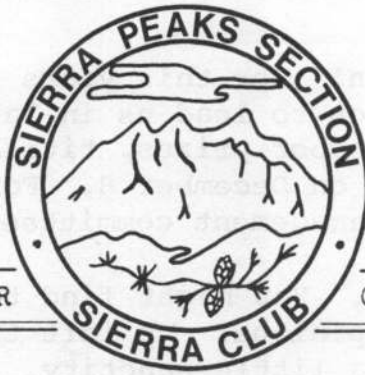


# The

# Sierra



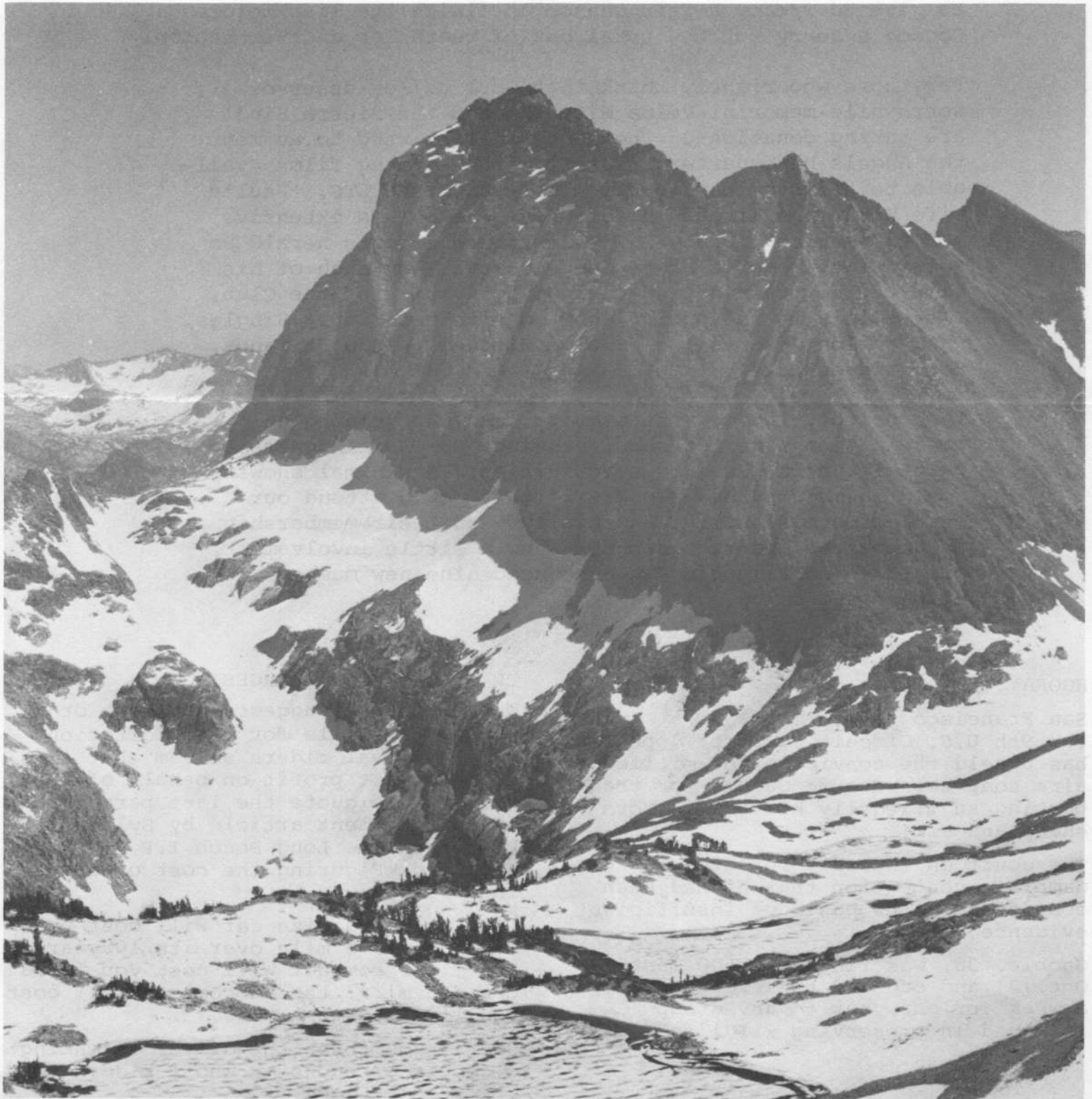
# ECHO

VOLUME 19

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER 1975

NO. 6



# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Its banquet time again! For this years fest we have the inimitable Les Stockton to lead us in laughter, the usual great dinner at Taix, door prizes, titillating program, etc., ad gloriam, all on December 8. For tickets contact Betty Kabler or any management committee members.

Elections are upon us. You might find the absence of list change proposals conspicuous. We felt the list deserves a breather, to acquire a little sanctity. Moreover, I want to give Ed Treacy a fair chance to finish the list before Gordon & Jerry put the total out of reach for another season.

For those who rightly think that Paul Kellow deserves a worthwhile memorial Velma Mitchell and the Sierra Singles are taking donations. The money will be used to augment the Angels headquarters library with training films available to all sections, particularly BMTC and LTC. Paul's wife Betty has already graciously donated his extensive mountaineering library. I think these efforts herald an appropriate memorial to a man who gave very much of his time to the training and outings activities of the Club. Please join me in sending donations to the Sierra Singles, Paul Kellow Memorial, c/o Velma Mitchell, 8830 Etiwanda, Northridge 91324.

To conclude, let me vent a gripe. Anyone joining an organization like SPS should evince some willingness to participate in the group's activities. A minimal showing could be made by new members if they would attend our meetings occasionally, especially when their membership is announced and recognized. Show a little involvement, please -- last meeting we announced nine new members, one of whom showed up.

HOORAY!!

San Francisco (UP).....  
The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction of millionaire soap heir George Gamble for transporting an illegally killed Big Horn sheep and elk.

The court on Thursday rejected Gamble's contention that he had been convicted on the basis of insufficient evidence.

Gamble, 36, was fined \$10,500 last Oct. 21 and ordered to devote one day a week for one year to any group involved in preserving wildlife.

## TRANSPORTATION CHARGES

When a leader suggests charging or paying 3¢ a mile for transportation, some habitual riders scream that it's sheer unjust profit on behalf of the driver. To quote the last paragraph of an excellent article by Sylvia Porter in the Long Beach I.P.T., entitled "Figuring the cost of operating a car."

"The standard size car will cost you 15.89 cents a mile over its 10-year life; the compact will cost you 12.88 cents a mile; the subcompact will cost you 11.15 cents a mile."

So, if you think the driver is making a couple of bucks -- who's kidding who?

## BAJA BOUND

I am interested in finding a carload or two of people who would be interested in driving down the Baja California road during Thanksgiving Week of this year (22 November through 30 November). This would give us 9 full days to make the round trip to La Paz, and even part of a 10th, if we left on the evening of Friday, 21 November and got to Ensenada that same evening. This averages out to about 250 miles per day, which should still give us time for a reasonable number of photo stops, sightseeing and side trips. I would hope to make it a sort of "camping trip" either sleeping out or in very simple local places. This would keep costs down, but more important, it would make it a trip to "real" Mexico, and an opportunity to meet some real Mexicans. Expensive hotels and waiters who speak perfect English can be found without leaving Los Angeles. Dick Jali, 718 S. Eucalyptus Ave., #2E, Inglewood, Ca. 90301. 670-1515 x6683 (work) or 677-6331 (home).

Toughest on the list ? Many think the long pack and demanding climbing on the Devil's Crag make this number one.

View from the ridge north of Rambaud La kes courtesy of Jim Angione.

THE SIERRA ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. EDITOR - Paul Lipohn, 9152 E. Olive St., Bellflower, CA 90706. MAILING - Jan Cavallieri, 1515 Kellen 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 Miller, SPS Treasurer, 357 S. Seaborn Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. COPY DEADLINE - Twentieth of every month.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AUGUST-OCTOBER, 1975

NEW MEMBERS

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90272

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Box 3207  
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92634  
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FELDERMAN, KEITH  
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Downey, Calif.  
90242

FRIED, ANDY  
538 N. Bronson Ave.  
L.A. Calif. 90004

LANTZ, DAVID  
14055 Hawes St.  
Whittier, Calif.  
90605  
693-3387

OLSEN, EUGENE  
18355 S.F. Mission Blvd.  
Northridge, Calif.  
91324

PAREDES, FRANK  
21122 Binghampton Cr.  
Huntington Beach, Calif.  
92646

SHEAFF, RANDOLF  
20 Ave 20  
Venice, Calif.  
90291

SIMONSON, GERALD  
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Santa Ana, Calif.  
92704

SOBEL, TERRY  
1333 Brockton Ave.  
L.A. Calif. 90025

TOERING, AL  
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Santa Ana, Calif. 92701

ADDRESS CHANGE

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1418 Butler Ave.  
L.A. 90025

COOLEY, PAUL  
327 S. Topanga Cyn Bl.  
Topanga, 90290

DAVIS, GEORGE  
17371 Chase St.  
Northridge, 91324

DEE, DIANA  
c/o RDA  
Box 9695  
Marina Del Rey, 90291

EMERICK, BOB  
20232 Lanark St.  
Canoga Park, 91306

JALI, DICK  
718 S. Eucalyptus  
Inglewood, 91301  
677-6331

MATCHLEDER, LARRY  
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94088

PREYER, BEN  
17836 Magnolia Blvd.  
Encino, 91316

RUSSELL, BILL T.  
13065 Mindanao Way  
Marina Del Rey  
90291

SANBORN, FRANK  
13710 12th St. S.W.  
Seattle, Wash. 98166  
(206) 246-3046

SMITH, FRANCIS  
525 E. Magnolia  
Burbank, 91501

TREACY, TIM  
452 Dewey Blvd.  
San Francisco, 94116

ADDRESS CHANGE

VITZ, JOHN  
128 A 15th St.  
Manhattan Beach, 90266

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

James Murphy  
Robert Hicks  
Fred Camphausen  
Milda Endzins  
James Butler  
Pat Butler  
Henry Heusinkveld  
Eivor Nilsson  
Mary Bihl  
Jim Cervenka  
Beth Henry  
Ann Cavalieri  
Lou Cavalieri  
Ed Lubin  
Alan Schroeder  
Beverly Schultz  
Fred Bode  
Dorcas Vasilik  
Phil Bruce  
Jon Innskeep  
William Stauffer

REINSTATED MEMBERS

John Baruch  
Vi Grasso  
John Cook  
John Castel  
Velma Mitchell  
Dick Ramirez  
Howard Stephens  
Walt Wheelock

PHONE CORRECTION

Jack Koshear  
927-8456

The Labor Day week-end of 1965 saw the dedication climb of Mt. Chester Versteeg. Prior to its renaming by the Board on Geographic Names it was known as Peak 13,470, located near Mt. Tyndall and Trojan Peak. Nine climbers, led by John Robinson, trudged up Shepherd Pass, climbed the peak and placed a register honoring Mr. Versteeg who had contributed some 250 names for Sierra landmarks, and was instrumental in the founding of the DPS and SPS. Other scheduled trips in this period included the first SPS scheduled climb of Silver Peak, led by Gordon MacLeod and Jerry Keating and a cold, icy climb of Mount Conness, led by Bill Hunt and John Thornton. Four climbers were not allowed to continue to the summit because of a fast moving electrical storm accompanied by four inches of snow and a temperature of 20. In August, 1965, Jerry Keating led a 3 day, 60 mile "death march" with three people climbing Pettit, Piute and Volunteer during the week-end. New members during this period included Elton Fletcher and family, Wally Henry, Fred Hoepfner and Dick Sykes. Tom Ross announced his engagement to Miss Nancy Candace Slater, following Tom's many carefree bachelor years.

#### PREPARATION FOR SAFETY

We have been fortunate in the SPS in having a relatively small number of accidents and incidents on our trips, yet we should always be prepared for the unexpected since many of the things we do are relatively unforgiving of poor preparation or execution. To keep our record clean, we should be careful and prepared, but prepared for what? Because we've had an insufficient number of reported injuries to develop a statistical basis, the SPS Safety Committee has attempted to obtain data from elsewhere which might be useful for guidance. The most illuminating set we've found comes from Great Britain, for the year 1971. These data are "good" in that the statistical sample is fairly large, the mountaineering environment is similar to our own in many respects (except for altitude), and the breakdown of the data is fairly complete.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the types of injuries. Fractures of some kind are the most prevalent, accounting for 37% of the injuries reported. Exposure (hypothermia) is in second place with 17%, and serious head or back injuries in third place with 11%. Hypothermia is largely preventable by adequate equipment and precautions. With leader attention and participant cooperation, this type of injury should not occur with anywhere near this frequency on our trips. The high proportion of fractures and serious head or back injuries is a good argument not only for participant competence and care on the scene, but also argues for long-range preparation in the form of adequate first aid training.

Table 2 shows the causes of the accidents. The fall from the ladder should be no big problem with the SPS, although the DPS does have Little Pichacho!. The other causes are all ones which we face at one time or another. Perhaps the most interesting point is that the vast majority of accidents were due to slips, inadequate equipment, bad weather, and falling rock.

In our own climbing environment we would expect a quite similar distribution of injuries and causes. Probably the only climbing danger under-represented in these statistics is high altitude pulmonary edema, which was not a factor in Great Britain since Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles, is just a tad over 4000 feet.

MORE



TABLE 1  
TYPES OF INJURIES

	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Head</u>	23.5
Severe head	8
Head	15
Broken jaw	0.5
<u>Back and Trunk</u>	19
Serious spinal	3.5
Back	5
Broken ribs	3
Shoulder/collar bone	5
Fracture pelvis	2.5
<u>Limb Fractures</u>	26
Fractured arm	4
Fractured wrist	2
Fractured leg	10
Broken ankle	10
<u>Other Limb Injuries</u>	12
Arm	3
Leg	3
Ankle	3
Knee	3
<u>Exposure (Hypothermia)</u>	17
<u>Drowning</u>	0.5
Heart Failure	2
	<u>100.0</u>
FRACTURES	37
EXPOSURE	17
SERIOUS HEAD OR BACK	11
	<u>76.5</u>

TABLE 2  
CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Slips</u>	57
On ice and snow	11
On rock	15
Other	31
Inadequate Equipment as contributing Cause (e.g., lack of ice ax, crampons, food, map and compass, poor clothing and footwear, etc.)	14
Severe Weather	11
Falling or Loose Rock	7.5
Avalanche	3
Belay Failures	3
Climbing Alone	1.5
Rappels	1
Inexperience	1
Fall Into River	0.5
Fall From Ladder	0.5
	<u>100.0</u>

Duane McRuer

## MOUNT SHASTA NEEDS YOUR HELP

What was once over 200,000 acres of pristine wilderness is now less than 48,000. However it is still a spectacular 48,000, and the U.S. Forest Service is now studying the area as a possible addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area under study, however, is mostly above 8000 feet and covers very little of the timbered slopes.

To date, two basic alternatives ("A" and "C") have been presented, and a third and more finalized alternative will be presented at some future date when PUBLIC RESPONSE and additional study is complete.

Alternative "A" places emphasis on environmental protection to the Mountain, and favors the Congressional creation of a Wilderness area for all qualifying lands. Campgrounds would be developed at lower elevations and trails would be built at higher elevations. The ski area would be permitted to expand; but only within their present use permit area. Land exchanges would be instituted with Southern Pacific Land Co. and other private holders to consolidate the Mountain under Forest Service management, necessary for a Wilderness classification.

Alternative "C" places emphasis on the maximum production and harvest of timber, and would allow for massive decentralized expansion of the ski area westward into Cascade Gulch.

To qualify for a Wilderness classification the area must be undeveloped and roadless. Thus, while alternative "A" sounds good, it, however, fails utterly to preserve the remaining majestic stands of timber which make up the greater slopes of Mount Shasta.

According to the Forest Service, only about 10% of the timber land on Mount Shasta is still unlogged and unroaded, and much of this land is either already under contract to be logged, or is in the planning for future logging, including the San Flat Area up along Horse Camp Trail, extending down Cascade Gulch to McBride Springs, and including the beautiful stands through which the road winds, both sides of the road. Besides the San Flat-Whirlybird sale, is the McGuinness sale near Wagon Camp, all slated for logging this year. Also stated is an asphalt road loop going into and out of Sand Flat.

In response to the land exchange, Southern Pacific Land Co. has offered to the Forest Service, approximately 12,000 acres of land which it now owns, mostly above the 8000 foot level. This land, however, is mostly barren of timber and is of little use to them, while in return they hope to obtain approximately 1500 acres of valuable timber land near Sugar Pine Butte, at approximately 4500 feet. While S.P.L.C. is at least willing to make some kind of a land exchange, the Forest Service seems to have no great interest in pursuing the matter at any great speed. Thus, while they continue to waste years in quibbling over red tape, studies, and barren sections, both the private owners and the Forest Service continue to log such areas as Sand Flat, McGuinness Springs, and the 640 acre section which is the very heart of Squaw Valley, which with its almost unmatched beauty, should be in the protection and preservation of public ownership. This area, once logging roads have been established, will no longer classify as a Wilderness Area, and will constitute a very great loss to the already too little roadless wilderness on Mount Shasta.

The long-term management plan for Mount Shasta is still being formulated by the Forest Service, though it would seem that while we wait for alternative "B" to be formulated, alternative "C" is being effected, and the areas we finally do preserve may have long since lost its natural forests. There is a long and sad history of attempts to save the Mountain beginning with John Muir's National Parks Proposal in 1888. This is probably the last opportunity.

## Some Facts About Mount Shasta

1. The highest volcano in California, and one of the highest mountains in the world from its plain: 3500 to 14,161 feet in one sweep.
2. The five living glaciers are the longest and the largest in California and were the first glaciers in North America to receive extensive scientific study. Recent research has shown that the Hotlum and Wintun glaciers are among those few in the Northern Hemisphere to be growing rather than receding.
3. An open book of unusual mountain geology, plant and animal life, and all forest zones from alpine meadow moraine to lowland forest.
4. Visited often by famous explorers and naturalists such as John Muir, Norman Clyde, John Wesley Powell, Clarence King, Prof. Josiah D. Whitney, Joaquin Miller, and many, many others.
5. The focal point of great Indian, religious and spiritual legends.
6. No where else in the world are found comparable stands of the Shasta Red Fir, a species possible on its way to extinction. The Mountain is the home of the Shasta Lily, Shasta Knotweed, Shasta Bluebell, Dwarf Monkey Flower, and the only place in California where the Pumice Grape Fern is found. Also found is the rare Hydromantes Shastense Salamander, Golden Eagle, Pine Martin, Fisher, Pileated Woodpecker, and the only known nesting area in California of Hepburns Rosey Finch.

OFF BELAY - August 1975

Concerned persons should write, or phone the following persons:

Douglas Leisz: Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111.

Richard Pfilf: Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 1615 Continental St., Redding, CA 96001.

Ronald Anderson: District Ranger, 204 W. Alma St., Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.

Congressman Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson, Rm. 2347 Rayburn Bldg., U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Senator John Tunney, 1415 Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

Senator Alan Cranston, 451 Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

Norman Hills: State Resources Conservation Agency, Sacramento, Ca.





# ASCENTS

CLARK, GRAY.....July 19-20.....James Murphy

In anticipation of a long backpack, 12 mi., 3,800' of gain, we met before 6:00 a.m. for sign in and departure. The first half of the way in is easy. Leaving Mono Meadow descend 800' in 3 miles to Illilouette Creek on good trail, then gain 800' on good trail to the predetermined point of leaving the trail. This is an interesting route as you get several glimpses of the back side of Half Dome and the west side of Starr King. The fire that went through this area last fall also left an interesting mark. At the midpoint between Clark Creek and the next creek we began the second half of the journey, a cross country portion of the backpack in. Because of the trees we could not get a fix on a recognizable landmark so we followed the high ground. The principal navigation aid, in addition to a compass, was to stay between the two creeks, which could be heard. The terrain through this area is quite smooth, none of the continuous small ups and downs, and no rocks or boulders to step over and hop across; though there were a lot of trees to dodge. When the going got steep, we took the canyon left. This proved to be a good choice for the ascent of Clark but left us a little short of the effort to get in and added gain and distance to the ascent of Gray. After lunch, and a nap, all but one of us left for Gray. The summit ridge is knife edge third class, but by staying a hundred feet below, the summit can be easily reached. There were creeks in each little canyon between Gray Peak and our base camp. We did not take the time to figure out the name of each or if they all had a name.

Sunday's route to Clark took us south, in front of the west face, where we encountered some Blue Grouse, to the plateau, which leads to the southwest corner of the summit ridge. The summit ridge is a large "U" shape, very steep on the west and not so steep on the east. The route we took was to traverse the east side to a point below the summit block where we made one difficult and one exposed move south of the summit. The easiest way which we used on the descent, is to go about 20' north of the summit for the final move.

The view from these summits are about the best for a complete view of all Yosemite Park. Clark of course is a spectacular peak to climb. We left the summit of Clark at 11:30 and were at the cars at 6:45. We had a smorgasbord dinner Friday in Kingsburg (Conejo exit), which was really good and we all practiced assistant leader Paul Kluth's philosophy that if you don't eat it the night before you won't have it, the energy, the next day, which I think is good non-technical diet advice.

Nine climbers met the leaders at the Lamarck Lakes trailhead early on a sparkling Sierra morning. A leisurely pace and numerous stops ensured that the varying conditioning levels of the participants did not spread us too far along the trail. The trail appears to end at Upper Lamarck Lake. A left turn just below the lake outlet leads one cross-country a short distance to where the trail is picked up as steep switchbacks up to the first of the "sandy benches" leading to the Col. The group arrived at the little lake below the Col simultaneously with lunchtime. A general sloth prevailed until someone mumbled something about "the schedule said Mendel would be climbed in the afternoon. . ." We made our camp on the bench which is about two-thirds of the way down from the Col towards the upper Darwin Lakes. Amid questionable weather, four climbers started for Mendel via the east face. As the weather cleared, this writer's knee gave out and Tren Bartlett kindly volunteered to lead the remaining two climbers to the summit.

After a very warm night, 10 climbers (including your correspondent, whose knee had recovered) left camp at 6 am for Darwin. Crampons were not needed on the glacier, and we were able to kick steps all the way to the rocks leading to the eastern notch in the ridge between Darwin and Mendel. The climb to the top of the summit plateau was uneventful, with everyone present by 8:30 am. Your correspondent spent three hours on top of the summit pinnacle providing everyone in the party with belays. During this time the sunshine turned to clouds which turned to thunderheads. Static charges and hail hurried us off the peak.

The fact that both leaders developed knee or ankle problems made for a slow trip out, and everyone was at the trailhead by 8:30 pm.

While enjoying the scheduled Muah-Trail Peak trip, it was interesting for me to note how our mountains do change.

In the "good old days" of 1965, my first climb of Muah was on a death march up from the Owens Valley floor starting at the Cottonwood Creek power station. Several years later after the completion of the Horseshoe Meadows road, the climb became a pleasant two day backpack. In 1975, thanks to completion of a section of the Sierra Crest Trail, the climb of Muah has once again become a one day trip, and a much easier one at that.

After dropping our packs at Mulkey Pass, we followed the Sierra Crest Trail west until we came near to the summit of Trail Peak. After doing the peak, the Crest Trail was followed back to the packs and thence directly down to the meadows at the base of Muah Peak. Sunday morning we, along with one of the two other Sierra Club groups in the area, climbed the peak.

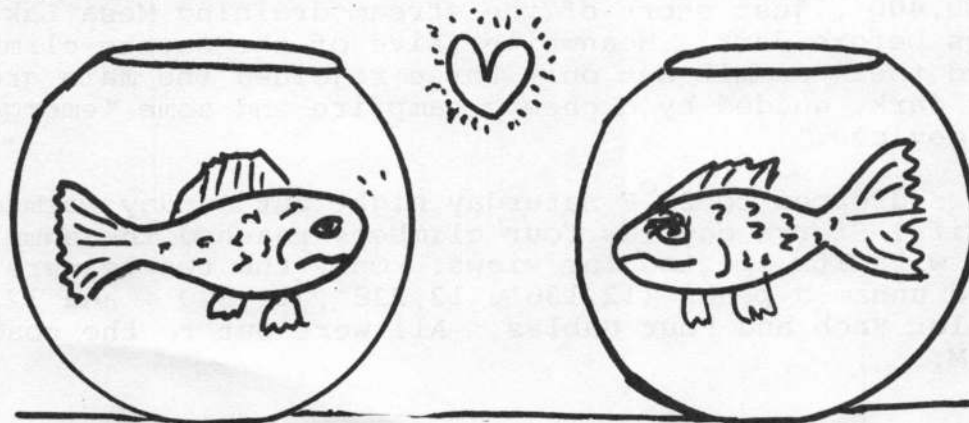
Since no wilderness permit is required to climb Muah, it appears from the register that it is fast replacing San Gorgonio or Mt. Whitney as the peak to climb. The one-year-old register is bulging with Boy Scout signatures.

MT. GODDARD/BLACK GIANT.....August 8-11.....Russell/Maclay

Fourteen people started from North Lake on Friday at 8:00 a.m. One developed leg cramps before reaching Lamarck Col and turned back with a friend. The remaining 12 reached the Col about noon, then passed through Darwin Canyon to camp at Evolution Lake. Saturday morning we proceeded to the west side of Wanda Lake and then climbed up the broad draw that ends at the saddle located between the "A" and "R" of "GODDARD" on the topo map. From here the route is a talus block traverse along the south side of the Goddard Divide to the broad ridge south of point 13081'. The route climbs a few hundred feet to go over this ridge and then traverses downward to the two small ponds which are at the west base of Mt. Goddard itself. From here the climb is a hike up the hill to the summit. The route is somewhat tedious and the round-trip time from Wanda Lake would take an average SPS party about 8 hours. We had two slow climbers and our time was somewhat longer, but all 12 made the peak. Upon our return we camped at Wanda Lake rather than at the lake at the base of Black Giant as we had planned. This caused us to replan the trip and to cancel the scheduled climb of Charybdis on the next day.

On Sunday, 10 of our party moved through Muir Pass, traversed past the Lake at 11920+ (which has a good campsite) and hiked up the broad west side of Black Giant. The day was warm and the view from the top was magnificent. We returned to Wanda Lake by noon and moved down Evolution Basin and up to the small lake at 11200+' below Darwin Canyon, where we spent the night. Monday morning we hiked out to North Lake.

Thanks are due Jim Maclay who ably served as assistant leader in place of Duane McRuer, who was on a business trip. Thanks are due to all the participants who made this a pleasant experience, and congratulations are due to Delores Holladay who earned her emblem on Mt. Goddard.



This trip was -cheduled by the SPS but not in the Chapter schedule, which may be why only a few people signed up and only four came. Friday night we hiked to Con-sultation Lake. Saturday we took 13 hours to climb the first four peaks ( Pickering, Joe Devel, Chamberlin, Newcomb) and camped at Upper Crabtree Lake. Sunday we climbed Hitchcock and then went to the main crest and climbed the summits toward Whitney. A rain shower which had held off all day raced us into Whitney Portal and we were home by 10 pm.

I noted a large number of flowers--it seems to be an exceptional year for them. Polemonium, Halsea and Primula seem particularly brilliant. I wonder if others have noted the same this year.

One climbing note. In descending from Newcomb to Upper Crabtree Lake, first tra-verse the ridge East about 400 meters, the descend a right curving chute to a broad ledge. Follow this ledge 250 meters East and descend to the lake. The face just below Newcomb summit is not good for descending.

People on the trip were Fred Camhausen, Bob Rockwell and Chuck Ringrose.

MT. LANGLEY.....JULY 26-27.....TED & ANNA LOU PINSON

With 22 participants, we reached Cottonwood Lakes in time for lunch. While the relaxed ½ party remained in camp to nap, observe wild flowers, or watch those beaut-iful Golden Troutsswimming at the lake's edge, a more eager 11 decided to tackle Cirque Peak which they conquered with ease, returning in time for dinner and a small campfire.

Sunday morning saw us on the trail early. We climbed Old Army Pass, crossed the wide plateau, and finally a second class chute leading to the top of Langley where we had lunch and a marvelous view of the storm building over the Miter Basin. The best sur-prise was to find that this was Milda Endzin's 25th Sierra peak. Congratulations, Milda, and thank you for the delicious champagne and goodies.

Distant lightning urged us downward, so we returned to the scree slope and the plateau, back over the pass to camp and out to the roadhead, where two members were signed off for BMTC.

PIUTE PASS PEAKS.....Aug. 23-24, 1975.....Barbara Lilley

Fourteen participants met at the North Lake roadhead Saturday morn-ing for the backpack over Piute Pass. There were no "no-shows", but as usual no sign-up sheet. Earlier in the week, a 3-day winter type storm had dropped snow down to 8000' (which was still in evidence on north sides of peaks) but this day was clear, although cool and windy. At the pass, seven headed for Mt. Goethe while the remain-ing seven climbed the scheduled unnamed peaks (12,520'+ and 12,127'), both Class 2, which afforded spectacular views of the peaks of the Glacier Divide. Then these seven, plus one more who had come in a day early, backpacked down canyon, reaching a campsite on Piute Creek at 10,400', just short of the stream draining Mesa Lake, a few minutes before dark. Meanwhile, five of the Goethe climbers had reached their summit but only three rejoined the main group, well after dark, guided by a cheery campfire and some "emergency signaling devices."

Temperatures dropped to 26<sup>o</sup>F Saturday night but Sunday warmed up to a beautiful Sierra day, as four climbers reached the summit of Pilot Knob with its spectacular views. Only the two leaders climbed the planned unnamed peaks (12,136', 12,228', 12,320'+ and 12,720'+) between Pilot Knob and Four Gables. All were out to the roadhead by 6:30 P.M.

EARL KESLER GIVES UP SMOKING ON BLACK DIVIDE TRIP! August 16-23

R. J. Secor, Roy Ward, Tim Treacy

This trip got off to a unique start by having one of its participants drop out at the roadhead due to a lack of warm clothing. Even more unique was Earl Kesler's announcement that he planned to quit smoking during the course of the trip. Eleven people backpacked up over Bishop Pass Saturday morning. That afternoon four climbers bagged Giraud Peak, while the rest enjoyed the backpack into camp at Grouse Meadow. After finding a stream crossing Sunday morning, we bushwacked our way up Rambaud Creek to a camp at 10,300'. That afternoon seven of us bagged Wheel Mountain. By the way, Wheel needs a new can, since the leader unwittingly forced the bottom out of the can he was stuffing the register book into.

On Monday, we left camp under threatening skies to climb Devil's Crag by way of the Northwest Ridge. Thanks to the excellent rope management of Tim Treacy and John Harpole (and maybe also to the cloudy skies that pushed everyone a little faster) we were on and off the mountain in record time. The descent was enlivened by teaching two members of the party how to dulfersitz rappel. Our group of eight took eleven hours round-trip from camp; I believe that this is the largest group to climb Devil's Crag at one time.

Four hours after we arrived back at camp, the storm broke. Everyone scattered for shelter in tents, tube tents, and tarps. It was here that Earl Kesler spent the longest night of his life mopping up the flood water in his tube tent with his already soaked sleeping bag. A total of three inches of snow fell that night, and in the morning Earl was soaked to the skin (literally). Those who were luck enough to stay dry got up in the morning and built a fire for Earl. Climbing the other crags was now out of the question due to the snow that was plastered against them, so the group decided to descend to Grouse Meadow and climb Observation Peak from there the next day.

Wednesday morning had clear skies for us as we hiked up the Muir Trail toward Amphitheatre Lake. In four and a half hours time we were on top of Observation enjoying the view of the Palisades. At one o'clock the skies were cloudy again as we started the traverse to Mount Shakespeare. As we approached the summit, snowflakes began to fall and thunder began to roll in the west. We were surprised to find that we were only the seventh party to ascend that peak. We descended by way of the northwest talus slopes, and after fording Palisade Creek we gained the Muir Trail at about 8,700'. We walked into camp at Grouse Meadows just as it started to rain hard, as it did most of the night.

Thursday morning dawned clear and stayed that way all day long! Six people climbed Mount Duncan McDuffie, while one strolled up through manzanita to bag Giraud Peak that day.

Everyone slept late Friday and then enjoyed a leisurely backpack up to Dusy Basin. That afternoon four of us climbed Columbine Peak via Knapsack Pass. We descended by way of a steep chute on the west side of the peak.

Everyone seemed too tired to spend another night in the mountains, and the general consensus of the group was to pack out on Saturday. But not without bagging some peaks first! Three climbed Mount Agassiz, Bob Emerick climbed Mount Goode, Roy Ward and John Harpole climbed Inconsolable by way of a Class 2 route from Ruwau Lake, and Walton and Betty Kabler bagged Giraud Peak. All met at Jack's Waffle Shop in Bishop Saturday night for a fine meal which was a fitting way to end an excellent week-long trip in the Sierra.

Both of the unlisted peaks we climbed deserve to be on the SPS List of Qualifying Peaks (Notice that I say after I've climbed them!). Mount Shakespeare has just as fine a view as Observation Peak, and there are no other named peaks in the area. Columbine Peak is a much more pleasant climb, has a better view, is higher, and is climbed more often than Giraud Peak.

# PRIVATE CLIMBS

NEVADO HUASCARAN NORTE (21,831") AND HUASCARAN Sur (22,205")

June 28 - Jul 18.....David Campbell

The 1975 Vagmarken Huascaran Expedition included Jack Hawley (Madrid, Spain) and Californians John Otter, Bud Ford, David Campbell, Norm Rohn, Horton Johnson, and Val Eydal. After a direct flight from Los Angeles, the Californians met Jack at Lima airport on June 28. (Note: Braniff socked it to us on overage, charging us some \$595. The word is that foreign airlines are more understanding!)

While waiting for our Aero Peru flight to Huaras, we met Brian Gregory and Mike McWhirter who were planning to try Alpamayo. By Saturday night, we were at the Hotel Monterrey (10,000 ft.). Sunday we hiked up to almost 16,000 ft. on San Cristobal mountain where we saw an Andean Condor. Monday was spent shopping for food, gas cans, etc. in Huaras. We got white gas from the Headquarters of El Parque Nacional de Huascaran, headed by Curry Slaymaker and his assistant Mike Rourke. Both were most helpful and contacting them is a must for anyone climbing in the Cordillera Blanca.

On July 1, the truck arranged for by Mike arrived at 5:30 a.m. to take us to Musho, where we transferred the load to 9 burros for the carry to base camp #1 at 13,300 ft. Here, Val found his back, injured before the trip, was giving him problems, so he descended. The next day, two carries got us to base camp #2 at the edge of the Rajupampa glacier (15,000 ft.). It took two days to move all our gear through the maze of crevasses in the lower glacier and up to Camp I at 16,000 ft. There a stove flared up in Horton's face, singeing his beard and irritating his eyes. Two more days got us to the base of the ice fall at 17,500 ft. We elected to go up the center of the ice fall, avoiding the serious avalanche hazard of the "standard" route to the right. It took three days and an intermediate camp to put our route through the ice fall. After two days, Horton and Norm decided not to continue and returned to Huaras. We used 400 ft. of fixed rope, numerous ice screws, several pickets, and two snow flukes. A couple of leads involved step cutting in hard ice. Our homemade rope ladder came in handy at a vertical wall near the top.

Finally, on July 10, we made camp just below the Garganta at 19,350 ft. The next day we cleared a cache near the top of the ice fall and on July 12, we climbed Huascaran Norte. It took 9 hours up, mostly along the long southwest ridge, and about 2 1/2 hours down. Jack led all the way up. Dawn was clear, but snow soon developed and continued all day, preventing any good views from the summit. Coming down, a large chunk of cornice broke off, just missing Bud.

There followed a planned rest day (continued snow), and another day's delay because of the acute avalanche danger (more new snow). On July 15, Jack Hawley, John Otter, Bud Ford and I climbed Huascaran Sur (22,205 ft.). We left at 5:30 a.m., made good progress above the Garganta, but encountered a long, broad crevasse at about 20,500 ft., slicing entirely across our route. We finally had to jump it. Bud fell in, but was held by Otter's and my belays. We got him out in 20 minutes using the Bilgari method. We lost a couple of hours getting all of us and our packs across. Shortly afterward, we were hit by a slab avalanche, but were uninjured. At about 21,000 ft. we encountered

more steep ice. Our first route was "No Go", but Otter led an alternate approach which succeeded and got us past the last technical difficulty.

From there we had a long slow trudge to the summit, which we reached at 9:30 p.m. There we bivouaced. The next morning we were treated to a beautiful clear dawn. We could see the shadow of Huascarán extend across to the Callejon de Huaylas, the Cordillera Negra (a range higher than the Sierra), the coastal desert and well into the Pacific Ocean (60 miles away). It was beautiful to see the early morning light first touch such peaks as Huandoy, Chopicalque, and Chacaraju.

On the way down, we had another close call. John over-jumped a wide crevasse and fell down a steep snow slope, pulling me and my ice axe out of the snow and into the crevasse. I was most fortunate being able to stem at a partial snow bridge about 12 ft. down and found an easy route out.

By late July 18 we were all off the mountain and back at the Hotel Monterrey. On the way, Bud, John and I had had a delightful, if hair raising ride in a Datsun pickup from Musho through the back country foothills of Huascarán. July 19 I flew Aero Peru to Lima on my way home. All the others headed for Macchu Picchu and some sightseeing.

## NOTES ON . . .

### GLACIER PASS TO BLACK ROCK PASS

Dennis Lantz

This trek has always been a problem, eastbound, involving a drop into Cliff Creek and a bushwhack/scree scramble up to the Black Rock Pass trail. A ranger advised that there is now a use trail from the upper end of Spring Lake, around the head of the Cliff Creek canyon, joining the Black Rock Pass trail at the south end of the lowest switchback. Existence or quality of this new route is not verified, but little would be lost in trying it.

### CLYDE SPIRES (13,264)

I was remiss in 1959 after making the second ascent of these spires not to have corrected the record. The Climbers Guide, 3rd Edition is not much clearer than the first edition.

The North face appears to be a good place for wall climbers. The South slopes can be reached easily from Echo Col. The highest granite summit is a class 3 ascent - on slabs if one uses the South arete - but there are easier approaches. This must be the summit ascended by Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn and Ted Waller on July 22, 1933. The easiest summit ascended by the rest of their party must be one of the minor points to the East.

Toward Mt. Wallace (NW) is a ridge with one spire only a few feet lower than the main spire and truly one of the spires to be climbed. On June 20, 1959, Ernest Bower and I used a rope for a first ascent while traversing to Mt. Wallace. Peter Woodman and Bob Rockwell proved that this spire can be climbed class 3 or 4 in August, 1974.

Carl Heller