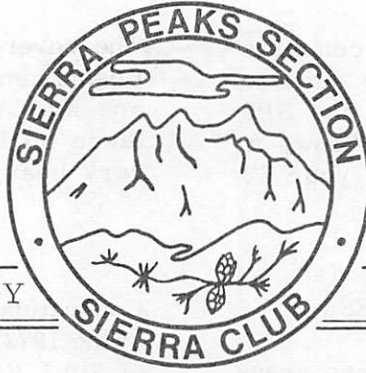


The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 16 JANUARY - FEBRUARY

1972

NO 1



NEWS

LAST WARNING!

Our March-April Echo will carry a complete roster of members - so now is the time to get your subscription renewal in to the SPS Treasurer, Paul Lipsohn. As you know, a current membership requirement is your \$2 subscription.

FOREST REOPENS WILDERNESS

The John Muir and Minarets wilderness areas have been reopened to entry, after being closed for more than two weeks because of avalanche dangers.

Everett Towle, supervisor of the Inyo National Forest, said his rangers have resumed issuing entry permits "because the avalanche danger, always present, has lessened to a point where normal caution permits the use of wilderness areas."

Both areas were closed December 30 after a snowfall of "ball-bearing flakes" was covered with up to five feet of fresh snow, resulting in unstable conditions in the snowpack.

--Inyo Register, Thursday January 20, 1972

ECHO STAFF

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9152 E Olive
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COPY DEADLINE -

April 1, 1972

COVER PHOTO

The cover photo this month was shot by Tom Ross from Mt Gould - Mt Cotter on the left, and Mt Clarence King on the right. It was taken on March 30, 1969 after the winter of very heavy snow.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDER

Congratulations to the first new emblem earner of the 1972 climbing season, DAVID CAMPBELL of Simi Valley.

NEW MEMBERS

We are welcoming 4 new members into the section this month. Congratulations!

ENDZINS, MILDA 225 So Burlington Ave,
#28, Los Angeles, Calif 90057
MERK, BILL 834 Gaviota St, Apt 4, Long
Beach, Calif 90813
MOORE, RETURN 1473 Kensington, Fullerton
Calif 92631
PARKER, LINDA A 3724 Vista St, Long
Beach, Calif 90803

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93514
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BRUSH, WEBSTER A 4411 Los Feliz, Los
Angeles, Calif 90027
BURGE, DENNIS & CAROL 702A Kearsarge,
China Lake, Calif 93555
CAMPBELL, ALVIN B 112 Beverly Ct, #4,
Los Angeles, Calif 90049
DAVIS, KENT B 16049 Wyandotte, Van Nuys,
Calif 91409
JALI, RICHARD M Kolej, Tanjonglobang Miri,
Sarawak, Malaysia
KEATING, JERRY & NANCY, JAMES, DAVID
1824 MacInnes Pl, Placentia, Calif 92670
Phone (714) 524-3862
MACHLEDER, LARRY P O Box 3940, Fuller-
ton, Calif 92634
MAGNUSON, ROY & BARBARA 18543 Clark
Street, #216, Tarzana, Calif 91356
Phone 343-5467
MAY, RICHARD B 26815 Parkside Drive,
Hayward, Calif 94541
SCHULER, WILLIAM JR 24631 2nd St, San
Bernardino, Calif 92408

Once again SPS members and friends gathered to share memories of another year of climbing, eat a delicious steak dinner, honor incoming and outgoing management committees and have a fine time together at the Smoke House restaurant in Encino on December 17. CAROL MILLER, 1971 Program Chairwoman, arranged the evening for us but unfortunately was unable to attend, as she spent the evening in the hospital. The Section extends a wholehearted thank you to Carol; the evening capped an entire year of fine programs which she arranged for us.

The 1972 Chairman HORACE ORY was introduced. He said he intended to carry on with outgoing Chairman BOB MASON's theme of having fun while climbing lots of peaks, including some new ones. Some peaks, he reminded, should be passed up if the time is wrong. We can get them when the time is right. He also offered to carry musical instruments into base camp for anyone who could play them - but no pianos or harps, please. "Be safe and have fun. Get back alive."

Ory presented Mason with a past chairman's pin and commented that Mason had not only led the group through a successful year but had managed to get married while doing it. This brought a round of applause from the gathering. The new chairman introduced his new management committee members.

As usual, the distribution of door prizes provided much fun for the group. Young Arthur Quinn drew the winning numbers. Gloria MacArthur won a Bluett stove from West Ridge Sports; bearded Roy Magnuson a Mallory shaver from West Ridge; Walt Wheelock a pair of down booties from Sports Chalet; Dan Popper a Svea stove from the Mountain Store; Arkel Erb (who never uses one) a Silva compass from Gizmo's, which was promptly traded for Magnuson's shaver; Mara Johnson a 16x20 print from her slide done by Neko Colevins; Horace Ory a stove from Kelty's; Robert Zemetra a \$10 gift certificate from Jonas Ski and Hike; Betty Dessert a copy of the Last Whole Earth Catalog from West Ridge; Ilene Barber a stove from West Ridge; Chuck Miller a stove from Dan's Skiing and Mountaineering in Palmdale; and Kent Davis a \$10 gift certificate from Sports Ltd. Members are urged to patronize firms which contribute doorprizes.

The evening was completed by an outstanding presentation by DICK BEACH, now a resident of Bishop and newly-appointed fulltime 6th grade art and reading teacher in that city's school system, of slides of his third attempt on Alaska's Mt Logan. SPSer BARBARA LILLEY was also on the trip, and she and Beach were equally elated to have made the summit. Barbara's slides were included in the showing, which Beach dedicated to SPSer ED LANE, killed two years ago while leading a Mt Logan expedition.

FIRST AID COURSE OFFERED

A Red Cross course in basic and advanced first aid with emphasis on mountaineering problems and techniques will be offered in Santa Monica this March by Tom and Dot Swithenbank. It will be held in the Santa Monica Red Cross Building, 1450 11th Street, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 10:00. The course starts on Tuesday, March 7 and continues through Thursday, March 30, with one extra session to be scheduled later in the course.

All mountaineers are invited, and perserverance coupled with right thinking will be rewarded by your own advanced first aid card.

Enrollment is limited, however, so please sign up at least an hour in advance with Dave Gladstone at 392-2915. If you can't reach

Dave try Tom at 828-0439 or at his office phone 478-2571.

1972 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The 1972 Management Committee is now complete. They have already received our best wishes, now they need our help and support.

Chairman - Horace Ory
 Vice Chairman - Al Fowler
 Treasurer - Paul Lipsohn
 Secretary - Barbara Magnuson
 Alternate Officer - Roy Magnuson
 Safety Chairman - Norm Rohn
 Schedule Chairman - John Robinson
 Mountaineering Records - Dennis Lantz
 Council Delegate - Izzy Lieberman
 Program Chairman - George Toby
 Conservation Chairman - Art de Goede
 Echo Editor - Betty Dessert

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It's customary to begin the new year with a statement of the goals we hope to achieve. By and large, we seem to be in good shape, and the last year was one of our most successful ever, so there is no call for any drastic changes. Our aims for the year will be to keep up our momentum in providing safe and enjoyable outings, and to build up more strength in areas where we have been weaker, such as conservation.

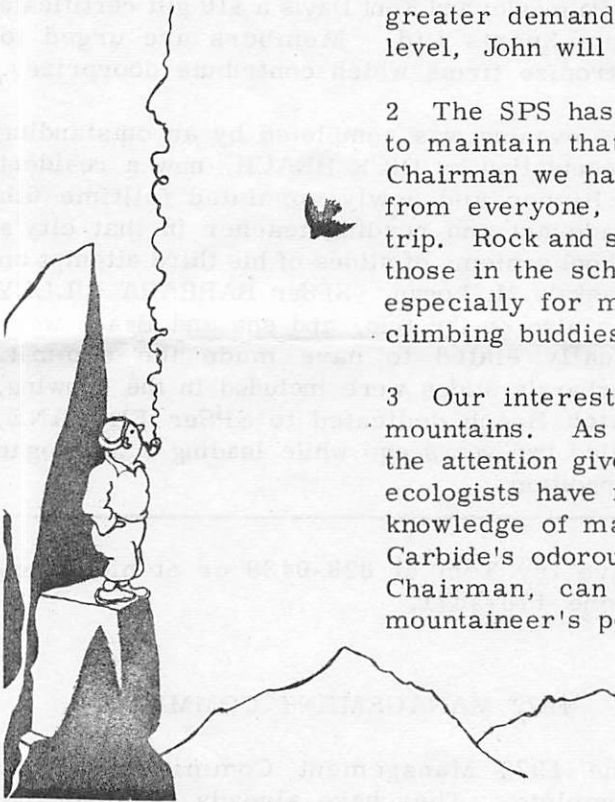
1 It's clear that our main objective is to keep our outing program running smoothly, and we are fortunate that John Robinson is continuing as our Schedule Chairman. This year we can expect the usual increase in the number of participants, and with the need to limit the numbers on each trip, this means we must have more trips. And that means greater demand for leaders; so if we are to stay at a high quality level, John will need all the help we can give him in scheduling trips.

2 The SPS has an excellent safety record, and the best way to try to maintain that is to try to improve it. In Norm Rohn as Safety Chairman we have a good start, but safety requires a constant effort from everyone, not only trip leaders, but also each participant on a trip. Rock and snow practice sessions help, and we'll add some besides those in the schedule. We also will sponsor some first aid courses especially for mountaineers. The smart move is to encourage your climbing buddies to take the course.

3 Our interest in the Sierra Nevada includes effort to protect the mountains. As the Sierra Club's general interests become broader, the attention given the Sierra is relatively smaller. And many budding ecologists have never been in the mountains. The SPS has first-hand knowledge of many problems, from hatchet-wielding scouts to Union Carbide's odorous tungsten mine, and Art de Goede, our Conservation Chairman, can certainly keep us informed from a mountaineer's point of view.

All that adds up to a simple goal. As a famous mountaineer once said: Let's have fun.

-- Horace Ory



TWO ON A ROPE

It seems we are always congratulating someone for something in the Echo. This is especially true when two fine mountaineers get married. Most of you know already, but for those who don't - Roy Magnuson and Barbara Rosen were married last December 17. We are very lucky to have both of these great people in our section.

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

Suggestions for additions or deletions to the qualifying peak list or information on registers or containers should be sent to Dennis Lantz, 7712 "A", South Bright Street, Whittier, Calif, 90602, Phone (213) 696-6347.

CALENDAR

PREVIEW OF SPS MARCH - 4 JULY SCHEDULE John Robinson

March	11-12	Sawtooth, Owens	John Robinson, Jay Wiley
	18-19	Pilot Knob, Lamont	Roy & Barbara Magnuson
April	1 - 2	Ice Axe Practice	Dennis Lantz, Horace Ory
	8 - 9	New York Butte, Cartago (Joint SPS-DPS Trip)	Art De Goede, Dick Ramirez
	15-16	Mt Gilbert	Bob Boyles, Roy Keenan, Ted Maier
	15-16	Joshua Tree Rock Climb Practice	Dennis Lantz, Al Fowler
	22-23	University Peak	Jay Wiley, Fran Smith
	29-30	Mt Bradley	Dave Gladstone, Doug Mantle
May	6 - 7	Red Slate, Mt Baldwin	Jay Wiley, Ed Hill
	13-14	Morrison, Bloody Mtn	Roy Magnuson, Art De Goede
	20-21	Colosseum, Perkins, Wynne, Pinchot	Dennis Lantz, Jerry Keating, Elton Fletcher
	20-21	Mt Le Conte	Eric Schumacher, Paul Lipsohn
	27-28	Bear Creek Spire	Howard Gates, Tom Caidima
	27-29	Angora Mtn, Coyote Peak	Paul Lipsohn, Bob Herlihy
June	3 - 4	Kennedy Mtn	John Robinson, Fran Smith
	10-11	Kern Peak, Mt Muah	Jay Wiley, Ed Hill
	10-11	Hockett Lakes	Art De Goede
	10-11	University, Independence	Diana Dee, Dennis Lantz
	17-18	Center, E Vidette, Bradley	John Robinson, Jerry Keating, Elton Fletcher
	17-18	Four Gables, Mt Tom	Paul Kluth, Horace Ory
	24-25	Bago, Rixford, E Vidette	Harry Brumer
July	1 - 4	Reinstein, Emerald, Syccla, McGee	John Robinson, Jerry Keating, Elton Fletcher
	1 - 4	Triple Divide, Lion Rock, Glacier Ridge	Fred Hoepfner, Horace Ory

ASCENTS

BLACKHAWK MOUNTAIN (10,327'), September 4-6 John Robinson

Twenty-five persons met at Kennedy Meadows Resort, just off the Sonora Pass road, for the first scheduled SPS climb of Blackhawk Mountain. Skies were clear as we backpacked 8 miles up Summit Creek to Sheep Camp, deep in the Emigrant Basin Wilderness. Camp was reached early Saturday afternoon. Most loafed in camp, but three intrepid climbers scrambled up nearby Relief Peak for panoramic views of this wilderness just north of Yosemite.

Sunday morning 22 of the 25 scrambled up granite slabs, across little hanging benches and valleys, to the 10,327-foot summit of Blackhawk Mountain. Views were far-reaching, stretching over the granite basin and lake country of northwestern Yosemite to Ritter and Banner on the distant skyline. Everyone was back in camp shortly after noon. We then backpacked 4 miles down to a beautiful campsite just above the southern end of Relief Reservoir. Clouds began to fill the sky as the day ended.

Early Monday morning it began to rain. The rainfall continued, sometimes a downpour, sometimes just a drizzle, all morning. Thoroughly soaked, we wasted no time in packing up and hiking back to the cars, which were reached by 11 AM. The long drive home was accomplished without incident.

CRAG PEAK - SMITH MOUNTAIN, October 16-17 Roy Magnuson - Fran Smith

Driving to the roadhead Friday night through howling winds and light snow and listening to the weather forecasts, the chances of climbing that weekend seemed pretty slim. As it turned out the wind wasn't blowing as hard in the mountains as it was in the desert and it didn't snow very much, but it was very cold. Thirty people showed up for the climb of Crag on Saturday which was quite remarkable considering the weather outlook. We took the trail from Kennedy Meadows Campground to a point northeast of Crag and then climbed the easy Class 1 slopes to the summit. The summit block had a few feet of Class 3 rock which didn't seem to cause any trouble. It was a beautiful climb with a little snow falling most of the time and a light snow cover on the ground. On the way down, however, a rock was dislodged and one of the men below appeared to try to catch it, instead of stepping aside and as a consequence he received a badly crushed little finger. He was bandaged on the spot and later driven back to LA for medical treatment.

Saturday night was spent at Kennedy Meadows Campground with everyone huddled in their own tents and campers since the area was closed to open fires. Sunday morning we caravanned to the start of the Jackass Meadow Trail. We lost 12 people from the Saturday climb, but gained 6 newcomers to make a total of 24 for the climb of Smith. Our intent was to take the Jackass Meadow Trail to a point due east of Smith and climb the peak from there. New logging road construction had obliterated signs of the trail intersection with the road and we followed this new road to Fish Creek. At that point we decided to take the Fish Creek Trail north and climb Smith from the west. This turned out to be a routine climb from that side also, but once again the fresh snow made it very beautiful. On leaving the summit we went down the east side and then out the way we intended to go in, making it a fine loop trip.

ROCK CLIMBING PRACTICE - Joshua Tree, December 11-12 . . . Al Fowler, Dennis Lantz

As this was the first rock climbing practice of the winter season I expected a large crowd. But we were rewarded with a turnout of only 18 people which included several accomplished rock climbers. We spent the morning teaching belaying climbing signals and knots. In addition several ropes were set up on a practice boulder so that climbing technique and rappeling could

be practiced. That afternoon and Sunday morning many fine routes were climbed to improve climbing skill and practice rappelling under actual conditions. Everybody enjoyed themselves and I hope learned something about climbing that will aid them in their High Sierra quests. There was one problem which arose Sunday afternoon - that was people requesting that their Mountaineers List be signed. They did not inform the leader or assistant leader that their intent was obtaining approval that weekend. Because of this no special care was taken in observing their technique and hence they were not approved. Any person who intends to obtain approval on a trip must inform the leader of their intention at the beginning of the trip. In that way the leader can observe the climber's technique and determine whether they are qualified.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

GUNONG MURUD DAN JALAN

KAKI DALAM SARAWAK UTARA DAN KALIMANTAN TIMOR Dick Jali
or, Wanderings in Northern Borneo

Topo maps - Batu Lawi and Ba Kelalan quadrangles, Sarawak 1:50,000, Series T735 (Not obtainable without police permission.)

The tiny 6-place airplane that called itself MSA Flight 954 hopped over the deep green jungle-clad hilltops, made a tight left turn that gave us a quick look at the higher mountains beyond in the bluish tropical haze, then dove into a narrow valley while aiming for the green postage stamp called the Long Semadoh airfield. No animals or people on it, so down we went and in a spray of mud and water buffalo dung we arrived. Another Peace Corps volunteer and I were now in northern Sarawak, near Brunei, and about 50 miles inland. And this was the end! From now on, for 2 weeks, it would be all on foot.

Our first stop was the idyllic valley of Ba Kelalan, a full day away and near Gunong Murud (7950'), the highest point in Sarawak. How do I describe Ba Kelalan? How do I describe the feeling when, after a very long, hard 25 miles on a jungle path, with 26 river crossings, 6 miles of swamp with ankle-deep mud, slippery logs and leeches, we came out into a quiet, peaceful high mountain valley with little groups of metal-roofed houses clustered around the brilliant emerald fields of growing rice? And how the people came out to meet us, smiling and wanting to shake hands? And the feeling of strong hands lifting your pack from your shoulders, with a friendly voice saying "Mahu tulong (I want to help)" - even though there were four miles left to go! And the reception we got when we arrived at the home of one of our students - hot tea and cookies awaited us, and hot water for washing before sitting down to a dinner of rice, wild pig and vegetables. And the next morning (after sleeping away half the morning by not getting up until 0730 instead of 0545 like everyone else), we found our dirty clothes had disappeared - they had been washed and were now drying in the sun! Even our boots! I was overwhelmed by the hospitality of these warm, friendly people - even though it was to be typical on our whole trip. (It is highly recommended by this past Chairman that the above be instituted on SPS trips, preferably before he returns.)

While luxuriating in all these goodies, we occasionally thought about getting the mountain wired. Amazingly enough, there was a "trail" up Mt Murud, and a local "guide" who knew where it was. The "trail" such as it was, went up to the top of a high ridge where we got our first (and only) view of the mountain - a big jungle-covered mound with a long, lumpy summit ridge. Pictures waited until our student and the guide used their parangs (machetes) to chop down some of the trees spoiling the view. Then down (sob!) the other side of the ridge to a river crossing, then up over slippery tree roots and brush on the other side to the remains of a shelter. This was repaired by chopping down whatever was needed (this jarred me at first, until I realized how fast things grow around here). We got it done just before the daily rain started. So we cleaned off leeches (a frequent task), sat before our fire (It is winter here, the temp was down to 65 or so, and our guide was cold!), and ate our dinner of tinned fish and rice.

MT MURUD continued

Rained all night, but stopped before dawn. So we had breakfast (rice) and set out in deteriorating weather on what turned out to be a sort of third class tree climb. It was steep and muddy, with lots of friendly pools of water to step, fall, and sit in, but always enough tree branches and roots for handholds and footholds.

After several hours, we came out of the brush and there in the swirling fog was a tin marker on a post. Guide said "This is Mt Murud." I remembered the topo, and tried to argue (with difficulty, since he spoke no Malay or English, and I spoke no Murut) that we thought there was a higher point further on. Guide replied that it would take all day to get there, he wasn't really sure it was higher, and besides that was not the true Mt Murud - this is! It was the Mt Corcoran argument all over again! We could not see anything, the weather was going to hell, and besides the locals consider reaching any point on the summit ridge as climbing Mt Murud - so we just retreated in a downpour. Actually, the rain is not bad, as you really do not get cold, but after a few hours of sloshing around in it the novelty wears off. I asked our student what he thought of his first mountaineering experience. "Interesting - on a good day!"

Back to the shelter for the night, and more rice, then the next day (sunny of course) back to Ba Kelalan and over a nearby pass to Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). And again, a tranquil valley, emerald with growing rice, and ringed with jungle-clad hills reaching up to the puffy white clouds. And again, people we had never seen before gave us a place to stay and fed us coffee, chicken and - wow! - rice.

And on it went. Through more valleys, along quiet rivers, and through deep jungles made eerie by bird and gibbon calls. And through villages where we were always offered - guess what - rice? And a place to stay. If we accepted every invitation to "stay here tonight! You can go tomorrow!" we might still be in the hill country. Which might not be bad.

Finally, after one last pass, on a trail made of felled logs with hand-cut steps, we dropped into Bario, the last and biggest of our tropical Shangri-La's. We had come 90 miles, and over Murud too, so we had a story to tell as we ate juicy pineapples, oranges, bananas, wild pig, and - surprise - rice.

But another grass postage stamp is in Bario, and MSA's Funny Little Iron Bird was there to fly me away. So I left the mountains and valleys. But, the memories, the friends and part of my spirit remain.

THE MATTERHORN, August 1 Dave Hammond
(or HOW TO BEAT THE SIERRA WEATHER)

It may be of particular interest to those who were on the attempt of the Matterhorn with the Section on June 26, under the leadership of Bob Mason, that another attempt on this emblem peak, August 1, this time successful, was made in spite of the similar weather.

My climbing partner and I, who was with me on the Section attempt, drove up to Bridgeport Saturday morning to arrive at Twin Lakes at 3 PM when it started to rain. By 4 it was thunder and hail, so we returned to the coffeeshop in Bridgeport, feeling rather despondent. By early evening it had stopped raining, so we headed back and set out up the trail for about an hour, camping before reaching the upper valley. Our strategy was to try to beat the weather by getting off the peak well before midday when the thunderstorms usually start in the Sierra.

Leaving at the record early hour for us of 6 AM, we hiked up beside Horse Creek through our campsite of 5 weeks previous and on up the easy pass quicker than we had expected. From there we set out for the peak, traversing a short distance, then up an easy rock scramble. Pausing to see the view near the top, we suddenly realized we were on the wrong summit! The higher peak of Matterhorn was behind us! We were near the top of Whorl Mountain. Fortunately it was only 10:30, so we retraced our steps and laboriously climbed the correct peak, claiming the summit before midday.

Clouds were building up by now, and we heard distant thunder as we left the summit after a

THE MATTERHORN continued

brief stay. We got down just below the Section campsite when it started to rain, but it stopped by the time we were packing up our gear at our campsite further down. A successful climb the second try, but we only just made it!

RED SLATE MOUNTAIN, January 22-23 Doug Mantle, Dave Gladstone

"We should try winter mountaineering", suggested Dave. "Sure, and why not a mountaineer's peak?", said I, suppressing a guffaw. "OK, let's head for Convict Lake this Saturday."

I spent the rest of our Red Slate Mountain climb wondering if we were serious - and becoming less and less certain.

On Saturday we snowshoed with some beginner's difficulty up Convict Creek. The icy still of the backcountry in winter is really a grand sight. So was the scene of Dave and I, after a moonlight finish to our hike, struggling in an increasing wind to put up the tent.

By morning it was snowing and blowing hard. I was ruminating on the advantages of a quick start for home when Dave said, "Let's start up." Apparently he remembered which way was up - one certainly couldn't see it.

We spent most of the next four hours cramponing up fairly firm snow, occasionally at 60°. Then over the rocky face, up a ridge and - a cairn! The storm just then cleared slightly - (or were we above it?) - and confirmed that we were atop Red Slate (13,163'). We didn't dig for the register, but started down quickly.

Dave took one fall enroute - but he makes falling look very difficult - it wasn't even worth a picture. By then the clouds were suddenly swept away, giving a snowy view as grand as we could desire. The most distant peak in its white raiment seemed somehow very near.

Caught up in this splendor we glissaded nearly to the saddle when one of us remembered - "You're not supposed to glissade in crampons". Properly subdued, we walked back to camp. We didn't get away until 3:00, but by then decreasing winds and, later, bright moonlight helped us over Lake Mildred and on down to the roadhead by 9:00 PM.

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I recently found the following "poem" carefully typed and pasted on the inside cover of the Mt. Dade register:

To foster space saving,
Let's temper the raving.
Your name's quite enough;
We've heard all the stuff.
These books to maintain
Becomes quite a strain,
So please be a sport
And keep the note short:
One line for one man,
Book back in the can.
Reg Ister
Doug Erel

It seemed especially appropriate in these days of more frequent ascents and (sometimes) inane entries. I plan to make copies and leave them in registers myself. Anyone else?

--Steve Rogero

Sierra Conservation News

REVISED STAND ON HIGHWAY

The Forest Service has revised its position on the Minarets Summit trans-Sierra highway (Forest Highway 100), concluding that the impact of road construction within the presently roadless portion of the Minarets corridor would have adverse effects on National Forest resources, and that such effects outweigh the benefits of such a road for National Forest use. At a meeting of the Madera County, California, Board of Supervisors, Sierra National Forest Supervisor Sotero Muniz stated, "Construction of the corridor portion of Forest Highway 100 would be justified only if a trans-Sierra highway is required for interstate and inter-community public travel and commerce, or to meet national defense objectives." He also reaffirmed the Forest Service's earlier position that it does not now require a trans-Sierra highway for its administration of the land and resources that lie within the Minarets corridor. The proposed highway would run through the wild region lying between Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks and has been opposed by the Sierra Club for many years. The area that would be traversed includes the John Muir Wilderness Trail as well as the site of the proposed San Joaquin National Wilderness.

VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDERNESS NEEDED

The need for review of all potential wilderness lands in the United States is increasingly urgent. The Forest Service has started studies of defacto wilderness under their jurisdiction, with decisions to be made as quickly as possible as to whether such lands will remain in a protected condition or be exploited for their commercial resources. Other regions, including landtypes of such varied nature as prairie, desert, mountain, coastal, and the like, which are still undeveloped, can qualify for a status which will leave them natural, and help in preservation of a balanced and healthy biosphere. Information on these varied regions is essential in developing proposals for their protection as Wilderness or such other status as will insure that undesirable development not take place. Studies to develop this information are conducted by the Wilderness Classification Study Committee. Research on various areas, including all such landtypes, is conducted. Field studies of each of these are a significant part of the work. These are begun when conditions are appropriate for the area in question, by whatever mode suits the region, from very strenuous back-packing to car camping with short day walks, and may include conferences with administering agency personnel. The

research includes studies of published material on the geology, botany, wildlife, and other characteristics of the area. It is followed up with the preparation of a detailed report.

Join us in saving America's wild lands from overuse and destruction. Volunteers are continuously needed to help in all phases of this work. Write the Wilderness Classification Study Committee, care of Francis J Walcott, 3500 Fulton Street, Apt 14, San Francisco, Calif 94118. (No telephone calls, please.) Tax-deductible contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation, specifying use for Wilderness surveys will also help save wilderness.

For \$5000 or local origin: rescue?

By Roger Bjelk

Member, Ritter Accident Investigating Committee

Last May, four climbers from the Loma Prieta Chapter died while attempting a climb of Mt. Ritter. Because the incident occurred in Madera County, Sheriff Ed Bates was obligated to handle the rescue operations.

I'm certain many of you do not know who has the responsibility for bringing you out when problems occur. The short of it is this: In any national forest or county area, the sheriff of that county has that job. In a national park, or state park, the appropriate park service has that responsibility.

In the Mt. Ritter case, the responsibility has cost over \$5000—all out of Madera County's coffers. Madera County is not a particularly wealthy county. It probably is not the state's poorest, but certainly it is not up to spending \$5000 per rescue operation in the eastern side of the county.

Most of you who are active in the chapter climbs, hikes, walks, etc. are made aware occasionally that certain people or towns, or counties, are slightly hostile to "us." Often it's not because we oppose Mineral King, or a Minaret Summit Road, etc., but simply because we represent a threat to the county services or taxes by occasionally getting ourselves into trouble.

Madera County has about 20 deputies, spread over three 8-hour daily shifts. It has Madera, Chowchilla, and Bass Lake as population centers to create problems. When they pulled two people off other duty to run the rescue operation, they suffered problems in other areas.

The sum of this has been a reluctance on the part of the County Board of Supervisors to allocate the \$5000, and even talk of not authorizing future search rescue operations unless a resident of Madera County is involved. This situation may have altered by now, but activity leaders should be forewarned of what we may encounter with the passage of time.

--Reprinted in part from Loma Prietan Jan 1972

At the beginning of the year, the Forest Service announced cancellation of permits for development of a ski resort at Trail Peak. A Comment from Barbara Lilley: Non-skiing hikers may not realize how this decision may affect them and should be made aware that the ultimate goal of the Sierra Club, in their opposition to the development of Trail peak, is to achieve the abandonment and closure of the Horse-shoe Meadows road at the 5500' level. Therefore, those who may wish to climb Cirque Peak or explore the Boreal Plateau-Siberian Outpost area in a two or three day weekend and without hiking the first 5000' up a road should plan to do so before it is too late!

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