CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It is interesting to look back at the "evolution" of SFS trips during the past eight and a half years of the Section's existence. The eager backpackers who founded the Section in 1955 envisioned a continuation of the types of trips they had engaged in privately - trail hikes and skree scrambles up non-technical peaks. Few of the Section founders had ever used an ice axe or crampons.

Thanks to the stimulation and leadership of several dedicated charter members, the Section's first summer season - 1956 - saw the scheduling of several trips involving steep snow and third class rock. Most early SFSers used ice axes for the first time on the Matterhorn climb that year, and short third class pitches on Whitney (Mountaineers' Route), Ritter, and Darwin provided a proper introduction to semi-technical rock climbing.

Third class rock and ice-and-snow trips caught on immediately. After a spirited debate, North Palisade and Humphreys were added to the emblem list in 1958. 1959 saw the scheduling of both of these peaks, and the early 1960's saw several third class outings every summer. Participation on these semi-technical outings was at the discretion of the leader, and all too often leaders were liberal in their acceptance of applicants.

1963 was a turning point. Last summer's tragic accident on Middle Palisade, while in no way the fault of the trip leaders, jolted Sierra Peakers into some deep thinking concerning our safety standards. Many felt the Section needed a better way of determining the qualification of prospective climbers and insuring maximum safety on semi-technical trips. Out of this soul-searching was born the present third class trip requirements.

The Section's first third class trip under the new requirements is now history - Spanish Needle last month. The trip went well and was thoroughly enjoyed by the integrated, skillful group. However, it takes experience to iron kinks out of new policies, and there are several points that need clarification and modification before our next trip of this nature - Whitney in June.

Most important, it must be emphasized that only those who are on the Third Class List or have special Management Committee approval are eligible to attend Section third class trips. In the latter category would be highly qualified guest climbers who petition the Management Committee for approval to attend specific restricted climbs. It should be reiterated that responsibility for qualifying climbers lies with the Management Committee, not with trip leaders. This frees leaders of the burden of passing judgement on the qualifications of applicants unknown to them.

Secondly, the procedure for Section members to attain Third Class eligibility has been strengthened. An applicant needs first to complete the Third Class Certificate and send it to the Management Committee. The Management Committee will then make the final decision as to the applicant's eligibility.

It should be noted that only four of twenty trips scheduled by the Section this (continued on page 2)
year are in the restricted third class category. All Section members and guests with some backpacking experience are welcomed on the vast majority of our scheduled outings. An important thing to remember on all trips is to heek the schedule write-up and, if questions remain, call the leader.

--- John W. Robinson ---

CONSERVATION

SAVING THE REDWOODS

Recently a large, attractive rare book was published by California's Sierra Club championing the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens).

The book, entitled "The Last Redwoods," which was reviewed in Scene April 5, points out that the beautiful redwoods of coastal California are being logged off and otherwise destroyed at such a rate as to spell the death within the next 20 years of all virgin groves not now protected within state or federal reserves.

Probably more shocking was the point raised in the book that some of the sequoias were being threatened by a new northerm California freeway. At this pronouncement, conservationist and anti-freeway forces sounded off loudly throughout the country. To these defenders of the redwoods it seemed that a freeway could be routed almost anywhere, while a grove of thousand-year-old trees, once destroyed, could never be replaced.

As a result of public opinion, and we are sure his own good conscience, Governor Edmon G. Brown has now announced that "as long as I am governor in California not a single solitary redwood will be cut down (continued on page 3)
CONSERVATION, continued)

(Saving the Redwoods, continued from page 2)

for a freeway.

These are heroic, monumental words in an era when
freeway routers play master strategists. We join in
saluting the governor for taking this stand on the
side of the preservation of the redwoods. The Sierra
Club, which is becoming more and more highly articu-
late watchman against spoilage of our irreplaceable
nature resources, feels, however, that in spite of the
governor's pronouncements, the trees may still be in
danger. The highway department in California, they
assert, is by law "largely autonomous hierarchy set
apart from the people and their elected representa-
tives."

"Even though the governor is the most immediately
responsible official to the people, the State consti-
tution grants him inadequate legal authority to partici-
cipate in highway policies and decision," says the
Sierra Club. "Neither he nor the legislature legally
has control over highway expenditures and budgets.
Highway construction money comes automatically from
a special state fund, with no provision for review or
check by the people's elected representatives."

If the danger as outlined by the Sierra Club is
this real, it presents a problem as imponderable as
any that has beset conservationists in California.
Although the highest elected official of California
has given needed support to a campaign to save the
threatened sequoia sempervirens, the issue of halting
freeway building into redwood groves is left up in
the air.

Governor Brown has been forthright in making his
announcement regarding the threatened groves of beau-
tiful trees. It seems only proper now that the high-
way department of the state should indicate similar
compliance with the mood of the people - and the
governor.

If the redwood groves of northern California are
despoiled now, after the governor's indication of
sentiment an unseemly departmental arrogance would
seem to exist within the State organization.

-Editorial from Pasadena Star
News, 4/10/64 -

VAST SIERRA AREA LABELED "WILDERNESS"

Washington - Agriculture Secretary Orville L.
Freeman Monday ordered the High Sierra primitive area
in California enlarged and reclassified as a "wilderness" to give it further protec-
tion against intrusions by the works of man.

The High Sierra Wilderness, largest such area in California, is part of the Inyo
and Sierra National Forests. The area stretches for 140 miles along the crest of the
Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Freeman's order enlarged the old 394,000-acre national forest "primitive area" into a new 502,978-acre "wilderness area." Under the wilderness classification, no
roads can be built, no timber harvesting will be allowed, and development will be
limited to trails and rustic campsites.

(continued on page 4)
(CONSERVATION, continued)

(Vast Sierra Area, continued from page 3)

Livestock grazing and prospecting for minerals would continue, however, the Agriculture Department noted. And hunting and fishing would also be permitted as long as state regulations are observed.

Freeman’s decision came after he had reviewed proceedings of public hearings held at Bishop and Fresno. — L. A. Times, 4/28/64 —

NEWS AND VIEWS

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY TO BUY PINNACLES SITE

San Bernardino - The county has taken steps to purchase the Pinnacles, unique geological formations, to save them from destruction.

Supervisors applied to the Bureau of Land Management to buy 640 acres of desert land on which the Pinnacles are located in the County’s northwest corner.

The Pinnacles are a picturesque series of 80 to 100 geological formations, each 60 to 70 feet high, about nine miles south of Argus. Private and commercial interests who use trucks and dynamite are hauling them away. The material is used like crushed rock for lank scoping purposes.

According to a Bureau of Land Management geologist, the Pinnacles were probably formed after the last Ice Age. At that time Searles Dry Lake was a huge body of cold water. An earthquake rift developed at one end and hot springs gushed forth, it is believed. Simple algae and coral colonies combined to build up the columns from the floor of the lake.

The formations are believed to be unique in the United States.

INYO MAY BUILD ROAD TO PLANNED SKI AREA

Independence - Inyo County Board of Supervisors has tentatively approved plans to build an access road to Bishop Bowl if and when the proposed ski development project west of Bishop is successfully bid. The request was made by J. M. Bell, of Crestline, who reportedly has principals interested in the proposed project. The Inyo National Forest issued a prospectus on the proposed development of the ski bowl area some years ago, but there were no successful bidders.

HIKING "HAREM" ADDITION

Another female addition for Chuck Miller’s hiking "harem" arrived April 8th. Her name is Laura Lucinda (Laurie), and she arrived with 7 lbs. 15 ozs. poundage for Daddy’s Kelty carrier this summer. That makes four daughters for Chuck to guide up the emblem peaks!

ALPINE CLIMBERS CONQUER EIFFEL TOWER

Paris - Four mountain climbers in full Alpine regalia, recently scaled the face of 1,956 foot Eiffel Tower.

It was the most sensational stunt in Paris since 1952 when the late Bernard McFadden, the American health faddist, parachuted from an airplane in his red underwear and landed in the River Seine.

The mountaineers, three Frenchmen and an Englishman, nimbly climbed the northwest "face" of the tower as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations for the monument of rust colored lacy iron built by Gustave Eiffel in 1888.

The old tower is accustomed to such visitors. An elephant lumbered up the tower steps in 1958 and a bicyclist rode down them in 1923. In 1912 a man strapped on wings to fly from the Tower but died, apparently of fright, on the way down. A
pilot was killed trying to fly between the tower's four feet.

The climbers, wind whistling around them, zigzagged back and forth across the iron girders. They were tied together with 25 feet of white nylon rope and carried radio transmitters on their backs so they can describe the scenery on TV.

The hardest part for the climbers was negotiating the overhang on the platform atop the tower. One by one the climbers, wearing blue jackets, nickers, heavy wool socks and Alpine shoes, cleared the railing.

They did not plant a flag.

They were rewarded with champagne.

SUGGESTIONS

Did the SFS ever have a trip to Kings Canyon during the last week of April?

Bud and I were there this year and found the area very beautiful, with poppies on the slopes of the River and Red Bud in full bloom.

Let us think about a good trip in this region for next year!

-- Bep Bingham --

NEW ADDRESS

Frank D. Sanborn
12162 Ferrari Lane
Garden Grove, California

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to the new members who joined us during April and May.

Homer H. Bailey, 236 23rd Street, Santa Monica. Qualifying peaks: Whitney, Iyell, Abbott, Sill, Olancha and Kaweah. He first climbed Whitney in 1937 and climbed several last summer, so his climbing experience covers a long time span.


Abe Siemens, 5305 Lindley, #29, Tarzana, California. Qualifying peaks: Mt. Whitney, Lone Pine Peak, Alta Peak, Mt. Langley, Mt. Goddard, and Mammoth Mountain.

(continued on page 6)
(NEWS AND VIEWS, continued)

(New Members, continued from page 5)

Ben Romero, 323A W. Garfield Avenue, Glendale 4, California. Qualifying peaks: Middle Palisade, Taylor Dome, Smith Mountain, Siretta Peak, Mt. Whitney and Mt. Gayley.


LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ellen Siegal
Sierra Echo
Dear Ellen,

Re: A Critique on a New Pique, by Andy Smatko

I haven't seen Caltech Peak (13832') on the SPS list - if it doesn't make it none of these other crud heaps should!!

Seriously, the idea of adding new peaks to the list may not be bad, but where does it end? It seems that the list is perpetually growing, with very little guiding reason behind it whatsoever. Does the list become a thing with 300, 400 or even 500 summits listed and including every ridge and nubbin in the range? If it does I feel that it becomes rather meaningless.

Last weekend, I led a climb up Smith Mt. which was added to the list fairly recently. It was a pleasant walk through the woods with a little scrambling at the end, but I'm ready to argue whether it should be on the list or not. It certainly isn't inaccessible, nor does it especially dominate the area. And I don't think that the idea that "I climbed it last weekend, so let's put it on the list!!" is by itself a valid argument.

I suspect what is really needed is some really serious thought and debate as to just what the list is really supposed to prove and therefore just what peaks and sorts of peaks really belong on it. I would tend to feel that the list should be a guide to the peaks that are, in a given area, the most interesting in the sense of elevation, dominance, relative difficulty and inaccessibility. It must be borne in mind, however, that a peak that may be extremely prominent in one area would perhaps be insignificant in another. For example Olancha dominates the southern Sierra from anywhere you look, but a 12,100' peak next to Mt. Whitney would be nearly lost. Hence one should be on the list and the other not.

Once the really significant criteria of peaks for the list were established it should be possible to finalize the list once and for all. The Sierra are well mapped and the experience of the SPS membership is extensive. At the very least it should be possible to delineate rigorous, objective standards for the inclusion of peaks on the SPS list.

Dick Jalal

REBUTTAL ON MOUNT CARTAGO

In the previous edition of THE ECHO, Andy Smatko wrote an expression of his views relative to the recent addition of Cartago Peak to the SPS qualifying list. It is his assertion that Cartago has no place on the list because it "is not named on any map." (ed. note: the reference, on checking with the article, refers to topo maps, and "official geological survey recognition"). Also mention is made of "three summits between...Cartago Peak and Muah Mtn., that are higher...have as good a view, and which are as inaccessible as well.")

As general information for people in the Section who may be entertaining doubts...
(REBUTTAL ON MOUNT CARTAGO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

about the validity of Cartago as a qualifying peak, I submit the following:

1. For many years now, those of us who have had the responsibility of evaluating peaks for the Section since its inception have felt that Cartago merited qualifying status. It is a rugged, trailless climb into a truly virgin wilderness area unspoiled by as much as a tin can, cigarette or gum wrapper, etc. Its summit plateau is a beautiful forested area dotted with impressive granite spires, one of which is the summit block. A little 3rd class work is necessary to attain the true summit. There is an USGS bench mark on the summit, giving the elevation and the name Cartago.

2. Cartago is named on most oil company maps, the Auto Club of Southern California's maps of Tulare County and the Inyo Sequoia outing map. I worked for the Auto Club when both these maps were prepared and can attest to the research which preceded the naming of many of the peaks.

3. Spanish Needle and several other of our worthy qualifying peaks are also not named on most maps. This has not precluded our enjoyment of them or their status as qualifying peaks in any way.

4. All of us who participated on the scheduled trip to Cartago Peak last November felt without exception that it deserved qualifying status. It is not only a very satisfying climb for reason enumerated in (1) above, but it also commands the best views from any angle of the impressive north face of Olancha Peak and the great cliffs of the granite-etched Cartago Creek.

It is felt that most of you will agree that this is an eminently worthy addition to our qualifying list after hiking it personally.

-- Frank Sanborn --

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE DIRTY SOCKS HOT SPRING

Few people know where Dirty Socks (or Sox) Spring is in the first place, and those who never heard of it are probably laughing and rolling around on the floor at the sound of the strange name.

But to others, notably skiers at Mammoth, who would often in the old days, stop there on their drive home from the muscle bruising sport, regard Dirty Socks with affection. For in its hot waters - and for free - they could soak out all manner of aches and pains, even on a cool day. It made the ride home from Olancha (DS Springs is located on the south edge of dead Owens Lake nearby) a lot more pleasant.

The fact that Dirty Socks is a wild spring - no owner, not upkeeped, etc. - makes DS target for all manner of carryings on and vandalism, of course, and now the Inyo County Board of Supervisors is concerned with the plight of DS and proposes to close it or to see that the place is properly managed.

It seems that (a) the place has been contaminated to the point where it is a definite sanitation problem, and (b) it has been the site for numerous unchaperoned parties by groups of teenagers.

In the current issue of the Bishop newspaper, it is pointed out that the supervisors in Independence would like to see a trailer park, or something like this, developed here.

But no one knows who the place belongs to. So there will be a title search;
(Dirty Socks Hot Spring, continued from page 7)
then some urging to develop old Dirty Socks.

The name? The water has a higher sulphur content and plain-spoken miners and
such, in the old days when nearby Cerro Gordo was operating, gave the place its
unsavory name.

--- Pasadena Star News,
Russ Leadabrand ---

DON'T MISS THE JUNE ISSUE OF WESTWAYS MAGAZINE!

An outstanding issue devoted mostly to the Sierra Nevada with excellent articles
and colored scenes. The publication will interest all Sierra Clubbers.
Copies will be available at most Southern California Automobile offices to non-
members or non subscribers. Price will be 25¢ while they last.
The contents of this issue are as follows:

How the Sierra was Born .......... Samuel Dutton Lynch
People: A Wilderness Problem .... Russ Leadabrand
High Granite the Hard Way ....... Wayne P. Merry
Gold Opened the Passes .......... Francis P. Farquhar
Why Burden Yourself? ............ Herbert Popence
Yosemite is 100 ................. William R. Jones
Of, By, and For the Mountains ... David R. Brower
The Mother Mountain Pary ....... Horace M. Albright
Everybody Climbs Whitney ...... Alex Jackson
Sierra ..................... A Photographic Essay
From Guides to Interpreters ...... Harold G. Bryant
Hale Tharp's Noble Den ........... Richard H. Dillon
Shall we Take the Kids.......... Andrew Hamilton

MT. CHESTER VERSTEEG

Steve Molnar, leader of the efforts to
ame a peak for the late Chester Versteeg, has
announced that unnamed Peak 13,540' (1 mile
WSW of Mt. Tyndall) will be proposed to the
U.S.G.S. as "Mt. Chester Versteeg". This
prominent high point overlooking the headwaters
of the Kern River is in an area where Chester
spent many of his vacations. He was responsible
for the naming of nearby Trojan Peak and Lake
Helen of Troy.
--- JWR ---

SUNDAY PEAK SUSPENDED

Sunday Peak, the recently added high point
of the Greenhorns northwest of Lake Isabella,
has been left off the revised list of SFS qual-
ifying peaks. Several Section members have
recently climbed to its brushy summit and re-
turned highly critical of its addition to the
list. One climber made the short ascent in
about 45 minutes.
--- JWR ---
BRAVO - BRAVO

Our May SFS program was received with much enthusiasm as Dr. Gene Gail presented his slide program with his usual wit and humor. The excellence of his slides portraying the different moods of the Sierra was second to none.

Gene was questioned by a member of the audience as to whether he had ever entered his slides in competition, and the reply was, "I'm not the competitive type." Another comment that Gene made was, "strangely, very few of these slides were taken on SFS trips." His remark brought out quite a bit of laughter.

Gene stressed that his slides are average scenes taken in the Sierra. Coverage of the range fell into several categories: sunrise and sunsets, trees and meadows, ridges and summits, summit panoramic views, lakes and reflections, and last the flora and fauna.

With a smile on his face, Gene mentioned that when he finally winds up in a rest home for the aged, say about the age of 90, he will be able to bring back fond memories of the average scenes in the Sierra with all its moods.

Thanks for an excellent program, Gene.

P.S. - If Gene Gail will let us know which rest home he has signed up for we would like to go to the same one. Maybe somebody will set up such a place for old retired Sierra Clubbers that they can entertain each other for ever after with boxes full of slides and long stories of the good days they spent in the mountains and, of course, lots of jokes.

-- Bud Bingham --

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Show me the way to go home
I'm tired and I want to hit the sack
I rappelled off an overhang an hour ago
And now I can't get back
The rope won't reach that tree
I'm dangling here so free
I will never forget those famous words
It will never happen to me!

-- anonymous --

THREE MOUNTAINEERS HIT NEPAL PEAK

Katmandu, Nepal - Two Japanese mountaineers and a Sherpa guide reached the summit of Gya Chungkang, the world's third highest unclimbed mountain, on the morning of April 10 - at the cost of one member of their expedition - according to a message received here... from their base camp.

TRIP REPORTS

BEAR CREEK SPIRE (13,713'), MARCH 27-30 ............... David S. Thompson, M.D.

Friday noon, Yves Ericksson, Phil Bettler and I set out from the 8,900 foot contour on Rock Creek to climb Bear Creek Spire. This mountain dominates Little Lakes Valley and from where we started, it seemed impossible remote. We skied up the road on good snow to our first camp, at 10,100 feet just below the last camp

(continued on page 10)
(Bear Creek Spire, continued from page 9)
ground on the road. Next morning, we met Tom Ross, who had skied up in our tracks
and who planned to climb an unnamed peak (to the southeast of Bear Creek Spire) the
following day. It was a pleasant meeting as he confirmed our selection of route,
indicated a suitable second night camping place, and kept us company the next 1,100
feet of elevation to our base camp. The site we chose was at 11,200 feet in between
the two Treasure Lakes. At this point, total distance from the car was approximately
nine miles.

On Easter Sunday, we arose early and were climbing at 6:30. There was a good
snow all the way to just below the north-east ridge of Bear Creek Spire at 13,000
feet. We left our skis just below this ridge. There followed 500 feet of rock and
snow, scrambling, and then the final 200 feet of Class Four climbing on the spire
itself. Yves led the three 60-foot pitches required and we were all on the summit
at 2 O’Clock.

With the usual halts for food and view, we were back to the skis at a quarter-
after-three. The 45-minute run down to Base Camp across beautiful, snow covered,
treeless slopes, would have been worth the trip in itself.

The last day saw us cover the distance previously laboriously gained in a mere
two hours and a half back to the car. The snow was the usual terrible breakable
crust that one encounters below base camp, but the skiing was good above the camp.

All agreed as to the success of the trip, and we were happy to report that
Tom Ross gained his peak as well and made some beautiful ski tracks down his side of
the bowl.

PEAK 12,866, MARCH 28-29 ........................................... Tom Ross

On the morning of March 28th I left my car 5 miles in on the Rock Creek Road
at 6:30 A.M. I was at my camp at Mosquito Flat Camp Ground early, and I hurried
to catch up with the three ski mountaineers from Reno, Nevada (see story above).
I climbed on skis with them to Treasure Lakes, where they camped, as they
planned to climb Bear Creek Spire. The skiing back to my camp was very good on
good snow.

Sunday morning the temperature was 8°F. at 5:45 A.M. I left camp at 6:10 A.M.
and was on the summit of Peak 12,866 at 12:15 P.M. I climbed the north west face
and ridge (class 2 and easy class 3). The view was very beautiful. I saw the three
climbers reach the summit of Bear Creek Spire. They looked like small ants from
where I saw them. We exchanged yells from our summits! This peak is 1 mile N.E.
of Bear Creek Spire and offers a very spectacular view of the N.E. face of that
mountain.

The skiing back to camp was very good and I was out to my car at 8:15 P.M.

PEAK 12,571, APRIL 4-5 ............................................. Tom Ross

Early in the morning of April 4th I climbed to my camp at Pine Lake and camped
there. It was cloudy and gusty winds were blowing. The next morning it was 14°
at 5:15 A.M. with a high N.W. wind. I climbed on skis to Birchim Lake and climbed
a pass, and then up the south east ridge of peak 12,571. The wind was horrible on
the ridge and it was snowing. When I reached the summit it was down to 9°F. with
winds over 50 M.P.H. I only stayed a few minutes on the summit. I raced back
to camp and was out to my car at 8:10 P.M.
CARTAGO (10,480') AND SPANISH NEEDLE (7379'), APRIL 11-12

Gordon MacLeod

After having assembled on time (well, almost) at the Union 76 Station in Olancho, the group of 17 caravanned via secondary roads to about 4,200' on Cartago Creek to
begin the Cartago climb. Andy Smatko’s party of three had left independently at an
earlier time with the happy objective of avoiding the heat. Instead, we thought that
the probability of encountering rattlesnakes could be enhanced by a more appropriate
(that is, late) departure time. We were correct. After only half an hour of exploring
the southeast slope, we managed to trigger off three fairly sluggish ones, the
largest of which could have been four feet long or so. Tom Ross had some difficulty
in getting this one to uncoil, however, perhaps because Tom’s technique was a little
off this early in the season or perhaps the buzzing of the other two caused a cer-
tain amount of unavoidable distraction. The smallest one (the 3rd one we couldn’t
induce to leave his station in a crack in the rock wall, so we don’t really know his
relative size visually, but his buzzing intensity placed him second) was a sad spec-
imen. It took considerable inducement from Tom Ross’s ice axe (on Cartago?) to get
the little one to raise his head level with his buzzing tail, a situation not calcula-
ted to yield the best of action color slides. After having left these three, we
were unable to locate any others on the way to the peak, although you can be sure
a certain amount of attention was devoted to this endeavor.

Aside from the usual problem of keeping within one quadrangle of Arký Erb (the
leader) and kindred spirits, all 16 made the peak (weren’t there 17? We cancel
out the missing one) without difficulty, the 6900’ elevation gain notwithstanding.
Incidentally, have you ever looked into the SFS First Aid Kit? I have. As a matter
of fact, I had several occasions to do so, as official custodian and – as it turned
out – pill dispenser. I did my best to maintain the proper ratio of Fetamins (Meth-
amphetamine hydrochloride + other stuff) to salt tablets (4 to 1, I believe – or
was it 1 to 4? No, 4 to 1, that was it.) Anyway, it seems that no one who had one
of these pill sets seemed to have any trouble with the peak (although I’m not sure
whether that 17th starter had a pill set or not). (ed. note – I believe that your
17th starter turned back and came back with me as I was returning from the earlier
party.) In comparison, Spanish Needle the next day was a complete bust – not a
single pill was unloaded.

On Sunday, 17 (that 17th one of yesterday seems to have found his way back) 3rd
class peak baggers assembled at Homestead Cafe for the caravan to the undisclosed
road head. Due principally to the lack of rattlesnakes and pill dispensing activities,
the climb to the peak was uneventful. Arký Erb’s advertised easy 3rd class route up
the summit needle was still there – to everyone’s surprise. A rope was employed only
on the way down by two of the more intelligent ones. The rest of us trusted to luck.
Arký’s route is directly up the broken north face from the north-south ridge. When
not obscured by snow, the route is more-or-less obvious (“more”, if you know the
(continued on page 12)
(Cartago and Spanish Needle, continued from page 11)
route and "less", if you haven't seen it before.) If there is snow, have Arky throw
a rope down to you. All 19 made the trip back to the cars in good time (19? I'm
sure there were only 17 to begin ... and only 17 on the peak ... Well, let's average;
that gives 18, which represents a somewhat better loss ratio than yesterday's, anyway.
G. J. MacLeod, Asst. Leader
P. S. Don't miss the August 29-30th restricted 3rd class climb of Mt. Winchell, led
by Arky Erb and tracked - at a distance, of course - by Gordon Macleod.

STRAWBERRY PEAK, APRIL 19 ........................ Miles Brubacher

55 people, nearly all newcomers to the SPS, and one third girls, started up the
trail to Strawberry Peak. Ten members of Frank Sanborn's La Quinta High School
Alpinists kept the gang thinking young.

Conditions were far from ideal; in fact, it looked like snow, and later it did,
too! The leader had promised shorts weather. He had on his shorts all right -
under three other layers!

Anyway, the group made up in enthusiasm what was lacking in weather. Some of
the rocks near the summit of Strawberry were snow-covered and slippery, but lack of
exposure eliminated danger. About 40 made the for-bound summit.

A small party made a side trip to Josephine Peak on the descent. The lookout
building on this summit was most intriguing, being completely covered with hoar
frost. BRRRRRR!

BEGINNER'S MOUNTAINEERING TRAINING FIELD TRIP:
SMITH MTN. AND CRAG PEAK, APRIL 25-26 ............... Dick Jalil

This trip was run by the SPS as a field trip for the Mountaineering Training
Course held in Angeles Chapter. Maybe it was the threat of bad weather or just the
possibility of some work, but only 124 people instead of the 263 that the leader
had been promised (threatened?) showed up on Saturday. Due to ambiguity in the
Schedule writeup a large number of people camped at Fish Creek Meadow instead of
Fish Creek Campground and thereby earned a rebuke from the Forest Ranger for damaging
the meadow by driving cars around upon it (point to remember on future trips).

The group left the trailhead near Fish Creek at about 0900 and almost immediately
came upon logging roads and logging operations. It was awesome to watch these huge
machines at work in the forest. Lumber may be necessary, but it sure leaves a mess
in wild areas.

Leaving the logging roads behind, the trail led on to Jackass Meadow where we
got our first view of Smith Mtn. We followed the trail beyond Jackass Meadow to
the place where it approached closest to the summit of Smith. We then headed direct-
ly west up the slopes to the summit. After some debate and climbing of summits it
was decided that the south summit was truly the higher and the complete register
there was placed in a container brought up for the purpose.

The day was now pleasantly warm, though with a few clouds, and fine views of
Olancha and Langley were seen from the summit which was reached in time for lunch
at noon.

Smith must have been too much for some beginners, since only 50 persons arrived
at Kennedy Meadow on Sunday for the climb of Crag. The fording of the South Fork
of the Kern turned back a few more, while the rest went on to Clover Meadow. The
route directly up Crag from Clover meadow is covered with brush and loose scree -
it is better to follow the trail further on and ascend a broad canyon leading up the
northeast side of the peak between the summit and a few rock crags to the east of it.
The summit was reached in early afternoon after some bushwacking and rocksrambling.

It was the opinion of the leader and some others that Crag was a bit too long
a climb for beginners, while Smith was just about right. The trail distance was
12. (continued on page 13)
(SMITH AND CRAG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

about the same, but Crag was 3400' gain while Smith was 2100'. And while nearly all of the 124 on Saturday made Smith, only about half of the 50 on Sunday made Crag.

The leader wishes to thank those SFS members who came out on this trip and helped lead (or herd) the group.

MT. JULIUS CAESAR (13,196') AND PEAK 12,563, MAY 16-17

Early Saturday morning at 5:20 A.M. I backpacked from the roadhead at Pine Creek and was at my camp at lower Pine Lake (el. 9942') at 9:05 A.M. I climbed to Birchim Lake and over a small pass to Chalfant Lakes where I took a temperature reading of the stream. It was 33°, a cold wind blowing in gusts up to 50 M.P.H. There were a few clouds.

I climbed to a small pass which drops into granite park, and then climbed up to Italy Pass at 3:08 P.M., where I left my skis. I climbed the steep south face of Mt. Julius Caesar, arriving on the summit at 4:28 P.M. The temperature was 28° and a cold high wind was blowing in gusts up to 50 M.P.H.

There were a few clouds.

The view from this seldom climbed peak was one of the best I have ever seen from a Sierra Peak. It was just like winter conditions with up to 4 ft. of new snow. It was especially beautiful where long shadows cast by the sharp peaks and ridges made the area one of the most photographic ones I have ever seen. I returned to my skis at 6 P.M. and had a fabulous run on to camp, arriving there at 8:18 P.M. I will never forget the view I had from this peak.

Sunday morning I left camp at 8:47 AM and climbed to Honeymoon Lake, where I lunched. I then climbed to Golden Lake and climbed a steep high pass - 12,00', and then to the summit of Peak 12,563. It offers a fabulous view of Mrs. Royce and Merriam. I left the top at 4:00, arriving back at my skis at 4:50 P.M. and had a beautiful fast run to my camp, arriving at the camp at 6:57 and at my car at 9:35 P.M.

MONO CRATERS AND BLOODY MTN.
MAY 23-24

The DPS and SFS seldom get together, but when they do, it turns out to be quite a weekend. Altogether,

there were 57 on the joint DPS - SFS outing to Mono Craters and Bloody Mountain. Saturday morning, 40 persons caravanned over soft pumice flats to the northeast side of

13.

(continued on page 14)
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(Mono Craters and Bloody Mountain, continued from page 13)
the scenic Mono craters, an eroded volcanic formation east of June Lake. 32 of the
party, led by Frank Sanborn, made the hour-and-a-half scramble to the summit of Crater
Mountain (9,132'), the high point of the several craters. They were joined on top by
four people from the Occasional Peaks Gang of China Lake, who were making a north-
south traverse of all three of the high points.

Saturday afternoon, the large group, joined by six Mother Loders who had climbed
Mammoth Mountain in the morning, and had retired to Hot Creek for a refreshing swim.
Two hours in the warm waters really relaxed the party.

Convict Lake, the intended campsite, is now an improved campground, requiring
one dollar per car, and has no facilities for organizational camping. So, instead of
camping there, the party caravanned up to Sherwin Creek campground in the Mammoth area.
A warm but overcast night was spent there.

Early Sunday morning, most of the group caravanned to the Laurel Creek road for
the ascent of Bloody Mountain from the north. They were joined by about ten other
people who had climbed Boundy and Montgomery on Saturday, or who had driven up just
for the Bloody Mountain climb. 40 climbers, armed with ice axes, started up the
steep jeep trail that ascends Laurel Creek. The weather was cloudy and threatening
at first, enticing several to turn back. After a brief snow flurry, however, the
clouds cleared over Bloody itself, although they remained over most of the nearby
Sierra peaks. About half way up, an ice axe practice session was held for the new-
comers to the group. After this, the party ascended the steep, cruddy north-east
face of Bloody Mountain, partly on snow, partly on some of the loosest crud found
in the Sierra. The summit, (12,544'), was reached in three and a half hours by the
fast group, led by Dennis Budge, while leader John Robinson followed with the main
party about an hour later. 32 people reached the summit. On top, it was cold and
windy. The view was wintry, with snow-capped peaks and billowy clouds all around.
a large ammunition box was left on top for the register.

Counting the large DPS and SFS groups, along with contingents from China Lake
and Jerry Keating's Mother Loders, a total of 57 persons enjoyed the varied activi-
ties of the weekend outing. More car camp outings were called for by the several
climbers who brought their families.
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<tr>
<td>Sisson, Virgil</td>
<td>2342 Kenilworth Ave., Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith, Andrew N.</td>
<td>2200 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith, Andrew N.</td>
<td>Rt. 2, Box 366, Golden, Colo.</td>
<td>EX 4-8191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snyder, Philip S.</td>
<td>27102 Woodbrook Road, Palos Verdes Estates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiehler, Ernest</td>
<td>12026 Imperial Hwy., Apt. #11, Norwalk</td>
<td>866-6650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinks, John L.</td>
<td>26656 Eastvale Rd., Rolling Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephens, Howard</td>
<td>19031 Basset St., Reseda</td>
<td>DI 3-4883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephenson, Graham</td>
<td>1000 Hancock Ave., Hollywood 46</td>
<td>OC 2-4795</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stiles, Vernon</td>
<td>1012 E. Brookdale Place, Fullerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stott, Barbara</td>
<td>Rt. 1, Box 3490, Ridgecrest</td>
<td>FR 5-2065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tauxe, George</td>
<td>15218 Friends St., Pacific Palisades</td>
<td>GR 4-2371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tepe, Robert</td>
<td>320 W. Camino Real, Norrmovia, Calif.</td>
<td>EL 9-7612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas, Bill &amp; Topper</td>
<td>5355 Pacifica Dr., San Diego</td>
<td>273-1388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thornton, John</td>
<td>9330 El., Vista Dr., Apt. 12, Downey</td>
<td>869-9595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turney, Burt, Gen, Reed, Janice</td>
<td>566 Woodbury Rd., Glendale</td>
<td>CH 2-4838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underwood, Rosalind</td>
<td>4822 Grand Ave., La Canada</td>
<td>SY 0-1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Aken, Ray</td>
<td>420 W. Mesquite, Ridgecrest</td>
<td>FR 5-2585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Voge, Hervey</td>
<td>2237 Carleton St., Berkeley 4</td>
<td>843-6299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

Name

Wade, Robert, M. D.
Walker, Jim
Wallerstein, George
Wedberg, John
Werner, Miles & Louise
Wheelock, Ed
Wheelock, Walt
Wilkie, Steve

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2343 Echo Park Ave., L. A. 26

Phone

HY 4-1080
(bus.)III 5-6000
GR 9-5982
CU 3-2526
VE 9-6004
244-9705
NO 4-5201

Honorrary Member: * Norman Clyde

1964 Officers

Chairman: John Robinson
Vice Chairman: Frank Sanborn
Secretary: Barbara Lilley
Treasurer: Miles Brubacher
Alternate: George Shimo

Notify Secretary of corrections to above list.
Send address changes to Treasurer to avoid delay in receiving "Echo".