

The Sierra



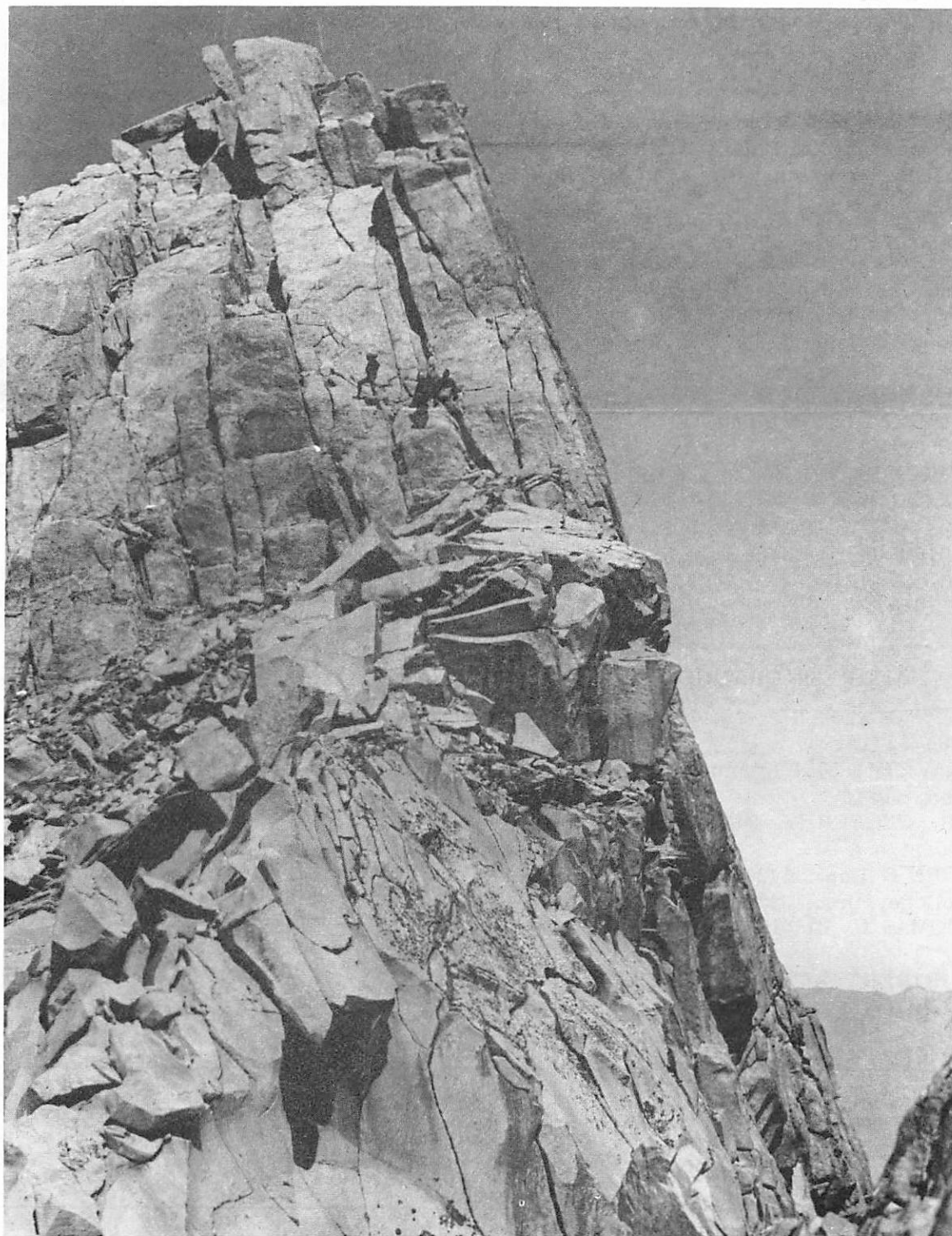
ECHO

VOLUME 16

AUG-SEPT

1972

NO 6



NEWS

COVER PHOTO

The cover shot for this issue was taken some years ago by Niles Werner and shows the interesting rocks on the summit of Muir Peak, just off the Whitney Trail.

NEWEST PEAK LIST "COMPLETER"

Our heartiest congratulations to Jerry Keating who is now the celebrated 4th person to complete the SPS Peaks List. (This is quite an achievement - climbing all 242 Sierra peaks just "ain't that easy".) The other three are Andy Smatko, Barbara Lilley, and Tom Ross.

Jerry started this task in 1957 on John Robinson's trip to Olancho Peak and finished on August 19, 1972, on Table Mountain with Elton Fletcher.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

The summer climbing season has produced a large crop of emblem holders. Congratulations to every one of you!

KURT BEYER
GEOFFREY GLASSNER
WILSON HARVEY
NATHAN HOOVER
RON LAKE
BARBARA MAGNUSON
ROBERT PEDERSON
DICK RAMIREZ
WES SHARP

ADDRESS CHANGES

BRANDSMA, MAYNARD 3910 Beethoven #7,
LA 90066 391-4789
CERVENKA, JIM 1754 Sycamore Ave, Apt G,
El Segundo 90245
GLASSNER, GEOFFREY 2449 E 5th #3, Long
Beach 90814
IRWIN, JOHN B Dept of Earth Science, Newark
State College, Union NJ 07083
LIMP, THOMAS E 845 10th St, Manhattan Bch
90266
MASON, ROBERT & JULIE 304 S Elm Dr,
Beverly Hills 90212 552-1269

THERE SURE ARE LOTS MORE OF US!

The paragraphs below are taken in part from an article on the front page of the August 24 Wall Street Journal, entitled "Mountaineering Craze Creates 3-Hour Jams". Some of the story deals with the large amount of money spent on mountaineering equipment (as if we didn't know) but the statistics cited are rather "interesting". -- Ed

There is wide disagreement over how many true mountain climbers there are these days - people who really climb mountains as compared with people who walk up hills and call it mountain climbing. An official of the American Alpine Club estimates there are one million real climbers, but William Kemsley, publisher of the soon-to-be-launched Backpacker Magazine, put the figure at closer to 250,000.

Whatever the number, it has swelled in recent years. One place the growth shows up is in National Parks, where climbers must register before making ascents. In Grand Teton National Park last year, the number of visitors dropped 2% from 1970 - but mountaineering registrations rose 9%. Since 1965, the number of people who have made successful ascents in the park has nearly doubled, reaching 4,100 last year.

The sport is attracting so many devotees of late that traffic jams occur on some mountains. "Some days there are 40 to 50 people on the most popular route to the top of Grand Teton, and climbers have to wait in line as long as three hours to get around some of the narrow spots," Pete Hart, Teton Park ranger says. Last year more than 1,300 people climbed the 13,766-foot peak, 200 more than the prior year.

The crowds are contributing to another problem - litter and pollution. "We could go to the top of Grand Teton tomorrow and haul down 100 pounds of empty tin cans," one ranger says. On 14,400-foot Mount Rainier in Washington, which has up to 200 climbers a day, the Park Service has had to put portable toilets out on the glaciers near the most-traveled route.

THE SIERRA ECHO is published ten times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. EDITOR - Betty Dessert, 1081 E Kingsley, Pomona, Calif 91767. MAILING - Guyneth White, 20554 Quedo Drive, Woodland Hills, Calif 91364. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$2 per year. Subscription to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send remittance to: Paul Lipsohn - Treasurer, 9152 E Olive, Bellflower, Calif 90706. COPY DEADLINE - First of every month.

NEW MEMBERS

We now have 12 new members in our section, and one member renewed after coming back from his worldly travels. Welcome to the SPS!

AYERS, ROBERT 1140 Strand, Apt C, Manhattan Beach 90266 545-2526
COFFMAN, DAVID 6881 Fortuna Rd, Goleta 93017
FARRAR, DICK 26540 Hawkhurst Dr, Palos Verdes Pen 90274
FREDLAND, JAN K 1170 Embury St, Pacific Palisades 90272
FURST, MARIAN J 17785 Alonzo Pl, Encino 91316 343-7005
HAWKINS, ALICE 8840 Encino Ave, Northridge 91324 886-2342
JONES, JIM 512 N Campbell, Alhambra 91801 284-4205
LANE, BRIAN 538 S Edenfield Ave, Covina 91723
LYMAN, DAVID 1454 E Mountain St, Pasadena 91104 794-4170
LYNCH, SUSAN D
SOWERS, BETTY 18492 Capricorn Ct, Castro Valley 94546
SUGINE, SAM S 1748 N Dillon St, LA 90026 and our renewal:
KAICENER, CY 1959 S Ogden Dr, LA 90019 931-6418

STOVES ONLY!

No campfires are permitted now in the area from Evolution Meadow to Muir Pass in the Evolution Basin. Also Dusy Basin is under this same restriction. This is not only because of the scarcity of wood, but also the rangers are trying to preserve the fragility of these areas by eliminating the soot-blackened campfire circles.



Interested in climbing "the volcanoes" in Mexico between Christmas and New Years? For details and reservations call Diana Dee at 451-5838 (work) or 399-5260 (home) before September 29.

LOOKING BACK

From Schedule 125 dated July-October 1947:

"Your Schedule Committee regrets to announce that there will be no organized trip to Mt Whitney this year. The pack station was almost washed away in a cloud burst in 1945, and since then the Forest Service has done only the lightest of maintenance work on the Whitney Trail.

Mr Bruce Morgan of the Mt Whitney Pack Trains, has written that they do not plan on opening Out Post Camp until they can be assured that the trail will be open to stock.

It will be possible for sturdy individuals to make the trip from the Portal to Mt Whitney on foot, but the going would be pretty rough. Persons desiring to camp Saturday night at Out Post Camp (a distance of four miles) would have to carry their sleeping bags and food that far. We hope the Forest Service will have the trail in good shape by next year."

From Schedule 105, dated Nov 1940-Feb 1941:

"Kasper Casperson and Mr Cook designed the square aluminum box registers which are placed on peaks throughout the Sierra. Many of these were placed this summer by the High-Trippers."

SKI DEVELOPMENT SHELVED

The Forest Service this week put a damper on any immediate hopes for a ski resort in the Trail Peaks-Horseshoe Meadows area.

Instead, it will establish a campground for up to 400 people at the end of Horseshoe Meadows road, provide hike-in campsites between road's end and Cottonwood Pass, encourage cross-country skiing and "manage the majority of the basin as back-country".

The planned entrance station to the Meadows will be located as far down the road as possible. When all campsites are filled, vacationists can thus be spared the drive up the mountainside, over the crest and down into the basin.

--Taken in part from Inyo Register 24 Aug 72

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Once again, SPS members have suffered a tragic loss. Bob Herlihy died recently as a result of a lightning stroke near Saddlerock Lake. Typically, at the time Bob was helping a friend to learn about mountaineering, as he helped many of us. It is easy to recall occasions when Bob made special efforts to help others. Easy too, to recall his cheerful nature, which brightened the experiences of those who shared them with Bob.

At the time that Bob and his friend were struck, they were camped in a location which minimized the lightning hazard. Nevertheless, they were struck and paid a heavy toll undeserved through any errors. Thus we are reminded that even without careless or foolish mistakes, mountaineering has its hazards. Those who would avoid causing grief to their friends should accept no worse odds.

ASCENTS

TRIPLE DIVIDE PEAK, LION ROCK, July 1-4 Fred Hoepfner

At the appointed hour at the Wolverton Meadow trailhead in Sequoia National Park appeared only assistant leader Horace Ory. A quick schedule check reassured us that we weren't a week too early or something like that. The write-up must have given the impression of a "death march". In reality, with the hot weather (about 85 degrees) and the leader's lack of condition, the long trudge along the High Sierra Trail began to assume all the characteristics of a leisure trip including a 2-hour after noon siesta. This holds interesting potential as a new SPS custom.

The scheduled distance and elevation gain actually applied to Tamarack Lake and not Lion Lake because of confusion on the leader's part. It is not practical to backpack to Lion Lake in one day. We camped at an inviting spot below Lone Pine Meadow about a mile short of Tamarack Lake. The scenery in this area, known as River Valley, is truly worthwhile in its own right.

Sunday saw me sleeping in while Horace explored Triple Divide Peak with Gary Davvit, a young backpacker from the east who was camped near us. Although the best route to Lion Lake basically follows a stream up a glaciated valley, route finding can be tricky because of steep slopes, cliffs, and brush. Once one arrives at Lion Lake, the route to Lion Lake Pass becomes obvious and is average second class. At this point I should note that all previous SPS trips have apparently followed the south ridge route (Climber's Guide Route 2). In spite of the Guide's reference to the route as "easy Class 3", reports I had received indicated it involved a lengthy, tedious ridgetop traverse. A visual assessment confirmed this evaluation, and it was avoided. Horace and companion ascended by the third class west ridge route (Climber's Guide Route 3). This route is much shorter than the south ridge and the third class is more moderate in spite of outward appearances, the main difficulty being route finding. One should stay slightly to the left (north) of the apex of the ridge most of the way, ascending to the crest only when forced. Horace and Gary descended the circuitous east ridge and north slope route (Climber's Guide Route 1) which is second class but which involves considerable loose rock and about 300 feet of elevation gain. Roy and Barbara Magnuson, who had hiked over from Nine Lakes Basin, were greeted just below the summit.

The next day I had seemingly shaken the summer doldrums and joined Horace for the climb of Lion Rock. Again, the Climber's Guide description is totally inadequate. The described route implies an ascent of the slopes east southeast of Tamarack Lake. While certainly possible, this appears to involve tedious route-finding problems around cliffs and through brush. A better route appears to be to proceed as if to Lion Lake. Where the slope begins to flatten at about the 10,400 foot contour, traverse to the right and diagonally upward across a talus slope into the bowl between the two westerly trending ridges of Lion Rock. Aim for the obvious ledge

TRIPLE DIVIDE, LION ROCK continued

system which allows ascent of the more southerly of the two ridges. The ridgetop is then followed, easy second class, to just short of the summit. At this point the climb becomes much more interesting. Loose and rotten rock and some exposure just short of third class is encountered and route finding requires some exploration.

The trip was planned to include the high point of Glacier Ridge. This very worthwhile appearing peak is higher than Lion Rock, but the only feasible route requires descent into Cloud Canyon. It would take a three-day trip devoted to that peak alone to accomplish the ascent. Perhaps another year.

MT STANFORD, MT MORGAN (north), July 8-9 Jerry Snyder

Fourteen climbers made the easy backpack from Rock Creek Lake to the first Hilton Creek Lake in time for an early lunch. Four of us set out after lunch for a look at the top of Huntington. We went up the south side of the east ridge with pleasant boulder scrambling. Once on the ridge my knee dislocated forcing a sudden but hopefully temporary retirement from climbing. Things seemed well in hand though, so I took a nap while the other 3 found the register and returned to escort me back to camp.

In camp I turned party leadership over to my assistants, Jerry Aikman and Al Fowler. On Sunday they took the party up the side of the east ridge of Stanford, onto the summit of Stanford and then traversed the ridge to Mt Morgan. I stayed around camp and fought boredom, so I can only say from reports that the ridge was a tedious boulder hopping exercise. From Mt Morgan the party dropped off toward Davis Lake and returned to camp, then on to the cars.

WEST VIDETTE, DEERHORN MOUNTAIN July 15-16 Jerry Keating

Caught between 113-degree heat in Bakersfield and 109-degree weather in Bishop, 11 Sierrans popped salt tablets July 15-16 to survive the scheduled trip to West Vidette (12,560'+) and Deerhorn Mtn (13,265'). Leaders of this sauna bath-like adventure were Art de Goede, Jerry Keating, and Elton Fletcher. Participants included Rich Gnagy, who has returned to Aerojet in suburban Sacramento.

A 6:30 AM start Saturday helped the group reach Vidette Lakes for lunch, and camp was established thereafter on the wooded northeasterly terrace of Lake 10,820. West Vidette was climbed Saturday afternoon by nine participants using a cruddy chute southeast of the peak and a traverse along the summit ridge.

With a 6 AM start Sunday, nine persons reached Deerhorn in approximately 2 3/4 hours. The climb was the first of 1972 and there was only one 1971 entry, a surprising situation for such an outstanding although remote peak.

Our route was up the ridge of the peak's lower northwest summit. About 100 feet below the false summit, traverse across broken, sandy ledges to the saddle between the two summits. Then climb over the broken rocks to the true southeast summit, which has room for about four people on it. This route, recommended by Barbara Lilley, was third class and much easier than Don Anderson's party used in 1970 (See Sierra Echo of December 1970).

Everyone was back in camp by 11:30 AM for the long backpack out, which was helped by a faint, unmapped trail on the westerly side of Vidette Creek. We snacked near Vidette Meadow and this leader, not wanting to endure heat on the long pull up to the crest, called upon the mountain gods for a cloud cover. The call apparently was too intense, however, for we were blasted by a wind-whipped thundershower as we crossed Kearsarge Pass. The disturbance abated eventually, and we were only damp upon arrival at the cars at 5:15 PM.

Also climbed on the trip were Mt Bago (11,868') by Elton Fletcher, and Peak 13,414 by Barbara Lilley.

STATE PEAK, GOAT MOUNTAIN, July 22-23 Doug Mantle

State and Goat on an SPS trip - months ago this seemed a good idea. At least Dave Gladstone, the other leader, said it was a good idea. He apparently was the first one to check the topo, because on Thursday he cancelled out. When I checked the topo, I found we had over 40 miles and 13,000 feet of gain confronting us.

Vi Grasso, Ed Treacy, Cuno Ranshaw, and Bob Ayers, oblivious to suffering, met me at Cedar Grove on Saturday AM, so the trip went as scheduled. We followed the Copper Creek Trail up 5000 feet to the first ridge, from which we climbed Goat Mountain. The route was across to Grouse Lake, up toward a peak southwest of Goat (11,840'+), and thence along the ridge - a delightful 3rd class scramble. To complete the day, we dropped into Granite Basin, spent an anxious hour chasing Vi around Granite Lake, then edged over Granite Pass and on to Dougherty Creek.

After a pleasant, though short evening (once over Granite Pass wood abounds, people are scarce), we set out early Sunday for State Peak. A good trail wanders up to beautiful State Lakes, from which our climb began. We climbed a Class 2 chute to the prominent notch near the apparent high point. From this notch we moved up and right (Class 2-3) to the southwest ridge, and along to the summit. We descended a broad, smooth, shallow chute which is very obvious when viewed from State Lakes. This chute, with good holds and very little loose rock, leads fairly close to the summit ridge and seems to provide the best route up State Peak.

From State Lakes we marched the remaining 19 miles out to the cars in good time, arriving by 8:15. By Wednesday a majority of the trip members admitted they enjoyed our venture. As an outing for large groups State and Goat is not suitable, but for a small, strong party it may be a good idea after all.

FLORENCE PEAK, VANDEVER MTN, July 22-23 Barbara & Roy Magnuson

There were 11 participants on the SPS annual women's backpack. All males were present legally, ie each was accompanied by a climbing woman. We gathered at the trailhead for a leisurely climb to Franklin Lakes and a lovely campsite. Seven of the more determined of the party climbed Florence, reaching the summit around 5 o'clock and returning to camp just in time to have supper before dark. Sunday we backpacked to the junction with the trail to Farewell Gap. Eight donned summit packs for the climb of Vandever while the rest signed out for the cars. At Farewell Gap we found 4 crosses and debris indicating a plane crash there, probably within the past couple of years. When we reached the summit we found in the register the signatures of those on the 2nd annual women's backpack in 1969. The weather was cool and beautiful both days, and additional pleasure was afforded by the many flowers, several of which could not be found in the leaders' book of California Mountain Wildflowers. All returned safely to the cars by 3 PM.

ELECTRA PEAK (12,442') August 5-6 Ron Jones

The lone trip participant, Larry Goetz, met the leaders Ron Jones and Gordon MacLeod Saturday morning at Silver Lake. After a leisurely breakfast at a nearby cafe we set out on the approximately 8 mile backpack to our base camp on the north fork of the San Joaquin River at 10,500 feet, north of Twin Island Lakes. Enroute we climbed over the southernmost 11,500'+ col lying between Peaks 11,627 and 12,037 to the south of Rodgers Lakes. The route, especially the south side was rather loose.

Sunday morning we crossed the col just north of Peak 11,596, descended about 200 feet and contoured to the easy south slopes of Electra from whence we gained the peak. Ascents in the register were noted from that of the scheduled 3 day trip the previous week led by Paul Lipsohn to the 1963 legendary climb by Arkel and Ruth Erb from Lake Ediza.

After a quick snack we descended to our base camp from the north side of the peak. This route, or the col just south of the peak are the logical routes of the climb as our route of ascent involved an unnecessary elevation loss. Our route into base camp involved about 5,000 feet elevation gain. Sunday's exercise was about 2,000 feet with summit packs and another 2,000 feet gain on the way out to the cars.

VIRGINIA PEAK, WHORL MTN, August 19-20 Dennis Lantz

Even the most dedicated peak bagger probably will not drive to Bridgeport too often, but for Dave Gladstone, Matterhorn was the 15th emblem peak. He had climbed Twin Peaks, but needed Virginia and Whorl, so the idea for a trip was born. The length of the drive eased the pressure on reservations, as 23 asked permission to climb, but by departure day two of these dropped out. At the trail head, only eight hardy souls were present, with the John Reddy family of four waiting for us in camp ahead. Nine unannounced "no-shows" is not typical, fortunately, as it could destroy the reservation concept. Call the leader and cancel, please!

The route up Horse Creek shows no trail on the map, but the first 1,000 feet has a good clear path, as does the top 600 feet have a fairly well-ducked route. The middle 2,000 feet has a number of use trails and ducked routes, but the best bet seems to be up the middle, especially on the ridge in the center of the canyon. The small lake on the map, just over the crest, offers fine camping for a group.

After lunch, four chose to follow Dave up the Matterhorn by the obvious route. When he returned to camp, the four stayed, but one who had now recovered from not eating during the backpack jumped up, so he and Dave headed for Virginia. Meanwhile, five of us had set off for Twin Peaks. The west face of this long ridge has two prominent couloirs, one each left and right of a high snow field. Earlier in the season than our late August climb, or in a heavy snow year, ice axe and crampons could be needed here.

We chose the left couloir which was up-three-and-back-two for a ways, until the talus increased in size higher up. We soon began angling to the right center, staying alternately on loose second class or fairly firm third. If you need a rope or get into climbing with one hand and holding the mountain together with the other, you're off route. Reportedly, the other couloir is similar, but we weren't there. Both summits, (Twin, remember?) are to the left of both couloirs, but before you start down the second class ridge for the near summit, wait. If you're going back down that route, build a duck: there's an incredible sameness along the ridge top.

We then headed south along the ridge toward Virginia, and were soon in pleasant 3rd class climbing. When it gets rough, drop down to the left/east and traverse the talus slope south. From here on, it's hands-in-your-pockets climbing. Dave was 30 minutes ahead, avenging the two previous SPS trips which missed the peak. The return to camp is either a long traverse down the slopes of Virginia/Twin or a drop to the valley and an uphill pull.

The next morning, six prepared to give Whorl a whirl, while four elected to collect the Matterhorn. This was a blessing, as the peak needed a register book and Dave had taken his "ten essentials" but left behind the book I had given him.

If you were smart the day before, you looked across the valley from Twin and Virginia to study the route on Whorl. In the ridge top there is a wide, deep saddle, with a high sharp notch north of it; go to the notch. To get there, either go down the valley past the saddle and back up to the notch or traverse from camp. On the traverse, go up soon for half of the gain, then angle upward. From the notch you can see the route: down 500 feet, across to the biggest couloir, then up 1,000 feet of 2nd and 3rd class. It is probably 3 hours round trip from the notch.

Do not traverse flat from camp, or head for the saddle, or go straight up for the notch. If you do, you will spend four hours getting to the notch and be low on water, because your mouth gets dry leading 4th class. By adding up the hours you will then project a dawn return to LA for the entire party and scrub Whorl. We know. Anyone for Bridgeport next year?

MT ISAAK WALTON (12,099'), August 26-27 Barbara Lilley

Vess Irvine, Gordon & Barbara MacLeod and Barbara Lilley, plus Elton Fletcher who was going in with family & friends for a few extra days, backpacked on Saturday over Duck Pass and south approximately 13 miles, partly on the Muir Trail, to a campsite at Horse Heaven. (This place is well named and a much more pleasant campsite would be upstream about 1/4 mile, where the branch from Isaak Walton Lake comes in.) Saturday's weather was mostly clear and cool but a few raindrops fell that night.

IZAAK WALTON continued

Sunday, Vess, Gordon, Barbara Lilley and Elton climbed Mt Isaak Walton in 5 hours round trip from camp. They headed upstream past Isaak Walton Lake to a saddle northeast of the peak, traversed southwest over the low point of the southeast ridge to a Class 2 south slope and on up to the summit. Clouds gathered as they descended to camp. Leaving camp at 12:30 PM, the pack-out to the car, in intermittent showers (real "Keating" weather) was completed in 6 hours.

Mt Isaak Walton is an impressive-looking peak of over 12,000' and its remoteness requires an approach route different from other listed SPS peaks. The participants recommend that it be considered as qualifying as a new SPS peak.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

MT SHASTA, May 27-28 Keith Rose

The allure of Mt Shasta may not be natural, but once a climber has tasted the gratification of scaling its glistening slopes and ridges in search of that magnificently unobstructed view from the summit, he cannot quite forget Shasta. This was the way my friend Michael Miller saw it anyway, he had twice failed to reach the top due to bad weather on previous climbs. I assured him he would make it this time - I would go with him!

We started on the right foot by taking a four-day weekend, allowing plenty of driving time. The thought of making it all the way to the top so predominated my friend's mind that this time he decided we would take the ski lift roadhead instead of Bunny Flats, not only associating Bunny Flats with two previous defeats but discovering a difference in elevation of approximately 800 feet.

We started climbing at dawn, taking a path directly under the ski lifts till we reached the bowl at the top of the lifts. We then crossed the ridge above the bowl, but failed to go far enough to our right (east) before descending down into the chute above Helen Lake. Consequently, we lost a little elevation in gaining the small, rocky area just above Helen Lake at 10,800 feet, but arrived before eleven o'clock. We were soon joined by three fellows from the University of California at Davis, with whom we had camped the night before at the roadhead. We all proceeded to set up a peaceful campsite by digging our tents into snow above the rocks when suddenly twenty Mazamas (an Oregon climbing club) were spotted traversing the ridge below us - headed straight for our peaceful campsite! Evasive actions were immediately discussed - everything from rolling rocks down on them to stringing up a clothesline with a dirty sock on it between our two widely-spaced tents. However, when the group arrived, they were not as disagreeable as we had feared and their leader assured us that we would not be disturbed during the night by one of their usual midnight summit climbs, for they wouldn't be leaving till dawn.

My friend and I were able to beat our 20 adversaries out of the sacks and headed up Avalanche Gulch, vowing that if anybody overtook us, it certainly wouldn't be the Mazamas. We stayed on the right-hand side of the gulch making a direct line for the notch between Red Banks and Thumb Rock, a square-shaped rock protruding from the ridge above. The snow was excellent and we made good time cramponing up the chute. We then proceeded north to northeasterly up the more gentle slopes ahead till we reached the large snowfield just below the summit cone. At this point parka hoods and snow goggles were tightened as the wind increased its velocity. We circled around to the left of the summit cone and then ascended to the notch between the two high points. The true summit, which is the one on the right, was quickly reached. As

we sat eating an early lunch, the two of us were joined by three Austrians who ceremoniously raised the Austrian flag on an ice axe to be recorded on camera. Then, we all quickly made friends as the Austrians produced a bottle of brandy and passed it around. Heading down, we passed the Mazamas just below the giant snowfield and gave them words of encouragement on every subject except wind velocities, which were still increasing. Arriving at Thumb Rock, we had a fantastic glistade all the way down Avalanche Gulch to our campsite, which we reached at about one o'clock. We arrived at our car a few hours later, my friend's desire to conquer Shasta well satisfied.

MT BREWER, May 27-29 David Hammond

This remote emblem peak seems to be climbed less than Kaweah or Goddard, so perhaps a description of my climb over the Memorial Day weekend would be of interest.

As the Kings Canyon was new to me, my climbing partner and I slept just outside the National Park, and enjoyed the drive in the Canyon next morning up to the roadhead at Zumwalt Meadows.

We were soon off up the trail by the south fork of the Kings River, turning off up Bubbs Creek, which incidentally eventually leads to Onion Valley on the east side of the Sierra. In a while we turned south up Sphinx Creek trail with its many switchbacks. We kept by the creek, continuing along a rough trail (not marked on the topo) to the Sphinx Lake at about 10,000 feet to camp.

Early next morning we hiked past the Upper Lakes and up a pass, which gave our first view of Mt Brewer. We hiked around the north side of the basin below, but the going was not that easy due to a ridge with a steep face on the far side. We eventually reached the saddle between North Guard and Brewer, and climbed the steep snow banks to the rocks above. Making our way up the rocks, a good Class 2 climb, we reached the summit at 13,570 feet by midday.

The view was exceptional. Way to the north was Mt Goddard. Then along the Sierra Crest were North and Middle Palisades, Split, Baxter, University on the nearest point of the crest to us, then Tyndall and the Whitney area. Looking southeast at the Kings-Kern Divide there were Stanford, Ericsson and Thunder, possibly the most remote area in the Sierra. Just to the south was South Guard, with the Kaweah Peaks ridge way off in the distance. That's 5 emblem peaks all told.

Our way down was on the easier south ridge, and across the basin above Brewer Lake, and back over the pass to camp. Next day we returned down Sphinx Canyon, pausing to look back up at the "Sphinx" rock from the Bubbs Creek trail. We then joined the homeward bound traffic all too soon.

This was an important successful climb for me as it was my 10th emblem peak and emblem qualifier.

MT AGASSIZ, MT GOODE, June 24-25 Dennis Lantz

The 1972 SPS Schedule features lots of three day trips, many being completed on two day weekends, and while they are efficient; they're not well suited to beginners. And I still thought of my 12 and 13 year old boys as beginners. Diana Dee quickly figured that I could take the boys to Bishop Pass and keep in shape myself by carrying in nine days of food and fuel for her, as she would be in the middle of a two-week solo trip.

As Marian Furst and the boys and I loaded our packs at South Lake, a motor home driver hurried over. "May I take your pictures? It's so wonderful to see a family doing things together!" As we started up the trail, I nudged Marian. "How's it feel to have a 13 year old son?" She snorted, "How's it feel to have a 21 year old daughter?"

Diana was waiting at Bishop Lake, so we made camp, ate lunch, and headed for Mt Goode. The walk-up route is visible from Bishop Lake, but it gets very steep near the top and even in a low-snow year was icy in late June. It should be clear by August. As only Diana had brought an ice axe, we belayed one short stretch both up and down. A group could use a fixed rope instead of bringing ice axes.

Back in camp, the boys discovered that a band of fierce pikas had done the Yosemite bear act, devouring a pound of cheese, some rolls, and a package of cookies - our lunch for the next day. Later, over a dinner of salad, fried chicken, wine, and fresh fruit - Diana dropped the bomb. "I'm pretty tired from 85 miles and 35,000 feet this week; guess I'll go out with you and come back in on the Fourth for another week." Having carried in the extra supplies and the special dinner, we turned on her. Vengefully, we ate up most of the desserts and snacks we had brought for her for the week ahead and seized the rest for lunches Sunday.

AGASSIZ, GOODE continued

The next morning provided beautiful weather as we set off for Mt Agassiz. There are obvious second class routes easily reached from just below Bishop Pass. Pick any easy walking, once you're on the long, flat top of the pass area, then go up one of several obvious chutes, staying off the steep, icy snow in the bottom here and there. It took some parental discipline to slow Lawrence and Raymond - you wouldn't want them to think it was too easy. And beat you to the top too badly.

It's easy to suggest this as a "family trip". The 4 - 5 miles, 1800 feet backpack is in pretty country, and Mts Goode and Agassiz add only about 1800 feet and 2700 feet each. The peaks feature rewarding views and no route finding problems. The only drawback is the parking problem, but that is becoming common to many roadheads.

CLARK RANGE, July 1-4 (Clark, Gray, Red, Merced) Ed Treacy

On this trip led by Paul Lipsohn, lots of people swatted lots of mosquitos, and climbed lots of peaks in the Clark Range over this holiday weekend, and in doing so came up with some info that might be of value in supplementing the Guide write-ups.

So, from North to South:

- Clark - reached easily from the west from the Mono Meadow trail, then cross country to the south ridge. The southeast arete (Guide Route 1) is considered to be Class 4 rather than 3, the northeast side (gained readily by crossing the south ridge) offers at least a couple of routes - one Class 3 with some exposure and perhaps a couple of 4 moves, another (slightly further north) Class 2 with a final 18-foot Class 3 pitch, minor exposure.
- Gray - reached easily from Clark. A 2-hour traverse, using either a Class 2 route around the east side of Lake 10,200 or a route around the west side of the lake that entails a low Class 3 scramble along the west arete.
- Red - reached easily from the south by departing from the Red Peak Pass trail at about 10,700 so as to pass south and west of the prominent gendarmes west of the trail. The route is then loose Class 2 all the way. Red Peak cannot be seen from Otloway Lake.
- Merced - the route seemed a little tighter perhaps 50/75 yards east of the ridge, rather than right on the ridge as stated in the Guide.

During the trip we covered perhaps a dozen miles cross country along the west side of the Clark Range, all of which went pretty well - very little manzanita or other heavy brush to impede us.

As a warmer-upper to the Clark Range, the group climbed Starr King. Dave Wallace led up the first 100-foot friction pitch, using a combination of nonexistent hand holds and footholds that weren't there in a great display of friction climbing.

LION ROCK, TRIPLE DIVIDE, STEWART, EAGLE SCOUT, July 1-4 . . Roy & Barbara Magnuson

This was a beautiful, though hot and strenuous trip to climb 4 peaks that are most accessible from the west via the High Sierra Trail from Sequoia Park. We chose to go from Wolverton and through Kaweah Gap to camp at the lake just east of the Gap. This involves over 6000 feet gain going in and 3000 feet gain returning along 20 miles of trail (the gain being subject to doubt due to the imaginings at the USGS on the ups and downs of the trail in its first 12 miles.) A hundred or more varieties of flowers and the Hamilton Lakes basin with its granite walls and waterfalls combined to make this one of the most beautiful trails we have taken in the Sierra. Since the best flower time is probably late June to early August and the first 2/3 of the trail is rather low, oscillating about 7500-foot elevation, it will probably always be a rather warm trip at the most scenic time. A ranger told us that this spectacular flower display was very poor compared to most years!

LION ROCK continued

The second day we left our lake at 6 AM for the pass just southeast of Lion Rock. We realized after inspection that what the Climber's Guide means by the north chute is really the northern half of the double chute near the pass - not the northernmost chute, which is a steep chasm. This determined, the peak was attained by going to the end of the chute and then working up the face. We then descended to the east end of Lion Lake and up to the gap west of Triple Divide. A short descent, then up over a shoulder to the right brought us to Glacier Lake. At the east end of the lake we started up the north face of Triple Divide, taking a diagonal route up to the east ridge near the summit (Class 2 to 3). Thanks to Doug Mantle for the tip on the route. It is also possible to go farther east to start up the face, as was shown by Horace Ory on descending that same day. We made our way back over the two passes and reached camp around 7 PM.

The third day was warm and liberally sprinkled with mosquitos. We climbed Stewart to find a third class summit block with fine views and no trace of a register. This summit is the one indicated on our map at the northern end of the ridge from Kaweah Gap. However, a peak 1/4 mile to the east looked higher, so, lest we be double-Crossed by the USGS on future maps, we climbed it too. (Much less inspiring than the other.) Then it was down to camp for lunch and over to Eagle Scout, which proved to be the easiest climb of the trip and to have the most spectacular views (to Mineral King, / the Kaweahs, particularly Black Kaweah, the Hamilton Lakes Basin and over to Alta and Silliman). We left a small notebook and pencil in the rusty can which was full of scraps of paper, mostly signed by Boy Scouts. Back to camp again and a refreshing dip in the lake before supper. The fourth day we packed out in time for a most welcome dinner at a Basque restaurant in Bakersfield.

MTS WYNNE, PINCHOT, August 15 Jerry Keating

Mts Wynne (13,179') and Pinchot (13,495') were climbed in one day, August 15, by a small party of SPSers aided by four-wheel-drive vehicles and a route description from Dave King.

Rather than having to start hiking at Scotty Spring (5,700'), as did most of the unsuccessful SPS party in May, we drove five miles up the rough road to just above Glacier Mines (8,400') in Armstrong Canyon. From there we hiked up the waterless canyon to the base of the highest wooded slope shown on the Mt Pinchot quad. At this point (10,400'), our route went due north up the loose slope for nearly 1,500 feet to a ridgetop, then proceeded up and down in a north-westerly direction for more than a mile to a 12,240+ foot saddle in the Sierra's main crest. From the saddle, we descended southwesterly to a lake (11,600'+) where we refilled our canteens. (There was no water at Glacier Mines or anywhere else on the route, with the possible exception of below snowfields just east of the crest.) Thereafter, we all scrambled up Wynne via its Class 2 east ridge.

Two members who needed Pinchot traversed to it via the Class 3 connecting ridge and, after descending Pinchot's east ridge, rejoined the others who had retraced their steps.

Participants were Natalie Smith and Dick Beach, the drivers; and Elton Fletcher, Gordon MacLeod and Jerry Keating, passengers.

Total gain for the two peaks was approximately 6,700 feet - counting ups and downs - while Wynne alone involved about 6,500 feet. Had we followed Dave King's example, we would have gone over Mt Perkins (12,591') first, making the total gain for the three peaks more than 7,000 feet. But we decided not to be greedy.

KEARSARGE PASS TO SHEPHERD PASS VIA MILESTONE CREEK, August 19-26 . . . Tom Naves

On Saturday, August 19, Ed Hill, his brother George, Ernie Spielher (an old SPSer from the early sixties), and I started up Kearsarge Pass for a week of climbing. Our objectives were to climb some peaks on the Great Western Divide as well as some peaks on the way in and on the way out.

KEARSARGE PASS continued

Our first camp was at a lake at 10,400 feet on Vidette Creek which put us into position for Deerhorn Mountain. At 8:00 Sunday morning we started for Deerhorn. We decided to break into two teams and try two different routes. Ed and George went up the chute which splits the twin summits. It went Class 2 and easy Class 3 to the notch and then Class 3 to the higher southeast summit. They said that this route should only be done when there is no ice in the tributary chutes because of the danger of rockfall from frost wedging. Ernie and I decided to try the northeast face and northeast ridge. We walked up the talus slope to the bottom of the chute that splits the northeast face. From here we traversed left on Class 3 ledges for about 60 feet. At this point we ascended straight up for two pitches of good Class 4. Next we did a left ascending traverse for several hundred feet of beautiful Class 3 meeting the ridge about 200 feet from the summit. We worked up the right side of the ridge to within 80 feet of the summit. One more pitch of easy but very exposed Class 4 put us on easier rock over which we scrambled to the spectacular summit, where we met Ed and George. After smoking cigars and taking pictures in the warm sun, we decided to traverse over to the northwest peak. From there we descended the north buttress which was good Class 3.

On Monday we packed up to head for a camp at Lake South America. Originally we had planned to try Mt Stanford from Harrison Pass but as we struggled up Deerhorn Saddle we gave this up. We had lunch at the top of Deerhorn Saddle and started for Harrison Pass. When we finally made the pass, Ernie said, half joking, "Want to try Stanford?" Before he knew what happened I had the rope and we were heading up the slope to Gregory's Monument. Ed and George decided to go down to Lake South America. We approached the summit block of Gregory's Monument from the east. We didn't see the obvious easy route up so we roped for a tremendously exposed move up to the summit. We remained roped for the entire traverse, belaying at three or four points. The hardest part of the traverse was the move down into a notch north of Gregory's Monument. After completing the traverse we watched the sunset over the Great Western Divide from Gregory's Monument. We then headed for camp at Lake South America, arriving at 9:30 PM.

On Tuesday morning we packed down to and across the Kern River and up to a camp at 11,200 feet on Milestone Creek. This is a beautifully sheltered canyon with timber to about 11,300 feet. Milestone Mountain is the dominant feature of the area. It must be one of the most asthetic peaks of the Sierra.

On Wednesday the four of us climbed Milestone by the east slope to the notch north of the summit and then up the west face. Balmy weather allowed plenty of summit sitting and looking over the exposed east face. While George returned to camp, Ed, Ernie and I traversed over to a notch in the east ridge of Midway Mountain and ascended the Class 2 northeast slope to the summit. We then returned to our camp and caught our evening's fish. That night while sitting around the fire we were visited by a pine marten that proceeded to clean up all of our discarded fish heads. We felt fortunate in seeing this elusive creature.

On Thursday Ernie and I started up Table Mountain. We could not locate the Class 3 ledge route so we worked straight up the middle of the south face. We climbed two pitches of Class 4 with a touch of Class 5 which brought us to a rubbly chute that led to the summit plateau. On the descent we were able to find a Class 3-4 route. Ed and George climbed a couple of pinnacles on the east ridge of Table. Both involved Class 3 climbing.

On Friday we moved our camp over to Shepherd Pass. Ernie and I climbed Mt Tyndall by the north face. I was "freaked out" by the friction slabs while Ernie waltzed up them merrily. At the summit I decided that the slabs were not for me so we descended by the northwest ridge. Halfway down we stopped to gawk at the sunset so we didn't get back to camp until 8:00.

After descending the long talus slope of the north ridge of Mt Tyndall, Ernie and I decided that we were "peaked out" and would leave a day early. So on Saturday, while Ed and George climbed Junction Peak, Ernie and I headed for Keough Hot Springs for a shower and a swim. Then it was on to Margie's Merry-go-round in Lone Pine for steaks and a bottle of wine. We always like to end a successful trip this way.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

20554 Quedo Drive
Woodland Hills, Calif 91364

"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLENDALE, CALIF.
PERMIT NO. 516

Chuck Miller
23930 Via Flamenco
Valencia, Ca. 91355