THE DEAN SPEAKS
Frank Sanborn

Now, after one and one half years of existence, our Section has 56 members and a record of successful trips from Yosemite’s Half Dome down to the lower Kern's Owens Pk. Formed in July, 1955 the Section has already accomplished much in its main purpose of getting as many Sierra Club members as possible acquainted with the Range of Light. Many of our trips have seemed rough and overly strenuous to some, but the fact remains that the only way to really know and love this magnificent range is to put a knapsack on your back and hike deep into it. I am proud to have been one of the founders of this Section and to have served as its first chairman. Now I take this occasion to give my best wishes to our new chairman, Bud Bingham, and to our other 1957 officers: John Robinson (Vice-Chairman), Barbara Lilley (Secretary), and Pat Heininger (Treasurer). Chuck Miller heads our Mountaineering Committee and (Cont. on p. 2)

IMPORTANT!!!

Our Angeles Chapter is sponsoring a travelogue by Charles Eggert at Thorne Hall of Occidental College on March 7. Look for the full page ad in the new schedule. The SPS has been asked to get behind the ticket sales of this event. 960 seats must be sold! Let's get behind this event. It can well be a feather in the cap of our section. Mail your checks to Bud Bingham, 1337 Maple St., Pasadena 8. Tickets will be returned by mail. 

SUMMER SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

Any section member planning to schedule a summer trip for the SPS please attend the section meeting at club headquarters on Feb. 27th at 7:30 p.m., or contact Roger Gaffke, the schedule chairman, before that time. Suggestions on types of trips you would like to see scheduled will also be appreciated.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
Bud Bingham

The new year is upon us; New officers and committees with the help of the members will plan another interesting year. All members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings, to express their ideas on the future activities of the section. Our monthly meetings will comprise of the section business, excellent color slides will be shown by a designated member and a short snack at the Biltmore will top the evening. Enjoy a combination business meeting and an informal social get together with your hiking friends. Meetings are held at Club Headquarters on the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Future scheduled S.P.S. trips will be planned so that the more strenuous will alternate with easier hikes. Watch the schedule; The trips will be planned at a frequency of about one every other weekend throughout the summer. Knapsackers who do not wish to climb the peaks are encouraged to come and join the gang.

(Cont. on p. 2)
THE DEAN (Continued)
Roger Gaefcke takes over the Schedule Committee. Now we are getting out a newsletter to keep all of you Sierra Peakers appraised of developments concerning the Section and its members. If any of you have news items (from weekend trips to engagements and weddings) please send them to the managing editor.

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CHAIRMAN (Continued)

anyway.

Before leaving for a SPS scheduled trip it is always wise to contact the leaders. Weather and more recent exploratory trips to peaks may alter original plans.

Later in the year, probably in October, there will be an Annual Banquet. This will take place just before the new nominees for office are put on the section bulletin.

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OUR SPRING SCHEDULE

The following trips are scheduled for this Spring by the SPS. Let’s try for large turnouts.

Mar. 23-24: Siretta Pk.
Apr. 20-21: Domeland
May 4-5: Gancha Pk.
May 18-19: Boundary and Montgomery Pks.

Consult the schedule for details.

Frank Sanborn will be the leader of a series of non-scheduled exploratory hikes into the So. Sierra this Spring. Those interested contact Frank.

PINOS & SAWMILL

by Roger Gaefcke

On Sunday, Feb. 17th, a snowshoe hike is scheduled in the Santa Barbaras. This somewhat logically brings up the question: snowshoes, where can I rent them and how much? The answer is Hume Sporting Goods, Burbank, Thornwall 8-4454, $2.50 per day, and Tex’s Sporting Goods, Santa Monica, Exbrook 4-2723, sale price. Both places will charge only one day’s rent if they are picked up Sat. afternoon and returned Monday morning.

The purpose of this trip is to get the unfortunate non-skiing Sierra Peakers into the snow, get them used to that cold white stuff, and if the experience is agreeable, to plan more adventuresome snowshoe treks in future winter months.

The stroll to Pinos is easy. Between Pinos and Sawmill, however, is a steep saddle that could be dangerous if the snow were hard packed. If so Sawmill will be ignored. The writer lost a very dear friend a few weeks ago thru such an accident.

If there is so much snow we can’t get near Pinos we’ll try Frazier Mountain instead.

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SUMMER BUS TRIPS

The possibility of bus trips to & from schedule hikes this summer has been raised. Specifically Mt. Lyle over the Labor Day weekend to avoid a long and tiring drive. The schedule chairman would like hearing your comments on this.
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The periodical you are now reading is the culmination of an idea that originated along with the section a year and a half ago. Then it was felt that a newspaper would be an asset to us, but not until our section was large enough to really benefit from it. When our membership passed the half hundred mark a short while ago, we began the transformation of a theoretical idea into physical reality. The result is this.

The Sierra Echo has a two-fold purpose: (1) to keep the members informed of section activities, plans, and personalities, and (2) to better acquaint Sierra Peakers with our wonderful Sierra Nevada.

Editing a newspaper for the first time has been quite a challenge and will remain so in the future. We've got a long way to go to bring the paper up to standards truly representative of our section. Therefore, your comments and suggestions are not only appreciated, they are emphatically requested. This is your paper, so let's hear what you want in it. — J.W.R.

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MT. RAINER PLANNED

Several Sierra Peakers are planning a 2 week climbing trip to the Northwest next August. Included are climbs of Shasta, Hood, & Rainer. If interested contact John Robinson.

SUNDAY ON A SAWTOOTH
by John Robinson

Deciding to brave a threatening storm, Graham Stephenson and I left L.A. Saturday afternoon Feb. 2nd for the Southern Sierra. We had decided to investigate two peaks of unknown quantity but impressive in name, Chimney (8001') and Sawtooth (7770').

Still worried about the weather we camped by the car late Saturday night just over the Sierra Crest on the 9 mile Canyon Road. A colder night has never been experienced by yours truly.

Sunday morning dawned clear and sunny much to our relief.

Finding Chimney next to us, we decided to ascend it first, expecting an interesting climb. What a blow! But for a few rocks on top it would hardly qualify as a 100 Peak. We were up and down in two hours of "boardwalk" strolling.

Sawtooth from Chimney looked interesting and impressive. So we drove two miles down road and started out footing for it. 3½ hours later we pulled our last leg over the final boulder onto the summit. This ascent had ups, downs, arounds, and even unders. It was really a worthwhile climb, but none for the Chi-chunk-o (Eskimo for Greenhorn) to attempt.

Our return trip was short-cutted down a snow filled canyon and up again. With ice cushioning my feet from my somewhat leaky boots I had visions of amputations. A half hour in the car with my toes wrapped around a warm heater dispelled my hallucinations.

As usual, dinner at Lancaster's Desert Inn was delicious.

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RECENT TRIPS of interest

Don Clark, Graham Stephenson, & Vern Jones ascended Pachico del Diablo (10,136') in lower California from the east during Christmas Vacation.

Don Clark ascended Mt. Le Conte (13,960') Dec. 23rd; and Bud Bingham, Rich Gnagy, & John Robinson climbed Mt. Tom (13,652') Dec. 30th to take advantage of a tardy Sierra winter.

Frank Sanborn led four other trudgers (Bob Sheffer, Roger Gaefcke, Graham Stephenson, & John Robinson) up the Tehachapi's Double Mtn.(7988') amidst a howling blizzard Jan. 20.

Three they-shall-remain-anonymous Sierra Peakers might have climbed Grapevine Peak near Death Valley Jan. 12th. Visibility was so poor they don't know whether they made it or not.

Four SFPSers joined an army of 70 Desert Peakers infiltrating the Sheep Holes Jan. 27th. A crowded time was enjoyed by all.
The Owens Peak Area offers the best climbing in the Southern Sierra.

Winter and Spring months are usually spent away from the Sierra because of snow conditions. This may hold true with most of the Range of Light, but there is one area where it does not. The Owens Peak vicinity offers good climbing almost all the year around.

Owens Peak itself is a steep sloped mountain that clearly dominates a large area. It can be climbed easily from Indian Wells Canyon and is slightly more difficult from Grapevine Canyon. The East and North faces offer real challenges to the rock climber. The summit view is outstanding.

Sawtooth Peak to the north is a 7770' hump that will give any hiker a real workout. The shortest route, from the 9 Mile Canyon Road, has more ups and downs than many a High Sierra Peak. For those gluttons for self-punishment try Sawtooth from Sand Canyon.

Lamont Peak is the highest of several towers on a ridge and offers a nice scramble from Spanish Needle Canyon.

Morris Peak, south of Owens, is not as high as its neighbors but still offers a steep ascent from Indian Wells Canyon with a real problem finding the right summit.

The Sawtooth Ridge, just north of Owens, is not officially named, but its numerous towers and needles reminds one of a junior Palisade Crest.

All of these peaks are well worthy of Winter and Spring trips. Why not try one of them this season?

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The SPS Emblem

Our badge, pictured on the first page of this paper, was designed by Bud Bingham. It is manufactured by the So. Calif. Trophy Co. and is attainable by climbing any 10 of the following 12 emblem peaks: Olancha, Whitney, Kawaiah, Breuer, Williamson, Sill, Godward, Darwin, Abbott, Ritter, Lyle, and Matterhorn.

Last summer six hardy Sierra Peakers struggled up and down 10 peaks to attain there emblem. Next summer several more plan to earn theirs.

Why don't you plan to join our outings and work toward yours?

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Sierra Echo: The official quarterly newspaper of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club.

Editor-in-Chief: Bud Bingham
Managing Editor: John Robinson
Columnist: Frank Sanborn

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