Sierra



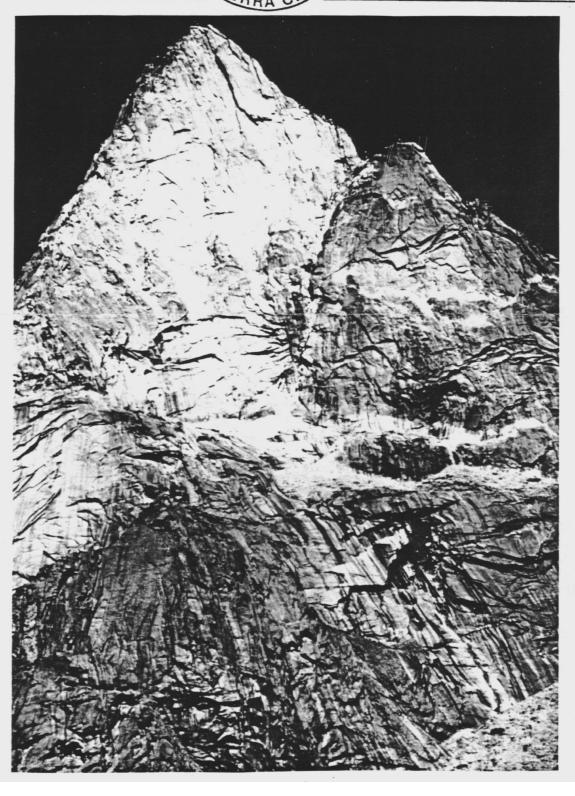
ECHO

VOLUME 28

SEPT - OCT.

1984

NO. 6



FROM THE CHAIR

The SPS Management Committee has reviewed all List Finisher Pin ideas submitted. Many interesting ideas were presented: attachments with a chain to the Senior Emblem Pin, the same basic pin with a different color border, a completely different pin, and others. After much discussion, the committee ended up favoring a List Finisher Pin that consists of the Senior Emblem Pin encircled with a climbing rope in a gold color. There is also a possibility that an ice axe will be incorporated in the climbing rope border design. After the company that manufactures the pins is consulted as to the feasibility and appearance consideration of the design, the Management Committee will evaluate their suggestions before making the final decision.

Cur decision was based primarily on the fact that the Senior Emblem Pin is very attractive and the desire to maintain a unifying appearance to the three pins - Emblem, Senior Emblem, and List

The Management Committee thanks all of you who took the time

Hancy Bordon

to submit List Finisher Pin ideas.

FIGHRA PLAKS TRAINING SCHEDULE 1984-1985

Ranschau, Mihaljevich Foscil Falls, Rock climbing practice Stoney Pt, Rock Climbing practice Stoney Pt, noo. Crag, Smith climbs Russell, Eradley Dec 1 Young, Reador Dec 1-2 Jan 12-13 Joshua Tree, Rock climbing practice Bradley, Jones Feb 16-17 Snow Trip
Lar 16 | Ice axe practice Toby, Rohn Bradley, Titus

1984 CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

Mountaineers interested in climbing Ecuador's Chimborazo (20,563') and Cotapaxi (19,350'), local to Quito, from approximately December 22 to December 31st., contact Donn Cook, 1530 W. Hemlock, Santa Ana, CA 92204.

NEW MEMBERS

SALLY DAVIS FRANK AVELLA DAVE MROCZKOWSKI GREG GERLACH

NEW MEMBERS

JOHN REED KENT SANTLEMAN

NEW SENIOR EMBLEMS

#79 RON HUDSON #80 LANCE DIXON

COVER PHOTO:

Seventeen thousand feet up a never-before-climbed stone tower called Celestial Peak in Tibetan China. Hidden deep in the Hengduan Mountains of western China on the Fibetan border, it had never been climbed. It had not even been seen by Westerners until 1980; before that, it was known only to local yak herders and herb gathers, who regarded it as a god.

ANNUAL BANQUET: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1984

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	VENTURA BLYD	MILE	GRID)		7LIVORII

Directions:

Ventura Freeway to Coldwater Canyon

South to Ventura Blvd. (entrance on Coldwater, block N. of Ventura)

Self park where you can find it or pay valet

Banquet is in the "Waterfalls Room"

The Sportsmen's Lodge 12833 Ventura Blvd. Studio City, CA 91604

phone: (818) 984-0202

(213) 877-9846

No-host cocktail hour: 6:30 P.M.

Roast beef dinner:

7:30 P.M.

Program: Edward Vaill
"Tower of Challenge: First Ascent
of Celestial Peak in Chinese Tibet"

For reservations: Contact any Management Committee member or

Ruth Armentrout, Banquet Chairman * 23262 Haynes St. Canoga Park, CA 91307

phone: (818) 346-3467

Cost: \$16.00 per person payable by check to Sierra Peak Section

RSVR by December 8, 1984

* If by mail, enclose SASE

DUANE MC RUER

At 0630 on Saturday, ten of us left the Oak Creek roadhead (6000 ft.) and hiked the Baxter Pass Trail to a very pleasant camp spot near the stream junction at 10,800 ft. which we reached before noon. Two who had already climbed Diamond stayed in camp while the other eight, including Doug Mantle on his third time through the list, climbed Diamond (13,126') in the p.m. Our route was up the south branch of the North Fork into the cirque that is southeast of the peak. We spied a scree chute that went through the wall and were soon on the summit plateau and then the summit. This chute is roughly north-south and lies just to the west of the "R" on the topo. There was enough good snow to permit fine standing glissades and a rapid descent to dinner.

On Sunday nine climbers conquered Baxter by hiking over Baxter Pass, past main Baxter Lake, past the small lake at 11,760+, and up the SW slope of the peak proper. When we reached the summit plateau near the peak we saw about 8 bighorn sheep, including at least two lambs, on the plateau about 300 m away to the S.E. The sheep group and the human group looked at one another for awhile.

Then the sheep split and the humans do what all such groups do, they bagged the peak. We started from camp at 0600 and were on top at 1000It was a beautiful day and we had a lazy half hour identifying peaks including ten emblem peaks.

On descent we retraced our route except that we went via the saddle between Baxter and Acrodeetes where the talus was more stable. reached camp at 1330 left at 1415 and were back at the trailhead before 1700. There was a short delay in making the two principal stream crossings particularly at the upper crossing near 8300 ft. (Not 8640 as shown on the topo). It was a fine trip with excellent weather, snow and trail conditions and splendid people. We gained almost 12,000 ft. and covered about 25 miles. The register can on Diamond is a SPS cast Al with a new book. We placed a SPS Al can and new book on Baxter.

Participants were:

Bill T

Lloyd Brown Toni Dawson Dennis Flint Bob Hicks

Duane McRuer Doug Mantle Duane McRuer R.J. Secor Bill T. Russell Don Weiss

Eric Schmacher

STATE PK., GOAT MTN......14-16 SEPT. 1984......BILL T. RUSSELL DUANE MC RUER

We left the trail head at 0700 on Friday and hiked up the Copper Creek Trail, through Granite Basin, over Granite Pass and camped at a reasonably good spot about 1/2 mile north of the pass which we reached at 1630 (6000' 11 mi). The campspot was to the west of the trail above the second meadow counting from the pass; it was near a small spring. On Saturday we left camp at 0700 and hiked via the trails on the topo. We started up the west buttress of State but found it better on the SW face which was good class 2 climbing. We descended down the SW face and then down the valley to lower State Lake over very nice walking terrain. We returned to our camp at 1700 to complete a good day. (4000', 15 mi.) (CONT. BOT. NEXT PAGE)

Eight participants started from South Lake Just a bit late and moved just a bit slowly to cross Bishop Pass, Dusy Basin and Knapsack Pass, get into a camp area at about 10,800 half way between the unnamed lake at 11,100' and the stream draining the Barrett Lakes and still have time to climb Giraud that afternoon. Four of us took a stab at it but soon saw that we lacked about two hours of daylight and it was getting rainy any-

On Saturday six proceeded to Observation while two tried for Giraud. Maintaining a two-night camp at 10;800' made a largely trailless trek to Deer Meadow and back much less tedious than the original plan to camp along the Muir Trail at 8800' and gave us more flexibility in choosing which mountain to climb. Crossing Palisade Creek just below the start of the Cataract Creek trail was easy on a very large log perhaps a mile above the big Deer Creek campground. It's a little discorraging to realize at this point that you are 1000' below where you started the day before at South Lake, having crossed two passes each near 12,000'. The trail up Cataract Creek, as shown on the Mt. Goddard topo, ends at an abandoned mine entrance about \frac{1}{2} mile before Amphitheater Lake. We continued over slabs to the rim of the canyon, passed the lake on its west side and climbed into the saddle leading to the Dumbbell Lakes. A turn to the NW here affords easy access to the peak up its SE ridge. From the summit views of the Palisade region are great. South farther is Split and the Monarch Divide stretches west from there. Due west across the Middle Fork of the Kings are the spectacular Devil's Crags. Returning we took advantage of a long snow chute beginning at about 11,800' and leading directly to the west fork of Cataract Creek at about 10,200'. The climb back up to our camp went remarkably easily and the time for the day was slightly over eleven hours.

Having missed Giraud on Friday and the two who tried on Saturday having gotten off route, we started again on Sunday morning early. The climb went easily by passing the 11,100' lake on its north, proceeding to the saddle directly west at 12,040', contouring and dropping perhaps 400' around the large bowl east of Giraud and climbing up the SE face. The final approach was on the SW ridge. Round trip time was about five hours but, as we have said, this was not a fast group.

It was a six or seven hour trek back to South Lake. The four who had to be on the job Monday went straight out arriving at eight. The other four stopped in Dusy Basin, immediately beneath Isosocles and Columbine, had a dip in a shallow pond, and were soon enjoying the thunder, lightning, hail and rain from the comfort of their tents. They strolled out on a lavely morning, arriving at the roadhead just as the big rains becan again. It had been a fun trip and everyone got the peaks that he

really wanted six on Observation and seven on Giraud.

The leaders' thanks so Lloyd Brown and Eric Schumacher for their help in route finding. New register canisters were placed on both peaks. STATE & GOAT (CONT).

On Sunday we started at 0700 and left our packs at the saddle (BM 9189) south of Grouse Lake. We then hiked past the lake and up the very nice open basin to the west face of Goat Mountain. climbed the face a bit too far to the south; the summit is at the north end of the ridge and it would have been easier to have started up the face at a point north of the summit. However, the traverse along the summit ridge was interesting. We returned to our packs and were back at the cars by 1700. (3000', 16 mi.) The trip was most enjoyable. The weather was good but with a little hail on Sunday. Participants were: Duane McRuer, Mercedes Russell, Bill T. Russell. We left a SPS register can and a new book on each peak. Bull T.

This summer was a rainy one. On this trip, the sun shone only about 10% of the time and three days had at least two hours rain.

We started at Taboose Pass trailhead. Partpicipants were Larry Machleder, Mary Gygax, Vieve Weldon, Tod Williamson, and myself--Ron Hudson. The first day, we backpacked up the 6000' gain to a campsite just below the pass (in the rain). Observation and Marion were our most distant goals, so we decided to go across the canyon toward Cartridge Pass. The second day we went down, and then up the not too distinct trail, camping at the 10700' level S of Cartridge Pass. This put us in good position for Marion Peak. We started early (6am) and contoured along the N side of the Kings R Canyon, climbing to the summit via the E face and NE ridge (class 1-2). No register! The cardboard tube there had been ravaged by the rodents. We descended via the NE and went on to Lake basin, passing Marion Lake on its E side. Vieve and Tod opted to proceed back to camp via the trail, while the other 3 of us went on to Observation. Up, then down to Dumbbell Lakes and a 2000' climb to the summit gave us a panorama that aptly justified the peak's name. Arrival at the summit was at 315pm but we still had two passes and a considerable distance ahead to get back to camp. A raging!! thunderstorm hit us just below Cartridge Pass. Since darkness was rapidly approaching, we had little choice but to continue up the flooded trail amid the thunder and bolts of lightning. . The downpour abated by the time we were over the pass, and we arrived at camp just as it got dark--a long day!

The next morning I bagged Ruskin. Then we went down the canyon and back up again to camp N of Lake Marjorie by the John Muir Trail. The others packed out, and Vieve and I climbed Pinchot and Wynne. Pinchot went class 2 on the W side with some loose class 3 between the two peaks. Then down the W ridge of Wynne to Pinchot Pass as the clouds closed in and it began to rain. Even though a half dozen summits in the area remain for me, I finished my senior emblem (on Pinchot) and had seen enough moisture. So, we packed out.

Unfortunately, back at the roadhead, the cars had been broken head and liftable contents removed.

Reflecting, I remember the lake and basin scenery between Marion and Observation and around Bench Lake as being some of the prettiest I have seen in the Sierra. Also, we saw no other people in those areas.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

Many a self-made man stopped too soon. Keep your chin up, it helps keep your mouth shut. The only person who benefits from running someone down is an elevator operator.

The biggest gamble was when Lady Gadiva put everything she had on a horse.

One Galley slave to another: "I would have gone into office work but I hate the idea of being chained to a desk."

Misconception: NO baby -- this time. Alimony: Bounty on the mutiny. A fool and his money are some party. During the "week of storms" in July 1984, Dave Vandervoet and I dodged rainclouds to climb the Palisade Crest, one of the finest climbs in the Sierra. We were only the third party in ten years to make this beak; previous ascents were made in 1974 and 1981 (& 1980). I do not understand why such a challenging and spectacular beak is omitted from the SPS list—a gross mistake.

From a basecamp alongside Clyde Glacier or at Lake Elinore, travel northwest over snow to the base of the Crest. Following the snow field north leads toward an obvious ramp that ascends to the ridge line. The attached diagram indicates the climbing route which traverses mostly on the western side of the ridge. Sharp, steep rock pinacles like fish fins are carefully climbed around or over, alternating to the eastern side as necessary. This traverse is long and much of it is fourth class. A multiof false summits are passed until 'the slab' comes into view next to the true summit. A deep nothe separates the summit from the ridge. By dropping down to third class ledges on the east side, the notch can be crossed at the chockstone. Several ducks verify the correct ledge route. At the base of the impressive 150 ft. slab, setup a belay for the climb, moving up along the right siede of the slab. Good holds are abundant. A few stoppers (#3-#5) are handy for protection. On top of the slab move left to standing areas at the base of the summit block 70 ft. above. This last pitch is ascended third class but a belay and one or two anchors are wise because of fatigue. The view to the south includes Clyde Peak: to the north is the silhouette of Mt. Sill and North Pal. The long untouched cannister provides the sense of a first ascent. A safe rappel anchor on too of the slab permits descent back down the slab face. It is a long but easy rappel down to the chockstone. Instead

A safe rappel anchor on top of the slab permits descent back down the slab face. It is a long but easy rappel down to the chockstone. Instead of earrying two, heavy 165 ft. ropes as we did, a shorter rappel midway down the slab can be made by stopping at a convicient rock protrusion along the western edge.

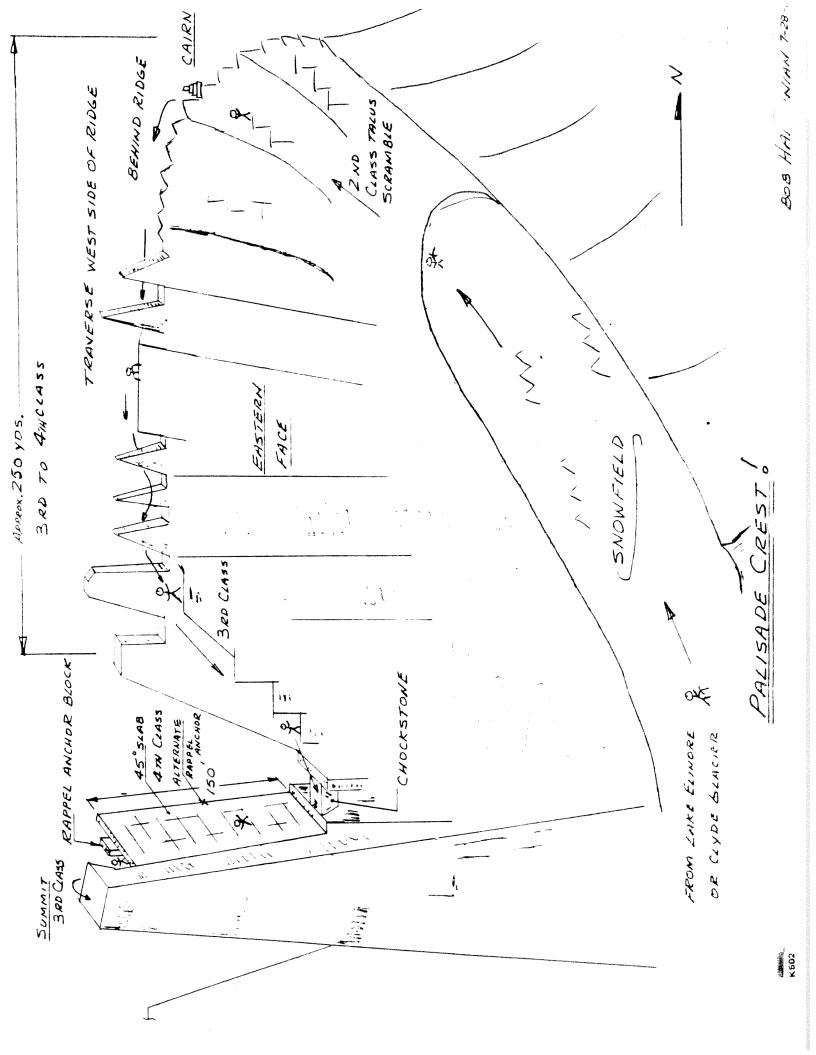
From basecamp the total trip took approximately 11 hrs. It is a very satisfying mixed climb, well worth the effort over snow and rock. This Peak we will climb again.

Mt. Haeckel-NW Arete 3-5 Aug 84 Jim Erb/Theresa Rutherford

On the second day of this three-day scheduled SPS trip, we climbed Haeckel and Wallace via a 13 hour counter-clockwise loop from Hungry Packer L. The center piece was the Northwest Arete of Mt. Haeckel, chosen because Roper calls the 4th class route "a thrilling and enjoyable route." It was indeed enjoyable 4th class on solid rock, with at least three pitches of roped climbing and a few low 5th class moves.

Our ascent was made slightly more difficult: To bypass a steep snow slope, we topped out on the crest at the far NW end of the saddle to the NW of Haeckel. From there it took 1 1/2 hr to negotiate the knife-edge ridge SW to the start of the formal route, including one rappel. Future parties could save this time by ascending the snow and cresting at the small notch just NW of Mt. Haeckel proper.

The route off Haeckel and over Wallace was routine. The approach to the crest via Lake 12,400 (minus) and return to camp along a bench/ridge NW and N of Echo L were easy. Besides Jim and Theresa, the other participants were Bill Gray and Steve Nelson, who proved to be excellent mountaineers. Even with only four people, this trip still required three days.



When a trip is started under ominous-looking skies, there is an inevitable mood of foreboding in the group. Having traveled 300 miles to confront darkened, cloud-ridden skies provides great incentive for hope of improvement in the weather.

We left Devil's Postpile Ranger Station at 0700 Saturday and arrived at Minaret Lake (2400' gain and 7+ mi) at 1030 hoping to climb that day. But the weather was worse and the fierce winds were cold with the portent of rain. The wind chill factor made setting-up tents a priority. There are several excellent camping spots just off the trail among some trees on the NE side of the lake. The snow field and exit ledge of the climb can be seen from this camp site. Cccasionally, joining the pounding of wind on the tents, there were pelts of rain. Most of us dozed or read Saturday afternoon and pondered the possibility that this new weather front would prevent us from achieving our objective. However, at 0530 Sunday, the winds had subsided and the skies were clear. Patience had been rewarded.

Leaving camp at 0630, six of us followed the trail, then headed toward the much diminished snow field (compared to last year) above Cecile Lake. We donned crampons and traversed the snow field to approach the exit ledge where we found the bergschrund non-existent. An easy rock scramble provided access to the ledge which is about 10 ft wide and leads up to the right (west) at a gentle slope for about 300 ft and on to a coulair of 1,000 ft of the best sustained 3rd class rock-climbing in the Sierra. The group moved effortlessly to the summit arete and traversed south 30 yards along the back side of the arete to the 10 foot vertical 4th class down climb and an easy rock scramble to the visible summit. The skies were spectacular with the clouds already warning us that, having accomplished our goal, we should be on our way. As we approached camp, the winds were again telling us we had been lucky to climb between storms. We broke camp after lunch at 1330 for a leisurely hike out to the cars, arriving shortly before 1630.

Beside Roy and myself were Ruth Armentrout, Vic Hong, Bill Bradley, Barbara Reber, and Barbara Magnuson, who attributed her swift and aggressive climbing style to a stern bergführer who accompanied her on a successful climb of the Matterhorn this summer.

Mancy Gordon

Jerry Keating & Elton Fletcher KOIP AND PARKER PKS., MT. WOOD, Sept. 1-3, 1984

Terrain rarely traveled by SPSers attracted 15 Sierrans over Labor Day weekend with uncrowded campsites and climbing areas being among the rewards.

From Silver Lake, the party backpacked Saturday over Gem Pass to a comfortable camp on the peninsula separating the two largest Alger Lakes (10,620'). The Alger Lakes area is park-like with scattered tree clumps but little wood. Only one other party was there, a pleasant surprise on a holiday weekend.

On Sunday, 11 persons continued up the well-graded trail to the 12,300-foot saddle between Koip (12,979') and Parker (12,861') Pks. From there, three persons climbed Koip, Parker and Mt. Wood (12,637'). Two others added Koip and Parker, while a like number chose instead to do Parker and Wood. Three others settled for Koip alone, while one hiker relaxed at the saddle.

From any of these peaks, the views of Lyell and the Ritter Range are particularly rewarding. From Parker and Wood, the panorama to the east is enhanced by Mono and Grant Lakes.

Monday's backpack out took about four hours and was completed before lunch. Thanks to Walt Whisman and Rich Gnagy for assisting the leaders during part of this leisurely weekend.

A permit problem—somehow my reservation was for July instead of August 31—meant that I had to stand in line with other supplicants at the Bridgeport RS, so Norm, Vieve Weldon, Mary McMannes, Lloyd Brown, and I didn't get started from Mono Village at Twin Lakes until almost 9:00. We hiked up past Barney Lake to Peeler Lake (the trail from Barney to Peeler is not as shown on the 1956 topo) where we ate lunch (enjoying fresh tomatoes provided by Norm), then through dry Kerrick Meadows, and over Seavey Pass to about 8,500' on the trail, where we camped. At this point, a little stream flows close to the right side of the trail, and three little benches provide good campsites a few feet up the manzanita covered slope to the left.

Next morning we headed south down to about 7,600', then up to just above Rodgers Lake. We left the trail, circled the east end of the lake, and climbed up to the saddle between Pettit and Regulation. Lloyd ran up Regulation, and caught the rest of us at the summit of Pettit, where we lunched. Bob Emerick surprised us by popping up out of the rocks. He had packed in from Tuolumne Meadows, climbed Virginia already, and was planning to climb Piute the next day from the south. Halfway down the ridge to Volunteer, Bob left us to go back to his pack at Benson Pass. Lloyd climbed all the bumps on the way to Volunteer, encountering 20' of class 3 on the last high point before our objective. The rest of us went around this intermediate peak on the left. On the saddle just before Volunteer, we met three girls from a nearby trail crew, but they weren't interested in any of us.

We came off Volunteer heading south, then curving west to intersect the trail back to camp. On the way back, we met Paul Lipsohn trudging toward Seavey Pass on the Tuolumne Meadows to Sonora Pass leg of his some-of-the-PCT-every-weekend project. He joined us in camp that night, where Lloyd shared smoked oysters at happy hour, Norm shared generic cookies for dessert, and Mary shared vanilla pudding.

Sunday morning, Paul left for Seavey Pass and the rest of us hauled the backpacks 50 yards up the trail and hid them behind a big rock on the edge of a little meadow. We then headed northwest up a steep, grassy slope to intersect the northeast ridge of Piute, then headed back along the ridge toward the summit. Very near the summit, this ridge turns into class 3-4 blocks and ends. Here we dropped to the right perhaps 100', and crossed a small, flat snow bowl at the top of the mountain's main north chute. On the right side of this bowl, a steep, sandy chute goes up to the north ridge on the right, and a less-steep ramp, defined by vegetation, angles up to the left. We turned up the left ramp (midway up it is smooth slab, but not hard) to a patch of grass, then turned right to intersect the mountain's north ridge a little above where the steeper sandy chute joined it. Five minutes of class 2 on the ridge put us on the sandy summit plateau very near the cairn-marked summit. We signed in, dedicating the peak to Larry Machleder, who may climb it one of these days. We didn't see Bob.

We descended the way we ascended the peak, had lunch at the packs (the trickster god Coyote chose this time to pluck the camera from my shirt pocket and drop it into the stream where I was getting water), and packed up over the pass to the south end of Kerrick Meadows, where we camped near the junction with the Rock Island Pass trail. Lloyd shared smoked clams at a happy hour that was so successful that Norm wore his altimeter to bed, presumably to keep track of how high he was. Next morning, we were all glad to be heading out. Mary was in such good spirits that she chatted non-stop to Vieve on subjects ranging from Liz and Dick to Zen Buddhism. Thus, when Norm found two unopened cans of smoked oysters left by some careless camper at Barney Lake and gave them to Lloyd, Mary was able to attribute the find to good karma.

At Mono Village, some of us paid for showers while the cheapskates drove off to find a hot springs. A good trip, but tiring. Perfect weather, and everyone got all the peaks. Thanks to Barbara Magnuson for the route on Piute.

(W.K.)

The High Uintas Primitive Area contains Kings Peak(13,498'), high point of Utah, thus attracting "State High Point" climbers. And perhaps because it is a unique east-west range, it also appears to receive more than its share of summer-time moisture coming up from the Gulf of Mexico. Although close to a population center (Salt Lake City), comparatively few people are seen on the trails very far from roadheads, or off trail. The wet weather, the swamps and meadows, glaciated lakes, primitive forest conditions and mosquitoes resemble the wilds of Canada rather than a mountain range in the western U.S. And yet, sheep grazing is permitted throughout the entire area—a comparatively high proportion of giardia cases occur each year—and all drinking water, even on the highest peaks, must be treated. The writer visited the area in 1975 and in 1983 and found the same conditions, "wild, wet and woolly" to prevail both times.

For the climb of Kings Peak only, Ashley's book on "State High Points" describes a 3-day trip from the north--Henry's Fork Creek--camping at Dollar Lake. However, there are other 13,000' peaks to climb, and the beauty of the area--the multi-colored peaks, the green forests and meadows and the abundant wild flowers--makes a longer trip worthwhile-in spite of the climate. And, there are NO permits or quotas! Two 7-day backpacks made by the writer, both of which included the climb of Kings Peak, are presented below.

In 1975, the backpack started from the south—the Swift Creek Campground at the end of the Yellowstone Road, reached via Duchesne and Mountain Home, Utah—and included Timothy Lake, Bluebell Pass, Milk Lake, cross—country to the Anderson Pass trail and over Anderson Pass (from which Kings Peak was climbed), Gunsite Pass, Henry's Fork Creek, Smith's Fork Creek and down the Yellowstone River to the trail—head. En route, Mt. Emmons (13,440'), Mt. Gilbert (13,442') and Mt. Powell (13,159') were also climbed. Relevant USGS maps (7½") were Kings Peak, Mt. Emmons, Garfield—Basin and Mt. Powell (all Utah).

In 1983, the starting point was from the north—the East Fork of Black's Fork. The backpack began with the Bald Mountain trail (scenic but strenuous), then over Smith's Fork Pass to the Highline Trail (from which Kings Peak was day—hiked via the Anderson Pass trail), over Tungsten and Squaw Passes to Lake Fork, over Red Knob Pass and down the East Fork of Black's Creek to the trailhead. Other peaks climbed were Mt. Wilson (13,280'+), Mt. Lovenia (13,219'), Explorer Peak (12,708'), Wasatch Peak (13,156') and Tokewanna Pk. (13,165'). Relevant USGS 7½" maps were Kings Peak, Explorer Peak, Oweep Creek, Red Knob, Mt. Lovenia, Mt. Powell and Lyman Lake.

A US Forest Service map is recommended to give an overall picture of the area. For a USFS map price list/availability, write to Ashley National Forest, 437 E. Main St., Vernal, Utah. Also quite useful is a booklet entitled "High Uinta Trails" published by Wasatch Publishers, Inc., 4646 Idlewild Rd., Salt Lake City, Utah 84117 (write for latest price).

The summer weather is not only stormier but colder than in the Sierra (it can snow above 12,000'). A good rain outfit (not necessarily Gortex) and tent with mosquito netting are a must, as are a waterproof pack cover and large plastic bag liner for sleeping bag stuff bag—and lots of plastic bags for clothing. The daily itinerary should be flexible enough to allow for delays caused by bad weather. Rain can fall at any time of the day or night, and brief afternoon thunderstorms occur nearly every day. Thus, it is recommended to climb peaks and cross passes in the mornings and to climb peaks via gullies rather than along ridges where possible. Taking a plastic ground sheet along on peak climbs permits one to more comfortably wait out the current thunderstorm in (hopefully) a safe place and subsequently still reach the summit.

Wood is abundant below 11,000', and trees tend to grow in tight clumps, which permit dry wood to be found even after a hard rain, so a cooking fire is usually possible—but carry a stove and some gasoline just in case! (The latter is useful as a fire starter as well.)

- 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.
- INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to mailer: Ella Hoselton, 5831 W. 76th st. Los Angles, 90045
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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: Randy Danta, 1075 Triunfo Cyn Rd, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

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