

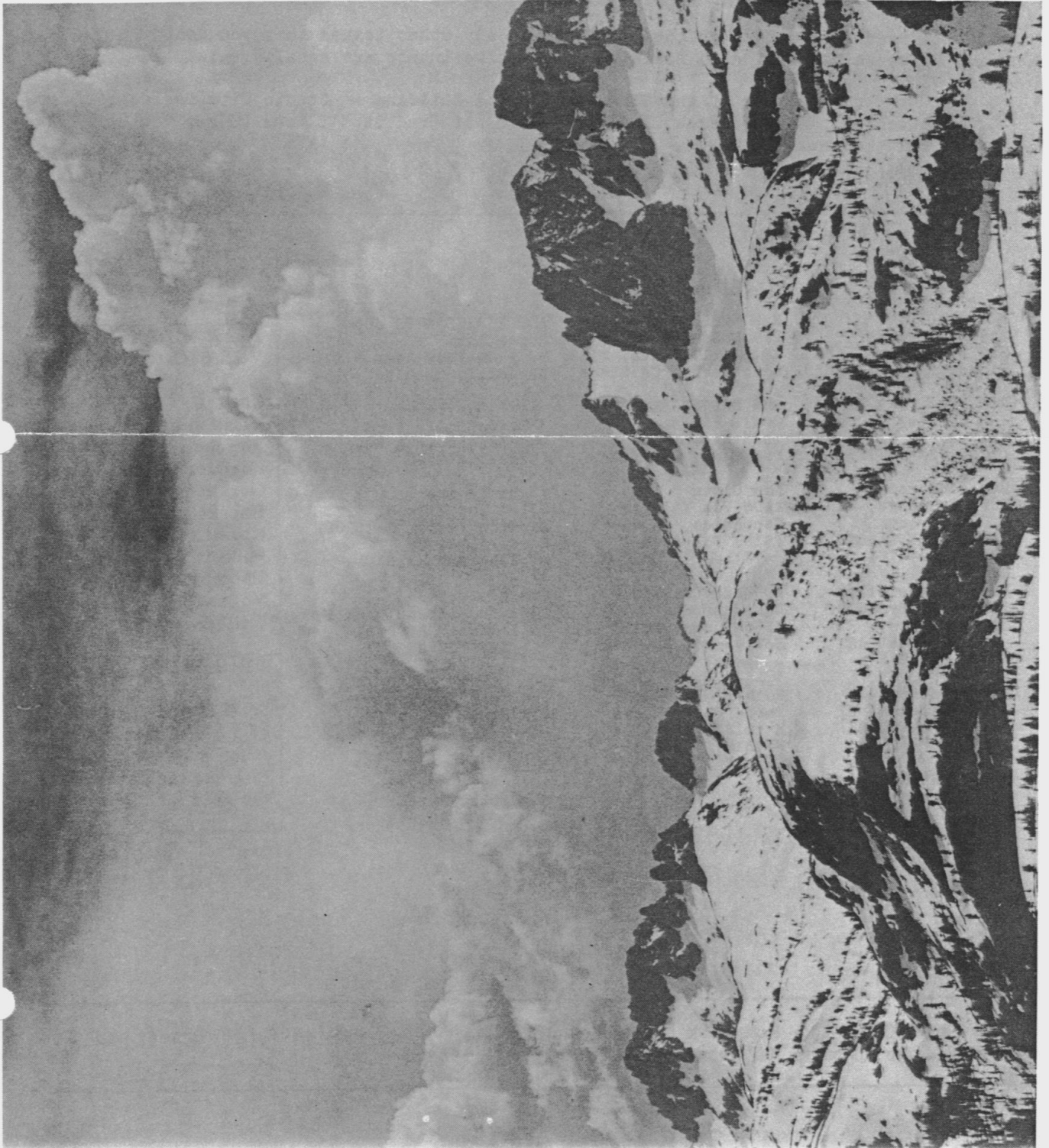
*The
Sierra*



ECHO

Jan-Feb 1988

Vol. 32 No. 1



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 1988 Climbing Season! I wish you a happy and a safe new year.

Besides our climbing schedule and the annual banquet, the main items on the Management Committee's agenda are:

1. Proposal to add Palisades Crest to the peaks list.
2. Establishment of a "Masters" emblem. (between Sr. emblem and list finisher)
3. Propose a leader recognition award.

I need your inputs on these as well as any other issues that you would like to discuss. Also positive or negative inputs are equally valuable.

Our first meeting at the Glendale Federal Building in Studio City was well attended. I don't know if anyone could not find it. I hope to see you next month.

Maris 

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

Spencer Buckner
932 Atkins Ave, Apt C
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Ron Grau
456 Chester Pl
Pomona, CA 91768
(714) 622-5477

Bob Henderson
6061 Cahuenga, #1
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Rayne Motheral
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CA 91745
(818) 333-2732

Mike Sanson
6994 Whitesand Pl
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(213) 457-9917

Reiner Stenzel
519 Almar Ave
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(213) 454-9787

NEW MEMBERS (CONT.)

Ray Wolfe
2343 E 17th Ave, #116
Long Beach, CA 90804

NEW SUBSCRIBERS
Craig Estes
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Ken Olson
1406 Via Valente
Escondido, CA 92025
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ADDRESS CHANGES
Lewis Amack
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Ruth Armentrout
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ADDRESS CHANGES (CONT.)

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Vic & Sue Henney
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Vicki Meagher
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W (714) 380-6515

Tom Mounblow
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415 S Oxford, #216
Los Angeles, CA 90020

John Vitz
1003 11th St, #5
Manhattan Beach,
CA 90266

PEAK INDEX

VOL 32-1 (JAN-FEB '88)

Cotter
Disappointment
Florence
Foerster
Gardner
Haeckel
Norman Clyde
Powell
Thompson
Vogelsang
Wallace

REMINDER:

Send in your photo of a Sierra climb and it too may get a chance to grace the cover of the *Echo*.

COVER PHOTO: Tom Ross took this fine picture of a wintry view of Ritter, Banner and Clyde Minaret from his camp 500' above Agnew Pass (May 31, 1986).

1987 SPS Banquet

The Banquet was held at the Proud Bird Restaurant near the Los Angeles International Airport.

After the customary cocktail hour, then a good dinner, Ron Jones, the Chair, welcomed the guests and members to the festivities.

In his report to the members he stated that SPS has over 400 active and inactive members. This year there were also 78 trips led by the section. The SPS established a Trail Maintenance Committee for Sheppard Pass Trail. R. J. Secor was appointed the Chair. Various proposals that were considered included: adding Palisades Crest to the peaks list, establishment of a "Masters" emblem, establishment of a leader award, recognition for repeat accomplishments of list finishers. Three members were also nominated for Chapter Awards: Doug Mantle, Barbara Lilley, and Maris Valkass.

Thanks were given to present management committee members, particularly to Bill Oliver for the Banquet arrangements, and everyone for the work that they did this past year.

Maris Valkass, the new Chair, was asked to introduce the new Committee members. Before the introductions, the current Chair was presented the coveted Past Chair pin.

Other recognitions included past chairs, leaders, various emblem holders, and list finishers.

The oldest list, Fred Bode was recognized, and his secret in bagging peaks was revealed: Before every climb he would wisper "now again Lord, you lift them up and I will put them down". (his feet)

Norm Rohn was thanked for the mistletoe.


Donors of door prizes and the recipients are listed below.

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Item</u>
A-16	Rayne Motheral	Bomber hat
Grahm Breakwell	Ron Eckelmann	Mtneer Book
Back Country Store	Ray Railey	\$20 Gift Cert
Mountain High (Gregg Vernon)	Don Weiss	\$25 Gift Cert
Mountain High	Jack Miller	\$25 Gift Cert
Mountain High	Jody Tate	\$25 Gift Cert
Dolt (Tom and Norma Limp)	Bill Banks	Book Bag
Dolt	George Toby	Book Bag
Dolt	Bob Emrick	Book Bag
Dolt	Nancy Keating	Ski Bag
Sports Challet	Edna Erspamer	\$50 Gift Cert
Dolt	Ursula Schlager	Book Bag

Our thanks to the generous donors for making the evening more exciting!

Finally, R.J. Secor presented his version of the 10 toughest Sierra Peaks. His wit and good presentation made the evening complete, and perhaps stirred up some contraversey. Thank you R.J.!

In summary, the banquet was a great success.

Maris Valkass 

THE TEN TOUGHEST SIERRA PEAKS

R. J. Secor

The criteria: It is easier to climb two pitches of class 4 or 5 than a thousand feet of class 3. This list starts with the toughest peak.

1. **NORMAN CLYDE PEAK:** This peak has 1,400' of class 3 and 4 climbing, and some parties have encountered as many as five pitches to reach the summit. Route finding is still a problem, despite the excellent route descriptions that have appeared in the *Echo*: Oct '71, Oct '72, Dec '73, Aug '79, Jan '86, and Mar '86. An excellent photo of the North Face appears on the cover of the May '72 *Echo*.
2. **DEVIL'S CRAG #1:** This peak has been demoted to the #2 slot because route finding is no longer the problem it once was. But no matter how good the route description, the Northwest Arete of this peak still involves 1,000' of horizontal and 480' of vertical class 4 climbing, loose rock and two days of hiking just to reach the base of the peak. *Echo* references are: Oct '71, Nov '73, Mar '75, Sep '75, Jan '78, Mar '81, Jul '82, Jul '83, May '85, and Jul '86.
3. **THUNDERBOLT PEAK:** From the east, this peak involves 1,100' of class 3 and 4 climbing, with snow and ice. From the west, there is 1,600' of class 3 and 4. I believe that the easiest route on the peak is the Southwest Chute #1, with only one short class 4 pitch before reaching the impressive summit block. References include the 1950 *Sierra Club Bulletin*, pp. 123 and 127 and the following issues of the *Echo*: Dec '68, Jul '74, May '75, Aug '79, and Jan '83.
4. **NORTH PALISADE:** The U Notch from the Palisade Glacier involves 800' of 40 degree snow and ice and then 400' of class 3 and 4 via Clyde's Variation. The LeConte Route on the Southwest side of the peak involves 1,800' of class 3 with some delicate route finding. *Echo* references are: Sep '73, Nov '73, Mar '79, Mar '83, and Jan '84. A good description of the LeConte Route appears in Steve Roper's book, *Timberline Country*, pp. 142-143.
5. **BLACK KAWEAH:** The Southwest Face of this peak involves 1,800' of class 3 climbing; this peak has more class 3 than any other peak. The metamorphic rock is slippery and loose. Early in the season, snow and ice may be a problem. In the first 60 years since its first ascent, less than 100 parties had signed the summit register. The *Echo* references are: May '76, Mar '80, Jan '81, Nov '84, and May '86.
6. **DEERHORN MOUNTAIN:** The Northeast Ridge of the Southeast Peak includes 1,200' of class 3 on loose rock. The approach is long. *Echo* references are: May '76, Mar '80, Jan '81, and May '85.
7. **CLYDE MINARET:** This peak involves 1,100' of class 3 with one 4th class move. The metamorphic rock is loose and slick, and depending on the approach, the Rock Route may involve some snow and ice climbing. *Echo* references are: Mar '74, May '80, Jul '84, Aug '84, Sep '84, and Nov '84.
8. **DISAPPOINTMENT PEAK:** Doug's Chute has 800' of class 3 and 4 climbing on unbelievably loose rock. The first pitch consists of 120' of vertical "sea shells" with no protection available for the leader. It is good practice for the Canadian Rockies. *Echo* references are: Oct '71, Oct '72, Sep '74, Mar '76, Jan '78, Nov '83, and Mar '85.
9. **MIDDLE PALISADE:** The East Face of this peak involves 900' of class 3 climbing. Depending on the season, there may be some snow and ice climbing during the approach. *Echo* references are: Oct '72, Jan '78, Jan '80, May '82, and Sep '87.
10. **WHORL MOUNTAIN:** The tenth toughest Sierra peak could be Abbot, Mills, Darwin, Mendel, or Whorl. I selected Whorl because it gave me so much trouble. Route finding is the big problem here, along with 800' of class 3 with one pitch of class 4. *Echo* references are: Aug '72, Jul '76, May '79, Aug '82, and Nov '84.

MOUNTAIN RECORDS – 1982 THROUGH 1987

By Rob Roy McDonald

An update of the analysis of mountain records presented in the anniversary ECHO of December 1986 has been completed. The records for 1987 have been included, some records for prior years have been revised after inspection of summit registers, and a few errors have been corrected. As before, if no sign-in sheet or ECHO trip report exist, the trip is counted as cancelled or unsuccessful. The analysis starts with 1982 because complete records are not available for prior years.

During this six year period 425 trips were scheduled to climb 1026 peaks (each time a peak is scheduled it is counted). 713 peaks were climbed, a 69% success ratio. If each person reaching the top of a peak is counted as one ascent, 4885 ascents were made. So an average SPS trip, (I really don't believe any SPS trip is average) has 2.4 peaks scheduled, has a 69% chance of reaching the top of each peak and with 6.9 people.

1987 has the distinction of having the most trips scheduled (86) and the most peaks scheduled (220). 131 peaks were climbed in 1987 but the most peaks climbed in one year (157) occurred in 1984. The most ascents (904) were made in 1982 with 1987 making it a close second with 900.

PEAKS SCHEDULED

Peaks most often scheduled and the number of times they were scheduled.

North Palisade	10	Mt Abbot	8
Mt Whitney	10	Mt Agassiz	8
Mt Haeckel	9	Mt Dade	8
Mt LeConte	9	Mt Johnson	8
Mt Perkins	9	Mt Mallory	8
Taylor Dome	9	Norman Clyde Pk	8
Mt Wallace	9	Recess Peak	8
West Vidette	9	The Thumb	8

Four peaks were not scheduled during this period: Dicks Peak, Mt Tallac, Three Sisters and Kern Peak.

PEAKS CLIMBED

Peaks climbed most frequently include Mt Haeckel and Mt Wallace with 9 each, and Mt LeConte, Mt Mallory, Taylor Dome and Mt Whitney with 7 each.

At the other end of the scale, three peaks were scheduled but never climbed: Mt Bolton-Brown once, and the two Pilot Knobs three times each.

LARGEST NUMBER OF ASCENTS

Peaks climbed by the most people during the period are listed below with the total number of ascents for each:

Taylor Dome	112	Moses Mtn	62
Mt Wallace	80	Mt Mallory	61
Mt Haeckel	79	Owens Peak	60
Mt Muah	74	Smith Mtn	60
Mt Goode	72	Cirque Peak	49
Mt LeConte	67	Crag Peak	49
Mt Whitney	65		

MOST PEOPLE REACHING SUMMIT ON A SINGLE TRIP

A new record was established on Mt Muah during Dave Dykeman's 11st finishing party when 64 people drank champagne on the summit. (Exact number was never established with certainty, perhaps because of the difficulty each participant had in locating the register!).

The next 10 places are identical to those listed in the anniversary ECHO. Smith Mtn with 45. Mt Goode with 41 and Taylor Dome with 35 are the next on the list.

ACTIVITY ON EMBLEM PEAKS

	SCHEDULED	CLIMBED	NO ON TOP AT ONE TIME	TOT NO ON TOP
Mt Abbot	8	5	12	33
Mt Brewer	5	3	11	22
Mt Clarence King	4	3	12	26
Mt Darwin	4	2	10	16
Mt Goddard	3	1	9	9
Mt Humphreys	4	4	9	28
Mt Kaweah	4	3	6	11
Mt Lyell	4	2	8	11
Matterhorn Peak	5	5	15	46
North Palisade	10	3	9	23
Olancha Peak	5	3	17	40
Mt Ritter	4	4	8	26
Split Mtn	6	3	10	22
Mt Whitney	10	7	20	65
Mt Williamson	7	6	10	44

During the six year period, Kaweah had the lowest average of people on top on each climb with 3.7 followed by Lyell with 5.5. Olancha had the highest average no of people on top on each climb with 13.3 followed by Whitney with 9.2.

The success ratio, i.e. the ratio of number of times climbed to the number of times scheduled, varied considerably for the emblem peaks. Humphreys (4 for 4), Matterhorn (5 for 5), and Ritter (4 for 4) had 100% success ratios. At the other end were North Palisade (3 for 10) and Goddard (1 for 3).

THE SHEPHERD PASS TRAIL

The SPS has adopted the Shepherd Pass Trail under the Forest Service's "Adopt-a-Trail" program. Working in cooperation with the Mt. Whitney Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest, the SPS has scheduled four trail parties this year. The SPS Management Committee urges all members to attend as many parties as possible.

The first two parties will be held over March 19-20 and April 16-17. The goals of these two parties are to clear brush and do some minor rock work along the first 1½ miles along the Symmes Creek. The trail is heavily overgrown along this area, and many members are needed to cut brush. A secondary objective is to construct some stream crossings. We hope that the water level will be low enough during the March trail party to allow this.

The big project for this summer is the restoration of Anvil Camp over July 9-17. Anvil Camp is a heavily used campsite. In fact, during a survey of the trail last summer, one of our members called it a "slum." It is a dirty and dusty place, and our goal is to make it fit for human habitation again. Another objective is to construct a 60' causeway nearby, where Shepherd Creek is eroding part of the trail away. Four days have been scheduled for this effort, and the remaining time will be devoted to bagging Mt. Williamson, Mt. Tyndall, Junction Peak and Mt. Keith.

A fourth trail party has been scheduled for September 17 & 18. This party has an open objective. Either we will finish undone work from the spring and summer parties, or start work on a new project.

The Forest Service will provide members with safety glasses and hard hats, along with the necessary tools. Members must provide their own leather boots and long trousers to participate in the trail parties.

This project is being coordinated by R.J. Secor, with the help of Norm Rohn, Rob Roy McDonald, and Chuck Stein. Those planning to attend any trail parties should send an SASE to R.J. at 2366 Las Lunas, Pasadena, CA 91107-2510; phone 818-795-5520.

Also, anyone who happens to be hiking on the Shepherd Pass Trail and does some light maintenance along the way (e.g., removing logs or rocks) are urged to report this to R.J., describing the work and the elevation along the trail. The SPS must give an annual report to the Forest Service, and this information will help us to make our information as complete and accurate as possible.

SCHEDULE DEADLINE

SPS Leaders! March 7, 1988 is the last day for receipt of writeups for the July 5 - October 1988 schedule (#248) by Dick Akawie. Submit your trip proposals beforehand (at least two weeks) to the SPS Outings Chair: Bill Oliver, 3762 Hughes Ave. #312, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Your proposals must be typed on 8 1/2 by 11 paper, double spaced, with only one per sheet. So, hurry up and help make 1988 a great climbing year!

FOREST SERVICE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Leaders! Climbers! Remember that March 1st is the first day on which you can post mark your permit application for entry into designated Wilderness areas and National Parks. Sending in your permit applications early (but not before March 1st) improves your chances of reserving the right to enter the Wilderness of your choice on the date of your choice.

FIVE YEARS: 1983

The SPS banquet, presided over by Pat Holleman, was held in December at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello with 135 members and guests gathering for an evening of eating, drinking and genial socializing highlighted by an exceptional program on Antarctica presented by Rick Ridgeway. Dinner was stuffed chicken and cost \$15.00. Jim Murphy was inaugurated as the new Chairman; Nancy Gordon, Vice-Chair; Kevin Sullivan, Secretary; Maris Valkass, Treasurer; Jim Roberts, Conversation Representative [sic]; Bill Bradley, Safety; Cuno Ranschau, *Echo* Editor; Ella Hoselton, *Echo* Mailer; Larry Hoak, Mountain Records; Mary Sue Miller, Banquet Chair. Special recognition was given to seven members who were to receive Angeles Chapter Awards: Bill T. Russell, Outings Leadership; Bill Bradley, Andy Fried, Gene Mauk, Eivor Nilsson, Gene Olsen, and Cuno Ranschau, Outings Service.

Bill Bradley and Dale Van Dalsen led a January rock climbing practice at Joshua Tree. During February, Bradley and Walt Kabler led a snow practice in the local mountains and Ron Hudson and Campy led a snow climb in the Sierras.

TEN YEARS: 1978

The 21st SPS banquet, presided over by the 1977 chair Bill T. Russell, was held at the Cockatoo Inn with 130 attendees. The program, "Climbing in North America", was presented by Chris Jones. The new Management Committee was introduced as: George Toby, Chair; Ron Jones, Vice-Chair; Mary Omberg, Treasurer; Gene Mauk, Secretary; Bob Hicks, Alternate Officer and Council Representative; Greg Vernon, Conservation Representative; Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer, Safety Co-Chairs; and, Cuno Ranschau, *Echo* Editor.

TWENTY YEARS: 1968

Outgoing Chairman, Sid Davis, presided over the 1967 banquet held at Rudi's Italian Inn. The meal, a top sirloin dinner, cost \$3.25. John Thornton was introduced as the new Chair; John Robinson, Vice-Chair; Dick Sykes, Secretary; Bud Bingham, Treasurer; Jerry Keating, Alternate Officer; Susan Thornton, *Echo* Editor; and, Judy Hoeptner, *Echo* Mailer. John Thornton gave the slide program on "Climbing in the Wrangell Range of Alaska".

THIRTY YEARS: 1958

Bud Bingham, 1957 Chair, presided over the December SPS banquet at the Smokehouse Restaurant in Burbank. Forty-six people attended and watched George Wallerstein's program on the 1957 St. Elias Expedition. The prime rib dinner cost \$3.50. Chuck Miller was inaugurated as Chair; Bill Sanders, Vice-Chair; Charlotte Parsons, Secretary; Barbara Lilley, Treasurer; John Robinson, Alternate Officer; Bud Bingham, *Echo* Editor. Election results included designation of Mt. Humphreys as an emblem peak, 48 to 17, North Palisade as an emblem peak, 38 to 27, Mt. Sill maintained as an emblem peak, 53 to 12, and the membership voted 61 to 5 in favor of leading 3rd class SPS climbs but to leave 4th class climbs to the Rock Climbing Section.

As new editors of the *Echo*, we are honored with the privilege of serving the SPS in the tradition of past editors: Pat Holleman and Cuno Ranschau. Pat and Cuno have laid a solid foundation from which we aspire to build.

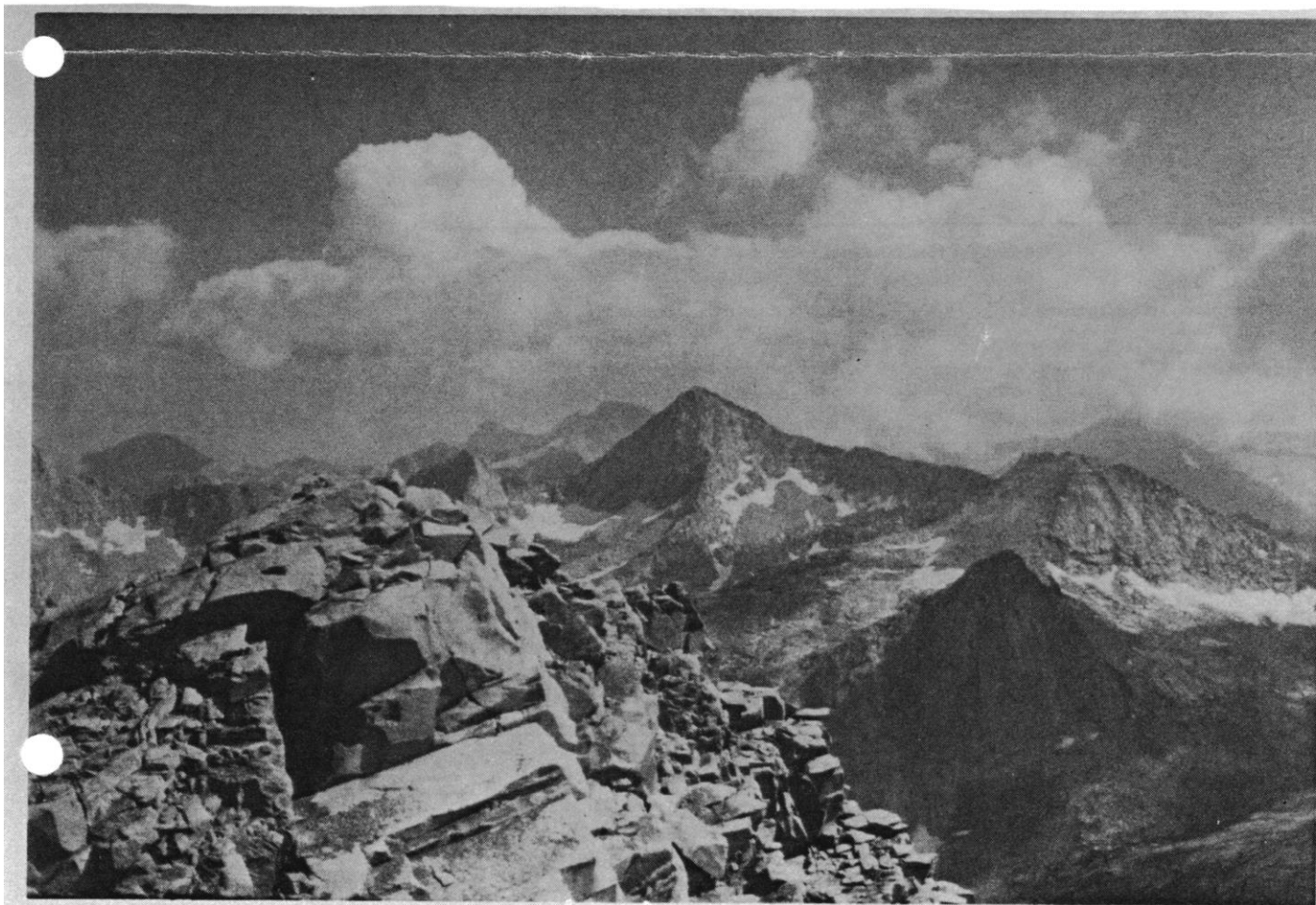
We would like to believe that the SPS has been, among other things, a special community for many a mountaineer to share with each other the joy of the climbing endeavour in the Sierras. So, it is in this spirit, with particular emphasis on the word, "community", that we propose to the SPS membership a regular forum for being heard. If you like this idea, or even if you don't, but feel inspired or enraged to respond to the questions below, transmit your opinion by letter, by note submitted to a management committee member at the monthly SPS meeting, or by phone to: Jeffrey Solomon (Associate Editor) 714-552-7237, or Igor Mamedalin (Editor) 714-786-3918.

QUESTIONS FOR JAN-FEB

1. We have heard R. J. Secor's opinion. What is your opinion? What are the 10 toughest SPS listed peak climbs?
2. Leaders are currently formulating their plans. What 5 Sierra peaks do you want most to climb in 1988?
3. What questions do you think should appear in this forum? Send them in!

WHO WAS THAT PEAK ANYWAY ?!

Identify the peak featured in the photograph below and transmit your answer to the *Echo* Editors or to an SPS management committee member before the next *Echo* input deadline (March 20, 1988). Correct identifiers will be acknowledged in the next issue along with the peak identity (wrong guesses will remain anonymous).



ECHOES FROM OUR READERS

14 Nov. 1987

Dear Editor,

I found Bob Hartunian's letter in the Sept.-Oct. Sierra Echo very interesting--but not surprising. But since most, if not ALL, lawsuits filed against the Angeles Chapter have been by BMTC students, a more appropriate question might be: "Is it worthwhile leading BMTC trips?"

For years the BMTC has been urged to use other areas rather than subject their students to the inherent dangers (avalanches, falling rock, falling ice, distance from help) associated with the Baldy Bowl. But the attitude of the MTC continues to be that no one is going to tell THEM where to hold ice axe practice; those who dare suggest otherwise risk threats and reprisals. But how many more accidents and lawsuits have to occur due to use of the Baldy Bowl (this is not the first) before the Angeles Chapter changes ITS attitude that the BMTC can do no wrong because it brings in so much revenue (over \$5000 per year) and takes DIRECT action in this matter. Otherwise, liability insurance may again be restricted and ALL activity groups will be affected.

Individual BMTC ice axe practice leaders can minimize THEIR risk of lawsuit by taking their students to one of the many safer, more suitable areas which have been successfully used in the past, including holding ice axe practice in conjunction with the snow camp trip. Consideration could also be given to the fact that the environmental impact on a popular defacto wilderness area would be minimized. The choice is yours.

Barbara Lilley

Barbara Lilley

A Diet for Mountaineers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Never eat on an empty stomach. | 7. Really feel your food. Texture is important. Compare, for example, the texture of freeze-dried shrimp to that of canned sardines. Which feels better against your cheeks? |
| 2. Never leave the camp hungry. | |
| 3. When climbing, never leave a summit hungry. | 8. Never eat between snacks, unless it's a meal. |
| 4. Enjoy your food. | |
| 5. Enjoy your companion's food. | 9. Don't feel you must finish everything in your pot. You can always eat it later. |
| 6. Really taste your food. It may take several portions to accomplish this, especially if subtly seasoned. | 10. Avoid any wine with a childproof cap. |
| | 11. Avoid blue food. |

ECHO RENEWAL REMINDER

The deadline for renewing your *Echo* subscription is March 31st and it is approaching fast! If you have not renewed, please send a check for \$8.00 along with the renewal form from the Nov-Dec 1987 issue of the *Echo* to the section Treasurer: Al Conrad, 2311 Pickens Canyon Road, La Crescenta, CA 91214

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

DISAPPOINTMENT, ACCIDENTS ON DISAPPOINTMENT AND NORMAN CLYDE June 27-30, 1987

We scheduled 3 peaks, including The Thumb, and no accidents. Got no peaks and three accidents: two serious and one nearly fatal. Sent permit application in one day late so did not get July 4th permit for 6, USFS maximum for South Fork after July 1st, go permit for 18, took 15.

Forgot stove, pot set, most food; a harbinger of things to come. Hiked up to Finger Lake and lazed about on day one while Randy Danta and Rob Langsdorf climbed Middle Palisade. Day two saw us up at 3:30 AM, off at 4:40 for Disappointment. A steep snow chute about half-way between Balcony Peak (the next peaklet on the crest SE of Disappointment) and Southfork Pass looked inviting and not overly steep. About 2/3 of the way up this 500' chute, Rob Langsdorf was having trouble with his crampons. They were incorrectly laced and one was loose, so Rob stepped to one side and attempted to tighten the flapping crampon. He stepped back onto the route, hard and icy in that section, and fell. Kathy Price was right behind Rob and he knocked her off her feet, too. They both tumbled all the way down, neither being able to even start any kind of arrest with their ice axes. Kathy escaped with a few scratches, even though they bounced through a band of rocks. Rob, however, had various abrasions and contusions and a probable broken left hand. Bill Gray and Dale dropped down to help, Dale running a four rope fixed line as he went. Bill and Kathy walked Rob back to camp; I climbed back up to the crest and we coiled the ropes, and 11 of us pushed on up the ridge toward Balcony after losing over two hours.

Hartunian recounted how he had tried to reach the Balcony-Disappointment notch by working around the NE face of Balcony and it did not go. The SW slopes of Balcony looked benign on the 7.5 topo, and deceptively easy on the ground, so we ignored every SPS *Echo* write-up and contoured around the Balcony-Disappointment notch. On the way, Don Weiss stepped on a big loose rock and took a 15 foot tumble, suffering various contusions, lacerations and abrasions. A lot of tape and gauze patched him and we continued. The notch, when we reached it, was at least a one pitch rappel or belayed down-climb to get into followed by the climb of Disappointment, back down to the notch, then a 5th class climb out or a rappel down the NE face of Disappointment. We climbed up to the crest again, a few hundred feet below Balcony summit and had a late lunch. Danta, Hartunian and others looked for a route across the NE face (Ron Jones had described a route in a recent *Echo*, but we could not find it!). Clouds were scudding in, it was 2 PM and we were tired and discouraged after two accidents. Abort. Went back via Southfork Pass, no picnic. The traverse along the south side of the ridge to Southfork is a time consuming high class 2 scramble. Back to camp and make for it all on Norman Clyde, right?

On day three we were down to eight people as Bill Gray and Bob Hartunian walked Rob and his gear out and Bruce Parker drove him to Roxford. Bruce, Don and Hirsh Kolp had the good sense to bail. We got on a ridge that runs NNE from Norman Clyde just south of 3862T on the 7.5 topo, went around the notch by dropping down on the right 30 yards before the notch and traversed out on the NNW face of Norman Clyde. Although this had been a low snow year, the gullies were full of snow and ice, but the ribs were clean and dry. We went up within 200' of the NNE ridge, finding an occasional duck. About the 3rd or 4th pitch up, one of the group asked for a belay. Common wisdom says, "Once you break out the rope on Norman Clyde, forget it, unless it is the last pitch or two before you top out". True! Only one person asked for a rope, but half the group wanted a belay, once the rope was out. This, of course, costs nearly an hour per pitch. At about the 8th or 9th pitch, a series of ducks went right perhaps a hundred yards. With the gullies full of soft snow over ice, we strung a fixed line and asked all to clip in. Terrain at the end of this detour looked no better and it was nearly 3 PM. Abort. Traverse back to the correct route and start to down-climb. Danta wanted to set up rappels; I wanted to down-climb. We did both, a mistake. About 3 pitches down, one of the rappellers knocked off a big rock, perhaps 20 pounds. Several of us yelled "rock" as it whizzed down, gathering speed. About 50 yards down, it caught Roy Bishop squarely on top of his helmet, so hard the force knocked him off his feet and perhaps 20 feet down the face. He was semi-conscious and making strange sounds when Danta reached him, tied him off on a ledge and we gathered around. Ron Webber and Dale guided Roy down. He was badly shaken, had a head ache, possible broken rib, and concussion of unknown severity. Danta scouted the route and found the way up to ridge and the notch, which we reached in the last light. Perhaps half the group wanted to force the notch by head lamp in the dark. I insisted on a bivouac, to avoid further injuries and to keep the group together. My first bivouac ever without full gear.

snow melt water and we found a couple of flat spaces and huddled in three groups and shivered until first light. A LLONNGG Night! We roped up going around the notch, on the same moves we had done without a rope going up. We were almost down to Finger Lake when Hartunian met us. He and Bill Gray had kept a fire going for us half-way through the night and were worried. (So were we!) Bivouac survivors were: Danta, Van D., Webber, Price, Harry Freimanis, Ed Lubin, Bishop and Jack Miller.

Special thanks to Kathy for walking Rob back to camp on day two, to Randy D., who was always there when we needed something done, to my able assistant, Bob Hartunian, who did yeoman work on day three and four walking out injured people and their gear, and to Bill Gray, who spent days two, three and four walking people and their gear out.

INJURY EPILOGUE: Rob Langsdorf had a broken bone in his left hand and one in his left wrist; pin, plate and cast were added in La Jolla. Roy Bishop had no broken bones, but recurrent headaches for several weeks.

ANALYSIS: In retrospect, we did several things wrong, and some things right:

1. **Head Count:** We have been accused of taking too many people on trips to various peaks. The accidents were not, in my opinion, related in any way to the *number* of people on the trip. On Disappointment, we started with 14, 11 reached the ridge, one dropped back and we had ten, perhaps a few more than we should have had. On Norman Clyde, eight was not too many. The following weekend, Tom Duryea took seven up Norman Clyde; all made the peak; there were no injuries, but they returned to camp at 11 PM. Conditions could not have changed *that* much in one week.
2. **Conditions:** I badly underestimated the difficulty of both these peaks. In late June they were much tougher than Devil's Crag # 1. This led to --
3. **Poor Screening:** There were several people on Disappointment and one or two on Norman Clyde who should not have been on the peak at that time.
4. **Route Choice:** Should have religiously followed *Echo* write ups (forget Roper: he is hopeless on these as on most!) and avoided the back side of Balcony and the right side of the face on Norman Clyde.
5. **Ice Chute:** The ice chute on Disappointment, trivial to me, was serious and dangerous to many in the group. Should have strung the long four rope fixed line with 2 or 3 fall stopping knots in each rope and had everyone clip in. Belaying would have taken all day; forget it.
6. **Crampon Check:** We should have checked everyone's crampon adjustment and strap lacing.
7. **Time of Year and Climbing Strategy:** Doing these peaks next time with as much snow in the gullies, I would want to go as roped pairs.
8. **Start Time:** First light is probably too late to start. Better to be climbing up in the dark when fresh at 3 AM than down-climbing in the dark while tired at 9 PM!
9. **Hard Hats:** We required helmets on Norman Clyde, and should have in the chute on Disappointment. Without his helmet, Roy would be dead, that is 100% certain! There are a number of SPS routes that should be "hard hats only".
10. **Rappelling vs. Down-climbing:** The accident on Norman Clyde would not have happened if we had not had people down-climbing below an inexperienced person rappelling. Rappelling is fun and looks good, but is inherently more dangerous than down-climbing and is enormously time consuming, an hour per pitch for eight people! Should have insisted that we all down-climb, and discourage use of ropes. Frankly, the terrain was not yet that steep, mostly class 2 with the occasional 3rd class move; people needing a rope should have been turned back early!

Dale W. Van Dalsen, 11/87

VOGELSANG, FLORENCE, FOERSTER July 2-5, 1987

G. Toby / D. Borad

Thursday, July 2, all ten showed up at the Tuolumne Meadows hikers parking lot. We got a permit for ten people, but the girl in the permit office said all future wilderness trips in Yosemite would be limited to eight. We hit the Tuolumne Trail at 7:40. During a clothing break at the Rafferty Trail junction the leader reminded everyone of the necessity of treating or boiling all water in Yosemite to protect against giardia, and the leader had extra iodine tablets if needed. One hiker, named Roy Naaz, insisted that he was immune to giardia and steadfastly refused to purify his water. He became very nasty and argumentive. He was quickly signed off the trip. From then on the trip went smoothly. Seven opted to climb Vogelsang Peak from the pass. It is only 850' gain from the pass. We descended down the Lewis Creek Trail to a junction with the Isberg Pass Trail, then up this steep trail to a broad flat ridge at 9,600' and a beautiful camp at a small stream. 15.5 miles and 3,850' gain. A good days work.

Friday, July 3, we hit the trail early. It runs high along the rim of the wide Merced Canyon and overlooks some superb Yosemite high country. At a break in the cliffs we ascended cross country up the Lyell Fork of the Merced River to base camp near Hutching Creek. A beautiful spot but full of mosquitoes. Mt. Florence was now due north of camp. It is a big crud heap. We climbed it by a somewhat dubious rock route and came back on the scree. The view from the summit was outstanding. From the top we looked across the broad canyon to Foerster and decided on a different, and as it turned out, a better route up Foerster.

Saturday, July 4, we broke camp and descended to the main trail, dropped packs, and climbed the steep trail south to the top of the cliffs. Then went east cross country behind the cliffs in forests and meadows to the base of Foerster. Then easy class 2 rocks to the summit. A real neat route. We returned to pick up packs and hike back on the main trail to our original campsite and no mosquitoes.

Sunday, July 5, got an early start and backpacked the 14 miles back to the cars by 12:15. To top off the trip, seven of us met in the Sierra Cantina Mexican Restaurant in Lone Pine. Good food and the world's worst waitress. Have you ever had a full plate of tostadas thrown on the table like a frisbee with lettuce flying? She can do it. This was a real good fun loving group. We had a great time and in between managed to get three peaks.

George T.

GARDNER and COTTER

June 12-14, 1987

Bill Oliver / Larry Tidball

Friday morning 7 AM found seven of us heading up to Kearsarge Pass in good weather. Summiting Glen Pass after a 1,000' loss, we were presented with lofty views of Rae Lakes and Clarence King, and heavy snow covering the north facing slopes. Ice axe in hand we traversed westerly down and then north up and over the X-C route directly toward Sixty Lakes Basin (SLB), establishing camp among trees at lake 3,353 about 4:30 PM.

We left camp 6 AM Saturday and followed the Muir Trail to SLB, then south past Lake 3,304 and SW up to the saddle south of Cotter. Gardener juttred up snow draped in the distance and silently beckoned us forward. Traversing high along the south slope, we then climbed clear rock ledges to gain the south summit. Unsuccessful in my attempt to terminate this madness, I was pushed forward to set up a static rope to protect the extended 4th class ridge run to the north summit. (Bob Hartunian's description and drawing in *Echo* 21-6 (or 29-4) are very useful). Two 100' ropes, about eight slings and a few medium stoppers later found us all tied in at 11:15 on top of this Mountaineer's peak, where we quickly devoured Ed Ross's birthday cake.

Do you think that I could satisfy the group with just Gardener? The ingrates were united in insisting that we go for Cotter as advertised. Despite dire *Echo* reports on running the south ridge, this route went well (stay below the ridge on the west), and we staggered back to camp amid distant thunder about 6 PM.

(continued next page)

THOMPSON, POWELL (WALLACE, HAECKEL)

July 11-12, 1987

Dale Van Dalsen and Dan Mihaljevich

Permit hassle started this fine weekend. Slept in the Toyota behind the Ranger Station in Bishop in my truck, rose at 4:45 AM, stumbled to the door, first in line, had permit for 11 by 6:01 AM, Lake Sabrina trail-head by 6:50 AM. Drop packs and people and shuttle truck back to hiker parking. Why is hiker parking nearly a mile down the road at Sabrina, Big Pine and other places?

Off at 7:15 AM, two hours to Blue Lake and got six volunteers to join me in trying for Wallace and Haeckel on day one. Two saved themselves for Thompson and Powell and two had the peaks. The guy who designed the trail to Drunken Sailor Lake must have had the lake named after him and gotten paid by the mile. We hiked up the ridge on the east side of Hungry Packer Lake, contoured high above Echo Lake, on past a couple of ponds shown on the 7.5 topo and soon arrived at the edge of the snow covered bowl between Wallace and Haeckel. Up to the notch on the crest NW of Wallace, then we ran the ridge to Haeckel, following a use trail 50' to 100' below (and NE of) the crest to summit of Haeckel, class 2 easy-3 all the way. We retraced our steps to the notch and climbed Wallace, again staying 50' to 100' east of the crest, again class 2 easy-3 all the way. We descended SE and took a very cruddy chute down toward Echo Lake (NOT a recommended group route!) and rejoined our previous route. Most of the group got back to camp at 9:10 PM, stragglers after 10 PM. Easy peaks, long winding trail.

Sunday up at 5 AM, off at 6 AM (should have gone an hour earlier but leader was pooped). Dan had scouted the trail to Baboon Lakes the day before, otherwise we still might be wandering around. Just before a major stream crossing on the trail to Donkey Lake, a blocked off use trail goes right. Take it!

We took the drainage up to Sunset Lake (better than the shortcut through the notch west of 11,600' closed contour on 7.5 topo) and went up the rock rib just east of the 56 UTM grid line and SW up the big chute (there is only one) to the Powell summit plateau. Lower two-thirds filled with snow; upper third very loose; might take hard hats next time. Register is on the rock pile at the NE end of plateau. We looked at several chutes that would take us down on the south side of the crest for the traverse to Thompson and chose the second or third one we looked at, cruddy and loose, but wide and dropped all the way to the snow at 12,400'. Then trudged up the SW slope of Thompson, up another loose, rock fall chute to the Thompson summit plateau, which features a 1931 school note pad placed by Norman Clyde plus the SPS register, both half-full. Going back, we followed the ledge system that runs perhaps 200' below the crest, which went fine except for one spot where most wanted and got a rope (the only time we broke out the rope all weekend). The western most notch in the crest, higher than the low notch, was, of course loose and full of rock fall, but went nicely. (When crossing the crest, north to south, between Thompson and Powell, be sure to take the higher notch on the right; the low one is a class 5 rappel on the other side!) Back to camp at 6:30 PM, pack up by 7:15 PM, cars by 9:00 PM, home not in time to beat the *Times* to the doorstep. Four of us got four peaks: Tina Stough got her 100th SPS peak and could have bagged another peak or two. Strong newcomer, Ann Rosenthal, doubled her Sierra peak count. Bobby Dubeau and the leader huffed, puffed and prevailed in a triumph for geriatrics. Ken Deemer, Carolyn West and Gerry Dunie (Thank you for assisting, Gerr!) joined us on day one; Marta Fleres, Bob Emerick (229 SPS peaks!), and Dan Mihaljevich (usual great co-lead!) joined us on day two, as six got two peaks. Partial redemption for the failure and injuries on Norman Clyde and Disappointment.

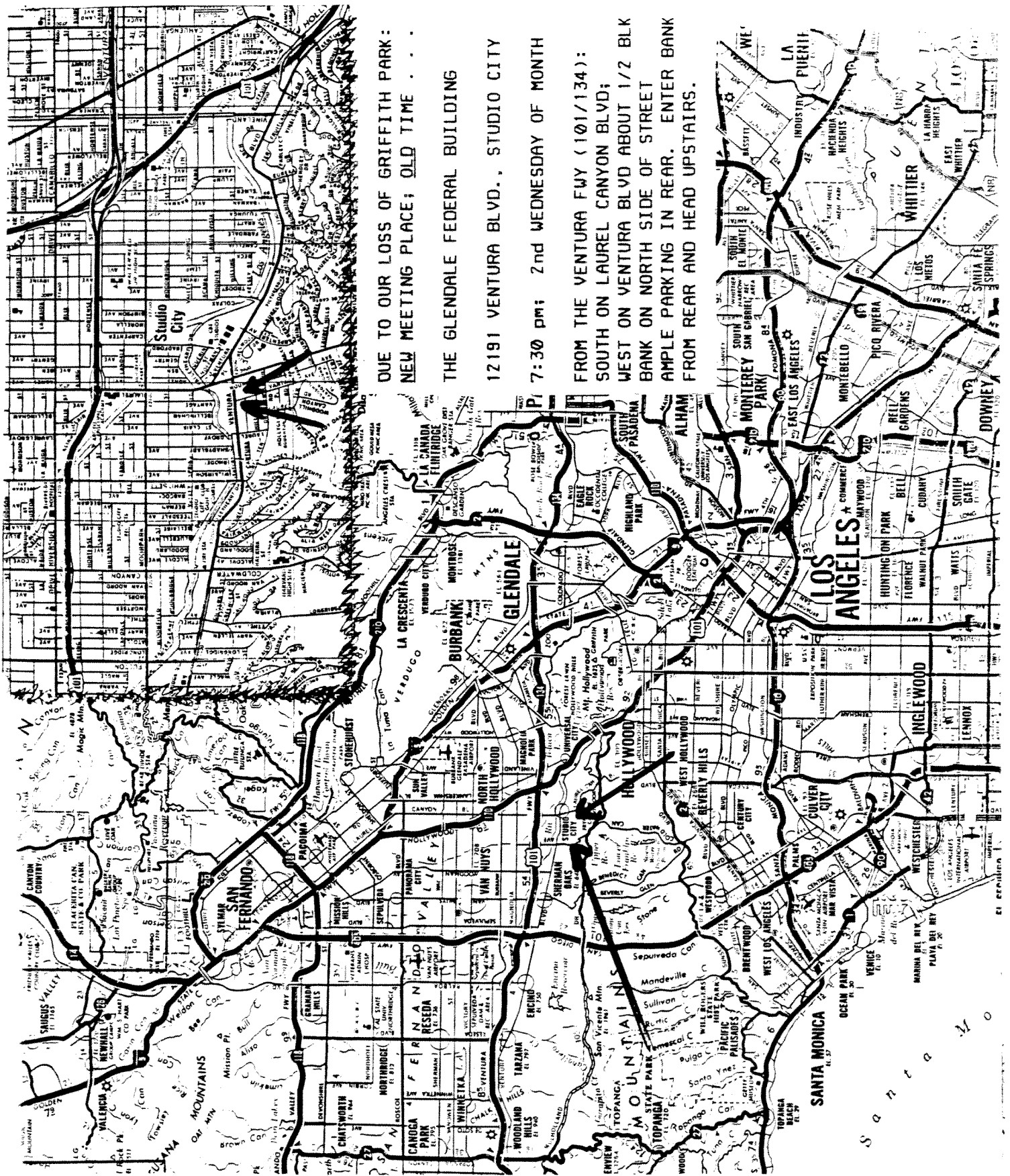
-Dale

GARDNER and COTTER

(continued from previous page)

Sunday morning we retraced our route back out between 6:15 AM and 1:30 PM. This was a strong, compatible group that also included Gary Guenther, who rarely fell silent, Bob Wyka, Joe Andrews, and Richard Fewell. Special thanks to Larry for supporting me on this provisional lead, especially after the original assistant had to withdraw.

-Bill



DUE TO OUR LOSS OF GRIFFITH PARK:
 NEW MEETING PLACE; OLD TIME . . .
 THE GLENDALE FEDERAL BUILDING
 12191 VENTURA BLVD., STUDIO CITY
 7:30 PM; 2nd WEDNESDAY OF MONTH
 FROM THE VENTURA FWY (101/134):
 SOUTH ON LAUREL CANYON BLVD;
 WEST ON VENTURA BLVD ABOUT 1/2 BLK
 BANK ON NORTH SIDE OF STREET
 AMPLE PARKING IN REAR. ENTER BANK
 FROM REAR AND HEAD UPSTAIRS.

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Published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

EDITOR: Igor Mamedalin, 24 Almond Tree Lane, Irvine CA 92715. Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon. *Echo* copy deadlines are the 20th day of odd numbered months and June. Priority is given to legible, typed, single spaced copy. Mail copy to Editor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$8.00 per year due by March 31st. Subscribing to the *Echo* is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Sustaining membership is \$20.00 per year. Submit new subscription applications to the section Secretary and include your Sierra Club membership number. New applications received after October 1st are credited for the subsequent year subscription. Submit renewal applications to the section Treasurer. Only one *Echo* subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address.

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