

The Sierra



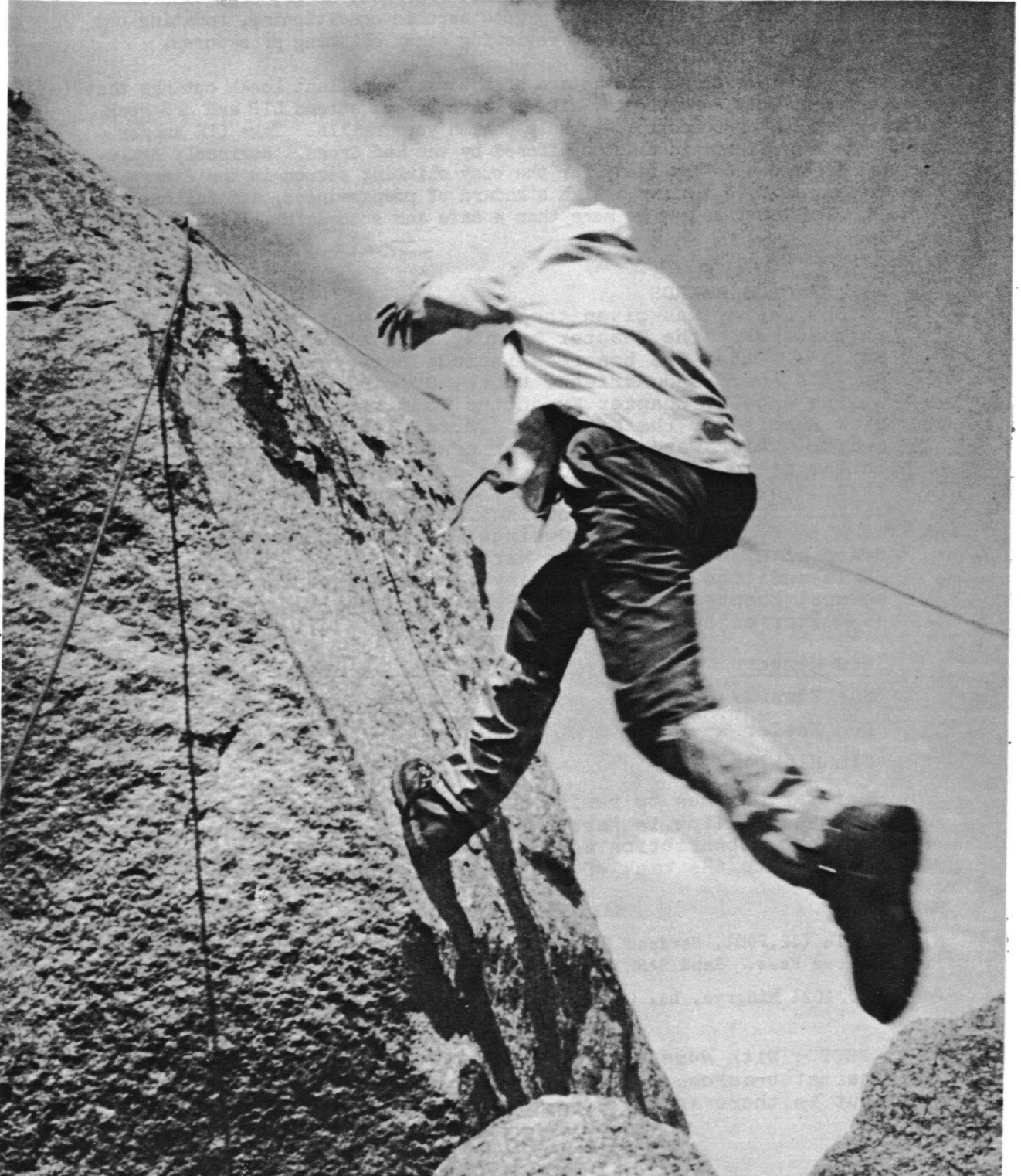
ECHO

VOLUME 28

MAR - APR

1984

NO. 2



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Watching the Winter Olympics sent a few nagging thoughts through me: lose weight; start conditioning; work on muscle strength, stretching, and flexibility; practice with my ice axe (Sarajevo, with all its snow, is obviously more suitable for this than our local mountains); check out and repair gear; and plan for the summer climbing season. The list could be endless, but also meaningless unless some commitment and follow-through is made.

Past experience alone is sometimes used as a "crutch," a lazy and potentially dangerous way to survive a climbing weekend. For most of us, past experience is not sufficient unless supported by good aerobic conditioning, updating our rock climbing and snow skills, and reviewing other climbing procedures.

This is a good time to take advantage of the many excellent local outings that could serve as good conditioning hikes. Sign up and attend LTP and SPS rock climbing and ice axe practices to help polish your skills. Take CPR and/or one of the many first aid classes offered by the Red Cross. Seriously evaluate what is needed to get ready for the busy climbing season in the Sierra, make a commitment to achieve a high standard of preparedness, and follow-through. The benefits may be more than a safe and successful climbing season.

Nancy Jordan

SIERRA CLUB AWARDS

How Bailey was given the Angeles Chapter Outings Leadership award at the Chapter Banquet held at Luminarias on Feb 25. Other SPS honorees include Barbara Reber, Outings Service Award and Adrienne Knute, Special Service award.

The Angeles Chapter Executive Committee has nominated Dick Akawie for the National Sierra Club's Oliver Kehrlein award. This award is made for consistent high performance in the field of outings over an extended period of time and rewards dedication to service, exemplary performance and innovations in the field of outings. Selection of the award will be made by the National Outings Management Committee and the Board of Directors in late March

In addition to leading many climbs Dick has been awarded several Chapter Outings and Service awards. He has served as editor of our Outings Schedule since 1967. ---Ron Jones

New Members

Sue Edwards

Don Keeler

Jim Hinkley

New Emblem Holders

Lloyd Brown

The Secretary wishes to remind members and subscribers that the 1984 renewal deadline is March 31, 1984. Please be sure to fill out the Echo subscription and membership application form that was attached to the back of the Nov-Dec. Echo.

MAY 26-28

SAT-MON

M: Goodale (12,790), Striped (12,905), Cardinal (13,397): Bag three pks from Taboose Pass. Send SASE to Leader: DAN MIHALJEVICH. Asst: LARRY MACHLEDER

Address: 4021 Minerva, LA, CA, 90066

Phone: 391-1375 (H)

COVER PHOTO: With some help from "above", an SPSers dares to do the Schumacher-step-across to the summit of Thunderbolt. Which is all very well, but is there anyway down this mountain??---stay tuned.

SIERRA CLIMBING ROUTE INDEX--1976-1983
Through ECHO Vol. 28-1

I last compiled an index for basecamp or climbing routes of Sierra Peaks for the Twentieth Anniversary issue of the ECHO in 1976 (Vol. 20, No. 8). I am now bringing it up-to-date to December 1983. I have omitted many interesting write-ups when they seemed not to include significant descriptions of the route. Also, routes on unnamed peaks are not included as these are difficult to classify in a conventional index format.

I have listed only write-ups since 1976. Peaks without write-ups during this period will show the last route information listed prior to 1976. Earlier indexes will be found in ECHO Vol. 20 No. 8 and Vol. 14 No. 2. There may be write-ups which I have overlooked, and for these omissions I apologize. I would appreciate receiving any corrections and additions to this index for future updating.

Following the name of the peak there will be a series of two numbers; for instance: Adams 24-4/24-3/20-6. These figures mean that route information for this peak can be found in Vol. 24, No. 4; Vol. 24, No. 3; and Vol. 20, No. 6 of the ECHO.

--Ron Jones

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WILDERNESS ADVANCED FIRST AID REFRESHER

HARWOOD LODGE SNOWCREST

18 - 20 May, 1984 (Fri. evening - Sun. afternoon)

This course emphasises first aid problems likely to be encountered in the wilderness. It is conducted under the auspices of the American Red Cross, and an Advanced First Aid certificate renewal will be presented upon the successful completion of the course. The problems associated with long term care and transport of the sick and injured, and the special problems of high altitude, cold, heat, dehydration, and exhaustion are studied. Some practice working on "victims" and a practical field exercise are included in the course. Participants must review their CPR and demonstrate their skill on a Recording Annie mannikin.

The instructors have had experience in mountain rescue, Sierra Club, scouting, expedition work, and other group leadership activities and have personally encountered many of the problems likely to occur. Guest lecturers will present material in which they have special expertise.

Harwood Lodge, owned by the Sierra Club, is located high in the San Gabriel mountains several miles above Baldy Village. It has sleeping facilities for over 50 people, however, many individuals prefer to spread their sleeping bags outside. Registration fees cover lodge fees and dinner Saturday night, breakfasts Saturday and Sunday mornings. BRING LUNCHES FOR TWO DAYS. No alcoholic beverages, radios, or pets allowed in the lodge; battery-operated tape recorders are welcome. The course starts promptly at 8:00 pm Friday night.

Anyone interested may attend this course, however, preferably one should have had a previous first aid course. A current Advanced First Aid card must be shown for recertification. (no CPR certification) Send application and \$30.00 to: Wilderness First Aid c/o Louise French, 1690 N. 2nd Ave., Upland, Ca. 91786 (for further information, telephone 714-985-6067)

Tear off here

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APPLICATION FOR WILDERNESS FIRST AID

NameTelephone

Address

First Aid card & expiration date

First Aid/medical training?

Reason for taking this course?

ndMO

Starr King, Clark

6-7 Aug 83

Sat-Sun

Danta, Mantle

Eight climbers met at the unthinkable hour of 6:00am Sat at Glacier Point in Yosemite. We signed in and packed along Illilouette Creek to the junction with the Clark fork. Only one stream crossing was necessary, requiring 45 minutes (by the time we dried off), and we managed to reach camp at 10AM. After briefly setting up tents, to ward off other backpackers, and hanging the food, to ward off bears, we left, to ward off ourselves in the direction of Mt. Clark. The cross country route was somewhat tiring because it was necessary to zig-zag around a million or so trees on this ill conceived route through the forest, but we marched on, and managed to attain an altitude of 10500' by 2 PM. We might have made the summit by about 4, but an afternoon thunderstorm struck, and we used the fortunate event as an excuse to point our weary bodies westward and stagger back to camp. Upon our return, our trusty sentinels announced that three SPS visitors had happened by, were invited to stay, and just like that refused and proceeded to hike out to their cars! We overcame our rejection by dining on a fabulous cuisine of home cooked spaghetti and other delights, enjoyed a fine campfire, and performed the mandatory ritual in support of the California winegrowers.

Sunday morning we broke camp at the more civilized hour of 6:30, and backpacked to the trail junction south east of Starr King. Here we dropped our packs and set off with lunch, water, and ropes for the granite dome of Starr King. All those who tried managed to reach the 4th class summit. After returning to the packs, we hiked out over the longer, but very scenic Panorama cliffs trail, stopping only once to cool off at the Illilouette Falls bridge. We then reluctantly faced the remaining 2 miles of uphill to Glacier Point and returned to the cars by 6 pm.

Randy Danta - Aug 83

PILOT KNOB

This peak is on both the HPS and SPS lists. Access to it has been a problem; the only way to get to it without wading the Kern River is via the Onyx Ranch. I have discussed access with the ranch manager, and he is willing to give permission for Sierra Club groups to cross the ranch property, subject to conditions given in the new HPS Climber's Guide for Pilot Knob, which states in part,

Permission to park on and cross the Onyx Ranch property must be obtained from the Manager, Onyx Ranch, P.O. Box 143, Onyx, CA 93255. Write him in advance of the trip, enclosing a SASE, and giving the date of the climb, together with the approximate number of cars involved. The ranch manager will arrange to open the necessary gates and give instructions on parking.

No permission will be granted without a prior written request. Permission will be granted as long as property rights are respected, and may be withdrawn at any time the manager should think it necessary.

Please do not try to climb Pilot Knob from the Onyx Ranch without obtaining the necessary advance permission.

The manager of the Onyx Ranch hopes that "...our cooperation in this matter may someday be rewarded by the Sierra Club's membership having a better understanding of the cattlemen and horsemen in our National and State Forests and other areas where the two don't always see eye to eye."

John Backus

It was a glorious day Friday when George Holland, Larry Machleder, and Joe Wankum joined Jim Erb and myself for an ascent of Mt. Humphreys via the South ridge. We meandered past lush foliage and an abundance of flowers and crossed streams delicately balanced upon undulating branches over high rushing water. Paiute Pass was a surprise with approximately 10 feet of snow. East of the pass, there were more and more snowfields all the way to the basin. The lake below Humphreys was frozen and surrounded by snow. After considerable searching, we found some snow free areas above the lake for camp. The afternoon was spent observing the color and attitude of the mountain change as the sun set.

Saturday, we headed for the obvious point where the left and right gullies appear to intersect and climbed the right gully to the obvious notch SE of of the summit. Here, we roped up with George and I on one rope and Jim, Larry, and Joe on the second rope. Roper's "300 feet of specimen 4th class" has moves up to 5.3 on it. Four pitches and we were above this section. One more pitch up an arete and then we followed the rocky ridge to the summit mass. As I have a propensity for never losing elevation after gaining elevation, George and I probably have several first ascents on every craggy point on the ridge. In my mind's eye, I can still see Jim and party below us comfortably walking toward the final summit mass. Just left of this point is the top of the South Couloir route. Roper's final "50 feet of 4th class" has a 5.4 move on it. The general excitement and enthusiasm of this section of the climb was enhanced by a sudden sprinkling of hail. We reached the summit and hastily headed for the normal down route. The steep section was free of ice and snow but the ledge system was totally covered with snow. This climb was a marvelous experience. It is important to stress though that this route with only five climbers took longer than I had anticipated. Darkness and our party arrived at camp simultaneously. An earlier start than our 8:00 AM choice would be wise. It must be added that we lost an hour due to a "hung-up" rappel rope which necessitated a climb up and down the normal route. This climb was executed beautifully by our two "volunteers" Jim and Joe.

Sunday, we hiked out with first snow and then rain to accompany us. At the stream crossings, assuming a position of delicate balance seemed too much like work, so without missing a step, I just waded across. This activity reenforced my belief that if you do something with enough conviction others will follow. We arrived at the cars around noon with wet feet and boots. The South Ridge route is an exceptionally fine way to ascend Mt. Humphreys. This seldom led route as viewed from Bishop follows the L skyline. The "300 ft of specimen 4th class" ascends the steep left side of Mt. Humphreys and the final 50 ft pitch ascends the left side of the summit block.

Theresa Rutherford

We met early Saturday at the Mono Meadow trailhead and left for Starr King at 6:30. There were eight in the group: Lynna Walker, Walt Hill, R.J. Secor and Don Hudson, BMTC grads Leslie Lederman and Tom Ferguson, and the leaders. (Eight is the current off-trail max. in Yosemite)

At the Illilouette some campers directed us to a good log crossing. Further on, the leader chose a more or less direct, but unpopular, route through the forest and up toward the lower of Starr King's two saddles. Some brush was encountered, but we made good time and arrived at SK's southeast face at 10:15.

There, high gusting winds forced postponement of climbing for about two hours. Finally the wind diminished somewhat and we began the climb shortly after noon. At R.J.'s suggestion, most climbers tailed a rope on the long first pitch to avoid rope management problems. The climbing is mostly on friction (43° to 47° according to one Echo write-up). The accompanying diagram gives a very rough approximation of the route. We used four ropes: two 150s and two 165s. Climbers were belayed to a large ledge, then followed a fixed rope on the upper section, using a prussik loop for protection. Everyone seemed to enjoy the climb, and most agreed that the lower pitch is 5th class (ratings varied from 5.0 to 5.2). It might be noted that 165' rope is barely long enough for the upper section, even when running straight. In order to stretch and anchor this rope, the leader had to climb part way down the pitch twice, once to remove protection and again to ask that the belay be released.

The summit of SK provides some excellent views of Yosemite. But being pressed for time, we limited our stay on top. It was 5 PM before we were all back at the saddle. The long walk out was made somewhat longer by a minor route-finding problem and leaving a rope behind at a rest stop; consequently, darkness caught up with us as we neared Mono Meadow.

At the cars, R.J. treated us to tasty hors d'oeuvres to celebrate tomorrow's climb of Cathedral, which was to complete his quest of all the mountaineer's peaks. Earlier, Walt had advised that, due to a painful toe injury, he would not be able to climb, and that he and Lynna would be leaving for home the next morning.

On Sunday we drove down to Yosemite Valley - El Cap was spectacular in the bright morning light - and over to the Cathedral Lakes trailhead at Budd Creek. On the approach to Cathedral, from the west, we were able to pick out the summit block from among three or four pinnacles on the skyline. Some 3rd class scrambling brought us to a large ledge just beneath ^{the summit} and from there George led the final airy pitch - out onto a sloping ledge (which drops off sharply for about 500 vertical feet), then around a corner, then straight up two cracks for about 20 feet to the top. It is an exhilarating climb - exposed but easy, except for one semi-tough move. The cracks and the summit offer placement for chocks if needed. This is a definitive 4th class pitch, according to R.J. - the standard by which other Yosemite climbs have been rated.

The cramped summit (room for three or four only) and a chill wind again limited our stay on top. Before we descended, two other climbing parties approached - an indication of how popular this peak is.

George had the group back at the cars by 4 PM - so we got an early start for home, and had a good look at eastern Yosemite on the way. Some of us were back in L.A. before midnight.

This was a satisfying trip with a strong, competent group. For a weekend of good climbing and great scenery, the combination of Starr King/Cathedral is hard to beat.

- HM

A Polish man who thought he was Finnish,
 Drank liquids to keep looking thinish.
 He drank furniture polish by mistake,
 Developed a terrible stomach ache,
 and had a bad end--but a very nice finish.
 Floor: Something that will definitely
 stop hair fallout.

Overhead: "A lot of people are
 worried about insomnia, but I'm
 not loosing any sleep over it."
 The dogwood is sonamed because
 of its unique bark. It doesn't
 just have a bough, it has a
 bough-wow.

Following 5 days of heavy rains, the sierra was nearly vacant of backpackers. We assembled at Onion Valley in the mist, surprised to find all 11 listed participants were there, eager to sign in. We set off through the drenched brush, crossing an occasional stream, and worked our way up the rightmost canyon from the trailhead. Light rain fell intermittently throughout the day, and our raingear received prolonged, but fortunately, light use. Near Golden Trout Lake, Dave Vandershaf slipped on wet talus and suffered an unfortunate fall resulting in a cut to his cheek when his ice axe point bounced into his face. He declined to be escorted back to Independence, and elected to finish the trip. Safety lesson: Carry Ice axe on the pack if possible when crossing talus. One climber signed out and turned back because he didn't feel well, and we continued over North Dragon Col, past Dragon Lake, and into the beautiful Rae Lakes Basin. There we picked up the Muir trail, but left it after a short distance, to climb past Fin Dome to a lovely wooded campsite above 60 Lakes Basin. There we met another SPS group who came in via Kearsarge and Glen Passes in about the same total time, despite the longer distance.

On Saturday we hiked past the empty camp of the other group on our way to the base of Clarence King, expecting to see them reaching the summit ahead of us. Instead, we ascended the final summit blocks at 10:30 and found no other climbers. This caused us some concern, until shortly they arrived, victims of a shortcut which led them to the edge of an impassable ice wall. We helped each other to the top in true mountaineering style, and started down using a belay off the summit block and a rappel over the keyhole. Once back to the stream connecting the lakes of the 60 Lakes basin, a group of 4 volunteered to accompany Rich Nagy to do Cotter, one of only 6 peaks he needed to finish the list. By some stroke of luck, we returned to camp at 6, just 10 minutes before the only rain of the day struck. The rain lasted for over an hour and forced us to cook in small tent-bound groups. Some groups were not deterred by the rain, however, and dined on such delicacies as soup, caviar, fresh spinach salad, and scallops. In a touching gesture to commemorate the completion of my E leader requirements, Doug Mantle presented me with an engraved brass Sierra Cup. Thanks Doug.

Sunday morning the group members discussed the return route with the leader. The choice was to take the steep, rocky, dangerous Dragon Col (my choice), or follow the gently graded, picturesque Kearsarge Pass trail (their choice). Since the 9 of them had sharp ice axes (already proven capable of drawing blood), the group leader exercised his authority, and gave in. We arrived back at the cars at 3:30 after passing a number of inbound backpackers, delayed by the rains, but determined to make their appearance while the sun shined.

HYPOTHERMIA

Randy Danta - Aug 83

Hypothermia results from the lowering of the body's inner-core temperature. The greater the temperature drop, the more severe the effect. The initial symptom is shivering, one of the body's ways of producing warmth. Unless steps are taken to warm the victim, the shivering increases. Speech becomes slurred and muscles stiffen. Impairment of judgment follows; shivering ceases, unconsciousness follows. Death occurs when the core temperature reaches approximately 80 degrees.

Death by hypothermia is often associated with mountaineering, arctic exploration, and boating accidents. Rain and sweating have the similar effects of wetting the clothing. Then wind can hasten the onset of hypothermia by increasing the rate of heat loss from the body. These effects can and do occur at temperatures well above freezing.

The most effective way to avoid hypothermia is to remain dry and to negate the effect of the wind by always carrying effective rain gear. To help a victim, transfer of body heat in a sleeping bag and warm liquids are effective means of alleviating the condition.

MT. MORGAN

April 30-May 1, 1983

Pat And Gerry Holleman

The leaders had expected to climb Mt. Morgan from the Rock Creek Road, but spring snow conditions moved the roadhead to Tom's Place, an extra 14 miles of snow. Then a few last minute phone calls to Union Carbide determined that the peak was accessible through mine property on the Pine Creek roadhead. When we encountered heavy rain in the Antelope Valley on the drive up, the situation turned dreary again.

However, Saturday we awoke to sunshine and optimism. We gathered 6 other persistent climbers at Highway 395 and Round Valley Road, drove to the Pine Creek Trailhead, did a car shuttle to the Union Carbide gate with its sign stating "no trespassing", and eventually started hiking up the road. The road was mostly bare to the 9,300' level where we cut up the canyon and basically followed the old tramway to about 10,800'. Snowshoes and skis were put on after lunch for the final approach to camp at 11,200'.

Setting up camp proved to be a problem with snow flurries and high winds. After everything was secured, Roland Furberg and Gary Guenther set off to look at a couple of old mine areas nearby and Jerry Blackwill put on his skis to join them. The rest of us huddled in our tents out of the wind until happy hour when 6 squeezed into Delores Holladay's tent for a little warmth and cheer. The temperature dropped to 3 degrees Saturday night with continually gusting winds, good experience for Delores and Jerry who intended to attempt Mt. McKinley in June.

A 7:30 a.m. start seemed late, but the temperature was still only 8 degrees. We headed up the canyon, not being able to move fast enough to keep our feet warm. A happy group felt the sun come over the ridge when we reached a point where the canyon turns to reveal the chute that leads to the plateau north of Morgan. Crampons were needed to climb the long chute. From there Tom Duryea kicked steps in the knee-deep snow to the summit rocks, and by 10:30 a.m. we were on the peak. In a nearly tropical temperature of 36 degrees we congratulated Ralph Eakins and Roland for climbing their first Sierra Peak.

On the descent, a few attempted the difficult glissade of the still-frozen chute, but most cramponed it. Snowshoes proved their worth on the hike out from camp in the mushy snow. By the time we returned to the roadhead, dark clouds were again forming over the Owens Valley. By causing a late change of plans, the high snow conditions had led us to an attractive alternate route that provides awesome views of Bear Creek Spire on the way to Mt. Morgan.

Q: Which travels faster, heat or cold?

A: Heat, you can catch cold!

Q: What is the place called where they shear sheep?

A: A baa-baa shoo.

Book title: "History of Eastern religions, Zen und now".

Definition: Lacadaisical: A shortage of flowers.

Legal suit: Uniform worn by lawyers.

Q: Why is five o'clock in the a.m. like a pigs tail?

A: It's twirly.

Einstein said that everything is relative. He said if you don't believe it think of thanksgiving and Christmas.

It's a rare German who would knock wurst, since they usually like wurst best.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST
Ron Jones
Five Years Ago in the SPS

Bob Hicks, new SPS Chair, stated that one of his key goals for 1979 should be active solicitation of new members and the re-involvement of some who have become less active. Other new SPS officers this season included Gene Mauk VCh, Ted Pinson Treas, John Hellman Secy, Bill Bradley Alt Off. Trips in late winter included an SPS rock climb at JT led by Carl Byington and Diana Dee and a climb of Pilot Knob and Lamont led by Ron Jones and Marlin Clark. Among recent new members were Pat Jump, Randy Danta, Alba Hall, Dave Heaney and Krista Knute.

Ten Years Ago

The new 1974 Management Committee was headed by Diana Dee as Ch, Doug Mantle VCh, Bill Russell Secy, George Toby Treas and Ron Jones Alt Off. Horace Ory and Diana Dee led a late Feb climb in the Sierras, Roy Ward and Cuno Ranschau led Alta Pk, Roy and Barbara Magnuson led Mt Bradley, Gordon MacLeod and Neko Colevins led McGee and Mt Aggie, Doug Lantle led Mt Baxter, and Roy Keenan led Mt Johnson. Carl Heller reported on a private climb of Cache Pk, the southern-most named peak in the Sierra.

Twenty Years Ago

Two training trips were led by the SPS this period in 1964. The first was led by Miles Brubacher who got 55 people up Strawberry and Josephine Pks during a light April snow. Later in April Dick Jali led a training orgy on the Kern Plateau. Dick and some dedicated assistants led (?) approximately 120 people to the summit of Smith Mtn on Sat, while the following day only 25 climbed Crag Pk, Officers this period included John Robinson Ch, Frank Sanborn VCh, Barbara Lilley Secy, Miles Brubacher Treas, and George Shinno Alt Off. New Section members included Ben Romero, Vern Styles and Ken McNutt. Section membership in early 1964 totalled 182 members including 60 Emblem holders.

An interesting Echo article of that time told of a 1964 climb of the northwest face of the Eiffel Tower, a first ascent, by 3 Frenchmen and an Englishman. Other first ascents of the Eiffel Tower include an elephant via the steps in 1958 and the first descent by a bicyclist (via the steps) in 1923!

Twenty Five Years Ago

Bill Sanders served as SPS Chair in 1959 with Tom Amneus VCh, Mary Ann Eide Secy, Charlotte Parsons Treas, and Chuck Miller Alt Off. Jerry Keatin was the ECHO Editor and annual subscriptions cost 50 cents per year (6 issues). New members included Ned Dodds and Jay Davis (still serving as Chair of the Chapter film library). The SPS joined the Ski Mountaineers in a snow and ice practice in April at Baldy Bowl.--Ron

JOSHUA TREE ROCK CLIMB AND LTC CHECKOFF Ron Jones JAN 14-15, 1984

This popular weekend, limited to 50 participants, had at least 65 applicants. Some people called early and cancelled their reservations for various reasons including the rain and cold wind of Friday. Saturday morning when we met in the town of Joshua Tree there were 18 no-shows.

However, the J.T. rock was great as usual, the weather was dry and it improved over Saturday and Sunday was perfect. Saturday was spent instructing beginners, intermediate and advanced climbers as well as checking out 4 LTC "M" candidates. Campfire activities that evening at Sheep Pass were notable with Randy Danta featured on the guitar, Sue Wyman guesting for a few numbers and Cuno favored us with "Rinder-cella". Sunday we moved to Hidden Valley with its good selection of routes and a few climbers also checked out surrounding areas. Climbing instruction and a successful weekend were concluded by 3:30.

A special thanks to Bill Bradley for assisting and instructing and to SPS instructors Dandy Ranta, Jim Erb, Nancy Gordon, Doug Mantle, Cuno Ranschau, Norm Rohn, Theresa Rutherford and Chuck Youngberg for their assistance ---Ron

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AWARDS: Emblem pins (\$7.50) and patches (\$2.00) are available from the Treasurer: Randy Danta, 1075 Triunfo Cyn Rd, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

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