CHIEFMAN'S CORNER

With the coming year, the Section holds promise of a series of interesting trips, some new, some old.

Chuck Balfour is our Schedule Chairman will present a varied and well-rounded program of events for the coming season. Those with trip ideas should contact Chuck as soon as possible.

Walt Wheelock will head our Publications Committee, a newcomer in our Section, though a long-time Sierra Club member, knowledgeable in conservation and outdoor lore. He will publish a most interesting series of Echo's for us.

John Robinson will be our Mountaineering Chairman, and he also will bring a wealth of experience which will be valuable in our program. John is proceeding with two suggestions which he made, first to have the mountaineering records brought up to date, especially the southern and northern qualifying peaks and, second, to have Chuck Miller and Frank Sanborn, as a special committee, revise and update our northern peaks list. Barbara Lilley volunteered to help John with the mountaineering records.

FAREWELL

by Jerry Keating

Continued growth was achieved by the Sierra Peaks Section during 1960 despite a poor snow year and unfavorable weather on many of the summer weekends.

Fifteen persons applied for membership and 10 earned emblems. In addition, Norman Clyde was presented an honorary membership and emblem. Active membership now totals 116.

Scheduled events included 23 outings, 12 meetings, and the annual banquet. Average outing attendance was approximately 20.

A series of six easy trips produced disappointing turnouts, and the Management Committee now feels that outings aimed primarily at beginners are not worth scheduling. In their place will be ventures such as the Maysan Lake trip, which combined car camping, backpacking and peak bagging to attract 80 persons.

Thanks are in order to the eight standing committees as well as the other SPS officers. Maureen Brubacher, who arranged the monthly programs in addition to the banquet, deserves special mention.

The new chairman, George Shinno, is fully qualified to guide the SPS through another successful year. His experience with scheduling will pay off when the summer program is planned.
EDITOR'S NOTE  by Walt Wheelock

As your new editor, we are just feeling our way around. Obviously, it is going to be quite a job to maintain the high standards that Andy Smatko established as editor last year. Fortunately, the Costa Mesa Publishing Corporation (alias John Robinson) is again acting as our press men. Dorothy Cutler (our newest member) and Bobby Lilley are doing the typesetting.

We are hoping that the budding authors of the Section will continue to flood us with clever and accurate contributions.

And then comes that horrible word: NEXT DEADLINE — March 20th.

LAMONT (7468') OWENS (8475') PEAKS  by Jerry Keating

What were planned as mid-winter snow climbs turned out to be spring-like hikes January 6-8 as 28 persons participated in the SPS first Sierra outing of the year.

Mostly sunny, warm days were enjoyed by the party, and the temperature stayed above freezing Saturday night. Only a few traces of snow were seen in the area during the weekend, although the High Sierra had its usual cover.

Twenty-two of the 28 persons on hand Saturday morning reached the rocky summit of Lamont Peak in about 3 hours. The register showed the peak had not been climbed since the last SPS climb of it in the winter of 1959. The late Burt Parkinson led that party.

For Ron Lyman, Lamont was his sixth qualifying peak; for nine others, it was their first SPS outing.

Camp was established that night about 3 miles up Indian Wells Canyon Road, and a plentiful supply of fires provided a warm campfire. Lowest temperature during the night was a surprisingly warm 35.

Twenty-one climbers drove to the end of the road Sunday morning and scrambled up the south slope of Owens Peak. First arrivals made the 3000-foot ascent in 1-3/4 hours.

Leaders were Jerry Keating and Miles Drubacher.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Cutler, David Hamren and Ronald Lyman, all of Los Angeles. Active membership now totals 118.

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS

The mailing label on this Sierra Echo cites the year through which your subscription is paid. If it reads "50 exp," your remittance is overdue. SPS members are required by the bylaws to keep up their subscription to retain active status. Questions regarding subscriptions should be directed to Treasurer Tom Amneus.

THE SIERRA ECHO

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### MILEAGE TABLE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Location and Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>junction Indian Wells Rd. &amp; Hiway 6 — 0.5 miles N. of Homestead Cafe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>power line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>campsite 1961 — side road, just before rocks on N. side of road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>L A aqueduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>road on right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>mine road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>junction, take road right across draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>junction to east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>junction to east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>shack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>junction, take right fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>campsite and start of trail up canyon</td>
</tr>
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### INDIAN WELLS CANYON
ROUTE TO ROADHEAD FOR OWENS PEAK CLIMB

1961
PEAKING IN THE NEVADA DESERT

George Wallerstein and four friends from Berkeley spent Thanksgiving in the desert east of Bridgeport. Thursday morning was spent on two futile attempts to reach Bodie over snow covered roads. Finally we drove via Mono Lake to Hawthorne and that afternoon made a belated attempt on Buller Peak (9400'). It was possible to reach the ridge at something over 8000', but there was no time for the long walk to the summit.

On Friday, after a windy night, we climbed Cory Peak under clear skies and in a howling gale. From the 10,250 foot summit it was possible to see a sight that can be seen only in California; sandstorms and snowstorms being visible simultaneously. That evening we drove around to the mouth of Lapon Canyon, apparently the best approach to 11,300 foot Mt. Grant. Next morning a Frenchman in the group looked out of his tent and described the weather by the remark: "No, no, no, is not so good." Nevertheless, a forlorn attempt was started which ended as the snow began at about 8,000 feet, and with a wind of about 60 mph. The route appeared to be a "walk," but it involved a long ridge bare of timber above 9,000 feet, which would have turned the walk into a crawl in the prevailing winds.

George Wallerstein

CLIMBS IN ARIZONA

On the 4-day Thanksgiving weekend, Dick Mooley, Jim McGoldrich, Sy Ososfksy and Barbara Lilley headed for Arizona's mountains. We climbed Kofa Peak by the rock climbing route on Thursday and easy Pinkley Peak in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on Friday, with a profitable trip across the border to Sonoyta, Mexico.

The most interesting climb of the trip was that of Baboquivari Peak (7700'), southwest of Tucson. The 1941 topo map indicated a trail to the summit, and an overgrown trail was followed to the base of the main summit block. However, the upper part of the "trail" consisted of wooden steps up a rock face, most of which were no longer in place! Most of the rock was 2nd and 3rd class scrambling; however, one 4th class section was climbed by using a wire for a handline (a rappel rope would have been useful on the descent). The remains of a fire lookout on the summit indicated the reason for the trail and judging from entries in the register this is a popular climb in spite of the comparatively difficult ascent.

Barbara Lilley
With the best and deepest snow in the Sierra for this time of the year, for some time, I decided to take advantage of the five-foot snow. Leaving on Dec. 9 from Onion Valley (9,225'), I ski-climbed a spur of "Nine-Day-Jack" (11,300'), a ridge of Mt. Gould, located just above Gilbert Lake. It offers a terrific view of University, Independence and Kearsarge Peaks. Then on Dec. 11, I climbed, again on skis, to Golden Trout Lakes basin and then up a 11,700' ridge between Mt. Gould and Dragon Peak. The fabulous views, as far away as Mt. Ericsson, Mt. Stanford and Deerhorn Mt. and the snowclad back country provided beautiful winter photographs.

Other climbs included a first ascent of the west couloir and ridge route to Independence Peak (11,773'), including some class 2 and class 3 work. There is no record of a similar climb with this amount of snow. Christmas was spent climbing a high pass (11,600'), northwest of University Peak.

These climbs can be made by any skiing SP8er. Pick an easy peak or pass--Class 1 or 2--climbing a chute or couloir that does not avalanche, then up windsewpt ridges, which are usually free from snow (try those facing northwest). It is even possible to do class 3, if the route is snowfree. Take plenty of film, as the snow on the peaks of the High Sierra in winter will delight you.

Tom Ross

See "Avalanches in the High Sierra" by Norman Clyde, Feb. Southern Sierran (ed.)

A series of Tom Ross's magnificent photos of this area was featured in the December issue of SUMMIT Magazine. (ed.)

PINNACLE PASS

On Jan. 4th, leaving my car a half mile below Whitney Portal, I climbed a short distance, then skied to Mirror Lake. From here, I climbed to Pinnacle Pass (12,200') in delightfully clear windless weather - temp. 16 degrees. After enjoying the spectacular views of Whitney and the neighboring summits, an easy ski run brought me back to my car.

Tom Ross
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CI 2-4618  
TH 5-9463  
LA 6-1400  
DI 0-8644  
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EM 3-9344  
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ST 5-0548  
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HA 5-5309
WE 8-8517
DA 9-8264
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