THE SIERRA PEAKS SECTION ECHO

VOLUME 9 January, February March, April NO. 1

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The 1965 climbing season will soon be starting. This will be the 10th summer of SPS climbing trips in the Sierra Nevada. Over the years the number of participants on SPS trips has gone up tremendously. This growth of interest in climbing in the Sierra has caused the SPS to grow, but with this growth many problems have arisen.

Large numbers are not always a blessing. The large number of participants on some trips have made it very difficult for the leaders to maintain effective control over the activities of the participants.

While some leaders like to lead large trips with 30 or 40 or more participants, others prefer to lead small trips and as a consequence they shy away from leading trips. Many climbers who have gone on club trips and have had the proper SPS "group spirit", but don't enjoy the large trips and being part of the "onrushing mob or army conquering the Sierra Peak" have also shied away from SPS trips and have gone on private trips. Most of these climbers would make fine additions to SPS trips and many could help provide excellent leadership of trips.

I don't think that restricting the number that may participate on a trip would be much of a solution. More satisfactory solutions might be to have more trips or to have more activities to occur on a trip by having several leaders on one trip, that would supervise several activities.

The spring schedule from March through June has 10 trips either sponsored or co-sponsored by the SPS. We are trying to have an SPS trip scheduled nearly every weekend during the July through October schedule, so we would like anyone who is interested in leading a trip to volunteer. We are also open to suggestions for trips that you would like to lead. On holiday weekends and on weekends that there are "death marches" we will have two trips scheduled.

A new list of leadership responsibilities were drafted by the 1964 SPS Management Committee and have been conformed and approved by the 1965 Committee. They are published elsewhere in this issue of the Echo. It is hoped that they will go a long way toward defining the responsibilities and authority of the trip leaders. In the past the leadership duties have been very vague and this has often been a great handicap for new leaders.

We'll just have to wait and see what the new season brings.
MINERAL KING WILL BE MAJOR SKI AREA

California skiers, frustrated in their repeated attempts to have Mt. San Gorgonio developed for their use, have triumphed in another part of the state readily accessible to the Southland.

A $3 million winter sports mecca is planned for Alpine Bowl at Mineral King, the U.S. Forest Service has announced, and bids are now being accepted for development of the area.

The area is located on a finger of forest land protruding into the southern region of Sequoia National Park, 55 miles from Visalia. Mineral King is now a game preserve and used as a jumping off place for high country trips into the Sierra.

Regional forester Charles A. Connaughton claims the Alpine Bowl, when developed, will be "the finest winter recreation area in the United States."

Plans call for a minimum investment of $3 million, including at least six chair lifts and a lodge for 100 or more skiers. Skiing will be in eight bowls, so located as to permit skiing into mid-June.

Bids will be accepted until Aug. 31 and the successful applicant will get a three-year probationary lease.

A $5 million, 25-mile all-year highway will be build to the area by the state and county.

Initial facilities will include: lifts or tramways with a capacity of 2,000 persons an hour from the valley floor, parking for 1,200 cars, ski shelter, first aid, communications, water supply, sanitation and maintenance structures and overnight accommodations for at least 100.

Mineral King is 228 miles from Los Angeles, via high-speed highway (U.S. 99), hence the expected influx will be primarily from Southern California.

Outstanding Alpine terrain ranges in altitude from 4,574 feet on the valley floor to 12,405 feet at the summit of Florence Peak. Snow covers the ground from late November to late April under normal conditions.

—Los Angeles Times, March 3, 1965—

BROWN TO CALL MEETING ON PARK IN MOUNTAINS

Sacramento — Gov. Brown ... announced he will call a conference of state and local officials in the near future to explore the possibility of creating a new state park in the Santa Monica Mountains within the Los Angeles city limits.

In a letter acknowledging the Los Angeles City Council's recent request for such a meeting, the governor said staff discussions on the Santa Monica park situation already are under way.

Brown said he asked Fred L. Jones, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, to give "first priority" to a re-examination of the park situation 10 days ago and to "explore the possibilities for a co-operative state-county-city effort."

The State Park Commission last week urged the governor to call a joint meeting to continue the discussions.

The friends of the Santa Monica Mountain state park, a local civic group, want the park to be located on a 16,000 acre site bounded by the San Diego Freeway, Mullholland Drive, Topanga Canyon and Sunset Blvd.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, however, previously recommended two other sites in the Santa Monica Mountains — one near Malibu Canyon and the other near Point Mugu in Ventura County — as more desirable because they would cost less.

— Los Angeles Times, March 26, 1965 —
Responsibilities of Trip Leaders

A. All Trips

1. At the beginning of the trip brief all participants on plans for the outing. Inform everyone on the trip of their responsibilities by reading aloud the trip regulations and having them sign the sign-up sheet. Make certain that all participants have the equipment necessary for the trip. It is the leader's prerogative to turn down anyone who does not meet the qualifications of the outing.

2. In the absence of an assistant leader, it is the leader's responsibility to ensure the appointment of an assistant leader. No trip will be conducted without an assistant leader.

3. Make certain that a fully equipped first aid kit is carried on the trip. This will ordinarily be carried by the assistant leader. The first aid kit must be returned at the next SPS meeting.

4. Maintain effective control over the group throughout the trip. Make decisions based on the welfare of the group and enforce them. Report all incidents and refusals to cooperate to the Management Committee immediately.

5. Set a reasonable pace geared to the abilities of the group.

6. Make certain the assistant leader remains with the slow members of the group. His responsibility for the slow hikers takes precedence over his making the peak. However, it is the prerogative of the leader and the assistant leader to turn back stragglers who might not reach the destination without seriously hampering the rest of the party.

7. Under no circumstances allow anyone to make an ascent or a lengthy cross-country hike alone. Make certain that those who wish to leave the main group are qualified for what they want to do and agree to stay together. This group will no longer be considered participants of the trip and persons leaving shall sign out on the sign-up sheet.

8. Never abandon participants under any circumstances on a trip. Do not leave base camp until all participants have returned from the mountain. Do not leave the roadhead until every participant has reached the cars.

9. Make certain that good conservation practices are followed. Mention that litter must be carried out of the wilderness.

B. Additional responsibilities on third and fourth class trips.

1. The leader shall have previously climbed the peak by the intended route.

2. Allow only those to participate whose names are on the Section's list of qualified third class climbers, or have received the special permission of the Management committee or trip leader. The Mountaineering Committee Chairman will furnish the trip leader with the third class list. The leader shall have the final decision as to trip participants.

(continued on the next page)
3. Have available on the trip sufficient suitable climbing rope which is in good condition. Give a proper belay when the situation warrants it, or when any member of the climbing party requests one.

C. Additional responsibilities on ice and snow trips.

1. Utilize extreme caution to avoid avalanche areas and dangerous steep, icy slopes. Do not hesitate to turn back or change the route if conditions are deemed to involve too great a risk.
NEWS AND VIEWS

The April and May SPS meeting dates are listed incorrectly in the new Angeles Chapter schedule. They should be: Wednesday, April 14, and Wednesday, May 12.

-- AAES --

WEDDING BELLS

Our best wishes and congratulations to Chairman Arkel Erb and Ruth Karimi, who were married on January 28th. In the true spirit of the SPS, the marriage took place on a week night so as not to interfere with the weekend trip to the mountains.

-- BL --

NEW MEMBERS AND EMBLEM MEMBERS

Congratulations to Ervin F. Sheaffer, 23007 Collins Street, Woodland Hills, who joined the SPS as an Emblem Member with the following peaks: Whitney, Williamson, Olancha, Humphries, Goddard, Brewer, Matterhorn, Lyell, Abbott, Still, Sawtooth, Alta, and Dade.

We wish a warm welcome to the following people who joined the SPS during the past few months:


Robert Felgar, 311 16th Street, Santa Monica, California. Boe joined with 22 qualifying peaks, among them 9 of the emblem peaks. One more to go, and we'll have another Emblem Holder.


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EDITOR: Ellen Siegal, 1337 19th Street, Apt. 2, Santa Monica, California.
STAFF: Bud Bingham, Barbara Lilley, Barbara Larkin, Neko Colewings, John Holloway, Sy Ossofsky.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: $1.00 per year. Subscribing to the "Echo" is a requirement for active membership in the S.P.S. Subscriptions for 1965 are due now.
REMITTANCE: Must be sent to the S.P.S. Treasurer (1965 - Ellen Siegal).
NEXT COPY DEADLINE: Monday, May 24, 1965. Articles should be typed double spaced and mailed to the Echo editor.

3.
LETTER TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Management Committee
Sierra Peaks Section
Sierra Club

Dear Sirs:

Recent issues of "The Echo" reflect your concern with the leadership and management of S.P.S. trips. Being faculty adviser to the Pasadena City College Highlanders Mountaineering Club and thus responsible for a dozen or so trips per year with large groups, I have also been concerned with leadership and group management. Many of our problems have been reduced or eliminated through the use of walkie-talkie radios.

We are using 2 watt Citizens Band transceivers with two channels (9 & 21); weight: 2½ lbs. each; size: 2⅛x3⅛x9". These advantages can be listed:

1. It is possible to call out in case of accident or emergency. Channel 9 is constantly monitored; H.E.L.F. (Highway Emergency Location Plan) uses this channel. From a ridge or peak 2 watts will reach out as much as 30 miles with a special flexible wire antenna which can be strung up in a tree and plugged into the set.

2. The leader and assistant leader can keep in touch with each other. Problems nearly always gravitate to the assistant leader at the end of the line; by radio the leader can be kept informed.

3. Frequently the group (especially a large group) is deliberately divided. In such cases the separated groups can keep in communication; examples:
   a. Base camp and summit climbers
   b. Slow and fast groups
   c. Groups taking different routes
   d. Leader scouting ahead

4. If, unhappily, the group should become involved in a member being searched for or rescued, the radio units could be operated on the same frequency (channel 21) as most Mountain Rescue Association communications equipment.

The procedure in these cases is contact between units at previously decided intervals -- say every 30 minutes.

There are some limitations which should be mentioned. Transmission from a deep, narrow canyon bottom is difficult; too much signal strength is absorbed by the canyon walls. Also transmission from and reception by sets in moving automobiles as in a car caravan is very poor; hand held sets are not properly shielded from engine electrical interference. However, the workable advantages of radio communication far outweigh the limitations; therefore it is recommended that the SPS Management Committee consider the acquisition of radio equipment.

Sincerely,

Russ Mohn

U.S. EVEREST CLIMBER FALLS TO HIS DEATH

Gorham, N.H. - Two mountain climbers fell 1,000 feet to their deaths Sunday while climbing a steep cully near the summit of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire's highest peak. The U.S. Forest Service identified the climbers as Daniel Doody of North Branford, Conn., and Craig Herrihue of Cambridge, Mass. Both were 31.

(continued on page 5)
(U.S. Everest Climber Falls, continued)

Dooey, a free lance photographer, participated in the successful U.S. assault on Mt. Everest in 1962. Authorities said Merrijue also had participated in major climbing expeditions.

A forest service official said the pair had been roped together for the climb up Pinnacle Gully, a steep, icy path between rock faces. They apparently slipped and tumbled down the gully to a boulder-strewn slope, where they were killed crashing into rock outcroppings and boulders.

Los Angeles Times, March 15, 1965

WATCH THE PERCHLOROETHYLENE

(Edward - this is an editorial from the Far West Skier which may be of importance to climbers as well - EJS)

An article which appeared in a recent issue of the National Safety Council's Public Safety Newsletter has been called to our attention. It deals with the problem of cleaning solvent fumes in sleeping bags. Since so many skiers do use sleeping bags on their trips to the mountains, they should certainly be aware of a danger that has received little notice heretofore.

The public safety article began:

SOLVENT DEATH IN SLEEPING BAG

The above caption appeared with the item which follows, and which was reported in the August 3, 1964, issue of This Week in Public Health, a publication of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

"Last summer in Minnesota, a 16-year-old boy died after sleeping in a bag that had been cleaned in perchloroethylene in a coin-operated unit. According to the boy's mother and newspaper reports, the bag was left at an attendant-operated coin unit and picked up the same day.

"It was alleged that the bag was received in a roll and put in the car trunk. The boy is said to have unrolled the bag in a pup tent and to have slept in it approximately eight hours. The boy vomited without having regained consciousness and was in convulsions when found. The county coroner, and M.D., stated that autopsy showed death was caused by the solvent.

"Congestion in the boy's lungs and internal organs, especially the kidneys, was attributable to the chemical, as were multiple blisters on the body. His report states that death was due to pneumonitis due to uremia from inhaled perchloroethylene.

"With the advent of cool weather, and the use of sleeping bags in close quarters by hunters, fishermen, and outdoorsmen, the implications of this possible hazard are obvious, and there may be opportunities for the prevention of such injuries among sportsmen.

"Likewise, it appears advisable that sleeping bags used during the summer months be carefully aired after being cleaned, both before storage and again prior to use in the following season."

In order to help prevent further occurrence of deaths or illnesses the Recreational Safety Branch of the Division of Accident Prevention U.S. Public Health Service requests any information on injury-producing incidents that have been a result of using sleeping bags or garments which were not adequately ventilated or aired-out following their being cleaned in a coin-operated unit or by other methods.

Far West Skier, January 22, 1965

SPS OBTAINS Duplicating MACHINE

Thanks to the generosity of Sid Davis, who donated the machine, and the ingenuity (continued on page 6)
(SPS Duplicating Machine, continued)
of Sy Ososfsky, who fixed it up for us, the SPS now has its own duplicating machine. In addition to the Echo, it can be available for special notices, ballots, peak and membership lists, etc. Also, the Section will no longer have the "turn-over" problem from year to year of how the Echo is to be produced. Our thanks, indeed, to the people who have made this possible.

- - EJS - -

EDITOR'S NOTE

The duplicating problem that our section has been having is, in part, the reason that there was no January Echo (and that this one may be late). The machine that we have is not quite in proper running order yet. However, once all of these small things are taken care of, the Echo should resume its regular schedule. Our apologies to all of you, and our thanks to your patience in waiting for your Echo.

- - EJS - -

COPTER SAVES VICTIM OF MOUNTAIN PLUNGE

Russell Mohn, 48, a Pasadena City College counsellor and volunteer rescue worker, was rescued by a sheriff's helicopter from Eaton Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains Sunday (March 14) after he was seriously injured in a 70-foot plunge from a trail.

Mohn, of 404 Eaton Drive, Pasadena, was flown to St. Luke Hospital for treatment of fractures of the left thigh and right wrist and bruises.

With a companion, Steve Pauley, Mohn had been on patrol for the Altadena Mountaineers above Henninger Flats, watching for hikers needing aid and charting washout changes in trails.

Pauley hiked to a helicopter landing area used by the Forest Service during the fire season and summoned aid on a fire phone. Lt. Lindell Griggers and Sgt. Claude Everle of the sheriff's aero squad airlifted rescuers in a helicopter to the bottom of the canyon to aid Mohn.

Because of the terrain, it was impossible for the helicopter to land. But Mohn was lashed to a stretcher while the craft hovered, then flown out.

- - Los Angeles Times, March 15, 1965. - -

SPS SCHEDULE, JULY - OCTOBER

July 3-5 Mt. Lyell (Emblem Peak), with Mother Lode. Gordon MacLeod and Neko Colevins (SPS), Roy Michel (Mother Lode).

July 10-11 Mt. Baldwin (12,614'), and Red Slate Mt. (13,163'). Arkel and Ruth Erb.


July 24-25 Mt. Leconte (13,960') (3rd class climbers only), Lone Pine Peak (12,951'). (all welcome on Lone Pine Pk). Ken McNutt, Glen Lougee.

July 31 Aug 1 Mt. Gabb (13,711'), and Mt. Hilgard (13,361'). A STRENUOUS TRIP. Gordon MacLeod, Bill Hunt.

July 31-Aug 1 Mt. Agassiz (13,891'), and Mt. Goode (13,092'). Jess Logan and Neko Colevins.

(continued on page 7)
(SPS Schedule, continued)

Aug. 7-8  Peak 13,242'. Exploratory climb of a spectacular peak just N. of Mt. Royce. Limited to 3rd class climbers. Andy Smatko and Tom Ross.

Aug. 14-15  Sawtooth Peak (12,343'), Needham Mt. (12,467'), and Mt. Eisen (12,160'). Joint trip with the Mother Lode. John Peckham and Henry Fryc.


Aug. 21-22  Silver Peak (11,878'), Arkel Erb and Jerry Keating.

Aug. 28-29  Ridgers Peak (12,787'). Restricted 3rd class climb. Gordon MacLeod and Bob Pelgar.

Sept. 4-6  Mt. Chester Versteeg (13,473') Dedication Climb. Joint trip with the DPS. John Robinson and Frank Sanborn.

Sept. 4-6  Mt. Brewer (13,570') and North Guard (13,327'). Joint trip with the Mother Lode. Tom Cosgrove (SPS), Roy Michel (Mother Lode).

Sept. 11-12  Mt. Ruskin (12,920'). Restricted 3rd class trip. Strenuous. Barbara Lilley, Gordon MacLeod.

Sept. 18-19  Mt. Connell (12,556') and North Peak (12,261'). Bill Hunt, John Thornton.

Sept. 25-26  Florence Fk. (12,405') and Vandever Fk. (11,918'). Gene Grigian and Ed Ostrenga.

Oct. 2-3  Three Sisters (10,612'). Jess Logan and Eric Schumacher.

Oct. 9-10  Goat Mtn. (12,207'). Strenuous backpack trip. Frank Sanborn and John Robinson, Tom Ammeus transportation.


Oct. 30-31  Homer's Nose (9,050'). Tom Ammeus and Monroe Levy.

TRIP REPORTS

A VOLCANIC PLUNG IN MEXICO

Jerry Keating

Bolstered by meticulous preparations and considerable luck, three SPSers from the Sacramento area conquered Mexico's three highest peaks in Mid-January with surprisingly little physical or financial strain. Two of the snow-clad volcanoes, Ixtacliutl (17,342') and Popocatetel (17,887'), are on opposite ends of Cortez Pass and can be seen from Mexico City. The third, Citlaltepetl or Orizaba (18,851'), stands by itself about 80 miles farther east.

For business reasons, John Peckham, Roy Michel and Jerry Keating elected to forgo the long drive in favor of flying. After learning in November that all Christmas flights were booked, we decided to depart from Los Angeles via Western Airlines Friday night, January 15. The roundtrip jet excursion fare is $160, but we

(continued on page 8)
paid $13 more because we booked a nonstop return flight.

Our preparations included corresponding with Ramon Lopez of Socorro Alpino and reading as many write-ups as we could find. Andy Smatko’s article in the March-April, 1959, Sierra Echo, the October, 1964 issue of Summit Magazine, and the AAA’s Mexico travel guide were very helpful, but we gained especially from talking with Graham Stephenson, who had climbed the peaks during the Christmas holiday.

We also made several training hikes, the most valuable of which turned out to be an abortive attempt on Mt. San Antonio on New Year’s Day. As we entered the snow plume on the summit ridge, we discovered that our faces and hands were inadequately protected against sub-freezing winds, so we subsequently took corrective measures. Interestingly, although none of our conditioning climbs exceeded 10,000 feet, we suffered no ill effects from Mexico’s heights.

Equipment and food preparations were other major tasks. The 55-pound airline baggage allowance required careful planning, particularly in view of our decision to take along all food for the climbs. By dispensing with some luxuries, wearing our boots on the plane and carrying a few articles in our pockets, we weighed in with one pound to spare.

At 6 a.m. CST Saturday, January 16, our 720B jet touched down at Mexico City, and after passing through customs in less than 45 minutes we were met by Ramon Lopez and about 10 other climbers. Unexplainably, the Hertz desk was not open, nor was it at 9 a.m. when we returned. So our friends drove us downtown where we rented a 1964 Chevelle sedan for $55 a week, plus 12 1/2 a mile and gasoline.

Ramon had been grounded by his doctor, but Rafael Osornio, Mariano Aguilera and Eduardo Romero joined us on Ixta. We drove on paved roads to Amecameca, then just past town turned off onto a graded road to Cortez Pass. A national park boundary is less than a mile below the 12,000-foot pass, and a 24¢ entrance fee is charged. Spring water flows down to the road at this point, and knowing that there would be only snow on the climbs, we filled all of our containers.

Upon reaching the pass, we turned left and soon were at the Ixta roadhead (12,800’). We noticed a small hut 50 feet below and the start of our trail a few feet above the car. Looking across a broad valley, we saw most of Ixta’s summit ridge but not the top.

With Rafael in the lead, we left the roadhead at 2 p.m. and backpacked up the steep trail, which alternates from one side to the other of a ridge leading past the Feet of the Sleeping Lady. Not wanting to defy the rare atmosphere too suddenly, we moved slowly and reached a new igloo-shaped hut between the Feet and the Lady’s Knees at 5:30 p.m. We estimated the elevation at 15,700 feet and sighted a smaller hut nearby plus a third one on a rocky outcrop at about 16,000 feet. The igloo slept 12 and was appreciated that night as the temperature dropped to 15 degrees.

Since Eduardo had volunteered to guard our Kelty’s, only five of us left for the peak at 7 a.m. Sunday. After gaining the summit ridge slightly below the Knees, we put on crampons and then walked along the Lady’s undulating profile to the high point on the Chest. The temperature was 19, but there were neither clouds nor winds. From the hut, it had taken us less than three hours thanks to the hard snow along the ridge.

We returned our companions to Mexico City that evening, ate in a restaurant and drove back to Cortez Pass by midnight. Since it was a still night with temperatures in the 20s, we decided to sleep in a campground instead of in the large hut (lodge) at the Popo roadhead (12,900’). The campground is a mile below the roadhead in scattered pines but has neither water nor firewood. There is water, however, at the large hut.

Shortly after 7 a.m. Monday we started up a well-beaten trail which passes beneath an orange hut before ending at Las Cruces (The Crosses). At this point, about 14,600 feet, we put on crampons and climbed on firm snow directly toward the summit, pausing for a few minutes at the crater rim before gaining the remaining 200 feet to the high point. The elapsed time was 5 1/2 hours and the weather was 10.
(Mexico trip continued)
clear. Temperatures ranged between 19 and 23 as we enjoyed a leisurely lunch on the
rim.

We arrived back at the car at 4 p.m. and then drove to Puebla (pop. 300,000)
where we rented an AAA-approved hotel room for $5.60. The following morning we
continued on paved roads for 4.3 miles beyond El Seco where we turned right onto
a graded road to Tlachichuca. Upon our arrival at this village, we contacted
Jose Amador Reyes, the general store owner to whom we had written about transporta-
tion to the 14,000-foot level on Orizaba. We agreed to a $24 round-trip fee and
soon began the dusty two-hour jeep ride with Leandro Flores up the volcano's north
flank.

Before leaving us, our excellent jeep driver pointed out the path to a spring
in the big gully below the nine-man hut. The spring was equipped with a pipe through
which excellent water poured at the rate of two quarts per minute. That afternoon
we apprehensively watched the clouds streaming over the crater and recalled
Graham Stephenson's admonition to dress warmly to ward off the icy winds.

From the hut, a steep trail leads up the right side of the gully, passing to
the right of a series of dark cliffs. Once the cliffs are behind, the route leads up
over open snow fields to the crater rim and thence to the summit. The snow
is steep at times and there are some crevasses, but a rope is unnecessary.

Our ascent began at 7 a.m. Wednesday and we wore crampons at all times. By
staying on snow packed by previous parties, we avoided soft going and made the
top in less than 4 1/2 hours. We paused to rest only twice, for it was cold and
our feet showed signs of freezing (one of the cameras actually did freeze).
Nevertheless, our down parkas and long underwear coupled with the sun made the 19-
degree temperature more tolerable, and the bitter winds abated at times. The descent,
which took less than 1 1/2 hours, was accompanied by strong winds and a buildup of
clouds, and we were relieved to reach the hut at 1:25 p.m.

Our driver returned for us promptly at 4 p.m. and two hours later we were
heading back to Puebla in our car. Behind us, ominous clouds piled up on Orizaba.

A three-day storm began the next morning and dropped heavy snow as low as
9,000 feet. We considered ourselves extremely lucky: had we been a few days later,
it is likely we could not have climbed anything; as it was, we got our peaks without
difficulty and spent the stormy days sightseeing in Mexico City.

All told, the 10-day outing cost us each less than $300, including the three
days of high tourist living. With the exception of slight headaches the first night
in the mountains after only three hours' sleep the night before, we had no trouble
with the altitude. Nor did we have any dietary or respiratory ailments. The fact
that we were taking the special mountaineering ARM Formula A vitamins no doubt
enhanced our physical condition, as did flying to Mexico instead of tiring ourselves
in a car.

The fact that our leader, John Peckham spoke Spanish and was familiar with the
Mexico City area, also contributed to a highly successful and enjoyable expedition.
And we cannot say too much about the generous hospitality and help of Socorro Alpino.

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(Author's note: all elevations in the foregoing are approximate
and open to challenge inasmuch as accurate topographical maps of
these mountains are not available.)

The diagram accompanying this article is to be found on page 10.
MT. JULIUS CAESAR (13,196'), MARCH 17-19 ............... Tom Ross

On March 17-19, 1965 Pete Lewis and I made a first winter ascent of Mt. Julius Caesar, el. 13,196', 1 mile S.W. of Bear Creek Spire.
We backpacked out of Union Cargile's mill. I used short skis and Pete had trail model snowshoes.
We arrived at Pinedale late in the afternoon, as snow flurries were falling. We set up the tent on the east end of the lake, found water and wood and settled in the tent for the night. It cleared late that night.
At 6 A.M., March 18th, it was 9°F. and there was no wind. We climbed over a low pass into beautiful Chalfant Lakes basin, up over another low pass into Granite Park, with sharp peaks all around us, and then climbed to Italy Pass and took off our skis and snowshoes. Using ski poles and ice axe, we climbed the steep class 2 south face to the summit of Mt. Julius Caesar. We were at the summit at 4:50 P.M. and it was 19°F., partly cloudy and with a light wind.
We both got beautiful pictures, as it was almost sunset, and long shadows were cast by the snowy sierra peaks, in above normal snow pack. It was late and cold, so we descended back to Italy Pass, put on our skis and snowshoes and started back to our camp.

Darkness hit us east of Italy Pass and we used flashlights until a full moon came up. It's lots of fun skiing deep powder by moonlight! We arrived at our camp at 10 P.M. The next morning it was 9°F. at 6 A.M. again. We left late and arrived at my car in the late afternoon, very satisfied that we made a first winter ascent under such beautiful conditions and perfect weather. (Ed. note - Ah, yes - I remember the summer Julius Caesar trip well. Unfortunately, I have yet to see the peak! EJS)