CHAIRMAN'S CORNER:  
By Jerry Keating  

Loss of Vice Chairman Frank Sanborn as an active participant in SPS affairs is deeply regretted by his fellow officers, but Northern California will benefit as a result of his move to Oroville.

Frank began teaching geography in the Butte County city at the start of the fall term. He plans to join Chuck and Mary Ann Miller, who moved to Carmichael early this year, in forming a northern band of SPSErs.

Frank was among the Sierrans who formed the SPS, and he acted as its first chairman in 1955-56. He has led numerous trips, some of which still are remembered as "death marches."

His post will be filled by Miles Brubacher, another SPS veteran.

The Schedule Committee, of which Frank still is chairman, plans to evaluate the summer program as a result of two records: all-time high--as well as low--participation.

Sixty-six persons turned out over Memorial weekend to hike and climb in the Meysan Lakes area, but only 2--the leaders--appeared for the Rock Creek car camp July 16-17. And the strenuous exploratory to Peak 12,325 drew but 3--the leaders and Bob Bear.

Results so far this season indicate that moderate trips with one or more peaks are the best attractions.

Nominations were opened at the September business meeting for posts on the 1961 Management Committee; they close at the October session.

A substantial list of nominees is needed to assure growth of the SPS. Members who cannot attend the October meeting can nominate by mail.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The annual section business meeting will be held Wednesday night, Oct. 12 in the Lemon Grove Playground Auditorium. At least five names will be placed on the ballot, which will be mailed to all members in good standing. The ballots must be returned before the Nov. 9 meeting. At this time they will be counted. The five nominees with the greatest number of votes will constitute the Management Committee for 1961.

OFFICER CHANGE ANNOUNCED

Miles Brubacher has succeeded Frank Sanborn as SPS vice chairman.

Sanborn resigned in August because he accepted a teaching post in Oroville. He and his wife and one-year-old daughter left Aug. 12. The new address is 1220 Laurel Street.

Brubacher was appointed by the Management Committee in accordance with Article V of the By-laws.

BALLOON DOME CANCELLED

Due to the ski accidents befalling both leaders and the inability to scout the trip, Balloon Dome has been cancelled. The decision was in agreement with SPS safety standards.

An alternate trip has been planned for the same weekend, Sept. 24-25, and Walt Wheelock has generously agreed to lead. See the write-up for the details.

NEW TRIP SCHEDULED

Mt. Givens (10,648'). This peak is located three easy miles south of Kaiser Pass and provides a wonderful view west over Huntington Lake as well as east over the snow denuded and barren Sierra, with Mt. Hilgard dominating the landscape. We will
MEET AT Kaiser Pass at 9:00 a.m., September 21, for this climb.

A campfire will be held at Rancheria Campground, located at the east end of Huntington Lake after a swim, etc., in the late afternoon.

Sunday morning, we will caravan to road end above lake shore resort (north-east end of lake), leaving at 8:00 a.m., for the six mile climb to Kaiser Peak (10,320'). Kaiser Peak dominates a large area and is the highest summit west of the Silver Divide. Driving round trip from Los Angeles is about 600 miles. Leaders: Walt Wheelock, Trans: Bud Bingham.

If you have seen humorous cartoons in various publications and think they would be fine for the "Sierra Echo", please pass them along to the Editor. Original ideas are welcome also.
NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS
Chuck Ballard -- Mt. Ritter as 10th
Marge Gall ---- Mt. Ritter as 10th
Bob Stocking ---- Mt. Ritter as 10th
George & Charles Modjeska, a son
and daughter team. They climbed
seven Emblem Peaks this year.
Total Emblem Holders to date 49
Let's hit 50 at least this year.

ADDRESS CHANGES
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Dorothy Otto, Editor
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Phillip Pennington
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James Sutherland
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Bob Alleman
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Newest Member
Kenneth H. Ashby
7620 Bassey Canyon Road, Glendora
Phone: Ed 5-2558
No report was received from Chick Miller regarding the Pyramid, Dick's & Tallest trip. However, it was heard that about 13 or so came out, five from the Southern area. Mike Chuck sends in a report for the next Echo.

MINERAL KING, July 24th

Whether or not the trip listed in the schedule, the long drive into Mineral King, the gain and loss in elevation on Sunday, or just that everyone was on vacation, this trip could go on record as having the poorest turnout of any LSI trip. There was a total of four. Two, Bob Bear and a friend, started out before the leader arrived and made the circuit of Farewell Gap and Franklin Pass, camping Sat. night at Silver Lake. Sy Osofsky and Barbara Lilley carried packs up Farewell Gap and climber Van deveer Peak. Wind at the Gap was so strong (about 40 MPH) that birds were having quite a struggle getting over. Sy and Barbara camped about 500 feet below the Gap (3) and Sunday climbed Florence Peak via Bullfrog Lakes. They returned over Farewell Gap, reaching the car early enough to enjoy a swim at Three Rivers on the way home.

RED & WHITE (12,350), RED SLATE (13,163) MUNS.

Thirteen Sierrans enjoyed some of the best weather of the season Aug. 6-7 as they participated in climbs of Red and White and Red Slate Muns., on the southeast of Crowley Lake. Skies were virtually cloudless during the entire trip, and the overnight temperature remained above 45 degrees. Shirt-sleeve climbing was the rule on both peaks.

The party assembled Sat. morning at the McCoy Creek roadhead and backpacked six miles to a 10,600 foot campsite just above Big McCoy Lake in time for lunch. Meadows and clumps of trees surrounded the site.

Six climbers started for Red and White shortly after 1 p.m., and four of them reached the summit in about 2 and 1/2 hours. Rich Gnagey and Bob Gapps approached the peak from the NE, while Jerry Keating and Al Finney discovered a southeastern approach. Both routes merged on the SE face, which offered several low third-class pitches on loose rock. The register, placed in 1902, read like a "Who's Who" of the Sierra Club. Early entries included Walter Starr, Norman Clyde and Ansel Adams.

On Sunday, 10 persons hiked on trail to 12,000 foot McCoy Pass and then ascended an easy ridge to the summit of Red Slate Mtn. Total time from camp ranged from 2 to 2 and 1/2 hours. The view was impressive with Abbott, Humphreys', Darwin Goddard and Ritter easy to see.

The return to the cars was completed before 3 p.m., and one climber took time to swim in Round Lake. A 14th person had camped near the lake the night before because of getting a late start. Leaders for the trip were Jerry Keating and Monte Lee.

NON SCHEDULED TRIPS

The following accounts (5) are reported by Bobbie Lilley:

Mt. Fiske

On the weekend of June 4-5, Rich Gnagey and myself joined Freda Jensen en route, packed into Moonlight Lake (not Hungry Packed Lake as pencilled signs there indicate), to be greeted by a big thunderstorm. Sunday all three climbed Mt. Wallace, then Freda climbed Mt. Haselby while Rich and I dropped down to the basin west of Wallace and climbed Mt. Fiske (4 hours from camp). We returned via a saddle south of Wallace and along the south side of Moonlight Lake.

Taboose Pass

The weekend of June 26-27, Rich Gnagey and myself made the long hot climb to a timberline camp on the east side of Taboose Pass. From there, they climbed
Cardinal Mtn. Sat. afternoon and on Sunday climbed Striped and Goodale Mtns. by following the drainage which leads down from the large lake below the two peaks. Goodale has an interesting summit block, easy class three.

Mt. Stanford

On the 3 day July 4th weekend, Rich Gnagy and myself packed over University pass, across Center Basin and camped in a thunder and hail storm, at timberline below Forresters Pass. Sunday, with good weather, they climbed a class 3 snow and rock route up the east face of Mt. Stanford, traversed to Gregory's Monument, sworn to Harrison Pass and up Mt. Ericsson. They returned by going cross country (past Lake So. America) to the Forresters Pass trail and over the pass to camp. Monday they climbed Center Peak and returned over University Pass to the cars.

Inconceivable Peak

On July 9-10 on one of the wettest weekends encountered in the Sierra, Rich Gnagy, Barbara Lilley and Sy Ossofsky packed into Seventh Lake in the Paliades, stopping for refreshments (and shelter) at Upper Glacier Lodge en route. Although it stormed all afternoon, it cleared up at night as usual and stayed clear long enough for the 3 to make the easy climb of Inconceivable Peak on Sunday. They stopped again for "refreshments" on the return trip, most of which was made in a rain and hail storm.

Mt. Johnson

The warm and sunny July 16-17 weekend saw Rich Gnagy, Sy Ossofsky and Barbara Lilley making the easy pack-in to Treasure Lakes. On Sat. afternoon they climbed Mt. Johnson, a very enjoyable climb up easy class 3 snow chute and rock ridge. In spite of mosquitoes, Sy and Rich enjoyed (?) a swim in the lake. Sunday the three climbed Mt. Gilbert by the route described in the previous "Echo" -- however, very little snow was found in the chute -- and were back to the cars early.

THE APPROACH TO MT. RUSSELL

--Dan Popper

The Climber's Guide describes two approaches to Mt. Russell from the east. The first is to the south face from East Face Lake via the southern notch of Whitney-Russell pass. The 2nd is to the E arete from the N branch of the N Fork of Lone Pine Creek. In climbing Mt. Russell up the S face this July Roger Popper and I approached it via the northern notch of W-R pass. The northern notch is at the head of the N branch of the N Fork of LP Creek. This approach to the S face of Russell saves considerable distance because instead of going to the S face along the wide arc to the South past East Face Lake and the Southern notch of the pass, it cuts directly across the chord of the arc. The N notch of the pass is adjacent to the S face of Russell. In ascending to the notch it is advisable to climb out to the R of north and then swing back to the notch in order to avoid some bluffs directly beneath the notch. The steep chimney leading to the very lowest point at the left of the notch should also be avoided. This direct route is an obvious variation and has been used before in all probability, but I am not aware of its having been described.
NON SCHEDULED TRIPS

YOSEMITE BACKPACK: June 23-July 15

Starting at Yosemite Valley June 23, three of us left for 23 days of exploration in the back country of the Park. The primary purpose was that of exploration and enjoyment. However there are several items of interest to mountaineers.

The 223-mile circuit began at the Valley, thence to Tuolumne Mdw., via Sunrise Creek and Cathedral Lake, down the Tuolumne River twenty miles to Pate Valley. In this latter Valley we encountered 3 rattlers in 2 days.

From Pate Valley we climbed to Rodgers Lake, a fine campsite. Easy cross-country took us up Slide Canyon, the finest of the 3 sister valleys.

Spiller, Matterhorn, and Slide past the fantastic rockslide for which the canyon was named, to Hurro Pass. Matterhorn Peak was climbed, and we then traversed to Spiller Canyon via a very obvious knapsack pass between Matterhorn and Waorl Mtns. As one descends into Spiller Canyon from the NW care must be taken to keep left lest one become "hung up".

Returning to Tuolumne Mdw.s, via an uncharted traverse from McCabe Lakes to Young Lake, we proceeded up Lyell Fork, over to Rush Creek, thence into the Minaret area. We returned to Yosemite Valley via a cross country route to Poerster Creek via Bench Canyon. One point of interest to SPSers would be the approach to Mt. Ritter from Thousand Island Lake via Ritter Lakes. From the first lakelet reached on the traverse from Glacier Lake proceed to the 2nd, slightly higher lake. From here there is a prominent gully leading to the summit of the ridge. From here the peak is to the left a very important fact neglected in the Guide. However, the route best suited for non-rock climbers would veer to the right, to avoid a loose, steep 3rd class route, such as would be the case if the gully was followed directly to the ridge. Once one intercepts the ridge the climbing levels off and the direction is obvious. This route is longer than the one from Lake Ediza which is preferable.

Mt. Lyell and Clouds Rest were also climbed. We really came to know the back country as few may ever know it, and moreover we had fun.

MT. ABBOT 13,715

Charles House

On July 15, Bill Farrell, Pete Rux, Tom House, my wife and I drove to the roadhead in Little Lakes valley. We missed the SPSers (our fault) and so practiced some rock climbing that afternoon.

Next morning the 4 fellows set out for Mt. Abbot. We followed route 4. Bill Farrell and I reached the summit after leaving the others at 13,300'. The day was perfect, only a haze over Yosemite marring the view. Mt. Humphreys the Minarets and the Ritter Range were most impressive. Only 7 people had preceded us to the summit this year. We returned by following the valley north of Mt. Abbot, which drains into Mills Lake and Ruby Lake;

Mt. Bago (11869), Mt. BRADLEY (13,280), CENTER PEAK (12,767), BLACK Mtn. (13,289), DIAMOND PEAK (13,126).

July 28-August 2, 1960

Frede Jensen

On July 28, Ed Ostrega and I packed in to Bullfrog Lake, from whence Mt. Bago was climbed that same afternoon in spite of the rain. After a backpack to Viddette Mdw.s, most of the next day was spent in a fruitless effort to climb West Viddette. The rock was slick with rain and although I reached the summit plateau, lightning forced me to retreat before I could locate the high point. We set up camp in Center Basin in pouring rain and learned to our dismay that it can rain in the Sierra at night. July 30 was favored by 5 consecutive hail and thunderstorms. Nevertheless I managed to swell my list with two more peaks that day----Bradley and Center.

Mt. Bradley which had not been climbed since the May 1959 snowclimb is climbed from Center Basin via a prominent chute of snow and rock. By staying to the right (South) in the chute, we were able to find some firm rock. Via a
saddle between the two peaks, we went around to the W side where according to the cook-book, it's narrow easy ledge chute leads to the top. However the first pitch consists of a very narrow ledge, and there are no hand-holds. Center Peak is a short, easy climb from Center Basin.

On Aug. 1, we made a long and strenuous move via Vidette Mw and Keen Pass to Rae Lake. Two seldom visited Peaks, Black and Diamond were climbed the following day. Black was reached via Dragon Lake and the S slopes. The traverse between the two peaks took about 2 and 1/2 hours at a moderate rate of speed. It is not necessary to drop way down into the basin to the N from Black. Proceed a short distance along the ridge to a broad sandy chute and drop down to a convenient place for crossing a prominent rock rib that extends down into the basin. Immediately afterwards, the ridge can be crossed to its W side. After passing the notch, one should stay high because of a couple of deep, steep-walled gullies that are encountered on the way. From Diamond we descended on scree slopes to the J M trail and Rae L. The next day we hiked out to Onion Valley over Glen and Kearsarge passes.

ENCHANTED GORGE AND VICINITY…

On July 31, Martial Thiebaux and I left Wishán Dam and two days later reached a camp in the upper part of Blue Canyon. During the next three days we climbed Finger Peak, Blue Canyon Peak, Peak 11,969 (E of B.C. Peak) and three further peaks on the White Divide numbered 11,872, 12,061 and 11,920'. Blue Canyon Peak and 12,061 had cairns on the summits but no registers. The other three were probably first ascents, except for Finger Peak of course. South Goddard Canyon where we camped at timberline near the N end of the canyon was reached in a day by moving across a pass W of Blue Canyon Peak. Next we climbed Scylla together and Martial climbed Mt. Goddard, Peak 12,483, and Peak 12,600'. There was no evidence of a previous ascent of these last two summits. This completed the peak-bagging but the most interesting part of the trip was to come. On the following day we crossed the head of S Goddard Canyon and entered the Ioni Basin. After passing a couple of the large lakes that are to be found in the basin we descended between Scylla and Charybdis by bypassing Chasm Lake and following the Enchanted Gorge down to its junction with S Goddard Canyon at 7,000'. The entire area is very different from the rest of the Sierra and provided a truly spectacular and long day of hiking. Though we both felt the need for a rest day, our food supplies would not permit it so we death marched 20 miles down to hot Tehsipe Valley and then up 4,500' to a point four miles from the car during the next 2 days. After breakfast we easily did the last four miles carrying our remaining food which consisted of two tea bags, salt and pepper.

CLIMBING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Barbara Lilley

Heading further afield than the Sierra for their two week vacation, Sy Ossofsky, Jon Shinn and myself arrived in Canal Flats, B.C. on Aug 6 (north of Idaho). A 17 mile drive on a dirt road and a 25 mile back-pack (with 60 pounds), fortunately on a trail which avoided most of the notorious Canadian bushwhacking, brought us to the head of Moriceau Creek, tributary of Findlay Creek, by Tues. nite. Camped at 7,000', in a beautiful park-like valley with plenty of wood and a lake nearby, warm enough for swimming. From this camp we climbed Mt. Findlay, 10,400', via a glacier and rock route (class 3), last climbed in 1953. They also made climbs of Mt. Moriceaux, 10,300 and Mt. Rowand 9,800 mostly on rock. Both were apparent first ascents and were climbed in the same day.

Then leaving some food behind, we moved camp over a ridge and onto a wooded bench above Granite Creek, another tributary of Findlay Crk. at about 8,000. From there we climbed Mt. Glitterbuck 10,200 up a glacier and then rock chute, an apparent first ascent and Mt. Midge 9,800 a class 3&4 rock climb up a ridge, also an apparent first ascent. Good weather up to now was followed by 3 days of storm but we were able to make one more apparent first ascent, of Mt. Lees, 10,100. This required going around to the other side of the mountain and up a ledge consisting of loose dirt and rocks (4).
Seeing the southern half of Yosemite proved to be quite a warm job from Aug 6 thru 14. Dr. Snaitke, Tom Ross, Fred Jensen and Graham Stephenson climbed 11 qualifying peaks in this area during these nine days. This proved to be a fond farewell to "peak bagging" and the Sierra for Fred Jensen who is now en route to Denmark.

Getting off to a good start covering an area that Tom Ross had described as flat, the summits of Half Dome (8,952) via the cable route and Clouds Rest (9,929) were climbed on Sunday. To shorten the distance between these two peaks a contour was made from a spring just off the trail to Half Dome over to the trail up to the summit of Clouds Rest. Since this 23.4 mile day was a trifle long for daylight hours, the latter part of the day's hike was completed after dinner in the dark on the Merced Lake trail accompanied by John Robinson's stories of raiding bears known to be in the area. The following day after climbing to the high point above Bumell cascades, the peaks were left in order to climb Mt. Clark (11,522) which proved to be a very long day ending at Merced Lake by the light of the moon. This 19-mile trek was fatiguing enough so that a cold supper of Canadian bacon out of the package was quite acceptable for everyone except Fred whose stomach rebelled. On Monday (12.3 miles) a trip to the summit of Vogelsang Peak (11,571) via Vogelsang Pass and back to a stream down the Isberg Pass trail about three miles was the first easy day of this trip. On Tuesday (10 miles) a climb to the summit of Florence Peak (12,507) and back down the Isberg Pass trail to the Lyell Creek Fork was probably the most comprehensive view of the entire Park that was enjoyed on the trip. The Lyell Fork was the most scenic area of the Park that was visited. With metamorphic rock and plenty of streams and lakes, Mt. Electra (12,562) stands at the end of the canyon about 4 miles plus miles from the trail. This peak is reached as per the Guide to the summit in which there was no register until the party contributed a mixed-nut can. Completing another long day (about 20 miles), going South on the Isberg Lake trail to a point where the trail makes a sharp ascent just after crossing Harriett Creek, the party went cross-country down to the trail in the floor of the canyon and up the other side to a point just at timberline below Red Peak Pass.

Tom Ross's reputation for being "strong" and taking fine pictures did not seem to be hampered on this Wed. when he fell into Lyell Creek. As a matter of fact, he took a total of 216 pictures during the 9-day period.

On Thursday the climbs of Red Peak (11,599) and Merced Peak (11,726) were relatively easy (about 11 miles) although the summits were reached from the Ottoway Lake side and not from the summit of Red Peak Pass as planned because of a gendarme-filled ridge along each side of the trail at the pass. The Guide is an excellent and accurate directive as to the routes to these summits although the USGS map errs in placing a non-existent lake near the Red Peak Pass trail. Red Peak is extremely loose but Merced Peak is most enjoyable Class 2 and low 3 climbing. Leaving the trail at the spot of the previous nights camp, the party climbed a saddle immediately N of Red Peak enroute to Gray Peak (11,574). From this saddle the route up Gray Peak is obvious; however, this climb on Friday was the loosest of the trip and also quite steep. The day was completed after a relatively early dinner and bath near the junction of Red and Gray Creeks at a point just E of the southern saddle of Mt Starr King. This entire day (about 9 miles) being off trail, considerable effort was spent crossing logs and walking thru relatively dense forest. There was no water at the site of the Starr King camp so that canteens were necessarily used very sparingly. The class 5 ascent of Mt. Starr King (9,681) from the SE saddle on Sat. is a most enjoyable experience especially after the leader completes the first pitch which is steep friction without handholds. This climb has 3 to 4 pitches. Pitch 1 is from the saddle on the SE more or less directly up to a point about 75 feet away on a short comfortable ledge. Pitch 2 is a traverse to the W and up an open crack to an excellent belay point. Pitch 3 is underneath a tremendously large flake to a point on a horizontal chimney and W again to a point.
convenient for camou-flags. The initial incline, which is optimal is from the horizontal. It is straight up the mountain to such a point where the rope is no longer necessary. From there, the route is straight up.

Back to Glacier Point totalled about 8 and 1/2 miles. On Sunday the party climbed Cathedral Peak (10,233) from Tuolumne Meadows, in essentially the same manner as that described in the Guide. This climb is most enjoyable with only a short pitch of Class 4 at the summit. A carabiner facilitates your hiking to the summit block. This is about 6 miles round trip.

Of the mountains climbed on this trip a rope should be carried for Mt. Clark, Mt. Starr King and Cathedral Peak. At camps at night, bears should be guarded against and mosquitoes seem to be omnipresent. At this time of year there is no snow and filling canteens should be planned. Meals and lodging can be purchased at Marced Lake and Vogelsum High Sierra Camps but only at regular hours. Fishing due to low water was excellent and the sun and humidity were relatively intense. The nights were warm and there were no storms, although on Thursday night a storm over the crest of the Sierra was quite evident. Except at well known tourist points such as Glacier Point, Marced Lake, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, there were no tourists. Trails are generally in excellent condition.

On Saturday, August 7, Estranged climbed with the party to the summit of Cloud's Rest. John Robinson climbed Half Dome, Mt. Clark, Mt. Starr King and Cathedral Peak with the party, but enjoyed the interval period with his wife at home.

Total mileage—121.2 miles...total elevation gain 34,200.

MY LAST SIERRA CLIMBING: Frede Jensen

Mt. Goethe (13,240), Mt. Mendel (13,681)

On Aug. 17, Lou Mahoney and I crossed Plume Pass and camped at Muriel Lake from where we continued over Alpine Col the next day. This approach to the Evolution area looks splendid on a map, but endless boulder hopping makes it a very strenuous packpack route. Mt. Goethe was climbed from the Col via an exposed ridge (class 3). The easy class 1 slope is further south beyond the first lake. Mt. Mendel was ascended from Evolution Lake via the route described in the Guide. The ridge is third class. At one spot, we had to cross the crest to an easy chute on the E side.

From Mt. Mendel, my last peak in 1960, a tremendous view was enjoyed of the Evolution area, in its nostalgic glory. Lomarok Col soon replaced this mood by an unpleasant feeling of achievement.

Following is a last note from Frede sent from Chicago:

The initial step, the departure from Los Angeles, was horrible, indeed. But now I am already abroad, looking forward to my Atlantic crossing and my arrival in Copenhagen, although what I wish and hope for is a trip thru the desolate cow-towns of Wyoming back home to Los Angeles. Graham was so right in his assertions: California far supersedes any sightseeing abroad. Frede's temporary address is: 661 Wye Jensen, Strandmarkavej 23k. Hvidovre, Denmark. (Ed. note: A fresh lollipops to anyone who can pronounce this.)

Mt. SILL George Shimno

On Aug. 20, four of us, Mike Hichle, new Sierra Club member, his son Mike, their friend Dwight Ashton, who by the way we found later had a broken toe, and I had a leisurely hike to the campsite on Glacier Creek. The weather was calm and quite warm with glacial "milk" very much in evidence.

Sunday morning found us on the way to the summit via the Palisade Glacier trail. The weather was cool with a strong down wind which lasted until mid afternoon. We were not equipped to cross the glacier, so scrambling on the talus was our only choice. Our route took us up the first chute on the Gayley-Sill ridge, which was quite enjoyable, thence traversing to the steep north-east snow chute, up the rocks on the sides, to the top of the chute, and upards to the summit. Our route down was in Glacier Notch, which was not difficult, however, near the bottom the ice being exposed and also with spots covered with gravel, the going proved to be most troublesome. The route on our way up would have been much easier for our way down as it
would have avoided the exposed ice.

MT. ERICSSON (13,625), and M.T. STANFORD (13,983). Tom Ross

On Tues. Aug 23 I left Onion Valley in the AM and backpacked over Kearsarge Pass to Vidette Mdw., left my pack and hiked down to visit Junction Mdw. At 6 AM Wed. I left Vidette Mdw. and climbed to Deerhorn Saddle, then dropped over the E side and up to Harrison Pass, from which I climbed up the S arete of Mt. Ericsson to the summit. This is mostly class 2 with some class 3 on top. Then from Harrison Pass up to Gregory's Monument and across the 3rd class ridge (exposed in spots) to the summit of Mt. Stanford. Weather clear but windy. Back to Harrison Pass, thence to Deerhorn saddle at 6:15 PM and finally to my camp In Vidette Mdw. by flashlight, arriving at 9:30, only to find my pack missing. On looking around I found bear tracks and bits of food scattered about. Fortunately my sleepingbag had not been attached to my pack so without anything to eat I hit the sack. Next morning I found my Kelt about 100 yards away damaged and slobbered upon. Return to Onion Valley, hoping the bear had indigestion.

MT RITTER AND BANNER PEAK: John Robinson——-

Thirty four people, mostly newcomers to the SPS participated in the scheduled trip to the Ritter and Banner climbs in this last week-end of Aug. The easy backpack to Lake Ediza was accomplished by noon Sat and most of the group spent the afternoon loafing, sun bathing or wading in the cool water of the lake. Sixteen decided to try for Banner that afternoon but a short distance from camp 5 of them changed their minds. The pace was brisk due to the limited hours of daylight left. 11 stalwarts reached the summit by 4:30 PM after negotiating the ice box with the aid of a fixed rope. The ice box was the name given to the steep shaded chute leading to the Ritter-Banner saddle. The group reached camp tired and hungry.

Thirty people arose at 5 AM Sunday morning for the climb of Ritter. Leaving camp at 6 AM a slow steady pace with intermittent rest stops got all 30 to the top by 11. Much of the climbing was on loose "crud" due to the lateness of the season.

For Marge Gall and Bob Stocking this was their 10th emblem peak. Russ Mohn chalked up number 11, while Roger Gaefke claimed his 7th and Garver Light and Harry and Seena Malts reached their 6th. The group left the summit in staggered intervals to avoid the danger of loose rocks. All reached camp by 2:30 PM.

In retrospect, two comments are derived from discussion of the trip with participants and general observation. First, the trip was scheduled too late in the season. Both climbs were mainly on loose talus. They would be much more enjoyable as snow climbs in late May or June. They should be so scheduled in the future. Secondly, most participants felt the SPS schedules too few emblem peaks. Only two, Darwin and Ritter, were scheduled this year. The group felt 4 would be a good number to schedule each season. Most wanted emblem peak was Abbot, the only one of the 4, the SPS has never scheduled. Leaders: John Robinson and Roger Gaefke.

MT. CLARENCE KING (12,905) Andy Smatko

Thirteen rugged (ragged by Monday) climbers met at Onion Valley (9,300) on Sat. morn Sept 3, for the anticipated climb of Mt. Clarence King, a spectacular, deeply situated monarch in the middle of the Sierra. The weather was ominous, the more so because of a heavy downpour the preceding night over a wide area in the mountains. Nevertheless the climb to Kearsarge Pass progressed without rain but on reaching the Pass, lowering black clouds extended from as far as one could see from S to N. Hoping for improvement, the group trudged up just below the summit of Mt. Gould which everyone then climbed and proceeded along the ridge toward Dragon Pk. about one quarter mile until a saddle was reached down the N side of which the 3 lakes below Dragon Peak could easily be seen. It started to rain lightly when the upper lake was reached and the rain continued intermittently till about
Seven of the thirteen climbed Black Mtn. just E. of Dragon Lake. The other 6 more prudently camped at the junction of the JM trail and Dragon Lake trail. The threatening weather gradually cleared during the night and by morning it was clear. The rain of the previous two days had compacted the dust and soil so that the hike by the 10 climbers into the Sixty Lakes Basin was free of vehement calls for less foot dragging. From a point about opposite the saddle between Clarence King and the unnamed peak just S. of it, the group struck upwards. At this point is a small lakelet and the trail began a definite downwards trend whereas up to this point it was fairly level. The ascent to the saddle is easy and follows an obvious ledge slanting upwards from N. to S. and ending at about the middle of the saddle. From here one ascends the easy slopes SW of the Mtn to about 250' below the highest appearing pinnacle and then ascends the broken face at about its middle (easy class 2-3). About 50' below the true summit one may or may not find Starr's "Hole-in-the-Rocks." It lies near the precipice and one should attend a Slenderella school for a month prior to a projected passage. Three crawled thru and seven used a 4th class pitch just to the left of it. Rich Gnagy climbed the summit block while belayed from below; Pete Hunt climbed to the "V" from the E base of the split summit block. Most of the group followed Pete's route to the V. All 10 were comfortably ensconced on the summit for about a half-hour enjoying the tremendous view. Descent was via the steep 70 degree slab which Richard climbed, although 3 elected to return via Pete's route. Return to camp was uneventful although we descended directly to the JM trail to the E. The 3 others had gone on to Bullfrog Lake over Glen Pass. We heard coyotes howling all that night. On Mon. 5 of the group were joined by Steve Wilkie for an ascent of Mt. Bago after going over Glen Pass. The various members of the party reached Onion Valley at various intervals. The trip was originally to be led by Ray Van Aken and Vern Jones, but they were not able to make it. Vern asked me to take the leadership. In turn, I engaged the services of Tom Ross as co-leader. Several members of the party suggested that Clarence King be given emblem status since there is no emblem peak between Mt. Williamson and Mt. Sill, a fairly long stretch of the Sierra. Spectacular Mt. Cotter received favorable mention as a possible qualifying peak.