

The

Sierra



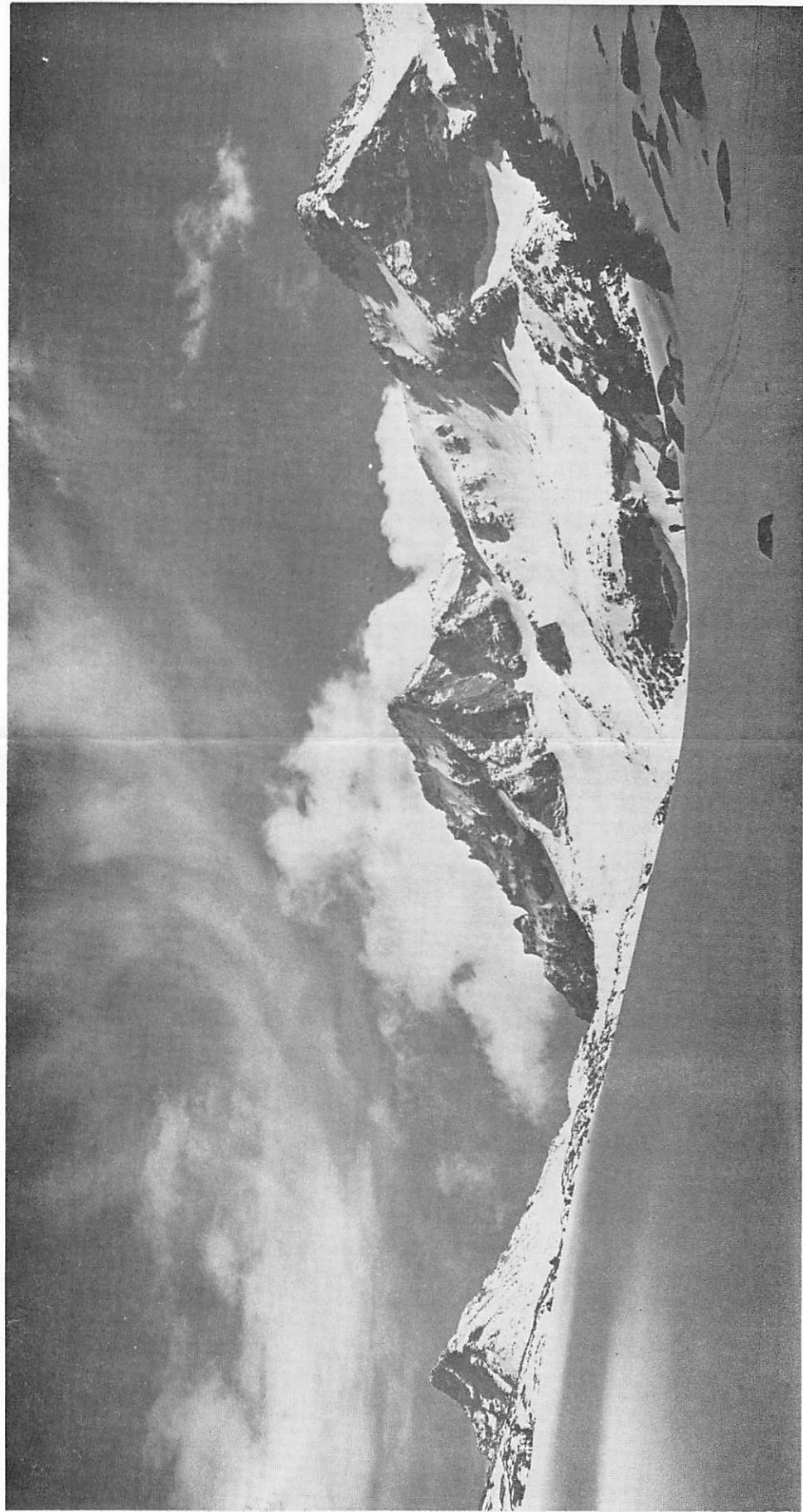
ECHO

VOLUME 15

JULY

1971

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NEWS

A GOOD BUY

The quarterly schedule of the Mother Lode Chapter, which encompasses all or part of 24 counties in north-central and north-eastern California, is a good buy for only 25¢. This chapter has knapsacking, rock climbing, peak climbing and gorge scrambling sections with a wide range of activities scheduled throughout northern California, the Oregon Cascades and the Basin Peaks of Nevada. Their current schedule (June 18 to October 11) includes peak climbs of several fine Sierra peaks. For those seeking new adventures, there is a swim tour section -- no details are given. If you are interested, send a quarter to Mother Lode Chapter, P.O. Box 1335, Sacramento 95806.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDER

Congratulations to the first new emblem earner of the 1971 climbing season, NATALIE SMITH of Sacramento.

NEW MEETING DAY

Beginning in October the monthly meetings will be on the second Monday instead of the second Wednesday. The clubhouse will be used for basketweaving or similar activities on Wednesdays.

COVER PHOTO

This month's unusual cover format was inspired by JOHN ARDEN'S panoramic shot of Bear Creek Spire taken from the saddle below Treasure Lakes on May 30, 1971

ECHO STAFF

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July 19, 1971

APOLOGIES

If we never published lists of names, we'd never omit anyone accidentally. And then how would we fill up this page? The editor is always distressed when she learns that an emblem holder has been slighted, as she feels that anyone who has earned that emblem deserves the little star by his or her name. (Has an honorary emblem ever been awarded?) Please note that MARK GOEBEL is an emblem holder and mark it on your roster. Also, add ARKEL ERB and LES STOCKTON to the Mountaineer's List in last month's ECHO.

Further, if any subscriber did not receive the March-April issue, please notify mailer Izzy Lieberman.

DARWIN DESCRIBED

SPS'ers John Robinson and Tom Ross joined skills in their absorbing article "Darwin: Monarch of the Evolution Country" in the May, 1971, issue of SUMMIT magazine.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

DRIVING WHILE SLEEPY

Submitted by Duane McRuer from a government publication

Driving while sleepy or drowsy is a deadly business which has escaped public attention to an amazing extent. No one is immune to sleep. Generally, there appear to be two types of drowsiness which affect drivers. One is a type of hypnotism which can usually be broken by a rest stop or a cup of coffee. The other springs entirely from fatigue and can only be properly counteracted by sleep. When one is driving, they are equally dangerous.

There is absolutely no excuse for falling asleep at the wheel and the courts have so ruled. A driver does not fall immediately into slumber as if he had received a jolt of sodium pentathol. He is warned of approaching sleep by drowsiness, and it is incumbent upon him to do something about it, no matter how inconvenient it might be. Crashes involving drivers who fall asleep will be severe, since there is no opportunity of braking or evasive action which might minimize the results.

If a spell of drowsiness cannot be broken by a walk or coffee, and there is no one else to take the wheel, the driver should not attempt to fight nature. He should stop and sleep, even though it might mean sleeping in his car. He should try to pick some lighted space like a corner of a service station, lock his doors and catch a nap. This is the simplest solution to a potentially fatal problem.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT: Driving alone is expensive, antisocial and dangerous. At least one passenger, preferably in the front seat, should be awake at all times to belay the driver.



THE WILDERNESS AREA ENTRY PERMIT

--Barbara Lilley--

The following information was obtained by writing to Forest Headquarters of Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests, the areas of most interest to Southern California hikers for Sierra hikes. Since these inquiries were made before the permit system actually went into effect on June 25, some items may be changed. The most helpful document received (from Inyo National Forest Headquarters but should be available elsewhere) was a brochure entitled "To the Wilderness Traveler" which contains a map of all California national forests and national parks, showing the location of wilderness/primitive areas and locations of all ranger stations.

Entry permits can be obtained from forest headquarters or from any district ranger station nearest the point of entry, either in person, by mail or by phone. Forest headquarters are closed on weekends, but all ranger stations, in the summer at least, are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (The ranger station in Lone Pine indicated they would be open until 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.) The permit is good only for a single trip; a separate permit is required for each trip. Only one permit is required for a group traveling together, and it must be in the possession of the trip leader. If the trip is to last more than ten days, an approximate route description is requested. Apparently the permit is required even for a one-day hike into a wilderness or primitive area. (Perhaps after the system goes into effect, someone could check on this.)

WILDERNESS ENTRY PERMIT, cont'd.

If entry is made into a wilderness area through a national park, the backcountry fire permit issued by the national park (which has been in effect for some time) will be honored in the wilderness area, and the Wilderness Entry Permit will be honored in the national park.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Headquarters: Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch St.
Bishop, Ca. 93514

Wilderness Areas: John Muir Wilderness Area (east side entry)
Minarets wilderness Area (east side entry)
Hoover wilderness Area (south side entry)

District Ranger Stations: Mt. Whitney Ranger District
(open weedends) Lone Pine, Ca. 93545 (714) 876-4545
White Mountain Ranger District
151 Grandview Road
Bishop, Ca. 93514 (714) 873-4207
Mono Lake Ranger District
Lee Vining, Ca. 93541 (714) 647-6525
Mammoth Ranger District
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546 (714) 934-2505

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

Headquarters: Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Ave.
Porterville, Ca. 93267

Wilderness Areas: High Sierra Primitive Area
Domeland wilderness Area

District Ranger Stations: Cannel Meadow Ranger Stn. Tule River Ranger Stn.
(open weekends) P.O. Box 6 Rt. 2, Box 125
Porterville, Ca. Springville, Ca. 93265
Hot Springs Ranger Stn. Hume Lake Ranger District
Rt. 2, Box 548 Sequoia National Forest
Calif. Hot Springs, Ca. 93207 Miramonte, Ca.

In addition, an entry permit for High Sierra can be issued by the operator of Boyden Cave, and an entry permit for Domeland can be issued by the Bureau of Land Management station at Chimney Meadows.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

Headquarters: Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, Ca. 93721 (209) 485-5000

Wilderness Areas: Minarets wilderness Area (west side)
John Muir wilderness Area (west side)

District Ranger Stations: Mariposa Ranger Stn. Pineridge Ranger Stn.
(open weekends, Mariposa, Ca. 95338 Big Creek, Ca. 93605
June 1 to Oct. 1) (209) 966-3638 (209) 893-3311

DISTRICT RANGER STATIONS, SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, cont'd.

Bass Lake Ranger Stn.
Oakhurst, Ca. 93664
(209) 683-4665

Minarets Ranger Stn.
North Fork, Ca. 93643
(209) 877-2218

Kings River Ranger District
Trimmer Rt., Sanger, Ca. 93657
(209) 855-2405 (winter)
or Dinkey Creek, Ca. 93617
(209) 841-3404 (summer after 6/15)

High Sierra Ranger Station
Mono Hot Springs, Ca. 93642
(summer only)

NATIONAL PARK BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

These can be obtained in person at ranger stations located within Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks or can be applied for by mail or by phone. The information the national parks need is: Name and address of applicant, vehicle license number, number in party, approximate itinerary, date and place of entry, date and place of exit. Park headquarters addresses are:

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Nat'l Park
Three Rivers, Ca. 93271
(209) 565-3341

Yosemite National Park
Yosemite, Ca. 95389



ASCENTS

MT. GILBERT, April 17-18 R. Boyles & R. Keenan

Snow flurries filled the air as we rolled out sleeping bags, 2 a.m., at the South Lake Dam. They were to stay with us the rest of the weekend. Nine would-be mountaineers gathered at the lake Saturday morning in the cold, windy gloom for a try at Mt. Gilbert. Seven actually started across frozen South Lake toward Treasure Lakes, a few miles up the valley and our base camp for that night. Snowshoes were required shortly after leaving the easy walking of the lake. The increasing snowfall limited visibility to the local area, and, though it's hard to get lost on the way to Treasure Lakes, we were happy to get one good fix on South Lake and Mt. Hurd around noon to show we were still on course. We reached the windswept lake about 1 p.m. -- only six of us left now. Heroic efforts by the leaders to demonstrate the technique of building an igloo were frustrated by uncohesive, granular snow and an icy crust underlying the fresh cover. Meanwhile, light to moderate snow whipped through the bowl containing the lakes -- this is certainly an inhospitable camp in stormy weather.

Early morning found us brushing aside another few inches of fresh snow -- perhaps eight to ten inches accumulation since we began -- and debating the weather possibilities. Two more turned back for home, while the remaining four decided at least to give the route to Gilbert a try and see how the storm developed. A half-hour or so of plowing through various depths of drifted snow brought us to the mouth of the steep valley leading up to the Gilbert-Johnson ridge with the hard climbing all ahead. A fierce, cold snow-filled wind was at our backs as we searched for sunny holes in the storm clouds. A reasonably safe ascent seemed unlikely, and we turned back.

MT. GILBERT, cont'd.

This is the second year in a row we have met the same end -- at least last time we made it up over the 12,500' ridge before giving up. Join us in '72 as the third annual attempt at Mt. Gilbert will undoubtedly find new discouragement but offer lots of winter experience in the snows and winds of the Sierras.

* * * *

KEARSARGE & INDEPENDENCE PEAKS, April 24 - 25 Roy Magnuson

On a windy but otherwise beautiful morning 24 SPSers and guests signed in at Union Valley for the climb of Kearsarge. Two others refused to sign in but very shortly turned back. We took the trail that leaves from the short spur road off the Union Valley road, a short distance below the valley. The trail took us all the way to the easy summit ridge which we followed to the peak. As we scrambled up the ridge, the weather deteriorated and became very cold with a light snow fall. The temperature was 12° at 2 p.m. Everyone who signed in made the summit, but it was very cold indeed waiting for the last group. On returning to the cars, everyone scattered for warmer environments.

On Sunday morning a surprisingly large group of 16 reassembled for the climb of Independence Peak. The weather was very cold and windy. We headed cross country on firm snow toward Robinson Lake with considerable reservations about the climb. Our luck changed, however, and by the time we reached the lake the wind had died down, and it became ideal climbing weather. From the lake we climbed the loose slopes to the summit ridge and then had a fun rock scramble to the peak. Everyone reached the summit where we had a leisurely lunch and enjoyed the great views. On the return trip, while traversing a hard, steep snowfield, we discovered that three of the group had never used an ice axe. This required some hasty instruction after which we proceeded without any major incidents.

I wish to express my thanks to Bill Feldmann who brought up the rear on Sunday and provided valuable aid to some of the newcomers.

* * * *

SPLIT MOUNTAIN & MT. PRATER, June 5-6 Dennis Lantz

With scheduled leader Al Fowler out of town on business, Jay Wiley moved up a notch to leader; he still elected to trail drag on the trip in, while doing penance for a Friday night party at Cal Tech. After an hour of proving that Forest Service Road 10S01 is the correct route, 20 climbers saddled up.

Contrary to the 1950 topo map, the "trail" is on the north side of Red Mountain Creek all the way in, starting with an unbelievable 600-foot scree slope from the road to a rock outcrop on the slope of Mt. Tinemaha. The indistinct trail winds from there up the canyon to a gravel flat (last sure water for 2,000 feet), then up another long scree slope. From there the trail is distinct all the way to Red Lake, except around a rock outcrop and through a thicket. The outcrop works as a low-ledge system, and a semi-ducked stream is the least painful way through the thicket.

After lunch, seven tigers, including Vi Grasso and Barbara Rosen, charged up Mt. Tinemaha by the obvious direct route -- which leads east of the summit block. Several disdained a scramble up the back and climbed the short Class 3 face of the block. The view of the Owens Valley is great.

SPLIT MOUNTAIN & MT. PRATER, cont'd.

The route up Split the next morning was classic Climber's Guide, but on crampons with step kicking up to the saddle. A whiteout threatened briefly, but abated as 18 climbers made the summit in spotty sunshine. Back at the saddle, only the leaders and one other wanted to go for Mt. Prater. Due to this and the speed of the group, it was abandoned. The descent was cautious, back down the steps on crampons, past the site of a fatal accident the week before. The pack out was routine, except for that 600 feet of scree at the roadhead. Sure seems shorter going down.

* * * *

MT. GOODE & MT. AGASSIZ, June 19-20 Bob Mason

Beautiful weather made this an enjoyable trip for the 73 (731) participants, including about 15 children. Three additional assistant leaders were deputized to help control the extraordinary group.

Despite several lengthy catch-up stops, the group spread over a half-mile length of trail.

The campsite, reached at 11:30, offered choices of 73 bedsites, either wet, rocky or slanty, but all well ventilated and with good views. Due to the absence of wood and a satisfactory site, no campfire was made.

Thirty-six hikers remained in camp, while John Isaac led 37 up to Mt. Goode. A rapid pace and some frighteningly steep ice-crusting snow put only 15 (15) on top, while I gathered up stray bodies from all over the mountain. Fortunately an accurate count of the 37 was achieved, avoiding the need for a 73-man rollcall at camp. Of the many children, only three tried the climb, and only Al Fowler's nine-year-old succeeded. The two Mason girls came close but ran out of time.

Large quantities of aspirin and dramamine were dispensed to the largely unacclimated group.

At 6:30 Sunday, I led 24 tigers (no children) up Agassiz via the main rib, an easy and enjoyable scramble on fairly solid boulders and talus. The summit, reached at 11 o'clock, was windless and offered a marvelous view but no sign of our fellow climbers on Thunderbolt. The bottom few hundred feet of snow chute made a deceptively fast and exciting glissade, but with a good, safe runout.

Meantime, back at the camp, Al Fowler's ice axe course instructed many but graduated none. The party was released from camp between 2 and 3 in 12 groups of various sizes, each with a responsible leader

* * * *

SPS ANNUAL WOMEN'S BACKPACK, June 12-13 Joan Hack & Eric Schumacher

Twentyseven backpackers, with only 12 males, one of whom was Clint Smitheman, nine months old, started from Fish Creek Campground at 8 a.m. on Saturday. From there, all hiked six miles along the Jackass Creek Trail to the base of Smith Mountain, where 17 people left their backpacks, donned summit packs, and climbed Smith. Then the group continued on to our camp near the center of lush Albanita Meadows. Camp was made near a small, ice cold spring coming out of the meadow.

Sunday at 8 a.m. nine people left to return to their cars, four stayed in camp, while 12 started out to climb Crag. On reaching Crag (Clint stayed below the summit) the remaining 11 made the Class 3 summit, including two beginners climbing their first peaks, Sue Brodovsky and Michael Weinstein.

Returning to the camp, we picked up our packs and continued the five miles return to the cars via Hooker Meadow, completing the 13-mile loop trip.

MOUNT MORGAN, THE ANATOMY OF A RESCUE
April 3-4, 1971

--Howard Stephens--

Because of partial information and some conjecture, the Mt. Morgan snow climb and the subsequent rescue operation have aroused considerable interest and some controversy. For this reason I would like to report rather completely on the trip from the leader's point of view.

The climb turned out to be an interesting trip in several aspects. First, the Rock Creek road being passable almost to the lodge, the perfect weather conditions, and the beautifully spectacular views from the ideally-positioned summit made it an experience of unforgettable joy. Second, although a most planned trip, small errors in the planning set the stage for the resulting emergency. Third, partially designed as a learning experience for participants who were taking the Leadership Training Course, it became a tremendous learning experience for the trip leaders as well.

All of us have favorite climbing areas, and the upper Rock Creek area is one of mine. Often as I've climbed the more interesting peaks in the area, I've looked at the tremendous Wheeler Ridge terminating in Mt. Morgan towering above anything else in the region and wanted to climb it. But it looked like a long, dull climb. Why not a winter climb? To make the most from it, why not an SPS trip to fill an LPC requirement also?

The two great uncertainties on a winter trip are the weather and the participants. To solve these problems we made the date variable (April 3-4 or later) and required advance information from the participants. At the trip planning meeting (April 1), 17 climbers attended: John Arden and son John, Bill Britten, Bob Eakin, Greg Emigh, John Finn, Jurgis Gedaugas, Bill Houze, Don Inman, Paul Kellow, Stuart Long, Roy Magnuson, Jeff Moore, Ed Rose, Barbara Rosen, Ben Schifrin and myself. Paul Kellow and Jeff Moore were unable to go on the trip. Two others, Ken Berger and Dick Ramirez, were unable to attend the meeting but did go on the trip. It is a coincidence that these two became a contributing factor and victim in the "tragedy" which followed. Both had been in touch with me previously by telephone, and we had been together on previous snow trips. I had no doubt of their abilities and was glad to have them on the trip.

At the meeting we decided to try the climb as scheduled on April 3-4 (a call to the Mono County Road Commissioner in Bridgeport had indicated that the Rock Creek road was open for several miles) and that snowshoes were mandatory -- crampons advisable. When Dick checked with me Friday morning, we discussed the necessity of snowshoes. Since he had to rent them and since there is usually a firm base below the spring snow in the Sierra, would they be absolutely necessary? It was reasoned that after seventeen pairs of snowshoes had passed over the trail, that the snow would be passable to one without snowshoes. At the meeting time, 7 a.m., 16 participants and the two leaders were ready to go. Seventeen with snowshoes, one without. Fourteen with crampons, four without. We were happy to find the road passable to within a few hundred yards of the Rock Creek Lodge. The early morning climbing was on fairly hard snow, and the snowshoes were carried. As the snow softened, snowshoes were used. We lunched at Kenneth Lake and the trip continued on to Francis Lake (10,900') where overnight camp was made. In the later part of the climb, Dick had experienced considerable difficulty on the soft snow with no shoes. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the view from the camp was spectacular. The mountain was partially snow covered, and it appeared that a snow route could be used nearly all the way to the summit. For those without crampons, it appeared that a rock could also be found. Neither seemed to present any technical difficulty. The route lead up the gentle watercourse above the lake to a snowbowl. Above the snowbowl a steep face fronted the summit plateau with the summit block sitting back and above. The situation somewhat resembled the Mt. Baldy bowl. Snow gullies broke the face, and one seemed to promise a fast snow glissade. Below the face the water-

course veered toward the right (north) ridge, where a gentler slope on either snow or rock lead to the summit block. The route (rated Class 1 in the Climber's Guide) was visible all the way. No problems.

The summit climb began about 7 a.m. (It had been scheduled for 6:30.) This delay was leading toward the developing emergency. Many were ready at 6:30 and were anxious to be under way. We estimated a three-hour climb; two hours back to camp; lunch and out to the roadhead by early afternoon. It was especially important that Dick, without snowshoes, should get out early to avoid the soft afternoon snow. Impatience mounted. Why not let those in Dick's car, all capable and ready, go ahead. Why not? Should we use the glissade to descend? No. Time gained would not justify the risk. So the separation was made, and five went on ahead. All were strong and capable. All had crampons and ice axes. The slower group left only minutes later. All had ice axes but four lacked crampons. On the steeper snow these four climbed by the rock route. Fourteen cramponed to within a few hundred feet of the summit. Seventeen of the eighteen made the summit. The faster five were descending as the rest approached the summit. They expressed a desire to glissade the steep fulley. This was advised against, and it was agreed that some would "just go by and take a look."

The views from the summit were the grandest I have ever seen in the Sierra. The position of this peak east of the crest, its height above the surrounding peaks, and its position north-south near the middle of the range, and the perfectly clear, sunny day allowed perfect viewing of all the peaks and valleys on all sides from Whitney to Lyell, from the western Sierra and the Lake Italy region to the snow-covered white Mountains, including Boundary and Montgomery. All in best winter dress glimmering in the late morning sun.

Descent was mostly by the rock route, and crampons were not needed. Of the lead group, Dick Ramirez had bombed down the ridge in his haste to get over the softening snow as quickly as possible. Roy and Barbara had followed down the ridge. However, Ken and (I believe) Ben had gone by the top of the snow gully to take a look and had decided to glissade down the gully. Neither of the leaders (on the summit) was aware of this action. Near the bottom of the glissade Ken's left foot (wearing crampons!) struck against an ice front and was slammed into his crotch, punching a hole through his trousers at this point but not penetrating the skin. It did, however, cause a severe pain in the ankle. Ken painfully worked his way to the bottom of the chute.

When the rest of the group arrived, including the leaders, Barbara and Ben were waiting with Ken. Dick had continued on down (probably unaware of the accident), and Roy had already hurried down for help in the form of a helicopter or rescue party. The die was cast. We had no way to turn back from the rescue even if such had seemed desirable. Examination of the ankle seemed to indicate no fracture but only a painful sprain. The camp, about a mile down the gentle slope on the barren shore of frozen Lake Francis, now seemed a haven of safety. Relative comfort was there and room for a copter pick up. All members of the group participated in moving Ken down to camp in the following manner. Ken sat on his own poncho. His injured foot was resting on his good one, which in turn was supported off the ground by two members using a parachute cord nylon tied to the good foot and to ice axes carried by the two members of the party. Two others held the front corners of the poncho and pulled it along to keep it in place, while two additional members grasped the victim by the hands and slid him along on his own buttocks down the slope. This proved to be quite satisfactory, and camp was reached by about 4 in the afternoon.

Since the group included many leaders, there was much discussion and many helpful suggestions. All participated and concurred in the decisions made and the actions taken. The unanswerable questions were: would we be rescued? And if so, when and how? Since we were committed to it, we had to plan on rescue but we also had to consider that it might not come.

Our resultant plan was as follows: six of us would stay with Ken. George would take the other nine out, check up on rescue, etc., and notify our families. All left-

over food was to be left with the ones remaining. We would stay in camp awaiting rescue until 10 a.m. Monday before setting out on our own.

Although by Monday morning there was some improvement in the injury, Ken could not walk out on his injured foot. We were just finishing an improvised transport sled when, at about 9:45, three members of the Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue arrived with a litter and a canvas cover. With our victim in the litter, we had just enough manpower to drag him over the snow to the roadhead. The snow was very soft, and the going was slow and difficult. We reached the roadhead at 4:30 p.m. Chuck Spencer, Bob Thornberg and John Helmbold of the Rescue Group had performed willingly and well, and we were grateful to them. Our voluntary contribution to them amounted to \$45. (We understand that the Section as made an additional contribution since. Ed's note: \$25.) Back in Los Angeles an x-ray revealed no fracture, only a sprained ankle.

After the battle is over and all the facts are in, by the wonderful gift of hindsight, the situation can be analyzed and the causes, direct and indirect, become apparent. Although we can now determine that certain actions and decisions led to, or contributed to the emergency on Mt. Morgan, we believe that at the time all decisions were made honestly and correctly in the light of the then-known conditions and previous experience. We offer this analysis not to censure anyone, but as a means of learning for those who may benefit from it.

Allowing one member to participate without snowshoes lead to the hurry situation which at the time seemed to justify error of separation into two groups. The usual firm base below spring snow seems to be lacking this year, making snowshoes much more of a necessity.

While keeping a group together does not insure against accidents, separation greatly increases the risks and greatly increases the problems after an accident occurs.

Although the glissade was not authorized by leadership, it was not really a bad glissade gully, but it was a mistake to glissade while wearing crampons.

Getting out for the rescue was done hastily and without sufficient consultation. While we realize the concern to get out early on a Sunday afternoon, the question is -- did we really need rescue in the light of the nature of the injury and the fact that there were 17 of us uninjured with 17 pairs of snowshoes? Removed from the pressure of the situation and having had adequate time for consideration of the possibilities, the answer is no. We did have the manpower and the possibility to effect a rescue, although the means necessary to accomplish it did not occur to any of us at the time.

We greatly appreciate the Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue and their efforts in our behalf. We believe that this incident will increase our appreciation of our friend Ed Olcott and this fine organization. We believe that the Sierra Club, the Angeles Chapter, especially the Sierra Peaks Section, and each of us as individuals should support them in every way possible. As a new organization, they need financial support for new rescue and communication equipment. Contributions may be sent to Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue, Post Office Box 1297, Bishop, California 93514.

P R I V A T E T R I P S

MATTERHORN PEAK, May 21-22 Mike Morrison

Using the age old excuse most high school seniors discover this time of year (we cut), Chuck Harmon and I set out on Friday for the long drive to Bridgeport. Due to low clouds and rain, the desert was extremely cool with snow being encountered near Mammoth.

Starting out from Upper Twin Lake that evening (Friday), we hiked through light snow flurries and established camp at 8,500'. This was not your ordinary run-of-the-mill camp -- it was under a very large boulder! Lacking a snow tent, we found our 8 x 8 - foot cubical to our liking and bedded down for the night.

Saturday morning dawned just as dismal as the day before, with clouds shrouding the entire Sawtooth Ridge from view. Starting later (as usual) than expected, we donned crampons and ice axes and proceeded up Horse Creek Canyon. The crampons became essential on a 60° snow slope just below Horse Creek Pass, making the ascent possible.

Visibility was now down to about 30 feet as we followed Route 3, as listed in the Climber's Guide. Approximately 200 feet from the summit we began to speculate (climbers speculate; they never worry!) about the final pitch over the snow and icy rocks, especially since we couldn't see a thing!

Someone or something must have liked us that day, for a second later a strong wind began to blow. Whipping the snow off the slopes around us (it didn't snow that day) and driving it hard into us, the clouds began to break. The first thing to be uncovered was the 12,264-foot summit of Matterhorn Peak, our northernmost emblem peak.

Completing our climb quickly but cautiously, we were treated to an awe inspiring view of the Sierra, still dressed in her winter glory. After going through the better part of a roll of film, we returned to the pass by our previous route. Utilizing several long glissades, we spent a leisurely afternoon at camp before returning to civilization.

We saw no other humans while climbing that weekend, and the roads were virtually devoid of tourists. The week before a holiday is truly a rewarding time to visit one of our last remaining and rapidly disappearing wild areas -- the Sierra Nevada.



OUTINGS IMPACT
--Fred Hoepfner--

The Outings Impact Committee of the Chapter Advisory Council recently met and recommended upon several issues of interest to the SPS.

First the matter of requiring central commissary on all overnight trips was broached. The argument in favor appeared to be that it would tend to centralize the group within the camping area. The leader could then site the eating area on hard rock and there would be less disturbance of the ground. However, the many arguments against this system, namely, that the amount of preparation required by the leaders would be excessive compared to any small benefit derived, that people did not all like the same food, and that "chow time" for everyone would be governed by the slowest returning climber, resulted in its almost unanimous rejection.

The matter of group size was discussed. It was generally agreed that the social impact of large groups was a far greater problem than their physical impact. The Forest Service is suggesting a size limitation of 25 in wilderness areas as a standard policy. It was moved to limit all trips within designated wilderness to 20 plus the leaders. While discussion indicated that this would allow for a "slopover" of three in case would-be participants without reservations appeared at the roadhead, no such stipulation was actually included in the motion. My attempts to amend the motion to allow a total of 25 including the leaders failed, and the motion passed as proposed. This would apply only to trips in designated wilderness, presumably including even local hikes into the Cucamonga Wild Area.

Next discussed was revision of the rule requiring slit trenches for toilet purposes in campsites. It was noted that the trench, practically speaking, must be located near the camping area in a relatively flat place; otherwise it is difficult to find. This is not especially desirable. It was moved, seconded and carried to have the trip leader designate the toilet location at all rest stops and immediately upon entering camp, said location to be at least one-eighth mile (if physically possible) from any water, trail, or other frequented area. White toilet paper should always be used (more easily degraded), and feces should be buried about four to six inches beneath the soil.

These proposals will go as recommendations to the Chapter Advisory Council, and if passed there, to the Executive Committee for final approval. Anyone desiring to comment should write to Murray Rosenthal, Chairman, Advisory Council, or to Bruce Collier, Acting Chairman, Executive Committee.



S I E R R A

Conservation

N E W S

Kings Canyon-Sequoia National Parks: The wilderness proposal recently sent to Congress by the President is sure to provoke a major fight between conservationists and the National Park Service. At the hearings in 1966, 311 of 371 persons testifying asked for a larger wilderness than that proposed by the Park Service. Instead, the new proposal has deleted 26,737 acres of the original proposal, leaving 721,790 acres in two parks.

As feared, 12,500 acres of this deletion are around Mineral King. The Park Service has determined that this will be necessary should the planned Disney ski development be constructed.

5,400 acres have been left out above Giant Forest for overlooks into the high country. A one-eighth mile "management zone" has been deleted along the park boundary where non-park lands are not now classified wilderness. This totals 6,610 acres, and includes a strip of land between the proposed Kings Canyon wilderness and the High Sierra Primitive Area because the latter is not now wilderness.

Perhaps the worst part of the new plan are 32 enclaves within the proposed wilderness. These deletions range in size from nine to 482 acres and are said necessary to allow snow measuring devices and provide trail shelters and visitor facilities. One of these enclaves would include the Rae Lakes area. These deletions are not necessary under the Wilderness Act, and conservation groups will be fighting the National Park Service proposal when it reaches Congress soon.

--Jim Eaton

June '71 BONANZA

CLIMBING TRAGEDIES REPORTED

James Evans, 38, of Newport Beach, died in a fall on Split Mountain on May 30th, according to an article in the Inyo Register. Evans fell to his death in the afternoon after he lost his footing and plunged 400 feet down a steep snowbank.

A second, much-publicized accident took place on Mt. Ritter on Memorial Day when four members of a Sierra Club group (reportedly a San Francisco area singles group) lost their lives on Mt. Ritter. One man, Bill Alves, of Mountain View, walked into the Minaret Ranger Station in the afternoon of June 3 while search crews were still probing a Mt. Ritter avalanche for his body, according to the Inyo Register.

TRAGEDIES, cont'd.

He told Madera County officials that he and his companions were within 200 feet of the 13,157-foot peak when a sudden snowstorm forced them to turn around. He spent the night in a snow cave and awoke to find two companions dead. The bodies of two others were found 1,000 feet below the cave, and Madera deputies suspect they were caught in an avalanche.

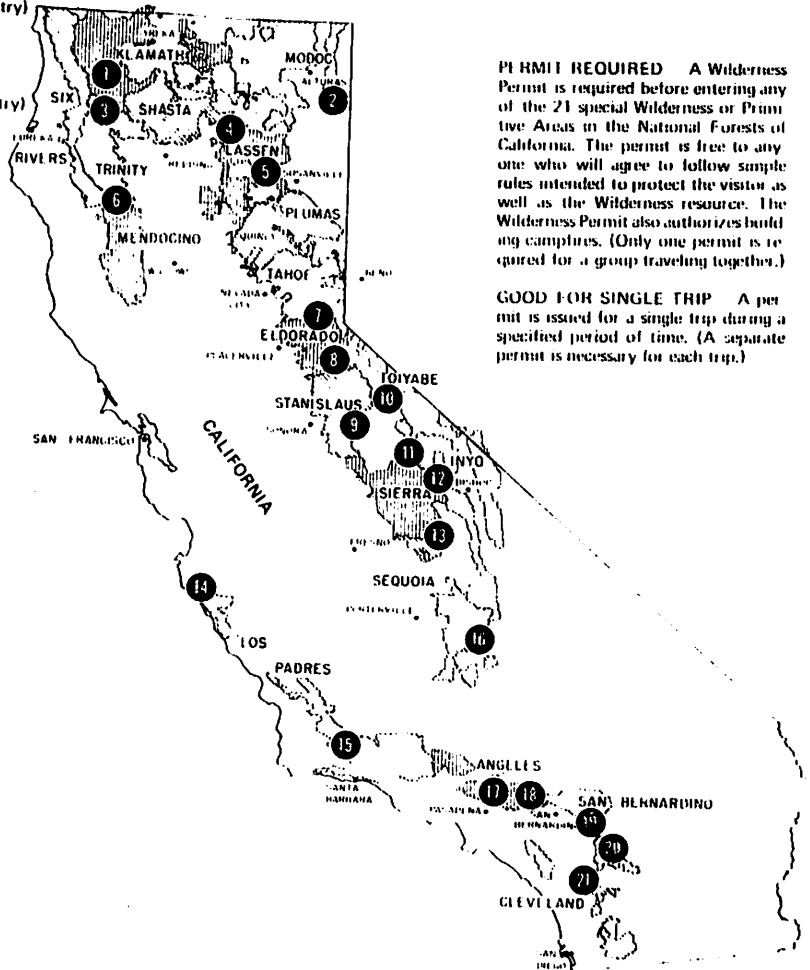
Since the five men, part of a larger 13-man group, expected to make the climb in one day, they wore light clothing and carried only candybars. The dead men were identified as Glenn Walsh, 30, Redwood City, Gordon Howe, 32, Palo Alto, Bob Smith, 25, Santa Clara, and Richard Schroder, 25, San Jose.

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL FORESTS

APPLY TO ONE OF THESE NATIONAL FORESTS FOR YOUR WILDERNESS PERMIT TO VISIT A WILDERNESS OR PRIMITIVE AREA:



- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Marble Mountain
Klamath National Forest
1215 So. Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097 | (11) Minarets (For east side entry)
Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch Street
Bishop, CA 93514 |
| (2) South Warner
Modoc National Forest
441 No. Main Street
Alturas, CA 96101 | (12) John Muir (For west side entry)
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721 |
| (3) Salmon Trinity Alps
Shasta Trinity National Forests
1615 Continental Street
Redding, CA 96001 | (12) John Muir (For east side entry)
Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch Street
Bishop, CA 93514 |
| (4) Thousand Lakes
Lassen National Forest
707 Nevada Street
Susanville, CA 96130 | (13) High Sierra
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257 |
| (5) Caribou
Lassen National Forest
707 Nevada Street
Susanville, CA 96130 | (14) Ventana
Los Padres National Forest
42 Aero Camino
Goleta, CA 93017 |
| (6) Yolla Bolly Middle Eel
Mendocino National Forest
420 E. Laurel Street
Willows, CA 95988 | (15) San Rafael
Los Padres National Forest
42 Aero Camino
Goleta, CA 93017 |
| (7) Desolation
Eldorado National Forest
100 Form Road
Placerville, CA 95667 | (16) Domeland
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257 |
| (8) Mokelumne
Eldorado National Forest
100 Form Road
Placerville, CA 95667 | (17) San Gabriel
Angeles National Forest
150 So. Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101 |
| (9) Emigrant Basin
Stanislaus National Forest
175 So. Fairview Lane
Sonora, CA 95370 | (18) Cucamonga
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408 |
| (10) Hoover (For east side entry)
Toiyabe National Forest
Main Post Office Building
Reno, Nevada 89504 | (19) San Geronimo
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408 |
| (10) Hoover (For south side entry)
Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch Street
Bishop, CA 93514 | (20) San Jacinto
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408 |
| (11) Minarets (For west side entry)
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721 | (21) Agua Tibia
Cleveland National Forest
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103 |



PERMIT REQUIRED A Wilderness Permit is required before entering any of the 21 special Wilderness or Primitive Areas in the National Forests of California. The permit is free to any one who will agree to follow simple rules intended to protect the visitor as well as the Wilderness resource. The Wilderness Permit also authorizes building campfires. (Only one permit is required for a group traveling together.)

GOOD FOR SINGLE TRIP A permit is issued for a single trip during a specified period of time. (A separate permit is necessary for each trip.)

HOW TO OBTAIN PERMIT Wilderness Permits are issued at Ranger Stations and other Forest Service offices throughout California. To obtain your permit by mail, complete the attached application form and mail to an address shown on the map. If your trip extends through more than one Wilderness, or through more than one National Forest, you should obtain your permit from the National Forest where your trip starts. (See map.)

NATIONAL PARK PERMITS If your trip starts in a National Park, get a permit from the National Park office. This permit is valid in National Forest Wilderness and Primitive Areas.

SPECIAL NOTE If you expect your trip to last more than 10 days, please include your approximate route of travel in general terms.

THE SIERRA ECHO
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"to explore, enjoy, preserve"



THIRD CLASS

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