"To develop and expand interest and activity of the Sierra Club membership in the Sierra Nevada Range. To promote weekend knapsack trips and mountain climbs in the Sierra Nevada, and to cultivate close comradeship among hikers and mountaineers. To aid in the conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas of the Sierra, the maintenance of good trails and clean campsites, and the dissemination of general knowledge concerning the range."

These noble phrases, drawn up almost nine years ago by the leaders of a new and enthusiastic section of the Sierra Club, constitute the reasons for the existence of the SPS. Although these words dutifully appear every four months in the preamble of the Angeles Chapter schedule, perhaps we occasionally need to reflect on the meaning of these statements of purpose.

What first becomes apparent is that our primary reason for existence as a section is to interest persons and stimulate activity in the Sierra Nevada. Without this prime function, there would be little need for our special section of the Club - we could get together as individuals and plan trips privately. Over the past eight and a half years, the SPS has, on the whole, lived up to this purpose - our membership is the largest of any section in the Angeles Chapter; our trip participation has steadily grown.

Most persons who participate in our scheduled activities seem to enjoy the experience, and many exhibit a warm desire to continue their association with the Section. However, some recent participants on Section trips have been critical. Complaints have been voiced that lead one to wonder whether sometimes we might not be living up to some of our obligations. The several criticisms your chairman has recently received cover a wide range, from complaints of a too-fast pace to assertions of poor conservation practices. However, the most damaging one seems to be an assertion that Section members on scheduled trips have exhibited an indifferent attitude toward newcomers.

Some complaints are bound to appear due to the very nature of SPS trips, and it stands to reason that as our trip participation grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to please everyone. However, these criticisms, no matter what their actual degree of validity, reflect on the Section's image and call for our thoughtful consideration. Every Section member should pause to reflect on his (or her) contributions toward our stated purpose of introducing newcomers to the Range of Light. We have an obligation to make a neophyte's first Sierra experience (continued on page 2.)
as satisfying as possible.

As a corollary to the obligations of Section members, there are also responsibilities on the part of the newcomer. He must first realize that most SFS trips will never be in the category of local hikes. Due to the very nature of the Sierra Nevada, SFS outings are bound to require a certain amount of conditioning not necessary on most trips scheduled by other groups. A failure to grasp the fact that Sierra mountaineering requires certain prerequisites not necessary in local mountaineering is perhaps a major cause for newcomer complaints against the Section. Section members can help in this respect by encouraging prospective participants to engage in conditioning trips before attempting major Sierra adventures. Easy beginners' trips are scheduled by the Section with the purpose of introducing newcomers to the Range of Light.

The SFS is a dynamic, growing section of the Sierra Club. Amid our "growing pains" and eagerness to get into the Sierra on weekend trips, we should not lose sight of our basic reasons for being a section. The misunderstandings that occasionally arise should not be blown out of proportion, but neither should they be ignored. We should realize that they do exist and can be minimized if both Section members and prospective participants are made aware of their respective responsibilities. An intimate and meaningful experience in our superb Range of Light can and should be memorable to all.

- - John W. Robinson - -

CONSERVATION

HIGH SIERRA PROPOSAL AIREO AT HEARING

Fresno - About 40 persons attended a public hearing . . . on a Forest Service proposal to re-define and extend the boundaries of the High Sierra primitive area and change its designation.

With the exception of two speakers from four-wheel drive clubs, two private citizens and a timber man, the more than two dozen speakers supported the proposal which would add a total of 122,000 acres to the High Sierra Wilderness Area. The Forest Service proposal specifically would add 134,700 acres in the Inyo and Sierra National Forests to the present primitive area and exclude 12,722 acres to give the area a total of 502,978 acres.

Those in favor of the proposal included representatives of the Sierra Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sierra Land Use Committee, private mountain packers, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the State Department of Fish and Game and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

B. C. Miller of the National Four-Wheel Drive Assn., opposed the inclusion of Crown Valley, Woodchuck and the north fork of the Kings river, an area of approximately 98,000 acres.

- - Los Angeles Times, 2/21/64 - -
LEMON GROVE CLUBHOUSE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

July 8  Climbing in the Northern Cascades. Colored slides by Tom Cosgrove.

August 12  Ten years of Sierra Peak Bagging. John Robinson and Frank Sanborn.


October 14  Rocky Mountain National Park and other eastern areas via color slides. Tom Ammeus.

SPS SCHEDULE JULY-OCTOBER, 1964.


July 11-12  Virginia Peak and Twin Peaks. Two climbs in the Northern Sierra. John Robinson and Jerry Keating.


July 25-26  Duck Lake backpack. Follow trail to a beautiful lake. Miles Brubacher.


August 29-30  Minaret Circle. Backpack mostly on trail through outstanding scenery. Tom Ammeus and George Shinno.


Sept. 5-6-7  Mt. Goddard. Strenuous backpack and climb of emblem peak. Frank Sanborn.


October 3-4  Mt. Star and South Morgan. Car camp. Lothar Kolbig and Monroe Levy.

(continued on page 4.)
October 24-25 Wonoga Peak and Mt. Muah. One easy and one strenuous climb. Car camp. Frank Sanborn and Ron Jones.

CLARIFICATION OF THIRD CLASS POLICY

There seem to be some misunderstandings regarding the attainment of eligibility for Section 3rd class trips. These semi-technical climbs, involving ascents on 3rd class rock and/or ice and snow, are limited to those who the SFS Management Committee feels are qualified. A list of Third Class Qualified Climbers has been drawn up and is in the hands of every member of the Management Committee. Any member wishing to know if he (or she) is already on the list need only ask any Management Committee member.

New members and those whose qualifications are unknown by the Section's governing body may qualify for the list by completing the 3rd class certificate included with the January-February "Echo". These certificates should be brought on open Section trips where practice sessions in these necessary skills will be offered. Especially recommended is the Smith Mtn.-Crag Peak training trip April 25-26. On most other open trips practice sessions will be held Saturday afternoons from camp.

Several of these technical 3rd class trips will be held each year. This season four are scheduled, beginning with Spanish Needle Peak on April 12. Others are Mt. Whitney by the Mountaineers' Route (June 27-28), Mt. Winchell (August 29-30), and Junction Peak (September 19-20). Only those on the 3rd class list will be eligible to climb these peaks with the section.

These 3rd class trips should serve a two-fold purpose: (1) Insure maximum safety on semi-technical climbs, and (2) Stimulate more members to improve their mountaineering competency.

-- JWR --

MOUNTAIN DEATHS HIT

Moscow - The government newspaper Izvestia complains that amateur mountain climbing is badly organized in the Soviet Union and has resulted in unnecessary deaths.

-- Los Angeles Times, 3/13/64 --

ADDITIONS TO THE MAINTAINED PEAKS LIST

The following information on the location of the 7 peaks just added to the SPS list is furnished to bring your current SPS Peaks list up to date until a new one is published.

Under I. Southern Sierra

a. East of S. Fk. Kern River
   (following Olancha Peak)
   Mt. Cartago (10,589') 2
   Mt. Muah (11,016') 2

b. West of S. Fk. Kern River
   (following Smith Mtn.)
   Sunday Peak (8,295') 1
   (following Moses Mtn.)
   Homer's Nose (9,005') 1

(continued on page 5)
(Additions to the list, continued)

Under V. Baxter Pass to Mather Pass

c. West of Crest
   (following Kennedy Mtn.)
   Tehipite Dome (7,708') 4
   (following Marion Pk.)
   State Peak (12,620') 2

Under IX. Pine Creek to Mammoth

a. Rock Cr. area
   (following Mt. Morgan)
   Mt. Julius Caesar (13,196') 2

A CRITIEAK ON A NEW PICQUE

Since the SPS is a democratic organization and since I am a member, I feel free to express my views on matters concerning the section.

I notice 7 new peaks were added to the list (horrible word). As I have not climbed any of these summits, the additions normally would not require comment except that there appears a "peak" called Cartago Peak (10,589'). I have recently purchased the latest Olancha Topo quadrangle and cannot find a peak or mountain so named. The arbitrary naming of a summit, and it must remain arbitrary until or unless it receives official geological survey recognition, is reprehensible, because on this basis, there are many more noble peaks designated only by an elevation that are worthy of SPS list status. I decidedly object to the selection of an unnamed summit to our selected list and cannot understand why this step was taken.

Besides this, as I study the topo map there are three summits between so-

(continued on page 6)
(A Critique of a New Pique, continued)
called Cartago Peak and Muah Mtn., that are higher than "Cartago Peak", summits
that have as good a view, and which are as inaccessible as well.

I am sure that a 7,000' elevation gain is a workout, but this need not color
one's judgement in the selection of a peak. Likewise, the tendency to place a
peak on our list should not be influenced by the mere climbing of it by one or
several members. Some years ago Trail Peak - a named summit - was removed from
our list and it has an elevation of 11,623', or over 1,000' higher than peak 10,589'.

My main brief is that an unnamed summit has no place on our list, unless
we henceforth start adding peaks designated only as elevations, and there are
hundreds of such which could qualify by SFS standards. I would like to read more
from other interested members on the views expressed above. This adds interest
to our Echo.

-- Andy Smatko --

HUNDRED PEAKERS CONSIDERING SOUTHERN SIERRA

The extreme southern part of the Sierra Nevada, the relatively low section
between Tehachapi and Walker Passes, is an area of rounded mountains, forested
plateaus, and farmland valleys. Although geographically a part of the Sierra,
it resembles the Range of Light only in its granitic rock structure. The SFS
has occasionally scheduled early-season beginners' trips into this pleasant area,
but no peaks have been found that merit qualifying status.

The Hundred Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter has exhibited an interest
in this area, and is considering adding the 28 named summits over 5000 feet to
their list of peaks. This would place the boundary between the SFS and the
100 PS at Highway 178, roughly a line stretching from Bakersfield through Lake
Isabella to Walker Pass.

The SPS Management Committee has considered the request and welcomes the
Hundred Peakers as prospective neighbors. We will gladly share this southern
Sierra area with a sister section that relishes the easy, pleasant peaks of the
type found in the region.

-- JWR --

DEPARTMENT OF DAFT DEFINITIONS

Mountain Climber - A sportsman who would rather scale a mountain than a fish.

Virgin Forest - A forest in which the hand of man has never set foot.
NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined the SFS in February and March.


How Bailey, 236 23rd Street, Santa Monica: Mt. Whitney, Kawaeh, Sill, Olancha, iyell, and Abbot.

JOHN MUIR MEMORIAL APPROVED IN HOUSE

Washington - House Interior subcommittee approved . . . a bill calling for the establishment of the John Muir National Monument in California. The measure would authorize the purchase of Muir Manor and the Vicente Martinez adobe home, both in Contra Costa County. — Los Angeles Times —

TRIP REPORTS

THOUSAND ISLAND LAKE
— Tom Ross

On December 2, 1963 I backpacked on skis from the Mammoth Mountain Ski area to Agnew Meadows and camped there. The next morning I set out on skis for Thousand Island Lake by the high trail. I climbed a high ridge above the outlet to the lake to see Banner Peak under such beautiful conditions. It was under deep snow, and the lake was completely frozen over. I returned by the same route to my camp in Agnew Meadows, and the next morning I returned to my car.

"All those in favor of hiring a new guide, raise your hands."
On the morning of February 2, I climbed from the bridge at the second intake on Bishop Creek up the south east ridgeline (class 2) to the summit of Peak 12,089'. This was a first winter ascent and offers a terrific view from the summit. I used my skis in descending. The route is down the couloir which starts 200 feet from the summit. It was excellent skiing in deep powder.

On February 4, I backpacked from the bridge above the second intake to my campsite at 11,500'. This was at a stream spring of Birch Creek. The next morning I climbed Peak 12,500', and then the east summit of Peak 13,112' via the south east ridge (class 2). This was a first winter ascent and offers a fabulous view of the east face of Mt. Humphreys. The skiing down was poor, on breakable crust and wind slab.

On the morning of February 11, I backpacked from the bridge above the second intake to the same campsite as the above climb. There were snow flurries all morning and most of the afternoon. That evening, the temperature dropped to 9°F. by 6:15 P.M. It cleared that night but it was windy and the temperature was close to zero all night long. The next morning, I climbed the south west ridgeline to the summit of Peak 13,112. This was a first winter ascent. I placed a register there. An excellent view was offered as this peak is on the crest. The skiing was very good in deep powder down the broad east couloir. I returned to my camp and backpacked out to my car.

On the morning of February 19th, I left my car at the Buttermilk Road and McGee Creek and backpacked to my campsite below Peak 12,228'. It was 24°F at 6 P.M. but my campfire kept me warm.

The next morning the temperature was down to 11°F. at 6:00 A.M. but there was no wind. I used skis and climbed the south east ridgeline to the summit of this unnamed peak via a class 2 route, with some class 3 at the top. The peak is a knife edge, and is 1.2 miles east of Mt. Humphreys.

The view from the summit is very beautiful, especially at this time of year. The skiing to camp was poor on breakable crust and wind slab.

This was a first winter ascent. There was a cairn on the summit but no type of register, so I placed one there. Mt. Humphreys is especially impressive from this peak.

Nine girls and twelve boys showed up for the Basic Beginners trip in Millard Canyon in spite of threatening weather. The leader gave recommendations for clothing, equipment, etc., and answered many questions on these
"Yepr! I've done them all! The Sierra Peaks! The Hundred Peaks! The Desert Peaks! Major peaks in Alaska and Canada! At 22,000 feet in the Himalayas, I once packed an injured guide down a deeply crevassed glacier!"

(Millard Canyon, continued)

(subjects) The group then hiked up the canyon to a 20-foot rock pitch and practiced balance and use of hands in climbing. After lunch a slight precipitation began and it was decided to return to civilization. This was hurriedly accomplished before the rains came down in earnest, bringing winter to Southern California at last. The leader promises short weather for the second beginners trip on April 19.

CONDITIONER AND ICE AX EXERCISE: CUCAMONGA PEAK (8859') AND ETIWANDA PEAK (8662') . Tom Ameneus

Seventeen climbers left Icehouse Canyon parking lot as the sun disappeared behind gathering clouds.

Beyond Icehouse Saddle the trail was frequently icy under the freshly fallen snow so that some steps had to be cut. Cucamonga Peak was reached in time for lunch; however, because of the cold we soon left for Etiwanda Peak and then started down.

As it had snowed quite heavily during part of the trip the trees were unusually beautiful. Occasional glimpses of distant vistas and nearly peaks through rifts in the clouds with occasional sunlight streaming down between the trees, combined to provide an unusually beautiful trip.

Because of slippery conditions some unplanned self-arrests were required.

A few sore muscles delayed the group somewhat so we did not arrive at the cars till a little after 7 P.M., which was well after dark.

Ski instructor to pupil coming a cropper: "You just don't seem to get the hang of it, Mr. Smedley. Now you've broken a ski instead of a leg."