

The

Sierra

ECHO

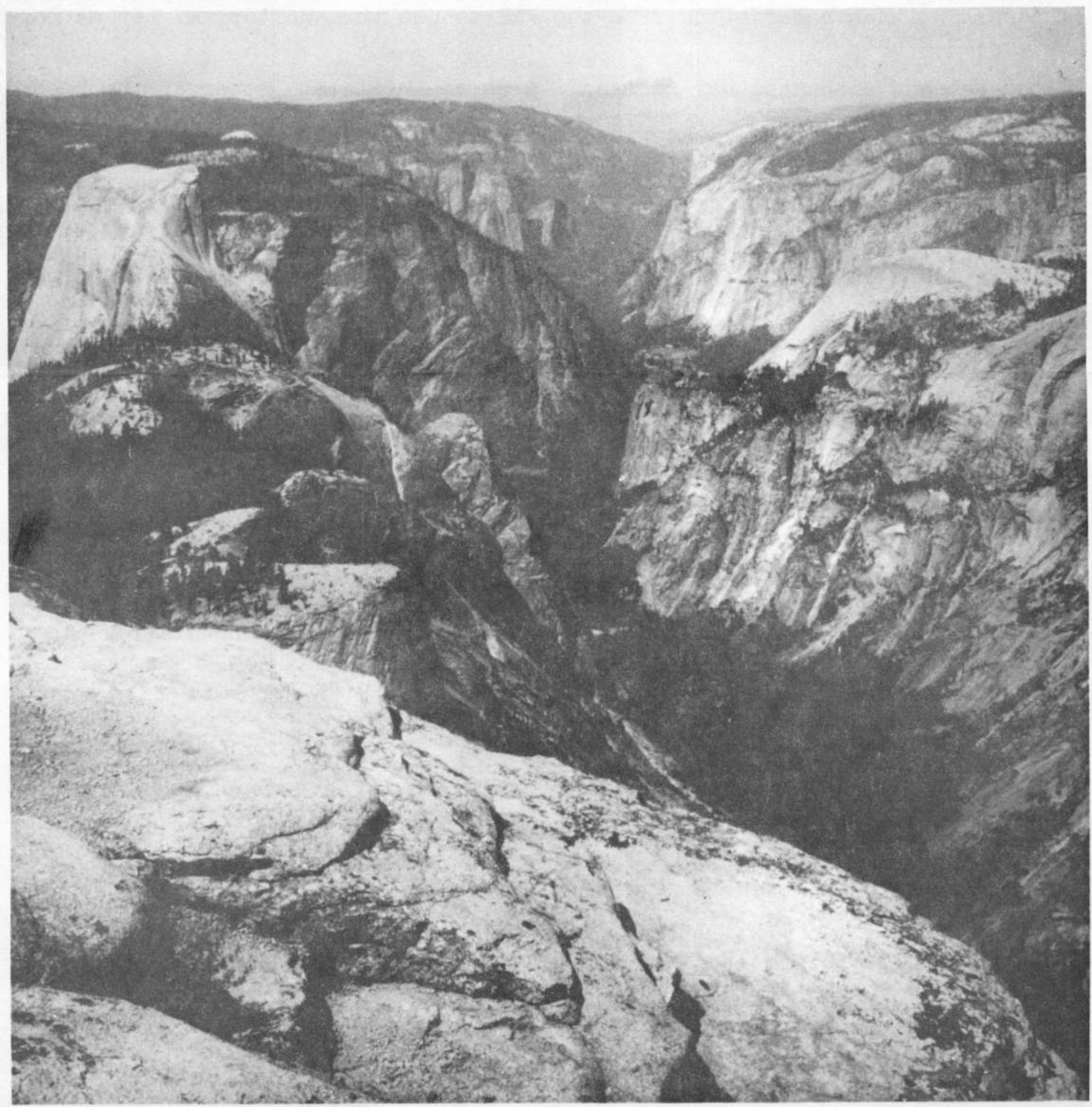


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As we pass the midpoint of 1978 and embark on the second half, I am proud to report the Management Committee is operating smoothly and has handled all problems in stride. The SPS is a very virile and healthy organization. Treasurer Mary Omberg reports we are financially sound and can publish all seven issues of the Echo as planned. 43 trips are scheduled for the summer season. With the requirements for permits and other restrictions imposed by the Forest Service this is a tribute to our Leaders and to Schedule Chairman Ron Jones. Echo Editor Cuno Ranschau is asking for more copy for the Echo. He also needs good photos or slides for future covers. Keep those trip reports and other newsworthy articles coming in. We continue to be perplexed by the policy of the Water & Power. So far it has been pot luck as to whether we meet in the auditorium or the cafeteria. For the first six meetings it has been 50/50. However for the balance of the year we have a formal written reservation from the W&P to use the auditorium. Let us hope they will honor it.

Diana Dee has announced her resignation as the Official Keeper of the Records. This post was invented by Diana back in 1973 when she was the SPS Secretary. She then initiated the computerized membership list. It has been the most accurate and best membership accounting we have ever had. From it she also extracted mailing labels for the Echo which virtually eliminated mailing errors. Diana will conclude her six year tenure as Records Keeper with the printing of the 1978 Membership List. Attesting to Diana's efficiency, it will take three people to replace her. Bob Boyles will supply the computer, Barbara Magnuson will do the month to month updating of the records and get out the mailing labels, and Carl Byington will do the computer programing. Diana will see to the training of her successors. The Section offers its sincere thanks for her services. In addition to Keeper of the Records, she was the Chairman in 1974 and has been a constant attendee of the Mgmt. Comm. meetings for the past six years. We will miss her cheery disposition and wise counsel. Diana may be small in stature but when you need her she is nine feet tall. May I offer my personal thanks for all the good deeds she has done for the SPS.

Another reminder, that stream crossings are very dangerous this year. All leaders are urged to take along a rope and some biners to set up belays as needed. The subject was discussed in some detail in last month's Echo, but the presentation on stream crossings at the June meeting by Doug Mantle & Co really stole the show. Mary Omberg played the part of a tree (belay anchor) and Ted Pinson was the rushing waters of the stream. He grabbed all would be stream crossers. Our thanks to Doug. Show biz has hit the SPS.

GEORGE TOBY

Note: The British team retreated from K2 when Nick Escourt was killed in an avalanche. Doug Scott was spared when the rope which tied him to Escourt was cut by the avalanching snow and ice. The previous year Escourt broke both legs when climbing Ogre mtn near K2. K2 has been conquered only twice, in '54 by the Italians and in '77 by Japan.

COVER PHOTO: This scene is readily recognized by all SPSers and many others as being a view of Yosemite Valley as seen from Cloud's Rest. Photo by Cuno Ranschau on Aug 1, 1977.

HELP NEEDED! FOR SPS WINTER SCHEDULE (NOV. Through FEB.)

Take a few minutes now in July and think SNOW, NORDIC SKIING, SNOW & ICE TRAINING TRIPS, SNOW SHOEING etc.

Plan or help lead a trip to make YOUR best ever Winter Schedule. Send Trip Write-ups before JULY 17 to: Ron Jones
P. O. Box 172, Trona CA 93562 (I'll sure be thinking about snow this July and August!)

Follow the instructions for write-ups on Page 27 of current Schedule
HELP YOUR SECTION---LEAD A TRIP

The following is a partial list of SPS Members who are qualified to lead or assist trips. There are unintentional omissions and lack of up-dates from the Safety Committee. Sorry!

"E" LEADERS : Joe Adams, Tom Amneus, John Backus, How Bailey, Tren Bartlett, Bill Birnbaum, Paul Bloland, Jack Bradford, Bill Bradley, Maynard Brandsma, Hal Browder, Harry Brumer, Dave Burdett, Dennis Burge, Jim Butler, Fred Camphausen, Tom Cardina, Sid Davis, Diana Dee, Kim Ellis, John Finn, Elton Fletcher, Gene Gail, Rich Gnagy, Mark Goebel, Carl Heller, Bob Hicks, Al Hill, Ed Hill, Fred Hoeptner, Bill Hoover, George Hubbard, Jon Inskeep, Ron Jones, Walt Kabler, Jerry Keating, Roy Keenan, Paul Kluth, Dick LaBrecque, Dennis Lantz, Izzy Lieberman, Barbara Lilley, Paul Lipsohn, Ed Lubin, Jim Maclay, Gordon MacLeod, Roy Magnuson, Barbara Magnuson, Doug Mantle, Bob Mason, Gene Mauk, Dick May, Joe McCosker, Frank McDaniel, Harry McKellop, Duane McRuer, Frank Meyers, Jim Murphy, George Neuner, Gene Olsen, Horace Ory, Sy Ossosky, Bernie Petitjean, Cuno Ranschau, John Robinson, Norm Rohn, Tom Ross, Bill Russell, Dick Russell, Bill Schuler, Eric Schumacher, R.J. Secor, Randy Sheaff, George Shinno, Andy Smatko, Fran Smith, Steve Smith, Chuck Stein, Virgil Talbot, Jay Titus, George Toby, Ed Treacy, Tim Treacy, Dave Vandervoet, John Vitz, Roy Ward, Mike Wilkinson. OK! LETS LEAD A TRIP

"M" LEADERS: Jim Angione, Dick Banner, Don Beverage, Kurt Beyer, Cliff Black, Bob Boyles, Phil Bruce, Bob Cates, Maureen Cates, Lou Cavlieri, Jim Cervenka, Marlin Clark, Bruce Collier, Don Croley, George Davis, Jim Erb, John Finn, Andy Fried, Don Gabiner, Ralph Gabiner, Doris Golden, Bill Gray, Rita Gray, Ron Grinsteiner, John Hellman, Beth Henry, Henry Heusinkveld, Mel Johnson, Betty Cameron, John Kleinpeter, Chuck Kopenc, Ron Lake, Joe Landau, Mel Lee, Meridee Lantz, Priscilla Libby, George MacKelvey, Mike Manchester, Frank McDaniel, Don McLean, Ret Moore, Eivor Nilsson, Linda Parsons, Paul Parsons, Anna Lou Pinson, Ted Pinson, Ben Preyer, Barbara Reber, Ed Rose, Gordon Ruser, Chuck Sale, Bev Shultz, Don Sparks, Bill Stauffer, Mike Stein, Kevin Sullivan, John Tenero, Dale Van Dalsem, Thurman Vandemark, Joe Vasilik, Greg Vernon, Claude Walker, Betty Wallin, Dan Warner, Bob Wyka, John McCarthy, Jim Thompson, etc.

NOW YOU KNOW SOME OF YOUR POTENTIAL LEADERS AND ASSISTANTS

SEND ALL SIERRA TRIPS & TRAINING TRIP WRITE-UPS BEFORE JULY 17

This was supposed to be a bold, intrepid charge through winters worst to Mt. Morgan but nobody plowed the Rock Creek road this year and i'm not up to charging an extra 20 miles in March these days so we settled for a bold, intrepid charge up Mt. Tom instead.

Twelve ski mountaineers and one mortal met where snow met dirt road and up they went. It was actually an international party, with French, Italian, and someone from Orange county.

This was our usual highly successful winter climb, run annually to embarrass Diana Dee. Frankly, however, they're getting less highly successful each year, or so it seemed on this one.

We make it to Horton Lakes without incident and spent the next twenty hours extolling and ingesting Red Drink. Snowmen Sam and Duane slept in piles of snow; most, however, chose cabins and McKinley tents.

Frigid dawn came, at about 90° (it was not). After uncovering Sam and Duane we slogged up. And up. And up.

You thought Centennial was long? Mt Tom in deep snow in the heat is like LA to Macao by car. Later, anyway, we made it up.

The rest was not so uneventful. About 500' above camp the mortal began hyperventilating and losing feeling in his extremities. I suggested signing him out or, alternatively, rolling him to camp and was rewarded for my creative thinking with bivouac duty while the others got food, water, and down from on down. Well after darkness we go the mortal to the cabins at Horton Lake but it was too late to go out then even if we decided to abandon him.

Naturally, we were well prepared for the extra nite. I dined on Piz-Buin while the rest ate candy wrappers and old tea bags.

The morning ski run to the cars (yes, right to the cars) made the extra day worth it, except to the mortal. He joined us, well recovered, seven hours later.

We were met at the car, by the national guard, two air squadrons, and Mary Omberg. People had been worried, believe it or not.

In any event, it was a more exciting trip than usual, but successful none the less. Taht'll teach 'em for wearing snow shoes, eh?!!

Note: The Matterhorn Peak trip, set for a blizzardly weekend just weeks after Mt. Tom, will not be written up due to frostbite and a conclusive lack of anything on the trip to write about. Co-leader John McCarthy will answer any inquiries thereto.

THOR PK

13, 14 May, 1978

Jim Erb/Eric Schumacher

Jim Resh of Los Alamitos joined the leaders to make a threesome, attesting to the popularity of Thor Pk. Saturday we made camp at Outpost Camp, then climbed Thor via Mirror Lake. This is route 1 in Smatko's guide and route 2 in Roper's version. There is a 10-foot 3rd class cliff just above Mirror Lake; the rest is class 2. Sunday we hiked out early, just in time to watch the finish of the Death Valley to Whitney Portal bike race.

The first few hundred yards of the Whitney Trail were snow-free. After that we had typical spring snow. Jim Erb managed to fracture his wrist (navicular bone) by catching a fall on his outstretched right hand. The penalty for this folly is a full forearm cast for at least 6½ weeks!

HOMERS NOSE/NAVIGATION NOODLE (MAY 20-21).....BILL T. RUSSELL

Nineteen navigator/climbers met at the road head on the South Fork of the Kaweah River on Saturday morning. Most of the people had slept in the local campground Friday night, although much to our surprise it was almost completely full.

Our route was up the old trail on the west side of Pigeon Creek to Bennett Creek, where we made camp at a very nice spot. We stopped several times on the ascent for extended exercises in terrain to map recognition and in the use of the map and compass. The trail is no longer maintained but is in reasonable shape. At elev 5000 ft the trail goes to the west and then northeast up a broad ridge rather than going north up the steep side hill as shown on the topo.

During the afternoon in camp we planned the climb for the next day. Some people preferred a route from camp via the southwest ridge to the summit, and others preferred to hike the trail to the Salt Creek Ridge and thence along that ridge easterly to the summit.

Sunday morning we split into two groups and climbed via the two routes named above. The southwest ridge group went directly south from the camp to the saddle near Palmer Cave and thence up the ridge. The students took turns up front and got practice in route finding and in keeping track of map location at all times. Both parties reached the summit before noon, and we all descended via the southwest ridge. This ridge has a somewhat obscure genesis in a timbered area, which gave the student leaders good practice in route finding.

We were back to the cars in midafternoon to end a fine outing. Five people were checked off for Basic LTC navigation, and Joe Vasilik was designated an LTC navigation instructor.

On the way north Friday evening, three of us ate dinner at the Yen Ching Restaurant, which is just south of California Avenue on Oak Street in Bakersfield. Oak Street parallels the freeway on the east. We liked the food so much that we stopped there on the way home. We recommend it.

Thanks to How Bailey, Duane McRuer and Larry Tidball who are navigation instructors and who served as assistant trip leaders.

IMPROVE YOUR WORD POWER

AARDVARK: Heavy labor: "It's aardvark, but it pays well."

AMAZON: "You can pay for the eggs, but the Amazon me."

BACKWARD: Hospital section for sacroiliac cases.

BIGAMIST: Italian fog.

CACHE: In desperation, the Czechoslovakian midget pounded on his friend's door. "The Russian police are after me!" he cried. "Can't you please cache a small Czech?"

CATGUT: Our dog got fleas, but our catgut kittens.

DAIS: When the platform collapsed in the middle of his lecture, the professor picked himself up, sighed and said, "Some dais are like that!"

DUET: Pity the man who couldn't find anyone to sing with! He went out and bought a duet yourself kit.

EARL: When his lordship's crew mutinied during a storm, they poured the earl on the troubled waters.

EDIFICE: Sign on a junkyard fence: "Edifice wrecks."

We had 46 inquiries for the trip that was supposed to have gone to Sirretta and Taylor Dome, probably due to the fact that it was to be a slow paced, easy hike, and many people didn't have these peaks. However, it was necessary to change the trip to Sawtooth #1 and Lamont because the road to the other peaks was not open.

Sawtooth and Lamont were chosen as they are the next easiest in the southern Sierra, though harder than Sirretta and Taylor Dome. The road-head for Sawtooth is Chimney Creek Recreation Site. This road-head is reached by going north on 395 and turning left (west) on the Kennedy Meadow Road up Nine Mile Canyon for approximately 11 miles. Just past the Chimney Creek Fire station, less than .1 mile, turn left on a dirt road where a sign reads, "Chimney Creek Recreation Area". Take this dirt road about 4 miles to Chimney Creek Recreation Site, which is a campground.

Twenty two people met at 0800 at the sign and caravanned thru the camp to the road-head at the second crossing of Chimney Creek. There we parked the cars and started hiking SSE up to the ridge, then proceeded just below the ridge on the north side to the saddle just west of peak 7780. We then contoured on the west side of 7780, over the bump between 7780 and the peak (to avoid heavy brush), then on to the top. We made many stops on the way up and had two people join us for a while but they signed out again. We had 22 people on the top. We reached the top about 1230. After a leisurely lunch we headed back, following our trail to the saddle west of 7780. At the saddle we found fresh bear tracks but didn't see the bear that made the prints. From the saddle, we headed northwest back to the cars, dropping down and contouring as we went. This route went well until we hit the flat area in the canyon, where we ran into sage brush, but it wasn't a bad route. From the top it looked like a feasible route would go nicely from Lamont Meadow to the saddle between Sawtooth and VABM Lamont then north up the ridge to Sawtooth. However, since I haven't been this route I don't know for sure.

We spent the night at Chimney Creek Recreation Site campground with a campfire and the whole works. This camp has tables, water and outhouses.

We left camp at 0800 Saturday morning to caravan to Lamont, turned left at the sign, and drove to the Lamont roadhead. Keep left where the road to RockHouse basin and Domelands turns right. Follow road about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the high point of the ridge, a wide saddle, with parking area on the west, where the road starts down- park cars. Topo map shows this as a trail but it is now a good dirt road.

We started hiking from the saddle at about 0845, going directly up the ridge. There is a fair use trail. Contour on the south side of the ridge just below the summit of the bump between Lamont and the road to the saddle SW of Lamont. Follow the trail to the summit. The summit is just SW of the 'L' in Lamont. We had taken our time hiking up but still reached the top by 11:15. When we reached the top we found that this peak qualified 3 people to join the Sierra Peaks Section. A short lunch break for the 18 people who started and made the top, then back to the cars. We arrived back at the cars before 1400. Then 7 miles or so on south down the dirt road joining hwy 178, turned left, and thence 18 miles up over Walker pass to hwy 14. It was a nice trip, especially for the 3 people who qualified to join the SPS.

On Friday morning the Onion Valley parking lot was pretty much empty except for the seven aspirants hoping to climb Brewer. Starting up the trail, we were on snow within 500 feet. With the exception of some bare spots on southerly slopes, this was a snow trip all the way.

After making Kearsarge Pass and skirting the western shore of frozen Bullfrog Lake, we dropped down to Bubbs Creek, swollen with spring runoff. Crossing to the south side on snow bridges and a log, we made our way downstream to a point about 600 feet above Junction Meadow. Here we contoured around to East Creek and camped about 700 feet below East Lake.

Saturday morning we awoke to another beautiful day and started applying sunscreen right away. Leaving two who decided not to make the climb at camp, we proceeded to East Lake where we crossed the Middle Fork of Ouzel Creek and started up the East Ridge to Brewer. The snow was o.k. up to about 12,000 ft where it became miserably soft. Alternating leads we worked our way up to the South Ridge which was heavily corniced. Avoiding the cornice, Jim Butler found a fine route up the rock to the ridge and we were all on the summit shortly thereafter. The views of the surrounding snow-covered Sierra were exquisite in the high clear air.

Making our way back down the rotten slopes, we arrived at camp just before dark. It had taken fourteen hours for the round trip. A cheerful fire and hot soup helped to buoy up body and spirit, but there was little relief for the sunburns.

Sunday morning it was tough to get our tired bodies moving but we managed to leave camp by seven. About half way between Junction Meadow and the junction of the John Muir and Bubbs Creek Trails we found a large snow bridge which proved to be sturdy enough to cross, thus saving us a tough stream crossing. After arriving at Kearsarge Pass, the downhill to Onion Valley went quickly in spite of soft snow conditions. There was even some glissading on the steeper slopes.

Many thanks to Darrell Miller for helping to break trail on the peak climb.

B.B.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

by Ron Jones

July, 1958--Bill Sanders led a group of 34 climbers on the 3 day SPS 4th of July climb in the Kaweahs. There were 8 climbers from China Lake in the group. Monroe Levy became SPS member #110 on Big Kaweah. The ECHO reported on a late June trip to Matterhorn peak on which George Wallerstein slipped in a snow chute, and while glissading he jabbed the point of his ice axe through his thigh. First Aid was given and George was able to walk out to the cars. Andy Smatko reported on a private eight day peak-bagging trip into the King-Kern Divide with Bill Sanders and others. Andy reports that he used a mule to carry his climbing gear on the trip. I wonder how many peaks the mule got?

July, 1968-- Dick Beach's scheduled climb of Keith, Center and Bradley over July 4-6 had only 3 participants. Fred Hoeptner's trip to Mt. Goddard on the same weekend had 17 successful climbers. Later in the month John Robinson led a veritable army of 45 persons to the summit of Mt. Ritter on July 21. This broke the old Ritter record by 15! Twenty nine also climbed Banner and one person got Davis as well. A real group wilderness experience. Jerry Keating tried again to lead a party up Hitchcock after being rained out on attempts in previous years. You guessed it-- it was washed out again in '68. (He made it on the next try in another year).

TO THE SPS EDITOR ----- by Doug Mantle

Well, yes, I read Barbara Lilley's down turned letter in an earlier Echo, and I guess I thought it would be talked about. The impression I get is that Barbara is down on the SPS or the club, or both.

She's got some points. Now the club says "if something bad happens on a trip don't tell anyone how it happened because our insurance will go up". Then there are recurring statements about fees for trips, forced carpooling, etc. Then there is the whole leadership scheme which, I'm sorry Mac, seems to say "I don't care if you've been to the mountains before, but if you're going to lead Olancha you sure better know how to prusik."

Frankly, this sort of thing bears little resemblance to the club I joined nearly fifteen years ago. "Be the first one on your block with a Sierra Club T-shirt" isn't what captured my imagination. I'm afraid that the bureaucracy, bigness and b.s. we are told must occur for effective lobbying is filtering down to every cranny of the club, most especially outings. Even the "outings-oriented" candidates we elect to Excomm love rules to the detriment of recreation.

But, but that doesn't mean the club has passed us by or we should stay away. It's almost a cliché to say we should stay and make our views heard, but it's true. There are too many good SPSers on the rise who haven't hiked with Andy Smatko or skied with Barbara Lilley and I think, Barbara, that for our own good, we should stay and be heard. Let's lead trips where you can get ahead of the leader and don't have to crampon up on cue, in step. Let's promote climbing with friends in the Sierras as the ideal instead of following a LEADER through an exercise.

Barbara, let's hange in there and make our ridiculous views known. They may start things swinging the other way and besides, we enjoy hiking with you.

The Sierra ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club.

COPY: Send to Editor, Cuno Ranschau, 12744 Lorne st, No. Holly., CA 91605. Priority will be given to typed, single spaced copy.

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Diana Dee, 446 Palos Verdes Bl, Redondo Bch, CA 90277. The post office will not forward 3rd class mail.

INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to Anna Lou Pinson 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Northridge, CA 91326.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$4.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send to SPS treasurer: Mary Omberg, 4311 El Prieto, Altadena, CA 91001. New SPS applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for members of a family residing at one address.

AWARDS: Emblem Pins (\$7.50) and Patches (\$2.00) are available from the treasurer.

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