CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, by George Shinno

Election of the Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee was announced at the November meeting. Those elected met and chose the following officers:

Chairman: Miles Brubacher
Vice Chairman: Graham Stephenson
Secretary: George Shinno
Treasurer: Lothar Kolbig
Alternate Officer: John Robinson

The five will meet soon to determine 1962 objectives and to appoint members of the various committees.

This being my last Chairman's Corner, it is my privilege to thank all of the hard-working volunteers who make possible the section's activities. None has worked harder than Walt Wheelock, Echo Editor; how he does so much is a mystery to all. The others behind the Echo, Barbara Lilley and Dorothy Cutler, able typists of each issue, reliable John Robinson, who these many years has somehow managed to have the issues printed and ready for distribution. Thanks are in order to Chuck Ballard, schedule chairman, with mountaineering committee members John Robinson, Andy Smatko, and Ted Moler, all of who did a fine job of giving us trips which were well attended and will be remembered by all. Charlotte Parsons, too, for ably solving our entertainment and refreshment problems, and to our transplanted northern members, Frank Sanborn, Chuck Miller, and Jerry Keating, for their unfailing interest in the section. Thanks, too, to trip leaders, for they make our trips a reality. Special thanks to Bud Bingham for his excellent coverage for us in the Southern Sierran.

Miles Brubacher, our chairman for the coming year, will bring years of active mountaineering interest to the office, and we will all be looking forward to the best season yet.

FROM THE EDITOR (for the last time)

It has been a pleasure to serve as your editor. First I want to thank our shop foreman, John Robinson, for his patience at receiving copy long past any reasonable deadline. Then, there
were Bobby Lilley and Dorothy Cutler, who beat out reams of text with no, well almost no, loud complaining. And then there was the wonderful response from you, our readers and correspondents. When I asked for more copy, it came in avalanches. Then when I admitted I had too much, it dropped down to near zero. Such cooperation! And, last and most important, our Chairman, George Shinno, who always had his copy in on time and at a very desirable length. Thanks to you all.

Bud Bingham has consented to serve as your editor for the coming year. Bud knows much of the lore of the Sierra Peaks and is filled with excellent ideas for things that will make the next issues of great value to the Section. (Have you mailed your subscription? $1.00 please.)

And, as my final word, I would like to make one suggestion for the Section to consider and debate, or whatever is done with suggestions. Years ago, our first two sections, the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbers, found that they were drawing their membership from the same group of Sierra Clubbers. Then, when the Hugelmoos, the oldest of all of our chapter publications, was born, these two sections combined in the publication and thus developed a strong year-round publication.

In the same way, the Sierra Peakers and the Desert Peakers have a close association; in fact it is often hard to tell them apart without looking at their badges. If the DPS Newsletter and the Sierra Echo were to consider such a joint activity, much mutual benefit might arise.

(Did I hear a motion to table?)

Walt Wheelock

Merry Christmas
to all with peace
for the New Year.

Sierra Echo Staff
HOMERS NOSE (9050')., GARFIELD GROVE, by Jerry Keating

A penetration into an infrequently visited area of Sequoia National Park on November 11-12 concluded the SP's scheduled climbing activities for 1961. The climbs extended over a 10-month period.

Main objective was Homers Nose, a rock outcrop rising from the South Fork of the Kaweah River near the Clough Cave Ranger Station. Thirteen of the fourteen Sierrans at the roadhead started for the Nose Saturday morning, and seven reached the top late that afternoon after a gain of more than 5,000 feet. The six others stopped at about the 8,500-foot level and descended via the trail leading to Cahoon Rock, arriving at the cars just as darkness set in. The summit party, headed by Sy Ossefsky, descended via the Salt Creek Ridge trail, which is overgrown with brush in several spots. All returned after dark with the aid of flashlights.

Route of ascent was the Cahoon Rock trail until the party reached the top of a ridge above Cedar (correct spelling for what used to be listed as Squaw) Creek. Then the group headed straight up the ridge to the skyline ridge connecting Cahoon Rock and Homers Nose, with traverses made along the top. This is a long approach but virtually free of brush. Total hiking for both groups was approximately 15 miles.

Six of the climbers, including Mother Lode member Rich Gnagy, enjoyed a candlelight and wine dinner at the Morro Rock Tavern (recommended for SP's) just east of Three Rivers before sacking out near the local dump. The others stayed at the roadhead campground.

Seven persons hiked to Garfield Grove the next morning via a good trail. Hundreds of giant sequoias marked the area, but the concentration is not as great as in Giant Forest. The party stopped at the 7,600-foot level and returned to the cars by 3 p.m. after the 14-mile outing. The pace was encouraged by cool weather all day, and one hiker was heard to complain that he gained 2,500 feet in 1½ hours.

Leaders were Jerry Keating and Barbara Lilley.

INCONSOABLE RANGE (PEAK 13,501'), by Mike Raudenbush

At 7:15 on the morning of Saturday, August 5, a group of eleven eager backpackers met at the Big Pine-Creek roadhead and, led by Dick Jell, began the lovely hike up Big Pine Creek toward Seventh Lake. This group was later augmented by three others who came up to camp later than the main party.

The day began with typical Sierra weather: fair and warm. By mid-morning, however, an overcast had developed, and rain began to fall. The party paused momentarily to don rain gear, then
continued to Fourth Lake Lodge where the party split, half of it continuing to camp in the rain while the other half more prudently elected to stay in the warm lodge and enjoy the fabulous view of the Palisade Crest until the rain would cease. When the rest of the party descended upon the lodge later in the afternoon, it was, evidently, a little wearing upon the nerves of the proprietor, who thereupon ordered the entire group out by a certain deadline. All returned to spend the rest of the afternoon in camp.

Spectacular cloud formations had been present since mid-morning, and by evening they reached a grand culmination of billowing, swirling mists which alternately enveloped and exposed the dark, forbidding peaks, creating the sensation of a lifeless world of rock, wind, and ice. Particularly spectacular was Temple Crag, whose magnificent face was at once bathed in deformed sunlight and surrounded by satanic miasma. Such a sight has seldom been witnessed in the Sierra, and it was certainly a welcome transfiguration from the usual dryness of summer.

At 7:15 the next morning, eleven of the fourteen climbers started for the highest point of the Inconsolable Range, Peak 13,501. Nine of the original eleven finally reached the peak by 9:30 and spent half an hour enjoying the spectacular view of the Palisade Crest and the High Sierra, draped in glorious white clouds. Once again the addition of a few swirling clouds immeasurably improved the view of the sometimes drab High Sierra.

A leisurely descent to the cars followed, and everyone was relieved when the weather held and no rain fell.

DEADLINE: The deadline date for the next issue is February 28, 1962. Send copy to the new editor, Bud Bingham.
VOGELSANG PEAK, by Chuck Miller

Following a weekend of snow and sleet on the Dana and Gibbs trip two weeks prior, the peak climbers found perfect weather on the Vogelsang Peak trip the first of October. A leisurely start from Tuolumne Meadows on Saturday following the Iyell Fork and Halferty Creek to Tuolumne Pass and Boothe Lake brought us to our campsite by early afternoon. Two of the sixteen climbers wanted more exercise after the seven mile backpack and climbed nearly Fletcher Peak. Others explored Upper Fletcher Lake and the "closed for the season" Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. Darkness came early on that first weekend after the end of Daylight Savings Time which allowed ample time for a good campfire gathering. Mountaineering was the main topic of discussion.

Sunday morning the group climbed the primary objective, Vogelsang Peak, over a rock scrambling route. The weather was mild and the views worthy of many looks and pictures so we stayed over an hour on top. We could see the Iyell group and the Kitter Range to the southeast, Tower, Matterhorn, Conness and Dana to the north, Cathedral group to the northwest, the Clark range to the southwest, Florence to the south, and Half Dome and Clouds Rest to the west.

Following the return to the cars, we met at Yosemite Valley for refreshments before heading for home, having thoroughly enjoyed a fall trip to the Sierra backcountry.

THE 1962 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Los Padres Chapter will be host to the 1962 I & E Conference, to be held at the Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, April 7-8. Theme of the Conference will be "Sierra Club -- The Trail Ahead". Meetings will begin at 10 a.m. and continue through Saturday evening, ending at 12 M Sunday. Program Chairman Stuart Dole, Arrangements Chairman Peter J. Hearst, Publicity Chairman Sue Higman and Hospitality Chairman Dorothy Otto are making preparations, and details will be published in the Bulletin and all Chapter newsletters as plans are completed. The program is expected to consist of panel discussions and talks concerning how we may be more effective in our education, conservation and outings programs, as the membership grows, in addition to other topics of interest to Club members.

EASTER IN THE ISLANDS

The Outing Committee is considering plans for a spring outing to the backcountry of the Hawaiian Islands during Easter vacation week. At this time the itinerary has not been confirmed, but it should be a full 9 days in the Islands leaving Friday night, April 13, and returning Sunday night, April 22. Tentative plans include an exploration of Hawaii National Park by trail.

This will be a wilderness-type outing of the base camp type and will leave by chartered aircraft from San Francisco. The approximate cost will be between $250 and $300. Reservations will be accepted immediately on a non-refundable basis of $75, unless your place can be filled. If the trip does not go through, the total amount will be refunded. Size of the trip is limited to 90 persons.
Deadline for signup is January 15, 1962. Air charters must be confirmed well in advance of the trip. Supplemental information will be available by mid-December. The trip is to be led by Outing Committee Chairman, H. Stewart Kimball.

DEC. 1st, 1961

Dere Santa: +

We all got together and they decided I was to rite you the letter for all of us. So please sent us the following, postpaid, reindeer express:

For Bobby L., a nice new job with eleven months of paid vacation, so she can get in a little climbing.

For Arky E. Some new mountains that go up all the time, so he won't cool off while coming down off of them on the returning trip.

For Tom B. Some new stuffings to put into his sleeping bag.

For Bud R. Lots of but not too much copy ON TIME.

For Doc Andy Some new pills, so he can keep up with Arky and Tom R in his old age, now approaching.

For Lotter All members paying these doses, after only being dunned three times.

For John R. A fifth night out of months with 5 Wednesdays.

For Frank & Jerry & Chuck, a Diner's Card for your reindeer so they can make more of our trips.

For Graham S. to be able to schedule 10 peaks that are all over 14,001 feet and all of which will be first ascents.

For ME, some pep-pills so I will have enough energy to make Mt. Lowe, sometime this coming year.

Thanxz, Santa, and good climbing to you.

[Signature]

[Note: The document contains a handwriting signature that is not legible for transcription.]
CANDLELIGHT MTN. AND THOR PEAK, Oct. 14-15

Chuck Ballard

The weekend of Oct., 14-15 saw an enthusiastic group of climbers at Whitney Portal. Of the 10 who started from the roadhead, only 5 made the summit of Candelight, the objective of Saturday’s effort. The climb was over an easy trail, except for the last mile which was fairly steep scree.

Sat., night saw those who were up for the weekend around a cheerful campfire at the Portal campground. As this was the end of the season, we were able to get several adjoining sites. Weather both Sat. and Sun. was clear and pleasantly warm in the sun, but cold in the shade. This was a pleasant relief from the valley heat.

Sunday, a group of 7 tigers left at 8 a.m. for Thor Pk. Again, Five made the summit.

SMITH MTN. (9,532'), Oct. 21-22

Bud Bingham

An unusual change took place Sat., Oct. 21, on the climb of Smith Mtn. The leader reached the summit ahead of the other 7 climbers. This fluke was caused by poor visibility towards the summit, the leader being the only one familiar with the area and holding the only topo sheet and, I might mention, with a very cooperative group.

Leaving the Fish Creek campground on the Kern Plateau, the route chosen was via Jackass Meadow. A brief trailless route 1½ miles above the meadows put the group on the summit ridge. An outcrop of rock, at the time believed to be the summit, was reached. A cairn was erected and a small container placed as a register.

Poor visibility and a driving wind made the summit stay brief. Three people lingered behind in hopes that visibility would improve, and it did! The real summit was nearby and was soon reached. Temporarily clear views north as far as Mt. Langley and the Kaweahs were enjoyed.

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PARTICIPANTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES in regard to non-scheduled activities on scheduled section trips have been outlined. The following responsibilities have been decided upon by the Management and Mountaineering Committees. They will go into effect on SPS trips henceforth.

Section trips are planned as a group activity, encouraging comradeship and stressing safety. No extra activity that may jeopardize the success of the scheduled undertaking will be permitted.

Those who wish to do something other than the scheduled activity must obtain the leader’s permission before the trip begins; be headed by a qualified leader; stay together; keep within easy reach of the main party so that support is available in case of emergency.

Base camp must not be abandoned by a climbing party until all of its members are safely off the mountain.

Any willful violation of a leader’s instructions will be called to the attention of the SPS Management Committee by the leader. The committee will warn the climber and suspend his section climbing privileges if necessary to enforce SPS policies and safety standards.

* * * * * * *

Coming soon in the Echo: A complete climber’s guide to SPS qualifying peaks in the Northern Sierra, by Chuck Miller. Don’t miss this and other fascinating features in next year’s Echo; Resubscribe!
75 TURNOUT FOR 5TH ANNUAL SPS BANQUET, Dec. 6

The 1961 SPS Banquet, held at Michael's Los Feliz Restaurant Dec. 6th, was a smashing success! 75 people, including many nonmembers, enjoyed delicious ham dinners followed by an excellent program put on by world mountaineer Lothar Kolbig. Lothar showed his scenic movies of Peru, featuring mountaineering in the rugged Andes, Inca ruins, and a raft trip down a tributary of the Amazon. Thanks largely to Lothar and reservationist Charlotte Parsons, the annual banquet seems to get better every year.

1962 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN APPOINTED BY CHAIRMAN MILES BRUBACHER

Chairman Miles Brubacher has announced the following committee chairmanships:

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SPS QUALIFYING PEAK LIST NOW TOTALS 23h

Mountaineering Chairman John Robinson announced that three peaks have been added and one deleted to bring the SPS peak list to an all-time high of 23h. Those added are Mt. Rose (10,800') in the Lake Tahoe area, Mt. McDuffie (13,271') on the Black Divide, and Smith Mts. (9532') on the Kern Plateau. Deleted was Genoa Mts. (9173') near Lake Tahoe.

SIERRA ECHO SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

Lothar Kolbig, Treasurer
Sierra Peaks Section
3753 El Sereno Ave.
Altadena, Calif.

Enclosed is $____ for a one year subscription to the Sierra Echo.

Name (print): ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ City, Zone: ___________________________

Note: Subscriptions are $1 per year in the U.S. and $1.25 elsewhere. Checks should be made payable to Lothar Kolbig.

MEMBERS ONLY

In addition to subscribing to the Sierra Echo, members are required to participate in at least one activity, such as an SPS-scheduled climb or service on a committee, each year. Members who do not meet these requirements are placed on the inactive roster. They may reactivate their membership by meeting the requirements and then notifying the secretary in writing that they wish to become active again.

My activity in 1961 was ___________________________

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________