

The

Sierra

ECHO

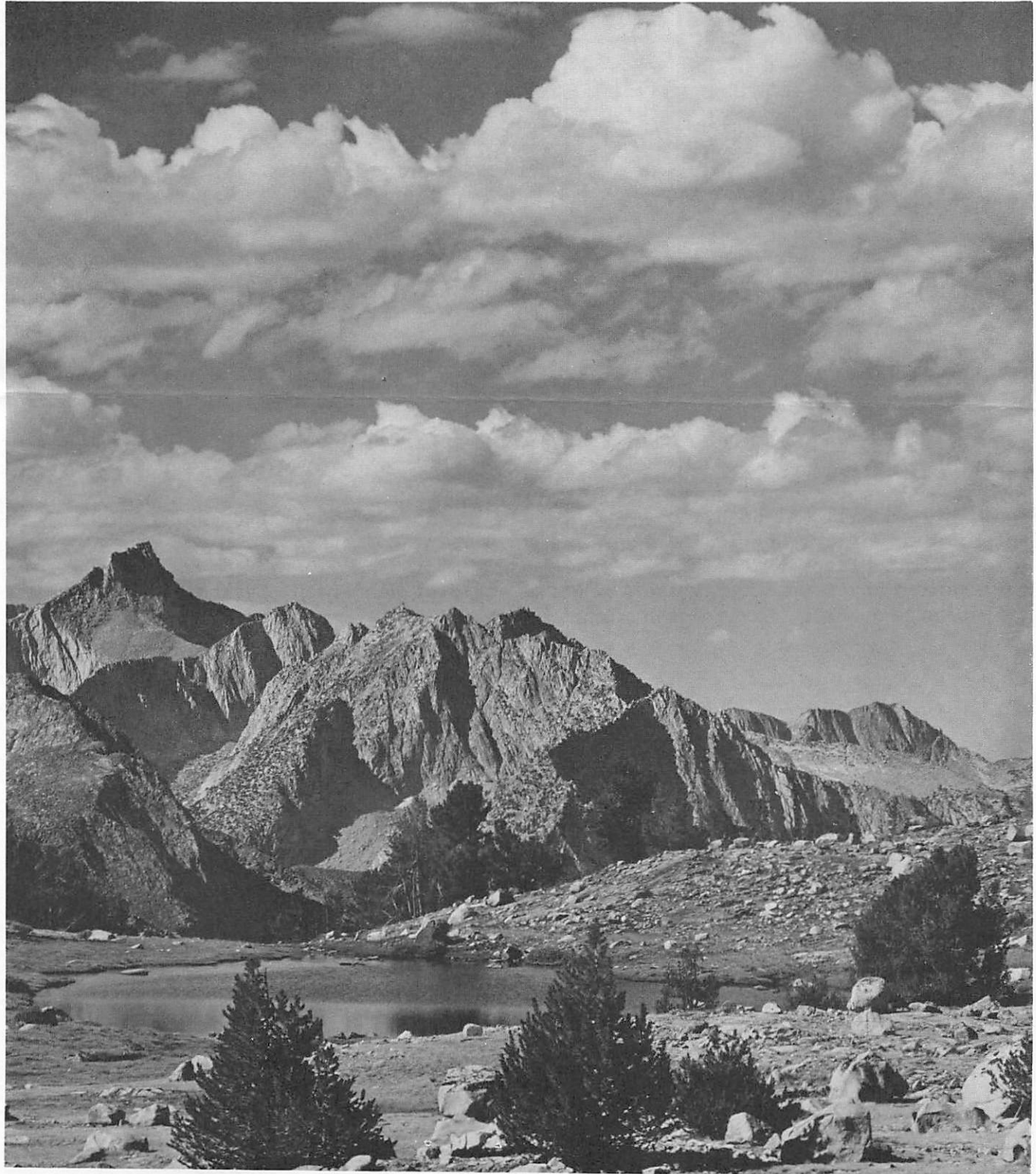


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1974

NO. 5



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO-- This formidable group tackled Lone Pine Peak. Some of the group are still active climbers..many peaks later.



Front: Howard Hill, Alden Hilton, Walter and Florence Collins, Freda Walbrecht.  
Center: Glen Warner, Charles Gerckens, LLOYD Balsam, Rosie Kent, Louise Werner,  
Elgin Pierce.  
Rear: Parker Severson, Georgie White, Marge and Bill Henderson, Marian and Willard  
Dean, Bob Bear, Marie Smith, Tony Gamero.

Photo courtesy of Louise Werner.

# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Having recently returned from a climb of Huascaran in Peru, on which there was one possibly-fatal accident with a trivial outcome and one non-trivial accident with a fatal outcome, I thought I would share with you some of the lessons I learned there:

When there is an accident, your immediate response should be selfish; your foremost objective should be to keep yourself (and others) from getting into trouble. After your own continued safety is assured, then attend to the victim's needs. [Example: Someone falls (unroped) into a crevasse. Do you fall into the same crevasse while running to help, or do you take longer in order to make sure you are approaching by a safe route?]

When you must make a decision under stress (e.g. someone's life is at stake), if at all possible sit down for five or ten minutes and do nothing. This will give your body a chance to rest; thus your brain will function better, and you may think of some things you otherwise would have neglected. Doing this is especially important at high altitude and/or when you are tired.

On snow, descending rope teams should have the stronger person(s) above the weaker. (For ascending teams, this is usually--but not always--the rule.) [Example: If the weaker person falls and cannot arrest, the stronger person if below will most likely be pulled out of arrest position by the falling person's momentum (200 feet!).]

When giving instructions to a rescue party or to people going for help, be sure to give complete instructions for every eventuality, no matter how unlikely. Be sure the people know all the facts, so that if they must make a decision, they will have as much information as possible. And be especially careful not to overestimate the capability of your party.

At high altitude (above about 18 K') you must know things "cold" and have the proper injunctions built into your head. Unarmed with the correct automatic responses, you may very well do the wrong thing. [Example: Learn how to tie a bowline well enough so that you can do it when you're "wiped out."]

I learned these lessons through both my mistakes and the mistakes of others. I could say that I hope they will never have to be used by any of you, but unfortunately I know that they probably will. Building up a store of proper reactions and proper training and being mentally alert may prove to be very helpful sometime.

Diana Dee

## COVER PHOTO

This month's cover shot of one of our more remote emblem peaks was taken from the Muir Trail by Tom Ross. Did you recognize Mt. Clarence King?

Do you have a photo suitable for a future cover? Probably lots of you do. In order to present a broad spectrum of views of our beloved Sierra, we would like to solicit more cover photos from our membership. Prints should be 8x10 black and white glossies. We can't print 'em all, but all will be given consideration.

Ed.

**SPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
25 JUNE - 14 AUG  
1974

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# NEWS

## CAMPFIRES NOW PROHIBITED ALONG KEARSARGE PASS TRAIL

Campfires are now prohibited in the Kearsarge Pass Trail area west of Independence, California according to Inyo National Forest officials.

"We regret that this action must be taken" states Inyo National Forest Supervisor, Everett Towle. "It is necessary to take this step in an effort to slow down resource damage in this area."

While campfires are prohibited, back-packer type stoves may be used. Hikers and back packers along the Kearsarge Pass Trail are urged to use chemical fuel stoves for heat and cooking.

Listing the reasons for this action, Towle said that Wilderness Rangers counted more than 150 fire rings in the Flower and Gilbert Lakes area alone. Besides the unsightly fire rings and rocks blackened by open fires, there is a dwindling to non-existent supply of firewood in the area.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

NOV 9-10 SAT-SUN SPS-LTC-MTC  
Rock Climb Practice: Safety techniques and climbing practice for beginners thru advanced at Mt. Rubidoux. Send SASE to leaders for meeting time and car pool help. Give your experience to aid planning for our instructors. Leaders: Dennis Lantz and Uncle Tom Rosenzweig.

OO LOOK!!

LOOK!! OO

West Ridge has a supply of Grivelle crampons--new, but may be a bit mangy looking. Some 10 and some 12 points, in various sizes--while they last at \$4.88 (per pair, of course). Mention the ECHO or the SPS.



# ASCENTS



MT. SILLIMAN FAMILY BACK-PACK.....June 15-16.....A. Smatko

Over the June 15-16 weekend, sixteen assorted sizes of humans of both sexes leisurely backpacked from the Lodgepole store up the J. O. Pass trail to the south side of Silliman Creek, a brawling stream in spring and early summer. The Triple Divide topo is in error as showing the trail crossing Silliman creek twice before following the South side eastward toward Silliman Lake. The trail does not cross Silliman creek until Silliman meadow (marked on the map) is reached. There is a fair trail, unmarked, on the topo, that follows along the S side of Silliman creek, about 50' or so above the gorge along a more or less level slope up to the confluence of the E and NE forks. Camp was made along the E fork just beyond this junction. A sharp peak to the S of camp attracted Don Oliver and me, and was climbed by us that afternoon. The route to Mt. Silliman was observed all the way. Considerable snow was present in the higher elevations and Silliman lake was frozen solid.

On Sunday, 12 people started climbing the easy slabs towards Silliman Lake. Five had no intention of climbing the peak and turned back after an elevation gain of about 600'. Some care was needed to cross the numerous streams coursing down the granite. The other seven had a delightful mixed snow and slope climb to the summit. These seven were Andy Smatko, Jr., Lisa Schuler, Don Oliver, Alex Fracisco, Lois Fracisco, Bill Schuler and myself. It was a clear crisp day and ones horizon was limited only by the curvature of the earth.

The return was enlivened by a few short glissades and after rejoining the others, we backpacked out. Robin Harris twisted his ankle on the way out and was escorted and helped by Don Oliver. Lisa Schuler qualified for SPS membership by having Mt. Silliman as her second scheduled SPS outing. She is only seven years old. Watch out Bobbie Lilley!!!

MT. CHESTER VERSTEEG, TAWNY PT., MT. BARNARD, TUNNABORA PK.,  
CALTECH PK., JUNCTION PK., MT. TYNDALL.....AUGUST 10-13.....

Jerry Keating & Elton Fletcher

Trip was cancelled by leaders Jerry Keating and Elton Fletcher due to lack of participant signups.

MTS. GUYOT, CHAMBERLIN, NEWCOMB, etc. July 13-15      Lipsohn, Mantle

For these seldom led peaks in a really beautiful area, we rather expected more than the one participant we snagged, even though there were four other SPS trips scheduled for the same week-end.

Undaunted, we headed up the trail to New Army Pass, where we sent our follower - Cuno Ranschau to the top of Mt. Langley for a better view of the route. When he hadn't returned in the allotted 30-minutes, we started down Rock Creek anyway, thrashing at the too numerous mosquitoes and after several stream crossings arrived at our camp-site on Guyot Creek. Cuno managed to track us down and arrived handily in time for supper.

Sunday morning we rolled out and headed for our common objective - Mt. Guyot - arriving on top about 8 a.m. From the summit we elected to split into two groups, with Cuno heading for Chamberlin, Newcomb, Pickering and Joe Devel, in that order; Dug and I headed for Hitchcock, Newcomb and Chamberlin. Both trips went uneventfully except for the mosquitoes and the rain/hail which started early in the afternoon. (Can five peaks in one day or 21 miles/7500' gain be uneventful?) Arriving back in camp somewhat after sunset, we enjoyed a cold supper before rolling into the bags for a night punctuated with showers.

Early next morning, still in the pesky rain - we headed out for Cottonwood, reaching the cars about 4 p.m. where Cuno was treated to the sight of a flat tire to further dampen his six-peak weekend.

KEARSARGE, DRAGON, July 13-14 ..... Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell

After an announced starting time of 7:30 passed without the appearance of a third of our anticipated party, the four slug-a-bed types finally joined us with an incredible tale. It seems that the afternoon before, the driver left Redondo Beach picking up passengers in transit. George Toby, our august SPS Treasurer, was the last to join at the northern end of the San Fernando Valley. These befuddled souls then decided to eat dinner in Lawndale. This permitted them to traverse a major segment of the San Diego Freeway three ways at near-maximum traffic density and assured them further of a very late arrival at Onion Valley, but remarkably, once out of the sack they were none the worse for wear and we started off at 8:00.

The plan was to camp on the eastern shore of the second lake north of Golden Trout. Since this is only three miles and 2200 ft., we intended to drop packs on the way and pick up Kearsarge. The journey to the dropoff point was a pleasant saunter, with diversions from our geologist-in-residence, Ret Moore, and some unscheduled falls into streams. As it developed, the party was a variegated group, ranging from veteran SPS'ers through some BMTC experience trippers to a first-timer. Although the group as a whole moved fairly slowly, all were atop Kearsarge in time for an early lunch. From there it was back down the blocks, then the scree, to the packs and on to camp. The afternoon was delightful, and several people took advantage of the local clothing-optional beach. After supper many wild tales were told about the campfire.

MORE...





Sunday started early with a good deal of the climb to the crest south of Dragon on the snow. Arrest practice took half an hour but we otherwise progressed very well. We moved along the crest, keeping the actual peak northwest of the false summit as our goal. About 30 ft. from the top we found the previously advertised corner chute which led readily to the horizontal crack system which, in turn, leads left from the chute towards the summit. A belay was set up but only two or three climbers used it. All fourteen of us made the peak.

After a partial lunch and an extensive peak identification session, we departed so as to leave plenty of time for a try of Gould. At the low point on the crest down from Dragon, we had a more extensive lunch break and weather prognostication session. Our reading of the entrails led to an estimate of rain, thunder, and lightning within two hours, so Gould was aborted. We then returned to camp, packed up, and started down. At almost precisely two hours after the high priest had completed his augury, the first drop hit, followed by its brothers and sisters. The rain was generally light and not too unpleasant, but the local thunder added to the leaders' self-satisfaction for the abort decision. We arrived at the roadhead before 3:00, and thus had an early trip home. The group itself was very congenial and a delight to lead. Remarkably, everyone who reserved for the trip appeared and participated — there were no no-shows!

...Duane McRuer

MT. HENRY (12,196 ft.) & EMERALD PEAK (12,543 ft.) July 13-14 - Ron Jones

Seven climbers met at the Florence Lake roadhead Saturday morning for a 7 a.m. boat trip across the Lake which had been planned earlier by mail. Roy Ward was not able to make the trip and Les Byington volunteered to serve as assistant leader. The 13 mile 2,000 foot back pack to our camp, one mile south of the Muir Trail in Goddard Canyon was accomplished by 12:30. After lunch four persons were misled by me on one of the less desirable routes up Mt. Henry.

From our camp on Goddard Creek at 8,600 feet, we followed the stream leading to a saddle near the lake just south of peak 11,224. From the saddle we should have descended east into the basin adjacent to Mt. Henry but I chose to traverse the ridge from near Peak 12,154 north to Mt. Henry. We saw no cairn or register on Peak 12,154, and our party of five may have made a first ascent (Andy, please note). The traverse to Mt. Henry was not difficult, involving a second class route with a few third class moves, but it was time consuming. We reached the peak at 7 p.m. and immediately descended the much preferred route of ascent via the north east ridge to the junction of the Muir - Goddard Trail. I would like to thank Mardie Hastings, Bob Pohl, Les Byington and Ross Yeoman for their strong help in route finding.

The next morning only four bodies out of 7 chose to climb Emerald Peak. We looked in vain for a natural crossing of Goddard Creek in order to ascend directly up the west slopes, but it was necessary to start from the bridge at the Muir Trail. The climb from the north via the 11,000 foot plateau was uneventful. After returning to base camp, we made a fast 4-hour forced march back to Florence Lake, arriving there at 8 p.m. and catching a late boat which had been pre-arranged, as the boats usually stop running at 7 p.m.



I should have known better with the forewarning that it had been raining the days prior to the trip, but there was no calling of the horses. Saturday greeted us with clear skies and 19 persons who wondered what the weekend would hold (five cancellations and four no-shows account for the rest). The first two-and-a-half-mile leg of the trip took us to the San Joaquin with 350 ft. loss which is unobserved going but oh how it smarts when coming back on Sunday p.m. The sequence of water falls in Shadow Creek insisted on dazzling us with their continuous display. More woods, streams, lakes, mountains, mosquitoes, etc. finally brought us to Lake Ediza.

A group of 9 left at noon for Banner. The snow slope began at the 10,000 ft. level and led us to the Ritter-Banner saddle. A lot of you-know-what (boulder hopping) brought us out at the summit, which was attained by 7 shortly after 3:30 pm. The non-thunder storm mentioned earlier continued to materialize with warm sunshine and mild zephyrs. For more than an hour we made like tourists craning our necks downward at everything in sight. Finally we had to leave for camp, anticipating all the while the freeze dried dinners which awaited us - thus ending a perfect day.

The tweeeet of the whistle at 5:00 am was more than I could sleep through - since I was blowing it. In time chaos was salvaged out of confusion and 16 were ready to tackle Ritter by 6:00. It was soon obvious that some owners of ice axes didn't know how to use them, but some abbreviated instructions on this subject improved the situation. Alternate snow and rock climbing -- mostly snow, took us to the south chute, up it, and to the summit at 11:00 a.m. Here too, the hour and ten minutes on top went by too swiftly - there must be something to Einstein's theory that time goes faster at higher altitudes. Boulderling, heeling in, glisading, skiing, rock sliding, down climbing, (did I leave out anything), walking, gave us a fun time back to Ediza. A fun trip like this gets a lot of people high on mountains. Don led the pack out and just for conditioning (or is it his mean streak) he threw in the 350 ft. of gain mentioned elsewhere.

Who knows, if the non-thunder storms continue, and the mountains are still there, maybe we'll lead this thing again next year.

CENTER PEAK, EAST VIDETTE AUGUST 3-4

ROY WARD

The trip seemed to get off to a slow start and was to be cancelled due to lack of interest. However, I was prevailed upon to lead it anyhow. Thursday and Friday, 50% of the participants called and cancelled. Bob Emerick and I met at Dennys and were on our way. Saturday morning we were off at 0635 and at Kearsarge Pass at 0850, set up camp just north of the drift fence and then on to Center. We had been sprinkled on at noon but it stopped and we were on top of Center at 1540 using Route 2. Back to camp and hordes of mosquitos. It sprinkled off and on all night but we were up at 0600 and crossed the creek at the drift fence at 0700 and up Route 1, east ridge. The weather was deteriorating so we were trying to beat the storm to the top. As we reached the top, it started misting so we spent little time on top but started out. It started raining and we walked to Bullfrog Lake in the rain. It stopped at noon. At Kearsarge Pass, it was clear but looking bad to the west-so as we started down we ran into rain again at Lower Pothole Lake. We were out at 1530, wet and tired, but with two good peaks for our efforts. Both of us got both peaks.

In spite of the writeup, 13 tried and true peakbaggers arrived at the Convict Lake trailhead for the start of a great weekend of climbing. The trail is a real ego builder for the first mile, then it rises sharply up colorful Convict Creek. Walls of multicolored, folded rock surround you on all sides. The group moved rapidly up to the main stream crossing which was roaring, all crossed with no difficulty after the leader ferried a couple of packs for some of the ladies for safety. We arrived at camp at the end of the canyon containing Mildred Lake, nearby a couple of miners digs (more on this later) at 10:30 am. We left for Mt. Baldwin at 12 noon in a light drizzle which progressed into a heavy rain and hail, but all kept going. There was only one complaint at the fast pace set. We arrived at the summit at 2 pm and the rain stopped and all dried out. The views were somewhat obscured but we could see North to the Ritter Range and South to Mt. Humphreys. All arrived back in camp after a stop at a calcite crystals deposit where everyone gleaned some beautiful pieces to take home.

Upon arriving back at camp, the two miners came over and inquired about our rock finds. It seems they have acquired 80 acres of claims and are now working them. These men are two of the most gracious and friendly people we have ever met in the back country. They invited us down for coffee and told us all about the mining, uses, etc. of calcite crystals. It was most interesting and they were most charming. All were really happy to have met them and they said if we were back in the area again to stop by and they meant it. Future trips into the area should stop by and give them the best of the SPS. Their names are Chubb and Russ - a delight to have met.

Sunday a.m. dawned cloudy and threatening, but everyone set off for the peak via the North Ridge which goes as easy 3rd class. We arrived on the summit at 10:30 am (3 1/2 hours), placed a new register can and left quickly as the rain was starting again. All got back to camp and out to the cars safely by 3:30 pm. Truly a wonderful group to have lead and a beautiful area to do it in.

# NOTES ON . . .

## MINERAL KING

Entry limits are off for 1974...no funds for enforcement. Get Wilderness Permits at Ash Mountain H.Q., since ranger at Atwell's Mill is not always present. Lookout Point R.S. is now closed.

...Walt Wheelock

## ECHO PASS (ABOUT 12,400)

This climbers pass over the main Sierra Nevada crest permits rapid access to the Ionian Basin. From the North, one stays East of Echo Lake then climbs up the black rocks on the West of the broad saddle.

From the South, one can traverse upwards from the main trail to lake 11,500+. Climbing toward the saddle go left (West) to the black rocks avoiding the easy looking granite on the right.

Carl Heller

## FLORENCE LAKE

For the sea-sick prone, cost-conscious, or post Labor Day climber, the hike around Florence Lake is considered to be about three miles - not the five advertised. The walk requires about one hour and includes about 400 ft. of gain in either direction. Good trail all the way.

- Ed Treacy

## MT. LOVE (12,064')

Locally known as Forgotten Peak. Forgotten Creek and Canyon lie to the east. Summit supports solar powered repeater device important in the Kern drainage communications system.

Jerry Keating

## HUNGRY PACKER PASS (12,800+)

This climbers pass, N.W. of Mt. Haeckel offers the quickest access to Evolution Canyon. From Midnight Lake climb the ridge on the S.E. and continue S.W. to the tarn North of Haeckel. Climb to the right (N.W.) side of the saddle. Descending-work slightly right until you find a chute which is easy to follow down.

From Sapphire Lake, the route is not difficult to ascend. In descending the canyon on the North side, be sure to work left onto the ridge along Midnight Lake.

Carl Heller

# LETTERS

"I would like to express my appreciation to the leaders - George Hubbard and Doug Mantle - and the participants - Bob Ayers, Tom Cardina, Mark Goebel, Dave King, and Cuno Ranschau - of the June 29-July 7 Great Western Divide trip for their assistance after I dislocated my shoulder crossing a stream below Wallace Lakes. They gave me first aid, carried my pack for three days, and nursed me out to Whitney Portal over Russell-Carillon Col with safety and as much comfort as could be expected under the circumstances. I hope that others injured on the mountains receive equally competent help from SPS members."

-Ed Omberg

It would be nice if the membership lists in the "Echo" were legible, which mostly they are not.

Regards,  
Monroe Levy

Our apologies for the condition of the list. Reproduction difficulties were not noticed until the issue had been distributed.

Ed.

On the climb of Cache Peak, described elsewhere, Dough Warschauer and I had to pass NO TRESPASSING signs and a locked gate. We did this without too many qualms because the road is shown on the old maps. Doug mentioned the British Easement Society which works at keeping old roads open to the public, and we wondered whether America needs such a society. How many public roads have been closed by people who own land only or at the end of the road.

The problem frequently arises after vandals, thieves or thoughtless picnickers cause damage to private property. The land owner, particularly if he is usually absent, responds by putting in a gate. This serves his purpose, but essentially closes the public land and mountains as well as the road to general use.

Such closure might be regarded as a conservation measure since most land owners will never climb the mountains behind their property. However, it does send more people into the accessible lands.

Whatever is the right way to view this situation it might be interesting to have some data about how many roads are closed, and the Sierra Club might have the people with the most information about this. Locally, I know of four or five closed canyons. Has anybody else found this type of closure?

Carl Heller

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