

# The Sierra



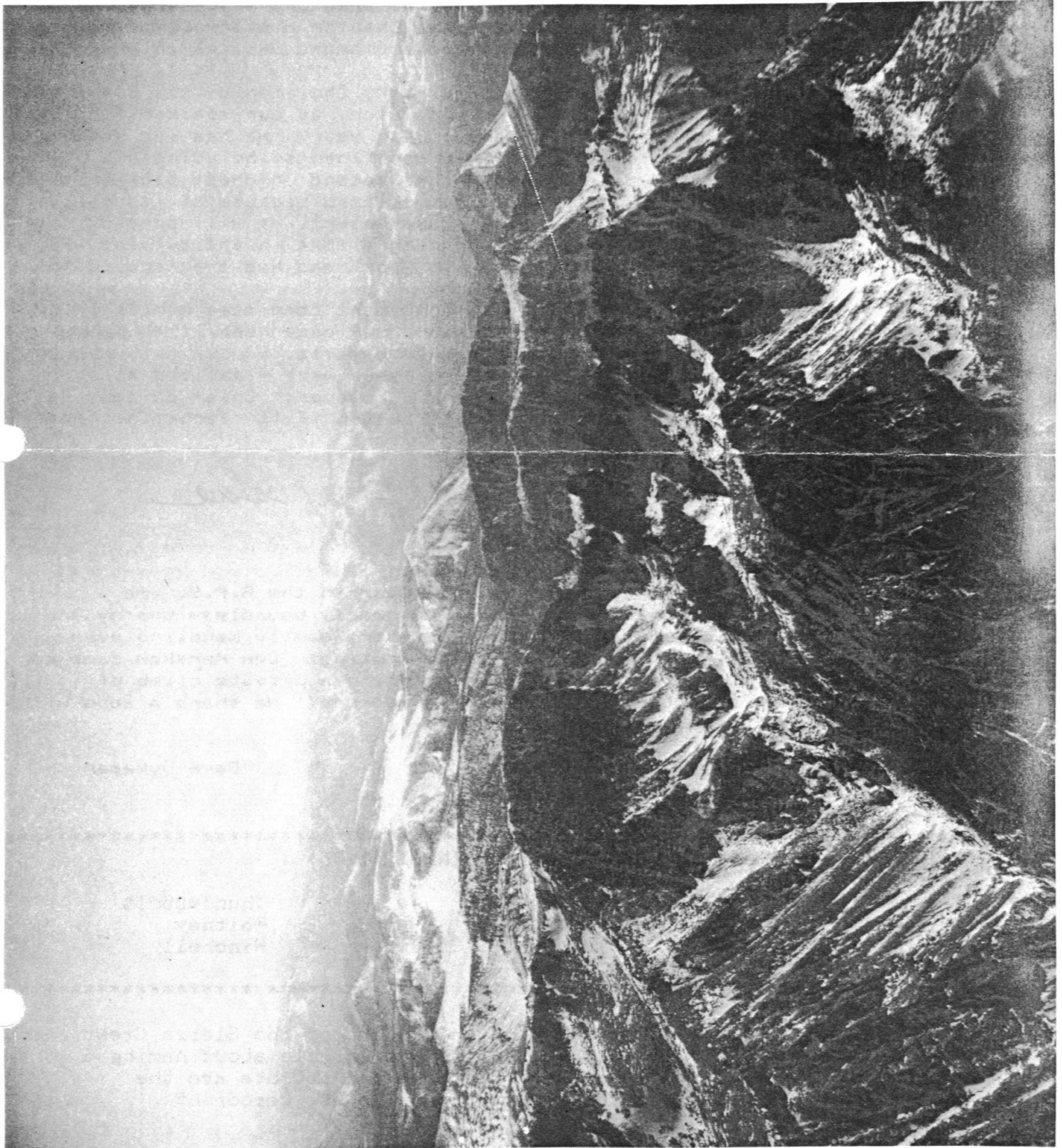
# ECHO

VOLUME 30

SEP - OCT

1986

NO. 6



"We are now in the mountains and they are in us, kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver, filling every pore and cell of us."  
John Muir

September and October have been busy months for the management committee. We are culminating planning for our two biggest projects: the Annual Banquet on December 10th, and the 30th Anniversary **Commemorative Issue** of The Echo. Also veteran SPS member, Jenny Keating is working with Bob Cates and the Chapter History Committee to produce a SPS display for the Chapter's Diamond Jubilee on November 1st.

We are honored to have Burton A. Falk, Chairman of the Board of Certified Alloy Products, Inc., in Long Beach, as our speaker for the SPS annual banquet which celebrates our 30th year. He has led several expeditions since 1980 to five different continents including his most recent climb of Ojas del Salado, the second highest peak in the Western Hemisphere but which is seldom climbed because of its remote location on the edge of Chile's Atacama Desert. He will present the banquet program with two projectors fading slides in and out and will highlight his climb of Fluted Peak in Nepal and his trek around the Annapurna massif.

Tickets may be bought from a management committee member or by mail from banquet chairman, Vi Grasso. Please see the banquet advertisement in this issue of The Echo for details.

Plans for the 30th Anniversary Echo issue were finalized at a meeting of the editors, October 6th. However, Chief Editor, Pat Holleman may still accept your contribution if it reaches her post-haste.

*Mary Sue*

Don Kershaw was to be a bright, young, new star in the S.P.S. He displayed a pleasant personality coupled with nearly boundless energy and enthusiasm. He was a careful and capable climber, easily handling even technical climbing: a welcome addition to any outing. Don Kershaw came to an untimely end in a mountaineering accident doing a private climb of Disappointment Peak over the September 14-15 weekend. We share a loss with the passage of this fine, young mountaineer.

Dave Dykeman

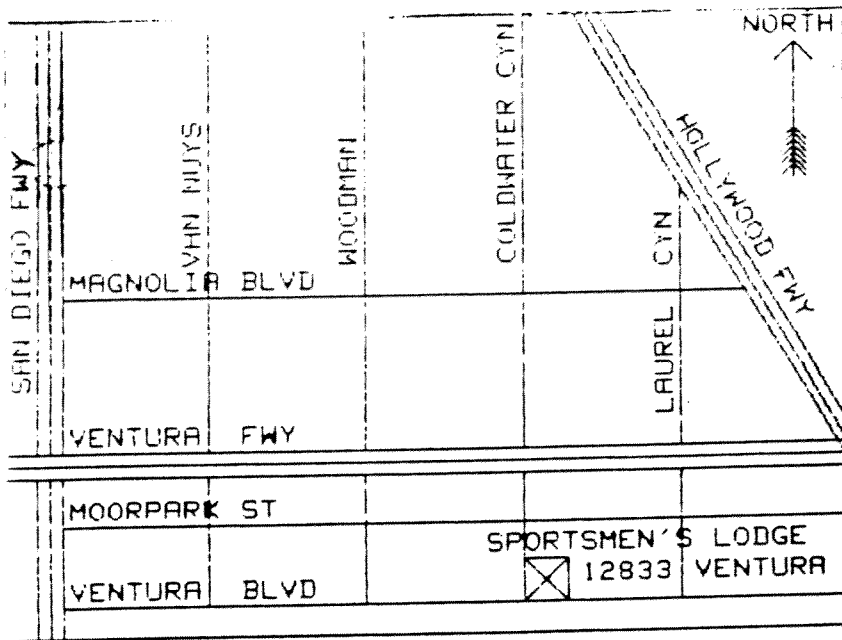
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VOLUME 30-6 PEAK INDEX (1986)

Baxter	Sawtooth	Thunderbolt
Birch	Sill	Whitney
Cirque	Squaretop	Winchell
Lamont	Thumb	

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COVER PHOTO: The ECHO files included this photo of the Sierra Crest taken by Carl Heller. (See this ECHO for an article about naming a Sierra peak after Carl.) Langley, Corcoran and LeConte are the highlights. Can you spot the elusive route up Mt. Corcoran?

ANNUAL BANQUET: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1986



Directions:

Ventura Freeway to  
Coldwater Canyon

South to Ventura Blvd.  
Enter on Coldwater,  
1/2 Block No. of Ventura

Self-park where you can or  
pay Valet

REGENCY ROOM  
The Sportmen's Lodge  
12833 Ventura Blvd.  
Studio City, CA 91604

(818)984-0202 or (213)877-9846

No-Host Cocktail Hour - 6:30 p.m.

Menu: Coq Au Vin\* 7:30 p.m.

Program: BURTON A. FALK  
"A Trek Around Annapurna Massif and  
A Climb of Fluted Peak"

For Reservations Contact any Management  
Committee Member or -

Vi Grasso, Banquet Chairman  
1173 1/2 Amherst  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

(213)207-3875

Cost: \$17.00 per person. Make check payable to  
Sierra Peaks Section

RSVP by Decmeber 6, 1986

Reserved tables of ten may be purchased.

\*Some substitute main courses may be arranged for in  
advance. (I.e., Fish, Vegetarian plate.)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBER

Paul Ptacek  
225 N. Willow Ave.  
West Covina, CA 91790

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIBER

Ed Ross  
923 Nolden St., #4  
Los Angeles, CA 90042

ADDRESS CHANGES

Bob Michael  
426 No. Jackson, #203  
Glendale, CA 91206

NEW EMBLEM HOLDER

Rob Roy McDonald (#469)  
4116 Encinas Dr.  
La Canada, CA 91011

NEW SENIOR EMBLEM HOLDER

Nancy Gordon (#84)  
P.O. Box 8274  
Calabasas, CA 91302

Ed Treacy  
1432 Santa Marta Court  
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Sue Wyman  
Vic Henney  
18971 Antioch Drive  
Irvine, CA 92715

SPS WINTER SCHEDULE (1986-87)

Oct 18-19	LTC Seminar-Griffith Park	Gordon (Registrar)
Nov 22	Rock Climbing- Stoney Point	Russell
Jan 10	Rock Climbing- Stoney Point	Bradley
Jan 18	Rock Scrambling-Zuma Canyon	Dykeman, Gordon
Feb 14-15	Snow Practice- Local Mtns	Vandervoet
Mar 7-8	Rock Climbing- Joshua Tree	Jones, Bradley
Mar 21-22	Snow Practice- San Gorgonio	Russell, Gordon
Apr 25-26	Navigation- Southern Sierra	Russell, Gordon

PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOV 1,2 SAT,SUN

PRIVATE TRIP

E: Fossil Falls rock climbing. Ideally suited for SPS type persons. Needed are: climbing ropes, chocks, slings, biners, firewood. No free climbing allowed. Send SASE to trip arranger: Cuno Ranschau, 12744 Lorne st, N.H. 91605

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.

SPS PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

November 12 Meeting: Diamond Jubilee program. "Mountain rescue then and now": Jon Inskeep describes the latest in mountain rescue techniques and compares them to the primitive means available early in the century. Refreshments by Paul Kenworthy. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

ECHO NOTICE

The ECHO needs trip write-ups of summer trips that were led. Trip write-ups from the procrastinators who led spring trips will also still be accepted!

## DIAMOND JUBILEE PARTY - NOVEMBER 1ST

The Angeles Chapter, that's us, the Sierra Club in Los Angeles, is having a birthday party and you're all invited. Our Chapter, the first and largest in the Sierra Club, is 75 years old this year. We started in 1911 with a handful of hikers and conservationists and now we're 45,000 members. Celebrate at A GIANT BIRTHDAY PARTY on Saturday afternoon, November 1st, at The Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive in Griffith Park. The event is sponsored by the Chapter History Committee and its Chairs Bob and Maureen Cates.

You can start the day's fun with a pre-party hike in Griffith Park and it's okay to attend this informal affair in your hiking duds.

Then, through a slide program by Muir Dawson, we'll see early Angeles Chapter outings, the clothes, equipment and Sierra Club members of our early days. Muir and the History Committee combed Chapter and private collections to organize this historic program.

All Sections and Groups have been invited to display historic photos of their activities. The afternoon also includes exhibits of antique hiking equipment and memorabilia. National Sierra Club dignitaries and some favorite public officials will be on hand.

Tickets are \$10 each and include a keepsake program, delicious refreshments, a massive birthday cake. Parking is free. TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE BY ADVANCE SALE; none sold at door. Mail your check (payable Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter) with a SASE to Simone de Miguel, Diamond Jubilee, 17951 Tiara St., Encino, CA 91316. Ticket deadline: October 27.

### SIERRA CLUB INSURANCE UPDATE

(From "Grassroots", a national Sierra Club publication)

Bob Howell, the Sierra Club's insurance advisor, presented an update on the insurance situation that could only be termed pessimistic. Although the Club has managed to raise its liability coverage from \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million, premiums are costing four times what the Club used to pay for \$25 million in coverage. This impacts Club entities at all levels, because the lion's share of the cost is taken out of the 18% of membership dues that are rebated to chapters. Howell said if it could get it, the Club would be willing to pay for \$50 million in liability insurance.

Our insurance problems can be expected to continue for several years, and restrictions on the Club use of watercraft and rock/mountain climbing may be permanent. Violation of these restrictions on the Club use at the chapter or group level could have a severely negative financial impact on the Club. The national Club would take whatever steps would be necessary to put fill (sic) responsibility on the chapter, group or individuals involved. The alternative could be the cancellation of all liability insurance and a financial burden crippling the Sierra Club. (Submitted by Ron Jones)

LATE BREAKING NEWS: As the ECHO goes to press, Eldon Hughes, Chairman of the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee, stated that there is a very good probability of the insurance being reinstated as of November. (RJ)

MT. HELLER: A NEW SIERRA PEAK NAME?

The China Lake Mountain Rescue Group is attempting to have peak 13,211' between Tunnabora Pk. and Mt. Barnard on the crest named Mt. Heller in honor of Dr. Carl Heller. Carl, a longtime SPS member and trip-leader, founded the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group in 1958. He was its leader up to 3 January 1984 when he succumbed to cancer. Carl was an avid mountaineer and climbed every peak near or over 13,000' in the Sierra. This peak was climbed by him in 1966.

Al Green from the CLMRG says the peak is a beauty from every angle and offers easy class 3 climbing from the west. It can be climbed from Upper Boy Scout Lake in about 8 hours round trip. The summit you see is the actual summit and the first chute north of it, with lots of rather smooth granite slabs at the lower end, is the suggested route. The class 3 ridge from the east and the George Creek trailhead is impressive and highly recommended. The peak can be seen from Highway 395 at Manzanar.

Questions regarding this effort should be sent to: China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, P.O. Box 2037, Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

LAMONT/SAWTOOTH

MAY 3 4, 1986

MINDLIN/KORBUT WEBERG

Originally, climbs of Pilot Knob and Spanish Needle were planned. One must obtain permission from ranch owners to get to Pilot Knob. Unfortunately, they object to club policies concerning the South Fork of the Kern River and they would not grant permission to pass over their land. Consequently, Sawtooth was substituted for Pilot Knob.

On Saturday, we met at the entrance to the Chimney Peak campground and started out for Spanish Needle. From the campground, the party drove south 2.1 miles to a dirt road that leads up a canyon between the Lamont VADM and Lamont. The gates on the road are unlocked and one can check with the DLM on the condition of the road. A group with four wheel drive vehicles can save time by driving the length of the road.

We followed a route to Spanish Needle that is described in "Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra". Near the head of the canyon, the route makes an easy ascent to the ridge line running between Lamont and Spanish Needle. The party stayed on the north side of the ridge line as long as possible to avoid brush and talus. We finally dropped onto the south side of the ridge and began a slow traverse over loose talus and through brush. An accident during this traverse resulted in the group having to turn back. We bushwhacked back along the ridge and finally got Lamont late in the afternoon.

We spent Saturday night in the Chimney Peak campground. On Sunday we met at the Sawtooth trailhead, which is the east end of the campground. We had a pleasant, uneventful climb of Sawtooth and we were rewarded with a clear, 360° view of the area from the peak.

TM



Mt. Baxter (13,125) 10-11 May 1986

Gary Guenther/Dave Dykeman

Eleven climbers met at 7:00 A.M. and started shortly thereafter up the Baxter Pass trail. About 1 1/4 miles up the trail at the 6,800' stream crossing we found a large downed tree which made the crossing easy. We encountered snow about 8,400' but it didn't seem to impede progress much as it was cold/windy and very hard packed snow. The effects of avalanches from last Feb. series of storms was quite evident all the way up the drainage. We made camp about 1:00 P.M. at 10,700' in a fairly sheltered flat area in the trees. I was glad no one opted for doing a peak that day as it was cold and very windy up high. The following morning we were up at first light and on the go around 6:15. Our route basically followed the trail to the top of Baxter Pass where we then traversed along the west side of the crest dropping down to about 11,600'. We then headed towards the saddle of Baxter/Acrodeetes and then east to the summit arriving about 11:00. I had planned on doing Acrodeetes also but we all concluded we were too tired and it was getting late. The temperature on the summit was 20 F. with about a 30 mph wind. We had the first ascent of the year. Crampons were used from camp to the saddle only. We were back to camp about 4:00 P.M. and to the cars at 6:30 P.M. Participants: Marti McGlynn, Joe Whyte, Brian Smith, Scott Sullivan, Don Killam, David Petzold, Bruce Parker, Ray Miyakawa, and Chris Yager.

MT WHITNEY TRIP 17-18 MAY 1986

SURPRISINGLY WARM WEATHER MADE FOR A VERY ENJOYABLE SPRING CLIMB OF THE MOUNTAINEERS ROUTE. TEN CLIMBERS INCLUDING THE LEADERS ANDY FRIED & MARY GYGAX DEPARTED FROM WHITNEY PORTAL AROUND 7 AM ON SAT. WE ENCOUNTERED FIRM SNOW SOON AFTER TURNING OFF THE MAIN TRAIL ON TO THE NORTH FORK TRAIL. THE SNOW ALLOWED FOR EASY PASSAGE OVER THE TALUS BELOW THE LEDGES. THE LEDGES WERE FREE FROM SNOW AND DRY. WE ENCOUNTERED SNOW AGAIN JUST BELOW LOWER BOY SCOUT LAKE. THE SNOW SOFTENED BY MID DAY SLOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE GROUP. THE LAST CLIMBER ARRIVED AT EAST FACE LAKE AROUND 4:30. THERE WAS APPROX 6 FEET OF SNOW AT THE CAMPSITE AND THE LAKE WAS FROZEN.

ON SUNDAY 9 OF THE GROUP STARTED FOR THE SUMMIT. ONE PERSON REMAINED IN CAMP AFTER FINDING HIS CRAMPONS DIDN'T FIT HIS BOOTS. THE GROUP MOVED RAPIDLY UP TO THE NOTCH, AFTER WHICH THEY FOUND THE SNOW SLOPE STEEP AND FIRM. ALTHOUGH STILL 3RD CLASS WE FIXED 300' OF HANDLINE AND ALLOWED EVERYONE THE OPTION OF A SELF BELAY USING A PRUSSIK & SLING UNTIL THEY WERE PAST THE AREA WITH THE GREATEST EXPOSURE. SEVEN OF THE CLIMBERS WENT ON TO THE SUMMIT.

THE SNOW HAD SOFTENED ENOUGH TO ALLOW A GLASSADE FROM THE NOTCH TO THE CAMP. ON THE WAY OUT OTHER GLASSADES WERE POSSIBLE, ALLOWING THE GROUP TO REACH THE CARS IN LESS THAN FOUR HOURS.

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SPRING SCHEDULE NOTICE

Leaders! Send Ron Hudson your trip write-ups for the Spring Schedule, March - 5 July 1987, by October 31.

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THUMB & BIRCH

May 23-24, 1986

Toby & Farkas

The last part of the drive to the Birch Lake Trailhead is rough and rocky, but my 79 Malibu made it easy. About 2 miles W of Big Pine a good dirt road heads S. Go about 6 miles to Mc Murry Meadows and a road junction. Take the N fork (right) where the sign says BIRCH LAKE. Go 1½ miles to the end of the road, 6,800'. Good but limited parking. A 4 wheel drive road continues on at this point, then gets easy as it crosses the meadow. We had nine on the trip and started hiking on the road. About a mile out, the road forks N and soon becomes the Birch Lake Trail. This is the newer route shown on the recent topos, but not at all on the older maps. This trail runs more or less parallel to Birch Creek and about a mile N of the creek. The old trail ran along the creek but is all but gone, reduced to bush whacking.

We picked up snow at 9,000' and camped on some small, grassy, snow free ledges on a ridge at 11,000'. This was 200' above frozen Birch Lake. A tiny stream supplied water. There was snow everywhere. We were lucky to find this little garden spot. The view from this high camp was just outstanding. As a added bonus we were treated to a gorgeous sunset.

Sunday the climbs of both peaks were all on snow. We stayed high and circled around Birch Lake to follow the drainage up to The Thumb. Then Jim Farkas lead us up a large snow chute on Birch that went up to the summit ridge with some easy rock to the top. All nine made The Thumb and eight made Birch.

This was a good group and the peaks went easier than expected. So even though we had another day on the schedule, we opted to head on out. The snow now was soft and wet but we ploughed on through. The thought of ice cream at Austin's in Independence lured us on. We were back at the cars shortly after eight. But when we got to Austin's they were closed. After nine. We regrouped in Lone Pine for a fine dinner and arrived back home around 2:00 am. The next day was the Memorial Day holiday and we could all sleep in. My thanks to Jim Farkas for his fine assistance, especially breaking trail in the snow going out.

*George*

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SPS PROGRAMS - ADVANCE NOTICE

January 14 Meeting: "Climbing Jade Dragon Peak": Andy Fried will present highlights of his recent trip to China for both skiers and hikers. SPS and Mugelnoos begin a new association with shared meetings. Refreshments. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

February 11 Meeting: "Trans-Sierra Ski Tours": Mark Goebel shares his secrets for skinny skiing across the Sierras with slides of the High Route and other Trans-Sierra trips. Joint Sierra Peaks/Mugelnoos meeting. Refreshments. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

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In the fulfillment of a long time fantasy, Jack Knox and I set up a basecamp in Sam Mack Meadow to clean out the Palisades. Here's the itinerary:

Sat: Hiked from Glacier Lodge to Fourth Lake trail junction with enough food and climbing gear to sustain us for several months.

Sun: Recuperated.

Mon: Moved camp to Sam Mack and bagged Mt. Winchell via East Arete.

Tue: Devoted to relaxation. Feasted on a delightful brunch featuring goose liver pate', sauteed onions, dry salame and pimento cream cheese on whole wheat pitas.

Wed: An early start rewarded us with excellent cramponing, and we arrived on the summit ridge of Thunderbolt via the North Couloir at 6:30 am. Climbed two short pitches, one of which required a bold and desperate aid move. Then, in the tradition of Old Texas, Jack lassoed the summit block on the first throw. A hung up rope on the descent delayed lunch until 2:00 pm.

Thu: R & R. Took a break from sunning in the hammock to brunch on tortolini a la bolognese. Enjoyed a jolly good electrical storm in the early evening (no charge).

Fri: Mt. Sill via North Coulior. En route up the glacier, I perfected a highly sophisticated hybrid snow climbing technique which I call the Sicilian Crawl. It basically consists of groveling up the slope on your elbows and knees. Gauche as it appears, it's highly effective on breakable crust covering thigh-deep mush. A short visit to the summit and a speedy descent put us in camp in time to escape the 2 pm thundershower.

Sat: With no more worthwhile peaks left to climb (we'd bagged North Pal previously with Doug Mantle), we descended to Second Lake to mingle with the tourists. However, a slight oversight in personal hygiene on our part caused all prospective company to bear-bag their food and hide in their tents.

Sun: Devoted to eating excess food and bouldering.

Mon: Returned to Orange County to pick up our unemployment checks.

-- Frank Avella

ps: Mt. Sill is in need of a summit register book.

On August 21, 1986, after meeting Vicky Hoover at Big Arroyo and deciding that it was too late to climb Black Kaweah that day, Larry Machleder and I took off for Red Kaweah, leaving Jon Lutz and John Clark behind with Vicky.

It was an uneventful climb/trudge until we reached the gully below the west ridge of the peak. This gully was full of unstable rocks; all of the small rocks gave way under us. About 2:00 P.M. and at an elevation of 13,000 feet I stepped up onto a large (I estimate it was a yard square on top, at least a foot deep, and weighed at least 200 pounds) rock, expecting to get two secure steps from it. To my surprise it gave way, too, and I stepped or fell backwards and landed on my bottom. As the rock continued coming towards me, I put my arms up to protect myself. The rock hit my right forearm cutting a large, deep wound and breaking the ulna and then rolled over my left leg breaking the femur just above the knee.

Hearing me scream, Larry turned around immediately. He helped get me situated with my broken leg resting against the rocks, pressed my long underwear against the forearm wound, and tied a loose tourniquet, or restrictor, of webbing around my upper arm, telling me I'd have to do something about it later. Then he hurried down the mountain to get help.

I sat there calculating how long it would be before I could expect anyone to come, how long I would have to be in control of the situation, and decided it would be 7:00-8:00 P.M. at the earliest. I was quite certain I could manage that long, but kept looking at my watch and seeing the hands move ever so slowly. Remembering Larry's comment about the tourniquet, I decided there was very little I could do with my left hand alone, so I put the end of the webbing in my mouth, yanked it tight, and sat there gritting my teeth for the next five hours. Needless to say, a variety of thoughts went through my mind as I sat there by myself.

About 6:00 P.M. a helicopter flew in and circled around four times. I was certain they were looking for me and was madly waving my rain-jacket at them. I wasn't sure they saw me, but later they said they were delighted to see me waving, not only because it showed them my location, but also because it showed them I was still in good enough shape to be waving and that meant they should speed up their rescue attempt. Half an hour later another helicopter came in and let off two people on a snowfield 1000 feet below me. They reached me about 7:30 P.M., followed a few minutes later by Vicky and Jon, who packed up sleeping bags, stove, food, etc. as soon as Larry got back to camp and started up the mountain, prepared to spend the night with me. The second ranger was a medic with lots of supplies, including oxygen, which I really appreciated at that altitude. Eventually three other rangers arrived with more supplies. Sometime after midnight they splinted my leg, put me on a litter, covered with three sleeping bags, and then anchored the litter. They discussed carrying me down that 1000 feet on the litter in the dark, but decided first to see if a Navy helicopter could hoist me from that spot in the morning and if not, then they would carry me down. The Navy helicopter did lift me

## RED KAWEAH ACCIDENT (cont.)

from the spot and took me to Ash Mountain, ranger headquarters for Sequoia. From there I went by ambulance to the hospital in Visalia, where I was X-rayed and told that both bones were broken and that if I wanted to come home, I had to do<sup>it</sup> right away as my arm had to be taken care immediately because of the debris in the wound. I chose to come home, arrived at the hospital at 4:30 P.M., saw the doctor at 5:30 P.M., and was in the operating room at 6:30 P.M. to have my arm wound irrigated and my leg put in traction.

A week and a half later, after the danger of infection had passed, the orthopedists inserted a stainless steel rod inside the femur while the plastic surgeon repaired the muscle and tendon damage in the arm and sewed up the wound without having to do any grafting. A few days later an X-ray showed that the ulna wasn't mending straight, so in another operation a plate was inserted in my arm. After 27 days in the hospital I was finally allowed to come home with a wheelchair and a walker with a forearm support.

It has now been five weeks since the accident and it will be another four weeks before the arm cast is taken off and probably six more weeks of non-weightbearing for my leg and then six weeks of just being able to put my toes down. All of this is complicated by the fact that the rod has slipped down, hindering knee movement, which may require surgery to readjust it. And yet I realize that I was very lucky! Lucky that my injuries weren't worse. Lucky that I wasn't climbing alone (actually a party of three would have been better, so that someone could have stayed with me while Larry went for help). Lucky I was on the west side of the mountain in sunshine till after 8:00 P.M. Lucky that Larry got back to camp as quickly as he did (3:30 P.M.--I'd estimated 4:00 P.M.) and that the others were there when he got there. Lucky that John remembered that the packers we'd seen that morning had a radio, found them, and used their radio to contact the rangers, bringing help that much faster (by myself I doubt that I would have survived the night even though I had two jackets and a space blanket; with Vicky and Jon's help I would have survived; but with the rangers and their supplies the night was much more comfortable and the rescue that much faster). Lucky, too, that I have the medical insurance I have as I now estimate the total expense at \$40,000-50,000 (this includes \$1600 for overtime and hazardous duty compensation for the rangers and \$1000 for the ambulance from Ash Mountain to Visalia and Visalia to LA); I'm still waiting to see how much is covered. In a later issue I will give you an update on my recovery and the actual expenses. Of course, I expect to be back climbing in the Sierras next summer!

### A MESSAGE FROM JOHN MUIR

On display in the "Sierra Club" room at JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
Martinez, California.

"Saunter" was one of John Muir's favorite words. He used it in place of "hiking" which he considered a vile word. John Muir told this story to a group of returning climbers.

"You know, when the pilgrims were going from England to the Holy Land, the French would ask them 'Where are you going?' and they did not speak French very well, but they would say 'Santa Terre' (Holy Land). That is where we get our word 'Saunter' and you should Saunter through the Sierra because this is a Holy Land, if there ever was one."

Contributed by Steven Thaw-Interpreter J.M.N.H.S.

Cirque Peak

August 23-24, 1986

Bob Kanne, Eivor Nilsson

I advertised this as "one of the easiest" SPS peaks, and consequently got a large turnout of newcomers and BMTC students. Outside of the leaders only two participants had done more than 4 SPS peaks, and for at least four people this was their first SPS peak.

Everyone used the Lubken Canyon Rd. shortcut to get to the Horseshoe Meadows Rd., which is now paved all the way to the end. By next year the pack station will be moved and a large complex of RV-style campgrounds will be open at Horseshoe Meadows, including individual corrals for "horse-campers". We can expect the character of this trailhead to change dramatically.

Other current conservation concerns in the Inyo N.F. include a large ORV development in the Monache Meadows area (for info write to Charlie Robinson, Mt. Whitney R.D., P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA, 93545) and the Inyo Forest Plan. The Inyo Forest Plan will be released in mid-October and they do plan to hold public meetings on it in the L.A. area. Issues in the Plan will include Non-Wilderness or Wilderness recommendations for much of the White and Inyo mountain ranges. To get on their mailing list for the plan, write to Inyo N.F., 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA, 93514, or call 619-873-5841.

Back to the trip report! We met at 7:45 am at the current trailhead and started hiking a little after 8. Near Golden Trout Camp we chatted with a National Sierra Club group that was on their way out. We reached our camp at noon - a small unnamed lake just above the word "South" in "South Fork Lakes" on the topo. The topo incorrectly shows the trail bypassing this lake 1000 ft. to the north. There are dozens of campsites here, both in the trees on the west side of the lake and further west among the rocks. Long Lake is just a little further up the trail but it has fewer, more exposed, more overused campsites. Long Lake does however have larger golden trout, and we saw some real beauties that a fisherman had caught.

The afternoon was spent in all kinds of leisure activities. The weather was some of the best I've experienced in the Sierra: cloudless but not hot, occasional breezes but not windy. The mild weather encouraged almost everyone to stay up well past dusk for a no-campfire "campfire".

At 7 am Sunday morning we started up the trail to New Army Pass. Ted Franklin, who had his own permit, left to do Langley. Eivor had a headache and a queasy stomach so she turned back at the pass. Bob Ferguson then swept as the remaining eleven of us did the easy walk southward around the head of the cirque. After enjoying snacks and conversation on the summit, we descended the easy talus on the north side of Cirque and returned to camp at noon. By 1 pm we were all packed up. We took a side trip over to Cottonwood Lake #3 and then followed the trail on the N side of Cottonwood Creek to the junction at 10,460', where we rejoined the route we had used on Saturday. The cars were reached at 4:15 pm.

Seven participants then went to Lone Pine and had dinner at the Smoke Signals. Don Weiss introduced me to this place, which is near the center of town on the E side of the street. This restaurant has excellent barbecue ( $\frac{1}{2}$  chicken \$5, 4 beef ribs \$7.50, etc.) and the ambience is considerably more pleasant than the average diner. You sit outdoors on a shady patio next to the 100-year-old building. Open from 5 to about 8:30. Reservations required for groups over 4, recommended for any size. (619) 876-4222. By 6:15 all were on their way home.

The permit size was 15. My trip sheet said that confirmation was required, and 5 dropped out then. I was able to fill these by phoning down to the #8 spot on my waiting list of over a dozen. However, three who had confirmed did not show at the trailhead, so the final group size was 12. Participants: Bob Ferguson, Roger Allen, J.R. Yanovkian, my friend Diane Dillon, Fred Lucas, Lynne Johnson, Hoda Shalaby, Chuck and Juli Munson, and 73 year-old Ralph Gabiner.

- Bob Kanne

SQUARETOP . . . . . August 31, 1986 . . . . . R.J. Secor/Don Kershaw

I first met Don Kershaw on July 5 on the medial moraine of the Palisade Glacier. Greg Vernon and I had just descended the U-Notch after a successful ascent of North Palisade. Even though there was a small crowd of climbers at Sam Mack Meadow, there was an absolute dearth of climbers on the peaks. We were the first to climb North Pal that weekend and were surprised to find someone up on the level of the glacier. Don was bivouacked on the moraine & planned to climb North Pal solo the next day. The three of us immediately started to swap information. Don told us that he recently graduated from BMTC and that his favorite mountain activities were climbing the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada and bouldering at Stony Point on summer evenings. Greg told him about the Southern California Mountaineer's Association and outlined the most up-to-date route around the bergschrund of the U-Notch. I put in a plug for the SPS and described the Clys Variation for him. After a few minutes we bade him farewell, and descended to the SCMA's Fourth of July camp at Sam Mack Meadow. But, as it frequently happens during brief encounters, we had neglected to really introduce ourselves and tell each other our names.

In mid-August, I received a phone call from Don. He and I had signed up for Dave Dykeman's and Nancy Gordon's trip to the Kaweahs over Labor Day weekend. He told me he was amazed to find Vernon's and Secor's name in the summit register of North Pal. Those were the two climbers who had spoken with him on the moraine! To think that he actually spoken to these two noted mountaineers! As soon as I overcame this bit of flattery I asked him if he would be interested in climbing some of the pinnacles between Red Kaweah and Big Kaweah while the rest of the party climbed the emblem peak. He readily agreed to it.

On Sunday morning, August 31, Don and I signed out from the scheduled trip and headed for the col between Squaretop and Bilko Pinnacle. The climb to the col was hell, with loose boulders and scree. From the col we could easily spot the Southeast Face route, described so well in the Voge and Smatko editions of the Climber's Guide. There is a huge chute to the right of the face; the route goes nowhere near this landmark. We climbed up the face to the left of the huge chute, more or less straight up to a wide ledge that diagonally ascended to the right. The ledge ended in a shallow chute, which we climbed a short distance before we moved to the left onto some ledges that ended on the summit ridge. Most of the climbing was class 3, with four class 4 moves, the longest move no more than 20' long. We used a 120' 9mm rope & one sling and carabiner for the belays. We swung leads on the ascent and took turns giving upper belays on the descent. The rock itself was solid, with a plethora of 'thank-god' handholds; but there were also loose rocks everywhere, making helmets essential. The ascent took us five hours from our camp at 9,600' in the Big Arroyo. I was very impressed with Don's climbing ability, and looked forward to climbing more obscure pinnacles in the Sierra Nevada with him.

Don and I had made the ninth ascent of Squaretop; the previous ascent was five years earlier. We exchanged shouts with Dykeman atop Red Kaweah, and then had lunch while discussing the other great peaks in the range.

After we had descended from the col, Don took off to join Dykeman on his climb of Big Kaweah. They didn't return to camp until late that night. While the rest of the party nursed their elevation gain hangovers the next morning, Don set out to climb Black Kaweah. I concluded that another tiger had discovered the SPS.

On September 14, Don fell while climbing Disappointment Peak. He was 28 years old. Divorced, he is survived by his mother. He worked as an investigator for LA County's Department of Social Services. His specialty was investigating cases of child abuse. Those who knew him will miss his enthusiasm, drive, and consideration for others.

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