Greetings from your new chairman. I am looking forward with considerable eagerness to the coming year with the SPS and I hope you all have as much fun as I am expecting to have. Already I have been very much gratified to see the enthusiasm and cooperation shown by the members in setting up of committees and in outlining our program for the year. We have many important questions to set and projects to complete, but with the interest shown and the apparent desire on everyone's part to help, we are bound to be successful.

One of the more important projects to the continued success of the section is the establishment of our safety standards. It is imperative that we continue our safety record but this cannot happen without planning for safety. This is particularly true for the more difficult climbs we will be scheduling, but it is also true for all of our trips. The Angeles Chapter Executive Committee expressed an interest in this to the extent of asking me to attend their February meeting to explain to them our thoughts along this line. To get the best set of safety standards, we must get ideas from all possible sources, so let Bill Sanders hear your ideas on this subject.

Many other projects are before us about which I could write on and on. I will spare you that, however, by saying merely "Here is to a year of fun and climbing adventure."

With the welcoming of Walter Collins, Doug Ingle, Peggy Sullivan, and Al Finney to our section, our total membership has reached 100.

In addition, three more climbers have earned their emblems, joining the total number of badge holders to 20, almost one fifth of our membership.

Carl Kaller and Walter Collins have the necessary 10 peaks upon joining the section, and the addition of both Pat and Humphreys to the emblem pep list made Ben Fink eligible.

The following members were appointed as committee heads during an executive meeting at Chuck Miller's home December 30th:

- Mountaineering: Ron Kingham
- Safety: Bill Sanders
- Schedule: Nick Grady
- Publications: John Robinson
- New Members: Tom Amoruso

The Safety Committee is a new one with a big job to do yet it up on the safety program with definite qualifications for both leaders and participants. This committee, under the able leadership of VP Bill Sanders and assisted by Vern Jones and Pat Bear, is presently engaged in research toward this end.

In the past the SPS has suffered from lack of representation at Green Friday night and at new members parties. Tom Amoruso has agreed to be responsible for this long neglected but most important facet.
Yosemite Bus Trip

by Tom Ammeus

Walt Heninger reports that all 41 reservations are now taken for the Greyhound Bus Trip to Yosemite and that additional checks are coming in. If anyone is planning to make the 3-day Memorial Day Trip to Half Dome and Clouds Rest (or just to visit Yosemite) be sure to get your check for $10.50 in now so that you will have a seat if a second bus is chartered. See the schedule for details.

NEW 3.1 AREA by Parbaro Willey

SPS skiers will be interested to know that a new ski area is being proposed in the Onion Valley area, west of Independence. This area was recently visited by several Sierra Club members who toured up the valley where the chair lift would be. This valley is not the one leading to Kearsarge Pass, but is located in the area between (3 miles south of) University Peak and Independence Peak. On the scheduled climb of Independence once peak a good view of this area can be obtained. It seems to offer continuous downhill running for 3000', and is 30 miles closer than Mammoth. The new road to Onion Valley is scheduled to be finished by 1959-60.

SUMMER SCHEDULE PLANS

The Summer SPS Schedule of activities must be worked out by early March. If you cannot attend the February meeting & would be willing to lead a trip this summer please notify Rich Snagy, schedule Chairman, now. If you don't wish to lead but have ideas about trips you'd like to see scheduled, notify same.
As you know the SPS has set up a Safety Committee this year. It is intended to function only during 1958.

The responsibilities of the committee include setting up safety standards in three areas: (1) SPS trips in general; (2) 3rd and 4th class trips; and (3) trips on ice and snow. Members of the committee are Bob Bear, Vern Jones, George Wallerstein, and myself.

The most controversial area the committee has to deal with is that of 3rd and 4th class trips. Some time ago the discussion was whether such trips should be scheduled at all. This lead to the questionnaire sent to all members last fall. The great majority of replies favored such trips with the reservation that safety precautions must be taken. Thus the Safety Committee was born. (Not the members, just the committee)

After much study, the Safety Committee has drawn up some proposals that will be presented to the membership at the Feb. 26 meeting. They are proposals only and cannot be expected to remain unchanged. Following are its major tenets: Responsibility is assigned to the trip leader, trip participants, the Schedule Committee, and the Mountaineering Committee. Provision is made for proposed trips to be finally submitted to the section chairman so that he may pass upon trips for which he is ultimately responsible.

Rather than include a copy of the outline here a few comments will be made with the idea that a more finalized form will be printed in the Echo at some future date.

It is believed at present that trip leaders ought to be chosen by the Mountaineering Committee in accordance with qualifications necessary for the type of trip scheduled. This method seems best adaptable to our needs and does not require removing the passing of the RSC Safety test.

It is proposed that as participants, however, should attend at least two RGC practice sessions prior to going on a 3rd or 4th class trip. This will give participants a chance to learn how to handle equipment and obtain at least a little knowledge of knots and of rock climbing techniques.

The Schedule Committee is expected to carry out the responsibilities of disseminating the necessary information and requirements for the trip. The Mountaineering Committee would make the decisions which require mountaineering knowledge. The final decision and responsibility would rest upon the section chairman.

The Management Committee does not intend to approach this kind of trip with a bias this year. It is expected that a few easy or low class trips will be available to see what the reaction will be. I feel that eventually some really spectacular and worthwhile 3rd & 4th class peaks can be lead by the SPS. Examples I have in mind are Bear Creek Spire, Abbot, Darwin, North Palisade, and Windell. These are only a few of the possibilities.

I also hope that with the taking of proper precautions a diversified schedule of trips can be presented by the SPS to increase our membership and to make it possible for more of us to travel together on the kind of outing we most enjoy."}

MAMBA FCAZ RIGHT AT GREESE

by Tom Amneus

55 cm colored slides are needed for our program next March 14th at Greese. Anyone having slides of our last year's trips which they are willing to lend please contact me: Tom Amneus, 2440 Yosemite Dr., L.A. 41. Phone oh 72477.
SQUEAK & SQUEAL SECTION

A page devoted to the depressurizing of overballasted peak baggers
(letting off steam in layman language)

"OUTLAW" STILLS MISLEADING  by Bill Sanders

I wish to protest the use of the word "outlaw" when referring to outings
and to suggest that the words "unscheduled" or "non-scheduled" be used in
its stead. The word "outlaw" immediately brings to mind an unsavory type
character connected with some sort of shady dealings. When "SPS outlaw
trip" is seen in a summit register by an outsider it would be only natural
for him to assume that this was a trip not sanctioned by the Sierra Club.
From Sierra Clubbers will get this impression. In a recent discussion a
member of the Sierra Club and of the SPS registered surprise that the
Sierra Club looked upon outlaw trips favorably.

The Sierra Club wants people to go on outings in our wilderness areas
on their own initiative as well as in organized groups. This is the way
to get people interested in conservation of wilderness areas.

The word "outlaw" works against the aims of the Sierra Club and it
works against our section. Outsiders will have little faith in the Sierra
Club and its sincerity in its announced purpose if a bunch of "outlaws"
are members. Our section will certainly not gain the prestige it deserves
in the club if we continue to identify ourselves as "outlaws".

Plans are afoot to schedule trips in the future to appeal to new mem-
bbers and hence to increase the size of the SPS. Let us support the section
and the Sierra Club by speaking and writing of "unscheduled" trips from
now on. Let us not be a bunch of uppity rebellious outlaws.

ELECTION PROCEDEURES PROPOSED  by Pat Gentry

I recently learned of certain facts regarding the election of officers
for the SPS and frankly, I object. According to our by-laws 5 people were
to be chosen for office from a list of nominees through voting by the
membership. Those 5 getting the highest number of votes were to meet and
decide among themselves who was to hold the various offices.

At the November meeting the ballots were counted with the results as
follows: Chuck Miller, Bud Bingham, Bill Sanders, Bobbie Lilley, and John
Robinson. All nominees were fully aware that one of them might have to
accept the office of Secretary. Yet none withdrew their names at the time
of nomination. However, when the 5 people elected met to choose the off-
cers, none seemed to want to hold the position of Secretary.

Instead of revoking the election, Bud Bingham decided that there
should be "New Blood" in the section so he withdrew his name. The 5 then
called the person who was #6 in the voting, Miles Brubacher. Not having
much of a choice, Miles did not accept #7 in the voting was Charlotte
Farces who was at the meeting intended for the 5 elected. She was put
into office as Secretary.

This procedure was entirely out of order. Our by-laws do not allow for
an election of officers like this! There wasn't even a quorum! I don't
think just a few people should decide who holds office. It is up to the
whole section! If they want a girl for secretary then the election should
have been held as last year (people nominated for a specific office) and
no amendments made! In fact I now think that the amendment was not a good
idea and that all elections in the future should be held as last year. I
would like to hear from the membership regarding this. PG

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Quote of the Month: "I climb a mountain not because it is there but be-
cause I am there." - Chuck Miller
SFS ELECTION PROCEDURES by Chuck Miller

When the SFS was formed the procedure for electing officers as stated in the by-

laws required that nominees be selected for each of five offices at the meeting prior to the distribution of ballots. Separate ballots were to be taken for each office and a majority of all votes cast on a given ballot were required for election.

Under this procedure the 1956 and 1957 officers were elected. No problems arose for 1956 because the charter officers of 1955 were all reelected for a full term.

However, when the 1957 officers were elected it was felt that there were well qualified potential officers among those defeated who would have been elected to another office had they not already been on a ballot.

Thus it was felt that the best qualified leadership was not always available for the section.

To overcome this situation an amendment to the By-laws was passed during 1957 that provided for the selection of at least 5 nominees for placement on a single ballot. The 5 receiving the highest number of votes with each member voting for 5 nominees were to form the Management Committee who in turn were to select the officers from among their number. This was the procedure followed in selecting the 1958 officers. However, one unforeseen difficulty arose, namely, among those who could serve as secretary none were willing to accept. To break the deadlock, one of the elected 5 resigned, creating a vacancy that according to section 7 of Article V of the By-

laws is to be filled by the remaining members of the management committee by electing a member of the section to fill it. The 4 remaining members of the manage-

ment committee felt they should elect the 6th person in the order of the voting by the membership if that person was willing. This person was contacted but declined to serve. Consequently the 7th person in order of the ballot was selected. Although this method of completing the management committee was not ideal it was felt to be in accordance with the By-laws and the best solution to the problem.

However, it was felt possible to resolve this difficulty in the present system that will undoubtedly have some faults suggested changes have been advanced. Some advocate going back to an original system, but rather than returning to a procedure already known to be unsatisfactory it would seem wiser to keep the good parts of what we have and attempt to improve the system by eliminating the shortcomings. A section advanced along this line is to have 2 ballots, one for the secretary alone and the other for the other 4 offices.

Thus the problem should be taken this spring so the problem can be fully investigated before we meet at our next SFS meeting.
SCHEDULED TRIPS

BOOHEE PK. (7875') CLOUDED OUT, OWENS PK. (3475') SUCCESSFUL: Feb. 8-9.
by John Robinson

Three climbers and friends now know what blindness is. Lost in a blizzard they played "ring around the mountain" with Sawtooth for most of the Thursday night. The clouds lifted in the afternoon. By then most of them had given up (after trudging in 2 ft. snow all morning) and they returned to camp. The determination of 7 stalwarts prevailed, however, and they made the elusive mountain and returned before dark. As the wind was blowing from the north, it would be better in the future to climb if there is less snow.

The only problem was road construction. The 17 husky climbers took themselves into a highly efficient road crew for this task and developed a load of dirt from where it was to where it should have been, to present the Kern County Road Dept. with a bill for our services.

There was itself, though anticlimactic, was ascended in snow and sun. In a mere 7½ hours, 12 made the summit to enjoy the magnificent views in all directions. The other 5 were victims of a de-moraleizing campaign. They turned back believing their climb in an hour away. You can imagine their chagrin later when they had a brush!

This high altitude affected ten climbers during the scheduled trip. Three climbers are climbing Owens the moral is "Keep going, you're higher than you think."

UNSCHEDULED TRIPS

SPRINGER PINNACLE (7875'), 5 Jan., 1958 by Carl Heller

During the week over South Spanish Needle (about 7800') described by Robinson (Vol. I, No. 6) a Shiha Lake group also climbed the North peak. There was a brief 4-5 climb from the saddle and on the East face. There was an earlier ascent and the suggested name was placed in a book.

The descent was made from the saddle into South Fork Sand Canyon. Here we met the low ridge to Grapevine Canyon. This circuit took 11½ hours. We climbed to Fred Lewis, Russ & Doug Huse, Dick Breitenstein, and the group was too weak to return successfully.

Also on the 5th, a group can be approached more directly from Sand Canyon.

KIDCEILI PEAK: 26-29 Dec., 1957 by John Robinson

During the Christmas holidays the 3 Hunting Bob Boyd, and the author went on a four-day desert peak in the Baker-to-Las Vegas area. Clark Mtn. is the only PEAK listed peak ascended. It was done in 2 hours via the MD112 route, with the cultural centers of Las Vegas were chain. The group attempted New York Mtn. (not the famous NY Butte) but the roads failed. Instead of an impressive looking butte, but easy from the SE side.

On Saturday the fivesome was joined by foursome (Chuck Miller, Don Davison, Charlotte Parsons) for the ascent of Kingston Peak. The 1-mile desert peak was a 4 hour haul over interesting terrain. The entire group felt it should be added to the DSS list.

O’ROWAN Mtn. (3214') south of Charleston in Nevada was Sunday's objective. This mountain is lined with vertical cliffs on the north which had to be traversed to reach the summit, and it is also should be a DSS peak.
DEATH VALLEY JUMBLE'S

The peaks at the northern end of Death Valley were targets for 6 Sierra Peakers on the weekend of Jan. 11th-12th. Peter Hunt drove Bob Boyd, Bill Sanders, Chuck Miller, Fred Jensen, and John Robinson up Grapevine and Wawawee Peaks Saturday and Tin Man Sunday. These peaks made pleasant and scenic climb this time of year. Spice was added to the return trip as dirt road "shortcuts" competed with the car's gas tank. The latter won out after some worrisome moments.

Two weeks later three of the group (P.J., B.B., & J.R.) returned to the area for Dry Min. & Ubehebe Pk. Dry is a long, dull, up-and-down haul while Ubehebe was a short but interesting climb.

Ben Clark completed the "ring" around Death Valley by ascending Grapevine Mesa Day.

THE ROSA MANSION (Jan. 25-26) by John Robinson

Rosan Min. in Arizona was the scene of a B.P. scheduled trip this weekend of Jan. 25-26. While most of the group followed leader Peter Hunt up the northeast side of the mountain, our foursome of Bill Sanders, Tony Smith, Fred Jensen, and the author decided to try the west face. We reached the cave shortly after dawn Sunday morning our group proceeded quickly up Palm Canyon to its head and then looked for the right pitch to ascend the west wall. After two failures (one developing into loose dirt and sand 5) Bill found the right one and scooted up the 120' of loose dirt in a few minutes. The rest of us took our time on this pitch as it contacted exposure with loose rock.

Above this pitch we found ourselves on an interesting sloping ledge about 25' wide that crosses the face diagonally upwards to the S. The cliff face above overhangs quite far, giving the appearance of being in a huge amphitheater. Following this ledge for some distance we crossed two narrow class 3 pitches. Beyond the last of these the ledge blends into the sandstone plateau.

We soon reached the peak (an hour after the main party). Above this summit we rattled for a bit. Hurrying down the other side we missed the right route and ended up just about traversing clear around the summit.

We reached the cars late in the afternoon after a long but most enjoyable day. Rosan Min., we felt, is one of the most interesting peaks on the 2nd list.