

The Sierra



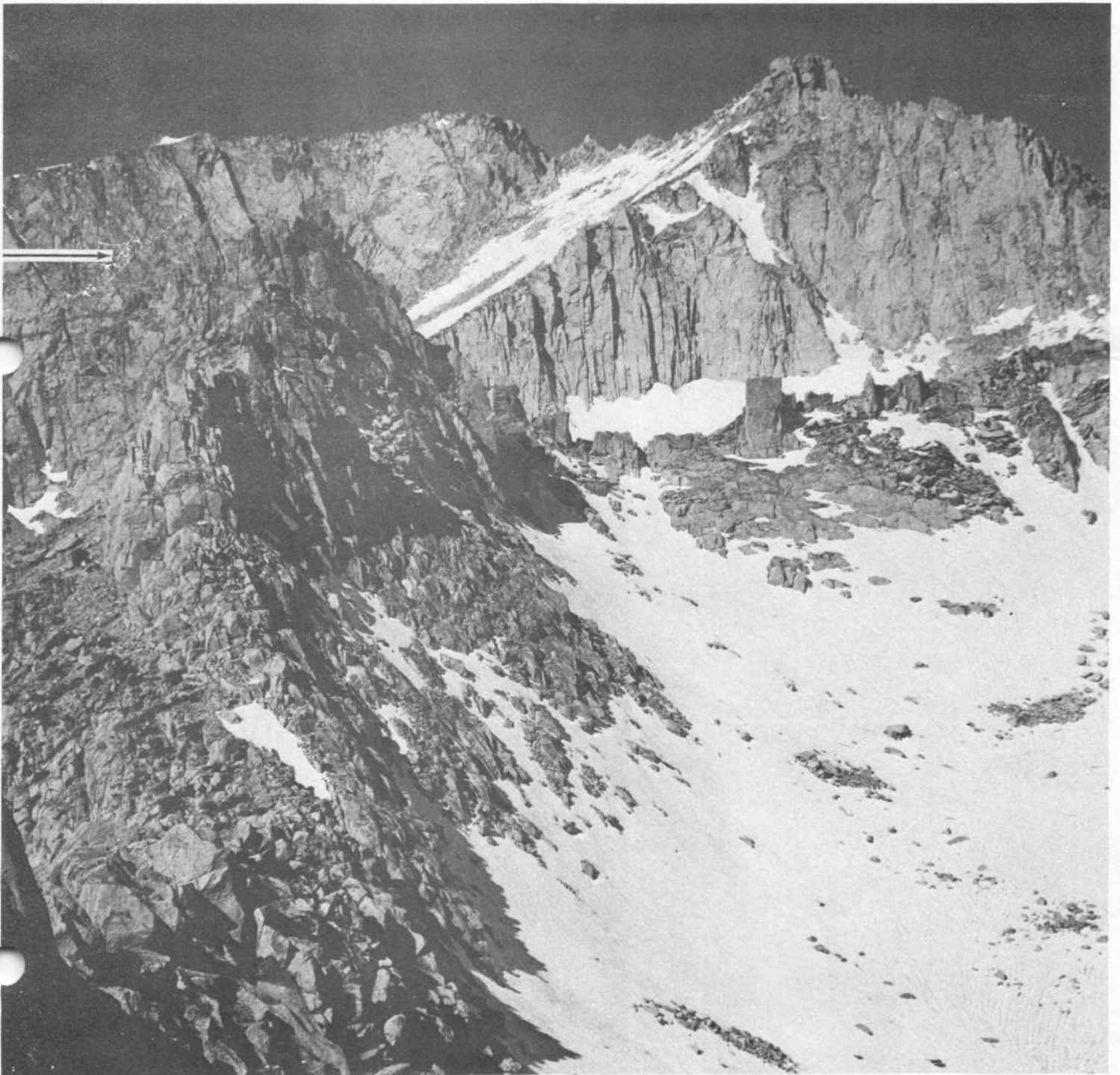
ECHO

VOLUME 17

OCTOBER

1973

NO 7



NEWS

COVER PICTURE

On July 8, 1973, **Tom Ross** shot this view of "Flake Peak" in the left foreground. Peak 12,212 (high point of the Thompson Ridge) is in the right background, and in the center background is Mt Thompson. (See story on Page 10).

THE IMPOSSIBLE IS DONE AGAIN!

On September 3, 1973, **Gordon MacLeod** became a member of a very elite group. He finished the SPS list on a solo climb of Center Peak.

Gordon not only managed to finish the list in less than 35 years, but on 20% of the climbs he was the leader, and on another 20% he climbed solo. Congratulations.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Cervenka, Jim Apt D-3051 7742 W Redlands Street, Playa Del Rey, Ca 90291 823-1343

Hammond, David 2966 Clarendon Ave, No 1, Huntington Park, Ca 90255

Moomaw, Sheldon, Jr 209792 Preston Dr, Laguna Niguel, Ca 92677 (714) 831-0868

Ruser, Gordon 5001 Galway Circle, Huntington Beach, Ca 92649 (714) 897-0075.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

The summer climbing season produced quite a group of new emblem holders. Congratulations to all of you!

Shirley Akawie
Ralph Gabiner
Jurgis Gedaugas
Alice Hawkins
May Heishi
Betty Kabler
Walton Kabler
Gene Mauk
Tom Naves
Cuno Ranschau
Barbara Reber
R J Secor.

NEW MEMBERS

As of the 10th of October we are very happy to welcome to the SPS five new members.

Kopenec, Chuck 19040 Van Owen, Reseda, Ca 91335
883-4389

Omberg, Ed and Mary 319 N Ynez, Monterey Park, Ca 91754

Snyder, Laura 27102 Woodbrook, Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca 90274

Swanstrom, Ronald 180 Merrill Place, Costa Mesa, Ca 92627.

WANTED -- CLIMBERS FOR KENYA & KILIMANJARO

I am planning to visit Kenya in January 1974, on my way back to the USA. I am planning to try Kilimanjaro on about 3 to 10 January and Kenya on about 18-25 January. Exact dates depend on arrangements possible there, and are flexible. I would be interested in knowing if anyone in the SPS would be interested in joining me in this venture. If he is interested in Kenya, he should at least be on the Mountaineers List (as I understand the mountain is Class 5); Kili is a strenuous walk, tho it is high.

Anyone interested should contact me before early November. For more details on the area, contact **Dick Sykes**. My address is -

Richard M Jali
c/o Peace Corps
Kolej, Tanjong Lobang
Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia.

THAT'S A NO NO!

An LA man was convicted and pled guilty to stealing records and money belonging to the U S Government. He broke into a collection box in an Inyo National Forest campground.

He was sentenced to three years probation, 60 days in jail, and that he commit no violations of Federal, State, County or City ordinances other than minor traffic; and that he not operate coinoperated equipment in the custody of the Federal Government.
-*Inyo National Forest News*, 9/26/73

GONE

Seated one midnight on the cruddy arete,
I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly
Over my Chouinard pitons,
And I know not which to favor,
For none would do the job.
But I remembered my trusty ice axe
And I drove it in up to the hilt
Secured by a rusty tent pin.

I trusted my life to this makeshift contrivance
As I dove off on a swooping rappel.
I soared through the lustrous moonlight
Down into that awful couloir.
But I had loosened a monumental avalanche
So I bounced with the boulders and brick-bats
While the canyon reverberated with the roar.
So, my advice to you Devils Crag seekers
is, "Oh please bring back my ice axe to me."
(with apologies to "The Lost Chord")

-Harvey Mudfoote

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REFLECTIONS OF THE FIRST CHAIRMAN

It was just 18 years ago this month (October, 1955) that the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee approved the Charter and By-laws for the Sierra Peaks Section and our SPS officially became a going concern. Now I read my *Echo*, see all the new names that I do not know, but I am gratified that we have such a vital, active group — it has been such from the beginning.

Now I am concluding a very active summer of hiking, climbing, backpacking, and camping in the Cascades and Olympics. With a few friends I have such wild, remote areas as Royal Basin in the Olympics, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area of the Central Cascades, and the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. This coming weekend (Oct 6-7) two friends and I are going to backpack into the heart of the vast Pasayten Wilderness Area of the North Cascades, adjacent to the Canadian border. I have enjoyed the Pasayten before; it is so wild that it contains Washington State's only resident population of grizzly bears, and so wild that it is possible to hike and explore the area for days without seeing another human being. This is the way it used to be in many areas of the Sierra when I began hiking and climbing in the Range of Light, in the early '50's. My soul expands in high, wild country like the Pasayten, just as it used to expand in the Kern-Kaweah Basin, the Milestone Basin, Triple Divide country, northern Yosemite, Sequoia's Tableland and Cloud Canyon, Nine Lakes Basin in the Great Western Divide out of Mineral King, the Sphinx Lakes-Brewer area, and even the Kern Plateau.

At age 47, I can and do carry a 50-lb pack for 3 days to a week, on trail and off, for 50 to 80 miles or so. I weigh 160 pounds and keep myself hard as nails by daily jogging, hiking, and calisthenics in Seattle's fine system of forest and waterfront parks. Love of the mountains and wilderness, plus keeping in good physical condition, should carry any of you through life's hard knocks. It has for me!

Good luck to all of you with whom I hiked and climbed in the 50's and 60's, and to those of you whom I do not know personally.

—Sierrally, **Frank D Sanborn**



AN ACCIDENT

by R J Secor

A buddy of mine wanted to see what a leader fall would feel like. I laughed as I thought of the sight of him being pulled in half from a wooden barrel filled with rocks falling twenty feet. What eventually happened had me laughing last.

I pulled the empty barrel to the top of a bridge (a sixty-foot free fall) using a rope and pulley system with a ratio of 1:1. I tied a rope at the bottom and proceeded to the top of the bridge. At the top of the bridge I filled the barrel with rocks. I then climbed down to the bottom of the bridge and untied the rope. Unfortunately, the barrel was heavier than I.

Halfway up, the barrel and I collided — and it produced a rather large bruise on my right shoulder. I continued upward and my head hit squarely on the beam that the pulley was tied to. Next, the barrel hit the ground with such force that the bottom of the barrel broke open, and all the rocks fell out. Now I was heavier than the barrel.

Halfway down, the barrel and I met again, and it produced a large abrasion on my left knee. When I reached the bottom I landed on the rocks.

At this point I was so distraught that I let go of the rope. The barrel returned to the ground again and rendered me unconscious.

My buddy enjoyed this spectacle very much. He almost laughed the kidneys out of himself.

Vibram Soles?

On that long trek outback, having the right footwear makes all the difference. Some parties in your expedition may want these Dog Boots. Made from sueded leather, they have laces and are the kind worn by real "working sheep-dogs and cattle dogs." What's more, they adjust to a wide range of paw sizes and shapes. Custom orders available, too, for very large or small mutts. Set of four: \$6. For first-class delivery add 50¢ per set. From Austral Enterprises, Box 70190, Seattle, Wa. 98107.



ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ten Years Ago in the SPS

by Ron Jones

A group of approximately 20 people, including more than 1/3 girls, car-camped at Horse Meadow in the Southern Sierra on a weekend trip led by **John Robinson** and **Miles Brubacher**. Taylor Dome, Sirota Peak, Rockhouse, and Cannell Peak were climbed by groups ranging from five to twenty people. Weather was clear but cold (25°). The new Management Committee for 1964 was recently elected. **Frank Sanborn**, **John Robinson**, **Miles Brubacher**, **Barbara Lilley**, and **George Shinno** were selected and offices were determined at a later meeting. On Labor Day, **Frank Sanborn**, founder of the SPS, finally earned his emblem on a private trip to Mount Abbott. Among Frank's emblem qualifiers was Needham, a peak near Sawtooth in Mineral King, which had emblem status for only one year. Big Kaweah was later selected as a more noteworthy emblem peak. New section members joining at this time included **Ellen Siegal**, **Don Lauria**, **Dave Scruggs**, and **Ron Dickenson**. New emblem holders were **Garver Light**, **R J Furnoy**, and **David Cubberly**. This brought the section membership to 173 with 53 emblem holders.

CALENDAR

SPS 1973 FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE

1973

- Nov 3-4 Rock Climb Practice – SPS and LTC – Dennis Lantz
- Nov 10-11 Owens Peak, Pilot Knob – HPS and SPS – Paul Kellow, John Zlatic
- Nov 10-11 North Maggie, Mt Moses – Doug Mantle, George Hubbard

1974

- Jan 19 Beginners Snowshoe, Local Mountains – SPS and Snow Touring – George Toby, Don Beverage
- Jan 19-20 Rock Climb Practice- SPS and LTC – Dennis Lantz, Dan Eaton
- Feb 2-3 Ice Axe Practice, Mt Baldy – Diana Dee, Dennis Lantz, Paul Lipsohn, Gene Mauk, Duane McRuer, Tom Rosenweig, Roy Ward
- Feb 16-17 Winter Climb in Sierra – Horace Ory, Diana Dee



ASCENTS

MOUNT AGASSIZ, MOUNT GOODE, July 19-20 George Toby, Beverly Schultz

This was a real fun outing and gives considerable credence to the Chairman's call for more easier trips, and attests to the popularity of easy climbs. Twenty-five persons signed up; 24 made the trip. The one no-show had car trouble. Parking at the South Lake road-head is a bear. Only **Paul Kellow** was able to obtain a spot at roads end in the backpackers parking area. He arrived Friday afternoon. The rest of us parked 3 miles down the road below the pack station.

We had an easy hike in to a superb campsite on the ridge between Saddlerock Lake and Bishop Lakes. Saturday afternoon 23 climbed Mt Goode. There was just enough snow to warrant taking ice axes, but too many rocks poking out for a good glissade down. We had a good mixture of regular SPSers and newcomers. **Dick Ramirez** and **Bernie Petitjean** kept the campfire bull session going with their tall tales. Dick told his usual two jokes. He changes the wording a bit to make them sound new. Remember the one about seducing the tiger – next time it will be a gorilla.

Sunday dawned bright and clear. We hit the trail early to beat another Sierra Club group from San Diego to the summit of Agassiz. We left a couple of sick ones in camp and 21 made the peak. We climbed directly up the left side of the long rock rib that points directly at Bishop Pass. It goes all the way to the summit without changing chutes. We avoided the prominent snow chute to the east of the rib. It was filled with soft snow and loose rock debris. It was so pleasant at the top we hated to come down. With perfect weather we could see half the Sierra. Everyone had a great time, Class 2 climbing, no rush, no problems. All out to the cars by early afternoon.

HIGHLAND PEAK, DISASTER PEAK, July 28-29 Doug Mantle

How refreshing it was to welcome 15 climbers who scoffed at "the emblem" and scrambled up these pleasant northern peaks for fun and fellowship, not for the fleeting pin!

We began from the bridge on the Highland Lakes Road just off Ebetts Pass. A quick gain brought us to the horseshoe ridge which we circled to Highland Peak, despite a brief show of lightning. While the gain (4500') was moderate, we still managed an exuberant car camp at Highland Lake, including the very finest cheap wine available, a Frisbee exhibition, and a fire which blazed heartily, thanks to the compendious efforts of **Tim Treacy**.

Disaster was climbed almost from camp, mostly by trail – without incident. We returned to LA in good time, having driven 800 miles roundtrip, and perhaps refreshing our minds as to what peakbagging is all about.

BANNER PEAK, August 18-19 Harry Brumer

The scheduled assistant leader could not make the trip so **Bill Stauffer** was asked and he immediately said yes (*before I gave him the First Aid Kit to carry*). He even took that good naturedly. The trip to Thousand Island Lake was made without difficulty. On the way in, 6 climbers ascended San Joaquin, and 4 climbers went on to do Two Teats. The evening at the lake was quite comfortable and beautiful.

The next morning 12 of the 13 climbers elected to climb Banner Peak. The ascent was made easily on soft snow and the weather was good. The return to camp was made in quick order with a majority of the group reaching the cars by 6 PM.

Several members of the group elected to stay in an extra day. In this case a complication arose when a worried person at home made multiple phone calls to various people causing much trouble to the section chairman as I was unavailable. Please keep this in mind if you are going to stay over any extra days, make some arrangements so that those people at home will not be unnecessarily worried.

MT WHITNEY via the Mountaineer's Route, August 25-26 Bob Ayers

Fourteen persons - 11 of them non-SPS - joined the leaders, **Dennis Lantz** and **Bob Ayers**, at 7:30 at Whitney Portal on a fine Saturday. The group proceeded up the north fork of Lone Pine Creek via the Ebersbacher Ledge Route. A leisurely lunch break was held above the unnamed lake SSW of Clyde Meadow at about 11,600'. From this point, ten persons climbed Thor (Class 2 from the NNW, although we managed to find some easy 3). The other six proceeded to East Face (Iceberg) Lake, and were joined by the Thor group around 5 PM. The sun sets early when you are under the east face of Whitney, and that, together with the strong winds, produced early sack-outs.

The Sunday dawn was greeted at 5:30, but it wasn't a very encouraging dawn, as heavy grey clouds covered the sky. The leader was asked to speak with the gods, and he implored the god Huey that there be no rain. The group then set out for the chute of the Mountaineer's Route. About a third of the way up, it became clear that Huey had listened to the leader, for instead of rain, the clouds began to leak snow.

The chute was ascended without difficulty by staying mainly on the north side - sometimes quite high on the north side. After reaching the crest at the top of the chute, the group began ascending the rocks to the left. Most of the group had made the Class 2 1/2 move at the start of the rocks and the vanguard was about 60 feet up when the leaders decided that the snow (two or three inches had accumulated and it was still falling) was raising the difficulty of the rock enough to make continuing inadvisable.

The group was belayed down the lower section of rock, with the leaders rapelling. (*After you've belayed eight or ten people while sitting on a snow-covered ledge, a duffersitz on quarter inch goldline doesn't seem to bother your posterior at all...*) Then down the somewhat slippery chute to camp. On the way out, we escaped from the snow somewhere between Upper and Lower Boy Scout Lakes. Views back toward the peak were impressive, with the east face being covered and uncovered by swirling clouds.

After a lunch at Lower Boy Scout Lake, we were out to the Portal around three.

MOUNTS LYELL AND MACLURE, August 25-26 Paul Lipsohn, Diana Dee, Barbara Magnuson

Low lying clouds scudding along the northern valley seemed to add to the chill of the morning as our group gathered at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Parking lot.

After a brief delay to be certain that 12 were all we were to collect of a once full trip, we picked our way through the maze of trails and were soon swinging comfortably down the beautiful Lyell Canyon. The trip down canyon went rapidly and uneventfully, and we reached our base camp site about 1 PM. (Leave the Muir Trail about 1 mile below Donahue Pass, follow a secondary trail southwest about 1 mile and 400 feet of gain to good campsites at 10,800').

Following lunch and tent pitching amidst more threatening skies, 10 of the group decided to go for the peaks that afternoon, with **Roy Ward** offering to accompany me on the following day.

While we contemplated the rapid deterioration in the weather situation, **Dick Akawie** appeared with his group of seven that had served as advance guard, hiking in on Friday, climbing the peak Saturday morning. Shortly after Dick's group returned to their campsite 500 feet below us, we were rejoined by one of our group that had had enough; about 6 PM by three who want Mt Lyell only; and about 8 PM by the remaining six.

The night, punctuated with gusty winds and snow showers, passed rapidly enough for those not trapped in a tube-tent cocoon. (My resolve to carry the extra 3-4 pounds more of tent seems to weaken at the trail head as I rationalize that I probably won't need the tube tent even.)

As Roy and I rolled out at 5:30, our decision to wait a day looked bad. A whiteout covered the peak and extended down to about 200' above our camp. Nevertheless, we prepared to climb, and by 6:30 things looked a bit more promising, with a few holes appearing here and there. Leaving most of our friends still in the sack, we got moving and were soon on the glacier looking down on the whiteout. Following expert directions, we had no trouble crossing the bergschrund, and hit the top, whereupon Roy announced

LYELL, MACLURE continued

this to be his emblem peak. The lack of views and the weather coming and going precluded any lengthy stay, and we returned to the saddle, scrambled up (and down) Mt MacLure, and headed back to base camp. Snow flurries proved our fears well founded, and by the time we had packed up, it was snowing heavily.

Chasing the rest of our party proved futile with their four hour start, so we dropped to the Lyell Fork and had the traditional lunch of champagne and peanut butter before the long hike out.

Passing through the numerous meadows, swathed in a poncho with corn snow the size of moth balls pouring down seemed sort of like hiking in a popcorn machine, and we were glad enough to regain the car about 5 PM.

In talking with Barbara later, I discovered that Ed Rose gained his emblem on Mt Lyell on Saturday, and that they had reached the meadow about 12:30, nearly coincident with the snowstorm.

MOUNT BREWER, September 1-3 Phil Bruce

By 7:30 Saturday morning all fourteen people had signed in. We departed right on time, but within one mile 2 people signed out saying that they were in the wrong league. So 12 people continued on and arrived at East Lake at 5 PM. The night was warm, but there was a little frost at the higher levels.

Sunday morning 11 of us started for the peak about 7 AM with 1 person remaining in camp. Our route was the ridge between the south and middle forks of Ouzel Creek (*Mountaineer's Guide*, Mount Brewer, Route 2). All 11 people made the peak just after 11 AM. After a good rest, food, and fun, we returned to East Lake and moved our camp to Junction Meadow by 4 PM.

Monday morning at 7 AM we started out for our 3500' gain back to the cars and Coors. We arrived at the roadhead about 1 PM.

Austins' malt stop seemed to be the converging point for all the SPS Labor Day weekend trips, and the Sierra Peaks membership was well represented by members from the Brewer, Darwin, and Williamson trips.

MT WILLIAMSON, MT TYNDALL, September 1-3 Dick Searle, Fran Smith

On Saturday morning 18 people backpacked from the roadhead to a lake at the top of Shepard Pass. Dick Searle and Betty Kabler continued on and climbed Mt Tyndall by the northwest Class 2 route to get a good view of the route up Mt Williamson.

On Sunday we left camp at 6:30 AM to climb Williamson by the Class 3 northwest-side route. Be sure to take the left-hand chute above the watermarks as stated in the *Mountaineer's Guide*. The old *Climber's Guide* has you take the right chute then left, and this leads to a more complex route not suitable for a large group. The route is a 98% Class 2 chute with a moderate 50-foot Class 3 chimney at the top. All persons except one made the summit. We arrived on top at 11:45 and after an hour of the usual lunch and pictures with a clear sky and temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees -- we returned to camp arriving at 3:30 PM.

On a 3-day trip the lake at the top of the pass is a good place to camp. It is moderately close to Williamson and Tyndall. It is also close to the trail which minimizes hauling a pack cross-country. There is no wood -- last wood is near Anvil Camp.

Monday morning Fran Smith led a group up Tyndall by the Class 3 northeast route. The ascent took about 2 hours and the descent about 1 1/2 hours. This route is cleaner and faster than the Class 2 northwest route, and is not materially more difficult. All members were on the trail out by 11 AM and reached the roadhead by about 3:30 PM.

TOWER PEAK, September 15-16 Doug Mantle

Fine weather and stout determination enabled eight of us to carry out the 35-mile trek to Tower Peak. To further enable us to climb the peak on the first day we unfortunately found it necessary to all but carry in May Heishi.

A moderate pace brought us to a fine camp a mile below Tower Lake by 3 PM. From the lake one proceeds to the obvious saddle to the south, thence traversing mostly below the ridge on the right to the final "staircase gully" -- a hundred feet up a broad, solid, low Class 3 chute. We descended to camp, which we stumbled upon thanks to a fire manned by Graham Stephenson.

A fine evening, a late start -- none of this precluded us from visiting our favorite Hot Creek, and arriving home around midnight.

Warning: Below Tower Lake one sees a magnificent rock tower which is *not* the peak, but which from three sides could provide one whale of a climb.

CENTER PEAK (12,760'), MOUNT BRADLEY (13,289'), September 22-23 Ron Jones

On the first day of Fall, eleven climbers met at Onion Valley to welcome the opening day of the Sierra deer season with a climb into Center Basin. **Fran Smith** was supposed to be assistant leader but was at home suffering from poison oak – so **Norm Rohn** and **Fred Hoepfner** graciously served as alternating assistants at various times on the trip. After backpacking more than 3,000 feet elevation gain over the Sierra Crest we all made it to our base camp at Golden Bear Lake. The weather was nice but deteriorated a bit while the fishermen in the group started on a successful afternoon of catching trout and the sybarites luxuriated doing nothing for an hour and a half. Finally at 3 in the afternoon, five pleasure seekers decided to add another 1600 feet elevation gain to their day's accomplishment and a rocky ascent of Center Peak by the east face was made. On the summit a cold wind began to blow scudding clouds into Center Basin. And by nightfall the weather looked rather bad.

However, the next morning dawned reasonably clear and looked improving so five climbers clawed their way up the easy but scree-filled first class route on the west face of Bradley while four others successfully attacked Center Peak. Everyone was back to the cars by 7:30 in the evening. Only 2 hunters were seen over the weekend. Many thanks should go to **Walter** and **Dave Choate** for sharing their fine catches of trout with many trip members.

MT MILLS, MT ABBOTT, September 29-30 Howard Stephens, Tom Cardina

Since an unscheduled climb of Mt Abbott had been arranged by some participants and **Tom Cardina**, a small group of climbers gathered in the cold morning at Mosquito Flat roadhead at 7 AM, to leave for camp at Mills Lake – going in via the Mono Pass Trail and Ruby Lake. The balance of the group, which totaled 28 in all, left at 8 AM for a leisurely hike to camp. The early group arrived in camp before 10 AM and were off for Abbott before 11 AM. We proceeded directly up by the moraine to the base of the northeast face. After looking over a large icy chute next to the northeast buttress, we decided to head directly up the face for the summit plateau. The route goes very well as high 3rd with a few exposed 4th class moves. No rope was needed and we were on the summit at 1:45. It was a warm pleasant day and the views were superb. **Ted Pinson** won his emblem on this climb so the traditional champagne was opened and passed around to the eight climbers. We descended via the north ridge and the east side until we reached the ice and snow again. Since we were not equipped for crossing the ice, we contoured around the base of the peak between the wall and the ice and snow. The route goes very well and we reached a spot where there was only a short patch of ice and snow to cross to the moraine. We arrived back in camp in good time, still daylight. Had a great campfire and planned the climb of Mills for Sunday.

All were up at 6:30 AM and on the way by 7:45. We headed up to the east face and took the route described in the *Mountaineer's Guide* over the chockstone in the 3rd chute from the Abbott-Mills col. The biggest problem is getting around the chockstone and staying clear of loose rock and debris coming down from above. This took some time as we had 18 people to get up. I believe this is the largest group the SPS has ever taken up to Mills. We negotiated the chute, crossed left near the top and headed for the summit. It was a beautiful morning and the views were clearer than the day before. All took time and wandered over the plateau looking into the recesses. The trip down went fairly fast until the chockstone, where most were belayed down over it. All got down safely and out to the cars by 4 PM. It was a great weekend! We had a total of 12 people on Abbott, 2 on Morgan, 18 on Mills and 2 attempted but did not make Bear Creek Spire.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

DEVIL'S CRAG, September 1-3 Ed Treacy

Almost all those who weren't climbing emblem peaks this weekend strolled up to the Rambaud Lakes for what, for some of us, had unhappily become the annual Labor Day assault on Devil's Crag. **Dave King** and **Doug Mantle** were to climb it via *Guide* Route 3 – sort of. They got into enough Class 5 to satiate temporarily even them, almost certainly ascending via a new route, and may well have been the first team to go up the northeast face without the use of pitons – nuts all the way. **Roy** and **Barbara Magnuson** climbed via *Guide* Route 1 and the rest – **Tren Bartlett**, **Bill Feldman**, **Mark Goebel**, **Bill Sander**, and **Ed Treacy** used Route 2. This latter route starts at "White Top", a uniquely-colored peaklet at the head of Devil's Crag's northwest arete, goes along the southwest side of the arete for about 300 yards, gradually dropping 100 feet to the entry point of a prominent chute. It then goes up this chute about 150 feet and onto the buttress bordering the chute's south side. Then 100 feet exposed Class 3 up the buttress and onto the crest of the Devil's Crag ridge. Another 50 feet along the crest and into a notch where Routes 1 and 2 join. Route 2 goes quite smoothly to this point, thus is considered a better choice than Route 1. The latter includes a 600-foot elevation loss and only eliminates one pitch of any significance – the 100 feet up the buttress. Also, the entry into Route 1's diagonal chute is not so very easy to find (that's what wiped four of us out a year ago). All were on the summit for lunch, basking in a glorious September sun, and wondering what to do next Labor Day.

Ezra Krendel's private climb in the Wilds of the East is a contribution to enable him to remain on the active SPS list. Since he was unable to schedule a trip West this season, the following trip report constitutes his official SPS participation. —Ed

From August 24 through August 30, two SPSers and their associates braved the humidity and heat of the East to peak bag in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. This is the part of our country where 4000'ers are on a list!

Duane McRuer, Ezra Krendel and daughter Jenny, and Bill Uptegrove, skilled guide to the hills, dales, and bogs of the Adirondacks, started from Elk Lake at 9:20 AM to climb Mt Marcy and such peaks of opportunity as might present themselves. The humidity, heat, ups and downs of the terrain, damnable wet roots, wet lichen covered rocks and trail mire made for a long day. Our rests were frequent and long, and although we did move smartly in the tradition of SPS death marches at times, the day was a long one. Duane and Ezra covered 12.5 miles and 3850' of gain — a little more than the others since they bagged Skylight en route to Marcy. The first day ended at 9:00 PM after our stalwart party ceased their stumbling over roots, flashlights in hand, and bivouaced on what I believe was the only flat area on the ADK trail system that was not under water. The next day we walked out — about 11 miles, 2000' gain, and bagged Haystack, Saddleback, and Basin en route. There was some low Class 3 on Basin, a welcome relief from trail conditions and some stretches of Class 6 in a light rain. We reached the trail head where one of our two cars was parked at the "Garden" at 7:15 PM. Bill Uptegrove, in a brief but meaningful ceremony, presented Duane with the ADK Forever Wild and Clammy award and then prepared to hit the sack as Duane, Jenny and I left for Vermont. Duane, who had worn his eastern-made Limmer boots on this trip — to the admiring remarks of cognoscenti who noticed them but not the emblems on his hat — realized by this time why they were so appropriate for Northeastern woodlands. The unusually large sole acts to spread the bearer's weight, as do snowshoes, and is singularly appropriate for marching through muck.

August 27 had to be Monday since we dashed up Mt Mansfield that day. Despite the debilitating tropical environment we did the 2845' gain and 2.5 miles in 1 hour and 35 minutes. Down and off to the White Mountains with a brief stop to photograph a memorial and potential roadside shrine to T S C Lowe.

After spending the night at the AMC lodge at Pinkam Notch — showers, library, good beds, etc we left at 8:45 AM on August 28 for Mt Washington under inauspicious circumstances. Thunderstorms, clouds, 40-50 mph winds were all predicted for the summit area. We climbed starting under tropical conditions and rapidly entered into rainy mist above tree line. Fortunately the temperature remained in the 50's and 60's and chill was a minor problem. Visibility was often limited to one cairn's distance — about 25 yards — on the well marked trails. We reached the AMC Lakes of the Clouds Hut at noon and planned to spend the night after climbing Mt Washington and Mt Monroe.

The Mount Washington register was in a snack bar run by the State of New Hampshire. Some of the attendants were dressed in an approximation to Tyrolean costume. These circumstances caused one of the SPSers to refuse to sign the register even though this was the only register we would encounter on the Eastern Peak Bagging Special. On our descent to the AMC hut, the skies cleared and we had lovely clear views of the "meadows" skirting the summit of Mount Washington. We thus experienced in a nonrisky fashion the fickle weather of this area.

Our evening after dinner at the hut — meals and lodging were available for \$11/person — was spent reading from their selective library. The following quotation from this reading is appended because our little party felt it has redeeming social value.

"The man who climbs with hand as well as foot commands a double realm, unless he be foolish enough to remain a rock athlete and nothing more; he keeps the old romance of the adventurer in trackless wilds, and is able to go with confidence on precipitous slopes and airy ridges that he used to shun. He can revel in the distant view and he can walk securely in the grimest mountain fastnesses, where Nature may be seen at work shaping the beautiful effects which look so well in the background of the picture which the aesthete prefers."★

On August 29, Duane and Jenny descended via the Crawford trail getting Eisenhower, Clinton, Jackson, and Franklin. They needed them. I descended more directly to our car, drove around to meet them and on to Maine and Katahdin.

Cleverly prepared for all emergencies with a tourguide provided by the Automobile Club of Southern California, we managed to find a restaurant in Bangor, Maine, which removed three lobsters from their vault and served them to us. Thus fortified, we proceeded to the Black Cat Mountain Lodge in East Millinocket which was to serve as base camp for our assault on Katahdin. We started the climb at 8:30 AM on August 30. Stopped at a lovely spring and proceeded in the unprecedented 90 degree heat up the slopes. Katahdin is more akin to a Sierra Peak than any of the others we climbed. The cirques and ravines are precipitous and forbidding, and the rock is granite. We climbed Pomola via the Helon Taylor trail on the southern ridges bordering the basin, crossed the knife-edge to Baxter and proceeded after lunch along the periphery of the great basins to Caribou Spring. A Maniac had assured us that it was the "best water on the mountain". He was right. We then descended over Hamlin and down the northern ridge and returned in a rain over provokingly slippery lichens to our car at 6:10 PM. Total gain 4320'. 12 miles. The knife-edge could be difficult in rain and snow but in fair weather it is just a ridge walk. We delighted in the changeable weather — clear views and swirling mists.

On our return to base camp, Jenny opened our champagne and proposed a toast "To Peakbaggers". I'm afraid the disease is highly contagious!

The next morning Duane drove down to Boston for his LA flight, and Jenny and I continued on to Swarthmore.

★ Ernest A Baker, D Lit, MA, *The Highlands with Rope and Rucksack*, H F and G Witherby, London (1923), p 15

CHIMBORAZO NO – COTOPAXI SI

by Barbara Lilley

Altho West Ridge's trip was cancelled, four – **Mark Goebel, Vera Watson, Barbara Lilley, and Richard Thurmer** – did go to Ecuador, aided by the most helpful assistance of **Vincent Ramos** of Aerolinas Argentinas. After an overnight stop in Bogotá, Columbia, which included a quick tour of the city (*most interesting was the Museum of Gold*), they arrived in Quito on September 8 and accompanied by 2 Ecuadorian climbers, rode a chartered bus to the roadhead (Pogyo, 13,000') for Chimborazo. A night's sleep there enabled them to recover from the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning from the bus ride, and they climbed to the refugio at 16,000' on September 9, with horses supplied by the Indians at Pogyo toting their gear. To obtain ice for melting for water involved a 400' climb above the hut. On September 10 acclimatization hike in clouds and strong winds was made to the Red Walls at 18,500'.

Unfortunately, altho September may be the best month conditioning-wise for US climbers to climb Chimborazo, the best climbing months are January thru May and only with very good luck on the weather is it climbed at other times of

the year. So, after 3 more days of storm in the leaky hut including a pre-dawn attempt which was turned back at 18,000', they returned to Pogyo on September 13. Via various means of transportation, including a truck which was shared by 30 people and 30 sheep (*it's better to wait for the bus*), they reached Machachi and hired a taxi to drive them to 13,300' on Cotopaxi (*which has better weather*) that night. After dark, in a snowstorm, they reached the new refugio at 16,000' only to find it locked – the caretaker had left for the night! So they retreated to an older hut at 15,000' where they spent the night without much food or water.

Mark, in disgust, and Richard, who had altitude problems ("sorroche"), returned to Quito on Friday while Vera, Barbara and the 2 Ecuadorians climbed up again to the now open hut – which had running water – for the night. Putting on crampons in the hut, a 4:30 AM start on September 15, under clear skies, saw all four on the summit of Cotopaxi (19,343') by noon (*unfortunately in a cloud*) after a moderately steep snow climb with some crevasses. They were back to the hut by 3:15 PM and out to the taxi by 5:00 PM. After a good Ecuadorian meal and beverages in Quito Saturday night, they flew back to LA on September 16.

ARROW, PYRAMID, RUSKIN, MARION, August 11–13 Ed Treacy

It was Paul's idea – what better way to spend a moonlit night than by doing something stimulating like, say, packing up Taboose Pass. Well, there's at least one better activity but nevertheless **Doug Mantle** and **Ed Treacy** set out with **Paul Lipsohn** to stretch the weekend a little. We'd hike up to the pass Friday night and spend Saturday/Sunday scrambling up available peaks. This we did. Taboose Pass went surprisingly easily; five and a half hours of cool hiking put us just below the pass on the east side shortly after midnight and in excellent position for Saturday's climb of Arrow and Pyramid.

Climbed Arrow relying on *Guide* Route 3 and **Graham Stephenson's** advice to hold the elevation constant while traversing from Bench Lake. The optimum route to Pyramid is obvious from Arrow. Requires about three hours and, unfortunately, entails dropping to about 11,000 feet. Some easy three was encountered in gaining Pyramid's west wall. To avoid losing elevation unnecessarily we returned to camp via Pyramid's north ridge – sharp, three and four all the way to its saddle. Then more three and four as the route dropped into the cirque 3/4 mile north of Pyramid and the adjacent basin north of that.

Sunday started up Ruskin with some initial hesitation. We misidentified a prominent pinnacle at the end of a minor ridge as the Vennacher Needle; then, of course, the topo wouldn't fit. After much pro and conning, stream counting and lake identification, we lit a couple of candles and took off up the south side of what turned out to be Ruskin's east ridge. The route went well, moderate three to the ridge then two to the summit with the exception of a couple of three moves. The traverse to Marion coincidentally also requires about three hours but very easy – after one gets off Ruskin. For this **Andy Smatko's** description (*Echo* 5–5) was helpful – drop down Ruskin's Class 3 south ridge 150 feet then into the Class 2 chute. From Marion returned to camp via Marion's drainage into the south fork of the Kings River. Half the world's population of mosquitoes and most of the existant aspen are to be found in this region. Between getting eaten alive, flayed, and falling into the river, the return trip was one of those total wilderness experiences without which one can do – well, totally. **R J Secor** met us in camp; he'd built the perfect fire, most welcome at that late hour. Monday we split – Paul and Ed to return to the trenches, Doug and R J to continue on-and-on-and-on.

RODGERS, ELECTRA, August 25–26 Ed Treacy

There's a bunch of ways to get to Rodgers, but how do you do it without really trying? **Tren Bartlett, Dave King, Doug Mantle, Bill Sanders, and Ed Treacy** used Lower Marie Lake as the easy way. There is a trail to that lake, its departure point from the John Muir Trail is posted. Wood and good camp sites (for small groups) are available. Approached Rogers via the gentle saddle directly south of Upper Marie Lake, traversed south a half mile at a constant elevation, climbed to Rodgers' northeast ridge, then two and easy three with a couple of exposed moves to the summit. About two hours from Lower Marie Lake. We were astonished to find the original register on Rodgers, placed by Solomons in 1897. Continued traversing the ridge to Electra, going over some three and four in the 2 1/2 hours it took to make the traverse. Returned to camp by dropping off Electra's northeast slope into the basin east of the Rodgers/Electra ridge, and continuing home, keeping it as simple as possible. Had to lose 400/500 feet. The round trip via Marie Lakes is 30 miles or so, but with only 8,000 feet of gain it goes pretty well.

SOME NON-SCHEDULED CLIMBS

by Andy Smatko

In the following accounts, there are ascents of several peaks that may interest the "off-track" climber.

On the weekend of June 17-18, **Barbara Lilley, Tom Ross, Bill Schuler, Bill Sanders, Sheldon Moomaw, Dr Jaime Paris**, his son **John**, and I backpacked 4,000' up Tinemaha Creek to a campsite at about 10,000' in a little shallow canyon just south of Tinemaha Creek. Barbara, Tom and I explored up to barren Tinemaha Lake, about 2/3rds unfrozen. On Sunday all except Dr Paris and John climbed Peak 12,573 via the Class 2 north slope. The summit rocks were easy Class 3. **Ed Lane** had climbed it but his was admittedly not a first ascent. While Bill and Sheldon then went on to climb Mt Tinemaha via the easy Class 1-2 west ridge, Barbara, Tom, Bill Sanders, and I climbed Peak 12,627 along the south side of the ridge - easy Class 1-2. With its location between Split and Tinemaha, we christened it Mt Splinemaha. Descent was via the chute leading north from the saddle between the two peaks. Mt Splinemaha had a cairn but no register.

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The next trip was on June 23-24 and comprised, as personnel, **Bill Schuler, Bill Sanders, Barbara Lilley, Tom Ross, Doug Phillips, Dr David Wallace, Ed Treacy** and I. We backpacked into the Hilton Lakes from the Rock Creek road. Altho the topo shows no trail, there was one to the first lake at 10,400'. That same afternoon Barbara, Doug, Tom, and I climbed Peak 12,318, 0.8 miles northwest of Mt Huntington via the talusy and bouldery east ridge - Class 2. Meanwhile Ed and the two Bills ascended a steep chute on the north side of the northeast ridge of Mt Huntington and followed the latter to the summit - Class 2-3. While Doug descended to camp and Tom remained on the summit to take photographs, Barbara and I climbed Peak 12,522, southeast of Stanford Lake via the SW ridge - Class 2 to some easy 3. There being no registers on either of these two peaks, we decided on Mt Stanhunt for Peak 12,318 and Pic Centrale for Peak 12,522, as the latter occupies the center of a large basin encircled on three sides by walls and peaks. We descended the southeast slope of Pic Centrale back to camp. On Sunday all, except Doug climbed towards Mt Stanford. Only Bill Schuler climbed this peak, while we others gained the NNE ridge of Mt Stanford and proceeded along it over two lesser bumps and on to climb Peak 12,984. In some areas the ridge is fairly good Class 3, necessitating some route finding. It is mostly Class 2. We named Peak 12,984 "Steelhead Peak". Dave Wallace elected to return to camp and the two Bills climbed Mt Stanford. From the latter, Bill Schuler traversed to Peak 12,553 where he met Barbara, Tom, Ed, and me, having slogged thru soft snow from Peak 12,984. Peak 12,553 is a loose volcanic peak, Class 2. We had to nearly climb Mt Morgan in order to gain a relatively easy chute on the southeast slope. From here we descended to the largest Hilton Lake from whence we returned to camp and backpacked out.

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The next venture was on the weekend of July 7-8 when **Frank Cristoff, Bill Sanders, Mary Meade, Barbara Lilley, Tom Ross, Bill Schuler, Ed Treacy**, and I took the trail up past the Tye Lakes to a saddle west of Peak 11,936, from whence we climbed the mountain. **Norman Clyde** made the first ascent November 7, 1931. On our return we dropped down south of the saddle a short way to water and here we split up. Ed, Barbara, and Bill Sanders climbed Peak 12,751 (Class 2 over large blocks) and Peak 12,993 (Class 2+, except for the Class 4 summit block). Bill Schuler, Frank, Tom, and I also climbed Peak 12,751 and then descended the Thompson ridge to the last peaklet on the ridge at 12,240'+, 0.45 southwest of George Lake. The name George Peak seemed appropriate. There was some Class 3 scrambling on this ridge. This peak looks impressive from the environs of Blue Lake. On Sunday while Bill Sanders and Mary Meade climbed Peak 13,323 and Mt Thompson, the rest of us climbed Peak 12,212 via the west slope - Class 1-2. The first recorded ascent of this peak was by **Peter Cummings** on 7/24/72. All the while we had our sights on a sharp peaklet, 12,560'+, 1.15 northeast of Mt Thompson or 0.6 mi southwest of Peak 12,212. This peaklet doesn't look like much on the topo, but "in the flesh" it looked formidable and appeared to be a definite peak. Barbara, Ed, Tom, Bill Schuler and I reached the saddle just west of the summit, and although the ridge did not look promising we started up the west ridge, Class 3-4 to the summit block and what a block it was. We credit Bill Schuler with the intrepidity to show us the way (the only way short of bolts) up the edge of the monstrous flake - Class 5.2 at least. We all made it and christened the peak "Flake Peak" (see cover picture). A Class 4 route might be made up the north face. The northeast ridge has a deep notch - at least Class 4-5 that requires a rappel into it, and it does not appear to be a feasible route.

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The final trip on July 21-22 saw **Barbara Lilley, Bill Schuler, Frank Cristoff, Tom Ross**, and I backpack to Midnite Lake and go on to climb Jaekel Peak, 13,080'+ just northwest of the saddle northwest of Mt Haeckel - easy Class 3. Bill and Tom went on to climb Peak 13,320+ while Barb, Frank and I climbed Peak 12,800+, 0.8 northeast of Mt Haeckel - Class 3 from the south. The first recorded ascent of this peak was by **Jerry Ashburn** and **Thomas Davis** on July 26, 1972. We descended via the WNW slopes (Class 2) into the basin below and went on to camp. Bill came on to climb the peak also. On Sunday we (except Frank) started out to climb Peak 12,720+, 1.4 southeast of Mt Lamarck. Barbara climbed Peak 13,248 up the Class 2-3 southeast slope and ridge and met Tom, Bill, and me at the saddle west of Peak 12,720+. Some exposed Class 3-4 climbing only netted us the west tooth of this peak. Possessing only a 50-foot rope, improper equipment, and lack of time decided us against the traverse to the main tooth, a scant 30 feet higher to the east along an exposed ridge. We expect to try this peak next year via a different route. It looks very impressive from Lake Sabrina. There is no easy way up.

WHALEBACK, GLACIER RIDGE, SUGARLOAF, August 31–September 3 Jerry Keating

Seeking new scenery, Barbara Lilley, Walt Whisman and I penetrated deeply into southern Kings Canyon National Park over an extended Labor Day weekend and were rewarded by warm weather and a lack of crowds.

Our roadhead was Horse Corral Meadow, and we covered some 60 miles, which proved surprisingly strenuous for a region relatively low in elevation.

On Saturday, while Walt fished in Colby Lake, Bobbie and I climbed Whaleback (11,726') from the southeast. We tried to follow the route **Frank Meyers** described in the June 1973 *Echo*, but we topped out too soon and encountered some high third class along the summit ridge south of the peak. Future parties are advised to continue traversing upward on the peak's east face until crossing a prominent rib that blocks the view of the pyramid-shaped summit. After passing the rib, the Class 2 going continues until just short of the summit where there is a little low Class 3.

The following day, we three hiked up Cloud Canyon, discovering there is no trail – only a ducked route – in the canyon bottom after the Colby Pass junction. The terrain, however, is not difficult. While Walt explored traces of the Coppermine Pass trail farther up the canyon, Bobbie and I climbed Glacier Ridge (12,416') from a cluster of trees at 10,160 feet. The route goes up the south side of the drainage, past a small lake (11,200') to the ridge south of the peak. At this point, the climber enjoys a spectacular view into Deadman Canyon and across to Tableland. The summit consists of two masses; the lower has a window in it, while the higher is a large block perched on a platform. Keeping relatively close to the ridgeline, we climbed into the gap between the two masses and surmounted the summit block. Standing about 15 feet high, the block is easy Class 4, but we roped up for safety. The rest of the route is Class 2.

Both Whaleback and Glacier Ridge are fine, although seldom-climbed, peaks well off the SPS path. Because of their remoteness and superb views, they deserve consideration as qualifying list additions. We recommend that they be led next year so more members can get first-hand information on them.

On the way back to the roadhead Monday, Bobbie and I tried to follow Frank's route to Sugarloaf (8,002'), a dome that has some of the most unusual and awkward going in the Sierra. We entered the Great West Chimney from a Class 3 crack on the dome's south face. After battling some burr-laden brush, we squeezed – with considerable grunting – through three squirm holes, one of which is straight up. Once inside the dark interior of the dome, with our allotted time gone, we were uncertain as to the exact location of the final chimney outlet, even with the help of our flashlights. So we aborted, passing a large rattlesnake before reaching our Keltys.

To use this route, a climber needs a lithe body (*maximum chest and hip measurements available upon request!*) and some time to figure out the awkward, Class 3–4 move out of the darkness. Unfortunately, we'd skimped too much on time.