CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
by Bud Bingham

On our regular Mar. 27th business meeting, a discussion was held in reference to the Section by-laws. The topic concerned the time of our annual meeting & the method of electing officers seemed justified.

Last year the outcome of the elections was not known early enough to meet the printers deadline for the L.A. Chapter Schedule. Also, nominees who ran for one of the five offices in section management & were not voted in did not have a chance to run for one of the other offices.

Lee Owings made a motion that a committee be formed to present a proposed amendment to the membership at the next meeting.

On April 1st the management committee held a special meeting & the amendment was discussed. The conclusion is as follows: Our annual meeting will be held in Oct instead of Jan, to coincide with the L.A. Chapter Schedule. All nominations (Cont. page 2)

SUEDE TOUR ANNOUNCED
by Roger Gaeckle

The Sierra was hit hard and often last summer. Now that the tigers have their emblems there is a larger percentage of easy hikes planned. It is hoped there will be fewer comments of the "Sierra Peaks? I've had enough of that bunch" variety.

For those who did not attend the section schedule meeting here is a compendium of the trips planned. They're classified according to difficulty for the benefit of the tyro.

June 6-9: Mt. Langley moderate knapsack.
June 22-23: Vanderer & Florence, no knapsack camp by cars.
July 4-7: Goddard, a rugged four day knapsack, but it's an emblem peak.
July 20-21: Bishop Creek, easy 6 mi. knapsack.
Aug. 3-4: Agassiz, easy 4 mi. knapsack.
Aug. 17-18: Dana & Connex, no knapsack.
Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Lyle, an emblem peak, difficult, 3 days.

MAY 29TH MEETING IMPORTANT

The next business meeting will be an important one in that the new proposed change in the section's constitution will be discussed and voted upon.

The details of the proposed change are outlined in the chairman's column and it is urged that all members read it carefully and attend the May 29th meeting to voice their opinions.

ANOTHER QUALIFYING PEAK ADDED TO A GROWING LIST

Siaretta Peak (9956) is the newest addition to the SPS qualifying list. It was railroaded thru in a "special meeting" of the mountaineering committee atop the pk. March 24th.

- Sept. 28-29: Junction a death march.

It is emphasized that one should contact the leader before starting on a trip to learn of any changes due to capriciousness of the weather or other factors.
SIRETTA PEAK (March 22-23) Leader: Graham Stephenson; Asst. Ed.: Pat Heixner

On Sat. at 7:30 a.m. 27 people started the steep 3 mile almost-straight-up-in-the-air-at-times climb to the top of Salmon Falls. We lost one weary hiker there—or rather—one weary hiker decided not to go any further (don't want to give the wrong impression).

The others struggled—I mean continued—on along the north side of Salmon Creek for 5 miles to camp at Horse Meadow. The route was pleasantly filled with willows, brush, little falls—in the stream that is—and tall pines and the smell of the thick slippery needles on the ground was wonderful. Oh yes—the route was also filled with one tick which was destroyed by a stomach-extractomy by two drs. present. Just ask the patient to show you his cigarette scar! After campfire that night a loud scream voiced the opinion of the asst. leader when she found the dead dried out coyote tucked next to her sleeping bag.

On Sunday only 21 people made the four mile climb to the top of Siretta Peak. A good portion of the climb was made on snow. The day was crisp and clear and the view from the top can be classified as one of the best in the

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Managing Editor: John Robinson
Art Editor: Bud Bingham
Columnists: Pat Heixner, Frank Senborn

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (Cont)

1. The ballot & the membership can vote for a total of five people. The five members receiving the most votes will form a committee to decide among themselves the office each will hold.

This issue will be voted on at the May business meeting & then submitted to the S.C. Executive Committee for approval.

* * * *

Southern Sierra. Snow laden peaks from Olanqha and Whitney to Balch Park and the Mineral King area could be seen. The leader, asst. leader and Ice Owings who were the last down had great fun glissading—the wet seats were worth it?

On the return trip we mixed a new spur-of-the-moment drink christened "Brand-Ade"; The result was delicious! We slid off the Salmon Falls precipice in a cloud of dust & reached the cars by 5 P.M.

We all agreed it was a worthwhile trip.

—by Pat Heixner
LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW
by Barbara Lilley

Although the winter snows in the Sierra have somewhat curtailed the activities of the Sierra Peaks Section, several new members have joined during 1957 making a total of 62 members as of April 1.

In addition, one member, Henry Manold, attained his emblem by climbing Mt. Sill over New Year's weekend and thus became the first person in 1957 to climb his 10th emblem peak. There are now eight emblem members in addition to Manold; they are Oliver Kehrlein* (San Francisco), John Robinson, Don Clarke, Bob Sheller, Pat Neixer, Bob Bingham, and Barbara Lilley.

New members that have joined in 1957 are Vern Jones, Los Angeles; Dick O'Shaughnessy, Jackson, Calif.; Dan Popper, Pacific Palisades; Clyde Smith, Whittier; Jim Swinehart, Covina; and Niles and Louise Werner of Alhambra. We wish to extend a welcome to these new members and hope they will join us on our many scheduled trips during the coming months.

*   *   *   *
**RECENT TRIPS** of interest

Bud Bingham & Graham Stephenson reached the 13,000 ft. level on University Blk. April 6 only to be snow-blasted into a hasty retreat short of the summit. University climbs seem dogged with bad luck. Bad weather stopped the same party near the same level last October.

Mt. Lamont (7468 ft.), lowest of SPS qualifying pts., was climbed by Bud Bingham, Chuck Miller, Tom Ross, Bob Sheller, & John Robinson on April 7th. The climb was quite "hundred peakish" and not recommended for a scheduled trip.

Tom Ross celebrated an off-season Chinese New Years on Owens Peak Mar. 31st. Throughout the climb he entertained Bob Tepel and John Robinson with a varied assortment of fireworks, a sacrificial bonfire, & hilarious jokes.

On March 30th George Clinch, RCS, and Bill Sanders, SPS, climbed the north buttress of Hopah Peak. The ascent involved 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing. There were no previous recorded ascents by this route in the register.

* * * * *

N. of the summit, easy thereafter. Only small experienced groups should try to climb the peak due to falling rocks.

**MT. ABBOT (13,715')** by Bud Bingham

Mt. Abbot, standing majestically alongside Bear Creek Spire, Dade, Gabb, and Mills in the beautiful Rock Creek Area, is the most technical of SPS emblem peaks. It is the only one that involves continuous class 3 climbing, also the only one that can be done comfortably in a day.

The trip begins at roads end at Mesquito Flats (10,100') and progresses up a good trail to a point just beyond Long Lake.

The topographical map only suggests *routes to the S-E buttress & by no means shows the real complication to gain the summit. The climb is 2nd class to 12,000', thereafter no less than third. To gain the summit will depend upon the climber's ability in route finding & he must be able to stand exposure.*

At 12,400', leave the glacier to gain the rock just N. of a spur on the S-E buttress. Any attempt to climb S. of the spur will result in steep smooth slab rock with few hand holds (hairey). Usually steep chutes & small ledges are followed. Ducks are not necessary.
SCOUTING THE EXTREME SOUTH OF THE SIERRA
by Frank Sanborn

(Editor's note: Frank Sanborn has been leading a series of exploratory trips into the seldom visited extreme southern Sierra south of Walker Pass. This is a report on three such trips.)

Most of us think of the Sierra as encompassing those great peaks that stretch from the Whitney group to Yosemite. We of the Sierra Peaks Section have identified our qualifying peaks as extending from Walker Pass and Lower Kern to the Feather River area. Actually the entire Sierra Nevada Range reaches from Tehachapi Pass to Lassen National Park, a vast region indeed.

On Sunday, Feb.10, Chuck Miller, Bob Sheller and I hiked up the two southernmost peaks of the Range of Light, Bear Mountain, whose 6,898ft bulk dominates the southernmost tip of the San Joaquin Valley, was an easy hike up a dirt forest road from 4000 ft. Bear Valley, southwest of Tehachapi. This peak is the northernmost of the100 peaks but is recognized by the Geological Survey and Corps of Engineers as the extreme southern tip of the Sierra. Bear Mountain's broad, forested summit was jolted up 6 ft. in the big Bakersfield earthquake of 1952.

Later that same day, Chuck, Bob, and I drove up scenic Jawbone Canyon. The caretaker of the huge Hansen Ranch led us through a series of locked gates to the upper end of the canyon. From there we followed the narrow canyon on a cattle trail, through digger pine, pinyon, juniper & oak scrub. The countryside was very muddy, with quite a bit of wet snow above 5000 ft. It was getting dark by the time we reached the 6708 ft. summit of Cache Peak, southernmost of the east side of the Sierra. We followed a fire road for 10 miles back to the car, having hiked about 23 miles that day. Dark clouds and a cold dry wind threatened us, but no storm developed.

On Sunday, March 10th, Bob Sheller, and I drove up the Breckenridge Road hard on the heels of a heavy storm. Bob's car got stuck on a muddy curve and it took us over an hour to free it. As we drove to about the 6000' level, where too much snow forbade driving further. We then hiked on up the road through the dense pines and firs of Sequoia Nat. Forest, covered with fresh snow. After hiking 7½ miles through a winter wonderland, we reached the 7544 ft. summit of Breckenridge Mtn., finding there a tall Forest Service lookout tower and the transmitting towers of Bakersfield's TV station. 5000 ft. below lay Lake Isabella, while the snow-covered giants to the north (Whitney Peaks, etc.) rose above the clouds.

We don't recommend that any of the above peaks be made qualifying for the Sierra Pks. Section. Bear Mountain and Cache Peak are both on private ranch land and have roads to or near their summits. Breckenridge Mtn. has not only a road to the top, but has the TV and fire towers.

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M.T. PIÑOS (8831'), Feb. 17. Leader: R. Gaefcke

The first SES trip of 1957 was scheduled as a snowshoe hike. However, unpredictable California weather conditions made the use of snowshoes rather awkward. Practically no snow was present.

Linus snowshoes, leader Gaefcke led 12 Sierra Peakers & misc. clubbers on a very pleasant hike to the crown of the Santa Barbaras, Mt. Piños and its sister pk., Sawnmill. One brief snow flurry on Piños was all the threatening clouds could produce.
POEM OF THE SPS
by Pat Heimner, SPS Poet Laureate

We're the Sierra Peakers Section
We hike from dawn to dark
We scale the highest mountains
But never leave a mark
Of blood upon the rockslopes
Or ropes all soaked with gore
Just aching, blistered tooties
And muscles that are sore.

We start out on an easy hike
And plan to stop by noon
But before the day is ended
We're hiking by the moon
We no sooner crawl into our sacks
And barely close our eyes
When we waken to those ugly words
"Come on it's time to rise."

As you trudge upon the rockslopes
There's comfort in the thought
Of a nice and tender, juicy steak
And air mattress that you've brought
Until you look into your pack
For a sight to kill your soul
You find you've left your steak home
And the mattress has a hole.

When coming down from a mountaintop
We love to find a way
To make our life more easy
And beat the light of day
A long snowfield to glissade down
Or scree slope nice and steep
But usually when we get down
There's some wet or bruised up seat.

In the evening 'round the fire
With our booze cups raised on high
The noise of talk and laughter
Drifts upward to the sky
Brought on by tales of mountain feats
Good songs or high class jokes
But sometimes it's just cursing cries
As we try to dodge the smoke.

At times we're never satisfied
With the weather of the day
With burning skins and dried-up throats
We wish for skies of grey
But just let the weather bring such things
As freezing rain or snow
And then we think with longing
Of a sun that hotly glows.

SKETCHES OF TRIPS TO COME

OLANCHA Pk. (12,135'): May 4-5.
Ldr.: John Robinson

Olancha Pk. is a technically easy climb of 9 1/4 miles from the car. The only difficulty that should be encountered is the high altitude effect on people not in shape. It is being scheduled early this season so some snow should be expected. Participants should be prepared for a cold night since knapsack camp is close to 10,000'. Lug soles should be brought for the class 2 summit climb and traction in the snow.

BOUNDARY (13,145') AND HONTCOMERY (13,465') Pks.: May 18-19.
Leader: Don Clarke

These 2 desert peaks offer the most Sierra-like climbing of any on the DPS list. Lots of snow should be expected. The climb is mainly class 2; some class 3 should be encountered on the knife ridge between the 2 pks. The descent should offer some fine glissading. An ice-axe & lug soles or crampons are required equipment.

UNIVERSITY Pk. (13,588'): May 25-26. Ldr.: Bud Bingham

This is a class 3 climb with some exposure & lots of snow & ice. Lug soles, crampons & ice axe are essential. This is not for the inexperienced climber & looks to be the hairiest SPS trip scheduled this year.

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But in spite of all the hardships
We're as happy as can be
For we love our snow capped mountains
Where we can be so free
Among the pines & flowered fields
By lake or rushing stream
Yes, love of life & love of beauty
Is the SPS'er's theme.