

The

Sierra



ECHO

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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Experience is said to be the best teacher, and I believe it! Unfortunately, some mountaineering experiences can be downright traumatic if encountered for the first time in a real mountaineering environment. We probably should do a better job in training ourselves in some of the real-world possibilities. For instance, most of the ice axe self-arrest practice I have done is on soft snow where it's slow sliding. My first experience on steep, hard stuff was above a bergschrund, by surprise, and I was lucky to do it right. I should have practiced changing directions on a traverse, etc., early some morning on hard snow where I had a safe runout. As another example, I remember the look of total surprise on the face of a beginning belayer when he was pulled sidewise several feet by a fall from an unexpected direction in bouldering. He really learned something about anchors and stances from the experience. Maybe everyone that intends to belay anyone should have such an experience. I teach Alpine navigation but usually with unlimited visibility. I guess I should give some training at night, in a forest (or in a whiteout if available), so that the students can get a feel for these more difficult situations. Finally, I have yet to experience a real blizzard in the mountains. I'll try to get some safe winter experience before getting caught someday in a major storm.

Bill T. Russell

## Secretary's Report

Welcome to new members:

Glen L. Hing  
Ralph Alan Meyers  
Rita Gray

Christopher Rob Anderson  
Bob Gray  
Allan Conrad

And congratulations to new emblem holder, Clifford Cameron, with special congratulations to Roy and Barbara Magnuson for senior emblem status achieved as of November 27, 1974.

Thanks to Doug Young for the cover photo of some of our past presidents. This photo was one of many taken at the 1976 SPS banquet by Doug as a service to the section.

In addition to the four 1976 Angeles Chapter award recipients announced at the banquet, there were two other SPS members who received awards at the Awards Banquet on March 5, 1977. A Special Service Award went to Dick Ramirez and an Outings Leadership Service Award to Chuck Stein. Congratulations to both Dick and Chuck.

Ted Pinson, Secretary

## COVER PHOTO

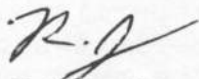
A challenging summit block - frosting on the cake for some climbers. Cuno Ranschau's photo shows companions Roy Ward, Bob Cates, Delores Holladay, and Alice Hawkins on Darwin, August, 1973.



Shakespeare would be an excellent addition to the list. I found it to be a far better climb than Observation. Our party climbed it with Observation from our camp at Grouse Meadows in one day (10½ hours round trip, I believe). The traverse from Observation was class 3 in parts; it involved the traverse of a minor peak, and then the final third class to the summit rocks. On the summit we found that we were the seventh party to climb the peak, the register being a 1½¢ post card signed by Francis Farquhar. We descended by way of the northwest slopes which involved downclimbing third class rock, crossing a snowfield, boulder hopping through talus, sliding through scree, bushwacking through wet manzanita, and finally fording Palisade Creek to reach the Muir Trail. I have often viewed Shakespeare as the quintessential Sierra climb and am surprised it is not on the list when other mediocre things are.

I mentioned to the 1975 management committee this possible addition but the "Mantle Administration" was set on leaving the list unmolested for the season. I hope that this year's management committee will reconsider the peak, for I found it to be a rewarding climb, and I'm sure other members of the section will find it likewise.

Sierrally,



R. J. Secor

PS: There is no snow in Washington either.

March 7, 1977

Mary Omberg  
4311 El Prieto  
Altadena, California 91001

Dear Mary:

It was a pleasant surprise to look at Carl Smith's photograph of the Brewer register on the cover of last month's Sierra Echo and see the names of Carl Sharsmith and Nelson Nies (July 10, 1927 climb). I met Carl Sharsmith for the first time a year ago last July in Tuolomne meadows where he was working with the Park Service. Nelson Nies has been a friend and climbing partner for several years. Echo readers might be interested to know that almost fifty years after than 1927 climb of Brewer, Nelson is still bagging them. We were together on a climb of Mt. Henry last summer and Santiago Peak several weeks ago.

Sincerely,



Return F. Moore

This was the notorious Labor Day weekend with all the fireworks and rain. However, it was clear and warm on Friday as Diana Dee and I started up the Copper Creek Trail from Kings Canyon a day early. Friday night was spent at Grouse Lake. Diana climbed Goat Mtn. the next morning and we dropped down to take the trail as it started up over Granite Pass. We went to the lowest of the State Lakes and were joined by Roy, David Ress, Tim Treacy and Betsy Horgan, all of whom sprinted into camp after their 17 miles and 7500 ft. of gain for the day!

After a lot of rain and lightning Saturday night the disbelieving and bedraggled group was aroused before dawn and assembled by about 6:30 under lowering skies. They hadn't known about one of the Magnuson customs, ie. at least to start for the peak unless it is obviously impossible (that is, "obviously" to us.) We all headed for State, going directly up the face, making a slight jog to the right near the top. Since we reached the summit, were still alive and not too wet, we decided to go for Marion.

Marion and State are on the same ridge (Cirque Crest) having several side ridges running east from it. We traversed to the first side ridge north of State and turned right until we found a chute into the next basin. Across the boulder field we climbed over another ridge via a narrow chute near the east side of the basin, then over another ridge and finally up Marion after traversing east to a large chute. On top we enjoyed sporadic views of Arrow, Ruskin and the Palisade Crest as we ate our lunches. Fog and light hail came and went, but no electrical activity had occurred in the area so far.

Then it was back over the side ridges, with intermittent rain, to the first basin. At this time a thunderstorm was approaching from the south. There was only one possible chute over Cirque Crest from this basin so we went up it as fast as we could, found that it connected with a good chute on the other side and hurried down. Most of the day's climbing was Class 2, some high-2, low-3 over the side ridges (would depend on the exact route.) The lightning finally starting flashing near the crest about a half hour after we had descended. We reached camp by about 7 p.m. We were very lucky in the storm pattern. A thunder storm or two would have delayed us enough to prevent a climb on Marion or to reach camp after dark or both.

The trip out on Monday was uneventful except for a spectacular downpour which soaked people and packs without good rain covers and turned the Copper Creek Trail into an instant stream. All were at the cars by 3 p.m.

#### Mid-Winter Private Climb of Mt. Williamson Feb. 19-21 Tom Cardina & Hal Compton

The past dry, mild weather seemed to dictate favorable conditions for a relatively rare winter climb of Mt. Williamson on this 3-day Washington Birthday weekend. We started up George Creek on Sat. morning and had trail of sorts for first couple of miles. Although hiking conditions were excellent, sunny and cool, the trail soon became obliterated by long patches of soft, knee-deep snow. It was slow going and not much fun. Because of the scarcity of flat, dry camping areas, we were obliged to continue to the 11,500 ft. level for a camp site, which we shared with a group of five other hikers. Following dinner, we enjoyed the mild weather and a beautiful evening around a camp fire. Next day we proceeded towards Williamson, ascending a rock-filled chute to reach the plateau southeast of the peak. We climbed one of the traditional routes, the southeast ridge with an occasional detour into some 3rd class rock scrambling to avoid deep, soft snow. After ascending a steep, snow-filled couloir, with the help of ice axes, we were on top with only an easy stroll to the summit. A cold, brisk wind and the gathering clouds made our summit stay a short one. With the wind intensifying, we made a hasty descent by way of the normally shale-covered slope east of the southeast ridge, encountering alternately soft and hard pack snow. Arrived in camp just before dark. Wind continued throughout the night was subsequently joined by snow. The tent more than justified its presence. Morning found two or three inches of snow on the ground and more falling. We made a quick retreat, keeping high on the north side of the canyon until the last couple of miles. Arrived at the car cold, wet, tired and hungry. Looking back up canyon, we were glad to be where we were. The lesson --- even during a dry winter, be prepared for anything in the high country.



Sheriff's Office & Inyo National Forest  
County of Inyo U S Forest Service

## Automobile Burglary:

The automobile burglar can be thwarted.

Automobile *burglar*?

That's right. When a thief enters a *locked* vehicle, his offense becomes burglary and a felony, regardless of the value of the property taken.

To enjoy your High Sierra experience with peace of mind, you are urged to do the following:

- Double check car doors to be certain they're locked.
- Roll car windows all the way up and secure windwings.
- If possible, store *all* items in your car's trunk.
- Park only in the designated hiker parking areas which are marked for overnight use.

The following is never recommended:

- Covering items in the interior of your car with blankets or clothing. (This will only arouse the curiosity of the burglar.)
- Leaving tape decks in the interior of your car. (This is the surest invitation to auto burglary.)
- Parking your vehicle in a secluded area. (This gives the burglar the privacy he finds so beneficial to his work.)

The overnight hiker parking areas are patrolled day and night by officers of the U S Forest Service and the Inyo County Sheriff's Office.

The personnel of both agencies wish you an enjoyable stay on the Inyo National Forest.

SPS MEMBERSHIP AND ECHO SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION FORM

If you do not have a "77" on your Echo mailing label, or if you are applying for membership or subscribing to the Echo, you need to fill out this form.

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

Renewals:

Cuno Ranschau  
 SPS Treasurer, 1977  
 12744 Lorne St.  
 N. Hollywood, CA 91605

New Members:

Ted Pinson  
 SPS Secretary, 1977  
 10624 Garden Grove Ave.  
 Northridge, CA 91326

**RENEWAL DEADLINE: March 31**

- I wish only to subscribe to the Echo; I am NOT an SPS member.
  - This is a renewal of my subscription.       This is a new subscription.
- I am a current Sierra Club member. (This is mandatory for SPS membership.)  
 My SC membership number is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am renewing my SPS membership as an "active" member; my section activity this past year was \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am renewing my SPS membership as an "inactive" member.
- (After March 31 or a lapse in membership:) I wish to be REINSTATED as an active member. My last year as an SPS member was \_\_\_\_\_. I have done the following to qualify for reinstatement: \_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SPS MEMBERS WHO RESIDE AT THE SAME ADDRESS: (please give phone if different)

Name	SC Member No.	Activity this past year
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**NEW MEMBERS**

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

<u>Peak</u>	<u>Date</u>	(✓) (with SPS)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**SPECIAL OFFER — 20th ANNIVERSARY ECHO**

- I would like to order a SPECIAL 20th ANNIVERSARY ECHO.  
 The price is \$1.00; send with this form to the Secretary or Treasurer.

The Sierra Echo is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

COPY: Send to Editor, Mary Omberg, 4311 El Prieto, Altadena, CA. 91001.

COPY DEADLINE DATES for 1977 are the twentieth of May, June, July, September, and November.

COPY GUIDELINES: Priority is given to short, typed, single-spaced articles.

RENEWALS: "' 77" on the March-April issue indicates that the subscriber has renewed.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Diana Dee, 2120 Dufour Ave., #8, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO should be directed to Echo mailer Anna Lou Pinson, 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Northridge, CA 91326.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$3.00/year due by March 31. Subscribing to the Echo is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send to Cuno Ranschau, SPS Treasurer, 12744 Lorne St., North Hollywood, CA 91605. New SPS membership applications received after October 1st are credited for Echo subscription for the next calendar year. Those applying for membership before October 1st receive Echos for that year only.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Only one Echo subscription/household is necessary for families with joint membership.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE: The Twentieth Year Commemorative issue is available from the Section Treasurer for \$1.00 by mail or for 50¢ at the meetings.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER  
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION  
10624 Garden Grove Ave.  
Northridge, CA 91326  
"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U. S. Postage  
7.7 cents  
Pending Court Action  
Permit No. 321  
Reseda, CA.



CLANCHA PEAK TRIP SHEET

MEET: 7:00 A. M. Sat. May 1, 1976

Sage Flat Road Head  
(Ranger Station there)

Route - Highway # 14 and # 395 to Sage Flat Rd.  
(Sage Flat Rd. is 21.8 mi. beyond Little Lake)  
Sage Flat Rd. to end. Near the end take the  
right fork to Ranger Station.

TOPOS: Monache Mtn. and Clancha.

BRING: High Altitude Camping gear. Probably warm climb.  
Cold nights. Water doubtful. May be polluted or none at all.  
BRING AT LEAST TWO QUARTS OF WATER.

List of Participants (for your use in arranging rides etc.):

Melvin T. Johnson, Lakewood - (213) 425 1380 *called 4-19-76*

Ben Freyer, Encino - 345 6231 (wants a ride)

Bob Bruley, Fullerton - (714) 529 5665

Thomas K. Fry & wife, Granada Hills. *Sally*

Keith Felderman, Downey - (213) 869 2396 (can take one rider)

Douglas J. Young, Universal City.

Chuck Pospishil, Balboa --(714) 673 1072

Bill Burns, (with above) *pediatrician*

Bruce Webb, North Hollywood - 762 7266

Cary Bacigabye, Van Nuys - 997 7225

Gerald and Deanna *Holloman* ~~Holdeman~~, Manhattan Beach (1638 6th. St. Can take 1) *374-4654*

Eric Abbott, Long Beach - (213) 426 1502

Peggy Morrison

Valerie Lloyd, N. Hollywood - 766 5630

Cheryle Christensen, Sepulveda - 892 2176

John Delamonte, Glendale

Al Conrad

Mike Zatto, Canoga Park *alcohol abuser - older fellow was on Picacho with me, sick at 7.000*

Paul Mc Mann, Reseda - 343 4220 (needs ride)

Ken & Jan Schmitt, Agoura - 991 0615 *Gene Olson*

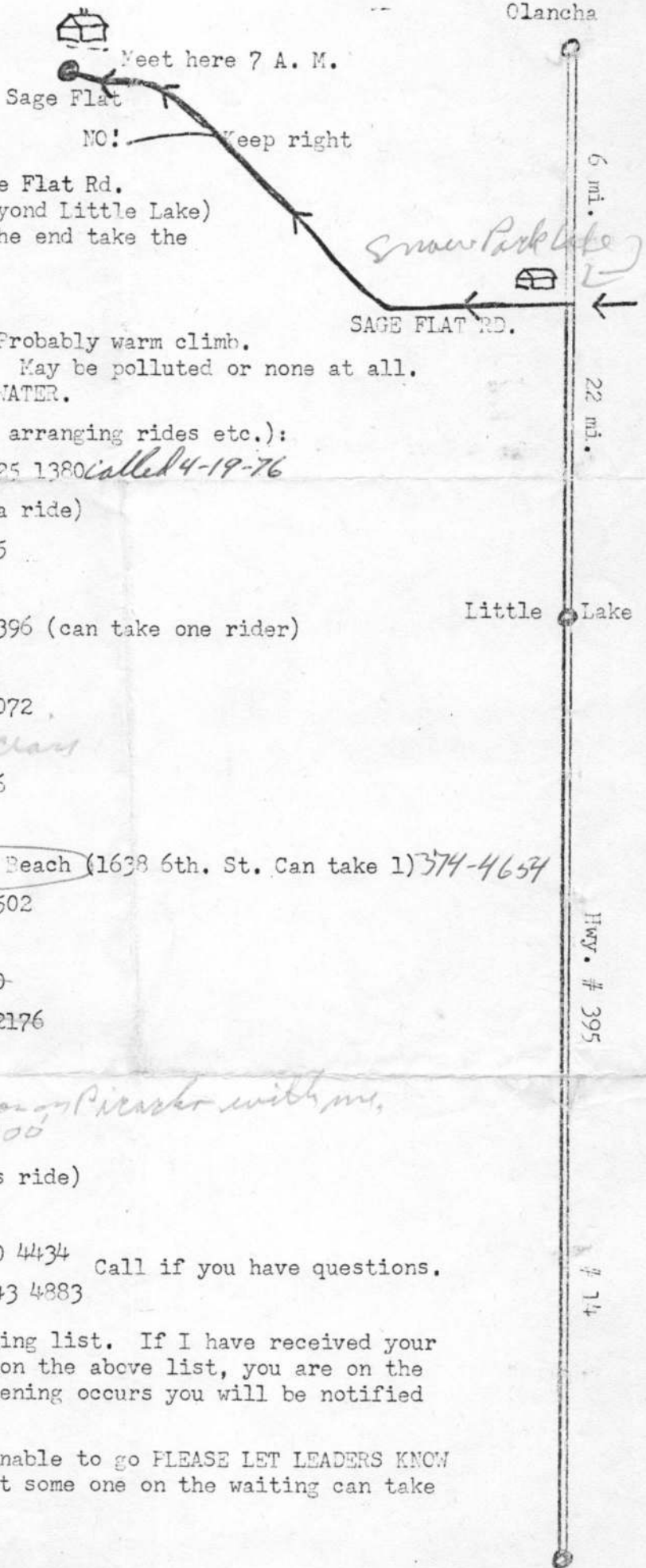
Leaders: Chuck Stein, Van Nuys - 780 4434

Howard Stephens, Reseda - 343 4883

Call if you have questions.

WAITING LIST: There is a growing waiting list. If I have received your letter but you are not on the above list, you are on the waiting list. If an opening occurs you will be notified when your turn comes.

IMPORTANT: If you find that you are unable to go PLEASE LET LEADERS KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that some one on the waiting can take your place.



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