CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, by George Shinno

The attraction our monthly meetings have for people new to the Sierra Club or to the Section has been a source of constant surprise. We hope our weekend outings will continue to attract them and more, for one of our purposes is to enable more people to become acquainted with the varied offerings of the High Sierra we are so fortunate in having. Beginners and newcomers should not be bashful in asking the "old-timers" any and all questions on any and all subjects, for the old-timers too had to start somewhat similarly.

There has been a question raised on whether or not the Section should more actively participate in direct conservation issues and problems. We would like your comments at the meetings or as articles in the Echo.

Some have written stating that they were surprised and hurt to find they had been placed on the inactive list and wondered why. Perhaps this excerpt from the bylaws will explain:

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

Such members will retain membership so long as they are members in good standing of the Sierra Club, and participate in at least one Section activity per year (such as a climb or service on a committee), and current subscription to the Sierra Echo.

A way to stay in good standing for those unable to attend climbs or meetings would be to submit articles for publishing in the Sierra Echo.

MEETING REPORTS, by Jerry Keating, Secretary

The 3PG Management Committee has approved 10 changes in the qualifying peaks list as recommended by the Mountaineering Committee headed by John Robinson. The list now contains 232 peaks.

The following committee chairmen were confirmed: Robinson, Mountaineering; Chuck Ballard, Schedule; Walt Wheelock, Publications; Graham Stephenson, Training; Charlotte Parsons, Social; and Chuck Gerckens, Conservation.

Tentative summer climbing schedule:
June 10-11 McAdie and Irvine from Consultation Lake
17-18 Thompson and Powell
July 1-4 Goddard from Florence Lake (other peaks too)
15-16 Gilbert and Johnson
29-30 Davis and Rogers from 1000 Island Lake.
Aug. 5-8  Inconsolable from Seventh Lake
19-20  Humphreys and possibly Emerson
Sept. 2-4  Lyle and Maclure
15-17  Carillon and Russell
30-1  Goat from Kings Canyon

The Section decided at its February meeting to purchase 25 surplus boxes and place them as registers on appropriate summits.

MT. SAN ANTONIO, by Lothar Kolbig

The Angeles Chapter Mountaineering Training Course, which has held three sessions at the Lemon Grove Playground, sponsored its first field trip for snow and ice practice to Mt. San Antonio on February 25-20.

Forty-four members and guests were treated to a delicious supper, prepared by Rosemary Gammons, at Harwood Lodge. After dinner a full-length movie by Lothar Kolbig of Colorado skiing, autumn in the high country, and a pack trip into the Elk mountains was received enthusiastically.

Sunday morning saw the whole group hiking up to the San Antonio Ski Hut. Thirty-three continued to the high snow slopes, where Ted Maier and Lothar gave demonstrations and instructions in snow and ice techniques. Despite a biting cold wind, twenty-five climbed on to the summit after lunch. Returning to the ski hut, we were treated to hot tea and many spoke of having enjoyed a wonderful weekend.

SPANISH NEEDLE PEAK, by Brubacher & Sanders

Twenty eager climbers left the Sand Canyon roadhead at 8:45 a.m., March 26. Several abandoned mine buildings were passed and an intermediate ridge was surmounted, accompanied by bawling cattle. A 500-foot descent was reluctantly made, and eventually the summit-seeking ridge was gained. The climbing became slightly exposed and required the use of hands in spots.

The shoulder of the peak was attained slightly after noon. The western face of the summit block and the shoulder were covered with hoarfrost. There was a slight amount of snow on level areas and in the gullies and a bitter, gusty wind contributed to the general wintry mood. This finally forced Mike McNicholas to put on his long pants.

Leader Bill Sanders negotiated a 120-foot pitch requiring three pitons for safety on the slippery surfaces. Considerable
time was required to delay 16 other members of the party up this pitch, three ropes being used in rotation. The actual summit block was climbed third- or fourth-class as preferred. No summit register was found.

Descent to the shoulder was expedited by a rappel, and at about 4:00 p.m. everyone was ready to get down to warmer climates. Going down in the soft, sandy soil was sheer pleasure, and the resulting high speed brought the party to the cars just at dusk. An enjoyable climb was topped off by juicy steaks at the Homestead.

This second SPS attempt on Spanish Needle Peak met with much greater success than the first. The proportion of those reaching the summit increased from 4 out of 16 to 17 out of 20.

**DEADLINE** - The deadline date for the next issue is May 24.

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---THE SIERRA ECHO---

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Editor: Walt Wheelock, 1120 East Palmer Ave., Glendale, California.
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17 SPSoS and guests, out to climb Sherman Peak, thought themselves thwarted at the locked gate blocking the Brush Creek logging road. Hiking from there would involve an extra 12 miles. However, Bud Bingham, Andy Smaiko, and John Robinson managed to find a ranger in Johnsondale who had such a high respect for Sierra Clubbers that he drove down and unlocked the barrier.

By 10 a.m. the group managed to get started up the ultra-steep mining road that winds halfway up Sherman from the southwest. The sun was warm and the sky clear as we hiked the "road" until it fizzled out and thence on a conglomeration of snow, brush, and rock to the summit - a 3½ hour hike with 4000' gain.

The summit view was inspiring. In a great panoramic arc from northwest to northeast were symmetrical Farewell Gap, the jagged Kaweah Ridge, the deep Kern River trench and rugged Kings-Kern Divide, the lowering Whitney group, and isolated but majestic Olancha - all glissening with their thick mantle of snow. Partially detracting from the beauty was the debris remains of an old fire lookout on our peak. Perhaps an SPS work party could someday remove this unnatural scar to the mountain.

We descended the mountain at a leisurely but steady pace - all but one. This hiker was bent on reaching the car first, tore past the group, and got lost in a rugged side canyon. The main group was delayed at the cars several hours shouting, honking horns, and planning a search. The tired hiker finally stumbled into camp just before dark, sodder but wiser.

There is a lesson to be learned from this experience. On cross-country trailless hikes the leader must insist that the group stay together. A firm attitude in this respect may win no friends but it should prevent members of the party from getting lost or injured.
Birch Mountain on Sawdenhofs

On Feb. 22, I parked my car at McMurray Meadows to attempt a winter conquest of Birch Mountain using the newly developed "Sawdenhofs". These 42-inch skis may be made by sawing off the back ends of any two abandoned skis. These are cut on a diagonal, then smoothed with a wood rasp and finished with sandpaper. Now install any type of bindings that fit on your climbing boots. (The Recreational Equipment of Seattle sell surplus army bindings for $1.35/pair) Use the small Northland cables and Northland front throngs. It may be necessary to cut or file grooves around the heels of your climbing boots, so that the cables will not slip off.

The distance from the boot heel to the ski heel should be about one third of the length from the toe of the boot to the toe of the ski. In other words, the weight should be in back of the balancing point, so that the tips will not dig in. Climbing skins may be fitted to these Sawdenhofs.

So leaving the Meadow at 5:30 am., I worked my way up on these junior-sized skis. It was necessary, for safety, to set up ropes to cross the chutes, especially as huge clouds of powder snow were being blasted off all of the northern faces of the peaks. The summit was reached at 1:10 pm., but a 10°C temperature and a 70 mph gale discouraged a lengthy stop, even though the view of nearby Palisades was beautifully rewarding.

Skiing down was very pleasant on the southeast-facing spring snow, together with the wind-slab powder snow and other powder snow in the northern side of the various cavities, even though the final run to the car at 6:25 pm. was made by moonlight.

This was the first winter ascent of Birch Mountain (13,665') and was only possible with my little "Sawdenhofs".

Tom Ross

Newest member is Robert (Robin) Ives of Harvey Mudd College in Claremont. Active members now total 119.

JK
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

For several years I have been waging a lonely and unsuccessful fight, the purpose of which is to have the Sierra Echo publish news of the Sierra and the DPS News-letter news of the desert. The recent excellent Echo has one page of desert news which should, I feel, be a part of the DPS News-letter. Now that the DPS plans a timely publication will it not be possible for the desert news to appear in one and the Sierra news in the other. Or should the DPS News-letter in the summer contain details of outlaw trips in the Sierra by DPS members.

In confusion,

Trudie H.

Dear Confused Trudie:

As far as the loneliness of your fight, may I refer you to a Miss Landers, who runs a column in several other local newspapers.

The remainder of your problem is one that has been bothering many people. It seems that within the past year, a number of our good members have been worrying about mixed-up scheduling of trips, as well as the mixed-up reporting of same. While it is undoubtedly a good idea if everybody played in his own backyard, it must be admitted that a great many of our climbers will climb anything that is available, deserts in winter, Sierras in the summer and the local mountains on short weekends. Frankly, your editor hopes that the compartmentalization of the Club is not made a part of the By-laws. We would not like to see the Home Guard of the Hundred Peakers doing sentry duty around the base of San Jacinto to keep Sierra Peakers off of their sacred mountain. Neither would we like to see the time when it would be necessary to get permission of the Rock Climbers to beat a piton into a Class 6 route on the East Face of Whitney, --- or the time that it would be necessary to ask the Songsters to assign a duly accredited song-leader so that the DPS'ers might sing "How Dry I Am" or "Cool Water - What Water?" --- or even the time when Walt H. would have to have a paid up card from the John birch society to hunt communists.

But frankly, the best way, Dear Confused, is to so swamp the editor with so much good copy that he has no room for DPS, 100's, ACS, etc., or for that matter, for trash like this that he is now pounding out, hoping to fill up space.

Sincerely,

Your Confusing Editor
SICHTS PEAKS SECTION QUALIFYING MOUNTAINS (1961)
(Revised Feb. 1961)

Peaks chosen for elevation, dominance of an area, view, & inaccessibility
Number after elevation refers to difficulty of climb via easiest route
Emblem Peaks capitalized

I. Southern Sierra
   a. East of S. Fk. Kern River
      Owens Pk. (6,475') 1
      Spanish Needle Pk. (7,879') 3
      Lamont Pk. (7,468') 2
      Sawtooth Pk. (7,970') 2
      Crag Pk. (9,555') 2
      OLANCHA Pk. (12,135') 1
   b. West of S. Fk. Kern River
      Pilot Knob (6,212') 3
      Taylor Dome (8,783') 2
      Rockhouse Pk. (8,367') 3
      Sirretta Pk. (9,938') 1
      Sherman Pk. (9,974') 1
      North Maggie Mtn. (10,235') 1
      Moses Mtn. (9,331') 2
      Kern Pk. (11,493') 1

II. Western Divide & Vicinity
   a. Western Divide
      Angora Mtn. (10,237') 1
      Coyote Pk. (10,919') 2
      Florence Pk. (12,432') 2
      Sawtooth Pk. (12,343') 2
      Mt. Eisen (12,160') 1
      Mt. Lippincott (12,267') 2
      Eagle Scout Pk. (12,000') 2
      Mt. Stewart (12,202') 2
      Lion Rock (12,400') 2
      Triple Divide Pk. (12,651') 2
      Milestone Mtn. (13,641') 3
      Midway Mtn. (13,666') 2
      Table Mtn. (13,630') 3
      Thunder Mtn. (13,588') 3
      South Guard (13,224') 3
      MT. BREWER (13,570') 1
      North Guard (13,327') 3
      Cross Mtn. (12,140') 2
   b. East of Divide
      Needham Mtn. (12,467') 2
      MT. KAWEAH (13,802') 1
      Red Kaweah (13,754') 3
      Black Kaweah (13,756') 3
      Picket Guard Pk. (12,302') 2
      Kern Point (12,789') 2
   c. West of Divide
      Vandever Mtn. (11,918') 1
      Alta Pk. (11,211') 1
      Mt. Silliman (11,183') 2

III. Whitney Area
   a. Crest
      Cirque Pk. (12,835') 1
      Mt. Langley (14,042') 1
      Mt. Corcoran (13,733') 2
      Mt. Le Conté (13,960') 3
      Mt. Mallory (13,850') 2
      Mt. Irvine (13,770') 1
      Mt. McAdie (13,720') 3
      Mt. Muir (14,015') 2
      MT. WHITNEY (14,495, 811') 1
      Mt. Russell (14,086') 3
      Mt. Carillion (13,552') 2
      Tunnabora Pk. (13,565') 2
      Mt. Barnard (13,990') 1
      Trojan Pk. (13,950') 1
      Mt. Tyndall (14,018') 2
d. East of Crest

Lone Pine Pk. (12,951') 1
Thor Pk. (12,300') 2
MT. WILLIAMSON (14,375') 1

V. Baxter Pass to Mather Pass

a. Crest

Mt. Baxter (13,125') 2
Colosseum Mtn. (12,473') 1
Mt. Perkins (12,591') 2
Striped Mtn. (13,189') 1
Cardinal Mtn. (13,397') 2
Split Mtn. (14,058') 1
Mt. Prater (13,329') 1
Mt. Bolton-Brown (13,538') 2

b. East of Crest

Goodale Mtn. (12,790') 2
Mt. Tinemaha (12,561') 2
Birch Mtn. (13,665') 1

b. K-K Divide to Woods Creek

Deerhorn Mtn. (13,265') 3
Center Pk. (12,760') 2
East Vidette (12,350') 3
West Vidette (12,560') 2
Mt. Bago (11,469') 1
Mt. Rixford (12,890') 1
Mt. Gardiner (12,907') 3
Mt. Clarence King (12,905') 4

c. Crest

Junction Pk. (13,888') 3
Mt. Keith (13,977') 2
Mt. Bradley (13,269') 2
University Pk. (13,632') 1
Mt. Gould (13,005') 2
Dragon Pk. (13,040') 3
Black Mtn. (13,289') 2
Diamond Pk. (13,126') 2

b. Great Divide

Independence Pk. (11,773') 2
Kearsarge Pk. (12,598') 1

VI. Palisades area

a. Crest

Disappointment Pk. (13,917') 3
Middle Palisade (14,040') 3
Norman Clyde Pk. (13,956') 3
VII. Evolution Area

a. Crest

Mt. Goode (13,092') 1
Mt. Johnson (12,866') 2
Mt. Gilbert (13,103') 2
Mt. Thompson (13,480') 2
Mt. Powell (13,360') 2
Mt. Wallace (13,377') 2
Mt. Haeckel (13,435') 3
MT. DARWIN (13,830') 3
Mt. Lamarck (13,417') 1

b. West of Crest

Giroud Pk. (12,585') 2
Mt. Reinstein (12,604') 2
Scylla (12,939') 2
Charybdis (13,091') 3
Black Giant (13,330') 1
MT. GODDARD (13,568') 2
Mt. Nuxley (13,177') 2
Mt. Fiske (13,524') 1
Mt. McGee (12,969') 2
The Hermit (12,360') 4
Emerald Pk. (12,546') 2
Mt. Mendel (13,691') 3
Mt. Goethe (13,240') 1
Mt. Henry (12,196') 2
Three Sisters (10,612') 2

VIII. Humphrey's Basin & Vicinity

a. Crest

MT. HUMPHREYS (13,986') 4
Four Gables (12,760') 1

b. East of Crest

Mt. Emerson (13,225') 2
Basin Mtn. (13,240') 2
Mt. Tom (13,652') 2

b. West of Crest

Mt. Senger (12,271') 1
Mt. Hooper (12,349') 2
Seven Gables (13,075') 2
Merriam Pk. (13,077') 2
Royce Pk. (13,253') 2

IX. Pine Creek to Mammoth

a. Rock Creek Area

Mt. Morgan (13,748') 1
Bear Creek Spire (13,713') 3
Mt. Dade (13,600') 2
MT. ABBOT (13,715') 3
Mt. Mills (13,458') 3

b. Mono Divide to McGee Pass

Mt. Hilgard (13,361') 2
Mt. Gabb (13,711') 2
Recess Pk. (12,836') 3
Silver Pk. (11,878') 2
Red & White Mtn. (12,850') 2
Mt. Stanford (12,851') 2
Mt. Morgan (13,005') 2

b. McGee Pass to Mammoth

Red Slate Mtn. (13,163') 1
Mt. Baldwin (12,555') 1
Mt. Morrison (12,268') 2
Bloody Mtn. (12,544') 2
Mammoth Mtn. (11,053') 1
X. Ritter Range to Tioga Pass
   a. Ritter Range & Vicinity
      Iron Mtn. (11,157') 1
      Clyde Minaret (12,281') 4
      Mt. RITTER (13,157') 2
      Banner Pk. (12,945') 2
      Electra Pk. (12,442') 2
      Mt. Davis (12,311') 1
      Rodgers Pk. (12,978') 3
      San Joaquin Mtn. (11,600') 1
   b. Clark Range & Vicinity
      Merced Pk. (11,726') 2
      Red Pk. (11,696') 2
      Gray Pk. (11,581') 2
      Mt. Clark (11,522') 3
      Mt. Starr King (9,081') 4
      Half Dome (8,852') 2
      Clouds Rest (9,929') 1
   c. Cathedral Range
      Mt. LYELL (13,114') 3
      Mt. Maclure (12,988') 3
      Mt. Florence (12,507') 2
      Vogelsang Pk. (11,511') 2
      Cathedral Pk. (10,933') 4
   d. Donohue Pass to Tioga Pass
      Keip Pk. (12,979') 1
      Mt. Gibbs (12,764') 1
      Mt. Dana (13,053') 1

XI. Tioga Pass to Bond Pass
   a. Crest and East
      Mt. Conness (12,555') 2
      North Pk. (12,281') 2
      Mt. Warren (12,327') 2
      Excelsior Mtn. (12,440') 2
      Dunderberg Pk. (12,374') 2
      Twin Pks. (12,314') 2
      MATTERHORN Pk. (12,281') 2

b. West of Crest
   Pettit Pk. (10,775') 2
   Volunteer Pk. (10,497') 2
   Plute Mtn. (10,541') 2
   Virginia Pk. (11,962') 2
   Tower Pk. (11,755') 3

XII. Northern Sierra
   a. Bond Pass to Lake Tahoe
      Black Hawk Mtn. (10,348') 2
      Leavitt Pk. (11,570')
      Stanislaus Pk. (11,220')
      Disaster Pk. (10,047')
      Highland Pk. (10,955')
      Round Top (10,385') 3
      Freel Pk. (10,900') 2
      Pyramid Pk. (9,983') 2
      Dicks Pk. (9,974') 2
      Mt. Tallac (9,735') 1
      Genoa Pk. (9,173')
   b. Squaw Valley to Fredonyer Pass
      Granite Chief (9,006') 2
      Tinker Knob (8,949') 2
      Castle Pk. (9,103') 3
      Mt. Lola (9,143') 1
      English Mtn. (8,404') 2
      Sierra Buttes (8,587') 1
      Haskell Pk. (8,107') 1
      Mt. Elwell (7,812') 1
      Mt. Adams (8,197')

This is the 3rd revision of the SPS Qualifying Peak list.
Original List : Oct.1955, 100 peaks
1st Revision : Feb.1957, 216 peaks
2nd Revision : May 1958, 227 peaks