CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
by Bud Bingham

It seems a few Sierra Clubbers are wondering how the Sierra Echo is being handled. Actually the paper has cost very little money, thanks to the enthusiastic and generous members. The team who turn out the paper really enjoy doing it. About 90 copies were posted or handed out on the last issue.

John Robinson, who conceived the idea for a section news bulletin, does the columnning, operates the ditto machine, and collects the news items. Pat Heizner handles the addressing and posting. Barbara Lilley mails copies to new members. The membership stuff the envelopes at the business meetings.

Any member of the S.P.S. can write for the Sierra Echo. Their ideas are welcome.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE ADOPTED

Our next slate of officers will be voted upon in October this year in time for the Spring L.A. Chapter Schedule. Instead of voting for each office, the S.P.S. membership will elect 5 people to an executive committee. This committee will then decide itself what office each will hold.

These 2 changes were adopted by a majority vote at the May 22nd meeting.

FALL SCHEDULE
by Roger Gaefcke

The main point of business at the next SPS meeting (June 26) will be the Fall schedule. Fall isn't the best season for hiking in the Sierra. Hikes near the southern end of the range and one day trips (snowshoe?) however, will be in order. Those who wish to have certain hikes scheduled should show up at this meeting.

MORE NEW MEMBERS
by Barbara Lilley

Between April 1 and June 1, seven new members have joined the ranks of the Sierra Peaks Section. Those completing the required number of peaks with the successful ascent of Olancha Peak were Victor Metcalfe of Covina and Ralph, Kenneth and Philip Herten of Pacoima. University Peak completed the requirements of Peter Hunt of Pasadena and Alan K Smith of Pomona. The seventh new member is Richard Sheffield of San Diego. This brings the total membership of the SPS up to 69, as of June 1, 1957.

There are no new emblem members to report as yet; although two emblem peaks, Mt. Goddard and Mt. Lyell, are scheduled this coming summer.
UNIVERSITY PEAK (13,588'): May 25-26, 1957
Idr: Bud Bingham; Asst: Rich Grady
by Pat Meixner

On Saturday morning about 22 people started the pleasant 4 mile climb from Union Valley to Slim Lake. 8 others who climbed Independence Pk, just south of the valley joined us later. The snow level was down to 9,000 ft. and Slim Lake was completely frozen over. The early arrivals in camp found nice dry rock ledges to sleep on; the others camped on snow. The day was perfect -- blue skies crossed by an occasional cloud, warm sun and hardly a breath of wind. Beautiful snow fields rose to meet the rugged ridges of University Peak.

In the afternoon a group of eager beavers decided to do some practice snow climbing. Soft snow provided good step kicking conditions. We climbed till we reached the top of a ridge which gave us a view of the routes to the summit of University Pk. To the north and south the snow laden peaks shone in white splendor. Beautiful puffy clouds touched the horizon. It was then that Vergil Lewis, Alan Smith, Bob Weekly and I decided to go on to the top that same day. The climbing was wonderful. We had gone quite a way when Vergil got sick. We were sorry to see him turn back. The rest of us went on. The snow along the ridge to the summit was soft and the exposure was hairy! And the 150 ft. from the top with only a 30 ft. gain in elevation we were stopped for lack of a rope. With no handholds on the smooth rock to our left & soft snow on steeply sloping rock to our right it was too dangerous to go on. If you slipped there would be no chance for an ice axe arrest. So we retreated—but we would be back. We arrived at camp at dusk. Glissading was soft, wet and no fun at all.

On Sunday, 24 people made the climb of University Pk. Of the group from the Saturday attempt only Alan Smith went up again. Vergil Lewis still didn't feel well, Bob Weekly had a case of snow blindness and I had a blistered face. The people found the climb easy, for (Cont. next page)
we had kicked steps almost to the summit the day before. The weather again was perfect. Rock climbers Harvey Hickman Bill Sanders and Don Clarke supervised the use of ropes and pitons at the point where we had turned back on Saturday. Everyone reached the summit. Although Al Smith suffered no ill effects on Saturday, he found the climb on Sunday costly when his camera tumbled into obscurity. Glissading on the way down improved as the descending climbers used the same slide @ routes. All were in camp by early afternoon.

After lunch, the group began to lunch out to the cars on soft snow, occasionally sinking in up to the hips.

Everyone agreed it was a very successful trip. With the climbing of University Peak, we acquired 5 new members in the Sierra Peaks Section. Welcome to Peter Hunt, Alan Smith, Ralph Hertson and his two sons, Kenneth and Philip.

* * * *

WOW! WAS IT COLD!

Over May 5-6, Don Clarke successfully completed a trip into the Cleaver, point 13,006', and Tunnabora Pk. Camp was made at 12,500' in a cirque just NE of Carillon Pk. The night was extremely cold. The next day was mild, however, and the peaks were ascended under clear skies.

BOUNDARY & MONTGOMERY Pks. (May 18-19)
by John Robinson

For the second weekend in a row, bad weather disrupted a climbing week end.

Threatening clouds Sat greeted the prospective climbers as we drove over Westgard Pass & into our Trail Canyon camp. A muddy stretch of dirt road about 4 miles below our campsite kept us busy dislodging stuck cars for several hours. When we finally plowed through by mid afternoon a light rain commenced & lasted until dusk. We found ourselves "relaxing" in our cars for several hours unable to make camp. The sky began to clear by sunset, and we retired early, planning to arise early to climb our pk's.

Next thing I remember was awaken ing just after midnight with 5" of snow on the ground and piling up rapidly. Hurried consultations resulted in the decision to clear out fast before we were snow ed in. We broke camp in record time as we piled everything in our cars and hurriedly drove out before 1 a.m.

The party split up, most climbers calling it a weekend and going home. Don Clarke, our leader, led his carload up Owens Pk. far to the south while two carloads climbed Wonoga Pk. (10,387'), a not-too-prominent point jutting out from the main Sierra Crest south of Mt. Langley.

For one of the climbers, this was his fourth attempt on B & M frustrated by bad weather.

OLANCHA Pks. (12,135')
May 4-5, 1957
by John Robinson

Clear, warm weather was enjoyed by 61 people during an early season ascent of Olancha on May 4th & 5th. 53 of the climbers made up the main party that ascended the hot 5 mile trail to Olancha Pass Sat morning. A cool stream near the pass was the site of our lunch break before proceeding 4½ miles to our scenic camp site. Looking north, a vast panorama of snowy peaks unfolded before our eyes.

As we settled down for the night we received distressing news. 7 well-conditioned climbers had decided to do the peak in one day, and as they wearily passed our camp en route down, they spoke of deep soft snowfields that made the ascent an exhausting and tedious operation. We decided our best chance was to start early in the morning, while the snow was still hard crusted.

Sunday morning we arose at 5 & were en route by 6. The hard snow made for easy climbing. 42 of us reached the summit after 1¼ hours' work. The view was superb in all directions as the peak clearly dominates the southern Sierra. Counting 42 in the main party, 7 one-dayers Sat., a total of 50 out of 61 made the summit. This was the best crowd yet on an SPS scheduled trip.
Mt. Langley (14,042'): June 8-9

Ildr: Vern Jones; Ass't: Bud Bingham
by John Robinson

Mt. Langley, southernmost 14000er in the Sierra, was the goal of 33 Sierra Peakers & guests who started out, heavy packs & all, from a dirt road near the western edge of Owens Valley. Their route was via the old, abandoned Army Pass trail up Diaz Creek.

The first excitement was encountered early in the trip however, as several rattlers made themselves obvious to the party while crossing the valley floor. One was stoned to death and promptly cached by Tom Ross, who recovered his prize on the way down.

Backpacking 6100' on the first day to our timberline camp made the trip a real conditioner. Only 3 turned back, however, thanks to the patience & excellent leadership of Vern Jones ably assisted by Bud Bingham.

Starting out at 6 a.m. Sunday, 26 of the party successfully made the 2500' summit assault in 2 to 3 hours. A weak weather front was crossing the Sierra, resulting in cool, cloudy weather on the peak — brrrr! Several interesting glissades were enjoyed by most, endured by some, on the descent to camp.

As we backpacked down & out, the storm began to close in & some rain grazed us as we reached the valley floor. Tom found his rattlesnake and we drove out with it attached to the rear bumper. A service station attendant was so startled upon seeing it he forgot to replace the gas cap.

The trip was a real success and enjoyed by all, thanks to excellent leadership.

* * * * * * * * * * *

RECENT OUTLAW TRIPS OF INTEREST

Several Sierra Peakers have been busy learning Rock Climbing this spring. Bud Bingham went the Fingertip Traverse (5.7) & Bill Sanders & John Robinson the White Maiden (5.1) at Tahquitz Apr 12th. On May 13th Bud returned to do the Maiden & Pat Heimer did the Troph (5.0). Pat passed the RCS safety test there. These Sierra Peakers & others have been in evidence at RCS practice sessions at Stony Point, Pacifica, Tahquitz Canyon, & Joshua Tree this spring also.

White Mtn. (14,242') was climbed during a 15 hour death march by Chuck Miller, Bill Sanders, Roger Gaefcke, Peg Barry, & John Robinson on June 1st. Snow blocked travel by car beyond 11,000' & melting, extremely wet & soft snow made the 20 mile round trudge a slow & tiring operation. The exhausted party stumbled back to their car at midnight.

San Joaquin Pk. (11600') above June Lake, was snow climbed on May 12th by Bill Sanders, John Robinson, Peg Barry, Roger Gaefcke, and Bob Tepel after bad weather chased them from Glass Mtn. Beautiful views of Ritter & Banner amid swirling clouds were witnessed at the summit.

On Sat., May 11th Graham Stephen son & Bud Bingham took a chance on the weather to climb Independence Pk. Both climbers reached the summit via steep snow covered chutes & interesting ridges by noon. The mountains were very unfriendly, it snowed continuously and visibility was poor.

The same 2 climbers drove past Tonapah, Nevada the next day hoping to avoid the storm. Mt. Jefferson was the objective and it was descended in poor weather from the south in a 9 hour round trip. Visibility was so poor it was a wonder the summit was found at all.

Another score was settled with El Picacho del Diablo in Lower California over a 3 day weekend Apr 13th-15th. 3 climbers with packs trod on both the north & south summits. Vern Jones & his faithful truck made the trip possible. The route chosen was Providencia Canyon & return via Canyon Diablo.

Joanne Jones made the trip possible by shuttling the truck to the Canyon Diablo mouth the third day. The other climbers besides Vern were Barbara Lilley & Bud Bingham. The three days, it was felt, were too short to make the climb enjoyable. 4 or 5 days are recommended. This was Vern's third trip into the area within a year. He still wants to go again.
THE UNKNOWN SIERRA
An account of the scheduled Domeland
Trip led by Chuck Miller Apr. 20 & 21.
by Chuck Miller

One of the least known parts of the
Sierra, one part where real exploring
can be done among virtually unknown
rock formations, was the objective of
a Sierra Peaks trip on April 20 & 21.
The mystery is that this interesting
area has remained isolated & unknown
for so long. The only difficulty in
reaching the area is the South Fork
of the Kern River and that probably is a
problem only in the spring months. The
trip attended by 26 persons hardly
touched the edge of Domeland, the "Un-
known Sierra". Many more domes were
inviting our ascent than the one, "Easter Dome", that we climbed on Es-
ter morning. One interesting canyon
was visited on the way to the dome at
that morning, and the maps show that
there are many even more spectacular
domes in other parts of the Domeland
area.

In spite of the river being high in
the spring, that is probably the best
time to go into Domeland. The summer
is undoubtedly too hot and the fall
too dry. The winter months may not be
too bad although the weather can be
somewhat of a problem then. In order
to be able to cover a greater portion
of the area in a given time, it ap-
pears that a campsite in the middle of
the plateau that is surrounded by
domes would be desirable if water is
available in a canyon that appears to
drain the area. From there the domes
to the west that protrude above heav-
ily forested slopes leading to Siere-
tta Pk, can be reached as well as
those to the south. Some and other
unknown areas await our exploration of
the "Unknown Sierra".

* * * * * * *

Special note: Members of the St. El-
ias Expedition this summer, which in-
cludes several Sierra Peakers, are
looking for a used ice axe. Please
contact George Wallerstein if you
have such. Call SY 3-5361; If not home
leave a message.

SOUTHERN SIERRA WILDERNESS AREA
by Chuck Miller

One of the purposes of the Sierra
Peaks Section is to promote the pres-
servation of the Sierra wilderness
areas by protecting what is present-
ly designated a wilderness and by
recording such status for areas
not formally so designated. Although
there is a large portion of the
Sierra that is in national parks or
wilderness areas, one large area
that is not is all of the range of
of Sequoia Nat. Park. Attempts are
being made, many successful, to pen-
etrate this area with logging oper-
ations and roads. Much of the area
is used for cattle grazing which
although is not as destructive of
the wilderness character as other
uses, is not in keeping with true
wilderness standards.

Agitation has been started to pre-
serve the portions of this southern
Sierra that are worthy of wilderness
status and that can be reasonably so
designated. The SPS has made some
exploratory trips into the southern
Sierra to help determine what areas
should be included. Chuck Miller
has been asked by the Angeles Chap-
ter Conservation Committee to pre-
sent a program of slides with poss-
ible recommendations for specific
wilderness boundaries at Green's on
July 19th. He has asked that anyone
having slides taken in the part of
the Sierra south of Sequoia please
bring them to our section meeting
June 26th for showing and discussion.
From this a formulation of a propo-
sed recommendation will be made for
presentation to the Conservation &
Committee in July and to the meeting
at Greens. If anyone whose has such
slides that he would be willing to
loan and cannot make it to the June
meeting, either send your slides to
the meeting with someone else or mail
them to Chuck at 4713 Snowden Ave.,
Lakewood, Calif. All slides will be
returned following the July meeting
at Greens.
Mt. Williamson is the SES' "emblem" emblem peak. Its northern profile is on our badge. The mountain itself is a massive bulk that juts out from the Sierra Crest a few miles north of Whitney. Its 14,384′ altitude is 2d only to Whitney in the Sierra Nevada, and it ranks 6th in the U.S.

Anyway you look at it, Williamson is a major problem. Unless you are in top condition, three days should be taken to climb the peak. George Creek, southeast of the peak, is the only class 2 route and this is not exactly reasonable. The canyon is very wild and beautiful. Creek crossings and brush add to the difficulty. In recent years enough people have been in and out of the canyon to partly wear in a trail of sorts. The lower V-shaped canyon offers a brushy problem with some scrambling. Above 9500′, where there is evidence of glaciation, hiking is much easier.

At timberline the eastern ridge of Williamson must be gained. This calls for at least 2000′ of steep broken rock scrambling. The ridge is followed west as far as possible. Then hike north to find easier slopes to gain the main summit mass.

Mt. Williamson is one of the best areas in the Sierra to see mountain sheep. Don’t leave it up to luck to see the sheep; Make it a point to look for them. Being quiet will help too.

Water is available at frequent intervals in George Creek, but above timberline snow is the only source. Take a canteen for the summit assault.

There are routes up Williamson from all sides, but all other than George Creek involve several thousand feet of class 3 or more.
**THE MINERAL KING AREA**

by Frank Sanborn

Mineral King is a rustic, tiny community of several summer cottages, a public campground, a store, a ranger station, & 2 pack stations. It is located in a beautiful Swiss-like valley on the west side of the Sierra Nevada. The town lies at the foot of the 12,000' peaks of the Great Western Divide, at an elevation of 7831'. To reach it one must drive a narrow tortuous mountain road that follows the East Fork of the Kaweah River for 25 miles from the point where it leaves State Highway 198 about 3½ miles east of Three Rivers. The valley of Mineral King is a National Game Refuge, surrounded on all but the southeast side by Sequoia National Park. The valley is a wonderful area of dense forest, open sun-lit grassy slopes, crashing waterfalls, high cold lakes, granite cliffs, and towering snow-clad peaks. It swarms with large herds of deer almost tame; for three generations no hunters' shots have sounded here.

Mineral King is at the foot of quite a number of SPS qualifying peaks, among these are Vandeer (11,918'), Florence (12,405'), Sawtooth (12,340'), Needham (12,470'), Eisen (12,200'), & Lippincott (12,267'). Trails radiate into the High Sierra back country in all directions. One goes southeast, past Franklyn Lake, over Franklyn Pass and down Rattlesnake Creek to the Kern River. A second goes south, over Farewell Gap and down the Little Kern Valley to the region of Angora (10,237') & Coyote (10,919') Pks.

(Continued next page)
A third trail goes southwest over Ansel Gap, past Ansel Lake and down Horse Cr. to the Homers Nose region. A fourth one goes east, up over 12000’ Sawtooth Pass (You gain 5000’ in 5 miles!) and down past deep blue Columbine Lake into Lost Canyon. This route, with a turn off through the Big & Little Five Lakes to the High Sierra Trail was the one used by the large Sierra Club group which climbed Mt. Kaweah (13,316’) over Labor Day weekend in 1953. This was the only scheduled trip ever to reach Mt. Kaweah one of the hardest-to-get of the S.P.S. emblem peaks. A fifth major trail goes north over 9600’ Timber Gap and down to Cliff Creek. A sixth trail goes west to the Mosquito Lakes and the giant red woods of the Atwell-Hockett country.

Mineral King is worth a weekend, one week, two week, or even a month trip. It is a transplanted bit of Switzerland set amidst the Sierra wilderness. It is only 232 miles from the L.A. civic center, a 7 hour drive. Anyone from family station wagon campers to the most rugged hikers and alpinists can enjoy this choice bit of God’s magnificent hill country.

* * * * * TELESPE PEAK THE HARD WAY by Dr. Andrew Smatko

On Sat. April 20th, Bill Erwin, Doug Ingle, & myself bedded down at Scotty’s Well, below sea level, in Death Valley. This was at 12:30 a.m. We arose at 2:50 and started hiking at 3:10 a.m. towards our vertically distant objective, Telescope Pk. Peggy Sullivan slept on, later to drive the car to Mahogany Flats and from there take the trail & meet us on top. The wind was blowing strongly and the sky was overcast. We stopped at Hanapah Springs for breakfast – our first rest. There we were informed that there was considerable snow on the mountain & that it had snowed again during the night. The peak was constantly in clouds & the snow level was down to about 7500’. We ascended the ridge just north of the springs & continued on up to where the ridge met the trail from Mahogany Flats. For about 2000’ below this junction we were climbing over snow covered rocks & dirt. We rested 3 times for about 5 minutes on the way up to the trail. The weather was closing in & a light snow was falling. On the way up to the top it began to snow more & the wind was blowing with gale force. We passed 6 foot snow drifts. We reached the summit at 1:40 p.m. & stayed 10 minutes – just long enough to really get cold. Then as quickly as possible over slippery footing we descended towards Mahogany Flats. It was snowing so hard now we could hardly keep our eyes open. We met a party of 4 hikers who had just turned back because of wind & snow. Snow fell all the way to Mahogany Flats & down well below the 5000’ level in Wildrose Canyon. Peggy had hiked almost to the ridge we came up & had turned back because of the weather. She was mightly glad to see us 3 snow-caked forms loom through the mist at 4:20 p.m. at Mahogany Flats. Peculiar thing was that we were not tired – just plenty cold. For refreshment Peg had ice-cold lemonade. After this trip we felt pretty well conditioned for the Sierra.

* * * * * THE SIERRA ECHO Official periodical of the Sierra Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter Sierra Club.

Editor-in-Chief: Bud Bingham
Managing Editor: John Robinson
Art Editor: Bud Bingham
Columnists:
Frank Sanborn
Pat Heixner
Chuck Miller
Barbara Lilley
Andy Smatko

THE END