Chairman's Corner

While many of us are busy planning our Sierra vacations and climbing to the summits of seldom-trod peaks, perhaps we need to reflect a bit on the over-all conservation picture of our favorite range. A great deal is happening these days that affects the wilderness value of the Sierra, some of it good and some bad.

Perhaps the best piece of good news is the recent reclassification and enlargement of the High Sierra Primitive Areas. Over 108,000 acres not previously included in the old High Sierra Primitive Areas are now closed to vehicle traffic and all forms of commercialism. Most of this newly-protected wilderness is in the vast, seldom-visited region west of the boundaries of Kings Canyon National Park, an area not familiar to most Sierra Peakers. Those who participated in the Spanish Mountain trip last year visited the southern part of this beautifully forested tableland. However, there are many more areas on the fringes of the High Sierra that need this protection, but have been left out of the Wilderness classification due to pressure by mining and lumber interests and four-wheel-drive associations. The work of the conservationist is not only never completed, but it seems to increase each year.

A proposal to extend Kings Canyon National Park to include Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley strongly deserves our support. These two scenic and spectacular canyons are surrounded on three sides by the park boundaries, but were left out of the park some thirty years ago due to pressure by San Joaquin Valley residents who felt they might someday be needed as reservoir sites. Anyone who has extensively visited Kings Canyon National Park will agree that these sheer-walled valleys are among the most scenic parts of the entire Park area.

Talk of a trans-Sierra highway across Mammoth Pass is heard more often now. Recently the Chief U. S. Forester stated that the State of California would be granted authority to construct the road if it wished, and increased pressure is being put on Sacramento by several cities in the Central Valley who would profit by such a move.

The other proposed trans-Sierra highway, between Porterville and Olancha or Lone Pine, is not being pushed now as it was some fifteen years ago. Either of those proposed routes would destroy the wilderness value of thousands of acres in the heart of the Sierra.

The saddest scene in the Sierra conservation picture involves the large-scale logging operations on the Kern Plateau (see CONSERVATION, this issue of the ECHO — ed. note). Miles of logging roads are being bulldozed each year and soon will crisscross most of the plateau. This is supposedly being done under the "Multiple Use" system, but so much of the area is being so badly torn up that it will be a long time before the recreation phase can be fully implemented. More important, the wilderness value is being destroyed forever.

Preserving the wilderness value of the Sierra may be secondary in interest value (continued on page 2)
(Chairman's Corner, continued)

to many Section members, but it is most assuredly of primary importance to all who enjoy the many wilderness offerings of the Range of Light and wish to see their children savour it too. All of us can't attend a committee hearing in Sacramento, or participate in a congressional discussion in Washington, but we can keep informed and let our elected and appointed representatives know our feelings on this vital subject.

--- John W. Robinson ---

CONSERVATION

LOGGING HEID HARMFUL TO KERN WILDLIFE

Kernville - Conservationists here contended... that logging operations in the Sierra Nevada Mountains have silted streams and destroyed wildlife habitats in the 500-square-mile reservation.

Norman Norris, former supervisor for the Sequoia National Forest, told the Kern Plateau Association that the 10-year Forrest Service policy permitting logging must be ended before the primitive character of the area is destroyed forever.

Norris called for reclassification of the area into a wilderness area.

Lloyd Bernard, a Forest Service representative, defended the current policy, arguing that logging operations have actually benefitted the area by clearing land for new camp grounds and recreation areas.

--- Los Angeles Times ---

EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm sure that all of you who were on the trip to Kern Peak this year will agree that if what the logging operations are doing to the Kern Plateau is a benefit, I'd hate to see something which is not a benefit. Even if they do eventually clean up the areas and make camp grounds out of them, it still remains a fact that all those areas will never again be wilderness.

--- E. J. S. ---

NEWS AND VIEWS

CORRECTION

The proposed Mt. Chester Versteeg is Peak 13,470’, lying immediately west of Lake Helen of Troy and slightly south of Mt. Tyndall, not Peak 13,540’ as reported in the East Echo. The Forest Service has given its approval, and the proposal has been forwarded to the U. S. Board of Geographic Names in Washington.

--- JWR ---
SHANKS' MARE OR PONY

The goal of a special or favored place in society is not new. For centuries, the man who could afford to ride, despised the man who had to walk and often looked down with contempt upon the act of walking itself. The horse and carriage were important status symbols. William Congreve, the great English dramatist, aptly dramatized the situation in a comedy, "The Way of the World," first produced in 1700. One of his characters, Mrs. Millamant, on being invited to join in a walk, replied, "I nauseate walking."

However, the man who had to walk tried to make light of his inferior position. Shortly after 1700, the terms "shanks' mare" and "shanks' pony" (naig, or naggy, Scotch for pony or small pony) appeared to signify the use of one's own legs as an acceptable means of conveyance. The shank referred in general to the leg and when used as a verb meant to walk or travel on foot.

The terms shanks' mare and shanks' pony took the odium or implication of social inferiority out of having to walk and were used with increasing frequency in speech and in literature. An anonymous Scotch song of about 1724 (Weekly, E.: An Etymological Dictionary of Modern English, New York: E. P. Dutton, 1921) records, "And aye, until the day he dy'd, He rode on good shanks naggy." In 1774 Ferguson (in his Poems) wrote, "And auld shanks-naig wad tire, I dree to pace to Berwick." S. Bishop (Poetical Works) in 1795 wrote, "I'd rather . . . ride on Shanks's mare." Walking finally became a fashionable mode of travel in the 19th Century.

Although today, walking is highly recommended as a healthful, pleasurable, and relaxing pursuit, unfortunately those who indulge in it are looked upon as oddities. It is hoped that the conveyance by shanks' mare or shanks' pony will again come into its own.

- - Roy J. Popkin, MD.
Journal of the American Medical Association, 3/28/64 - -

NEW MEMBERS, NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS, CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of the Sierra Peaks Section:

Bill & Laurel Feuerer, 702 Pier Avenue, #4, Santa Monica, California. Qualifying peaks: Olancha, Mt. Whitney, Mt. Williamson, Mt. Goddard, Mt. Ritter and Matterhorn Peak.


Peter Lewis, 704 N. 6th Street, Lompoc, California. Qualifying peaks: Mt. Whitney, Mt. Agassiz, Thor Peak, Mt. Humphreys, Cathedral Peak, and Owens Peak.

Nona Lewis, 704 N. 6th Street, Lompoc, California. Qualifying peaks: Olancha, Connex, Mt. Humphreys, Disappointment Peak, Mt. Whitney, and Cathedral Peak.

Miss Lynne Barnes, 14710 Mulholland Dr., Los Angeles, California. Qualifying peaks: Mt. Whitney, Mt. Needham, Mt. Kaweah, Florence Peak, Tower Peak, and Matterhorn Peak.

3. (continued on page 4)
(New Members, continued)


Albert D. Sanford, 14555 Blythe, Apt. 6, Panorama City, California. Qualifying peaks: Rockhouse Pk., Siretta Pk., Sawtooth Pk., Alta Pk., Mt. Whitney, and Mt. Langley.


Alan and June Powell, 11060 Strathmore Dr., Los Angeles, California. Qualifying peaks: Half Dome, Alta Pk., Mt. Whitney, Koip Pk., San Joaquin Pk., and Mt. Ritter.

Frank F. Yates, 2616 W. 111 Place, Gardena, California. Qualifying peaks: Kern Peak, Sawtooth Pk., Lion Rock, Finger Peak, Mt. Tunamah, and Mt. Reinstein.

We wish to congratulate the following new emblem holders:

Gordon MacLeod, June, 1964, with the following emblem peaks: Whitney, Matterhorn, Kaweah, Lyell, Brewer, Olancha, Williamson, Ritter, Goddard, and Abbott.

Arne Coolidge, June, 1964, with the following emblem peaks: Brewer, Whitney, North Palisade, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Goddard, Mt. Humphreys, Mt. Ritter, Mt. Lyell, Olancha, and Matterhorn.
(New Emblem Holders, continued)

Norm Kussman, July, 1964, with the following emblem peaks: Whitney, Williamson, Brewer, Mt. Ritter, Humphreys, Darwin, Olancha, Matterhorn, Goddard, and Abbot.

Dr. Bill Mathes, 1115 Donaire Way, Pacific Palisades, California, was reinstated, and as an emblem holder. His emblem peaks are: Olancha, Whitney, Williamson, Lyell, Sill, Darwin, Ritter, Abbot, Matterhorn, North Palisade.

The following people joined as Emblem Members:


The following are corrections and additions to the membership list of June, 1964.

Howland Bailey was incorrectly listed as Homer Bailey.

Anne Coolidge was incorrectly listed as Anne Coolidge.

Corrected phone number for Miles and Maureen Brubacher: PL 6-5124.

Corrected phone number for Ellen Siegal: 395-2201.

New Addresses:

Don Laura, 23407 Covello St., Canoga Park, California.

John A. Cornell, 245 Lime, Apt. 6, Inglewood, California, 90301.

Additions ("Echo" subscriptions received too late for names to be included)

Vern & Jo Jones, 2188 Cook Circle, Thousand Oaks, California.

Glenn Stevenson, 8637 Jimson Avenue, California City, California.

Jerry Nims, 1356 La Solana Drive, Altadena, California.

USEFUL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

For those who have discovered VELCRO TAPE, which can replace zippers, buttons and snaps in many articles of clothing, tents and packs, it can be obtained in 1" width at Sears, both through their catalog and at retail stores in the L. A. area. The SKI HUT in Berkeley sells Velcro Tape in about 6 different colors, to match the article it is used for.

- - Barbara Lilley - -

LOST ICE AXE

During the Black Mountain trip, an ice axe was left at the base of the large summit rock on the east end of the west face. $5.00 reward for return of same. Contact Frank Bressell, 19409 Lall St., Reseda, California.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ellen Siegal
Sierra Echo

At the August SFS meeting and at the roadhead for the Julius Caesar trip the weekend before, there appeared bumper stickers proclaiming in fluorescent orange, "Climb Mountains for Fun and Health." While this was a cute gimmick (I took one like everyone else), I would like to question and challenge the philosophy it represents.

That philosophy is that unrestrained Growth is Progress and therefore Good. There is boasting within the SFS that "... we are up to 200 members!!" (or whatever the number is). And leaders seem almost eager to brag about how many people went out on their last climb. But can you lead 50 to 100 people into a campsite on a weekend trip without endangering or even losing some of the wilderness values you are seeking and trying to protect?

It may be argued that by taking groups of people into the mountains they will become familiar with the values of the wilderness and become interested in the purposes and objectives of the Sierra Club. But how successful is this? Many people who already know the mountains but who aren't Club members (and who are therefore one of the groups of people whom we should be reaching) are repulsed by the large groups on Club outings. I remember the forlorn plea in some summit register (Ritter maybe, though I'm not sure) of "Why does the Sierra Club persist in ruining the mountains by sending hordes of people into them." And I've heard (though I've never been on one) that after a Sierra High Trip or Base Camp has dumped 150 people and their animals into an area for a week that that area isn't good for much for the rest of the season (or even several seasons). So one may validly ask not only if the information mission of large outings is achieved but even if such outings are consistent with the conservation policies of the Sierra Club.

Perhaps it is necessary for the SFS to run two or more trips an a given weekend. They might be more or less parallel, but with different peaks, different degrees of difficulty and different campsites. Such diversity may also be good for other reasons, such as avoiding the choice of a too strenuous (or too easy) trip or no trip. But I seriously feel that this subject should be considered within the SFS and pause given in the headlong rush toward bigger and wilder Sierra Peak Mobscenes.

-- Dick Jali --

AN ICE CLIMBER'S HARDWARE

We hear little about ice climbing in California because there is little ice available, only Mt. Shasta's glaciers and a few patches in the Sierra Nevada, and these areas are hard to get to. But with some of the new developments in ice climbing hardware, we can expect to see more ice climbing done, even in California.

Just a few years ago ice screws were introduced to this country. It was reported in the American Alpine Journal, 1960, that ice screws, which look like overgrown eye bolts with lag threads, were tested in ice tunnels by screwing them straight up into the ice. The ability to resist a straight out, or axial pull gives them considerable advantage over conventional ice pitons which can be trusted only for a sideways, or radial pull. In addition, ice screws are much easier to emplace and to remove; all one needs to do is to screw or unscrew; using an ice axe as leverage if necessary. Ice pitons require the use of a hammer, and if the ice is "black," they require much effort to drive: When ice pitons are in soft ice, they are likely to "pop" out. When in hard ice, they often require as much work to get them out as to put them in: it may be necessary to chip ice out all the way down to the tip.

Last summer, at the Mt. Rainier Climbing Seminar, we had an opportunity to try out different versions of the ice screw. The standard ice screw, referred to above, (continued on page 7)
(An Ice Climber's Hardware, continued)

is the "Swiss" import. We found that smaller, twenty cent hardware store variety lag screws could be used for lighter duty service. Even with its smaller threads, the lag screw resisted the axial pull of two men - when unscrewed half way. On the other hand, lag screws are potentially dangerous because they cannot be used properly in the kinds of ice most frequently encountered in the United States and Canada.

The most useful development has been the Austrian "coat hanger" ice screw (its construction reminds one of a steel coat hanger). This device has a wire loop instead of an eye and a cork screw tip instead of the threads. It can be screwed into almost any kind of ice, in a matter of seconds. We have found some types of ice which would not take the other kinds of ice screw, only pitons, but which would take "coat hangers". The fact that the "coat hanger" can be quickly emplaced with one hand makes it advantageous in spots where one prefers to hang on with one hand. This ice screw possesses enough strength for anchoring and for protection on short leads. However "coat hangers" are dangerous when not used properly. The cork screw construction is inherently weak and is not designed to hold a man's weight; caution is therefore required to make sure that this kind of screw is imbedded all the way to the loop, otherwise they will bend and break. "Coat hangers" tend to unscrew when the pull is axial, but this would not be a problem in practice. Will Siri noted that it was the unanimous opinion of the Everest Expedition, which used "coat hangers" exclusively, that these ice screws are the most reliable as well as the easiest to use.

And what has become of conventional ice pitons? They are still advantageous on construction projects, such as fixed lines and the like, but for climbing, where speed, safety and weight are important factors, ice screws are now definitely preferred.

There is still much developmental work to be done on ice climbing techniques and equipment, but there is no doubt that the progress that has been made in the last few years has made ice climbing easier and safer. And who knows, maybe we'll be seeing more of ice climbing in California.

--- Bill Enge ---

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE SIERRA ECHO

Graham M. Stephenson
11969 San Vicente Boulevard
Los Angeles 49, California

Dear Editor:

I write this letter in all humility without trace of rancor or sarcasm and I should like to invoke other members of the Section to voice an opinion on the same subject. What makes a good qualifying peak for the Sierra Peaks Section? What means is the fairest method of making such a determination.

Over the years there have been many opinions on the subject. Some have been voiced publicly to the Sierra Club at large, some have been voiced at the monthly Section meetings, some have been voiced privately on scheduled trips. Some opinions

(continued on page 8)
(Letter to the Editor, continued)

have been in the form of logical statements suitable for printed consumption and others have taken the form of epithets at the end of a long, dull and tiresome day of climbing sandpiles. The various climbers of the Section of the past, present and future have been qualified for everything from maximum Grade 2 climbs to maximum Grade 6 climbs. Some members of the Section have a scant six peaks required to qualify for membership to their credit and I believe that there are about 12 of us, including Norman Clyde, that have over 100 ascents to their credit. With all of this in mind, a review of the policy of the Section with respect to this subject shows a wide vacillation.

In reviewing some of the past and present policy, a member may find that Mt. Humphreys with a minimum Class 4 route required but also finds that the Section is currently somewhat reluctant to lead Class 4 climbs. Also, one may find that Dinderberg Peak (as my recollection serves me) has been taken off the list once after originally being placed there only to be replaced. Sunday Peak's place on the list was ephemeral to say the least. Some peaks are recognized by the Board of Geographical Place Names and the cartographers to be printed on U.S.G.S. maps where others do not even rate that much significance. It is also interesting to compare elevations. On the Matterhorn Peak quadrangle, for example, Virginia Peak at 12,001' is on the list, but Whorl Peak located about 1½ miles away at 12,029' hasn't made the grade. If a member would care to judge by standards, he could ride a tote-goat (law permitting) to the top of Whitney but would certainly beg for a rope on the easiest route of Mt. Starr King.

If the policy were to be determined solely by place names appearing on a map, there would be plenty of sheepherder's dreams. Also, what is the proper number of peaks to properly serve the Section's purpose?

My personal opinion is that first of all, I would hesitate to dignify any list of peaks (?) (maybe better called "high places") if there was an overabundance of Class 1 climbs. Both Classes 1 and 2 climbing are not generally viewed as mountaineering by most of the more prominent mountaineering clubs; some even to be in the reporting of such ascents. We call ourselves the Sierra Peaks Section. However, part of the purpose is stated "To promote weekend knapsack trips" which in the literal sense of the name adds another activity. The 3rd Class Qualifying list is designed to increase safety in climbing. I hope that this will never mean that most of the trips will have to be of a lesser class because there are so many people who are not on that list, including I believe Dave Brower, Tom Frost and Royal Robbins.

I realize that this letter has skipped here and there, but I have done that because I believe that such is the situation with respect to changes in Section policy. I very definitely think that the Section needs a more definitive policy that future members can live with for a considerable period of time. The Sierra Nevada have been around a long time with only relatively minute change. Original exploration was completed quite a few years back. In general, the members of the Section are familiar with the degree of skill or enmity that is required for all the important peaks. I believe that a policy can be set that does not change with every new mountaineering committee and management committee. The fact that a convincing member has just recently reached a summit that he had not seen before seems to be rather a shallow reason for seeing a new peak on the list. Some years, peaks have been added and subtracted according to climbing interest (grade). In other years, peaks have been added because of the relative arduousness of the climb.

There would be many ways to consolidate our position including such methods as (1) geographical allocation, (2) a limitation on the number of class 1 and 2 climbs or for that matter class 3 and 4 climbs so that there is some sort of limitation of "just walking", (3) a list based on the relative elevations. In view of the fact that there are a number of peaks on the list that I personally consider highly unimaginative, I feel that there could be a positive limit to the number.

I have tried not to get into the matter of why people climb because the composite reasoning is so diverse that I feel that this would only add to the argument. I find (continued on page 9)
it very interesting to observe that Sunday Peak should get on the list and then be taken off. The Minarets (except Clyde) have never made the list yet, and in the mountaineering fraternity they are possibly the most famous peaks in the range. Turn to the page reciting the purpose of the Section and then try to reconcile that! The Seattle Mountaineers and the Mazamas have had summer camps in the Sierra just to climb in this area, but the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club whose avowed purpose is to "promote weekend knapsack trips and mountain climbs in the Sierra Nevada" does not consider them qualifying.

I hope that others of the Section will see fit to comment on our qualifying list. It is long enough that everyone ought to have some opinion.

-- Graham Stephenson --

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SIERRA PEAKS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jerry P. Nims, Ph.D.
595 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, California

September 18, 1964

In attempting to determine exactly what took place on Mt. Goddard September 5, 6, and 7, we are handicapped by the fact that no one has all of the facts. The information available to any single person is incomplete. But some of the facts are these:

1. In violation of the SPS safety standards there was no trip sign-up at the roadhead or at any later time.
2. The trip sign-up sheet, item 5, states, "Base camp will not be abandoned by the climbers until every member of the climbing party is safely off the mountain and accounted for in camp." Item 9, "Certain trips may require modification of these rules by the leader. Your trip leader is here for the express purpose of leading you in and out of the mountains safely...."
3. About 16 of the much larger total party were at the roadhead to hear the leader warn that those who lagged behind were on their own. This information was not repeated later, though it was urged that if people fell behind they make efforts to at least pair up.
4. At no time was it revealed that the leader intended to leave base camp in violation of item 5, above.
5. Of an original 20 member party (a family of 5 excluded) who began the Goddard climb at 6:35 A.M. Sunday, one-half (10) were still on the mountain and unaccounted for when the leader and a group of strong hikers left the base camp (Wanda Lake) at 4:00 P.M. There was no assistant leader. All of the 10 left behind had been out of contact with the faster group for periods ranging from two to eight hours. All arrived at camp before 6:00 P.M.
6. At least two of the "laggards" were on their first SPS trip. Another was a 15 year old boy in his first summer of mountaineering. Several were experienced mountaineers.
7. Upon catching up (at Evolution Lake) about 8:00 P.M., one laggard informed the leader that all members had come off the mountain safely and strongly protected the leader's actions.

It is a statistical certainty that injuries and illnesses will occur on SPS trips. The only uncertainties are to whom, when, and under what circumstances. Had misfortune struck on this trip the personal danger would have been unnecessarily high and the Sierra Club image seriously damaged. The warning, given at the roadhead, that those who couldn't keep up were on their own was neither convincing nor proper on a

(continued on page 10)
(NEWS AND VIEWS, continued)

(An Open Letter to the Sierra Peaks Management Committee, continued)

club trip. Further, it was pointless. Even the slowest were out in a reasonable time.

There are many burdens connected with leadership, and those willing to assume
the burdens deserve our fullest support. Support, however, does not mean endorsing
blindly or withholding criticism. It means providing our fine leaders with what they
need to do the job right.

As the SPS grows it is becoming a more heterogeneous group with a wider spectrum
of mountaineering abilities. Size will soon require that two or more trips be led on
some weekends. If they are to be well led the recurrent problems facing leaders will
require continuing discussion, examination, and resolution. The intuitive approach
is not enough. We, therefore, suggest that the management committee establish a
twice yearly meeting (spring and fall) of all leaders and assistants. First aid,
evacuation, mountaineering, and other technical subjects as well as group management
and leadership problems could be intensively studied. Dick McGowan and other out-
standing climbers might be brought as resource people. The venture should be sub-
sidised if not fully paid for by the section.

The possibilities of such a concept are many - and they need not be determined
now. What must be determined now is that we shall act before - not after - tragedy.

Jerry Nims (SPS)
Ralph Shankland (SPS)
Carl Stice (Guest)
Larry Hixon (SC)
Guy Carrier (SPS)

cc Frank Sanborn
Angeles Chapter Directors
Sierra Club Directors
Sierra Echo

EDITORS NOTE

A similarly dangerous situation was encountered on the Black Mountain trip (June
6 and 7 of this year). In this case, the assistant leader passed 7 out of the 10
climbers. He and the leader and one other were the only ones to reach the summit.
The remaining seven people were expected, if they got that far, and some did, to
cross a third class ridge in a snowstorm without a leader. (The leaders were out of
sight and sound, and had been for quite some time). (See the trip report.)

--- EJS ---

IN REPLY TO MR. NIMS' OPEN LETTER OF SEPT. 18

Frank D. Sanborn, M.A.
10372 McPadden Avenue
Westminster, California

September 25, 1964

Mr. Nims begins his letter of September 18 by stating that no one has all of the facts
relative to the September 5-7 Sierra Peaks Section scheduled trip to Mt. Goddard. He
obviously has very few of the facts. As the leader of this trip, and having led simi-
lar trips for both the Angeles and Mother Lode Chapters since 1950, I think the re-
cord should be set straight.

1. It is unfortunate that the SPS sign-up book was not available for this trip.
However, the leader noted the name of every person present at the roadhead at depar-
ture time. Mr. Nims and several of the other signatories to his letter were not there.

10. (continued on page 11)
(NEWS AND VIEWS, continued)

(In Reply to Mr. Mims’ Open Letter, continued)

2. The leader concerned himself, as he has for 13 years on many previous trips, with the safety of the party. Stragglers who come in late are not part of the party until they join it.

3. Mr. Mims, who has never led a trip, shows a glaring ignorance of the facts of life on trips such as this. At the trailhead orientation, the leader re-emphasized what had earlier been stated at the August meeting of the SFS; a trip covering 40 miles in three days in the Lamarck Col-Evolution-Goddard country could not afford the luxury of constantly stopping for stragglers or taking numerous rest stops. Seventeen miles to base camp at Wanda Lake had to be covered, via Lamarck Col, on Saturday. As was clearly stated in the schedule and at previous meetings, THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY STRENUOUS TRIP. Anyone who couldn’t maintain the pace and who was not in the requisite prime physical condition HAD NO BUSINESS BEING ON THIS TRIP. It is impossible at the outset for the leader to ascertain who is or is not in good physical condition.

4. This is clearly in error. Base camp was not abandoned prematurely on Sunday; it was merely moved down the Muir Trail to Evolution Lake. The intention to do this was in the schedule and was announced at the August SFS meeting and again at camp Saturday evening. (ed. note — there is no mention of moving camp in the trip announcement in the Angeles Chapter Schedule # 176, July-October, 1964, page 56.)

5. Mr. John Peckham of Sacramento, who was with the so-called “abandoned” group on Mt. Goddard, states that these ten people, including himself, knew of the plan to move base camp, that they were at no time “lost” (he and others in this rear group are experienced hikers) and that Mr. Mims overstates the situation grossly. This is exactly my estimate; there was no technical climbing on Mt. Goddard, visibility was perfect, and NO ONE WAS IN DANGER AT ANY TIME. To reiterate, those like Mr. Mims who have never led trips and have little understanding of what is involved have no place attacking leaders who give much time and effort to planning, organizing and leading such trips.

6. Refer to Item 3. Some of these people should not have been on this trip in the first place. There was no assistant leader because no one offered to take the job. There were no volunteers and the leader does not believe in arbitrarily appointing someone against their wishes.

7. The laggard referred to was Mr. Mims, who arrived at the Evolution Lake base camp after dark in high dudgeon, routed the leader out of his sleeping bag and proceeded to castigate the leader in very rude fashion. Frankly, Mr. Mims showed immaturity as well as ignorance of the situation.

Our veteran leaders, myself included, never object to WELL-FOUNDED CRITICISM. I welcome it and always have. Before entering the teaching profession I led Automobile Club of Southern California road-checking expeditions into Baja California, Arizona, Nevada and the Sierra. In the late 1940's I led mountain trips for the UCLA Geographic Society. As previously stated, I have led many climbing and hiking trips for the Angeles and Mother Lode Chapters since 1950. As a senior high school teacher in Garden Grove, I currently sponsor a hiking club of 138 high school students and have led them on many hiking trips deep into the Sierra and local ranges. NO ONE HAS EVER HAD AN INJURY ON ANY TRIP I HAVE EVER LED AND NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN ABANDONED. I invite anyone who contests this to check with the Geography Department at UCLA, the Auto Club of Southern California, The Sierra Peaks Section, the Desert Peaks Section, the Hundred Peaks Section, the Mother Lode Chapter, and the Garden Grove Union High School District.

Messrs. Mims, Shankland, Stice, Hixon, and Carrier, signees of the Sept. 18 letter of protest, are obviously new to organized strenuous hikes. These gentlemen should perhaps involve themselves in less arduous hikes in the future; they should have known the nature of the Goddard trip. It was well advertised as an extremely (continued on page 12)
(In Reply to Mr. Nims' Open Letter, continued)

strenuous trip in the schedule write-up and at the SPS August meeting prior to the trip.

The majority of the participants on the Goddard trip have expressed their approval of the manner in which it was led; I thank them for their support and will get their names on a petition if Mr. Nims persists in his ridiculous accusations.

Frank D. Sanborn (SPS)

cc  Jerry Nims
Sierra ECHO
Angeles Chapter Executive Committee
Sierra Club Board of Directors
John Robinson
Miles Brubacher
Barbara Lilley
George Shinno

THE CLIMBING PARTY AND ITS LEADERSHIP
Excerpts from "The Freedom of the Hills"

In mountaineering man climbs in groups because he has found that with the help of others he can climb more safely, more successfully, more enjoyably.

Individuals as members of a group feel more confident, more aggressive in ascent and more enduring under stress. The man who needs no group has not yet been born. A group is nothing apart from its members. The group is created and sustained by their will to be together, to work together and to sustain each other.

To be in a group is to abide by the group's decision and to help translate the group's decision into group action. Not to abide by this, to do differently, is the way of a saboteur or rebel. An individual earns support of the group only as far as he continually reaffirms the existence of the group.

The group must not only have unity, it must also have direction. Direction involves two things: steering and propelling. This

"I didn't come up here to start an argument!"
(The Climbing Party and its Leadership, continued)

is the aim of leadership. Without leadership even a strong party will wander aimlessly, or sit paralyzed with indecision, or lie abed while only the sun climbs. With good leadership even a weak party will become near finding what it seeks behind the subtlest ranges.

A safe rule is: the larger the party and the larger the mountain, the more definite and explicit the leadership must be. When there is no leader or the leadership is weak it is all too easy for little things to become big. Trivialities become magnified, irritations become aggravated.

If the party is found to be weaker or stronger than the organizers anticipated the object can be changed, although often the objective is not chosen until after the organizers have evaluated the strength and desires of the party.

The best mountaineers can both lead and follow, and are perfectly willing to do either. The leader is responsible for the success of the trip and the safety of the party.

Members of a party will look instinctively to the person who inspires the most confidence. This may not be the man with 20 years climbing motivated by greed, egotism, or thrill-seeking. Rather by a man who has accumulation of common sense and good judgement. Physical agility and strength are desirable but not necessary, since the leader need not lead a single route, he may even be the rear guard.

When the party is large the leader cannot do everything himself, nor should he try. Rather he should delegate duties to others whenever possible.

--- from "The Freedom of the Hills" ---

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The antique habit of walking is probably the best guard against coronary disease. It also has the advantage of being inexpensive, reliable and easily learned.

--- Dr. G. M. O'Donnell in The Irish Digest ---

DEPARTMENT OF DAFT DEFINITIONS

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

--- Los Angeles Times ---

THE LONE ASCENT

Where curves of virgin forest slant unbroken with single trees still emerald-edged below, we turn to face the yellow-green of lichen covering initial rocks where we must go.

Even the undergrowth is sparser here but, bracing storms, evolved a strong design. Now final boulders beckon to us, bare beyond the last trace of the timberline.

The world recedes... No need of ornament where every climber makes his lone ascent.

--- Anne Marx ---
TRIP REPORTS

BIRCH MOUNTAIN (May 9-10) ........................................ Graham Stephenson

On May 9 and 10, Tom Ross and I led a successful trip to the summit of Birch Mountain. After leaving Standard Oil Station promptly at 7 A.M., we drove to the end of the road at McFarry meadow. On a day marked by beautiful weather, we hiked up to a bench on the east side of Birch Mountain at about the 9,400' foot contour in a grove of pines which would have provided an otherwise waterless campsile were it not for the snow patches which were easy to melt. Leaving our packs at campsile, six of us proceeded to climb the mountain on Saturday. We reached the summit at about 5 P.M. after about 2,000' of steps in snow that was generally ankle to knee deep. With a beautiful alpen glow, we viewed the Palisades which had just a few days previously been dusted with a powdering of snow. In cold but still weather we rapidly descended to camp arriving at about 7 to 7:30 P.M. For a 7,200' gain in one day, it provided a good "leg stretcher". On Sunday, Tom took 8 people successfully to the summit including Dr. Huestis of Santa Ana who had climbed on Saturday to about 12,500'. The balance of the party went around to Birch Lake on the north side of the mountain which was completely frozen over. Only two people did not make the Summit of Birch Mountain including one with a turned ankle. This was excellent timing for the trip, thanks to Mother Nature.

KERN PEAK (11,510'), MAY 29-31 .................................... Ellen Siegel

29 people met at Troy Meadows on Friday morning for the three-day trip to Kern Peak, led by Andy Smatko. Favored by perfect weather, the party backpacked about 16 miles, partially on trail and partially cross-country to Red Rock meadow. There were many beautiful meadows on the way, providing scenes very pleasant to view, and at one point the group came upon not just one or two but at least 20 or 30 deer, grazing in one of the meadows.

Camp was reached by 20 people at 7 P.M. Two people had left the group to go to Jordan Hot Springs, and the remaining seven people were camped fairly close to the main group.

Saturday morning, 17 people started out from camp for the easy ascent of Kern Peak. The summit was reached by 15 of the group by 11 A.M. The two remaining people were attempting their first climb; they made the 16 mile backpack and got to within 100 feet of the summit, where altitude sickness and fatigue forced them to turn back. Nevertheless, it was a remarkable effort for two girls on their first trip, and they should be congratulated.

When the group got back to camp they found Ron Jones waiting for them. It seems that he was unable to get off from work Friday, so he left Friday night for Troy Meadows, arriving there around 2 A.M. He backpacked to the camp by moonlight, arriving there around 9 A.M. Saturday, dropped his pack, climbed Kern Peak, and got back to camp before the rest of the group. Altogether, then, 16 people reached the summit, and enjoyed the spectacular view of the entire Southern Sierra region.

The round trip to the summit having been about 8 miles, the group then backpacked about 62 miles to Casa Vieja Meadows. With the exception of the two who went to Jordan Hot Springs, the entire group was together again.

Sunday was the most leisurely day, backpacking out the remaining 8 or 9 miles on a trail that was considered by all to be truly beautiful. The two people from Jordan Hot Springs met the rest of the group at Troy Meadows, and everyone was out to the cars by 3:30 in the afternoon.
MEMORIAL DAY, EVOLUTION COUNTRY

Gordon MacLeod, with snowshoes, and Barbara Lilley and Sy Ossofsky with short skis, packed over Lamarck Col on Friday, May 29, finding snow generally firm enough for walking except for tedious unconsolidated new snow just before reaching the Col. Travel along the Darwin Bench to a snow-free camp just below Evolution Lake was aided greatly by being able to walk across the still frozen lakes. A late afternoon snowstorm dropped in inches of wet snow in half an hour; fortunately it cleared up at sunset.

The next day, a cold night permitted walking on hard snow over to Mt. Goddard which was climbed by the long southwest ridge to both summits. They were surprised to find theirs was not the first ascent of 1964 - the first winter ascent has been made on February 4. Sy and Barbara skied down the final slope leading to the summit (probably a first!). They then climbed down the steep east chute (observing a wet snow avalanche in the adjoining one), skied or walked across (carefully) the Davis Lakes and climbed Mt. McGee via the south chute (between the 2 summits). As the chute was full of snow, third class rock along its sides was climbed and standing and sitting glissades used on the descent. Darkness overtook them on the return trip so they were unable to use skis, and due to the fact that they were breaking through the crust every few feet, they did not reach camp until 12:30 A.M. If they had not been able to walk across still-frozen Sapphire and Evolution Lakes, the return would have been even later.

Needless to say, a late start was made on Sunday for the return over Lamarck Col. Sy and Barbara descended about 1200' on skis on the east side, then picked up an old trail about 200' below the last talus which follows the north side of the drainage down to Grass Lake. This is recommended as a much more direct way than the regular trail via Lamarck Lakes. The car was reached at 6:00 P.M.

BLACK MOUNTAIN (13,289') JUNE 6-7

Frank Bressel

On Saturday morning June 6, nineteen eager climbers, led by myself, with Frank Sanborn as assistant leader, left on the Baxter Pass trail for our planned base camp at Summit Meadows. Nats were quite bothersome at lower elevations, fortunately they receded as we arrived at the meadows (10,200'). It was about 1 P.M. and time for lunch. Two more climbers made it to camp later making a total of 21 people. After lunch a group of climbers hiked up to Baxter Pass, the wind had come up and clouds moved in.

Saturday night was windy and cool as people crawled into their sacks. Craig Williams stumbled trying to put out the campfire, and the result was a dislocated finger. The first thought was that the finger was broken. Ted Naier put a splint on Craig's finger amid dark and cold night. We wish to thank him.

Sunday morning was cool, clear, and windy as ten climbers started for Black Mountain. Our route was up the trail, and across the lower face of Diamont Peak. Two climbers turned back as we started up the west face. Only 3 climbers (the leader, the assistant leader, and one other) reached the summit and that was about 12:30 P.M. A few minutes were spent on the summit and a permanent ammunition box was placed for a register. The weather had turned bad and snow was falling. Visibility dropped and it was freezing cold.

I was sure 5 more climbers would have made the summit if the weather had been better, as they were not too far from the summit. The summit ridge had become slippery and dangerous. Upon descending, our small group stayed together until we arrived safely in camp. The return to the cars was made by 6:15 P.M.
DISAPPOINTMENT PEAK (13,917'), JUNE 13-14 ................ Tom Ross

Nona and Pete Lewis from Lompoc stopped at the Hatchery Friday and we planned to climb Disappointment Peak.

They backpacked to a beautiful timberline campsite with a small lake which I had recommended to them out of the South Fork of Big Pine Creek, just above Brainard Lake. I had business in Bishop and I met them late in the evening there at the lake, where we had a nice camp fire. Sunday morning we left early and climbed to Middle Palisade glacier and climbed a steep couloir which is east of our peak. This couloir was at least 50 degrees steep at the top and required some step cutting. A foot of new snow was in the couloir in places. We were on the crest and went along the ridge (class 2) and around the first pinnacle where we had some 3rd class rock, and then we were on the summit shortly. It has a terrific view. It was partly cloudy and windy.

We returned via the same route and had to face in and kick steps down this couloir? The snow was much softer now and at the rock rib where we had left our crampons and my skis we rested a short time. Pete and Nona glissaded down the glacier and I had terrific skiing way below the moraine to the 2nd small lake.

We returned to our camp and backpacked out to our cars, arriving there just after dark.

MT. EISEN (12,160'), JUNE 20-21 ..................... Frank Sanborn

An early briefing by leader Frank Sanborn at 5:45 A.M. preceded the 6:00 A.M. departure from Mineral King by 20 Sierra Peakers and guests. One person turned back shortly after starting out but a bright, clear day facilitated the 3500' climb over Glacier Pass for the remaining 19. UCLA student Margaret Hollenback was the only female on the trip; 15-year-old Pete O'Neill was the youngest participant. Our packs and ourselves glissaded separately down the snow slope on the north side of Glacier Pass; we regrouped at Spring Lake and traversed across talus slopes over to the Black Rock Pass trail.

Dropping our packs near Black Rock Pass after a 2000' gain on the trail, 16 of the party traversed the extremely loose and cruddy crest of the Great Western Divide NW to Mt. Eisen. Contrary to what some people had led us to believe, the traverse took 2 1/2 hours (not one hour) each way and was high Class 2 (not "easy class 1"). Before a cold fog blew in on us, fine views were enjoyed of the Kaweah Peaks, Whitney crest area, Kern Canon, Big Arroyo, and the Great Western Divide. We were joined on the summit by Barbara Lilley, Sy Ossofski, Gordon McLeod and Ernie Spiehler, who were travelling independently of our scheduled group.

After traversing back over the loose, cruddy "garbage" to Black Rock Pass, four of our group decided to return to Spring Lake and camp. Ten more made camp at the first of the Big Fives Lakes after crossing Black Rock. Only five hardy men, including the leader and assistant John Robinson and Ken McNutt, completed the approximately 17 miles of rugged hiking and camped at the biggest of the Little Five Lakes. Even these worthies were forced by pragmatic considerations (e.g., being "poop2d") to forego the scheduled ascent of Mt. Lippincott.

After regrouping Sunday morning, 15 of our group knapsacked back over Black Rock Pass and descended 5000' in six miles down spectacular Cliff Creek Canyon, enjoyed a leisurely lunch near Redwood Meadow, then gained 2000' ascending Timber Gap trail. Thence we descended 2000' to our cars near Mineral King village. We were blessed by clear, warm weather all day Sunday. Most of our hardy group who climbed Mt. Eisen and went over Black Rock Pass gained a total of 12,000' and hiked 30-35 miles over the weekend. We saw a great deal of spectacular country on this "extended adventure" and those on the trip agreed that the SPS should schedule more West Side trips in the Sierra than has been the case in recent years.

Cold cider at the Sequoia Cider Mill at Three Rivers and a wonderful prime rib dinner at Gang Sue's Tea Garden at Parterville restored our flagging energy on the way home.
TRIP REPORTS, continued

A SIERRA 'HOLIDAY', JUNE 19-22

Sid Davis
(MTS. EISEN, LIPPCINCOTT, STEWART, LION ROCK, EAGLE SCOUT,
GREAT KAWEAH, SAWTOOTH, AND NEEDHAM)

At 6:15 A.M. Friday, June 19th, a party of 14 (including 2 girls, Ann Davidson and Ellen Siegal) led by Andy Smatko started up to Glacier Pass from Mineral King. To me it was like being in a fairyland with the fragrance of the pine trees, the sound of the rushing stream from the melting snows, the birds flying overhead and ants like little rock climbers climbing over boulders.

When we reached Glacier Pass and looked over toward the east to Black Rock Pass we could see the white billowy clouds and directly below was Spring Lake, frozen over. We had lunch at the lake and then climbed toward Black Rock Pass where six of us traversed to Mt. Eisen, so we thought, only to see a higher peak further on. So we climbed over to the higher peak and found the register and we signed in while the rest of the group went on ahead to the Little Five Lakes and set up camp.

After traversing back over we were able to do sitting glissades in the soft snow and with a little bolder hopping and a couple more miles of hiking, we arrived at the camp.

It seemed that I just clased my eyes when a voice yelled "everybody up". Yes, you guessed it. It was only "six A.M. Saturday" so up and atem. Jess Logan and myself climbed the Great Kaweah while nine of the remaining 12 climbed Lippincott and the other three hiked to a camp spot east of Kaweah Gap, where we all were to meet. After the nine who climbed Lippincott got to the camp, 3 also climbed Mt. Stewart. I might add that hiking with Jess is an experience that everyone should have. He pointed out the various types of pine trees and how many needles each specie has, the different wild flowers and birds. I felt as though I was hiking along with John Muir himself. When we reached the summit of the Great Kaweah Jess pointed out the various peaks and believe me it was a sight to behold.

We started down to the ranger station where we held hidden our packs and then up toward 9 Lake Basin. We didn't find the camp and as it was getting dark and cold we went back to the ranger station where we made camp.

Sunday morning at 10:00 we started for Lippincott. When we reached the peak we could hear the frogs way down by the lakes. It was so peaceful and quiet and the sun so warm we hated to leave. We started down toward the Little Five Lakes where we were to meet the rest of the group. When we all got there we found out that some of the group climbed Lion Rock, and others Eagle Scout, and Tom Ross climbed both. So we made camp, had dinner and went to bed only to get up at 5 A.M. Monday to start on our way home.

We traveled through beautiful country and snow fields, over a low pass between Little Five Lakes and Big Five Lakes basin. At the pass between Big Five Lakes basin and the head of Lost Canyon we had to lift George Wallerstein up an eight foot boulder and then all the packs and ice axes were passed up before we started to lift each other up. Then we climbed down the other side to Columbine Lake. Four of us left the main group at 11 A.M. to climb Mt. Needham while the rest climbed over Sawtooth Pass (three of them climbing Sawtooth Fk.-on the way) and down to the cars. Four hours and one rattlesnake (which Tom
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(A Sierra "Holiday", continued)

Ross killed at 11,000' later we reached the summit. A brief rest and a bite to eat
and we started down. We reached our packs at 5:00 then up towards Sawtooth Pass and
down to the cars by 8:20 P.M. All in all, eight peaks were climbed by various people.
Everyone climbed at least 2 during the four days, while one energetic climber bagged
61. Eleven of us stopped for dinner and by the time we were through it was 12 mid-
night and I didn't get home until 5:45 A.M. Tuesday, just enough time to shower and
shave and off to work. Yes, these Smatko strolls are something to remember. I only
lost five pounds!

MT. WHITNEY (14,495') JUNE 27-28 ............... Ron Dickenson

An ambitious group of fifteen hikers left Whitney Portal at 7:30 Saturday morn-
ing, arriving at Trail Camp at 11:30. Most enjoyed a siesta until 2:00 and then
decided to "do something" - 5 climbed Wotan's Throne (12,000'') and 4 more climbed
most of the way up McAdie (13,800''), but turned back as it was late. Next morning
7 climbers got started at 6:30. We crossed Thor Wotan's Ridge and Pinnacle Ridge and
climbed to East Face Lake. The snow was scarce and soft. After a tedious ascent
of the couloir the route took on interest as we got into some nice rock scrambling
a couple hundred feet below the summit. We arrived at the summit on schedule and
met the remainder of the group who decided to take the trail. As promised, Ron
brought along his Summit Surprise (to find out what it was you will just have to go
on the next trip he gets roped into co-leading). After basking in the sun, the
ambitious ones climbed Mt. Muir (14,025') on the way down. This variation of the
Mountaineers Route was enjoyed by all, and some even bagged 3 peaks. The traverse
made the otherwise droll Mountaineers Route enjoyable with extra peak bagging and
an easy trail out.

SFS'ERS CLIMB MT. MCKINLEY ................. Barbara Lilley

The 20,300' summit of Mt. McKinley, North America's highest mountain, was
reached on July 12 by six Sierra Peaks Section members - Ed Lase, Arky Erb, Sy
Ossofsky, Barbara Lilley, Mike McNicholas and Mike Hieble - officially, the "Southern California McKinley Expedition" via the West Buttress route.

Driving to Seattle on June 26, they flew to Anchorage on Saturday, June 27
where they were met and checked out by the Alaska Rescue Group, spent the night in
Anchorage and boarded the Alaska Railway for Talkeetna Sunday morning. After waiting
out 3 days of rain in bush pilot Don Sheldon's hanger (3 bars and an ice cream stand
helped the time pass), all 6 were flown in to a 7000' landing site on the Kahiltna
Glacier just outside the park boundary and snowshoed to their 8000' air drop site
some 6 miles away that evening (fortunately, it never gets dark at that time of year).
All but some of the fuel was recovered in the airdrop. The next 2 days (July 2 and 3)
were spent in relaying food and equipment through alternating oppressive heat and
blinding snowstorms to a camp at 11,000'; July 4 and 5 saw them placing their camp
at 14,200', below the steep wall of the West Buttress, in similar weather conditions.
The next 3 days were spent in relaying food to a cache at the top of this steep
wall. Snowshoes were cached at 15,200' in a snow cave and crampons used from there
on. Fixed ropes, already in place, aided in the descent of the wall but were not
necessary in the ascent as good steps were made. On July 8 they moved their camp
up the steep wall and along the top of the Buttress to a snowslope below Denali Pass,
at 17,200'. From here, after 3 days of waiting out storms and digging a snow cave
for safety, in case the tents were destroyed by winds, they made the final climb on
July 12. Four hours were required to reach ridge above Denali Pass, due to soft
snow; four hours after that they were on the summit, following the trail of the
large party of 15 that had climbed it from the north a few days before. Clouds

(continued on page 19)
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(SFS'ers Climb Mt. McKinley, continued)
covered everything below 14,000'. Temperatures were around zero but thanks to insulated overboots no frostbite was suffered. Descent was made in 3 hours.

The weather continued clear the next 2 days as they recovered their snowshoes and retraced their steps through 3 feet of new snow past their airdrop and on to their pick-up point, where they were picked up by Sheldon on the morning of the 3rd day and reached Anchorage in time to catch the flight to Seattle that evening for the long drive home to Los Angeles.

The members of the expedition wish to express thanks to all who loaned snowshoes, without which travel on McKinley is not possible (unless you use skis), and the snowshoes will be returned to their owners as soon as minor repairs have been completed.

SALLY KEYES LAKES - JULY 3, 4, 5

John Wedberg

A final tally showed a total of 71 hikers, climbers, fishermen, and campers turned out for the boat trip across Florence Lake and subsequent hike up the Muir Trail to Sally Keyes Lakes. The outing turned out pretty much as advertised by leader Wedberg: plenty of golden trout, beautiful scenery, great weather, and a couple of easy peaks tossed in for good measure. Mt. Hooper was ascended by 34 of the 35 who started for it on Saturday, July 4th. A register was places, as none could be found. Three stalwarts climbed the class 3.9 summit block. A total of about 15 or so got Mt. Senger, which lies on the other side of Selden Pass from Hooper — most of these people having gone directly from Hooper on Saturday, with the remainder going up Senger early Sunday before hiking out to Florence Lake and home. The consensus was that this never-before-scheduled area had been neglected too long!

BLACKCAP BASIN - FINGER PK. (12,404'), TUNEMAH PK. (11,894').
AND MT. REINSTEIN (12,604'). JULY 3, 4, 5, 6

Ellen Siegal

Early on the morning of July 3, nine brave souls eagerly started out on a "Smatko Special". Starting from the Courtright Reservoir, the nine - Neko Colevins, Bill Hunt, Jess Logan, Gordon MacLeod, Tom Ross, Andy Smatko, Graham Stephenson, Frank Yates and myself - hiked around the reservoir to pick up the trail, then on the trail to the North fork of the Kings River, where we stopped for lunch. After a pleasant rest with a beautiful view, fresh running water and a good camping site which we marked in our minds for a camp on the way out, we continued on the trail to Blackcap Basin. Fortunately for our morale, we didn't believe any of the mileage signs on the way. We had been told the backpack would be about 17 miles, and the mileages indicated by the signs (which, upon later checking proved to be fairly correct) added up to something closer to 22 or 23 miles! Nevertheless, our camp in the Blackcap Basin was reached before dark, and a pleasant camp it was, too!

The next morning, July 4 (appropriately greeted by Tom Ross) Bill, Jess, Gordon, Tom, Andy, Graham and Frank started early from the camp, proceeded past Portal, Midway and Cathedral Lakes and up a chute on the NW ridge of Finger Peak, then traversed along that ridge to the summit. The climb was mostly class 2 with short class 3 pitches near the summit. The SW and SE slopes of the peak are class 2 as is the east ridge. The north face is sheer. Descent was via the SE slope and thence directly south across the basin at the head of Blue Canyon, over col 11,046' into the head of Alpine Creek Basin. Tunemah peak was then climbed via the west slopes - class 1 to 2. The west, SW and SE slopes are class 2, as is the south ridge. The north face is class 3 to 4. Return was via the same 11,046' col, then NW across the basin of Blue Canyon creekhead and over a pass west of Lake 10,853' (which is also SW of point 11,596' on the Kettle Ridge) down into Crown 19.

(continued on page 20)
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(Blackcap Basin, continued)

Basin and on north to the camp. This was a strenuous day.

The next morning (July 5), the group split up. Neko, Jess and Gordon, who were unable to take the extra day for the trip, backpacked all the way out to the cars. Bill Hunt went part way back to find the camp we had picked out on the way in. Tom, Andy, Graham, Frank and I proceeded to climb Mt. Reinstein via the SSW slopes. The climb was easy and enjoyable, mostly class 1 and 2, with the final few hundred feet down very loose rock. The view from the summit is beautiful, especially looking down at all the lakes that are in the various basins. We then returned to our camp, picked up our packs and came out about 10½ of the (now quite definitely) 22+ miles to our last campsite, where we found that Bill already had a fire going for us. The last morning we leisurely packed out the rest of the way, reaching our cars at the Reservoir around noon.

PEAK 13,280', JULY 11-12 ........................................... Tom Ross

Saturday morning I backpacked out of Lake Sebrina to my campsite on the ridge above Dingleberry Lake. I camped here above the lake to avoid the mosquitoes.

On the way in I got caught in a couple of thundershowers. Just before dark, another thundershower hit the area and it hailed and rained. I watched lightening hit Mt. Darwin several times. It didn't hurt the peak - lucky it wasn't me!

It cleared as usual just after sundown.

Sunday I left my camp at 5:45 A.M. and took the trail to Midnight Lake and climbed a steep chute above the lake which takes you to a small basin north of beautiful Mt. Haekel. I climbed this peak up the SE face (class 2).

This peak is on the crest about midway between Mt. Darwin and Mt. Haekel and has an excellent view. It was cloudy but no rain fell today.

Carl Heller placed a register July 5 this year.

I stayed on the summit about an hour and started down to my camp and backpacked out to my car at Lake Sebrina.

The Sebrina Basin area has many unnamed peaks above 13,000' and is an especially beautiful area with many lakes and sharp peaks.

VIRGINIA PEAK, TWN PEAKS, JULY 11-12 ........................................... Jerry Keating

Twenty Sierrans played a game of cat 'n' mouse with Mother Nature July 11-12 and emerged victorious on two Northern Yosemite peaks. Scaled despite rain, hail and lightning were Virginia Peak (12,001') and Twin Peaks (12,314').

The climbers, including seven Northern Californians, met Saturday morning at the Green Creek roadhead and then backpacked six miles to Virginia Pass (10,550'). The trail vanished in Glines Canyon, but the grassy terrain afforded pleasant cross-country walking.

From the pass, the group contoured to the head of Virginia Canyon and established camp on wooded outcrops at 10,400 feet near the junction of two streams. Both peaks towered overhead.

A violent thunderstorm erupted shortly after lunch, and soon the ground was coated with hail. But in less than an hour, the sky cleared, so 15 climbers started for Virginia Peak via the stream leading down from its north face. A few second-class pitches were encountered along the stream, but the balance of the climb up the north ridge rated first class. The summit, reached in 1½ hours, bore a heavy electrical charge, which coupled with an approaching rumble of thunder prompted a hasty retreat. Rain began falling and rocks started to buzz as the party cleared the ridge.

After drenching the region, the storm abated, allowing the group to dry clothing and put away rain tubes.

Faced with the threat of further disturbances, the party started for Twin Peaks 20. (continued on page 21)
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(Virginia Peak and Twin Peaks, continued)

at 6:30 A.M. Sunday and reached to top 1/2 hours later. The route led up a watercourse between the dual summits (the west one is higher) and was mostly first class although steep at first.

Whorl Mtn. (12,029'), a mile south of Matterhorn Peak, impressed the group as worthy of qualifying status. Other peaks sighted included Ritter to the south and Freel to the north.

As a parting but futile shot, Mother Nature unleashed scattered showers as the group neared the cars. Most of the climbers reached the roadbed by 1 P.M., allowing ample time for the long drive back to Los Angeles.

Leaders were John Robinson and Jerry Keating.

MT. RITTER, JULY 18-19 .......................... Phil Clayton

Saturday morning thirty-six climbers left Agnew Meadows. By noon everyone was camped at Lake Ediza. The day was warm and almost cloudless. That afternoon eleven tigers climbed Mt. Ritter. Ice axe practice was held for six people. We had to go a good distance to reach snow that was steep enough. It was very soft and wet, and everyone came back to camp soaked. Two more joined the party at Lake Ediza.

Sunday morning nineteen climbers left camp under a clear, windless day, for Mt. Ritter. A good portion of the route was over snow, which was in excellent condition - being very firm. The summit was reached in about four hours with all nineteen still intact. We met Ruth Karimi and Arkie Erb on the summit. They had climbed the north side. (Ed. note - Arkie had just returned from McKinley.)

On the way down some glissading was possible, but it was slow due to soft snow.

Everyone reached their cars about 5:30.

Because the original assistant leader had to work this weekend, Ernie Spiehler was drafted for the job. He did an outstanding job.

MAMMOTH MTN. (11,053') AND IRON MTN. (11,149'), JULY 18-19 .......................... Andy Smatko

On Saturday July 18, in the afternoon, Neko Colevins, Tom Ross, Graham Stephenson, Gordon MacLeod and myself packed into a campsite on King Creek, about 2 miles short of Ashley Lake. In the morning we had ascended Mammoth Mtn., with an assis from the ski tow - just for kicks.

The next morning, passing through beautiful country on the way to Ashley Lake we proceed up the glacier SSW of the lake to the col SE of the summit of Iron Mtn., and thence up easy class 1 to 2 slopes to the summit of Iron Mtn. 11,149'. On the way to and from the summit it was observed that another practicable route of ascent would be via the small lake in the next chute W of the glacier route of ascent.

This chute can be gained by following the stream coming into the W shore of Ashley Lake until one then can readily gain this second chute. This route also puts one on the SE ridge of Iron Mtn., but closer to the summit. Iron Mtn. is a spectacular mountain with a commanding view to the North along the Ritter Range and a far flung view west, south, and east: west, to the Clark range, south down into the middle fork of the San Joaquin River and beyond, and east to the Mammoth Crest and other peaks along the crest to the sough.

DUCK LAKE TRIP, JULY 25-26 .......................... Miles Brubacher

As 11 guests, 4 Sierra Clubbers, and 5 Sierra Peakers prepared to start up the trail at the Lake Mary Roadhead, it started to rain. The leader chickened out and got back in his camper. However, the downpour was short-lived and within a few
(Duck Lake Trip, continued)

minutes everyone was hoofing up the trail in orderly fashion.

The mosquitoes and threatening clouds kept the backpackers from becoming bored. Pleasant stops were enjoyed at the beautiful little beach on Skelton Lake and at Barney Lake for lunch. Then the last bit of unpleasantness up the 600 vertical feet of switchbacks to Duck Pass. Once over the pass, there is the spectacular panorama of Duck Lake 600 feet below, with several jagged, un-named peaks surrounding it. The lake is one of the largest in the Sierra, being a mile long and over a half mile wide. It is a beautiful color, ranging from purple, to sapphire blue, to jade green.

We made our camp at the far end of the lake with a view of Cascade Valley, which drips 1500 feet from the lake, and the remote Silver Peak area on the far side of the valley. Just after we had the opportunity to string up our rain sheets and plastic tubes, they were put to the test by another rain shower. The campfire was livened up by wineskins and the leader’s ukulele, which enhanced each other. There was even a new song composed - "There’s a Great Big Puddle in Your Rainsheet".

A few hardy souls took a "sunset hike" to the John Muir Trail; and did find a lovely view looking down the Cascade Valley with far distant peaks, thought to be the Clark Range, silhouetted against the pink sky.

There was one more light shower during the night. This leader certainly can be depended upon for poor weather!

After some morning fishing and sightseeing, the party hiked out early to allow for a plunge in the Hot Creek. Some of the bathers had no swimming suits, which necessitated interesting improvisations! The geyser in the main pool of the Hot Creek is erupting with such force that it boils up a foot above the water level. However, it is not scalding hot, so the adventurous ones plunged directly over the geyser.

A thunder storm was encountered during the homeward drive through Owens Valley. All in all, the weather added considerable spice to a most enjoyable weekend.

MT. JULIUS CAESAR (13,196'), AUGUST 8-9 ............... John Robinson

Some 68 Sierra Peakers and assorted guests met in the Yosemite-like canyon of Pine Creek Saturday morning, August 8th, for the comb of recently-named Mt. Julius Caesar. The size of the party can probably be attributed to the romantic name for the mountain (one could imagine the number who would have turned out if the peak had been named something such as "Brown Mtn."

The seven mile backpack to the scenic campsite at Honeymoon Lake was accomplished rapidly by some (2 1/2 hours) and slowly by others (7 1/2 hours). Most of the party reached the lake by mid-afternoon to enjoy a few hours of fishing, exploring, or just plain loafing. About twelve peak-baggers climbed nearby Mts. Royce and Merriam.

The large group rose early Sunday morning, only to be faced by an emergency that took precedent over climbing the peak. Ellen Siegal awoke with abdominal pains which the three doctors present diagnosed as acute appendicitis. Two of our fastest climbers, Ron Jones and Arky Erb, were sent down to the Tungsten Mill in Pine Canyon to request a helicopter. They made it down the seven miles in just over an hour, and telephoned the sheriff in Bishop. After several hours delay (evidently the sheriff didn’t feel this was an emergency), a ‘copter arrived at Honeymoon Lake and flew Ellen to the Bishop Hospital.

In the meantime, Tom Ross was appointed to take the main group up Julius Caesar. Ten men remained with Ellen to help in her evacuation, including both leaders (Frank Sanborn and I). After the ‘copter took Ellen out, five of those who stayed decided to climb the peak. They left just as the main group was returning to camp (11:30).

A total of 45 climbers signed the new Sierra Club register stop Julius Caesar, and took in the superb views of the surrounding rugged Sierra high country. Although the peak is over 13,000' high, it is dwarfed by nearby giants such as Bear Creek

22. (continued on page 23)
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(Mt. Julius Caesar; continued)

Spire, Dade, Abbot, and Royce, with precipitous Humphreys looming a few miles to the southeast.

The last of the large group reached the cars in Lower Pine Creek by 6:30 P.M., tired but satisfied with another enjoyable weekend of intimate acquaintance with the Range of Light.

VOGELSANG PASS (MTS. VOGELSANG, FLORENCE, & MACCLURE), AUGUST 15-16 - Barbara Lilley

Five from L.A. (Arky Erb, Mike McNicholas, Barbara Lilley, Margaret S. and Ruth Karimi) joined forces with 3 Sacramentans (Jerry Keating, Ted Beazerides and Roy Michel) at Tuolumne Meadows. The L.A. group had to wait until Tioga Pass was open at 8:00 A.M. Saturday morning as the road was under construction night and day. Saturday they hiked up Bafferty Creek to Vogelsang Camp (where Margaret left the group), climbed Vogelsang Peak and over Vogelsang Pass.

Ruth and Arky camped on the South side of the Pass and Sunday climbed directly to the summit of Mt. Florence (via the large lake and route described below). Five continued down to the Bernice Lake trail junction and cross-country from there up to Lake Florence, where they camped Saturday night.

An early start Sunday morning put Jerry, Mike, Roy and Barbara on the summit of Mt. Florence by 9 A.M., which they reached by ascending to the large lake above Lake Florence, climbing to a saddle west of the peak and contouring to and up the S. slope to the top. Then Mike, Roy and Barbara continued on a southeast cross-country to the lakes below the Lyell-MacClure col, climbed a high class 3 gully to the col and reached the summit of MacClure at noon via the east ridge. Descending a gully on the south side, they crossed the ridge west of MacClure (class 3), the ridge east of Mt. Florence at the lowest notch and followed Florence Creek back to camp, at 3:30 P.M. The 11 mile pack-out to the car, back over Vogelsang Pass, was accomplished by 6:30 P.M. Fortunately, the Tioga Pass road is open all (continued on page 24)
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(Vogelsang Pass, continued)  

Sunday night (someone who had just come up shouted "good luck" as the L.A. group started down).

As Tuolumne Meadows can now be reached in 6½ to 7 hours by car via Tioga Pass, and the new road should be finished before next summer, the climb of these 3 peaks is a feasible 3-day weekend. Camping of the south side of Vogelsang Pass, as 2 did, would make the climb of Vogelsang and Mt. Florence a reasonable 2-day weekend in a beautiful area.

MINARET CIRCLE, AUGUST 22-23  

After a slight delay occasioned by a leaking oil line in the car of one of the leaders, the group left the roadhead taking a slight detour for a look at the Devil's Postpile.

We stopped for lunch at Minaret Falls and then continued to our camp at the north side of Minaret Lake since the more scenic site at the south end of the Lake was already occupied. However, the more adequate supply of wood, a nearby stream and more plentiful bedsites were better suited to our large group.

Sunday morning, led by George Shinno, we continued past Lake Cecile, Lake Ediza, and Shadow Lake and arrived at Agnew Meadows around 3 P.M.

The weather was pleasant though slightly on the warm side. While the scenery was beautiful a little snow would have improved things considerably.

A total of 47 made the trip to Minaret Lake; one returned to the Devils Postpile the first day, five others on Sunday, leaving 41 who made the entire round trip.

KOIP PK. (12,979'), KUNA PK. (12,960'), AND MT. LEWIS (12,296'),  

AUGUST 22-23  

Ellen Siegel

On Saturday morning, August 22, Bob Berguida, Pat Donnegan, Walt Lehman, Tom Ross, Andy Smetko and I backpacked from Tioga Pass across Dana Meadows to the trail to Mono and Parker Passes, and continued on the trail to Spillway Lake, where we found a very lovely campsite. We dropped our packs there, and ate lunch.

Tom, Andy and I then continued on to climb Koip Peak. Since we had left the trail to go around Spillway Lake, we went cross-country east to pick up the trail to Parker Pass. We continued on that trail over Parker Pass and up to the saddle between Parker Peak on the east and Koip Peak on the west, where we left the trail and went the remaining 800' up to the summit of Koip Peak. Not being at my strongest, I then turned back, returning to our camp at Spillway Lake the way I had come, a total mileage for the day of roughly 18 miles. Andy and Tom, meanwhile, continued down the other side of Koip and traversed across to nearby Kuna Peak. They then attempted to return to camp by descending directly down from the Kuna ridge to Helen Lake (which was just south of Spillway Lake), but they ran into difficulty, and so they backtracked (again climbing Kuna and Koip) and returned the way we had come. Total mileage for the day for them was roughly 20+ miles, including climbing Koip and Kuna twice.

The next morning, Bob; Pat, Tom and Andy went up to Parker Pass and climbed Mt. Lewis (NE of the pass), while Walt and I just lasered around camp. We all then packed out, reaching the cars by 2 P.M.

MT. GODDARD (13,568'), SEPTEMBER 5-7  

Frank Sanborn

A brilliantly clear Labor Day weekend blessed a group of 32 members and guests of the SPS who knapsacked into the remote and spectacular Evolution area of the Sierra from North Lake. As the group knapsacked over Lamarck Col on Saturday, September 5,
three participants left the main group with the leader's permission to climb Mt. Darwin. They got off route and had to retreat. Twenty-five persons reached the 11,600' high campsite at Wanda Lake at 4:15 P.M., a 10-hour hike from North Lake. The route, from Lamarck Col down the Darwin Bench to the Muir Trail and up to Wanda Lake, was 16 2/3 miles.

As leader Frank Sanborn sounded "revelle" and 5:30 A.M. Sunday, another crystal clear day dawned. All 25 in the Wanda Lake party climbed over the Goddard Divide via a 2nd class route to the south of the lake, then contoured along the south slopes of the Divide above the Ionian Basin to the southeast slopes of Goddard. The climb to the summit via this second-class route was easy; the view from the top was superb, embracing the Sierra from the Kaweah Peaks to Mts. Ritter and Banner. Twenty persons reached the summit. The trailless round-trip from Wanda Lake is 10 miles of rather strenuous cross-country boulder-hopping. After returning to the lake, most of the party broke camp and knapsacked down to the outlet of Evolution Lake. There, Sunday night camp was made.

On Monday, return to the cars at North Lake was made. The total hike was 40 miles but the superb Evolution Basin scenery made this very strenuous trip worthwhile.

Now, a commentary! The attacks made on this trip at the August meeting of the SPS proved to be a classic case of sour grapes. These people should remember that, even though they have shagged most of the peaks, there are many of us who have not been on these mountains. Also, these who attacked this trip as too strenuous have themselves led many three-day trips fully as rugged. The man in our section who forecast that "no one would come on the Goddard trip" was made to look rather silly.

All the participants save one enjoyed it very much. That one complained loudly that it was too rugged and that too many people were left behind. He knew before he came that it was to be a strenuous trip; his routing the leader out of the sack to air his complaints and his peevish attack at the September meeting were juvenile in the extreme. If these people, a small minority of our Section, don't like these trips, they should keep their opinions to themselves and stay home.

INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON THE GODDARD TRIP . . . . . . . Guy Carrier

As with a majority of our party on the Goddard trip on Labor Day weekend, I often found myself considerably separated from the leader; but the most interesting part of my story centers on the last day.

On Monday, Frank Sanborn and four others (including myself) left Evolution Lake at about 5 A.M. for the return trip to North Lake and the cars. We were soon joined by two others. Since a large part of this hike was to be trailless and I wasn't very familiar with the route, I had wanted to stay as close to Frank and the others as possible until we came to good trail. He seemed to know that I had started out with him.

As I had thought, after about the first hour I began to get behind the others while they were hiking, but as I didn't need the rest stops much I usually managed to catch up with the others at these points. This pace continued until we were in sight of Lamarck Col, at which point I was moving rather slowly. Going over the Col, I was about 15 minutes behind the others, and they were out of sight. The slow party was well behind me, and didn't know, as the fast party did, that I was supposedly with the fast party. However, I thought I knew the route from there to the cars.

After going across the Col, however, I apparently went much too far to the right. I thought I was following the footsteps of the early party, but after crossing a ridge from which several lakes could be seen, these "footsteps" disappeared. I now attempted to scramble over the rocks down to the first lake. This became increasingly difficult, until at last I was confronted with a choice of going down some very steep rock or trying to cross a snow field (of around 45 degree slope) to
some large boulders that apparently offered a route to the lake. I elected to try the snow field, and shortly slipped and started to pick up speed.

This rapidly developed into a wild ride and at one point I was going head first on my pack. Somehow, I managed to right things and by digging in everything I could think of (including the post on the pack frame) I managed to stop in the middle of the field. In several other "slides" I did manage to reach the bottom of the snow field. I had no control whatsoever on the snow stretched, but could dig in (particularly with that pack frame post) enough on the ice to stop. During the ride down the snow field, my right leg and hand were considerable scraped, but otherwise I was not badly injured.

From this point I rock-hopped down to the lake where I met some other hikers (not with our party) who informed me that we were at Upper Lamarck Lake - considerably off the best route back. The rest of the hike was uneventful (on trail) and I got to the cars at about 3:30 P.M.

The difficulty I got into could be ascribed to a faulty decision to try to continue down on some difficult terrain while hiking alone. I'm glad things turned out as well as they did, and don't plan to get into a similar situation again.

DEVIL'S CRAG (12,600'), WHEEL MTN. (12,781'), AND GIRAUD PEAK (12,585'), SEPTEMBER 4-7

Over a four day climbing weekend, September 4-7, Sy Ossofsky, Barbara Lilley, Frank Yates, Marlin Clark, Gordon Macleod, Tom Ross, Jerry Keating, Dave Saunders, Graham Stephenson, Ellen Siegel, and myself backpacked over Bishop Pass from South Lake. From one of the lower Dusy Lakes, Sy, Bobbie, Jerry and Graham backpacked to a col on the WNW ridge of Giraud Peak and from there climbed Giraud Peak. Their return directly west involved brush whacking and steep slab descending to the John Juir trail on the Middle Fork of the Kings River and on to Grouse Meadow to join the rest of us. Dave Saunders had elected to camp in Dusy Basin for the remaining 3 days.

On the morning of September 5, the group backpacked up to a small lake just west of point 10,435, where packs were dropped and everyone except Ellen proceeded from there to the col SE of Wheel Mtn marked 11,553 on the Goddard Quadrangle. We proceeded easterly to the next summit from which the awesome SW face and NW ridge of the highest Devil's Crag strikes one with dismay. This same view seems to have similarly affected the original climbers and it does so to nearly everyone who views it for the first time. Sy immediately stated that it looked class 4 along the ridge and such proved to be the case as the climb developed. Jerry and Graham elected to climb Wheel Mtn. instead, and Marlin returned to camp, while Sy, Bobbie, Frank, Gordon, Tom, and I dropped to the saddle SW of "White Top" - traversed over loose crud into a chute and thence on up a steep buttress and into a notch on the NW ridge itself. The climb proceeded directly along the very exposed ridge. Rope belays were used in four dangerous areas in order to reach the summit. At one point the ridge is so sharp that one straddles it with a leg on either side for several feet. It was the consensus of everyone on this ascent that the Devil's Crag is Class 4 and the most difficult of any of the peaks on the SFU list. Sy felt that any future parties must be well experienced in exposed class 3 to 4 rock climbing - which of course means that all could be able to handle rope belays and to rappel.

The next day saw climbers spread all over the area. Sy, Bobbie, Ellen and Marlin climbed Wheel Mtn; Tom, Frank and Gordon Climbed Mt. Woodworth - a class 2 climb up the NW slopes and N ridge. Graham and I climbed point 11,755' SW of Mt. Woodworth up the NW slopes - a class 2 to 3 climb on loose rock. Jerry lazed about camp, philosophizing about men and mountains - arriving at no conclusions - naturally. That same day on returning to camp we picked up our gear and packed tack past Grouse meadows, up the John Mair Trail and up the Dusy trail to a fine campsites along Dusy creek. Our last day saw eager beavers Gordon and Marlin climbing Mts. Goode and 26.
(TRIP REPORTS, continued)

(Devil's Crag, Wheel Mtn. etc., continued)
Aggasiz, respecitively while the rest of us leisurely backpacked over Bishop Pass to the cars, picking up Dave Saunders en route. Devil's Crag (the highest) can be climbed by a strong party in 3 days, provided good weather prevailed for all 3 days. In planning a trip this far into the mountains it is well to allow an extra day for greatest enjoyment of the outing and to provide for a possible delay should rain cancel one day of climbing.

JUNCTION PEAK TRIP, SEPTEMBER 19-20

Ten SF3 members started out for the climb of Junction Peak ostensibly leaving about 7:00 A.M. enjoying excellent weather on Saturday, September 19. After a 2½ hour walk we reached the saddle between Shepard Creek and Symmes Creek. By lunch time we were at camp at timberline which read 11,000' on the altimeter.

In the afternoon, two people climbed Mt. Keith and two others climbed Mt. Tyndall. On the following day eight of the group reached the summit of Junction Peak after a 2½ hour approach past the three lakes on the South and then along the summit ridge. There were no difficulties encountered. Leaders on the trip were Graham Stephenson and Russ Mohn. All other members of the trip were on the Third Class Climbing list as outlined by the Management Committee.

Although there was an extremely cold wind on the summit ridge, there was no snow encountered anywhere on the trip including the eastern side of Shepard Pass. Some of the lakes were dry and Shepard Creek was as low as I have ever seen it.

STATE PEAK (12,620), DOUGHERTY PEAK (12,244), SEPTEMBER 18-20

Over the 3 day weekend of September 18-20, Jess Logan, Ellen Siegal, Tom Ross, Henry Fryc and I backpacked the 6,100' from Zumwalt Meadows over Granite Pass to a campsite about 1¼ miles beyond - at about 9,700'. The Granite Basin is an austere, starkly beautiful basin.

The next day, September 19th, Jess, Ellen, Tom and I climbed State Peak via the lower west slopes and higher SW ridge, class 2 to low 3rd all the way. One can climb the peak directly up the west slope beneath the summit from the highest of the State lakes - which by the way are very striking. One can also climb up the NE ridge from the saddle to the NE of the peak. In addition the south slopes, SE ridge and east slopes are class 1 to 2. However this applies only to the immediate 1,200' to 1,500' beneath the summit, and from the two lakes south and SE of the summit. In order to reach these latter two lakes from the South Fork of the Kings River, one would have to climb out of the canyon from about the 8900' level, ascending steeply in a N-westerly direction up to these two lakes. The wall of the canyon S and SE of State and Dougherty Peaks is extremely steep and clifffy. Henry felt it wasn't his day and leisurely returned to camp. From State Peak we traversed to Dougherty Peak, enjoying some easy class 3 climbing en route. We descended from Dougherty Peak via a steep sandy-rocky chute immediately SW of the summit and on to State Lakes Basin and thence to camp. We estimated the total distance to be about 11 miles this second day. From the summit of Dougherty Peak we could see a cairn on peak 12,000'.

On Sunday it was an easy backpack back to the cars. One could readily climb Goat Mountain on this third day, if one chooses to do so.