

The

Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 20

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JUNE 1976

No. 3



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

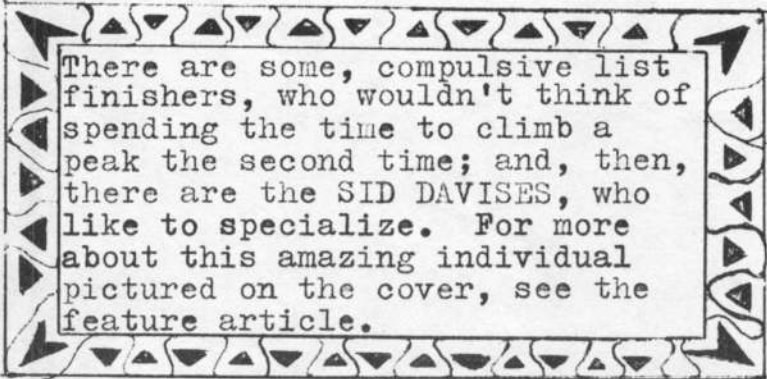
This was written on Cinco de Mayo, a celebrated anniversary for Mexico and this year an especially important anniversary for the SPS as well. As noted in the March-April '76 Echo edition of Ron Jones' excellent continuing series on the SPS of Yesteryear, the first officially scheduled SPS trip started on May 5, 1956, so the Section has just now completed 20 years of active climbing. To start the next twenty, the Section has scheduled nearly 50 trips for July to October. The plans involve more than 100 peaks, including 11 emblem peaks and representative mountains from most of the SPS's 24 geographical areas. With these primary Section activities now planned and programmed we can eagerly anticipate their execution.

As we enter our third decade, a change is about to occur in our meeting place. After discussing this issue at three Section meetings and four Management Committee meetings, the Management Committee, responding to an overwhelming consensus of the meeting-attending membership, has made arrangements to shift our meeting place to the Department of Water and Power auditorium at 111 North Hope Street. The shift begins with the July meeting. We will continue to meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. We've had many years of wonderful programs at Lemon Grove and hope that the new, more opulent surroundings at DWP will provide an additional positive increment.

A substantial part of the Management Committee's efforts so far this year have been devoted to what amount to lobbying activities within the Sierra Club itself. At the beginning of our term we were confronted with the Sierra Club Council's new Outings Policy which threatened to modify or even curtail our traditional activities. The SPS has made common cause with the Desert Peaks Section, and together we have written letters to Sierra Club officials and to Section members who reside outside the Angeles Chapter (requesting their assistance with their Sierra Club Council representatives). We have also had many face-to-face discussions with Chapter officials and have even lobbied with the Council itself. At the moment things seem to be headed in the right direction; although nothing is yet firm, there is a good chance that we will be able to continue our traditional activities within our traditional geographic regions without any significant constraints. The Management Committee has also recently completed a review and listing of policies and procedures, as required by a recent Bylaw amendment. The list should help to provide continuity between successive Management Committees and some guidance on pertinent Angeles Chapter regulations.

The ad hoc committee appointed to recommend the nature of the Senior Emblem and List Completion pins is still soliciting suggestions. Cook up some ideas while on the trail or around the campfire, and send them to Bill Russell, the committee chairman. Final decisions on this are some months away.

Duane McRuer



There are some, compulsive list finishers, who wouldn't think of spending the time to climb a peak the second time; and, then, there are the SID DAVISES, who like to specialize. For more about this amazing individual pictured on the cover, see the feature article.



## SIERRA PEAKS TRIPS SUMMER 1976

|              |                                    |                     |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Jul 10-11    | Black, Dragon                      | Muell, Lantz        |
| Jul 10-11    | Florence, Vandever                 | C.Stein, McRuer     |
| Jul 10-11    | Humphreys                          | Sheaff, McKellop    |
| Jul 10-11    | Split, Prater                      | Mauk, Hoepfner      |
| Jul 10-19    | 11 peaks on King-Kern Divide       | J & P Butler        |
| Jul 17-18    | Seven Gables, Gemini               | Goebel, Secor       |
| Jul 17-18    | Aperture, Robinson                 | MacLeod, Hickman    |
| Jul 17-18    | Dade, Abbot                        | Muell, Lantz        |
| Jul 17-19    | Ritter, Banner                     | Lubin, Landau, Finn |
| Jul 22-25    | Goddard, Reinstein                 | W & B Kabler        |
| Jul 23-26    | Devils Crags, Wheel                | W.Russell, McRuer   |
| Jul 24-25    | North Palisade                     | Sheaff, McKellop    |
| Jul 24-25    | Morrison, Red Slate                | Croley, Brandsma    |
| Jul 24-25    | Wallace, Haeckel                   | Lees, Van de Mark   |
| Jul 31-Aug 1 | Hilgard, Gabb                      | Dee, Muell          |
| Jul 31-Aug 1 | Abbot, Mills                       | W. Kabler, Bruce    |
| Jul 31-Aug 1 | Conness, North, Cathedral          | Grasso, Mantle      |
| Jul 31-Aug 6 | 8 peaks in Russell area            | Sheaff, McKellop    |
| Aug 6-8      | Matterhorn, Whorl, Twin, Virginia  | Mantle, Hubbard     |
| Aug 7-8      | Starr King                         | W. Kabler, Bruce    |
| Aug 7-8      | Four Gables, Mt. Tom               | Dee, Ossosky        |
| Aug 14-15    | Merriam, Royce, Julius Caesar      | Bruce, Brumer       |
| Aug 14-22    | 10 peaks on north Pinchot quad     | J & P Butler        |
| Aug 20-22    | Lyell, Maclure                     | W. Kabler, Olsen    |
| Aug 21-22    | Center, West Vidette               | Brumer, Bartlett    |
| Aug 21-22    | Matterhorn                         | Mauk, M.Stein       |
| Aug 21-22    | Irvine, McAdie                     | McRuer, W. Russell  |
| Aug 21-22    | Graveyard Fk                       | MacLeod, Lilley     |
| Aug 21-22    | Humphreys, Emerson                 | Hubbard, Vasilik    |
| Aug 27-30    | Williamson, Tyrdall                | Muell, Lantz        |
| Aug 28-29    | Gemini, Senger                     | Byington, Lees      |
| Aug 28-29    | Wallace, Haeckel                   | T.Pinson, Hellman   |
| Sep 3-6      | Kaweah, Red Kaweah                 | F.Meyers, Vasilik   |
| Sep 4-6      | Black Giant, Charybdis, McDuffie   | Goebel, Brandsma    |
| Sep 4-6      | Middle Palisade, Disappointment    | J & P Butler        |
| Sep 4-6      | State, Marion, (Goat?)             | R & B Magnuson      |
| Sep 4-6      | Min.King to Sequoia & Seq. to MK   | Nilsson, Sinnett    |
| Sep 10-12    | Bago, Gardiner, Rixford            | Ranschau, Adams     |
| Sep 18-19    | Crystal Lake backpack              | Amneus, Robinson    |
| Sep 18-19    | Lone Pine pk                       | Toby, C.Stein       |
| Sep 18-19    | Tower                              | R.Jones, Reber      |
| Sep 18-20    | Isosceles, Observa., Shake, Colum. | Lipsohn, MacLeod    |
| Sep 25-26    | Koip, Gibbs                        | D & S Akawie        |
| Oct 2-3      | Carson, San Joaquin, Two Teats     | Keating, Fletcher   |
| Oct 2-3      | Mt Farquhar                        | Mantle, Lipsohn     |
| Oct 9-11     | Merced, Red, Gray                  | Dee, B.Magnuson     |
| Oct 16-17    | Ball Dome, Twin peaks, Kettle      | Lipsohn, Lilley     |
| Oct 30-31    | North Maggie, Moses                | R.Jones, Reber      |
| Nov 6-7      | Homers Nose                        | Mantle, Ranschau    |

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### A MILLION FEET OF UP

Sid Davis, motion picture producer and mountaineer, climbed to the peak of Mt. San Jacinto from the mountain station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway April 1, 1976. On that Thursday morning, several events took place that were of extreme importance to this man. Davis celebrated his 60th birthday; this was his 400th climb to the 10,804 ft. peak; total distance traveled on 400 climbs represent 4,000 miles; in mountaineering language this totals 1,000,000 feet of travel up a mountain, or in the new measuring terminology, 300,000 meters. Davis explained that mountaineers list their climbing accomplishments by how many feet of "up" they have achieved.

A man of many interests, he is a nature lover, sportsman, and humanitarian. Tall of stature and large of heart, he is always receptive and open with people. The 6' 4" mountaineer commented on his favorite pastime and said, "I feel an electricity when I reach the top. If there is a God, that is the time I feel a presence." Sid's loyalty to Mt. San Jacinto is illustrated in his license plates which read, "San Jac."

With the incentive of getting in good shape, Sid joined the Sierra Club in 1963. His regular climbs up Mt. San Jacinto began in July, 1964. He remarked, "I get great enjoyment from mountain climbing! The exercise is a fringe benefit." He continues to be a Sierra Club member and is past chairman of the Sierra Peak Section.

Sid's impressive size is equalled by his impressive record of successes in life. He has been in the motion picture business for 56 years and wryly commented, "I'm the youngest 'old man' in Hollywood!"

continued

Sid acted in the "Our Gang Comedies" in 1925 and later worked as a messenger for RKO studios and in their publicity department. From 1938 to 1941 he had various acting jobs, and in 1942 was hired as John Wayne's stand-in which lasted for 11 years. Thinking of him, he reflected, "John Wayne changed my life. To me he is an example of humility. Success didn't go to his head; he's a very sincere person."

In 1949 Sid produced his first film on child molestation entitled, "Dangerous Stranger", and has since produced more than 100 films. Much of his success he attributes to his wife Norma, who worked diligently by his side and whose many ideas he found invaluable. He owns Sid Davis Productions and has spent the last 26 years producing educational documentaries. One of his many films include "Miracle at Palm Springs", a film depicting the construction of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.

He has produced everything from 15-second TV spots to a 90-minute full-length feature. Film production for industry is done on assignment, but the educational films in which he specializes, are made on speculation.

In 1971, he received the coveted Lynn D. Swanson Award for his contribution to youth service presented by the International Juvenile Officers' Association of which he is a charter member and has supported generously over the years.

continued



Sid emphasized that there are five essentials in life: food, water, fresh air, sleep and exercise. Supporting these must be a good mind and positive attitude. He compared the five essentials in life to five fingers on a hand with the mind symbolizing the palm of the hand. He claimed, "I believe that climbing is important for longevity. I solve many of my problems hiking alone; however, I enjoy having company because I love people." Then he stressed, "If people would keep in shape they would live about 15 years longer by building up endurance."

You'd think that mountain climbing would be sufficient, but he rides a motorcycle to and from Los Angeles!

His life's dedication, aside from mountaineering, is young people and improving the environment, both through visual education. He said, "I make films because I feel I'm contributing to the growth of both young and matured minds through the aid of the visual media." On the side, Sid derives much enjoyment from teaching climbing and filmmaking to interested young people.

Davis has climbed every 14,000 ft. peak in California. "I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment from climbing," he said emphatically; "I experience a sense of pride because I know this is an area in which I've excelled. In a way I feel married to 'San Jac' in that it's a part of me.

Two years ago I took my grandson up Mt<sup>San</sup> Jacinto when he was 2 years old, and he proved to be a chip off the ol' block." Sid bursted with obvious pride and added, "I was surprised that he made it in one day. I thought it would take him at least three. He must have a little of his grandfather in him!"

During the last four months Sid wrote a poem which brings to life the inspiration he experiences while mountain climbing:

continued

FOREVER YOURS

My ashes will be cast atop San Jac  
In the holes and in the crack  
The pine tree will say, "Sid you are mine."  
As I climb through the roots into the limber pine.

The thunder cracks when the lightning streaks  
The coyote howls and owl shrieks  
The clouds pour rain  
And into the canyons they drain.

Then the sun comes out  
And the flowers sprout.  
The eagle soars high  
Way up in the sky.

And as I rest beneath the trees  
Drinking wine and eating cheese  
I then lie down and take a rest  
With my head on the Mountain's breast.

Then in the winter when it snows  
That's the time for my winter clothes  
And, Oh my! Isn't this really nice  
Wearing crampons on the ice.

In the Spring when the snow is low  
In the evening watching the Alpenglow  
And when the birds all go to sleep  
In my bag I slowly creep.

Just me! Just I!  
I'm so happy I could cry  
Then in the morning at the break of dawn  
I eat some breakfast and then I'm gone.

Climbing, climbing ever higher...  
Reaching, reaching to my hearts' desire  
And the thrill that I seek  
Is to stand atop my Mountain Peak.

And if you ask me how or why  
All this happens beneath the sky,  
I don't know the reason why;  
But as a mountaineer, I'll never die.

Sid Davis  
April 1, 1976

Sid is anticipating his 500th ascent of San Jacinto Peak. He's not going to rest (climb) on his laurels!

ECHOS FROM THE PAST  
Ron Jones  
Ten Years Ago in the SPS

Trips in May and early June of 1966 included Mt. Perkins and Mt Ickes led by Arky and Ruth Erb; Mt. Morrison and San Joaquin Mtn. followed by a two hour visit with Norman Clyde on a trip led by John Thornton and Bill Hunt; Split Mountain and Tinemaha were led by Tom McNicholas and Ken McNutt over Memorial Day with a group of 52 people; Whorl Mountain led by Arky and Ruth Erb and Mount Bradley led by Gordon MacLeod and Norm Maclean. Barbara Lilley reported on a private trip over Memorial Day into the Trinity Alps of Northern California because of poor snow conditions in the Sierra.

Twenty Years Ago in the SPS

Continuing with the early history of the SPS during its founding years, it should be pointed out that there was no Sierra Echo during the first year of the Section. It was not until November of 1956 that it was decided to publish a Section Paper. At the SPS meeting for that month, Roger Gaefcke suggested the name Sierra Echo, and it was unanimously adopted. Volume I of the Echo was run off by mimeograph and covers the climbs of 1957. The staff for the first issue sounded impressive: Bud Bingham, editor-in-chief; John Robinson, managing editor; and Frank Sanborn listed as columnist. The present day Echo editor would be envious of such a staff! The Newsletter was free to Section members in those days. Volume I; number 1 (February 1957) had the Section emblem on the front page hand-colored by John Robinson.

Returning to 1956, it was Bud Bingham, who in March of that year, drew up the present emblem depicting Mt. Williamson in profile with white Sierra summer clouds floating overhead, snow on the flanks, and pine boughs intertwined beneath.

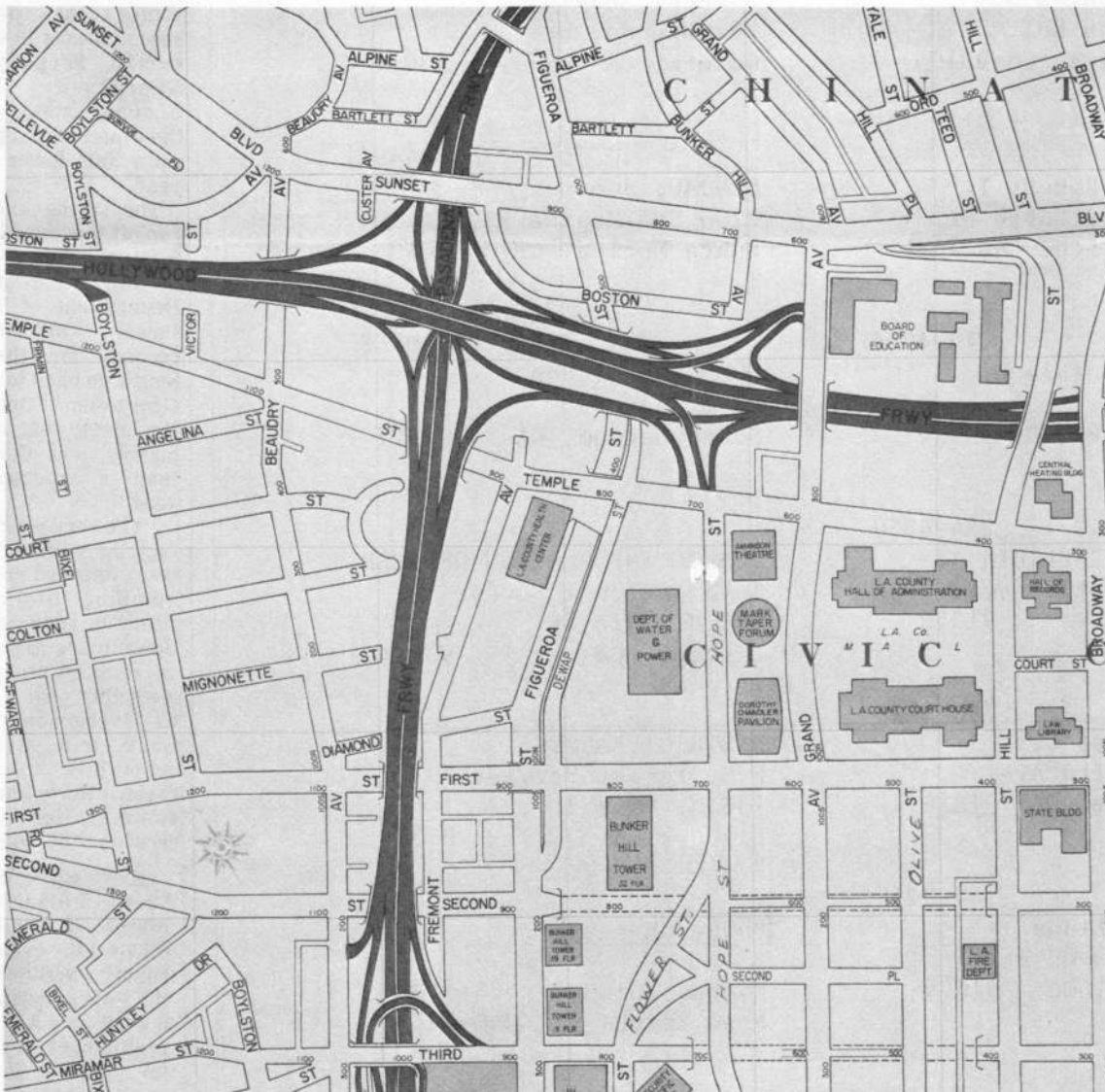
Following the initial trip to Deer Mountain led by Frank Sanborn and John Robinson in early May, the second trip was scheduled on May 26-27 when Frank Sanborn again, with Miles Brubacher led a group to Maggie Mtn. On June 2-3 George Wallerstein (now climbing in the Seattle area with Frank Sanborn) and Steve Wilkie led a trip to Mt. Gilbert from South Lake. The next weekend, Frank and Ted Maier (former early-day Chairman who recently passed away) led a trip to Trail Peak in the Cottonwood Basin. Most of these early day SPS trips had fewer than 20 participants, and the average number for the first season was certainly under 20.

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.



## NEW MEETING PLACE

In June, the SPS meets in Lemon Grove Auditorium for the last time. Beginning in July, the monthly meetings of the SPS will be held in the auditorium of the Department of Water and Power, 111 North Hope Street, downtown Los Angeles. Meetings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Below is a map of the downtown area, including freeways and the DWP. Parking is available in the Visitors' Parking Area, Entrance No. 6 on Hope Street, just north of the building entrance. The move is being made because of the greater convenience of the DWP (cooler in the summer, quieter, no 10 p.m. time limit, etc.). The move was discussed at several meetings. A vocal minority opposed the move for sentimental reasons but the will of the majority and the apathy of the management committee prevailed in the end.



SPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

76A - 3  
April 1976

**New Members**

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5477 Nestle Ave.  
Tarzana, CA 91356

PERKINS, David L.  
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Studio City, CA 91604

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George Shinno 664-1534  
Fran Smith 848-6970

**Reinstated as Active**

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974-7580  
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McFADDEN, Harold  
2237-1/4 S. Bentley Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064


Dear Editor,

It has been very interesting to note the differing opinions expressed by those who have written in support of BMTC as to what are its actual purposes! One person feels it exists to serve the general public, another thinks it is basically for Sierra Club members! A third expressed the opinion that BMTC did not bring hordes of people into the wilderness who would not otherwise be there, while the letter written by Ken Jones implies that bringing these hordes of people into wilderness areas to delibertyly create a situation of overcrowding and overuse will aid in the creation of more wilderness areas--an end which hardly justifies the means and will only lead to more excessive wilderness entry restrictions. In any event, in spite of all pro-BMTC arguments, the fact remains that the continued existence of the BMTC is contrary to the current philosophy of the Sierra Club regarding back-country use. The BMTC, by its very existence, encourages more and more people to visit the back-country, while the Sierra Club now discourages back-country use by supporting entry quotas and other restrictions imposed by the Park and Forest Service.

It may be interesting to note that through the incidents which prompted the writing of Mr. Siemens' letter in the first place, the BMTC has brought this questioning of its existence upon itself. And in spite of agreements to the contrary, these incidents continue to occur.

Barbara Lilley

#### VERN STILES



Vern Stiles was killed on Mt. St. Helens in southwestern Washington on February 7, 1976, as described in the following newspaper article. Vern was a member of the Sierra Peaks Section through the 1960's until he moved to Seattle. He was an emblem holder and an enthusiastic supporter of SPS activities. He had many friends in the SPS and also in the rock climbing section.

Anyone who ever climbed with Vern will remember this man in the green beret and sometimes beard whose good humor and free spirit made him a delight to be with in the mountains.

*In* Remembrance

#### PEAK 12,913 (1 mi. N. of Mt. Goddard)

The route description given in the Climbers Guide is roughly correct for an interesting Class 3 climb of this imposing peak. To avoid rappelling, one can descend Class 2 along the NNW ridge by descending left (W) in a chute and then circling below the cliffs onto the lower North slopes. Dennis Burge and I used these routes on 29 July for an enjoyable climb.

Carl Heller



March 1, 1976

Private Trip Write-Up for the Echo  
August 22 through September 1, 1975  
Jim and Pat Butler, Bruce Devans

By August 22, the group of six or eight persons who had originally committed to "cleaning out" the Big Arroyo had dwindled to three stolid mountaineers. We left the Mineral King parking lot at 7:00 A.M. and dropped over Glacier Pass at the noon hour. We were told that this was the lowest snow year for Glacier Pass in many years. There was virtually no snow in Glacier Pass and ice axes were completely unnecessary. We reached Spring Lake at 3:00, where one of our party insisted he could go no further that day.

The following day, we left Spring Lake at 7:00 and explored a delightful alternative to Black Rock Pass mentioned by Dennis Lantz in the September/October 1975 issue of the Echo. This new route, except for those who truly enjoy pain, should cause Black Rock Pass to fall into complete disuse. It is a pass due east from Spring Lake, contouring north around Big Five Lakes and northwest over a ridge to the southernmost of the Little Five Lakes, intersecting the Black Rock Pass Trail. From there we went to the lowest of Little Five Lakes, which we reached by noon, and climbed Lippincot that afternoon.

The next day we climbed Eisen (which needs a new register). After Eisen, we moved camp to the lowest lake in Nine Lake Basin. Stuart was climbed in one hour and 40 minutes, roundtrip; and Eagle Scout, recognized by the giant Saguaro cactus on the ridge, was an easy third class scramble.

On August 25, leaving our camp by 7:30, we had reached the foot of the north chute of Lion Rock by 9:00 A.M. Described as an easy third class ascent in the Climber's Guide, in this low snow year the chute was full of ice and snow too hard to kick steps in. What might otherwise be an easy third class route was a fourth or fifth class ascent. The top was reached by two of the climbers, and after lunch, we moved on to the top of the south ridge of Triple Divide on our way to climb that peak, before thunderheads and a white-out closing in from the west chased us back to camp.

The next day we returned to Triple Divide by the south ridge. Five minutes from the summit we met Jim and Shelly Mercer

and Dennis Berge, who were climbing Triple Divide as part of a trans-Sierra hike. You meet the funniest people in the mountains.

The view from Triple Divide was one of the best in the Sierras, including Lyell, Maclure, Ritter & Banner, Goddard, Darwin, Humphreys, North Palisades and the Palisades Range, Williamson, Tyddall, Whitney (but not Olancho), Brewer, Split and the Kaweah group--ten emblem peaks in all. We were back in camp around 3:00, had fresh trout from the lakes, broke camp around 4:00 P.M. and moved back down the Big Arroyo to a half mile above the trail junction.

On August 28, we left for Black Kaweah around 7:15 A.M. While the peak is not a true fourth class climb, it is so loose that calling it third class significantly understates the danger and difficulty of the climb. The Climber's Guide recommends a rope, but there is no place to use chocks or other protection because everything is so crumbly. No snow or ice was encountered anywhere along the ascent. The register goes back to the 1920's (partially reconstructed) and includes original signatures from 1926 or so including Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn, Walter A. Star, Jr. (signing the register in blood in 1929), Hutchinson, Glenn Dawson, etc. Our climb was the second ascent of the season behind the Kablers. On the descent, when about 200 feet above the cirque lake, disaster nearly struck. While one member of our party was standing on a large, seemingly solid block and looking down the chute, the block suddenly gave way and a mere fingerhold saved that member from following the hundreds of pounds of rock down the chute. All returned to camp safely.

The next day Red Kaweah had fallen by noon. No rope was necessary, and while it was loose, it was not anywhere as loose as Black Kaweah or vice-versa. We almost did Red Kaweah the same day but were overcome with laziness and turned it into a leisure day.

The next day we did Big Kaweah and moved out to Little Five Lakes, returning to the Mineral King parking lot early the next day.

MT. STEWART...(12,205)...Named for Colonel George W. Stewart, founder of Sequoia National Park.

Editor's Note: The following could use some explanation. Previous to the climb, on the Needle-Manly-Argus trip, to be exact, our illustrious leader promised me "the goods" on all trip participants. Little did I know that Doug intended to set his information to verse. The result speaks for itself: Doug truly out did himself, providing campfire entertainment as well as a trip write-up.

SNOW CREEK  
(May 8-9, 1976)

(To the tune of "He is the Very Model of a Modern Major General")

INTRODUCTION

Most trips up Snow Creek go in winter full of pain and moans and grit. But we decided to hold off and wait till George\* had scouted it. The hazards still are many: rock and snow and heat and maybe smog But dreaded most of all is the Desert Water Agency's dog. Snow Creek goes up ten thousand feet; the route is long and intricate. Yvonne Choinard and Royal Robbins almost couldn't handle it. To sum it up, we picked a dandy outing, and you might observe That with a group like this, boy, we have really got a lot of nerve:

CUNO RANSCHAU

First, Cuno Ranschau volunteered, although his knees are not so hot And even though some doctors have reported that his heart is shot. We're really not concerned; now he's in shape; nothing can go awry. Besides, the Palm Springs geriatrics rescue squad is standing by. But, seriously, he'll tote champagne and charge on like he'll never stop And bubble with enthusiasm on the climb up to the top. He'll shoot up like a madman crying, "Think of all those peaks I've Missed." Just hope nobody tells him that Snow Creek's not on the desert list.

JOHN GOEGLEIN

John Goeglein may not fully comprehend what this trip has in store. On rock and snow he's done about as much as Ethel Barrymore. He's talented in many fields; too many to be set to rhyme. The only thing he doesn't know, in fact, is how to mountain climb. He's trained for weeks, run miles and miles, and fumbled tying water Knots. We've never seen him so psyched up, not even for Mt. Avawatz. His goal's to beat the Ombergs up, to prove he's strongest of the three. I fear that race will simply serve to show John is a tur ur key!

BOB GOOD

Bob Good has never joined us on a rock climb or on mountain skis Or desert peaks or caving, or our other outdoor miseries.

\*Hubbard



He might have spent the last three summers scaling walls we'd  
Be scared on  
Which surely would contrast with our aborted try on Huascaran.  
He might have **practiced** day and night on ice couloirs and water falls  
His skills might now be so refined, his presence here should awe us all.  
He could just drag us to the top - but wait, perhaps, we'll wait and see  
For all I know, this long lost dude's the lightweight of the century.

#### ED OMBERG

Ed Omberg's mountain trips have given just cause for his wife to grieve.  
The latest problems're allergies and asthma that won't let him breathe.  
The worst thing, though, is not his own condition or ability  
But friends who urge him on such trips as Sentinel and Manily.  
This willingness to save our weekends clearly doesn't serve him well,  
Especially when driving off from roads that aren't exactly swell.  
It's true he ferries uncorked wine and chocolate cake without a balk,  
But the way he skis and crosses streams, he's lucky he can even walk.

#### MARY OMBERG

Dear Mary, English teacher, known in SPS as very strong.  
She **skis** and **scuba** dives and jogs and maintains top condition.  
She has one unexpected fault which hardly constitutes a crime;  
Our Mar makes Rona Barret look as vile as Arthur Rubinstein.  
To say she thrives on smut's to say the sky is blue; the sea is green.  
Her ruthless term as Echo editor keeps reputations lean.  
At least, we all will get a chance to tear her down and taunt and mock,  
Because, despite belays and help, poor Mary is a spaz on rock.

#### FINALE

So that's our group, unless somebody else was duped and dragged along.  
They get no verse; at this point it's too late to change this stupid  
Song.\*

As for the editor, I didn't write a stanza, I'll admit,  
But from what's been, you'll grasp his gift of \_\_\_\_\_ insight and  
His dazzling wit.

But now that Mary has her scoop and Cuno is amused with Ed and John  
Saying, "What'd he say?" and Robert all confused,  
On with the campfire! Then San Jac! I'll cease my rhetoric.  
The dog and song are past - they were the tough part of this trip.

- Doug Mantle

\*The "someone else" turned out to be RALPH ROYSTON.

## NOTICES

David Campbell found an ice axe on the way into Meysan Lake on April 24th. and retrieved it on his way out. If the owner provides suitable identification, he would be happy to return it. Contact Dave at:

1555 Bridget Avenue  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

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The January-February Echo edition was extremely popular, undoubtedly because it contained the revised peaks list. Individuals desiring copies of the list can obtain them from the section secretary, R. J. Secor:

2366 Las Lunas  
Pasadena, CA 91107

Include SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelop) and 25¢ to cover printing expenses.

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A new Climber's Guide by Steve Roper will be out shortly.

- Diana Dee

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### A BREAKTHROUGH IN PREVENTION OF MOUNTAIN SICKNESS?

For the past 4 years, Mountain Safety Research (MSR) has been coordinating a group of climbing doctors interested in this subject into an Acute Mountain Sickness Study Team, attempting to find both an explanation and a preventative. The work is being done mostly in the field, on Mt. Rainier itself when possible (upon one occasion a camping permit was denied to the Team even though it was necessary to maintain a certain schedule for test purposes to compare against previous trips-- sort of in the same category as denying permits for crevasse rescue practice).

Recent tests have indicated that while climbing there is a shift toward the acid side of the acid/alkaline balance, probably because an insufficiency of oxygen and a high demand for energy in the absence of enough carbohydrate results in excess organic acid formation as body fats are burned for energy (and lactic acid is also produced). This excess acid may very well be a main contributing factor causing acute mountain sickness (AMS). This may be why Diamox aids in preventing AMS; as a diuretic it stimulates the kidneys to pass more water which carries with it the excess acid. Drinking more water is itself a diuretic (they recommend 4 quarts a day over 8000'). Vomiting also helps get rid of this excess acid. And the Team has found that by simply taking anti-acid Rolaid tablets, the acid/alkaline balance can be maintained (as determined by testing urine on pH test paper) and thus possibly preventing AMS from occurring. The number of tablets required varied with the individual. (Roloids contain sodium carbonate which combines with the excess chloride to form common salt and also contain an aluminum compound to act as a buffer; Tums contain calcium carbonate which the Team considers to be not as good.)

(excerpted from MSR Newsletter, March 1976)

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### KINGS-KERN DIVIDE TRIP

I am interested in getting a small group together to climb peaks along the Kings-Kern Divide and the Great Western Divide during the week of June 27 - July 4, 1976. This trip could start with the scheduled climb of Brewer on the 26th. or 27th. of June and end with the scheduled climb of Triple Divide on the 4th. of July weekend. In between would be opportunity to get several peaks in the Sierra that are otherwise hard to reach. Anyone interested please call me at:

WORK: 670-1515 ext. 5368  
HOME: 322-4529

- Clarke Wellman  
413½ Richmond St.  
El Segundo, CA 90245

Montana "Peak Bagging" Trip Proposed

High point of Montana is Granite Pk. (12,799'), located in the Beartooth Mountains just north of Yellowstone Park. Would like to share transportation (and mutual protection against bears?) with other SPS'ers who would like to spend a week climbing this peak and others in the area. No permits required, no camping restrictions! Granite Pk. is Class 4 & also requires use of ice ax and crampons so Mountaineers' List or equivalent experience would be needed. Dates: Aug. 7-15, 1976. Contact Barbara Lilley, 8421 Lindley Ave., Northridge, CA 91324. Ph. (213) 886-4154.

Area-wide Visitor's Center for Owens Valley

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on April 20 for the planned Interagency Visitors Center south of Lone Pine, at the intersection of U.S. 395 and State Route 136. The Visitors Center will be constructed and managed through an Interagency Cooperative Agreement and will provide a convenient stopping point for tourists entering the Owens Valley. Visitors will be able to obtain information pertaining to recreational opportunities, wildlife and scenic resources, historical and cultural background of the area as well as permits, weather information and road conditions. In addition, general information about local, state and governmental agency responsibilities and activities in the Owens Valley will be available.

from Inyo Register 4/15/76

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER  
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION  
10624 Garden Grove Ave.  
Northridge, Calif. 91324

*"to explore, enjoy, preserve"*

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