

The

Sierra



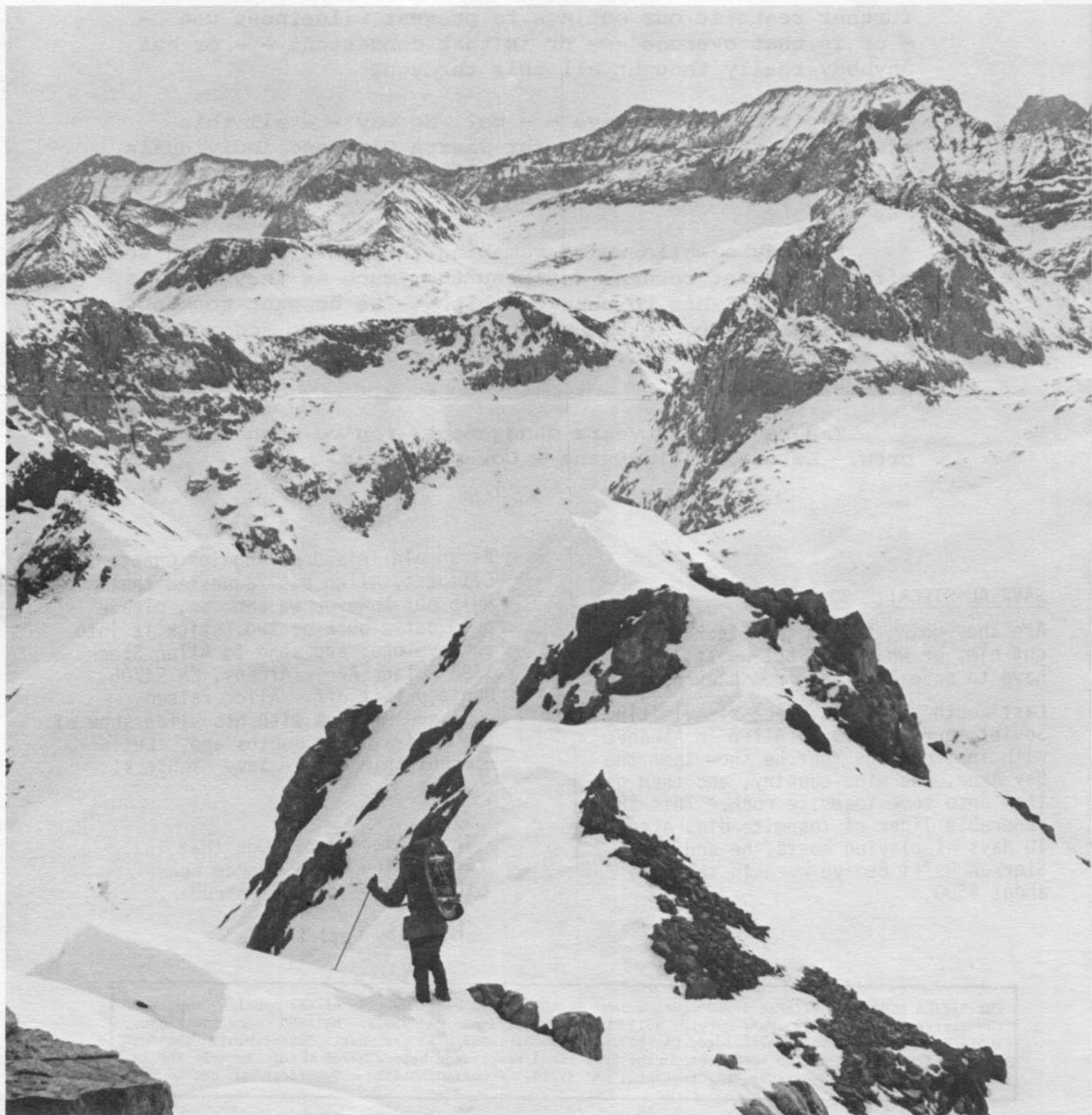
ECHO

VOLUME 19

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 1975

NO. 7



I was about to title this last corner "Reflections" or some equally stupid thing, but I'll go ahead and write without the title - - same schmaltz though.

About five years ago I joined this bunch of mountain freaks. We were an uncomplicated troop - - devil may care is the term, right Doris? Now experience is in disfavor as a teacher, bigwigs clamor for reservation fees and coordinating outings with the Tehipite Chapter. "We must expand" they say, raking in those BMTC bucks, while at the same time they insist we should further restrict our outings to prevent wilderness use - - or is that overuse - - or is that consistent - - or has anybody really thought all this through?

Who's being negative - - me? No way - - all this presents a great challenge for Sierra Club and individuals alike - - a challenge we absolutely can't shirk. But. But. But.

But maybe while we're remaking the universe we can set off a few quiet corners and keep them much as they used to be. Sure, SPS has to change a bit - - we do want to keep welcoming new people and that means we have to accomodate growth to some extent. But lets keep an eye on the good old days too.

Thanks to this years management, you've been a good crew. Lets all help Duane & Co. next year.

SAVE AL STECK!!

Are they going to dam Al Steck, clear-cut him, or what? No, but we still have to save Al Steck from bankruptcy.

Last month the A.A.C. sent six visiting Soviet mountaineers to Allen in Albany, with instructions that he show them the Bay Area, the wine country, and then get them onto some Yosemite rock. This the Venerable Tiger of Yosemite did. After 10 days of playing hosts, he and fellow Sierran Raffi Bedayn were in the hole about \$500.

As an old friend of Angeles Chapter Climbers, Allen has requested that we help out however we can. So, please put out a buck or two, stick it into an envelope, and send to Allen Steck, 1398 Solano Ave., Albany, CA 94706. Don't put it off. Allen raised thousands for us with his slide show of the Pamirs a few months ago. Let's now help him out. - Save Al Steck!

The winterey solitude that is Coppermine Pass--scarce hears the step of chance intruder.

Photo by Carl Smith.

THE SIERRA ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. EDITOR - Mary Omberg, 4311 El Prieto, Altadena, CA 91001. MAILING - Anna Lou Pinson, 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Northridge, CA 91324. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$3 per year. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send remittance before March 31 to: Beverly Shultz, SPS Treasurer, 3212 Montrose, La Crescenta, CA 91214. COPY DEADLINE - Twentieth of odd months.

SPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT
November 1975

New Members

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3947 Verdugo View Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 9-065

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Xenia, OH 45385

MC DERMOTT, JOHN E.
3641 Wrightwood Dr.
Studio City, CA 91604

YEOMAN, ROSS
17250 Kittridge
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Beginning with the 1976 Spring Schedule No. 211 we will be charged at the rate of \$3.50 a line for verbiage over the established limit. Dick Akawie advises there is no limit on the amount of trips the SPS may submit to the schedule, but each trip must comply with the following rules:

Meeting notice	4 lines
One day trip	5 "
Two day trip	6 "
Three days or more	8 "

The amount of allowable lines includes the header line. A standard line consists of 90 characters including all spaces. Trip leaders are asked to save their wind for the peak assault and keep writeups short. All trip writeups must be submitted to the Schedule Chairman, George Toby.

George Toby, Schedule Chairman

Update on MSR's Lawsuit Against the
Park Service

After five serious discussion meetings (in Seattle, Longmire, and Washington, D.C.) and many letters transmitted at first through Senator Jackson's office and then direct, spread over three years, it has become clear that the present administration in the National Park Service is dead set on closing down the parks as much as they dare.

Gary Everhardt, the new director, is quoted in CSM 3 September 1975: "... preservation will be the first priority."

In other words, he feels parks are not for people and that he is above the Laws of Congress 1899 and 1916. These laws established Mount Rainier National Park "for the benefit and appreciation of the people" and instructed the Park Service to promote the use of the parks for the present generation, provided only that the parks not be impaired for enjoyment by future generations.

Everhardt is not only impairing enjoyment of the parks by the present "future generation" but shows he intends to impair enjoyment by future "future generations" as long as he is in control. The only way left to preserve the parks for the people is in court.

Under the present policy at Mount Rainier, 2900 persons have been denied their camping requests in 1973 and 1974. Can we assume that enjoyment of the Park for those people was impaired? If so, the denials were illegal. This is the issue being tested in court.

A lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court, Seattle, on 7 August 1975, C-75574-S. The NPS has until 7 October to reply. The case will then be assigned to a judge. The trial may not take place for six to nine months.

We have appealed for funds to support the lawsuit, since this is an action to preserve the legal rights of all citizens, as a community action. We are willing to take the lead, but we do need help.

Contributions, April-August 1975 \$1,931

Expenses:

Payment on legal fees	\$640	
Postage	393	
Printing & mailing	1080	
Miscellaneous	79	2192
Deficit		\$ 261

Some more money is coming in, but not enough. Any lawsuit in Federal Court will cost about \$5,000, even though our lawyer (a climber himself) of the firm of Preston, Thorgrimson, Ellis, Holman & Fletcher is giving us a reduced rate. The NPS, having unlimited legal services, can be expected to fight all the way.

(from MSR Newsletter, Sept. 1975)

Contributions should be sent to:

MSR-Mt. Rainier Defense Fund
So. 96th St. at 8th Ave. So.
Seattle, Washington 98108

QUESTIONNAIRE

The SPS carries on a large number of activities which are accomplished by standing or special committees. More often than not, the committees consist of only a chairperson. Ideally, most of our operations would be accomplished by several people sharing the duties; this also provides for a natural succession. We would like to establish a list of members who are interested (or willing, perhaps with an arm twist) to help in these Section affairs. To accomplish this we have listed the committees and jobs below with boxes for you to check. Please mark your answers (and give your name!) and return the questionnaire to the SPS Secretary, Cuno Ranschau, 12744 Lorne Street, North Hollywood, California 91606. This will give future management committees vital information for setting up the needed activity committees.

Senior emblem approved?

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mountaineering Safety Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Publications Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mountaineering Records Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schedule Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mailer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Program Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | Typing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Monthly Section Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservation Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> | Record Keeper | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Interested in being considered for Management Committee | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NAME BEN PREYER PHONE NUMBER 345-6231

ECHOS FROM THE PAST - TEN YEARS AGO IN THE SPS

Ron Jones

The results of the election for the 1966 Management Committee were announced. Chairman was Dick Jali; Treasurer, Graham Stevenson; Secretary, Ken McNutt; Vice Chairman, Dave Scruggs and Member at Large, George Shinno. Schedule Chairman was Arkel Erb and Mountaineering Chairman, Gordon MacLeod. This Management Committee announced their intention to study the philosophy, nature and make-up of the "peaks list" and the next several meetings and Echos were filled with debate on the issue. Scheduled trips of late Fall included Homer's Nose led by Tom Amneus on 10/30-31 (an excellent route description and attempt to find Palmer Cave); University and Independence Peak led by John Thornton and Graham Stevenson; and Lamont and Nichols Peak led the same weekend by Steve Molner. Winter activities included training sessions in 4th class climbing and an SPS first aid course running for 10 consecutive weeks.

ASCENTS

SPANISH MOUNTAIN, THE OBELISK Frank Meyers
July 26-27

This trip was marred by a serious injury to How Bailey, the assistant leader. First the trip without the accident will be covered; then the accident will be discussed.

Ten of us started Saturday morning on the Crown Valley trail at the Wishon Dam roadhead. We took the trail south to Statum Meadow. There is a jeep trail along Rogers Ridge to a point overlooking Gerladine Lakes (besides the "legal" one shown on the Forest Service map). Spanish Mountain has a good view and a rocky summit area. From perhaps 500 feet SE of the summit we headed down to the NW shore of the larger Geraldine Lake and thence to camp 0.25 mile NW of the Obelisk. We carried water but there is a good stream.

Mark Fincher and I started the climb that evening, leaving ropes on the first pitch, to speed the climb the next day. The "extreme class 4" route is best considered Class 5. To do it class 4, traverse from the east onto the steep slabs against the north face and keep bringing your belayer up as you do each short slab climb. With chocks, one can go up class 5.3 left of the slabs. The traverse right (west) above the slabs isn't bad (class 3 to 5.0) but is exposed. Stay low while traversing.

At the end of the traverse comes the crux pitch. Either climb a vertical flaring jam crack 4 inches wide (outside) for 12 feet or a pair of hand (or finger) jams a few feet to the right. Both the large jam crack and the left hand jam are at dihedrals. The hand jam route has a rib at the right which allows some foot cross pressure against the dihedral. Probably better leader protection can be had on the hand-jam route. Mark Fincher led the larger crack. I rate either way at 5.7. After this one continues up partly in a chimney (with one 5.4 move which Bill Lipps and I had trouble getting knapsacks up). The upper west face then goes Class 3 by a couple of routes but beware of crumbling knobs.

Kurt Moeller was first up (about 11 a.m.) but came back down the class 3 to see what was keeping us. We had one 150-ft. perlon rope and a 320-ft. 3/8 in. laid nylon rope. The latter got tangled a couple of times and delayed us. There were thunderstorms about us, with thunder as close as 4 miles away. How and I discouraged three of the less experienced from attempting the crux move; they started back down from the traverse ledge. Five of us had reached the top by 1:45 p.m. and set about getting down by rappelling the NE corner. This properly involves two rappels, a short one and a long one over the overhang. However, our long rope was tangled. While untangling it, I sent Paul Magliocco on belay on the perlon down to look at the next rappel anchor and to see if we could all come down to it. Unfortunately, he couldn't find it after getting onto the face and climbed below it. He had taken an end of the long rope and tried to throw it over. Meanwhile, we were calling for the people below to help us by guiding Paul. He finally got it snagged on the thousands of horns the rock is weathered into, and he couldn't pull it back up. We brought him up and then I rappelled the single strand to clear it. When I got down I learned that How was hurt. I told the others to come down as I had if they wanted to, instead of rigging the two proper rappels, and they did so. By 4 p.m. everyone was down, leaving nearly 200' of rope. There is an old perlon rope also dangling, snarled on the horns like ours had been. While they came down I went over and rigged the rappel from the ledge traverse for Tom Chuh



The accident: While we were putting our film can register in the summit cairn, a round rock started rolling from the far side of the cairn toward the north face. I ran for it but it went over. I shouted, "rock", as loud as I could twice but I didn't have a line-of-sight position so I wasn't sure I would be heard. My son Ralph and Tom Chuh were still on the traverse ledge, rigging a rappel after having belayed Tim Jacobson down. They heard me and saw the rock coming. They then saw that How hadn't heard and was in danger. (He had walked over to the base of the rock to see if he could help them.) They shouted to him but it was too late. The rock hit several feet from him and shattered; the largest piece hit his jaw and (apparently) then his right hand. It broke his jaw in two places and broke several teeth, also cutting his lip. The middle joint of his thumb was badly shattered, although he didn't realize it was seriously hurt. He was not knocked unconscious but was somewhat dazed. The blow knocked him several feet from where he was sitting.

Ralph quickly climbed down on belay and bandaged him up. How felt up to walking out, so Ralph tied their two packs together so he could carry them and they set out. Orlo Elfes joined them at the Crown Valley Ranger Station. The ranger gave How some hot pea soup. The radio there was out of order (due to "lack of funds") so they couldn't call for a 4-WD truck or jeep. How was doing well hiking so the three just kept going. I didn't see How until in the hospital at Fresno. They X-rayed and bandaged him in Emergency at St. Agnes Hospital and then we took him to the Sierra Hospital for his operation, which wasn't done until Monday afternoon. We left at 4:00 a.m. and were all home by 9:00 a.m. Monday. How's wife, Anne, arrived Monday evening and brought him home Thursday. He was off work for two weeks and then worked part-time for awhile. His thumb joint will always be rigid and a further operation is needed. His jaw was wired shut for six weeks. He lost 2 teeth and needs several crowns. The lip looks OK but is numb. He was soon back climbing, leading a moonlight climb of Baldy and climbing Strawberry Peak.

I believe the following may reduce the chance of another such accident:

1. Don't use round rocks when making cairns.
2. Treat a summit cairn as a hazardous pile of loose rocks.
3. Don't loiter near the base of a cliff.

MT. LYELL AND MT. MACLURE Horace Ory & Joe McCosker
August 16-17

This trip began under the cloud of Paul Kellow's unfortunate accident of the Matterhorn. We followed through on Paul's meticulous planning, with Joe McCosker taking Paul's place, and things brightened in the beauty of the mountains. The long hike to base camp went quickly in beautiful weather, but by later afternoon a cold wind arose and put a premium on sheltered campsites. Because we were warned of bear activity, the trees were festooned with food bags at nightfall, but the bears apparently were not interested.

An early start Sunday morning soon brought us to the Lyell Glacier, which was firm and verged on crampon conditions in spite of the warm sun. After leaving the glacier by the leader's choice of route (different on wrong again) the group of fifteen quickly reached the summit. We remembered Paul Kellow and placed a memorial to him in the register. Beth Henry passed around a cake to celebrate her SPS emblem. We all enjoyed the fine view of Yosemite's mountains, and traced the route up Maclure. Eight of the group took advantage of the proximity of Maclure and scrambled up the peak, while the others descended the still hard glacier and returned to camp for lunch. All returned to camp with plenty of daylight left for the long hike out.

I'm sure it says it somewhere in the official Leader's Reference Book; if you don't do anything else, find out where the roadhead is. But I didn't need that. After all I had a map and there's a sign at the roadhead. Easy, right? Wrong! We camped Thursday night at the roadhead for the horse trail which appears, if the misleading sign is to be believed, to be right next to the foot trail. Seeing is not necessarily believing.

We got off Friday morning at about 6:45 a.m. after searching unsuccessfully for two climbers who we assumed never showed up. After an unexciting, and I might add character building, 45 minute march through the brush we found the correct roadhead. The whole crew was very understanding about my error and the cries of "lynch the leader" were almost entirely in jest. The two "no-shows" were the only ones at the right roadhead and they caught up to the rest of the group before 9 a.m. after searching the roads for us.

After carefully noting that hikers had changed the mileage sign next to Anvil Camp to read 50 instead of 5 miles, we set out. The mileages are more than slightly conservative even though the trip isn't quite 50 miles. After about 5,700 feet and 8 miles the leader and a very hardy group piled into the Pothole, 10,800', at a little after 3 p.m. Even freeze dried mouse ears looked good at that point; the altitude doesn't always ruin your appetite.

Saturday everyone was up at the crack of dawn to climb Tyndall via a class 3 route on the east face. We had great weather and only a light breeze before the ridge. Larry led the group at a brisk pace from camp to Shepherd Pass in 50 minutes where we met two more of our party who had come in earlier and camped at the small lake up there. Tyndall done, we lunched, talked and dozed (not necessarily in that order) at the Shepherd Pass campsite. The only class 3 on that route up Tyndall was at the point just below the ridge and it is easy.

Sunday, the day we'd all been waiting for. Again Larry set a fast forced march up to the Pass and then across Williamson Basin. There seemed to be miles of elevation gained and lost before we reached the base of the mountain. From there up to the top of the chute was easy if you follow the climber's guide and are very careful about loose rock. At the top of the chute you must check around a little before finding the correct route up just slightly to the right, to daylight. It is about 80 feet of moderately exposed class 3, but no one needed a rope. From there we ambled across easy talus to the summit and a view which takes a second to none. We were back to the camp before 5 p.m.

Monday Larry led a climb of Keith without me and one climber who had done the peak before. I stayed in camp to nurse a strained achilles tendon. Just before leaving this leader got a lesson in backcountry rules and justice in the wilderness. Although our camp was more than 100 feet from the main stream, a tiny streamlet did pass near a few sleeping bags, the ranger noted on my ticket. No warnings for first time violators. Oh well, the group was helpful and chipped in to pay the fine (\$10). Everyone was back to the cars and heading for a cold beer by 4 p.m.

BLOODY, MORRISON, BALDWIN, & RED SLATE Roy Ward
August 30-September 1

Ten people met at the roadhead at Convict Lake at 7 a.m. to start the hike along the north shore of Convict Lake. At the stream crossing of Convict Creek we had our first member check out with stomach problems. He later recovered and joined us in base camp but did not climb. We reached base camp at the outlet end of Dorothy Lake where our leader Cuno Ranschau, who had developed knee problems, stopped. After a break, 8 of us took off for Bloody Mtn., following the trail past Lake Genevieve and up the ridge toward Laurel Mtn., we cut up to the ridge and followed the ridge to Bloody Mtn. From the ridge we could see cars at Laurel Lake, which would probably be the easy way to day hike Bloody. From the peak, which was windy and cold, we went down a scree-talus slope to Edith Lake, then to Genevieve and back to camp. On the way back up from Genevieve one of the members started suffering from heat exhaustion and when we finally figured out what was wrong a couple of salt pills fixed him up and we arrived in camp in time to fix supper before dark.

The next morning one member checked out with sore feet and went out, 2 remained in camp so 7 of us started for Baldwin and Morrison with 2 of these carrying their backpacks to leave after the climb. Above Mildred Lake the backpacks were stashed and we started up a break in the cliffs where we ran into a little 3rd class. Here another member checked out and picked up his stashed backpack and went home. From the ridge between Mildred and Bright Dot Lake we headed south to the ridge running up Baldwin and on the West side of this ridge we followed a miners' trail up to his calcite mine then it was on to the top over loose garbage. On top we looked at the ridge which we had thought to run to Mt. Morrison. The ridge was rough but the problem was that there was no way to get down to it safely. Everything up there was loose. We dropped back down the slope to the calcite mine, where some samples were picked up, then down the trail to about 11,000 ft where we started contouring toward Morrison. It was still very windy and we headed back south angling down to the ridge from south Morrison to just north of Bright Dot Lake. More loose scree-talus and a little rock. We skirted the west side of Bright Dot Lake on a trail following it south to where it cuts over into the valley a mile or so south of Mildred Lake. This trail is part of the trail system up Baldwin. Jack Grams checked out, picked up his pack and left to join another group. The remaining 5 were back in camp about 6:00. Monday morning Cuno wanted to try his knee so a total of 7 went to Red Slate Mtn. We followed the trail along lake Dorothy, east side, then up to Bighorn Lake then cross country over talus and loose garbage to the saddle northwest of Red Slate and up the ridge to the top. Still windy, then on down to camp via the same route. There everyone checked out and took off. Cuno had not had enough so he decided to do Mt. Morrison. From the area where Bright Dot Lake outlet joins the Convict Creek trail, he went up picking his way, to the top about 3,000' and reports mostly class 2 or very easy three. At the road head by 6:45 and then on home with 2 mountaineers' peaks plus 2 others to our credit -- a fun trip.

COPPERMINE PASS..... August 31-Sept. 3..... Doug Mantle

All right, so you didn't like the poem. You still could have come on my trip! Despite a titillating come-on writeup only a dozen came out for this fine trip. A few helpful hints: for the roadhead, take the newly paved road between Grant Grove and Lodgepole toward Horse Corral Meadow. A couple miles before H.C.M., before a bridge, take a road right past Kings Canyon Pack station and Sunrise Mdw. to a parking area where the trail starts out on the left. Whaleback and Glacier Ridge can be climbed handily in one day by approaching Whaleback from the East, south of the summit up a tree-covered approach to the ridge, then up north on the west side, working along at times well below the ridge. Glacier Ridge up the river valley to the SE is trivial, except for perhaps 50 feet of class 3 near the top and the final 12 feet - 4th class knobs and exposed. This summit block is on the right as you near the top, and is reached from its left side.

Coppermine Pass is a decently well defined route between Deadman and Cloud Canyons - watch for ducks on the West side. The views are nearly as extensive as from Glacier Ridge which are among the best I've experienced.

Twenty-four hikers assembled at Devils Postpile Natl. Monument Saturday morning for the backpack to Ashley Lake at the base of Iron Mtn. We started out north on the John Muir trail and stopped at the Beck Lakes trail junction to adjust clothing. One hiker thought that the leader had continued up the trail, and buzzed on by without being noticed. When it came time to start again, a count showed that we were only 23. Shouts of "George" and searches along both the Beck Lakes trail and Muir trail were to no avail. So we proceeded along the Beck Lakes trail, already one short. We stopped for lunch at King Creek, and were relieved when the missing George C. showed up. He had continued along the trail, wondering why he couldn't catch up to the speedy leader (ha!) until he got to Ashley Lake, where he discovered he was alone. After lunch we hiked to Ashley Lake, which is a scenic gem. The remainder of the afternoon was spent swimming (brrr!), fishing (9 trout), and hiking around the lake to observe the wildflowers. In the late afternoon, we were joined by a twenty-fifth participant who had obtained his own permit. We had a great campfire, with popcorn supplied by Ron Jones.

We were on our way Sunday at 7:30 am; two stayed in camp. After skirting the lake on the west side, we went up to the glacier to the east of the peak. The slope, which was gradual at the start, soon increased, and then the snow was hard. We chopped steps a good part of the way up, various individuals taking turns at the head of the line. We also made some use of rocks along the west side of the glacier near its top, where it had receded from the side of the couloir. The last 40 feet of the couloir was free of snow, but quite cruddy. We left our ice axes at the ridge, and easily climbed the last 400 feet of class 1 rock to the summit. All who started the climb made the top. Then back to the top of the couloir, down the steep glacier (which had gotten softer), and back to camp. After packing up, we hiked back by the same route to the trailhead, which was reached about 5:15 pm. A goodly number met later for dinner at Tokiwa's in Big Pine. It was a great trip, and a pleasure to have such a group.

MT. ABBOT, MT. DADE September 20-21..... James Murphy

All the expected climbers were present at the end of the Rock Creek road. There was the usual large number of requests for reservations over the group size limit for this emblem peak trip. We had decided to climb Abbot on Saturday via the Northeast buttress in order to reduce the possibility of exposure to late season hard snow and ice and the Abbot glacier. Our route left the trail in view of but just short of Ruby Lake and proceeded South. We left our packs at one of the Mills Lakes. The peak from this angle has a main chute which from below appears to be the way to go. We approached this chute by ascending the buttress to its right, and working left. It was during this stretch we encountered 3rd class and a minor amount of 4th, no rope used. Once in the chute, it is 2nd class and an easy climb to the top where we had a late lunch.

We shouldered our packs with the intent to camp at Chicken Foot Lake, a goal we never attained. The travel was tedious, rocky, and with more steepness than one would care to travel with a backpack. We stopped not far from the creek that drains the Treasure Lakes.

The choice of campsite proved a wise one for the approach to Dade. There is a faint hiking route up the drainage of the Treasure Lakes which is direct and allows good visual selection of the route. We took route one variation which gave us a little challenging class 3. On the summit the group was entertained for the second day by the Jugglers on Peaks Club. The views from Dade seems to be superior to Abbot. We descended the regular route. A number of group members complained of feeling the altitude on Sunday and one on Saturday, which is a bit unusual. Dade, was the 75th peak on the list for our youngest member, a 12 year old girl.

Abbot could be climbed as a day hike. There was continual danger from falling rock on both peaks, which were loosened by the climbers. We were out in time for a 5:30 dinner in Bishop.

DENNISON RIDGE, GARFIELD GROVE Jerry Keating
September 27-28

Fourteen persons - most of them newcomers to SPS and backpacking committee activities --enjoyed the giant sequoias of Garfield Grove and the panorama from Dennison Ridge (9,440+') during a joint trip that started from the South Fork (Kaweah River) Campground and returned there after an 18-mile loop.

Our start wasn't helped by signs warning campground users to boil faucet water for six minutes, but thereafter we encountered good water at frequent intervals along the main trail. The grove was passed before noon, but hopes for camping at the Garfield Creek crossing were abandoned when no level spots were discovered. Instead, we chose an ideal flat two miles father up trail - at the 8,240' level of the South Fork. That made the backpacking mileage 10 and the gain nearly 4,700 feet.

From camp, 10 participants hiked 1200 feet up the class 1 slope to Dennison Ridge that afternoon to take in the view of Hockett Meadows and Vandever, Maggie and Moses Mtn. Only entry in the register was of the October 1974 SPS party led by Gordon MacLeod.

After a near-freezing night, the party backtracked a half-mile to a saddle near which there are two metal signs on the main trail. There were located a faint side trail that first followed ducks to the top of a rocky rib, then descended the ridge from which Pt. 7.442 protrudes. Red metal markers on the trees aided our descent to the lower reaches of the ridge where the trail is more distinct. There is no water on the ridge, so it would make a poor route of ascent. The downhill, however, went fast and soon we arrived at the bottom of Garfield Creek where several of our number enjoyed a quick swim in the chilly water. A minute or so away, our trail crossed the South Ford and a half-hour's additional backpacking put us at the car.

Thanks to SPSer Walt Whisman, who substituted for Elton Fletcher as co-leader. Fortunately, Walt had a 1967 limited revision of the 1956 Mineral King topo which correctly shows the upper parts of both the main trail and the trail on the ridge.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

MT. RITTER, MATTERHORN PEAKSept. 11 ... Norma Viault

Our climb of Ritter had been planned for several weeks - but by the time we left Los Angeles the proposed team of six climbers had dwindled to two; myself and Tom Limp. We got a late start from Agnew Meadows at 11 a.m. due to breakfast at Jack's Waffle Shop in Bishop

We reached Lake Ediza at 1 p.m. and after a brief rest we were headed up the mountain by the route to the south. There had been a storm two days before which caused flooding in the Mojave area and the weather report was for possible storms. We watched the sky carefully but although there was wind and some clouds the storm did not materialize.

We reached the summit in the late afternoon, and were back to Lake Ediza at dusk. By the time we arrived at Shadow Lake it was pitch black. Our progress was slow, without flashlights, and we didn't reach the roadhead until almost 11 p.m. We also managed to get lost in the swampy meadow at the end of the trail for awhile. It had taken us about two hours uphill to Ediza and about four hours downhill!!

NORTHERN YOSEMITE CREST HOPPING.....Aug. 29 Sept. 1.....Jerry Keating

Peaks in the Buckeye Pass area provided a scenic treat for 10 participants in an extended Labor Day outing led by Gordon MacLeod and Jerry Keating.

Five of the hikers were from the TRW Wilderness Club, but two dropped out at lunch the first day, missing most of the scenery that included still green meadows, a variety of wild flowers and an abundance of water flowing on hillsides as well as in canyon bottoms.

Our roadhead was at about the 7,000' level of Buckeye Creek, which is reached from Bridgeport by taking a good dirt spur of the Twin Lakes road. Just below the roadhead is a USFS campground complete with faucets and chemical flush toilets--plus a \$2.00 fee. From the roadhead, dirt roads continue up both sides of the creek for several miles, but they are closed to vehicles. The northerly one passes a pack station but thereafter meanders before becoming the main trail; the southerly one is more direct but necessitates crossing the creek to reach the trail. One roadhead sign indicated 14 miles to Buckeye Pass; another claimed 12. In any event, it's a fairly long backpack, but the gain is only 2,600'.

We camped the first night 300 yards below Peeler Lake (9500'), which sits astride the Yosemite NP-Hoover Wilderness Area boundary. Joining us there was David Ress of Brea, who had signed up for the trip earlier and who had been on trail for 30 days.

On Day 2, six of us scrambled up Crown Pt. (11,346') before we all backpacked across Kerrick Mdw. to a lakelet .5 mile NNW of Pk. 10,420, from which seven summit packed to nearby Acker Pk. (11,015'). Thereafter, an hour's backpack took us to a clump of trees at approximately 10,000' in Thompson Canyon. Center Mtn. (11,273') was climbed after dinner by three participants.

Day 3 saw seven persons on Ehrnbeck Pk. (11,240'); four on Pk. 10,960, Wells Pk. (11,118) and its south summit (11,040'+); and everyone on Hawksbeak Pk. (11,040'+), the name of which is mislocated on early printings of the Matterhorn Pk. (1956) quad. Wells looked formidable from the north, but we found an easy sand chute on its easterly slope.

As day's end drew near, we'd hoped to backpack from the head of Thompson Canyon over the crest to a saddle just west of Grouse Mtn., but icy slopes on one route, and steep, cruddy going near ice on another thwarted us. So we abandoned thoughts of bagging Grouse, thanks to not having ice axes, and instead found a dry, west-facing chute just south of the desired saddle. By carefully descending 40 feet of Class 3 terrain at the chute's top, we reached easier going that took us to a 10,000' bench with enough trees to shelter our camp from gusty wind that prevailed during the night.

On Day 4, we continued down canyon, regained the Buckeye Pass Trail and arrived at the cars in time for lunch, ending a trip that involved more than 45 miles for many participants.

Those interested in this area, but wishing a shorter trip should consider backpacking from Twin Lakes to Peeler Lake via Barney Lake, thereby avoiding Buckeye Pass. The footpath above Barney Lake does not show on the topo but is described in the Wilderness Press' Hiking Guide for the Matterhorn Pk. quad.

HIGH UINTAS PRIMITIVE AREA

Altho there is no place like home--the Sierra Nevada, that is--visits to other mountain ranges in the West can also be worthwhile, to see new country and climb new peaks. The Uinta Mountains of Utah are the most prominent east-west range in the U.S. with elevations ranging from 8000' in the lower canyons to peaks over 13,000'. The mountains consist of multi-colored quartzites and shales, contrasting with the green of the forests and lush meadows and a multitude of flowers, of which bluebells are the most abundant. All the major canyons have been glaciated (no glaciers remain). From Aug. 9 thru 15, 1975, Barbara Lilley (peak bagger) and Harvey Hickman (fisherman) completed a 60 mile loop trip thru these mountains which permitted an ascent of King's Peak (13,528'), highest in Utah, plus 3 other 13,000' peaks (all Class 2). Allowing a day for driving at the beginning and end of a usual week's vacation, an outline of this 7-day backpack trip is presented here for anyone who might find the information useful in planning a similar trip.

Starting from the Swift Creek Campground at the end of the Yellowstone Road, which approaches the Uintas from the south via Duchesne and Mountain Home, Utah, they first backpacked to Timothy Lakes, from which Mt. Emmons (13,440') was climbed, then went over Bluebell Pass, up trail to Milk Lake and cross-country 5 miles to pick up the trail west of Anderson Pass. They crossed Anderson Pass (from which King's Peak was climbed), then went over Gunsite Pass and down to Henry's Fork Creek. Mt. Gilbert (13,442') was climbed from here (via Dollar Lake). Descending Henry's Fork Creek, they took the trail over to Smith's Fork and upstream over Smith's Fork Pass, climbing Mt. Powell (13,159') en route, then on down Yellowstone Creek to the roadhead. (The trail up the north side of Smith's Fork Pass has been relocated; it now leaves the Red Castle trail 2 miles further upstream from where it is shown on the map.) The daily itinerary should be flexible to allow for delays caused by bad weather. It is not necessary to carry a stove (only a grate) as wood is abundant below 11,000'. Trees tend to grow in clumps which permit dry wood to be found even after a hard rain; however, a small container of fire-starting fluid does come in handy.

The summer weather is stormier and colder than in the Sierra (it often snows above 12,000') and brief afternoon thunderstorms occur every day. One should also be prepared for days of intermittent storms starting early in the morning! A waterproof pack cover and sleeping bag stuff bag plus adequate raingear--knee-length rain coat and chaps, or rain parka and pants (ponchos are useless) are a must.

Rain after dark is rare enough that a tube-tent would probably be adequate. It is recommended to climb peaks and cross passes in the mornings and to climb peaks via gullies rather than along ridges where possible. Taking a plastic ground sheet along on peaks climbs permits one to more comfortably wait out the current thunderstorm in (hopefully) a safe place and still reach the summit.

Although the trail over Anderson Pass is good, some trails marked on the maps, especially in the higher areas, are merely routes marked by large carins about 100'-200' apart, making travel after dark very difficult. Where visible, these type of trails are steep and rocky. There are few footbridges and lots of marshes discourage off-trail travel. For this reason and also to avoid the worst of the flying insects, mid-August is recommended. USGS Maps are fairly new, 7 & 1/2 minute series; those used for the above trip are: Kings Peak, Mt. Emmons, Garfield Basin and Mt. Powell (all Utah). A USFS map of the entire Primitive Area and adjoining regions can be obtained from USFS Stations in Duchesne or Roosevelt or by writing to USFS, Ashley Natl. Forest, 150 S. 2nd St.E., Roosevelt, Utah 84066. There is also a recently published book called "High Uinta Trails", obtained by sending \$3.25 to Wasatch Publishers, Inc., 4646 Idlewild Rd., Salt Lake City, Utah 84117.

As yet no wilderness permits are required. The main thing marring the scenic beauty and quiet of these mountains is large herds of domestic sheep which are permitted to graze in the high mountain valleys (beware of polluted water). But if it is necessary for hikers to share a mountain area with "hooved locusts" in order to have free access themselves, so be it.

1976 SPS Membership and Echo Subscription Application Form

Unless you have a "76" written on your Echo mailing label, or if you are applying for membership or subscribing to the Echo, you need to fill out this form.

Current Sierra Club membership is required for all SPS members; please list your SC membership number(s) for the Section records. A space is provided for listing activities for members who wish "active" (voting) status. If you wish to be an active member for 1976 please list your 1975 qualifying activity.

Non-SPS members who are subscribing to the Echo, please check the "subscriber only" box. You needn't supply an SC number.

If you are applying for SPS membership list the peaks climbed, dates, and indicate those climbed with the SPS in the space provided at the bottom of the page.

One Echo subscription is sufficient for related members living at the same address. Please be sure to fill in the requested information for all members.

Please mail this page and the \$3.00 Echo subscription fee to:

(Renewals or Subscriptions:)

(New Members or Reinstatements:)

Beverly Shultz
SPS Treasurer, 1976
3212 Montrose
La Crescenta, CA 91214

R. J. Secor
SPS Secretary, 1976
2366 Las Lunas
Pasadena, CA 91107

RENEWAL DEADLINE: March 31. (After that time, please apply for reinstatement.)

PLEASE PRINT

Today's date

Name

Phone

Address: Number, Street, etc.

City, State, ZIP

RENEWALS, REINSTATEMENTS, SUBSCRIPTIONS

- I am a current Sierra Club member; my SC membership no. is _____
- I wish to maintain "active" status. My Section activity in 1975 was:

- I wish to be reinstated as an active member. My last year as an active member was _____. I have done the following to qualify for reinstatement:

- I will be an "inactive" member in 1976 and wish to receive the Echo.
- I wish to renew my Echo subscription; I am not an SPS member.
- I wish to subscribe to the Echo; this is a new subscription.

→ OTHER SPS MEMBERS WHO RESIDE AT THE SAME ADDRESS (Please give phone if different.)

Name	SC Member No.	activity in 1975; if none state "I"
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

NEW MEMBERS

- I hereby apply for membership in the SPS. (List peaks climbed, dates, and indicate those climbed with the SPS below:)

Peak	Date	(√) (with SPS)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- I am a current Sierra Club Member; my SC membership no. is _____

TRANSPORTATION CHARGES:

The automobile operating costs published in last month's Echo appear low by many calculations, primarily caused by the use of a ten year life for the automobile. But calculating four passengers, including the driver, for a standard car; three for a compact; and two for a sub-compact, with backpacks, the passenger mile costs all exceed 3¢ - standard, 4¢; compact, 4¢; sub-compact 5½¢. Other more realistic studies indicate that the passenger mile cost is actually between 5 and 6¢ per mile. I would propose that the Section's recommendation be raised to 5¢ a mile and that drivers have the guts to charge it. Those who object to the costs can drive. But I for one would rather pay the mileage than drive. On one trip last summer it took me three months to collect \$9.66 for a round trip to South Lake. True, the cost to Whitney Portal and back would be about \$22.50, but someone must pay the costs and the good guy drivers are paying more than their share.

Earl Kesler

SPS'ers in agreement with Abe Siemens' letter in the Nov. '75 issue of the "Southern Sierran" are urged to write to the "Sierran" and to the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. (Also see letter in Aug-Sept. issue.)

In spite of the fact that this entrenched bureaucracy makes considerable money for the Angeles Chapter, perhaps enough membership pressure can be brought to bear to remedy this ambiguous situation.

Barbara Lilley

FOR SALE:

Pack and Frame, jr. size, Jansport	\$19.00
Inflatable pillows, 18x20, Hodgeman	1.00 ea.
Hiking boots, 9½, heavy duty, (worn four times, Griffith Park, etc.)	38.00
Sleeping bag, Dacron (used once)	12.00
Slide projector, 2x2, 300 watt	15.00
Slide trays, 40 slides	.60 ea.

John Linden, Home: 367-4375
Work: 790-3516