CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, by George Shinno

Our climb of Oiancha Peak, first emblem peak of the season, resulted in a turnout of some forty people, all eager to participate in one of our major activities, that of 'bagging' an emblem peak. Our leaders were overwhelmed by this energetic group and there were two incidents which occurred, a missing person and missing water. Fortunately, the missing person did finally arrive back at camp. Could our leaders, including the Management Committee, have been too relaxed, hoping old lessons had not been forgotten? A review of the trip leaders' responsibilities:

1. Keep track of all trip participants throughout the trip.
2. Refuse to let inexperienced persons leave the group.
3. Advise participants of their responsibilities at the beginning of the trip.

Trip participants, too, have their responsibilities:
1. Stay with the group.
2. Those who join in a scheduled activity are expected to conform to the activities of the group.
3. Participants who join the scheduled group but expect to do other than the scheduled activities shall obtain permission from the leader to do so before the trip begins.
4. No participant shall expect to leave the group by himself.
5. Follow the leader's instructions in all matters of safety.

The missing water incident: Your chairman checked the disappearance of the water with the person involved. This water was used to extinguish campfires (several?), which fires should have been extinguished by the users before leaving camp. Perhaps he was too hasty in the use of water for this purpose, for there was snow which could have been used. The moral? Our scheduled trips should be fun and enjoyment trips, but good conservation and mountaineering practices must always prevail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, by Jerry Keating

Seven more climbers have qualified for the SPS, boosting the number of active members to 126 and the total membership to 187. They are:

Mike McNicholas of Los Angeles, who has climbed a dozen qualifiers already this year, including Colosseum and Baxter on May 20-21 with the section.
Polly Connable of Ridgecrest, a widely known Desert Peaker whose Sierra ascents included Bear Creek Spire, Darwin, Williamson, Whitney, Olancha, Irvine, Mallory and Baxter.

Pauline Johnson of Gardena, who achieved her sixth peak on the Olancha climb April 29-30 after starting out on Alta several years ago.

Donald Nagy of Torrance, whose list was composed of Whitney, Olancha, Abbot, Sill, Humphreys and Lamont.

Ed Ostrenga of Santa Monica, whose peaks extended from Pilot Knob on the south to Mt. Tallac on the north.


Isaac Kagel of Los Angeles, who has climbed Sherman, University, Olancha, Colosseum and Baxter with the section this year.

Earlier, Robert (Robin) Ives of Harvey Mudd College at Claremont joined the section with Whitney, Wincheil, Darwin, Gayley, Koip and Gibbs.

Newest emblem holder is Allen Dageforde of Bell, who got his 10th peak on Olancha.

Attendance at the monthly meetings in the Lemon Grove Playground Auditorium has risen steadily since the section moved there last June. More than 80 persons, including 20 newcomers, were on hand May 20 for Lothar Kolbig's African films.

Charlotte Parsons, head of the SPS Social Committee, announced the programs for the summer schedule would be as follows: June, Summer Trips Preview; July, Dick Jali's European climbing slides; August, "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin," a half-hour film about the Northern Cascades; and September, Swiss climbing film.

It was decided to purchase from Izzy Lieberman, for $2.50, 25 ammunition boxes suitable for registers. The registers will be painted appropriately and placed on future trips.

OLANCH A PEAK, by Mike Raudenbush

On April 29-30, the SPS once again led the very popular spring climb of Olanca Peak, our southernmost emblem peak.

By 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the 29th, 40 climbers had gathered at the roadhead near Sear's Pack Station. The climb to Olanca Pass was, as expected, rather warm. Later in the day, however, the weather cooled off with a refreshing wind from the Kern Plateau. The easy five-mile hike to the pass was completed leisurely by 12:00. It became apparent at the lunch stop near the pass that there would be no running water on this climb--only snow to melt.

By 1:00 everyone was finished with lunch, and the group proceeded to make the trailless traverse along the ridge toward our objective. In a small canyon approximately one-third of the way across the
ridge we stopped and made camp at 3:00 p.m. From this camp it was possible to ascend a few hundred feet to the top of the crest and obtain inspiring views of the sunset over the Kern Plateau, as well as the magnificent shadows of the Sierra over the Owens Valley as the sun went down.

By 8:30 the next morning, the main body of the party was off for the peak. The climb was short and pleasant, and by 9:30 the last person reached the peak. Thirty-nine out of the forty persons who started made the summit. For three Sierra Clubbers, Pauline Johnson, Jerry Nims, and Howard Stevens, this was the sixth qualifying peak. Congratulations!

The descent to camp was accomplished by noon, and, following an extended stay in camp waiting for one member who had fallen asleep and whose absence had not been noticed, we started for the cars at about 3:00. The cars were reached at 5:30.

It is regretted that this next item must be brought to the attention of the SPS. After climbing the peak, it was discovered at camp that two younger participants, and we know who they are, helped themselves to another person's water; water that had been laboriously melted from snow. Such action is beyond the tolerable. We suggest that those responsible seriously reconsider their values.

To end this report with a pleasant tone, I wish to express the thanks for all those who so selflessly volunteered to aid in the proposed search on Sunday. Such support is gratifying indeed.

DIAMOND PEAK (13,126'), May 6-7 by John Robinson

Eighteen SPSers and friends successfully made the snow climb of Diamond Peak Sunday morning, after weathering a Saturday night snowstorm at the Summit Meadows campsite. The weather cleared early Sunday morning, leaving blue windless skies for the ascent. The view from the top was wonderful - snowclad peaks in all directions.

Twenty-two had packed the 4,500 feet into camp on Saturday amid storm clouds and strong winds.

MT. BAXTER (13,126') AND COLOSSEUM Mtn. (12,473) by Andy Smatko

At 6:15 a.m. on the morning of May 20, 13 ambitious SPSers shouldered Kelty packs at the trailhead along the road west of Division Creek powerhouse and briskly strode up the dry trail towards Sawmill Creek. The trailhead was about 4,800 feet. First water is about 3 miles from trailhead and about 2,400 feet higher. The trail is in good condition, although somewhat sandy at first. Mule Lake, just 300 feet lower than Sawmill Lake, was very low and probably will be dry this summer.

We reached Sawmill Lake, elevation 10,100 feet or so, in 5-1/2 hours. After a leisurely lunch, ten climbers elected to go over Sawmill Pass, another 1,400 feet above, in order to climb Colosseum Mtn. This peak is not visible from the pass, being obscured by another unnamed summit in front of it, or, rather, in the line of vision. We dropped down 350-400 feet and traversed over soggy snow, at times sinking in to and above the knees, to an obvious chute leading up and to the right (NE). This chute opens onto the gently sloping plateau south of the summit. The summit is a long
ridge with two high points, east and west, of which the west is the highest. The climb is mostly Class I, with some Class II blocks on the summit area. The weather was ideal with almost unlimited visibility. From Sawmill Lake to the summit took about 3-1/2 hours. Woods Lake was still frozen, as were several other high lakes. Ten made the summit. We did not linger as the distance back to Sawmill Lake was almost four miles.

We arrived in camp shortly before nightfall and found the second party around the evening campfire. It was indeed heartening and pleasantly surprising to see Bud Bingham in camp. He had made the 3-1/2 miles and 5,600' gain with a full pack. All in all, there were 22 camping at the lake. The camping area is near the eastern end of the lake, a short distance from the trail towards the lake. Bill Warren caught three skinny trout about 14" long.

Next morning, after a balmy, though windy night, 13 started out for the summit of Mt. Baxter at 7:15 a.m. Snow conditions were good except in a few spots near large rocks. The route generally trends SW up easy slopes. The rocks were loose in spots and care had to be taken, but once on the ridge north of the summit the rocks were larger and firm. The 13 climbers made the summit in staggered time intervals. Three "tigers" went on to climb the slightly higher summit to the west of Mt. Baxter. This, too, is an imposing mountain. John Robinson suggested that maybe we (the SP3) should propose the name Parkinson Peak for this summit, and Foley Peak for the next summit to the south (also an unnamed peak), in honor of Burl Parkinson and Francis Foley.

The weather was still holding beautifully and again the Sierra was spread magnificently before us. Mt. Clarence King speared the sky like the Swiss Matterhorn and was voice-voted as the most impressive peak seen. The summit was reached by the main group at 11:45 a.m.

The return trip proceeded eastward along the ridge to some reddish-brown dirt near a saddle, and down this (N) to the head of a long snow chute. A long, cold-seated glissade was thoroughly enjoyed; a somewhat breakable crust preventing a standing glissade. By now the snow was becoming "rotten" with frequent breakthroughs. John Spinks once broke through and disappeared completely, with his head two feet below the snow level, but fortunately the snow about him broke and he was in no danger and was unhurt. Camp was reached in jig time. Rich Gnagy, Barbara Lilley, and Sy Ossofsky, who had already climbed Baxter, climbed Colosseum on Sunday. Bud Bingham did not choose to climb either peak, as his leg was still not quite up to par.

We departed from camp at 3:00 p.m. and the cars were reached at 6:45 p.m. Again the various members of the party arrived at staggered intervals.

I would like to make one comment about this trip and, from what I have heard, this holds for several past SP3 trips. Leaders (and I was guilty this past weekend) seem to have little control over keeping the group together. The stronger and faster wish to go on ahead, sometimes waiting and sometimes not. Three members reached the summit of Mt. Baxter almost 45 minutes before the main group. In other mountain climbing clubs, this is neither allowed
nor tolerated. A scheduled climb is a group activity and not a marathon or race to the summit. Comradeship is one of the joys of such an outing, and this is lost when the party is strung out. The slowest or weakest member has as much desire to climb as the "tigers," but just cannot keep their pace. At the next SPS meeting this aspect of scheduled climbs should be thoroughly aired and discussed, as we have been fortunate, so far, in not having a tragedy. It is my personal feeling that those who join a scheduled climb must understand that they have to remain with the group - otherwise they should not participate. On non-scheduled trips, the individuals concerned do as they please.

"IT IS UNUSUAL, BUT I'VE BEEN CLIMBING WITH MR. GRABSKI BEFORE"

Plot: Lothar K., Art: Bud B.

DEADLINE - The deadline date for the next issue is July 28.

--THE SIERRA ECHO--

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We of the S.P.S. in "Superior" California are stirring to activity. On Sat., May 20, Chuck Miller and I scouted Snow Valley Peak, 9274 ft., high point of the Carson Range between Freel Peak and Mt. Rose. We started from a dirt road just a few miles N.E. of Spooner Summit on U.S. 50, between Carson City and Lake Tahoe. Going cross-country, we followed Clear Creek up through the Toiyabe National Forest to the summit, gaining 2000 ft. in three miles. It was Class I uphill through dense pine, aspen and fir forest. The barren summit was wind-blasted, but offered a fine view of Lake Tahoe, the Sierra crest from Donner Pass to Sonora Pass, and much of Nevada to the east.

We had in mind the possibility of recommending Snow Valley Peak to replace Genoa Peak, the S.P.S. qualifier six miles south of Spooners Summit. However, a jeep road goes from the N.E. to within a few yards of the summit, so we felt Genoa should remain the only qualifier between Freel Peak and Mt. Rose.

Frank Sanborn

NORTH MAGGIE & MOSES MOUNTAIN

From the camping area at the Ranger Station in Badich Park (snow and mud prevented us from driving all the way to Shake Camp, a distance of over 2 miles), Arky Erb, Mike McNicholas, Tom Ross and I hiked along the trail towards Summit Lake. From a point in a small meadow somewhat north of North Maggie we started up a ridge towards the prominent knob of rock, circled to the left of it and continuing on above it to the right, we climbed to the summit west of the true summit (almost as high). We dropped to the saddle (400') between North Maggie and the west summit and on up. From the summit of North Maggie we dropped down in a NW direction into the wide valley and circled a little in a westerly direction to the trail. Hiking about 20 miles (estimate).

Next day, Sunday, we hiked back almost to the same small meadow, then struck up along a pine-covered ridge on the east face of Moses Mountain. Above the main portion of tree-level the climbing ranged from Class II to pretty high Class III on good rock and we never knew for sure whether we might not "get hung up" (one should on trips to this mountain carry a rope). On reaching the crest of the ridge about 1/4 mile north of the summit there is a sheer drop-off on the west side. This forced us up some steep snow (soft by now) and we gained the summit by traversing along a corniced ridge. There was no register to sign, only a wooden tower left by a survey party. On the west side of the peak we saw the remnants of a huge avalanche that went down for
1,500 feet. Several pinnacles on the ridge are fifth class, quite spectacular. We descended another ridge which was easier than the one we climbed, although again we couldn't be certain whether it would go all the way. Returned to the car, dinner at Gang Sue's and back home.

TEMPLE CRAG & MT. GAYLEY

On May 13th, Arky Erb and I packed from the roadhead on Big Pine Creek. Leaving our packs at Fourth Lake, we climbed, mostly on snow, to Contact Pass (11,640'). Just above the pass there is a narrow, steep 4th-class chimney, which we climbed to a ridge of the summit. The view was fabulous, especially of Middle Palisade and Norman Clyde Peak, with their glaciers. The return route was the same. We rappelled down the steep chimney, although had not needed a rope to climb it.

Next morning, we climbed to Palisade Glacier, again mostly on snow. The glacier was still covered by powder snow! We climbed to Glacier Notch (13,000'). By now the clouds were coming in very rapidly, as we climbed the north couloir. Roping up, Arky took the lead over the snow and ice covered rocks until we were within 300 feet of the summit of Sill.

Unfortunately, the snow was now coming down heavily and as the remaining distance is 4th class, we gave up and retreated slowly back to the Notch. Now, not wishing to waste the day, we climbed Mt. Gayley through the snowstorm.

Coming down below the moraine, we got into some horrible rotten snow, sinking waist deep. We reached our car just before dark.

Tom Ross

"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."

For years I have not climbed a peak
But continued SPS membership I seek,
I'm too tired at night to attend a meeting
And talk old times with Bud and Reating.
Appointment to the mountaineering committee
Could only come as a sign of pity.
My final hope is to make the Echo.
I beg you, Sir, publish this lamento.

Tom Hunt

There will be a RCS climb at Mt. Pacifico on July 23, which does not appear in the chapter schedule. Safety tests will be administered. Meet in La Canada at 8:00 to pool transportation. Leader:GEORGE HARR, SV 3-2863.
SPRING ASCENT OF MT. WILLIAMSON

At 6:00 A.M. on the morning of Saturday, May 6, Jim Eder and I began the backpack to the George Creek base camp for a climb of Mt. Williamson, the second highest SPS emblem peak.

An early start made the climb up George Creek quite pleasant, and by 12:00 noon we had made the 5,000' gain to timberline. After waiting an hour to eat lunch and see if the prevalent overcast would clear, we decided upon an ascent that day. By the time the tiring 1500-foot climb to the long, flat shoulder was completed, it was 3:00 and very windy. As we progressed, the weather became increasingly poor. Finally, after a very strenuous climb in snow for the last 1500 feet, the 14 394-foot summit was reached at 5:00 p.m.

A short stay on the summit seemed advisable after we had admired the wonderful view, including some very threatening storm clouds just across the crest which were moving fast. The descent to timberline was accomplished in about two hours amid high winds and very wintry temperatures (on the way down we observed water, frozen, which had been liquid on the way up). It was later discovered that a 17-degree F night temperature had been taken on the Diamond Peak climb, ten miles to the north.

Due to the fact the precipitation seemed imminent, we carried our packs down a thousand feet to a more sheltered camp and there spent a stormy night. As it turned out, all that weather only dropped about an inch of snow.

The descent to the car on Sunday was leisurely and pleasant, a perfect climax to a harsh but thrilling weekend. Mike Raudenbush

SIERRA BUTTES

A detached bit of the alpine "high sierra" in the northern Sierra was climbed by 12 members of the Mother Lode Chapter on Sunday, May 28 led by Chuck Miller and Frank Sanborn. This climb involved a trailless gain of 2600 feet in 2½ miles from the car-camping site at Lower Sardine Lake, near Yuba Pass and Sierra City, while wives and children watched through binoculars. Ice axes were a must as the dozen climbers negotiated a steep, 3rd class route up snow-filled couloirs, past ice-covered Young America Lake, to the 8587-ft. summit of Sierra Buttes. Although a jeep road leads to within a few feet of the summit from the south side, the alpine climbing on the north side warrants the retention of this peak on the SPS qualifying list.

John Peckham of Sacramento attained his 6th SPS qualifying peak upon attaining the summit, and was congratulated by all. A magnificent view of the Sierra from the Donner Pass area to the volcanic cone of Mt. Lassen was rewarding. A cloudy sky kept the weather cool and comfortable. Two 1000-ft. glissades, on soft but steep snow slopes, livened up the descent to the cars.

On Sat., May 27, Chuck Miller led several early arrivals on a Class I six-mile hike through pine forest and manzanita-buckthorn scrub to Haskell Peak at 8107-ft. SPS qualifying peak a few miles east of Sierra Buttes and overlooking Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley to the east. What is believed to be the largest rock cairn gracing a Sierra summit was found on top of Haskell.

Enthusiasm and interest in the SPS is rapidly growing in the Mother Lode Chapter. Right of us attempted to "get" Mt. Elwell, another SPS qualifier near Gold Lake on Sat. May 27, but one car had its gas tank punctured on an extremely rough rocky approach road. The balance of the day was spent having the gas tank repaired and climbing Mt. Haskell.

Frank Sanborn
RE-ECHOS FROM THE ECHO

TO MEMBERS SPS:

Do the recent sarcastic remarks, directed at "Walt H."
and the "John Birch Society" merely represent the personal animosities of your Editor, or does the SPS endorse the ridiculing of a fellow Sierran in your official publication? His sarcasm was in itself a very small thing and it would have been treated with the contempt which it deserved except for the following reasons:

1. Unless checked the making of such remarks has a tendency to become a habit. Children who want to be "noticed" often do this but fortunately most of us outgrow it.

2. The expressed opinions of some of your number were, "These remarks were utterly uncalled for," and "So obviously dragged in."

3. As your elected Editor, the author is regarded by the rest of the Chapter as the official spokesman of the SPS. Do you agree?

4. Lastly, I have grown very weary of his previous statements, "If anyone disagrees with Walt Heninger, he always calls him a Communist."

It is easy to prove that this statement is untrue. There are very few people with whom conduct or opinions I have so consistently disagreed, yet I have never believed your Editor to be a Communist nor have I ever applied that epithet to him. I therefore challenge him to cite one instance where I have called him a Communist. If he can do this I will be only too glad to apologize to him, and to the Communists.

May I suggest that you read J. Edgar Hoover's MASTERS OF DECEIT, pages 205 and 206? Am sorry to inform you that the two copies which I placed in our Chapter Library were immediately removed and presumably destroyed, by the Communists. They hate this book more than any other ever written.

No, I do not belong to the John Birch Society, but I have only the highest respect for their aims—to warn America of her danger. Some of us seem to have a great surplus of time, but in my humble opinion this could well be employed to a more worthy cause than in attempting to hinder this program.

Your editor and I did not see eye to eye in regard to a recently defeated amendment which sought to exclude, (and I quote) "THOSE WHO ADVOCATE THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA BY FORCE". You must agree that only one name can be applied to the man who DOES ADVOCATE taking this step. He is a TRAITOR. This measure was NOT a "Loyalty Oath". (That name was given to it by its enemies.) What, then, was it? It was simply a "STATEMENT OF NON-TREASONABLE INTENT". Why then the fierce and poisonous opposition? I can only reply, "That's your question", but I greatly fear that before long we may have the answer.

When we remember the misrepresentations, the distortions, and the downright falsehoods with which this measure was greeted, I feel that we should take the accusations made against the "Birchers" with more than a pinch of salt. Let's hear both sides before we aid in a smear conspiracy, aid by that most potent of weapons—ridicule.

Future sarcasm will be ignored as it is out of place in the ECHO. Besides, Bernice and I are going to Alaska. Kindest regards to you all,

"Walt H."