

The Sierra



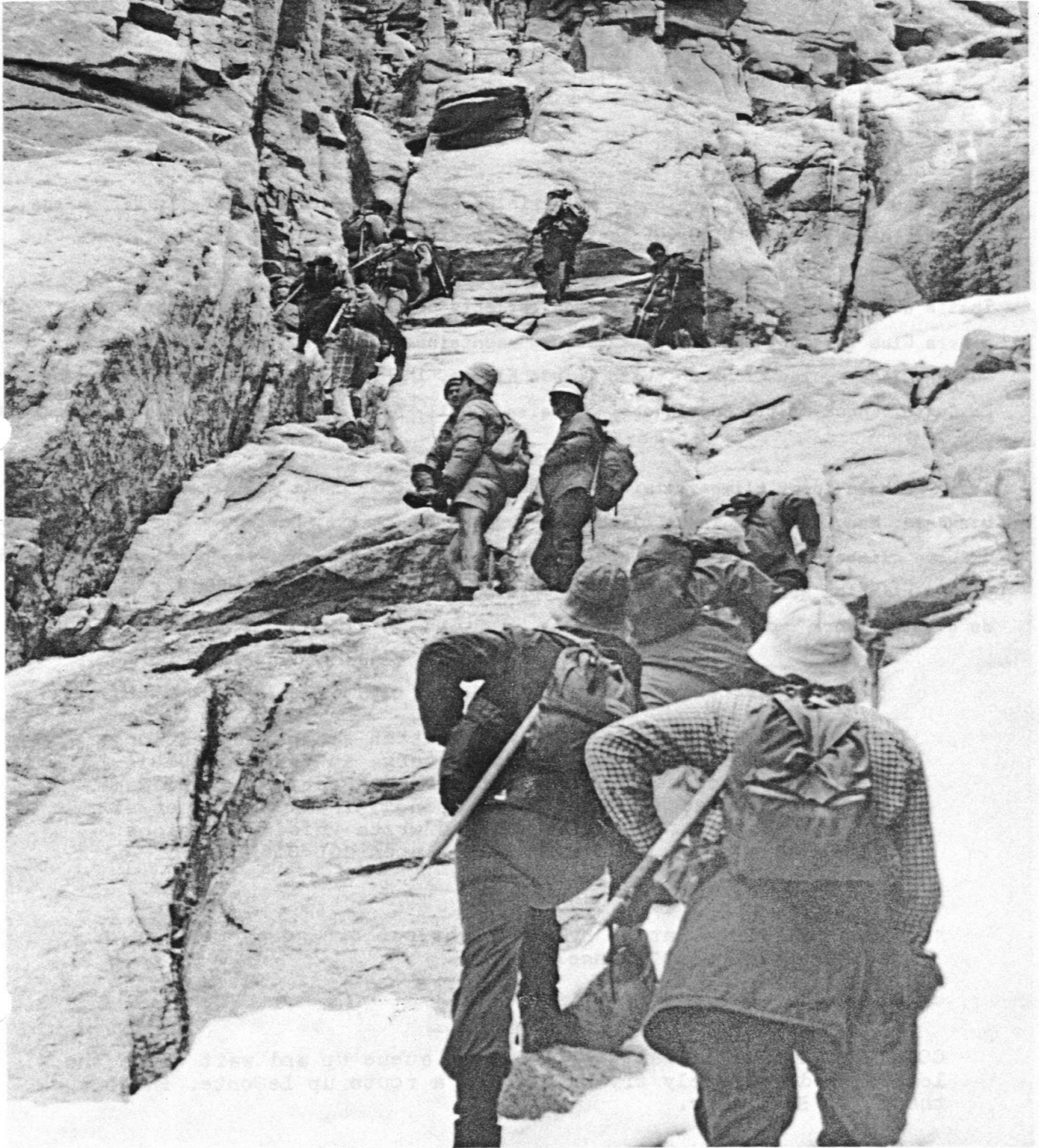
ECHO

VOLUME 28

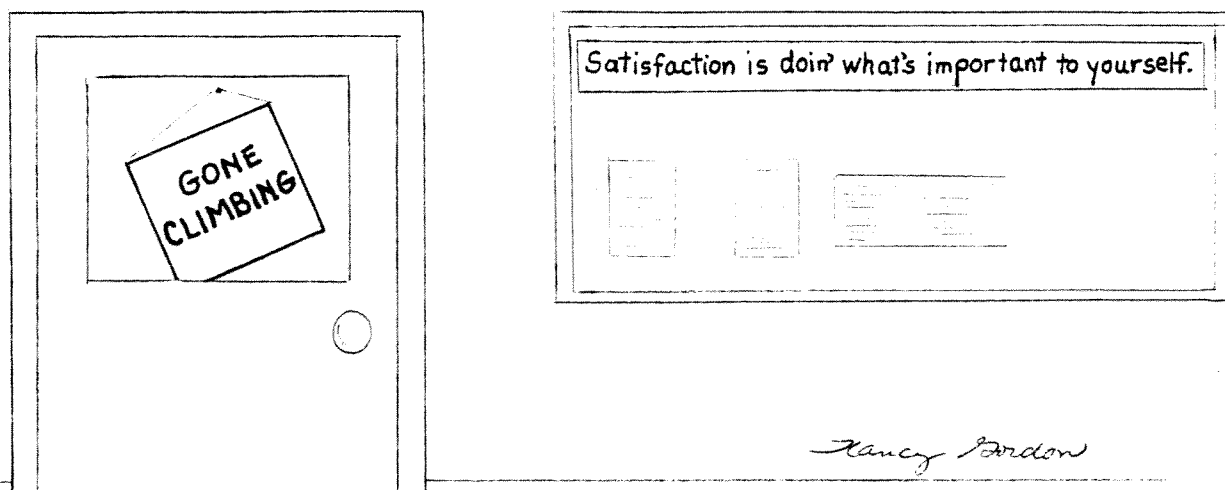
JULY

1984

NO. 4



Chairman's Corner



Dear Editor:

Charles Hood's review of the book "Mountain Experience" by R. G. Mitchell, Jr. in the most recent edition of CLIMBING contains the statement, "notoriously inept Sierra Club climbing sections".

That's an inept statment in itself, and reflects poorly on Mr. Hood. "Notoriously inept" Sierra Club sections spawned climbers and mountaineers like (in alphabetical order) Norman Clyde, Jules Eichhorn, Lito Tejada Flores, TM Herbert, Thomas Starr King, Joe La Conte, Chuck Pratt, Royal Robbins, Galen Rowell, Al Steck, Willy Unsoeld and hundreds more.

Sure, we have inept climbers: with 340,000 membership we can't all measure up to Hood's standard. Many of those inept climbers work hard to improve. Most do - and some of our veteran climbers, skiers and mountaineers are highly proficient. The point is, the Sierra Club's climbing sections work hard to improve their proficiency. Maybe Mr. Hood should do a bit of work improving his judgement.

Norman Kingsley
Norman Kingsley, Chairman

Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee

The above letter to CLIMBING was written at the suggestion of R. J. Secor - it is self-explanatory. In the book review cited, Hood singles out the Sierra Peaks Section as an example of "the worst there is in climbing". The RCS, SMS et al were spared. Sierrans might want to write voicing opinions on the subject to: Climbing, BoxE, Aspen CO 81612

"It is horrifying that we hve to fight our own government to save the environment". Ansel Adams.

COVER PHOTO: Participants of SPS trip queue up and wait while the leader is desperately trying to find a route up LeConte. Photo thanks to R.J.Secor.

Mendel Couloir:
What to do With That New Ice Hammer

This beautiful grade III ice climb is a must for all Lee Vining graduates. If you've done or attempted Whitney's East Face or Lone Pine's North Ridge then a climb of Mendel's Couloir will reward you with a comparable ice experience.

Ray Berman, a this year BMTCC student, and I climbed the right hand couloir on a long weekend (two days but eight pm return to car). The car had to be left at the hiker parking because the road to North Lake was closed, thus adding an extra mile each way. Mt. Lamarck yielded its summit on the way in. I do not recommend climbing Lamarck on the way in as Mendel takes on scary proportions; that will keep you up to watch the stars pass.

The route is from 5 to 10 pitches of roped climbing for normal persons. The number of pitches depends on ice's condition and ice climber's condition. There are rumors that this route has been skied! Not a normal person. We roped after climbing the bergschrund and got 8 pitches before coiling on summit plateau. It was still dark on the first 2-3 pitches because of 2 am wake up, so as to return to car before dark. On a 3 day trip a 4 am wake up is more sensible. Roping at the berg is only advisable for full ice conditions. If it had been light first 2-3 pitches would have gone unroped. We summited at 11:30 without leapfrogging leads. Plan on 7 hours with a big plus from berg to summit.

From the schrund go straight up 300 m. staying on the right to a notch 100 ft below the summit. Keep the rope out and pack the ice tools. Go east and up for 30 ft to summit plateau, it's over. Dale Van Dalsem says 80 ft east then up 5.2. We went up right from the notch going east about 10 ft in route 5.3 - 5.4.

On the ice, staying close to the rock offers good sheltered belay seats and super places for protection. Make sure you shelter your belayer from the ice chunks that you will be sending down trying to get secure pick placements in the hard dinner-plating water ice. There is very little natural rock fall, only a little as the sun warmed the summit. This is a very safe route as long as you're not behind another party. Take smaller hexs and stoppers, 4-8 in number. We took 3 screws, only using 2 at once. Take lots of slings and beaners and a 165 ft 9 or 11 mm rope to tie it all together. Route could be done using only slings for anchors and running pro but would require much more concentration. Only one pitch required more than 4 pieces running pro.

I found 5 pitons on this route. I felt they should be pulled although this may lead to further degeneration of the route by future pinheads. I left them there for further discussion.

A sharp ice axe plus another sharp tool, perhaps an alpine hammer, short axe or even another 70 cm axe is fine. Sharp crampons on ridged boots of at least 3 quarter shank, almost essential. Ray used plastic boots and ended up doing a little more front pointing. A file is worth taking for this type of ice. (cont.)

I tried to french (flat footing, using only one tool) the bulge, 50-60 degree hard water ice, until I took a small slider on to a sling. No big deal but I had to unholster the ice hammer and resort to front pointing. Some day I'll return to climb it using only one tool. The summit still needs a good register can and book. I failed to get these to the summit on July 12, 1981 even tho I was successful by standard route. Off route and had to trail pack with the can in it and it got stuck so I continued without to summit. Thanks to Dale and Bill for a belay back to pack on way down. They had just finished couloir. The couloir would be a proper way for that can to get to the summit!

Further Info

The Ice Experience	Jeff Lowe	route	photo
The Climbers Guide to the High Sierra	Steve Roper	route	approach descent
The Echo August 1982	Dale Van Dalsem	route	
Summit March April 1982	David Johnson	route	
Climbing Ice	Yvon Chouinard	route-lore	

July 9-10 1983 John Lockhart

CLYDE MINARET

23-24 July 1983 Maris Valkass

We left Devil's Postpile at 8am. Crossed San Joaquin River on a recently rebuilt bridge and followed the trail to Johnston Lake, which we bypassed to the south to avoid crossing the deep and wide section of Minarets Creek. We crossed the creek about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi above the lake where we built a log bridge; then continued on the trail (which was partly covered by snow) till we reached Minaret Lake where we camped.

Next morning at 6am we started for the peak. We approached from the south end of Cecile Lake, up the east "finger" slope, and followed Starr's Route about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way up. Then we crossed into the next chute on our right and climbed to the summit ridge, turned left and on to the top by 11am. We descended by the same route arriving at the campsite by 3pm, and at the cars by 7:30pm.

Cramponing up the snow field from approx. 10.4'K to 10.8'K was somewhat interesting. The top layer of snow, 5 in, was soft and mushy and balled up on the crampons, while the snow underneath was hard. We had to be careful to kick steps in the hard snow otherwise they would not hold. If you lost it on the slope, self arresting would be miraculous. You would wind up sailing off the cliff down on the lake. This was the first time that I had to descend on the snow facing backwards. Needless to say that this also took time.

On our way back we crossed the Minaret's Creek in Johnstons Meadow, just above the lake where the river slows down and is meandering. The water came up to our pockets, but the crossing was safe.

The participants were: Carl Brodene, Bob Hartunian (Asst), Igor Mamedalin, Don Weiss and MV. My thanks to Bob for helping in route finding, expert advice in various important matters, and otherwise ably assisting me on the trip.

While clearing out my desk recently I came across this trip report which I submit now because of its information on crossing Florence Lake. I led this trip, Lou Breechen assisting, and with 16 participants in a repeat of a successful climb I led in 1974.

We met at the Florence Lake Resort at 6:30 am in order to catch the boat I ordered for 7:00. The day was threatening and we had some light rain during our 13 mile backpack with 2000 ft gain along the south fork of the San Joaquin River and along the Muir Trail to about one mile south of its turn to Evolution Mdw. Here we met Jim Roberts who had hiked over from his Split Mtn lead of the week before. After setting up our tents, seven or eight of us climbed up the easy NE ridge to Mt Henry, another six miles rt with 3600 ft gain. We returned to camp in daylight.

Sunday most of us made a 7 mile rt climb with 4000 ft gain of Emerald Pk and then hiked out the 13 miles to Florence Lake, straggling in by 7 pm, in time for the last boat. A worthy 39 mile two day weekend with more than 10,500 ft gain and a tribute to those who joined me (and have since been seen again).

The Florence Lake ferry runs during daylight hours only, not at all in stormy weather, and the boat can be summoned from the Lodge to come to the east end by crank telephone from the east. They will come, especially if pre-notified, as long as the boat can return to the west end while it is still light. Arrangements for boats can be made beforehand by mail, allowing plenty of time for once or twice a week mail pickup at Florence Lake, by writing, "Florence Lake Resort, Lakeshore CA 93634". It's worth while to make these reservations as the ferry ride saves a five mile walk around the lake. Two additional tips: First, have exact change on hand for the trip; Second, Urgent last-minute messages might get transmitted in time by the district Ranger at the Eastwood High Sierra Station (where you pick up your permit). Telephone: 209/841 3294. --- Ron

1984 UNIMPAIRED SNOWMELT RUNOFF FORECASTS

These figures are the water runoff forecasts in percent of normal, based on a 50 year average. These figures are not a measure of snow on the ground. Tuolumne, 100%; Merced, 94%; San Joaquin, 95%; Kings, 92%; Kaweah, 83%; Kern, 83%; Owens, 105%; Mono, 110%. Breaking down the Owens basin even further, Cottonwood Lakes, 31%; South Lake, 95%; Mammoth Pass, 125%.

Seasonal precipitation (1 Oct 83--31 Mar 84) was 100% to 120% normal for most of the central and southern Sierra Nevada. For the record, seasonal precipitation for most of Los Angeles and Orange counties was 60%. Precipitation is based on a 45 year average.

R.J. Secor

Statistics are oft' used as a drunken man uses a lamp post, for support instead of illumination.

Life is a lot like being on a mule team. Unless you are the lead mule, the scenery is about the same.

On Aug. 25, Bob Beach and I set out from Mineral King to follow George Neuner's excellent route description in the May-June 1980 Echo. We took the new Sawtooth Pass trail to lower Monarch Lake and climbed the scree toward Sawtooth Pass. At about the lowest level of the Sawtooth Ridge (not the pass) we dropped the packs, had some lunch, and traversed around rocks toward the south of Sawtooth. We worked our way up to the summit but could not find a register. The top of Sawtooth can be precipitous if one is not careful. Returning to our packs for a desperately needed ERG break by the undersigned, we then traversed northwest to Glacier Pass (11200). A faint trail down the rocks and to the right for a few feet led to the top of the large snow field with no crevasse between snow and rock. We descended rapidly with some glissading. (For the three nights I worried about ascending that same steep snow without crampons). There was a gradual run-out with no danger from rocks. At this point Spring Lake is not visible but one must bear to the right in descending until it comes in view. Spring Lake was a pleasant spot to camp the first night at 10000. Looking North we could see Black Rock Pass Trail switchbacking up to the pass.

The next morning we did not find the faint trail contouring around the NE slope of Cliff Creek Valley mentioned by Neuner. We worked our way down rocks past the outlet, crossed the outlet stream, and climbed a short slope to intersect the Black Rock Pass Trail near a forested area. At the Pass there were fine views of Little Five Lakes to the northeast and Glacier Pass to the south. After a short descent there was a snow field with a fork in the tracks. Since the tracks to the right appeared out of the way we took the tracks to the left. Wrong choice! The tracks faded and we had some rough cross-country before intersecting the trail again near one of the Little Five Lakes. We continued past the last of the Lakes to Lake 10275 described by Neuner and camped just above and beyond the lake in a pleasant forest. Since it was only about 1:30pm we decided to scout the Big Arroyo, about 2 miles ahead and 900ft down. There were actually several streams. After one knee-deep barefoot crossing near a deserted cabin we found the High Sierra Trail junction about 1/8 mile up (NW) the canyon. We then found a dry route back via several logs across the Arroyo and returned to camp.

The next morning we set off at 6:20 down to the Arroyo and up the High Sierra Trail (with six stream crossings) to a small tarn on the left of the trail. We continued past this point until about 10100 feet where we left the trail headed northeast through a forest. We soon encountered John Irwin breaking camp. He is 74 and had climbed Kaweah from that point the day before (6½ hrs up, 5 hrs down with only a can of V-8 and a candy bar). He warned us of a "large number" of false summits. We continued up through the forest and on to rocks. Passing each bump on the left I was headed towards the last bump, but looked up over my right shoulder. There I could clearly see the register bolted to the summit (13816). It had taken 3 2/3 hours. After a leisurely lunch and picture-taking at the top we quickly descended down scree bearing to the east to avoid a jumble of rocks to the right of the forest. We intersected the trail somewhat beyond our point of departure, and returned to camp before 6pm after a day's gain of 5500 feet.

The last day we got up at 5:00am, and headed back the trail avoiding some icy log crossings. This time we stuck on the Black Rock Pass Trail all the way, reaching the pass before 9:00am. Coming down the switchbacks we saw a very faint trail on the NE side of Cliff Creek Valley headed towards Spring Lake. In my opinion it was no better than the way we had gone two days before. Finally the moment of truth! Could we get up the snow to Glacier Pass? Yes. It was just before noon and the snow was soft enough for kicking steps. Between kicking steps, taking advantage of a few ridges, and taking a few swipes with the ice axe, we reached the rock of Glacier Pass by noon. From there we traversed towards Monarch Lakes and found a trail junction with a trail directly to Mineral King. Wrong choice! It was a part of the old trail which is unmaintained and very heavily rock-strewn. The right way is to go all the way to lower Monarch Lake and return via the new trail, though slightly longer. After a delay due to a mixup at another junction, I returned to the car at 3:40pm for a few most welcome beers to celebrate my SPS Emblem after an 11-year quest.

LANGLEY, JOE DEVIL, PICKERING, CORCORAN, LE CONTE, NEWCOMB, CHAMBERLIN, HITCHCOCK, GUYOT, HALE, YOUNG. Sep 17-23, 1983. TOBY & DYKEMAN.

The trip went in over New Army Pass, and came out at Whitney Portals. The SPS Leaders offered to climb all the peaks in the area. 11 peaks were climbed by the group in a week. Most of us had climbed there before, so no one person did all 11. Toby got 8, Dykeman got 9 and everyone got whatever they chose to go after. Participants were George Toby, Dave Dykeman, Lloyd Brown (from Modesto), Larry Hoak, Will Harris, and Hal Edwards.

Day 1. After a car shuttle that left 2 cars at Whitney Portals and 2 at Horseshoe Meadows, we backpacked over New Army Pass. At this point three climbed Langley led by Toby while Dykeman took the others to a pre-determined campsite on Rock Creek. The climbers came in well after dark on a trailless, moonless route. A tricky job of compass work. The campfire that was supposed to be a beacon did not show until we were well down into the Rock Creek canyon and almost upon it. However, one climber was exhausted and was left at Soldier Lake on the East side of a little col that drops you into Rock Creek.

Day 2. Three climbed Joe Devil and Pickering led by Dykeman. Toby went back to pick up Harris. He did not stay at his campsite as directed but took off on his own. He was finally found hours later in a meadow about a half mile off course. He was properly chastised for not following directions. All returned to camp at Rock Creek.

Day 3. Four climbed Corcoran and one did Le Conte. The route up Corcoran from the West is very deceiving. The true summit is the most Northerly of the three summits and is directly South of Le Conte. An excellent air photo is on the cover of the Aug/Sep 1973 Echo. Starting at the I in Iridescent Lake, climb to the shoulder and you will be looking right up at the peak and into a prominent chute. It will have snow earlier in the year. A short distance up is a prominent chockstone, with one class 4 grunt move. Unless you like chockstones don't take this chute. Go 100 yards to the South and take the next chute. It joins the first chute above the chockstone. Climb to the head of this chute to a series of 5 foot granite steps on the left. Go to the right. The route is ducked from here on. Proceed under a huge chockstone to a small saddle. Keep to the right, drop down a bit, class 3 rock to a large chute. Hang a left and up to the summit. A good climb. We re-grouped and hiked up the drainage to a beautiful camp on Sky Blue Lake.

Day 4. Ascended a series of ledges to lake 12,125 and over a pass to drop down into the crabtree drainage to a campsite above lake 11,312. That afternoon four climbed Newcomb from the West. Dave led a super class 3 rock traverse over to Chamberlin. Hairy in spots. We descended a steep chute West of Chamberlin with a short 3 to 4 rock pitch to get around an overhanging cornice. Great climbing for two normally easy peaks.

Day 5. One person signed out to go out at his own pace. The group climbed Hitchcock and backpacked down to a fine campsite at the East end of Crabtree meadows. Four took the trail South and climbed Guyot. Returned to camp and had a nice fire going when a terrific thunderstorm hit. It drowned out the evenings activities. One tent had to be moved to higher ground. It started to float away, with people in it.

Quote: "Hell hath no fury like a woman's corns". Shakespeare??!!

Thought for the day: The light at the end of the tunnel may be the headlight of an oncoming trail.

Day 6. Hiked up the Muir Trail to visit with the Ranger at the Crabtree Ranger Station. Went on to the basin below Guitar Lake. Larry Hoak developed a knee problem and Hal Edwards had some sort of foot misery. They took off for Trail Crest and Whitney Portals. Toby, Dykeman, and Brown climbed Hale and Young. It turned cold and windy. We hiked the Muir over Trailcrest (13,777) and down to a campsite above Consolation Lake. Both the Muir and Whitney Trails were in bad shape from last winter's storms. No repair in 1983. Still lots of snow. Had to melt snow for water at camp.

Day 7. Hiked down to Whitney Portals by 9:00 am. Nice breakfast in Lone Pine. Car shuttle back up the Cottonwood Road to pick up Lloyd Brown's Puegot diesel. The trip wasn't over yet folks, it would not start. We tried to start it by pushing it downhill. On the third attempt, just as we were running out of downhill, it kicked over with a cloud of black smoke. A happy ending of a great trip.

IRON - SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 1983

George

An 8:00 a.m. meeting time allowed those who knew to eat breakfast in Mammoth and still make the meeting time: Both trailhead quotas and the bus to the Devils Postpile National Monument were over for the year. This trip was scheduled as a backpack to allow some lesser experienced peakbaggers to go; last winter's record snow may have contributed to a heavy rate of dropouts as ice axe and crampons were required equipment. The trail follows the 1953 topo except for a southern by-pass shortly before you get out of the National Monument boundary. There is a sign to Ashley Lake about one mile before the lake, leading West and South; this trail dissipates before the lake. There is considerable evidence that the trail has been rerouted over the years but appeared to be a succession of mini-improvements rather than any major changes. We observed a porcupine close up on the way in. All nine of us made it to the lake and nine (not the same nine) went for the peak. The lake is passed on the West; snow level of the glacier was about at lake level. Ice axes and crampons were left at the top of the glacier which is steep at the top, for a Class One hike over rock to the summit. Clouds covered the heads of the nearby taller peaks although the view, in general, was quite good. A new register was placed in the bottom half of the familiar aluminum cylinder. The lid is a rusted-out tin can. Back to the lake by 5:00 p.m. for a leisurely dinner hour and a small campfire. A lazy Sunday start and hike in brisk autumn air led to lunch in Mammoth.

Note: There are a number of campsites next (West) to the outlet of the lake. These sites are poor for erecting a tent and are within 100 feet of the water; this spot appears overused. There are better campsites East of the outlet although they are spaced away from each other and are more than 100 feet from water.

Thunderbolt, Temple Crag Sept. 17-18, 1983 Hudson/Valkass

Six of us were looking forward to this classic Sierra summit. We started from the parking lot near Glacier Lodge at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning with great weather conditions. After a little bushwacking above 3rd. Lake, we got to the base of Temple Crag about noon, left our packs, and started up. Our route was Roper's #16, "Northwest Face, class 3." Two hundred feet up from the base of the gully, there was a 15' class 4 spot where we belayed, but otherwise, (except for some loose rock) no problem - class 2-3. The view of the jagged aretes forming the walls on either side of the chute made the climb quite enjoyable. Back to camp after dark, we quickly ate and hit the sacks for an early rise to do Thunderbolt.

Up at 0445, we proceeded with crampons and ice ax up the hard snow still there after the heavy winter. From Palisade Glacier, the Underhill couloirs looked interesting. The left one had a huge landslide at its base; the rock wall to its left apparently shed a few thousand tons of rock recently. Rockfall could still be heard there. The right hand U'hill couloir looked safe with few rocks below. I decided to do this, since the other usual class 4 route (NE couloir) was not visible and was more work to get to from where we were. We could see a good place to get across the bergschrund - It may have been the only spot on the glacier to get across. At the base of the U-notch was an overhanging ice wall 30+ feet high!

We walked up the hard icy snow until it became an ice climbing situation. Paul Edwards and I climbed a pitch (up to 40), front pointing and each borrowing a second ax. The next obstacle was an 8' diameter chockstone, where I was able to get some protection in and went directly up and over it on belay. The blue ice to the left of the chockstone looked too thin! Above was a large ledge area from which we could belay. Above that, the next belay spot was half a pitch up, class 3-4. The pitch up to the notch was low class 5 on large blocks (possibly loose?). I used 3 chocks to protect the lead.

We stayed on rock there up to the notch since the gully was slick, steep ice. From the notch on the crest were class 3-4 slabs up about 150', then a class 4 crack with fixed pitons to use for a belay anchor. A little higher was a false summit, then the infamous summit block a couple hundred feet to the north.

In order to protect climbing the 15' high, 5.8 climb, I used 1) a 6' diameter lasso (tied down) high on the tapered block, 2) a larger, but more secure lasso lower on the rock, and 3) a faded sling of unknown security placed by some previous party. With a lower belay, I did the climb free: first, a mantle on $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide holds to a slight ledge, a semi-layback around the sloping corner, and then another mantle onto the sloping top. After a little re-rigging of the ropes, I fixed a secure upper belay and fixed line anchor for the rest of our group, who either prussiked up or stepped, using loops in the rope (on belay). The summit register was also an anchor point for a sling, attached with a bolt. A grand spot! We did climb to get this peak! Successful were I (Ron Hudson), Maris Valkass, Ben Preyer, Paul Edwards, and Bob Anglin. We rappelled off the block, and most started down while I was dismantling the maze of rope. We were off the summit at 3:30.

From the notch, the three ropes were tied together for a single 400' long rappel to the bottom of the ice chute. Things did not go rapidly, though. Some had some trouble with their rigs and passing the knots through figure 8's. The last person, Maris, pulled the rope up from the top for a double rope rappel to the large ledge where I had been waiting and organizing equipment. Another rappel put Maris and me at the bottom; the others were walking across the glacier now. A stuck rope required me to re-climb a full pitch on the ice, set another anchor, rappel, and walk across the bergschrund in the fading light. We were all onto the glacier by dark, though. The rest of the trip was walking and driving all night, but all were fine and would have fond memories of a very enjoyable and challenging climbing experience!

R74

Matterhorn, Virginia, and Twin

Sept 3-5, 1983

A permit maximum group hiked into base camp at the saddle between Matterhorn and Twin Peaks, and about half the group dropped their packs and did a routine climb of Matterhorn, while the others had had enough for the first day.

There were at least 5 M-rated leaders, so it was decided to form two groups for the 2nd day's climbing. The first group, led by Dave Dykeman and Mary Gygax, started early with dilusions of getting Twin, Virginia and Whorl all in one day. They climbed Twin by what seemed an obvious route at the south end of the west face. It went well. Their traverse from Twin to Virginia was high, going back and forth across the crest, and kept going despite it's sometimes dire-looking prospects. The most doubtful section ended up being an easy chute on the east side of the ridge. Virginia was an easy climb with lunch on top, but hopes for Whorl were dashed when an attempted short-cut back-fired. It ended up in a rough traverse nearly back to camp to get down from the ridge.

The 2nd group, with Larry Machleder, Eivor Nilsson, and Jerry Blackwill at the helm, followed later for a more routine climb of the two peaks. Whorl was not attempted on Labor Day, the entire group opting for a less frantic long trip home.

Dave Dykeman

A priest, a minister, and a rabbi were discussing as to when life begins.

"It begins", said the priest, "at conception".

"Oh no", said the minister, "it begins at birth".

"not so", protested the Rabbi, "It begins when the kids leave home."

A lady went to the Ahmondson in style.

Being early had some time to wile.

Seeing the pool,

Look so cool,

While waiting went wading awhile.

Q: Why do mountaineers rope up?

A: To prevent the sensible ones from going home.

Q: What's a psychoceramic?

A: A crack pot.

Q: How do you eat an elephant?

A: One bite at a time.

"To be is to do"-- Sartre

"To do is to be"--Nietzsche

"Do be do be do"--Sinatra

After climbing five of these over the Labor Day holiday, I have a few corrections to make to the writeups in previous issues of the Echo.

Freel Pk: The road taking off from Pioneer Trail about 1 mile N of US 50 in Meyers is Oneidas St; the sign is gone at Pioneer Trail, but is present 1 block further along. We climbed from the end of the road at Fountain Place via Armstrong Pass, as have most others. We started down as did Bill T Russell, but when we reached the first ridge line W of the pk, we followed it NNW down to the saddle below 9800', first along the ridge, and then just below it on the W side on one of several usage trails. The trails coalesced below the saddle and continued on the N side of what Bill T called the N fork of Trout Creek. The usage trail was not right at the creek, but was 50 to 150 yards uphill from it. The trail finally ran into a badly deteriorated road a little NE of Fountain Place, and this road joined the one on the map. This was a fast, easy way down. It can be used to climb the pk, but there are some loose sandy sections that would be some trouble going uphill.

Pyramid Pk: With some variation from Stan Icen's route, I climbed this by the Lyons Creek trail, which starts a few tenths of a mile E of the Wrights Lake Rd (paved) N of US 50. The turnoff to the trailhead is reached just before the road crosses Lyons Creek on a bridge, and is marked. The pretty trail goes along the SE side of Lyons Creek, enters the Desolation Wilderness (permit required) and goes to Lake Sylvia. On the S side of Lake Sylvia is a talus-filled wide chute which goes up to the ridge at about 8550'. The ridge leads right up to the pk.

Mt Lola: The bridge across the Little Truckee River on the Independence Lake road has been washed out, so we had to find another way to get across the river from the paved Jackson Meadow Reservoir Rd. We drove 5.49 miles (road marker) W on the Jackson M.R. Rd to a dirt road on the left which is signed "Perazzo Meadow". We followed the dirt road W for 0.75 mile down to a green gate at the dirt Henness Pass Rd, and turned left (E) on the latter. After 0.5 mile we crossed the Little Truckee on a bridge; another 1.75 miles brought us to a sign reading "Mt Lola Trail", and then it was 0.35 mile further to the junction with the road up toward Mt Lola. We drove up this road and parked just before the bridge crossing Cold Stream. We followed the trail till it disappeared at 8600', and found it again on Lola's E ridge leading to the top. There was still snow on the slopes below the top.

Castle Pk: As reported before, the road to Castle Pass is bad. The usage trail goes up to the pk past the false summits on the S side. When we got to the final bump, we went to the E side looking for the route up reported by John Backus, but that is obviously not the side to go up. There is an open gully that leads part way up the middle of the bump from the S side. The last part of the climb is up the wall on the E side of this gully. What I would like to know is how Mary McMannes climbed this wall with a cast on her leg.

Stanislaus Pk: For some reason, the route to this pk has not been described in the Echo for many years. The route starts from Hwy 108 about 0.8-0.9 mile W of Sonora Pass (not the PCT at Sonora Pass). It starts N as a closed-off 4-wheel drive road, and becomes a trail as it goes by St Mary's Pass. The trail continues N all the way to the saddle SE of the pk, and then it is a short climb to the top. The last 100 feet of the peak climb is Class 2, so the Peaks list should be corrected to show this.

The registers on Lola and Castle were placed by the "Northern Alpine Section" (NAS) of the Mother Lode Chapter. They consist of about a one-foot length of two-inch diameter white polyvinyl chloride pipe closed on both ends with white PVC caps. The caps fit quite snugly. A note pad and pencils fit easily inside. These are a lot cheaper than our cast aluminum containers, but certainly are not as elegant.

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. Hollywood, ca 91605. ECHO deadlines are the 20th of the odd numbered months and June. Priority is given to TYPED, SINGLE SPACED copy.

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Secretary: Mary Sue Miller, 814 N. Valley Dr. Westlake Village, CA 91362. Third class mail is not forwarded.

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