



Special Memorial Supplement Containing Additional Photos and Remembrances

The Sierra

Volume 60 ▲ Number 3 ▲ July-September 2016

Glen Dawson 1912-2016

A Final Tribute
by Bill Oliver



Atop Mt. Whitney
after the first ascent
of its East Buttress,
September 5, 1937.
See page 2 for
full captions.

A Living Fossil

By Bill Oliver

On June 18, 2016, a beautiful Celebration of Life service for Glen Dawson was held at Lake Avenue Church, Pasadena, around the corner from his Villa Gardens apartment. A bound 95-page “keepsake” was offered by his friends — “Remembering Glen Dawson: A Collection of Tributes.” Below is one of those thirty-seven tributes.

I have been privileged with the wonderful friendship of Glen Dawson for the past twenty-seven years. While I am aware of his life as a “Bookman, Family Man and Encourager,” I am most familiar with his amazing life as a young mountaineer. Paired first with Jules Eichorn on the Sierra Club High Trips and then with his grammar school chum Dick Jones, Glen romped exuberantly all over the Sierra Nevada starting in 1930, when all three boys were in their eighteenth year.

My direct connection with Glen fortuitously arose in late spring of 1989. I was then chair of the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS—one of the Sierra Club’s Angeles Chapter climbing sections), and we were looking for a program for our annual banquet in December. I don’t recall the details, but I like history, and someone or I came up with the idea of having Glen Dawson. Well then, why not his early climbing partner Jules Eichorn too! I recall being somewhat surprised to verify that these two esteemed “dinosaurs” were still living. And then I was stunned that each accepted the invitation—which

would include making them Honorary Members of the SPS, an honor previously bestowed upon Norman Clyde in 1960. My life would be changed forever—and definitely for the better.

Timed to appear at the banquet, I penned the first of what would become a six-part series in the SPS newsletter: “A Tribute to the Honorary Members of the SPS: Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn.” Part II appeared in 1992, and then there was fifteen-year gap before I knuckled down and completed the series in four consecutive issues, 2007-8. I knew Glen wasn’t getting any younger and that he was patiently hanging in there just for me—well, for others too I suppose!

With key support from his brother Muir at that 1989 banquet, Glen presented an awesome program on early Sierra Club climbing, which included his two most well-known climbs: (1) The first ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney in 1931 with Jules Eichorn, Norman Clyde, and Robert Underhill; and (2) the first ascent of the East Buttress of Mt. Whitney in 1937 with Dick Jones, Muir Dawson, and two others. I think Glen then sort of began a late-life career as a popular speaker on the climbing exploits of his youth. He would commonly introduce himself as “a historical curiosity—a living fossil.” He never boasted of his exploits but, as a serious student of history, he was aware of their historical significance. His amazing recall along with his wry humor and self-deprecating manner endeared him to all. He knew he had led a blessed life — both in his climbing and bookman careers and in his family.

Beyond these large appearances, I know Glen met one-on-one with innumerable inquisitive young climbers at his Villa Gardens apartment—and if they timed it right, he’d host them for lunch too, and I shared many with Glen over the years.

Glen Dawson inspired me to repeat many of his climbs, but he also inspired me by his generous nature, his willingness to share his story, his humor and impish smile, and his love for his God and his family. He leaves us an amazing climbing legacy, and we are not likely to see the likes of him again romping upon untried peaks, pinnacles, and walls. To have known this gentle quiet man was an incomparable gift and blessing to me and to so many.



Glen Dawson and Bill Oliver at the Eastern California Museum’s special Norman Clyde Exhibit—July 11, 2009. This was Glen’s last overnight trip away from Los Angeles (Author’s Collection).

Remembering Glen Dawson, 1912—2016, An Honorary Member of the Sierra Peaks Section *By Bill Oliver*

1912

Now over a century ago, 1912, it would seem, was a good year for up-and-coming mountaineer/rock climbers to be born. The Sierra

Nevada still had untouched Fourteener summits, Norman Clyde had not yet arrived on site and gone wild, and Yosemite Valley was full of “unclimbable” spires and pinnacles. In that propitious year Jules Eichorn popped up on February 7th in San Francisco, then came Glen Dawson on June 3rd in the Mt. Washington neighborhood of northeast Los Angeles, and finally Dick Jones arrived on October 11th in the mile-high city of Denver. Glen’s legendary climbing career would jumpstart when he was eighteen in 1930 when he paired with Jules over four momentous summers, then continued late into that decade partnered with his grammar-school chum Dick. Let us follow along with these two exceptional and finely tuned pairings.

The Sierra Club in 1912 was only twenty years young, John Muir was still living, and the Southern California Chapter (the Club’s first chapter and later named Angeles) had just been chartered the prior November. Glen’s father, Ernest, a prominent bookseller, had joined the Sierra Club three years earlier and before long he headed the chapter’s Local Walks Committee. Ernest served on the Club’s board from 1922 to 1937, the last two years as president. At age nine Glen was presented with a life membership in the Sierra Club, the gift of board member and future Club president Aurelia Harwood, and he thus would save ninety-five years of ever-increasing dues.



Top: Glen Dawson’s last view of Mt. Whitney, at Mt. Whitney Ranger Station in Lone Pine, July 10, 2009 (Bill Oliver Collection). Middle: Glen Dawson on the morning after the ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney on August 16, 1931 (Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Right: Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn atop Eichorn Pinnacle on its first ascent, July 24, 1931 (Glen Dawson Collection).

On the cover, top: Glen and Muir Dawson in a Los Angeles Times story shortly after the East Buttress climb. Shot at Dawson’s Book Shop (Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Bottom: Atop Mt. Whitney after the first ascent of its East Buttress, Sept. 5, 1937. Front, left to right: Dick Jones, Muir Dawson, and Glen Dawson. Rear: Bob Brinton and Howard Koster. Possibly shot by George Shochat (Glen’s brother-in-law) (Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

The Sierra Club hosted its twelfth annual four-week outing or High Trip that 1912 summer in the southern Sierra, trips that were intended to introduce members to the natural wonders of the Sierra ranges, wonders worth protecting.



SIERRA CLUB CAMP IN KINGS RIVER CAÑON—1902
 Photograph by J. N. Le Conte

SCB 1927

At left: High camp, Sierra Club Bulletin 1927.

Below: Typical contents of a Sierra Club Bulletin during Francis Farquhar's editorship.

These outings had upwards of two hundred participants, some for the four weeks and some for either half, plus a pack train of about twenty-five mules and assorted hired hands and cooks. It soon developed that the trip would split between the mountaineers and the “meadoweers.” Climbing peaks, sometimes in large groups, was popular, but increasingly smaller parties began tackling the more challenging summits. Francis Farquhar, who had notable first ascents to his credit and later became a Club president, took over editorship of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* (SCB) from 1926 to 1946. This was the “golden age” of Sierra Club mountaineering, and the *Bulletin* became a leading national publication in this field. Each High Trip was reported in fair detail, in addition to a separate section on Mountaineering Notes.

1921

This was the year that Dick Jones's family arrived in Los Angeles. In an email to me in September 2001, Glen recalled:

Richard Morris Jones was four months younger than I am. I could always remember his birth date: 10-11-12. I did not let him forget my four-month seniority. We had a friendship that lasted nearly seventy-five years. . . . We both attended Garvanza Grammar School and both were members of the Western Rangers and the Trailfinders, led by Harry C. James and Carl Sharsmith. Dick and I made trips together on foot and by bicycle to the pre-freeway Arroyo Seco, then a wilderness of jungle, streams and lakes to hunt for “water dogs” (salamanders),

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN		
VOLUME XIX	JUNE, 1934	NUMBER 3
CONTENTS		
		PAGE
AFOOT WITH THE SIERRA CLUB IN 1933	Ethel Boulware	1
MOUNT HUMPHREYS	Marjory Bridge	15
THE DEVILS CRAGS	Glen Dawson	19
NORTH PALISADE	Helen Le Conte	24
VALUES TO BE DERIVED FROM LOCAL ROCK-CLIMBING	Richard M. Leonard	28
THREE TEETH OF SAWTOOTH RIDGE	Richard M. Leonard	31
THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE HIGHER CATHEDRAL SPIRE	Bestor Robinson	34
AN ASCENT OF WEST TEMPLE	C. C. Presnall	38
SKI TRIPS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	Walter Mosauer	42
JOHN MUIR AND RALPH WALDO EMERSON IN YOSEMITE	Samuel T. Farquhar	48
THOMAS MORAN: AN APPRECIATION	Fritiof Fryxell	56
EARLY ASCENTS OF MOUNT SHASTA	Charles L. Stewart	58
ORGANIZATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB		71
REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES		72
NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE		81
MOUNTAINEERING NOTES		92
BOOK REVIEWS		103

Illustrations—Plates I to XXIV
 The drawings in the text are by Leland Curtis.

Published Bimonthly by the Sierra Club, San Francisco, California.
 Address all communications to the Secretary of the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower,
 220 Bush Street, San Francisco, California.
 The annual dues of the Sierra Club are \$4.00 (first year \$5.00), of which \$1.00 is for
 subscription to the SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN.

frogs and snakes. At the Arroyo Seco Recreation Center we took classes in tumbling in which Dick excelled and classes in playing the harmonica. For years Dick entertained us at campfires playing the harmonica. We borrowed my mother's Overland and the two of us, and sometimes with Dick's sister Rachel ("Sis"), took trips to the seashore, mountains and deserts. I went to Franklin and Los Angeles High Schools and Dick to Polytechnic High School where he was on the gym team. He developed great strength in his arms, which helped in rock climbing.

1926

It was the Sierra Club High Trips (HT) that led to the intersection of the lives of Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn. Glen's first trip was with his dad in 1926, which went far afield to

Yellowstone National Park. As Glen was only fourteen, he was largely left in the care of the elderly naturalist Vernon Bailey, helping to trap mice and chipmunks. His dad, meanwhile, was part of a party of five that Norman Clyde daringly managed to put atop the Grand Teton. Ernest's 1927 SCB tale tells of being on a thin ledge with the only option onward being a short but near vertical crack with a tiny stream trickling down:

Clyde tried it first and failed. Then I climbed on his shoulders and tried it, but looking down from this uncertain perch, where a slip might have been fatal, I remembered my wife and four children and decided not to risk it. Only for Clyde it is likely that at this point we would have turned back; but at this critical juncture he made a little jump, pulled himself up, and gained the crack above, getting soaked by the icy stream on the way.



Above: The Grand Teton from the east (Bill Oliver Collection).

1927

This year Jules Eichorn's piano teacher, Ansel Adams (twenty-five), convinced his parents to allow the lad to come along on that summer's HT. Among other talents, Ansel headed the considerable trip logistics. Glen and his dad were also on the trip. However, the fifteen-year-old boys would have only met casually, as each did most of his climbing with different leaders. They did both participate in a large party topping Mt. Kaweah. Glen's climbing journal has this record:

Table Mountain, 13,646—a difficult climb. We went up the north side from headwaters of Kern. We went up a steep snow chimney. Very cold and rainy. Norman Clyde led the party of seven. Large cairn on top. So far as I know, we are the second to climb the peak. [Per R. J. Secor's High Sierra guide, this NE Couloir route is rated 4th class.] . . . The Milestone, 13,643—a very spectacular peak which can be recognized for miles about. Looks harder than it is. Pretty steep the last part. Wonderful view. We went up from the Kern Kaweah side.

1928

Neither boy was on this year's HT, which went to Jasper and Robson Parks in Canada. In 1905 Ernest had established Dawson's Book Shop in downtown Los Angeles. Glen joined his dad in 1928 on a book-buying trip to Europe. Perhaps partly in lieu of missing that summer's HT, father and son engaged Swiss guides, who led them to the summits of the Jungfrau (13,642') and the Matterhorn (14,692'). The elder Dawson penned this high adventure in the subsequent SCB (2/29):

I had read of this [Matterhorn] climb and expected a stiff bit of work, but I fancied that the narratives were overdrawn and that for one with Sierra Club training, it would be no special stunt. But the difficult rock work, the slippery precipices, the knife-edges with awful drops on either side, the hand-over-hand climbing of ropes when fingers were all but frozen, and the added danger from falling rocks convinced us that it was "up to the brag." The triumph more than matched the effort.

Glen noted in his journal: "It cost us about \$50 each to make the climb but it was well worth it." Let me note that, per Google, \$50 then would be worth \$690 today—and I'm pretty sure Glen would still say, "It was well worth it!"



second ascent of Clyde Minaret, first topped by Clyde the year before. It remained unclear which was higher: Clyde or Michael Minaret. The trio also topped Mt. Humphreys and Mt. Abbot. Separately, Jules was able to join climbs of Mt. Ritter and Mt. Lyell. Both boys, however, were in a group that climbed Seven Gables. Enough! Sensing their kindred, intrepid spirits, at the

Above left: Glen Dawson's shot of Ansel Adams on the 1929 High Trip. Right: An Ansel Adams shot of Glen Dawson age 17 during the 1929 High Trip. Below: A page from Glen Dawson's 1929 Climbing Journal, regarding his High Trip climb of Clyde Minaret (all images Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

1929

I am grateful to Gwen Rinehart, Dick Jones's daughter, for providing some quotations from Dick's 1929 high school journal.

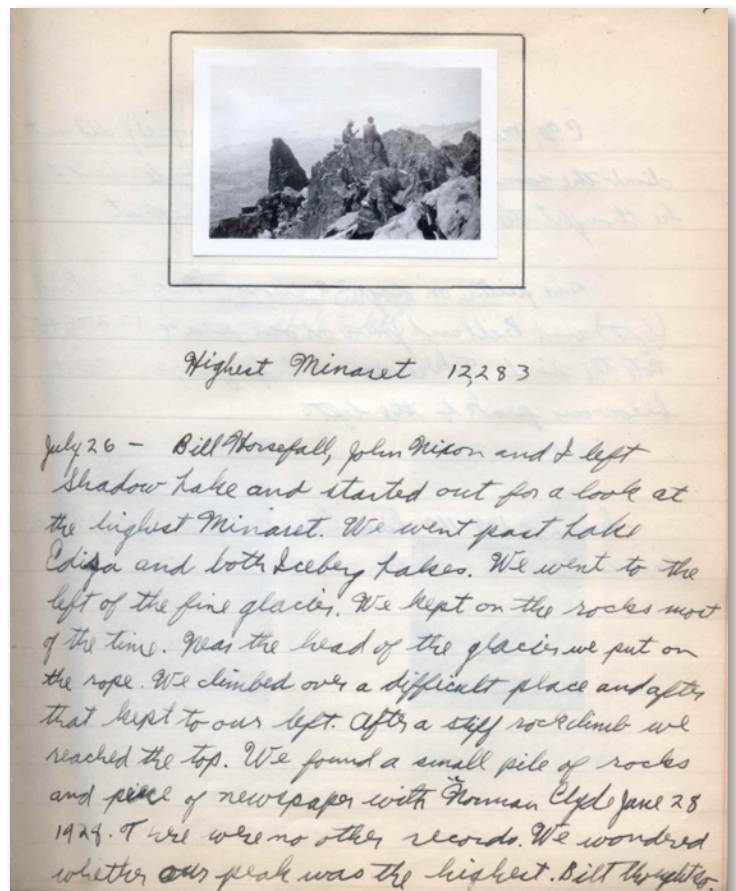
She noted, "I think my dad had a less than happy home life, and Glen and his family were so wonderful to him and from them he saw what life could be like." Here are two entries from the journal:

Feb. 24, Sunday—Glen, Fern [Glen's sister], Sis and I went to church and then to Santa Monica beach. Glen and I took pictures of sea gulls and pelicans. . . . I don't know how I will ever repay Glen for the good times I enjoy being with him.

March 9, Saturday—Worked at Dawson's Book Shop all day. Enjoyed it very much. We [the four above] made candy and ice cream. We boys got dinner for the girls. . . . Oh! These days are wonderful! May I have Glen's friendship forever.

Glen and Jules both participated in the 1929 HT to the central Sierra. As Ernest was not along, Glen was under the care of the very competent mountaineer Bill Horsfall. With another young man the two made the

end of the High Trip the boys agreed that they'd team-up the next summer.



1930

All of eighteen now for the HT, Glen and Jules no longer needed chaperones. Often accompanied by John Olmsted, a few years older, they would head out on two-to-three-day knapsack trips on their own. One auspicious day they



John & Jules on Crags

Above: John Olmsted (left) and Jules Eichorn (right) on summit ridge of Devils Crags, July 23, 1930.

Right: Bubs Brem and Jules Eichorn atop Michael Minaret, en route to Clyde Minaret on left, 1931 (Photos by Glen Dawson, Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).



discovered a lonely manila climbing rope in the commissary. They asked Will Colby, who had headed the first twenty-eight HTs, if they could borrow it. It's unclear if they mentioned their intent to attempt a climb of Devils Crags, first topped by Charles Michael solo in 1913 and not successfully since. Although he "wasn't too enthusiastic," Colby "reluctantly" gave permission—and, as they say, the rest is history. They would never again have to ask to borrow a rope. Glen would later describe their successful ascent of the highest Devils Crag in the SCB's Mountaineering Notes (2/31): "Three boys not yet of age were very happy." Indeed, Glen would be the editor of the Notes for five consecutive years. The three lads also achieved the intrepid first traverse from Mt. Sill to North Palisade, both Fourteeners. It was no overstatement for Colby to write of this Outing: "Some youthful enthusiasts, including Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn and John Olmsted, swarmed over everything that looked formidable in the way of a mountain peak."

1931

This would be a more fantastic year yet for the Glen/Jules duo, often joined on the HT by Glen's L.A. friend Walter "Bubs" Brem.

Glen had just graduated from Los Angeles High School, primed to start at UCLA in the fall as a history major. I'll mention just two especially notable climbs: (1) Our duo made the first ascent of the prominent slim pinnacle near the summit of Cathedral Peak, which was later named Eichorn Pinnacle; (2) Joined by Bubs, they also achieved the first traverse from Michael Minaret to Clyde Minaret,



Above: The “Palisades Climbing School,” August 1931. L-R, standing: Francis Farquhar, Bestor Robinson, Glen Dawson, Neill Wilson, and Lewis Clark. Kneeling: Robert Underhill, Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn & Elmer Collett. At right: Jules Eichorn (left) and Robert Underhill atop Starlight Peak (~14,200’), August 9, 1931 (Photo by Glen Dawson; both images Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

in the process making the first ascent of “Third Minaret” midway, which later was named Eichorn Minaret. Using a leveling tool, Glen finally established that Clyde is the highest of the Minarets (12,264’), followed by Michael and Eichorn.

The HT ended in early August. The climbing for a select few, however, including Glen and Jules, just got even more “uplifting.” Responding to the invitation of Francis Farquhar, Robert Underhill had arrived to provide instruction in proper belayed climbing and the use of pitons. The Harvard philosophy instructor, the top American alpinist of his day, was keen to visit the Sierra Nevada after a spectacular season in the Tetons. The February 1931 *SCB* included a twenty-four-page article by Underhill on rope management.

A select class of eight “students”—including Glen, Jules, and Norman Clyde—headed to the Palisades. For openers, they made the first traverse from North Palisade to the thin spire of Starlight Peak, the latter’s second ascent. Glen and Jules with Underhill and Clyde then put up a new route on Temple Crag. Two days later these four plus Bestor Robinson and two others achieved the first ascent of Thunderbolt Peak (the last California Fourteener to be topped). It was named for the violent storm that engulfed them on the summit. Only Glen and Jules actually mounted the technical summit

block—an electrifying feat that almost short-circuited their budding climbing careers.

On August 10th, the day before their Temple Crag climb, Glen penned a letter to his parents:

Dear Father & Mother: the trip so far has been keen. Yesterday we climbed North Palisade from this [north] side and also climbed the second highest summit [later named Starlight]. After some of them go back to San Francisco I may get a chance to go down to Mt. Whitney. . . . I have an unusual opportunity, being able to climb with such men as Clyde and Underhill. I am learning a great deal and I may not have such a chance again for a long time. I can climb as well as the best of them but I need more experience to equal theirs in leading ability. . . . Lots of love, Glen

Two days after their “Tbolt” success, a remnant of five supported by mules was trekking up the Mt. Whitney Trail from Lone Pine. Underhill wrote up their successful ascent of



Atop Mt. Whitney after the first ascent of its East Face Route, August 16, 1931. L-R: Glen Dawson, Robert Underhill, Jules Eichorn and Norman Clyde. (Photo by Francis Farquhar, Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives)

this peak's east face for the subsequent SCB (2/32), and Clyde for *Touring Topics* (12/31). Underhill wrote that as they veered up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek:

Relieving the pack train of its load, we shouldered outrageously heavy knapsacks (Clyde's being an especially picturesque enormity of skyscraper architecture). . . . Our party had been gradually decreasing in size as we moved southward to more and more ambitious objectives. We had begun, most of us, up in the Yosemite as part of the Sierra Club Outing of 1931. At the close of that trip, nine, under the management of Francis Farquhar and the invaluable counselorship of Norman Clyde, had moved down to the region of the North Palisade where we had culled a little bouquet of new climbs in spite of four days (believe it of the Sierra or not!) of bad weather. Shifting southward again for our culminating effort, directed upon Mt. Whitney, we finally found ourselves a little remnant of five. . . . The other two members of the group—Jules Eichorn, of San Francisco, and Glen Dawson, of Los Angeles, young natural-born rock climbers of the first water—had never seen the mountain; but neither had they seen any up and down the Sierra that they could not climb, and they were all enthusiasm. [Jules had previously climbed the peak from the west on the 1927 HT.]

The next morning, August 16th, Farquhar, being by far the lesser climber, chose to ascend Whitney by the Mountaineer's Route on its north side, hoping they'd meet up on the summit. The roped climbing began at 10:00, Glen with Underhill followed by Jules with Clyde. Although largely directed by their elders, the boys led throughout except Underhill fronted the short Fresh Air Traverse, the most exposed piece of the climb and where a piton may have been used. At 12:45 they were shaking hands with Farquhar on the summit, a remarkably fast time even today. Their speed was largely driven by not wanting to endure a bivouac high up the wall. In concluding Underhill wrote: "The beauty of the climb in general lies chiefly in its unexpected possibility, up the apparent precipice, and in the intimate contact it affords with the features that lend Mt. Whitney its real impressiveness."

Over the subsequent Labor Day weekend, Glen was joined by his childhood pal Dick Jones plus Bubs Brem in the first descent of the East Face route. Nearly seventy-five years later journalist Jordan Rane penned an article in the *Los Angeles Times* (3/8/05) about Glen's recollection of the East Face climb, quoting Glen: "I've climbed in many parts of the world and published over 300 books. But of all the things of my

life, that day in August in 1931—well, I still get a good deal of pleasure out of it.”

1932

Momentarily forsaking the high Sierra, let us divert to Bestor Robinson’s scheme to make the “first ascent” of El Picacho del Diablo, at about 10,155’, the high point of Baja California.

Robinson could not get Jules Eichorn, but he succeeded in recruiting Norman Clyde plus a strong Los Angeles contingent of Glen, Dick Jones, Bubs Brem, and Nate Clark. Their adventure was detailed by Robinson in the subsequent *SCB* (2/33). Their expected dayhike from basecamp turned into a three-day epic, as they encountered numerous deep notches along the meandering ridge leading to the twin summits of El Picacho. (It would be several months before they learned that a prospector had achieved the summit alone in 1911, approaching from the less technical east side.)

Glen, Jules, and Norman Clyde led various notable Sierra climbs on the 1932 High Trip, but for brevity I’ll not detail any here. Noteworthy, however, is that quite a few Trippers departed their Crabtree Meadows site after campfire one night to seek out Mt. Whitney with the promise of a glorious desert sunrise. A total of 153 topped out that morning (not a Club record), some no doubt thereby earning the Sierra Club’s coveted certificate for

having climbed five peaks anywhere in the world above 14,000’.

1933

(This year’s High Trip was the first in which Ernest Dawson was accompanied by all four of his offspring. Glen’s sister Fern had participated in the previous two, but this was the first time for younger sister June and for Muir, nine years behind his brother.) Glen and Jules reunited for this year’s HT, and we’ll focus here on their major project. Under their key leadership, considerable attention was focused again on the Devils Crag, and Glen wrote about it in the subsequent *SCB* (6/34), recalling first their earlier climb:

The Devils Crag looked difficult. They looked even more difficult than we had anticipated, as three of us, Jules Eichorn, John Olmsted, and I stood on the ridge north of Mt. Woodworth on July 23, 1930. . . . Three years later, on July 25, 1933, Jules Eichorn and I again viewed the peak with some misgivings. The Devils Crag looked as difficult as ever, and this time we had ten picked climbers from the Sierra Club party, whom we had agreed to lead to the top.

Their careful scrutiny actually resulted in fifteen climbers summiting within a short time: four parties by three routes, collectively counting as the third ascent. The next day Glen, Jules, and Ted Waller returned and made the first ascent of the next two highest Crag, and then the weather took a bad turn. They descended a chimney between #1 and #2:

Here we took refuge under a chockstone, expecting that the shower would be over, as usual, in a few minutes. We joked and talked as water began to drip in our shelter.

Atop the south summit of El Picacho del Diablo (north summit in background), June 16, 1932. Rear: Norman Clyde, Nate Clark, and Glen Dawson; front: Dick Jones and Bubs Brem (Photo by Bestor Robinson, Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).



The rain came harder than ever. Suddenly, with a great rushing sound, the steep chimney became filled with a torrent. Dirty water, gravel, and even large rocks, came down in a series of waterfalls. We leaped out from under the chockstone, Jules to one side, Ted and I to the other. In a few moments the water had increased from a trickle, which we could catch in our cups to a torrent of alarming proportions. Jules had gone out onto a narrow ledge, where he was soon drenched by water, and what was more serious, was exposed to falling rocks. The roar of water, the lightning and thunder, and the crashing of avalanches were stupendous, but not very pleasant to us at the time. Soaked with rain and spray, we were so cold that we shook all over every few minutes. . . . The Devils Crag seemed to be coming apart. For an hour Jules was forced to stay in an extremely precarious position on a narrow ledge, exposed to falling rocks and threatened with being swept off by the increasing force of the water. At last the storm abated, and Ted was able to pass a rope to Jules and assist him across to our side of the chimney. Slowly we made our way down a few hundred feet of difficult wet rock. It was dusk before we got to timber and a chance to dry out.

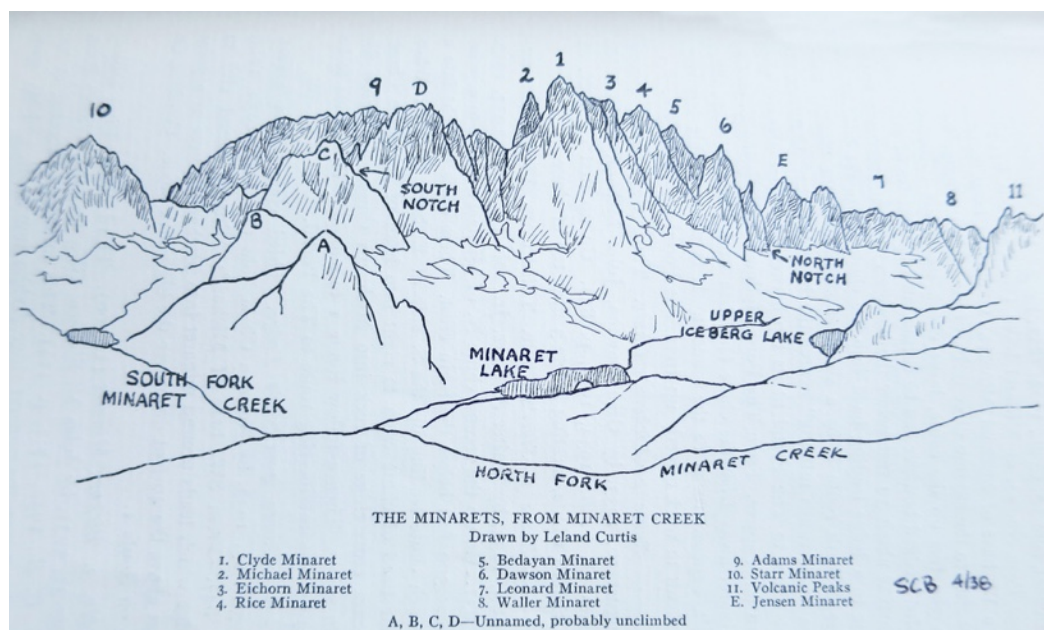
In 1989 Jules told me that while stuck on the narrow ledge the hip pockets of his jeans had filled with sand and gravel. Much later in his life Glen noted that he and Jules had survived two harrowing summit storms—this one on Devils Crag and the one two years earlier while topping Thunderbolt Peak.

Following the High Trip, Glen and Jules were each back home just over a week before getting the summons on August 14th from Francis Farquhar to assist in the search for Walter (Pete) Starr, Jr. Glen also recruited Dick Jones. Within a day the boys, Norman Clyde, and others were gathered at Lake Ediza, site of Pete’s campsite. Although Pete was not involved with Sierra Club High Trips, he was indirectly known to members based on his numerous summit register entries throughout

the Sierra. Normally traveling fast and solo, he was, at age thirty, now close to completing his *Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region*.

The climbing team of Glen, Jules, and Dick—one of four parties—focused their search on the nearby Minarets. They ended up climbing both Michael and Eichorn Minarets, and in their search process they also made the first ascent of “Sixth Minaret,” which became Dawson Minaret, the only Sierra summit bearing Glen’s name, although he paired with Jules in climbing the two features named for Eichorn. (Dawson Peak, just north of Mt. San Antonio [aka Mt. Baldy] in the San Gabriel Mountains above Los Angeles, was named for Ernest Dawson in 1920. It is among the 279 southern California peaks on the Sierra Club’s Hundred Peaks Section list.) The fruitless search ended within a few days. Norman Clyde stayed behind and found Starr’s body a week later, high on a Michael Minaret ledge.

Although neither would have imagined it at the time, the search for Pete Starr would be the last time that Glen and Jules, then twenty-one, ever shared a rope. They would not be on another High Trip together, and during later joint Los Angeles/San Francisco Rock Climbing Section trips to Yosemite Valley, the boys would be leading with their own groups. How appropriate, then, that Dick Jones had shared the rope with them, as he would become Glen’s new favorite partner. Of course, Jules and Glen remained dear lifelong friends, having shared a unique high Sierra legacy while phenomenally teamed over four consecutive High Trips (1930-33). I am not certain, but possibly the last time they were together was at a grand High Trip Reunion in Tuolumne Meadows, September 1992, both then eighty. In correspondence with me Glen noted: “On that trip Jules and I



walked on glacial polish at the base of Lembert Dome and recalled some of our climbs.”

In declining health at eighty-eight, Jules passed away at home on February 15, 2000. A month later Glen wrote of his first partner: “Jules was taller than I am, expert in music, and expert in camp cookery. We considered ourselves co-leaders, usually climbing with one or two others but sometimes just the two of us. Jules was always a gentleman, kind and considerate. He climbed with the same verve as he played the piano.”

The Sierra Club’s first activity section was the San Francisco Bay Chapter’s Rock Climbing Section (RCS), chartered in November 1932 with Dick Leonard as chair and Jules Eichorn on the management committee. The Southern California Chapter was not far behind. Its RCS was initially preceded by the new Junior Section. Glen led their first rock climbing session on November 5, 1933, at Eagle Rock, assisted by Dick Jones. In early December the climbers went to Picacho Pk (1920’), north of Yuma and near the Colorado River. (It is commonly known as “Little Picacho” by the Desert Peaks Section, by far the lowest peak on its list of ninety-nine southwest desert summits and arguably the most technical.) Glen and John Poindexter put up a new route along a multi-pitch crack climb to the summit ridge.

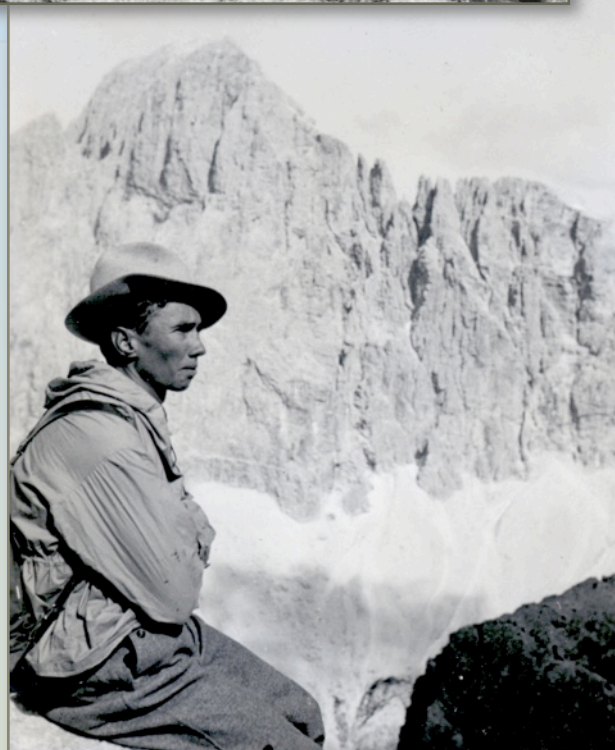
In September 1934, with Glen’s encouragement, Art Johnson got chapter approval for the formal creation of the Los Angeles RCS, taking over this activity from the Junior Section. Glen was a founding member of the management committee.

Somewhat concurrent with the rise of the Los Angeles RCS was the development of what would become the chapter’s Ski Mountaineering Section (SMS) in September 1935. This entity was briefly preceded by the Ski Mountaineers of California, organized in November 1934 by Walt Mosauer, a UCLA professor and ski coach. The original thirteen members, mostly from the Bruin ski team, included Glen and Dick Jones, who became quite avid practitioners of this winter mountain activity.

Note: based on their notable climbing achievements, in 1933 both Glen and Jules became members of the American Alpine Club (AAC), at twenty-one likely among the youngest. Francis Farquhar “proposed” Glen, and Will Colby seconded the nomination. (John Muir was a founding member of the AAC in 1902 and he served as its second president.)

1934

(As an aside, the cost to participate in the 1934 High Trip was \$70 for the four weeks or \$40 for either half. All personal gear to be carried by mule, including bedding, waterproof ground cloth and possibly a tent, had to fit in a cylindrical canvas bag not to exceed three feet in length or weigh more than thirty-five pounds.) The High Trip this year was absent Jules, and it would turn out to be Glen Dawson’s last—and he made



Top, left to right: Glen Dawson, Jack Riegelhuth, and Ted Waller on the 1934 High Trip. Bottom: Glen Dawson looking at south wall of Marmolata, which he climbed, August 1935. At 10,968’, it is the highest peak in the Dolomites section of the Alps (Both images Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

the most of it, often teamed with Ted Waller and Jack Riegelhuth. For brevity’s sake, however, I won’t dwell upon it, simply noting, for example, that Glen and Jack made the second ascent of Eichorn Pinnacle. Following the High Trip, Glen partnered with fellow Tripper Tony Chorlton, of the New Zealand Alpine Club, in a circuit that

garnered many northwest U.S. summits including Mt. Shasta and Mt. Rainier, plus Mt. Hungabee and Mt. Temple in Banff National Park.

1935

Shortly after his UCLA graduation in June, Glen set off on what would be a fourteen-month around-the-globe trip. It offered splendid opportunities to advance his skills as both a bookman and a climber. Glen detailed his foreign climbing adventures in *SCB* articles. Befriending young guides, his exploits began in the Alps with five weeks spent climbing in the Wetterstein and the Dolomites, and included high-level climbing on walls of the Musterstein and Marmolada. He noted that many of their routes “were probably first ascents by an American.”

The 1935 High Trip managed without Glen, but the Dawson family was well represented by Ernest, Fern, and Muir, plus Dick Jones on what would be his only High Trip.

Below: High Trip Bandana Day, 1935, left to right: Frank (Tug) Richardson, Fern Dawson, Muir Dawson, and Dick Jones (Glen Dawson Collection).



1936

In addition to time in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, this year Glen also took up climbing in North Wales (Great Britain), the Caucasus (Soviet Union), and the Japanese Alps. He waited a week below Mt. Elbrus (18,510'), the highest peak in Europe, without getting suitable weather conditions for an attempt. He also traversed Fujiyama in Japan, noting that on the Sunday following his ascent 11,300 persons were on top in a twenty-four-hour period. He wrote, “After having climbed in a dozen different countries, I can agree with John Muir and Clarence King that our own High Sierra is the finest and most friendly of all.”

Glen was back home in Los Angeles by mid-August—in time to join the Labor Day RCS trip to the Mt. Whitney area. In addition to a couple of nearby first ascents, Glen teamed with Dick Jones and Art Johnson in attempting a new, more direct route up the broad east face of Whitney. However, they didn't get very far, chiefly because of fresh snow. Glen had longingly eyed this alternate more direct line in 1931 when Underhill and Clyde were studying the face the

day before their first ascent with Jules Eichorn. He would be back!

1937

(As an aside: in April Glen was elected to the Sierra Club's board of directors, which coincided with his father's stepping down. Glen's service would continue until 1951, although he was not active during his Army service in World War II.)

This would prove to be a phenomenal year for the team of Glen Dawson and Dick Jones. Over the Memorial Day weekend the joint Los Angeles and San Francisco RCS contingents swarmed all over Yosemite Valley. Glen, Dick Jones, and Bill Rice made their first climb of Higher Cathedral Spire. (After two unsuccessful attempts in 1933, Jules Eichorn, Dick Leonard, and Bestor Robinson finally topped Higher Cathedral Spire in April 1934. In the end they were forced to employ pitons for “direct aid” [hanging or standing on the piton] for the first time in the Valley.)

The Los Angeles RCS was back in the Mt. Whitney area over the following Labor Day weekend. With better conditions than the previous year, Glen and Dick Jones, joined by Muir Dawson, Howard Koster, and Bob Brinton, again attempted their “Sunshine Route” on the east buttress of Whitney (also known as the Sunshine-Peewee Route). On September 5th they were set, and the two rope teams made it up their new East Buttress route in three and one-half hours. Four pitons had been placed for safety (not direct aid). Glen wrote in his 4/38 *SCB* story: “The East Buttress is slightly more difficult than the usual East Face route; both are interesting routes for experienced climbers.”

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of this climb in 2007, Glen wrote the following response to my query:

In 1931 it was the vision of Francis Farquhar to climb the east face of Whitney. He selected the participants. The real leaders were Robert Underhill and Norman Clyde. Jules and I did what we were told. In

1937 it was my idea to climb the East Buttress. I was the leader and selected the participants, although it was a cooperative leadership. The East Face is a big undefined wall with lots of loose rock. The East Buttress is a clearer route with mostly solid rock. It is my favorite climb but, so far as I now remember, I made it just once.

Bob Brinton led the first rope team with Glen. Depending on the guide, the East Face is now generally rated at 5.4-5.6 and the East Buttress at 5.6-5.8.

(Preliminary side note: “Discovered” by RCSer Jim Smith, Tahquitz is a large granite formation above the town of Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mountains. He put up the first route on Aug. 22, 1936—the Trough, now rated at 5.0. It became a favorite playground of the Los Angeles RCS and it remains a world-class climbing mecca.)

Just a month after their East Buttress success, on October 3rd, Glen and Dick Jones made a special effort on a frightful Tahquitz route to push it higher than any previous attempt—and they completed it.

Bookseller’s Route, now more commonly called Mechanic’s Route, took sixteen pitons with Dick in the lead, though with still a very long runout pitch. In a 1990 interview with me, Dick noted that he “breezed up it,” and that he was “really feeling good that day.” At the top Glen exclaimed: “Wow, what a lead!” Following the second ascent by John Mendenhall and Carl Jensen, in 1939 Ruth Mendenhall wrote to a friend about the climb: “It is so ghastly, and so utterly unprotected, that there is no justification to it, and it will probably never be climbed again” (*Woman on the Rocks – the Mountaineering Letters of Ruth Dyar Mendenhall*, edited by Valerie Mendenhall Cohen, 2007). Many years in the future this route would be hailed as the first 5.8 climb in North America. It was Glen’s only Tahquitz first ascent.

Their wanderlust evidently not yet sated, later that same month Glen and Dick were seeking new challenges in Zion National Park. Along with RCSers Homer Fuller and Wayland Gilbert, they made the third ascent of the Great White Throne—but the first that did not require a Park rescue. They then stumbled upon the fact that the East Temple had never been climbed, thus their new target. On October 26th Glen and Dick each led a rope of two. Glen reported in the 4/38 SCB: “Not until we used a three-man stand were we able to unrope on the pleasant forested summit area. The 1100 feet of



These two youths and three companions scaled a new route up the eastern face of Mt. Whitney, considered the most difficult rock climb in the United States. Glenn Dawson is shown holding piton and carabiner while his brother Muir looks on. Times photo

elevation had taken five and one-half hours of unhurried climbing, much of it exceedingly difficult.” They built a bonfire to signal success to their companion below and to keep warm for their topside bivouac. Glen continued:

In the morning we walked around the rim watching the sunrise bring color to the maze of canyons and walls. . . . Although we had started the previous morning just to explore the approaches, we had stayed thirty hours. . . . New and unusual ascents still abound, and to anyone familiar with Yosemite or Tahquitz climbing, we can recommend Zion National Park for an ideal vacation.

Now pretty much a lost art, “back in the day” *courte-échelle* (short ladder) was a practiced climbing technique. Though a three-man stand would be quite a stretch, it was not considered cheating.

From the vantage point of sixty-five years later, in correspondence to Bob and Maureen Cates in February 2002, Glen Dawson wrote: “The year 1937 was in many ways the apex of my



Above: Glen Dawson on first ascent of the Sentinel in Zion, June 5, 1938. Below: Muir Dawson stares across to Snowpatch Spire from summit of Bugaboo Spire, 1938 (Glen Dawson Collection).

climbing career—with the first ascent of the East Buttress of Mt. Whitney, and climbs in Zion National Park of the Great White Throne and the first ascent of the East Temple, and in Yosemite Valley the Higher Cathedral Spire.”

Note: Glen somehow overlooked including here the Mechanic’s Route! In all five of these climbs he was paired with Dick Jones, his cherished boyhood friend since grammar school days. (Dick passed on at age eighty-two on June 16, 1995.)

1938

Though perhaps past Glen’s “apex,” 1938 featured further major adventures. But first—January 29th marked the appearance of issue #1 of the *Mugelnoos* – “Published by and for the Ski Mountaineering Section of the Sierra Club, edited by Agent for Programs and Propaganda [Glen Dawson]; Circulation Manager Dick Jones.” Produced out of Dawson’s Book Shop, evidently it was an instant success as #2 appeared just four days later. Before long issues steadily came out at two-week intervals, and within two months it had become the joint publication of the SMS and RCS, reflecting the huge overlap in their memberships. As of #7 Glen passed the editorship to

Ruth Dyar (who would marry John Mendenhall in September 1939). Ruth shepherded the newsletter for forty years. The “*Noos*” continues to be published intermittently by the SMS. The latest issue, #815, however, was labeled “Spring–Summer–Fall 2012.” It focused on congratulating Glen on his grand 100th birthday celebration. (The RCS is no longer extant, its demise related to insurance issues. Its legacy directly continues, however, as the Southern California Mountaineers Association {SCMA}, founded in 1986.)

The first week of April found a few tough SMSers on an adventure that would make headlines in the *Los Angeles Times*, 5/22/38:

Perfectly conditioned for their arduous undertaking, five So. California members of the Ski Mountaineering Section of the Sierra Club recently completed a winter ski trip from Whitney Portal to the Upper Kern Canyon in Sequoia NP over 13,300 ft. Whitney-Russell Pass. . . . The epoch-making party consisted of Howard Koster, Dick Jones, Philip Faulconer, Glen Dawson and Robert Brinton.

They then double-backed to Whitney Portal, having established the W-R Pass as a winter trans-Sierra route.

The annual joint Los Angeles/San Francisco RCS Memorial Day weekend trip to Yosemite Valley found both Glen and Jules Eichorn leading routes, though not together. Glen made his first climb of Lower Cathedral Spire. He and brother Muir also led repeated ascents of the Washington Column to Lunch Ledge for the training of those less experienced. Just a few

days later Glen was enroute back to Zion, this time accompanied by Bill Rice and Bob Brinton. The trio succeeded in claiming the first ascent of the Sentinel. By mid-August Glen had assembled a strong team for the first Los Angeles RCS foray into alpine Canada. The account of



their expedition appeared as a featured article in the 6/39 SCB by Spencer Austin, "Climbing in the Bugaboos." The other team members were Muir Dawson, Bob Brinton, Howard Gates, and Homer Fuller. With considerable exposure and great boldness they succeeded in the third ascent of Bugaboo Spire (10,250'), first topped by Conrad Kain in 1916 and which he ranked as his most difficult Canadian climb. (The peak has twin summits, both about the same height according to Kain. Faced with threatening weather, the RCS team did not continue to the other summit, which is now known to be the higher.)

1939-40 and beyond

1939-40 was a time for many RCS folks to get serious about "settling down." Dick Jones wed Adrienne Applewhite on August 18, 1939; the best man was Glen. Then on November 15, 1940, Glen tied the

knot with Mary Helen Johnston; best man was his brother Muir. Mary Helen had been active with the SMS for a couple of years, and she soon joined the RCS. Their union, which produced a son, two daughters, seven grandkids and, so far, nine great grandkids, lasted sixty-two years, until Mary Helen's passing in November 2002 at eighty-six.

Another key factor leading to Glen and Dick's stepping back from climbing was the loss of their dear friend Bill Rice in a climbing accident on the Grand Teton in June 1942. In 1990 Dick Jones told me that he and Glen cried for a week

following the tragedy, and that it "had taken the fun out of climbing."

World War II, of course, scattered Sierra Club climbers far and wide: some like Dick working in armaments production, and some like Glen serving in the armed forces. Glen and others involved with the SMS taught ski mountaineering classes at Belmont High School in Los Angeles. This was part of a recruitment program of the National Ski Patrol for mountain troops. Glen provided a quick summary of his war service to me in an email on 2/22/08:

I was not drafted until 1943 when I was 31 years old. I took basic training at Camp Hale [Colorado] and took two notable trips—a New Year's climb of Mt. Elbert and Massive [the two highest Fourteeners in the state] and the Trooper Traverse from near Leadville to Aspen. I taught skiing to two classes. . . I became a T/5 or corporal. I was sent to Seneca Rock in West Virginia but, before doing any teaching of rock climbing, was transferred to the 85th Mtn Infantry [part of the famed 10th Mountain Division], Camp Swift, Texas, where I was acting squad leader. Just before going overseas I was transferred to Headquarters Company 85th to become a clerk to Major Kober, Intelligence Officer. [The division, though not Glen directly, engaged in heavy combat in northern Italy]. . . I was on my way to Japan when the war ended, and I returned to my family and bookselling.



Left: Glen and Mary Helen Dawson camping out circa 1941 (Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

Glen failed to mention something that was noted in the 5/10/45 *MugInnos*: "Glen Dawson was awarded the bronze star for service on Mt. Belvedere, Italy."

It is time to end this piece on Glen Dawson's renowned climbing career, when as a youth he teamed first with Jules Eichorn and later with Dick Jones in many amazing and daring climbing exploits that ushered in the modern era of this sport. It was a time when climbers wore tennis or basketball shoes and no harnesses or helmets, used static manila ropes, and yet romped exuberantly over many formerly "unclimbable" peaks, pinnacles, and walls.

In its sixty-one-year history the Sierra Peaks Section has awarded only three honorary memberships, as allowed by its bylaws with a vote of the membership. The first went to Norman Clyde, presented by SPS Chair Jerry Keating at the Angeles Chapter Banquet in 1960. At the SPS banquet in 1989, Chair Bill Oliver presented honorary memberships to Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn. On this occasion Glen, with support from his brother Muir, gave a marvelous program on early Sierra Club climbing. An illness prevented Jules from attending, but he spoke via a video recording.

Indeed, starting around his late seventies and then for nearly thirty years, Glen presented or was featured in many programs for climbing audiences, including the SPS again, the SCMA and the Southern California Chapter of the AAC. He commonly introduced himself as "a historical curiosity, perhaps a living fossil." This quiet, gentle man never boasted of his exploits, but he was well aware of their historical significance. His amazing recall along with his dry humor and self-deprecating manner endeared him to all. He knew he had led a blessed life—both in his climbing and bookman careers and in his family.

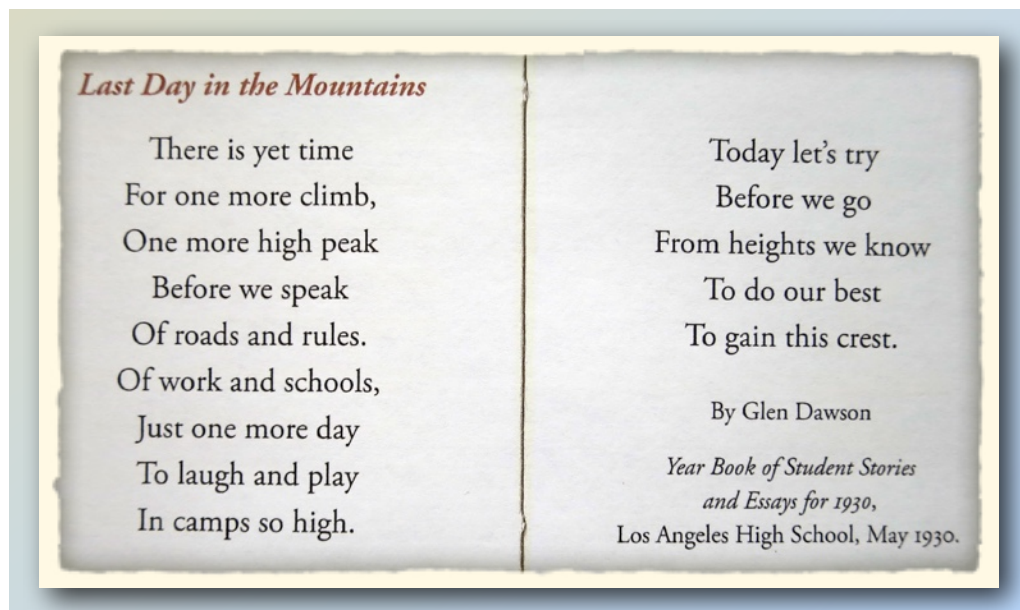
Ever the adventurer, quite late in life Glen compiled a list of all the outdoor stair climbs in the greater



Chair Bill Oliver presenting SPS emblem pin to honorary member Glen Dawson, as witnessed by Dick Jones and Nate Clark at SPS banquet, December 13, 1989 (Photo by Bob Cates, Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

Los Angeles downtown area and then topped them, though perhaps not signing a register. He also set the goal of making it to the summit of all the downtown skyscrapers, which he achieved without a belay though needing special permission for one or two.

At 103 Glen departed this earthly realm on March 22, 2016, heaven-bound to rejoin beloved family, friends, and partners. Although the oldest, he outlived his three siblings as well as all the companions of his High Trips and RCS/SMS young manhood. We can imagine that Jules Eichorn and Dick Jones may have saved some "unclimbable" heavenly spires on which to once again share a rope. Belay on!



Accomplishments and Notes

Glen Dawson received major recognitions from the Sierra Club:

- Life Membership #14, a gift of (later Club President) Aurelia Harwood, 1921
- Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award, 1973
- Honorary membership in the Angeles Chapter's Rock Climbing Section, 1977
- Honorary membership in the Angeles Sierra Peaks Section, 1989
- Walter Starr Award for continuing service by a former board member, 2011.

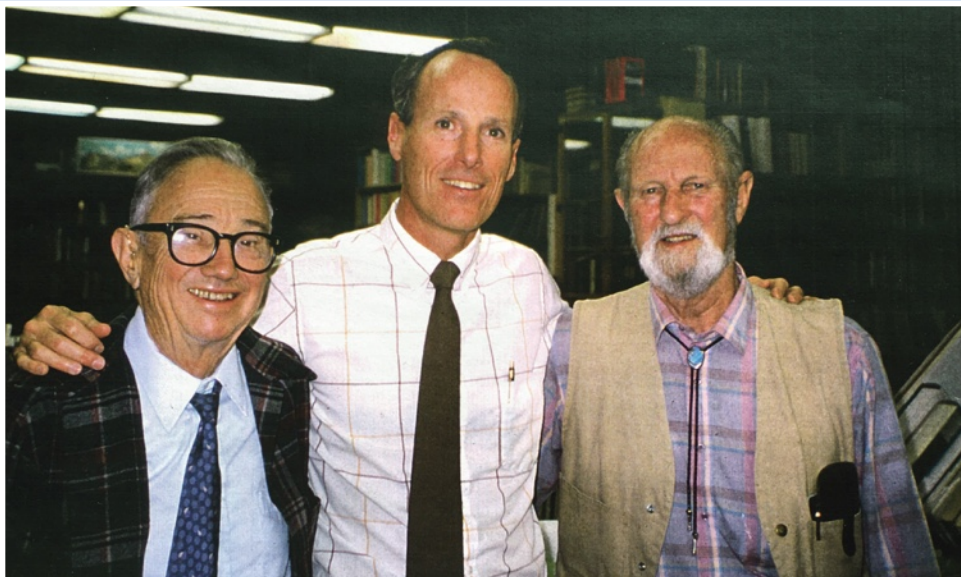
I am indebted to these members of the Angeles Chapter History Committee for their key support over many years in assembling and providing materials used in this retrospective: Glen Dawson, Bob Cates, and John Ripley; and

also to Dennis Kruska for Glen's poem, among other contributions. I have felt especially gifted and blessed in my twenty-seven-year friendship with Glen, which has greatly enriched my life.

My six-part series, "A Tribute to the Honorary Members of the Sierra Peaks Section: Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn," which ran from 1989 to 2008 in the SPS *Sierra Echo*, is available here: <https://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/tribute-series>

Michael Rettie has created a wonderful website, with many photos shot by Glen Dawson and Lewis Clark, that focuses on Sierra climbing in the pivotal summer of 1931—http://www.thehighsierra.org/mountaineering_summer_1931.htm

My final tribute to SPS honorary member Jules Eichorn (1912-2000) appeared in the March-April 2000 *Sierra Echo* (Vol. 44, #2). **5/23/16**



Below: A generation apart, two legendary climbers: Glen Dawson with Royal Robbins—both Farquhar Mountaineering Award winners—at Angeles Chapter Centennial celebration, July 16, 2011 (Photo by Mary McMannes, Author's Collection).

Above, left to right: Glen Dawson, Bill Oliver, and Jules Eichorn at Dawson's Book Shop, April 20, 1990 (Photo by Muir Dawson. Author's Collection). Below: Glen Dawson's tombstone at the Riverside National Cemetery (Keith Dawson Collection).



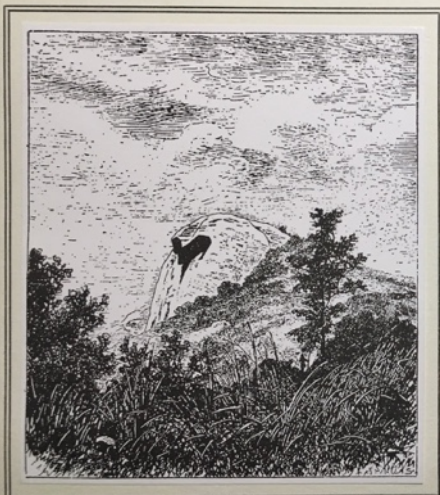
The following pages are bonus photo images not appearing in the original Echo article.



Clockwise from left: The Dawson siblings—c1927. L-R: Muir, June, Fern, and Glen (Unless otherwise stated, all images from Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Glen Dawson—c1931 (age 19). Probably at or within a year of high school graduation (Dawson Family Collection). This "broadside" was a souvenir from the celebration of Glen's ninetieth birthday, June 2002. Glen's Sierra Club Life Membership—1921. Well before his passing, Glen was the member with the longest tenure (Author's Collection). Glen atop Dawson Peak—c1928.



THE HILLS OF HOME



MOST OF MY LIFE MY HOME HAS BEEN on one side or the other of the Los Angeles—Pasadena boundary. I was born on the slopes of Mount Washington, graduated from Garvanza Grammar School; and since 1942, Mary Helen and I have lived in the San Rafael Hills, Pasadena. The hills and mountains are the ones I have explored on foot, by bicycle, by electric street cars and trains, and by automobile. I sold newspapers at York Junction, visited Busch's Gardens and the Cawston Ostrich Farm, and stayed overnight at Alpine Tavern and Switzer's Camp.

Glen Dawson
1978

DIE PIEDRA GORDA



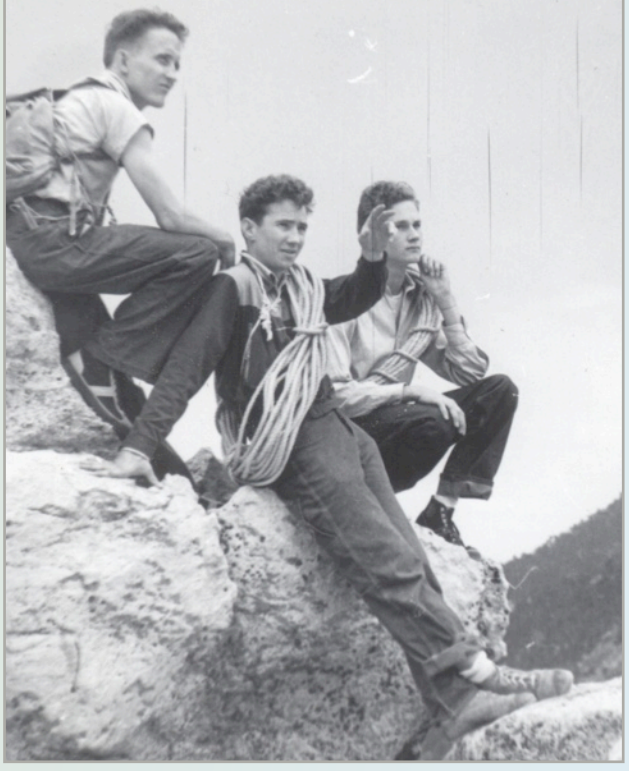
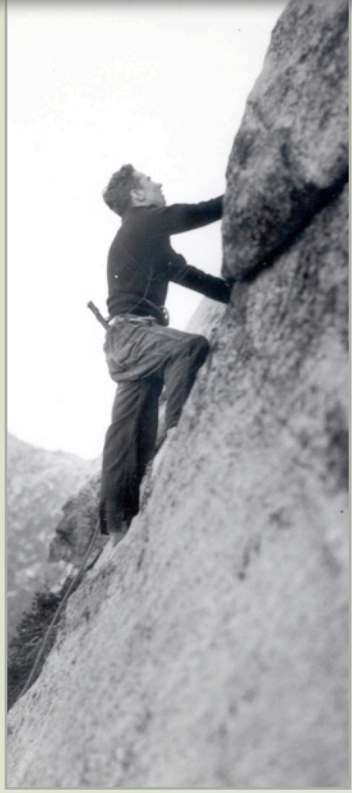
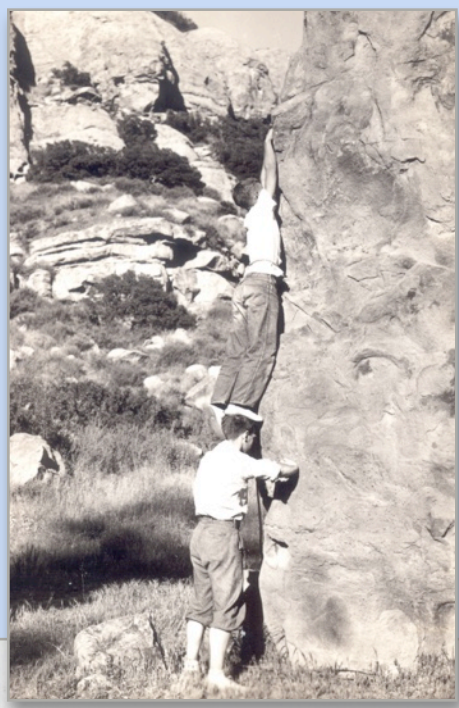
San Antonio

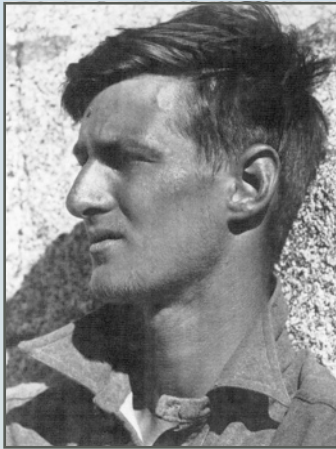
May 18-19, 1929 I went with Dick Jones in Chevy to Manaker Flats. Hiked with packs 2 1/2 miles to Baldy Cabin, up Devil's Backbone to top of San Antonio (10,950) then slid down snow and up Mt. Dawson (named after my father by Don Melain) 9551 then to Pine Mt. 9661 then returned over Dawson and San Antonio back to Cabin for overnight. Next day (Sunday) climbed Telegraph Peak (9008) Hail, Ice, Sumburms No shirts, 3.30 Men, Old mine, New Cabin?, Lizards caught (6) Keen time.

Bibliography (also see page 14)

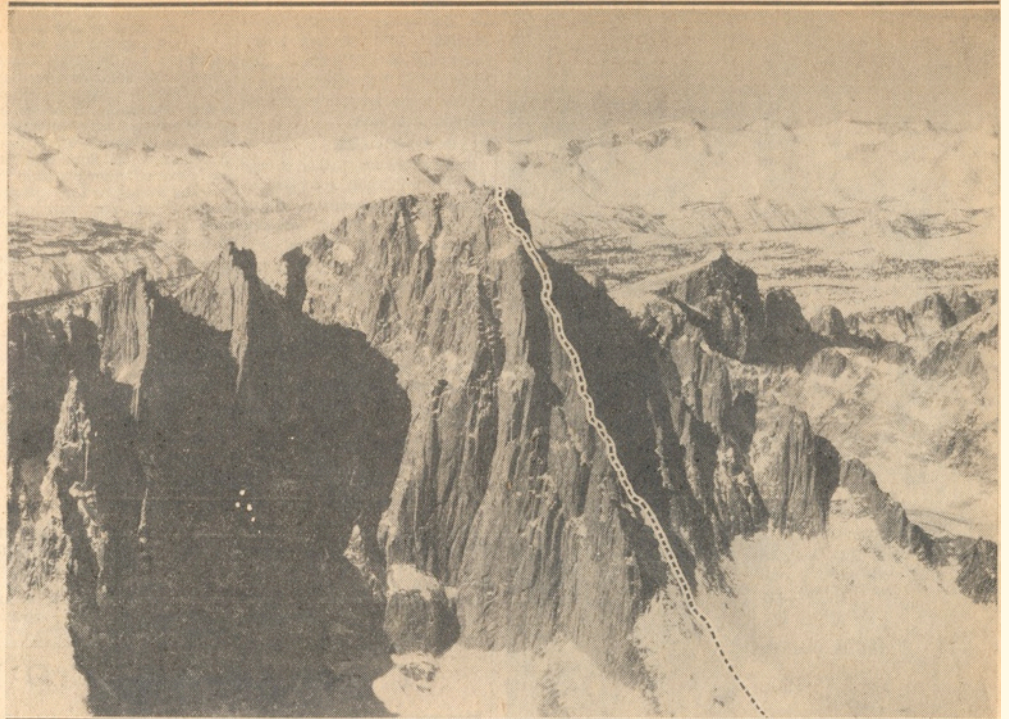
The Ascent of San Antonio - W. Rodman
 Sierra Club Bulletin Vol II No 2 June 1904
 Photo of Cabin Page 191 Vol XII No 2 1925
 "Big Horn Sheep near Claremont" Gardner Vol 4 No 1 Calif Field + Biol

Clockwise from left: Glen's Climbing Journal entry—climbing around Mt. San Antonio—1929. Practicing the two-man stand technique at Stoney Point. Muir Dawson atop Bill Rice—1937. Three young rock climbers on summit of Tahquitz Rock—June 20, 1940. L-R: Dick Jones, Glen Dawson, unidentified man. Glen rapping at Stoney Point—1937. Glen climbing at Tahquitz—c



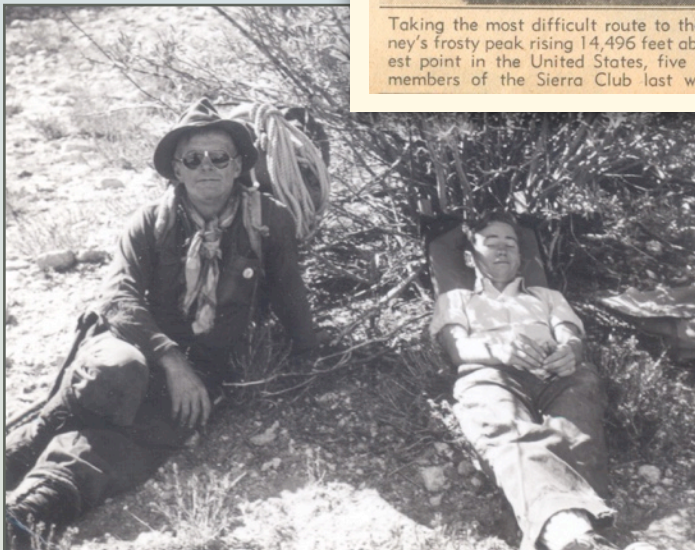


SIERRA CLUB MOUNTAINEERING PARTY TRIUMPHANT



Taking the most difficult route to the top of Mt. Whitney's frosty peak rising 14,496 feet above sea level, highest point in the United States, five young Los Angeles members of the Sierra Club last week scaled rugged

slopes indicated by the dotted line. This east-face route had never been essayed before, although easier parallel ascents have been made. California National Guard aerial photo



Clockwise from top left: Jules Eichorn on the 1929 or '30 High Trip. Photo by Ansel Adams (David Eichorn Collection). News article on first ascent of Whitney's East Buttress, September 1937. LA/RCS Palisades Trip, July 3, 1937. L-R: Bob Brinton, Mary Jane Edwards, Dick Jones, Muir Dawson, Jim Smith, and Nelson Nies. Over the 1938 July 4th weekend, Dick Jones led the first ascent of the Swiss Arête on Mt. Sill (Dick Jones Collection, from Gwen Jones Rinehart). Norman Clyde and Glen Dawson sharing the shade of a creosote bush—c1937.





Background: From news article on SMS team on way to Whitney-Russell Pass. The party included Glen Dawson, Dick Jones, Howard Koster, and Bob Brinton. Foreground from top: Glen and Mary Helen's complete family. Probably late 1948 or early '49. Approximate ages: Keith five, Karen three-and-a-half, and Susie under one. There are presently seven grandkids and nine great grandkids (Susie Dawson Parker Collection). From Denver Post article remembering the 10th Mtn Division's "Trooper Traverse"—winter 1944. Glen was among the Troopers. Glen Dawson's infantry badge, Bronze Star, and dog tag (Bob Cates Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Glen during the "epoch-making" Sierra winter traverse—early April 1938.

MT. WHITNEY LOOMS 1300 FEET ABOVE THESE SKIERS on shore of frozen East Face Lake in first winter crossing of 13,300-foot Sierra pass.



Top left: Pals for life: Dick Jones and Glen Dawson, c1941. Top right: Glen and Muir Dawson at the Angeles Chapter banquet, March 18, 2000 (Author's Collection). Above, center: Glen with master of ceremonies Doug Mantle and John Robinson at the SPS's 50th Anniversary Banquet—Oct. 16, 2005 (Bob Cates Collection). At left: Azusa Pacific University bestowed an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters on Glen Dawson—September 18, 2009. Among other lifetime achievements, it recognized him as “one of our nation’s top mountain climbers” (Author’s Collection).

GLEN DAWSON AT 100

Bookman - Publisher - Mountaineer - Soldier - Family Man - GENTLEMAN



Climbing Mount Washington rooftop, c. 1916 Portrait by Ansel Adams, 1930 Rock Climbing at Stony Point, Chatsworth, 1937

Join us . . . GLEN DAWSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORY LUNCHEON

Date/Time: Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 12:00
 Where: University Club of Pasadena
 Cost: \$30.00

Entree Choice: Chicken - Salmon - Cobb Salad



RSVP no later than May 25

Send Check payable "Glen Dawson 100" (with entree choice) to Elizabeth Pomeroy, 2111 East Mountain St, Pasadena, CA 91104. Phone: 626-791-7660

The University Club is located in Pasadena at 175 North Oakland Avenue, one block south of Walnut Street and one block east of Los Robles Avenue. Free valet parking.

For further details, call Nick Curry at 562-622-1732

The quintessential bookman at his post in Dawson's Bookshop, c. 1950

GOOD BANTER - GOOD CHEER

Left: Flyer for Glen Dawson's 100th Birthday celebration (Author's Collection). Middle: At Glen's 100th Birthday celebration. L-R: Glen, wearing his new hat, sister Fern Shochat, cousin Louise Ashcroft, and sister June McKeon (Author's Collection). Below: Multiple Dawson generations and their families gather for Glen's 100th birthday, June 2012 (Bob Cates Collection).



Warm thanks and appreciation are extended to Sierra Echo co-editors Tina Bowman and Beth Epstein. Tina expertly edits all the material and Beth superbly designs the layout. Your author is deeply indebted to both. It has been a distinct pleasure working closely with this amazing editorial team.