CHAIRMAN'S CORNER  by Jerry Keating

Election of officers for 1961 climaxed the November 9th meeting in Lemon Grove Auditorium. A tie between Lothar Kolbig and Miles Brubacher necessitated a flip of the coin, and Lothar became the fifth member of the Management Committee.

The officers are the following:

   Chairman  George Shinno
   Vice Chairman Lothar Kolbig
   Secretary  Jerry Keating
   Treasurer  Tom Ammeus
   Alternate Officer Bud Bingham

The five will meet soon to decide on 1961 goals and to appoint committees.

A complete check of the S.P.S. rolls by the Membership Committee has resulted in a change of status for 57 Sierrans. Failure to subscribe to the Echo and non-participation in S.P.S. activities led the committee to remove the 57 from the active list in accordance with the By-laws. Inactive members cannot vote or hold office, but they have all other rights. They may become active again by subscribing and participating, then applying in writing to the secretary.

The check was conducted by committee chairman Miles Brubacher and the Management Committee. Of the 176 members checked, only one was found to have let his club standing lapse. SPSers must be in good standing with the club to continue section membership.

George Walterstein became the 55th S.P.S. member to earn his emblem.

TENTATIVE S.P.S. SPRING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED  by Bud Bingham

The following is our spring schedule as it now stands.

February 8  Meeting
February 25-26  San Antonio (Harwood) Ice Axe Practice
March 8  Meeting
March 25-26  Spanish Needle Peak
April 1-2  Sherman Peak
April 12  Meeting
April 15-16  University Peak
April 22-23  Troy Meadow
April 29-30  Olancha Peak
May 6-7  Diamond Peak
May 10  Meeting
May 27-28  Split Mtn.

(Ed. note: This schedule supercedes the one on page two of this issue.)
The SPS has been enlarged by six new members in the last few months. They are the following:

- Alden Sorensen, 5518 Ed. Hermosa Beach, Calif.
- Bep Godijn, 1312 N. Chester Ave.,
- Crystal Karstens, 23240 Glendora Drive, Colton, Calif.
- Gerhard P. Schumacher, P.O. Box 263 Mammoth Lakes, Calif.
- C. John Carroll, 1628 Ocean Front, Apt. 3, Newport Beach, Calif.
- Thomas J. Limp, 1300 S. Casimir Ave., Gardena, Calif.

Ten members became emblem holders in 1960. They are George and Charles Modjeska, Marge Galf, Russ Mohn, Bob Stocking, Chuck Halland, Virgil Sisson, Tom Limp, Reggie Donatelli, John Carroll, and Norman Clyde.

Norman Clyde received an honorary emblem at the Angeles Chapter Annual Banquet last October 15th. Chairman Jerry Keating made the presentation.

**MT. JOHNSON ADDED TO QUALIFYING LIST**

Mountaineering Committee Chairman Rich Gnagy announced that Mt. Johnson, 12,868 feet, has been added to the SPS qualifying list, making a total of 229 peaks of qualifying status.

Mt. Johnson is located on the crest between Mts. Goode and Gilbert. The roadhead for the ascent is South Lake out of Bishop.

**TENTATIVE SPRING SCHEDULE IN PLANNING STAGE**

Miles Brubacher and Bud Brigham have taken over for departed Frank Sanborn in the planning of the SPS spring schedule. Very tentative plans call for at least five interesting trips. An easy backpack into the Trey pavilion area of the Southern Sierra is scheduled for mid-April, while a more strenuous snow climb of Diamond Pk. (13,126') is planned for the end of the month. In May tentative plans call for a moderate backpack to Olancha Pk. (12,135'), an interesting snow climb of Split Mtn. (14,355'), and a rather strenuous haul up Sawmill Creek to climb Mt. Baxter (13,125') and Colosseum Mtn. (12,473').

--- THE SIERRA ECHO ---

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LETTERS FROM DEPARTED SPSCers

(Editor's note: The following are extracts from a letter from Frank Sanborn.)

I am deeply involved in my teaching job at Orville High School here, but have begun to gradually get into hiking again. I began with the six-mile hike to Feather Falls, which I did twice. Then, on Labor Day, Chuck Miller and I climbed 8600 feet Sierra Buttes, near Downieville in the Northern Sierra. This involved some third class and a 3000 feet gain.

Three weeks later I joined Chuck. Chuck's scheduled knapsack trip into Northern Yosemite. From the new Tioga Road we knapsacked in 5 miles to Half Moon Meadow, then climbed trail class 9900 ft. Double Rock. It looks 5000 ft. down into the Muir Gorge area of Tuolumne Canyon, and gave a wonderful view of the Northern Sierra from Lyell through Dana, Conness, Matterhorn, and Tower Peaks.

(Editor's note: The following is a letter received from Frede Jensen in Denmark.)

I would like to thank the SPS for the wonderful experience it was to climb in the Sierra Nevada. Please keep me on the Echo mailing list. You can rest assured of my keen interest in the SPS, although I am terribly inactive at the present.

In connection with this forced inactivity in a country that has no more mountains than the state of Iowa, I might tell you about my impressions of Dansk Bjergklub (Danish Mountaineering Club). Last night at about 8, Danish mountaineers began to fill the small room where a slide show was scheduled. I did not know a single person in the group and was disappointed in my obviously vain hopes of seeing John Robinson Bill Sanders, Bud Bingham or other Sierra Club veterans show up. Instead, there was a group of people sporting messy beards, gray, black or reddish glued moustaches and pert-looking goatees or just plain brush.

During the slide showing, it bothered me to know that the athletic girl on some alpine slides was not Barbara Lilley, and I was painfully aware that nobody in the room had ever heard of her. Across the room passed an array of beautiful alpine peaks which I viewed with interest, of course, but not without a certain feeling of uneasiness, because I did not know their locations—and, what is worse, their elevations. Danes seem to indulge in horrible approximations that leave me nostalgic for Mt. Whitney's 14,496 feet.

The Danish club is organized as a Section Denmark of the Austrian Alpine Club. Its members enjoy the same privileges as the Austrians do, such as use of the Austrian huts. The club organizes field trips to Kullan in Sweden, our closest access to rocks. There are some informal meetings and what appears to be quite an interesting program. In December, Sir John Hunt will deliver two speeches, one about his expedition to Greenland, the other about his Caucasian climbs with the Russians.

Apart from its field trips, the club does not schedule any trips or outings. However, the club managed to send an expedition to Greenland last summer.

(Continued)
Slide showers here were frustrated people, complaining about the horrible weather and severe conditions that face climbers in the Alps, telling of high hopes and heart-breaking disappointments. Little do they know that there is such a thing as fair weather climbing. I guess I will have to initiate them into this pleasant aspect of mountaineering that only California can offer.

To the SPS, my very best greetings and thanks for fine Sierra adventures. I am hoping for the day when I can resume Sierra climbing with the SPS. In fact, I am more than willing even to repeat a couple of climbs.

Fredie's new address is 93 Springbanen, Gentofte, Denmark.

**SCHEDULED TRIPS**

**MTS. TALLAC, DICKS, PYRAMID.** July 9-10 (delayed) Chuck Miller

On Saturday, July 9, 26 Sierra Clubbers from the Angeles, Mother Lode, and Bay Chapters met at Glen Alpine Lodge near Fallen Leaf Lake in the Tahoe area and backpacked three miles to Suzie Lake in the Desolation Wilderness Area. Ten who wished a further stretching of the legs climbed Tallac by trail for an excellent view of Tahoe. Seven of these started toward Dicks Pt. along a long ridge. Four of the seven reached that objective. Although Jacks Peak was not far away, the hour was late and hungry brought us back to camp without claiming it.

Sunday nine climbers, some of whom had not been on the previous day's trip to the peaks, backpacked about a mile and a half and then made a trailless climb of Pyramid Peak, the highest in the vicinity overlooking large Lake Aloha.

The trip was advertised as one with variety for all. It was just that. Some merely backpacked to Suzie Lake, while others climbed all three peaks covering 26 miles. Others climbed one or two of the peaks.

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**MAP OF DESOLATION WILDERNESS AREA**

[Map of Desolation Wilderness Area showing key landmarks and trails.]
GIN FINE CREEK ANTI-LITTER OUTING  
Sept. 10-11  by Tom Ammeus

The start of the trip was delayed by a sudden shower which sent us back to the cars. The backpack to camp at the junction of the trail to Palisade Glacier was marked by a few more showers and it was still drizzling when we started picking up litter.

Later it cleared up and we proceeded to 4th Lake where two large can dumps kept us busy. One of these had the foulest mess any of us had seen and was a good argument against any further dumping.

On Sunday we cleaned up the trail and lakes down to 1st Lake and then hiked to the cars, which we made just as another downpour started.

The 7 people on the trip were Ted Haier (leader), Trudie and Peter Hunt, Jim Evans, Bob Marshall, Larry Maxwell and myself. 21 sacks of smashed cans and 3 five-gallon cans of glass were collected.

It was Peter Hunt’s last trip before leaving for Antioch College in Ohio.

GLASS Mtn. (11,127') and Mt. Morrison (12,263'), Sept. 17-18, by Miles Brubacher

An enjoyable climb of Glass Mountain was made on Saturday, Sept. 17th by some 23 hikers. A tremendous view was obtained from the summit, encompassing the Sierra to the west and the White Mts. on the east. A special treat on this mountain was the long obsidian scree slope for running down and for filling ones' shoes with rocks. After descending to the cars the party raced to Hot Creek and found the boiling water rising several inches above the general level of the stream and a new foot bridge across the stream built by the Forest Service. Everyone jumped in and got that same old feeling of wanting to stay in that fabulous water forever.

The "bathers" were joined by the "peak baggers" the following day for the more stimulating climb of Mt. Morrison. This peak is one of the most spectacular when viewed from the highway, and of course, the highway is spectacular when viewed from the peak! The ascent was made along the steep, north-west ridge which is a knife-edge in spots. After about 5½ hours of climbing all 21 eager beavers were on the summit. This was a special thrill for Charlotte Parsons after having been turned back by Mt. Morrison four years previously in rather infamous fashion! A few hours and a few shouts of "rock!" later all climbers were back down at the cars.
MT. GIVENS (10,642'), KAISER PK. (10,320'), Sept. 24-25
by Walt Wheelock

The trip, offered as a substitute for the Balloon Dome death march, established a new Sierra Peaks record, completely shattering that set by Barbara and Sy at Mineral King earlier in the summer. Since this trip had no assistant leader, the total attendance was ONE.

Fortunately, it was all for the best, as this turned out to be the opening day of deer season, and would have been a class 9 climb. (Class 9: bullet proof vests required for safety.)

TAYLOR DOME (8783'), Oct. 8-9
by John Robinson

15 people showed up for this scheduled backpack that turned out to be an easy car camp.

Informed by the Forest Service that the Brush Creek road had been extended to Big Meadow, we drove in that way instead of using the Fay Creek roadhead.

A leisurely four mile hike from Big Meadow got all 15 of us to the top of Taylor Dome by one p.m. Saturday. Sporadic clouds obscured our view from the top.

By the time we had returned to our cars the clouds had closed in completely.

Part of the group drove home then, and the rest of us car camped at Horse Meadow Public Camp. It seemed strange to drive to a campsite that three years ago required a strenuous backpack up over Salmon Falls to reach. (SPS trip to Siretta Peak in March 1957, see Echo for April 1957, Vol.1, no.2.)

We had planned to climb nearby Cannell Peak (9453') on Sunday, but a continuation of the overcast weather sent us home.

MT. SAN JACINTO (10,631'), Oct. 22-23
by JWR

22 people showed up for this pleasant knapsack in good weather. Leader Lee Owings led the group into camp in Round Valley Saturday, and several climbed Cannell Peak that afternoon. Sunday everyone took the trail to the top of San Jacinto. Several traversed over to the knob called Folly Peak and back. The group then split, the more "sensible" ones following assistant leader Ted Maier back down the trail to the cars. Several others traversed over to Jean and Marion, and then down through thick brush to the roadhead. This latter group had quite a weekend, climbing five peaks.
The first major storm of the season failed to discourage nine intrepid Sierrans who gathered at the Clough Cave roadhead in Sequoia National Park for the final SPS outing of the year.

Since a light rain was falling, the party decided to forego the backpack to Cahoona Meadow and make a summit bid from the 3600' roadhead on the South Fork of the Kaweah River.

Emily Bear and her two daughters stayed at the cars, while Al Finney, George Modjeska, Bob Stocking, Bob Bear and leaders Ted Mater and Jerry Keating hiked through country marked by oak, cedar, sequoia, and pine trees.

Half of the party stopped at the 7600-foot level, but three men pressed on to the summit, reaching it at 3 p.m. after six hours of hiking. Cold gusts of wind and snow flurries, combined with the lateness of the hour, prompted a short summit stay. The fresh snow on the top was as deep as eight inches.

The last man to complete the 20-mile hike arrived at the cars at 7 p.m. with the aid of flashlights. A driving rain that had turned the trail into a quagmire caused the leaders to give up hope of doing the other scheduled peak, Homer's Nose (9,005'), the following day.

It was the leader's consensus that the backpack to Cahoona Meadow would have been too difficult to achieve in fall when the daylight hours are short. The distance is eleven miles (not seven as carried in the schedule) and the elevation gain was 4,700 feet.

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HEADWATERS OF THE KERN EXPLORATORY KNAPSACK, Aug. 17-30 by Mike Raudenbush.

For my second extensive knapsack into the Sierra this summer, I chose the Sequoia back country and the headwaters of the Kern River. On Wednesday, Aug. 17th, Bill Handsaker, a non-Sierran, and I drove to Crescent Meadow, then hiked along the spectacular and well-graded High Sierra Trail to Bearpaw Meadow. Despite its ease of accessibility, the view of the Great Western Divide from Bearpaw Meadow on a clear day ranks among the finest in the area; certainly the finest of the Great Western Divide.

Taking two days to cross Kaweah Gap to the Big Arroyo, Bill and I climbed Eagle Scout Peak. Upon attaining the summit one must brace himself for the ascent of the summit block - a huge block overhanging the alpine west face. There is no visible exposure, but the climber is all too aware of its presence and the consequences should the block shear off.

From Big Arroyo we climbed to the lovely Chagoopa Plateau, pausing for a windy climb of Mt. Kaweah, then continuing to Moraine Lake. It is unfortunate that the Chagoopa Plateau and Moraine Lake are without the reach of the average hiker, for their beauty is indescribably grand.

Dropping into the Kern River at Funston Meadow, we took three days to leisurely ascend to the very headwaters of the river just below Mt. Ericson. The stretch of the Kern between Funston Meadow and Junction Meadow, although quite inaccessible, is a favorite hangout of the packers; thus there was an abundance of people and a super-abundance of horses. Fortunately the river is large enough to prevent the creation of a contamination problem.

At Kern Hot Springs there is a bathhouse, complete with a crude bathtub and faucet! This is the point of congregation for just about everyone in the region, and there was a line to wait through for baths the day we passed through. 15 people were camped within a few hundred yards of the hot springs, a remarkable population for a wilderness area.

From the beautiful basin at the head of the Kern we crossed Harrison Pass to Lake Reflection and East Lake, by far the grandest area we encountered in Sequoia. Unfortunately, East Lake was overcamped, but it is heartwarming to see the number of people willing to come in that far for the privilege of living in the presence of such beauty.

We had originally hoped to return to Giant Forest by way of Mt. Whitney and the Muir and High Sierra trails, but while descending from Mt. Kaweah I suffered a knee injury which created considerable pain while crossing Harrison Pass. We decided it would be wisest to go out via Cedar Grove, and we were later satisfied with our decision, as the injury grew more painful with each mile.

We reached Cedar Grove on August 30th, two weeks and 92 miles after leaving Giant Forest, and caught a ride back to our starting point.

MR

WHICH SUMMIT OF GODDARD IS HIGHER? by Russ Mohn

Last summer as my son and I stopped briefly at Evolution Lake during our Muir Trail trip we had the good fortune to meet Dr. H.H. Bliss (now over 70) who was a student of Le Conte's at the Univ. of Calif. and with Le Conte pioneered many Sierra routes in the early days. We asked him about a route up Goddard from the Muir Trail. His advice was, "Go straight south from Wanda Lake up an easy gully to the crest of the Goddard Divide; then traverse the south side of the divide to the saddle at the head of Starr's route; then on to the summit up a steep but easy slope." We followed this route; found it class 2 all the way and made the top in 3½ hours from Wanda Lake. We found much evidence in the register that Starr's route as described in the Climbers' Guide is underrated and generally parties were taking much more than 3½ hours on the route. So we recommend Dr. Bliss' route for both ease and time saving.

We also seriously question Starr's statement in the guide that the south summit is higher. The register has vacillated between the two summits since 1925 when Norman Clyde placed it on the north summit; at least the register was on the north
Summit in 1926 when my father-in-law climbed Goddard. The register shows that Starr made his only ascent of Goddard in 1932; just recently I have talked to his climbing companion on that trip, Mr. Giles S. Hall. Hall says that he and Starr found the register on the south summit and didn't question it's location. The register makes no mention of anyone having ever had any sort of instrument on top, but sighting across a brim full cup of water from both summits has convinced me that the north summit is higher. I strongly urge that the next S.P.S. party that climbs Goddard take along a hand level and settle the matter of which summit is higher. If the north summit is truly higher, then the register should be moved one last time and a conspicous note made that the register is properly located on the north summit.

MITRE BASIN, Sept. 10-11
by Barbara Lilley

Although the "afternoon thunderstorm" arrived at 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning at Whitney Portal, Sy Ossofsky and Barbara Lilley took advantage of a momentary break in the weather to begin the pack over Arc Pass at 1:00 p.m. Intermittent rain, hail and sleet accompanied them all the way to their camp at the highest timber below Sky Blue Lake, which they reached just at dark. Plastic tubes came in handy that night; however, clearing weather Sunday morning permitted them to make ascents of Mt. Pickering and Joe Devil Peak (traversing from one to the other) before a storm chased them back over Arc Pass and down to the car. In good weather, the first small lake on the south side of Arc Pass, above timberline, would be a more practical place to camp for these peaks.

DIAMOND PK. AND MT. BAXTER, Sept. 24-25
by Barbara Lilley

Mild, sunny weather (for a change) accompanied Rich Gnagy, Sy Ossofsky and Barbara Lilley on their backpack to a camp at 10,800 feet on the Baxter Pass trail. The trail was washed out during the floods of 1955-56 but has since been repaired. Saturday afternoon they scrambled up Diamond Peak (13,126') by going up the dry watercourse between it and Black Mtn. and then up the south slope.

Sunday they followed the trail to Baxter Pass (without packs) and traversed the time-consuming class 3 ridge to Mt. Baxter (13,125'), not recommended. On the return trip they dropped down past Baxter Lake and up the trail to the pass (recommended route of ascent also), back to camp and down to the car.

MT. TINEMAHAN AND KEARSARGE PEAK
Oct 15-16
by Barbara Lilley

Saturday, Rich Gnagy, Barbara Lilley, and Sy Ossofsky left their car at the end of the Red Mountain Creek road and climbed Mt. Tinemaha (12,561') via the east ridge. This route gained 5000 ft. to the summit, first on treadmill sand followed by more or less firm going with the last 500 ft. on a class 3 ridge made more interesting by 6-8" of new snow.

Sunday they climbed Kearsarge (12,590).