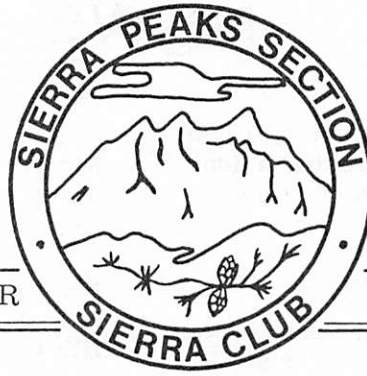


The Sierra



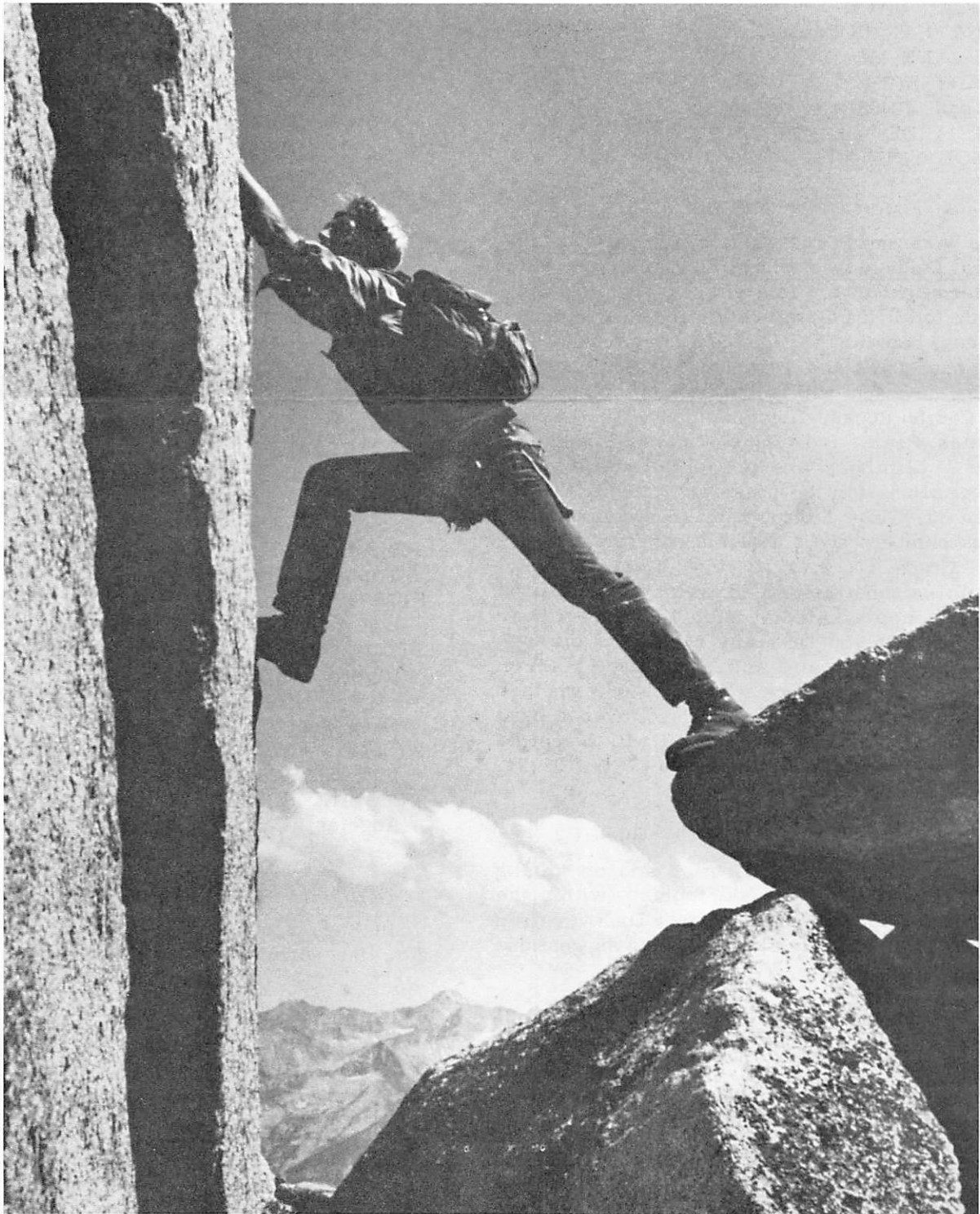
ECHO

VOLUME 16

NOVEMBER

1972

NO 8



NEWS

COVER PICTURE

This month's cover shot was taken by Cuno Ranshau. It shows Ed Treacy making a long stretch on Goat Mountain ridge in Kings Canyon.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

What with the summer climbing season over, we have quite a list of seven new emblem holders. Congratulations to all of you!

JOAN HACK
NATHAN HOOVER
FRANK MC DANIEL
ART RICH
BILL RUSSELL
CLAUDE WALKER
JOE YOUNG

SUGGESTIONS WANTED

The Wilderness Press is scheduling A Mountaineer's Guide to the Southern Sierra for publication in the near future. This will be a comprehensive guide to all trails, all peaks and rock climbing routes, between the High Sierra Trail in Sequoia National Park and Tehachapi Pass. Included in the coverage will be the rock climbing areas at Castle Rocks, Homer's Nose, Domelands, Owens Peak, and Olancho Peak; to name a few. Climbers are urged to submit route descriptions for the peaks and pitches they've climbed, Class 1 through 6. Suggestions from rock climbers about what kind of format (Class 6? Grade A1, 2, ...? time of ascent? etc) would be most helpful to them would also be greatly appreciated. Also I'd like to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions about any aspect of the Southern Sierras that this book will touch on, whether it be geology, history, trails, or what have you. I'm Jim Jenkins and mail will reach me at 10846 Nestle Ave, Northridge, Calif 91324.

INTERESTED IN A NEW GROUP?

Anyone interested in forming and/or joining a beginners group of ski tourists within the SPS and friends, please contact Dick Ramirez phone 365-7989. He also welcomes suggestions and advice.

NEW MEMBERS

It seems either the Section is becoming more popular, or climbing in the Sierra, or both - for our membership list is really growing. Glad to have you in the section.

BANKER, SUSAN 344 S Oxford #8, Los Angeles Calif 90020
BEDOIAN, CAROL & JEFF 6928 Hazeltine, Van Nuys, Calif 91405
CATES, BOB 16002 Leadwell St, Van Nuys, Calif 91406
CROLEY, DON 116 Neptune Ave, Hermosa Beach, Calif 90252
DAUTREMONT, J L JR 10030 Neptune Ave, Northridge, Calif 91324
ERB, JIM 2633 E La Palma #85, Anaheim Calif 93806
GABINER, DON 615 Diamond Ct #2, Upland Calif 91786
HOOVER, FRANCES P O Box 723, Livermore Calif 94550
LANTZ, LAWRENCE 14055 Hawes St, Whittier Calif 90605
KABLER, WALTON & BETTY 18300 Napa St, Apt H, Northridge, Calif 91324
MASLOW, BILL 17551 Minnehaha, Granada Hills, Calif 91344
MC DERMOTT, JOHN E 158 S Sycamore, Los Angeles, Calif 90036
MC KINLEY, JOHN E 229 Bicknell #108, Santa Monica, Calif 90405
SCHIFRIN, BEN 19764 Grand View Drive, Topanga, Calif 90290
STENGER, MICHAEL 550 S Barrinton #2317, Los Angeles, Calif 90049
STILL, DUNCAN 8371 Telegraph #17, Pico Rivera, Calif 90660
VANDERVOET, DAVID 370 Wisconsin #104, Long Beach, Calif 90814
WHISMAN, WALTER C 1513 N Shenandoah St, Placentia, Calif 92670
YEOMAN, ROSS Geology Dept, UCLA, Los Angeles, Calif 90024

STOLEN FROM YETI YELLS

"Climbers are ape-like and simian.
Not like normal men and wimian."

--Variation on Ogden Nash

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, 2231 Gladys, Rosemead, Calif 91770. 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.

ADDRESS CHANGES

OR

Doesn't anyone stay put anymore!

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DEE, MILDRED 9610 Dale Ave, Sunland,
Calif 91040
DESSERT, BETTY 2231 Gladys, Rosemead,
Calif 91770 phone 280-7780
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Durango, Colo 91302
FASSNACHT, DENNIS 1125 Laurel Lane, San
Luis Obispo, Calif 93401
FURST, MARIAN J Chemistry Dept. U of
Chicago, 5747 Ellis Ave, Chicago Ill, 60637
HENRY, BETH Rt 1, Box 38D6, Littlerock,
Calif 93543
ISAAC, JOHN 222 1/2 Gull St, Manhattan
Beach, Calif 90266 phone 545-2634
MACHLEDER, LARRY P O Box 1951, Santa
Monica, Calif 90406
MC DANIEL, FRANK K 26457 N Oak Highland
Drive, Newhall, Calif 91321
RIPLEY, JOHN P O Box 2205, Seal Beach,
Calif 90740 phone 431-6840

Renewal:

LAURIA, DON c/o West Ridge Sports, 1930
Olympic Blvd, W Los Angeles, Calif 90064

MORE ON HORSESHOE MEADOWS ROAD

Those who have not yet climbed Cirque Peak, Mt Muah or Mt Langley the easy way may have won a reprieve! Contrary to the announcement made at the Nov SPS meeting, Prop A was defeated by Inyo County voters by a narrow margin. This Proposition would have not only prohibited further county funding of the Horseshoe Meadows road but actually prohibited any improvement (such as paving) of the road as it now exists. Only such maintenance as was required by law would have been authorized and if a court test were to determine that the County could not be held responsible for continued maintenance of the road, slides or washouts which blocked the road could have been left unrepaired.

Abandonment of the entire Horseshoe Meadows road above the 5000' level continues to be an objective of the Sierra Club, even though the Trail Peak ski area is not to be built. Achievement of this objective will affect weekend use of an established camping, hiking, backpacking and climbing area as seriously as the building of the Mineral King ski resort would affect that area. SPSers who may not use this road often should perhaps consider the following - if the Sierra Club succeeds here, which access road will be the next target?

--Barbara Lilley

PROGRAM ADDITION

As listed in the schedule Les Stockton will present on January 10 his program "The Easy SPS Emblem". Not listed, but also on this same evening will be a show entitled "The 4th-class Hard Peaks" by Paul Lipsohn - good program - don't miss it!

IT SEEMS THE GOLDEN EAGLE CARD IS BACK!

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture have jointly announced that \$10 Golden Eagle Passports and free Golden Age Passports will be issued for the 1973 calendar year, and made available to the public by January 1, 1973.

Both passports will cover annual entrance fees to some 75 national recreation areas administered by Interior's National Park Service and Agriculture's Forest Service.

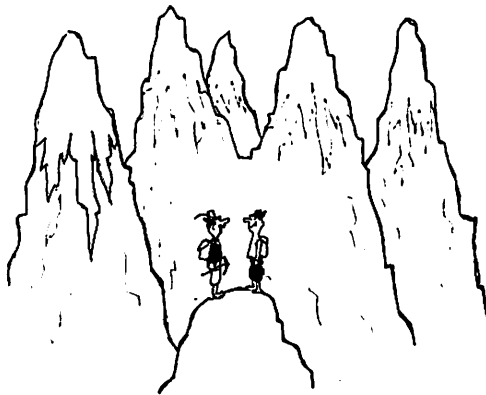
The Golden Age Passport, in addition will provide a 50 percent discount on special recreation user fees at facilities provided by the federal agencies, including campgrounds. Recipients of the Golden Age Passports must be 62 years of age or older. The passport must be applied for in person, and proof of age will be required.

No fees are being charged for entrance to Forest Service recreation areas this year.
--Inyo Register 10/19/72

THINGS TO READ AND WRITE

All SPSers who have not already done so are urged to read the article "No Vacancy in the Wilderness" in the Oct-Nov Sierra Club Bulletin and write letters now with your opinions and suggestions on wilderness controls to the new Superintendent of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, Harry Schmidt.

--Barbara Lilley



Gee Andy! We're the first ones to set foot on this peak.....
Nobody else ever bothered.

SOMETHING TO TRY IN THE SIERRA

According to a writer for the Toronto Star newspaper, Canadian mosquitos possibly don't like the taste of man after he has eaten an orange. The writer recounted the results of an experiment based upon information shared among campers.

During an outdoors trip, the writer ate four oranges and drank lime and lemonade in the course of one day when he sustained only two mosquito bites. The following day, bananas were substituted in the diet and he suffered 47 painful bites.

"There seemed to be just as many mosquitos," he wrote, "but they were not as ferocious on the orange day as on the banana day."

--Courtesy Ron Jones & Sunkist Growers

ANTELOPE VALLEY FREEWAY OPENED

The last 8.7 mile section of the Antelope Valley Freeway, between Palmdale and Lancaster, was opened in mid-November. This freeway is now complete between San Fernando Road and 3 miles south of Mojave. Hopefully, the railroad overpass just south of Mojave will be finished before the next Sierra climbing season begins.

--Barbara Lilley

CORRECTION

In the October issue of the Echo on a trip report by George Toby, your well-meaning editor mistakenly wrote that the Sierra Club register is on the west summit of Mt Russell. George assures me that it definately on the east summit. Apologies! --Editor

This is your paper. You could have had an ad in this spot, or an announcement, or whatever.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The 1973 SPS Management Committee has been elected and the following will serve: Paul Lipsohn, Art de Goede, Ron Jones, Diana Dee, and Al Fowler. It hasn't yet been settled who gets railroaded into what particular job, or who will be committee chairmen.

The balloting also indicated that the SPS does not wish to add a requirement to lead or assist on two Section trips or serve as a committee chairman to the emblem requirements. Only 41% voted for the revision while a 2/3 majority was required for passage. The feeling seems to be that leadership needs can be met within the voluntary spirit of the Section.

The deadline for the next schedule will occur before the next Section meeting. This schedule will cover an active period for the SPS, from March through the July 4 weekend. The biggest need is for easy to moderate trips. Also, there is an increasing demand for trips, hence leaders, so veteran leaders are encouraged to help new leaders get started. If you know someone who would make a good leader, schedule a trip with him as assistant leader.

Our scheduled speaker was not able to make the November meeting. This was unfortunate because I hoped to stimulate some interest in a project that is under way. There are new methods of measuring isotopes that might permit the determination of temperatures that prevailed when ancient wood was formed. It is also possible that there exists older wood than has so far been found, and it might be on the slopes below where the bristlecone pines now grow. If found, such wood might be used to extend temperature histories back as much as 20,000 years. I plan to do some exploring for very old wood, and would like to hear from anyone who would like to join the search.

--Horace Ory

ECHOS FROM THE PAST Ten Years Ago in the SPS by Ron Jones

There were 156 active SPS members in November 1962 including 54 emblem holders. Officers who were just concluding their term for the year included: Miles Brubacher, chairman; Graham Stevenson, vice chairman; George Shinno, secretary; Lothar Kolbig, treasurer; and John Robinson, alternate.

Only one scheduled trip was led by the SPS in November of 1962 and this was a joint climb with the DPS of Lakeview Peak south of Owens Lake and Tinemaha Peak in the Sierra. Saturday two desert summits were reached - an unnamed point 7256, christened Sin Nombre Peak by Harry Melts and Apex Peak 7191. Both were climbed by 11 climbers led by Walt Wheelock and Arky Erb. Lakeview Peak, a high point overlooking Owens Lake, was bypassed because of a fast setting sun. Saturday night was spent at the nearby Owens Valley "Spa" of Dirty Sox, and Sunday only Ron Jones climbed the 6000-foot treadmill to Tinemaha.

On the previous weekend of October 20-21 there was a scheduled, successful climb of Smith Mountain, Granite Knob, and Jackass Peak led by Tom Amneus who was accompanied by 4 late season climbers. Temperatures at Smith Meadow on Sunday morning dropped to 18 degrees. The same weekend Tom Ross made a private climb of Mt Candlelight duplicating the trip which was a part of this year's Lone Pine Peak effort. Just as was found this year, Tom reported 6 to 8 inches of newly fallen snow.

ASCENTS

MT DAVIS, RODGERS AND ELECTRA PEAKS, July 28-30 Paul Lipsohn

Fourteen climbers gathered at the Agnew Meadows roadhead to start our trip, and after a brief discussion headed down the River trail past Olaine Lake. The Devil's Postpile topo shows a trail connecting this one and Garnet Lake, but this trail was in fact little better than cross country. Passing the north side of Garnet Lake and the south end of Thousand Island Lake, we entered the broad chute leading over North Glacier Lake Pass and dropped onto Lake Catherine about 2 PM. This has to be the most inhospitable place in the entire Sierra. Campsites are difficult to find and are far too short if found at all. We made camp as best we could and climbed Mt Davis, with everyone back to "camp" by 5.

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny and a few of us made the mistake of leaving sleeping bags exposed as we left camp for Rodgers. Our route led us into the canyon of the North Fork of the San Joaquin, which we crossed about a mile north of Twin Island Lakes. Heading west, we passed north of Peak 11,596, then turned north between the two glaciers and up the side of Rodgers. The gentle rain which had started as we crossed the canyon got much more violent, and turned into a spectacular lightning storm. It was obvious that we were not going to beat the storm to the top, so we held our ground about 600 feet below the summit until the storm passed, then bagged the peak and headed for Electra. On the heels of the storm came a dense white-out, and we groped our way back to the two glaciers. In the gloom we turned too soon and climbed what eventually turned out to be Peak 12,560+. This was not without its rewards, however, since we found an Ansel Adams 1926 signature on top. Just as we despaired of getting Electra, the white-out lifted, exposing our peak. Traversing the third class ridge, we were soon on top. Since this was a first scheduled trip up Electra, we dedicated a new register and headed back to camp - still in the rain - with the rear guard arriving about 10 PM.

That evening, I was treated to one of my rarest pleasures, that of climbing into a sopping wet sleeping bag. This pleasure has since been exceeded by climbing into a dry bag that gets progressively wetter during the night.

About 7 AM it became apparent that the night-long rain was not going to get any lighter, so we headed up through the pass, passed Thousand Island Lakes and back to Agnew Meadow reaching the cars about 2 PM. Mileage covered was about 40, with 12,000 feet of gain.

PETTIT, VOLUNTEER, August 26-28 Paul Lipsohn

Since this was the first scheduled climb of these two peaks, I anticipated a much larger turnout than I got - namely, none.

Undaunted by the absence of SPSers at Saddlebag Lake, I decided to conduct the trip anyway, and promptly at seven hit the trail. There is a trail, not shown on the topo, that circles Saddlebag Lake around the southwest side, rejoining the road near Greenstone Lake. Following the road past Steelhead Lake, I crossed the crest 1 mile north of North Peak and dropped down to Upper McCabe Lake. A faint trail leads to Lower McCabe Lake, at which point you join a good trail. This trail wends its way into Virginia Canyon and up again, passes Miller Lakes before dropping into Matterhorn Canyon, then climbs again through Benson Pass. I made camp about a mile beyond Benson Pass at the first water at about seven o'clock.

Sunday morning I headed for Pettit Peak under threatening skies and attained the summit with no difficulty. I was unable to locate the benchmark that is supposed to be there, and after checking all the crags and rock piles, placed a new register on the highest point. The ridge traverse to Volunteer Peak was uneventful, although a rapidly moving lightning storm heading up the valley discouraged any further thoughts of climbing Piute Peak. Heading instead back to Benson Pass I managed to break camp and beat the storm back to Virginia Canyon.

PETTIT, VOLUNTEER continued

Next morning, with the weather looking much better, I finished the return trip, arriving at the car about 1 PM.

This would not appear to be the best route for these peaks, due to the excessive elevation loss. Estimated mileage was about 40, with an elevation gain of about 11,000.

MC ADIE, IRVINE, MALLORY, September 30-October 1 Diana Dee

Eight climbers, including Ken Berger who had driven all the way from Turlock (Stanislaus State) non-stop in a friend's truck with no heater (wearing down jacket and down pants over Tioga Pass), assembled at Whitney Portal and headed up the trail at 8 AM. The leisurely pace set by the assistant leader allowed two others to catch us shortly, bringing our total number to ten. At nine-thirty we passed a group of four, two adults and two very young boys, who had started at six-thirty. By eleven-thirty we were lunching and making camp at Consultation Lake.

The sunrise that morning had been very enjoyable because we didn't have to get up until about seven so we could lie in the sack and enjoy the view, which was of blue sky and gorgeous pink and orange clouds. By noon, however, the clouds had grown thicker, but five of us decided to go climb Mount Muir anyway. Thanks to the cover on the Aug-Sep Echo, we know what the peak looked like. It is not more than 150 feet straight up from a duck placed on the Muir Trail. We didn't linger on the summit, since it was cold and windy.

At about five PM, when we were about three quarters of the way down to Trail Camp, we met a man coming up the trail with nothing but light clothing, a down jacket, and a small summit pack with his rolled topo tied onto the back. It was now drizzling, and he had no rain gear. ("This will have to do," he said, continuing slowly up the trail.)

Around five-thirty, when we got back to camp, it started raining pretty hard. It rained solidly almost all night, except when it snowed. We were also treated to a spectacular display of lightning and thunder on the nearby peaks. Only heaven knows what happened to the two kids, the three backpackers who were camping on the top of Whitney, or the guy with only a down jacket. Come to think of it, it might have been dacron.

Perhaps I've been changed by my two years in the Pacific Northwest, but somehow in the morning I thought the Sierra looked really good with a cover of snow. Climbing McAdie was out of the question, of course, so we packed up and headed on down the trail at about eight-thirty. We were lunching in Lone Pine at eleven-thirty.

I'm sure most of us will remember that night because of the lightning and our recent tragic loss at Saddlerock Lake, but also because of the rain inside the Stephenson tents, the cold tuna casserole that no one wanted, the four teenage girls (there to climb Whitney but camped with us because two were Bill Maslow's daughters) who chatted until well after eleven PM, and Bill Maslow spending half the night in a three-man Stephenson with the four girls. But it was fun (because it's over, right?)!

SAWTOOTH PEAK, NEEDHAM & VANDEVER MOUNTAINS, Oct 14-15 Paul Kluth

With the monthly meeting trip reports indicating a quickly fading Sierra Indian summer, three leaders paid homage to an area with its future up for grabs and a valley known to snow in the automobile. A peak bagging weekend combined with a conservation study on this battleground, left the attendance in question since it was listed as non-reservation car camp. Early Friday afternoon arrival by this leader, insured uncrowded space unlike preceding October dates. The winter scare even had minimized deer hunting acts. With a 20% chance of rain from a moving Pacific storm front, 18 gamblers appeared at the Monarch Creek trailhead for a three or maybe 4 (?) qualifying SPS peak weekend, prepared for speedy attacks on Sawtooth and Needham. Under

SAWTOOTH, NEEDHAM ETC continued

fair weather conditions, 8 fast moving tigers passed the cubs who were determined to make the SPS qualifier and had early lunch on Sawtooth. Before this leader could successfully relay plans with staff, an over anxious self-appointed leader left the summit with three others, without leaders approval, even though SPS policy was clearly read at trailhead briefing. Soon the scheduled leader with three other Needham hopefuls, dropped down to the faster moving Needham route and witnessed the "superleader" experiencing third class difficulties with his second class neophite followers. The slow moving deviates were carefully observed by this leader who was more interested in accountability of climbers than separation and possible injury. Two followers of the "superleader" used better judgement and abandoned the route for safer terrain while the leader showed off his individual skill on the slow moving ridge. The official leaders constant observation of the spread out party forced a delayed group arrival on Needham. Seven out of eight topped this second peak. A mild reprimand, which should have been major, was directed at these thrill seekers anxious for club protection while demonstrating their poor participation. The leaders pleasure of the return to this peak was further made a displeasure when the "peanut can register" was ignored rather than signing it again.

(Why not have a "benefit" climb of El Picacho Del Diablo, Ritter and Banner, or some other "glamour" peak and have each participant contribute \$1.50 or \$2.00 each or less depending upon the cost of a worthy Sierra Club register? I will personally carry lemon meringue pies to the summit for a formal celebration. Rebuttal to this "donation outing", earmarked for summit registers, will receive more static than the lemon pie because fun and flavor acceptance proceeds quick small financial donations to solve immediate problems. If freely and generously given static were enjoined by alternate creative ideas, issues would be quickly solved by the membership. Maybe this idea sounds crazy to some "sterile" peak baggers who will never be caught leading an ugly peak the first or second time for neophite followers when leadership is much sought throughout this chapter. A heartwarming register makes climatic reading while resting, especially if all time great names such as Starr and Clyde's names are in a well protected container. Orizaba, Ixty and Popo, Mexican turkey and Santa climbs, could even use a rust proof Coors can register. Why not a Sierra Club register? A token of international friendship on these frequently visited peaks. An easy solution to this proposal, have no Sierra Club register and have each SPS peak withhold the mysticism and secrets like the sacred peak in Nepal which will never be climbed. Sierra Club is generally a good name off the plastic Matterhorn summit of Disneyland and excluded Mammoth Mtn with the towering lifts. Sierra Club registers are good advertising symbols reminding that the listed care enough to protect this domain.)

Off Needham with a snow flurry and a possible reoccurring whiteout, suggested a compass bearing of 235 on the easy low third class escape route back over the Great Western Divide and below to Monarch Lake. In the meanwhile, eleven clubs with Sawtooth achieved under the capable and motherly leadership of Kurt Beyer, where descending Sawtooth in a whiteout with minimum waste of effort. Joe Landau, a recent BMTC graduate who just completed SPS membership qualifications in order to be eligible for SPS leadership roles, had fun giving section service while demonstrating an essential leadership skill called patience. The Sawtooth only gang made a safe landing in the valley before dark. Now, back to the circus arena of the tigers. This leader quickly discovered that endurance and fast pace are only physical virtues. Several tigers lacked skill, experience and confidence on safe friction climbing surfaces and mild third class rock. It was proven not everyone had previous experience and this joint BMTC trip forced a training session as a get home requirement. Under the setting sun and snow flurries, this bonus event of quick teaching, combined with faster desire to learn, paid off to escape the mountain barrier. Learning was slower than the leader had wished for but was greatly stimulated by freezing weather and creeping darkness on this low risk terrain by SPS standards. MORAL of this report: Tigers with strength may not always have necessary skills to escape from cage of nature before darkness.

After crossing divide in dusk, a slightly longer and safer route was selected to descend to Monarch Lake rather than retest newly discovered skill on direct more dangerous darkness route. Undestroyed night vision and snow patches contouring edges of obstacles, guided each around the lake to a friendly campfire of Berkeley co-eds. Ample rest and nutrition stops were forced enroute while in a relaxed manner all returned via easy new Monarch trail by 10:30 PM new moonlight. Flashlights, with extra batteries and lamps left untouched in summit packs. Dis-

SAWTOOTH, NEEDHAM ETC continued

covering that most Sawtooth only cubs had signed out for warmer territory, the leaders wished for late sleeping Sunday in 18 degree weather but, the "cop out" was reversed when quick reviving night walkers appeared recycled and eager for a full weekend of SPS scheduled trek. Shortly after 8 AM, eight headed for Farewell Gap and on to Vandever. Stumbling over the everlasting anti-airforce recruiting material littering the Gap, seven snatched the peak in leisurely fashion. This leader, anxious for prized Florence, called it quits with a 4:30 departure. After biking up and down most of the rememberable Mineral King road on Friday, this leader vowed his Spring return leading a Bicycle Touring Committee ride with optional peak climb before this beautiful car sickening road is Mickey Moused up. Thus, a new bike trip was born at the cost of Florence. Bike it, you'll like it! But, settle for nothing less than placing a quality club register on some peak. May Mineral King forever remain virgin, to rest in peace like Walt and may the Mickey Mouse dream be buried like a dead rat. Final remark: Lemon meringue pies are nearly impossible to move on a bike up that road but, a Sierra Club Register...YES!

LONE PINE PEAK (12,940'), October 21-22 Ron Jones

Those climbers daring enough to risk this weekend in the Sierra, following nearly a week of intermittent rain and snow all over California, spent a cold Friday night at various locations between Lone Pine and Whitney Portal under a sky covered with dark blowing clouds. Saturday morning dawned clear and bright however, and 24 climbers met at the Meysan Lakes trailhead.

The trail was followed to the usual campsite at about 10,800 feet, and the trail was lost only once beneath the cover of four to eight inches of fresh powder snow which covered everything on the ground except the larger rocks. While floundering through the snow in an effort to relocate the trail, the leader managed to break a finger during a slip on an ice covered granite slope. At this point Mallory or LeConte were ruled out as possible second peaks for the Saturday afternoon tigers.

Saturday afternoon for most was spent basking in the warm sunshine under a cloudless sky at a campsite transformed into an early winter wonderland by a 6-inch covering of snow. Two climbers were released to ascend Lone Pine Peak that afternoon. Three additional climbers went on to successfully climb Mt Irvine, and a group of five climbed Candlelight Peak. By seven o'clock Saturday night the temperature was below freezing at 30 degrees and everyone enjoyed Betty Dessert's campfire and Sue Howry's popcorn.

Sunday morning a group of 20 set out at 8:30 to conquer the snow-covered cruddy lower slopes of Lone Pine. A low temperature of 23 degrees was recorded in camp that morning. Nineteen climbers reached the summit, one climber turning back because of a twisted ankle. This last SPS climb of the year was the final qualifying peak necessary for section membership for several people: Delores Holladay, Mike Stenger, Tracy Grant and Don Croley. Incidentally this climb was one of the first recent SPS climbs for one early section member, John Michelsen. Welcome back John!

After a leisurely lunch basking in the summer-like sunshine and admiring a wonderfully clear view from the Palisades and the wonderfully white White Mountains to the north, along the Sierra Crest around Whitney, and down to the Corcoran Ridge and Langley to the south, we made a quick descent to base camp. Here we dried out tents and sleeping bags before making a quick descent to our cars at the roadhead. A fine meal was enjoyed by some of the group at the Italian Restaurant in Inyokern on the south side of Highway 178. Incidentally a new register and container are needed on Lone Pine Peak.



PRIVATE CLIMBS

TRIPLE FOURTEEN TOUR, July 16-29 David & Dennis Coffman

Climbing all of California's 14 peaks of better than 14,000 feet in elevation in 14 consecutive days was a wild idea but extremely satisfying! I am 43 and got the idea a year-and-a-half ago (when I was exactly thrice 14 in age), and for over a year my son Dennis (19) and I rigorously conditioned ourselves and made a few preliminary Sierran explorations in preparation for what we came to call our "Triple Fourteen Tour". Beginning with boring but sunny Mt Langley at 8 AM Sunday, July 16, we exulted 13 days and 3 hours later on the storm-threatened summit of Mt Shasta.

We cross-countried from Langley to Muir, Whitney, Russell, Tyndall, and Williamson, in that order, finishing that first circuit of 6 peaks in five days. (We stepped over Mt Barnard (13,990) for good measure enroute from Russell to Tyndall, thus adding California's 15th highest peak to our Tour.) The car and other two sons, Roger (17) and Jeffrey (12), were a most refreshing sight at the warm bottom of George Creek Canyon.

After a day of rest all four of us hiked up Red Mountain Creek to lovely Red Lake, and the next day Jeff joined "the regular two" in the climb of Split Mountain - seven down in seven days.

Big Pine Creek was the start and finish of our second major circuit. At Fifth Lake on July 23 we conferred with Smoke Blanchard, amiable director of the Palisade School of Mountaineering, about ice conditions in the Palisade couloirs - this being a year in which the scant snowfields of the Sierra were disappearing some three months ahead of the normal schedule. His intimate knowledge of the snow-ice situation and his loan of a pair of crampons for Dennis' size 14 boot were two key factors in enabling us in the next two long days to climb (from the Palisade Glacier) Mt Sill, Polemonium Peak, North Palisade, (including the NW Peak locally known as Starlight) and finally at sundown on Tuesday - Thunderbolt Peak. Our descent of the arete and couloir just east of the Underhill Couloir by flashlight, and the moonlighted hike across the glacier, with arrival at the hut at 2 AM, made that 21-hour day a memorable one indeed!

The next day, a late start coupled with the arduous 3600-foot descent from Glacier Notch to Willow Lake forced us to delay our climb of Middle Palisade by one day. Arising at 2 AM Thursday morning, we surmounted our twelfth peak at 7 AM.

Exactly 14 hours later and 40 airline miles to the northeast across Owens Valley we were taking flash pictures of our arrival on top of stark White Mountain peak. We completed that 17-mile round trip to the car at midnight, and the tortuous drive back to Big Pine about three hours later. After showers and a big breakfast we gladly gave the wheel to Roger and ourselves to sleep, as he headed the car northward through the dawn of our twelfth day (Friday).

Donna Coffman, wife and mother, stepped from her "flying banana" plane at Redding (having flown from our home in Isla Vista) to complete our forthcoming family celebration. Shortly before midnight we four males flopped on the ground at Shasta Ski Bowl for a few hours precious sleep. All four of us made the tedious and virtually snowless climb of our last 14-thousander by 11 AM Saturday, July 29, arriving on that coldest of all summits we had traversed in a below-freezing gale and under a blackening sky - an hour later would have canceled our climb for that day! Fortunately only a light rain accompanied our scree-slide down Misery Hill, the Red Banks, and Avalanche Gulch.

From the first summit to the fourteenth one took us 13 days, 3 hours; from the beginning of our climb of Langley at Lake #3 in the Cottonwood Basin to the end of our descent of Shasta required 13 days, 21 hours. Essential factors to our success were: mountaineering experience; adequate conditioning; good weather (rain on only the first and fourteenth days!); reliable support party (Roger and Jeff), who always were in the right place at the right time with the car and supplies; and a highly compatible partnership between Dennis and me. (As a matter of fact I regard Dennis as the best all-round mountaineering companion in all of my experience.)

Hearty meals, warm showers, good beds and a happy family leisurely made the 3-day homeward trip a very pleasant ending to the "Triple Fourteen Tour."

NORTH PALISADE, September 3 David Hammond

I was lowering myself down the last of the summit blocks on North Palisade from two good handholds which were above me. I was facing the rock, with my feet against the smooth rock face. On looking down, there was a 4-foot wide shelf sloping up at 45 degrees behind me, about 2-3 feet below my feet. As there were no footholds, I decided to slip down those last couple of feet or so. . . . Next thing I knew, I was flat on my back. "What am I doing here?" I asked my two partners as they helped me up, it was such a surprise to me. I had slipped off that wide sloping ledge that had looked so safe, and fallen about 8 feet down on to an area covered with small rocks, rolling a couple of times before stopping. Fortunately I felt OK, and except for a cut in the right shin down to the bone, and a couple of chipped teeth, I was in good shape. Pooling our first aid kits, my shin was soon patched up, and we started to hike down. However, my right wrist started to swell and hurt, so when we reached the gully, which is now blocked at the crucial point by two large chockstones, I was lowered on a rope down this definite Class 5 pitch. Here I rejoined the fourth member of our group, Fred Hoeptner, and we all got safely down the mountain without any further incidents.

Next morning, Labor Day, my partner, Don Hudson, and I hiked out of Palisade Basin back to South Lake. I was soon receiving prompt attention at the hospital in Bishop, having my cut shin cleaned and stitched up, and my wrist X-rayed. The wrist turned out to be broken, so now I have a plaster up past the elbow. I thought it wise not to drive with a nearly immobilized right arm, so Don drove me back to Stockton where I live at present.

I discussed the accident with my roommate, who is also an engineer, and we came to the conclusion that my feet slipped inwards on striking the sloping shelf, causing me to rotate about my center of gravity, tipping me backwards off the ledge. Don told me that if I had rolled over twice more I would not have been around to tell the tale. I ended up near the cliffs overlooking the Palisade Glaciers. The one correct thing I did was to wear a Hard Hat, as I always do when climbing a Class 3 mountain.

On considering the climb of North Palisade, I think the SPS should seriously consider reclassifying the peak to Class 4 due to the great difficulty in getting up past the chockstones which now block the gully. Don and I were stuck there for some time, trying various routes up the Class 4 rock faces to the left of the gully. At least he was, I had at that stage given up; Darwin and Abbott were nothing like this! It was here that Fred and his partner, Guy Williams, joined us. Guy managed to climb the Class 5 pitch up past the chockstones, and belay Don and me up. Frankly, I found this bit the hardest rock climbing I have tackled, which includes the climbing on the intermediate course at the EXUM School in the Tetons, which Don and I took this summer. Fred wisely stayed below the chockstones like I should have done. Thank you Guy and Fred for helping me.

DEATH MARCHING WITHOUT PEAK-BAGGING, September 21-24 Izzy Lieberman
(or How to Enjoy the Sierra Scenery)

Having tried in vain to get in shape by jogging, I finally went to the Sierra as a last resort, taking along as my companion the doctor across the street. We drove up to Lodgepole on Thursday September 21, arriving around 6:00 PM. We planned to hike a few miles that evening towards Silliman Pass, leaving us three full days to complete a loop back via Roaring River, Elizabeth Pass, and Bearpaw Meadow. At this point we had our first of two ranger encounters, a young fellow who told us in no uncertain terms that we could not get our permit until 9:00 the next morning, and that we could not start that evening in any event as there was no official camping place within easy walking distance. My first inclination was to start anyway, but we finally decided to look into a shorter route. We drove on to the Grant Grove area and got a fire permit from the Forest Service - not quite legal anymore but it would have to do, we decided. From there we took the dirt road up to Horse Corral Meadow at 7600', and spent the night at the car, where it got down to a rather cool 20 degrees. Our first day's hike was a rather dull, dry and warm 15 miles across Sugarloaf Valley to the Roaring River Ranger Station, though there were a couple of good views enroute of the various crests that surround the area.

DEATH MARCHING ETC continued

The second night was considerably warmer and in the morning we met our second Ranger, Gordon MacDonald, who lives at the station all summer with his wife. He asked us in for coffee, apologized for not having breakfast ready too, and showed no interest in arresting us for lack of proper permit. Furthermore he had an excellent knowledge of the surrounding country and was eager to help make our visit a success. Based on these two examples, I'll take the old-fashioned ranger any day. We finally hiked up Deadman Canyon about 7 miles to Upper Ranger Meadow at 9200', and back to the station for more coffee and conversation. This canyon (and nearby Cloud Canyon, we were told) is a spectacularly beautiful area, but I have yet to run into an SPS member who has been there. We are missing the scenery in our mad rush to climb peaks! We saw just two other campers in the canyon, (though thousands have visited the area earlier in the season). We also met their packer, who agreed to pick us up at Cedar Grove roadhead Sunday, so we went out via Avalanche Pass and Sphinx Creek, avoiding a repeat of the first day. The weather was perfect all three days, and we ended up putting in about 45 miles, 6500' gain, and 9000' loss. The section should lead an occasional trip like this.

MOUNT EMERSON'S OTHER FACE, October 7-8 Tom Naves

In July 1972, on the way up the Piute Pass trail for a climb of Mt Humphreys, Ernie Spiehler, my son Bruce and I saw the crack running up the southeast face of Mt Emerson, Route 2 in the Climber's Guide. It looked like an appealing route on beautiful rock so we promised ourselves an attempt on it later in the year.

On the weekend of October 7-8, Ernie and I could only get away for one day so we decided that we would drive up to North Lake on Friday night, climb Mt Emerson on Saturday and drive home Saturday night. Leaving camp at the Piute Pass trailhead at 8:30 Saturday morning, we arrived at the base of the climb at 10:00.

The westernmost of the two prominent cracks, the route described in the Climber's Guide, turned out to be a small waterfall from the recent snowfall. I don't think this would be a problem if there were no snow on the route.

Instead of entering the bottom of the crack, we started about 50 feet to the right. We traversed up and to the left, entering the crack about 50 feet up. The pitch continued up the waterfall, where we got wet, to a belay about 100 feet up. This first pitch was the most difficult. It was 5.3 or 5.4 and required 2 pitons and a runner for protection. After thawing out from "The Waterfall Pitch", we continued up on beautiful Class 4 slabs to the right of the crack. This pitch was followed by about 100 feet of Class 3. At this point, we reentered the crack for one more pitch of Class 4. Here the crack gave way to a broad chute. We continued up this chute for about 500 feet, and then crossed a rib to the left into another chute which led to a notch in the ridge. Climbing toward the summit, we passed the first gendarme on the right, over Class 4 snow-covered ledges into another notch. From this notch, we proceeded more or less on the ridge on beautiful Class 3 rock over several gendarmes to the summit. While we were traversing the ridge, a few snowflakes were falling, and the clouds were coming in and out making for a fine alpine setting.

After searching in vain for the summit register, we decided to make one of our own. We put our entry in a pill bottle to be left on the summit. I put the pill bottle in my pocket while coiling the rope and, you guessed it, took it down with me. To descend, we traversed west on the ridge for about 50 feet, and then down a rib and gully system on the south face on Class 2 and Class 3 rock to the Piute Pass trail. We returned to the car about a half hour after dark.

I recommend this route to climbers who want a technical route that is close to the roadhead. It could be combined with a climb on the Piute Crags on a two-day trip. The climb took nine hours-seven for the ascent and two for the descent.

EARLY DAYS OF SPS RECALLED BY FIRST CHAIRMAN
from Sierra Echo, Vol III, No 2, May-June 1959
by Frank Sanborn

The need for a separate section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club devoted to hiking, camping and climbing in the Sierra was evident to many for several years. Base Campers, High Trippers and the Desert Peaks Section had for many years sponsored and scheduled trips into the Sierra, but it was apparent that the mountains which inspired the birth of the Sierra Club deserved a section devoted exclusively to their exploration, protection, and enjoyment. The advent of modern paved highways and fast cars made it as practical to consider conducting weekend hikes into the Sierra as far north as Bridgeport as it was to hike into the Angeles Crest area.

Beginning in 1952, nonscheduled trips into the Sierra were conducted with ever-increasing frequency by an ever-growing number of enthusiasts. Impetus was given this movement by the fact that the Desert Peaks Section scheduled an average of only three hikes per year into the Sierra. This was felt to be a waste of many fine weekends from May through October. By 1955, the nonscheduled trips outnumbered scheduled ones about six to one. Such long-time Sierra enthusiasts as Bob Sheller, Miles Brubacher, Barbara Lilley, Lee Owings, Owen Blackburn, Frank Bressel, Pat Meixner (Gentry), Chuck Miller, John Robinson, Bud Bingham, and Frank Sanborn decided that the time was ripe to organize the Sierra Peaks Section.

The most essential step, of course, was to draft a set of by-laws, a statement of purposes and a list of emblem and qualifying peaks. An interim slate of officers had to be selected to guide the affairs of the section until the first regular elections could be held. Finally, official recognition and approval by the Chapter Executive Committee had to be obtained.

Frank Sanborn was selected as the first chairman of the SPS, Bob Sheller the vice chairman, Pat Meixner the secretary, Leo Scotti the treasurer and Mountaineering Committee, which was responsible for scheduling also. Lee Owings and John Robinson worked with Roger on the committee.

Late in July, 1955, Frank, Chuck, and Pat went before the Executive Committee, informed it of the intent to organize the section and requested official permission to form the SPS. After due deliberation, the Executive Committee granted official permission to organize within the framework of the Sierra Club. Thus the Sierra Peaks Section was formally launched on its highly successful career under the initial direction of the above-named people. The first list of emblem and qualifying peaks was drafted and approved by the Management Committee, and the previously drafted by-laws were approved and put in force.

By the end of 1955, the section had 38 members, and monthly business meetings were being held at the Sierra Club headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. These meetings have been well-attended from the beginning and attest to the interest and activity of section members.

One of the main purposes of the section was, and is, to schedule weekend trips into the Sierra for the purpose of familiarizing Sierra Club members and others with California's premier mountains and fostering comradeship among those interested in this activity. Enjoyment of, as well as knowledge of, the trails, peaks, meadows, campsites, lakes, streams, forests, valleys, and wildlife of the Sierra has been of primary interest.

The original list of 200 qualifying peaks reached from Owens Peak in the Walker Pass area to the Lake Tahoe area, a 600-mile stretch of the Sierra. More recently, the addition of peaks between Lake Tahoe and the Feather River area has expanded this list to the northern limits of the Sierra. The original 10 emblem peaks were from south to north, Olancho Peak, Mt Needham, Kaweah Peak, Mt Whitney, Mt Williamson, Mt Brewer, Mt Goddard, Mt Darwin, Mt Lyell, and Matterhorn Peak. Early in 1956 it was decided that Mt Needham did not deserve emblem status and that Kaweah Peak adequately represented the Mineral King-Sequoia area. Accordingly Mt Needham was deleted from the list and Mt Ritter in the Minarets substituted for it.

The present emblem of the SPS was drawn up by Bud Bingham in March, 1956, and promptly adopted. A beautiful piece of work, it shows the distinctive emblem peak, Mt Williamson in profile, with white Sierra summer clouds floating overhead, snow on the flanks, and pine boughs

EARLY DAYS continued

intertwined underneath. The climbing of the 10 emblem peaks entitled a member to wear the emblem of the section. By the end of 1956 the section boasted 18 emblem holders.

By the late fall of 1956, the section was well established. Some by-law changes had been proposed and adopted by the membership, the monthly meetings were well attended and committees on social affairs and safety were being set up or discussed. Membership had more than doubled from the previous December with a total of 62 enrolled.

The officers who guided the affairs of the section through 1955 and 1956 felt that the time had now come for the first of what were to be annual elections. Candidates for the various management offices were listed, and balloting was conducted by mail. As a result of this first full election, the following persons were elected to guide the affairs of the section in 1957: Bud Bingham, chairman; John Robinson, vice chairman; Barbara Lilley, secretary; Pat Meixner, treasurer; and Frank Sanborn, alternate officer. This group officially took over the management of the section in January, 1957. It had been decided earlier that no officer could be reelected for a second consecutive year in the same post. Chuck Miller became head of the Mountaineering and Schedule Committee.

In 1956, the section began its main function, that of scheduling weekend trips into the Sierra. The first scheduled SPS trip was led by Frank Sanborn and John Robinson to Deer Mountain, near the south fork of the Kern River, on May 5-6, 1956. On May 26-27, Frank Sanborn and Miles Brubacher took an SPS group to Maggie Mountain, in the Balch Park area east of Porterville. George Wallerstein and Steve Wilkie led a trip to Mt Gilbert, back of South Lake, on June 2-3. Frank Sanborn and Ted Maier took a group to Trail Peak in Cottonwood Basin on June 9-10. On June 23-24, Don Clarke and Bud Bingham led an assault on the northernmost emblem peak, 12,281-foot Matterhorn Peak, in northern Yosemite west of Bridgeport. It was a memorable climb of one of our most beautiful peaks and involved use of crampons, ice axes, and ropes. Twenty-eight persons made this climb.

On June 30-July 1, Chuck Miller led a large group (38 persons) to Alta Peak, back of Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park. On July 7-8, Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner led a very interesting trip out of Whitney Portal up the north fork of Lone Pine Creek and the snow-filled Mountaineer's Route to the 14,495-foot summit of Mt Whitney, the highest emblem peak. On July 14-15, Izzy Lieberman and Miles Brubacher led a challenging climb of 13,157-foot Mt Ritter, the emblem peak dominating the Lake Ediza-Minarets region. Frank Bressel and Chuck Miller took an SPS group from Cedar Grove, in Kings Canyon, to Goat Mountain on July 28-29. On August 11-12, Chuck Miller tackled University Peak with a group from Onion Valley. One of the most impressive emblem peaks, Mt Darwin, fell to a group led by Bob Sheller and Leo Scotti, hiking from North Lake (out of Bishop) on August 18-19. This 13,841-foot peak, plus its neighbor, Mt Lamarck, provided this group with plenty of action. Frank Bressel led a trip to Mt Irvine, out of Whitney Portal in the Meysan Lake area on August 25-26.

The climax of this very active summer came on the long Labor Day weekend of September 1-3, when John Robinson led a large group up George Creek to the 14,385-foot summit of Mt Williamson. This trip, to the most distinctive emblem peak east of the Sierra crest near Independence, was a great success, although it involved a gain of 10,000 feet from the cars in rugged, trailless country. Mt Barnard and Trojan Peak were also climbed on the trip.

Frank Bressel and Pat Meixner took a group to Mt Silliman, between Giant Forest and Kings Canyon, on September 8-9. Bud Bingham and Don Clarke, leading a rugged trip over Taboose Pass to Cardinal Mountain on September 15-16, were clobbered by an early-season snowstorm, but made the peak anyway under very adverse conditions. Mt Morrison, overlooking Convict Lake, is one of the few Sierra peaks that can be done in one day without knapsacking. Miles Brubacher and Izzy Lieberman led a pleasant but steep climb of it on September 22-23. George Wallerstein and Bud Bingham led a group from Whitney Portal around Tulainyo Lake (highest in North America) to Tunabora Peak on September 29-30.

John Robinson was to lead a group from Onion Valley over Kearsarge Pass to Mt Rixford on

EARLY DAYS continued

October 6-7. Heavy snow prevented this, but an attempt was made on University Peak. A severe blizzard forced six intrepid climbers off the steep northeast ridge of University, so that weekend was a loss.

On October 20-21, the section joined the Desert Peakers in a joint climb of strenuous Peak 11, 107 north of Mt Keynot on the crest of the Inyo Range. John Robinson, Bud Bingham and Bob Bear spearheaded this group, which named the peak Mt Inyo. This name has since become official. The final SPS-scheduled trip of 1956 was to the southernmost qualifying peak, 8,475-foot Owens Peak. It was led by Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner on November 11. Here again, no knapsacking was necessary.

All of the mentioned trips into the Sierra were officially scheduled activities, entered in the schedule books of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. When it is remembered that the average number of trips scheduled by the Angeles Chapter (usually by the Desert Peaks Section) into the Sierra used to be only three annually, it can readily be appreciated that the SPS, in 1956, fulfilled its mission of scheduling many trips. This set the pattern for succeeding years. In addition, the trips extended from early May to early November, putting to rest the old notion that the Sierra was accessible only from the Fourth of July to the end of September. Now Sierra Peaks groups are active virtually all year in the Sierra, falling back upon the southern areas in the winter.

It was decided at the November 1956 meeting to begin publication of a newspaper for the section, keeping its members informed of what each was doing, providing information on future trips, and giving writeups of past trips, both scheduled and nonscheduled. Roger Gaefcke suggested the name Sierra Echo for the paper, and this was unanimously adopted. Its editorship was undertaken by John Robinson, who turned out the Echo every three months in Mimeograph form. With the appearance of the first Echo in February 1957, this history is terminated. The Echo carries the SPS record beyond that point.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Under the sponsorship of the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee an outings leader training course will be offered at several sites starting early in January 1972. The course comprises:

Weekly Lectures

- Leadership and the Sierra Club
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