the battle to maintain a balance on the sliding stuff. Somehow or other one snowshoe could get buried three feet deep, backwards and upside down, while the other hooked onto the pack. You were completely immobilized, and there was no recourse except to start digging and call for a hand to help pull out.

But perseverance won out. The lower trail was reasonable, and we made the car just as it really got dark. The winter ascent of Meysan Lake will be well remembered.

TABOOSE PASS ENVIRONS AND TO THE WEST AND NORTH
Andy Smatko

Like all good trips, the one chronicled below had its nucleus a few years ago when on a seven-day trip Bill Schuler and I climbed several summits along the sinuous crest paralleling the main crest of the Sierra but lying roughly three to five miles west. This secondary crest runs roughly north and south from the Palisades Lakes on the north to below Mt. Ruskin on the south, a distance of about six airline miles. However, along this crest lie 12 separate peaks, including Mt. Ruskin with its minor South Peak. An offshoot of this crest angles along a ridge through Mather Pass and on to join the main Sierra Crest at Mt. Bolton-Brown.

Consequently our hopes and desires urged us to climb all the summits on this crest and the bar of the "H" connecting it to the main crest. The successful completion of this trip saw fruition of our endeavor, and we believe we are the only two persons to have achieved this distinction. The sketch at the end of this article describes or rather portrays the total picture. The summits are marked with their elevation or name. Small subsidiary peaklets were climbed en route but need not be mentioned, although some were quite striking.

Starting Saturday morning, September 12, Tom Ross, Bill Schuler and I struggled under heavy packs over Taboose Pass and camped in fair timber on the west side. Strong gusts of wind (up to 60 miles per hour) made the last few miles very tiring.

Next day we climbed Peak 12,720+ 1.0 mile southwest of Striped Mountain. This striking massif extends like a thumb from Mt. Snowdrift in a northwest direction. It is very steep on both the northeast and southwest sides presenting a jagged skyline ridge. I knew Ed Lane had climbed it along the ridge from the northwest, good Class 3. Our route lay up the east face and southeast face, and by careful route finding we made it easy Class 3 with some harder pitches along the summit ridge. Ed's ascent was the second. Another party climbed it since and named it Wrongway Peak but neglected to state their route. That afternoon Bill climbed Cardinal Mountain via the west ridge and also Peak 12,851', while Tom and I climbed only the latter peak. Peak 12,851' is Class 2 except for the summit block.

With the days being relatively short, our arising time was at the break of dawn, and consequently the next day, Monday, we dropped down to the south fork of the King's River and headed up the Cartridge Pass trail. This is a steep, rocky trail -- even steeper on the north side. From the pass we three climbed the south peak of Mt. Ruskin, 12,640+', and again found Ed Lane's name here. A Mr. Czock had made the first ascent, and ours was only the third. Bill went on to climb Mt. Ruskin, and then we dropped into Lake Basin to camp -- our home for three nights. Mt. Ruskin could use a decent register.

Tuesday saw us eagerly looking forward to a first ascent, perhaps. The first peak we headed for up canyon was Peak 12,860', first climbed by A. J. Reyman, who describes it as a difficult ascent. I guess our route choice was better than his, for it was mostly Class 2 except for the summit area, which was loose Class 3. Even the Class 2 was very loose. The north face of this peak -- christened Mt. Reyman -- and the ridge extending to the southwest is vertical and even concave, having a height of about a thousand feet. This would present a very serious challenge to the best Yosemite climbers. Our hoped-for first ascent lay to the east along the ridge from Mt. Reyman -- a quadri-summited peak having a sheer north face. Class 2 climbing brought us to the first summit (lowest), and we were dismayed to find a cairn and note saying "out for a stroll and a view -- ugh!" We pressed on to the next equal height summit a short distance away and found another cairn. The two eastern summits were considerably higher and looked difficult due to the summit blocks. We climbed both of these summits with the easternmost being a bit higher. Neither had any evidence of ascent. The exposure on the highest was considerable. We had gained our first ascent and left a register in a cairn. We named the peak Quadripinnacle Mountain. Its north face would pose a severe test for the most intrepid rockclimber. Dropping southward

we contoured eastward and climbed Peak 12,640+' (0.6 miles northwest of Vennacher Needle) and achieved another first ascent -- Class 2 from the southwest over large blocks. A cairn and register were left. We named it Mt. Lyon.

The following day we expected a tough grind, and to avail ourselves of all the daylight we could have, we awakened at 4:30 a.m., breakfasted and set our contouring to the west and then over Dumbbell Lakes Pass, dropped to the west shore of lower Dumbbell Lake, cut across the basin to Observation Pass (southeast of Observation Peak) and then dropped 800 feet to the west shore of Amphitheater Lake. At Observation Pass there was a vertical wall of icy snow 30 feet high which we passed on the left (north) looking down. One cannot contour along the southwest and south side of the lake as a cliff drops straight into the lake. We continued up eastward past Lake 11,546' and ascended Peak 12,880+' via the south slope -- Class 2. On approaching the summit area there are visible three peaks -- the westernmost is obviously the lowest. We headed for the easternmost, and it proved to be the highest by about 15 feet -- higher than the middle summit. There was no record of any ascent on our summit. However the middle summit had a peculiar cairn-like pile on a block well below its high point, and through a six-power telescope we still couldn't be sure if it was a cairn. There was nothing on top of the middle summit which we could look down on. We built a cairn and left a register and headed back. Bill hurried on ahead and climbed Observation Peak while Tom and I tried to reach camp before dark and almost made it. Bill came in around 9 p.m., a long, tiring day.

Next day we headed for so-called "Upper Basin Col" or what I would rather call Vennacher Col, but before going up to the col we climbed Peak 12,811' via a loose chute on the west face. This peak has two summits (north and south) with the north one being the higher. Naturally we found Ed Lane's name here, but A. J. Reyman had made the first ascent many years previously. When we looked down at Vennacher Col we couldn't believe our eyes. The col looked sheer on the west side with the only possible route appearing as a very steep chute ending in what looked like a 75-foot vertical wall. However we knew the Climber's Guide describes this route, and I knew that some SPSers had gone over it with backpacks, so we weren't too concerned. When we did reach the chute it wasn't as steep (naturally) as it had looked, and the upper 75 feet were easy third class on the left (north) side of the end of the chute. If one approached from the east, one must remember to proceed about one hundred feet lineally up and to the north of the low point and then angle down westwards and to the left to enter the chute. We left a register in the cairn at the pass. Tom went on to climb Vennacher Needle (which we had already climbed). There is an easier pass (if one wishes to use it) just east-northeast of Lake 11,283', elevation 12,200+', leading into Upper Basin from the west. It is easy Class 2 except for the upper 40 feet on the west side, where easy Class 3 ledges can be climbed. It is easier than Vennacher Col but it does not put one into Lake Basin on the west. There is a third pass -- also Class 2 which lies just northwest of Peak 12,640+', which does connect Upper Basin to Lake Basin, and this one also is easier than Vennacher Col and about the same elevation.

I have gone into considerable detail here because future backpackers may wish to know for certain whether connections from Upper Basin westward do exist and also how difficult they may be. Still another pass lies immediately west of the westernmost of the four peaks of Quadripinnacle Mountain, leading down on the north into the basin of Upper Dumbbell Lake.

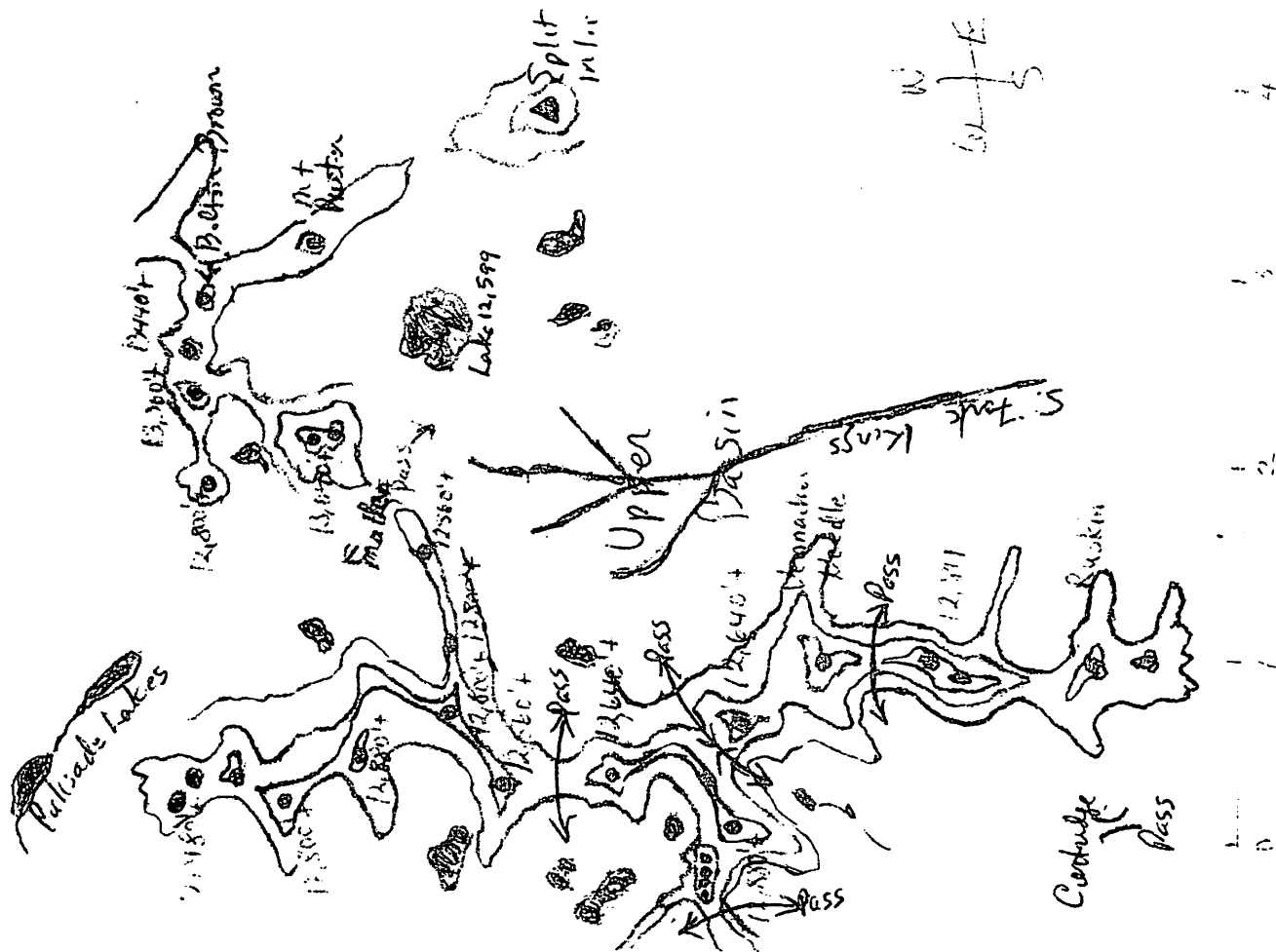
From our Upper Basin camp in timber, we proceeded next day to the base of Mather Pass on the south and then angled east to Lake 11,599' and followed its supply stream (not shown on the topo) north, and while Bill climbed Mt. Bolton-Brown, Tom and I climbed Peak 13,440+' to the north and waited for Bill. Next we three climbed striking Peak 12,360+' 0.25 miles southwest. We wished also to climb Peak 12,800+', 0.5 miles further west and were able to descend a steep chute on the west face and traverse to 12,800+'. All these peaks had cairns but no registers. We left registers on all three. Peak 13,440+' was Class 2 from the south. Peak 13,360+' was also good Class 2 along the ridge and from the east. The steep west chute was mostly Class 2 with some easy Class 3. Peak 12,800+'

T A B O O S E P A S S , cont'd.

is Class 2 up the east slope from the saddle at the base of the final summit pyramid. This saddle can be reached from the south or north up corresponding chutes. We then contoured over to the John Muir Trail and went up Mather Pass from the north and proceeded to camp.

On Saturday we backpacked up to our first day's camp, dropped packs, and all three of us climbed Peak 12,285', a striking red peak east-southeast of Taboose Pass. Surprise of surprises, it was a first ascent. There was no evidence of previous ascent, even though it lay so near Taboose Pass. Because of the red color and the high winds encountered during the ascent, we named it Redwind Peak. From here we traversed south, and while Bill climbed Goodale Mountain, Tom and I climbed Peak 12,320+', lying between Goodale and Striped. I'm sure that most climbers who ascend both Goodale and Striped in one day go over the shoulder of this peak, yet there was no cairn or debris on the actual summit. Tom and I erected a large cairn and left a register, and further, named it "Blackie Hill." After Bill joined us, we went down the west side, and Bill then climbed Striped, 12,905' and Peaklet 12,640+' to the northwest of 12,905'. Bill reported it to be a first ascent and left a cairn and register atop it. All day long gusts of wind up to 80 miles per hour buffeted us, at times necessitating dropping to the ground and hanging on to rocks. We thought we were in for a storm, and during the night the pass was socked in heavy clouds, but no rain or snow fell.

Sunday we leisurely hiked out to the roadhead and saw other humans for the first time in six-and-a-half days. We had seen plenty of birds and a large mountain coyote, and wondrous peaks, meadows, lakes and streams, for what other range can be both so beautiful and dependable as our own Sierra Nevada. I for one shall never tire of its secret charms and the joyful outings it offers.



LETTERS

I have recently renewed my membership in the Sierra Club, and it is a great pleasure to be able to rejoin the SPS. As many of you know, I was active in the Angeles Chapter from 1950 to 1967, helped to found the SPS in 1955, and served as the first Section Chairman in 1955-56.

Since my wife, daughter and I now live in the Seattle area, we will be active in the Puget Sound Group of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. However, by renewing SPS contacts through ECHO subscription and Section membership, we hope to maintain contact with SPS doings and many old mountaineering friends of years past.

From our new home we have, on clear days, an inspiring view of the Cascade and Olympic ranges. I look forward to backpack exploration of Mt. Rainier, Olympic and the new North Cascade National Parks, and other nearby wilderness areas. Any of you visiting the Great Northwest are welcome to stop and stay with us at: 21702 - 54th Avenue N., Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043; phone (206) 774-3076.

I also wish to thank those many friends in the SPS who have helped my family and myself during these past five years of personal hardship. Many of you helped my family financially and anonymously; this is the best way I know of to thank all of you who helped, from the bottom of my heart.

-- Frank D. Sanborn --

(Ed's note: It gives me special pleasure to print this letter, as Frank led me up my first Sierra Peak in October, 1964 (Vonoga Peak) -- not that I saw much of Frank that day.)



The following letter from the Andes Palleres Sport Club is dated January 11, 1971:

"I have the pleasure to communicate to you that on December 31, 1970, our friend Mr. Bernard Hallet ascended Cerro Aconcagua of 6.959 meters together with Mr. Jose M. Hernandez and the undersigned.

"Also on January 4, 1971, a group under the direction of our friend Mr. Albert M. Fowler and formed by Frank Risely, Bernard Hallet and Timothy Treacy conquered the difficult summit of Cerro Cuerno of 5.462 meters, making an excellent display of their ice technique.

"I would also like to mention the human quality of the group representing your club, all of whom left a very good impression on us. Those mentioned above were also accompanied by Roy Magnuson, Diana Dee Heiman and Daniel Austin.

"Please do not hesitate to call if you have any problem. Best regards."

Cordially,
/Luis Alberto Parra, General
Coordinator of Expedition to Aconcagua, Argentino,
Norteamericana



UINTA CHAPTER RESOLUTION

(First published in the Uinta News, Salt Lake City, Utah, February, 1971; by Paul Salisbury)

Registers on mountain peaks, ranging from cans to mail boxes to capped lengths of pipe, are not compatible with wild land values. Twenty years ago a register did perhaps serve a purpose: an indication of a first ascent, or a link between widely scattered mountaineers who enjoyed the notes of fellow climbers -- some they knew, some they would meet, some they would know only through these notes stuffed in old tin cans and bottles -- a tie with a small fraternity of free men. But that era is over and has been for years. Registers are as obsolete today as burying cans, cutting branches for bedding, and carving names on trees.

Registers, especially that galvanized monstrosity, the rural mailbox, are not compatible with the reasons most people climb and hike to mountain peaks. People today hike to escape to reality, to free themselves from the strains of our technological society. One of the greatest feelings a mountaineer can have is that he is the first on top -- even though he may realize that the feeling is only an illusion. There is no reason why this illusion cannot be maintained forever if registers, cairns, and other relics of past climbers and reminders of the mechanized world are not present.

It is therefore resolved that the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club believes registers to be incompatible with wilderness values and discourages placement of new registers on any of our mountains or in any location in wild lands and recommends that present registers placed by the Sierra Club should not be replaced when they deteriorate beyond use.

We further urge other outdoor groups and government bureaus and agencies to adopt similar policies.



THE OLD JOHN SOCIETY

In 1970, the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club formed a group known as the Old John Society. The Society takes its name from "Old John" Muir, organizer of the Sierra Club. At present, it is almost a non-organization, serving only to flag trips of special interest to people in several of the Group's sections.

The purpose of the Society is to identify trips that it is believed would have appealed to Muir as hiker and climber. The philosophy behind the trips is to travel light and cover a lot of territory. Muir carried the "travel-light" concept a bit farther than most of us are willing to try. He took a few pieces of bread, some tea and a cup, added an old coat and was ready to go.

The idea of forming the OJS grew out of the surprising success of several unusually long and strenuous hikes over the past few years. A weekend climb of Mt. Starr King and Mt. Clark in Yosemite is one example of such a climb. Perhaps the most difficult trip successfully completed was a weekend ascent of Mt. Gardiner and Mt. Clarence King from the end of the road in Kings Canyon; over 12,000 feet was gained in completing the 37-mile loop.

These trips are the sort that Muir himself would enjoy. "I should start at daybreak, say at 3 o'clock in midsummer, with a pocketfull of any sort of dry breakfast stuff, for Glacier Point, Sentinel Dome, the head of Illilouette Fall From there trace the beautiful stream up through the heart of its magnificent forests and gardens to the canyons

between Red and Merced Peaks where I camped forty-one years ago. Early next morning visit the small glacier on the north side of Merced Peak, the first of the sixty-five that I discovered in the Sierra After visiting the glacier, climb the Red Mountain and enjoy the magnificent views from the summit Then from the top of this peak, light and free and exhilarated with mountain air and mountain beauty, you should run lightly down the northern slope of the mountain, descend the canyon between Red and Gray Mountains, thence northward along the bases of Gray Mountain and Mount Clark and go down into the head of Little Yosemite, and thence down past the Nevada and Vernal Falls to the Valley, a truly glorious two-day trip!" (The Yosemite, John Muir, Doubleday-Anchor Books.)

In the Loma Prieta Group's current schedule, only two trips are given the OJS notation -- weekend climbs of Mt. Humphreys and Mt. Clarence King.

The whole OJS idea has caught this editor's fancy. The name gives distinction to what is commonly termed a "death march" by the SPS. It also warns people like myself to stay away. Having once been dragged into, out of, over, around and through Yosemite Valley on an afternoon excursion my husband had read about in SUNSET ("These Are the Walks John Muir Said To Take," SUNSET, May, 1964), I know that I definitely am not in Old John's class. I admired John Muir very much before I tried to follow in his steps; I admire him even more now.

-- The Editor --
 Reprinted in part from the
 LOMA PRIETAN, July, 1970.

CLIMBING ROUTE INDEX

Tim Treacy found the climbing route index compiled by Ron Jones (ECHO, Vol. 14, No. 2) so helpful that he has updated it through Vol. 15, No. 1. This is not only a great compliment to Ron but a great help to the editor who has thought that this index should be maintained. The index is reproduced here as Tim sent it to the ECHO. Addenda are underscored. (Bless you, Tim!)

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