

# The Sierra



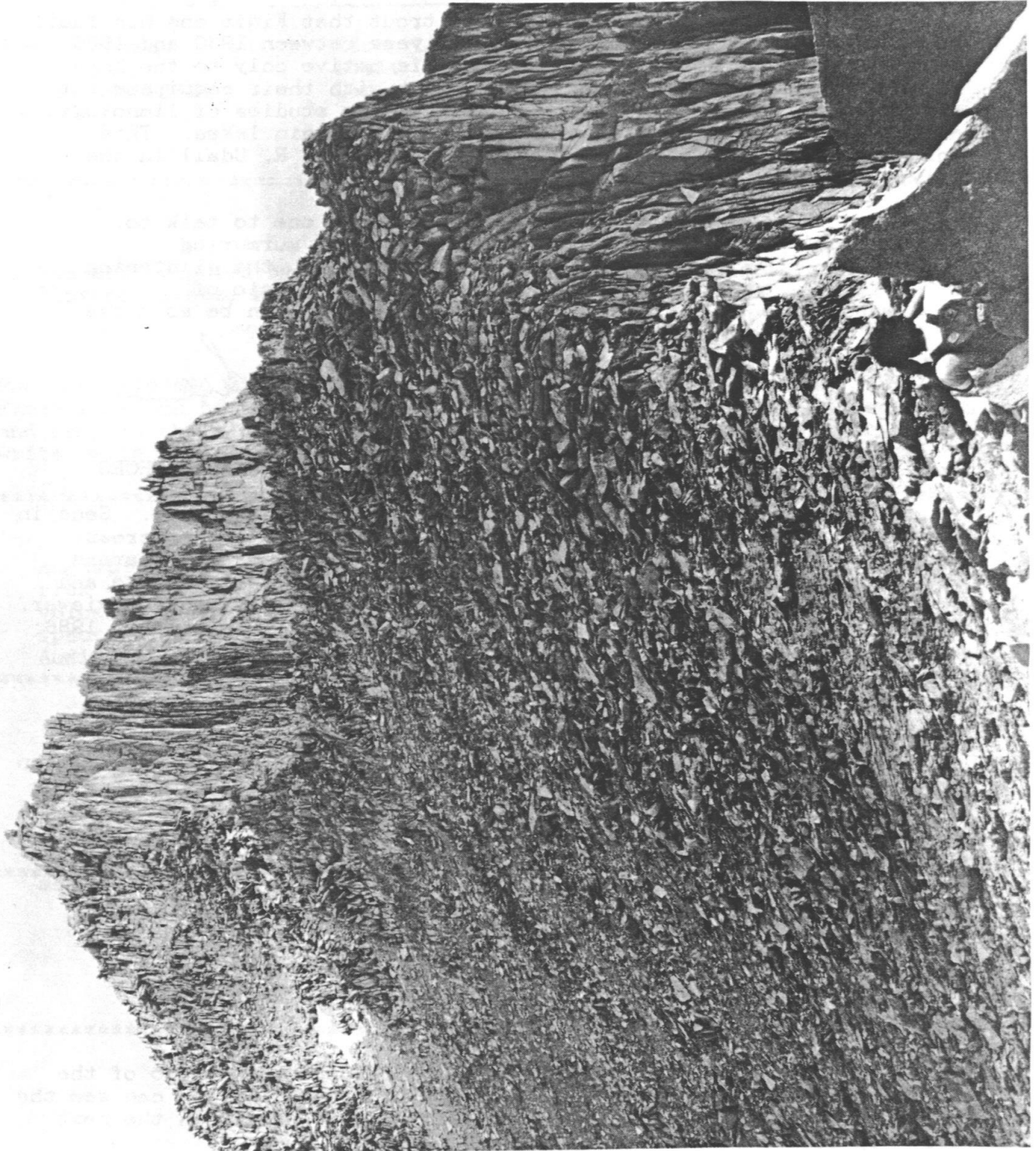
# ECHO

VOLUME 30

JULY

1986

NO. 4



This issue of THE ECHO finds the Chairperson in a "Gone Climbin" mode, and I am sure I am joined in both action and thought by the readership. I will let a quote from Finis Mitchell, Lord of the Winds, write the column. Finis Mitchell's guidebook probably led some of you who have been lucky enough to go to the Wind River Range up Mitchell Peak. For Finis, the U.S. Geographical Survey broke its rule against naming topographic features after living people. Most surely if you took time to smell the flowers and to fish, you may have caught a descendant of one of the 2.5 million trout that Finis and his family stocked in the high lakes of the Wind Rivers between 1930 and 1938. Some of these are Goldens, a trout that is native only to the Kern River in our Southern Sierra. These trout with their requirement for pure water may now be a "Miners Canary" in the studies of limnologists about the acid rain threat to our pristine mountain lakes. This information is excerpted from an article by James R. Udall in the July, 1986, AUDUBON MAGAZINE.

"Evening alone in the mountains. No one to talk to. No one speaking out...Only the comfort of a murmuring breeze, the goodnight chirp of the snowbird...the glistening of the moon on a distant glacier, the faint music of waterfalls scurrying down. Where else can a man be so close to heaven and still have his feet on the ground?"

*Mary Sue*

#### ATTENTION - GOURMETS, CRITICS, GADFLIES, BUDDING AUTHORS

Be included in the 30th Anniversary Edition of THE ECHO. Send in restaurant reviews of recent meals en route to our climbing areas. Don't forget the restaurants to and from the winter training areas. Please include the name of the restaurant, address, price range and your brilliant culinary analysis. Don't forget your name as reviewer. Please type double space. Submit to Nancy Gordon by September, 1986.

#### NOTICE - VICTIMS OF ROADHEAD CAR BREAK-INS

Statistics are being gathered for the 30th Anniversary ECHO regarding roadhead break-ins; e.g. - the most break-ins for one person or group, the most gear lost in break-ins, the most gear lost for the whole group, etc. Drop Duane McRuer a note by September if you've had one of these bad experiences.

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#### VOLUME 30-4 PEAK INDEX (1986)

Ansel Adams  
Devils Crag  
Dunderberg

Electra  
Excelsior  
Florence  
Foerster

Foerster  
Merced  
Ottoway  
Wheel

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COVER PHOTO: An unknown photographer contributed this photo of the SPS Emblem Peak, Clarence King. If you look carefully you can see the the summit block. The photographer will receive credit in the next issue by identifying himself to the ECHO Editor.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

Ken Deemer  
1725 Pine Ave.  
Manhattan Bch, CA 90266

Jeff Gomillion  
1134 Greenlawn Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90230

Steve Goodman  
2 Cove St.  
Irvine, CA 92714

NEW MEMBERS (CONT)

Patty Kline  
20362 Callon Drive  
Topanga Canyon, CA 90290

James R. Kuivinen  
1042 Amador St.  
Claremont, CA 91711

Karen Leonard  
10454 Cheviot Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

NEW MEMBERS (CONT)

Vicki Meagher  
1213 E. 1st St.  
Tustin, CA 92680

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIBER

Bruce R. Orenstein  
5601 E. Orangethorpe,  
#U107  
Anaheim, CA 92807

ADDRESS CHANGE

Scot Jamison  
412 W. Carter Drive  
Glendora, CA 91740

=====

SPS SCHEDULED TRIP POSTPONED

The SPS trip led by Danta and Schumacher to Vogelsang, Maclure, and Florence listed as Aug 8-11 has been delayed a week to Aug 15-18.

PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon from June 13-24, 1987. Experience the best rapids in North America, as well as hiking, swimming, and camp in the oldest exposed rocks in the world. For more info call/write David Vandervoet, 213-596-9344, 3172 Shakespeare, Los Alamitos, 90720.

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SPS PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

August 13 Meeting: "The Great Kilauea Eruption": At great personal risk and expense, intrepid Bill Crane flew into the maw of an erupting volcano, just to provide his fellow Sierra Clubbers with these spectacular shots. Refreshments by Carolyn West. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

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WRITE FOR NATIONAL FOREST PLANS!

SPS members are urged to write to the Inyo and to the Sierra National Forest Supervisors to ask for a copy of the draft Forest Land Management Plan. When we receive the plans we can work with one another to generate comments and recommendations. The plans should be mailed in August so write soon!

Bill T. Russell, SPS Conservation Chair

Forest Supervisor  
Sierra National Forest  
1130 "O" St.  
Fresno, CA 93721

Forest Supervisor  
Inyo National Forest  
873 No. Main  
Bishop, CA 93514

North

39120

<p>Meeks Bay Homewood Wentworth Springs Bunker Hill Greek Store Michigan Bluff Forsyth Hill Collins</p>	A
<p>North Island Lewely Dunderberg Peak Matherburn Peak Piper Min. Thrift Min. Kibbie Lake Cherry Lake North</p>	A
<p>Hall Creek Twain Harte Columbia SE Columbia Angels Camp Salt Spring Valley Jenny Lind Valley Springs SW</p>	A
<p>Amador Min. Cromwell Reservoir Black Syncline North Min. North Parkside Goldfield Lodi Park Min. Northlight Reservoir</p>	A
<p>Wilson Min. Shenley Creek Lawyer Lake Berry</p>	A
<p>Diffusion Lake East Diffusion Lake West Table Min. Moulton</p>	A
<p>Long Canyon Crag Peak Bonita Meadows Durwood Creek Scorpion Peak Solo Peak Globe Success Dam</p>	A

South

USGS Code Example: 36118-A2 is code for Crag Peak map.

## ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ron Jones

### Five Years Ago in the SPS

New members joining in July 1981 included Vic Henney, Igor Mamedalin and Don Weiss. Bob Hicks became Senior Emblem #64 on a private climb of North Palisade. There were 201 active members of the SPS shown on the July Section roster. Lots of trips were led in July including Campy & Jon Lutz with 12 up Mt Darwin with 6 going on to Mt Mendel and meeting Dale Van Dalsem and Bill Krause who climbed the Mendel ice chute. Campy and Jim Murphy led 7 to Seven Gables and Gemini on a 2 day trip. They missed the last boat back across Florence Lake and were treated to a moonlight walk around the lake. Campy led Goat and State over the Fourth and nearly lost Mario Gonzales who got separated from the group and hiked out alone. Bill T and Jim Erb led another July 4 climb of Colosseum, Perkins, Wynne and Pinchot with 10 participants. Bill Bradley and Barbara Reber led 15 on a snow climb of Conness and Warren in 60 mph winds and temperatures at 42 degrees on the summit.

### Ten years Ago

New Emblem holders this period in 1976 included Gene Olsen and Mark Hurst, #339 & 40. New members in July included Sally Fry, Chuck Pospisani and Jay Titus. There were 218 active SPSers on the July roster. July 1976 was a stormy month and a number of trips were affected. Jim and Pat Butler led 6 on an 8 day trip through the Kings-Kern and Great Western Divides. They climbed 9 peaks before getting chased out by a storm. Walt Kabler and Phil Bruce scheduled Abbott and Mills. Fourteen showed up but the trip was cancelled account of a snow storm. Kabler and Don Beverage led 18 on Goddard and Reinstein. Vi Grasso and Doug Mantle led 13 on Conness and North in rain and snow and were rained out on Cathedral. Mark Goebel and RJ Secor led 14 on "your basic [2 day] death march" of Seven Gables and Gemini arriving back at the cars "with the aid of strong flashlight batteries" at midnight.

### Twenty Years Ago

There were no new emblem holders in July 1966 and the Echo did not list new members at that time. The scheduled climb for Independence Day was Great Kaweah led by Dick Jali and Frede Jensen (now living and still climbing in Colorado). Thirty four people climbed in the area (in those days before Wilderness Permits) and Great Kaweah was climbed by 24. Some participants climbed Red Kaweah and Eisen. A proposal was suggested to make Red, Black and Great Kaweah an Emblem group. The next weekend, Gordon MacLeod and Don Anderson led Clarence King on a 2 day weekend. There were 19 participants who went over Dragon Col, 13 departed from the trail near Rae Lakes and climbed Fin Dome in 2 hours round trip. Frank Yates led Mts Gould and Dragon. Discussions were started on a revision of the SPS Peak List and the formation of a list of Mountaineer's Peaks. Barbara Lilley, Rich Gnagy, Mike McNicholas, George and Marcie Wallerstein and Alex McDermont spent 3 weeks in the Canadian Rockies and made apparent 1st ascents of Mt Churchill and 2 other peaks.

### Thirty Years Ago

A late June climb by the new SPS was the first scheduled climb of an emblem peak, Matterhorn, led by Don Clarke and Bud Bingham on June 23-24, 1956. Twentyeight persons made the climb. On June 30-July 1 Chuck Miller led a group of 38 to Alta Peak in Sequoia. Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner led the Mountaineer's route up Whitney on 7/7-8, and the next weekend, Miles and Izzy Lieberman led a group of 21 on a climb of Mt Ritter; three emblem peaks led in a 4 week period! Notice that during this time usually only one peak was scheduled on a weekend and nearby peaks were not often attempted. A busy July schedule was concluded with Frank Bressel and Chuck Miller leading a climb of Goat Mountain.

Continued next page.

Thirty Years Ago, Continued

How many of you know that there is an official SPS call? This call, as adopted by the SPS, "should be used to get the attention of other members of the party, to identify one's whereabouts or to express one's sheer exuberance....A distinctive call identifies the caller as an SPS member and avoids the possibility of the caller being mistaken for a member of another party." It goes O-oh.

oh ho-oo. The emphasis is on the "oh" in this call as "it has long been said that this sound of all sounds is most attractive to other persons. Indeed, it is reputed to have mystical, or even romantic, qualities" (as alleged by several Section members back in 1956). --RON Again I ask that any further information or corrections to my information on the early SPS history be sent to Ron Jones, 13 Meadowsweet Way, Irvine 92715

FOERSTER, ELECTRA, AND FLORENCE

30 August - 2 September, 1985

Pat and Gerry Holleman

When the kiosk in Tuolumne Meadows opened at 7:30 a.m., we picked up a permit for 7 people. Cross-country travel in Yosemite is limited to groups of 8 or less, so the usual high attrition rate in sign-ups was welcome.

We started up Lyell Canyon at 8:30, left the trail at Maclure Creek, and followed the creek cross-country towards a 12,200' pass between Simmons and Maclure. The terrain consisted of a lot of granite slab up to the lake at the head of Maclure Creek, then talus except for a low angle snowfield that we were able to cross without ice axes. Camp was a rocky area just beyond the first lake below the pass at 11,600'. The last tired hiker arrived at 6:45.

Saturday we left camp at 7:00 a.m., and after a 700' loss we contoured on talus to the 11,500' pass NE of pk 12,132'. From there we followed Bill T. Russell's write-up in the Mar '81 ECHO. Foerster still looked a long way off but everyone reached the summit by 11:00 a.m. Lunch was at the stream which originates on the north slope of Foerster. We then dropped down to 10,400' and contoured around towards Electra. Deciding to forego his 2nd climb of this peak, Lloyd Brown explored some lakes in the canyon. On the summit by 3:00 p.m., we enjoyed a short break and visited with two fellows who were backpacking over the peak on their way to Lake Catherine by Ritter and Banner. The hike back to camp was difficult for some in the group, and the last one made it at dark, 8:00 p.m.

By Sunday morning, the weather was deteriorating. Dark, low clouds encompassed the area as we left for Florence at 7:45 a.m. The view of the summit from camp was too much because we were pulled toward the peak too early and ended up in loose 3rd class rock. On the summit of Florence at 9:00, we helped Lloyd celebrate peak #245; McAdie the next weekend would finish the SPS list for him. As we were leaving camp around 12:30, light rain and high winds began. We headed over the pass in white-out conditions. On the other side, visibility improved as we hiked down to the lakes at the 10,500' bench on Maclure Creek. Lloyd said good-bye and continued to the roadhead while the rest of us pitched our tents; the rain soon stopped, but the wind blew all night.

Monday morning, while crossing rocks at the lake's outlet, Vi Grasso fell into the stream waist deep. Although the wind was cold, we were in warm sun where her clothes dried fairly rapidly. During the pleasant trudge down Lyell Canyon, the wind calmed and it was once again a typically beautiful Sierra day when we got to the cars at noon. Our route into this remote area worked well; we recommend it. Other participants were Jim Murphy, Bruce Parker and Dave Underwood.



## SPS SCHEDULED TRIP

### MT. ANSEL ADAMS, MERCED, FOERSTER & OTTOWAY PEAKS

Aug .31 - Sept. 3, 1985

Pk. 11,760'+, located between Electra and Foerster Peaks, has unofficially been known as Mt. Ansel Adams since 1934, when it was so named by a Sierra Club climbing group. Official recognition of the name was approved in December 1984 by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and was officially designated on April 22, 1985, one year after Ansel Adams' death, to honor one of America's foremost conservationists and photographers. The dedication ceremony, which included Senator Cranston, Secretary of the Interior Hodel, David Brower and Robert Redford (who remembered seeing the peak as a boy), was held in Tuolumne Meadows on Aug. 24--just one week before this scheduled trip.

Seven participants--Gordon MacLeod, Neko Colvins, Barbara Lilley, Tom McNicholas, Steve Goodman, Ed Rose and Linda Midici--started down the Mono Meadows Trail Saturday morning in typical SUMMER weather, with a forecast of good weather for the remainder of the trip. (A weatherband radio was carried, which picked up the Merced weather station even down in the valleys.) As it turned out, each of the 4 days represented a different Sierra season, though not necessarily in appropriate order!

After the 2.8 mile descent to Illilouette Creek--easily crossed on stepping stones this time of year--the long trudge by the roundabout Ottoway Lake trail ended at a nice campsite along Ottoway Creek about a mile short of the lake, so as to be below the legal campfire limit of 9500'. (And after this day, the campfires were not merely a social event, they were a necessity!)

Sunday, the group backpacked part way up the Red Peak Pass trail, then went cross-country to the pass between Merced Peak and Ottoway Peak. Although the forecast had been for good weather, the remains of a dying tropical storm off the coast suddenly gathered strength, and rain arrived at the pass at the same time as we did! In spite of the rain, heavy at times, Gordon climbed Ottoway Pk.; Linda, Barbara, and Ed climbed Merced Pk.; and Steve and Tom climbed both. Tom and Neko then left the group to head out, and the rest of us made a tedious descent down talus slopes in intermittent rain to a camp on the Triple Peak Fork shortly before dark. (Triple Divide Pk. was scrubbed due to the weather; however, a high traverse of its slopes to descend the northeast ridge would probably be a better way rather than via Edna Lake.) The evening campfire was especially welcome for drying purposes; fortunately, the rain had stopped by this time. (This was the FALL day.)

Monday, in clear but cool, windy weather (this was the SPRING day), the group ascended the slope to the Fernandez Pass trail and followed it beyond Foerster Creek. Leaving the trail, we passed a small lake and then hiked up grassy slopes to the saddle just northwest of Foerster Peak, where the awesome south face of Mt. Ansel Adams just came into full view. At that point, Linda, Ed and Steve elected to climb Foerster, while Gordon and Barbara made the mile-plus talus and slab traverse below a great cirque wall to the base of Mt. Ansel Adams and completed the third class climb to its summit. We were pleased to see that the SPS-list-finisher Hoovers of northern California had led a Sierra Club party of a dozen or so earlier this year, after the mountain's official naming, to commemorate the peak in honor of Ansel Adams. (Gordon had a special interest in this peak, because Ansel Adams had been one of his sponsors when he joined the Club as a Life Member in 1961.) The round trip took 2 hours longer than the climb of Foerster, and we barely returned to our backpacks and found a campsite before dark. The warmth of the campfire was much appreciated that night AND the next morning--it was below 40 degrees!

By Tuesday morning, the weather radio was now forecasting SNOW above 9000', and sure enough, as we began the long (22+ mile) hike back to the roadhead, clouds rapidly gathered, and we crossed Red Peak Pass in a blizzard! There was snow on the ground at Ottoway Lake (9700') as well--this was the WINTER day! (And winter continued for another week--a foot of snow eventually accumulated at Tuolumne Meadows!) To save time and miles, we descended directly alongside Ottoway Creek and picked up the trail about a mile before its crossing with Illilouette Creek. Below 9000', it rained for much of the LONG

## **Mt. Ansel Adams (Cont)**

hike out; the uphill from Illilouette Creek (where Ed, on a longer vacation, stopped to camp) to the roadhead was partly by flashlight, and the rain continued as the car was being packed. After a post-midnight meal in Fresno, we reached L.A. safely by alternating drivers, just as dawn was breaking! Note that all participants are now qualified for SPS death marches!

We are recommending that Mt. Ansel Adams be added to the SPS Qualifying Peaks List. To honor Ansel Adams--a great conservationist and America's greatest outdoors photographer--who has been called the John Muir of the 20th century--who believed in preserving the wilderness for people to enjoy (not by keeping people out)--might be reason enough. But the peak itself is spectacular from all angles, and is a good, stiff third class climb, on which a rope should be carried for safety. In addition, it is in a remote area. Even though the closest approach for Mt. Ansel Adams is the same as for Foerster Pk., (Soldier Meadows), it is beyond Foerster, involving an additional 3 hours round trip for its climb, which would make for a long day, indeed, if both peaks were to be climbed together.

(Barbara Lilley & Gordon MacLeod)

AUG 30 TO SEP 3, 1985:      DEVILS CRAG & WHEEL MTN      DYKEMAN/TOBY

Adding an extra day to the Labor Day weekend, we met at 7 am Friday. Participants were: Nancy Gordon, Bob Hartunian, Dick Kutch, R J Secor and the leaders. We trudged over Bishop Pass and spent the night at Grouse Meadow. Saturday a m we climbed to Rambaud lakes. There is no easy way to Rambaud lakes. It's a bushwack. We stayed north of the creek and went for it. Saturday p m we climbed Wheel. The best way up seems to be from the bowl between Wheel and D.C. up onto the ridge, and on to the summit. We had an excellent view of the route up D.C.

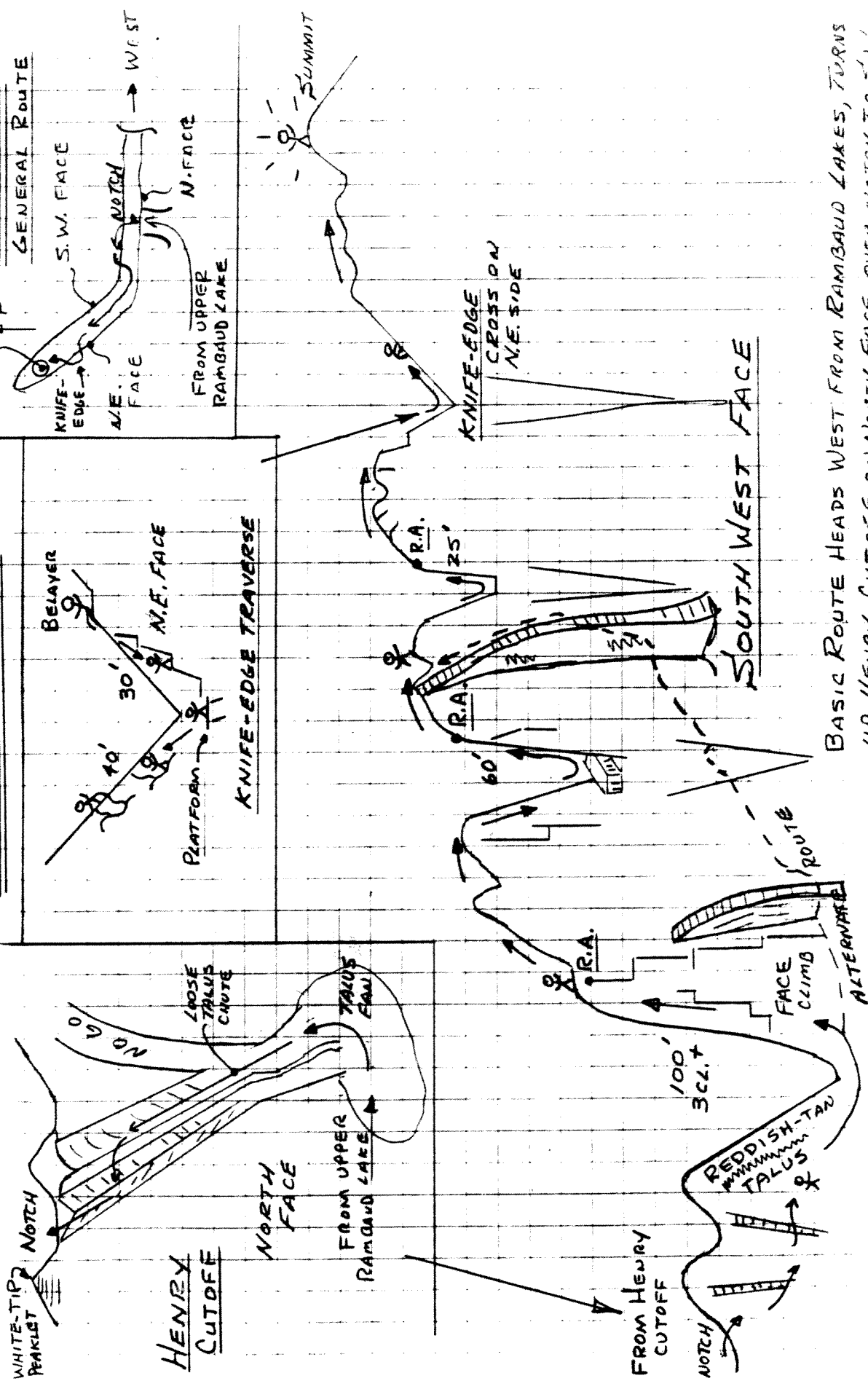
We started for D.C. at 6:30 under threatening skies. This is no peak to be on in rain. Our G2 was: take the obvious chute up just west of Whitetop. Our agents had good data. In fact, we went nearly over the summit of Whitetop. The chute is loose so we split into small groups to minimize rockfall danger. Our route then dropped down the south side and headed for the summit area. On the way up, we swung further south than is customary, but the route went well. We ducked it well for our return, but later returned via the "normal" route.

Ropes were used lavishly on the summit ridge. The ridge snout looked very difficult. I prepared for a leader climb: got out hardware, tied in and turned to climb. One more inspection of the crack before going for it revealed.... Nancy almost up!! We set up two belays and had everyone up in no time. A couple more minor belayed pitches led us to the notorious knife edge, R J asked permission to set up that belay station while the others finished the previous pitch. He also did the climb. By the time everyone was belayed across the knife edge, threat of weather was driving the first climbers back. Several rappels later we were back at our up chute. Total time for the peak was 8 hours, 20 minutes: Rambaud Lakes-to-D.C.-to-Rambaud Lakes.

We spent that night back at Grouse meadow where we built a campfire and celebrated our climb and R.J.'s birthday. Monday morning we hit headed back and were out early in the afternoon.



# DEVIL'S CRAG #1



R.A. = RAPPEL ANCHOR

BASIC ROUTE HEADS WEST FROM RAMBAUD LAKES, TURNS UP HENRY CUTOFF ON NORTH FACE, OVER NOTCH TO S.W. FACE, THEN ALONG SHARP RIDGELINE, DROPPING IN AND OUT OF NOTCHES. LAST DIFFICULTY IS KNIFE-EDGE CROSSED ON N.E. SIDE. GREAT CLIMB!

TAKE HELMET - MUCH LOOSE ROCK

This trip was postponed one week in order to accomodate those who wanted to do the big list finisher bash the previous weekend; this allowed some additional people to go and ruined the plans of others, so sorry. A plus for trips at this time of year is that the fall foliage is in full bloom. This can be a gamble because you don't know when the trip is scheduled in March, if autumn will come early or late. This year autumn was early but then the trip was a little early too, so we had a good show including the drive home.

The roadhead is found by turning west off of Hwy 395 at Conway Summit, which is just past Mono Lake. The road in to Virginia Lakes Campground is good with a few potholes and the campground is no problem to find; at this time of year you can count on the campground to not be full on Friday night. The campground charges a fee. You can walk or drive to the trailhead from the campground; the trail has a 30 yard jog to the north at the start which is easy to miss, which I did but was found after a little floundering. We followed the trail up some switch backs, above the upper lakes, at which point we traveled cross country, southwest, toward a reddish shoulder and past some little lakes, the last place for water. After the shoulder, we continued west to the crest, and from there it is a short distance to the summit, although once at the crest you are traveling entirely on the west side of the crest. The day was clear and afforded the usual good views from the summit and a leisurely lunch was consumed. There was plenty of time for napping in the afternoon, an activity which seemed to have been performed by all. The dinner table had a large variety of goodies and different entrees show off. The call for firewood was heeded and there was plenty to warm the story tellers and story listeners.

Sunday's trek to Dunderberg starts using the same trail as the previous day. The first objective is to go to Moat Lake. There is a use trail to this lake, which is locatable by either of two methods: look for it just after passing the very small stream that drains the lake or at a point where the main trail takes a southwesterly turn after traveling slightly N.W. and toward a sharp looking pinnacle. The ascent up the use trail is to the east of this pinnacle. At Moat Lake, there was a group of what I recall now as hunters; seemingly inadequately campers although their bacon smelled better than the breakfast I had. The group split up here, some going straight up the slope, others opting for the saddle to the north, both routes worked well. The topo map of this area gives good clues as to the routes to follow for both peaks. We were out soon enough to have a late lunch in Bishop.

While this is not a complete list, participants were: Asst. Leader Nancy Gordon (thanks), Lynn Pedersen, Don Weiss, Rob Roy McDonald, Mary Sue Miller, Dan Popper, Tom Mumblow, Vicki Meagher, Steve Thaw of Lake Tahoe, Lou Bosco, Martha Flores, and Steve Goodman.

Jim Murphy

The Sierra ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club.

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ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Secretary, Vieve Weldon, 12203-47 Santa Gertrudes Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638. Third class mail is not forwarded.

INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to Mailer, Ella Hoselton, 5831 W. 76th St., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$6.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send new subscriptions to the Secretary (address above) and include your Sierra Club membership number. Send renewals to the Treasurer (address below). New applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for members of a family residing at one address.

AWARDS: Emblem pins (\$7.50), list finisher pins (\$10.00), and patches (\$2.00) are available from the Treasurer, Harold McFadden, 2237-1/4 S. Bentley Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064.

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