Chairman's Corner...Milo Brubacher

It seems that your chairman is developing somewhat of an obsession on litter. The next time you are out...at the shopping center, downtown, uptown, at a highway viewpoint, at the beach, at a roadside...take a look around you at the paper, cans, bottles, old boards, old metal, rags, black spots on the sidewalk from chewing gum...If you look you will be repulsed. How thoughtless people are...as if they will never be returning to that spot, seeking beauty and only finding ugliness. America the beautiful? Not any more. It is America the ugly and rapidly getting worse.

I have had the good fortune of travelling extensively in some 20 foreign countries, and in my opinion America is the most untidy country in the world. I wonder what foreign students think when they come to some of leading universities and find the campuses littered with paper and coke bottles? Granted we have a high standard of living, so we have more litter, junk, and scrap than other countries. We need to develop a higher standard of tidiness to go along with our high standard of living.

The Sierra Club should be more active in the anti-litter field. The clean-up trips in the mountains are good, but we need stronger public information about the trips and other Sierra Club activities. I have suggested and shall continue to press for bumper stickers saying "Don't be a litter bug" to be printed and distributed by the Sierra Club and also serving as identification for club members cars. We should combat the litter problem at the club, chapter, and section levels.

THE SIERRA CLUB ANGELES CHAPTER BANQUET...SAT. OCTOBER 13th

Place: Los Angeles Breakfast Club 3201 Los Feliz Blvd.
Time: Reception & socializing 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Those not hungry may come later, same price.
Dress: Men, dark or light suits. Ladies, formals or informals. No one will be admitted in jeans.
Emcee: Dr. Harold E. Crowe
Speaker: Mr. Martin Litton
Subject: The Grand Canyon. Probably the last showing in its present unedited form, of his original and stimulating film depicting the famous Grand Canyon in a light which we promise you've never seen! First & only showing in Los Angeles of these fascinating, timely films.

After the program there will be dancing in the main room, punch & cookies in the patio, and, for those not caring to dance we have arranged for Lothar Kolbig to show his thrilling movies of climbing and adventure in the Peruvian Andes.
Tickets are $4.75 each...but there is a 50% discount to all S.C. members and their guests on all reservations made on or before October 10th. It will be very helpful to the banquet committee to receive your reservations early. Mail checks to Jack Killian 5906 Elkport St. Lakewood, Calif.

SIERRA ECHO

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***NEXT "ECHO DEADLINE IS NOV. 30th. SEND ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR***

Officers, Committee Chairman, and leaders are responsible for "Echo" write-ups related to their special activities.

CORRECTION TO THE SPS ROSTER....EDITOR

It seems that the last SPS roster published in the July-August 'Echo' omitted the name of one of our most active members. Roger Monroe Jr. was listed, but Roger Monroe Sr. had been left off the list.

We are glad that Roger Sr. called this to our attention. Our roster is devilish to maintain and we need all the help we can get from SPS members. Especially address changes, phone numbers, and emblem status.

ROGER MONROE SR. 2909 Huntington Rd. Sacramento 25
ROGER MONROE JR. (same)

SPS FALL AND WINTER SCHEDULE....Ted Maier

Oct. 20-21 Meeting at Lemon Grove Playground
Fish Creek-Troy Meadows area. Exploratory backpack combined with car camp. Joint with W.L.A. group.
Leaders: Bud Bingham & Ed Ostrenga

Nov. 3-4 Lakeview and Tulemaha Peaks Camp at cars. Joint with DFS Leaders; John Robinson & Walt Wheelock

Nov. 14 Meeting at Lemon Grove Playground

Dec. 5 SPS annual Banquet
Dec. 12 Meeting at Lemon Grove Playground
Jan. 9 Meeting at Lemon Grove Playground
Jan. 27 Morris Peak Leaders: Ted Maier & Dave Evans
Feb. 13 Meeting at Lemon Grove Playground
Feb. 16-17 Ice ax practice and Harwood party Leader: Lothar Kolbig

YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE YOUR NEXT "ECHO" UNLESS....

THE SPS TREASURER has your current address. Your cooperation in
furnishing your change of address is needed if you expect to receive
the "Echo." The follow will take place:
Your "Echo" will not be forwarded until you inform the Treasurer
of your new address. Back issues will not be mailed to you. Your
subscription remittance will again be due the first day of 1963 whether
you received all past copies or not.
Why such drastic measures? The "Return Requested" appearing on
the "Echo" wrapper cost the section 8c for each copy returned by the
Post Office. Then with the double mailing and re-addressing this
brings the cost up to 14c. The subscriber causes the section to run
on the debit side of a account. Often the Post Office cannot supply
the new address.
Keeping up with address changes is more than just a project, it's
a never ending job for the Treasurer. If the "Echo" staff is in error
at keeping records, every effort will be made to see that you receive
your "Echo." .....L.K. & B.B.

THE PERFECT SQUELCH ....Stolen

While visiting in Colorado, a Texan constantly irritated his host
by claiming that everything in his home state was bigger, better and
more spectacular. Texas sunsets, he pointed out, were more vivid; it's
grass was greener, it's winds stronger, it's skies bluer.
Finally his host took him to a vantage point from which the Rocky
Mountains were especially impressive. The Texan looked briefly at the
tumbled scenery and shrugged. "You know," he drawled, "You could take
these mountains and all the rest of Colorado, and lose them in Texas."
"Yes," his host said quietly. "But if Colorado were rolled as
flat as Texas, it would be twice as big."

CHOPPING AT THE WILDERNESS.....St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The House Public Lands subcommittee has finally passed a wilder-
ness bill which seems based on the theory that a little wilderness
is a dangerous thing. The bill is greatly different from the protec-
tive measure which the Senate passed by the overwhelming vote of 78 to 8.
One principle of the Senate bill was to grant legislative authority
for keeping as wilderness those federal lands already protected as such
by administrative decision. These include 15,000,000 acres in the
National Forests, which is only 8 percent of the forest lands. The
House subcommittee's bill, however, withholds protection from half
this acreage. That is, the bill would protect 14 areas now designated
as wilderness, but not 39 areas classified as primitive. And this is
a distinction without a difference, for the primitive areas include
some of the nation's finest examples of real wilderness.
Moreover, the House bill would submerge wilderness preservation
in a mass of red tape. Where the Senate bill would add some 5,000,000
acres to the wilderness system subject to congressional veto, the
House bill would require advance congressional approval of such addi-


ititions. Where the Senate bill provided for action upon presidential recommendation, the House bill would require many wilderness proposals to run a gantlet of examinations by various county, state and federal boards and agencies, many of which often represented private interests in using public lands.

As an example of the latter, the House bill would permit if not encourage mining in wilderness areas. The Senate measure permitted commercial enterprise only where the President authorized them as in the public interest. The House measure assures continued mining for 10 years and then suggest that the Bureau of Mines survey wilderness areas to see what minerals might be present.

Finally, the House bill requires that each wilderness area be reviewed every 25 years to determine the fitness of the designation. As one conservationist observed, wilderness preservation is difficult at best, and to make it tentative and subject to periodic review is no more reasonable than to require periodic review of marriage vows. Under the Senate bill, Congress could review wilderness areas at any time but would not be committed to doing so.

The wilderness bill is a major part of President Kennedy's bold and hopeful conservation-recreation program. Its original purpose was to provide national insurance against the loss of a National heritage for future Americans. But the House bill has a different purpose. It would obstruct the protection even of areas now designated as wilderness. It would protect private exploiters surely while protecting the public interest tentatively.

Fortunately, the Public Lands subcommittee is part of the House Interior Committee, and can and should report an honest wilderness bill to the House floor. The remaining vestiges of American wilderness cannot be protected by congressional axmanship; what wilderness needs
is simple congressional authority to be left alone.

MT. DADE (13,000') Aug. 11 & MT. ABBOT (13,715') Aug. 12...M. Brubacher

Vital statistics:
Roadhead: Rock Cr., 25 participants. Start time Sat. 8:30 a.m.,
Sat. Mt. Dade 9 participants. Start tim: 1 p.m. Route: small diag-
nal snow chute & east ridge class 3. Register: brass pipe. Finish
time: 7 p.m.
Sun. Mt. Abbot start time: 7 a.m., 17 participants. Route: across
glacier medium soft snow all the way across north snow chute to north
shoulder of Abbot, 3 long traverses on loose rock class 3, minimum
rockfall danger to large party, attain north ridge, hence class 2 & 3
firm rock to summit. Register: large S.C. aluminum box. Return: at
cars by 5:00 p.m.

This was the first time the emblem peak, Mt. Abbot has been
scheduled by the SPS and one of the largest, if not the largest party
ever on the peak. Congratulations are due to Jerry Keating, who
described the route, and leader Ted Maier for this highly successful
climb in perfect safety. The 3 long traverses on the loose rock on
the north shoulder, with the party being gathered at the end of each
traverse eliminated the rock fall danger. The first traverse after
crossing the north snow chute is to the left. Once the north ridge is attained there is little loose rock on the remaining climb to the summit. This route took the peril out of Abbot, the vertical crud mountain. In climbing on this type of mountain, one learns not to touch rocks that look loose, and to test all others very gingerly. With a featherfoot technique one can negotiate very loose material without dislodging any.

THE SCHEDULED MT. HUMPHRIES CLIMB.....John Spinks

All 15 participants successfully climbed Mt. Humphries on Aug. 5, 1962 under the masterful leadership of Sahib Lothar Kolbig, following an easy approach hike on the previous day to 12,000 feet campsiet near the base of the massif.

Most of the group lounged leisurely in camp Sat. afternoon while 3 or 4 of the more enterprising chaps investigated nearby Mt. Emerson. A weather front enveloped the surrounding skies with dark clouds late Sat. afternoon motivating the party to brace for a long night of rain, but the front passed on by 4 a.m. bringing less moisture than the tears shed by the apprehensive climbers (the party was rained off this mountain last year).

Clear and cold (35-F.), however, was the prospectus early Sun. at the 6:30 a.m. take-off. Approaching the mountain from the southwest, scree and second class scramble were encountered for 1,300 feet up to the notch, where the route turned southeast along the west side of the northwest summit ridge. This last 500 feet or so provided a considerable amount of third-class work and one fourth-class area on to the 13,986 foot summit, which was reached at 9:30 a.m.

Everyone enjoyed the climb thoroughly, except for some ungloved pale-blue fingers. Five 3-man ropes were used and the party remained roped over the fourth class rock. Clear skies unfolded magnificent views from the summit, revealing Goddard, Darwin, and others.

To hasten the descent at the fourth-class pitch, two full rope lengths were utilized simultaneously side-by-side, climbers descending in a staggered
fashion. Camp was reached by noon and 4:30 p.m. saw everyone back at the 9,400 foot North Lake roadhead.

Co-leaders who assisted Lothar in leading ropes were Eric Thompson, Bill Dickson, Byrutt Turney, and Ron Dickenson. Byrutt’s wife, Gen, the only participant representing the fairer sex, did quite admirably; stayed on the heels of her fast-moving husband right to the summit. Lothar’s leadership and pace-setting adeptness were again demonstrated, bringing forth praise from the climbers.

MT. HUMPHREYS — ROUTE 7 ..... Russ Mohn

My son and I with two companions climbed this route Sept. 16 and found the Climber’s Guide description misleading and inaccurate. The guide says: "From the northeast glacier ascend difficult ice chutes or rocks on the right (N) of the ice to the notch just north of the topmost spire." The use of the plural word "chutes" is misleading and the chute described is not the best.

From the highest point of the glacier an ice filled chute ascends and in about 100 yards it splits. The left hand (S) branch is the one mentioned in the guide, but this becomes hazardous toward the top and the rock to the right of this chute aren’t much better. The right hand (N) branch is easier and safer with the best climbing found at the rocks just skirted this chute on the (N). The two chutes are separated by a peak on the crest (Elev. 15,500’); from the northern chute it is better to climb over this peak than to try to traverse it. When going on south the 150 ft. to climb over this peak elevation loss is more than offset by the tremendous view of Humphreys from the peak and besides there’s a register there! From the little peak Humphreys looks like a terrifying high class 5 climb.

From the notch separating the little peak and Humphreys the climber’s guide description of the northwest face is accurate except for the statement: "When a vertical wall is encountered, climb out to the right (W) and upward on the right side of the arete" don’t go to the right side of the arete; stay directly on it and if anything, work just slightly to the left after you get even with the top of the vertical wall. The register show others besides us have got fouled up at this point.

The only place where we needed rope was crossing the glacier towards Lund; late in the season this gets bad. It was real tricky going up and we rappelled down. Crampons were definitely needed on the glacier. The total time was 9 hours round trip from a base camp by a tarn ½ mile below Mcgee Lake (plenty of wood). It takes about 1½ hr, to descend from base camp to the roadhead.

(Editor’s note: Russ Mohn certainly did a fine job on the above article, I wish we could get more articles that would benefit others. It was a pleasure to read and bring to print, a far cry from the usual peak bagging articles. Next year I will recommend to the next editor to delete most of the outlaw articles which have a purpose of peak bagging and no really good route description. Thanks again Russ).

Leavitt Peak (11,575’). ..... John Robinson

Leavitt Peak, a metamorphic crud heap just south of Sinnora Pass, was climbed Sept. 3rd by Andy Smatko, Tom Ross, Fred Jansen, and John Robinson.

The route is as follows: Ascend south along the ridge from Sinnora Pass, contouring high on the right (W) flanks of three high points. The third high point must be ascended to within 100 feet of its summit to avoid vertical cliffs. From this high point drop 300
"Do you realize what this summit means, Mr. Stephenson? It means this is my last 14,000 footer and now I can quit killing myself!"

Feet into a bowl just east of Leavitt Peak. Cross the bowl and ascend the south-east ridge to the summit. The ascent involves a 5 hour round trip and is of class 2 difficulty.
MERRIAM PEAK (13,077') & ROYCE PEAK (13,253')....Miles Erubacher

Vital statistics:
Roadhead: Pine Cr., parking at ore plant, 400' higher than pack station. Start time: Sat, 7:30 a.m. with 11 participants. Camp: first bench below summit of Pine Creek Pass, wood & water available. Arrival: 12 noon. Start Sun: 7 a.m. Route: 90 degree right turn from summit of pass, up over easy terrain to Royce Lake, over medium soft snow and some rock to Royce-Merriam Col, class 2 rock to either peak from Col. Royce 10 participants, 10:30 a.m. Merriam 12 noon 7 participants, Both registers: cans. Return to cars 5 p.m.

This was the first SPS trip scheduled to these peaks in this beautiful area, and it should be done again. Some of us enjoyed melt-in-mouth rainbow trout for dinner

What marriage has done to some peak baggers! I had no drive to climb Merriam after Royce, which is higher and has a similar view. Peak 13,242 is very rugged looking and deserves a name.

ARROW PEAK.....Graham Stephenson

On Sat., Sept. 15, six people climbed over Taboose Pass for the purpose of climbing Arrow Pk. and 2 others went along to climb Lit. Rusk. With perfect weather for the trip, there was no difficulty along this line. Also the trail bed over the pass showed signs of a recent cleanup which work was presumably done by the packers.

Camp was made about a mile to the west of the pass at the first convenient wood and water. It took a 5 a.m. start to climb Arrow Pk. with steady going to get back to the cars by 6:45 p.m. on Sunday. There was very little snow to be crossed regardless of the route used. The easiest and fastest route seems to be fairly obvious from Bench Lake by gaining as little altitude as possible (& losing none) until such time as the southeast slope of the mountain is reached. The summit is correctly identified as being that portion of the summit ridge near the Kings Canyon on the north. All of the other routes appear to be considerably more difficult; it would also appear that this peak is seldom climbed on a 2-day weekend because the distance is so far and the altitude change is so great (a gross change of about 9,500').

(next page)
Four people signed the summit register, and two did not climb.
(Editors note: The Taboose Pass trail has been completely rebuilt
by trail crew. Even the route varies from the old trail. It is
now indicated as 9 miles instead of 7 miles to the top of the pass).

TOWER PEAK (11,755').......Rich Gnagy

On Sat., Aug. 25, 1962 I went on an exploratory trip in from
Leavitt Meadows on the Sonora Pass Highway to climb Tower Peak. This
peak is located on the Sierra Crest 10 miles WNW of the Matterhorn
Peak. An easy 14 mile backpack through very scenic, rolling country
along the West Walker River and up Tower Canyon leads to a pleasant
campsite at Tower Lake. From camp the route leads to the low saddle
to the south between Tower Lake and Lake Mary. From this point the
obvious high point to the SE is the true summit. There is no problem
with the route which leads directly up the ridge. The route varies
from "sidewalk" walking on polished granite to boulder hopping and
brush whacking with a high 2nd class pitch on the summit pinnacle.
The summit was reached 8½ hours after leaving the car. The return
route to camp was varied to take advantage of the well consolidated
snow which was ideal for standing glissades; even without ice axe.
The return hike to the cars was accomplished Sun. in 5 hrs.

For the benefit of those interested, the Leavitt Meadows Lodge
opens for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. I also recommend investing 75¢ per
person for the use of the private road across the meadows. This road
is well marked and a sigh on the gate tells who to see. Trail signs
indicate 16 miles from Leavitt Meadows to Tower Lake, but by use of
the road the distance is cut to about 14 miles with a 2,400' gain.
The climb from Tower Lake to the summit is probably a little over
2 miles with a 2,200 foot gain.

The best view of the Peak is obtained from the Sonora Pass highway.
It is out of sight most of the way in and is dominated by the
lesser peak 3/4 mile to the north which is a very spectacular,
dominating tower of granite as seen from the Tower Canyon approach.

Tower Peak has been suggested as a possible northermost Emblem
Peak. Its latitude is about 3 miles north of Matterhorn Peak and it
is about 500 feet lower in elevation (11,755' vs 12,281'). Reports
of its inaccessibility have been exaggerated. Although the approach
up the West Walker River is a worthwhile weekend trip, neither the
climb itself nor the view from the summit is particularly interesting.
I would recommend a scheduled trip in this area, but do not consider
the peak to be of emblem quality.

TOWER PEAK RECOMMENDED FOR EMBLEM STATUS......John Robinson

Over the recent Labor Day weekend 10 weekend Sierra Peakers and
friends climbed 11,755' Tower Peak, located on the northern boundary
of Yosemite Nat. Park, south of Sonora Pass. It was the unanimous
opinion of these present that Tower would make a worthy addition to
the SPS list of Emblem Peaks, possibly replacing the Matterhorn.

SPS Emblem Peaks are chosen mainly for dominance of an area, with
supplementary considerations pertaining to inaccessibility and eleva-
tion. Tower Peak has outstanding qualifications under two of these
criteria, and is adequate on the third.

(1) Dominance of an area: Tower Peak is the highest peak on the
Sierra Crest north of the Sawtooth Ridge. It stands head-and-shoulders
above the vast mountainous wilderness of northern Yosemite, and from
its summit offers a superb panoramic view extending from Ritter-Banner
north to peaks in the Tahoe area.

(2) Inaccessibility: The easiest approach to Tower peak is from the roadhead at Leavitt Meadows on the Sonora Pass road. This route requires a 12 mile backpack up the scenic West Walker River, necessitating a 3 day weekend for the ascent. The route on the peak itself is via an interesting high class 2 granite stairway. Only Goddard and possibly Kaweah are more inaccessible on our emblem list.

(3) Elevation: The elevation of Tower is 400 ft. less than our lowest present emblem peak (Olancha). However, its 11,755 feet is the highest point on the Sierra Crest from the Sawtooth ridge north, a distance of over 120 miles.

It is our firm belief that Tower Peak belongs on the emblem list. Not only are the above qualifications adequate, but the 3 day trip is one of the most scenic and enjoyable in the Sierra. Parts of the West Walker River resemble the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne, with meandering streams amid green park-like meadows and tall pines. The campsite on cascading Tower Cr., is a grassy bench resplendent with Lodgepole pines and surrounded by white granite domes and cliffs.

TOWER PEAK...Frank Sanborn
This impressive northern anchor of the High Sierra was scouted over Labor Day weekend by Andy Smatko, John Robinson, Tom Ross, Ed Ostrang, Kathy Scofield and Eileen Rogers of Southern Calif., Frede Jensen of Calgary, Alberta, and Chuck Miller, Jerry Keating and Frank Sanborn of the Sacramento Valley.

Route as Follows: Drive to Leavitt Meadows Lodge on Hwy. 108 (Sonora Pass road). Proceed west 2 miles to pack station. Follow dirt road (rough) south for 2 miles to southern end of Leavitt Meadows. Trail gains 1,000 feet in 11 miles to Plute Meadow, with most of gain in first 3 miles. Dusty trail heavily used by pack trains, with numerous minor ups and downs and 3 log crossings of West Fork of Walker River (a creek here).

From Plute Meadow cabin, take trail along west edge of meadow, then up steep grade to campsite on Tower Cr., at first crossing of creek. Elevation at campsite, 8,600 feet, plenty of wood and water. Total knapsack, moderately strenuous, of 12½ miles, takes about 6½ hours. No need to carry water, plenty on route.

From campsite, follow faint foot trail (blazed and ducked route) up Tower Creek to Tower Lake (9,600'). From outlet, go around left side of lake and up easy grade to saddle between Tower Lake and Lake
Mary. Route trailless beyond Tower Lake. From saddle above Lake Mary go left up granite ridge, keeping to right of snowfield, until you reach a knife-edge ridge. After traversing this ridge, contour across boulder slope to mid-point of a staircase chute; climb chute to summit of Tower Peak. All 2nd class except for a few low 3rd pitches in chute.

This trip best done over Labor Day weekend; ice axes not needed this time; we carried ours needlessly. Lug soles necessary for climb of peak, but ropes not needed. We enjoyed beautiful, warm sunny days and chilly nights.

View from top of Tower combined everything from Ritter and Banner to Emigrant Basin and Stanislaus Pk. Tower Pk. clearly dominates the entire Northern Yosemite-Emigrant Basin, Bond Pass, Sonora Pass area. The peak is more of a climb than the Matterhorn. It is more remote than the Matterhorn or Ritter. All present were convinced that Tower Peak richly deserves to be our Northernmost emblem peak.

Editors note: After 3 articles on Tower Peak I hope everyone can find there way there! As for peak listss and emblem peaks, it would be just as well if the SFS scrapped the entire idea. Its becoming a game of peak bagging and serves no real purpose. Certainly does not promote S.C. purposes.

KINGS-KERN DIVIDE.....Ted Maier

Phil Clayton and I started two days early for the Labor Day Mt. Brewer trip in order to climb some of the other peaks in the area, principally those on the Kings-Kern Divide. The first day took up from Onion Valley over Kearsarge Pass, past Bullfrog Lake and Vidette meadows, and on to a beautiful camplite high up Vidette Cr. Wood was so plentiful that one could remain seated and just reach out for the fuel for the campfire! The second day we packed to Deerhorn Saddle, Climbed Stanford via its north ridge, and then dropped down into the upper part of East Creek Canyon. The north ridge of Stanford is given short shrift in the Climbers Guide and since it appears to be the easiest way up the mountain, here is a route description.

From Deerhorn Saddle, go east up talus to the ridge, and then south to the then highest visible point. It does no good to try to by-pass this point; you must go over the top. Drop down a hundred feet or so to the next saddle and then work right (W) staying low for perhaps 30 yards. Then work up a broad shallow chute which tops the ridge just left of the apparent summit. Naturally, this is not the summit, but you now at least can see it. Follow the ridge south keeping just keeping just to the left (E) of the crest until beyond a prominent tooth shaped gendarme; continue on the top of the crest until a sudden sharp rise. A ledge around to the right looks inviting - don't take it! Contour around to the left (E) for a way, and then scramble directly up to the summit.

This route is a maximum of low class 3 (in the broad chute and the ridge beyond) and some might even grade it class 2. Though we did not traverse it, the south ridge from Gregor's Monument appeared far more difficult technically. It is of interest to note that the summit register on Stanford contains names back to the original climb in 1896 (the early entries are copied in) and the total number of persons having reached the summit is only about 115.

The view of Harrison Pass from Deerhorn Saddle and Stanford suggest considerable pause to anyone contemplating packing over it. Steep snow on the north side would require ice axe, crampons, and rope; the better alternative is the rock at the sides which appeared to be at least high second class.
The third day we climbed Mt. Eradicson via Lucy's Foot Pass. This pass, listed as class 1 in the Climber's Guide, is extremely loose on the north side. A large party would experience danger from falling rock. An attempt to avoid hands and knees progress up the incredible crud leads one to move solid but second class climbing to the side. The peak (the northern-most of the series of crags) is an easy boulder-hop from the pass with a bit of second class scrambling up the south ridge near the top. It appears to be easier from this side than from Harrison Pass. The end of the day saw us down at East Lake to meet the scheduled SPS trip coming in.

While the main group climbed Mt. Brewer on Sun., I led two others up Mt. Geneva via Mills's Foot Pass. This pass is as advertised, with a short stretch of high second class near its top. The peak was then easy second class up the east ridge. The summit is quite spectacular, sitting flush at the edge of the completely sheer 1,000 foot north face, a most airy perch. The view of this face and summit from the pass is quite impressive.

The final day was a long (14 1/2 miles) but pleasant hike out with the cars reached by 3:00 p.m. The weather throughout the trip was perfect - clear, warm sun with cool air - just right for climbing. Everyday was arranged for moderate, not tigerish, activity. Camp was reached at about 3 p.m., allowing time for a sack-out and a leisurely dinner.

COMMENTS ON DRIED FOODS...Ted Maier

On our trip of 5 days over Labor Day, Phil Clayton and I tried a number of the Starlite Freeze Dried Foods with great success. The taste and texture of the foods was far superior to any of the other dried foods we had tried. The scrambled eggs were particularly surprising - looking, smelling, feeling, and tasting like the real thing, instead of the usual wallpaper paste. These foods are relatively expensive and bulky, but their quality and lightness make them excellent for moderate length backpacks.

"Servings" are quite meager. The 4 serving Chicken Stew and 4 serving Rice and Chicken Dinner were both just right for two persons. The 2 man Pork Chop Dinner was skimpy on the chops though OK on potato and applesauce quantities. The scrambled eggs listed as containing four eggs must have used very small ones. Watch cooking times, particularly with potatoes. At 10,000 ft., items with potatoes, such as the Chicken Stew (and probably the Beef Stew), should boil about 3 times longer than indicated. Other items cooked relatively quickly. All these foods require a fair amount of cooking utensils and so
would not represent much of a weight saving for a weekend trip. The one-pot dinners like the stews, for example, require a two quart covered pot.

Another item which worked well was the small packets of various kinds of soup put out by Nestle. While dinner is cooking, a cup of hot water becomes an excellent soup appetizer. Each packet makes just one 3/4 full Sierra Club cup of broth.

PEAK BAGGING WEST OF WHITNEY......Barbara Lilley

A variation on previous approaches to this area was made on the weekend of Aug. 25-26 by following the Mt. Whitney trail almost to Trail Crest, then contouring around the east side of Discovery Pinnacle and descending easy scree slopes and meadowland to upper Crabtree Lake. From here, Mt. Newcomb (13,410') was climbed; several chutes lead (S.E.) up to the ridge between it and Mt. Chamberlin (The furthest left and most direct is scree; several more solid ones are to the right). From Newcomb the ridge (high class 2 and time consuming) was traversed to the summit of Chamberlin (13,169'). Descent to the lake was via the couloir between Chamberlin and an unnamed peak to the west. It was necessary to cut steps to get down the steep snow at the top of the couloir (an old piton was found in the rock nearby); some glissading below. Camp that night was about 100' above the trail on the first little stream below upper Crabtree Lake; this was the starting point for the climb of Mt. Hitchcock (13,184') the next morning (wood available there).

Continuing on over to the John Muir Trail to a point about a mile above Timberline Lake, Mt. Hale (13,493') was climbed, followed by a traverse over to Mt. Young (13,177') and back down to the trail. Then the regular trail was followed over Trail Crest (which, at 13,770' is higher than any of the peaks climbed) and back to Whitney Portal.

If an extra day were available to spend at Crabtree Lake, Mt. Pickering and Joe Devel Peak could also be climbed, traversing from Mt. Newcomb. All peaks on new Mt. Whitney Quadrangle. (No register was found on Mt. Young.)

Mt. Ruskin, SEPTEMBER 15-16......Barbara Lilley

Joining the Arrow Peak trip for the pack-in over Taboose Pass and at the campsite, Don Clarke & Barbara Lilley climbed Mt. Ruskin by contouring from this camp around the shoulder of Cardinal Mtn. and down to cross the Muir Trail as it heads toward Mather Pass. After crossing the Kings River, they headed for the lake which lies in the bowl east of the peak. Passing this lake on the right, they ascended a curving, south-facing chute to the east ridge and followed the east ridge (class 2 & 3) to the summit. This is apparently a shorter weekend trip than Arrow Peak.

THE NEWEST MEMBERS TO JOIN THE SPS.....George Shinno

Three more members have qualified with the section. It appears that all three members live outside the Los Angeles Area.

Aug. Eva Clayton 3227 W. St., #6, Sacramento 17, Calif.
Sept. Steve Arnon Box 5998, Carmel, Calif.

Our newest members are most welcome, we hope to see you out with the
NEW EMBLEM HODDERS.....G.S.

We are not sure that all people earning their emblem have notified the SPS SBC. to date. The most recent people to have this distinction are:

Lothar Kolbig (Sept)
John Spinks (Aug)
Bunny Rogers (Aug)
Lothar's 10th peak was Mt. Sill, John's was the Matterhorn, and Bunny's was on Mt. Williamson.

MATTERHORN PEAK...John Spinks

Sierra Club's Clair Tappan Lodge at Norden (near Lake Tahoe) made an excellent jumping-off place for this mountain. The Mono Village roadhead (Elev. 7,100') at the west end of Upper Twin Lakes out of Bridgeport was only 150 miles away. This was a much welcomed change for John Danielewicz, his 11 year old son Bill, and myself. We made this climb a 3 day affair, another welcomed change-of-pace, leaving plenty of extra time to "soak in the over-whelming beauty.

The easiest route to Matterhorn Peak is the well-graded Horse Cr. Trail which winds in a general southward direction on the east side of Horse Cr. for a mile from Mono Village Campground where it meets and runs contiguous to the east side of the north-south Cr. Follow this trail for about 2 miles to where the Cattle Cr. Loop Trail takes off to the east. By this time you have gained 1,300 ft. Disregard this Cattle Cr. Trail and continue southward along the east side of Horse Cr. where the elevation gradient is very mild for the next mile. The trail is still good for another half mile after Cattle Cr. Junction where it passes on the west side of a 100 ft. diameter lake. For the next half mile the primitive trail winds through Aspen undergrowth. Continue on up the canyon deeping to the left (E) of Horse Cr. over rock and talus on a faint trail marked with ducks. About 4 miles from the roadhead, a side stream from the SW feeds into Horse Cr. (a 500' high north-south gully situated ¼ mile to the west of this side stream provides easy access for those who desire to approach Matterhorn on its high-angle north side). Continue SSE along the main creek, passing another side stream from the SW about ½ mile from the first side stream. About ¼ mile past the second side stream is located an excellent campsite with wood and water, and is situated on the west side of Horse Cr. at 9,500 feet; about 5 miles and 3½ hrs. from the road. Campsites are available 1,200 ft. higher with water but no wood or wind protection. Leaving the campsite, continue 500 yds. on the west
side of Horse Cr. to where a third side stream feeds into the creek from a large canyon from SSW. Follow this third side stream staying to the west side of it and about 100 ft. above the stream bed on a rock slope. A primitive trail contours around this slope to the right, accomplishing a 90 degree turn (from SE to SW) over the next 400 yds. Your position now is ½ mile from campsites and a clear view is available all the way up this wide canyon to the notch in Sawtooth Ridge ½ mile to SSW. A few snow fields, but no glaciers, are encountered in this canyon and even these can be avoided by staying high on rock. In other words, at this time of the year an ice axe is not necessary when using this particular route. An easy route can be selected up the canyon to this 10,800’ notch where the route now takes an abrupt 90 degree turn to the right (WNW). Looking west northwest up a scree slope to the summit ridge, Matterhorn Pk. is the highest point on the skyline, 1,400 ft. above the notch. To avoid 40 ft. of class 3 near the top of the north-south summit ridge, aim for a point on the summit ridge about 180 yds. to the left (S) of the Peak. This is class 2. After gaining the summit ridge, the peak is obviously 90 degrees to the right. Last water is available 250 yds. south of the above mentioned notch at about 10,700 ft.

A few statistics of our own trip: Left roadhead 2:15 p.m.; on 8-27-62; arrived campsites 6:30 p.m.; left campsites 7:45 p.m.; left a.m. next day, reached peak via 3rd class route 12:45 p.m.; left summit 1:45 p.m.; arrived campsites 4:50 p.m.; left campsite 7:30 a.m. 8-29-62; arrived roadhead 11:30 a.m. From summit, excellent views of Lyell to SSE and Dana to SE. Met a lone climber, Dan Thomas of Pomona, on the summit making a 5 day loop trip. Register was a permanent steel case type with new book having been placed there just two weeks earlier (a note therein indicated a climber made summit from Mono Village in 4 hrs.; as compared to our 9½ hrs.). A red flag had been erected on the summit in All 3 days quite windy but clear. Temperature on the summit in high 30’s. Temperatures at night at camp in the low 30’s.

It isn’t too often that we “weekend” climbers have the opportunity to pull off one of these leisure outings, but the additional fond memories gained at the expense of time were rewarding to John, Bill and me. This is the only way to enjoy the mountains and wilderness to their fullest.

PYRAMID PEAK (9,983’). . . . . . . Frank Sanborn

This dominant peak of the Desolation Basin and of the Crystal Range west of Lake Tahoe, was the objective of a scheduled trip by the Mother Lode Chapter on Sunday, Aug. 19. Twenty hikers started out from Twin Bridges, on Hwy 50, at 9:30 a.m. Under Homer Iser’s leadership, the group followed a fisherman’s trail north up the west side of Pyramid Cr., then scrambled up a Class 2 ducked route over granite slabs and ledges to the west of impressive Horse Tail Falls.

Eight persons elected to remain at the top of the falls; Homer led the remaining 12 up the south ridge to the summit of Pyramid. A fine, sunny day gave us a clear view of the Sierra from the Sonora Pass area to Sierra Buttes, with Tallas, Freel, Dicks, Jacks, Granite Chief and Rose closer at hand. Lake Tahoe’s south shore was visible, plus island studded Lake Aloha and the 15 other lakes of Desolation Basin.

The group descended to Pyramid Cr., above the falls, then followed an interesting route down the ledges closer to the falls on the west, becoming low third class at times. Although our party had 3 ropes, there was no need to use them. Everyone was back at the cars by 6:30
This southern approach to Pyramid is 7 miles round trip, involving a gain of 3,800 ft.

BLAKE HAWK PEAK.....Chuck Miller

Although Black Hawk Peak is not the highest in its immediate area, it is by far the most interesting and certainly should remain as the SPS qualifying peak there. It is situated in the Emigrant Wild Area, immediately north of Yosemite National Park where a predominantly granite area joins a metamorphic and volcanic area. This fact along with the results of glaciation creates a most interesting area for exploring. Volcanic intrusions in the granite permitted the glaciers to create unusual effects including lakes in unexpected places, waterfalls and deep pools in narrow canyons, hidden glens, vertical walls of granite, deep and narrow rock "cravasses" excellent for chimney climbing, heavily wooded but isolated benches and many other features that make for exciting exploring.

A Mother Lode group started from Kennedy Meadows amid perfect weather on Sept. 15 and 16 backpacking 8 miles to a side valley off the trail about one-half mile which provided an excellent camping spot. Sat. swimming in a nearby lake and exploring along with climbing Black Hawk and more exploring Sun. brought our week-end to a close. Even though the peak is in a fairly heavily travelled area (on the trails at least) only an average of 2 small parties a year have visited the mountain itself. It is certainly recommended as a most interesting area to visit.

"André, are you sure we hiked through a radioactive area?"
MT. KAWEAH - SEPT. 11-3.....Mike Hiehle

After making the trek up and back Mt. Kaweah, SPS'ers Hiehle, Shinno, Ed Wheelock and potential SPS Jim Wegner are of the firm opinion that this peak has been named emblem for two reasons: the rugged trail in and the krud heap of Kaweah!

The route taken was standard: Mineral King - Glacier Pass - Black Rock Pass - HST. Several bits of information may be of help to others.

(1) The "old trail" to Glacier Pass did not seem evident. Where the trail heads to the right for Sawtooth Pass, go straight up the slipper for the lowest point. Glacier Pass is just a few yards to the right of this point.

(3) After going over Glacier Pass, keep to the right following the stream down to Spring Lake. There is a trail part of the way and scattered ducks. Keep to the left of the lake and follow the outlet down Cliff Cr. until you come to the stream coming down the Black Rock slopes (elev. about 9,700!). Follow up the west side of this stream, meeting the Black Rock Pass Trail where it hits this stream. This route keeps the elevation loss to a minimum.

(3) When climbing Kaweah from the south, the peak is not evident. We went about an hour out of our way going too far to the east on the rock pile. The actual peak is just to the left of the very evident south ridge.

(4) There is an excellent camping spot at the Big Arroyo junction of the HST at the forestry cabin (not in use when we were there) which can be mad3 the first day in. (Almost a necessity for a 3 day trip.) After climbing Kaweah the second day, we had supper, packed up and hiked back up to the lowest little Five Lake. (Excellent campsite at outlet end.) Leaving at 7:30 a.m. we were back at roadhead 2:30 in the afternoon.

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1962 S.P.S. BANQUET DECEMBER 5th
6 p.m Social hour for those who can be there early
7 p.m Dinner will be a TOP Sirloin STEAK
PLACE Rudi's Italian Inn 3773 Crenshaw Blvd.
COST $2.65 per person, this will include all expenses

GUEST ARE MOST WELCOME. LET'S MAKE THIS A GALA EVENT.

SPEAKER: JACK GRAHAM of Santa Barbara
SUBJECT: Climbing movies of most routes on the Matterhorn
DEADLINE: Reservations must be in by DECEMBER 3. Please get them in early.
Make reservations with Bill Heusel
10300 Ruthelen St.
Los Angeles 47, Calif.

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RESCUE COMMITTEE NEEDS RESCUE MEMBERS

The rescue Committee needs rescue members in order to create an active mountain rescue organization. This group urges all of you to consider training for mountain rescue operations. Please contact George Shinno, NO 4-1534 evenings or OL 3-2950 days for details.

Any person who enjoys climbing should consider some phase of this program, whether a person who might be needed for active rescue or part of the training program. More details will be available shortly so please call George.
THE UNEASY CHAIR
Where do we go from here?

After analyzing the value of peak lists and peak bagging, I hardly see where either offer any advantage for the SPS let alone the Sierra Club.

The membership of the section has always had difficulty in agreeing upon just which peaks should be on the list, emblem or otherwise. So far our lists have created competition, a display of stamina, or who can climb the most peaks in the shortest time. I've heard some people say that peak lists stimulate interest in the section. Peak lists encourage peak bagging, often this activity has complicated club organized trips (splitter groups). What more incentive does the hiker need than to be able to enjoy the marvelous features of the Sierra Nevada Range, to explore its wilderness areas and to have good comradship at the same time? This should be attraction enough for SPS members, especially those people we really want and need in the fight for conservation issues.

Peak baggers seem unconcerned about climbing with club groups. It is interesting to note that the "bagger" generally will lead only section climbs to summits they themselves have not climbed. This means some trips are not properly scouted, and often entirely too hard for the average climber. This would indicate to me that many of our trips are not wise group activities.

Peak baggers seem to be looking for some sort of personal recognition for their feats in shagging summits. Often the "bagger" recruits the services of rock climbing friends to locate route and supply the technical skill to maintain safety on the more difficult summits, (peaks on which they normally will not venture without help). Route interest means nothing to the "bagger". His first concern is the easiest and shortest possible route to a summit plus the number of summits he can attain in the quickest possible time. Why should the "bagger" remain in a false lime light? . . . . many "baggers" will not even write for the "Echo" except when they are looking for some sort of recognition for their feats. Witness the few really worthwhile articles submitted by "baggers" about their independent climbs. Unfortunately there has been too much personality build-up in the "Echo." It has reached the point where I believe that summits are more important to the "baggers" than wonderful scenery and companionship of friends. During non-club climbing trips poor situations have been observed by most of us and people have been left far behind on a mountain because they lack stamina and conditioning, injured people left alone until summit hungry "baggers" can complete their summit dash. There has been neglect in belaying the last man up an interesting pitch in the frenzy of signing the register.

I question whether peak lists have any lasting value in supporting the S.C. purposes or even promoting membership in the SPS. Although the SPS is as strong in numbers as ever, this is because the club is ever expanding. I believe we have alienated a goodly number of valued members. They remain on the roster but no longer take an active interest as they have tired of the competitive and juvenile attitudes of the peak bagger.

Qualifying for membership in the SPS should be based on climbing with the section. The only need for a requirement at all is to find individuals interested enough in seeking out the SPS and its' well managed activities. Then becoming a member and wanting to continue being part of the group. Many members seem to graduate and then become outlaw peak baggers. The only reason they stay affiliated with the section is to gain some sort of questionable personal recognition and recruit more baggers for the needed economy of traveling to and
from independent Sierra trips.

It is becoming more apparent that other groups under the L.A. Chapter and elsewhere are scheduling more and more trips to the Sierra. Why? Because the SPS is not scheduling the kind of trips the average hiker wants. We need leaders who do not care primarily whether they themselves reach the summit, but are interested in seeing to it that as many of their party do! The "beggars" represent a small percentage of the SPS membership, yet they usually control the section and the type of activities scheduled.

What's in store for the SPS in 1963? You, the members, will have a chance to put your nomoness on the ballot for SPS management committee at the Oct. 10th meeting. There is an obvious need for changes which will promote better trips for the average SPSeer.

If these observations have a disquieting effect upon a segment of the membership, and if you perhaps have overemphasized peaks at the expense of enjoyable comaraderie, your skill and the knowledge you have gained are valuable assets which the group would welcome in helping others gain the satisfactions and pleasures of mountain trips without the uncomfortable feeling that they might irk the leader or hold up the whole party should they wish to stop to take a picture, examine the flora, pause to drink in the view or just muf and puff a bit.

Shaping the SPS of the future can be in the hands of the average SPSeer. ----Bud Bingham

THE SCHEDULED TRIP TO MT. BREWER LABOR DAY WEEKEND.....John Wedberg.

Perfect weather, heavy traffic, and a crowded roadside greeted some 30 SPSeers at Onion Valley the Saturday morning before Labor Day. Also greeting them was a sign which read: "ATTN. BREWER TRIP PARTICIPANTS--Your leader is awaiting you at Gilbert Lake, 1 1/4 hours up the trail. Start hiking promptly at 6:00 a.m. Aspirants to Brewer were strung out all along the 13-mile hike into base camp at beautiful East Lake, and most of them had arrived by 4:00 p.m. The majority of the group, however, did not reach Brewer's summit on Sunday, for one of two reasons: (1) They were too tired, and decided to take two day to hike out to Onion Valley, or (2) They climbed Ericson instead. Leader Wedberg's group numbered 18 starting for Brewer, and 14 made it. Leader Haier's group numbered four, and three made Ericson; most of this latter party had come in a couple days early and had climbed Stanford and Genevra on Saturday. Most everyone was out to the cars by 3:30 p.m. Labor Day and home through light traffic by 8:30 that night. Two members from Sacramento met us on Brewer's summit, having climbed it from the west side.

Following are some statistics on the hike and climb: Total elevation gained and lost: 22,400 feet! Total miles walked: 40. Percentage of happy participants: 100%! NOT a death march, but a worthwhile, scenic hike into one of the High Sierra's most beautiful areas. Conclusions: The east side is the best approach for Brewer, NOT the dusty, uninteresting trail from Cedar Grove. Ask anyone on the 1962 Brewer trip!

THIS ISSUE OF THE SIERRA ECHO HAS REACHED THE WEIGHT LIMIT AS SPECIFIED BY THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. Some of the last articles received by the Editor will be held over till the November - December issue came out. Other articles were so large that they may be sent back to the writers for editing.

THE END