CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
by Chuck Miller

I would like to take this opportuni-
ty, my last to write a Chairmans Cor-
er for the Echo, to say how much I
have enjoyed my year as chairman of the
SPS. I have helped with the leadership
of other groups, but I have never seen
one whose members were more willing to
"pitch in" with enthusiasm than is the
case with the SPS. Bill Sanders as Vice
Chairman and Chairman of the Safety
Committee completed a big job very effec-
tively. John Robinson as Alternating
Officer and particularly as editor of
the Echo certainly deserves the thanks
of the entire section. Barbara Lilley
and Charlotte Parsons both did a fine
job in their assignments of Treasurer
and Secretary. Bud Bingham as Mounta-
eering Committee Chairman has not only
completed the traditional respon-
sibilities of that committee but has made a
good start on the new duties of assur-
ing compliance with the safety rules,
preparing mountaineering information,
and laying the groundwork for a possi-
ble mountaineering training program.
Tom Amneus with his committee mem-
bers has done a fine job of helping to pub-
licize the SPS and promote new mem-
bership. Mary Ann Eide is last but cer-
tainly not least among the committee
chairmen this year. A lot of work was
involved in arranging for our slide
shows after our meetings and particu-
larly for the annual meeting. I certain-
ly want to thank all these, and in addi-
tion I want to thank the entire mem-
ership for their interest in the sect-

This interest and enthusiasm by the
entire membership is to me the excit-
ing thing about the SPS and the thing
(Continued next page)
CHAIRMEN'S CORNER (Continued):

that will make the goals of the section a reality. I know this feeling will continue next year under the capable leadership of Bill Sanders.

* * *

AN EDITOR'S FAREWELL

jwr

As my term as editor of the Echo comes to a close I would like to briefly reflect on a few things that come to mind.

First, I want to thank the SPS members who have so generously supplied the Echo with news items. Our peak issue last August came to 14 pages, a fitting tribute to the cooperation of the membership. Bud Bingham deserves a special vote of thanks for the numerous cartoons and maps he has supplied the Echo in the past two years.

Next I would like to reflect on what I consider the Echo's function is or should be. To me the Echo is more than a mere news sheet; It is a web that keeps the SPS an integral and unified section. With our membership rapidly increasing both in gross numbers and in area of residence, this function becomes correspondingly more significant. Rather than becoming a loose meaningless confederation, through an efficient media of intercommunication we can continue to exhibit a singleness in spirit and purpose. Those not-so-active members, made aware of contemporary issues and activities, can feel a sense of belonging that otherwise would fade with a passage of time. The Echo can be to the SPS what the blood supply is to the body. (Continued next page)
Lastly, I would like to express my great satisfaction in welcoming Jerry Keating as the next editor. Jerry's journalistic talent and background should result in building the Echo into a really outstanding paper. We couldn't have picked a better editor.

ECHO BECOMES SELF SUPPORTING

By vote of the members at a recent SPS meeting it was decided to charge a nominal fee for a subscription to the Echo starting in 1959. The charge for the six issues to be published in 1959 is 50¢. Send money with the coupon below to the section treasurer, Charlotte Parsons, 2872 Belden Drive, Hollywood 28. The money will be used to meet mailing and other costs incurred in publishing the Echo. Any surplus will go into the section treasury.

GET INSIDE INFO ON SCHEDULED TRIPS!
KNOW WHAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE DOING!

BE INFORMED ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ECHO !!!

Tear off the coupon below:

Please send me the Echo in 1959. 50¢ is enclosed.
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________

NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

A brand new membership list has just been made. If you want a copy come to a forthcoming SPS meeting or write to the section secretary, Mary Ann Bide, 1412B W. Broadway, Whittier. Send no money; this is free.

SPS NIGHT AT GREENS

February 20, 1959 is SPS night at Greens. Slides of the Dade and Olancha trips will be shown. If you can contribute transparencies to this program contact Trudy Hunt, 19770 Lorencita Dr., Covina, ED 9-3144, or come to an intervening SPS meeting.

PERSONALS AND MISCELLANEOUS

TOM ROSS has moved to Onion Valley in the Sierra finally. He just couldn't stand the Glendale smog. His new address is Box 142, Independence, Calif.

BUD BINGHAM and BILL SANDERS both have new Ford station wagons.

FRED JENSEN has become the number one peak-bagger in the SPS.

TOM and TRUDIE HUNT serve generous dinners to stray climbers on Friday nights occasionally. Believe it or not, TOM is a good cook.

Those congregations around BURL PARKINSON's truck after hikes are not coincidental. BURL serves highly invigorating "refreshments".

JIM MCGOLDRICK is back in circulation after a year of climbing in Texas.
More Election Results:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STIFFEN SPS QUALIFICATIONS DEFEATED** by C. Parsons

The proposed amendment to require half of an applicant's six qualifying peaks to be climbed on scheduled trips went down to a narrow defeat when the ballots were counted at the November meeting. 38 "Yes" votes were balanced by 25 "No"s, less than the necessary 2/3 majority necessary to amend the By-laws.

**SPS ANNUAL BANQUET A DELICIOUS SUCCESS** by Mary Ann Eide

The second annual SPS Banquet on December 3rd brought together 42 Sierra Peakers and guests again at the Smokehouse Restaurant in Burbank. All enjoyed the setting, the delicious prime rib dinners, and garlic bread too!

A highlight of the program featuring the introduction of the 1959 officers was the presentation of appreciation plaques to outgoing chairman Chuck Miller, and previous chairmen Bud Bingham and Frank Sanborn. Master of Ceremonies Frank was a bit surprised at this part of the proceedings but adlibbed well.

With the help of special glasses and 3-D slides, Bill Dixon took the group on a fascinating mountain tour of the Andes, Canadian Rockies, and Wind River Range.

Mary Ann Eide wishes to express her appreciation to all members who helped in the banquet arrangements; It was certainly a success. Andy and Shirley Smatko even managed to attend.

**A BIG "THANK YOU"** by Charlotte Parsons

We owe a vote of thanks to Myles and Louise Werner, Mary Ann Eide, Bud Bingham, and Tom Ross, who have contributed beautiful photographs of SPS qualifying peaks or of scheduled trips. These add greatly to the interest of the section's scrapbook, which is displayed by the Publicity Chairman at Angeles Chapter parties and programs for newcomers.

**RIVERSIDE CHAPTER PLANS NUTRITION SURVEY** by Mary Ann Eide

Alice Krusper of the Riverside Chapter is co-chairman with her husband on a newly formed committee to compose a restaurant guide. I was asked for a copy of the "Nutrition Survey" for Highways 395 and 6 printed in the June Echo. Any SPS member who has additional or revised information on eating places along mountain routes in California can pass it on to me and I will mail it all together to her.

**LOST AND FOUND (not yet):** If anyone finds an ancient pair of woman's Bass boots with 3/4 worn Vibram soles, please notify or return to Mary Ann Eide. Size unknown, but they're larger than Charlotte's or Trudie's.

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All news articles for the next Echo should be sent to the 1959 Editor, Jerry Keating, at 6300 Helvin Ave., Reseda.
SPS SCHEDULED TRIPS

PINNACLE PK. (7652'), ROUGH HOUSE PK. (8367'), Nov. 1-2 by Jerry Keating

The second trip of the year into the Rockhouse Basin area became an "old timers" weekend as 25 SPSers and friends made camp at 5600 feet on the South Fork of the Kern River. Clear weather and a reasonable water-flow helped make the outing a complete success.

17 persons assembled Saturday morning at Pine Camp and began the slow drive over a rough and steep dirt road to Rockhouse Basin. 13 climbers waded the chilly Kern, and 11 completed the four-mile hike to Pinnacle Peak in just over three hours. The route took the group up a polished canyon dotted with bathtubs and small waterfalls. Some low 3rd class climbing was encountered near the main summit.

Bud Bingham and Jon Shinno found a 4th class route up the pinnacle itself, and six names started the register. This was most probably a first ascent. A 60 foot rappel was necessary to regain the saddle between the pinnacle and the main summit.

Meanwhile, 8 more persons had arrived at the Kern, and several started exploring the outcroppings below Rockhouse Peak.

Despite a cold night during which the temperature dipped below 20 degrees, everyone was ready for Rockhouse Peak Sunday morning. John Robinson led the group up a canyon spotted with yellowing oak trees and then across a ridge to the base of Rockhouse. The main group scrambled over talus on the west side of the peak before ascending via a 3rd class route to the summit. 3 others, including Barbara Lilley, located a route on the east side that required less scrambling. A pedometer showed the 3 3/4 hour climb covered 4 miles.

Florence Peak, Mt. Kaweah, and Mt. Whitney were among High Sierra landmarks picked out by the 24 climbers who signed in. Domeland attracted attention, and future backpacking possibilities were discussed. The descent was made via the east side.

The drive out took about an hour, but sizzling steaks awaited most of the group at homestead.

SPANISH NEEDLE PEAK (7879'), Nov. 16 by Bill Sanders

16 stalwarts jounced over the rutted Sand Canyon road and subjected themselves to the icy November blasts in an effort to gain the summit of this peak. The day was clear until we neared the summit ridge. All 16 reached the ridge but under a blanket of clouds with Burl's thermometer reading 17 degrees F. The chilly weather plus a 6 inch layer of snow on the rocks kept all but four from making the final pitch to the summit. This last pitch is high 3rd at best and turned out to be quite difficult under these conditions. Nevertheless the snow and the mostly clear weather put the camera fans to work and most of the group said they enjoyed the trip.

NON SCHEDULED TRIPS

WHEELER PK. (13,061'), MT. JEFFERSON (11,807'), Oct. 11-12-13 by Andy Smatko

On Saturday, Oct. 11, Barbara Lilley, Pete Hunt, Burl Parkinson and I drove to the campground near the end of the road in Lehman Cave National Monument. Sunday we climbed Wheeler Peak in 4 hours and descended in 1½. Martha Lake, contrary to what we'd heard, didn't look pretty. That same day we went on to Round Mountain.

Monday we drove up Jefferson Canyon to the old mine and from there proceeded up the road to Wildhorse Canyon, headed East along this canyon, (Continued next page)
gained the north-south ridge well south of the South Peak of Jefferson, and proceeded along the fence and thence the fairly good trail almost to the South Summit. We had been told that the North Summit was the highest and on looking nearly 3 miles to the north, we debated whether to go on or just climb the South peak. We went on and on and on, finally reaching the North Summit (11,807'). On the way back Barbara shamed us all into going over the middle summit and then we all climbed the south one. We could not determine whether the North or the South summit was the higher. The forest ranger at Tonopah wrote to me that the north peak is higher, and I am checking with the USGS on this. The round trip we estimated at 20 miles plus.

CORCORAN RIDGE, 18-19 Oct. by Carl Heller

The writer would like to state two opinions about this ridge which is called a mountain. First: The easiest route to whichever summit one wishes to attain is via Arc Pass and one of the Miter "Slats". Sam Gregory, Doug Huse and the writer, starting from Consultation Lake, had no trouble getting in, climbing two summits and reaching the Portals before dark.

The second opinion has already been partially stated when Corcoran was called a ridge rather than a mountain. From the Miter, Corcoran definitely looks like a ridge starting from a notch south of LeConte and extending toward the saddle north of Langly. Of the various pinnacles the highest is the one nearest LeConte - not the third from Langley as stated in the Climbers Guide.

Last July the writer climbed this ridge and came away somewhat confused by the multiple summits (Aug. Echo). This time we climbed the two highest summits and carefully sighted to determine the relative elevations. There is no doubt that the northern is higher.

Although it is felt that these opinions are worth recording, the writer doesn't think the matter worth much argument. A notebook was left on both summits and other SPSE members can decide for themselves.

TAHQUITZ ROCK, Oct. 25-26 by Charlotte Parsons

Despite rain the night before and continued threatening weather, several SPSE members attended this season's last RCS climb at Tahquitz on Oct. 25-26. Clouds and mist closed in as Bill Sanders, Peter Hunt and Charlotte Parsons were on the Trough and Pat and Arvel Gentry were doing the White Maiden. Other climbs included one of the decidedly interesting Lark variations by Bill, the Tree Climb (a class 4 ascent where one pitch involves climbing a tree and then stepping backward onto a ledge) done by Vergil and Charlotte and later (minus the tree) by George Clinch and Peter, and part of the long North Buttress, done by Vergil and Charlotte.

EVOLUTION IN OCTOBER, Oct. 25-31 by Tom Ross

Early Saturday morning, Oct. 25th, Francis Foley and Tom Ross set out for Lamarck Col amid snow flurries and fog. The fog was so heavy that we got off route and had to camp on a 12000' ridge NE of the col. Sunday morning it was 18 degrees at 6 am and there was an unusual fog in Owena Valley all day long. At Lamarck Col there was 6" powder snow over ice. We had snow flurries all afternoon as we descended into Evolution Basin.

Monday we climbed Mt. Huxley (13,177') by a class 2-3 chute with snow on every rock. We camped at Sapphire Lake and next morning started up Darwin. 9" of snow on the rocks forced us to give up at the Darwin-Mendel Arete and we returned to Sapphire Lake, picked up our packs, and reached the Muir Pass hut at 5:20 pm. We spent a comfortable night inside the hut.

On Wednesday we climbed Black Giant (13,330') and Peak 13,232 in good weather.

(Continued next page)
On Thursday we decided to change our plans and go out Bishop Pass instead of returning by Lamarck Col, so we left Muir Pass and went down into LeConte Canyon, through Big and Little Pete Meadows, and arrived at Duzy Basin at 4:30 pm. During the night low clouds came in from the SW and at 2:30 am we picked up our gear and started for Bishop Pass, arriving there at 5 am. On the north side of the pass we had 8" to 1' of new powder snow. We got to South Lake at 8:15 a.m. Friday morning, tired but happy.

**EL PICACHO DEL DIABLO (10,100'), Nov. 27–30 (DPS scheduled trip)**
**by Bill Sanders**

16 hikers started on this rugged 4 day trip on Thanksgiving Day. Two days later 14 reached the top of the labrynthine route and made both summits of the peak. The return was made in good time but minus one muffler and tailpipe.

This trip was rugged as advertised but those who turned out were equal to the task. It was a pleasure for all present to hike up the spectacular Canyon del Diablo and reach this inaccessible peak.

This group was the largest ever to reach the peak. The party included the youngest person ever to reach the summits. Those on the peak were Jim McGoldrick, Fred Jensen, Pete Hunt, John Robinson, Charlotte Parsons, Dean MacConnell, the 3 Hertens, Paul Hunter, Rich Gnagy, Maurice Lodwig, Burl Parkinson, and Bill Sanders.

**SAN GORGONIO CONDITIONER, Dec. 13,14**

Mt. San Gorgonio, mainly because of its local accessibility and 11,485' elevation, seems to be a favorite peak for altitude conditioning. Preparing for a trip to Mexico’s mighty 17 and 18 thousands over the Christmas holidays, Bill Sanders and Andy Smatko buzzed up the peak Saturday, December 13th, in good weather. Next morning Al Finney and John Robinson left the Poopout Hill trailhead and arrived at the summit 9 miles, 4000 feet, and 2 hours 43 minutes later.

The summit of the Big G offers a tragic example of poor conservation practices. The place is littered with cans, paper, and miscellaneous trash, with painted autographs smeared on every rock. There is no register as every one put there has been destroyed. This sorry condition is present to a certain extent on every major peak with a trail to its summit, but is much more so on Gorgonio. After viewing this sickening sight I have become a firm believer in not building trails to summits. If a person must work a little harder to reach the top he might appreciate it enough to not desecrate the natural beauty there.