This month's column is sort of a stew—it uses a number of items to fill it out.

I've been absent from recent SPS trips while awaiting my second family addition, which arrived on May 20, a seven and a half pound twenty-inch long baby girl. Margo Marie is her name and she is already showing SPS propensities by getting up early for breakfast and squalling mightily if she isn't propped up so that she can look around and see the view. Her brother Mark (26 months), not to be outdone, has learned to scramble rapidly up and down our jungle jim to his favorite perch on top, the "poop deck." This rather hap-hazard climbing is giving Daddy nervous prostration and proud-father-itis at the same time.

The two Mexican-American SPS trips this July appear to be shaping up well. The 7 Mexican climbers will join us on the Middle Palisade climb on July 13-14 and the Banner trip the following weekend. They will probably spend the intervening week climbing in the Palisades region. Only one of the seven, by the way, speaks fluent English so any SPSer with some knowledge of Spanish might brush up a bit. These two trips should be particularly interesting what with the unusual opportunity to meet the climbers from the south.

This last weekend I went on a local hike off Angeles Crest. Part of the region we went through had had those nasty insect infested trees logged out, with of course the extra advantages of a broad logging road in place of the old narrow trail, and caterpillar tracks up, down and across the mountainside. It makes one wonder how the forest ever got along before all this fine Forest Service management came in to protect it. If we keep on removing diseased and insect ridden trees (to keep the forest healthy, you understand) eventually there won't be any forest left to worry about, healthy or otherwise. This seems a little like pulling up all plants and bushes from your garden when they show some mildew or aphids, it may stop the mildew and aphids but it makes for a rather barren yard.

**THE SIERRA ECHO**

Published bimonthly by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mailed to subscribers on even numbered months.

EDITOR: Ed Ostrenga, 705-A 9th St., Santa Monica, Calif.


SUBSCRIPTIONS: $1.00 per year. Subscribing to the "ECHO" is a requirement for active membership in the Sierra Peaks Section.

REMITTANCE: Must be sent to the 1963 SPS Treasurer, Bud Bingham, 4373 El Prieto Rd., Altadena, Calif.

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: Tuesday, July 30, 1963. Please type articles double spaced and mail to Ed Ostrenga, 705-A 9th St., Santa Monica, Calif.
A group of 22 left upper Nine-Mile Canyon Road while a few portentous clouds were moving overhead. However, the weather cleared and 19 of the group reached the top of Sawtooth Peak (7970') in perfect weather. Great numbers of ladybugs were already occupying the summit, and this, plus the fact that some of the bugs were not ladies and bit a number of their guests, caused many to eat their lunch below the top. A new register was carried to the top by Dave Evans who volunteered to act as assistant leader.

We were awakened by an early Sunday morning rain and the weather continued to threaten. However, the majority voted to try for Spanish Needle (7879') instead of the more easily accessible Morris Peak, so the group caravanned to the end of the rough Sand Canyon Road. After receiving advice from Bud Bingham, who came out for this purpose in spite of his cold, a group of 9 started out, led by Arky Erb who had climbed the peak previously. One dropped out on the way up the first ridge as it began to rain. The rest kept on a while longer but as the weather continued to deteriorate the trip was called off and the group returned to the cars in a fairly good downpour.

INDEPENDENCE & KEARSARGE PEAKS, May 11-12 (Andy Smatko)

This spring afforded an unusually fine period for snow climbs in the Sierra and both the above peaks gave 22 assorted climbers ample snow for slogging uphill. I say assorted because on the morning of May 11 (Sat.) when I drove up to where several cars were parked along the as yet not maintained Onion Valley road, I was met by 18 stomping, blowing, waving individuals in all types of cold weather regalia that would have done honor to Dyrenfurth himself. No one could be recognized due to insulation against a bitter cold wind but voices were recognized and the climb proceeded via the old mining trail ascending due N, via switchbacks up to the SE ridge of Kearsarge Peak. Remains of a wide avalanche were visible during this portion of the climb. Snow conditions were fairly good most of the way and snow was present for all except the lower 500' of the climb. There was no view from the summit due to a snowstorm and windblown snow from the ridge. 17 made the summit. Unfortunately, no glissading was possible due to the uncompacted snow.

On return to the cars it was learned that several other people had proceeded over the icy road all the way to the Onion Valley parking area and had grouped to climb Independence Peak via two routes; the N ridge (4 people) and the NW slope (8 climbers). The climbing was entirely in snow for both groups.

Sunday, the Kearsarge Peak climbers ascended Independence Peak—again splitting into the ridge and NW slope groups—and the Independence Pk. climbers ascended Kearsarge, making use of the snow tracks made the day previously. The weather on this day—clear and warmer—permitted distant vistas of the wintry Sierra and good photography conditions.

Snow climbs seem to be enjoyed tremendously much more so than climbs of the same peaks when snow is not present. We should schedule more spring snow climbs:
Approximately 25 people (2 from the Hoover Lake Chapter) met at North Lake on Saturday, May 25. The last mile of road, although free of snow, was blocked by a snowbank. The first mile of trail was open but the rest of the way into camp, at still-frozen Piute Lake, was on snow, which fortunately stayed reasonably firm during the morning. Enough bare ground and rocks were exposed for camp spots. Camp was reached by most by noon; afternoon activities consisted of an attempt by 11 people on Mt. Emerson, defeated by threatening weather and difficulty in route; a climb of two unnamed peaks across from Mt. Emerson (Sy Ososfisky and Tom Ross skied down on their short skis) and general relaxation and discussion. The weather finally deteriorated into snow and rain showers by late afternoon and plastic tubes were pitched for the night.

A 6:15 a.m. start found soft snow right above camp, which fortunately became firmer at higher elevations. The route led over Piute Pass and up to the "Keyhole" which was reached by 9:00 a.m. In spite of the early hour, the 600' descent required to reach the slopes of Mt. Goethe discouraged most people and 10 climbed near Mt. Muriel instead. Three (S. Ososfisky, Arky Erb and Barbara Lilley) made the descent, crossed a large lake and ascended the easy north slopes of Mt. Goethe, reaching the summit by 11:50. (Main inspiration for the leader was placing of the register box—she was determined not to have to carry it back?) However, the view of the snow-covered Evolution country and the excellent sitting glissade on the descent made the effort very worth while. Sy and Barbara used their short skis on the return to camp, which was via Alpine Col. A snowstorm caught up with them at Piute Pass and followed them halfway to the cars, which were reached by 4:00 p.m. Skis were used to within a mile of the end of the trail.

The originally planned direct third class route from Alpine Col was changed to accommodate the size and experience of the party, many of whom had not contacted the leader as requested in the schedule and as a result, only 3 made the summit. Perhaps 15 minutes would have been saved by going over Alpine Col to reach the class 2 north slopes, instead of the Keyhole.

**MT STARR, 12,870’** (Tom Ross)

On the morning of April 28, I drove 5 miles up Rock Creek Road, left my car and backpacked on short skis to a rise above Mosquito Flat. I left my Krity Pack there and climbed on skis up Little Lakes Valley to a high moraine below Mt. Dade & Bear Creek Spire. The view of these peaks was very beautiful. The skiing back to camp was very good.

At 6:00 a.m. the next morning the temperature was 14°. I climbed to the summit of Mt. Starr by the S.E. ridgeline and face—mostly class 2. Almost all of our emblem peaks could be seen from the summit with a nice view in all directions. The skiing down to the camp was good, but soft "glue" back to the car.

---

**INTERNATIONAL SIERRA CLUB REGISTER YEAR - 1963-1964**

ANYONE having information about the whereabouts and condition of Sierra Club peak registers is asked to communicate with Mountain Records, c/o Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush St., San Francisco 4, Calif. There will be no REWARD, but the Mountaineering Committee will sincerely appreciate your help. This is the Mountaineering Committee’s gigantic inventory of peak registers.
On May 18 at 5:40 a.m., I left my car parked 1 mile from the end of the road at North Lake and climbed on skis to a campsite at Grass Lake. Leaving my pack, I climbed to Lanack Col, where I left my "Sawdennhoff" (short skis) and climbed along N.E. ridge to summit of Peak 13,248 (Class 2 & 3). This peak is one mile N.E. of Mt. Darwin and offers a terrific view of sharp peaks in the Evolution area. All peaks were deeply covered with snow. Skiing down from the Col was very good on spring snow.

NEW MEMBERS

A sincere welcome is extended to new members Sue Sheaffer, 23007 Collins St., Woodland Hills, and Charles Ray, 12947 Wilshire Drive, Whittier. Sue's qualifying list included Mt. Ritter, Whitney, Williamson, Olanca, Smith Mountain, and Alta Peak; while Charles listed Brewer, Banner, Matterhorn, Ritter, Williamson and Whitney for his. Sue and Chuck bring the active membership, including honorary member Norman Clyde, to 167 for 1963, with 76 on inactive status.

NORTHERN CHAPTER PLANS SIERRA TRIPS

The Mother Lode (Sacramento) Chapter of the Sierra Club is scheduling several trips into the Sierra this summer into areas which are also accessible from Los Angeles (thanks to the new San Diego Freeway) on a weekend. Some of them are:

June 22-23: Virginia Peak (and Twin Peaks, optional), north of Lee Vining. For further information and coordination of ride pool, Barbara Lilley, WE 8-8517, may be contacted, but please, not after 9:00 p.m., especially on Monday nights!

July 27-28: Mt. Stanford (N) and Mt. Morgan (N), from Tom's Place at the top of the Sherwin Grade.


Schedules can be obtained by writing to the Mother Lode Chapter, Box 1335, Sacramento, Calif. It is always a good idea to contact the leader.

SPS SUMMER SCHEDULE: ADVANCE NOTICE

June 29-30: Iron Mountain; Leader: John Robinson, Gene Gail
July 4-5-6-7: Triple Divide Peak; Leader: John Wedberg
July 13-14: Middle Palisade (joint trip with Mexican climbers); Leaders: Bud Bingham and Graham Stephenson
July 20-21: Banner Peak (joint trip with Mexican climbers & Mother Lode Section); Leaders: Tom Annes, George Shimno
Aug. 3-4: Florence Peak, Rainbow Mt. Leader: John Robinson, Ted Maier
Aug. 10-11: Duck Lake (family trip); Leaders: Miles Brubacher, Ron Smith
Aug. 24-25: Four Gables Peak, Leader: Dick Jali
Aug. 31-Sept. 1,2: North Palisade-Sill-Gayley; Leader: Lothar Kolbig
Sept. 14-15: Mt. Tyndall; Leader: Dave Evans, John Wedberg
Sept. 28-29: Spanish Mountain; Leader: Andy Smatko
Oct. 3-6: Mt. Silliman; Leader ????
Oct. 12-13: Siretta Peak; Leader: John Robinson, Miles Brubacher

NOW YOU CAN PLAN YOUR VACATION.