CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It promises to be a busy and active year for the SPS. A number of the practice climbs scheduled by the Section (especially the ice ax practice on San Gorgonio;) have been well attended. And a small but ever-growing number of people have qualified for the new SPS Fourth Class List. With all this interest being shown this early, it should be quite an eventful season.

In order to meet this demand and to provide an interesting summer for all SPS'ers, the Schedule Committee has come up with a full and varied schedule. This is included elsewhere in this issue. Included are "easy" trips and very strenuous "adventures" (or "death marches") deep into the Sierra. There are also technical climbs, both Third Class and, for the first time in many years, Fourth Class. Climbs have been scheduled for nearly every weekend and on several weekends, two climbs have been planned. Thus, there should be something for every desire and/or ability.

It should be pointed out that being on the Third Class List or the Fourth Class List is required ONLY for climbs of those degrees of technical difficulty. Such climbs are a small minority among the total number scheduled, and are always indicated as such in the Schedule writeup. ALL OTHER climbs are open to people in proper physical condition even if they are not on the above lists.

So there is something for everybody. The days are getting long and warm again and some beautiful spring snow climbs are awaiting in the Sierra. Let's go!

--R. JALI--
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECHO SUBSCRIPTIONS

The present circulation of the Sierra ECHO is nearly 300 copies per issue. As of this date, only 50% of the subscribers have paid their 1966 ECHO fee. The cost of the publishing is not insignificant, in time as well as money. Therefore, future issues will be mailed only to those who have paid their 1966 subscription fee of $1.00. To determine if your account is up to date, check the upper left-hand corner of the mailing label. The presence of a "66" or "67" indicates that the account is paid in full.

Subscribing to the ECHO is mandatory for SPS membership. All checks should be sent to: Graham Stephenson, SPS Treasurer, Suite 505, 12011 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, California. (See subscription from this issue.)

LOST AND FOUND

On the recent ice and snow training trip to San Gorgonio (April 23-24), a fountain pen was found in Slushy Meadows. Anyone who lost a fountain pen should contact Dick Jali (nites: 549-7632) for information.

FOOD FOR BACKPACKERS

Stor-Away Food Products, Inc., 936 W. 3rd Street, San Bernardino, has a fine selection of dehydrated and freeze-dried foods especially suited for the climber and backpacker at excellent prices. Among the various dehydrated foods listed are 31 types of fruit and vegetables. They also offer various survival foods and a complete line of Star-lite and Wilson freeze-dried foods. A free catalogue may be obtained upon request.

---John Thornton---

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Barbara S. Miller's new address is: 8421 Lindley Ave., Box No. 18, Northridge, Calif.; Home Phone: 866-4154, Business Phone: 863-2400, ext. 1470.
VOLUNTEERS, ANYONE?

Miss Janet Johnson, a Sierra Club member from Denver, Colorado, is planning to visit the Range of Light this summer. She wishes to locate some climbing companions for this summer. Her address is: 1211 Columbine Street, Denver, Colorado, 80205.

CORRECTION

It has been called to attention that there was an error in the By-Laws as printed in the November-December 1965 ECHO. In Article IV, Section 1, the underlined portion was omitted.

"Section 1. Regular members: Any member of the Sierra Club may become a member upon: (a) Climbing any six mountains on the qualifying list maintained by this Section, this qualifying list to be established and modified by the Section Management, (b) Making application for membership in writing to the Secretary. Such members will retain membership long as they are members in good standing of the Sierra Club, participate in at least one Section activity per year (such as a climb or service on a committee), and subscribe to the Section newsletter (one subscription is sufficient for related members living at the same address."

LEADERS-TAKE NOTICE

A Sierra Club Accident Report Form has been included in each Section First Aid Kit. This form should be filled out by the trip leader immediately after an accident on a trip has occurred. This is necessary for prevention of future accidents, but also to protect the Club (and the leader) from a legal point of view.

PEAKS LIST

The Management Committee intends to study the philosophy, nature and make-up of the Peaks List with an eye to possible revisions. Ideas from the membership are invited.
1967 ANGELES CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Suggestions for nominations for the 1967 Angeles Chapter Executive Committee must be in the hands of the nominating committee on or before May 20th, 1966. Suggestions should be sent to Orville Miller-Chairman, 10722 Oregon, Culver City or to Clarice Olcott-Secretary, 3451 Tilden Avenue, Los Angeles 90034.

--Clarice C. Olcott, Secretary,
Nominating Committee--

STANDARD FORMAT FOR SCHEDULE WRITEUPS

In order to standardize future copy and avoid the chore of retyping, here are some of the abbreviations and sample write-up with details in red. Please note where the capitals and the lower case letters are used.

MON. JAN. Asst.
TUES. FEB. Trans.
WED. MAR. reserv.
THURS. APR. mi.
FRI. MAY a.m.
SAT. JUNE p.m.
SUN. JULY Refresh.

AUG. Hwy.
SEPT. Fwy.
COT.
NOV.
DEC.

Each write-up should be typed, double spaced, on a separate 8-1/2 x 11 sheet so that they can be arranged in chronological order and sent to the printer. Be brief in the description.

PLEASE MEET THE DEADLINES!!!

NOV. 17-18 SAT.-SUN. ICE SKATING GROUP

Annual Dollar Lake Ice Skating Trip, 8 a.m., Sat.: Meet at road's end on Poop-Out Hill at 8 a.m. for the 3 mi. hike to Dollar Lake. Camp overnight. Driving: 200 mi.
Leader: CHARLES GERCKENS Asst.: BEN LINDENSTEIN Trans.: ALBERTA McARTHUR

HELP! WANTED: ... 

Four sleeping bags, not too new, cheap. For sale: four Skyline pressure cookers, $12 each; Snowshoes, bearpaws, $17 pr. Call Graham Stephenson (days: 476-1269, nites: 656-1320).
A RANGER'S OBLIGATION

The on-the-job activities of two Yosemite National Park rangers received attention in the March 5 edition of the Los Angeles Times. Rangers Jack Metherell and Ronald Truffell were informed by the residents of the community of Wawona that a large brown bear had been a recent looser in a dispute with an enraged porcupine. The bear had been wandering around for days with mouth, nose, and hindquarters abristle with quills. The big animal was in agony and apparently had not eaten for days.

Armed with a tranquilizer gun, Metherell and Truffell sought out the suffering bear and dropped him into unconsciousness. They had set about pulling out the quills when the weakened bear's heart stopped.

For obvious reasons, the rangers decided against mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. They managed to roll the bear over on his stomach and began pumping in the old-fashioned lifeguard manner. For three-quarters of an hour they labored, the bear grunting and groaning with every stroke.

Finally, the bear began to revive. He rolled over onto his back, found that his backside was free of quills, and sat up. With this, the rangers beat a hasty retreat.

Later the bear found a garbage can and had his first decent breakfast in days.

SPS SCHEDULED CLIMBS - JULY-OCT. 1966

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<td>July 2, 3</td>
<td>Arc Pass Special</td>
<td>Ken McNutt (346-8030),</td>
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<td>Great Kaweah</td>
<td>Glen Longee</td>
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<td>July 9-10</td>
<td>Mt. Powell %</td>
<td>Dave Scruggs (055-8417),</td>
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<td>Mt. Thompson</td>
<td>Fred Jensen (479-2265),</td>
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<td>July 16-17</td>
<td>Matterhorn Peak (E)</td>
<td>John Thornton (373-1197),</td>
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<td>Mt. Clarence King %</td>
<td>Ted Maier (EX8-0667)</td>
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<td>Fin Dome</td>
<td>John Thornton (373-1197),</td>
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<td>George Spangler (days, 870-5862 ext. 151)</td>
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<td>July 23-24</td>
<td>Mt. Davis % Banner Pk.</td>
<td>Gordon MacLeod (GR4-2935),</td>
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<td>July 30-31</td>
<td>Mt. Gould % Dragon Pk.</td>
<td>Hank Fryc (677-7408),</td>
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<td>Observation Peak</td>
<td>Dick Sykes (395-7490)</td>
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<td>Frank Yates (323-9931),</td>
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<td>Pete O’Neil (C14-1574)</td>
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<td>Graham Stephanson (656-1320)</td>
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DATE  |  CLIMB  |  LEADERS
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Aug. 6-7 | Mt. Julius Caesar, Merriam & Royce  
Evolution Group of Peaks, (Haeckel, Wallace, Spencer, Huxley & Fiske) | George Spangler (days, 870-5862 ext.151), Bill Banks (797-9011)
Aug. 13-14 | Mt. Stanford & Red & White Mountain  
Kearsarge Pinnacles | Gordon MacLeod (GR4-2935), Bob Michael (714-626-7836)
Aug. 20-21 | Mt. Henry | Mike Hiehle (VE8-5083), Bud Bingham (6Y4-3284)
Aug. 27-28 | Mt. Gardner, Bago & Rixford | Arkel Erb (454-0780), Tom Cosgrove (DA4-4713)
Sept. 3,4/5 | Tower Peak  
Great Western Divide, (Milestone, Midway, & Table)  
Trans-Sierra Backpack, (Onion Valley - Zumult Meadows) | Arkel Erb (454-0780), Ruth Erb (454-0780)
Sept. 10-11 | Mt. Russell, Carillon & Tumabora  
South Guard | John Thornton (373-1197), Bill Hunt (370-0036)
Sept. 17-18 | Clyde Minaret | Dick Jali (GR9-7982)
Sept. 24-25 | Mt. Harrington & Eagle Peaks  
Savtooth and Needham | Gordon MacLeod (GR4-2935), Eric Schumacher (670-6462), Don Anderson (ED9-1735)
Spanish Mtn. | Pat Donegan (FB9-4629), Ed Ostrenga (CR3-3320)
Oct. 8-9 | Taylor Dome & Rockhouse Pk. | Bill Hunt (370-0036), Eric Schumacher (670-6462), Gordon MacLeod (GR4-2935), Barbara Lilley
Oct. 15-16 | Mt. Silliman | Ken McNutt (346-8030), Tom MacNicholas (982-2793)
Oct. 22-23 |  | John Robinson (714-644-0935), Frede Jensen (479-2265)


TRIP REPORTS

HOMER'S NOSE (9,005'), OCT. 30-31, 1965 . . . . . . . . . . . TOM AMNEUS

Fourteen SP Ser's left Clough Cave Campground Saturday morning for an assault on Homer's Nose. After crossing the South Fork of the Kewaunee we took a side trip and explored Clough Cave which was interesting, though its original beauty had been destroyed by vandals. Unlike many caves, this one was comfortably warm though not too well ventilated.

We arrived at Surprise Camp in time for lunch. The upper portions of the trail, while easily passable, had some stretches which were overgrown with brush. As the weather was fairly warm, we were glad to find a small flow in Bennett Creek which passed through our camp.

After lunch we climbed the ridge to the southeast of camp in an attempt to find Palmer Cave. This search was unsuccessful, but the ridge was a very pleasant spot and many of the group just relaxed for an hour or so.

Returning to camp we found two additional sleeping bags laid out. Later the owners, Jean Crenchaw and Helen Kilness of Summit Magazine, who had been exploring the route to the peak, joined the group.

Next morning, 16 strong, we started for the peak. We placed a large duck at the intersection where the trail going east to the peak leaves the trail which continues north to Salt Ridge. The trail to the peak generally stayed south of the ridge, except for a few sections in the last mile west of the peak.

This trail, particularly in the area of the switchbacks leading north to the ridge was often very indistinct, and sometimes even non-existent. The help of many of the group in finding the route was much appreciated.

We returned to camp, ate lunch, and arrived at the cars by 2:30 P.M. Perfect weather helped to make this a very enjoyable trip.

Whether there will always be water at Surprise Camp is open to question. This year, which was wetter than most, the water in Bennett Creek intersects the road, the flow was just about the same. Perhaps future groups could check the flow in the creek where it crosses the road and compare it with the flow at camp, so that correlation between the two might be established. Bennett Creek is located about 9-1/3 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 198 and Old Three Rivers Drive, at an elevation of 2800'.

Many dry pine needles and other inflammables in the area makes it necessary to be careful with fire at Surprise Camp.

Special thanks are due to Fred Hoepstner who wrote up a very complete description of the route for leaders Tom Amneus and Monroe Levy, and whose route-finding assistance on the trip was very welcome.
OWENS PEAK (8,475'), MARCH 13, 1966

Sunday morning I waited near the end of the Indian Wells Canyon road for the SPS group, or even one individual, to make an appearance but at 8:30 no one had appeared and I started out alone. The Owens Pinnacles leading to the Peak looked as if they would make an interesting approach so I climbed that part of the pinnacle ridge closest me and traversed along a third class route until the cliffs of Owens Peak were reached. Three hours from the car the summit was gained. It was a beautiful morning and visibility was good. The Kaweahs, Mt. Whitney and beyond, Telescope Peak and even the San Bernardino Mts. could be seen.

After I had been on the summit a few minutes I heard voices below and soon saw Ed Lane with a group of four climbers. I asked if they were the SPS group and their answer was they thought I was with the SPS group. We soon agreed that the scheduled trip must have been cancelled. After eating lunch we started back to the cars. A few hundred feet below the top we met a group of three climbers from China Lake that also had been looking for the SPS group. We gave them a few words of encouragement about how close to the summit they were and then quickly returned to our cars.

SAN GOR GONIO ICE-AX PRACTICE - APRIL 23-24, 1966

R. Jeli

Topographic Map - San Gorgonio Quadrangle - USGS
15 minute series

A surprising total of 77 people showed up at Pocpout Hill on Saturday morning for the SPS ice-ax practice session. As it was feared that there would not be enough suitable campsites at Dry Lake, the group invaded Slushy (South Fork) Meadows instead. Besides Slushy Meadow is a lovely camp area with plenty of water and why carry packs any further than you have to.

That afternoon the group practiced in some suitably steep but protected chutes on the side of Mt. Charlton. Instruction was given in the use of the ice-ax while climbing and in self-arrest and glissading techniques, with plenty of opportunities for practice.

The next day two groups set out for the summit. One group, with crampons, climbed directly up the couloir to Big Draw. The crampons were a necessity as the snow near the ridge was very hard and steep. Another group made a snow ascent on a route roughly paralleling the trail, but going over the top of Mt. Jepson.

The day turned out to be clear, calm and warm. This leader, for one, got some good sunburn. But most impressive of all was the good snow climbing available and the delightful Sierra-like qualities of this area which is yet so near Los Angeles. A real mountain, forests, meadows—all these good wilderness things only 110 miles away. Keep San Gorgonio Wild!
NEW ZEALAND, 1966

General information on New Zealand is readily available, but the specific effects of her climate, population, government, etc., on the climbing situation are more difficult to obtain. This is an attempt to put down briefly some characteristics of New Zealand mountaineering and conversation as observed on a recent trip.

The trip was under Sierra Club auspices (and personal expense) and was planned primarily to contact N.Z. organizations with aims similar to ours and to visit and climb in her National Parks.

Recent moves in establishing parks have been spearheaded by the Federation of Mountain Clubs. This association is dominated by the New Zealand Alpine Club, but also includes deer stalkers, skiers, trampers and other groups interested in mountain areas for recreation. The establishment of several of the major parks can be attributed almost solely to the coordinated effort of this organization. Land acquisition is mainly a battle with the vested grazing and lumber interests.

As yet population has not pressured any major disputes, and changes seem to occur in a time-tempered English manner. But while not appearing too disconcerted, people are aware of eventualities and despite a great affinity for beer and the pubs will probably stay off the mountain tops. One of the current problems is the preservation and containment of native and introduced plant and animal species, but this is everyone's concern. A ranger stated that the biggest obstacle to overcome was the idea of "enjoy and destroy" which has been sanctioned for so long because of overabundant resources.

The North Island has a few impressive volcanic peaks, one of which has already been taken by the skiers. But park officials closely scrutinize the numerous lodges and covey islands prevented. Because these peaks are the only ski areas near the cities of the North Island, all will unfortunately go the same route.

The South Island is the lesser populated and to me the more beautiful island—here is where the really rugged land is and where the newer parks lie.

The southern parks are for climbers. They are big, wonderfully underdeveloped and in rough, remote settings. The newest park is Mt. Aspiring (1965) which encloses a considerable area and has but one ranger. We also visited Fjordland and Mt. Cook National Parks which constitute the other major alpine areas. All contain many unclimbed and unnamed lesser peaks and the most renowned bills are climbed only a few times each year. Maps are adequate but very sketchy—the Alpine Club's being more accurate and detailed than the government's.

Even in late summer (Feb) huge amounts of snow on the upper ridges come down in hanging glaciers and broken icefalls at elevations down to 1000 ft. Mt. Cook, the highest, is a climb of several thousand feet of snow and ice through only 12,350 ft. This supposedly results from the marine climate, heavy rainfall and southerly latitude. Weather can change rapidly as the north-west wind blows off the Tasman Sea, and sudden severe storms are quite common.
Rivers flood in a few hours and special techniques are needed to cross the bridgeless, swift, waist deep streams. Sometimes the only recourse is to hold up till she goes down.

These storms may last several days, and climbers must sit tight and hope for clearing. A system of huts has been developed (by the Alpine Club and Park Service) to provide shelters in the major climbing regions both at lower and upper altitudes. Most standard climbs can be done in a long day from a hut. Tents are seldom used and nylon types are almost unknown, as is most other nylon gear (even in sleeping bags).

Equipment is of course, dictated by climbing conditions, and since a route may begin in a tropical-like rain forest and change within a few thousand feet through alpine meadows to rock ridges and glaciers, these conditions are quite demanding.

It is impossible to keep dry in the dense New Zealand bush (forest) during or after rain, and on the open upper ridges sudden strong gusts of wind do the job. So the New Zealander (Kiwi) dresses in wool and carries a complete change of clothes for the hut. Everything wet is put on again the next morning.

Kelty's counterpart is the Mountain Mule - a low silhouette rucksack of waterproof canvas and a tremendous capacity. Oil skins are worn as rain protection to prevent tearing in the heavy bush. Ice axes (without wrist loops) are quite heavy to make chopping up long slopes easier. Boots are mostly from Europe, but high import duties cause many to use rugged work shoes. Freeze-dry and dehydrated foods are easy to obtain cheaply and are very good.

One cannot forget the pleasant reception and willingness to help that all Kiwis display. It was a pleasure to associate with these gentlemen who, no doubt have to be among the most versatile climbers in the world. No wonder they can count men like Edmund Hillary among their ranks.

The writer will be glad to answer or get the answer to any questions you might have on N.Z.

NON-SCHEDULED TRIPS

MT. CHESTER-VERSTEEG (13,470'), OCT. 23-24, 1965 . . . . . BARRARA LILLEY

100° weather in L.A. on Friday, combined with the worst smog in 10 years, convinced Gordon MacLeod and Barbara Lilley that a late fall trip in the Sierra would be an ideal weekend. Sat. morning saw them begin the long backpack up the Shepherd Pass Trail; shade to the Symmes Creek-Shepherd Creek col made the sun most welcome. Camp at timberline (11,200') was reached in mid-afternoon; Gordon's altimeter was reading 800 feet low indicating the tremendous high pressure area over all of California that weekend. It was warm enough to eat lunch in shorts by a stream where it was necessary to break the ice to get water! Gordon scrambled up Mt. Keith in late afternoon, returning just after dark; fortunately Barbara had already climbed the peak so gathered firewood for an anticipated cold night (it only got down to 28°, tho.)
Sunday morning they continued over Shepherd's Pass, still marked by a long
tongue of ice (not recommended for glissading), turned south between Mts. Tyndall
and Williamson, passed east of the lake just north of Lake Helen of Troy and up
the northeast slope of Mt. Chester-Verssteeg, reaching the summit in 3 hours from
camp, in "shirt-sleeve" weather. Descent was by the north face, powdered lightly
with new snow. Returning to camp, a "Wyler's 3 mix" break gave them courage to
tackle the trail, with its long uphill portion, back to the car (which was reached
at 4:30 p.m.)

**LAMONT PINNACLES.**

A new road has made these pinnacles very accessible, and other members of
the Sierra Peaks section might be interested in them. I know Lamont Peak
has been on the section schedule in the past. The pinnacles add the possibility
of some Class 4 or 5 climbing.

The Lamont Peak quadrangle shows the area. The new road to Lamont Meadows
joins the Nine Mile Canyon road in Chimney Meadows. There is a campsite in
Upper Lamont Meadows and the climb starts at 5220' in the lower meadows.

Lamont Peak has a peculiar structure since it consists of three ridges
meeting at equal angles. The central summit (7430') is not the highest since
there is a point over 7440' about 0.7 miles out the ESE ridge. The WSW and N
ridges also have high points with elevations nearly that of the center. The
southern ridges are Class 2 climbs.

The north ridge consists of a series of pinnacles for one-half mile from
the central summit. These increase in size away from the center and the four
main pinnacles occupy the end 0.2 miles. These show on the map as a treeless
ridge with elevations (8 to N) 7360+ (No. 1 and 2), and 7280+ (3 and 4).

**PINNACLES 3 AND 4, 9 APRIL 1966**

On Saturday Arnald Green, Richard Johnson and I climbed these from the north.
From the rocky spur at 5680' we obtained an impressive view of the NE side of the
pinnacles. Their structure is that of huge flakes. Each pinnacle has aretes
dropping down the sides of the ridge about 500 feet.

We climbed below the 140' north face of No. 4 and onto the west arete. This
gave an easy access to the summit block where I used one-sling. This was apparently
the easiest route on No. 4 which is the lowest pinnacle.

We rappelled 60' to the col between 3 and 4. A Class 5.1 pitch led to the
west arete of No. 3 which arete had one 5.0 pitch. Again, we seemed to have found
the easiest route.

The col between 3 and 2 was about 180' down a steep wall. The north face
of Pinnacle 2 showed no definite route although it is wide and somewhat broken.

We turned around and descended the north face of No. 3 using 80' and 30'
rappels to reach the chute, dropping NE to the meadows under VAEF 7621. The
round trip from our car took us 8 hours.
The rock on these pinnacles was sound with no surface decay. The north walls have a lichen encrustation which can be cleaned off if necessary.

PINCHEAS 1 AND 2, 17 APRIL 1966

Five climbers and five hikers left the meadows and climbed to the ESE ridge near the central summit. A traverse north along the ridge was started around the left of the central summit. The first, easy Class 2, pinnacle had been climbed previously. We rappelled off the north side.

Continuing along the rocky, brushy ridge we were soon stopped by a wide pinnacle which blocked the top of the ridge. We climbed this one Class 4 (75') up with an obvious crack. We climbed a short way down the north side and rappelled from a tree.

We avoided other similar pinnacles by traversing low (150') on the right (East) side of the ridge. This brought us to pinnacle 1 which is about 0.3 miles from the central summit. We climbed to a broad shelf which led around to the left to the NW of the pinnacle. Here we found a short, Class 4 route to the easy west buttress and scrambled to the top. A rappel of 70' was used down the climbing route.

We avoided pinnacle 1A by going around the west side. This pinnacle is considerably lower than 1 and 2.

Our route on 2 started near the col on the South. A short (60') pitch of Class 5.0 led to a narrow ledge. A Class 4 traverse took us around and slightly down to the left of a broad shelf. This led up to the west arete. A 150', Class 4 pitch on rock with very good holds led to the summit.

We descended east using 3 rappels to reach the scree slopes. We returned to the cars after an easy 10 hour day. Climbers were Arnold Green, Charles Ringrose, Robert Westbrook, Ernest Bauer, and Carl Heller.

OTHER POSSIBLE CLIMBS

Pinnacles
1. There are a few interesting pinnacles around 75' high along the ridge near the central summit.
2. Pinnacle 1A. This should be difficult Class 5 or aided climbing.
4. Pinnacle 3A. This is just north of No. 3. An 8' leap from No. 3 would reach 3A.

Routes
1. The east buttresses or aretes on all the four major pinnacles could be interesting. Descending No. 2 we used 3 rappels. Total climbing might be 3-500' if one stayed out of the chimneys.
2. A traverse of the entire ridge either way would be a challenge.
CLIMB OF CLOUDRIPPER (13,501), INCONSOABLE RANGE, APRIL 3, 1966 . . Tom Ross

Saturday morning, climbing one-fourth mile from the South-Fork trail because the road was closed due to the snow, I reached camp one-eighth mile from Black Lake, 10,450, at 12:45 P. M. I climbed "Slide Mountain" to 11,500 feet and enjoyed a terrific view of the Palisades and their glaciers! High thin cirrus clouds were overhead and a slight wind was present. A terrific lot of snow made the scene resemble winter—beautiful three o'clock shadows enhancing the sight. All the lakes were still frozen solid. I think the snow-level in the Palisades and Evolution area was normal for this time of the year, perhaps slightly above; the snow is still very deep in places, fifteen to twenty-five feet. Sam Back Meadow trail has five to eight feet—it's really buried! Huge rocks along the trail are still completely covered. A beautiful moon arose, and from my camp, I could see the Palisades and their glaciers—shining ethereal—white from the moonlight—a sight I will never forget!

Sunday morning I awoke to a 24-degree F. temperature and a light breeze. The sky was clear. I watched the dawn. The light was white on the tips of the peaks at first, then as the sun's first rays actually hit the peaks and snow they turned pink, then red, a brilliant alpenglow! I left camp at 6:00 A. M. I left my skis at 12,100 feet below a chute on the high pass between the Inconsolable Range and Thunder and Lightning Lake, 12,350 feet. At 11:30 A. M. I was on the summit of Cloudripper, 13,501 feet. The temperature was 28 degrees F. There was a slight wind and a few cirrus clouds. I enjoyed a winter view—the Palisades and the Evolution area is snow-packed. I could see Devils Crags and Mt. Goddard as well as other high peaks in the Evolution area. I left the summit at 12:50 P. M. and climbed down to a saddle north of Cloudripper and climbed Peak 13,356. The view was not as spectacular as that from Cloudripper. A few alto-cumuli were forming. I left the summit at 2:10 P. M. as the clouds began to form rapidly. I was back to my skis at 3:15 P. M. and enjoyed good skiing on the spring snow back to camp. I reached camp at 5:00 P. M. and my car at 8:15 P. M. in the moonlight. On the way the Jeffrey and lodgepole pines were very fragrant from the melting snow and wet ground. The rugged, dark silhouettes of the Palisades were emphasized in the beautiful moonlight. In my mind I could still see the spectacular view from Cloudripper.

13
CLIMB OF PEAK (12,554), MARCH 27, 1966

... Tom Ross

Taking advantage of some great spring weather, Saturday morning, March 26, I left McHurry Meadows, 6,500 feet, at 6:30 A.M. and backpacked up Birch Creek. Outside of making a "brush-whack" crossing of Birch Creek with a 50-pound pack and skis, the trudge to the Birch Creek trail was uneventful. At the top of the first hill, I saw six deer feeding about 150-200 yards away. One doe lay in a snowbank and remained there for a half hour—just cooling off in the warm day I guess! I took telephoto pictures, and then ate lunch.

Just about noon, a band of hundreds of Sierra rosy finches flew about fifty to a hundred feet above me! They circled and then flew higher up the canyon toward The Thumb, probably to the glaciers and snowfields high in the Palisades, in search of insects trapped on the snow. After enjoying this trilling sight, I climbed to my camp at 8,500 feet among mountain mahogany, got water at a spring 150 yards down the canyon and gathered firewood. It had been a really nice day, with just a little wind and a few alto-cumulus clouds. Towards sunset I watched the "seven-mile shadows" cross Owens Valley.

At 5:30 A.M. Sunday morning, the temperature was 34 degrees. I left camp at 5:45 A.M. and by 6:30 A.M. I was climbing the ridge of Peak 12,554 at 10,500 feet. I left my skis on the ridge and for a moment enjoyed a terrific view of the 13,000-foot peak south of The Thumb and its two long glaciers—a beautiful mountain! I was on the summit of Peak 12,554 at 11:00 A.M. The wind was blowing slightly and temperature was 24 degrees F. The weather was clear and I enjoyed a magnificent view of the Palisades and the glaciers. A lot of snow still remained in the south fork of Big Pine Creek. The bergschrunds were just starting to open on the glaciers. No cairn was on the summit so I placed a register and a cairn. I then went over to the saddle of the 13,100-foot peak to the south to see and take pictures of Middle Palisade and Norman Clyde and their two respective glaciers. I left the summit at 1:45 P.M. and reached my skis at 3:00 P.M. I was in camp by 4:30 P.M. and crossed Birch Creek again and was back to McHurry Meadows at 6:30 P.M., having enjoyed another great weekend in the Range of Light.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMENTS ON PEAK CLASSIFICATION

In looking over the current list of qualifying peaks, there appears to be a discrepancy between the classification of the climb and the true class of the climb. Even though practically all of a climb is Class I, should the summit area be Class II or III, the mountain truly must be classified as the hardest part of the climb.

According to the latest climbers guide, Class II refers to rough terrain (more than just hiking), where hands may be occasionally used. Class III climbs require hand and footholds.

Based on this classification, I would consider for instance, the summit area of Olancha as Class II as there are large rough blocks of stone making up the summit. It is not mere hiking to reach this summit.

I have gone over the current list and following is how I differ in the classifications as defined above. Opinions from other members of the section concurring or differing in their opinions are welcome and should be sent into the ECHO.

"Just think! We've become part of the grandeur of the West."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>My Class</th>
<th>SPS Classification</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olancha</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>The 100 foot summit's area is definitely Class III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartago</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muah</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>The final 50' or so is a rough pile of rocks. 99.9% of the mountain is Class I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Dome</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>No doubt about this one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockhouse Peak</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Also no doubt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kern Peak</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Summit area composed of 15 to 20' or larger blocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote Peak</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Those who have climbed it know it is Class II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Eisen</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>The easiest side (from W) still is composed of varying sized talus and the summit itself has fairly large rocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Divide Peak</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>The easiest route (from S ridge) is easily Class III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Guard</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Here I would classify it lower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I think most would agree with this correction as summit area has very large blocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silliman</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>It's so long ago that I climbed this that I may be wrong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NY Class</td>
<td>SPS Classification</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corcoran</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>The immediate summit area requires careful hand and footholds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muir</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Ask anyone who has climbed it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cariton</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>As I recall there are very large blocks on summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnard</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Rough large talus blocks on summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I have no doubt about this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcombe</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>--- or this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>The actual summit is classified as IV by the Climber's Guide but I'd say high III class. It most certainly is not II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ericsson</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>By E. Arete it is Class III. By west slope I don't know, as I did not check this out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Peak</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>The very large summit blocks preclude a Class I classification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gould</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Same for Gould as University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Fk</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>To attain the actual summit one must use hand and footholds along the SW ridge (easiest route).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>My Class</td>
<td>SPS Classification</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rixford</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>The rough terrain demands a Class II listing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Gardiner</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>When Barbara Lilly wants a rope I think it is Class IV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Mtn.</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Rough Blocks, say Class II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodale</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>The large slanting summit block requires good balance on hand and footholds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat Mtn.</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Even climbers Guide classifies it as II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheel Mtn.</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Large blocks make it so one must use hands to climb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devils Crag</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>One must use hands to climb this one - easy III though.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Clyde Pk.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Sy, Barbara, Gordon, Tom Ross and myself agree it is IV - and so does Climber's Guide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Palisade</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Guide says 3-4th class. Would agree that it is minimum 4th from the north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The &quot;easiest&quot; route or a scheduled climber necessitated a pitch. Steep exposed rocks I think raise this to an easy IVth Class climb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Class</td>
<td>SPS Classification</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agassiz</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Large blocks make this Class II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconsolable</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>This is just barely Class III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooper</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>If it weren't for the ladder (and you use hands on it) this would be high Class IV summit block.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Morgan (13,005')</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>The S and SE slopes are sandy and no more than Class I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodgers Peak</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Route I climbed was only Class II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krip Pk</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Moderately large blocks on summit pile require care and not mere hiking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Peaks</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>I can't see how it could be Class III from the south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Pk</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>It is walk - truly Class I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freel Pk</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Easy walk - trail actually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Chief</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Easiest route from S is a walk up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of the classifications I agree with as noted in our lists. For seven (7) peaks I would lower the classification and these are South Guard, N. Morgan, Rodgers Pk., Twin Peaks, Disaster Pk., Freel Pk., and Granite Chief. I would "up" the classification on thirty-four peaks and I am uncertain as to whether one (Mt. Ericsson) should be Class II or III.
As I have first "foot" knowledge of all these peaks, I feel qualified in giving my opinion as to their classification or difficulty by the easiest route - not necessarily the route the SPS customarily uses.

We have a large membership in the SPS section, and I would like to see opinions expressed in the ECHO as to whether others agree, disagree or have suggestions—regarding some of the other peaks not mentioned above.
Peaks chosen for elevation, dominance of an area, view, and inaccessibility. The number after the elevation refers to difficulty of climb via the easiest route. Emblem Peaks capitalized.

I. Southern Sierra

a. East of S. Fork Kern River
   Owens Peak (8,475') 1
   Spanish Needle Pk. (7,879') 3
   Lamont Pk. (7,481') 2
   Sawtooth Pk. (7,970') 2
   QUANSA Pk. (12,123') 1
   Cartago Pk. (10,589') 2
   Mt. Muha (11,016') 1

b. West of S. Fork Kern River
   Pilot Knob (6,212') 2
   Taylor Dome (8,774') 2
   Rockhouse Pk. (8,383') 2
   Sirretta Pk. (9,977') 1
   Sherman Pk. (9,990') 1
   Smith Mnt. (9,515') 2
   Crag Pk. (9,455') 3
   North Maggie Mtn. (10,235') 1
   Moses Mtn. (9,331') 3
   Homer's Nose (9,005') 1
   Kern Pk. (11,510') 1

II. Western Divide & Vicinity

a. Western Divide
   Angora Mtn. (10,202') 1
   Coyote Pk. (10,692') 1
   Florence Pk. (12,432') 2
   Sawtooth Pk. (12,343') 2
   Mt. Eisen (12,160') 1
   Mt. Lippincott (12,260') 2
   Eagle Scout Pk. (12,040') 2
   Mt. Stewart (12,205') 2
   Lion Rock (12,400') 2
   Triple Divide Pk. (12,634') 2
   Milestone Mtn. (13,641') 3
   Midway Mtn. (13,666') 2
   Table Mtn. (13,630') 3
   Thunder Mtn. (13,588') 3
   South Guard (13,224') 3
   MT. BREWER (13,570') 1
   North Guard (13,327') 3
   Cross Mtn. (12,140') 2

b. East of Divide
   Needham Mtn. (12,467') 2
   MT. KAVEAH (13,802') 1
   Red Kawaeh (13,754') 2
   Black Kawaeh (13,765') 3
   Picket Guard Pk. (12,302') 2
   Kern Point (12,789') 2

c. West of Divide
   Vandever Mtn. (11,918') 1
   Alta Pk. (11,204') 1
   Mt. Silliman (11,188') 1

III. Whitney Area

a. Crest
   Cirque Peak (12,900') 1
   Mt. Langley (14,082') 2
   Mt. Corcoran (13,733') 2
   Mt. LeConte (13,960') 3
   Mt. Mallory (13,850') 1
   Mt. Irvine (13,770') 1
   Mt. McAdie (13,720') 3
   Mt. Mair (14,015') 2

   MT. WHITNEY (14,495') 1
   Mt. Russell (14,086') 3
   Mt. Carillon (13,552') 1
   Tunnabola Pk. (13,565') 1
   Mt. Barnard (13,990') 1
   Trojan Pk. (13,950') 1
   Mt. Tyndall (14,018') 2

b. East of Crest
   Lone Pine Pk. (12,944') 1
   Thor Pk. (12,300') 2
   MT. WILLIAMSON (14,375') 1

   West of Crest
   Mt. Guyot (12,300') 1
   Joe Devil Pk. (13,385') 2
   Mt. Pickering (13,495') 2
   Mt. Chamberlin (13,169') 1
   Mt. Newcomb (13,410') 1
   Mt. Hitchcock (13,184') 1
   Mt. Mound (13,177') 1
   Mt. Hale (13,493') 1

IV. Kings-Kern Divide to Baxter Pass

a. Kings-Kern Divide
   Mt. Jordan (13,344') 2
   Mt. Genevra (13,055') 2
   Mt. Ericson (13,608') 2
   Mt. Stanford (13,963') 3

   Mt. Kowal (13,005') 1
   Dragon Pk. (13,040') 3
   Black Mtn. (13,269') 2
   Diamond Pk. (13,126') 2

b. East of Crest
   Independence Pk. (11,773') 2
   Kearsarge Pk. (12,598') 1
V. Baxter Pass to Mather Pass

a. Crest
   Mt. Baxter (13,125') 2
   Colosseum Mtn. (12,473') 1
   Mt. Perkins (12,591') 2
   Striped Mtn. (13,189') 1
   Cardinal Mtn. (13,397') 2
   Split Mtn. (14,058') 1
   Mt. Prater (13,329') 1
   Mt. Bolton-Brown (13,538') 2

b. East of Crest
   Goodale Mtn. (12,790') 2
   Mt. Tinemaha (12,561') 2
   Birch Mtn. (13,665') 1

c. West of Crest
   Goat Mtn. (12,207') 1
   Kennedy Mtn. (11,433') 1
   Tehape Dcone (7,708') 3
   Spanish Mtn. (10,051') 1
   Three Sisters (10,612') 1
   State Pk. (12,620') 2
   Pyramid Pk. (12,777') 3
   Arrow Pk. (12,958') 2
   Marion Pk. (12,719') 2
   Mt. Wynne (13,179') 2
   Mt. Pinchot (13,495') 2
   Mt. Ruskin (12,920') 3
   Tunemah Pk. (11,894') 2
   Finger Pk. (12,404') 2
   Wheel Mtn. (12,761') 2
   Devil's Crag (12,600') 3
   Observation Pk. (12,322') 2

VI. Palisades Area

a. Crest
   Disappointment Pk. (13,917') 3
   Middle Palisade (14,040') 3
   Norman Clyde Pk. (13,956') 3
   MT. STILL (14,162') 2
   NORTH PALISADE (14,242') 3
   Thunderbolt Pk. (14,040') 4
   Mt. Winchell (13,758') 3
   Mt. Agassiz (13,891') 1

b. East of Crest
   The Thumb (13,388') 2
   Mt. Gayley (13,510') 3
   Temple Crag (12,999') 3
   La Salle Pk. (13,501') 2

VII. Evolution Area

a. Crest
   Mt. Goode (13,092') 1
   Mt. Johnson (12,868') 2
   Mt. Gilbert (13,103') 2
   Mt. Thompson (13,480') 2
   Mt. Powell (13,360') 2
   Mt. Wallace (13,377') 2
   Mt. Haeckel (13,435') 3
   MT. DARWIN (13,830) 3
   Mt. Lamarck (13,417') 1.1

b. West of Crest
   Giroud Pk. (12,585') 2
   Mt. McDuffie (13,271') 3
   Mt. Reinstein (12,604') 2
   Scylla (12,939') 2
   Charybdis (13,091') 3
   Black Giant (13,330') 1
   MT. GODDARD (13,568') 1
   Mt. Huxley (13,177') 2
   Mt. McGee (12,969') 2
   Mt. Fiske (13,524') 1
   The Hermit (12,360') 4
   Emerald Pk. (12,546') 2
   Mt. Mendel (13,691') 3
   Mt. Goethe (13,240') 1
   Mt. Henry (12,196') 2

VIII. Humphreys Basin and Vicinity

a. Crest
   MT. HUMPHREYS (13,986') 4
   Four Gables (12,760') 1

b. East of Crest
   Mt. Emerson (13,225') 2
   Basin Mtn. (13,240') 2
   Mt. Tom (13,552') 1

c. West of Crest
   Mt. Senger (12,271') 1
   Mt. Hooper (12,349') 2
   Seven Gables (13,075') 2
   Merriam Pk. (13,077') 2
   Noyce Pk. (13,253') 2

IX. Pine Creek to Mammoth

a. Pine Creek Area
   Mt. Julius Caesar (13,196') 2

b. Rock Creek Area
   Mt. Morgan (13,748') 2
   Bear Creek Spire (13,713') 3
   Mt. Pade (13,600') 2
   MT. ABBOT (13,715') 3
   Mt. Mills (13,468') 3

c. Mono Divide to McGee Pass
   Mt. Hilgard (13,361') 2
   Mt. Gabb (13,711') 2
   Recess Pk. (12,836') 2
XI. Tioga Pass to Bond Pass

a. Crest and East
   Mt. Conness (12,556') 2
   North Peak (12,261') 2
   Mt. Warren (12,327') 2
   Excelsior Mtn. (12,440') 2
   Dunderberg Pk. (12,374') 2
   Twin Peaks (12,311') 3
   Matterhorn Peak (12,281') 2

b. West of Crest
   Pettit Peak (10,775') 2
   Volunteer Pk. (10,497') 2
   Piute Mtn. (10,541') 2
   Virginia Pk. (12,001') 2
   Tower Pk. (11,755') 3

XII. Northern Sierra

a. Bond Pass to Lake Tahoe
   Black Hawk Mtn. (10,348') 2
   Leavitt Pk. (11,570') 1
   Stanislaus Pk. (11,220') 2
   Disaster Pk. (10,047') 2
   Highland Pk. (10,955') 2
   Round Top (10,385') 3
   Freel Pk. (10,990') 2
   Pyramid Pk. (9,983') 2
   Dicks Pk. (9,974') 2
   Mt. Tallac (9,735') 1
   Mt. Rose (10,800') 1

b. Squaw Valley to Fredonyer Pass
   Granite Chief (9,006') 2
   Tinker Knob (8,949') 2
   Castle Pk. (9,103') 3
   Mt. Lola (9,143') 1
   English Mtn. (8,404') 2
   Sierra Buttes (8,587') 1
   Haskell Pk. (8,107') 1
   Mt. Elwell (7,812') 1
   Mt. Adams (8,197') 1

Section Membership is attained by (1) being a member of the Sierra Club, (2), climbing any six peaks on the qualifying list and submitting the list of peaks climbed to the Section Secretary, and (3) sending one dollar to the Section Treasurer for a subscription to the "Sierra Echo".

Emblem is attained by climbing any ten of the fourteen emblem peaks and submitting the list of ten peaks, along with the emblem cost, to the Section Secretary.