

The Sierra



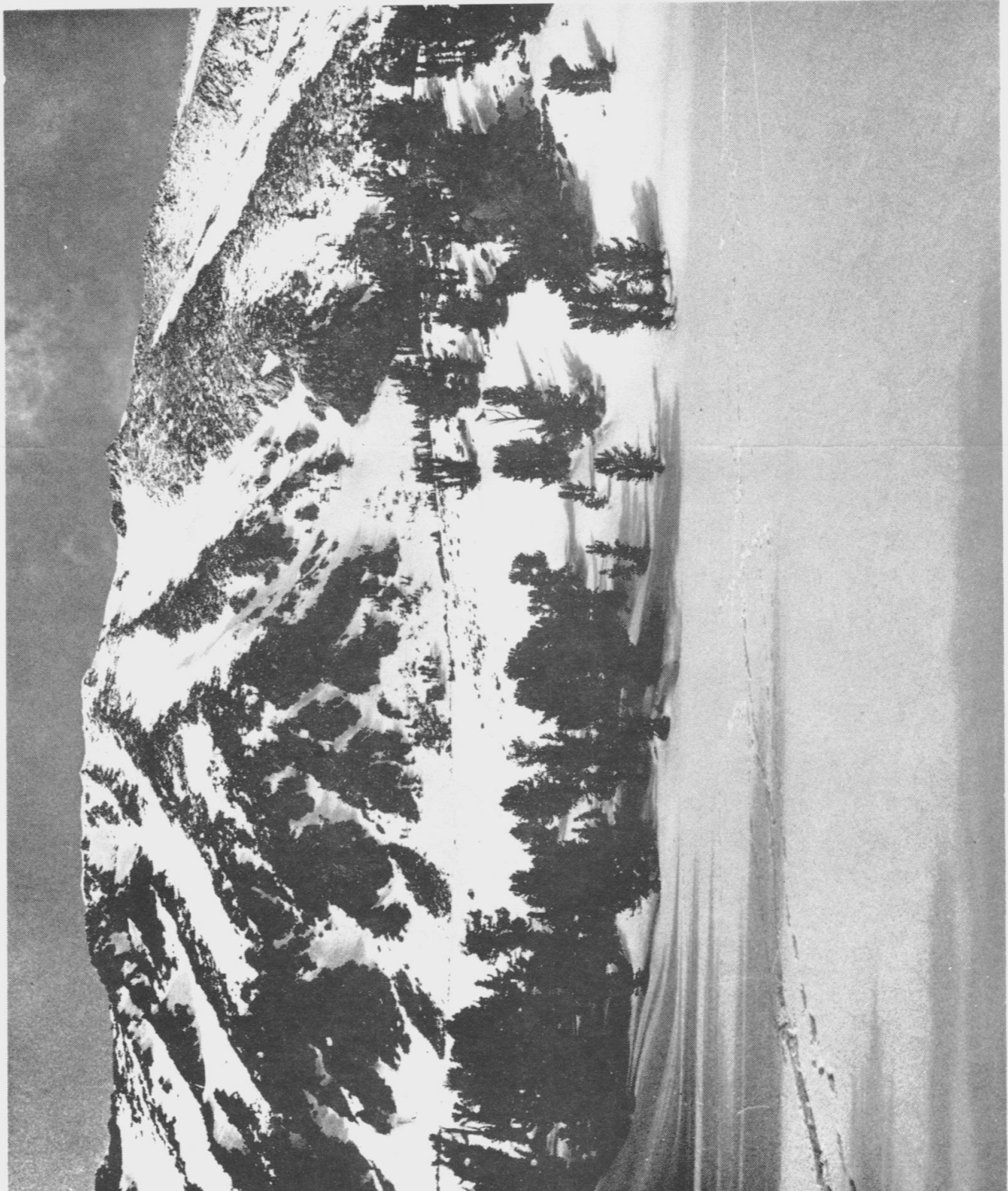
ECHO

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NO. 3



From the Chairman:

Many thanks to Bill T. Russell and his excellent job of bringing the SPS Peaks List up to date. The major change was that Emblem Peaks are no longer considered Mountaineer's peaks as well. The other changes included minor adjustments in elevation and in the rating of difficulty to reflect current opinion.

With the start of the Sierra season upon us, I would like to mention two points for the membership's consideration:

The first is no-shows. We have a fine summer schedule lined up, due in part to our leaders volunteering their time and efforts to organize these trips. Most trips have a limit set by the Wilderness Permit system, and so some have a waiting list. Let's show our leaders the consideration they deserve by notifying them in advance if you cannot make the trip.

The second point is first aid supplies. All of our leaders have been trained in first aid techniques and it is our policy that a fully equipped kit be carried on every trip. However, in the event of a real emergency, the supply of dressings and bandages may be used up rapidly. I would like to encourage every participant to carry along a supply of large sterile pads or dressings and at least one triangular bandage. To help prevent depletion of section kits, a supply of band-aids, aspirin, and moleskin would also be helpful.

Bill B.

New Members	Membership Changes	Mountaineers List
Maris Valkas	April/May 1981	Dale Van Dalsem
Chris Yager	_____	
Ronald Hudson	(as of 5/15)	Reinstated Members
		Jack Cook
		Echo Subscriber
		Cynthia Praul

COVER PHOTO: This photo was certainly not taken in a low snow year like this year. It is Inconsolable Peak from the south with Swift lake covered by last years crop of snow. Photo thanks to Vic Copelan.

1981 SPS SUMMER AND FALL SCHEDULE

M 7/9-12	Dicks, Tallac, Granite Chief, Tinker Knob, Castle, Rose	Dave Dykeman, George Toby
E 7/10-12	Darwin, Mendel	Art Blauvelt, Fred Camphausen
M 7/11-12	Florence	Tony Mindlin, Andre Korbut-Weburg Joanie Desenkolb
M 7/18-19	Mt Abbot	Albert Owens, Art Blauvelt
M 7/18-19	Cirque, Langley	Dave Dykeman, Roy Magnuson
M 7/18-19	Diamond, Baxter	Cuno Ranschau, Don Sparks
M 7/18-19	Royce, Merriam, Julius Caesar	Al Benson, Kevin Sullivan
M 7/23-26	Arrow, Ruskin	Jay Titus, Ret Moore
M 7/24-26	Pinchot, Wynne	Lou Brecheen, Ron Jones
M 7/25-26	Sawtooth, Needham	George Toby, Mel Lees
E 7/25-26	Seven Gables plus others	Jim Murphy, Fred Camphausen
M 7/25-27	Morrison, Bloody, Baldwin, Red Slate	Al Benson, Mary McMannes
E 8/1-2	Gardiner, Baso	Art Blauvelt, Fred Camphausen
E 8/3-12	Teton Range Peakbag	Virgil Talbott, Gene Mauk
M 8/7-9	Brewer, South Guard	Dave Dykeman, Mary McMannes
M 8/8-9	Dragon	Tony Mindlin, Andre Korbut-Weburg Joanie Desenkolb
E 8/8-9	Humphreys	Bob Hartunian, Dave Vandervoet
M 8/8-9	Sirretta, Taylor Dome, Cannel Pt	Jackie Van Dalsem, Eivor Nilsson
E 8/8-16	Base Camp, Peaks of the Black Divide	R.J. Secor, Fred Camphausen, Barbara Reber, Bill Bradley
M 8/12-16	Goddard, The Hermit	Jay Titus, Dave Heaney
M 8/14-16	Ritter, Banner	Jon Lutz, Larry Machleder
M 8/15-16	University, Independence	Jackie Van Dalsem, Art Blauvelt
E 8/15-22	Pettit, Piute, Volunteer, Twin, Virginia, Whorl, Matterhorn	Dave Vandervoet, Larry Hoak
M 8/22-23	University, Center, Bradley, Keith	Kevin Sullivan, Gerry Holleman
E 8/28-30	Starr King, Clark	Dave Perkins, George Davis
M 8/28-31	Hilsard, Recess, Gabb	Bill T. Russell, Duane McRuer
E 9/4-8	Kings/Kern, Great Western Div.	Fred Camphausen, Jim Murphy
M 9/5-7	Abbot, Mills, Gabb, Morgan #1	Dale & Jackie Van Dalsem
I 9/5-7	Langley	Jerry Keating, Walt Whisman
M 9/5-7	Red Slate, Red and White	George Neuner, Al Hill
E 9/12-13	Clyde Minaret	Dale Van Dalsem, George Toby
E 9/12-13	Palisades Crest	Gordon MacLeod, Bill Sanders
M 9/12-13	Tower	Walt Kabler, Mary McMannes
M 9/19-20	Asassiz, Goode	Albert Owens, Art Blauvelt
M 9/19-20	Harrington, Kennedy	Doug Mantle, Don Sparks
M 9/19-20	Muah, Cartago	Lou Brecheen, Bill Bradley
M 9/19-20	Red Slate, Red and White	Pat Holleman, Sherry Sullivan
M 9/19-20	Silver Peak	Theresa Rutherford, Jim Erb
E 9/26-27	Kettle Dome	Gordon MacLeod, Erick Schumacher
M 9/26-27	Middle Palisade	Nancy Gordon, Fred Camphausen
M 9/26-27	Stanford, Morgan (North)	Bob Hicks, Duane McRuer
E 9/26-28	Norman Clyde, Middle Pal, Disappointment	Dale Van Dalsem, Jim Murphy
M 10/3-4	Alta	Dave Burdett, Pat Lavensood
M 10/3-4	Baso, Rixford	Mary McMannes, Walton Kabler
M 10/3-4	Iron Mtn	Jim Erb, Theresa Rutherford
M 10/3-4	Muah, Cartago	George Neuner, Al Hill
E 10/3-5	Darwin, Mendel	Ron Jones, Marlin Clark
M 10/10-11	Aquila, Owens, Morris	Jackie Van Dalsem, Art Blauvelt
M 10/10-11	Moses, N. Maggie	Al Benson, Roy Magnuson
M 10/31-11/1	Glass, Conness	Ron Jones, Marlin Clark

Big Pine, Inyo Co., Calif., Oct. 21-60

The Sierra Peaks Section,

The Sierra Club,

Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I feel that I owe you an apology for not having made a formal acknowledgment of the honor conferred upon me at last Saturday's banquet in the form of a Sierra Peaks Medal.

By way of alibi: I might say that for many years I have seldom addressed a public gathering and that occasionally my address slips a cog or two.

You may rest assured that I duly appreciate the honor conferred and that I shall treasure the medal received.

Yours truly,

Norman Clyde

GEMINI, SEVEN GABLES, HOOPER, SANGER
LABOR DAY WEEKEND 1980 BILL T. RUSSELL

Members of the Russell family climbed these peaks on a four-day Labor Day weekend of lovely weather. We crossed Florence Lake on the 0900 ferry (\$3.25 one way) on Saturday and hiked to Blayne meadow where we took the old short cut trail, which is shown on the topo, and which is quite good, to the Upper Sally Keyes Lake where we camped. On Sunday we went to Selden Pass, then east over the ridge, around the south end of Three Island Lake and more or less straight on to the top of Gemini over ground with no problems. From Gemini we went northwest to the south slope of Seven Gables and then up the 2nd class slope to the flat top which is about 30 meters below and 100 meters south of the summit but separated from it by a knife edge ridge. To get to the summit we went down a bit and then up a chimney or wide crack for about 100 ft to a point about 20 ft below the summit. From here we went to the left around and under a slightly overhung block and then to the right a few feet to the summit. The climbing was high 3rd or easy 4th class. We descended the northwest slope of Seven Gables to Sandpiper Lake, then over to Marie Lake and back to Sally Keyes Lake. On Monday we returned to Selden Pass, then went west over easy walking slabs through the saddle southeast of Hooper, and thence up the south slope to the summit block. I climbed the block on the right shoulder and my son climbed via the 4" crack in the center. Both ways have two or three moves at the start that would be called easy 5th class on a longer pitch, but the exposure is not bad and the moves are not hard. A shoulder stand would probably turn it into 3rd class. A rope would certainly be needed for a regular SPS trip. The Climbers Guide mentions a "7 rung Ladder" and a "loop of rope" to assist climbers on the summit block, but no trace of such aids were found. We returned to Selden Pass and then went to the southeast up fine slabs to the sandy notch just west of "M" in "Mt Senger" on the topo and thence to the top of Senger. We descended over sandy slopes to the south and west to Sally Keyes Lake. On Tuesday we hiked down the Muir Trail and found it very dusty because of horse traffic from the Muir Trail Ranch. We visited the ranch, then went to the boat landing and caught the 12:30 boat back to the road end. Register condition is:

Gemini: Needs a container and book. Now has only a sheet of paper from 1978.

Seven Gables: Needs a container and book. Now has only a 1978 poor book in a Ziploc bag.

Hooper: Needs a container but has a good 1975 book.

Sanger: Now has a 1940 brass tube container and an ok 1978 book.

Where have all the old books gone??

There was a young man from Lime,
Who married three wives at a time,
When asked, "Why a third"?
He said, "One's absurd,
And bigamy, sir, is a crime".

There was a young man named Phidius,
Whose methods in art were invidious,
He carved Aphrodite without any nitie,
Which shattered the ultrafastidious.

There was a man from Nantucket,
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.
When his daughter named Nan,
Ran off with a man.
And as for the bucket--Nantucket.

Paw followed the pair to Pawtucket,
(The girl and the man with the bucket)
He said to the man "you're welcome +
Na
But as for the bucket---Pawtucket.

Q: What do you get when you add sugar to hamberger meat?

A: Sweetish meat balls.

The Mauk's and Conrad's attacked these peaks with vigor and had a great time, but to our dismay and that of our families we didn't get back to the roadhead until 7:45 a.m. on the 4th. There were some lessons to be shared.

Five of us left the South Fork Trailhead on Saturday morning about 7:30 and arrived at our camp at a small lake south of Temple Crag and Contact Pass by 3:00 p.m. After a short rainy period, four of us climbed Temple Crag via the Class 3 route discussed in the Climber's Guide. We descended the prominent steep chute (between the dark rocks and Contact Pass); having to traverse back (north) toward the dark rocks for the last 200 feet or so of descent. The descent was a little steep, but there were good holds and relatively clean rocks.

Sunday morning found all five of us heading for Polemonium, ascending the prominent snow chute (north) of Mt. Sill. We found staying to the left of the subsequent chute above the glacier was a straightforward means of attaining the saddle between Sill and Polemonium. Attaining the summit of Polemonium requires a 25' descent into a notch at the end of the main ridge after which a short knife edge ridge must be ascended. On the descent from the summit, after leaving the knife edge, Al discovered a series of horizontal and sloping cracks and ledges that went rather easily and allowed us to return to the main ridge of the mountain without descending into and re-climbing from the gully into which we had rappelled on the ascent. This horizontal traverse (not easily seen from the main ridge) could have been used on the ascent and would have eliminated the need for the rappel.

We quickly regrouped and climbed Sill as the youngsters had never climbed it before. The view was excellent. After packing our gear and leaving the campsite we ran out of daylight before getting back to the trail above Willow Lake. To avoid the talus we crossed the stream and paralleled it on the west side, anticipating crossing the creek flowing from Brainard Lake. We could not find a place to cross the creek in the dark and chose to wait until daylight. Even with daylight, the creek crossing near the confluence of the Brainard and Elinore outlets was sporty. The Conrad clan in camp was close to calling the sheriff when we arrived.

We learned:

- a) Getting that one last easy peak before going back to camp uses precious amounts of daylight.
 - b) Flashlights are really and important essential, and ALL should have one.
 - c) The topo map between Willow Lake and the trail crossing below Brainard Lake doesn't represent the terrain very well.
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MENDEL, GOETHE, THE HERMIT

AUGUST 8-11, 1980 BILL T. RUSSELL, DUANE McRUER

Finally the snow is disappearing from the High Sierra and most of our trip was on dry land. All four of us, the leaders, Michael and Karen Lorr, left North Lake at 0700 and arrived at Lamarck Col at 1130. We descended to the pleasant small bench halfway down the slope to Darwin Canyon and had lunch. We then went on down, prepared summit packs and climbed Mendel. Our route was the standard one, up the broad, shallow chute on the east face, a bit south of the summit. We did what came naturally in route finding and arrived at a 20 ft chute containing a semi-chockstone just below the rim of the summit plateau. There were old rappel slings at the top of the chute which would indicate others have gone the same way. We did use a rope for some people, but the one or two moves involved are not difficult. After signing the register, we descended to Darwin Canyon and hiked west down the canyon to a good campsite near the small second-from-the-west lake.

On Saturday the Lorr's opted not to climb Goethe, so Mac and I did it alone. It is an easy hike up the southeast slope or the south ridge. After climbing Goethe we hiked to the Muir Trail, thence to Sapphire Lake where we were met by Jack Grams and then over the easy col to the small most easterly McGee Lake (11040'+). Our camp was beside a small stream north of, and about 100 ft above the lake.

On Sunday we traversed to the bowl west of Hermit and then up the slopes to the col between Hermit and Pt 12350'. From here we picked our way to the notch between Hermit and the two peaklets that are about 200 meters south. From the notch the route goes easily on the east side of the ridge to the summit. We threw a rope over the summit block and tried to climb the 10 ft slightly overhung pitch from the ledge but none were able to do so. Instead we used the McRuer body as a climbing aid and from his towering shoulders it was an easy step, step, step to the top. I believe Mac used Mike as a ladder for his own ascent. The 8 inch vertical crack on the east side of the block looked like an interesting climbing exercise at say 5.8 but we did not take the time to try it.

The square Sierra Club register box is wedged in that crack and I could not quite reach it from the side with an ice axe, although Mary McMannes in the party before us said that she crawled into the crack a bit and got her axe on the box only to find that it was wedged tightly. I believe that a rope with a loop in its end could be dropped down behind the box, and a 6 ft stick with a hook on its end could be used to hook into the loop and pull the rope under the box and out to the side. It might then be possible to pull the box up and out while jostling it over nubbins with the stick. We did leave a new register in a large bandaid can on the top of the block.

We descended the west slope from the notch between the two peaklets. A route to this notch or to the notch just south of Hermit (route 2 of the Climbers Guide) is preferable to the route to the southern col that we used.

We had hoped to go from McGee Lakes over the east ridge of McGee to the south side and from there to climb McGee, but time was insufficient so instead we packed out to the base of Darwin Canyon. Here we celebrated Karen's birthday including a cake with candles! On Monday we hiked out, arriving at North Lake shortly after noon.

Participants: Jack Grams, Karen Lorr, Michael Lorr, Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell.

Register situation: Mendel - needs a container, old register book has been removed. Goethe - good book (1963) in a good ammo box. Hermit - needs a container or rescue of S.C. square box.

Bill

AUG 30 - SEPT 1 1980

THE PALISADES

Kolideoscopes have their fascination in the infinite variations that can be achieved from the same basic elements. Mountains are infinite in their differences too, and even the same mountain can be fascinating to climb from several different approaches (e.g. Whitney).

Well, we did want to do something new and also something old - with a new look. The Palisades certainly allow for many variations on a theme. This trip had been advertized elsewhere but only Greg Vernon, Dick Banner and I took the bait. The three of us took off for Lake Elinore. At Willow Lake we managed to get separated but since our objective was known, we remet at camp and relaxed in the pm.

Next morning our objective was Palisade Crest, a peak, the climbing of which, has been tantalizing my mind for a long time. Different folks will tell you different tales as to how tough it is and so I needed to find out for myself.

We headed for the only feasible class 2 route to the crest which was due south from camp and then turn west past the "s" in the word "Sierra" on the Big Pine topo. The crest is thus easily attained. From there it goes south on the ridge, occasionally on the right side, and later on the left side before the big notch comes into view. The down climbing can be done class 3-4 on the ridge or else on the left side of it.

Once this has been accomplished then The Slab is before you and must be climbed. It is a 165' flat rock canted at about 45 degrees with descent cracks for holds. Greg led off and said that it went so well that I followed him at once. It would have to be rated class 4, but goes very nicely! Two 165' ropes are needed for the rappel. From the top of The Slab the summit is quickly attained class 3+. Greg left a register and container. We rappelled The Slab and retreated as we had come. We thought that this was perhaps the best, named, mountaineering quality peak which is not on the list.

Bump 13390 (Jepson) was also done-- a nothing peak. Dick had to pack out and hurry home that pm.

Greg and I went up next day to take a look at the Swiss Arete on Sill. You can get on it as soon as you like. We caught it about half way up where the better climbing was above us. The route goes by leading several short fifth class pitches- one moderately tuff- and then class 3-4 (very fun) to the top. After descending the standard route I hurried to do Gayley and remet Greg at camp. We were out & home in good time.

We hope that in your peak bagging fervor that some day you will take time out to do these fine climbs.

C. Ranschau

Angel Wings are the "... most spectacular rock wall in Sequoia National Park. The actual summit was not reached until 1971 ..." [from Roper's High Sierra Guide, which includes a dramatic photo]. Roper suggests that the way to get to the top [we neglect the V 5.8 A4 possibilities ..] is to wander up from Lone Pine Creek on the West side to the summit area. This turns out to begin with 2500 feet of gain over random slabs and trees. A superior approach is to climb from the North.

From around 10000 feet on the trail that leads to Tamarack Lake, you see a slabby bowl directly South of you. Climb up into this bowl by following gullies. Then you can climb Southward out of the bowl via an easy chute through the cliff above. This chute shows as a minor notch with two large Western White Pines growing in it, and some others lower; it is not the major western notch in the wall. Once on top of the cliff band, it's large talus to the lower summit, down a bit, then up more large blocks to the top.

Roper's "definite fourth class" near the summit is two very short sections (each twelve feet or so) that are not exposed. We third-classed them, even though we did have a rope. A group would probably appreciate a short rope. The views from the top are very fine. August 1980 -- Bob Ayers

Seventeen climbers started up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek under clear skies on Saturday morning. The creek was crossed through heavy brush below the start of the Ebersbacher (sp?) Ledges. (The best place to cross is almost across from the start of the ledges.) Arrival at base camp at Upper Boy Scout Lake was in time for lunch after which nine climbers left for Thor Peak under now-threatening skies. The route up Thor was via an interesting 3rd class chute/ledge system to the ridge and thence along the ridge to the summit. All nine made the peak just in time for that Norse god of thunder and lightning to express his displeasure that nine mere mortals would dare to clamber over his throne. Making our way back down over slippery class 3 rock, we arrived back in camp mostly soaked to the skin. Some waited out the storm in tents, others in rain gear.

On Sunday sixteen started up the scree slope for Russell and Carillon. Near the top of the slope, some large boulders were dislodged causing, among others, the leader to rapidly scamper across a steep snow chute (sans ice axe) to get out of the fall line. Three others in the line of fire found out how quickly the adrenalin is pumped into the system for the classic fight or flight syndrome. The group divided into fast and slow segments with the majority doing Carillon first and then meeting at the start of the Russell east arete. The climb to the west summit was uneventful but much pleasure was expressed in the quality of the climbing on this truly fine mountaineer's peak.

A small contingent signed out to do Tunnabora and therefore some of the group were able to bag four peaks on a two day weekend. Many thanks to Virgil Talbott and Walt Kabler for helping out on this trip.

B.B.

MT RITTER

AUGUST 23-24, 1980

Francois Christen/
Dan Warner

Eight climbers left Agnew Meadow at 8:30 am Saturday on a cold clear morning. It rained and hailed at Mammoth Lakes on Friday night. The group participants proved to be quite frisky and we reached camp above Lake Ediza by 12:30 pm. Because no one wanted to climb Banner Peak, the leaders decided to call an optional afternoon nap in which everyone avidly participated. The group rose at 5:00 am Sunday morning and left camp at 6:00 am under clear skies. The Southwest Glacier route (Route 4, 1976 Climber's Guide) was straightforward. We had intended to take the Ritter-Banner saddle route, but a scouting trip on August 15 showed that the class 3 gully was full of steep ice and hard snow and that the sides of the gully had sections of class 4 rock. Using the Southwest Glacier route, all 8 climbers plus one guest reached the summit by 10:00 am. The last group members returned to camp by 2:00 pm. Soon thereafter it began to hail and we hiked out under covered skies. Hail, thunder, and lightning accompanied us to Agnew Meadow. However, a fortunate seam in the weather had allowed us to reach our objective.

FGC, Sept. 14, 1980

Insanity is an inherited trait. Parents get it from their children.

The sister of Paul Petzoldt, the well-known mountain climber, gave this explanation of why people like to climb mountains: "They want to get to the top and let the air rush through the holes in their heads."

Preserve American wildlife---have a party.

Preserve American wildlife---pickle a squirrel.

Lone Pine Peak (Aug 30 - Sep 1, 1980)

Fine weather, a congenial group and an extra day made this week-end climb most enjoyable. All trails out of Whitney Portal lead to spectacular mountains including the Meysan Lake Trail. It leaves from the mountain cabin road just below the Whitney Portal campground. The trail and the large lake at its head are named after the man who originally stocked the lake in 1933. It has not been stocked since and naturally maintains a fine trout population.

The hike to base camp took about four hours. The trail no longer follows the stream as shown on the topo map, but switchbacks up the West side of the canyon. Water is available at only one point. The best campsites are in a flat wooded area about 3/4 mile below Meysan Lake. There are several lakes here not shown on the map, the largest of which is often mistaken for Meysan Lake. While others set up camp and loafed, I hiked up to Meysan Lake and caught four 8-10 inch trout for dinner. Sure beats freeze-dried fare!

At 7:30 the next morning we started out for Lone Pine Peak, heading for a large scree slope ascending a cirque SW of the peak. We kept to the left and found good footing and pleasant class two climbing as the cirque led to an obvious chute and then to the summit ridge. A faint trail on the ridge took us past several false summits to the peak by 11:00 a.m. After a leisurely lunch and enjoying unusually clear views, we plummeted down the scree slope and were back in camp by 2:00 p.m.

Two people packed up and hiked out the same day; the usual plan for this trip. The rest loafed or took exploratory hikes around the basin. I couldn't resist the fishing and again caught a meal of trout for dinner.

We broke camp after sleeping-in longer than usual the next morning. A leisurely pace brought us back to Whitney Portal in 2-1/2 hours. By sheer coincidence, one of our group was recognized by the owners of a mountain cabin and we were all invited in for beers and mountain talk; a nice way to end a nice trip.

George Neuner

MTS. CROCKER AND STARR

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1980

Jerry Keating

Ten Labor Day weekend climbers were treated to virtually cloudless skies and beautiful scenery on this joint SPS-Backpacking outing to Pioneer Basin.

Four persons climbed Starr (12,970') from Mono Pass while the six others backpacked directly to a fine campsite near the inlet to the 10,400' lake at the south end of Pioneer Basin. The trail on the westerly side of the pass was in deplorable shape, a condition the Forest Service has contributed to by allowing large pack trains to operate while limiting backpacking groups with advance reservations to 10. The trail was up to 11 feet wide at times, terribly dusty and strewn with loose rocks kicked up by the animals. The Mt. Starr climbers noted one train with 24 animals.

On Sunday, nine persons summit packed up the westerly side of Pioneer Basin, passing a series of beautiful lakes and occasional snow patches. We climbed on sand to the Sierra crest just below 12,000', then seven went on to Crocker (12,457') via its E ridge. The ridge is Class 3, not Class 1 as listed in Mountaineer's Guide to the High Sierra. The NW face was used for the descent, and it is Class 2-3 because of two steep chutes. Much of the rock is unstable in and near the chutes. One slab measuring 4x3x1' let go on Larry Fletcher and pinned both his ankles. He was freed after nearly 45 minutes, an effort that involved the entire climbing party and a passing climber. Although sore, Larry made it on his own back to camp. This time the party viewed the lakes on the easterly side of the basin, thereby completing a fine loop.

Labor Day's return to the Rock Creek roadhead was uneventful, and everyone was pleased that Larry's close call had not deterred him.

Leaders were Jerry Keating, Walt Whisman and Elton Fletcher.

Campy officially cancelled the trip. Nine participants none the less gathered Saturday morning for a trip that was to adhere to the schedule write-up as 8 peaks, including 4 mountaineer's peaks, were climbed in a week of near perfect weather.

Six cleared Shepherd Pass that day and Tyndall was accomplished the next morning via the trivial north rib by Al Benson, Dana Burke, Gisela Kluwin, Al Rupert and Howard Yee. Lois Fracisco remained in camp; Dick Drosendahl and John McDermott had sojourned at The Pothole with Jim Murphy who then left the group to solo Keith and return home. That afternoon the remaining eight regrouped at Milestone Creek where Howard and Dana exchanged Cal Techisms as others pondered the Cosmic Truth, mused on the lyrical qualities of Dr. Hunter Thompson or did something else.

Table was ascended Monday morning up a Class 3 chute that diagonaled to the right on the broken east face. Early in this route a 20' chimney with an overhang was encountered and most climbers took a belay. The rest of the way went easy though on the descent a day pack plummeted from the overhang into a 15' crevasse and Al B. took a belay to retrieve it. From this point three returned to camp while the Tyndall-Five went due south, crested an easy ridge at 12,900', descended a bit, and followed in the wake of Gisela's blitz of Midway Mtn.

Milestone the next morning was to prove most enjoyable for the entire group. Al Rupert showed the gleam of eye and grace of form that must have characterized his RCS climbs some 25 years ago. For Lois it was the first SPS peak in six years and her enthusiasm was appropriate to the occasion. However, this was also a juncture point. Dick and John remained for Midway, a backpack to bag Tunnabora and an exit at Whitney Portals; the others moved camp north for Thunder.

On Wednesday's approach to Thunder we paused at lake 12,280 to admire Table's NE couloir which had been climbed without crampons by Dale Van Dalsem two days previously. Further on the climb to the south summit we ran into Jon Petijeau and a friend. Forces were joined, we went directly over the south summit, dropped down 20', took a belay from Jon over a airy bridge, and traversed to the summit block. Here Gisela did a nimble number on what seemed to me a difficult jam crack, and by 12:15 all had done the summit bit. The descent revealed a chockstone crack 15' to the south to be an easier route both ways.

En route to Geneva the next morning after bidding good-bye to Al Rupert and Lois, the proximity of Ericsson was noted and it was decided to try for a three peak day. Dana correctly identified the northern summit of Ericsson and was atop in short time. Much more circuitous was the route of Howard, Gisela and Al. A false summit was attained before the three heeded Dana's call, "Sorry to tell you guys this, but..."

Geneva and the approach to Jordan had few redeeming qualities aside from underscoring the folly of side-hilling talus slopes when more direct routes are available. At the base of Jordan's scree slope we again met Jon and friend. They had just come off the summit and a serious tone pervaded the questions and drawing of lines in the dirt--"just how far was this airy step, leap or whatever?" Within an hour we were at that decisive point after turning left before the notch in the ridge a following ducks to the summit rock. Dana went off to scout the chimney to the south as plans were being set for a belay across the short but impressive void. Then yea verily, lo even, Dana's head appeared atop the summit and an upper belay was soon provided, a fact that did not diminish the exhilaration of the Jordan step-across.

Threatening weather Friday forced cancellation of further climbing plans. Instead the group packed some 17 miles out to conclude a most satisfying trip. --Al Benson

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