

The Sierra



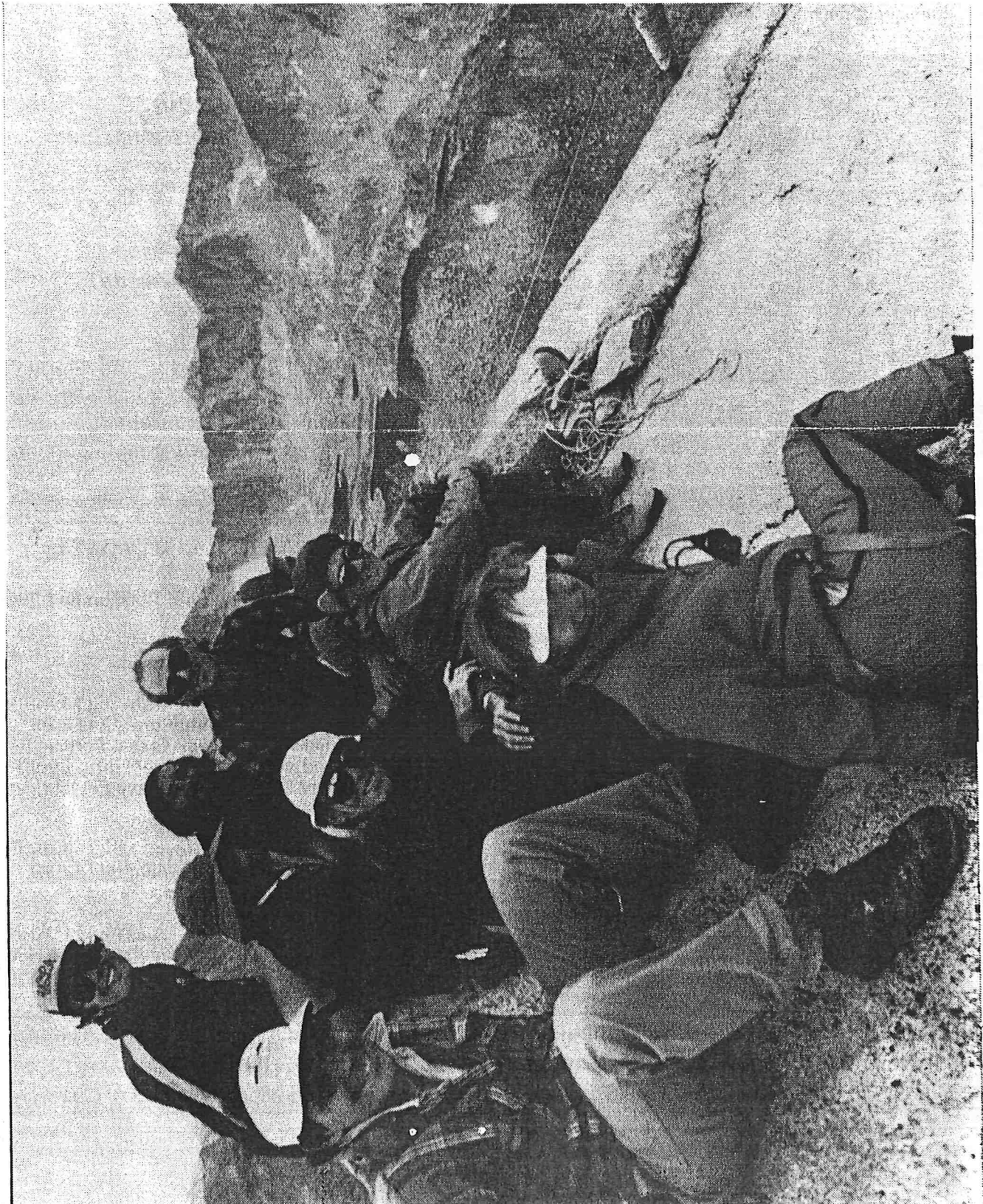
ECHO

VOLUME 34

1990

JULY-AUGUST

NUMBER 4



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Chair's Corner:

Summer Days -- Lazy Days -- The first is here but not the second. At least not for the peakbagger. This is the time of year when the Sierra really take a toll on the bod, that is, if you're trying to add peak conquests to your collection! -- or even trying to finish the List ... Either way I'll take the Lazy Days in this Corner to simply wish every mountaineer a wonderful, safe summer. Don't overlook sending in your trip write-ups, lead or otherwise, to the Editor. With not much more to say than that, I am... g-g-gone a climbing!



-Vi

Juniper, Toiyabe National Forest

*Beneath me here I think you'll sit
Remove your pack and stay a bit
The hike's been long and steep I know
Relax beneath my boughs — don't go*

PEAK INDEX: VOL 34-4 (JULY-AUG, '90)

Mt. Baldwin	North Pk.
Mt. Conness	North Palisade
Disappointment Pk.	Red & White Mtn.
Mt. Ericsson	Red Slate Mtn.
Mt. Florence	Mt. Sill
Mt. Jordan	Table Mtn.
Kern Peak	Mt. Tyndall
Midway Mtn.	Vogelsang Pk.
Milestone Mtn.	(White Mtn.)
Mt. Morrison	(Sheep Pk.)

SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

August 8th
"Mountain Rescue"
John Inskeep

September 12th
"Castle Rocks' Spire"
Alois Smarz

October 12th
"Pot Luck: Trip Impressions and Food Obsessions"
presented by YOU

November 14th
"Climbing in New Zeland"
Jim Farkas

Monthly meetings are held at the Glendale Federal Savings Building at 12191 Ventura Blvd. 1/2 block west of Laurel Canyon in Studio City. 7:30 PM. Refreshments served. Newcomers welcome!

CLIMBING SCHEDULE UPDATE!

AUG 18-19: Tunnabora, Carillion and Thor

Originally scheduled for August 11-12.
Leaders: Larry Tidball, Richard Fritsen.

SEP 8-9: Mt. Mills (13,468');
Mt. Stanford #2 (12,851');

Two long day hikes out of Rock Creek. Participants should be in good condition. Carpool info, phones, SASE to leader by 8-29. Leader: Dave Petzold, Co-leader: Dave Dykeman.

SEP 22-23: Royce Mtn.(13,280');
Merriam Pk.(13,103');

Leaders: Doug Mantle, Vi Grasso

SEP 29: Alta Pk.(11,204');
List Finishing Grand Finales for Leaders: George Hubbard, Gene Mauk.

COVER PHOTO: Thanks to Pete Yamagata we can see some real SPSers on top of Clarence King. In order of little significance they are: Mark Frolli, Tina Stevens, Larry Tidball, Joy Gobel, Steve Thaw, Henry Arnebolt, Brian Smith, Richard Fritsen, Scott Sullivan and Terry Caviechi.

ECHOES TO OUR READERS

Results of the Summit Register Poll

The Summit Register Poll published in the *Echo* drew only 16 valid responses (and 1 invalid response, with more than one vote). These 16 valid ballots showed no strong preference, although a majority, 10 of the 16, wanted historic and/or SPS registers removed from the summits for preservation. A minority of 6 people wanted all original registers left on the peaks, although 3 people here favored taking them down for copying and then returning the original. The 10 votes for removing the original historic and/or SPS registers from the summits and returning partial or complete copies to the peaks broke down as follows: 4 votes for returning partial copies of historic registers to the peaks, 1 vote for returning complete copies of historic registers to the peaks (making 5 votes for preserving historic registers only); 3 votes for returning partial copies of historic and SPS registers to the peaks and 2 votes for returning complete copies of historic and SPS registers to the peaks (making 5 votes for preserving both historic and SPS registers).

While the majority of the ballots favored preservation of original historic and/or SPS registers, the small number of ballots cast discouraged the Management Committee from making major policy decisions based on the poll. The most recent SPS policy, that of 1980, was to leave registers on the peaks. Seeking a policy which would allow the SPS to work better with the Mountaineering Committee, Bill T. Russell urged the Management Committee to amend that policy slightly. The Committee moved and passed unanimously a change in the wording of Policies and Procedures Section 7.0. The first sentence will now read ``Summit registers placed by the SPS after 1960 will be left in place on the peaks.'' This is in keeping with the sense of the poll that historic registers should be preserved, but it is not a drastic change in policy. The SPS awaits further developments from the National Mountaineering Committee, which is also concerned with this issue.

*Karen Leonard
Secretary, SPS*

NEWS FLASH!!!

Vi had gone a fishin' this Spring and caught us a Bass! Yep, ye heard it right! Dick Bass, the world famous adventurer and climber of THE Seven Summits, will be our guest speaker at the annual banquet. So start saving your pennies and wait for further details in the next issue of the *Echo*!

Changes to the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures

In the last *Echo*, an incorrect report of the bylaw amendment voted by the membership last year was published. The correct wording of bylaw 3.1, second paragraph, is as follows (the second sentence was the inaccurate one):

``The officers so elected shall serve until their successors have qualified. No officer may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms, or for an unexpired term and one succeeding full term, during a five year period. The duties of the officers shall be those customary for their respective offices.''

At its June 5, 1990 meeting, the Management Committee amended the Policies and Procedures in two ways. First, to allow Bill T. Russell to work better with the National Mountaineering Committee on the registers issue, and in keeping with the sense of the poll just taken which showed majority sentiment in favor of preserving historic registers in archives, we changed the first sentence of section 7.0 to read: ``Summit registers placed by the SPS after 1960 will be left in place on the peaks.'' Second, in section 1.4 we added the words ``book and container'' after ``the condition of the summit register'' to make it clear that we are concerned about the condition of both register books and containers. Please refer to your last *Echo* for complete copies of the Policies and Procedures (and send us ideas for cutting and clarifying them)!

*Karen Leonard
Secretary, SPS*

Dear Angeles Chapter:

On behalf of the Sierra Peaks Section, I am protesting the waste of money [and resources like trees] printing business cards like this one. We officers find little use for these cards, which apparently are printed automatically every year, and we think the cards are useless vanities. There are better things to do with the money and time spent making up these cards -- how about putting the money towards reinstating mountaineering insurance?*

*Karen Leonard,
Secretary, SPS*

[Sample business card to be attached here; however, the Editor lacking this inane vanity is unable to furnish one.]

DEAR READER: Due to an unexpected melt down of the primary hard disk drive on the Editor's computer, the July issue of the *Echo* never made it to the press. The current issue is a few pages longer and hopefully will compensate for the missing issue. *-- Editor*

HIGHPOINTS OF THE STATES

AUGUST 1989

STATE	HIGHPOINT	ELEVATION (FEET)	CLASS	TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS
Alabama	Cheaha Mtn.	2,407 (2,405)	Drive-up	Cheaha Mountain, Ala.
Alaska	Mt. McKinley	20,320	4	Mt. McKinley (A-3), Alaska*/Talkeetna (D-3), Alaska*
Arizona	Humphreys Peak	12,633	1	Humphreys Peak, Ariz.
Arkansas	Magazine Mtn. (413916)	2,753	1	Blue Mountain, Ark./Magazine Mountain NE, Ark.
California	Mt. Whitney	14,494	1	Mount Whitney, Calif./Mt. Langley, Calif.
Colorado	Mt. Elbert	14,433	1	Mount Elbert, Colo./Mount Massive, Colo./ Granite, Colo.
Connecticut	Mt. Frissell - S. slope	2,380	1	Bashbish Falls, Mass.-Conn.-N.Y./Sharon, Conn.-N.Y.
Delaware	Unnamed (555095)	442	Drive-up	Wilmington North, Del.-Pa.
Florida	Unnamed (686282)	345	Drive-up	Paxton, Fla.-Ala.
Georgia	Brasstown Bald	4,784	1	Jacks Gap, Ga./Hiwassee, Ga.-N.C.
Hawaii	Mauna Kea	13,796	1	Mauna Kea, Hawaii/Puu Oo, Hawaii
Idaho	Borah Peak	12,662	3	Borah Peak, Idaho
Illinois	Charles Mound	1,235	1	Shullsburg, Wis.-Ill./Scales Mound East, Ill.
Indiana	Unnamed (835298)	1,257	1	Spartanburg, Ind.-Ohio/Whitewater, Ind.-Ohio
Iowa	Unnamed (806153)	1,670	1	Sibley East, Iowa
Kansas	Mt. Sunflower	4,039	Drive-up	Mount Sunflower, Colo.-Kans.
Kentucky	Black Mtn. (312868)	4,145 (4,139)	Drive-up	Benham, Ky.-Va./Appalachia, Va.-Ky.
Louisiana	Driskill Mtn. (097873)	535	1	Bryceland, Louisiana
Maine	Mt. Katahdin	5,268	1	Katahdin, Me.*
Maryland	Backbone Mtn. (309440)	3,360	1	Davis, W.Va.-Md.
Massachusetts	Mt. Greylock	3,491 (3,487)	Drive-up	Williamstown, Mass.-Vt./Cheshire, Mass.
Michigan	Mt. Arvon	1,979	1	Skaneec South, Michigan
Minnesota	Eagle Mtn.	2,301	1	Eagle Mountain, Minn./Mark Lake, Minn.
Mississippi	Woodall Mtn.	806	Drive-up	Iuka, Miss.
Missouri	Taum Sauk Mtn. (007605)	1,772	1	Ironton, Mo.
Montana	Granite Peak	12,799	4	Granite Peak, Montana/Alpine, Montana
Nebraska	Unnamed (815398)	5,426	Drive-up	Pine Bluffs SE, Wyo.-Nebr.-Colo.
Nevada	Boundary Peak	13,143 (13,140)	2	Benton, Nev.-Calif.*/Davis Mountain, Nev.-Calif.*
New Hampshire	Mt. Washington	6,288	Drive-up	Mt. Washington, N.H.*
New Jersey	High Point	1,803	Drive-up	Port Jervis South, N.J.-N.Y.-Pa.
New Mexico	Wheeler Peak	13,161	1	Wheeler Peak, N.Mex.
New York	Mt. Marcy	5,344	1	Mount Marcy, N.Y.*
North Carolina	Mt. Mitchell	6,684	Drive-up	Mt. Mitchell, N.C.
North Dakota	White Butte	3,506	1	Amidon, N.Dak.
Ohio	Campbell Hill	1,550 (1,549)	Drive-up	Zanesfield, Ohio
Oklahoma	Black Mesa	4,973	2	Kenton, Okla.-Colo.
Oregon	Mt. Hood	11,239	4	Mount Hood South, Oreg.
Pennsylvania	Mt. Davis	3,213	Drive-up	Markleton, Pa./Meyersdale, Pa.
Rhode Island	Jerimoth Hill	812	1	East Killingly, Conn.-R.I.
South Carolina	Sassafras Mtn.	3,560 (3,554)	Drive-up	Eastatoe Gap, S.C.-N.C.
South Dakota	Harney Peak	7,242	1	Custer, S.Dak./Hill City, S.Dak.
Tennessee	Clingmans Dome	6,643	1	Clingmans Dome, N.C.-Tenn.
Texas	Guadalupe Peak	8,749	1	Guadalupe Peak, Tex.
Utah	Kings Peak	13,528	2	Kings Peak, Utah/Gilbert Peak NE, Utah-Wyo./ Bridger Lake, Utah-Wyo./Mount Powell, Utah
Vermont	Mt. Mansfield (736344)	4,393	1	Mount Mansfield, Vt.
Virginia	Mt. Rogers	5,729	1	Whitetop Mountain, Va.
Washington	Mt. Rainier	14,410	4	Mt. Rainier West, Wash./Mt. Rainier East, Wash.
West Virginia	Spruce Knob	4,863 (4,861)	Drive-up	Spruce Knob, W.Va./Circleville, W.Va.
Wisconsin	Timms Hill	1,951	1	Timms Hill, Wis.
Wyoming	Gannett Peak	13,804	4	Gannett Peak, Wyo./Bridger Lakes, Wyo./ Fayette Lake, Wyo./Fremont Lake North, Wyo./ Fremont Peak North, Wyo./Ink Wells, Wyo./ Torrey Lake, Wyo./Hays Park, Wyo.

This list of the high points in the 50 states was submitted by Don Holmes. Information on membership in the Highpointers Club can be obtained from Don by writing to him at 14732 Mansa Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638.

Solomons of the Sierra is a must for anyone seriously interested in Sierra Club and Sierra Nevada history, and Californiana. The book is well illustrated throughout with photographs, including some made from Solomons' original glass negatives, rediscovered in 1982 after long storage at Bancroft Library. *Solomons of the Sierra* is a worthy successor to Shirley Sargent's nine earlier books -- beginning with the classic *Pioneers in Petticoats* and including *John Muir in Yosemite, Yosemite & Its Innkeepers*, and more.

But this newest book has an intriguing special interest because of the unique association of the author with her subject: the author now lives at Flying Spur, "in a home built around the large distinctive fireplace" built by Solomons -- chief remnant of his fire-razed house. Shirley Sargent looks out over the same view of Merced Canyon, shaded by some of the same "sky-reaching" ponderosa pines that Theodore Solomons loved. And she has enjoyed visits and extensive interviews with Solomons' surviving family. This close connection, added to her long-proven skill at lively and informative historical discourse, make Shirley Sargent the ideal biographer of Theodore S. Solomons.

—Vicky Hoover

Summit Register Report As Of:

May 12-13
 Birch Mtn.: Canister & Register (1972)
 May 26-27
 Trojan: S.C. Rectangular & Register. (1971-(?))
 (Could use another Reg.)
 June 9-10:
 Vogelsang: Canister & Register (1988
 only, placed by Gary Gunther
 what was there before?)
 (Can use another Reg.)
 Koip: Canister & Register needed.
 Warren: Canister & Register
 (4 books - circa 60's.)
 June 16-17
 Black: Canister & Register (1968)
 Diamond: Ammo Box & Register (1958ish)

Please contact your Mtn. Records Chair
 Barbara Reber if you're planning
 to go into these areas (or any
 others) that need these materials.

Vi



ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

DISAPPOINTMENT & BALCONY

July 16-17, 1988

Bill Oliver, Tom Duryea

[A pre-insurance-crisis Section trip.]

Failing to get a permit by mail, I got in line at the Upper Sage Flat Campground before 0600. Fortunately, the few people in front all wanted the N. Fork as the agent said he would only issue one permit for the S. and three for the N. Fork, irrespective of the number of spaces available (6 & 14). Tom Duryea was on hand to assist in place of Larry Tidball, whose wisdom teeth had too recently been excavated.

We departed the trailhead at 0820 accompanied by Herb Buehler, Steve Thaw and Bob Wyka, as well as by ropes, ice axes, crampons, hardhats and various peak route descriptions. Camp was established about noon amid the decent sites at the N end of Finger Lake. Tom and I did a recon in the pm, past the lake SSW of Finger. Large areas of white started about here, and the snow was found to be fairly firm. A large peak to the SE Thumbed at us! We did not respond to the challenge, however, retreating instead in the face of thunder and light showers. We were not to be denied a serious happy hour, however.

An ungodly whistle blasted at 0330 Sunday and within the hour five head-lamps were penetrating the calm darkness, leading us to a peak we could not yet see but could only feel and fear. Dawn's arrival found us cramponing over the glacier toward the most prominent (widest) of three major snow gullies west of Southfork Pass. The shrund was easily bridged at 0700. As the chute steepened we exited to the right, cached our crampons and headed up a mixture of dirt and rock to the ridge. Balcony, the "unnamed" peaklet just E of our goal, fell to us more by accident than by a determined force of arms and legs. Whetted by its register, however, we vowed not to be denied but rather Disappointed!

The "large cairn" cited in an *Echo* by Ron Jones was not large enough to trip our scanning receptors, nor were we drawn directly to the unappealing rapp-&belay notch between the summits. With alternatives running out, we descended the N slope of Balcony and, with Tom forging ahead, slowly worked our way west in a frustrating effort to force the chute dividing the peaks. This was the worst excuse for rock imaginable, and we had to move very cautiously. About 400' down we finally crossed over onto Disappointment, and surprisingly fine rock. A half-hour later at 10:40, amid easy class 3, we summited. The exhilarating view up and down the Middle Pal ridge was ours alone to behold and revel in, all set beneath a benign, white-patched, deep blue over-arching sky. The register went back 30 years, but I was most perplexed by an entry for Troop 65 in 1973!

[This peak earned its apropos appellation in 1919 when the first summit party really intended to top out on nearby Middle Palisade. This error was repeated in 1921 on its second ascent, which was by Francis Farquhar and Ansel Hall. The latter two, however, later that same day daringly succeeded in achieving the first ascent of Middle Pal. On a solo climb of Disappointment in 1929, Walter Starr, Jr. later noted: "The sardine can contains the names of 10 or 12 climbers who had sought the highest peak." As was commonly true through-out the Palisades, the first ascent from the glacier side was made by Norman Clyde (1930). We are probably safe in assuming he intended to climb it!]

At 11:30 we undertook the descent along our approach route, having lost a half-hour to go back and get the rope we really didn't mean to leave on top (pretty Disappointing, eh!). Tom lead us back across several ribs on Balcony and on up to the ridge. Although we never flaked the rope, the terrain on the traverse seemed more steep dirt than rock and we moved hesitantly if steadily. We passed the shrund at 1:10, reached camp at 2:40, and bottomed out at the trailhead before 6:00. We had coalesced into a strong, compatible, fun group and greatly benefited from Tom's usual strong assist. The mountain spirits were indeed with us - and found us worthy.

Bill

BLACK BEAR WARNING!

A July 4th trip to the Kaweahs was cut short when an industrious Bruin captured most of our "perfectly-hung" food. At mid-day, while Jan Rayman, Joe Andrews and I (Bill Oliver) were away from our Big Arroyo camp by the old cabin, a medium-sized bear was drawn to the site and climbed our carefully selected tree. Unwitnessed (or no survivors), he/she somehow managed to fracture the long, strong limb that was holding our three counter-balanced food bags at its tip. The bear worked his/her evil design from the trunk side of the break.

Although sympathetic to our story, the Park Ranger stressed that it is legally required for us to hang our food, and that we could be cited for failing to do so. Solutions: carry all your food with you on the climb, fill the forest with decoy hung bags, hire a bear sentry, climb in winter, or, if all else fails (suggestions invited)!

The *Echo* needs YOUR trip write-ups!
Scheduled or private, route description
or wilderness impression -- send it to
the Editor for publication.

MT. SILL & NORTH PALISADE

May 26-29, 1989

Robert W. Dubeau

Defying the Memorial Day snow jinx of the previous two years David Underwood and myself set out on Friday from Glacier Lodge for Sam Mack meadows to be joined by Tom Eng and Bob Phalen on Saturday. No significant snow was encountered until 11,000' just below Sam Mack meadow and we camped at the north end of the meadow.

At this point we met some snow boarders and a cameraman on their way out. They had been filming at the U and V notches and left some spectacular tracks.

Early Saturday morning we started for Mt. Sill putting our crampons on at the north end of the meadow. We proceeded south, up the drainage to the moraine and Palisade Glacier, crossed onto the glacier and traversed left to low headwall that leads to the saddle between Mt. Sill and Mt. Gayley, ascended to the saddle, and climbed up to the notch to the right of the saddle by the small pyramidal mass from where we could see the route to the summit. This is Starr route described by Bill T. in his write up of July 31, 1987. We had class 4 snow conditions consisting of reasonably good packed snow on sloping rocks with some unconsolidated snow in places. This made the move from the small pyramidal mass to the summit ridge quite difficult. Once on the ridge there were high winds and we made only a short stay on the summit.

We made one short rappel coming down and had about 50 yards of high angle kick stepping back to the notch. The trip back to camp was uneventful except for one point where I got a chance to practice self arrest.

Arriving back at camp late we were met by Tom and Bob who hiked in that day and were becoming concerned by our absence and wondering whether we would be able to climb in the morning. Reassured we were ready to go we made plans for North Pal for the morning.

After a cold windy night we arose early to sparse clouds with the creek almost frozen over and the rocks covered with thick ice. We proceeded on the right side of the creek and then crossed over and headed south again putting on our crampons at the base of the slope. We did not have to remove them until the top of the U notch. With Tom leading the way we headed directly up the notch keeping right. The bergschrund offered no problems and we were able to avoid the ice patches which were more to the middle of the chute.

Dave led the so called "4th class chimney" which is really more of an open book. There is room for only 4 or 5 people at the top and you immediately have to make an exposed boulder move to get to the ridge top. We then traversed a high sloping ridge for about 50', dropped down to the right around the prominent gendarme, then proceeded in snow on predominantly third class

rocks keeping primarily on the left of the ridge until we came to a series of ramps just below the summit dome. We had one little move which required a slight boost to get up and made it to the top in a cold wind. The return trip was uneventful except that we were slowed, as we had been on the ascent from the U notch, by another party.

Daylight failed as we reached to bottom of the U notch and we had to use our head lamps to get back to camp.

Monday morning we took our time packing out and we had some light snow before we got back to the cars. This was a strenuous demanding snow climb but everyone was happy to get North Palisade.

MT. MORRISON, MT. BALDWIN & RED SLATE

September 2-4, 1989

Reiner Stenzel & Ron Robson

Six hikers left Convict Lake at 7:30 AM on Saturday and followed the Convict Creek trail South to about 1/4 mile beyond the destroyed bridge where we took a cross country short cut along a small stream to Bright Dot Lake. By noon we had established base camp at the lake, and in the afternoon four of us continued to climb up Mt. Morrison's Southwestern slopes, following the ridge to the Northern named summit which we reached by 3:45 PM. After enjoying the fabulous view on a clear late summer afternoon we returned to Bright Dot Lake by 5:30 PM.

Sunday, we had an early start at 6:15 AM, first heading up to Mt. Baldwin. We followed a faint use trail leading up the Northwestern ridge of Baldwin, collected some pretty Calcite crystals half up the mountain, and arrived at the summit by 8:15 AM. Encouraged by the first ascent we decided to continue to Red Slate. On the descent from Baldwin some of us tried a short cut down the Western slopes which due to loose rock took longer than retracing the trail. After dropping all the way down to Convict Creek South of Mildred Lake we ascended to Lake Wit-So-Na-Pah, continued due South to climb over talus, scree and snow to a saddle 1/2 mile West of Red Slate. Finally, three persistent climbers continued to scale the Western slopes and reached the summit at 2:20 PM. The view on this clear day was spectacular, especially since there are no peaks higher than Red Slate to the North and 8 miles to the South. We retraced our way back to the trail which leads from Convict Creek to Bright Dot Lake, returning tired but satisfied after a two peak, 6,000', 12 hour day.

On Monday, we decided to hike out early to beat the Memorial Day [Labor Day?] traffic. After a short dip into the Mammoth Hot Creek we were driving back by midday. My special thanks are to Ron Robson whose patience and able assistance contributed to a successful trip. We had a fun group consisting of Richard Fritsen, Ali Aminian, Bill Heubach, and Hoda Shalaby.

WEST OF SHEPHERD PASS

Labor Day Week, 1989

Jon Inskeep

Nine warm days with completely cloudless skies, eleven compatible climbers, and ten magnificent Sierra peaks all came together over Labor Day week 1989 to make a wonderful trip into the Range of Light.

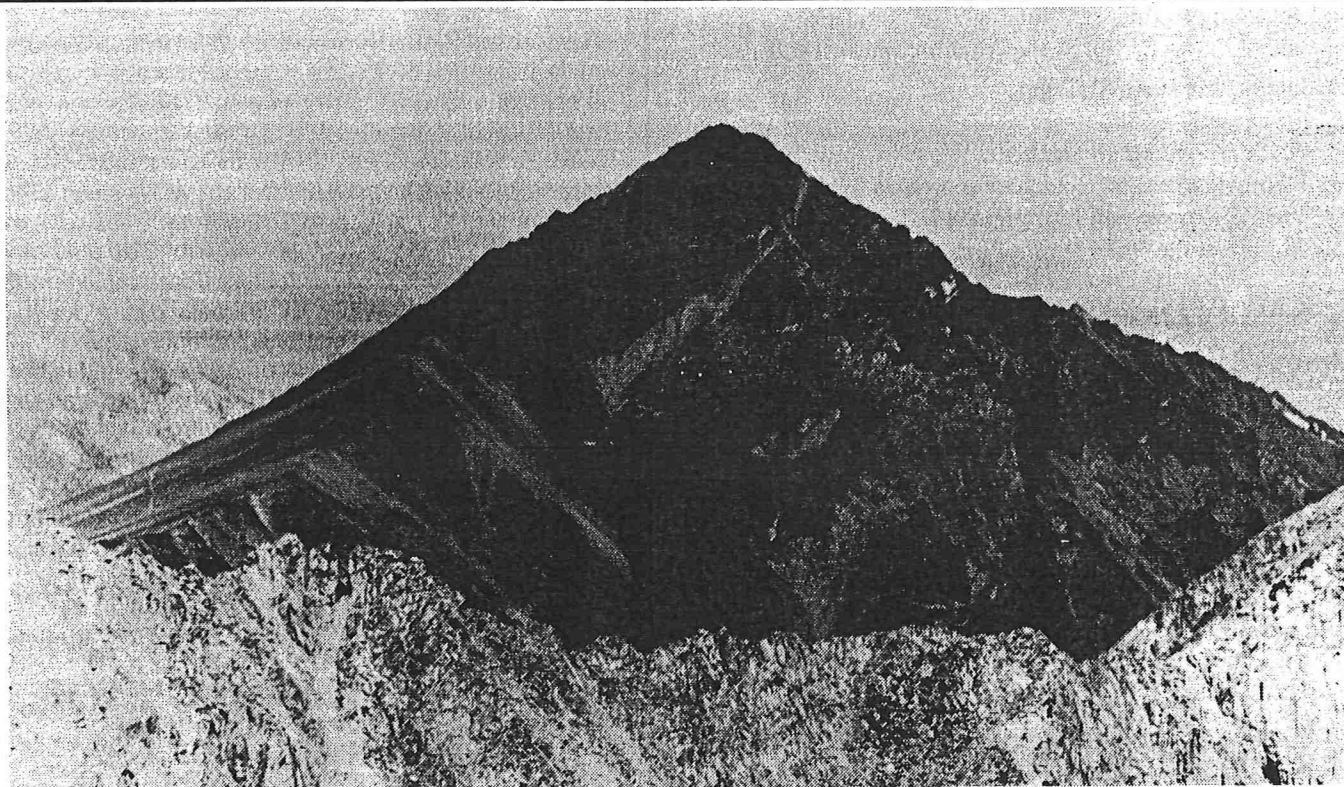
The participants were SPS'ers Al Conrad, Ellen Holden, Dave Petzold, Scott Sullivan, Don and Ursula Slager, and Bob Meador, and Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team members George Duffy, Steve Millenbach, and Jon Inskeep. Rob Langsdorf met the group at Milestone Creek on the fourth day.

SATURDAY: We left the Symmes Creek trailhead at 6:30 AM on Saturday, September 2nd. Anvil Camp was our objective, but the trail was in such excellent shape that we arrived there in time for lunch and then pushed on to Shepherd Pass. Final rebuilding of the trail, by three generations of the Dixon family from Idaho, under contract to the Forest Service, had been completed all the way to the pass only days before. We were also appreciative of the work done by SPS volunteers under the leadership of R.J. Secor and Norm Rohn, in particular at the many crossings of Symmes Creek. Everybody was over the pass by 5:30 PM.

SUNDAY: Bob and Don climbed Tyndall while the rest went for Junction. We met back at camp for a late lunch before heading for Milestone Creek. At 6 PM we stopped at a large campsite just above the junction of the Kern River and Milestone Creek. This was to be our home for the next four or five nights. We hung all our food well above the ground at night and whenever we weren't in camp as we'd heard that this area has a resident bear. We didn't see signs of one, however.

MONDAY: We split into two groups: Ellen, Scott, Dave, and Jon for Milestone and Midway; Al, George, Steve, Ursula, Don, and Bob for Table. It was almost 8 AM by the time we all left camp. The climb of Milestone went easily, up to the right of the tower and around the back side to the summit. On the way down we traversed over to a notch in the east ridge of Midway and up the north side to the top. We were on the summit of Milestone at 11, Midway at 2, and back in camp by 5 PM. The climb of Table didn't go so well. The group got into the wrong drainage, the one on the north side of the major ridge running southeast from the summit of Table. They ended up trying some Class 4 chutes on the east face of the ridge before realizing their mistake and retracing their steps to the proper drainage. They did find the correct approach and the ramp up the face, but by then had run short of time and had to return to camp.

(continued on page 14)



MYSTERY PEAK: The peak featured in the May-June issue of the Echo was Mt. Brewer taken by Jeff Solomon from Glen Pass. It was correctly identified by Ron Grau, John Reed, Jack Miller, Tom Ross, Jon Pettitjean, Greg Gerlach, Dennis Burge, and Bob (Burgermeister) Michael. The intimidating ghost mountain that loomed in the background was Mt. Muir which can only be seen from that vantage point on an exceptionally clear day. Send in your guesses as to the identity of this month's featured peak to Jeff Solomon -- let's hope no ghosts this time!

(continued from page 13)

TUESDAY: We reversed objectives, and all the peaks were climbed.

WEDNESDAY: Everyone except Don and Bob left at 7:30 AM for Thunder. By now Rob had joined the group. We got the ropes out to set up belays for descending to the notch on the north side of the south summit and getting up the final summit block, but the climbing wasn't difficult. Several people noticed a crack going completely through the rock bridge and elected to climb around it, which wasn't a problem. We were back in camp at 5 PM.

THURSDAY: We once again divided up. Al, Rob, Bob, Don, and Ursula went back for Table, while Steve, George, Ellen, Dave, Scott, and Jon broke camp and headed for Lake South America and an afternoon on Ericsson. Both peaks were climbed. And Rob did both Midway and Milestone in addition to Table!

FRIDAY: Al's group moved to Lake South America and climbed Ericsson while Jon's group was doing Jordan and Geneva. The latter bunch thought Jordan was probably the best of the trip. There were some routefinding problems (see route notes below) but the climbing was exciting.

SATURDAY: Dave, Ellen, and Scott decided to add Stanford, while everyone else headed for Shepherd Pass. At the pass, Jon kept going to the cars, nursing a sore arm from a fall on Geneva. Al, Steve, George, and Ursula climbed Tyndall. The final night was at Anvil Camp.

SUNDAY: There was an early (10 AM) return to the road-head Sunday where for cold beer and chips brought up by Jon (who had celebrated Saturday night in Independence with a soak in a big tub at the Hotel Winneduma).

SOME CLIMBING NOTES ON THE PEAKS:

MILESTONE: There are at least two ramps to find on the back side, one more than in most write-ups. It helps to put ducks where you round the corners so you don't drop too low on the return trip.

MIDWAY: It's easy to add Midway to a climb of Milestone. Return to the notch north of Milestone, then traverse down the east side north and east to the prominent break in the east ridge of Midway. From there it's Class 2 up the slopes on the north side of the ridge to the summit.

TABLE: The correct approach is up the drainage at the very western end of Milestone Creek. The key to the only less-than-Class-4 route to the south end of the summit plateau is a ramp sloping upward from left to right when looking at the southeast face. But it's not easy to see from below. Look for a notch making a sharp V on the skyline, the left side of which appears to be a gendarme also breaking the skyline. An

imaginary line dropping straight down from this notch lines you up with the left or south end of the ramp. It may be best to climb to the left above the ramp and then drop into it. This is probably the most difficult part of the whole climb. When you reach the summit plateau, be sure to leave a duck to locate the starting point for going back over the edge. Going down anywhere but the exact route you used going up will lead you into some nasty stuff.

JORDAN: On the approach, we had trouble deciding just which was the south or highest summit. Twice we circled completely around what we thought was the southerly of two major summits without finding any feasible route. In desperation we examined what appeared to be a smaller summit farther south and realized it was what we were looking for when found the famous step-across.

ERICSSON: A traverse from Lake South America is feasible by scrambling up the slopes on the east, and walking down the west side and around the base back to the lake. Or it can be done by either route alone. The time is about the same. The east side has some Class 3 work but is much shorter.

TYNDALL: The usual route up the northwest ridge is tedious. The slabs on the north face, which look formidable from Shepherd Pass, are a delight.

WILDERNESS ACCESS

The Central Sierra Interagency Wilderness Managers consisting of USFS and National Park administrators is soliciting comment on party size regulations affecting visitors (hikers and outfitters) crossing Wilderness/Park boundaries. Currently there exist extreme inconsistencies between different wilderness administrative regions which affect primarily visitors travelling through more than one region. The purpose of this public forum is to "establish acceptable limits on group size and number of animals per group" in a consistent manner across the multiple areas of jurisdiction. An issue that is not being addressed is the inconsistency between administrative regions as to the procedures applied when the wilderness permit is issued in the first place: when and where to apply, when and how one is notified, when and where permit is to be picked up, etc. Although the deadline for your comments is August 11th, I am sure that they will still be accepted if they arrive a few days late. Please send your comments addressed to "Wilderness Party Size" one of the following agencies:

Paul Fodor
Sequoia/Kings National Parks
Three Rivers, CA 93271

Ron Mackie
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

KERN PEAK

June 17-18, 1989

Igor Mamedalin & Suzanne Thomas

Thirteen climbers and one dog awoke Saturday morning at the Blackrock Gap trailhead parking lot ready for the challenges of the day. The road from Blackrock Ranger Station to the parking lot is paved all the way, despite what some older maps say. The trailhead parking lot has been recently renovated complete with launching ramps for equestrian users.

Yawning, the group started up the trail over Blackrock Gap to Casa Vieja Meadows. The meadows were green, free of bovine herds, and even the cow pies have begun to disappear now that this area has been designated as the Golden Trout Wilderness. Steering past several trail junctions we continued to Beer Keg Meadows (alas, no beer!) and on to Redrock Meadows. About a mile past Redrock Meadows we established camp perched on a slope above the confluence of a couple of streams and meadow seepage (last reliable water source).

After a leisurely lunch and lounging around in the sun, we headed for Kern Peak along a faint trail leading to the saddle east of the peak. The heat built up steadily forcing frequent stops along the trail in the shade of various trees and bushes -- and this was June. From the saddle we followed the ridge to the remains of a fire spotting station on top of Kern Peak -- one snow patch hidden in the shadow of a rock was encountered. After signing the register, taking pictures of each other, and spotting no fires on the horizon, the group descended by a more direct cross country route following a drainage leading almost directly to camp. Everybody made the peak and back including our dog, Comet.

Sunday morning we packed up at a lazy pace and sauntered back through the forest and past meadows to the cars. A nice cold gushing spring about two yards below the trail half the way to the cars provided a refreshing respite from the heat. Reaching the trailhead we encountered Asher Waxman returning from the lead of an international section outing to Jordan Hot Springs.

The group was a good mix of SPS old timers and first timers to peak bagging -- everyone did well and enjoyed the 'spring' outing. I am fortunate to have had Suzanne as my assistant leader and I am grateful to everyone else in the group for their patience and good cheer. The participants (in addition to the leaders) were: Steve Thaw, Nancy Gordon, Sigrid Hutto, Maris Valkass, Tom Ferguson, William Siegal, Colin Carter, Joe Goss, Jim Raiford, Bob Michael, and Don Regan.

MILESTONES

Congratulations Nancy Gordon on Denali.
Good luck Jim Farkas on Makalu.
Best wishes Bob Hartunian, undergoing foot surgery.
Get well Rob Roy MacDonald and George Toby, the peaks are calling.

PEAKS OF EASTERN YOSEMITE

September 1-4, 1989

Gordon MacLeod and Neko Colevins

Although labeled as an 'Introductory Trip', permit problems caused this trip to be somewhat more strenuous than originally planned. Travel was basically all cross-country. Nevertheless four non-SPSers accepted -- and met -- the challenge very well, including climbing the required two listed peaks on a scheduled trip for SPS membership.

Seven participants met at Saddlebag Lake on Friday morning. (By chance, most of us spent the night in the nearby campground.) After a worthwhile boat ride across Saddlebag Lake, a gentle hill and dale hike to Conness Lake was followed by a character-building steep sand slog to the saddle 1/2 mile south of North Peak. In a strong cold wind, six quickly ascended the remaining 500 feet to the summit. After descending to the headwaters of Conness Creek, five of us climbed Sheep Peak (11,840' +), which is capped by an easy third class summit block. We then descended the canyon, proceeding along the west side of Roosevelt Lake, and down to a camp on Conness Creek, just below 9,600'. (With temperatures in the 30's every night, campfires were enjoyed and appreciated.)

On Saturday, six climbed Mt. Conness via the south slopes, where portions of an old constructed trail are still visible, especially in the upper portion. Again, strong cold winds were encountered above 10,000'. This peak is VERY popular -- the SPS register book placed in July of this year was full, due in part to the usual long boring essays that too many climbers feel compelled to deposit.

Sunday, White Mountain (12,000' +) was climbed by four, while two others visited Young Lakes. An SPS aluminum register container placed in 1969 was found on top!

On Monday, the return over 'North Peak Pass' (much easier from west to east) was accomplished before their 2:00 PM boat pick up time with 1/2 hour to spare.

Participants (in addition to the leaders) were Tom Brazell, Charlie Etheridge, Barbara Lilley, Carrie Low and Larry Monzon. (There were two 'no-shows' at the roadhead.)

GJM



MT. FLORENCE & VOGELSANG PEAK

August 5-6, 1989

Igor Mamedalin & Larry Tidball

By coincidence, both Larry and I scheduled the lead of the same two peaks in Yosemite for the same weekend in August. Each of us had secured a permit for a group of eight out Tuolumne Meadows and discussed the possibility of either traveling and/or camping together for comradery. As the date of departure approached each of the assistant leaders canceled in turn. Hence, Larry and I merged the two groups together officially and fourteen happy hikers were waiting for us Saturday morning in the Tuolumne Meadows parking lot.

Suzanne Thomas, one of the assistant leaders that had to work on Sunday, decided to drive up to Yosemite and hike with us over Tuolumne to base camp by Upper Fletcher Lake. The hike in over the gentle pass was pleasant and the group arrived at camp for lunch. After lazing around the meadow watching chipmunks pilfer food from us, Suzanne set out to retrace her footsteps back to the car and the group proceeded to climb Vogelsang Peak a short distance away. Except for one person, everyone that started for the peak made it to the top for a fine view of Half Dome in the distance and a view of the next day's objective -- also in the distance. Upon returning to camp, Larry organized a delicious garbage bag salad shared by everyone and prepared quesidillas for all -- Larry has set new standards for leadership in the SPS.

Finding ourselves in bear country, everyone was urged to hang their food for the night -- there were plenty of bear cables strung by the park service. Nevertheless, Sunday morning Donn Cook and Martha Flores discovered to their dismay that a bear had managed to reach their food and satiate its appetite. After a hurried breakfast the group headed for Vogelsang Pass and the objective of climbing Mt. Florence. Along the way we lost a few participants, i.e., a few chose not to seek a summit that day. After dropping down to Lewis Creek we crossed the creek and left the trail to contour southward and upwards through forest and talus to Florence Lake. Here another person chose to await our return as we switched into low gear and pushed our way over talus slopes toward a prominent saddle west of Mt. Florence. From the saddle it was an easy walk up to the summit.

The cool weather on the summit shortened our stay and we retraced our steps to the lake where we picked up the awaiting hiker. Dropping back down to Lewis Creek and then back up over Vogelsang Pass we made it back to camp to fulfill our scheduled departure at 4:00 PM. Heading back down the trail we made it to the parking lot just as the sun was preparing to set. It was a long day and everyone dreaded the long drive home. Having come up with Suzanne, I was grateful to be able to catch a ride to the Southland with Larry (where Suzanne met me at a Denny's in San Bernadino at 1 AM that [or is it next] morning). Although Yosemite is a bit overcrowded and overdeveloped -- with the High Sierra Camps and stock on trails -- we managed to enjoy the scenery, views and the solitude that can still be found away from the trails and camps.

RED AND WHITE & RED SLATE

September 15-16, 1989

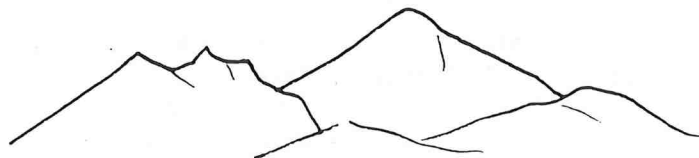
Bill T. Russell / Bill Gray

Our trip started with a small cloud in the sky which turned into an all night rain and snow storm. The weekend forecast was for "scattered thundershowers", wrong again, oh, how wrong. We parked at the McGee Creek Pack Station (7,800') which is temporarily the roadhead. A new hiker's parking area is nearly finished that is 0.3 miles beyond the pack station. The road is permanently closed to the old roadhead which is 0.7 miles further. We started hiking at 0730 and reached Big McGee Lake (10,500'), about noon. Most people made the two stream crossings OK by dancing on the boulders but a few went into the squish-squash mode. Bill Gray and Keats Hayden had gone in earlier and picked a dandy camp area on the north side of the lake at 374506. Cloud cover was increasing as we pitched tents and ate lunch.

At about 1300, 14 of us started for Red and White. We hiked up the trail toward Little McGee Lake, then to the west up the good clean rock and then southwest up more of the same to the Sierra crest at 358503 which is about 1/2 mile north of the peak. We started the climb in sunlight but when we reached the crest, the sun was gone, the peak was lost in the cloud and a strong wind was whipping fog over the ridge in front of us. We went south along the crest and down to the first notch but now it started to rain with increasing wind and decreasing visibility. It was 1515. All agreed that it was time to turn back. As we descended, the clouds lowered and the rain squalls became frequent. We reached camp at 1800 just as the rain became steady. Everyone took cover. It rained all night except that at 0300 it turned to snow. Those who did not awake to this fact developed a case of tent collapsitus. We also had very strong wind gusts for most of the night.

At 0630 on Sunday, it was still blowing and lightly snowing with 4" of snow on the ground. We got up, packed up the wet stuff and hiked out through several miles of snow down to 9,500'. As we reached the pack station, the sun came out locally but the wind gusts were even stronger. The LA Times had a story on the storm. It was caused by a collision of hurricane Octavio from the southwest with a storm from the northwest.

We had a good adventure in spite of bagging no peaks. Everyone's respect increased for rain jackets and pants, real boots, polypro gloves and no-leak tents. The 16 participants were: Barbara Cohen, Martha Flores, Greg Gerlach, Mario Gonzales, Bill Gray, Bob Hartunian, Keats Hayden, Patty Kline, David Lake, Hans Lehman, Bill T. Russell, Pat Russell, David Verner, Ron Webber, Lennora Wills, and Paul Wittkamm.



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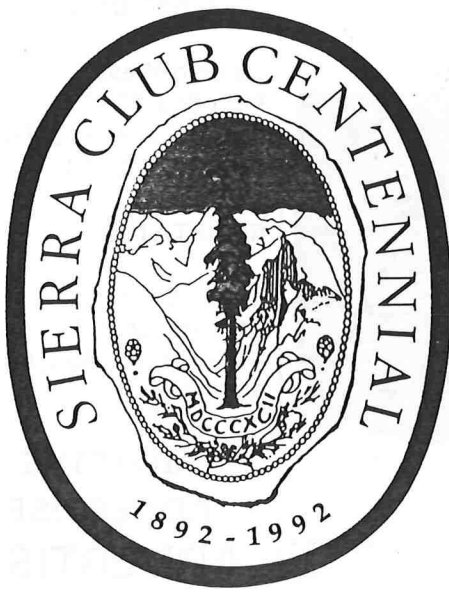
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