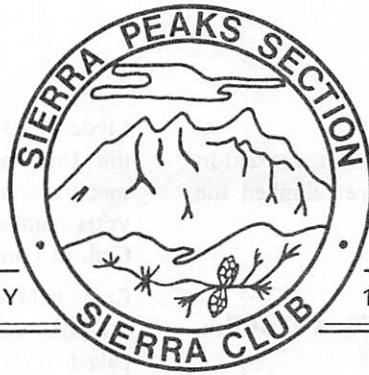


The Sierra



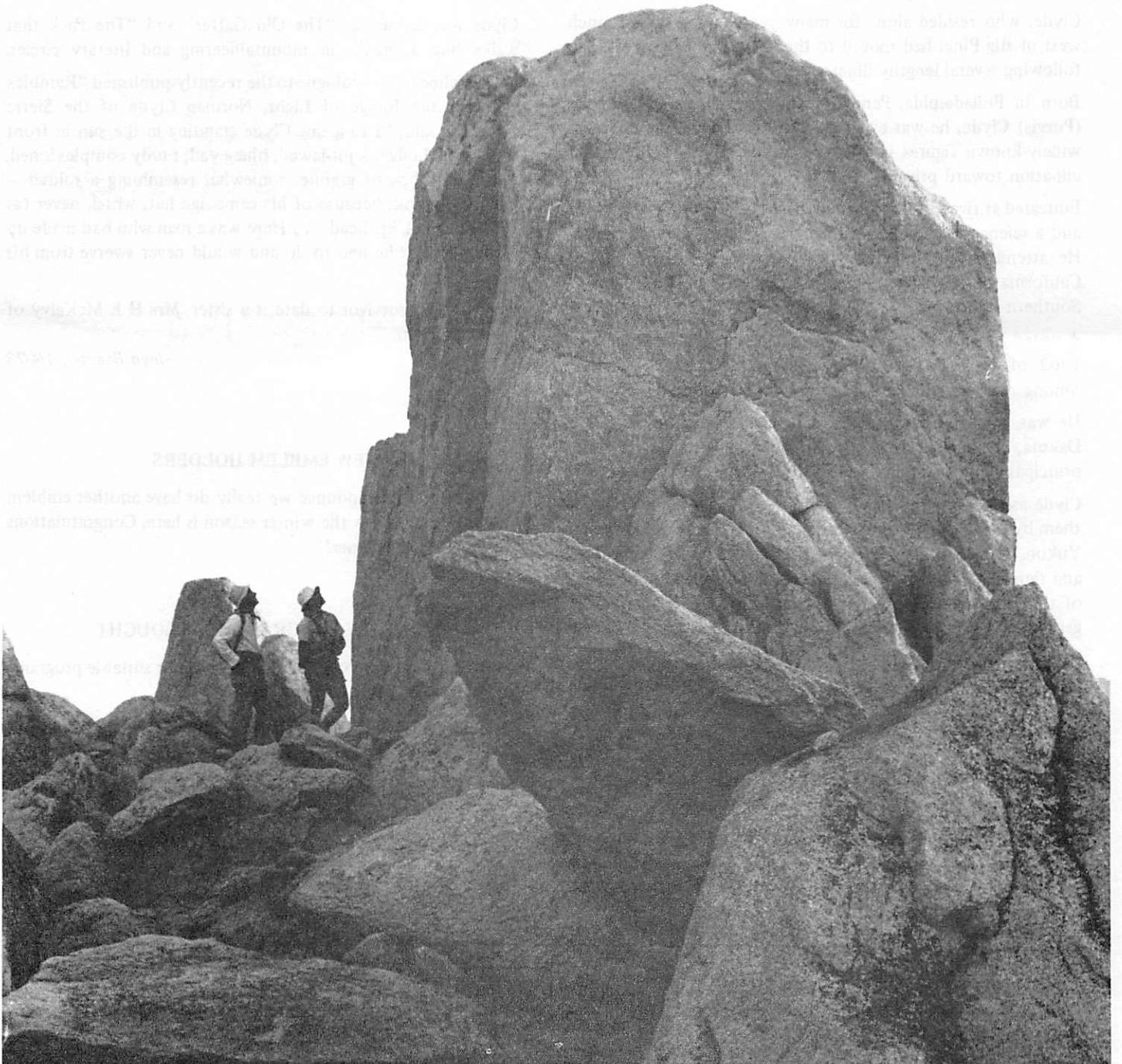
ECHO

VOLUME 17

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

1973

NO 1



COVER PHOTO

This fine shot of the summit block on The Hermit was sent in by Carl W Smith - for those who haven't yet climbed the mountain, pick your route.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

We are proud to announce we really do have another emblem holder, even though the winter season is here. Congratulations to you **Richard Riemer!**

NEW MEMBERS

We have five new members to our section from the months of November, December, and January. Welcome!

Bartlett, Tren	P O Box 61, Silverado 92676
Grant, Tracy	11938 Lorne St, No Hollywood 91605
Holladay, Delores	no address
Nathanson, Clifford	14555 Figueras Rd, La Mirada 90638
Reddy, John	1502 Elkane Dr, Hacienda Hts 91745

10-point crampons
Size 39 STUBAI
(fit "international" size 6
or "old" size 7 or 7½ boots)

\$5 includes point protectors

Diana Dee
451-5838 (day) or at
any SPS meeting

HURRY! Many people have this size feet!

ADDRESS CHANGES

Cardina, Thomas J	1625 Raymond Hill Rd #9, So Pasadena, 91030
Emerick, Bob	18307 Burbank #238, Tarzana 91356
Gladstone, Dave	49 Ozone Ave, Venice 90291 phone 392-2915
McHaffie, John	22512 Costa Bella Dr, El Toro 92630
Naves, Tom	1501 E Park Dr, Apt 1, La Habra 90631 phone 697-8382
Riemer, Richard	1027A Olive Dr #7, Davis 95616
Rose, Edward	650 S Garfield #44, Monterey Park 91754

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Recent newspapers have been filled with reports of mountaineering accidents involving both novices and experienced mountaineers.

One such accident, on Mt Humphries in Arizona, combined poor judgement with deteriorating weather, resulting in fatalities. Three other incidents, two in Yosemite and one in the San Gabriels resulted from lack of, or improper use of, the ice axe.

Novices are often surprised by the speed with which soft, snowy slopes become icy in the afternoon shade, and find themselves underequipped or undertrained to cope with the changed conditions. The more experienced climbers, accustomed to carrying the axe in season, are more likely to take for granted the fact that an arrest, if necessary, will come automatically. The majority of climbers are called upon to make few arrests during the season and are apt to neglect this important technique.

The section is sponsoring ice axe training and practice sessions on March 3rd and again on March 11th. All section members are urged to attend one or more of the sessions.

-Paul Lipsohn

RECORD CLIMBS OF MOUNT SHASTA

by Wm Bridge Cooke

Something about Mount Shasta has inspired people to try to climb it quickly, a feat that is easy or hard, depending on the climber and his experience with mountains. If Shasta is a man's first climb, and he attempts it in the late summer after a dry winter, when most of the slopes are covered with loose lava talus and scree, it is arduous. If the climber has had wide experience, he finds the climb, whether in adverse conditions or over an ideal covering of extensive snowfields, comparatively easy.

The first stated record of time made in the ascent from timberline (approximately the site of Horse Camp) was that of **John Muir** in the old Sisson summit register, now in the Bancroft Library. This ascent, made in 1874, was accomplished in 4 hours and 10 minutes. **Harry Babcock** is the first person recognized to have made a record speed climb. In 1880 Babcock made the ascent in 3 hours and 40 minutes. His statement was corroborated by two persons. **Norman Clyde** is the second person to have been credited with a speed record. On two successive assaults on the peak Clyde made a record of 3 hours and 17 minutes on July 3, 1923, which was followed on July 5 by an ascent in 2 hours and 43 minutes. The first climb was corroborated by four persons, the second by another four persons and certified by a fifth.

RECORD CLIMBS – continued

Later in 1923 a local man, **Barney McCoy**, made the ascent of Shasta and claimed in the registers and in the local press a record time of 2 hours and 17 minutes. Officially, Barney had no witnesses, although in the *San Francisco Chronicle* story on August 21, 1923, three people were reported as having made the trip with him. However, I have no reason to doubt McCoy's word; moreover, he is well thought of by those who know him. Others, however, decided it was improbable for Barney to have made the speed he claimed. Among the others was the Sierra Club's Lodge Committee. The committee disallowed the record and drew up an elaborate statement giving reasons why such a climb in such record time was impossible under any conditions at any time of the year on any mountain. This drew local blood, and Barney was willing to bet \$100 that he could repeat. Thus was born the Mount Shasta Marathon.

Arrangements were made by the Lodge Committee of the Sierra Club under the banner of the Sierra Club, and by the Mount Shasta Chamber of Commerce, to promote a marathon on the mountain which would prove or disprove Barney's claims. Most of the local populace assumed the marathon would merely be a race between Barney and time. However, certain dark horses showed up, anxious to win the supposedly easy cash and trophy. Out of the large number who signed up for the race seven started. Of these, one was **David Lawyer**, of Pasadena.

Lawyer was 18 years old and had been toughened up by a number of weeks of experience in a near-by logging camp. The story goes the rounds that after the day's work at the camp near Castle Lake, Lawyer would run into town and back to camp – 11 miles from Mount Shasta City up a rather steep narrow dirt road. Another story has it that Lawyer went to the Sierra Club Shasta Lodge at Horse Camp, start of the marathon, and climbed the mountain once a day for a week before the starting time. It is certain that Lawyer went to the summit at least once during that week, for he signed the summit register. It is possible that he got to Thumb Rock or to some other point once or more during that week.

McCoy took it for granted that the climb would be a "cinch," so he continued to work his gold mine until time to go to Horse Camp.

The climb itself appears to have been a rather dramatic event. The summit judges took a separate route so that the men would have to break their own trail. The climbers left Horse Camp in a body but apparently soon spread out, as is true of most group climbs. McCoy was ahead on the snowfields, which that year were meager for the fifth of July. He had to kick holes into the crusted upper snow for footholds along the "island" below Thumb Rock. This tired him, and because he was hot and, strangely, did not perspire, he stopped to rest a few minutes. It has been said that Lawyer started in tennis shoes and changed along the trail to heavier shoes for the snows of the higher areas. This seems to be substantiated by photographs taken before and after where he was resting, possibly near Thumb Rock. Lawyer reached the summit in the record time of 2 hours and 24 minutes; McCoy was 13 minutes behind him. The third person to reach the summit did so more than an hour later.

Since 1924 no one has made a serious attempt to beat this record, although each year someone tries to make the climb as rapidly as he can. In 1940 **James Beemer**, of the University of California Forestry Summer School, made two trips to the summit, on the second coming within 7 minutes of the record established by Lawyer. No effort was made to prove this, those of the party and those on the mountain at the time taking Beemer at his word. And it should be remembered that few mountaineering feats can be officially witnessed by any disinterested person. To better McCoy's time of 2 hours and 17 minutes, a person would have to maintain an average speed exceeding 45 feet of elevation per minute from the 8000-foot climbing base to the 14,161-foot summit, four miles distant. Although an attempt at such a feat may be frowned upon as an exertion not necessary to the regular pursuits of life, still there are those who like marathons, as well as mountains. Who can tell what such a man might accomplish were he to train carefully, watch his diet, become thoroughly acclimatized, then choose the right route and season?

—submitted by **Les Stockton**

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

The only SPS scheduled activity for February 1963 was a snow and ice practice session at Harwood Lodge on Mount Baldy led by **Lothar Kolbig**. Forty members and guests worked in ice axe and crampon techniques. Two ice axes were broken and much was learned during the weekend.

On February 14, The Angeles Chapter began its first Basic Mountaineering Training Course. This new course was to be free and open to the general public. It was planned to include 7 lectures and 3 field trips. Instructors included – **John Wedberg**, Winter Travel; **Bob Greenawalt**, Mountain Travel; **Ron Smith**, Rock Climbing; **Lothar Kolbig**, Climbing Dangers; **Harvey Hickman**, Equipment and Cooking; **Niles and Louise Werner**, Desert Travel; and **Jess Matter**, Climbing Miseries and First Aid.

In an interesting article entitled "Why Do I Climb", the everlasting question is answered with a quote from **James Ramsey Ullman's** book *High Conquest*. "Climbing needs no justification, no more than does watching a sunrise, or listening to a great symphony, or falling in love. A man climbs because he needs to climb; because that is the way he is made. Rock and ice and wind and the great blue canopy of the sky are not all that he finds upon the mountain-tops. He discovers things about his own body and mind that he had almost forgotten in the day to day, year to year routine of living. He learns what his legs are for, what his lungs are for, what the wise men of old meant by 'refreshment of the spirit'. He finds the divine harmony and simplicity of the natural world, and himself alive in it and a part of it!"

**SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
MOUNTAINEERS' LIST APPLICATION**

Applicant's Name (Print) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

INSTRUCTIONS

- A Satisfactory completion of these requirements, favorable recommendation by the Mountaineering Safety Chairman, and approval by the Management Committee are required for the applicant to participate in restricted trips sponsored by the Section.
- B Only Sierra Peaks Section qualified safety training instructors are authorized to certify that these tests have been satisfactorily completed (see list on page 2 of this form).
- C Completed forms must be mailed to the current Mountaineering Safety Committee Chairman for review and recommendation to the Management Committee. The applicant will be notified by mail whether he or she has been approved for participation in restricted climbs.
- D The applicant must be an active member of the Section.

I CLIMBING ON ROCK

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

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this section:

Signed _____ Date _____

II SNOW AND ICE CLIMBING

- A Judgment
- B Balance
- C Handling of ice axe — must demonstrate ability to traverse snow slopes while correctly using ice axe
- D Self arrest — must demonstrate ability to recover from an on-back, headfirst fall at speeds that simulate actual falls
- E Glissade — demonstrate ability to maintain satisfactory control during a sitting glissade
- F Demonstration of proper use of crampons

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this section:

Signed _____ Date _____

III ENDURANCE

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

Trip _____ Date _____

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirements of this section:

Signed _____ Date _____

MOUNTAINEERING SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

Signed _____ Date _____

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS AS OF FEBRUARY 1973

Testing of applicants for the Mountaineers' List may be performed on any scheduled Section climb, providing the tester is a qualified instructor. Those desiring "sign-off" should inform the qualified instructor at the beginning of the trip. The people qualified to test applicants and sign forms are listed below:

Beach, Dick	Keating, Jerry	Ory, Horace
Davis, Sid	Lantz, Dennis	Robinson, John
Dee, Diana	Lilley, Barbara	Rohn, Norm
De Goede, Art	Lipsohn, Paul	Ross, Tom
Eaton, Dan	McLeod, Gordon	Schumacher, Erick
Fletcher, Elton	Magnuson, Roy	Shinno, George
Fowler, Al	Maier, Ted	Sykes, Dick
Hoepfner, Fred	Mason, Bob	Van Allen, Bob
Jones, Ron	May, Dick	

MOUNTAINEERS' LIST

(from the *Sierra Echo*, Vol 16, No 2)

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

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

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

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

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

—Norm Rohn, Safety Committee Chairman, 1972—73

BOOK REVIEWS
by Horace Ory

Norman Clyde of the Sierra Nevada: Rambles through the Range of Light – This publication of the Scrimshaw Press, is a collection of new essays by Norman Clyde on his adventures in the Sierra Nevada (there is also a long anecdotal and biographical letter by Smoke Blanchard).

It is fascinating reading, both as history and as adventure, further enlivened by a number of Clyde photographs. Most of the essays describe some of Clyde's pioneering first ascents, while others are of interesting winter climbs. There is an account of the quest for Walter A Starr, Jr, after his disappearance in the Minarets, which recalls a tragic aspect of Sierra history. Clyde writes in a style of his own. He occasionally breaks into flowery eloquence characteristic of the last century, but for the most part his is a down-to-earth narration. Probably, it is overly concise, but at the same time the details given are precise and the tales are absorbing. Despite Clyde's extensive writings, and his many years of fame as a mountaineer, very little has been known of him as a person. The letter by Blanchard is mostly a discussion of personality, including illustrative incidents, and is a unique document in itself. Other brief background notes by Frances Farquhar, Jules Eichorn, and Dave Bohn are also included. These help to fill in our picture of Norman Clyde, but he remains an intriguing personality.

Scrimshaw publications are not widely distributed. Locally, this book seems to be available only from Dawson's Book Shop. However, there is a special arrangement which makes it available by mail from the Sierra Club in San Francisco at the member's price of \$6.25 (the regular price of this paperbound edition is \$7.50; there is a hard cover edition at \$15 – but it is poorly bound and not recommended). From any source, this book is a treasure.

Note: Norman Clyde died in Big Pine December 23, 1972. For obituary, see January 1, 1973 Inyo Register.

Mountaineer's Guide to the High Sierra, edited by Hervey Voge and Andrew Smatko, is a new Sierra Club Totebook. It includes all of the non-technical climbing route descriptions from the older *Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*, plus many new ones (370 peaks and ridges have been added, although many of these are nameless high points). The totebook format is much handier for carrying into the mountains, and this is probably the best feature of the new edition.

Route classifications have been revised to a uniform and realistic standard. For example, Mt Muir is now listed as Class 3, and Unicorn Peak as Class 4. Also, Mt Agassiz is now listed as Class 2, so probably Mt Tom is now the hardest Class 1 peak in the range.

The book has some shortcomings. The print is small, but that's a trade-off for the handy totebook size. Technical routes are omitted, which will not matter to most peakbaggers, but it is a sore point with those interested in such climbs who must wait for an additional guide to technical routes that is now being prepared for later publication. More important, many inaccurate and incomplete route descriptions have been carried over without revision from the older guide (for example – Four Gables, Whorl etc). Perhaps the worst complaint is that for many of the added peaks and ridges only first ascent information is given, and for others only a difficulty classification with no route description.

Nevertheless, this is the best guide available to the Sierra Nevada, and it provides information that will greatly enhance one's enjoyment of the mountains. How could anyone do without it? The price is \$7.95 in today's small dollars (for members: \$6.95 by mail from Mills Tower, San Francisco).

ASCENTS

MT SILLIMAN, ALTA PEAK, September 30–October 1 Roy and Barbara Magnuson

Twenty climbers left Lodgepole Campground at 7:15 AM for Silliman after a brief rain shower and under threatening skies. The pace was too much for one, who dropped out before we left the trail and headed east up the right side of Silliman Creek. The topo (even the revised version) is misleading, because it shows the trail crossing the creek twice before this point. However, we came to only one stream and, by checking our altimeter, we decided that this was the last crossing indicated on the map. There is a faint trail several yards up the stream bank which we followed to the second stream on the right, again checking the altimeter. This stream was followed a short way to some sloping granite slabs, which were climbed for about ¼ mile to the first Silliman Lake. Even the timid among us negotiated the slabs readily. Two more dropped out at this point and waited as the rest of us climbed to the upper lake, turned left, and reached the summit before 11:30. After a chilly lunch break we returned to Lodgepole by 3:15, escaping rain that day, but getting a downpour with thunder and lightning Saturday night.

Sunday, most of the climbers showed up again at Wolverton. The plan had been to climb Alta from Pear Lake, but the threat of rain made it seem wiser to avoid any rock climbing and to take the trail via Mehrten Meadow. All 15 made the peak after a brisk hike and returned by 2:30. Several people on the trip completed their requirements for SPS membership.

MT ELWELL, SIERRA BUTTES, October 7-8 Steve Harding

Threatening weather and the long ride probably took its toll of participants for the first scheduled climb of Mt Elwell (7814'). Arriving early Saturday morning at the Lakes Basin campground, your leader greeted some 23 obvious Sierra Clubbers, only to find that they were a Bay Area group on a scheduled knapsaker to Jamison Lake. When they departed the campground was deserted!

Undaunted, your leader executed a solo climb up the south ridge amid occasional blasts of horizontal rain, spending a pleasant and sunny 40 minutes on top before retreating ahead of more hail and rain. The register cannister that Paul Lipsohn left up there in July was nowhere to be found.

Having scouted a route to the top of the Buttes earlier this summer, I decided to scrub the official climb in view of the really miserable camping conditions, and get an early start on the long fifteen minute ride home.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

HOGWASH MOUNTAIN, September 1972 Harvey Mudfoote

A week before this climb I was reading through the guidebook and noticed the route descriptions for Hogwash Mountain were very vague. I had seen the mountain previously from the two other summits in the area and was taken with the general appearance of it. The peak presented a picture of very difficult ridges, chutes, and chimneys – so that good routefinding would be essential to make the summit.

This writeup is a supplement to the Guide written mainly to help those who might want to climb it and therefore is quite descriptive and accurate so that others can avoid the mistakes we made.

Saturday morning three of us – Joe Buschee, John Rocke, Jim Stone, and I started out at Kerry Kreek. We had barely set off when we were rudely pushed off the trail by some other Club members, who said they didn't want to be delayed by us as they already knew the route and were much faster. We had some very nasty comments to make. After all this wasn't a golf course where you play through. About an hour later put us at the foot of a chute. It is quite important to start at this one as the others can turn into trouble.

Joe went ahead at this point – and I was quick to tell him that I was leading and although this was a private trip I felt hurt by this, and rightly so, for Jim reminded me this was Joe's trip not mine. So after this was straightened out we progressed uneventfully midway up on the mountain. If you look directly over your left shoulder here and line up with the horizon a lake should be visible, unless it is raining as heavily as on this day, which means you are on the proper ridge.

As we stopped for a short break we heard a large rockfall. Joe said he thought the party who had sped by us were in trouble. This was indeed true. They had gotten into very difficult rock and were having a bad time of it, although by this time it was snowing very hard and we couldn't see too well. I won't name names but they know who they are and it gave us a good laugh.

At this point we are now approaching the crucial part of the climb. By looking straight up we could see a V-shaped wedge, a red rock to the right side, and an inverted white chockstone to the left, with a small chimney about 6 feet up running laterally in a north-south direction over a vertical pitch to the left. One of the other routes proved to go easily and we attained the summit.

Doris led the way down and after a couple of quick rest stops to adjust the bandages on my left leg we were back at the cars by 5:30. Total mileage 32 and total elevation gain 9,300 feet, proving you don't have to deathmarch just to have a good time.

Also, we would like to thank the China Lake Rescue group and the fellow in the Sierra Madre helicopter for their help. They certainly have a good sense of humor.

EXCURSIONS AMONG MONO CREEK TRIBUTARIES, July 15-23 Andy Smatko

In the Summer of 1971 when a number of peaks on the Silver Divide were climbed, I glimpsed numerous prominent peaks north and south of the long trench of Mono Creek. A study of the Mt Abbot quad revealed several peaks, unnamed, but with precise elevations. This odyssey is concerned with the ascent of many of these numbered peaks.

On July 15th, 1972, from a point near 10,000 feet on the Rock Creek road, Bill Schuler, Kes Teter, Neko Colevins, Tom Ross, Dave Wallace, Frank Yates, and I headed west by north up a broad valley to the sharp notch of Half-Moon Pass at 11,560'+, 2.0 NNE of Mono Pass. There is a well ducked trail most of the way to the Pass. From the pass we climbed Peaks 12,252' to the northeast and 12,240'+ to the northwest. The ridge north of Half-Moon Pass presents some easy third class climbing before the plateau is reached. Both peaks had cairns, but no registers. We left registers with suggested names for these peaks. Descent from the Pass to the west presented short pitches of 3rd class before a loose sandy trail was reached, leading to Golden Lake. It is shorter and easier to proceed along the north shore of the lake.

EXCURSIONS – continued

Dave and Tom left us at the junction of the 4th Recess trail while we five continued down the Mono Creek trail to the Laurel Creek trail and up this steep lateral to a 9,800 foot camp. En route we cached food at two places.

On July 16th we all climbed Peak 11,669' via the Class 2 northeast chute – steep and loose. A cairn was found, and we left a register. We next climbed Peak 11,422' to the west and were rewarded with a first ascent, naming this peak “Blue Jay Peak”. It was Class 1. Next we climbed Peak 11,600'+, 0.3 NNW of Peak 11,669'. This is a sharp peak, and much more striking than either of the two just climbed. There was a cairn. We again left a register. We had planned to traverse the ridge to Peak 11,733'. Again we found a cairn but no register. Our plan had been to descend the northeast ridge but this was a good Class 4 ridge, and instead we dropped down a steep Class 2–3 chute just northeast of the summit. Only Bill and I elected to go for Peaks 11,553' and 11,600'+ which we climbed via the south ridge and southwest ridge respectively. Both these peaks were first ascents. Peak 11,600'+ was Class 3 for about 150 feet to the summit. Cairns and registers were left. We named the higher peak “Rosy Finch Peak”. The views from Peaks 11,733 and 11,600'+ were cinematic in scope with Red and White Mountain nearby presenting an imposing colorful pyramid. Grinnell Lake, an irregular large body of water would rival the Rae Lakes if there was more timber along its shores but it is practically barren of shoreline trees.

On Monday, we followed a trail all the way to the pass west of Red and White Mtn. We met two young backpackers here who had come up from the McGee trail via Tully and Red and White Lakes. Bidding adieu to our fellow hikers we then climbed Peak 12,238 via the Class 2 north slope. The east and southwest faces of this peak could challenge the most ardent rock climber. Not being ardent we descended the southwest ridge, climbed Peaklet 11,486' en route to Peak 11,680'+, 0.4 north-east of Mt Izaak Walton. This peak is Class 3 via the east, northwest, and southwest ridges. The various faces likewise are Class 3. It was a first ascent and we named it “Bighorn Peak”. We descended the southwest ridge and gained the saddle southeast of Mt Izaak Walton and proceeded to climb this peak and the 12,000'+ peak just 0.25 miles to the west. Since the first ascent of Izaak Walton by Schuler, Treacy, and myself last year, the peak had been climbed three times. While the other three descended to camp, Bill and I climbed Peak 11,840'+ southeast of Izaak Walton and lo – another first ascent. Return to camp was via the pass east of Rosy Finch Lake, Class 1 on both sides.

Tuesday, while Kes and Bill climbed Red and White Mountain, I climbed Peak 11,919' via a steep loose chute on the west wall of the mountain. There was a cairn, but no register on the summit. I named this peak “Grinnell Peak” for obvious reasons. It was essentially Class 2. On returning to camp we then backpacked down to camp on Mono Creek just above Fish Camp.

Wednesday saw us ascending the second recess to a point northeast of the saddle between Recess Peak and Peak 12,692', thence up said saddle, from whence all but me climbed Recess Peak. I climbed Peak 12,692' as did the others except Kes. Peak 12,692' was first climbed by Owen Williams on 8–14–37. We decided to name this peak “Williams Peak”. It is Class 2 via the northwest slope, the only easy way up.

Thursday we backpacked up Hopkins Creek to a 10,000 foot camp and then proceeded to Hopkins Pass and climbed Peak 12,000'+, 0.55 west of Mt Crocker. This double summited peak was also a first ascent, the northwest summit being higher. Frank decided to return and we four proceeded to climb Mt Crocker, Peak 12,408' and Bill, Neko and Kes went on to climb Mt Hopkins. I had climbed all these peaks (except the first ascent one) in the past. Descent from Mt Hopkins was via the steep west face, Class 2.

Friday, Bill, Frank and I climbed Peaks 12,067' and 12,178'. Peak 12,067' was first climbed on July 11, 1902 by Lincoln and J S Hutchinson and has been climbed many times since. It is Class 2 via the north ridge. The ridge over to Peak 12,178' is also Class 2. We then proceeded northward along the ridge to a point where I dropped down into the valley to the east while Bill and Frank went on to climb Peak 11,919'. On returning to camp we backpacked up Third Recess to 3rd Recess Lake via a good trail.

Saturday, Kes and Bill climbed Mt Mills via the glacier and a 3rd class rib. Crossing the glacier without crampons and ice axe was a bit hairy, but they made it. Before climbing Mt Mills, Kes, Bill, and I climbed Peak 12,356' between 3rd and 4th Recesses, and named it “Intercess Peak”. While Bill and Kes were climbing Mt Mills I ascended Peak 12,640'+, 0.75 SSW of Peak 12,356'. Both 12,356' and 12,640'+ were Class 2. On returning from Mt Mills, Bill also climbed Peak 12,640'+. Tom Ross had come in a few days earlier and climbed both these peaks, but as to who made the first ascents, no one placed such information in the registers.

On Sunday, our last day Bill and I climbed Peak 12,691', 1.9 northwest of Mt Mills. On gaining what we thought was the high point we saw to the northwest what looked like a higher and very spectacular pinnacle. The ridge between us and the true high point was pretty good, exposed Class 3. There was a cairn there but no register. Brewer was supposed to have climbed this peak but I have some reservations as to whether he climbed the spectacular pinnacle, since Brewer was not a rock climber. The return to the car was enlivened by our viewing, sideways, a young couple bathing – au naturelle – in Golden Creek. They were less abashed than we were.

The tributaries of Mono Creek offer varied climbing potentials, superb alpine and sub-alpine vistas, generally easy cross country terrain and innumerable delightful campsites. Human visitation is scarce or rather scant except for Pioneer Basin and Fourth Recess Lake. For those who wish the offbeat track for climbing, hiking, and just camping, the far reaches of the Mono Creek drainages is what the “doctor” ordered.

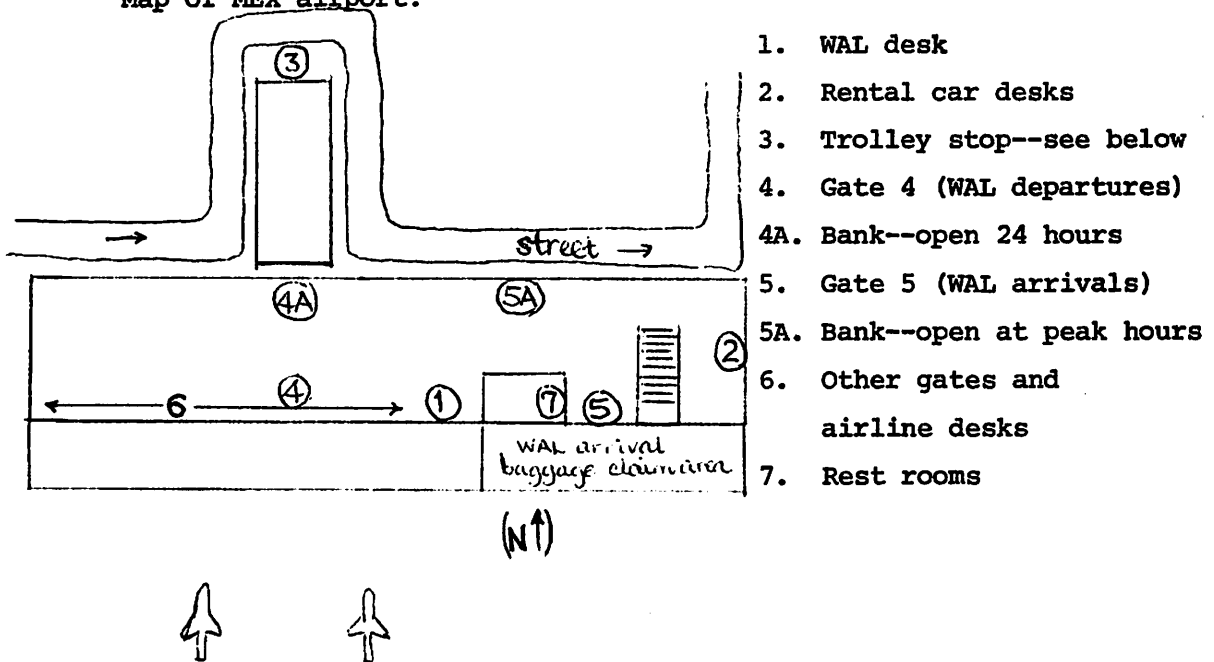
TIPS ON CLIMBING IN MEXICO

DIANA DEE

This is the first in a series of three articles based on our experience gained while climbing the three volcanoes Ixte, Popo, and Orizaba in Mexico, December 25, 1972 to January 1, 1973. This article describes how to get around in Mexico, where to stay, and similar helpful hints.

Change money at the airport in Mexico City, at the National Bank. The exchange rate there is 12.49 pesos per \$1 U.S., while hotels and shops give only 12.40. Getting \$U.S. from pesos on return is easier there, too. The bank at sale 4 (gate 4) is open 24 hours, and the one across from Western Airlines is open during peak hours.

Map of MEX airport:



Public transportation system in Mexico City: Trolleys and buses are 50 centavos per ride. (Place 50¢ on tray next to driver when you board.) The metro (underground subway) is 1.20 pesos. (Pay 1.20 at window, receive ticket, place ticket in turnstile slot to enter. Five tickets are 5.00.) (Once you ride the metro you'll be convinced that it's just what L.A. needs and mad at the politicians because we don't have one.) Maps of the metro stops are available. A map of Mexico City can be obtained at an auto rental desk. To get downtown from the airport:

a. Take the trolley marked PUERTO AERO (③ on above map) to where it turns around on Airport Blvd. under the underpass.

b. Follow the Metro signs: →

c. Take metro to downtown.

You'll most likely have to transfer once.

d. Compare 1.70 peso cost with about 30 peso cab fare, and approximately equal time!



arrow pointing to entrance; when ↓ you're there.

Spanish words--useful climbing terminology:

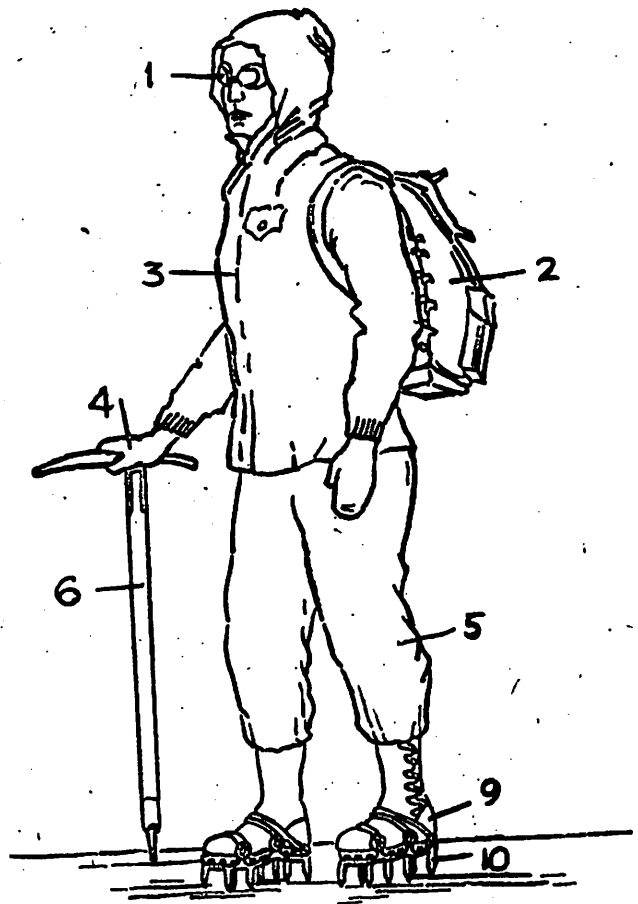
subir	v. to climb
los anteojos	glasses
los anteojos oscuros	sunglasses
la chaqueta	jacket
la chaqueta de plumón	down jacket
el sueter	sweater
la cima	summit
la ruta	route
la mapa	map

Also, see the attached illustrations.

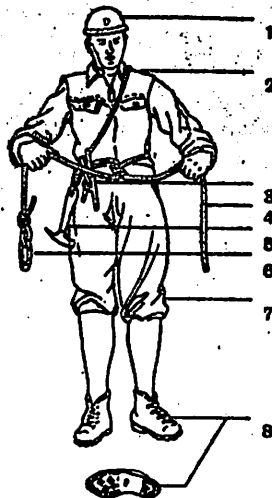
EQUIPO INDISPENSABLE PARA ALTA MONTAÑA

- 1.—Gafas de cristales ultravioleta y con parasol
- 2.—Mochila
- 3.—Rompevientos
- 4.—Guantes de lana
- 5.—Pantalón: Knicker (de golf, corto) de lana
- 6.—Piolet de preferencia suizo o austriaco
- 7.—Para nieves de cañía (polafñas)
- 8.—Medias de lana
- 9.—Botas (de ser posible de una sola pieza) con suelas de goma
- 10.—Grampones de diez puntas, de preferencia suizos o austriacos

—34—



EQUIPO Y MATERIAL INDISPENSABLE PARA EXCURSIONES A "ROCA"



- 1 CASCO: Si es posible adquirirlo, mejor. Da mayor seguridad al escalador. De MATERIAL: Metálico o de plástico, contra golpes fuertes.
- 2 CHAMARRAS: Reforzada con cuero en los hombros. Sin mangas.
- 3 CLAVIJAS: Varios tipos, si se va de guía, de contingente no es necesario.
- 4 SEGURO PERSONAL: De nylon, de 4 ó 10 m. de largo (de acuerdo al seguro que se quiera utilizar), por 11 mm. de grueso.
- 5 MARTILLO DE ESCALADA: Si se va de guía o retaguardia, de contingente no es necesario.
- 6 MOSQUETONES: Uno mínimo, si se va de contingente, varios si se va de guía.
- 7 PANTALON CORTO: Knicker (de golf corto) a lo bávaro. Como el dibujo de preferencia, aunque no necesario.
- 8 CALZADO: Botas con suela ESTRIADA o tenis en buen estado (indispensable).

Places to stay:

Mexico City: The Holiday Inn near the airport, a 7 minute walk, handy but expensive (about \$12 U.S. per day). The Hotel Metropole downtown is cheaper (about \$4 U.S. per day). Talk to Duane Crouse at Sports and Trails in La Habra (691-5919), who goes there often, about other places to stay, where they are, which cab lines to use, etc.

Puebla: Hotel Señoral, at the corner of Calle 4 Norte and Calle 6 Oriental (I have a map). It has sauna baths (!), a decent restaurant, costs about \$4 U.S. per day, and has agua purificada bottles on each floor which you can unobtrusively tap.

Ciudad Serdan: Hotel Fausto. 35 pesos for 10 people, no baths, outside toilet. Use only if you can't make it to Puebla after climbing Orizaba. The town is dead at night, but there is good pan dulce in the morning.

Rental Cars: We'd heard bad things about Hertz and Avis, so we tried Budget. The guys at the desk at the airport were friendly. We'd paid deposits on five VW's in October and I had the receipts, but two days early they said they had no record of the reservations. This is probably typical at this time of year (and of Mexico). So I "reconfirmed" the reservation, and sure enough, we got the 5 VW's when we wanted them. They say they open at 7:30 am, but don't count on them until 8. It takes a long time to fill out the papers, so I advise renting the night before, if you want an early morning start. You can get 2½ people per VW (with equipment) as we did, or you can get a large station wagon and a datsun van (which doesn't have much oomph, though) as another group did. With 2 payees per car it cost \$53 per person for the 1-week VW auto rental. Important note: Drivers must be over 25. It also helps to have a credit card.

Airplane reservations: Christmas time is impossible. Get reservations six months in advance! Make individual reservations because groups on waiting lists do not get confirmations as easily as individuals. There should be no problems of this kind at times other than Christmas and Thanksgiving. If you are "wait-listed" for a flight on New Year's Day, show up at 6 am, and you will probably go back home first class!

Western was very lax about slight overweight (you are "allowed" 55 lbs.), especially when you submit your baggage for weighing as a group. Check in ice axes as separate luggage--if you try to "carry on" they will make you check them in and then it may be too late to get them on your flight.

A useful trick: keep your MEX baggage claim checks. Then if you are meeting a later plane you can pretend you're returning to the baggage area to claim baggage and the guards at the gate will let you in; so you can meet your friends earlier.

Mexican customs is lax for incoming U.S. flights (but not for other countries!) and U.S. customs search upon returning was pretty lax for backpacks, although luggage was looked into and extra food was checked for meat.

Agua purificada: Water is available in 5-gallon bottles at the following locations:

Mexico City. Electropura S.A., Bahia Perula 34, telephone numbers 5-45-71-90 or 5-45-07-71. This information is from the phone book. I didn't get a chance to try them so I don't know where Bahia Perula 34 is.

Amecameca. The main road through Amecameca becomes 1-way, goes past the town square and continues south. Continue to where two-way traffic resumes, make a U turn, go back (N) towards the town square on the 1-way road. Two blocks before you get back to the square there is a store with a bright yellow front on the left side of the street. The 5 gallon bottles, brand Mirasol, cost 11 pesos per bottle.