

# The

# Sierra



# ECHO

VOLUME 18

JANUARY-

-FEBRUARY 1974

NO. 1

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Now that you've decided that this really is the Sierra Echo, and you've ended your search for the cover photo and decided to read the paper anyway. . . Our Echo Production costs have increased drastically since we lost our "free" printer. Yet we are still charging only \$2 for a year's subscription. This means that even if we cut back to 8 issues this year and do not print a cover photo (which costs approximately \$17 extra per issue) we will be just barely breaking even. Another hard, cold fact of life in these days of inflation. However, we are pledged to printing all writeups, all news of interest, the By-Laws, the Complete Membership List (in June -- you have until the end of this month to get that "74" on your mailing label!), and the October Mail Ballot. And if we are a little bit ahead by the end of the year, we'll put a photo on a cover or two.

Now for some good news. We will be running some of our trips as bus trips in conjunction with other groups or sections who are going to the same or near-by roadheads. They've volunteered to do the paperwork; all we do is fill their bus. The fare will probably be in the vicinity of \$17 per person. Okay, okay, I can hear your thoughts now:

"That's much more than I'd pay for gas!"

"What a hassle to meet the bus."

"I can't stop where I want to for dinner."

"Dinner takes forever when 40 people hit a restaurant all at once."

"I get off work at 10 pm and cannot possibly make it."

"I can't sleep on a bus."

Except for two people I know who fall into the last two categories, the other inconveniences pictured above are more than compensated for. For example, if it's your car that's going, the trip can cost \$30 to \$50 in automobile maintenance and wear-and-tear. (This is not including gasoline!) Thus only families of four or more would save money by running their own car. Gas is now available at Olancho and points north, but there's the problem of filling in LA in order to get there. The restaurant problem can be overcome by calling ahead, stopping where there's a group of restaurants, or hitting a smorgasbord. It may be a hassle to meet the bus, but once underway your worries and efforts are over -- there's nothing but sociability, relaxation, and FUN. (As an SPSer who had never been on a bus trip, I too was once skeptical. But after my first one I was SOLD.) Sleeping on a bus is an art which can be learned. I believe these bus trips are feasible for many if not most of our trips, and they will pay off in individual convenience and savings. So gather your beer or wine, pack your health-food dinners, bring your pillows, and LET'S COME OUT FOR THE BUS TRIPS!

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*THE SIERRA ECHO* is published ten times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.  
 EDITOR - Paul Lipsohn, 9152 E Olive St, Bellflower, Calif 90706. MAILING - Marian Furst, 1827 Oxford, Pasadena,  
 Calif 91104. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$2 per year. Subscription to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the  
 SPS. Send remittance to: George Toby - Treasurer, 8337 Rubio Ave, Sepulveda, Calif 91343. COPY DEADLINE -  
 First of every month.

## SPS ROCK CLIMB RESERVATIONS

Regarding the forthcoming April 6-7 rock climb at Joshua Tree National Monument, the Schedule will say "reservations suggested". This is no longer true; now they will be required.

National Park Service personnel have computed the capacity of the group campgrounds and the adjacent parking lots. As a part of the enforcement, cars are counted at various times and groups violating the standards face the loss of all privileges at the Monument. The applicable standard figures that five (5) persons will be in each car for which space is provided.

About ten (10) days before the SPS climb, a listing of all participants will be distributed, showing town of residence and telephone number. Car pools will be formed by the participants, not by the leaders. Leader's permission will be required in advance for anyone staying at the group campground with fewer than 5 in the car. Those in excess of the reservation limits or those with fewer than 5 in the car may take their chances in the unreserved adjacent campgrounds like Jumbo Rocks or Ryan Mountain and car pool from their to Sheep Pass for the day only.

Sorry about the discipline and planning required, but it's far better than losing the opportunity to climb at Joshua Tree. We'll try to keep the time there "loose" to make up for the advance regimentation.

-Dennis Lantz

## PARKING REGULATIONS

The following changes in parking regulations have been announced by the USFS: LAKE SABRINA-NORTH LAKE area:

For users of the Piute Pass and Lamark Col Trails, parking is now near the pack station at North Lake. Hikers into the Sabrina Basin will park along Highway 168 below Camp Sabring. Camping and overnight parking is not permitted between Sabrina Campground and Lake Sabrina.

BIG PINE CREEK area:

Overnight parking in area near the pack station. Two hour limit from Brainard Lake Trail to road end.

Emphasis is placed on the warning that violator will be subject to fine and tow-away to Bishop.

Gordon MacLeod

## PRIVATE TRIP TO COLORADO

Help me to organize a super 9-day (or 11-day) trip to climb Colorado 14-ers, thinking of the July 4th time period. Considering the Needles Range out of Durango and the West Elk Range out of Aspen.

Possible peaks: Aeolus, Sunlight, Windom, Capitol, Snowmass, Pyramid, Castle.

Write me, stating your desires, and ask to be included on news flashes.

Henry Heusinkveld

I need your help! Paths and Peaks in the Southern Sierra should include descriptions of all peak climbing routes no more difficult than class 3, and yet with the 1,000 miles of trail I have still to walk and describe, I won't have time to climb and write up these routes ( my due date on the manuscript is October 15). Future climbers will depend on the book to guide them up these peaks ( some of which are on the SPS and HPS lists) because no one else has ever published or planned to write a guide to these mountains. If you have climbed any of the peaks on the list below and the memory of the route you took is still fresh in your mind, please send me a description that I can edit and include in Paths and Peaks. Each route description printed in the book will credit the person(s) who sent it to me.

Descriptions must include every detail that another would need to follow your route. It's better to give too much detail than too little. Write in concise declaritive sentences. As accurately as possible, transfer the route from your topo to a piece of tracing paper and send that to me. If it's a 3rd class route, give me a sketch or photo of the mountain with your route drawn in. Don't forget to include directions for getting to the roadhead.

I need descriptions for the following peaks; also need to know who made the first ascent, when and by what route; who made the first winter ascent and when; and who made the first ascent of the route you are describing. If you don't know this information, don't worry, just send the description.

CARTAGO PK. ( from the E.; also route to summit pinnacle.)	
MIAH MTN. (from the E. only).	
OLANCHA PK. (staright up from Owens Valley only).	
HOMER'S NOSE ( all routes other than that via Surprise Cyn.)	
MOSES MTN.	BAKER PEAK
CRAG PK.	HATCHET PK.
TAYLOR DOME	PARKER PK.
PILOT KNOB ( from Battolas Country only).	CAPITOL ROCK
SAWTOOTH PK.	ELEPHANT KNOB
SPANISH NEEDLE	SENTINEL PK.
OWENS PK.	MULE PK.
THREE ROCKS (near Kern PK.)	ONION MDW. PK.
OVERLOOK MTN.	DOVE ROCK
TOWER ROCK	THE NEEDLES
SATURDAY PEAK	CASTLE ROCK
BASKET PK.	JORDAN PK.
WOODWARD PK.	HOCKETT PK.
RED MTN.	DENNISON PK.
COOKS PK.	VANDEVER MTN.
PORTUGESE PK.	CASTLE ROCKS

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# ASCENTS

ROYCE, MERRIAM, JULIUS CAESAR, September 8-9, 1973.....Roy and Barbara Magnuson

At about 7:30 am on Saturday, 11 climbers started up from the pack station about a mile below the tungsten mill on the Pine Creek road north of Bishop. On the way up to our campsite at Honeymoon Lake we were treated to the sight of some scarlet Monkey Flowers by the trail, partly making up for the smell from the tungsten mill. After having lunch at camp, we made our way to Italy Pass, south of Julius Caesar. The trail was a bit difficult to follow toward the top, but once the pass was in sight it didn't matter. From the pass it was a rock and boulder scramble to the summit. All ten who left camp made the summit, despite altitude problems in one case and muscle cramps in another. Walton and Betty Kabler earned their emblems on this one. We had fine views of Bear Creek Spire, Abbott, etc., from the summit, and returned to camp just before dark at about 7:30. Distance for the day was about 13 miles, elevation gain 5800 feet, 3000 feet with backpacks.

The next morning at 6:45 we again set out with ten climbers, leaving a different one in camp this time. We made our way to the saddle between Merriam and Royce. Merriam was climbed first (because it was the one Roy hadn't done), and then Royce. We had lunch on top while enjoying the view past Humphreys Basin to the south. The trip out was uneventful. The cars were reached at about 5:30 and most of us regrouped in Bishop for supper.

MT. HUMPHREYS, September 30, 1973.....R. J. Secor

The last weekend of September found Sheldon Moomaw, Marian Furst and I at the North Lake roadhead for a most enjoyable climb of Mt. Humphreys. In our opinion, this peak was easier than our climb of Darwin two weeks before. The route description given in the Mountaineer's Guide was more than sufficient, the only drawback of the climb was that it was in the shade during the cold and windy autumn day.

On Saturday we had a leisurely backpack, a nice long lunch break and an hour out for rock skimming at Loch Leven. All participants reached six skims, but Marian stole the show with her seven skimmer off the right wrist. She was promptly awarded the SPS's (Sierra Pond Skimmers) Emblem (she carried the tent and the rope), we went our way and arrived at Upper Middle Humphreys Lake by mid-afternoon.

On Sunday (cold and windy) we climbed the peak via Route 2, or the West slope and Northwest face. The gully is class 2 to the notch north of the summit. From the notch we went up an icy class 3 chute to the "vertical wall". We went out to the right on an easy class 4 crack for 50 feet to a good belay ledge. From the ledge we climbed up on an exposed class 3 arete (a belay may be required; like the one this author had) to the summit ridge. We were on top after four and a half hours of climbing, with an eagle soaring overhead.

On the summit we found a register book from 1936 that was only half full; a rare thing to find on an emblem peak. After having a beer celebrating my emblem peak we started our descent. To descend Route 2, two rappels are necessary. There were some fixed pitons near the top of the arete, and sixty feet lower were another set of fixed pitons for the second rappel. I would recommend that you bring your own slings for these anchors.

This climb was a lot easier than I expected it to be. Of the 2,000 feet of gain, there was only fifty feet of class 4; most of the remaining was class 2. I enjoyed the climb very much.

The trip for me started Friday night, at nearly midnight, as we spread our sleeping bags and sat on the floor of the Ossofsky's livingroom in Bishop. Ellen was staying up in order to take her bread out of the oven at 1 am. Surrounded by fireplace, hospitality, and at least six cats (I'm allergic to cats, and of course they love to sit on my sleeping bag), I fought off my drowsiness. We had homemade strawberry wine and homemade goat's-milk cheese (Sy machined the cheese press, of course). We were told we could take some fresh sourdough bread and cheese in the morning, and the coffeepot was ready to be plugged in. . .

Six climbers met at Jack's 24-hour coffee shop in Bishop at 6 am for breakfast. We made our tent and dinner plans for the day, then drove up the Pine Creek mine road. This year we were not stopped by snow, so we drove all the way to the mill gate to unload equipment. Horace couldn't find a foreman, but one of the workers said that with only two vehicles surely no one would mind if we parked them off to one side. So at about 8:30, with packs loaded with winter gear and snowshoes, we started trudging up the old dirt mine road, hopeful of climbing Mt. Morgan.

At first the weather was perfect, and I thought, "This is too easy." Then the clouds started to descend, and by 10:30 it was snowing. We stopped for lunch then in a concrete shack with a heavy metal sliding door.

After lunch we donned snow shoes for a trek through a meadow, continuing up the road. The weather deteriorated even more; it was now windy and cold. We got to 10,500' by 1 pm. The storm was increasing; it looked worse higher up. Some people were suffering from the cold. Horace thought we ought to make camp because of the bad weather. I know that we wouldn't have much of a chance to make the peak unless we went another 500 vertical feet up the road to the next logical campsite, but I didn't want to force things.

So by 2 pm Horace, Beth Henry, R. J. Secor, and I were in Beth's 4-man tent drinking tea and snow-snake repellent, and watching snow coat the walls. (John Baruch and Bob Boyles were in a 2-man tent.) It was very cold, and, just sitting there, I was glad I had brought along my down pants.

At 3 pm I got one of the most incredible shocks of my life--something that made my eyes bug out, my mouth drop open, and my mind think, "How could anyone . . ." Because outside there was a voice, a voice that I recognized, yelling "Hello! Is anybody home?" Don Hudson had arrived.

Don had called up Horace in January, asking to go on the trip. Horace said to go to the SPS Ice Axe practice, and we'd look at his performance there. He was okay, not quite ready for the Mountaineers' List, but (I had thought) good enough to go on the winter climb. After all, he did have some winter climbing experience with a friend. Well, he couldn't get ahold of Horace for permission to come. And he didn't call me BECAUSE HE THOUGHT I'D SAY NO! He left LA late Friday night, drove up solo in his car, then hiked up the road alone in a white-out, not sure that he'd be able to find us.

It's a good thing Don is tough. His tent had a broken pole and looked like a pile of nylon on the snow. His Bluet was blue with cold and wouldn't melt snow. We ended up giving him some dinner we'd cooked and melted a quart of water for him. In return, Don kept us supplied with tons of snow for melting.

## WINTER CLIMB continued..

Anyway, back to the story. It was extremely cold. I think I was the only one in the 4-man tent who slept all night, even though I'd forgotten my extra ensulite pad and melted a large hole with my shoulder. The other three had lighter bags; they woke up often to warm up and look out at the moonlight and fresh snow on the peaks. In the morning, the Svea in the 2-man tent wouldn't work (water vapor??), so Horace's Svea and my Optimus 8R melted snow and heated breakfast water for everyone. So we didn't get started until 9 am.

The weather was perfect and the cold went away after the sun got to us. But the distance was too far and the snow too soft to make the peak and get out before dark. We turned back rather quickly after we came to that decision. Lessons: (1) Make sure the group is strong enough to overcome adverse conditions. (2) For a winter climb steepness and gain are easy; distance will get you every time. (3) Take more-than-adequate cold-weather clothing and sleeping bags. (4) Be sure you carry at least one stove for every two people and at least 12 oz fuel per stove! (Don't try to use Bluets in cold weather at low altitudes.)

The trip ended for me as it had started -- back at the Ossofsky's. They dug up some vegetables for us from their garden and gave us some homemade jam. I promised I'd come up in May to help them plant vegetables.

Don tells me that he's going to climb Aconcagua next year with his friend. I wish him luck.

## PRIVATE CLIMBS

MOUNT KILIMANJARO, AFRICA.....Barbara Lilley

Mt. Kilimanjaro, highest point in Africa (located in Tanzania) is probably the easiest 19,000' peak in the world to climb. With porters to carry the gear (and even a cook and food supplied if desired), what normally would be hard work becomes an enjoyable climb. Many people who have never climbed a mountain before reach at least Gilman's Point (18,635) on the standard 5-day round trip from Marangu, Tanzania. Anyone who climbs regularly on SPS/DPS/HPS trips and has no chronic high-altitude problems should have no trouble reaching the summit--Uhuru Point, 19,340'.

Kilimanjaro is now a National Park and entry permits are required (progress!). All climbers are required to have a guide; however, there is no limit to the number of climbers per guide. Arrangements can be made for either a fully-equipped expedition including food, guide, cook, porters and all gear except warm clothing; or one on which the climber brings his own food and equipment and requires only a guide and porters (at a considerable savings). Fuel for all types of stoves is available in Nairobi but it is recommended to bring the 5 days climbing food from the States. Bring a big duffle bag (with lock) rather than a backpack (unless a climb of Mt. Kenya is planned also); porters on Kilimanjaro carry loads on their heads. Flight time between California and Nairobi, Kenya, is over 24 hours; there is also an 11 hour time change! From Nairobi there is bus, rail and plane service to Moshi, Tanzania, and a bus from there to Marangu. Climbs can be arranged by the Kibo Hotel in Marangu (the Marangu Hotel should be avoided at all cost) and the YMCA in Moshi (best place to stay) but most highly recommended is: Kilimanjaro Tours & Guides; P.O. Box 7, Moshi-Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, East Africa.

## KILIMANJARO Continued..

Although five Californians--Ed Treacy, Tim Treacy, Barbara Lilley, Doug Bateman and John O'Brien-- made the mistake of planning this trip over the Christmas-New Years Day holidays (which resulted in unavailable space on airplanes, lost baggage and considerable extra expense for Tim and Barbara, each of whom had to arrange their own climb) all eventually reached the highest summit of Kilimanjaro (Uhuru Pt. on Kibo Pk.) by January 3, 1974. (Dick Jali, returning home from the Peace Corps, joined Tim and Barbara in Nairobi for sightseeing; he was planning to climb Kibo a few days later.)

From Marangu (ca. 5000'), the first day's hike of approximately 11 miles is to the Mandara Hut at 9200' (where beer is available). The first portion is through a tropical paradise of banana and coffee trees; after entering the Park there is a thick jungle on both sides of the trail. This ends about a mile above the Mandara Hut and the second day's hike of about nine miles is through open country of grass, bushes, flowers and weird groundsel trees to the Horombo Hut at 12,300'. The third day the Kibo Hut (15,500') is reached after an 8 mile hike. This is well above all vegetation and in addition water has to be carried from "Last Water" about 2 miles above the Horombo Hut. There is a good trail all the way. Ed backpacked to the Kibo Hut, but 2 others who did so were the only ones of about 30 who became altitude sick; it does make a big difference for the average climber!

For the peak climb, an early morning (1:30 AM) start puts the climber on Gillman's Pt. just at dawn, thus avoiding the discouraging sight of the scree slope he is climbing. It is bitter cold at this time of day--down jackets, down mitts, long underwear, wind pants and balaclava are most welcome. But the hardest work is over--Uhuru Pt. is only an hour or so further and well worth the effort. An ice ax is not really needed but is quite helpful on the scree. After a short, agonizing uphill stretch to return over Gillman's Pt., the descent to the Kibo Hut down the scree slope is quite painless. Normally, one returns to the Horombo Hut that afternoon but it is possible to continue on to the Mandara Hut (beer) that same day; the return to Marangu is completed on the 5th day.

The roundtrip air fare from L.A. to Nairobi is over \$1000 but a climb of Kilimanjaro combined with sight-seeing trips to the game parks of East Africa is well worth it. One or two day trips can be arranged after arrival in Kenya or Tanzania; plan to climb the peak last, to give the baggage time to arrive! There is a YMCA in Nairobi; the Fairview Hotel is also reasonably priced (and has a bar). Be aware that the streets of East Africa, including Nairobi, are not safe after dark and only marginally so during daylight hours except on the busiest streets during business hours.

Kilimanjaro can be climbed any time except from mid March to mid-June and during November (rainy seasons). However, school vacation periods should be avoided if at all possible. (Anyone planning to go should contact Barbara Lilley for Tanzanian money which there was not time enough to exchange!)

(NOTE: The above write-up is intended to supplement Dick Beach's excellent article in the Nov. 1973 Echo, to provide information on how the average hiker might go about climbing Kilimanjaro.. With luck, perhaps Dick Jali and Ed Treacy can provide information about a guided climb of the highest peak of Mt. Kenya (which is Class 5) in a future issue of the Echo.)



## CLIMBING PEAKS ALONG EAST CREEK BASIN PERIMETER

by Andy Smatko

There are several unnamed peaks accessible from East Creek basin which intrigued me when I viewed them from Deerhorn's summit a number of years ago. It was the purpose of a nine day trip, Sept. 8-16, to scale these and others. Accordingly, Tom Ross, Frank Yates, Bill Schuler and I labored under heavy packs over Kearsarge Pass to our first days' campsite at East Lake on Sept. 8. There were a surprising number of people on the trail down to Vidette Meadow, and two parties were encamped at East Lake when we arrived.

Three peaks comprised our objective on the 9th. Peak 12,620' was ascended via the S. slopes. Voge and Brower had climbed it in 1934 and it is impressive in its upper 200' when viewed from the S. The NW wall plunges in near verticle precipices of clear granite into the basin of North Guard Creek. We descended the the n ridge and continued on to Peak 11,955, class 2, and requiring a mantle to surmount the summit block. The name Mantle Peak seemed appropriate and it was so designated. Moreover, it was an apparent first ascent. We continued NE along a ridge, knife-edged in one place, to ascend Peak 11,840'+ where a cairn but no register was found. This peak was class 2 also and we left a register here, naming it Grantree Peak.

The 10th found us ascending via the easy terrain along the unnamed creek north of and paralleling Ouzel Creek. We followed the N branch of the creek to a point 3/4 mile SW of Peak 12,620'. Working our way down to the N over large class 2 blocks brought us into the head of North Guard creek basin. Peak 12,893' was ascended via the easy SE slopes. The true N summit was separated from the slightly lower S summit by a notch requiring class 3 climbing on firm rock. The summit afforded an airy perch somewhat reminiscent of North Guard Peak. The considerably lower north peaklet was separated from the summit by a deep notch. Quite a number of people have climbed this peak, appropriately named Notch Peak. While climbing Notch Peak Bill Schuler and I were eying Peak 12,600' to the SE. It looked steep but climbable and since there were no records on this peak, we climbed it via the loose N slope, class 2 to 3. There was no evidence of a previous ascent, so we built a cairn and left a register containing the name Notchguard Peak. The N face of North Guard presented a sheer wall to our view, a wall to challenge the most ardent rock climber.

The day of Sept. 11th was taken up by the climb of Mt. Brewer via the E ridge. It was our opinion that the ascent was entirely class 2, not 3 as stated in the Guide. Tiger Schuler went on to climb North Guard as we watched through binoculars.

We bid farewell to our East Lake camp next day, backpacking to Lake Reflection. Dropping packs, we then climbed to Longley Pass and while Bill ascended South Guard, we three climbed Peak 12,960'+, 0.3 SSE of Longley Pass. This peak has an E face that is more impressive than that of Thunder Mtn. Except for a short class 3 pitch the ascent is class 2, with the actual summit being reached from the S. Bill met us on his way up this peak which was named by A.L.Jordan and S.H.Bliss, Polymonium Peak. They climbed it on July 18, 1930 and stated that there was no evidence of a previous ascent. The Mountaineers Guide credits Clyde with the first ascent, but in Clyde's book "Close ups of the High Sierra", this peak does not appear in Clyde's list of first ascents. Jordan and Bliss purposely spelled Polymonium with the "y", probably because of the numbers of these high altitude plants that were encountered. Tom, having climbed Peak 12,805', 1.25 miles SE of Mt. Brewer, descended to camp, while Frank and I climbed it via the SW slope, class 2. Bill later also climbed this peak which has an outstanding view.

The 13th of Sept. promised to be a tough day for us and for starters we climbed the Nunatak, 12,240'+, 0.8 miles WNW of Mt. Jordan via the slabs on the NW face, easy class 2. Actually, Peter Friedrichsen and four others made the first ascent on Aug. 8, 1940, the others being his brother Ian, Kenny Whitacre, Louis West and Dave Davidson. We descended to the E into the lake basin below and climbed the steep loose class 2 chute between the two summits of Mt. Jordan. While Bill climbed the higher S summit, we three climbed the N summit, class 2 (not class 3 as indicated in the Guide). The four of us then traversed on or near the ridge over to Mt. Gen-

evra, descending the NE ridge of this peak, class 2, to Milly's Foot Pass, looked down this steep chute and then after dropping to the lake below Lucy's Foot Pass climbed up to this latter pass. At the low point of the saddle, a chute heads down to the N. However, at the low point, an arrow made with stones points W, where a prominent cairn could be seen. While Bill climbed Mt. Ericson, we followed cairns 0.3 miles NW to the head of a prow where the last cairn indicated a feasible route down towards Lake Reflection. At first, descent via loose sand was easy. Soon bands of granite were encountered, necessitating back and forth traverses, but still easy. Below, the slope became a distinct avalanche chute and now too steep for safe descent. We followed the easier rocks to our left on a ridge all the way down. One could also cross a rib to the right to enter another, easy chute that bypasses this steep portion. Regardless of which route is taken, the descent is class 2 and it was our concerted opinion that this direct route down to Lake Reflection is by far preferable to the looser, boulder hopping descent of old Lucy's Foot Pass which can be descended from a point 200 yards E of the low point and about 150' above it. I have taken considerable space to discuss Lucy's Foot Pass because many are confused and some have turned back from descending it, not knowing whether it would go. The chute descending from the low point ends in a vertical cliff about 150' below---so we were told by hikers we met later. The descent from 200 yards E and 150' higher is practicable but leads into a long boulder hopping cirque exiting at Golden Lake where the trail is met. This trail takes one well below Lake Reflection and if one is camped at the latter place, the route of descent W of Lucy's Foot Pass is the preferable one. Anyway, we were pretty fagged out on reaching camp this day.

On Sept. 14, we hiked up to Golden Lake and from here ascended the SW slopes of the Minster to the base of the S face of this imposing peak. Nothing definite is offered in the Guide, so after studying the last 200' of this face, Bill led up a well chosen route that was high class 3 at the most. Imagine our surprise to find that our ascent was only the second (presumably) since Waller, Woods and Koskinen climbed it in 1939. We found their record in a rusting can on the summit. Frank declined to climb the peak proper. Frank and I then accompanied Bill to a point high on the NW ridge of Dehorn and then watched Bill climb out of sight around the NW peak of the mountain. Bill later reported that he was following ducks most of the way and that the difficulty was moderate class 3. Bill descended a SW chute (mentioned in the Guide), chimneying down a 30' cliff at the bottom.

The 15th saw us backpacking down East Creek from Lake Reflection for about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles and then heading up hill to the E to climb a wooded, rocky peaklet, 11,760'+ which had some class 3 on the ridge. This was an apparent first ascent. We then ascended a higher (11,840'+) bump to the SSE and found the name "Peter's Pimple" in a cairn. Apparently Peter Koskinen was honored by his climbing mates in this fashion. We had some difficulty finding a descent route to the NE, down to the lake below. After lunch Bill climbed West Spur Peak while Frank, Tom and I headed for Peak 12,225. We did not like the looks of the final 100' of the summit and after climbing the lower (15' lower) northern gendarme, declined to tackle the class 4 high point. We met Bill coming up but declined to return, informing him of the difficulty. However, excellent rock climber that he is, Bill found a route--he called it class 3 (high) to the summit. No cairn was found but apparently Clyde climbed it in 1926. We descended to our packs and backpacked to Lower Vidette Meadow where our final camp was made.

This trip in mid September reaffirmed our opinion that this is an ideal time to visit the back country. In fact, it seemed to be the opinion of 20 or more other hikers whom we met in the East Creek basin. More and more people are backpacking in Sept. when the weather generally is more dependable than in mid-summer. The suitability of East Lake and Lake Reflection camping makes this an ideal locale for climbing peaks at the northern end of the Great Western Divide as well as those peaks at the western end of the Kings-Kern Divide.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST  
Ten Years Ago in the SPS

By Ron Jones

The Section in 1964 was not as active in winter mountaineering as we are today, and the only activity to report was an ice axe practice in Icehouse Canyon led by John Wedberg, John Mendenhall and Tom Amneus. The management Committee finished drawing up plans for a restricted third class climbers list in which a formal proficiency sign off was required. Four third class peaks requiring third class skills were scheduled for the 1964 season. Seven new peaks were added to the SPS qualifying list. These were Julius Caesar, State Pk. Mt. Muah, Cartago Pk., Homer's Nose, Sunday Pk. and Tehipite Dome. Sunday Peak in the Greenhorn Mts. remained on the list only a month or two, after which it was deleted because it was not considered worthy. The Hundred Peaks Section requested the SPS to allow their participation in climbs in that portion of the Sierra between Walker and Tehachapi Passes.

New members during this period included Bill Hunt and How Bailey.

## LETTERS

It appears from the tone of Mr. John Ripley's Four Gables Traverse write up that he achieves vicarious delight in denigrating the integrity of three respected (not so sure, now) Sierra Peaks members.

Be not discouraged, John, that an inaccuracy was found in the Mountaineer's Guide, and you need not have been averse to name me in person. There are, I'm certain, a goodly number of oversights in the Guide, as regards first ascents and first recorded ascents, and this applies to two presumed first ascents by the foremost Sierra climber, Norman Clyde himself.

When Peak 12,825 was climbed by Ed Treacy, Bill Schuler and myself in 1970, did you not suppose that we looked for a register? May I assure you in behalf of we three that a search was made. Your discovery of the register is commendable.

If you would take the time to read the Preface to the Mountaineer's Guide, a plea is made for anyone to report correct and proper information to the Mountaineering Committee of the Sierra Club, which is the responsible body for maintaining accurate records.

Andy Smatko

The letter recently sent by the Sierra Club to all its members regarding energy bills indicated that authority to ration gasoline was one of the few provisions of the National Energy Emergency Act of 1973 (which fortunately failed to pass before Congress adjourned) which the Club supported. (Most other provisions were considered anti-environmental.) In addition, the following paragraph appears in an article (by the "Staff") in the Jan. 1974 Sierra Club bulletin regarding the "energy crisis":

"The most significant gains are physical ones...Less gasoline means less smog, fewer vehicle miles, less traffic congestion, less visitor impact on backcountry areas, less mobility for offroad vehicles."

Comment: With a non-Californian as Club President, the fact that gasoline rationing would not only affect the outdoor activities for which the Club was originally founded but would be an economic disaster to California and other recreation-oriented areas is apparently not a consideration. Outdoor-active Sierra Club members are urged to write to Congressmen, Mr. Simons and President Nixon opposing any type of individual gasoline rationing plan, especially for areas which use comparatively little fuel oil for heating.

1974 SPS Membership Renewal Application

If you do not have a "74" written in the upper-left-hand corner of your Echo mailing label, you need to fill out this form.

Since Sierra Club membership is now required for all SPS members, we are asking you to list your SC membership number(s) for the Section records. In order to be "active" (i.e. entitled to vote in the October election), a member must have participated in at least one Section activity in 1973 (a climb or service on a committee). A space is provided for listing activities for members who wish "active" status. Non-member Echo fans may simply check the "subscriber only" box.

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