

The Sierra



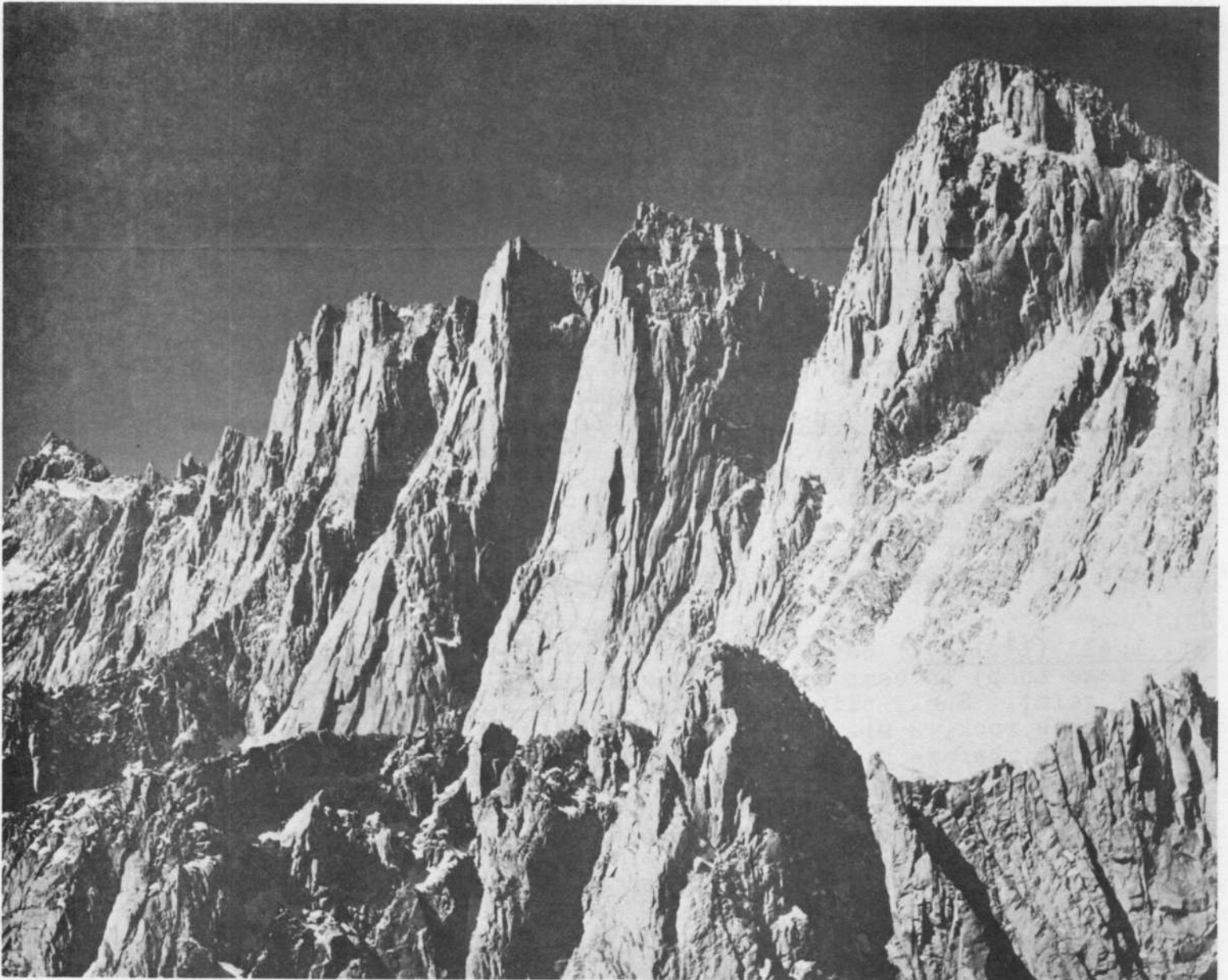
ECHO

VOLUME 21

MAY

JUNE 1977

NO. 3



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

In a letter printed in the Jan/Feb 1977 ECHO, Barbara Lilley recommends adding Shinn, Shakspere, Columbine and Graveyard to the Peak List. In the Mar/Apr ECHO, R. J. Secor urges addition of Shakspere and in this issue Andy Smatko argues against it. I have heard other strong comments on both sides of the question and I urge people to express their opinions in the July or August ECHO or in letters to the Mountaineering Committee. Remember, we vote in October.

The Nominating Committee for 1977 is Duane McRuer, Chairman, Doug Mantle and Betty Kabler. Give them your recommendations.

Pat Butler, who did a fine job for us as Program Chairman, has resigned and has moved to Denver. We are thankful that Doug Mantle has agreed to be chairman for the remainder of the year. Thanks also to Betty Kabler, who will be the Banquet Coordinator.

BILL T. RUSSELL

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This is the slow time of year for new memberships; however, we have accepted two applications since the last report and would like to welcome Margaret Morrison and Mark Fincher to the SPS. Also, congratulations go to Harold McFadden, who earned his emblem in March, and to David Perkins, emblem holder as of April 15. Rich Gnagy deserves recognition for his senior emblem earned on August 14, 1976. Rich was somehow left off the list published in the November-December, 1976, ECHO. Sorry, Rich.

Ted Pinson, Secretary

ADDITIONAL TRIPS

MAY 28-30 SAT-MON SIERRA PEAKS
E: Ritter (13,157), Banner (12,945): If road is open, we'll hike in from Agnew Mdns Sat. a.m. to Ediza Lk. (7 mi., 1,000'). Sun., climb Banner, then Ritter (3rd. class). Mon., return via Minaret Creek trail to Min. Falls Campground and shuttle to cars. If road is closed, we'll hike from June Lk. via Agnew Pass. Crampons and ice axe req'd. Mountaineer's list or equivalent experience (describe). Send two SASE's to leader: Harry McKellop; Ass't: Bill Bradley.

JULY 2-4 SAT-MON SIERRA PEAKS
Mt. Lyell (13,114): Sat., a strenuous hike in from Silver Lake (on the June Lake Loop) to camp at Marie Lakes via the Rush Creek Trail (10 mi., 3,775' gain). Sun., climb Mt. Lyell by the seldom done east arête (3rd. class rock, 2 mi. RT, 2,100' gain). Mon. a.m., a possible climb of Roger Pk. before hiking out. Trip limited to 15. Send 2 SASE's with description of climbing experience to ldr., Harry McKellop, 1748 Franklin, Apt. B, Sta. Monica, CA (phone-HM: 828-6374; WK: 825-6341), for whom the trip satisfies LTC requirements; assist.: Don Barcus.

PHOTO COVER

Failure to recognize this peak earns a climber the season's SPS Turkey Award. Those who have to ask and don't want their friends to know they don't know can get the answer on last page. Hal Compton, photographer, 1976.

SPS TRIPS
JULY-OCTOBER, 1977

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PEAKS</u>	<u>LEADERS</u>
July 9-10	Mt. Whitney, Mt. Muir	Thurman VanDeMark, Don Generoli
July 9-10	Mt. Starr King	Chuck Stein, Gene Mauk, Bill Birnbaum
July 15-17	Mt. Russell, Carillon	Mel Lees, Ross Yates, Chuck Stein
July 15-17	Arrow Pk., Pyramid Pk.	Bill T. Russell, George Smith
July 16-17	Shepherd Crest	Gordon MacLeod, Doug Mantle
July 16-24	Emerald, Henry, Reinstein, Finger, Tunemah, McGee	John Hellman, Ann Cavalieri
July 22-24	Mt. Darwin, Mt. Mendel	Meridee Muell, Dennis Lantz
July 23-24	Mt. Wallace, Mt. Haeckel	Mel Lees, Thurman VanDeMark
July 23-24	Mt. Humphreys	Mike Wilkinson, Dick LaBrecque
July 23-24	University Pk.	Bill Gray, Tony Zaleski
July 30-31	Dana, Gibbs, Cathedral	Vi Grasso, Doug Mantle
July 30-31	Mt. Humphreys	Harry McKellop, Randy Sheaff
July 30-31	Mt. Ruskin, Cardinal Mtn.	Mark Goebel, June Lane
July 30-31	Mt. Sill, Mt. Gayley	Norm Rohn, Art DeGoede
Aug. 5-8	Devil's Crag, Wheel Mtn.	Bill T. Russell, Duane McRuer
Aug. 6-7	Bear Creek Spire	Phil Bruce, John Hellman
Aug. 6-7	Mt. Abbot, Mt. Mills	Meridee Muell, Dennis Lantz
Aug. 6-7	Tower Peak	Harold McFadden, Walt Kabler
Aug. 6-9	Clarence King, Gardiner, Cotter	Mike Wilkinson, Dave Vandervoet
Aug. 12-14	Mt. Humphreys, Mt. Emerson	Walton Kabler, Eric Schumacher
Aug. 12-14	Mt. Darwin, Mt. Mendel	Gene Olsen, Dave Burdett
Aug. 13-14	Mt. Emerson	Sy Ossosky, Diana Dee
Aug. 20-21	Junction Peak	Thurman VanDeMark, Duane McRuer
Aug. 20-21	Donohue Pk.	Gordon MacLeod, Jerry Keating
Aug. 20-21	Mt. Whitney, Thor Pk.	Vince Losquadro, Meridee Muell
Aug. 27-28	Mt. Gilbert, Mt. Johnson	Don Croley, Maynard Brandsma
Sept. 1-5	Devil's Crag, others	Doug Mantle, Cuno Ranschau
Sept. 2-5	Taboose Pass peaks	Meridee Muell, Dennis Lantz
Sept. 3-5	Mt. Lyell, Mt. Maclure	Thurman VanDeMark, Dick LaBrecque
Sept. 3-5	Volunteer, Pettit, Piute	Barbara and Roy Magnuson
Sept. 3-5	East Vidette, Center Pk.	George Toby, Don Beverage
Sept. 3-5	Charybdis, Mt. McDuffie	Mark Goebel, June Lane
Sept. 3-5	North Palisade	Gene Olsen, Ted Pinson
Sept. 10-11	Mt. Abbot or Bear Creek Spire training trip	Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer
Sept. 10-11	Mt. Davis	Maynard Brandsma, Don Croley
Sept. 16-18	Bago, Gardiner, Rixford	Cuno Ranschau, Roy Ward
Sept. 17-18	Mt. Izaak Walton	Mark Goebel, Maynard Brandsma
Sept. 17-18	Giraud Pk.	Jim Cervenka, Dick Akawie
Sept. 17-18	Mt. Haeckel, Mt. Wallace, Mt. Fiske	George Hubbard, Mike Manchester
Sept. 17-18	Mt. Abbot, Mt. Dade	Gene Olsen, Dave Burdett
Sept. 24-25	Mt. McGee	Tim Treacy, Ed Omberg
Sept. 24-25	training climb near Lone Pine	Diana Dee, Jerry Keating
Oct. 1-2	Foerster	Doug Mantle, Mike Manchester
Oct. 8-9	Crag, Smith navigation noodle	Bill T. Russell, Walt Kabler
Oct. 15-16	Sphinx, Palmer	Doug Mantle, Gail Wilts
Oct. 15-16	Pilot Knob #1, Spanish Needle	Diana Dee, Carl Byington

THE SPS'S ACTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Safety Committee is working to increase the SPS's training roles to the end that SPS activities are safer and that SPS'ers have more opportunities to sharpen their mountaineering skills. To help achieve this we have expanded the Fall-Winter-Spring rock climb and ice axe practice sessions and have introduced SPS training trips which provide less formal training experiences associated with a regular SPS trip. This type of trip-associated activity offers many advantages: the environment is that of the Sierra; the groups are small; the leaders, while they set the agenda, are co-participants more than teachers; etc. Some of these trips are combined SPS/LTC training trips which will offer an opportunity for qualified participants to meet ALTC checkout requirements for rock, snow, and navigation as well as signoffs for the SPS Mountaineer's List.

We've debated at length a renewed emphasis on the Mountaineer's List. The original purpose of the list was as a requirement for participation in restricted trips sponsored by the Section. This function has fallen into some disuse, although the SPS has continued the emphasis on skills needed for signoff in its formal training program, and these signoffs are accepted by LTC for rock and snow credit at the Basic course level. Without doubt, the training of trip participants in the skills called for by the Mountaineer's List would automatically raise the safety standards on SPS trips. Making more use of the Mountaineer's List and its associated training program would increase the common experiences and hence the cohesive forces within the SPS and would serve as a vehicle to discover and develop more leaders in the membership. These favorable features far outweigh the unfavorable aspects such as the creation of an alleged "elite," status symbol. The Management Committee therefore has decided to encourage more use of the Mountaineer's List and, more importantly, to place more emphasis on training. Incidentally, most of the technical requirements for leader certification can thus be accomplished within the SPS framework, thereby making our training program an open, flexible complement to the LTC program with, of course, full LTC credit.

So far this year, the SPS has sponsored several rock and snow practice sessions, a navigation trip, and a Sierra rock climbing leadership seminar. Future trips in the next schedule will include:

- Informal snow, rock experience plus Mts. Sill, Gayley, July 30-31. Leaders: Norm Rohn, Art De Goede.
- Bear Creek Spire training trip for Mountaineer's List or ALTC rock signoff, September 10-11. Leaders: Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer.
- Rock scrambling training climb, September 24-25. Leaders: Diana Dee, Jerry Keating.
- Navigation Noodle, Smith and Crag, October 8-9. Leaders: Bill Russell and Walton Kabler.
- Fossil Falls rock climbing, November 5-6. Leaders: Dennis Lantz, Doug Mantle, Frank Meyers.

Duane McRuer, Doug Mantle, Dennis Lantz

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

April 27, 1977

Dear Editor:

Before the membership is stampeded into augmenting the SPS list, I would like to register a "nay" to the inclusion of Mt. Shakspere - note: it is spelled "Shakspere," not "Shakespere."

Firstly, when one views the ridge over to Mt. Shakspere from Observation Peak, it looks fairly straightforward, and Shakspere looks insignificant. A bit of third class summit rocks hardly qualifies a peak for SPS status.

Secondly, Pk. 12,174 to the SW and about the same distance away from Observation is higher and more imposing, not to mention Pk. 12,860 (Mt. Reyman), to the SE, an even finer peak than Observation. Why not consider these better peaks for list status? - if one is considering peak additions in this area. The fact they are un-named should not deter one from reckoning them.

Thirdly, if peak additions are so important, why not automatically place all 13,000'+ peaks (especially named ones) on the list, just as all 14,000'+ peaks are automatically included?

Lastly, if one wishes to have imposing peaks added to the SPS list, what's wrong with Langille Peak or the Citadel, to mention only two offhand?

Sincerely,

A.J. Smatko, M.D.

Dear Editor,

If indeed the BMTC has found and will continue to use a better place for their ice ax practice than the Baldy Bowl, that is certainly commendable. (Credit for the discovery of this area, near Islip Saddle, goes to John Wedberg and John Finn.) However, the fact that the BMTC had to be directed to avoid using an area where their large groups of students were both figuratively and physically destroying the environment does not reflect well on its leadership nor upon those other Club members who apparently feel that the BMTC, like the Sierra Club, can do no wrong.

Barbara Lilley

When ordering permits by mail for west side entry into the John Muir or Minarets Wilderness Areas, it is recommended to write directly to Sierra National Forest, 1130 "O" Street, Fresno, CA 93721 (as listed on the older permit application forms) rather than the ranger stations at Big Creek or North Fork (indicated on the newer forms). Otherwise, you may never receive an answer.

B.L.

LETTERS - CONTINUED

Echo readers: Doris Golden recommends Kabloona by Gontran de Poncins (Reynal and Hitchcock, Inc., 1941), an excellent, poetic, sensitive, and beautifully expressed account of a Frenchmen living among the northernmost Eskimos. Starting on p. 148 is a particularly stirring description of a climber confronting a white-out.

SCHEDULED TRIPS

March 11, 12, 13..... Mt. Thompson..... Bob Boyles, Roy Keenan

This weekend was much like a private climb of Goode and Agassiz three weeks earlier - two days of marvelous weather followed by a third day of driving snow. The major difference was that instead of two peaks in three days we were unsuccessful in reaching the summit of Thompson.

Six of us traveled to the roadblock at Lake Sabrina Friday night in the absolute luxury of Hal Winton's camper. Unfortunately, Hal had to drive the whole distance while the four of us engaged in a bit of extemporaneous research.

Hypothesis: Four cans of brew will minimize the effects of dehydration at climbing altitude. Data: Frequent pit stops and horrendous vapors during the first climbing day only. Conclusion: Everyone felt fine but our results are subject to question as three of the four are running nuts and nothing could affect them while the fourth is very capable of masking his agony.

We arranged for our taxi beyond the roadblock and managed to motor to the roadside trailhead below the dam. The low snow level still required snowshoes, but allowed us to follow the trail most of the way to upper Baboon Lake where we made camp after an eight-and-a-half hour slog through a lot of unconsolidated snow.

Saturday, we set off for Thompson at 7:30. The snow continued to be largely unconsolidated and after the expenditure of much energy we were at the foot of the Thompson Ridge between Peak 13323 and Thompson. Donning crampons, we ascended an obvious chute running up and to the left towards the ridge line. The snow created conditions of Class 4 exposure so several sections of belayed fixed rope were necessary as we progressed. Next time, we take more than one rope!

By 3:00 p.m. we were well up the Thompson Ridge making slow progress in the Class 3 rock, complicated by deteriorating weather conditions in the form of overcast sky, lowering temperatures and increasing wind velocity. A brief huddle quickly produced a decision to retreat; albeit a painful decision, as we were only 150 vertical feet and an hour from the summit.

As it was, we staggered into camp at 6:30 p.m. No hilarious parties Saturday night.

Sunday we awakened to a genuine Sierra snowstorm. After a leisurely breakfast, we packed up and were back to clear skies at the car by 1:30.

In spite of our lack of a peak, we had a great time. More importantly, new friendships were established.

April 16-17

Lone Pine Peak

Walton Kabler, Dick Labrecque ,

There wasn't as much snow as we'd hoped for on this snow climb, but there was enough to slow us down to where it took us five hours to get from the trailhead to camp at 10,900 below Meysan Lake. This trip was advertised only in the Echo, not in the Schedule, and I charitably take this to be the reason that only seven participants showed up for the climb. We loafed in camp Saturday afternoon, got up next morning while the snow was still hard, cramponed uneventfully up the snow for a few hundred feet, and went the rest of the way to the summit plateau on frozen scree. We were back in camp by 10:50, lunched and packed until 11:30, and were out to the cars by 2:00. Special thanks to Doug Davis, Ret Moore, and Sam Roberts for helping to break trail, and to Dick Labrecque for cooking my dinner. (W.K.)

May 14-15, 1977

Basin Mtn.

Bill Bradley, Harry McKellop

Saturday morning was bright and crisp but promised to be hot for this combination training session and snow climb. It had snowed heavily during the week, and the snow level was at about 9,000 ft. After purchasing some snow seal for one gal who had forgotten hers, the leader explained that George Toby, co-leader, had sprained his ankle and was unable to make the climb. Fortunately, however, Harry McKellop was available and, in fact, needed an experience trip to help fulfill his leadership training requirements. The trip was turned over to Harry, who assumed complete charge.

With the former leader now bringing up the rear, a total of 16 hikers headed toward Horton Lake, a jewel in its setting between Mt. Tom and Basin Mtn. The lake was still half frozen, but the snow around it was soft and mushy, just what was needed for ice axe and crampon practice. We were able to get in some roped travel, however.

Sunday morning, we left three people in camp for assorted reasons and started for the peak. The condition of the snow was only slightly improved over the preceding day. About half way up, a wind arose, dropping the chill factor considerably. One participant turned back at this point. The snow deepened progressively as we neared the summit, it being 3 to 4 inches above the knees for the last thousand feet. Many thanks to Doug Lock and Don Sparks for sharing the load in breaking trail. We lost two more climbers 400 feet from the summit. They waited behind a rock until our descent. By this time, the wind had strengthened and was moving alot of snow. A long plume was visible blowing from the ridge. After what seemed an interminable time span, we finally hit the summit block, which was also covered with snow, making for some interesting rock scrambling. At last, ten climbers stood on top admiring the views of Humphreys, Tom, etc., but not for long. We had managed to keep warm working our way up, but now we decided to retreat, forgoing even lunch until we could find a relatively sheltered spot. Picking up our two cold, but game, climbers from behind their meager rock shelter, we headed all the way down to the halfway point before stopping for lunch, and thence, uneventfully, back to base camp and out to the cars.

Most of the people on this trip were BMTC graduates but were otherwise relatively inexperienced. Many of them expressed their thanks for being able to participate on a trip that allowed them to use what skills they had previously learned, as well as learning some new skills which were not over their heads as far as the required technical ability. Hopefully, there will be more of this type of trip scheduled in the future.

PRIVATE TRIP REPORT

Tajumulco/Santa Maria: the high and the mighty

Ed Treacy

For the hiker passing through western Guatemala, Tajumulco beckons. Perhaps not with the siren-like irresistibility characteristic of the world's great peaks, but with status her lure as she holds herself together long enough to become Central America's high point at 13,857 ft. For this reason, and because it's easy, the climb is a popular one with Guatemalans, Mexicans, and other strays. A pleasant stroll across the fields and through the woods - no tedious scree slopes to harass the carefree - with the 4,500 ft. of gain requiring about three hours from the trailhead at Tzuichan. Tzuichan? - a wide spot in the road a couple of hours by bus from San Marcos, the nearest place with indoor plumbing. Could be done in one day from San Marcos if the early bus doesn't break down, but it's maybe more realistic to allow two, camping near Tzuichan.

Santa Maria, in contrast to the dormant, unattractive Tajumulco, is almost irresistible. She's one of the most notable of Guatemala's thirty-three volcanos, and with good reason. Dominating the Quezaltenango area, she looks, acts, smells, and sounds like a proper volcano. Beautifully symmetrical, the mountain sends forth sporadic bursts of billowing ash and sulphur laden clouds from a fumarole-embroidered caldera - straight out of Dante. Occasional deep rumbles hint at a lot of life within. Another pleasant walk (and, coincidentally, again about 4,500 ft. of gain) with enough of a slope to get a little steam coming out of the ears. A one day excursion from Quezaltenango, starting with a half-hour bus ride from town to the trailhead at Llamos de Pinas.

IN MEMORIAM

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were...Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

- John Donne

Following is an account (written by George Barnes and graciously submitted by George Shinno) of the Camphausen-Lombard tragedy on Mt. Shasta. Although the incident received extensive coverage (Yeti Yells, February-March; Off Belay, April, p. 37; and newspapers), the editor chose to include the report because the climbing community is a close-knit one: many knew or met Dina, who was editor of the Loma Prieta Section's newsletter, and, of course, Campy's prowess is almost legendary.

Dina's death even affects those who weren't privileged to know her. In accord with the Aristotelian definition of tragedy, we not only mourn the loss of a friend who shared our life style and love for the mountains, but also sense a degree of fear, for we realize that what happened to Dina, could well occur to us. Such being the case, Mr. Barnes' report and observations are especially a propos.

Operation, Mt. Shasta, 21-22 Feb. 1977 -- At 1130 on 21 Feb. G. Barnes got a call from Bill Robinson* in Weed saying that Fred Camphausen of Ridgecrest and Dina Lombard* of Mountain View were overdue from a climb on Shasta via the Whitney Glacier. They were last seen at 1500 19 Feb. heading slowly upward at about 13,000 ft. in clear weather. That night a very strong wind had come up at their camp at about 10,000 ft where Bill and the other two members of the party, Phyllis Olrich* and Paul Venuti*, were staying and the tents barely stayed up. The winds were still high the morning of 20 Feb and about 1100 it started snowing heavily. The three of them started off the mountain in the blizzard and were able to reach their car at about 6000 ft near Whitney Creek where there was about 4 in. of new snow. Climbers they met later in the day who had been on the Avalanche Gulch route but not to the summit had not seen them. They had notified the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office and had found a place to stay in Shasta City. Weather on the mountain was still bad but they would spend as much time as they could at the roadhead.

Barnes contacted Goodwin to alert BAMRU, got hold of Carl Heller at China Lake to advise him of the situation, and called the Siskiyou Co. S.O.. After some discussion with Sgt. Ken Jourdan it was ascertained that BAMRU and others had permission to come up but the Sheriff did not intend to send search aircraft or teams out until the weather cleared and it was still bad. Goodwin reported about 12 BAMRU members were available including John Linford and his twin Cessna 320 (turbocharged). Goodwin urged early action as the missing persons were known to the Unit and he wasn't sure how long he could keep the members chained down.

Weather reports at about 2200 21 Feb indicated possible partial clearing in the Shasta area so Linford, Barnes, Barber, and Engstrom were scheduled to fly and W. Campbell, Greg Tolman, Brown, and Burnham were to drive up early 22 Feb.. The plan was to fly around the peak to see if anything could be seen and to establish a team at the base of the mountain to wait out the weather -- several days, if need be.

Goodwin was home coordinator and Kreiss, Clough, Care, P. Loughman, Erker, and Post, Stone, and Robertson remained on alert in the Bay area.

On arriving in the area about 0830 22 Feb. the plane found the weather was clearer than described at the time by FAA weather reports and the top, south side, and northside below 9300 ft of Shasta were examined at close range. Nothing was found so a landing was made at Weed airport where Bill, Phyllis, and Paul were waiting. The situation was assessed, Kent and Mark dropped off at the Shasta City PD to await the drivers and establish the waiting team, and coordination was done with the Sheriff's office which had a Hughes 500C turbine helicopter from Lucas Logging Co. standing by for the weather to clear more.

* associated with Peak Climbing Section, Loma Prieta Chapter

Now about 1030 22 Feb. it was observed that the weather had gradually but steadily been improving on the mountain so it was decided to try to get another look below the Whitney Glacier and, if possible, at the 10,000 ft campsite. To help observe and locate their route, Bill, Phyllis, and Paul were invited to fly with Linford and Barnes. While clouds generally obscured Shasta from the towns to the west it was found that most of the Whitney was visible from the north. From a pass by the mountain at 9500 ft, Barnes spotted tracks leading down from the glacier. From directly over the campsite, all saw that the tent that had been left had been removed. Immediately John commenced a well-executed series of linked S turns down the mountain that allowed the observers to do step-by-step tracking in the fresh, open snow fields. At about 7000 ft on the slopes Paul spotted a lone figure moving steadily down the mountain. A low pass showed it to be Campy with a large pack.

John notified the Sheriff's office of the sighting while heading back to the Weed airport. On landing, Bill and Phyllis headed directly for the roadhead and Barnes notified Barber to get the team at Shasta City ready. The Sheriff's helicopter picked up Paul as a guide and headed for the mountain arriving seconds after Campy had reached the car. He had badly frozen feet (a Weed MD later estimated two toes would be lost) but otherwise appeared basically OK. He reported that he and Dina had made the summit late on 19 Feb but on returning had encountered very high winds at the top of the Whitney Glacier at dusk and Dina had been too tired to continue. A bivouac in the lee of some rocks was made that night but the wind blew away much of their food. On the 20th the weather was worse and Dina could move only a short distance. A snow cave was dug for her and Campy went down to the 10,000 ft camp for more food. Due to weather, return to the cave was impossible until the 21st when it was found to be too late to save Dina. Campy was not able to again descend from the mountain until the morning of the 22nd.

The helicopter with Barber and Engstrom and plane with Linford and Barnes searched the glacier near the Shastina col but were unable to spot Dina. Campy was taken up in the helicopter, located the site, and was returned. Barber estimated that recovery could be quickly accomplished and was landed with Engstrom at the 11,900 ft Shastina col. They reached the site with 4 screw-anchored rope pitches with a litter, chopped the victim's legs free of the ice and raised her to the helicopter. Takeoff took maximum power to free runners starting to freeze. to the ice and skilled flying was needed to cope with the continuing high winds and now deteriorating weather as they flew through an approaching snow squall on the way down to Shasta City. The operation was secured at 1600 22 Feb..

Observations, Lessons Learned, and Lessons Reinforced

1. The deceased apparently died of hypothermia contributed to by exhaustion, bad weather, lack of shelter, and lack of food. The party apparently misjudged the strength of the deceased although the high winds that arose were apparently not accompanied by clouds that would have given clear warning of deteriorating weather. The party was experienced but the deceased had a documented history of pushing very hard for high peaks in the U.S., Mexico, and Europe; often becoming exhausted on the summits; and minimizing the potential difficulties in winter ascents.
2. The party of three who descended the mountain for help displayed good judgment and skill in avoiding becoming casualties themselves and then taking significant steps to initiate and assist search and rescue operations.
3. Once a serious problem arose, the deceased's rope partner displayed exceptional strength and endurance in his rescue and self-rescue efforts.
4. Not only were weather forecasts for the area significantly in error but reports given to pilots of existing weather were equally in error. Further, reports by usually reliable sources looking right at the weather were just as wrong (estimates by officials late in the morning of 22 Feb about flying conditions around Mt. Shasta). To get reliable weather reporting, an observer trained in the type of operation proposed must be at the scene of the proposed operation and his estimates included with other reports.
5. An apparently effective modus operandi for Mt. Shasta is to check with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office and then immediately dispatch a team prepared to act immediately or wait for a possibly extended period based on direct observation of conditions. While in this case the missing party came off the mountain by their ascent route, it is common for parties to come off a completely different side, so ground teams should generally not be dispatched until well-evaluated objectives for them are established.
6. Step-by-step tracking of fresh tracks in new snow deeper than 4 in. in open terrain was EASILY DONE AND VERY FAST at altitudes above terrain of a few hundred feet at speeds around 120 kts. Since many searches occur shortly after storms, this technique should not be overlooked when aircraft are available.

What were circumstances behind

(George Barnes)

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

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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 Bch, CA 90278.

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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 Echo 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.

COVER PHOTO: Mt. Whitney from Russell.

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