CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The whole SPS seems to be running off to the mountains. There have been good to huge turnouts on our scheduled climbs. Individual SPS'ers are heading off for peaks in the Sierra, the West and beyond. Two groups are now in Peru climbing the great snow peaks of the Cordillera Blanca. Others are going to the Climbing School on Mt. Rainier. One hears plans for the Wind River Range and the Olympics. It's the time of year when we all dream of the high mountains of sparkling waterfalls in tree-lined canyons, gemlike lakes set in glacial cirques, wide snowfields and steep rock faces, of summits piercing the clean mountain air, of range after range of peaks under a brilliant blue sky. It's the time of year for climbing!

- Dick Jali

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S SCHEDULE TIME AGAIN! Anyone who would like to lead a trip in November through February; or who would like to show slides or movies, or serve refreshments, at one of the SPS monthly meetings should contact a member of the Management Committee.

TRIP REPORTS

ALL TRIP LEADERS should see to it that members of their trips all sign the signup sheets, and that the sheets are returned to Gordon MacLeod (Mountaineering Chairman). This is necessary to enforce the participation requirement adopted by the Management Committee.
PARTICIPATION IN SPS ACTIVITIES

The Management Committee has decided to enforce the participation clause in the Section By-laws. This clause appeared in the last issue of the Echo and states that to be a member of the Section one must participate in at least one Section activity a year. Participation is interpreted to mean leading or going on a scheduled Section climb or other activity, or serving on a committee. Committee service includes helping to put out the Echo or providing a show or refreshments at one of the Section monthly meetings.

Subscription to the Echo is still a requirement for membership. For active members, i.e., those who fulfill the requirements as stated above, the price will remain at $1.00 per year. For inactive members and other interested persons, the price will be $2.00 per year, starting in 1967.

A JOURNAL OF MOUNTAINEERING

A proposal for the creation of a journal devoted exclusively to mountaineering was outlined in the June 1966 Sierra Club Bulletin. The Mountaineering Journal would report on the major expeditions and rock climbs that occurred during the year, leaving the Bulletin to concentrate on conservation. Tentative plans are to publish one issue this coming December, and follow with two additional issues in 1967. A preliminary estimate indicates that the journal could be published for $1 per issue, providing enough people subscribe. Those interested in supporting the journal can help most by sending $1 for the December 1966 issue to: The Editors, The Mountaineering Journal, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif. 94104.

The Editor

OMISSION

The editor wishes to apologize for the omission of Andy Smatko's name from the Letter to the Editor in the April-May issue of the ECHO. Dr. Smatko's letter on the subject of peak classification was very timely and has stimulated a lot of interest. From the number of comments received, it seems that Andy has quite a few avid supporters too.

TRAVEL, ANYONE?

Larry Marks desires to contact anyone interested in trips to the Sawtooth Primitive Area in Idaho, and the Jim Bridger Wilderness Area in Wyoming (Wind River Range). Larry plans to leave Los Angeles for one of these areas about July 20 and would like several climbing companions to accompany him. He can be reached evenings until 11:00 P.M. at Olive 3-2915.

CORRECTION

Barbara Lilley's phone number was incorrectly printed in the July-October 1966 Angeles Chapter Schedule. Barbara's correct number is 836-4154.
FOR SALE

Two-man army surplus nylon mountain tent, waterproof. Heavy for backpacking but suitable for car camping (if you don't have a station wagon or have too large a family!). Goes up easily with ski poles for camping on snow.
Price $8.00. Contact Barbara Lilley, 886-4154 (eves.) or 883-2400, Ext. 1470 (days)

TRIP REPORTS

Spanish Needle (7879') and Sawtooth Pk., April 9-10, 1966 — by Tom Cosgrove

In response to continuous harassment over a period of several months, the following trip report was submitted to the Editor on the eve of Mr. Cosgrove's leaving Los Angeles to join a climbing expedition to Peru....

"Requiem for a Rattlesnake"

Dear Mr. Thornton:

Yes! We climbed Spanish Needle! Twenty-six stalwarts with fire in their hearts set out in the burning dawn of an April morn. Ice axes glinting through the sage; we charged the sandy scree-filled slopes. Cactus and brush notwithstanding, the battle was won. The crampon-scarred cowpaths bear silent testimony to the struggle waged upon them. In the final spasm of victory, Cliff Hanger raised his piton hammer above the voluminous register and exclaimed, "Fine, pizza and motherhood!" He became the 14,846 person to accomplish the summit and the first to suffer a fatal coronary attack upon it. The waterless frontal attack followed seige tactics, with gallons of Gallo port being ferried in from Brady's Cafe to bolster the spirits of the valiant warriors. The arid terrain offered such little relief from the sun and dust that rattlesnakes, unable to bargain for a sip of water, were tying granny knots in their bodies and choking themselves to death.

The climbing of Sawtooth proved anticlimatic. Sid Davis celebrated his 100th birthday on top and the 2:00 AM tea was a flop for lack of guests and water. Approximately twenty-four climbers beat their way through the scrub pine forests to the summit block and a beautiful view of Spanish Needle. For some reason, many were unenthusiastic. However, this brief depression was overcome with thoughts of home and Brady's Cafe.

THE SIERRA ECHO: Published bi-monthly by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mailed to subscribers on even numbered months.
STAFF: John Holloway, Bill Hunt, Arkel Erb, Gordon MacLeod, Dick Jali, Barbara Lilley
SUBSCRIPTIONS: $1.00 per year. Subscribing to the "ECHO" is a requirement for active membership in the Sierra Peaks Section.
REMITTANCE: Must be sent to the SFS Treasurer (1966 – Graham Stephenson). NEXT COPY DEADLINE: Aug. 29, 1966. Articles should be typed double-spaced and mailed to: John Thornton, P. O. Box 1532, Manhattan Beach
All in all, the outing was mildly intolerable. And the rescheduling of the aforementioned peaks would be proper—providing the rescheduling coincided with the next glacial period. Spanish Needle is a lovely desert peak.

Mt. Morrison (12,268), San Joaquin Mtn. (11,601), May 21-22, 1966...J.P. Thornton

For many of the 30 people gathered early Saturday morning at the Convict Lake turnoff, this was to be the first Sierra climb since the previous season. Included in the group was a delegation of eight members of the Mother Lode Chapter, led by John Peckham.

Leaving the parking lot at the eastern end of Convict Lake, Leaders John Thornton and Bill Hunt led the group up the low point in the ridge directly SE of the lake. A 2 mile walk up a snow-filled stream bed brought us to a small lakelet (elevation 9940') east of the main summit of Mt. Morrison. The easiest route (2nd class) to the summit lies directly west of this lake, up 2300' of loose rock and scree.

The first of the group reached the summit in good time, having gained the 4700' and three miles from Convict Lake in slightly over four hours. During the next hour, various segments of the group trailed in, some having been encouraged with the point of Bill Hunt's ice axe! Finally 28 people reached the summit. Two, unfortunately, stopped with only 800 feet remaining. After spending time eating lunch, taking pictures and just soaking in the spectacular view, the group withdrew from the summit. The return trip was uneventful, with the last people reaching the cars by 6:00 p.m.

Later that evening, about 20 people gathered for an enjoyable meal at the Convict Lake Inn. Although more expensive than one usually indulges in on a climbing trip, the dinners at the Inn certainly are some of the best to be found along Hwy. 395. The restaurant opens at 6:00 P.M.; reservations are not necessary. Following dinner, several groups of climbers spent an hour or so lolling about in Hot Creek, relaxing and looking up at the summit of Mt. Morrison. This being a mixed trip, swimming suits were in order. Some of those who had forgotten them were given a last minute reprieve; Bill Hunt found a suit (size 46!) hanging in a tree. Resembling a broomstick in a gunny sack, Bill never-the-less joined in the festivities.

Sunday morning found approximately 15 climbers at the meeting place at June Lake for the climb of San Joaquin Mtn. An enjoyable four-hour climb brought all members to the summit. The view of the himarete, Mt. Ritter and Banner Peak was spectacular. After the usual meditations, the return march began. A series of thrilling but chilling glissades brought us to low altitudes in fine style.

On the way home, the leaders and several other climbers stopped to visit Norman Clyde. A very enjoyable two hours was spent listening to tales of climbing in the early days, when few routes were well known and most of the Sierra was as yet unclimbed, and to descriptions of the zoology and geology of Owens Valley and the Sierra.
Split Mtn. (14,058') and Timemaha (12,561'), May 28-29-30

...Tom McNicholas

Before Action
Time: Dusk, Sat., May 28
Strength: 82, with minor casualties at rear
Map: Big Pine (trail incorrectly shown)
Situation: Encampments from 9000' to 12,000' along creek to Red Lake

After Action
Time: Noon, May 30
Strength: Dispersed
Result: Sunday, May 29, forty-one reached the summit of Split Mtn. via N.E. ridge. Major action was a 1000 foot glissade on return to camp.

Mr. Prater also climbed by party of eight.

Monday, May 30, 17 climbers reached the summit of Timemaha from the N.W. The main group departed early to outrace other traffic.

Decorations: Perlon bullwhip with cluster. K. K. McNutt, acting as Asst.

Leader, with complete disregard for his own safety in the face of fierce opposition, successfully moved (by pleas, carries, insults and various tactics) the rear flanks of the column up to and out of camp.

***(Confucius say "Peak-baggers soon learn the later return home is made on a holiday weekend, the lighter the traffic" so may as well stay & bag peaks-30)***

Mt. Abbot, Bear Creek Spire & Mt. Dade, June 25-26, 1966, by Dick Jali
(Topo map -- Mt. Abbot quadrangle, USGS 15 minute series)

This was quite a weekend for the SPS. Eight peaks were climbed by the 20 climbers present. The leaders, John Thornton and Dick Jali, took groups up the two peaks scheduled: Abbot and Bear Creek Spire, and Dade; while other SPS'ers climbed Mills and ranged as far as Stanford, Morgan, South Morgan and Starr.

From the Rock Creek roadside, an easy 2 hour pack pack led to camp at Treasure Lakes. From the lakes the route led to the west up rock and snowfields (take ice axes) to the low point between Abbot and Point 12,975 to the east. There the route gets a bit tricky. From this point one looks up at the east side of Abbot and barely distinguishes the Southwest Buttress and North-West Buttress mentioned in the Climbers' Guide (Routes 3 and 4). At the north end of the mountain just north of the Northwest Buttress a long snow chute leads up the peak. This shows a tiny indentation on the top. This chute is followed partway up, until a third class route goes off to the right and then up to the summit ridge. Then one traverses left (south) along the ridge and up to the summit. If this route is found, then the ascent is quite straightforward. In fact, one wonders why it is even an Emblem Peak. But if one tries another route (including those in the Climbers' Guide) one gets into fourth class quite easily.
Sixteen climbers made the summit in about 3 hours. (Two people got their Emblems on Abbot, including one who had climbed his 9th Emblem Peak 8 years before.)

The next day was equally clear and warm as the group set out for Bear Creek Spire. The route goes south from Treasure Lakes up long snow slopes (ice-roads) to the ridge between Bear Creek Spire and the unnamed pinnacle to the north of it. There it goes up the north side (Climber's Guide Route 4) to the third class summit block, which is quite impressive. Thirteen climbers made the summit in about 2½ hours.

The views from (and of) Bear Creek Spire are truly spectacular. The surrounding peaks and all the lakes in Rock Creek were very impressive. And the peak itself is a real spire from any direction. It is the feeling of the writer that Bear Creek Spire should be considered as the Emblem Peak in this area.

From Bear Creek Spire eight climbers set out for Dade; traversing to the west of the ridge, passing a prominent buttress, then across the ridge and up the south side in about 2 hours. From Dade a long glissade down to the end of Treasure Lakes (the usual route up) brought the group quickly back to camp.

NON-SCHEDULED TRIPS

Trinity Alps May 28-29-30, 1966 by Barbara Lilley

Rapidly melting snow in the Sierra forced cancellation of the Memorial Day Ski Tour, so Rich Gnagy and Barbara Lilley spent the three days in an area not often visited by Southern Californians—the Trinity Alps (Soloman Mountains) in the Coast Range of Northern California. These peaks, especially when snow-covered (and there are actual glaciers here), are much more Sierra-like than the Coast Range mountains Angelenos are accustomed to climbing. Approach was made by driving west on Hwy. 299 from Redding and turning north at Junction City to the end of the road (past Dedrick), where the seven mile trail to Canyon Creek Lakes begins. Saturday afternoon, they packed into a campsite about 1/2 mile short of the Lakes and were quite impressed with the debris and snow that covered the trail in several places from the tremendous avalanches that had occurred this past winter—trees as large as 3 feet in diameter were broken off or uprooted.

A few sprinkles occurred in the early evening, but the weather was clear Sunday morning for their climb of Mt. Thompson, highest in the range (9002'). A sloping, wet log was used to cross below the outlet of the first lake (best foot crossing is downstream, reached by following the side trail to "Stonehouse")
Trinity Alps (Cont.)

and up the river to a horizontal log. They waded the outlet of the second lake (a rock dam about 100 feet below probably provides a dry crossing) and followed up the main stream, passing another huge avalanche at the inlet of the upper lake. Continuous snow was encountered at about 7000'; they climbed to the ridge between Thompson Peak and Wedding Cake Peak, and up the south slope of Thompson to the summit. Standing and sitting glissades speeded the descent and camp was reached in 2½ hours. Clouds began to gather in the evening and a general rainstorm drove them into plastic tubes during the night—they packed out Monday morning in a light drizzle (Oregon weather forecasts are more accurate for this area!).

Due to the comparatively low elevation, this area is probably best visited before July 1. M. Thompson could easily be climbed in two days in conjunction with a vacation trip, especially if camp were made above the lakes, and there are enough peaks to justify a longer stay. The above approach is on the "Helena" quadrangle; the other maps covering this area are "Cecilville", "Trinity Lake" and "Coffee Creek".

Palisades Special, May 28-29-30

by Bill Hunt

Over Memorial Day weekend, four SPS'ers—Gordon MacLeod, Eric Schumacher, Ed Lane and I—climbed several of the spectacular peaks in the Palisades region. Having to work late on Friday before the weekend, I was forced to make the drive to the roadhead above Big Pine alone on Saturday morning and consequently missed out on the climb the other three made the first day of the three-day weekend. They climbed 14,000' Polemonium Peak from the well known U-Notch and traversed the ridge from Polemonium to 14,162' Emblem Peak Mt. Sill. The climbers reported several good 4th class pitches on Polemonium and soft snow on the return to camp after this strenuous day. Due to a last minute change in plans, Gordon, Eric and Ed camped near the trail between Sam Mack Meadow and the Palisade Glacier and not near Sam Mack Lake as was originally planned. Therefore, I did not meet them on Saturday, but I found a very comfortable campsite on a ledge above Sam Mack Lake with running water and firewood and spent a pleasant night alone.

Early Sunday morning I packed all my gear up to a high point on the glacier from which I was sure I would see the others on their approach to the Palisade Crest, and sure enough, shortly after my arrival, I spotted them trudging across the glacier. After joining them, I discovered they had only half expected to see me and had but one rope with them. But by using waist bands of sling material we had close to 40 feet of rope between climbers and were not slowed down too much.

Our objective for Sunday was the northwest summit of North Palisade, the Milk Bottle. We approached it by way of the Clyde couloir which rises between North Palisade and its NW summit. Following the description in the Climber's Guide to the notch between the two peaks, we crossed over onto the rocks on the right hand side of the couloir about 200 feet above the bergschrund. We were glad to do this for the couloir showed much blue ice above us. Third class
climbing intermixed with several 4th class pitches brought us to the notch between the two peaks and from there we climbed to the base of the summit block of the NW peak, the well-named Milk Bottle. This summit block is smooth and nearly vertical on three sides and, in addition, has great exposure on these sides, as those who have seen it will know. The fourth side is approached from the summit ridge where a kind of lay-back mantle brings one to a down-sloping ledge. The climb from this ledge to the top of the "bottle" is a good 5th class move with no possibility of an upper belay for the first climber. Ed, belayed on both sides from below, made this move to the summit. He placed a sling around the top so the remaining three of us could have the comfort of an upper belay while climbing in turn to the summit.

We had originally planned to traverse to Thunderbolt Peak on Saturday, but the approach of clouds and a cold wind made us decide to traverse instead to North Palisade and descend by way of the U-notch. The traverse to No. Palisade involved some 4th class climbing and one short, but exposed, rappel. We hurriedly signed the register of No. Palisade and continued on because by this time clouds were swirling about us and it was becoming quite chilly. The descent down the U-notch was not difficult because of the good steps kicked there by previous climbers. It was warmer down on the glacier but still cloudy and the snow there, unfortunately, was soft, causing us to sink in hip deep every once in a while, especially me after I had picked up my heavy pack. Our Sunday night campsite, where the others had stayed the previous night, was not ideal. It was off the snow but there was no vegetation around and it was exposed to the wind, which blew quite hard and cold, forcing us into our sleeping bags before dark. A few flurries of snow fell during the night, clearly showing that winter can linger long in the high country.

The weather cleared early Monday morning and the sun rose on a beautiful day. After breakfast we again set out across the glacier; this time with the goal of climbing the Northwest summit of Thunderbolt Peak. We ascended the first couloir to the west of the large buttress that protrudes into the Palisade Glacier from the crest. This couloir is steep but the snow was perfect for crampons and it presented a good route in which to gain altitude quickly. The couloir leads to a subsidiary ridge which is climbed over rocks and snow to a larger ridge rising to the crest. This ridge brought us face-to-face with the formidable summit of our objective. From the north, the direction from which we approached it, the summit appeared unclimbable as we looked at it from across a deep notch in the ridge. The few cracks and ledges on the large block did not present a route that we would even consider trying.

We dropped down a few hundred feet, crossed the main crest and approached the summit from the opposite direction. On the west side of the crest a cold biting wind was blowing so we were glad to drop back over to the calm, sunny east side again and eat lunch while debating how to proceed. After eating we decided to try to traverse around on the cold, windy west side to see if a route presented itself to the top. Ed led out, placing a few pitons for protection as he went; however, after progressing about 50 feet, he could
see no obvious route and returned with cold, stiff fingers as a reward for his efforts. We were about to call it a day when it was decided to take one last look at the east side of the summit, which from where we stood seemed to offer no possibility of a route. Upon closer inspection, however, we discovered we could climb to an exposed sloping, but wide ledge which led to the base of the final summit. We decided to at least inspect this possibility and so I led out about 50 feet, tied in to a piton and belayed Ed up to me. Ed continued on, first looking around the cold left side where he saw nothing hopeful, and then to the right where in the nearly vertical summit block ridge there was a small notch with a block in it. Ed disappeared around this notch, hanging part of the time by only one arm and I heard a faint cry from him exclaiming, "We have it made." Little did I know that the climbing from this point where "we had it made" would be close to the most difficult I have yet done and have tremendous exposure!

Eric climbed up to me, tied in, and belayed me over to the notch around which Ed had disappeared. I locked around and saw Ed sitting on a ledge which was perhaps 18 inches wide and dropped off vertically for at least 500 feet on the right. From the ledge the wall was very steep, but a route up some narrow ledges to a crack leading to the top could be seen. Still belayed by Eric, I joined Ed on the small ledge. There were no good cracks in which to place a piton, but we did manage to place a sling around a projecting flake, and into this I tied my waist loop. With a belay from me in this precarious position, Ed traversed up the small ledges above us, putting a solid piton in the first good crack he came to, which made us both feel more comfortable. From my position I could look over my right shoulder and look straight down the 500 foot drop from the ledge to the sloping walls leading down to the Palisade Glacier over 1000 feet below. For the first time I realized the exposed position I was in, but I was too busy watching Ed climb to be scared. Ed climbed to the base of the two-inch wide crack leading to the top, and finding no suitable location for a piton, put his last sling around another flake which was the final foothold before climbing up the vertical crack. He hesitated for a long time, almost deciding not to try it, before he forced his way up this crack. The crack was too narrow near the bottom to get a boot in, and so one had to pull himself up using an arm jam. With much huffing and puffing Ed struggled to the top where he sat several minutes catching his breath. I was not even going to try going up to the top, but Ed said he had a "bomb-proof" belay spot; and he persuaded me to try. With the help of the upper belay and much exertion, I finally joined Ed on the not-too-roomy perch on the top. The register found there recorded only two ascents in 1964 (one climber was involved in both of these ascents) and two ascents in the middle 1950's, but the small number of climbs of this difficult peak did not surprise us. Comparing our altitude with that of the main peak of Thunderbolt, we estimated the height of our peak to be just around 14,000 feet; one of the most difficult 14,000 footers in the country, we agreed.

After signing the register, we were faced with the problem of descent. Belayed by Ed; I at first tried to climb down the crack but could not do it. We, therefore, put the rope around a block and rappelled down to the flake
with the sling. The rappel was relatively short and easy, but needless to say, faced with the fact that a fall would send one falling over 1000 feet down the face of the mountain, we were extremely careful. From this point, by careful climbing back the way we had come, we returned to the others who had been waiting for us on the other side of the summit block. Ed said he was sure this was one of the hardest mountains he had ever climbed and I quickly agreed that it had undoubtedly been the most difficult for me too.

After climbing back around the summit, we had a long, beautiful glissade down the snow-filled Underhill couloir, which helped to bring us back to our camp in a little over an hour after descending the summit block. We gathered up our gear and started the backpack out to the cars which for some reason always seems longer to me than the backpack in. Down we went across the partially snow-covered moraine, past Sam Mack Meadow, on by Lakes 3, 2 and 1, following Big Pine Creek to the parking area. Upon arriving at our cars this weekend, all of us agreed that the Palisades area provides some of the most varied and exciting climbing in our Sierra.

(whew! typist)

Peak 13,520' ........................................ by Andrew Smatko

On the weekend of June 18-19, Tom Ross, Ellen Siegal, Dennis McAllister and myself started from McHurray Meadows, el. 6400', and hiked N. along the W. edge of the meadows and crossed Birch Creek where it was possible to do so, although it took some searching for a suitable crossing, as the willows and brush are very dense along the watercourse. About 300 yards beyond the creek we came upon a primitive road along which we hiked for a short distance to where a trail took off on the right. This is the trail mentioned in the Climber's Guide, and those interested in knowing the exact location of the trail can contact me or Tom for specifics. This trail ends in a sagebrushy flat at about the 9000' level and from there we picked our way up to a camp site at about 10,000'. There was plenty of water but the only wood available was dead willows and birch branches, although these did give us enough to cook by. The north face of Birch Mtn. from our camp was a most imposing sight with steep couloirs and precipitous cliffs soaring into the blue.

The following day we got underway at 7:30 AM & proceeded along the south shore of Birch Lake, coming across the remains of a large airplane. From the lake, the east face of our objective was most impressive, more so than most Sierra peaks. Other lesser peaks also presented themselves in an imposing array and the Thumb itself jutted high into the sky, although it was not as striking as Peak 13,520'. We gained the saddle between the Thumb and peak 13,520' and proceeded along the west side immediately below the crest heading southward. Most of the climbing was over large talus blocks and of Class II difficulty. A few short class III pitches were encountered around some ribs emanating from the summit region. The higher lakes to the west in the upper Palisade Basin were just beginning to thaw. Mt. Bolton Brown loomed to the south and it was our opinion that we were definitely higher; our altimeters did indeed confirm this. We had set them carefully at McHurray Meadows and

- 10 -
Peak 13,520 (Cont.)

they did not change during the night at our camp, so one can assume that the reading of 13,600' was probably correct. In fact, this same elevation was written down in the register on the summit, so someone else (probably Don Clarke) also registered the same elevation.

This mountain was first climbed by Norman Clyde. The second ascent was apparently that of Don Clarke who climbed up from the west up a gully to the ridge and thence to the summit. The third ascent was by Ed Lane via the same route as we took; ours was the fourth ascent. From our summit, the Thumb looked easy and we did see two people on its summit. From the saddle between the two peaks, the Thumb appeared to be no more than Class II.

A visible storm in the region of Huir Pass decided us to return as quickly as possible, and several long glissades hastened our return to the packs. It did not rain. The 7,200' drop to our car in the meadows went along swiftly, although it took us 13½ hours from start to finish in a leisurely fashion, taking several breaks, shooting many photographs of the surrounding peaks and generally enjoying the starkly beautiful vistas in this region of the Sierra.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More on peak classification.

Over the years, controversy has sprung up now and then regarding the SPS List of Qualifying Peaks. Comments from abolishment, to putting on every named Sierra Nevada summit have been voiced. The ultimate outcome of all this wrangling may not be seen for years, and once a decision is made, it could be subject to future rescinding. Nevertheless, ideas from as many members as possible should be voiced, as the culling of various proposals may help in reaching some kind of settlement.

One proposal I have heard, and I wish it were original with me, is that we (the SPS) select the two hundred most outstanding peaks in the Range and these 200 are probably already on the SPS list. The "list" should be set at 200 and if a more worthy peak should happen to be found, then, by the vote of the membership or an appropriate committee, one peak will be selected for deletion from the list. The selection of the original 200 should be voted upon by the entire membership and not be a select committee. This is the only democratic way it can be done. After this, addition and deletion can be relegated to a special committee. In order for a peak to qualify as a challenge to a peak on the "golden two hundred", it (the new peak) must be climbed on a scheduled trip and preferably by at least 10 or maybe 15 members, who could therefore render a worthy opinion.

The above is only one suggestion. Maybe the list could be shortened to a "golden one hundred". Emblem peaks could or could not be retained. In selection the original "golden list" whether it be 100 or 200, difficulty of ascent need not be accorded priority. Beauty of form, relation to surrounding
peaks, skyline profile, summit view, dominance of an area, beauty of terrain surrounding the peak (e.g., lakes, forest, streams) are factors one might have as a guide line. For instance a peak may look terrific from one aspect and be an easy slope from the opposite side. Nevertheless, the "terrific" side should be the side one should consider in making a decision. Lone Pine Peak is an easy climb but viewed from the east is most imposing — more so than Whitney. Arrow Peak from Bench Lake is a most beautiful mountain. University Peak presides over a sublime area. No one will deny the exquisiteness of form presented by East Vidette viewed from Bullfrog Lake. Clearance King is a noble peak from any direction and overlooks some of the most beautiful lakes of the Sierra. It is nothing to climb Split Mountain, yet its east face inspires awe in the observer. Mt. Wynne viewed from the basin south of it is a magnificent sculptured peak of beautiful symmetry. Devils Crag is awesome, even "fearful" from any viewpoint. Temple Crag, Norman Clyde Peak, Goddard, Scylla, Humphreys, Mt. Tom, Seven Gables, Bear Creek Spire, Mt. Gabb, Red Slate Mountain, Mt. Morrison, Iron Mtn., Mt. Ritter, Mt. Clark, Half Dome and Mt. Conness, to mention several others, all have "what it takes" to gain admiration from mountain lovers. In the northern and southern Sierra Owens Peak is a beautiful mountain viewed from the east in early morning; Spanish Needle Pk. has an imposing skyline profile; Roundtop is rugged in a wildly colorful setting, and finally Sierra Buttes from the north is as alpine and rugged as any Sierra Peak.

Having climbed all the peaks presently on the list, I strongly feel that the idea of Two Hundred Best appeals to me, and that several factors should be considered in selecting each one of the peaks.

The above views, I'm sure, will be accepted by some, rejected by others, applauded, ridiculed, scoffed at, admired, etc., etc., but I hope this will stimulate others to write in their suggestions and proposals. Whether a list will be made, or a selected list, or no list at all is immaterial. What is material is that newcomers, oldcomers, hikers, car campers, young and old be encouraged to come into the Sierra and by seeing, become believers in the beauty of mountains.

ANDREW SMATKO

(Typist's note: It seems to me that having a long list of peaks is a harmless practice, and the more peaks on the list the more it will encourage people to visit the areas — how many of us would bother to visit, and thus appreciate what it does have to offer, the far northern Sierra unless we were "inspired" by the SPS list. Then, if a conservation issue arises concerning some of these remote or far away areas, we will be much better informed for their defense. BJL)