SIERRA ECHO

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, by George Shinno

The retiring chairman of the Angeles Chapter, Orville Miller, in the Southern Sierran, has stated his opinion of the SPS philosophy in regard to Sierra Club members, membership, political activities, etc. The presentation of these items was most startling, for, to my knowledge, they have never been presented, let alone discussed, at any SPS meeting. It is unfortunate we have this so-called dissension, for the SPS is certainly not an independent organization concerned only with its own activities. Its individual members are first of all members of the Sierra Club, concerned with all of its varied activities.

Why are we the Sierra Peaks Section? Our purposes are not only to expand interest and knowledge of the Sierra Club membership in the Sierra Nevada range, but also to promote and cultivate close comradeship among hikers and mountaineers, and aid in conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas.

Is the SPS achieving these objectives? The Section's trips have brought increased interest in the various areas and aspects of the Sierras, as evidenced by the increased attendance on our various trips. The Section's enthusiasm for the wilderness and wilderness values has broadened the enjoyment of the mountains, not only for individuals, but also for the mountaineering friends who have been made from the various outings. The Section values the comradeship which comes from sharing the hardships of the trail and the good fellowship of the camp and of the campfire. How does this further the cause of conservation? Possibly we have, by our outings, created the desire for the preservation of wilderness values by the introduction of more people into the wilderness environment, thereby learning of wildness conditions. The SPS shall always welcome new faces and will do all it can to foster good mountaineering and conservation practices.

A reminder: Mountain tops and trails, as well as campsites, should be left clean.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, by Jerry Keating

Membership in the Sierra Peaks Section hit 202 during the past two months as climbers took full advantage of summer to bag qualifying peaks. Of the total, 141 are active and 59 have an emblem.
One of the new members, Steve Brand of Altadena, waited until he had 10 emblem peaks to apply for membership. His list was composed of Darwin, Goddard, Sill, North Pal, Matterhorn, Lyell, Ritter, Kaweah, Brewer and Whitney.

Other newcomers include:

The father-son climbing team of Von and Chris Ross of Los Angeles, whose qualifying jaunts included Lamont, Owens, Olancha, Goode and Goddard.


Arkel Erb of Los Angeles, who bounced over Muir, Whitney, McAdie, Irvine, Mallory and LeConte in two days during a scheduled outing.

John Cornell of Woodland Hills, conqueror of Spanish Needle, University, Olancha, Diamond, Colosseum and Split.

David Evans of Redondo Beach, who cited Brewer, Whitney, Split, Barnard, Dade and University.

R. J. Furnoy of Lomita, who submitted 18 peaks after learning from former SPS chairman Chuck Miller that the number was more than enough.

The husband-wife team of Steve and Bunny Rogers of Lancaster, regulars on scheduled trips such as Sherman, Olancha, Diamond, Powell and Goddard.

Howard Stephens of Reseda, who accompanied the SPS on Sherman and Olancha after doing Whitney, Ritter, Conness and Dana.

Carleton Shea of Los Angeles, whose list contained Olancha, Brewer, Whitney, Williamson, Sill, Goddard and Ritter on the emblem list.

Bill Wildman of Carmichael, who met ex-chairmen Miller and Sanborn on his first Sierra Club trip and became interested enough to climb Dicks, Whitney, Pyramid, Freels, Sierra Buttes and Genoa.

John Peckham of Sacramento, who submitted 13 peaks but denies Sanborn’s charge that he is a peakbagger. “That is a bit harsh,” writes Peckham, “but each new peak offers a new perspective of our beautiful Sierra, and that is justification enough for climbing as many as possible.”

Mike Cohen of Reseda, who entered with Gibbs, Dana, Conness, Split, Goddard and Johnson.

MTS. POWELL AND THOMPSON, by Barbara Lilley

Thirty-four people met at Lake Sabrina on Saturday, June 17. The 5-mile pack-in to the largest of the Saboon Lakes (11,200'), through hordes of mosquitoes, was accomplished by noon. After lunch, two groups climbed two nearby unnamed peaks and a party of five crossed the ridge to climb Mts. Wallace and Haeckel, returning after dark. Threatening clouds cleared up by mid-afternoon and the night was mild.

Leaving at 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning, 29 people started for Mt. Powell
They circled the Baboon Lakes, passed Sunset Lake and, due to soft snow, followed a rock rib to the base of the snow and talus chute which leads to the summit plateau. Snow in the chute varied from bottomless to hard enough to require step cutting. The summit was reached by 10:30, by 25 people. The main party returned to camp and 11 continued on to Mt. Thompson (13,484'), descending 1,000' (via sitting glissade) to the basin west of the crest, then up the northwest face of the peak. The summit block rises out of a sandy plateau. The traverse took about an hour. Descent was by the class 3 northeast face and sitting glissades to Sunset Lake and back to camp. Descending directly to Blue Lake through swarms of mosquitoes, the last people reached the cars at 6:30.

Among those who reached the summit of Mt. Powell, neither last nor least, was Bud Bingham, climbing his first Sierra peak since his skiing accident in February 1950. Nice going, Bud — we are all glad to see you out "peakbagging" again.

LARGE GROUP CLIMBS GODDARD, by John Wedberg

An intrepid SPS brigade marched a round-trip total of 45 miles, from Florence Lake to the summit of Mt. Goddard (13,568'), over the 4-day July 4th weekend. Thirty-eight made it to the base camp below Martha Lake, a spectacular area with breath-taking scenery, dark rock and white water, and large golden trout. Thirty started for the peak in drizzling rain, and three hours later 28 had signed the register. In a driving sleet storm Monday morning. One member was administered first aid to a badly-smashed finger by Lucille Agee (an R.N.), who did a professional job complete with splint; then had to turn around and bandage her own leg from a freely bleeding rock cut. Leader Wedberg's well-planned schedule was followed almost to the minute, most of the trip participants arriving home before dark July 4th. Views from the summit were somewhat disappointing, being limited to about 50 feet through the white-out; however, this and the few other discomforts were balanced by a refreshing swim in the warm sunshine on the return to Florence Lake.

A few Spartans in the swim party, clothed something less than scant, detained Bep Godijn from catching the first boat back across Florence Lake. Afraid to make an early arrival at the boat landing, she really muffed her chance to keep the boys in the cold water!

Lucky Polly Connable was able to traverse the Sierra from Piute Pass and join the group near Martha Lake in Goddard Canyon. A friend later picked her up at Florence Lake.

SPLIT MOUNTAIN, by Alden Sorbo

On May 28, 16 persons backpacked in to scenic Red Lake at the base of spectacular Split Mountain. While Arkel Erb proceeded to climb Prater and Bolton-Brown, the less ambitious enjoyed nice weather in camp Saturday afternoon.

The summit was gained in 3-4 hours from base camp, with snow conditions forcing some class 2-3 ridge climbing to get to the
gentle back side of the peak. The top afforded a very impressive
view of the adjacent ridges and peaks, with thunderheads starting
to roll in. A long snow chute provided a very pleasant glissade
on the return to camp. All 10 persons, including 6 beginners,
made the summit of the 14,050-foot peak.

MTS. JOHNSON (12,868') AND GILBERT (13,103'), by Jerry Keating

An easy backpack, fair weather, and the return of "Mr. SPS"
to regularly scheduled activities were features of the July 15-16
outing to Mts. Johnson and Gilbert on the Sierra Crest.

Fifty persons assembled
Saturday morning at 9,755-foot
South Lake for the three-mile
backpack to a Treasure Lake at
10,645 feet. First arrivals were
in the wooded camp in 1-3/4 hours.
After a leisurely lunch, 36
climbers headed for Johnson via a
boulder-strewn canyon. A small
group ascended the peak by a high
third-class route on the north,
while the rest scrambled up the
easy south chute. All but four
reached the top. Unfortunately,
the view was obscured by smoke
from several forest fires to the
west.

After a pleasant night during
which temperatures stayed above 50,
20 persons started for Gilbert along
a stream leading down from Mt. Thomp-
son. The crest was gained via a loose
chute normally filled with snow, and
all but two of the party walked on to
the flat summit for an excellent view
extending from Whitney to Humphreye.

The condition of the chute neces-
sitated descents in twos, but the
party was back in camp by 1 p.m. and
nearly everyone - including 8 who
climbed Hurd Peak (12,819') instead
of Gilbert - arrived at the cars by
3 p.m.

Frank Sanborn, founding chairman
of the SPS, climbed with the section
for the first time since April 1959
when he led Crag Peak in a snowstorm.
Frank, who now lives at Oroville, has
been concentrating on the Northern
Sierra this year.

Leaders were George Shinno and
Jerry Keating.
On June 10, 27 people left Whitney Portal and backpacked in 3-5 hours to a nice grassy camp at Consultation Lake (11,780'), which was still slightly frozen over. Slight snow flurries occurred in the afternoon, but all clouds cleared away by 6:00 p.m. Several persons climbed Muir and Whitney Saturday afternoon.

Fifteen people started up Arc Pass Sunday morning. The snow was quite hard and ice axes were necessary for safety. McAdie offered a very interesting third-class rock climb for approximately 200 feet on the impressive north summit. Only six climbers proceeded to climb Irvine, directly across Arc Pass, from which descent was made directly down to Consultation Lake and base camp by the main party.

It was quite a peakbagging trip for Mike McNicholas and Arkel Erb, who climbed six peaks - Muir, Whitney, McAdie, Irvine, Mallory and Le Conte. That's known as an SPS qualifying weekend!

ADVANCE NOTICE — LABOR DAY WEEKEND TRIP

Here are the details of the SPS backpack over the Labor Day weekend to climb the emblem peak, Mt. Lyell. The leaders will start from two different points, Tuolumne Meadows and Silver Lake (June Lake group), meet at the same campsites for two nights, and go out by both routes. This arrangement will allow participants to go in and out via either route or to make the loop in either direction. A number of ways of making the trip suggest themselves:

1. In and out via the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River. This is the easiest way.
2. In and out via Rush Creek from Silver Lake.
3. Two carloads, exchanging cars, each making the loop in the opposite direction.
4. One carload dropping some of its passengers off at Silver Lake and continuing on to Tuolumne Meadows. The drop-offs make the loop; the others go in and out the Lyell Fork.

Meet 8:00 a.m. Saturday at the Tuolumne Meadows Pack Station (close to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge) for the backpack up the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River to the upper Lyell base camp (11 miles, 1300-foot gain); or, meet 8:00 a.m. Saturday at the public camp at the north end of Silver Lake for the backpack up Rush Creek to the Muir Trail and then over Donchue Pass to the same camp (12 miles, 3300-foot gain, 1000-foot loss). Sunday climb Mt. Lyell (13,144 feet) and Mt. Maclure (12,988 feet). Return to the cars on Monday. Lug soles are required; an ice axe is desirable. Participants going in via Rush Creek should be in good condition. Driving about 700 miles. The leaders are Ted Maler and Dick Jaii.
Frank Sanborn (1230 Laurel Avenue, Oroville, California) writes as follows:

"For those of you who would be interested in joining the Mother Lode Chapter on some of its scheduled Sierra climbs, the following list of activities is scheduled:

Trinity Alps (September 2-4). Led by Frank Sanborn. A seven-mile backpack from trailhead at Dedrick, off Hwy. 299 west of Weaverville. Drive Hwy. 99 to Redding, Hwy. 299 through Weaverville to Junction City, then road north to Dedrick. Camp at Canyon Lake; Sunday climb Thompson, highest peak in Trinity Alps. A rugged, alpine area of great scenic beauty. Monday return to cars. Begin hiking at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Ice axes, lug-soled boots mandatory.

Mt. Gibbs-Mt. Dana (September 16-17). Led by Frank Sanborn. These two SPS qualifiers are located just south of Tioga Pass, on the Sierra crest west of Lee Vining. We meet at trailhead on Tioga Road, 1-1/2 miles west of Yosemite park checking station, at 8:00 a.m. Saturday. Knapsack 4 miles to camp on Dana Fork of Tuolumne River; climb Gibbs on Saturday, Dana on Sunday. Gain 3100 feet Saturday and 2500 Sunday.

Vogelsang Peak (September 30-October 1). Led by Chuck Miller. This is a prominent peak in the Cathedral Range, just north of Mt. Lyell, and is an SPS qualifier. Nine-mile backpack to vicinity of Vogelsang High Sierra Camp on Saturday. Climb Vogelsang Peak Sunday and return to cars. Gain 1200 feet Saturday and 1600 Sunday.

"Come on up; the Northern California mountaineering is fine!

"Sierrally, Frank Sanborn."

IMPORTANT NOTE: By arrangement with Chuck Miller, Chuck Ballard has agreed to act as coordinator. Contact him at 2078 Brigden Road, Pasadena, Sycamore 4-0491, for information and transportation.

SPSer on the move: Isaac Kagel has accepted a position in New York.

DEADLINE: The deadline date for the next issue is September 27.

--THE SIERRA ECHO--
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MT. CONNESS

Thirteen Mother Loders and three Angeles area climbers joined in climbing Conness Peak from Tuolumne Meadows. A seven-mile backpack from the Sierra Club's Parsons Lodge brought us to Young Lakes. Since our trip was inadvertently scheduled the same weekend as the Bay Chapter trip, the available campsites at the lowest Young Lake were pretty much occupied. Consequently, we went to the second lake and found it much more to our liking anyway because it had been much less used so that wood and clean sites were plentiful. A short Saturday afternoon side trip to the high point of Ragged Peak ridge provided a good view of the Tuolumne area and peaks to the south, including Banner, Ritter, Lyell and Maclure.

Our climb of Conness on Sunday involved trying to keep ourselves identified from among the thirty-some number of Bay Chapter climbers also on the mountain. The view from the peak is all-encompassing, from Matterhorn and Tower Peaks in the north to Banner and Ritter in the south, including Half Dome, Clouds Rest and the Clark Range in the west. This was true at least when it was possible to see beyond the sea of heads bobbing up on the top. On the way down, one Bay area climber glissaded on a steep snow bank with a non-existent runout and without benefit of an ice axe. Unfortunately, the result was a lacerated knee, which slowed the descent of our party since the majority of the Bay people were ahead and we stayed back to give assistance as needed.

The weather was perfect, being clear Saturday and Saturday night, with enough clouds on Sunday to keep the sun from being too hot.

Chuck Miller

SO. YOLLA BOLLY MTN.

On the weekend of June 24-25, 15 knapsackers, led by Jim Cummings of Chico and Frank Sanborn of Oroville, made the Sierra Club's first scheduled penetration of the beautiful Yolla Bolly Wilderness. This area was publicized in the July issue of Sunset. The name is a local Indian term meaning "snowy mountain."

Meeting in Paskenta, the group (including 7 senior Girl Scouts from Sacramento) caravanned 38 miles up a dirt logging road to the southern edge of the wilderness. After a four-mile backpack on a faint trail, camp was made by springs high on the southeast shoulder of the peak, at 7,000 feet. Except for the summit area, the whole region is densely forested, with numerous small streams.

On Sunday, everyone scrambled up steep scree slopes to the 8,033-foot summit of So. Yolla Bolly. This is the highest point in California's coast ranges between the Trinity Alps and the Tehachapis. The magnificent snow-cone of Mt. Shasta dominated the scene to the northeast. Also visible were Mt. Lassen, the Trinity Alps, a huge section of the coast ranges, and the sweltering Sacramento Valley, 5000 feet below.

We glissaded down large snowfields to Long Lake, a charming tarn in a cirque to the north of the peak, then returned to camp via a low third-class contour, and out to the cars. The contrast between the virgin beauty of this large wilderness area and the extensive logged-over areas outside it is striking. The entire region swarms with deer.

Frank Sanborn
MT. MORRISON

A group of about 20 Riverside Chapter members gathered Saturday, June 24, 1961, at Convict Lake. Most were car campers, but five of us hitched a boat ride to the end of the lake with our Keltys and climbed 1200 feet up the talus and scree to the one fairly level sheltered spot on the NW ridge. Here the evening hours were spent melting snow to quench our thirsts, watching the dark clouds to the west, and enjoying the spectacular view of Convict and the campers' lights.

At 6:30 a.m., we began the ascent of the NW ridge. Two climbers who had left the lake at daybreak nearly joined us, but chose instead to climb the chute just to the north of our ridge. Its increasing angle and much loose rock discouraged them, however, and they abandoned the attempt. The Climber's Guide rates the NW ridge as class 2, a classification that at least two of our members are ready to debate, as the long steep ridge forced them to turn back. Three continued and reached the summit at 11:30 a.m.

Threatening clouds limited our stay on the summit, and we soon descended via the east ridge and slopes to the hidden valley below the north face. Rain was falling at Convict when we returned to our cars at 3:00 p.m. The 1-1/2 hour backpack to the ridge on the evening prior to the climb was certainly not necessary, but was fun, and made for an easier climb and earlier return on Sunday.

David A. Cubberley, M.D.

FREEL PEAK

After conveying from Al Tahoe up a steep, rough dirt road to High Meadow, on Sunday, July 2, 19 hikers from the Mother Lode Chapter set out to climb the highest peak in the Lake Tahoe area, SPS qualifier Freel Peak. Under the leadership of Frank Sanborn, the group followed a trailless route, gaining 3000 feet in three miles in a steep scree-scramble to the barren, 10,800-foot summit of Freel. The 13 persons who made it to the top enjoyed a fine view of Lake Tahoe, the Desolation Basin and Crystal Range, Nevada's Carson Valley, and the Sierra south to the Matterhorn area. A cold wind whipping the summit brought out parkas.

Nine of the group, including the leader and old SPSer Rich Gnagy, descended to a saddle, then climbed Job's Sister, 10,700 feet, a non-qualifier. From there, they descended steep, quartz-strown slopes to Star Lake, surprising a group of fishermen there. From the lake, a trail and jeep road led back to the cars.

With us on this trip was John Peckham, the Fred Jensen of the northern SPS. John has climbed 9 qualifiers so far this year. After climbing Freel, he headed south to "get" as many as he could in the Yosemite area over the balance of the Fourth of July holiday.

Frank Sanborn
From North Lake, on Saturday, July 1, Alex McDermott and Barbara Lilley of L.A., and George Miller and Joel Horowitz of Berkeley, packed over Lamarck Col and down to a camp at timberline on the Darwin bench. Sunday they continued on to Evolution Lake, where they joined the Muir Trail and followed it to Muir Pass, through alternate rain and sunshine. Alex and Barbara climbed Mt. Spencer and Mt. Huxley on the way.

The party spent Sunday night in the Muir Pass hut, but hopes for climbing in the Ionian Basin were ended by a general Sierra storm on Monday. They spent most of Monday and Monday night in the hut (which leaked), acting as host to occasional wet hikers. Monday afternoon George and Barbara climbed the Black Giant, through intermittent rain, hail and sunshine, and the other two went down to timberline for wood. Tuesday, under cool and partly cloudy skies, they hiked out to Lake Sabrina (where one car had been left) by going up the basin between Spencer and Huxley and over a class 3 pass (not recommended) south of Haeckel. All four climbed Haeckel on the way out.

Barbara Lilley

MT. TYNDALL (14,015') AND CALTECH PEAK (13,832'), JUNE 24-25

At 5:45 a.m., Saturday, Dick Jall, Ted Matthes, Mike Raudenbush and I began the rugged but rewarding backpack from the low Symmes Creek roadhead over 12,000-foot Shepherd Pass to a campsite high on the desolate Tyndall Creek plateau. It was a climb which was only to culminate in hours and 8200 feet later on the summit of majestic Mt. Tyndall. This was reached in about two hours from the pass. After discovering we had made the first ascent this year, we stayed briefly to watch an electric storm further north on the crest.

After a tiresome day of climbing, we made camp about six. Here we made final plans for the ascent of the primary goal of our trip: a prominent - but unnamed - summit south of the Kings-Kern Divide, Point 13,832 between Lake South America and Diamond Mesa. The three of us (Dick and Ted, alumni of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, and myself, a student there) planned to name the peak Caltech Peak. Mike, meanwhile, feeling no particular affiliation to the Institute, decided to sleep late and make a leisurely descent to the car.

Sunday morning found us climbing at dawn, and we reached the top just before nine. There are two previous known ascents of this peak: Norman Clyde's in 1926, and that of a second group in 1951. After improving the cairn and providing a register, we settled down to enjoy the view. The summit affords a tremendous sweep in all directions. It is situated far enough south of the Kings-Kern Divide so that all the peaks on this jagged ridge are visible. Unobstructed views are afforded of the main crest and the Great Western Divide. Most spectacular of the peaks seen from this inaccessible summit were Brewer, Junction, and Williams.
Our reasons for naming the peak are as follows. First, it is certainly worthy of a name. It is as prominent, if not more so, than other peaks in the area. Secondly, the naming of the peak after a famous university seems appropriate due to the proximity of University Peak and Mt. Stanford. Furthermore, we noticed a strong similarity between climbing a peak and acquiring an education. The experience is at once both exhausting and rewarding; thus it seems even more appropriate to name a prominent summit after a famous college.

As we made the long descent to the car Sunday afternoon, we hoped for the success of our venture; Dick has since proposed the name Caltech Peak to the Department of the Interior and to Sequoia National Park, and we are currently awaiting a reply.

Jim Eder

BLOODY MTN., SAN JOAQUIN MTN., AND THE 2 TEATS

On the morning of June 3, we left Arky Erb at Agnew Meadows so he could climb Ritter and Banner. We drove to the locked gate on the Laurel Lakes Road, which saves you about one thousand feet climb. After a short distance, about 2 miles, we started climbing Bloody Mtn. by a northwest ridge. There was new snow which helped cover the loose shale. Andy Smatko, Genny Schumacher and Tom Ross made the summit, but because of the snow we couldn't find the summit register. Doug Ingle's boy got altitude sickness so Doug stayed with him. Nearby Red Slate Mtn. was plastered like a winter mountain. The others glissaded while I used my "sawdohfs" (short skis) on the descent.

Next morning we met Arky. He had climbed Ritter and Banner in one day!

We left Agnew Meadows and climbed the southwest side of Mt. San Joaquin and had a short traverse to the 2 Teats. The southwest Teat is nice third class.

Tom Ross
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRIP PARTICIPANTS

FOR SAFETY ON SPS TRIPS

A. All Trips

1. Stay with the group except when permission to leave it is obtained as in Number 2.

2. Participants who wish to join a scheduled trip but do something other than the scheduled activity should obtain permission to do so from the leader before the trip begins. No participant should expect to leave the group alone.

3. Follow the trip leader's instructions on all matters of safety.

4. Signals which can be used in case of need are as follows:
   a. Distress signal: a signal sequence of three indicates distress; the reply is a signal sequence of two.
   b. The signal "ROCK," yelled loud, clear and at once, indicates a falling object or falling objects.

B. Additional Responsibilities for Third and Fourth Class Trips

1. Contact the leader and be able to prove to the leader's satisfaction that the participant has sufficient knowledge of and practice in rock climbing techniques to be qualified to attend the climb.

C. Additional Responsibilities for Ice and Snow Trips

1. All participants must have with them items of equipment required in the trip writeup in the schedule or required by the leader.

2. Be able to properly use the equipment required for a trip. When a practice is to be held on a trip, participants may attend it in lieu of having previous knowledge of the necessary techniques.