Election Results:

CHUCK MILLER LEADS SPS IN '58

Following are the SPS Officers, 58 edition:

   Chairman: Chuck Miller
   Vice-Chair: Bill Sanders
   Secretary: Charlotte Parsons
   Treasurer: Barbara Lilley
   Altera. Off.: John Robinson

These 5, along with Bud Bingham who declined, topped the voting that saw all 12 candidates get a substantial number of votes. Write-in votes were also cast for Frank Sanborn and Andy Smatrix.

Chuck, our new chairman, is a charter member of the SPS and has been active in the section since its founding in 1955. He has taken the lead in one of the SPS' prime efforts, the exploration for conservation purposes of the Southern Sierra.

Chuck was born in Crookston, Minn. in 1921, and has lived in Long Beach most of his life. He graduated from Cal Tech with a BS in Mech. Engineering, and now works for Southern Pacific Pipelines.

Vice Chairman Bill Sanders hails from Alameda, Calif., was born in '52. He holds an MS in Business Administration from Cal, and presently works as a Sales Order & Distribution Clerk at Goodyear.

Appreciation is in order to Bud Bingham for his fine job as 1957 chairman. He certainly went overboard in devoting lots of time and effort for the section.

Questionnaire Results:

HUMPHREYS & NORTH PAL APPROVED FOR EMBLEM STATUS; STILL RETAINED; CLASS THREE LANDSLIDE!

Mt. Humphreys (13,986') & North Palisade (14,242') need only the formality of recognition by the mt. committee to assume their place on the list of SPS Emblem Peaks. The membership saw to this by approving the addition of both peaks by substantial majorities. Humphreys by a landslide, 48 to 17, while North Pal won a closer contest, 38 to 27. The proposal to eliminate Mt Sill went down to a crushing defeat 53 to 12, substantiating reports of its great popularity. This leads to the precedent breaking situation of 2 emblem peaks being immediately adjacent (Sill & No. Pal). There are now 14 emblem peaks, with 10 still required to attain the badge.

70.2% of the electorate "turned out at the polls" so to speak, as 66 out of 94 questionnaires were returned. This surpasses the national election average of approx. 63% by 7 percentage points.

The issue of whether the SPS should schedule 3rd Class trips was settled with the biggest majority of all, 61 to 5 in favor. However, almost every pro vote was qualified to the effect that safety should be strongly stressed, and higher than class 3 should be left to the RCS.
Questionnaire Results (Continued)

SIERRA PEAKERS CALL FOR A GREAT VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

The following is a general breakdown of suggestions offered by Sierra Peakers in the questionnaire. The totals for each type of activity should be regarded as approximate because in many cases answers were qualified or general and editorial interpretation was involved.

I. Types of climbs desired
   A. Easy beginners-class 1..........................15
   B. Moderate class 1 & 2............................22
   C. Strenuous class 1 & 2 (Death March)...........3
   D. Class 3.............................................8
   E. Class 4.............................................1

II. Types of trips desired
   A. Peak climbing
      1. Knapsacks........................................34
      2. Car Camps.........................................5
      3. One day...........................................1
      4. Bus................................................1
   B. Non-peak climbing
      1. Hiking.............................................6
      2. Fishing...........................................1
      3. Instructional....................................4

III. Other types of activities
   A. More slide parties................................3
   B. More social affairs................................1

IV. Miscellaneous suggestions
   A. More emblem peaks scheduled........................9
   B. More off-season trips..............................3
   C. Summer trips every weekend........................2
   D. Trips closer to L.A................................1

V. Everything same as this year........................10

Editorial note: The totals in most cases should not be considered final endorsements or rejections of various types of activities. Many of the suggested activities with small totals are new to the SPS and simply were not considered by the majority - for instance bus trips & instructional trips. These might become very popular if scheduled.

Editorial comment: It's obvious that the favorite type of trip for the large majority of Sierra Peakers is a weekend knapsack with a class 1 or 2 peak as an objective. An overwhelming majority favored this in their questionnaire comments. This type of trip has been and probably will continue to be the backbone of SPS activities. However, increasing numbers of Sierra Peakers see a branching out in both directions from this basic type of trip as desirable. Easy beginners trips were mentioned secondmost, followed by trips at the other end of the scale involving class 5 and bordering on the technical. It seems apparent that many feel the SPS should cover the wide range of activities between the campers on one hand and the rock climbers on the other.

Interest in one day and bus trips seemed to lag. Evidently SPScers feel that the Sierra is too far to drive for just a single day activity, and bus trips haven't been tried yet. If the one scheduled next May is successful interest in this may skyrocket.

(Continued next page)
Dick Mosely: I think a short article about eating places along the highways to and from the mountains would be of general interest in the Echo. Personal comments and evaluations from recent trips should be interesting, with a short list of recommended restaurants, cafes, etc. and their locations with a current, fairly complete list printed at least once a year.

Jerry Keating: I think the SPS should set up safety tests for mountaineering techniques, including work in ice and snow. There should be trips devoted to instructing climbers in these fundamentals. I am sure this instruction should be offered by the SPS since it is not included in the rock climbers' program.

Bill Thomas: A lot of problems involving whether 3rd class should be a part of SPS activities or not could be solved if the SPS would give an organized course in mountaineering which would include more than the teaching of rock climbing only. Such a course has been given for many years by the Seattle Mountaineers. Last year the RCS in San Diego gave a very similar course which included about 8 2-hour lectures (once a week) plus field trips and a final exam. We had about 40 people finish the course including not only Sierra Club members but explorer scouts and their leaders. We felt that the course was quite successful and we are planning to repeat it this winter. The topics covered included the following: equipment, mt. travel, rock climbing, Alpine camping & cooking, winter travel and snow climbing, climbing miseries, first aid, weather, rescue, and map reading. This year we are also including desert travel and survival, and geology. Field trips were held at Mission Gorge and Stonewall for rock climbing and at Baldy for snow climbing. A winter ascent of San Gorgonio for experience was also held. Our motives were to train people for minimum 4th class rock and train them to handle themselves competently (with good equipment) in any Alpine terrain, and to emphasize safety.

I have long felt that the Sierra Club in general was too lax in training their climbers—the RCS safety test, for instance, is fine if rock climbing is the only thing which a person pursues, but is a miserable prerequisite for general mountaineering. Perhaps there has been a need only for rock climbing training, but our climbers are now traveling further afield—to bigger ranges—and should have a broader outlook.

I think the SPS can do the club in general as well as itself a great service by initiating a climbing course which stresses technical competence in all aspects of mountaineering and also emphasizes safety. The course should be directed toward the beginner. The beginner is the first to become disheartened by snow, 3rd class rock, and bad weather. If he can be taught to deal with these things, and others, before he has to deal with them unexpectedly on a scheduled climb, his enjoyment of the years of climbing ahead of him will be increased. Also he will not be as great a burden on the leaders of the trip.

Giving such a course is a bit of a chore. Here in San Diego we had to draw on the resources of nearly every member of our RCS since we are such a small group. L.A. climbers are more fortunate in having more talent to draw from.

My impressions of SPS activities—at least what I read between the lines in the Echo—is that the emphasis is on peak-bagging (how many peaks can be climbed in one weekend)—rather than on general competence in the hills. This, of course, is fostered by the Emblem system (and anyone who has their emblem has good reason to be proud of it), but the
attitude can lead to a competitive spirit between individual climbers, rather than competition with the mountains themselves and with the climber himself (to paraphrase Mallory). Competition between climbers is definitely not a part of the mountain tradition; rather climbing is a shared experience which is enriched by the companionship and good humor of one's fellow climbers. Also, competition can lead to a downgrading of safety.

If I can be of any help in amplifying the above comments or in settling up an L.A. course let me know. I've probably stepped on a few toes or stirred up a storm -- but so be it!

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER by Bud Bingham

It seems as if your chairman is indebted to the officers and committees of the SPS for their generosity and help in promoting our activities for the past year. Section membership has expanded greatly and weekend activities have been received with much enthusiasm.

Congratulations to our new chairman Chuck Miller and his officers. They will find a wonderful group of people to work with and receive as much pleasure as I did. Best wishes for the holiday season and good hiking for the coming year.

EDITOR'S COMMENT by John Robinson

As the first year of the Echo draws to a close I'd like to thank the membership for the cooperation I've received in gathering material for the paper. Without your generous contributions the Echo would have never gotten off the ground.

17 HOLD SPS EMBLEM by John Robinson

2 more names must be added to the list of 15 emblem holders in the last issue.

Rich Gnagy earned his badge last summer. The Echo apologizes for the omission of his name in the October issue.

Bob Bear back into his. Having climbed Mt. Humphreys several years ago he was "voted in" with the addition of this peak to the emblem list.

SPRING SCHEDULE by Roger Gaefke

It's time again for a sneak preview of the next schedule. This will cover the period from February thru May.

Feb. 8-9: Owens & Sawtooth Pks., no backpacking

Don Clarke and John Robinson

Mar. 14: SPS Night at Green's, Chuck Miller

Apr. 5-6: The Needles, easy backpack, Bud Bingham

Apr. 19-20: Domeland, easy knapsack, Chuck Miller

May 3: San Joaquin Pk., long snow trek, in conjunction with DPS trip to Glass Mtn. May 4, Bill Sanders

May 17-18: Independence & Kearsarge Pks., no backpacking, snow climbs with some class 3, John Robinson

May 24-25: Cartago Pk., rugged, Frank Sanborn

May 30-Jun. 1: Half Dome & Clouds Rest, bus trip, Tom Amneus

The new schedule for all sections is now posted at club headquarters. Skiing members will be happy to see that SPS and Ski Mountaineers' trips fall on alternate weekends. We don't schedule so neatly with the rock climbers however. (Continued)
Spring Schedule (Continued):

A Greyhound is being chartered for the last item on the schedule. $10.50 sent to Walt Heninger will reserve a seat on the bus. It's important that the bus be paid for as soon as possible, so if you wish to wallow in luxurious comfort this trip, get that check to Walt immediately.

The Ferrari Testa Rosa sports car sells for $12,000.

SPS BANQUET FEATURES NEW OFFICERS, ST. ELIAS TRIP

Rainy weather Wednesday evening, Dec. 4th, failed to keep 46 Sierra Peakers and guests from attending the 1st Annual SPS Banquet at the Smokehouse Restaurant in Burbank.

Other than the delicious prime rib dinners, the main features of the evening included the introduction and short speeches by the new officers, and beautiful color slides of the 1957 St. Elias Expedition narrated by George Wallerstein.

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SPS SCHEDULED TRIPS

CHURCH DOME & BARTOLAS COUNTRY, Oct. 5-6 by Chuck Miller

A "large" group of four (John Robinson, Peter Hunt, Tom Amneus, and Chuck Miller) left Pay Ranch destined for Taylor Meadow 15 miles away according to the Forest Service sign. It turned out to be nearer 10 miles including a short off trail detour near True Meadow that gave us an overall view of the Church Dome area. After establishing camp just below Taylor Meadow we went on that afternoon to Church Dome to explore and conquer the heights (we thought). The dome consists of a number of domes and spires and the three highest proved to be beyond our preparations for 3rd class climbing. The high point is at least class 5 and probably class 6. We made the tops of all we could by 3rd class, which were several. We got on top of the church roof but couldn't make the steeple.

Sunday we attacked another set of higher domes to the west. These we were more successful with, reaching several summits including the two highest. This group we named Taylor Dome.

Our return trip to the cars took us through some beautiful heavily forested plateau land south of Taylor Meadow and through the Bartolas Country. A larger group of 6 (2 latecomers joined us in camp Saturday night) returned to the cars after a total of 36 miles in two days.

CRAG PEAK (9555'), Oct. 26-27 by Bud Bingham

Plans for a very strenuous weekend were diverted into a rather pleasant and easy knapsack trip to the base of Crag Peak north of Kennedy Meadows in the southern Sierra. Unfortunately, club members will not contact the leaders for last minute details on scheduled trips and consequently were not briefed on an easy fall trip into a beautiful timbered area. The ascent of Crag Peak was made over easy terrain, and the final summit pitch was on easy 3rd class rock.

Saturday afternoon was spent loafing near camp or practicing a little rock climbing. Barbara Lilley went completely ape and made a first ascent on a very tall pine tree. Peter Hunt, most admirably supplied with prefabricated snowballs, was about to lambaste his opponent with a heavy salvo when the idea backfired. His opponent charged unarmed and put no less than one snowball down Peter's neck.
SUMMIT LAKE, Nov 2-3 by Frank Sanborn

On Saturday, Nov. 2d, thirty hikers gathered at Shake Public Camp, near Balch Park, in Sequoia National Forest, to participate in the Sierra Peaks Section hike to Summit Lake. The gloom was thick among the giant Sequoia trees and some sleet was falling as Frank Sanborn led the group up the trail at 8 a.m. Chuck Miller, the assistant leader, stayed with a rear guard of eight fellows who climbed Mt. Moses. The Marten and the Austin families were with us, with their mountain-wise children. Dennis Austin, age 7, carried his own full-size knapsack. Most of the group had covered the seven miles to camp and were eating lunch around a roaring fire at Summit Lake by 2 p.m. It was bitterly cold there at 9600 ft. when a sudden blizzard struck, accompanied by thunder and lightning.

It was obvious that we had to get out at once before the trail was too deeply buried by heavily falling snow. Therefore, after hurriedly repacking, Frank led the group back out to the cars. The trail was very difficult to follow and darkness didn’t help any, but we all reached our cars by 8 p.m.

Bud Bingham and Graham Stephenson got out first, using chains, and notified the Sheriff’s Office in Porterville that most of us were stuck. The Austin children were taken out to the ranger station at Springville. The rest of us who had chains attached them and tried to get out, but three cars skidded into a ditch, forcing their ten occupants to sleep in them Saturday night. Sunday morning three deputy sheriffs arrived in a four-wheel drive vehicle and towed the stranded cars out of two feet of snow. The sheriff’s men then proceeded to Shake Camp and helped the remaining cars which were stuck because of dead batteries, lack of chains or deep snow.

No one was hurt in this incident, for which we are all thankful. We did come perilously close to being snowed in the back country, however, which highlights the fact that hiking into the Sierra in November is rather risky. It is my opinion that in the future, no knapsack trips should be scheduled into the Sierra later than October, regardless of favorable weather forecasts. We were all lucky this time.

MUTH PK., Nov. 16-17: Cancelled due to snow conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS TRIPS OF INTEREST

MT. IRVINE (13,790'), Oct. 12-13 by George Wallerstein

On Oct. 12 Carl Iddings and George Wallerstein packed up to the Meyesan Lakes on the South Fork of Lone Pine Creek. The following morning they climbed Mt. Irvine amid snowshowers and slowing snow and fog. The traverse to Mallory looked too cold and windy so they returned rather quickly to Whitney Portal.

MONUMENT PK., Nov. 23 by Barbara Lilley

Leaving L.A. Friday night Bud Bingham, Bill Sanders, Jim Sutherland, and Barbara Lilley drove over to Monument Peak, near Vidal Junction, and made the ascent on Saturday. The climb consisted of 4 pitches of medium class 5 climbing on very rotten and unstable rock on which one had to search hard to find good piton cracks. As most of the climbing was on a diagonal, the danger of falling rocks hitting climbers below was minimized, although plenty of rocks came down. Charlotte Parsons assisted from the base of the climb by relaying signals and taking "hero pictures". Rappelling just at sunset, the climbers were unable to pull down the rope from the first rappel, but Bill was able to climb up the rope using prussik slings and free it. Although the rope from the second and last rappel
was successfully retrieved, the darkness and the terrain prevented the five from reaching the car that night. They bivouacked (with plenty of firewood fortunately) Saturday night and returned to the car Sunday morn.

**ANTSELL ROCK (7600'), Nov. 23** by John Robinson

Antsell Rock in the San Jacintos, one of the toughest 100 peaks, was ascended Nov. 23d by Peter Hunt and John Robinson. The climb involved plenty of bushwack, treadmill, and 3rd class rock. The route was via the south ridge from Pine Springs Ranch.

**THANKSGIVING IN NEVADA, Nov. 28-Dec. 1** by George Wallerstein

Over Thanksgiving Fred Jenson, Jac Lasner, Barbara Lilley, Allen Sandage, Ken Wilson, and George Wallerstein drove to Ely, Nevada with the intention of climbing Wheeler Peak. Encountering roads blocked by snow and new construction they were unable to get close to the peak. They finally settled on an attempt on Mt. Washington (11,700') via Lincoln Canyon. Mt. Washington was attempted on Friday but bogged down in deep snow one hour from the top at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday night was spent driving via the flesh pots of Ely and Tonopah to Silver Peak, Nevada, from which a good dirt road took them to Argetite. On Sunday they climbed Piper Peak (9500') for the first ascent by a mountaineering group. A previous ascent was by the USGS in 1950, and the first ascent probably by a cow.

**PICACHOS, BIG AND LITTLE, Nov. 28-Dec. 1** by Bill Sanders

Jon Shinno, Peter Hunt, Andy Smatko, and I enjoyed an ideal trip to Picacho del Diablo (10,136') in Lower California. The weather was good, there was no difficulty in route finding thanks to Peter, and the car didn't even get stuck in the sand. Our route was up Canyon del Diablo. The waterfall, which is usually the greatest obstacle on this route, was no problem at all. Sand had filled the pool at the base of the fall to such an extent that we walked across without getting our feet wet. Canyon del Diablo is quite a long approach route to the peak but has water its entire length and is most interesting and spectacular.

The route up the peak was intricate, involving several canyon crossings and 3rd class climbing. The south summit was ascended first, followed by the north. The route between the two involved going around three pinnacles, some exposure.

Big Picacho was done in three days, so Sunday we ascended Little Picacho (1947'), a wind eroded volcanic plug near the Colorado River. We walked around the south side of the peak and followed a trail up a gully on the west. A shoulder stand, rappel and prussik were techniques necessary to reach the summit and return. The technical pitches are only three and each is very short. This can be described as a "Fun" climb.

**DOMELAND, Dec. 1** by Charlotte Parsons

A trip into Domeland, in the southern Sierra, was made on Dec. 1st by Bud Ringham, John Robinson, Chuck Miller, Roger Gaefke, Mary Ann Eide, and Charlotte Parsons. The major problem of the day proved to be the crossing of the Kern River, which was accomplished via a partially ice-covered beaver dam. Rockhouse Peak (9367') was ascended and named after lunch. This was a good "fun climb" with some easy class 3 scrambling near the summit.

Ed. note: Rockhouse Peak was the fourth summit in Domeland unofficially named by the SPS. Other names suggested for prominent peaks in the area are Taylor Dome, Pinnacle Peak, and the Saddlehorn. Plans are being made to make these names official through applying to the USGS.
WINNEDEGUH (PAIUTE MONUMENT) (8354'), Dec. 7 by John Robinson

Winnedumah, an 80 ft. granite pinnacle in the Inyos east of Independence, was ascended by Bill Sanders, Bud Bingham, Barbara Lilley, Peter Hunt, and John Robinson Dec. 7th. Bill led this class 5.3 friction climb using 2 pitons with a lower belay by Bud. A rappel was the method of descent, making use of a permanent expansion bolt on the summit.

SOUTH SPANISH NEEDLE (7705'), Dec. 8 by John Robinson

This prominent summit north of Owens Peak in the Southern Sierra is a real workout. From Grapevine Canyon it was an 8½ hour (round trip) bushwack, treadmill, and rock scramble with a demoralizing false summit for Barbara Lilley, Bill Sanders, Peter Hunt, Bud Bingham, and John Robinson. The north needle, which was not ascended due to lack of time, is higher and looks more difficult. These peaks are not officially named. Being adjacent to Spanish Needle Creek, we adopted that name for them.

MISCELLANEOUS ASSORTED DESERT PEAKING by John Robinson

There were 10 Sierra Peakers in attendance on the Desert Peakers' bus trip to Avawatz and Funeral Peaks Nov. 2-3. Both peaks were ascended on cold, cloudy days. Rain storms routed the campers Sat. night, but refuge for some was found in the Greyhound Baggage compartment. These bus trips are so popular and successful that the SPS in getting into the act also. Next May's trip to Yosemite will be our first.

The Three Hunts, Bob Boyd and I spent the three day Veterans' weekend (Nov. 9-11) gallivanting over quite an area. Glass Mtn. (11,127') was snow climbed in beautiful clear weather Saturday. Mt. Jefferson (11,800') in Nevada north of Tonopah was scouted Sunday but not climbed due to (1) a flat tire, (2) deep snow on the peak, and (3) threatening weather. We drove south and on Monday ascended Pyramid Peak (6725') near Death Valley in sunshine. Well over 1200 miles driving was involved on this triple trip.

Pleasant Mtn. (9690'), Cerro Gordo (9184'), and three other unnamed summits at the southern end of the Inyos were easily ascended from a high mining road by Bud Bingham, Chuck Miller, Roger Gaeckle, Charlotte Parsons, Mary Ann Eide, and John Robinson on Nov. 30th. Pleasant is obviously the easiest of all the DPS qualifying peaks.

A long up-and-down ridge traverse was necessary to get Whipple Mtn. (4110') near Parker Dam Dec. 14th. Bud Bingham, Barbara Lilley, Charlotte Parsons, and John Robinson definitely agreed it was not a so called "fun climb". This trip was meant to be a warm up (or burn out) for the DPS; Mopah trip the next day, but rain washed that one out.

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