

The Sierra



ECHO

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ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

By the time this column appears, the results of the Club's election of directors should be known - and there should be cause for celebration. Many SPSers responded generously with their time, talent and treasure in support of the GROPE effort marshalled by Rob Roy McDonald to elect directors who are both pro-conservation and pro-mountaineering. The Section is indebted to them and particularly to Rob Roy, who was totally immersed in this effort. The new directors will join the Board at its May meeting. The reconstituted Board will then hear the input from the Mountaineering Insurance Task Force. We look forward to the implementation of their recommendations and to the full restoration of our Sierra activities and training as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the SPS will continue to carefully observe both the letter and the spirit of the current climbing restrictions. Some have questioned: "Why are we pussyfootin' around about this?" A good question. Why not push to the limit and try to get away with as much as possible? Let me try to respond. We are heirs to a rich tradition of Sierra mountaineering - fostered, nurtured and protected by the Club. We have a responsibility to our members and to the Club to abide by its restrictions and to not put it at risk for our own selfish purposes. As noted above, efforts are currently underway within the Club to raise these onerous limitations. There are those who would like nothing better than to point out that our Section has a willful disregard for the restrictions and flaunts them at every opportunity. Any kind of breach occurring during this critical time resulting in a reported incident could only have a devastating impact on our shared, cherished goal. Accordingly, your Management Committee will "pussyfoot" for now that we may later, and hopefully not much later, again strap on our crampons, unsheathe our ice axes and uncoil our ropes.

It was very gratifying to see so many leaders submitting for the summer Schedule trips that abide by the current restrictions. Because no rope was to be allowed on the trip, it turns out that no 3rd class peaks were approved. We all know how quickly a storm can appear in the Sierra. To be caught in one on the descent from the summit, on slippery rock without a rope posed a serious safety risk. Since the due date for the Schedule, however, San Francisco has modified its interpretation of the insurance restrictions (and subsequently clarified its modification). A Club trip may now have a single rope and up to two ice axes, such items to be carried only by the leader or the assistant leader. This equipment is along solely "to ensure the safety of an outing in unexpected situations; examples are stream crossings and rescues. Ropes or ice axes may NOT be used as climbing aids or on any outing where their use is recommended by the opinion of experienced local climbers and leaders; the

insurance restrictions require that such outings NOT be conducted by the Sierra Club." The SPS Management Committee reserves solely to itself what constitutes the opinion of experienced local climbers and leaders! Taking into account this modification, the Management Committee will now invite and review for Echo publication trips which involve easy 3rd class rock. It will continue to work closely with Task Force members and with the Chapter Safety Committee in interpreting and implementing the then latest restrictions.

Any leader who has reservations about the safety of his or her trip under the limitations, who finds it difficult to abide by them, or who is looking for ways to get around or evade them has a simple solution at hand: go private. We're not pressing anyone to lead SPS trips. Any member is welcome to advertise a private trip in the *Echo* for a small charge. Trip leaders may not sign out to climb an unauthorized peak; the trip cannot end anywhere except back at the cars. A scheduled trip cannot go private at the trailhead (this was already true). Be sure to present any "what if's" to me or Tina Stough or Richard Fritsen well in advance of your trip. If there is any doubt about whether or not something is allowed, we will error on the conservative side - go private. Leaders should not assume that any first-time violation of the letter, or the spirit, of the restrictions merits only a warning.

What a bummer to have to write such paragraphs! Please hang in there with the Section and the Club. Give the Club some time to get its mountaineering act together. In the meantime, we must refrain from any behavior that could jeopardize our remedial efforts and end ice axe and rope use for all time. Let me clarify, finally, that although your Management Committee espouses "pussyfooting" with respect to observing the insurance restrictions, it has had no qualms in voicing its outrage at their imposition and in making clear its determination to eliminate them already. It is our only alternative!



PHOTO CREDIT: Debra Lerner took this fine exposed shot of Bill Oliver and Tom Duryea on top of Eichorn Pinnacle of Cathedral Peak. This photograph was declared the photo contest winner at last year's banquet and the trip report by Bill Oliver accompanying the photo can be found on page 9 in this issue of the *Echo*. Your photograph of appropriate climbing activities in the Sierra can also grace the cover of the *Sierra Echo*. Send your black and white 8x10 glossies to the Associate Editor, Jeff Solomon, for consideration.

ECHOES TO OUR READERS

July 5-October 31 SPS Climbing Schedule

Date	Peak Objective	Leaders
Jul 8-16	Shepherd Pass tr. party, Williamson, Tyndall, Keith	Secor, Rohn
Jul 14-17	Baxter, Colosseum, Perkins	Stephens, Stough
Jul 15-17	Silliman (MTC/SPS)	Hoffmann, Parker
Jul 22-23	Sawtooth, Lamont	Young, Nilsson
Jul 26-Aug 1	Goat, Kid, State--Kid Lakes fishing	Rohn, Moore
Jul 29	Red and White	Camphausen, Holladay
Aug 5-6	Yogelsang, Florence	Mamedalin, Thomas
Aug 5-6	Johnson, Gilbert--intro	Borad, Marquez
Aug 5-6	Yogelsang, Florence	Tidball, Jamison
Aug 11-14	Recess, Silver	Mauk, Toby
Aug 12-13	Morgan #1, Morgan #2--dayhikes	Petzold, Dykeman
Aug 12-13	Izaak Walton, Red and White	Tidball, Jamison
Aug 12-13	Cirque, Langley (MTC/SPS)	Zdon, Parker
Aug 18-20	Brewer	West, Stees
Aug 20-26	Marion, Observation, Striped, Goodale, Cardinal possible; Lake Basin fishing	Rohn, Secor
Aug 26-27	Morgan #2	Young, Nilsson
Aug 26-27	Four Gables	Murphy, Thaw
Aug 29-Sep 4	Izaak Walton, Red and White--fishing, hot springs	Rohn, Moore
Sep 1-4	Izaak Walton, Stanford #2, Red & White, Morgan #2, Red Slate	Dykeman, Toby
Sep 1-4	Conness, North, White, Sheep, Ragged	MacLeod, Colevins
Sep 2-3	Red Slate, Baldwin	Stenzel, Robson
Sep 2-4	Observation	Murphy, Thaw
Sep 2-4	Four Gables	Keating, Whisman
Sep 9-11	Matterhorn	Dunie, Swedo
Sep 15-17	State, Goat, Marion	Dykeman, Toby
Sep 16-17	Red Slate, Red and White	Russell, Gray
Sep 23-24	Shepherd Pass trail party	Secor, Oliver, Stein
Sep 23-24	Irvine, Whitney	Petzold, Dykeman
Sep 23-24	Alta, Silliman	Thomas, Mamedalin
Sep 23-24	Johnson, Gilbert (MTC/SPS)	Hoffmann, Parker
Sep 30-Oct 1	Cirque, Langley	Kilberg, Jones
Sep 30-Oct 1	Bolton Brown (Birch and/or Thumb for tigers)	Dykeman, Borad
Sep 30-Oct 1	Harrington, Kennedy	Van Dalsem, Stough
Oct 7-8	Nav noodle/peak bag	Dykeman, Gordon, Borad
Oct 7-8	Taylor Dome, Rockhouse (MTC/SPS)	Zdon, Parker
Oct 13-15	State, Goat, Kid	Jones, Yalkass
Oct 14-15	Yandever, Florence	Petzold, Dykeman
Oct 20-22	Foerster	Reber, Holladay

Many thanks to all of the leaders who have helped to give us a full summer schedule despite the insurance restrictions. Happy climbing everyone!

Tina

1988 SPS ELECTIONS RESULTS -- CLOSE

Ron Jones

This was the first time I have served on the Election Committee and this year's (1988) election certainly proves the point that every vote is important in guiding our Section. There was a total of 85 ballots received either before or during the Section meeting held on November 12, 1988. The five candidates selected for the Management Committee were Ruth Armentrout, Bill Oliver, Mario Gonzalez, Vi Grasso and Tina Stough. Close behind in count were Carolyn West and Bruce Parker.

The question, "Shall the bylaws be amended by addition of the Master Emblem?", needed 2/3 of the ballots cast for approval and received 58, one more than necessary.

The Peaks List question, "Shall the Peaks List be amended by the addition of Palisade Crest?", needed a simple majority of 43 or more votes to pass and received only 41, thereby failing.

These results were announced at the November General Meeting. I was, however, a little surprised to receive two more ballots the next day and very much surprised when 10 more ballots arrived in the mail during the next month. They were post-marked from November 14th up to December 6th with three mailed after Thanksgiving!

Tallying these votes out curiosity I was thankful to find that they did not affect the selection of the Management Committee. The question of the Master Emblem was not affected as it earned 68.7% of the ballots -- both valid and non-valid received.

The count on the addition of Palisade Crest continued close but counting the non-valid votes received after the election found that the measure received 51% of the ballots. Had these votes arrived on time this issue would have passed. A very good lesson in the power of the ballot.

A few comments were added to individual ballots received. One person felt that the Section's first priority for new peaks would be Mt. Hoffman. Another asked the question, "should we have peaks on the list that cannot be led under the auspices of the Club? Should we add another? It's a shame not be able to lead these great peaks, but...". Another stated, "Please figure out what to do with existing 'illegal peaks' on the list [that can't be led] before adding more of them.

United States Department of Agriculture

Certificate of Appreciation

awarded to

Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter -

Sierra Club

IN APPRECIATION OF EXTENSIVE, HIGH QUALITY TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION ON THE SHEPHERD PASS TRAIL, ON THE MT. WHITNEY DISTRICT OF THE INYO NATIONAL FOREST DURING THE SUMMER OF 1988.



Feb. 6, 1989
date FEBRUARY 1989

Arthur L. Gaffrey
ARTHUR L. GAFFREY, DISTRICT RANGER

ADVANCED SPS MONTHLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

No one has yet come up with a more central location. Until notice is given otherwise in the Echo, we will continue to meet at the Glendale Federal bank bldg., 12191 Ventura Blvd. (just W. of Laurel Cyn Blvd.) in Studio City. The 2nd Wednesday of every month; 7:30 pm.

Opportunities are still available (read that desperate) for some lucky person(s) to provide refreshments for the meetings. Those selected earn free admission, seconds, thirds, glory and up to \$15 cash reimbursement. Please contact Mario Gonzalez at (213) 380-4038. The sample requirement has been waived; attendance not required!

- | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--|
| May 10 | LARRY TAPPER | The Back Side of the Himalayas. |
| Jun 14 | CLAY SINGER | Pre-Historic Los Angeles. |
| Jul 12 | CLIVE BAILLIE | Climbing in Bonnie Scotland. |
| Aug 9 | NORRIS MERRITT | Guided Climbs in S. America - Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, etc. |
| Sep 13 | BOB LANDRY & TOM DAVIS | The Great One - Denali alpine style, W. Rib. |
| Oct 11 | ANNUAL POTLUCK | Bring someone to share in addition to food. (Freeze-dried unacceptable!) |
| Nov 8 | BILL OLIVER | Mexican Highpoints - Popo and Orizaba. |
| Dec 13 | GLEN DAWSON | ANNUAL BANQUET: Early Sierra Club Mountaineering - In and Around California with Glen Dawson in the 30's. (At the Proud Bird). |

Quiz: Of those named above, who joined Robert Underhill, Norman Clyde and Jules Eichorn in the first ascent of the East Face of Whitney? Hint: They had all just come from the first ascent of Thunderbolt - the last 14er to fall. Answer: the envelope will be opened at the Annual Banquet! (**One more chance:** Of those named above, who's the biggest dam pussyfoot?)

Final offer: Those who are interested in lending time, talent, ideas, vintage gear, photographs, recollections, cash, etc. in support of the special December program should contact Bill "PF" Oliver - (213) 839-5156.

RED KAWEAH ACCIDENT: CONCLUSION

Ruth Armentrout

It has now been nearly two and a half years since my climbing accident on Red Kaweah on August 31, 1986. In January, 1988, the rod was removed from my leg and I used crutch(es) for six weeks. Then in March the plate was removed from my arm and I had a long arm cast for six weeks. Finally, in November the plastic surgeon revised the forearm scar. I now consider my recovery complete although I still have a slight limp at times and the forearm scar is somewhat mis-shapen, but hardly noticeable to others.

The medical expenses now exceed \$71,000. My insurance company has already paid \$69,400. The reason I have paid so much is that the extended time period for the recovery made it necessary for me to pay the deductible amounts more than once. Again I want to stress the point that no one should ever climb without adequate medical insurance. Although it was serious enough, my accident could easily have been worse and the recovery much more complicated.

I was able to do some climbing last summer and over Labor Day weekend Don Borad and I climbed Big Kaweah, my senior emblem peak. Even though it was several years later than originally planned, I was pleased about getting my senior emblem. It means that I am still climbing in spite of the accident. I expect to be able to do more climbing this year; in fact, Larry Machleder and I plan to climb Red Kaweah together!

PEAK INDEX: VOL 33-2 (MAR-APR '89)

Black Kaweah	Kaweah
Clouds Rest	McGee
Dunderberg	Muir
Eichorn Pinnacle	Red
Emerald	Reinstein
Excelsior	Scylla
Finger	Tehipite Dome
Fleming	Tunemah
Half Dome	Whitney
Henry	

ECHOES FROM THE PRESENT

We Want To Know!

This month's mystery peak picture, featured below, was taken by Pete Yamagata. Last month's mystery peak photograph is credited to Reiner Stengel. Ron Grau and Bob Michael identified last month's mystery peak correctly as North Palisade with Thunderbolt in the foreground. Last month's cover photo was a clue to the identity of the mystery peak that many SPSers ignored.

Perhaps simple recognition in print is not adequate to motivate more people to respond to our mystery peaks and questions in general. This month we are offering a **prize** for the correct identification of pictured "mystery" mountaineers (see page 8). If this proves to be successful in eliciting more responses from our reader, we may start offering prizes for correct identification of mystery peaks also. Send all of your responses to the questions and contests posed in this issue of the *Echo* to the Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine CA 92714.



ECHOES FROM OUR READERS

To All My SPS Friends:

This note is to tell you that my long recovery (from avascular necrosis of my right femoral head) is over and my life has returned to normalcy. I have recently tested my new titanium joint on several Sierra trails, and I am hippy to report that it worked just fine!

Thak you for our many telephone calls, notes, hospital visits, and other expressions of concern during the past year and a half. You were wonderful to keep in touch all this time; your continuing support helped enormously.

Appreciatively,

Vieve Weldon

Vieve Weldon

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank R. J. Secor and his fellow trail workers for their magnificent job of improving the Shepherd Pass Trail. On 26th and 27th of September our group came down this trail with a stop at Anvil Camp. The top 300 feet showed the reamins of a lot of difficult trail building on that loose talus/scree/mud slope. Unfortunately, torrential rains had cut deep trenches, carrying mud, and totally destroying much had work. Novertheless, it was an improvement from previous summer's trail. This was important, for we had two moderately injured knees, and two badly injured knees in our party. I was dreading the section of trail from the roadhead to the last stream crossing of Symms Creek, for I remembered it a a scramble over rocks and through brush. My injured companion and I were delighted with the beautiful graded trail. We really appreciate that hard work, and thank you.

Yours,

Louise M. French

Louise M. French



CONTEST: *The above picture was taken by Bill Oliver at the 1988 SPS Banquet. Each of the people standing by the Christmas tree has been recognized for a particular accomplishment(s) in the Sierra. The first person to identify each of the personalities and their accomplishment correctly will receive a prize from the Editor (Bill Oliver does not qualify)! Send your responses to the Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon.*

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

CATHEDRAL/EICHORN PINNACLE, UNICORN

July 23-24, 1988

Bill Oliver and Tom Duryea

Tuolumne Meadows is a special, magical place - a land of unicorns, smooth domes and jagged spires gently cradling lush meadows and meandering streams. Tom Duryea and I were joined by his friend, Debra Lerner, for this private climb of one of our Mountaineer's Peaks - Cathedral (10,940'). Departing the trailhead at 7 am, we headed up the Cathedral Lakes trail away, then took off cross-country around the east side of the peak above Budd Creek - an approach also taken in 1869 by John Muir during the peak's first ascent. Easy scrambling brought us to the crest north of the summit. Our first view of *Eichorn Pinnacle*, a slender, lonesome sentinel standing watch about 100 yards west of the summit complex, filled us with excitement and dread.

Silently suppressing our anxieties for the time being, we worked our way onto the ledges below the peak's high point. In anticipation of the 4th class summit pitch, a belay was established and I gamely set off toward a high pinnacle which appeared hopelessly lacking in hand- and footholds. The mountain spirits responded to my quiet whimpers for I shortly discovered that this pinnacle was quite unrelated to the high point. I had no qualms in redirecting our efforts and soon sat atop the small block which held the register. Tom and Debra were quickly belayed up. The crux is a final 15-foot vertical crack of low difficulty.

With all three of us tied in on top at 11:00, we reveled in the grand views in every direction. Using binoculars we could make out strings of ant humanoids moving about on Lemberg Dome. In the other direction Echo Peaks, Cockscomb and Unicorn offered jagged proof of their summit glacial escapes. "No feature, however, of all the noble landscape as seen from here seems more wonderful than the Cathedral itself, a temple displaying Nature's masonry and sermons in stone. How often I have gazed at it from the tops of hills and ridges, and through openings in the forest on my many short excursions, devoutly wondering, admiring, longing! This I may say is the first time I have been at church in California, led here at last, every door graciously opened for the poor lonely worshipper." (John Muir, "My First Summer in the Sierra")

Relocating to the saddle between the summit and Eichorn Pinnacle, we lunched out and carefully scrutinized the slender needle for an opening move. It was settled that Debra would stay behind and photographically record our daring ascent - I should have gone for two out of three! A 1975 *Echo* cover purports to show a certain Doug Mantle and a Tom Cardina victoriously astride the pinnacle, but it could have been any two figures - possibly even Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn themselves in the premier 1931 ascent.

We established the belay on the north side of the needle below the saddle. Having donned his magic rock shoes Tom lead off and skillfully worked his way up and around on the Lake side to a small belay stance about 20 feet below the top. He wasn't sure if the pitch would reach all the way and to do so would have introduced excessive rope drag. Enroute he came across a few old rusty pitons that seemed to lead to more difficult routes. I had no trouble following the 5.3-5.4 pitch in my unmagical trail boots. Friends work great and/or small to medium pro. Tom peaked out ahead of me, and we found room for the two of us to stand and proudly survey our newly-won domain while Debra eagerly recorded our gallant deed. Within the past year a remarkably large, rectangular metal box had been bolted to the stone. There were also two secure hangers affixed for the rappell. Not being sure of the rapp length, I had carried a second 50-meter rope. It was not flaked, however, as a single 50-m line just made it to safe ledges on the north side. Our climb consumed about an hour up and 45 min. down, concluding a little past 2:00.

Intending to traverse the mountain, we took off down its broad NW slope as thunder claps noisily moved into the area. This route proved far less trivial than it had appeared, being made up of innumerable ledges. We intersected the trail coincident with a light shower, which accompanied us back to the car.

The metal boxes at each campsite in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground are evidently quite bear-proof as we saw neither hide nor hair of any anywhere the entire weekend - bummer. From the Campground Sunday at 7:00 we took the gently ascending and very scenic Elizabeth Lake trail to said feature in an hour. A beeline west cross-country took us to the first (leftmost and lowest) of the three prominent, contiguous summit blocks that surmount Unicorn Peak, positioned a mile and a half east of Cathedral and of about the same height. In this way each of us had a turn in topping-out first.

It was great fun running the line from one to the next. The final and highest is at least high class 3 and a belay was given and accepted. On the highest altar I sacrificed a water bottle to create a peak cannister for future worshipers. It's amazing how little-climbed some superb peaks are for want of list status. We were down and back to the car by noon, just ahead of afternoon showers. The extended drive home was relieved by long-to-be-cherished memories of an exceptionally fine (and magical) weekend. The mountain spirits had looked favorably upon our venture - and found us worthy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This issue of the *Sierra Echo* was made possible through the effort and help extended by Suzanne Thomas. She entered most of the trip reports into the word processor and negotiated with the printer.

EMERALD, HENRY, McGEE, REIN- STEIN AND SCYLLA

August 3-8, 1988

Bob Hicks and Vi Grasso
(Private Trip)

Four seasoned hikers plus three (later on) jumped at the chance to have a packer, lined up by Doug Mantle, take a couple of caches, one up Muir Trail and the second drop at Martha Lake. Duane McRuer, Bob Hicks and Vi Grasso would follow Doug's lead to climb the first three of five peaks. Randy Danta, Tina Stough, and Joe Stevens would join us at Martha Lakes to continue with

Doug in his quest for 3X climbs of Goddard, Charybdis, Black Giant, McDuffie, Fiske, Huxley, and the Hermit. With the prospect of sumptuous dinners awaiting us at camp and no wear and tear of the body with heavy packs, the chore of taking our refuse out, by comparison was minimal. Fresh shrimp (courtesy of Mac), a wonderful Greek dinner (courtesy of Bob) kept well in dry ice. The accompanying spirits complemented the well-earned dinners.

Day One (Wed. 8/4): From Florence Lake we sauntered to campsite one (approx. 10 miles) and set up at the southern side of the third bridge over the southern fork of the San Joaquin River. Day Two (Thursday): Up at 6:00 AM and off at 7:00 AM to get **Emerald** (3,900' +/- gain). Crossed the bridge (east) toward Evolution Valley/John Muir Trail then approx. 1 1/2 miles after the switchbacks a broad chute on the SW side of the first upper lake located NE of the peak, (the tarn in the plateau was dry), and the first 2,200' or so gain is done. Onward for the rest of it, angled SE over the solid rocky slopes below the peak proper then east to the easy summit - great to sight our climb of Henry the following day. Since we didn't readily locate our ascent chute on the return, an equally accessible descent route was selected by descending at an angle due NE and back down onto the trail. Back at camp, Doug discovered that "Alvin" had helped him/herself to three dry meals in his pack; Mac had turned his ankle downslope, and was considering staying in camp the next day to give his foot a rest.

Day Three: Henry - up at 6:00 AM and off at 7:00 AM. Mantle, Hicks, and Grasso hiked up the waterfall (directly back of campsite due west). The peak becomes self-evident once the first bench of the waterfall is cleared. Although the weather was on the warm side, it was a pleasant, uneventful climb (est. 3,600' +/- gain). Back at camp around 1:00 PM, joined Mac for lunch and discussions as to his foot injury. We were sad to learn Mac was not up for the rest of the trip and felt he should go home. After mapping out logistics for Bob and Vi's transportation back home on Monday, August 8th, we bid our goodbyes. Mac went that-a-way to Florence Lake and Bob, Doug and Vi picked up packs to set up Campsite Two further on about 5 miles (1,200' gain) up the trail toward Martha Lake. A lovely campsite at the confluence of the River and Goddard Creek put us in position for the climb of McGee the next day.

Day Four: The usual up at 6:00 AM off at 7:00 AM for **McGee** (into the Goddard quad). Heading SE in the direction of Davis Lake, now and then we could make out a fishermen's trail along Goddard Creek (facing Peter Peak for a while). Out of the canyon/ridge and onto the upper slopes NE of Davis Lake, crossed the stream around the 11K elevation. There are two steep prominent chutes seemingly leading to the peak. It is the one facing SW which is determined to be the standard route, although very loose and cruddy class 3 scree. Atop the chute, a sharp turn to the eastern ridge and the summit. Same descent route hugging the walls to the right of the chute and back to camp via by now the more easily discernable fishermen's trail, by around 1:00pm. After lunch we picked up packs, an additional 5 miles or so plus 1,200' gain to Martha Lake. Arrived at Campsite Three around 4:30 PM; mindful of what "Alvin" might have done to our food supplies. Found that "Alvin" and company did some mischief to Randy's container and ate Tina's sugar cookies and scattered someone's noodles - good thing "Alvin" didn't have a can opener. In preparation for dinner, the entire cocktail hour was spent on recipes for roasted marmots and marinated chipmunks.

Day Five: Bob and Vi, up at the usual AM, started out for **Reinstein** while Doug's mania drove him there at an earlier hour on his way to get Finger. Reinstein is only 1,300' gain hiking above Martha Lake over nice steady boulders. The view east from the summit to our next objective **Scylla**, gave us the impression of just a jaunt over the SW edge of the Ionian Basin - deceptive. The traverse is tedious, with many, many ridges and boulders to be negotiated. From Reinstein we dropped about 500' on to the upper portion of the valley contouring as high as the terrain would allow keeping sight in the direction of the yawning gaping hole - the former home of a glacier SW of Three Sisters. The last ridge, traversing at a slight NE angle and another 500' +/- gain/loss deposited us on this-season-almost-dry lake at the 12K slopes, steady talus, Bob waiting for Vi atop, and our odyssey was complete. The return was over the same laborious terrain then on up the last 500' +/- gain back to Martha Lake, here only to lose the same elevation to get back to camp. Bob spotted Doug returning via the Reinstein notch from Finger. Both easily loped on to camp along the bouldered edge of the lake, while Vi disappeared in the crevices finally dragging into camp moaning about the "gross" 4K ft. day. Anchored by a mammoth artichoke jar (courtesy of Randy), was a note stating that Randy and Tina had arrived at camp at 12:15 PM, after doing Henry the day before, and were attempting McGee from Davis Lake. Joe Stevens had also arrived via Lamarck Col. getting Lamarck Peak, and picking up Reinstein on the way. Around 7:30 PM, all six successful climbers collected for dinner and party.

Day Six: Bob and Vi left promptly at 6:20 AM for the trek back to Florence Lake, caught the 2:30 PM boat and drove home in Doug's car. Tina had already departed to get a headstart for Reinstein and would join the rest of the group who were to follow Doug in his continuing 3X odyssey to Goddard, Charybdis, etc., - but that's another story.....

Bob/Vi

CLOUDS REST AND HALF DOME

July 1-4, 1988

Gerry Dunie and Suzanne Swedo

The response for this trip, jointly sponsored with Backpacking Committee, was overwhelming. Seventy people applied for this trip. Because Dick Ramirez, Outing Chairman for the Backpacking Committee, obtained a second permit for the same trailhead, no applicants were turned away. Twenty-five were in the jointly sponsored group and nineteen were in the second group, led by Jerry Blackwill for the Backpacking Committee. Because of cancellations and changes in plans for some on the wait list, the seventieth applicant got on the trip.

Jerry Blackwill's group had the opportunity to do Half Dome but not Clouds Rest because they traveled along Sunrise Creek. Our group stayed at Sunrise Lakes the first night and all twenty-five climbed Clouds Rest with backpacks en route to our second night's camp at the junction of the Clouds Rest and the John Muir trails. On the last morning, all but four climbed Half Dome before heading for our chartered bus, which was waiting at Curry Village.

This trip was an experiment and proved to be the first successful SPS bus trip. Apparently, during the energy crises of the last decade, SPS attempted some bus trips with mixed successes. For a sequel to this trip, a Labor Day bus trip is planned. Gibbs and Koip will be bagged en route from Dana Meadows to Silver Lake.

TEHIPITE DOME, FINGER PEAK, & TUNEMAH PEAK

August 13-18, 1988

David Vandervoet

This trip took us to a remote area of the Sierra Nevada and featured a first ascent of Tunemah Peak for 1988. On Saturday we backpacked from the Crown Valley trailhead on the Forest Service Road running south from Wishon Reservoir to Rogers Ridge. We left the cars about 7:30 AM via the Three Springs trail past Cabin Creek and Cow Meadow and arrived at the Crown Valley Guard Station for lunch at noon. After lunch, Crown Creek was reached about 3:00 PM. We elected to camp at Crown Creek since we were uncertain about the availability of water between Crown Creek and Blue Canyon. Our decision was wise as there was no usable water between those two points worth mentioning. The crossing of Crown Creek was very easy in this very low snow year.

Sunday, we began the backpack at 7:00 AM and reached the jump off point for **Tehipite Dome** about 9:00 AM. The climb of Tehipite Dome took three hours round trip from the trail. Unfortunately our route selection was pretty grim and cannot be appropriately described in a publication of general circulation. On the Dome itself, we followed the usual route, and a

rope was used for the single belay on the ridge. The view as completely obscured by smoke from a fire in Little Tehipite Valley. After struggling through much brush, we returned to our packs, moved into Blue Canyon, and called it a day at about 3:00 PM at the 7,500' contour.

Monday was an easy day as we packed up Blue Canyon to the 9,500' contour, set up camp, and told war stories for the rest of the day. The trail into camp was faint but well ducked. Our camp site was quite good, and we were able to swim in the small lake just below the 9,600' contour line in Blue Canyon.

Tuesday we climbed **Tunemah Peak**. We were able to follow the trail to its end at the two small lakes at the 10,000' contour. From there we climbed easily up a small wall to the lake at 10,400', moved to and over the unnamed saddle at elevation 11,046', and descended into the canyon at the head of Alpine Creek. After resting at the very small lake under the letter "r" in Alpine Creek, we climbed Tunemah by traversing over a boulder field and swinging up onto the peak after passing a low cliffy area on the left. The lower slopes of Tunemah are quite steep and loose. The upper slopes are not as steep. The climber should, if possible, resist the temptation to swing left when climbing the peak as this route will place one in large boulders on the west ridge line. These can be skirted on the right by staying below the ridge line. The fast members of our party climbed the peak and returned to camp in eight hours. A strong party could cut perhaps an hour off our time because we took long breaks.

On Wednesday, the fast members of the party climbed **Finger Peak** in four hours round trip. Our route ran directly northeast from camp to the lake at 10,400', up across the 11,200' contour where it is marked on the map, and up to the left to the peak. The summit boulders are easy class 3. After returning to camp, the fast party struck camp and backpacked to Crown Creek in the afternoon. Crown Creek was reached about 4:00 PM.

On Thursday, the cars were reached at 11:00 AM after an 6:00 AM departure from Crown Creek. The balance of the party took a more leisurely pace out and arrived at the cars on Friday.

David Vandervoet, Jeremy Vandervoet, Jack Miller, and Larry Hoak participated in the trip. In retrospect, a good time was had by all. All references are based on the appropriate 15 minute topographic maps for this trip.



MT. WHITNEY AND MT. MUIR

August 19-21, 1988

Norm Rohn and Ron Jones

Seven climbers, five from the new BMTC crop, joined Norm and Ron on this Mountaineers' route outing. We got under way from the Portal about 7:30 AM after trying and failing to make contact with two others who were getting their own permit. Progress was easy up the northside of the North Fork, crossing just above the big rock jumble and again just before the Ebersbacher Ledges. Lunch was near Upper Boy Scout Lake. We took the cruddy chute up the last pitch to Iceberg Lake rather than struggle with the wet, mossy ledges just to the east. We had our pick of campsites and enjoyed the afternoon.

The Mountaineers' Route chute was completely snow free and presented only the usual problem of two much loose scree. The first chute beyond the notch was icy, so we took the second and climbed the rib to its west. Everyone made the summit in short order and soon a party of seven was off for Muir. Five signed in on its register and dragged back up to Whitney. We were all back at the Iceberg camp for happy hour.

Day three was a lazy one as we trudged out. Even Thor didn't offer enough appeal. Jim Kilberg couldn't be stopped, however, and joined Bruce Parker's group which we met on their way in. He then climbed Thor, Russell and Carillon.

It was a fine trip with a great bunch of new climbers and prospective SPS members. Other participants were Frisco Harmans, Dick Crew, Karen Leonard, Blair Kuropatkin, Charlotte Ekback and Austin Taube.

EXCELSIOR MT. AND DUNDERBERG PEAK

August 20-23, 1988

George Hubbard and Mike Manchester

George Hubbard, Mike Manchester, Vi Grasso, Chris Hubbard, Rick Beatty, and Stan Rosenwald met at the end of Virginia Lakes Road at about 8:00 AM Saturday. After waiting for no-show Larry Sidor until the scheduled meeting time of 8:30 AM, the six of us proceeded up the trail toward Excelsior. At the 11,000' point on the trail, approximately 0.75 miles NW of Burro Lake, we left the trail and proceeded SW over moderate talus to the Sierra Crest and then south toward the peak. My son Cris led us up the final few yards to the summit, where he attained his sixth peak and qualified for SPS membership. We had a leisurely lunch and enjoyed sweeping panoramas of the Yosemite backcountry in somewhat cloudy but warm conditions. We sauntered down to near Cooney Lake, where we all rested for an hour and soaked up sunshine. After arriving back at the cars at 4:00 PM, we were fortunate enough to find an empty campsite at Trumbull Lake Campground, where we all squeezed in. On Saturday evening there were

brief intermittent showers that failed to dampen our boisterous campfire and celebration of Vi's birthday and Chris' SPS membership. In addition to chocolate chip cookies and chocolate cake, we enjoyed banana nut bread and blueberry muffins homemade by Vi. YUM!! Finally at 10:00 PM we rolled into bed stuffed to the gills.

Reality reappeared at 4:00 AM when I was awakened by the pitter patter of light rain. After grumbling about not putting up the tent, I noticed that the stars were out and so decided to roll over and forget about it. Five minutes later the rain quit, and the sky was clear at dawn.

We started back up the trail at 7:30 AM and left the trail just before Cooney Lake and followed a use trail north to Moat Lake. From here we went to a saddle beyond the lake and followed the NE ridge to the summit of Dunderberg Peak. The weather was clear but somewhat windy and cold. The register was full, and we had to search for an empty spot for our entry. (I had brought a new register but thought I'd left it in the car - I was chagrined when I returned home, unpacked the daypack and there was the new register! Groan!). We decided to return to the cars directly off the South face of the peak. Although this route is shorter I don't recommend it because of loose rock and potential rockfall. The care we exercised for a safe descent more than made up for any potential time savings. We were all back at the cars at 1:00 PM for the long drive home, which we broke up by stopping for ice cream at Austin's in Independence and for dinner at Graziano's in Mojave. We were tired but happy after an enjoyable weekend of climbing.

Thanks to Mike Manchester for co-leading the trip when Mary McMannes couldn't make it.

George

MT. HENRY, RED MTN., AND FLEM-MING MTN.

September 2-5, 1988

Gordon MacLeod and Neko Colevins

Ten participants met at Courtright Reservoir on Friday, Sept. 2nd, for the 11 mile backpack to Flemming Lake. In recent years, the trailhead has been relocated to a fine parking lot nearly a mile beyond the dam; the road has been improved to passenger car quality.

Thunderstorms threatened the first day; thereafter the weather was good. Mt. Henry was ascended by 4 climbers on Saturday, Red Mtn. by 7 on Sunday, and Flemming Mtn. by 8 on various days. Participants were Eric Lesser, Linda Medici, Barbara Lilley, David Shuman, Felicia Hammond, Charles Etheridge, Jack Grams, and Joe Fuselier.

MT. KAWEAH AND BLACK KAWEAH

August 11-14, 1988

Maris Valkass and Tom Duryea

Eight of us met in Mineral King parking lot on Thursday morning. The rangers here do not leave permits outside for night pickup. You have to wait till 7-7:30 AM for them to wake up, and hand it to you with a lecture. Tom Duryea, the nice guy that he is, volunteered to wait and pick it up while the rest of us got an hour's start. He said that the lecture was not too bad. Tom caught up with us near Monarch Lakes. We reached Glacier Pass at 11:00 AM. There is a use trail going over the pass and then winding down to Spring Lake. (The Glacier Pass is not identified on the 15 minute topo, it is on the ridge between Empire Mt. and Sawtooth Pass). The trail continues on the west side and contours over to the ridge where it rises gently and intercepts the first large zig-zag on the Black Rock Pass Trail. We plodded up to the pass, then down, and down to the Big Arroyo where our trail met the High Sierra Trail, near an old cabin where we camped. It really hurt to loose all that elevation; we got down by 4:30 PM. It was a long way.

Next morning we got up at 5:00 AM, and left for Mt. Kaweah at 6:00 AM. Tom Duryea and Eric Schumacher decided to sleep in and goof around the camp since they already had the peak. I deputized Graham Breakewell as my assistant, who performed admirably. We followed the High Sierra Trail southeast to where we thought was the shortest distance to the Mt., and started up. It was just a slog, and at 11:00 AM we were on top. We descended the south ridge, intercepted the trail and returned to camp by 4:00 PM.

Saturday morning we repeated the scenario, except Ron Zappen and Graham Breakewell stayed in camp. Graham was trying to save himself for work on Monday and was going to start hiking out, and Ron set out to climb some other peak. Needless to say, that Black Kaweah is a must. It is an interesting peak and also fun, besides, it looks good too. There is route finding, rock scrambling, and climbing. Thanks to Tom Duryea, who led it, we got to the summit at 10:30 AM. The register by itself is worth the climb; Walter Starr, Norman Clyde, Eichorn, Dawson, and many other notables from the SPS have signed it. The register was placed there in 1927, and is only half full. We returned to our camp at 2:30 PM. To make our Sunday hike shorter, we packed up and hiked for two hours to the highest of the Little Five Lakes where we camped.

Sunday morning again we started to hike at 6:00 AM, and we reached the cars at 11:00 AM.

We had a good strong group: Tom Duryea; Tom Eng who got his sixth and seventh peak so he can join SPS, is a very strong and skillful climber; Dave Underwood emblamed on Kaweah-Congratulations!; Eric Schumacher now only has to get eight more peaks to finish the list; Bobby Dubeau who is short of time, and tries to get all the peaks at once; Ron Zappen the marathon runner who can not pass up a death march; Graham

Breakewell who lives on tea and granola bars.

My thanks to Tom Duryea for leading Black Kaweah, and assisting in many ways on the trip, which saved me a lot of strength. Thanks to Graham for Mt. Kaweah, and thanks to Eric, who has made the trip before, and saved me from making minor navigation errors. And finally thanks to everyone in the group for the good time that I had.

 Maris



CONSERVATION

All members are encouraged to actively support the passage of the California Desert Protection Act. This bill has again been introduced in Congress for approval: HR: 780 & S: 11. We need to win the endorsement of Senator Pete Wilson. Write to him at : 720 Hart Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510. For more information please contact the California Desert Protection League - Judy Anderson at our Chapter Office.

RUTH DYAR MENDENHALL

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Ruth Dyar Mendenhall on March 22, 1989. Ruth was one of the climbing pioneers of the 30's, 40's, and 50's. She made first ascents of routes on Sill, Temple Crag, Palisade Crest and Williamson in the Sierra. She and her husband, John, were first to climb Mt. Confederation in the Canadian Rockies. She was an enthusiastic and accomplished ski mountaineer. Ruth introduced me to the joys of climbing and skiing and my love affair with the High Sierra. Her wit and sense of humor were appreciated by readers of the Mugelnoos for many years. Above all, she was a wonderful friend and she will be deeply missed.

- Rob Roy McDonald

ECHO INPUT

We still need your photographs, trip summaries, amusing stories, letters, technical information, product and book reviews, cartoons, anectodes, jokes (Cuno, are you listening!), opinions, comments, criticisms (and insults?). *Echo* input submitted on MS-DOS floppies will be especially appreciated! Help in transcribing *Echo* input into computer readable form is needed. Send your contributions to the *Echo* Editor.

Why do we climb mountains? Well, one happy reason is to slide back down.

Geoff Glassner, our friend and leader on this early spring climb, had persuaded us (Dave Vandervoet, Larry Hoak, the Hollemans, Bob Fielding, Kent Davis, Butch Hoover, Dennis Hall & me) that University's north face offered the grandest glissade in the Sierras. He had climbed it and slid back down three times before and was eager to show us what great fun it was.

On our early morning climb from Bench Lake we discovered that the slope was steep enough and the snow hard enough so that to feel comfortable we had to chop steps as well as wear our crampons. I was encumbered with an early season buildup of rich winter fat so I was the last to huff and puff my way to the summit.

Coming back down we stopped at a point just below the summit and looked down that steep 600- to 700-foot slope and wondered. Geoff assured us. We were anxious. He said it would be fun. We weren't sure. We looked around for a place to start that wasn't so steep. Were we sissies? Only Geoff hurried to put on his glissading pants. We watched as he prepared.

It was over in seconds. One moment Geoff was settling himself into his glissading position then he was gone. Our attention was riveted on the uncontrolled bouncing ball of snow, arms, legs and head with an occasional look at his dangerously flopping ice ax. Our stomachs turned as we watched him roll and bounce his way toward the rocks at the bottom. He stopped just in time. For a few long fearful seconds there was no movement. Then he stood, uninjured but wiser, and waved. We sighed.

We continued to look for an easier way then started our careful hour-long creep back down. We all climbed the peak. It was one more enriching and instructive mountaineering experience.

CalTrans Suspends Roadside Spraying

The California Department of Transportation is one of the biggest users of herbicides in the state outside agriculture. It sprays thousands of miles of roads with millions of gallons of what it calls "economic poisons" on roadsides, median strips, and in rest areas to kill weeds. Some portion of the chemicals gets into drinking water supplies, injures fish and wildlife, and poses danger to the workers who apply the material; joggers, hikers, and horseback riders who pass through the areas; and school children who wait for buses on the state highways. Many of the chemicals are suspected causes of cancer, birth defects, and genetic abnormalities.

Despite all this, CalTrans has refused to conduct a statewide survey of the effect of the spraying program on public health and the environment. Staff attorney Deborah Reames therefore wrote a letter to CalTrans threatening to file suit on behalf of a coalition of grassroots organizations. The agency, knowing it was in the wrong, agreed to conduct the necessary studies and, further, to suspend all chemical spraying in northwest California where the worst problems have occurred.

SPS TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 30 - July 4

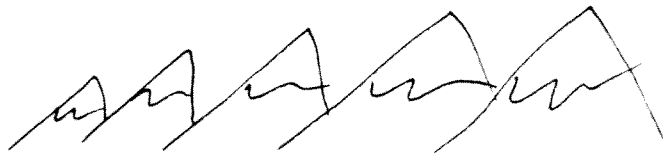
Friday - Monday

M: Pettit (10,788'), Piute (10,541') and Volunteer (10,479'): Learn of the ballad of Smedberg Lake as we tromp sixty (60) miles with much gain for these remote beauties. Send SASE to Leaders: **Doug Mantle; George Hubbard.**

June 24-25

Saturday-Sunday

M: Kennedy Mtn. (11,433'), Mt. Harrington (11,005'): Backpack 5 miles to camp at Fry Mdw. Both peaks are hiked via trails almost to the summits. Class 3 summit on Harrington. Send SASE with experience and conditioning to Leader: **Larry Tidball, Asst: Richard Fritsen.**



ECHO RENEWAL

This is your last issue unless you remember to renew your subscription to the *Echo*, the official publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, and your membership in the section by completing the form attached to December's issue of the *Echo* and mailing it in, along with a check for \$8.00, to the section Treasurer or Secretary by March 31st. Section officer's addresses are listed on the last page of the *Echo*. Keep informed! Subscribe!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

Bill Hauser
198 Westridge Drive
San Jose, CA 95117
(408) 243-4566

Steve Hessen
6128 Altmark Ave.
Whittier, CA 90601
(213) 693-5012

Sandra J. Johnson
823 Grevalia Street
So. Pasadena, CA 91030
(818) 799-0771

Christine Mitchell
2309 Nelson, #2
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
(213) 371-9853

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Todd Aiken
4776 F La Villa Marina
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
(213) 823-0051

Barbara Hoffmann
836 Termino
Long Beach, CA 90804
(213) 438-6803

RENEWALS

Henry Heusinkveld
2828 Burntwood
Anaheim, CA 92806
(714) 630-2123

ADDRESS CHANGES

Cindy Fewell
10451 Orange Park
Orange, CA 92669

Lisa Freundlich
242 Dolphin Cove Court
Del Mar, CA 92014

Jim Hammerle
25130 Woodward
Lomita, CA 90717

George Hubbard
22306-1 Devonshire St.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
W: (818) 702-2704
H: (818) 718-0705

John Hellman
2033 Camden Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Kristine E. Hutchin
250 E. Ponderosa Lane
Anaheim, CA 92802

Earl Jackson
8072 Caminito Gianna
La Jolla, CA 92037

Fred C. Lucas
21431 W. Tumbleweed Way
Saugus, CA 91350

Franklin J. Meyers
P.O. Box 1852
Camarillo, CA 93011

Michael Mihalka
3782 Boise Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 9066

Sam Roberts
23509 Moneta Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
(213) 830-5522

Brian Smith
11812 Palms Blvd.
Mar Vista, CA 90066

Elizabeth A. Strodach
3116 La Campana
Alameda, CA 94501

George Tucker
2106 Graham Ave.
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Carolyn West
320 S. Ardmore Ave. #236
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 382-7536

Bob Wyka
3866 Via Dolce
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCLAIMER: *The Echo publishes paid trip notices as a service to its readers. Such trips are private. They have not been reviewed by the SPS nor are they in any way sponsored by the Sierra Club. Please refer to the back page for advertisement submittal policy and guidelines.*

Dale's Spring Snow Climbs: Ice axe, crampons, and maybe snowshoes will be required. Send SASE to Dale Van Dalsem, 1124 5th Street #104, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Resist phoning! The following climbs are planned:

Apr 22-23: Baxter: Sat. +4,500', Sun. +2,700' and -7,200'.

Apr 29-30: Corcoran: Sat. +5,100', Sun. +3,100' and -7,200'.

May 06-07: Barnard: Sat. +4,600', Sun. +3,100' and -7,700'.

May 13-14: Russell, Carillion and Tunnabora: Sat. +5,700' to Carillion, Sun. +2,000' and -7,500'. Exposure on Russell.

May 21-22: Prater and Bolton Brown: Sat. +4,900', Sun. +2,600' and -7,500'.

May 27-29: Wynne, Pinchot, Striped and Goodale: Sat. +5,500', Sun. +4,300' and -4,300', Mon. +2,700' and -8,200'.

July 28-31

Friday - Monday

Whaleback (11,726'), Glacier Ridge (12,416') and Triple Divide? (12,634'): A strenuous trip with some rope work. Send SASE to Leaders: **Maris Valkass** (1728 Van Horne Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278) and **Ron Jones**.

WANTED!!! Hiking companion(s) for a **Nepal** trek or climb of **Mt. Kilomanjaro**. Two or three week trip within the two to six months. Call Lisa Freundlich (619) 755-2431.

May 6, 1989

Saturday

Vetter Mtn. / HPS List Finisher / 100 Peak Party: After an easy hike up Vetter Mtn. (500' gain, 2 mi rt), **Jim Adler** will finish the HPS list and **Kath Price** will get her 100 Peaks Emblem. Meet at La Canada Carpool point at 9:30 AM. Hike starts at Charlton Flats Picnic area, about 10 AM. Party at the picnic area at about noon. Leaders: **Jim Adler** (213) 838-0524, **Evan Samuels**.

ADS

Advertise your private climbing activity in the Sierra or elsewhere for \$1.00 (first 4 lines, additional lines are \$1 each). Other product/services ads and announcements are accepted at the \$1.00 per line rate.

Murray Zichlinski
519 19th St. #4
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

ADVERTISE!

The Sierra Echo is 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, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine CA 92714. *Echo* copy deadlines are the 20th day of odd numbered months and June. Priority is given to legible, typed, single spaced copy. Copy submitted on MS-DOS format floppies is especially appreciated. 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. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club (or the Sierra Peaks Section) are not tax-deductable.

ADVERTISEMENT: Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: \$1.00 for the first 4 lines and \$1.00 per additional line. Other announcements and product or service advertisements: \$1.00 per line or \$25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today!

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address change notices and new subscription applications to the section **Secretary:** Vi Grasso, 1173 1/2 Amherst Ave., Los Angeles CA 90049. The *Echo* is mailed via 3rd class and will not be forwarded by the post office.

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be addressed to the section **Mailer:** Ron Grau, 456 Chester Place, Pomona CA 91768. Extra copies of the 30th Anniversary *Echo* are available by sending \$4.50 per copy to the section Mailer. **Prospective new members:** for a one time complimentary copy of the *Echo* send a SASE with 45 cent postage to the Mailer.

AWARDS: Emblem and senior emblem pins (\$12.00), list finisher pins (\$10.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from the section **Treasurer:** Ruth Armentrout, 23262 Haynes Street, Canoga Park CA 91307.

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