

The

Sierra



ECHO

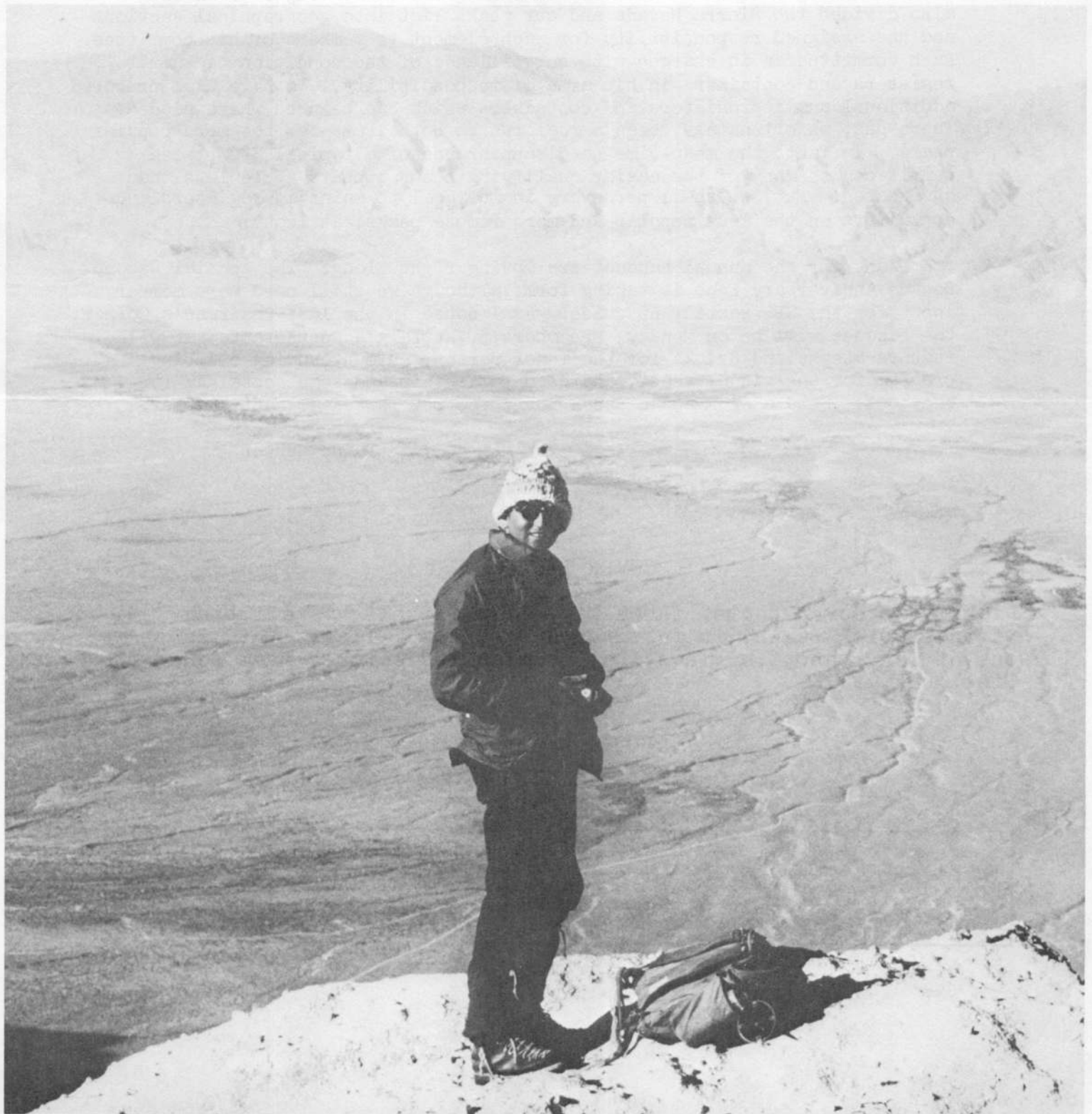
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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

A notable accomplishment this year is the updating of the Section's mountaineering records and the initiation of an organization to keep these current. Paul Lipsohn, as Mountaineering Records Committee chairman, has done his usual sterling job in compiling a five-year summary of trips scheduled by the Section. This is very useful for the Schedule Committee in determining priorities for the scheduling of future trips. Paul has also divided the Sierra Nevada and our peaks list into geographical sections and has assigned responsibility for each element to members of his committee. Each committeeman is charged with surveillance of the condition of summit registers and containers in his area of responsibility. We have also procured additional summit registers and containers which can be used where needed. There has, unfortunately, been a real run on both items for the more popular peaks. In fact, the mean-time-to-disappearance of a typical SPS-placed summit can on many of the easier qualifying peaks appear to be less than one season! But, we shall persevere in our goal to maintain registers and containers on the less popular and more remote peaks, at least.

Plans for the annual banquet are moving right along. The special Second Decade Anniversary Echo is taking form, although we still need more member input for the SPS restaurant guide. As I noted in the last Chairman's Corner, the banquet will be on Monday, December 13, at Taix's Restaurant. It will feature steaks and drinks for the inner person, an outstanding climbing program for the visual sense, and good fellowship and some nostalgia for the soul. Send a SASE and a check for \$8.50 per person to Betty Kabler.

Duane McRuer

COVER PHOTO

Dick May's cover photo, taken May, 1970, highlights climbing partner, Dick Beach, in foreground of Owens Valley. This is one of many panoptic views that rewards the climber from Lone Pine Peak.

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

Ron Jones' current article follows up earlier coverage on the Mountaineer's List. - editor

Steve Fossett reported on a solo first ascent of Eagle Peak on the Monarch Divide overlooking the Kings River. Andy Smatko led a one week climbing trip into the Kaweah and Picket Creek basin with Bill Schuler, Tom Ross, Sid Davis, Pat Donegan, Hank Frye, Dave Henderson, and Ellen Siegal Ossofsky. Bill Schuler earned his emblem this trip on the Great Kaweah. Ed Lane did some solo climbing around Mt. Powell, Clyde Spires, and Mt. Wallace. Ed made several first ascents on this trip, including the pinnacles on Peak 13,040, northwest of Mt. Powell. He described the climb as, "very enjoyable solo class 3 to 4 with black knobs which make good holds but sometimes break off. No rope was used."

Twenty Years Ago in the SPS

Three trips were scheduled by the SPS in October, 1956. John Robinson was to lead Mt. Rixford over Kearsage Pass early in the month but was snowed out on this and the alternate goal, University Peak. On October 20th. and 21st., Bud Bingham, Bob Bear, and John Robinson led a joint SPS-DPS trip to Peak 11,107, north of Mt. Keynot on the crest of the Inyo Range. They named the peak Mt. Inyo: the name was officially adopted, and the peak became a DPS Emblem Peak. The final SPS scheduled trip of 1956 was to the southernmost qualifying peak at the time, Owens Peak. The climb was led by Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner.

There were a total of twenty scheduled trips in 1956 with an average participation of 19 per trip. Top attendance for the year was Owens Peak with forty-six climbers, thirty-two of whom reached the summit. Cardinal Peak in September had the poorest turnout with only five climbers. When it is remembered that the average number of trips scheduled by the Angeles Chapter into the Sierra (usually by the DPS) was only three prior to 1956, it can be appreciated that the SPS fulfilled its goal of opening up the Sierra.

DISCOVERY PASS (13,600+)

This is a fast route to Crabtree Lakes and appears to be seldom used. From Trail Crest (or slightly east of it on the Mount Whitney Trail), cross the crest near Discovery Pinnacle and descend scree and sand to Crabtree Lakes. Despite the scree, the route is also feasible as an ascent route to Trail Crest; it took Cliff Cameron and me two hours to reach the Whitney Trail from the lakes.

R. J. Secor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sierra Club National Mountaineering Committee will meet November 13, 9:30 A.M., at Kajima Assoc., 250 E. 1st. St., L.A. (Little Tokyo). The meeting is open to all chairmen of mountaineering sections, who are automatic members of the committee.

Climbers interested in a Canyon Explorers Club expedition to 21,000 foot Mt. Illimani and 20,000 foot Huayna Potosi, Bolivia, from mid-June to mid-July, 1977, contact John Tenero for details: 1021 3rd. St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254, phone: (213) 379-6587 or (213) 620-4170. The approximate cost is \$1,500, and a \$150.00 deposit reserves your place.

Individuals interested in desert alpinism in Santa Katarina (the Sinai), write Steve Gault at Haron, Ltd., Programs in Sport and Education, 34 Assaf Str., Ramat Gan, Israel, phone: 03-735490.

The SPS's twentieth anniversary banquet will be held Monday, December 13, 1976 at Les Frères Taix Restaurant, 1911 West Sunset Blvd., L.A., phone: 484-1265. We'll meet at 6:30 P.M. for cocktails, 7:30 for steak dinner and a special twentieth anniversary program. The cost is \$8.50 each. Send check (c/o SPS) and self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to Betty Kabler: 18300-H Napa, Northridge, CA 91324. Seating is limited due to fire regulations.

FUTURE SPS ACTIVITIES

Oct 23,24	Rock climbing practice	Lantz, SPS leaders
Nov 6	Rock Rescue Seminar	RCS
Nov 6-7	Homers Nose	Mantle, Ranschau
Nov 6-7	Rockhouse, Sawtooth	Russell, Dee
Dec 4,5	Joshua Tree rock climbing	Lantz, SPS leaders
Dec 13	SPS annual banquet, Taix rest.	Betty Kabler in charge
Jan 22,23	Ice axe practice, Baldy	C.Stein(res), Ranschau, Mauk
Feb 5,6	Ice axe practice, Baldy	C.Stein(res), J & P Butler
Mar 12-13	Snow training trip (Participants must do Jan. or Feb. ice axe practice.)	Dee, Ranschau

Supermarket Backpacking Food

"Cup-A-Noodles" (advertised in rock climbing scene on TV) does indeed make a handy, tasty and quick weekend meal; hot water is added to the contents which come in an easily disposable styro-foam cup. Quantity greater and price cheaper than the small "Tea Kettle". Comes in 3 flavors--shrimp, chicken & beef; the former 2 have some freeze-dried meat. On longer trips or for those with bigger appetites, these can be supplemented with freeze-dried or canned meat. Usually found in soup or international sections of grocery store (product of Japan).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES CONTINUED

Angeles Chapter Gala Fund Raiser: In the Spring of 1975, a team of American mountaineers set off to climb K2, the world's second highest peak, dominating the Karakoram range of Pakistan. Located near the border of mainland China, the heart of the world's highest range of peaks had been closed to mountaineers for political reasons until 1974.

Sierra Club member Galen Rowell was a member of the American 1975 K2 Expedition (See Sierra Club Bulletin, June, 1976). His slides and film of the expedition will be the feature at a Gala Fund Raiser to be held on behalf of the Angeles Chapter this coming Fall.

Mark November 5th. on your calendar now. Location: Embassy Auditorium, 843 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles (between 8th. and 9th.; free parking available at 9th. and Grand corner). Time: No Host Bar, 7:00 P.M.; Show Time, 8:30 P.M.; Cost, \$5.00 per ticket.

No stranger to mountaineers and armchair travellers alike, Rowell is a veteran rock and mountain climber and a photographer and journalist. His work has appeared in National Geographic, Mountain Gazette, and many other magazines and journals. His photographs have appeared in Sierra Club Calendars. His book, The Vertical World of Yosemite, has received acclaim within and without the mountaineering world. His lecture and film will describe the adventures of the 1975 American K2 Expedition which attempted to climb the second highest mountain of the world by an entirely new route. Since K2 lies on the Pakistan-China border, the expedition encountered a number of political, economic, and porter problems. This Gala will feature select pictures from the 15,000 taken, accompanied by carefully selected narration. Start off the holiday season with this Gala. This is the one event put on by the Chapter for a fund raiser. Get your tickets now. Call the Chapter office for further details. Send your check and self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to 2410 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90057. Phone: (213) 387-4287. Include name, address (with zip code), phone number, number of tickets desired, and amount of money sent.

Among the more interesting recommendations made by the Sierra Club's Yosemite Task Force in response to the Yosemite National Park Master Plan Workbook and listed in a S.C. newsletter dated 4/30/76 are the following:

Under Backcountry: "Develop strict permit system to direct and limit backcountry use consistent with carrying capacity studies."

Under Hetch Hetchy: "Remove O'Shaughnessy Dam and drain Hetch Hetchy Valley (allowing it to return to its former pristine beauty) pending successful search for acceptable alternate sources of water and power."

ASCENTS

RITTER-BANNER....7/17-19/76....Ldr. Ed Lubin; Assts. John Finn, Joe Landau

Nine of us set out from Agnew Meadow at 8:45 am Sat., despite a very discouraging weather forecast. We arrived at camp near timberline, along the first creek flowing into Lake Ediza from the north, just in time for lunch. The afternoon was spent preparing for the Sunday climb, and after an early dinner, camp was quiet by 8:00 pm.

We departed for Banner at 5:00 am Sun. and headed for the peaks at a slow, constant pace, under a clear morning sky. We followed a faint trail, then cramponed up the glacier and couloir to the Ritter-Banner saddle, arriving there at 8:10. All completed the climb of Banner and return to the saddle by 10:25. We then cramponed up an exposed 50° ice field with great care to begin our traverse of Ritter.

Route #1, Climber's Guide, was easily located. A path in a small brownish rock formation makes a gradual upward curve, sweeping to the right hand (west) of two steep, main chutes that go almost to the summit of Ritter. We crossed the head of the left chute at the foot of a vertical formation and continued straight ahead, up and around to the opposite side of the formation. Snow flurries and a lowering ceiling, not previously visible, skimmed the summit a 100 yards away.

The summit was reached by all at 1:00 pm, and ten minutes later, we were on our way down by Route #6, Climber's Guide, in off-and-on drenching rain. We arrived back in camp by 4:00 pm. Part of the group left for the road-head then, and the others remained in camp until Monday morning.

Our route up to the Ritter-Banner saddle and down from Ritter can be seen in the cover photo of the July issue of the Sierra Echo. We ascended towards the R-B saddle by way of the right side of the seasonal snowfield shown lying at the foot of Banner and descended from Ritter, down the scree slope, to the chute shown at the lowest point, to the bottom of the glaciers at the foot of the chute and then gradually in the general direction of camp.

MT. WILLIAMSON, JUNCTION PEAK - Aug. 27-30..... Meridee Muell & Dennis Lantz

The 6,000+ feet of gain and 12+ miles over Shepherd Pass with packs Friday wasn't quite an SPS Death March, but nobody complained when we stopped to make camp. Our chosen spot at 12,000' between Mt. Tyndall and Diamond Mesa offered spongy tundra grass, ample flat sandy tent sites, non-flouridated Sierra water, a doughty grey-ruffed marmot, and Fred-the-Monarch-Butterfly who'd obviously lost his way. The weather was idyllic -- my burnt offerings the week before apparently worked.

Shortly, Chuck Pospishil, David Ress and friend Mike rendezvous'd with us one by one as planned, bringing our group to the full fifteen.

Since several had already climbed Tyndall and since Junction is a Mountaineer's peak, we opted for the latter on Saturday. Up an easy second-class chute on the southeast end of Diamond Mesa (which has its own register and cairn!), where we met Ken Jones and a friend, and they accompanied us on our ridge-run to Junction's summit and splendid panorama. There we placed a new register container and spent lunch browsing the 1956 register book, encountering familiar names and calculating which of us had been just babes (or not born at all) when senior SPS-ers signed their names therein 20 years ago. The return to camp brought a decent-if-short scree run and a lone pintail duck floating unruffled in his lakelet as we mountaineers marched by.

Sunday, our Big Day, we donned daypacks, hiked up the shoulder between Tyndall and Polychrome and picked our way, up and down, around, over the inhospitable and cliffy boulderscape surrounding the lakes west of Williamson. (No matter how nice the topo looks, it ain't a good place to camp!) We filled our water bottles at one of the small lakes near a white Forest Service tent and found -- believe it or not -- a bath tub complete with yellow rubber ducky. Onward and upward.

The 2nd Edition Climbers' Guide is more accurate and explicit than later versions in describing our route up Williamson: Up the talus in the bowl to the immediate right of the black water stain (seepage; it's wet) on the west face. Up the loose second-class chute above (rock-kickers definitely not welcome here), to a third-class crack/chimney that rises 80 feet or so to the summit plateau. Then more boulders up the righthand ridge to the register (a fine 1938 vintage it was, too).

The summit: no plantlife at all, a lone ladybug, and a sublime view that every bit justified "Big Willie" as an Emblem peak and as the choice for the SPS insignia. Chuck Pospishil, who thereby completed the requirements for SPS Emblemholder status, celebrated same by serving everyone fine Champagne in long-stemmed glasses. Tom Fell grinned and grinned, because the climb made him eligible for SPS membership. Meridee and Virgil Talbot napped and were accused of snoring. Everyone ate lunch and read the register. Dennis Lantz passed around his traditional can of "Green Death" (Rainier Ale, to you uninitiated). And a good time was had by all.

The loose chute and rocky basins weren't as unfriendly downhill, although it was agreed that one couldn't design a much better barrier to human land locomotion. Several intrepid climbers elected to place a register on nearby Polychrome enroute to camp, only to discover that Barbara Lilley had left a film can there the day before.

The last day we slept late (7:00 a.m.), content that all of us -- from 12-year-old David Lantz to 56-year-old Jack Koshear -- had climbed well. And people ask us why we're mountaineers....maybe it's the milkshakes at Austin's.

Mt. Wallace, Mt. Haeckel

August 28-29, 1976

Ted Pinson, John Hellman

Seventeen climbers showed up at the appointed hour on Saturday morning at the turn-off to North Lake and were shuttled to the trailhead at Lake Sabrina in Gene Olsen's Big Red Van. After a leisurely hike to Moonlight Lake, the afternoon was spent by most in resting, reading, or napping, although a few were seen very briefly in the lake, and John made a halfhearted attempt at fishing. Good campsites were found on the west side of the lake near the outlet on a knoll.

Sunday morning we were up at first light, 5:30, and on our way by 6:30. One member with foot problems stayed in camp. Our route went up the inlet stream and then up the slope high above Echo Lake, then northwest to a depression just under the ridge between Haeckel and Wallace. We contoured around the right (north) side of the depression working upward almost to the ridge then north keeping just below the ridge on its east side. Some easy third class blocks near the top were ascended to the summit.

After only a few minutes on Hæckel, we started for Wallace via the ridge. We stayed just below the ridge on the east to avoid difficult chute crossings lower down. The crossing and climb of Wallace was uneventful except for some loose rock on the upper slopes which had to be negotiated very carefully. Fourteen members made the peak, two having headed for camp from the saddle.

Time was running on, so after lunch we headed for camp. The climb of both peaks, the pack out, and the drive home make a very long day.

MIDDLE PALISADE AND DISAPPOINTMENT PEAK
JIM AND PAT BUTLER

Sept 4-6

The big black rain cloud that overshadowed these leaders' last two scheduled nine-day trips (terminating one early and the other the day after it began) moved in from Mexico at the beginning of the Labor Day weekend. Nevertheless, nine optimists met at the Brainerd Lake trailhead at 7:30 am Saturday for the leisurely hike to Finger Lake. One prescient soul had signed out at the Parking Lot with a toothache.

We reached camp at 11:00 am but felt it unwise to attempt to climb Middle Palisade that day because of uncertain weather from the south. The group amused itself with bouldering on nearby rocks, practicing rapels--anticipated to be required descending Disappointment--and listening to Cuno Ranshau's inimitable stories and interminable puns.

By later afternoon the weather had cleared, promising a good day in which to attempt both peaks. But by midnight torrential rain was falling. Pat and Gerry Holleman discovered a mountaineering version of the waterbed before they finally moved their tent to higher ground (well, at least they know their tent floor doesn't leak...) The storm deposited a considerable amount of new snow on the entire Palisade crest, which would make the easy third class route up Middle Pal hazardous and slow. Nevertheless, we arose before dawn to consider the climb. The clear 5:00am sky quickly turned overcast by 6:00, and rain began falling. We decided to wait until noon to see if the weather might break, so that we could plan to climb Middle Pal the following day after the treacherous snow had melted. However, by 11:00 a whiteout enveloped the ridges above camp, and we wisely retreated to the cars, followed close by the rainstorm, which accompanied us most of the way down 395 and settled into L.A. Saturday night. Obviously, mortals were not meant to be in the Sierras this Labor Day weekend...We hope the trip will go next year -- it was a great group and would have been a good climb!

TOWER PEAK (11,755')

September 18-19, 1976

Ron Jones, Barbara Reber

Seven masochistic climbers met the leaders at Leavitt Meadows on a bright, but cool, Saturday morning. We started on the Leavitt Meadow road just beyond the pack station. The route through the meadow and around private property is well described in Sierra North. We hiked through the beautiful pines and aspens, along the sparkling waters of the West Walker River, past lovely Roosevelt Lake, Lane Lake, and others, leaving Yparraquirre, Long, and Kirkwood Creeks behind until sixteen miles later we arrived at Tower Lake, 9,550 feet. The lake has a good supply of Golden Trout, some of which I enjoyed for dinner.

The next morning, the nine of us were up and at the peak before the evening frost had all melted. We went up the standard route to the saddle on the Yosemite Park boundary and up the north ridge to the peak. From the top, we could see the smog of Reno and of the Fresno area. Our descent was down the north ridge, staying just above the saddle and continuing along the north ridge to the camp sites at the outlet of the lake. This route is direct and mostly talus-free.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

NORTHERN SIERRA PEAKS

JUL. 31 TO AUG. 6

ROY WARD

Betty Speer and I decided to combine a little sight-seeing and climbing of the northern Sierra peaks, so we set out to do so, stopping at all the ranger stations to pick up the latest forest service maps which could help us find the road heads. However, none of the maps seem to be up to date.

First was Adams Peak. Up 395 through Reno to Hallelujah Junction, west on 70 to Chilcoot, north toward Frenchman's Lake. At approximately 4.5 miles, turn right on dirt road, follow this over crest of hill and down to meadow on left to F.S. signs. Turn right and pick your way through a maze of logging roads toward saddle to north of Adams. The correct road will eventually lead over the shoulder of the southwest ridge of Adams. Follow the south side of the ridge through much brush near the top to the right of the first false summit. Go high left of the second false summit where the true summit is seen. There is a use trail part of the way near the top if you can find it. A high clearance vehicle was needed from the right turn at the meadow. The road up over the shoulder continues if you are crazy enough to follow it and a 4WD is recommended. It comes out approximately a mile north of Chilcoot. There are numerous roads going everywhere in this area which are not shown on the map.

Next was Mt. Elwell. Go west on 70 from Chilcoot through Portola. Turn left (south) in Portola on A15. Just past Clio, turn left toward Gold Lake, Grayeagle, etc. and then right into campgrounds for Lakes Basin. A marked trail goes from the end of the campground road up over Mt. Elwell. 6 to 8 miles round trip depending on which forest service signs you prefer to believe.

For Sierra Buttes, go back to the main road and turn right toward Gold Lake, Sierra City, etc. Turn right (west) at Salmon Creek Campground. Near Packer Lake there is a FS sign saying Tamarack Lakes, Sierra Buttes 3 miles. It is a 4WD road. (This route is the one the look out ranger says he uses, I didn't go this way.) Past this place there has been logging and there are numerous unmarked roads and no signs. We eventually found the old road past the Holms cabin and Monarch mine turn off. About 3/4 of a mile south of this we followed on foot the jeep road to the top.

From this point on down to Sierra City a high clearance vehicle is recommended. We followed the old road down the south slope into Sierra City coming out near the county dump. Turn west, right, on 49 to Goodyear's Bar if you are driving a 4WD vehicle, love adventure, and don't give a damn about the vehicle. Otherwise, go left to 89, south to the Webber Lake turn off, and through Webber Lake. However, being a bit adventuresome, we did force a Toyota pickup over the following route: From Goodyear's Bar we went over dirt roads to Forest and Alleghany where we were told that there was a 4WD road to Graniteville. We eventually found it, crossing a fork of the Yuba River. Hot damn, what a ride! More unmarked logging roads, and we eventually found Graniteville. Around the northside of Bowman's Lake toward Jackson's Meadow, we turned right past Catfish Lake and right-near Tollhouse Lake toward French Lake. At the summit I parked and climbed English Mtn. from the southeast, keeping to the west of the crest, below the rocks and above the brush. There was evidence there had been a trail in the past. It was an on and off thing. English looks like it could be climbed from several places.

We went back to the road, turning right past Tollhouse Lake to Meadow Lake. Left around Meadow Lake. At the next big junction there was a detour sign pointing back the way I had come. The road to the right had two branches. We took the left branch, then a ways up we went left again into Bear Valley. The other roads are unmarked logging roads that go all over. The road to White Rock Lake from which we climbed Mt. Lola is a 4WD road. You can force a Toyota pickup to within 1/4 mile of the lake. A trail runs to the top of Mt. Lola.

Back through Bear Valley and to the main road. Ignoring the detour sign, we turned right and followed an excellent, marked new logging road to Webber's Lake, right on a blacktop road to Highway 89, right then on to Truckee. West on I-80 past Donner Lake and Summit to Castle Peak Recreation Area. Turn off. Go north. The blacktop ends in a couple of hundred yards and a rough dirt road continues. There are picnic tables at the edge of the meadow on your right. The road continues to near the ridge. A 4WD road goes over the ridge, high clearance vehicles needed. A use trail continues along the ridge to the bottom of the summit block of Castle Peak. The 3rd class block has excellent hand and foot holds.

Back to Truckee and south on 89 and right into Squaw Valley. At the aerial tram turn right and go to the end of the street. From a parking lot a use trail goes up the valley to Lake Shirley and then you go cross country up the canyon to the trail and on to Tinker Knob. Retrace the trail and climb Granite Chief. You can follow the trail and walk down the road under the chair lifts back to Squaw Valley.

Then around the north side of Lake Tahoe on 28 to Incline Village. Take 27 up over Mt. Rose Summit. A quarter of a mile before the campground, there is a road on the left. It is the private property of the telephone company and locked. You can hike up this road and continue on trail to the summit of Mt. Rose.

Due to construction, I chose to continue on down to Sky Tavern Ski Area and received permission to go up the private road into Galena Creek Valley. I followed the road to the end, then under the power line road. It turned left onto the old blacktop. A few yards at the FS sign turn right back under the power line and follow it as far as to where it turns down into meadow. I stopped here. A 4WD may follow further but high clearance was required to get this far. Hiking up the valley on old trails and/or roads, there was some brush but most could be bypassed. Near the head of the valley I went up the slope to the ridge and hit the trail to the top. Returning I followed the loose southeast ridge to a great scree slope back to the valley.

It was a real great 5 days and capped off by joining the SPS Matterhorn, Whorl, Twin and Virginia trip. If you should choose to do this trip as I have written it up and done it, I strongly advise making arrangements to visit your favorite shrink prior to setting forth.

Private Trip, for Echo

by Barbara Lilley

BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS, MONTANA

Choosing the fast, easy way, Ed and Mary Omberg, R. J. Secor and Barbara Lilley flew to Billings, Mont. on Sat. Aug. 7, crammed all their gear into a rental car and drove to the end of the road at West Rosebud Creek. (From Columbus, Mont., take #307 to #419 to 1 mile beyond Fishtail, turn left--sign "West Rosebud"--for approx. 6 miles, turn left again on dirt road--also sign "West Rosebud"--approx. 15 miles to end; campgrounds en route.) Sunday they packed heavy loads into a base camp at Avalanche Lake (unnamed on topo "Cooke City" topo map) via the Mystic Lake trail for 5 miles, then up Huckleberry Creek, an additional four steep, strenuous cross-country miles. Best camping (ample firewood and running water) is on west side of lake (not south side as indicated in Ashley's booklet). It rained and blew that night, discouraging an early start, so they hiked up Mystic Mountain (12,053, 3rd ascent) on Monday. Tuesday, after going around the east side of Avalanche Lake through a mile or so of huge talus--some blocks as big as railroad cars--they donned crampons, ascended the Granite Glacier to the saddle between Granite Pk. and Mt. Tempest, and climbed Granite Pk., 12,799', highest peak in Montana, via the "standard" south side route. Climbing is not hard, but due to exposure on several pitches and weather problems, the peak should be considered 4th class, and a 120' rope and rappelling material should be carried. Although hail showers increased as the day progressed and they were "buzzed" on the summit, the typical thunderstorms were not encountered, although another party was, and these factors contributed to an after dark return to camp, the highlight of which was a 1200' sitting glissade down the Granite Glacier.

Electing not to move camp, they scrambled up Tempest Pk. (12,478') on Wed. by its long flat south ridge, where they covered for a time while being "buzzed" by a passing thunderstorm, and on Thursday ascended Mt. Villard (12,337') via a steep snow slope and Cl. 3 crud chute on the southwest side, racing a thunderstorm to the summit (they won). On Friday, an attempt on Glacier Pk. was abandoned due to lack of time to complete their proposed route. They packed out to their car on Saturday (arriving in the rain) and enjoyed an excellent meal in the Fishtail Steak House. Barbara returned to L.A. on Sunday while the others flew to Jackson Hole where even worse weather the following week prevented much climbing.

The Beartooth Primitive Area is just that--trails mainly follow the river valleys, and high country travel is mostly cross-country. There are many fine face routes to be climbed, although most peaks seem to offer an easy route--which is probably just as well, considering the weather--storms can occur any time of the day or night! There are few people once trails are left behind and best of all--no permit or entry restrictions. Firewood is plentiful up to 9500', although both a stove and a tent should be carried for camping above 8500' due to the weather problems. It is a beautiful area, well worth visiting; just bring adequate raingear!

THE NORTHERN NINE

SEPT. 12-16

JOHN HELLMAN

Mary Bihl and I spent five rainy days climbing the peaks in Group 24 of the list. The nine peaks are distinguished by modest gain and short hikes. Four have trails to the summit.

SIERRA BUTTES (8587'): An attractive peak, dominant in a large area. At Packer Lake, take left fork in road for 300' to start of trail, 2300' gain on 3 miles of trail. Lookout tower on top.

MT. ELWELL (7812'): From Gray Eagle Lodge, 2000' gain on 3 miles of trail. A peak of little merit.

ADAMS PK (8197'): The topo is badly obsolete as to roads. The Plumas National Forest map is much better, but there are additional logging roads that could lead one astray. The road shown as ending in Section 30 continues over the ridge southwest of the peak and on south. Park at the high point; 1200' gain. The peak's main distinction is being the most northerly on the list.

MT. LOLA (9143'): Just beyond Webber Lake on the paved road to Jackson Meadow Reservoir, a sign indicates road to White Rock Lake. From the lake, 1300' gain on 2 miles of trail. A peak of little distinction and the pushover of the group, along with Granite Chief via the ski lift.

ENGLISH MTN (8373'): Just beyond the Jackson Meadow Ranger Station, turn left on road toward Meadow Lake. After passing Catfish Lake, take first right turn for one-quarter mile to lakelet 7052. Climb southeast ridge staying off the ridge on the west; 1300' gain. The peak has a cliffy summit ridge.

CASTLE PK (9103'): A prominent peak, easily identifiable from all directions. From end of road near Castle Pass, climb west ridge on usage trail. Pass first two summits and climb the third; 1300' gain and 40' of Class 3 on the summit.

GRANITE CHIEF (9006'): Least effort of the group if ski lift is used. It was not operating, so we climbed from Squaw Valley Village; 2800' gain on five miles of constructed trail and 400' of usage trail up southeast ridge.

TINKER KNOB (8949'): Usually climbed in conjunction with Granite Chief by trail over and back. We climbed the northeast ridge from the area of the Old Stanford Wood Camp. A good logging road goes beyond any roads shown on maps, to 8,000' elevation on the ridge. South of Truckee on Hwy. 89, take road with Forest Service sign "Stanford Wood Camp 6 mi." At 1 mile take left turn; .2 mile further stay left and continue on main road. After several miles logging roads begin to fork off; go straight ahead at all such junctions.

MT. ROSE (10778'): Prominent, popular peak; climbed by a great many people. We climbed it via the relay station road. Park where the road leaves Hwy. 27 just above Tahoe Meadows. Take road for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to saddle above a small lake. Go over the saddle and down the trail for 1 mile after which the trail climbs to the summit. 2400' gain and five miles.

Driving between peaks is not lengthy. We climbed the nine in $4\frac{1}{2}$ days with no strain. Perhaps six or seven of the peaks would be adequate representation for the area.

Since Lamarck Col, Alpine Col, and Piute Pass are grouped together, and since the scheduled trip, limited to twenty-five people, was full for the week end, we were forced to start our trip on Friday, August 20th. Six of us met at the parking lot of North Lake at 0700: Cuno Ranschau, Bob Pohl, Ron Bartell, Barbara Reber, Delores Holladay, and I. We went over Lamarck Col and into Darwin Canyon to a point near where the outlet of the lakes south of Mt. Goethe join the outlet stream of the Darwin Lakes and spent the night. We had wood for a fire that night. Early next morn, five of us climbed Mt. Goethe via the south slope from the lake outlet over talus and scree, an easy 2. Cuno had this peak, so he stayed at camp. We returned to camp, ate an early lunch, and then followed the use trail down to the John Muir Trail, turning right and dropping down into Evolution Valley then south up McGee Canyon, eventually hitting the trail shown on the map. We went to about 10,400' where we camped just east of the creek for two nights. That Saturday night, it rained, and, after much frantic scrambling around, all the tents were up, and we all enjoyed the rain a bit. Sunday dawned bright and clear, so the six of us took off for Emerald Peak by going northwest past the two small lakes just north of Peak 11,953' and over the saddle, down, then up past the small lake southeast of Emerald Peak. We noticed a ledge system angling up to the south ridge, which we took, crossed the ridge and dropped down to a route just below the ridge. This followed around to the west of a peak and up onto the north slope, which we followed on to the peak. This was a class 3 route, but it went easily. Then we went back to camp to clean up and eat supper.

Monday, while Delores stayed in camp, the rest of us climbed the Hermit via route 2 in the Climber's Guide. It went nicely, a little loose, but a nice route. We threw a rope over the summit rock and thus had an upper belay. With lots of tension, we climbed to the summit. The move is slightly overhung, and after the first handholds, there are no other holds, and there are no foot holds. There were a few hero shots, and then we went on to camp where we packed up and headed on up McGee Canyon past McGee Lakes then south over a col to the south end of Davis Lake. The south chute is somewhat loose but goes fairly easily even with a pack. Another nice night and a nice cheery fire.

Tuesday morn, Delores again elected to remain in camp while five of us skirted the north side of Davis Lake to near the outlet, then we went northwest up to the chute described in route 3 of the Climber's Guide. This chute is very loose and narrow, and care should be used. All in all, it was a fun climb. We had a snack on top, and we started down and ate lunch at the lake. There were other campers at the lake, but they were on the other side, so we didn't speak to them. Back at camp, we picked up our packs and crossed the pass, which was easy, and went over to the outlet of Wanda Lake where we spent the night.

Early Wednesday morn, before daylight, the clouds started to build up. The ladies decided to remain in camp, so four of us

were off to bag Mt. Huxley. We used route 1, the west shoulder, and it went as described. The clouds continued to build, and as we started down, the snow hit us for about ten minutes and then stopped. We didn't get enough to affect the climbing to any extent. We got down, and then the snow hit us again for a short while. Then the weather cleared up, and we had beautiful weather the rest of the trip. When we got back to camp, we split up. Cuno and Ron departed to do Black Giant, Charybdis, and McDuffie, which they did. Then they split up with Cuno coming out to do Inconsolable and Mt. Thompson. He did not get Mt. Thompson. Ron went to do Mt. Darwin and Mendel. Then he went up through the col between and picked up Mt. Haeckel and Wallace. I forgot to mention that they got Mt. Fiske, also. We rejoined them at Lake Sabrina on Sunday, the 29th.

The four of us went down the west side of Wanda Lake and contoured around to Lake 11,824 in the Ionian Basin and found a few very primitive camp sites where we dropped our packs and took off for Scylla. We came around the east end of the lake north of Scylla and continued almost straight up the ridge, which was a little easy 3, and we were on top. We retraced our steps to camp and spent the night.

Thursday morn, we were up early and took off for Mt. Reinstein, travelling west-southwest, south around Lake 11,804. Then, dropping some, contouring some, we came up from the south into the saddle to the northeast of Mt. Reinstein and then went up the ridge, easy 3, up to the top. We ate lunch and went down the saddle where Bob took off to do Mt. Goddard, which he did, and we left for camp. Upon our return, we packed up and headed for our next camping spot, the lake between Charybdis and Black Giant. We skirted the lake to the northeast on the south side and headed down toward Chasm Lake, staying up on the west side in the grass and good footing. Then we dropped down and crossed above Chasm Lake and climbed east over a series of small ridges and small lakes and pot holes. Since we were tired, we stopped at a good spot at a lake about 11,200 plus feet, and the next morn, we went up. Bob was to spend the night at our original camp and get up early and catch up with us. We reached our destination lake and waited till about 1100 when Bob showed up. He had overslept. After noon, while Delores stayed in camp, the three of us climbed Charybdis up the northeast ridge and had to run the ridge for a bit. We found a few nice 3rd. class moves, especially on the ridge. We made the peak and found that Disappearing Creek really does disappear. We had a great view. We went back to camp, and since we had lots of time, we did a little laundry and bathing.

Saturday, the 28th., we went up Black Giant Pass, and while Barbara went on to Helen Lake, the three of us climbed Black Giant. When we reached the pass from the top, I went on ahead and met Barbara at Helen Lake while Bob and Delores went on to the lake south of Echo Lake and across Echo Col. We climbed Fiske via the south side of the southwest ridge, staying on the talus. On the way down, we dropped into the saddle and walked the scree and found a scree chute to come down the steep part. We then went back to the John Muir Trail and tried a short cut which didn't work. We dropped on down and then

climbed a rib and chute to the lake to join Bob and Delores. We found a nice camp site, but no wood.

Sunday we were to cross Echo Col; however, we had a slight mixup. The actual col is at the low part of the ridge and just north of a black rock. The one member of our party who had been over Echo Col insisted it was higher and farther north. We got to the saddle high and north of the real col. We had to do a bit of 3rd. class to get there. Then we went down the north side. The dirt was frozen and slick; the rock was rotten and loose. Everything on the mountain moved. I have never been so scared on anything. Anyhow, we all made it down, and I took off solo to do Mt. Haeckel and Mt. Wallace. A SPS trip was up there at the same time, led by John Hellman. We saw each other from the top, and after I had come down and caught up with him, we exchanged news, etc. They had seen Ron earlier in the day as he had climbed Haeckel and Wallace. I was about twenty minutes behind the rest coming out, and Bob and Barbara had left, but the rest of us had supper in the Bishop Grill. There had been sixteen peaks climbed by someone on this trip. It was a real good trip, all in all. Lots of fun and peaks. One comment: the Ionian Basin is the most barren, desolate, and stark place I have ever seen, but it does have a beauty of its own.

BLACK GIANT, MCDUFFIE, AND CHARYBDIS (September 4-6, 1976) Mark Goebel

Our group of five departed Saturday morning from the Lake Sabrina roadhead, and an additional three were added at Moonlight Lake. (They had hiked in Friday P.M.)

Following lunch, the route proceeded south to Echo Lake and over the crest via Echo Col. This col seems to be the most direct route to the Muir Pass area and will be described in greater detail.

From the outlet of Echo Lake, proceed around the east side of the lake by climbing the slopes immediately east of the outlet. (There is a faint trail initially.) When you are about even with the moraine, which will be in front of you, just contour across the sandy slopes and onto it. By this time, the col is visible, and it is the rectangular opening in the cliffs surrounded by black rock. Cross the moraine to the base of the black rock and climb almost straight up to the col. Until just below the col, the climb is second class, but there is a lot of loose rock. The final thirty feet is easy 3rd. class on fairly sound rock. The south side route is 2nd. class down a narrow gully for a hundred feet or so to open slopes. Then continue down canyon to a large lake and on to the Muir Trail.

The group then followed the Muir Trail to the Helen Lake inlet where we hiked cross country to Lake 11,920. The best camping is on the north side of the lake, and we reached this point about 6:00 P.M.

Saturday night, a severe thunder storm came into the area, and, besides rain, about four inches of snow also fell. On Sunday, the climbs of McDuffie and Charybdis were cancelled due to the still threatening weather and snow-covered rocks. We did hike up Black Giant and then started hiking out via LeConte Canyon and Bishop Pass. Camp in Dusy Basin was marred by additional rain, and just as we reached South Lake, the clouds opened again. All in all, it was an interesting experience.

SPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT
76B - 2
July 1976

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KNOW YOUR SPS PEAKS DEPARTMENT....

ECHO readers, who have endured seemingly endless articles on the routes and 'true summit' of Mt. Corcoran, may have wondered about the naming and history of this elusive summit.

It seems that a struggling artist in the late nineteenth century was attempting to peddle paintings of mountain scenes to East Coast buyers. Such scenes were a familiar subject at that time, being easy to paint and reminding East Coast types of our American West, which was then in the process of exploration and development.

To spur one sale, our artist named one painting 'Mt. Corcoran' which he further identified as the Sierra Peak we know today as Mt. Langley and which for a time had been thought to be the highest peak in the nation. This flattery not unnaturally sealed the deal with the buyer, William W. Corcoran, and today the painting resides in the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. The painting bears no resemblance to what it is supposed to represent.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names then officially bestowed the name Mt. Corcoran to Peak 14,042' in view of the painting and the artist's identification, since he had once visited the Owens Valley and presumably knew what he was talking about. However, in California the peak was known as Mt. Langley, after the scientist who conducted solar experiments atop Mt. Whitney in 1881.

There the matter more or less stood until 1943, when at the instigation of the Sierra Club, Mt. Langley was made the official name. Since governmental agencies do not easily admit mistakes, something had to be Mt. Corcoran, so the Board concluded that Mt. Corcoran was actually the high point between Langley and LeConte. Unfortunately, the paintings which started it all bears as little likeness to what we know as Mt. Corcoran, as it does to Mt. Langley.

Corcoran and its pinnacles were variously climbed in the 1930's and in 1938 R.S. Fink apparently did all of them. Little significance was attached to these climbs, since the pinnacles were merely an unnamed ridge connecting the higher Mt. Langley and Mt. LeConte.

.....Tim Treacy