

The Sierra



ECHO

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MARCH - APRIL

1972

NO 2



NEWS

FATAL ACCIDENT

It is with great sorrow we announce that on Easter Sunday, April 2, Wally Henry was fatally injured after a fall from the outcrop SE of Rock 1 of Owen's Pinnacles. He was climbing with Michael Cale, who notified a group of 6 climbers with the RCS who were on a scheduled trip to the Pinnacles. The six aided Wally until the China Lake Mountain Rescue team arrived. He died some time later. Memorial Services were held in Palmdale the following Thursday evening. In contrast to the somber note of the occasion were the courage and warmth of Beth Henry in greeting the many friends who came to pay tribute.

It seems fitting to quote the words of the late racing driver, Bruce McLaren, who wrote, "To do something well is so worthwhile that to die trying to do it cannot be foolhardy. It would be a waste of life to do nothing with one's ability. Life is measured in achievement, not in terms of years alone."

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover is a picture taken by Tom Ross from Palisade Creek Peak looking at Mt Paliview (center) and Candalish Peak (center), April, 1972. See story on page 10.

ECHO STAFF

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First of every month

NO 1972 GOLDEN EAGLE CARD

The Federal Register, dated 15 February 1972, stated that the Act under which the Golden Eagle fee program was established has been repealed, and there has been a revision to Section 6.7 of Title 36 pertaining to entrance and user fees in parks, forests, and memorials.

The purpose of the revision is to provide for the National Park Service fee program. No annual entrance permit is available under these revised conditions. These fees will continue in effect pending action by the Congress on the Golden Eagle fee program.

Entrance fees are on a daily basis and are from \$1 to \$3 per private vehicle per day, and from 50¢ to \$1.50 per person if entering by other means.

User fees are payable for the use of sites, facilities, equipment, or services provided by the United States. These fees range from \$1 to \$4 for overnight use, from 50¢ to \$1.00 for picnic use - and for groups it may either be 25¢ to 50¢ per person per day, or the Superintendents may establish a "group" charge per day.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating Committee for the election of four two-year members to the Angeles Chapter 1973-1974 Executive Committee has been formed and it requests suggestions from the chapter membership for qualified candidates. Please see that such suggestions reach one of the members of the Nominating Committee before the deadline date of May 25. Committee members are: Arthur Brown, Al Campbell, Wilson Dresler (chairman), Dick Eckert, Fred Grabiell, Betty Jo Hodge, Warren Kessler, and Mac Terrell.

Names of selected candidates will be placed on the bulletin board at chapter headquarters after June 1. The deadline for candidates to be added to the slate by petition is Aug 1; a petition requires 134 or more member signatures.
-- Wilson Dresler - Nominating Comm Chmn

NOTICE!

Ideas on a light, cheap, durable register container are wanted by Dennis Lantz, Chairman Mountain Records.

SPS TO THE RESCUE!

It didn't happen in the Sierras, but SPS'er Ken Berger and two friends, Paul Homchick and Russ Ringer, recently had a chance to show how handy various mountaineering skills can be. On Sunday, March 5, 1972, following a session teaching rock climbing to the BMTC, they were preparing to climb at Hidden Valley in Joshua Tree National Monument when a 40 year old tourist fell near Intersection Rock and suffered a compound fracture of the lower leg. Since the easy way down from the scene involved a 100 foot face, the Park Service hastily looked for climbing volunteers - and found the SPS.

Ken rigged five anchors on top, interconnecting them with paired slings while the Park Service and another climber worked their way up the back of the pinnacle. As for the victim, "He didn't like it much," Ken observed, since the now-splinted tourist passed out from the pain when he was eased into the Stokes basket. He was conscious, though, and didn't complain as Ken and another volunteer rappelled down the face guiding the basket, while Russ and Paul fed the litter support rope through a brake bar rig and belayed the victim from above. After the ambulance roared away, the trio retrieved their gear and went back to Intersection Rock to finish their interrupted climb of Overhang By-pass. --Dennis Lantz

NEW MOUNTAIN RESCUE PHONE NUMBER

The new telephone number for the Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue is now (714) 873-5866. It was formerly -5547. Those little white information cards (you know - the ones with the print that is used on contracts) have the old number on them, so before you forget - change it now.

NEW MEMBERS

There are nine new members to the Section in the last two months, eight of which are listed in the new membership list.

BERGER, NADA 3540 Sawtelle #7, Los Angeles
Calif 90066, 397-7794

RALPH GABINER
GEORGE JACKSON
PAUL KELLOW
EZRA KRENDEL
PETER LYMAN
JOHN MC HAFFIE
JON PETITJEAN
DALE STEIN

FIRST AID KITS

Frank Riseley has added a suggestion to his recent program on mountaineering first aid. If ever we have a serious accident (and inexorable statistics probably make this inevitable) large dressings will be needed. The Section first aid kits can supply medication and some dressings, but cannot include enough dressings and bandage, so we must depend on supplies carried by members. Therefore, Frank asks that each member carry on all trips, in addition to his personal first aid kit, one triangular bandage and one large gauze pad, at least 6" x 8". This way, any group will have an adequate supply of bandaging material, and no one will have to carry more than a few ounces of extra weight.

NOTICE!

"I will be climbing most of the peaks near and north of Lake Tahoe either during the week of May 22 or during the week of May 29. Please write if you are interested in joining me." Thanks much.

Diana Dee
Reed College
Portland, Oregon 97202

NEW FOOD

Lipton has now come out with an instant soup, called "Cup-A-Soup", and individually wrapped servings run about 8-9 cents each. Put in a cup and stir in boiling water.

The Green Pea offers an inviting 120 calories per serving, while the Beef Flavor Noodle has only 21. Other selections are Tomato, Onion, and Chicken Noodle. (Hungry backpackers will probably want 2 packages each.)

Barbara Lilley and Jerry Keating both sent in items on this new backpacking food - which has been found on the supermarket shelves.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDER

We have one new emblem earner since the last issue of the Echo. Congratulations to Doug Mantle, a worthy addition to the list.

WANTED!

Backpacking gear for kids.
Dennis Lantz . . . phone (213) 696-6347

NEW ARRIVAL

Sy and Ellen Ossofsky sent in an announcement from Bishop that they now have a son, Michael, born the 13th of March.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

About this time of year SPS types are busily planning ambitious climbing exploits for the coming season. Various useful and informative lists are included in this issue of the Echo. And for many the goals include satisfying the requirements for the Mountaineers List. The requirements are described on the published qualification form, and they involve demonstration of climbing skills, physical endurance, and a safe attitude toward climbing. By this means, the SPS can schedule climbs on a restricted basis that would be unduly hazardous for less experienced climbers. The policy is to keep the qualifying standards high, and to make the List open and freely accessible with ample opportunity for training and demonstration of qualifications. There is a list of qualified instructors who can help with training and testing, so don't hesitate to put them to work.

Starting in May, our meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, as was long traditional. This should be good news to those who had other obligations on the fourth Monday. Welcome back, Izzy.

It is most unfortunate that this issue also carries some heavy, sad news. The untimely death of Wally Henry in a climbing accident comes as a severe shock to everyone who knew him. Wally was always an outstanding example of the best qualities of a mountaineer. We shall all miss him, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Beth and Wally's family.

MOUNTAINEERS' LIST

Recent updating of the Mountaineers' List and reconsideration of its importance and significance have suggested the need for some discussion on this subject. The Mountaineers' List, as some of you perhaps don't know, is the successor to the Third and Fourth Class Lists and is an indicator of the competence of an individual to participate in a scheduled trip of more than usual difficulty. It was intended largely as a tool to help a trip leader select a party of reasonable uniform and adequate abilities.

Some concern is now being expressed that designation as a Mountaineer (inclusion of one's name on the Mountaineers' List) is being considered a status symbol. While hardly the purpose of the list, this cannot be entirely avoided since such a designation is in fact an acknowledgement of some demonstrated capability on the part of the SPS member. And that is not in itself bad, if the designee will recognize and accept an increased responsibility to his companions and to every trip leader.

The Mountaineer designation can and should do two things: it should provide to a trip leader an indication of a prospective participant's training and basic capability and it should place upon that individual the responsibility to make the further judgments relative to his own capability to participate in a particular trip at a particular time.

Criteria for inclusion of the name of a member on the Mountaineers' List are generally based on his mountaineering knowledge, his judgment, the training he has received and his demonstrated competence. They, of course, can provide no indicator of a person's physical or mental capability at any given time. Hopefully, any qualified Mountaineer should be able to discuss knowledgeably with the leader the demands of a planned trip and then decide whether he is capable of participating.

Inclusion of a member's name on the Mountaineers' List should indicate to a trip leader that that person is basically capable in the mountains. Such knowledge may be of real help to a leader in making decisions as situations develop which affect the conduct of the trip. Mountaineers, for instance, ought to be more capable of sharing the responsibilities of leadership should some split of the group be required or of returning safely to a roadhead without leadership if that might be necessary.

Inclusion on the Mountaineers' List is really only an indication that the individual is knowledgeable enough to judge for himself whether he is able to participate in any particular outing, not that he is in fact so able. One's physical condition is certainly a function of time and circumstances. Listing as a Mountaineer will not assure that one is always able to undertake any hike offered, but should assure that he is able and willing to assess his own limits.

--Norm Rohn, Safety Committee Chairman

Sierra Peaks Section
Mountaineers' List

Applicant's Name (Print): _____

Address: _____

Instructions

- A. Satisfactory completion of these requirements, favorable recommendation by the Mountaineering Safety Chairman, and approval by the Management Committee are required for the applicant to participate in restricted trips sponsored by the 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 Mountaineering Safety Committee Chairman for review and recommendation to the Management Committee. The applicant will be notified by mail whether he or she has been approved for participation in restricted climbs.
- D. The applicant must be an active member of the section.

I. Climbing on Rock

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

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this Section:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

II. Snow and Ice Climbing

- A. Judgment
- B. Balance
- C. Handling of 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 actual falls
- E. Glissade - demonstrate ability to maintain satisfactory control during a sitting glissade
- F. Demonstration of proper use of crampons.

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this Section:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

III. Endurance

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

Trip: _____ Date: _____

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this Section:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mountaineering Safety Committee Chairman
(Circle one recommendation)

- A. I have personal knowledge of the applicant's mountaineering abilities and recommend he be approved by the Management Committee.
- B. I have personal knowledge of the applicant's mountaineering abilities but recommend he not be approved by the Management Committee.
- C. I know the applicant only by reputation but recommend that he be approved by the Management Committee.
- D. I have too little knowledge of the applicant to make a recommendation.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS AS OF APRIL 1972

Testing of applicants for Mountaineers' List may be performed on any 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 | 11 HUNT, BILL | 21 ORY, HORACE |
| 2 BEACH, DICK | 12 JONES, RON | 22 ROBINSON, JOHN |
| 3 BRADFORD, JACK | 13 KEATING, JERRY | 23 ROHN, NORM |
| 4 DAVIS, SID | 14 LANTZ, DENNIS | 24 ROSS, TOM |
| 5 DEGOEDE, ART | 15 LILLEY, BARBARA | 25 SCHUMACHER, ERIC |
| 6 EATON, DAN | 16 MAC LEOD, GORDON | 26 SHINNO, GEORGE |
| 7 ERB, ARKEL | 17 MAGNUSON | 27 SMATKO, ANDY |
| 8 FLETCHER, ELTON | 18 MAIER, TED | 28 SYKES, DICK |
| 9 FOWLER, AL | 19 MASON, BOB | 29 VAN ALLEN, BOB |
| 10 HOEPTNER, FRED | 20 MAY, DICK | |

CALENDAR

PREVIEW OF SPS JULY-OCTOBER SCHEDULE (1972)

John Robinson

- July 1-4 Mt Reinstein, Emerald Pk, Scylla, Mt McGee - John Robinson, Jerry Keating, Elton Fletcher
1-4 Triple Divide Pk, Lion Rock, Glacier Ridge exploratory - Fred Hoepfner & Horace Ory
8-9 Mt Darwin, Mt Mendel - Roy Magnuson & Paul Lipsohn
8-9 Mt Stanford, Mt Morgan (north) - Jerry Snyder & Jerry Aikman
15-16 Matterhorn Pk - Harry Brumer & Henry Jeusinkveld
15-16 Deerhorn Mtn, West Vidette - Art de Goede, Jerry Keating, Elton Fletcher
15-16 Chickenfoot Lake family knapsack - Izzy Lieberman & Ted Maier
22-23 Mt Gould, Dragon Pk - Kim Ellis & Howard Stephens
22-23 State Pk, Goat Mtn - Dave Gladstone & Doug Mantle
22-23 Florence Pk women's backpack - Barbara & Roy Magnuson
28-30 Mt Davis, Electra Pk, Rodgers Pk - Paul Lipsohn
29-30 Mt Julius Caesar father/son backpack - Dennis Lantz & Al Fowler & sons
- Aug 5-6 Electra Pk - Ron Jones & Gordon MacLeod
5-6 The Hermit - Jay Wiley & Ed Hill
11-13 Black Giant, Mt McDuffie, Charybdis - Doug Mantle & Ed Treacy
12-13 Mt Barnard, Trojan Pk - Al Fowler & Norm Rohn
16-20 Kings-Kern Divide Pks (5 days) - Elton Fletcher, Art de Goede, Jerry Keating
19-20 Virginia Pk, Whorl Mtn - Dave Gladstone & Dennis Lantz
19-21 Observation Pk, Mt Ruskin - Dick May
25-27 Pettit Pk, Volunteer Pk, Piute Mtn - Paul Lipsohn
26-27 Mt Russell, Mt Carillon - Horace Ory & George Toby
26-27 Mt Isaac Walton - Gordon MacLeod & Barbara Lilley
- Sept 1-4 Arc Pass Special - Gordon MacLeod & Neko Colevins
2-4 Mt Goddard - Harry Brumer & Henry Heusinkveld
2-4 Middle Palisade, Norman Clyde Pk, The Thumb - Ken Berger & Dennis Lantz
9-10 Alta Pk - Spark Schnitzer & Joe McCosker
9-10 Mt Clark - Jay Wiley & Ed Hill
10 Trail Pk - Elliot Snyder
16-17 Banner Pk, Mt Davis - Horace Ory, Bedford, Levine
16-17 Minarets - Arkel Erb & Gordon MacLeod
16-17 Charybdis - Frank Meyers & How Bailey
23-24 Three Sisters - John Robinson & Ron Jones
23-24 "Old" Cross Mtn, Cross Mtn - Dave Gladstone, Doug Mantle, Dennis Lantz
- Sept 30-
- Oct 1 The "real" Corcoran - Andy Smatko, Barbara Lilley, Jerry Keating
30-1 Mt McAdie, Mt Mallory, Mt Irvine - Ken Berger & Dennis Lantz
30-1 Mt Silliman, Alta Pk - Roy & Barbara Magnuson
- Oct 7-8 Mt Elwell, Sierra Buttes - Steve Harding
14-15 Sawtooth Pk, Mt Needham, Vandever Pk - Paul Kluth, Kurt Beyer, Joe Landau
14-15 Mt Winchell - Gordon MacLeod & Bill Hunt
14-15 Tower Pk - Dave Gladstone & Doug Mantle
21-22 Lone Pine Pk - Ron Jones & John Robinson

ASCENTS

BIRCH MOUNTAIN (13,665'), February 20-21 Horace Ory

There is an old adage that one should prepare for the worst and hope for the best. That formula was just right for our recent climb of Birch Mtn. The leaders warned that everyone should have adequate equipment and experience for winter mountaineering. As a result, and because of some interference of business with pleasure, only six people turned out for the climb. And the selection left the leader to cope with a pack of tigers.

At the roadhead a predicted front was briefly discussed, but it turned out we had only the Weather Bureau's word on that. We packed in from the north end of McMurray Meadow, following roughly the route of the purported trail, and set up camp at Birch Lake. The weather was pleasant, more like Spring than Winter, and remained so through the weekend. The snowshoes and wands we carried served no more purpose than to lend atmosphere, but the night was cold enough that we were happy to have tents.

Sunday dawned clear and we proceeded up toward the saddle between Birch Mtn and The Thumb, but took a shortcut by one of several easy chutes to the ridge near the summit. After leaving the chute we were exposed to a cold wind but the summit offered the hospitality of some sunny rocks. The visibility was unusually clear and the views of the wintry Sierra were striking, especially of Split Mtn and the Palisades.

After enjoying the summit we descended by a more direct chute, packed up, and trudged out by late afternoon. The perfect weather enhanced a beautiful trip that would be well worth repeating.

SAWTOOTH PK, OWENS PK, March 11-12 John Robinson

This was one of our early spring "conditioners" in the southern Sierra. Warm weather and a scarcity of snow this year made it more resemble a summer climb. 37 eager climbers ascended Sawtooth Peak (7970') from the summit of the Nine-Mile Canyon road on Saturday, basking in warmth and sunshine all the way. The view from the top extended northward past Olancha Peak, almost snowless, to the glistening summits of the Whitney area. That night we camped in Indian Wells Canyon, after most of us had enjoyed food and spirits at Homestead Cafe. Sunday dawned as clear and warm as the previous day, and 26 leftovers (the rest had gone home or left to climb Spanish Needle) scrambled up Owens Peak, dodging falling rocks and wiping perspiration from our sweltering brows. Again, the summit panorama was far-reaching. We returned to our cars by 2 PM for the short drive home, satisfied with another pleasant weekend in the southern Sierra.

PILOT KNOB, LAMONT PEAK, March 18-19 Roy Magnuson, Barbara Magnuson

Twenty-eight climbers turned up at the Onyx Emporium on Saturday morning for the climb of Pilot Knob. After receiving permission from the rancher, we crossed the South Fork of the Kern River on the bridge just west of Onyx. We started hiking from that point at 8 AM and by the time we had crossed the relatively flat approaches to the peak we had one person drop out from near heat exhaustion. The route up was via the southwest ridge, which was fine for those who liked 3rd class rock, but was something less for those who didn't. Eventually everyone made the summit, mainly because no one was interested in going down the way we went up. The descent from the peak was via the SW canyon with everyone reaching the cars about 5 PM. It seemed like a long day, especially for those who didn't heed the leaders' advice to bring plenty of water. The Saturday night camp was at the Chimney Creek Campground where the evening consisted of extracting a well buried tick from the leader's side.

The climb of Lamont Peak on Sunday was attended by 11 climbers. We started from the scenic lookout at the crest of the road south of the Chimney Creek campground and went east up the ridge. This ridge has a ducked trail which makes the climb very easy, with the only difficulty being in determining which peak is the true summit. A careful study of the map shows this to be past 2 bumps on the ridge and just beyond a 150' to 200' dip. The trip was very slow-paced, 4 1/2 hours round trip including about an hour on the summit.

The schedule said to call the leaders to see where we would meet - as if the leaders knew where the snow was. We found some snow, but not much, quite a bit higher on Mt San Gorgonio than it is usually necessary to go. The march in from the Poopout Hill parking lot on Saturday morning became an exploratory for 24 people struggling higher to reach the snow. Another six latecomers followed the tracks through mud and snow to join the happy group in the sunshine. Conditions were fast as climbers from 12 to 61 years old practiced both strong and weak side arrests from all possible positions, set anchors, and tried belays and team arrests. The hike out was done in good speed and fine spirits, followed by a general scatter at the roadhead as most headed home for Easter.

The next morning found 10 "repeaters" from the day before, as well as 12 new hardy souls. Finding the snow was easier, although the walk wasn't, but soon all 22 were getting wet on a warm day. Several "Mountaineer's List" candidates enlivened the slopes with some inspired "tumblesaults" and wild high-speed falls; four were finally signed off for snow and ice. In contrast were many for whom this was their first exposure to an ice axe, or to the need for waterproofing boots. As 31 of the 42 participants were not SPSers, we hope everyone else in the Section has been practicing on his own.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

A glance at the Mt Pinchot Quad topo one day, revealed a hiatus of red lines in the region of the White Fork of Wood's Creek. Firstly, however, I have to explain what I mean by the term "red lines". On each High Sierra topo map I have drawn in red lines along the trails, cross country routes, or wherever I have tread. This immediately tells me where I should plan a future trip, for the absence of lines catches my attention and thither I wish to go see and explore (and ENJOY) new country.

The Wood's Creek drainage covers a vast region if one studies the Mt Pinchot Quad, for it is bounded by the wall pierced by Pinchot Pass on the north, Glen Pass and wall on the south, and the Sierra Crest on the east.

A nine day excursion commenced on September 11, with Bill Schuler, Tom Ross, Frank Yates, and myself shouldering 48 to 60 pound packs at the Sawmill Pass roadhead. We looked not with pleasure at the arduous climb over Sawmill Pass (6,750') up the trail on the Crest. Bill and I set ourselves a pace which, salved by several rest stops, brought us to the second small lake west of the Pass near the trail at about 7:30 PM. Our plans called for us to reach this locale the first day. We got the soup ready for our pals but when nine o'clock rolled around and no Tom or Frank, we figured they camped on the other side, so we had our meal and turned in at 10:30, fully realizing the itinerary would have to be rearranged. Around one AM Sunday we heard noises and saw flashlights weaving in the darkness. They had arrived.

Sunday found us stashing our Keltys at the Muir Trail junction and heading north on the JM trail. Just north of Mt Perkins we headed up the cruddy slope northwest of Perkins and gained the Crest. Bill went on to climb Mt Perkins. Tom branched off to climb Peak 12,480+, 0.9 N by W of Mt Perkins, while Frank and I headed toward Peak 12,400+, 0.55 N by W of Mt Perkins. I knew A. J. Reyman, that indefatigable climber of yesteryear had climbed this peak, but it would be on our way to Peak 12,480+. We waited for Bill here and the three of us traversed along the Class 3 crest to Peak 12,480+ where Tom awaited us. This peak was named Mt Fitch and was deemed worthy of an ascent by none other than Norman Clyde. His, however, was not the first ascent. Returning to our packs we then dropped down the JM trail to the White Fork junction and then up this tributary to the 10,000' level. It was quite a rough passage.

On Monday, we followed this stream northwards and a most unusual vista enfolded as we progressed. The stream water contains a mineral which leaches out onto the black bordering rocks and thus a spectacle of a stream with a snow white band of rocks bordering it and immediately lateral to this border another border of black rocks extended as far as the eye could see. At one

WOOD'S CREEK continued

place there was a 20' waterfall exquisitely placed in a dark rocky defile. We followed the stream all the way to the small lake which heads this most unusual stream. I have never seen the like anywhere in the Sierra. That day we ascended Peaks 12,722', Mt Ickes, 12,685', and Crater Mts, which peaks bound this expansive basin on the north.

The following day we climbed Peaks 11,920'+, 1.5 ENE of Pyramid Peak and lo it was a first ascent - Class 2 up the east slope. It is the same class from anywhere. We went on to climb Peak 12,773', Peak 12,400'+, 0.45 N by E of Pyramid Peak (a first recorded ascent), Pyramid Peak and Peak 12,160'+, 0.55 SSE of Pyramid Peak (also a first recorded ascent), and finally Peak 12,080'+, 0.9 E by N of Pyramid Peak, also a first ascent. Two first ascents and two first recorded ascents in a single day. We made a new route on Pyramid Peak since we climbed it via the Class 3 NNE ridge.

Wednesday we began the day by climbing Peak 12,350' and 12,058' to the west of our camp and then backpacked to the 9,600' level on the south fork of Wood's Creek at the Sixty Lakes drainage junction.

Thursday we climbed Peak 12,470', 0.55 S by E of Clarence King (a first recorded ascent), Class 3 via the NNW ridge, and Bill and I climbed Clarence King - my second ascent of this peak.

On Friday, the four of us climbed Peak 12,160'+, 0.9 ENE of Clarence King via the Class 2-3 SE slope. The summit block was an exposed Class 4 climb and ropes were used. It was a first ascent. Bill, Tom and I then hastened over to Fin Dome, and after Tom chickened out halfway up the SW face, Bill and I went on to the summit.

Saturday, we backpacked up the Baxter Pass Trail to a 10,800' campsite and Bill and I climbed Peak 12,852' via a Class 2-3 SW chute and SW ridge, then descended the NE ridge (Class 2) and climbed Peak 12,640'+, 1.0 miles NW of Mt Baxter. Carl Heller thought this peak was higher than Peak 12,746', 0.25 to the west. We thought it was just slightly lower. Tom and Frank awaited us on Peak 12,746', and when we arrived there, we saw what deterred them. The ridge over to Peak 12,804' looked like a Class 4 ridge. Saying no thanks to our invitation to climb it, they departed back to camp while Bill and I essayed to try the ridge. For a few moments we too almost decided to abandon the difficult ridge but after a 20' au cheval knife-edge was passed, the rest of the climb was Class 2 to easy 3 to the summit. We returned the same way and went on to the camp.

On our last day Bill arose 2 hours earlier than the others and went over Baxter Pass to climb Diamond Peak and "Foley" Peak while I waited for him at a prearranged spot and thence we went on to the roadhead where Candy, Tom's wife met us and drove us back to the Sawmill Pass trailhead. Total gain 36,580'+. Total mileage 80+.

This trip further reinforces what I have previously commented on, namely that mid-September or so is an excellent time to plan a weeks trip anywhere in the Sierra. The weather is more settled than at any time in the summer and combining this with the paucity of camper-hikers generally found after Labor Day - makes this a most delightful period for climbing. Fall colors are ablaze wherever deciduous trees and shrubs make their home. There is less likelihood of stream pollution. The crisp mornings sing out a welcome to challenge the heights. For my part I plan to climb in September each year and encourage others in the SPS to do likewise.

PALISADE CREEK PK (13,500'), EAST PALISADE CREEK PK (13,400+) April 1-2 . Tom Ross

On the morning of April 1, I set out from the roadhead of Tinemaha Creek, at 6,500' in a grove of beautiful aspen trees. I passed a small plane that crashed in 1969 looking for the ill-fated DC-3 "Gamblers Special" in the canyon around 7,500'. It exploded and burned over 50 acres of brush and trees. It was overcast from the dawn that morning and as I climbed higher the clouds thickened, snow started to fall, and there was no wind. I found a nice camp at the stream, but 2000 feet short of where I wanted to camp. It cleared gradually that night.

Sunday morning it was 24 °F at 5 AM and clear. As I climbed to the moraine below a glacier on the crest, I heard a flock of geese. At least 50 of them circled above me, flying at least

PALISADE CREEK continued

13,000 feet east of Birch Mtn. They always fly against the prevailing wind and they sailed away north out of sight in the clear and cold Sierra air. Later I saw them on the crest at 15,000 feet! I took the north fork of Tinemaha Creek and climbed Class 2 slopes to the crest. I used crampons in places as the snow was very hard and steep. What a beautiful view. Late afternoon shadows were long and another storm was coming in from the north. It was only 65% of normal snowpack, but looked pretty white. Much to my surprise my peak, 13,500+ was a First Ascent! Since this peak is on the headwaters of Palisade Creek, I named it Palisade Creek Peak. I placed a register and went east about a quarter mile and climbed a smaller peaklet, it was another first ascent. I named it East Palisade Creek Peak, built a cairn, and left a register. It was late, 18 °F, a strong wind, and clouding up rapidly, so I descended back into Tinemaha Creek to my Kelty and then to the roadhead by 8:15 PM. This area is almost untouched by climbers and its rugged walls, small glaciers, and aspen thickets are really a different kind of Sierran beauty. I will return to Tinemaha Creek soon!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Headquarters is urgently in need of volunteers; preferably people who can come in to help out one day a week. No experience is needed; this would be an excellent chance for new members to learn the inside workings of the club and to meet all the people that run it. If interested, call Mary Ferguson at 387-6482.

RECAP OF PAST SEASON: TURNOUTS TOP 900

A review of 1971 mountaineering records reveals that all but four of the 56 trips scheduled that year got underway and that the total turnout on the 52 outings exceeded 900 persons.

The May 29-31 climb of Angora-Coyote went down the tube due to the lack of leaders, while a tropical storm on July 17-18 wiped out Disappointment, Brewer and Chickenfoot Lake at their respective roadheads.

Heaviest turnout was 73 on the June 19-20 climbs of Goode and Agassiz, while runner-up honors went to Wallace with 43 participants on July 31-Aug 1. Fewest to show up for a trip was three, a number that prevailed on Tinemaha, April 10-11; Tableland, July 3-5; Hooper-Seven Gables-Recess, Aug 7-9; and Wallace-Haeckel, Oct 9-10.

Average turnout for trips that got underway was 17. --Jerry Keating

WATER SHORTAGE IN SIERRA

Douglas Powell, California Cooperative Snow Surveys, sent a letter to the editor of the March 2 edition of the Inyo Register stating that Inyo-Mono faces a water deficient year, significantly so in the southern part of the area. This is because of a lack of snow accumulation which did not occur in the important months of January and February.

He said, "For those who like abundant wildflowers, profuse growth of shrubs, a late ski season, adequate irrigation water, summer-green meadows, and relatively low fire hazard, do what you can to insure a wet March - rain and snow dances, wash cars, live virtuously, or whatever. 1972 could be one of the really dry years in southern Inyo-Mono and well-below normal in the rest of the area."

Ed note - Doesn't look like washing the car and the rain dances helped much.

A climber, brave beyond compare
Was asked, "Did you climb it
'because it's there'?"
"Well, no," he said
As he shook his head
"I just needed a breath of fresh air!"

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