

The

Sierra



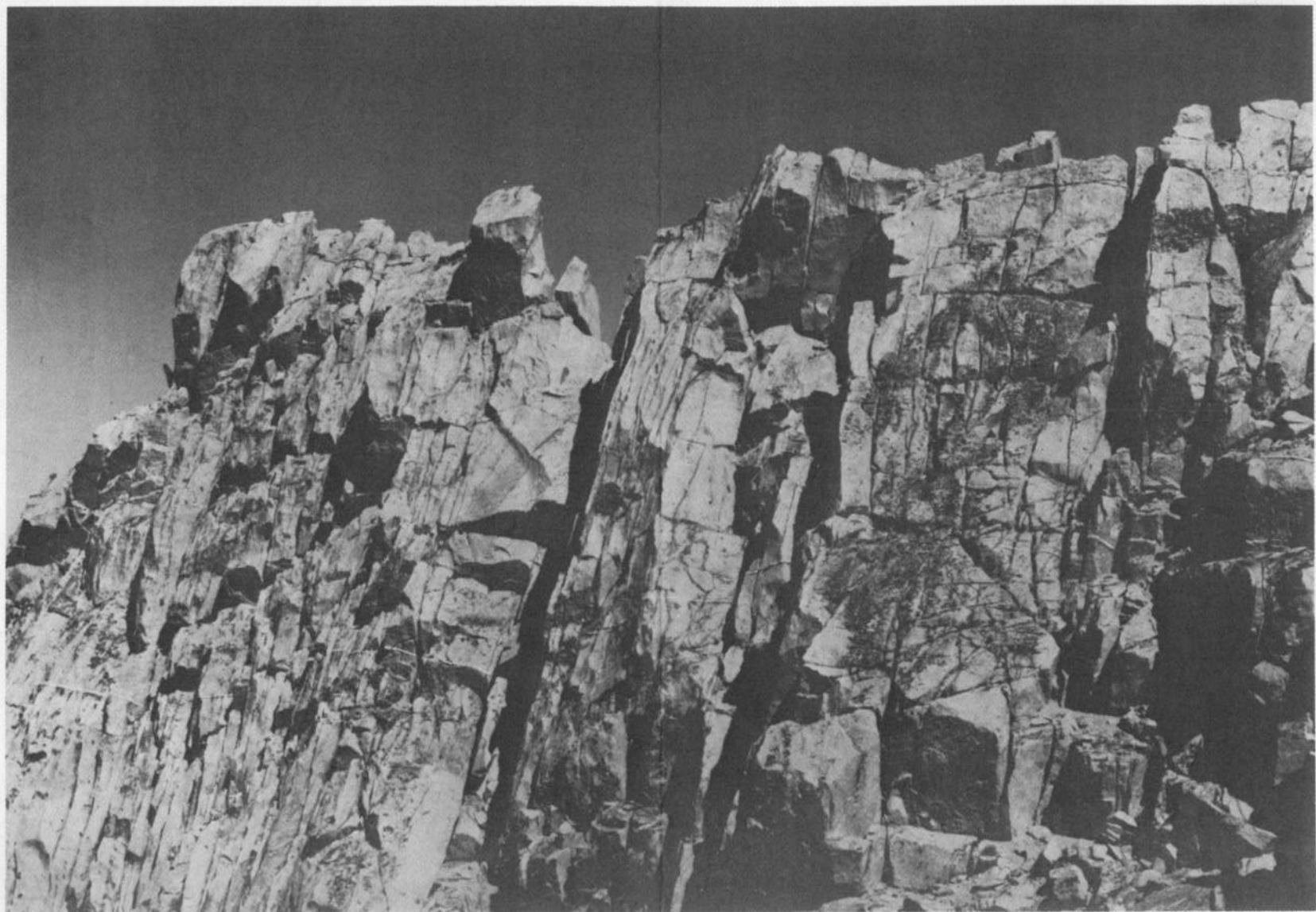
ECHO

VOLUME 21

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER, 1977

No. 6



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Now is the time to make your banquet reservations -- see page 4.

I urge your vote for SPS members Dick Labrecque and Mike Wilkinson for the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee.

The Management Committee has adopted a policy regarding peak list changes. Evaluation criteria for peak additions are: elevation, dominance of an area, view, inaccessibility, new area to the SPS, climbing interest, area impact, and proximity to other listed peaks. The policy requires evaluation of a proposed exploratory climb in terms of these criteria before approval by the Management Committee. After an exploratory climb a re-evaluation is made which is summarized in the Echo. Sufficient time is provided for members to climb the peak and to discuss the matter. The Management Committee then votes to place the addition on the annual ballot.

The ballot attached to this Echo has a proposed addition of Mt. Shinn to the peak list. Mt. Shinn was recommended by Barbara Lilley (see Jan/Feb Echo) and endorsed by a select committee of Jerry Keating, Ron Jones and Gordon MacLeod. Thanks are due them for their recommendations and investigations.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Activity in the section has reached a peak with the coming of the last holiday weekend of the season. Welcome to the new members of the Sierra Peaks Section:

Christopher Noe  
Bruce Lazarus  
William G. Higgins  
John J. McCarthy  
Greg Haemmerle  
June Lane  
Marion R. Bottorff

Ronald Bruck  
Rene H. Landeros  
Paul Parsons  
Linda Parsons  
Paul Burnett  
Eileen Burnett

And a "well done" to our new emblem holders:

355. Dale Van Dalsem  
356. Eric Abbott  
357. Pat Lavengood  
358. Fran Smith  
359. Meridee Muell  
360. Melvyn T. Johnson  
361. Chuck Pospishil

362. Hal Compton  
363. Mike Wilkinson  
364. Deanna Holleman  
365. Gerald Holleman  
366. Jon Fredland  
367. Michael Lorr

A special "hoorah" for those with the stamina to have earned their senior emblem:

30. Elton Fletcher  
31. Nathan Hoover

32. John Hellman  
33. Duane McKuer

And to one who has finished the list, we look with wonder and awe. Congratulations:

Elton Fletcher

(See following special tribute to Elton by Jerry Keating.)

## COVER PHOTO

The peak on which to prove one's prowess: The Echo is indebted to Mike Wilkinson for his photo of Gardiner's knife-edge ridge, taken from the southern false summit. See Mike's write-up and special column by Bob Hartunian for more information about this impressive peak.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Now that the Sierra summer climbing season is over, practice sessions begin to give SPS-ers an opportunity to sharpen their mountaineering skills. On the scheduled docket are:

Navigation Noodle, Smith and Crag, October 8-9; Russell, Kabler  
Rock Climbing, Fossil Falls, November 5-6; Lantz, Mantle, Meyers  
Rock Climbing Practice, Joshua Tree, January 14-15; McRuer, Mantle  
Snow Travel and Ice Axe Practice, Mt. San Antonio, January 21-22;  
Ranschau, Mauk  
Snow Travel and Ice Axe Practice, Mt. San Antonio, February 4-5;  
Toby, Stein  
Rock Climbing Practice, Rubidoux, March 11; Labrecque, Kabler  
Rock Climbing Practice, Rubidoux, April 1; Birnbaum, Wilkinson  
Rock Climbing Practice, Joshua Tree, April 22-23; Dee, C. Byington

OCTOBER 22-23

SAT-SUN

SIERRA PEAKS

Muah Mtn. (11,016), Cartago Pk. (10,539): A long hike Sat. on the Pacific Crest Trail from Horseshoe Meadow to Muah Mtn. to Death Canyon (19 mi., 3,450' gain) or descend directly to Owens Valley (7½ mi., 1,600' gain), depending on whether a car shuttle can be arranged. Trip limited to small group. SASE with phone number to leader: Harold McFadden. Asst: Barbara Reber.

Support your local outings-oriented candidates for the upcoming election! This year, we have two SPS members, Dick Labrecque and Mike Wilkinson, who not only support chapter and club conservation policies but also will lead SPS trips. In addition, Ulrich Furst, although not in SPS, is an active outings leader. But, most of all, vote! - Chuck Stein

In addition to the practice sessions listed above, there are two upcoming scheduled trips: On Nov. 18-19, Heller is leading No. Spanish Needle and Lamont, and on Feb. 18-20, Dee and Campbell are leading The Thumb.

Participants on Chuck Stein's July 9-10, '77 Starr King trip found a knife. Contact editor with description to claim.

The fall session for the popular class, "Learn the Ropes," will be held November 6th. in the Angeles National Forest.

Held under the auspices of the Crescenta Valley Group, this course is open to all local Sierrans. It is the only course taught in the Chapter's area that deals specifically with skills required on 3rd. and 4th. Class Sierra Peaks. The highly concentrated session covers mountaineering knots, ropes, slings, belays, anchors, chock and protection placement, prusiks, Jumars, rappels, and basic rescue techniques.

Course leader is Norman Kingsley, Chairman of the Club's National Mountaineering Committee. Instructors are RCS'ers Fred Day, Ron Miyakawa, and Bob Samoano.

Total class size is held to 20 students. The fee is \$5.00, of which one is returned to students when they show up. For further information, call 790-4275 or immediately send \$5.00 to course leader as past sessions have filled up one week after announcement was made.

Roy Ward introduced his bride, Betty, to the SPS at September's meeting. Roy and Betty were married in Las Vegas on September 2, 1977. Roy's a senior at Cal Poly, and he and Betty plan to move to Arkansas

after he graduates.

Not to be outdone by Roy, Ron Jones promptly stood up and surprised the group with news that he and Mary Sue Mead were married August 19th. in Yosemite Valley.

The section wishes both couples happiness.

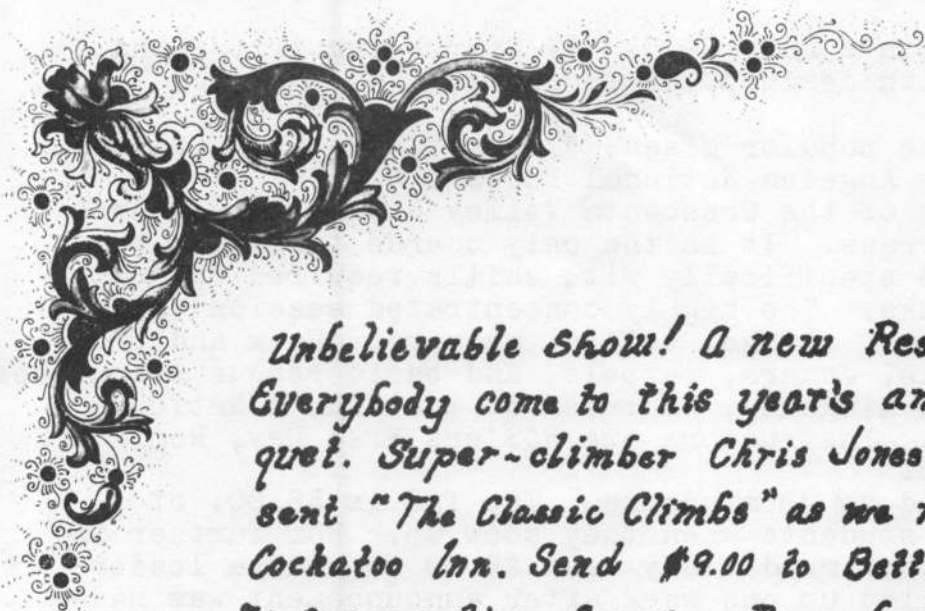
It's that time of year to make reservations for the Angeles Chapter's Annual Fundraising Gala.

This year's event features Martin Litton's "Grand Canyon by Dory," a journey through time. The celebration will be at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 West Eight Street, Los Angeles, on Thursday and Friday, October 27-28th. at 8:00 P.M. There is plenty of free parking adjacent to the theatre, and tickets are \$5.00 each.

Martin Litton is a former director of the Sierra Club and has been a leader in the environmental movement since the early days. He is a film maker and photo journalist and is a provocative and outspoken advocate. He tells it like it is, and audiences everywhere respond to his incredibly moving and spectacular photography. Because of his expertise as a documentary producer, Litton unfolds a comprehensive story of the Canyon climaxed by the exhilarating experience of running scores of turbulent and dangerous rapids. This articulate explorer will present a program that is both entertaining and informative. His byline has appeared on hundreds of magazine articles, and still photographs taken by him are featured in many books dealing with the parks, wilderness, and natural wonders of the West, including some Sierra Club Exhibit Format books.

Make this an occasion to get together with your friends. Get tickets now. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter, 2410 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90057. Be sure to specify which night you want tickets.

This is the one Chapterwide fundraising event of the year, and with your support, we can make it a success. - Mary Ferguson



*Unbelievable Show! A new Restaurant!  
Everybody come to this year's annual banquet. Super-climber Chris Jones will present "The Classic Climbs" as we feast at the Cockatoo Inn. Send \$9.00 to Betty Kabbler for reservation. See you December 14!*

*Betty Kabbler  
18300 Napa St. #4  
Northridge, CA 91325*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS-CONTINUED

Next month's Mugel-editor, Norman Kingsley, who's also the Club's national mountaineering committee chairman, will present a slide show on ice-climbing, Nov. 11, 7:00 P.M. at the Sport Chalet's SPORTLAND, 951 Foothill, La Cañada.

He'll have more recent information on the Juneau icefields and Rockies' ice-climbs than he showed at the March Mugelnoos meeting. Admission is free; no refreshments, though.

The national mountaineering committee has been approached by the USSR's Mountaineering Committee of the Soviet Sports Federation and asked if the Club is interested in attending the 1978 Mountaineering Camp in the Pamir. The committee indicated an interest and is now prospecting potential attendees. If interested, contact a committee member. Ruth Mendenhall, Mark Goebel, John Wedberg, or Norman Kingsley have necessary information.

Our mountaineering committee has also arranged a ski-tour of the Juneau icefields in conjunction with the U. of Alaska next summer. The Juneau fields stretch a thousand square miles along the S.E. Alaska and British Columbia border, at elevations between 3000 and 4500 feet. The arrangement was worked between Steve Johnson of U. of Alaska and Norman Kingsley. - SC, Mills Tower, S.F.

### ANOTHER LIST FINISHER

Elton Fletcher, with an ascent of Eagle Scout Pk. on July 19, 1977, became the first Northern Californian to complete all 246 peaks on the SPS Peaks List. With him were his wife Pat, their son Larry, Ron and Vi Grinsteiner, all SPSers; and Larry Pearlman and Melanie Wheeler, friends of the Grinsteiners. In celebration, the group sipped brandy from a pewter mug compliments of Ron and Vi.

Of the climbs, 32 were as an SPS leader, 55 were on other SPS-led trips and 33 were done solo. The writer had the pleasure of doing 40 of the peaks with Elton, while his family enjoyed 53 with him.

For Elton, whose feet have been troublesome in recent years, the end of the list was not easily accomplished. (Nor, for that matter, is the list easily accomplished when one's feet aren't sore!) At 51 years, he probably is the oldest to finish, and at 244 pounds he is the heaviest.

Gordon MacLeod recalls spending 35 years to complete the list, having started on Half Dome in 1939 and ending in 1973. By way of contrast, Elton attempted Half Dome in 1941 with the Scouts but was turned back on the cable portion by the leader who feared 5 p.m. was too late to be up there. If that attempt counts as a start on the list, completion required 36 years. In 1962, Elton's luck was better and he reached Mt. Whitney's summit. In 1965, he really got going with the help of the SPS and added eight peaks.

Living in Lodi and working in Stockton as a CalTrans engineer, Elton probably ran up more driving miles than any other finisher, but he didn't keep such a record. Since he helped design the highways, he obviously couldn't complain about using them.

For those who may care to wish Elton well and invite him to climb some unlisted peaks, the address is 2073 Gateway Circle, Lodi, CA 95240. Don't this soon, however, propose adding a bunch of new peaks, for as Elton put it:

There once was a large man named El-ton  
Whothought climbing peaks would be fun.

The list disappeared

But the thing that is weird

He's glad his "enjoyment" is done.

--Jerry Keating

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR,

MY MAIN PURPOSE IN WRITING THE LETTER WHICH APPEARED IN THE MARCH-APRIL ECHO WAS TO ENSURE THAT MT SHAKSPERE WOULD BE GIVEN FAIR CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SPS. I HAVE NOTICED A TENDENCY AMONG SOME OF OUR MEMBERS TO IMMEDIATELY STRIKE DOWN ANY NEW PROPOSALS TO THE PEAKS LIST, ESPECIALLY IF THOSE PROPOSALS WERE MADE BY LIST FINISHERS WHO NOW SPEND THEIR WEEKENDS MAKING FIRST ASCENTS OF UNNAMED (AND SOMETIMES EVEN NAMED) BUMPS. THIS SADDENS ME BECAUSE SOME OF THESE PROPOSED PEAKS MAY BE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION, BUT THOSE MEMBERS WHO FALL INTO THE 'RULING CLIQUE', WHETHER ELECTED OR NOT, IMPOSE THEIR CONCEITEDNESS ON THOSE WHO FALL INTO THE MAJORITY; THEREFORE, THESE PEAKS NEVER REACH THE BALLOT, WHERE THE ACTUAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THESE PEAKS WILL BE ADDED SHOULD BE MADE (BY ALL VOTING MEMBERS). FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE SERVING AS MOUNTAIN RECORDS CHAIRMAN I WITNESSED DICK JALI'S FIRST (?) PROPOSAL OF CALTECH Pk 'FILED' BY A MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF OTHERS, NEVER TO REACH THE BALLOT.

MY OTHER, MORE SUBTLE, PURPOSE WAS MY WISH THAT THE LETTER WOULD INCITE THE MEMBERSHIP TO OFFER THEIR OWN SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF QUALIFYING PEAKS. THIS HAS WORKED TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, THOUGH I AM SURPRISED THAT ONE LETTER WAS INSULTING AND LIBELOUS TO MY OPINION OF A CLIMB WHICH I RATHER ENJOYED.

FURTHERMORE, PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT I AM NOT PLANNING TO CAST A 'YES' VOTE FOR THE ADDITION OF SHAKSPERE, NOR FOR ANY OTHER PEAK FOR THAT MATTER. I AM OF THE CONTENTION THAT AS OF LATE MOST OF THE PEAKS THAT HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST HAVE BEEN PROPOSED JUST FOR THE SAKE OF ADDING MORE PEAKS, WITH LITTLE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THEIR LOCATION OR THE QUALITY OF THE CLIMB, ETC. I FEEL THE LIST SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE, UNMOLESTED. HOWEVER, OF THE FOUR PEAKS PROPOSED BY BARBARA LILLEY, I WAS OF THE OPINION THAT MT SHAKSPERE WAS THE ONE WORTHY OF POSSIBLE ADDITION. NOT ALL MEMBERS SHARE THESE TWO OPINIONS WITH ME, AND I DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO. AGAIN, I WANTED THE MEMBERS TO GIVE IT FAIR CONSIDERATION AND LET THE MAJORITY RULE.

ALSO, THE MEMBERSHIP MAY FIND IT NOTEWORTHY THAT ALL OF THE FLAK I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING RE THE SHAKSPERE LETTER HAS BEEN FROM THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE FINISHED THE LIST OR WHO ARE VERY CLOSE TO FINISHING IT. I HAVE DRAWN MY OWN CONCLUSION FROM THIS, AND WILL LET YOU DRAW YOURS.

  
R. J. SECOR

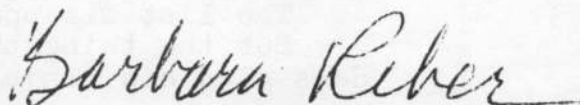
8/21/77

Dear SPS Echo Editor,

Another thought on the constant attempt to add peaks to the list; why not delete one crud heap for the addition of each new one. We can now open a whole new Pandora's box.

I have some choice deletions, Mt Lola, English Mtn, Mt. Adams, Pilot Knob #2, Mt. Lamont, Kennedy Mtn. I'm sure we all have a favorite delete. Better yet, freeze the list in its present glorious state and so end the EGO trip of getting one's peak on the list.

To the man that started this whole peak bagging game, Chester Versteeg, not one section has honored his memory with Mt. Versteeg on their list.



THE ROUTE ACROSS MT. GARDINER

*We cover photos.*

Bob Hartunian

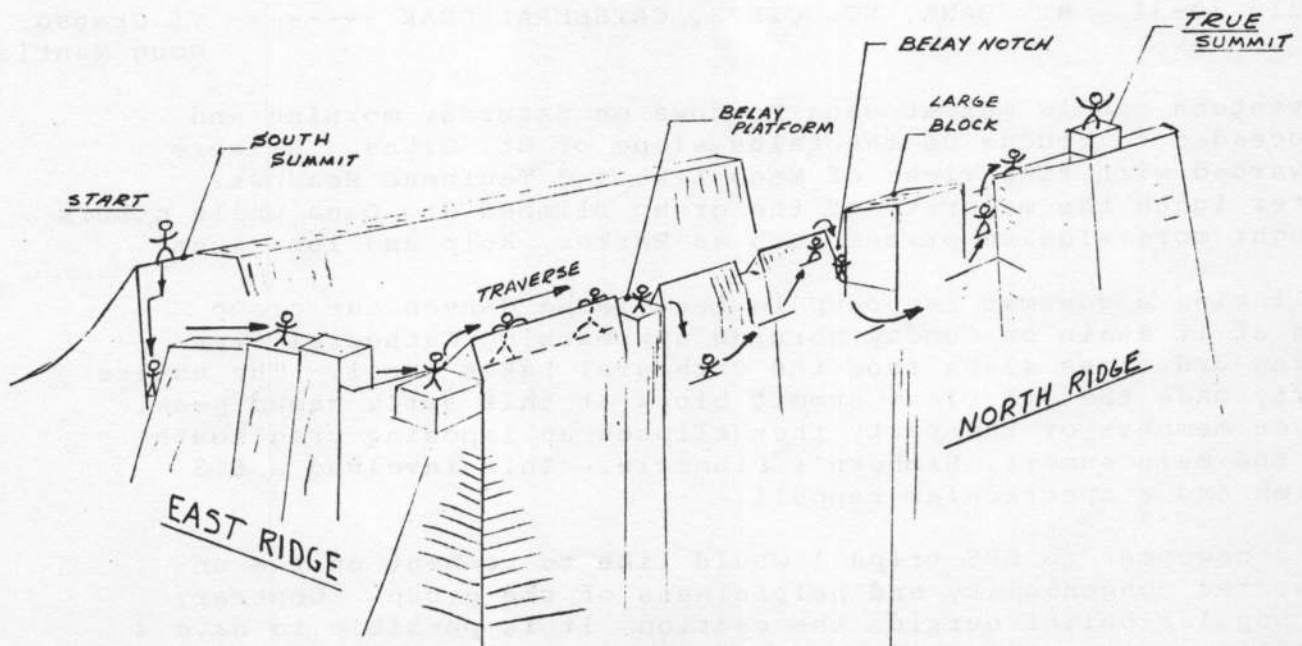
The U-shaped summit ridge of Mt. Gardiner falls off with exceptional vertical exposure on all sides. You quietly suck in your breath, wipe away sweaty palms and begin the final traverse from the south summit over to the two-foot cubic block that sits out on the north ridge. Perhaps three hundred linear feet of tilted slabs and knife-edged rock have to be crossed before reaching a rusty band-aid can that serves as a summit register. If the quality of a climb is measured by the sustained technical effort necessary to achieve the summit, then Mt. Gardiner must rank among the best in the Sierras.

Rather than provide a lengthy verbal description of the traverse route, the attached diagram directly illustrates the route starting from the south summit. Most of it is 4th class or less, easily protected by anchor slings around horns and flakes. A few #3 to #5 hex chocks were used in cracks on the smooth faces. Ledges below the north ridge reduce the exposure somewhat. Halfway across is a large block that can be by-passed by dropping down on the north side, then regaining the ridge line once more to the summit. If two ropes are available for a party of four or more climbers, belaying time might be conserved by placing fixed ropes with each climber clipped in with a sliding carabiner.

The summit view is excellent, especially of Mts. Clarence King and Cotter to the north. All three peaks can be climbed in a four-day trip camped in Sixty Lakes basin.

Hiking in and out of the area is an all day affair, but the personal satisfaction of climbing Mt. Gardiner will be sustained long after the long way home.

MT. GARDINER



## SCHEDULED CLIMBS

CLARENCE KING, GARDINER, COTTER  
Leader: Mike Wilkinson

August 6-9, 1977  
Asst.: Dave Vandervoet

After hearing more on the difficulty of this trip, the leader decided to scale down his plans for the maximum number of climbers from six to four. I recommend that anyone else doing this trip consider keeping the group small.

We set out Saturday morning and had our permit checked by a National Park Ranger (out of her territory?) at the Onion Valley roadhead. We then charged up the hill to Kearsarge Pass in what must be record time (the exact time is classified so that the Russians don't steal Larry Hoak). From there it is a pleasant stroll (ha!) to the top of Glen Pass. At that point you can either take the trail all the way to Rae Lakes and on to Sixty Lakes or you can, as we did, go crosscountry from a small lake on the north side of Glen Pass over a knapsack pass to the west and down into the Sixty Lakes area. Our route wasn't bad, and we saved some elevation gain.

Sunday, we climbed Clarence King by the standard route under the able rock leadership of Bob Hartunian. The weather was fine, and the only surprise was meeting a climber at the top who was doing the mountain solo by a different route.

Monday, Bob again led us on the rock climb of Gardiner, a real challenge (see accompanying article), and then we slogged off for a long and exhausting climb of Cotter. We didn't get back from that until about 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, we put it in high gear for the three passes going the other way and "smoked" out of the hills and back to Onion Valley in 7 hrs., 47 mins. One other note: I would ask other climbers not to inquire about the food on this trip - it is something of a sore point.

### TRIP REPORT:

Under an imaginary SPS "by-law" I entreated a new member to write the trip report which follows. John believed that such an obscure by-law exists! Well, it's a way to get the impressions of a newcomer to the Section: (and someone to write the trips for you)

"July 30-31 MT. DANA, MT. GIBBS, CATHEDRAL PEAK ----- Vi Grasso  
Doug Mantle

Seventeen people met at Dana Meadows on Saturday morning and proceeded to trudge up the talus slope of Mt. Gibbs. We were rewarded with fine views of Mono Lake and Toulumne Meadows. After lunch the majority of the group climbed Mt. Dana while others sought more elusive prizes such as Parker, Koip and lost Kuna?

Following a gourmet car camp in Lee Vining Canyon our group was at it again on Sunday morning approaching Cathedral Peak along 3rd class slabs from the Cathedral Lakes trail. The entire party made the 4th class summit block at this aptly named peak. Seven members of the party then climbed an imposing crag south of the main summit, Eichorn's Pinnacle. This involved a 5.3 climb and a spectacular rappel.

As a newcomer to SPS trips I would like to comment on the unexpected congeniality and helpfulness of the group. Contrary to popular belief outside the section, it is possible to have a good time on an SPS trip.

John McCarthy"



TABOOSE PASS, ETC. ETC. ETC AUG. 20-27

Main Characters-----Cuno Ranschau and Don Sparks

Bit Players-----Ron Bartell and Mark Frolli

Having vacation and nothing else to do, Don and I decided to get some peaks we didn't have yet, so we went for Taboose Pass. Enter the bit players at the road head and up we went. The heat and humidity (left over from Doreen) made the going uncomfortable and the weekend-light-weights (the bit players) beat us handily to the top but we too arrived by early pm. Those without knee pains (kneesles) climbed Cardinal where Ron announced the attaining of Sr Emblem status. After they returned, tired Don & refreshed Cuno packed down to the John Muir Trail and camped near a stream.

The next day Don & I split; Don split for Split, Prater, & Bolton Brown while I packed to Bench Lake, dumped my pack, and headed for Arrow & Pyramid. No spectacular routes- just chicken class 2 - back to to my pack and dropped down to the South Fork to meet Don who had arrived just ten minutes earlier.

Tuesday it was up toward Cartridge Pass. We got onto the south ridge of Ruskin too early but this resulted in lots of class 3 practice, which we needed, and the peak itself is a fine climb with a few good class 3 moves. Well, sir, it's a long way to Marrion but down & up & down & up & etc. and eventually you are there. Dropping down the creek goes very well but you have to learn to do some fancy side stepping to avoid the Poplar trees (I know they're Poplars because of their great numbers). But with luck you will find a way to camp.

Three heavy duty days calls for some time off and besides Don was having some foot problems-Ptoelio (the P is silent-as in swimming) and besides all that, there were no more peaks to climb in that area, so we moved camp to the highest lake before Pinchot Pass and took the rest of the day off.

Wednesday it was over the pass and head for Colosseum where we climbed up to the south ridge and went for it. Don wanted to run the ridge to Perkins and thus we added some pazzaz to our day by doing it, --veeery interesting. On our way to the east side of Wynne we discovered that the west slope down Perkins all moves and would be an unnice way to climb it. After lunch it was up the east ridge of Wynne which ended in some very fine class 3, or "tuffer" if you like, near the summit. Part of the ridge to Pinchot is also class 3 and helps to keep the interest up and almost anything will go. After the peak, we went down the deep narrow chute, which is visible from Wynne, and back to camp. This day filled in a vacancy in my personal records for a four peak day.

Thursday-to Taboose pass where Don headed for Goodale and Striped and I for Cardinal where I surprised everyone by announcing my 200th peak and broke out beer, champagne, chips & dips enough for everyone. It only needed Vi to do her routine to make the occasion complete. But in my exuberance to play the perfect host, I forgot to imbibe myself and wound up with a couple of sips of Wylers. After all this partying, Don & I departed for the car. And that night we headed for Horseshoe Meadows.

Friday we hiked over New Army Pass and climbed Corcoran--we hope! Saturday Don did Langley and Cirque while I went out & did Trail Peak and we drove home in the pm.

Sunday was wasted trying to put this odyssey together so that it would sound outrageous but still almost believable.

Footnote: Something needs to be said about Ron Bartell's hat --but the less the better. He keeps it not for its intrinsic value but for the sediment attached. He says it would bring bad luck to wash it-- he may be right, for one thing, the dirt from it would clog the drain.

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Anna Lou Pinson, 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Northridge, CA 91326.

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