

The Sierra



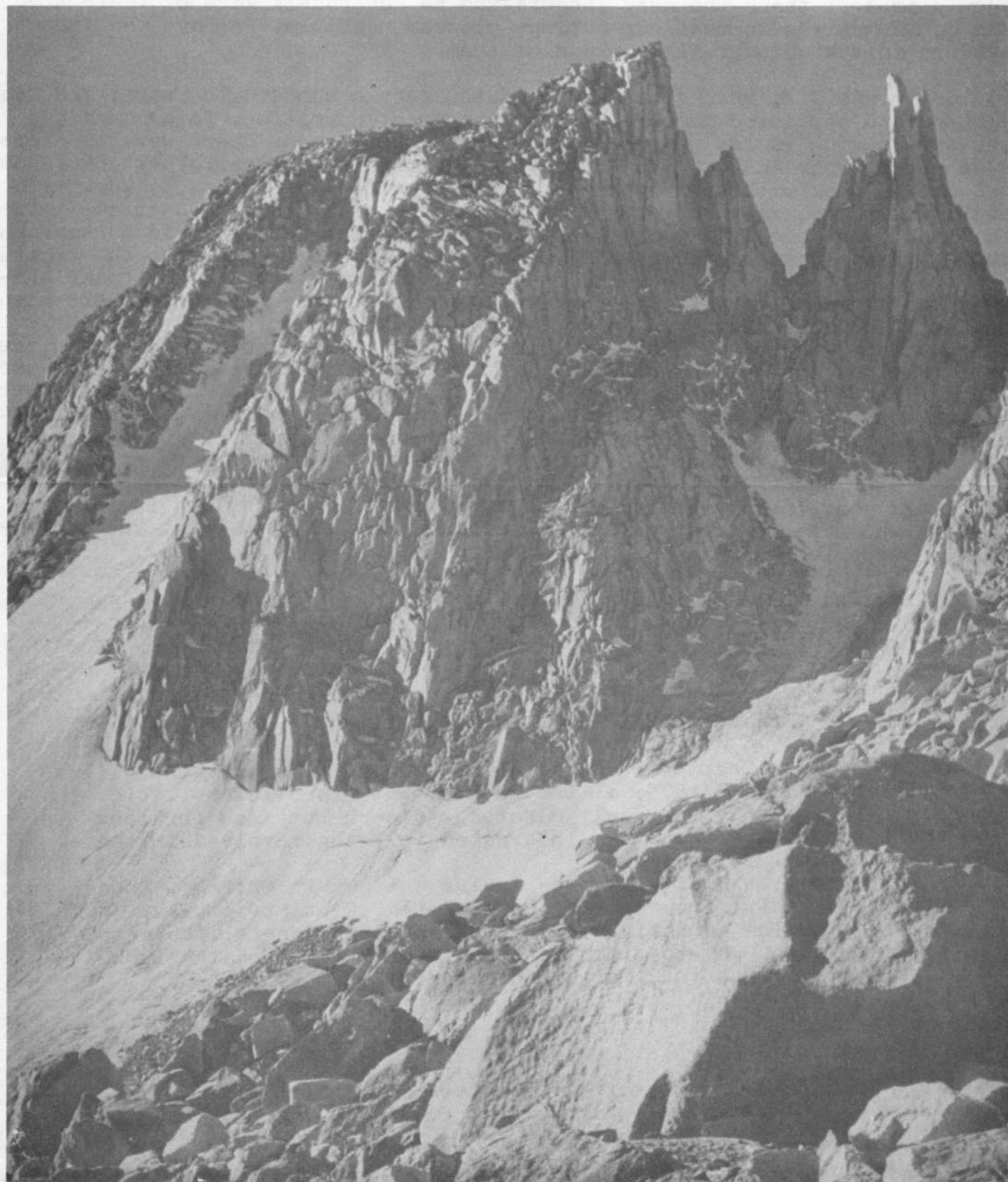
ECHO

VOLUME 22

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NO. 7



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Another year is drawing to a close. It has been a good year. The SPS has emerged financially sound and as vigorous, viable and healthy a mountaineering group as ever. We ran a full complement of accident free mountaineering trips in the High Sierras plus a vigorous training program with leader safety testing. Indeed safety has been the keynote this year. Our trips were well balanced from exposed 'E' climbs to many easy class two outings. A heavy snow year added to the variety, with most early trips automatically being snow climbs. I thank the many leaders who so generously gave of their time and of themselves to make our outings program possible. We have the finest leaders in the Chapter. I am proud of them.

It is time to give thanks to the dedicated people who did the work; the many elected and appointed members of the Management Committee. This committee was outstanding in the way they operated and performed. There were no stars; just a well coordinated group that worked smoothly together. They complemented one another with their teamwork. This committee was a joy to work with and I was privileged to be their chairman. On behalf of the Section, I wish to thank: Ron Jones, Vice Chairman and Schedule Chairman, he did a remarkable job by remote control from Trona; Gene Mauk, Secretary, who kept the records straight; Mary Omberg, Treasurer, she she kept all of us and the books honest; Bob Hicks, Alternate Officer and Council Rep, he was always there when needed; Cuno Ranschau, Echo Editor, journalistic mouthpiece of the SPS; Barbara Reber, Programs Chairman, fine variety of programs; Chuck Stein, he kept tract of Mountain Records and first aid kits with assistance from Gene Olsen; Greg Vernon, Conservation Chairman, kept us informed of vital conservation issues; Anna Lou Pinson, Echo Mailer, on time mailing with help from hubby Ted; Joe McCosker, Banquet Chairman, who never runs out of energy; Duane McRuer and Doug Mantle, Co Safety Chairmen, two towers of strength for training and safety. Special thanks to Dianna Dee who resigned midyear after six years as mastermind of the computerized records, and to Barbara Maguson who has picked up this vital role. I have enjoyed being your Chairman; an experience I will long remember.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and HAPPY CLIMBING to all.

George Toby

THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Angeles Chapter's annual Volunteer Training Workshop will be held Sat., Feb. 3, 1979, at the Dept of Water and Power. This workshop is not only for newly elected officers but also for long or short term members who are interested in being involved in the Sierra Club activities.

There will be mini-workshops during the day in Outings, Conservation, Membership, Programming, Fundraising, Club Structures, Newsletters, etc. The emphasis will be on "how-to, when-to, where-to, if-to, should-to, why-to". Contact: Don Sparks (SFV), Kathy Burke (WLA), Robert Siebert (OC), or Edith Roth (SFV)

COVER PHOTO: Do you recognize this emblem peak? You're looking at the northeast buttress of Abbot. Photo Oct 1975, by Hal Compton.

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

October 1978

New Members

(805) 498-4198
BENSON, Alan L. M 10-78
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Newbury Park, CA 91320

(805) 482-2461
BETTINI, Arthur M 10-78
1004 Beechwood St.
Camarillo, CA 93010

DIXON, Lance M 8-78
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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

(714) 552-7922
KNUTE, Adrienne M 9-78
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Irvine, CA 92715

620-0550
SAMPSON, Bill M 9-78
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Venice, CA 90291

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San Pedro, CA 90732

OMBERG, Ed
1055 Blanie St., Apt 63
Riverside, CA 92507

STOTT, Barbara A.
1015 Hartley Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

New Emblem Holders

381 WARNER, Dan 9-28-78
382 MILLER, Darell 10-20-78

New Senior Emblem Holders

~~41 VERNON, Gregory 10-11-78~~
~~42 JALT, Dick 10-17-78~~
~~43 LORR, Michael 10-30-78~~

LOST: Gold wedding band at Fossils
Falls on November 4, 1978.
Inscription: "Pauline 8.5.71"

Please contact:
Ron Milnarik
1931 Bonnie Brae
Riverside, CA 92506
(714) 682-8494

FOR SALE:
Camer, Rollei 35, 1/500 sec.
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\$75.00 Dick Jall
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(w) 670-1515
ext. 6522 or 3051

As it turned out, this was a successful grudge climb for several on the trip who had made previous attempts on the mountain. The trip into camp was most enjoyable, punctuated by a leisurely lunch stop and nap break on a sunny knoll. Of course, a group of seven more "active" hikers ate quickly and were off for Birch Mountain. This party included a fellow visiting from Israel. Being an avid skier and climber, he was anxious to experience some of our mountain climbing while here.

We reached camp below the lake early in the afternoon and selected bed sites as individual as the hikers. I'm always amazed at how people choose their spots. Some prefer dry, rock beds; some consider only a warm, grassy site suitable; but mine must be level with no rocks, so I opted for a flat snow field. To each his own!

The afternoon was spent in good conversation and refitting crampons and organization of summit packs, so everything would be ready for the early morning climb. As we were finishing dinner, the Birch party approached--successful, but tired and hungry.

Sunday morning saw twenty of us eager to be off. Only one of the party remained in camp waving and shouting encouragement. Elton Fletcher was able to say "I don't need this mountain, I think I'll rest in camp". The snow was good to within 100 feet of the top, where the rock was exposed. After all signing in and a brief rest, we glissaded most of the way back to camp and hiked out to the cars and home. This is the best kind of trip to be on. Everyone succeeding, no mishaps, and good company all the way.

Submitted by Anne Lou Pinson

Mt. Muir - East Buttress

Sam Roberts

The east buttress of Mt. Muir was climbed by Brian West and me on June 4th of this year. The base of the 2,000 foot climb was quickly reached from Trail Camp, on the Mt. Whitney trail via large talus blocks and snow. The first few hundred feet were good class four rock which we climbed unroped until a verticle wall forced us into an icy couloir. As we were without crampons, we were obliged to chop steps up two (now roped) pitches to a broken area on the prow of the buttress. From here, more steep, unroped climbing took us to a point where we could traverse down into a deep snow and ice chute. Up this, we alternately slogged and chopped steps to a rock wall about four hundred feet below the summit. After scrutinizing the precipice that now faced us, we decided upon trying a diagonal system of ledges and cracks which we hoped would take us to the summit ridge. The first pitch went up easy class five cracks to a small alcove. From here an improbable 5.2 fingertip traverse followed by small leges took us to the class three west side and the top.

Our day was finished by a traverse over Day and Keeler needles to Mt. Whitney and a fine ski run down to our vehicle at Whitney Portal.

8 June 1978

NEW ROUTE FOR THE EAST SUMMIT (14,125') OF MOUNT WILLIAMSON

Carl Heller

The bighorn sheep preserve has closed the easier routes on this peak and made it necessary to climb the more difficult route between December and May when the weather and snow are less than optimal. In May 1977 three of us tried the direct traverse from the Williamson plateau over peak 14,160+ to peak 14,125', and found it too difficult in the time available due to ice and cold weather. We thought that the South face of peak 14,125' looked reasonably climbable and this year seven of us found a route there.

The South faces of peaks 14,160+ and 14,125' can be seen from the Williamson plateau. Snow chutes from the central and western saddles join below peak 14,160+. Traverse East by descending the western chute 400' and ascending the central chute 100'. Then ascend a large side snow chute leading East onto the South face of peak 14,125' and toward the South buttress. Above the snow climb easy class 4 rock, zigzagging 200' to the buttress ridge which is class 3 to the summit. We think that the descent from the buttress to the snow would require two short rappels. The snow in the chutes is at 35-40 degrees which could be climbed without crampons this year.

We returned to the Williamson plateau by the direct traverse, partly to get an immediate comparison with the new route. We could not find the class 3 route down the "West" face of 14,125' and had to rappel on both routes our party tried. The traverse along the North side ledges was at least class 4 and was cold, icy and full of loose rock - quite unpleasant. From the saddle over peak 14,160+ the climbing was good class 3. This year, at least, the new South face route was easier than the old traverse although the 400' descent is discouraging.

We searched the summit of 14,125' for a cairn and register but could find neither and left our own. There may now be two since some earlier one may be under the snow. Our group of seven took from 0700 to 1800 to climb the three peaks of Williamson from a camp at 11,200' on George creek. It was a very pleasant alpine climb for Memorial Day weekend. Climbers, all from the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group were Dennis Burge, Arold Green, Dianne Lucas, Terry Moore, Bob Rockwell and Bob Westbrook.

IMPROVE YOUR WORD POWER

BELAYING: What you will be doing after you lie down.

BROADCAST: An all female play. BUCCANEER: Expensive corn.

CHAUFFEUR: Drives you to the poorhouse. "I spent all my money on cars and now have nothing to chauffeur it".

ROUGHAGE: The teen years.

LATH: In choosing a carpenter to install laths, always pick a slow and careful man because he whose laths last, laths best.

C. King, Cotter, & Gardiner June 30-July 4, Jim Butler, Bill Bradley

Early Friday morning nine participants (including the two leader) gathered at the Onion Valey roadhead for the long hike over Kearsage Pass to Sixty Lakes Basin. When originally scheduled the previous fall, July 4 seeme like it was late enough in the season to avoid any threat to snowfall, but with the unusually heavy snowfall, there was significant doubt as to whether the objectives could be accomplished. The group was strong and first season ascents were accomplished on Clarence King, Gardiner, and Cotter. The trip was complete with Jack Grams' earning his senior emblem, stream crossings with Dan Milaljevich catching 60 to 70 pound packs thrown across the stream (and sometimes participants), 4th of July fireworks and an exciting bivouac.

After the first day's hike in, everyone started out early for Clarence King. Three participants turned back at an inauspicious-looking overhanging cornice. Through the persistent ice-chopping of Bill Bradley and some tricky gymnastics by Virgil Talbott, coupled with some Norman Clyde-type attempts at lassoing the rock on the other side of the cornice, the main body of climbers was able to surmount the cornice on the shoulder of Clarence King (tall man that Clarence King--Ed.) and work its way up the fourth class ridge for the summit. Thanks to the excellent directions from Bob Hartunian, the route was found with no difficulty, though Jack Grams had to remove his jacket in order to squeeze through the chimney just below the summit block. The summit was not reached until three o'clock and the group enjoyed the fine view for all too short a time before a hasty descent was commenced.

In setting up a rappel anchored to the two old pitons just below the summit block, one of the petons was pulled free with finger pressure. The group then established a 'bomb-proof' anchor point with approximately 25 feet of one-inch nylon webbing and moved on off the mountain. Complete darkness found the group moving over third-class rock and some distance from camp with a monor disagreement as to the appropriate direction for camp. A marvelous bivouac was held, greatly reminiscent of a slumber party. A water party was organized and plenty of water was available for the long night. A firewood group was organized and a blazing bonfire was kept going all night long. The group slept off and on and chatted sleepily through the cold night, occasionally a bit of cheese or crackers was circulated or some lemonade or some other treat. At the crack of dawn the group headed back to camp and met three would-be rescuers who had returned to camp the earlier day when confronted by the cornice.

A rest day was declared and the hungry climbers had such gourmet delights as spaghetti for breakfast. Sunning, fishing, and sleeping were the order of the day.

Early the next morning the group set out for and accomplished Gardner and Cotter. Again, Bob Hartunian's directions were impeccable. The group moved all the way to the second belay point before they realized they were supposed to need a belay. On the way back down, approximately half of the party ran up from the saddle to the summit of Cotter. Although another bivouac seemed imminent, the group arrived at camp by flashlight just as complete darkness engulfed the Sixty lakes Basin area.

The next day the group hiked out over Dragon Pass and was at the cars fairly early for the drive home. Although it is somewhat more difficult than Kearsarge Pass, there is no question that Dragon Pass is the preferable route because it cuts off so much distance and makes Sixty Lakes Basin reachable far more quickly.

High precipitation years can add their own spectacular touch to the mountains as well as providing misery and danger to the wilderness visitor. On this trip it was the spectacular that was the keynote as the waterfalls of Yosemite Valley were giving their finest performance.

The point of departure was changed from the Mono Meadows trail to Glacier Point in order to take advantage of the bridge over Illilouette creek. Although $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles further in distance, this route passed by Illilouette Falls, over Panorama Cliffs above Yosemite Valley, and then turned south .9 miles from the roaring Nevada Falls. The photographs taken during the first two hours of hiking were alone worth the trip to Yosemite this weekend.

Mt. Clark is the outstanding peak of western Yosemite. From other points in the area, its summit rises as a great edifice above the surrounding forest, while from its summit is seen the Minarets, Mt. Ritter, Mt. Lyell, the domes and spires of the Cathedral Range, Half Dome, Starr King, and the snow covered north faces of the southern Sierra Nevada.

The peak is named after Galen Clark, who with the assistance of John Muir, California Senator Conness, and his pet bear "Yosemite", was responsible for persuading President Abraham Lincoln to set aside a large area of the present park as a federally protected area.

The cross-country route up the Clark fork to the base of the peak passes through dense forest strewn with obstacles, a few swamps, and at least one stream crossing. After following an east bearing paralleling the Clark fork a few hundred feet to the south of the stream, there was some confusion as to the group's position. After crossing what proved to be the Clark fork, camp was established at 5:00 pm at the 8700' level in the Gray creek basin. Fine campsites were later observed at 9200'. Reaching these requires very steep climbing for the last 500'.

The route chosen on Mt. Clark was an ascending traverse of the east side of the southwest arete, finished off by two nice jamcracks which led to the summit at 8:15 am.

Four of the party descended to camp and were back to Glacier Point by 4:30 pm. Three of us went over and climbed Gray Peak followed by Red and Merced Peaks on Monday. The last three peaks have no registers or canisters and are apparently climbed only two or three times per year. A film can on Merced held the signatures of the participants of a 1976 SPS trip on the back of a large "Band-Aid" wrapper. Although faded, the smiling face trademark of Dianna Dee was unmistakable.

The leader would like to thank the Hollemans for getting the group out of the sack at 4:30 am, Dick Banner for donating this weekend to colead the trip, and to Cathy Crandall for providing libation. It was a fine climb of a beautiful mountain, but, alas, there were no dancing bears.

Eleven hardy climbers assembled at Twin Lakes Saturday morning, and hiked up beaver-filled Horse Creek to the usual campsite just south of the Matterhorn-Twin Pks pass. There, while being watched by large hungry marmots, we had a brief lunch and discussed the afternoon's itinerary. After setting up marmot defenses, eight sauntered off for Virginia, while three remained loafing in camp, and, in due course, the top of Virginia was reached by all concerned, and good views were had of much of Yosemite. There was some comment as to how difficult Whorl appeared from the east, and a look at the south ridge of Twin convinced us that that peak could wait for another day. Upon returning to camp, we found all food intact, though one marmot had munched his way through Duane McRuer's T-shirt (the Cal Tech T-shirt?). After a pleasant, mosquito-free evening, all turned in early - though it was rumored that Jon Petitjean did some late evening socializing with a young gal camped nearby...

Sunday morning came early at 4:30, and soon we were on the way to Whorl, treading cautiously on slippery suncups. We hiked due south on an obvious bench, then moved up from the S.E. side into a long, rather steep gully ending at the low point on the ridge between Whorl and its southern sister. At a point about 150 feet below the ridge, near a small notch, we crossed over into a large gully to the north, maneuvering carefully over a stretch of hard, steep snow, and then into a second gully with a very large chockstone at its head (this is essentially the route described in the July 76 Echo, though only one gully is actually crossed - not two). Here, after some 4th class scouting by Mac and Fred Camphausen, it was decided to ascend by way of a narrow chute located about 50 feet south of the large chockstone (the route next to the chockstone is more difficult, lacking good handholds), and a belay was set up at a midway point in the chute, with George Toby doing the honors. Though some loose rock was encountered, all climbers finally reached the top of the ridge, and then we proceeded up the west side of Whorl along a beautiful airy ledge, then crossed through a narrow slot to the east side, and shortly thereafter all eleven of us reached the top, just at 10 AM.

The descent was uneventful, though considerable caution was necessary while rappelling down the chute because of loose rock (it would have been better to have rappelled from the large chockstone). We reached camp at 1:30, had lunch, then walked down to Twin Lakes - and so ended a very pleasant weekend.

- HM

Mt. Dade, Bear Creek Spire: July 22,23, Dale Van Dalsem, Jon Hardt

Twenty-four people and several thousand mosquitoes met at Rock Creek roadhead at 6:45 AM, picked up wood on the way in and dropped packs on the low moraine between the Treasure Lakes. Sixteen of us left for Mt. Dade, a group of 6 attempted Abbott unsuccessfully, and 2 snoozed in camp.

We logged up the steep snow-filled chute just south of Dade, then scrambled up just to the left of the south-east arete. All 16 were on top before 2 P.M. and back in camp shortly after 4 PM following a great glissade.

Lack of spaces forced about a fourth of the party to camp on snow, but warm, windless, cloudless weather prevented this from being unpleasant.

Sunday, 22 ambitious souls left at 6AM for Bear Creek Spire. Two dropped out about half-way up. A few wore crampons during the first hour, then we found some patches of good class 2 rock and got on an almost snow-free lateral moraine just north of B.C.S. and followed it almost to the B.C.S.-Dade ridge. The last hundred yards were up a steep snow chute. We then scrambled up B.C.S.'s northwest talus slope and climbed a crack about 150' NNW of the summit block. All 20 did the summit and downclimbed without a belay. Most of the 15 who did the summit block used a belay, however. A long series of bumpy, fun glissades got us back to camp about 1:30 PM. Tigers were out to their cars before 4PM and all by 5:10.

D. Mantle, J. McCarthy, and I decided to see what PB was like and followed the SPS Abbot-Mills group as far as Ruby Lake and then hung a right to Mono Pass. There was plenty of snow after said lake but quite consolidated. The 'horse people' had made a route for themselves but missed the trail- mostly.

From Mono Pass, Doug and I hassled the sun cups part of the way to mt Starr. Nice summit and good views all around. After which we returned, picked up packs and headed to lake 10,400' SE of Hopkins.

Doug and I took off for Huntington addressing it via the SW ridge. This terrible scree slope eventually attains the gentle slope to the false summit $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S of the peak. The ridge run to the peak redeems this from an otherwise horrible climb. We returned to camp in time for the mosquitoes to enjoy their dinner and induce happy dreams.

Next a.m. we headed N and finally split with John and me following off the ridge on an easy route finding job to attain Stanford, while Doug turned a left for Crocker. We couldn't stick around for Paul, Vi, and Mike who were climbing from the N, so we returned as we came. John retreated to camp and I had to see what Crocker had to offer. The guide says it's class one from the E or S. Fortunately that is a Crocker Baloney!! Instead the east ridge is good 3rd class but the south ridge can be more easily negotiated. From the saddle S of the peak I followed Doug's new steps down the snow slope. Slopes easily negotiated with an ice axe are done with trepidation without one. The snow was soft now and I had to rattle the sun cups a long way back. After which it was the Big Grunt back over Mono Pass.

It's too bad there is not a first class peak in this area----- everyone should want to spend some time in Pioneer Basin.

Mt. Brewer and North Guard August 3-6

Chuck Stein and Dick Jali

The trip was scheduled for Friday thru Sunday, but the only permit available started on Thursday, August 3. Since we were starting on Thursday, and some wanted a full day at work on Wednesday, the Kings Canyon road head meeting time was set at 10:30 a.m. Ten participants climbed to lake 9610 7:00 p.m. on Thursday. A Friday assault of the peaks would get us out a day early. A beautiful morning dawned on Friday, but the weather steadily deteriorated. By the time we reached lake 11,200 just below the V-notch, the weather was really threatening. Reluctantly, we headed back to lake 9610. Of course, the weather began to look slightly better during the descent until the heavens opened up. Thunder! Lightning! Rain! We couldn't even move our camp to lake 10,520. Saturday, we again headed for the peaks. Dick lead half the group up North Guard and I lead (followed) with the remaining to the summit of Brewer. It started hailing, lightning and thundering as we got off the peaks, but all North Guard climbers except Dick (he had already bagged Brewer) climbed this emblem peak. They somehow managed to make a class 3-4 climb out of an easy Class 2 route while surrounded by some hail and lightning. Dick took the Brewer climbers back and I waited at the V-notch for the four who bagged both peaks.

After an evening of war stories around the campfire and a good nights sleep, we headed out early Sunday morning, reaching the cars before noon.

We are all in debt to Dick Jali's filling-in for Mike Stein who was unable to lead for medical reasons. The lesson learned from this trip is: If the weather's bad, start a day early!

PEAK BAGGING IN COLORADO

For Californians who find a challenge in "peak lists" or just like to see new country, the Colorado climbers' list of "their" 14,000' peaks (54) provides a worthwhile incentive for visiting different mountain areas of that state. The easier peaks, at least, are climbed by several hundred people each year from all over the U.S.; many peaks have foot trails, which are helpful in finding the routes. The summer weather appears little worse than that encountered in the Sierra in recent years (hurricanes, cold fronts, etc.) but afternoon & evening thunderstorms are more common, so it is recommended to be off the peaks by 1 PM DST. However, by carrying a tarp in addition to a good complete rain suit, it is often possible to wait until the storm passes in (hopefully) a safe place and still reach the summit.

Indispensable is the brand new (1978) revision of a booklet called "The Colorado Fourteens", obtained from the Colorado Mountain Club, 2530 W. Alameda Ave., Denver, Colo. 80219, \$2.25 postpaid. This gives the latest preferred route(s) and the topographic maps required. It rates 12 peaks as "Easy" (Class 1 to 2), 28 are "Moderate" (strenuous) or "Moderate-Rope" (Class 3 to 4 depending on the conditions) and 14 are "Difficult" (Class 4 or above depending on conditions).

In addition, Robert Ormes' "Guide to the Colorado Mountains" is quite helpful for information on alternate routes and National Forest maps altho it is sometimes out of date. USFS maps of Colorado can be obtained for 50 cents each from: Forest Service, USDA: Visitor Map Sales, D1; 11177 West 8th Ave.; P.O. Box 25127; Lakewood, Colo. 80225.

The writer has made two separate trips to Colorado and the following comments on the peaks climbed are intended to supplement the new issue of "The Colorado Fourteens".

Aug. 13-21, 1977, with Henry Heusinkveld (all 1-day climbs from the car)
Sawatch Range

Mt. Elbert (USFS Map: San Isobel) - Trail to summit; described in "The Fourteens"

Mt. Massive (USFS Map: San Isobel) - Route as described in "The Fourteens"

La Plata Pk. (USFS Map: San Isobel) - Route used in 1977 no longer accessible, but road for new approach route described in "The Fourteens" also provides access to other 14,000' peaks.

Huron Pk. (USFS Map: San Isobel) - Route as described in "The Fourteens".

Mt. Yale (USFS Map: San Isobel) - Route as described in "The Fourteens".

San Juan Range

Red Cloud & Sunshine Pks. (USAF: Uncompahgre) - To find start of trail going up NW side of Silver Creek, park car just after road crosses Silver Creek and follow steep jeep road 1½ miles to end, where trail starts. Remainder of route described in "The Fourteens" is correct.

Handies Pk. (USAF Map: Uncompahgre). Alternate route is to drive 4 miles further up Cinnamon Pass road to where a 4-wheel-drive road branches left into American Basin. Park & follow road to head of basin (water polluted by sheep), then go east and north up peak to summit.

July 22-31, 1978, with G. MacLeod & Erick Schumacher

San Juan Range

Windom Pk., Sunlight Pk., Mt. Eolus (USFS Map: San Juan). For info on train service, write to: Agent - Rio Grande Depot, Durango, Colo. 81301. Its possible to purchase a round trip ticket to Needleton with one-way reservations from Durango; inquire about price. (Return to Durango is easy especially on the second train as passengers often return by bus.) Windom Pk. is Cl. 2; Sunlight may require ice ax plus light rope for Cl. 3 in summit area. For Mt. Eolus, a route not described is to head up Chicago Basin on the trail to the lakes until east of the peak, then west up a snowslope (ice axes recommended). Climb up to the N-S Eolus ridge; follow ridge south onto east face and follow series of

Peak Bagging in Colorado (Cont.)

ledges up middle of face to summit. Some moves are high Class 3; a rope should be carried. After climbing Eolus, it is possible to rush out and catch the last train that day to Durango.

Sneffels Range

Mt. Sneffels (USFS Map: Uncompahgre). Route as described in "The Fourteens"; ice axes and Class 3 rope recommended in event of steep snow in couloirs. Since only high clearance vehicles can go much beyond the Early Bird Mine turnoff, it is recommended to rent a jeep in Ouray and drive all the way to end of road.

San Miguel Range

Wilson Pk., Wilson Mtn., El Diente. (USFS Maps: San Juan, Uncompahgre). Easiest way to climb all 3 peaks is to pack into excellent campsites 1 mile above Navajo Lake and climb one peak each day, packing out the afternoon of the 4th day. Very good luck on the weather (i.e., no afternoon thunderstorms) might permit 2 peaks to be climbed in 1 day but don't plan on it. In addition to approach described in "The Fourteens", Navajo Lake can be reached by a trail directly up the West Dolores River. Altho start is lower, it avoids several ups and downs and 2 stream crossings. All 3 peaks have some high Class 3 so rope should be carried; in addition the north face of El Diente (easiest route) may require ice axes--crampons were useful in the morning.

Although 1977 reflected the drought, the flowers encountered on the July 1978 trip had to be seen to be believed--it was easy to see why the columbine is the state flower! Mosquitoes were encountered in moderate numbers; however, be aware that there are several kinds of biting flies and use repellent against them also.

And, as frustrating as it may be to some bureaucratic types, Colorado is one place where one can still truly enjoy "freedom of the hills". Altho there are Wilderness and Primitive Areas, there is no permit or quota system and no camping or campfire restrictions (except in the highly regulated Rocky Mountain National Park); other than those dictated by common sense and wilderness etiquette, on any public lands. Even car camping is rarely restricted to established campgrounds.

Helpful Hint Department

1. To help avoid safety hazards connected with wire retaining rings on packframes, remove and discard the long wire rod and re-install clevis pins with rings on the inside. This method also eliminates loss of clevis pins that occurs when rod is accidentally pulled out when going through brush (the "zipper effect").
2. When purchasing a waterproof item, such as a stuff bag, rain wear or pack cover, obtain some waterproof seam sealant and coat seams inside and out. No manufacturer bothers to do this (except possibly on tents.). In addition, occasionally check continuing waterproofness as some material loses its coating after several years. (Otherwise, the next Sierra hurricane may check it out for you!)
3. Using packframe sleeping bag straps 4 or 5 feet long reduces chance of loss as straps can remain fastened after bag is removed; also offers optional place to attach another item such as pad or tent.

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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.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
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