

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 19

MARCH

APRIL 1975

NO. 2



New Emblem Holders

* Ret Moore

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12071671

New Echo Subscription

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Hollywood, CA 90046

HOW SAFE ARE SPS TRIPS?

The SPS Safety Committee has been wrestling with the thought of how to get a better handle on the question of accidents and incidents (or near misses) and their avoidance. Frankly, we think that the SPS has a very good record, but we're not at all sure that this is because we run a safe operation, because close shaves and even minor accidents go unrecorded or because we've just been lucky. Probably it's some bit of all of these but we'd really like to understand the situation better. We'll try to scratch for some of the historical data and would appreciate your help via comments, suggestions, and recollections, but we'd really like to build a good data base from now. This means that everyone, but leaders and assistant leaders particularly, should be expected to tell about experiences he's had and practices he's observed which could have resulted in injury. We say "tell about" rather than "report on" because we want to avoid any inference of culpability. The name of the game is to learn something, not to place blame. This may be pretty darn difficult, but I believe that a good leader should be willing and able to discuss his own performance, not defensively, but objectively. Now if we can begin to get our leaders to do this let's appreciate their candor, use it constructively and not be too critical of their performance after the fact. Sunday morning quarter backing can ruin a good program before it gets off the ground.

This is really a plea for information which can be used to improve our practices in conducting trips directly or to build a statistical file to help us judge where we are safety wise. The media for reporting our observations are optional. A note to me or the SPS Chairman would be fine. A copy of an accident/emergency report form would help us onto the track. Perhaps just a note of unusual circumstances or events added onto the leader's usual trip report would do the trick.

NORM ROHN

Little Kern Planning Unit

Many of you participated in one or more letter writing campaigns concerning alternative land use plans for the planning units of the Sequoia National Forest. Joe Fontaine, chairman of the Sierra Club's Southern California Regional Conservation Commission, has just written me that John Leasure, Forest Supervisor, told him that he had received more than 400 comments favoring wilderness for the Little Kern Planning Unit, and that many were from the Los Angeles area. Your efforts have been effective and are greatly appreciated.

Mineral King

A preliminary environmental impact statement which favors development of a massive ski resort in Mineral King was filed early this month by the Forest Service. The project was halted in 1969 by injunction resulting from a Sierra Club lawsuit. The government appealed the injunction to the Circuit Court of Appeals which ruled that the Sierra Club did not have standing to sue. The U.S. Supreme Court, to which the Club then appealed, agreed, but allowed the Club to amend its complaint to more precisely delineate its interest in Mineral King. The Club's amended complaint added new plaintiffs, mostly cabin lessees in Mineral King Valley, and in 1972 the District Judge ruled the amended complaint sufficient. Since then the Club has been preparing for trial which will be held when the final environmental statement is approved sometime this summer. The trial will deal with all issues pending before the court, including adequacy of the final EIS. Meanwhile, comments on the preliminary EIS will be accepted through March 31. Copies may be obtained by writing United States Forest Service Region 5, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94111.

Fred Hoeptner
2/4/75

Barbara Lilley would like to know if anyone else would be interested in joining the Outing Committee's bus trip to the Uinta Mountains July 19-27 (Page 197, Sched. 208) and climbing King's Peak, high point of Utah. The scheduled backpack will not be in the area where King's Peak is located so a minimum of 3 would be required for a separate trip. Also depends on whether transportation can be arranged to a roadhead closer to King's Peak than can be reached by the bus. Please contact her before June 1 at 8421 Lindley Ave., Northridge, CA 91324 Ph. 886-4154.

This month's cover shot of intrepid mountaineers Doug Mantle and Tom Cardina atop seldom climbed Eichorn Pinnacle in Yosemite was captured by Bob Ayres.

THE SIERRA ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. EDITOR - Paul Lipsohn, 9152 E. Olive St., Bellflower, CA 90706. MAILING - Ann Cavalieri, 1515 Belleau Rd., Glendale, CA 91206. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$3 per year. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send remittance before March 31 to: Duane McRuer, SPS Treasurer, 357 S. Meadows Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. COPY DEADLINE - Twentieth of every month.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

HORSESHOE MEADOWS

Bishop, Calif...The final decision to provide a development theme of a "gentle backcountry experience" for Forest users in the Horse-shoe Meadow/Trail Peak area west of Lone Pine, California has been made by the U.S. Forest Service.

Commenting on this decision, Inyo National Forest Supervisor, Everett Towle stated that this decision basically reflects the Horse-shoe Meadow Land Use Plan as prescribed in the final Environmental Impact Statement. "One adjustment to this Land Use Plan has been made in response to suggestions offered by many individuals," said Towle. "Rather than extend the existing road one mile to reach National Forest Land, the Forest Service will attempt a land exchange with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power. This will reduce the road extension from one mile to a few hundred yards. Should this effort fail, it will be necessary to extend the road the full mile in order to have administrative control of public use at the road end and to provide necessary water and sanitation services."

Major items in the future management of this area include a key road and trailhead parking area for persons using the Pacific Crest Trail and Kern Plateau areas, development of a family campground which would eliminate the existing unregulated camping, development of a pack station with facilities for winter cross country ski activities, three or four primitive backcountry camps for intermediate outdoor recreation experiences, and an administrative site for a resident ranger and interpretive/educational facilities designed around the Golden Trout and wildlife of the area.

"This plan is far removed from the original plan which proposed a fully developed downhill ski facility," stated Towle. "Through a re-evaluation of that proposal and other management alternatives, which included an extensive public involvement process, we have changed our management direction considerably."

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Complete List of SPS Emblem Holders

15 January 1975

Bill T. Russell

As SPS Secretary for 1974, I had custody of the SPS records and read old ECHO's and emblem applications with interest. I also had to answer questions about past mistakes in the records and tried to keep from making new ones myself.

This led to the idea of compiling a list of all emblem holders. I did this in three ways. First I read all the emblem application letters which are in the section records. I used the date on the letter if there was one, if not I added a few days to the date of the last peak climbed (if dated). These are listed with month-day-year. I would suggest using the date of the application letter in the future. It is the simplest and was the source of the most data in the past. I found that most people wrote their letters soon after making their qualifying climb, so the latter date could be used with insignificant affect on the list. The second method was to go through all the ECHO's and record the month and year that the new emblem holders were listed. These are listed with month and year. Finally I went through the membership lists which are in the file or in ECHO's and noted the year at which the member is first designated as an emblem holder. These are listed by year only.

The records are quite good for the early and late years. Records are very poor for the years 1965 and 1966; there are no emblem applications in the file, few mentions of new emblem holders in the ECHO's, and no membership lists between November 1964 and October 1967. Consequently, the emblem list has a large group of names that first show up in the October 1967 membership list, and I have listed these alphabetically under "1967". I suspect that many of these people qualified for emblems in 1965 and 1966.

It is possible that a few members might have joined, received emblems and become inactive in 1965 and 1966 and hence not be listed. Other than that possibility, the list should be complete. Several of the climbing women married after receiving their emblem. I have tried to show the name that they had when receiving the emblem with their later name in parentheses. It may be that some women are listed twice, once for each name. Norman Clyde was given an emblem in September 1960, and at Jerry Keating's suggestion, I have listed him at the head of the list. He probably climbed ten emblem peaks while most of us were children or less.

I have shown the list to a number of old time SPS'ers who all seemed to enjoy looking through it and who suggested publishing it as a DRAFT in the ECHO. I invite your comments and hope that I can get dates of emblem qualifying climbs where only the month or year is shown. I would expect to make an update in a few months, and this could be the base line for keeping track in the future.

DRAFT

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
EMBLEM HOLDERS

0. Clyde, Norman	Honorary	50. Gall, Marge	9-07-60
1. Kehrlein, Oliver	56	51. Sisson, Virgil	9-14-60
2. Robinson, John	56	52. Stocking, Robert	9-14-60
3. Clarke, Don	56	53. Limp, Thomas	9-21-60
4. Sheller, Robert	56	54. Donatelli, Reginald	9 60
5. Meixner (Gentry), Pat	56	55. Carroll, John	9 60
6. Bingham, Bud	56	56. Wallerstein, George	11-07-60
7. Mandolf, Henry	1-03-57	57. Dageforde, Allen	6 61
8. Lilley, Barbara	4 57	58. Hamren, David	7-31-61
9. Wade, Bob	7-08-57	59. Brand, Steve	7 61
10. Smatko, Andy	7-19-57	60. Raudenbush, Michael	8-14-61
11. Ross, Tom	8-13-57	61. Condon, Thomas	8-25-61
12. Miller, Chuck	8-20-57	62. Shinno, George	9-05-61
13. Sanders, Bill	9-04-57	63. Maier, Ted	9-07-61
14. Hunt, Peter	9-11-57	64. Rogero, Bunny	9-13-61
15. Jones, Vern	9-22-57	65. Rogero, Steve	9-14-61
16. Gnagy, Richard	9 57	66. Erb, Arkel	9-25-61
17. Bear, Robert	10 57	67. Hiehle, Mike	9 61
18. Heller, Carl	10 57	68. Clifton, Bill	5-29-62
19. Fink, Sam	12-24-57	69. Kolbig, Lothar	9-03-62
20. Collins, Walter	1-27-58	70. Spinks, John	9-04-62
21. Estes, Paul	7-25-58	71. McNicholas, Mike	9-27-62
22. Shinno, Jon	8-09-58	72. Julian, Renne	9-27-62
23. Amneus, Tom	8 58	73. Arp, Vincent	11-12-62
24. Keating, Jerry	9-02-58	74. Furnoy, R. J.	8-27-63
25. Hamilton, Don	9-02-58	75. Cubberly, David	9-10-63
26. Parsons, Charlotte	9-02-58	76. Light, Garver	9-10-63
27. Parkinson, Burl	9-02-58	77. Sanborn, Frank	9 63
28. Gerckens, Charles	9-24-58	78. Nichols, James	11-11-63
29. Heusel, Bill	11-13-58	79. Wilkie, Steve	1 64
30. Eide (Miller), Mary	12-10-58	80. Ossofsky, Sy	6-05-64
31. Hunter, Paul	5-04-59	81. MacLeod, Gordon	6-08-64
32. Brubacher, Miles	6-12-59	82. Coolidge, Ann	6-30-64
33. Wright, Lyn	6-30-59	83. Matheson, Bill	7-05-64
34. Wright, Helen	6-30-59	84. Lovett, Bob	7-13-64
35. Jensen, Frede	7-20-59	85. Kussman, Norman	7 64
36. McGeein, Don	9 59	86. Beebe, John	8-13-64
37. Jali, Dick	8-03-59	87. Lougee, Glenn	9-08-64
38. Keating, Nancy	8-08-59	88. Fossett, Steve	9-10-64
39. Myers, Cliff	9-08-59	89. Eder, Jim	9-19-64
40. Myers, Maurine	9-08-59	90. Peckham, John	10-12-64
41. Levy, Monroe	9-13-59	91. Nelson, Paul	10-20-64
42. Hunt, Tom	9 59	92. Kussman, Phyllis	11 64
43. Hunt, Trudie	9 59	93. Nims, Jerry	11 64
44. Finney, Albert	9 59	94. Voge, Harvey	64
45. Mosley, Dick	10-18-59	95. Colevins, Neko	64
46. Modjeska, Charles	8-01-60	96. Burge, Dennis	64
47. Modjeska, George	8-01-60	97. Sheaffer, Erwin	1 65
48. Mohn, Russell	8-15-60	98. Rappolee, Don	1 65
49. Ballard, Charles	8 60	99. Michel, Roy	8 65

100.	Cubberly, Don	9	65	156.	Mason, Robert	7-31-68	
101.	Thomas, William	1	66	157.	Jenkins, Jim	8-01-68	
102.	Larkin (MacLeod), Barbara	6-25-66		158.	Riseley, Frank	8-11-68	
103.	Lieberman, Izzy	9-19-66		159.	Thornton, John	8-14-68	
104.	Bowen, Gary	9	66	160.	Treacy, Tim	8-30-68	
105.	Bingham, Bep	3	67	161.	Ferrell, Ken	8-31-63	
106.	Shay, Carleton	3	67	162.	Anderson, Elizabeth	9-02-68	
107.	Walters, Jim	3	67	163.	Stockton, Les	9-02-68	
108.	Van Allen, Robert	6-19-67		164.	Talt, Rich	9-03-68	
109.	Siemens, Abe	7-04-67		165.	Akawie, Richard	9-15-68	
110.	Arnon, Stephen	7-17-67		166.	Ulyatt, Peter	9-15-68	
111.	Banks, Bill	8-13-67		167.	Akawie, Barbara	9-22-68	
112.	Vitz, John	8-13-67		168.	Fowler, Al	9-30-68	
113.	Kaicener, Cyril	8-14-67		169.	Larson, Kenton	10-01-68	
114.	Smith, Richard	8-16-67		170.	Ripley, John	10-08-68	
115.	Castle, John	8	67	171.	Bernard, Randolph	10-12-68	
116.	Werner, Louise	8	67	172.	Fletcher, Elton	10	68
117.	Smith, Steve	8	67	173.	Fletcher, Pat	10	68
118.	Siegal (Ossofsky) Ellen Jane	9-01-67		174.	Fletcher, Larry	10	68
119.	Buckmaster, Doug	9-10-67		175.	Fletcher, Mary	10	68
120.	Rohn, Norm	9-19-67		176.	Isaac, John	11-10-68	
121.	Burge, Caroll	9	67	177.	Taylor, Ray	11-20-68	
122.	Johnson, Fred	9	67	178.	Davis, Jay		68
123.	Desaluniers, Lucien	10-11-67		179.	Boelter, Donald	2	69
124.	Williams, Robert	10	67	180.	Boelter, Gene	2	69
125.	Woods, Don	11-01-67		181.	Boelter, Jim	2	69
126.	Anderson, Don		67	182.	Hallet, Douglas	2	69
127.	Bailey, Howland		67	183.	Hill, Lewis	2	69
128.	Barnes, George		67	184.	Jones, Ron	2	69
129.	Davis, Sid		67	185.	Schuler, William	2	69
130.	Dodds, Walter		67	186.	Weitzul, James	2	69
131.	Fossett, Dick		67	187.	Riseley, Joni	6-02-69	
132.	Gail, Gene		67	188.	Taylor, Todd	6	69
133.	Hallett, Bernard		67	189.	Williams, Ray	6	69
134.	Henry, Wally		67	190.	Brubacher, Maureen	8	69
135.	Herlihy, Robert		67	191.	Wedberg, John	9-07-69	
136.	Heyenbruch, William		67	192.	Aikman, Gerald	9-23-69	
137.	Hunt, Bill		67	193.	Akawie, Carol	9	69
138.	Lampman, Norman		67	194.	Bausback, Brenden	9	69
139.	McNutt, Ken		67	195.	Flemming, Ronald	10-16-69	
140.	McGlone, Dave		67	196.	Erb, Ruth		69
141.	Moeller, Carl		67	197.	Melts, Harry		69
142.	Romero, Ben		67	198.	Stephens, Howard		69
143.	Romero, Miriam		67	199.	Taylor, Wendy	7-05-70	
144.	Stiles, Vernon E.		67	200.	Schnitzer, Ewald	7-06-70	
145.	Stork, Edward		67	201.	Smith, Carl	7-08-70	
146.	Sykes, Richard		67	202.	Petitjean, Bernie	7-13-70	
147.	Meyers, Frank	4-14-68		203.	Petitjean, Lu	7-13-70	
148.	Browder, Hal	7-07-68		204.	White, N. P.	7-30-70	
149.	DeNike, Douglas	7-10-68		205.	Dee, Diana	8-09-70	
150.	Dodds, Eunice	7-10-68		206.	Cardina, Tom	8-31-70	
151.	Rausch, Bill	7-10-68		207.	Hoover, Bill	8-31-70	
152.	Ory, Horace	7-11-68		208.	Neffson, Ben	8-31-70	
153.	Harding, Steve	7-21-68		209.	Magnuson, Roy	8	70
154.	Williams, Craig	7-25-68		210.	Schumacher, Eric	8	70
155.	Bowen, Bob	7-31-68		211.	Riseley, Mike	9-04-70	

212.	Backus, John	9-06-70	266.	Walker, Claude	10-09-72
213.	Carlin, Rosemarie	9-07-70	267.	Feldmann, Bill	10 72
214.	Goebel, Mark	9-08-70	268.	Rich, Arthur	10 72
215.	Snyder, Gerald	9-08-70	269.	Riemer, Richard	11-06-72
216.	Davis, Joyce	9-13-70	270.	Petitjean, Jon	4-03-73
217.	McRuer, Duane	9-14-70	271.	LeClercq, Leon	7-01-73
218.	Keenan, Roy	9-28-70	272.	Brumer, Harry	7-07-73
219.	Boyles, Bob	9-30-70	273.	Riseley, Mary	7-15-73
220.	Kemper, Mary	9-30-70	274.	Davis, Kent	7-31-73
221.	Kluth, Paul	10-13-70	275.	Nathanson, Cliff	8-08-73
222.	Linden, John	10-19-70	276.	McCosker, Joe	8-20-73
223.	Wiley, Jay	11-03-70	277.	Naves, Tom	8-25-73
224.	Janecky, David	11-30-70	278.	Ward, Roy	8-27-73
225.	deGoede, Art	3-18-71	279.	Mauk, Gene	8-28-73
226.	Treacy, Ed	6-30-71	280.	Rose, Ed	8-31-73
227.	Smith, Natalie	6 71	281.	Gedaugas, J.	9-04-73
228.	Hubbard, George	8-15-71	282.	Reber, Barbara	9-05-73
229.	Rowland, Chet	8-25-71	283.	Akawie, Shirley	9-09-73
230.	Hoover, Vicky	9-01-71	284.	Gabiner, Ralph	9-09-73
231.	Hill, Ed	9-02-71	285.	Goetz, Larry	9-09-73
232.	Hayes, William	9-06-71	286.	Heishi, May	9-09-73
233.	Zemetra, Mike	9-07-71	287.	Hawkins (Notestine), Alice	9-12-73
234.	Lipsohn, Paul	9-08-71	288.	Ranschau, Cuno	9-15-73
235.	Gladstone, Dave	9-12-71	289.	Kabler, Betty	9-17-73
236.	Hack, Joan	9-12-71	290.	Kabler, Walton	9-17-73
237.	Toby, George	9-14-71	291.	Vasilik, Joe	10-04-73
238.	King, Dave	9-20-71	292.	Pinson, Ted	10 73
239.	Lantz, Dennis	9-20-71	293.	Secor, R. J.	11-10-73
240.	Beach, Dick	10-01-71	294.	Lauria, Don	11-12-73
241.	Benesh, Milosh	10-18-71	295.	Searle, Dick	11-27-73
242.	Siemens, Helen	11-06-71	296.	Dodds, Jim	11 73
243.	Campbell, David	11-21-71	297.	Hoeptner, Fred	73
244.	Grasso, Vi	12-15-71	298.	Hoeptner, Judy	73
245.	Hunt, Ann	71	299.	McKinley, John	6-18-74
246.	Ellis, Kim	3-06-72	300.	Machleder, Larry	7-08-74
247.	Mantle, Doug	3-10-72	301.	Golden, Doris	8-26-74
248.	Barnes, Ron	5-14-72	302.	McDermott, John	9-02-74
249.	Ramirez, Dick	6-15-72	303.	Burdett, David	9-03-74
250.	Hammond, David	6-19-72	304.	Pinson, Anna Lou	9-05-74
251.	Lake, Ron	7-07-72	305.	Erb, Jim	9-06-74
252.	Harvey, Wilson	7-11-72	306.	Bloland, Paul	9-09-74
253.	Sharp, Wes	7-11-72	307.	Stein, Dale	9-11-74
254.	Magnuson, Barbara	7-15-72	308.	Russell, Pat	9-15-74
255.	McLean, Don	7-31-72	309.	Hellman, John	9-24-74
256.	Glassner, Geoffrey	8-01-72	310.	Hoover, Frances	10-01-74
257.	Hoover, Nathan	8-01-72	311.	Moomaw, Sheldon	10-04-74
258.	Beyer, Kurt	8-07-72	312.	Kesler, Earl	10-09-74
259.	Popper, Dan	8-28-72			
260.	Sanford, David	8-28-72			
261.	Pedersen, Robert	9-08-72			
262.	Riseley, Pat	9-15-72			
263.	Russell, Bill T.	9-27-72			
264.	Young, Joe	10-08-72			
265.	McDaniel, Frank	10-09-72			



ASCENTS

SPANISH NEEDLE, CARTAGO PK. NOV. 9-10 ROY AND BARBARA MAGNUSON

19 climbers met at the aqueduct on Sand Canyon Road on Saturday. The weather was clear and cool. We drove to the road junction crossing the stream and walked up the road to the base of the peak. As one gets close to the mountain three prominent bumps are seen. The summit is the one on the right. The middle one, which appears to be directly at the head of a canyon, is not it. Using Paul Lipsohn's writeup we contoured around the left side of the ridge leading to the summit. We reached the top of the ridge just north of the summit. There we found two possible third class routes to the summit covered with snow, which became icy after one or two people had gone up. Three people ascended these routes and the rest of us descended about 200 or 300 feet down the northeast side of the peak. Thanks to good scouting by Tom Cardina and Roy we were able to find a route which led first up one large chute then south to another one on the east side of the peak. After climbing up some cracks filled with oak trees, which served both as hand and foot holds and as obstacles, the rest of us reached the summit about three hours later. This route has a short stretch of high third class and is not recommended over the usual route.

We managed to reach the road by dark and hiked to the cars. Those of us continuing to Cartago the next day had supper in Ridgecrest and caravanned to the roadhead for Cartago.

We were up early and hiking by about 6:45 am. The ten of us who started reached the summit plateau by 12:30, but considerable scouting had to be done (tromping around in a foot of new snow) before the summit was located near the south end of the plateau. On returning we were able to come down the last 5000 feet in about an hour, this being possibly the longest nearly continuous scree run in the Sierras. We were back at the cars by 4:30. We had a good group on the trip, making leading a pleasure.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

SHAKY LEG CRACK

Sept. 7-8.....Doug Mantle

Mere list baggers can climb too, as this trip illustrated. As Mt. Whitney's East Face provides perhaps the finest established route among Sierra Peaks, I thought a few comments on the climb might encourage others to try it.

The approach is somewhat arduous, involving 4,500' gain with some bushwacking up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. The ledges route perhaps is more trouble than it is worth. On the bench above Lower Lower Boy Scout Lake, beyond the left branching stream turn left (contrary to the Guides) to reach East Face Lake. Built-up campsites abound at the lake, a scenic spot from which to relax and view the route.

The climb begins with a short trudge up talus below the east Butress. By staying left you arrive at an obvious platform to begin the tower traverse. Go up the shelf on the left (exposed) to a fixed pin. The traverse goes easily down and across to a 15 foot chimney which is surmounted, then across left to the washboard. This giant ramp leads up to a vertical wall (3rd class); then climb the short wall of blocks to the left and over to the three variations.

Shaky leg crack is the chock filled chimney very obvious from this point. The 5.7 is mostly arms and grunt and only ten feet, to a fine ledge. Another immediate pitch of fifth class starts you up the so-called staircase.

This stretch involves a short friction lay back (fixed pin) and brings you to a tough looking deadend. While the difficult cracks to the left may be climbed, we moved right, around an airy corner, up a small exposed ramp to another shelf.

From there the route went third and fourth class in a snake route to the summit itself.

The route involves only 2,000' of gain without many breathers, but the mountaineers route provides very quick (1 hour) descent, making for a short day (5-7 hours).

We used only hexcentrics, relying at several points on fixed pins. For convenience a 150' rope helps, but 120' would be adequate.

The challenge of the East Face is not so extreme as you might think, and the pleasure derived from this great climb merits a few more attempts by our better baggers.

DICK AKAWIE CLIMBS PEAK WEST OF LAKE TAHOE - NAMES IT AFTER HIMSELF - PROPOSES IT FOR ADDITION TO THE PEAKS LIST

No, no, no, not Mt. Akawie. DICKS PEAK! Seriously, I was looking for a place to go peakbagging without backpacking because of medical restrictions, so my wife Shirlèy and I drove up to Lake Tahoe to climb mountains there. You can be sure Dicks Peak was an objective, but when we arrived Sunday morning, Sept. 15, we decided to climb Mt. Tallac first. I followed Ron Jones' directions in the Echo. About 1 1/2 miles west of the Fallen Leaf Lake Road on Highway 89, we took the Spring Creek Tract main paved road 0.8 mile south to the Floating Island Lake trail (sign). That trail goes past Floating Island Lake and Cathedral Lake, then up to the top of the mountain - trail all the way. We hurried back to get to the Visitors Center near the Fallen Leaf Lake Road to get a Wilderness Permit to climb Dicks Peak on Monday. There we learned that the rangers recommend another route to Tallac as being more gradual; that one starts near Glen Alpine. We decided to climb Dicks Peak from this same starting point, and it is obvious that the two peaks can be done together - in one day by a strong hiker. Finding the trail is a little hard, so here are the directions. Drive around Fallen Leaf Lake past Fallen Leaf Lake Lodge. Drive through the Fallen Leaf Lake Lodge Campground. The pavement ends 3/4 mile further at the bridge below Lily Lake. A rough road continues 1/2 mile to a locked gate, where we parked. From there it was a pretty hike along Glen Alpine Creek to Gilmore Lake (where the Tallac trail takes off) and then up to Dicks Pass, with Dicks Lake below. (You didn't realize I was so well known). We went east around the bump on a usage trail on its south side, then up the east ridge of the peak to the top. It was a most impressive mountain; maybe it should be made an Emblem Peak.

Tuesday we drove to Squaw Valley to climb Granite Chief. From the valley we had a choice of following dirt roads up under the ski lifts, or following a reportedly vague and intermittent trail, which starts behind the hotel, along Squaw Creek to Shirlèy Lake (we named this one also). We decided to explore the lift area and took the main road, which at first approximately follows the trail shown on the topos, up to the Gold Coast Restaurant. From there, we followed a road to the north till we hit the still existent trail to the Watson Monument to the Emigrants. We found out later that the Emigrants did not come this way, however. From the monument, a trail led north to the saddle and then right up to the top of the peak. Granite Chief should be changed to class 1 on the peaks list. This was a dry trip, with no water available, since some workmen warned us that the stream in the canyon was fouled by the restaurant effluent. The ski lift area was not very pretty either. Maybe when there is snow on the ground.....

Wednesday we drove up Nevada Hwy. 27 to the dirt road (sign) at 8800' to the west of the highway summit. We hiked on this road around to the head of Galena Creek, then took the trail which leads all the way to the top of Mt. Rose. We were impressed by the various springs which formed Galena Creek. The sign at the start lies, it is more like 5 1/2 miles than 3 1/2 miles to the peak by this route.

MORE



Thursday we decided to climb Tinker Knob from the north, and this involved finding the trailhead. We left Interstate 80 at the Donner Memorial State Park exit west of Truckee, and went south on the road between the Union and Standard stations, past Pejo's Restaurant. The road turned into Coldstream Valley along Cold Creek. The trees along the road were soon marked with signs saying "Emigrant Trail". This is indeed the route followed by the covered wagons. The Donner Party butched and went just north of this valley, getting stuck by Donner Lake. About 3.7 miles from Int. 80, the road crossed the railroad tracks. We were stopped here for 10-15 minutes watching two trains go by; it's the main line to Sacramento. The road split on the other side of the tracks, and we took the left fork. After another 0.1 mile we took a right fork, and continued 0.3 mile further to the trail sign ("Tinker Knob"). From here we walked along a rough dirt road along the South Fork of Cold Creek until it turned into a trail, which led us to within 1/4 mile of the peak. There was a short class 2 stretch just below the top.

Friday we left to drive to Virginia Lakes for the scheduled SPS trip that weekend. All in all, it was a great vacation, with beautiful weather all week, not too many people, and beautiful country for hiking and climbing.

VOLUNTEER, PETTIT, PIUTE (Revisited) Sept. 13-16.....Ed Treacy

We missed the scheduled June assault on Volunteer, Pettit and Piute from Twin Lakes because of circumstances uncontrollable. Thus spent anxious days and sleepless nights anticipating another opportunity to overcome those fine peaks. In the halcyon days of mid-September this chance came. In contrast to the spring trip that was discomfitted by some residual moisture, now the route is dry, the trails are fast, and the trip was kind of a cake walk, and with the land above water, a couple of surprising features surfaced. There is a good, maintained trail going south from Barney Lake toward Yosemite (it's called the Barney Lake Trail, doesn't show on the topo).

About two miles south of Barney Lake, this trail crests, there is a junction, a sign points north to Twin Lakes and south to Yosemite, but inexplicably, a trail heading west is unmarked. This unmarked trail goes up and around Peeler Lake and joins the Benson Lake/Buckeye Pass Trail in Kerrick Meadow (evidently this trail via Peeler Lake has superseded the Buckeye Pass trail that is not longer maintained and little use). From there it's all as per topos. Stats on V.P. and P. via Twin Lakes are 50 miles and 13,00 ft. of gain, three or four days depending on the inclinations of the hiker. If all three are not done in one day, a one day climb of Piute plus the hike out is comparable to, say, a morning climb of Deerhorn or Clarence King with the ensuing return to the cars.



MORE

AN INTERLUDE ALONG THE BLACK DIVIDE AND ENVIRONS

This is an account of a trip through seldom trodden canyons and passes and to the summits of rarely visited peaks. From the 14th through the 22nd of Sept., an ideal time of the year by the way, Tom Ross, Frank Yates, Bill Schuler and I divagated from South Lake and back to South Lake into most enchanting recondite, lacustrine basins deep within the Sierra.

Our odyssey took us from South Lake to the Treasure Lakes and thence over a 12,200'+ pass just NNW of Mt. Johnson. There is a steep chute at the left (S) end of the broad pass which offers the best approach to the crest, class 2. Another steep class 2 chute brought us into the basin W. of Mt. Johnson. Before camping at about 11,000', we dropped packs and climbed Pk. 12,148, class 2 mostly but necessitating some easy class 3 climbing. A cairn was found but no register.

The following day we ascended the NW branch of the stream through delightful golden, boulder strewn meadows, echoing the sweet chirping of water ouzels in the cascades of the stream. Our objective was the SE peak on the Powell plateau. After climbing the high point of Mt. Powell, we climbed the virgin SE peak (13,120'+), built a cairn and left a register. This was my third ascent of Mt. Powell. The big unknown that was gnawing at me was the final 4-500' descent to Big Pete meadow but felt that somehow we would negotiate this section. For those who may someday wish to venture down (or up) this canyon, the route will be described in a bit of detail. The descent will be described. Stay along the left (S) side of the stream till the cliffs appear. Traverse S to pass along the base of a low cliff which is the side of a blunt ridge and descend about 100'. Gain the crest of this ridge and follow it down till an obvious way is seen down to the right into the stream bed. Cross the stream and brushwhack for about 100 yards. Now, it is best to recross to the S side where talus and batches of dwarf manzanita can be seen. Descend now to Big Pete meadow. The right (N) aide of the stream is a sea of brush, aspen and other vegetative impedimenta, so stay away. The rest of this day was spent ascending "Langille Creek" to about 10,600' where camp was made. The view to the E was one of the finest in the Sierra, with the array of the Palisades peaks boldly thrusting into the evening sky.

Monday was spent climbing Langille peak (easy 3rd class for only 100'), Pk. 12,000'+, a second ascent after 48 years, and Pk. 12,125, a fourth ascent. We returned to the same camp.

Tuesday we backpacked to the saddle (10,760'+) west of Pk. 12,520'+, and climbed it via the W slope, class 2. This peak has two summits and the northern is higher than the numbered south summit (12,483). Bill Schuler and I then attempted the small sharp peak west of Pk. 12,520'+ and were thwarted after wasting valuable time ascending two wrong couloirs (roped). The rock is very loose and dangerous. Our high point was a pinnacle 100' lower and to the SE of the summit. Time did not permit us to try for the summit even though we now saw the road to the summit, which would still be class 4 climbing. Charles Bays Locker was killed descending this peak and I can see why. Camp was made at idyllic Ladder lake, where Frank and Tom had selected a prime site.

From Ladder lake on the following day we headed SW up talus to the saddle west of Pk. 12,425. Class 3 scrambling was required to gain this saddle, whereas the ascent from there to the summit was class 2 up large talus blocks. Ours was the third ascent. Back in the saddle again (oops, that is a song), we then climbed Pk. 12,425+ to the SW of Pk. 12,425. We then descended 800' westwards and while Bill went on to climb Wheel Mtn. and peaklet 12,400'+ to the S of Pk. 12,425+, (a first ascent), Tom, Frank and I climbed Pk. 12,720'+ (actually 12,760'+), 1.15 NW of Wheel Mountain, class 3 in the upper reaches. Our return route was via the saddle between peaklets 12,560'+ and 12,480'+ (which we climbed. Peaklet 12,560'+ was a first ascent whereas 12,480'+ was a second ascent. Descent was along the NE ridge of Pk. 12,480'+ and down the slope. We had considerable difficulty finding a way through the cliffs but eventually succeeded and reached camp at dark. Bill returned via our ascent route to the saddle SW of Pk. 12,425 and further climbed a peaklet, the Archbishop. Next day we backpacked to the higher saddle SSW of The Citadel and climbed this peak from there, mostly class 2. Then we backpacked down to the basin to the S and on up to the SE ridge of Pk. 12009' and climbed this peak, class 2. Camp was made at the middle of the three lakes below.

Friday, we all gained the ridge line W of Devil's Crag and Tom was suddenly seized by laziness and a desire for picture taking. Bill, Frank and I climbed Pk. 12,240'+, 0.75 mi. N of Mt. Woodworth. There was no evidence of previous visitation. We named it Devilwood Crag and left a register. The traverse to Mt. Woodworth was enlivened by a fair amount of class 3 scrambling. I had my eye on Pk. 11,858 and persuaded (with no objections) Bill and Frank to go on. Our reward was a first ascent of this peak and we named it Cragworth Peak. Bill then climbed Pk. 11,755. Meanwhile Tom recovered his drive and ascended Devilwood Crag and returned to camp where we soon joined him.

On Saturday, Tom and Frank climbed Rambaud Peak which appears to have three pinnacles or high points along a ridge. Bill and I re-ascended to the ridge W of Devil's Crag and after studying the SW face decided to drop the 400' to gain a crack parallel to the lower left arm of the "X" and slightly (100') to the south. We ascended this crack (class 3) to the long diagonal chute heading L to the summit ridge. This latter chute is basically loose class 2 from the middle of the "X". The remainder of the climb is well known, requiring care and is mostly class 3 but a well exposed class 3. That day we backpacked to a campsite on the JM trail opposite Ladder Creek, reaching it at dark.

A leisurely backpack brought us to the cars Sunday. September is a generally good time for a Sierra trip. All the parking spaces at South Lake were occupied on the Saturday we began the trip (we got the last one). We saw no one from the time we left Treasure Lakes till we gained Little Pete Meadow and saw two campers there. From then on we saw no one till Sunday, seven days later. The weather was perfect, with lows just about 32° in the morning. Both Langille peak and The Citadel easily qualify for consideration to the SPS list, as does Pk. 12,425. Much talus and cruddy rock is encountered in the upper (above 10,000") levels in the canyons and on the peaks themselves.

Do not follow up Rambaud's Creek (or down), close to the stream. It is very bushy and manzanitie in the lower reaches. In ascending from the Middle fork of the Kings, one should start angling up from the lower end of Grouse Meadows or just beyond and gain Rambaud Creek at about 9,800' or more. Bolton Brown's original commentary regarding his climb of Mt. Woodworth is in the register on this summit, and it gives one a thrill to read words penned so many years ago.

PRIVATE CLIMB - EAST CHUTE OF BASIN MT. Oct. 1974...Dick Beach

Living in Bishop enables one to take a few liberties on a late start. Would you believe by 11:00 a.m. Dave King and I were at the Horton Creek roadhead? The clouds had already given us their invitations of snow. Dave and I both thought the snow would only increase the atmosphere of our climb.

We followed an abandoned mining road on the east side of the basin to a large cirque which was probably why Mt. Basin bears its name. A small cabin appropriately named, "Basin Mine", was an enjoyable stop during the storm.

From the mine, the route led directly up a large chute visible from Hwy. 395.

At the top of the chute, one is faced with a 400 ft. wall directly below the summit. Always climbing with a rope and hardware, we found it of little use on clean 4th Class Rock.

At 4:00 p.m., on the summit, we were surrounded by clouds. It had been snowing steadily for the past two hours and yet the views we glimpsed at when the clouds separated were well worth our decision to continue the climb during the storm.

Our descent was made quicker by passing the 4th class slabs via a large chute to the south which connects with our original approach. We were back in Bishop by 6:00 pm. This is probably the quickest way to climb Basin Mt. The approach is direct and the scenery is beautiful - storm or no storm. This can also be done as a winter climb - or as a good ice climb later in the year.

Foerster Pk. Oct. 2-4.....Ed Treacy

Elisabeth Cohen and Ed Treacy used Glacier Lake Pass/Lake Catherine as a Foerster approach route. A little class 3 on the way to a well-wooded camp at 10,000 ft. The evening brought marrow-chilling winds, snow, and hail that would most certainly have dissuaded lesser folk. However, the distressed, stoical artifacts embellishing the site conjured up memories of our hardy, mining forebearers. We were strengthened; we persisted. Foerster was a pleasant stroll down the San Jaquin's North Fork and up Bench Canyon - there's almost a trail along the north side of Bench Canyon. Beautiful, forested country, round trip from camp about seven hours. This route to Foerster would be a demanding week-ender; better three days and pick up a couple of others along the way.

High Odyssey: The First Solo Winter Assault of Mt. Whitney and the Muir Trail Area by Eugene A. Rose. Howell-North Books, Berkeley, 1974. 160 pages. \$5.95

Almost all Sierra enthusiasts are very aware of the exploits of Clarence King, John Muir, Norman Clyde and Walter Starr Jr., but how many have heard of the accomplishments of Orland Bartholomew? During the winter of 1928-1929, Bartholomew made a solo trip of six months duration from Lone Pine to Yosemite Valley, enduring bitter cold, raging blizzards, crude living conditions and, above all, loneliness. His purpose, as a trained hydrographer, was to study and document the Sierra winter. Besides travelling the entire Muir Trail from south to north, he made snow ascents of major summits such as Mts. Langley, Whitney and Tyndall. Bartholomew's mid-winter adventure must rank as one of the outstanding feats of American ski mountaineering, equaled only by those of that early-day ski mailman, Snowshoe Thompson.

Bartholomew never publicized his incredible adventure, and the only notoriety it ever received were a few short articles in his hometown Fresno newspaper. He died in 1957. Fortunately, the diary of his winter odyssey was preserved and fell into the hands of Fresno newspaperman, Eugene Rose. From this diary, and from lengthy interviews with Bartholomew's friends, Rose has written a superb and fast-moving account of what must rank as one of the premier Sierra adventures of all time. Move over Norman Clyde and Walter Starr Jr., you have company!

The book is illustrated with many Bartholomew's photographs of the snow-mantled Sierra.

- John Robinson

Refrain from the Back Seat of a '63 Chevy
(found on the slopes of Mt. Emerson)

It's Sunday night, wet and dreary,
We're homeward bound, and damn I'm weary.
Climbed three peaks, crossed four moraines,
Each muscle in me aches and pains.
And deep inside there's gentle rasping,
My knees, my God, they've begun unhasping.
Used my brother's off sized Kelty,
My back's near broke and cruelly welty.
Two hundred feet we did rappel,
The last fourteen were really hell.
Now I've blisters in between,
To mention where would be obscene.
My lips won't bend, the ears are froze,
Been since Sat. that I've felt my nose.
The hands are raw, my feet are throbbing,
If mother saw me, she'd start sobbing.
And as the car is homeward wheeling,
And as I gain a little feeling,
A warming thought stirs my numb brain -
In just five days we'll start again.

Dear Editor,

March 4, 1975

This is in regard to the opening letter of the Chairman to the membership in the January-February issue of the Echo. "As to the world-shaking issues of environment and procedures....." the opinion of Doug Mantle is interesting, and since you asked, here's mine. We are not a devil-may-care bunch set apart from the world, bent on our goals, come what may. We still must be concerned with the world around us; in our activities, that's the Sierra Nevadas. Are there no environmental issues? Do we invade Bighorn sheep territory on Mt. Williamson in mid-summer, in spite of the ban? Amass huge quantities of weed for a great bonfire? Carry guns in to the Whitney Trail area as protection against human or animal foe or maybe just for some shooting practice? Dump soap and garbage into the streams as our mothers and fathers probably used to do? If not, why not?

The Sierra Nevadas offer us climbers more now, for the most part, with these restrictions, than we'd have had now without them -- in view of the great surge in mountain population. I suspect it was partly due to serious concern on the part of SPS leadership, as well as diligent action under that leadership, that effectuated such improvements in our environment. Let's hear the issues in our SPS meetings and take part. It's our world.

Sincerely,

Doris Golden