Again, discussion within the Section has turned to a perennial favorite, the Peaks List. Around campfires (or tables in cocktail lounges) and at a very interesting September monthly SPS meeting, many comments and opinions were aired. So, it now seems appropriate to describe in some detail just what the Management Committee is attempting to do and why.

First, the intent is not to destroy the old Peaks List, but to perfect it. The central idea is to make the list a useful Guide to the Sierra, so that those who are new to the range, or those entering an unfamiliar region, would have some idea what peaks of all those appearing on the topo maps are really the most desirable. The present Management Committee has set out to do this in the following way.

In recent years, several active SPS'ers have climbed most, or even all, of the 240 peaks on the present list. These people, or at least those known to the Management Committee,* have been or are being contacted by the Mountaineering Committee and were asked to "start with the present list and improve it" by suggestions based on their experience. Specifically, they were asked to select the 15 Best Peaks in the range, giving weight to such standards as regional distribution, dominance of an area, attractiveness (beauty of approach, view from the top, etc.), difficulty/inaccessibility, and elevation. These were the standards under which the present list was largely formulated. This list would form the basis for possible revisions in the list of Emblem Peaks.

In addition, the above people were asked to select 25 Intermediate or "Star" Peaks which they regarded as "above average" (based again on their own experience and the above standards) but not really worthy of Emblem status. These Star Peaks would be another class of peaks between the very large number of "ordinary" peaks and the relatively small number of Emblem Peaks.
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (Cont.)

Then, enough other peaks were to be listed in order to fill out the list. A number of 100 was arbitrarily chosen. This IS NOT necessarily the number that would be on the final List. It is my feeling that this number would be much too small and that something like 200 would be a much better number.

These lists have not yet been collated. It would be surprising if the same 15, 25 or 100 peaks would appear on everyone's list. So, when the collating process was finally finished, the resulting list would probably be much longer than 100 peaks - 200 will probably be a much closer number. It is then the intent to round off this list to a convenient even number, and to "freeze" this number with a By-Laws provision so that any future addition to the list will have to be proven superior to an entry already on the list, which would then be removed. Such a provision would insure that the Peaks List would be continuously upgraded, rather than merely changed.

This provision (and therefore the entire Revised Peaks List concept) would have to be submitted for a vote by the membership. It should be noted that any change in the list of Emblem Peaks would have to be voted upon by the membership since it would require a By-Laws change.

The strong feelings generated by the subject and the wide range of opinions expressed about it are not actually surprising considering the size of our Section and the wide range of skills and interests possessed by its members. In the beginning, 11 years ago, the SPS had 20 members, most of whom climbed much the same way. Today, the SPS has 350 members who climb in very different ways. Naturally this is reflected in the mountains they climb and would therefore like to see on the Peaks List. So, since there is such a wide variety of mountain experiences possible, it is the SPS's duty, and intent, to try to accommodate all of them.

The revision of the Peaks List (and its possible gradation into several categories) is part of this larger problem of accommodating SPS'ers ranging from a "technical elite" of rock climbers and "death-marchers" to novice backpackers. Steps that have been taken to solve this problem include a schedule of activities greatly expanded over previous years and the new Fourth Class Climbing Program. Other steps that might be taken might include a Winter Climbing Program (setting up Fourth Class Ice & Snow Training I'll leave to a future Chairman), or the establishment of "Emblem Groups of two or more peaks near each other - some technical and some not - with the idea that one could count one peak from such a group towards his Emblem. This would allow greater freedom of climbing experience. Still - No. Palisade might form such a group, and Abbott-Bear Creek Spire could form another. And there still remains a "Beginner Gap", i.e., a person straight out of the RMTC really finds

*Those people who had climbed at least 150 peaks on the List were to be contacted. If someone meeting this qualification has not been contacted, he should inform the Chairman.
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (Cont.)

few, if any, SPS trips he is in condition to go on. And of course the "Woman Gap" which is quite familiar (and distressing) to bachelors on SPS trips. Perhaps it is time to consider splitting the SPS into technical subsections with greater freedom to arrange and schedule the events their participants are interested in.

If you have stayed with me this far, you must be very interested in this subject yourself and have some strong opinions on it. I would like to hear them, so pick up your pencil and write me (or the Echo) a quick note.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Change of Address

John Thornton's new phone number is: 370-0036. The mailing address remains the same--Box 1532, Manhattan Beach, Calif. 90266.

For Sale

Graham Stephenson is offering the following "goodies" for sale:

1. Renne Bars (whole grain bread substitute): 0.50/bag
2. Carne Seca (jerky): $3.00/lb.
3. Wilson's Hamburgers: $1/can
5. Sesame bars: $1/doz.

FALL--WINTER SCHEDULE

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<td>Crag and Smith</td>
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<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Monthly Meeting</td>
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<td>ANNUAL BANQUET</td>
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<td>Dec. 10-11</td>
<td>Black and Lightner</td>
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<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>3rd Class Rockclimbing</td>
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ITEMS OF INTEREST (Cont.)

New Food Products for Backpacking. Recently, a new line of one-pot, quick-cooking dishes, containing freeze dried meat and noodles and conveniently packaged in plastic bags, has been marketed by Lipton's. The meat is either chicken (Chicken La Scala, Chicken Baronet), turkey (Turkey Primavera) or beef (Beef Stroganoff) and do serve two as advertised. They are generally found on the shelves of most markets along with the rice and macaroni. Also, an instant macaroni (not necessary to drain), put out by "Golden Grain" is now available to supplement the instant rice and potatoes long familiar to backpackers.

Conservation

From the Fresno Sierra Club Section via Irene Rask comes this information:

A new study is being made by the Highway Commission prior to construction of a road through the Mammoth Pass area. The planned route would pass south of the Tioga Pass road and would not be functional year-round. Thus it would seem a needless expense (to be borne by the State and Federal Governments). For a look at the inroads this proposed route would make upon the Banner and Ritter area, write the Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, Sacramento, for "Trans-Sierra Route Via Minaret Summit Interstate #5 to Nevada State Line."

Once again it seems imperative that you write your state representatives, and direct protests to both the Highway Commission and the Governor.

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Great Kaweah (13,800’), July 2, 3 and 4, 1966 .................. R. Jali

Topo Maps - Mineral King, Triple Divide Peak & Mt. Whitney quadrangles - USGS
15 minute series

Despite the formidable writeup in the Schedule, 34 people showed up at Mineral King for the SPS scheduled climb of the Great Kaweah. Co-leaders Dick Jali and Frede Jensen led the group from the roadhead (7830’) at 0730. Many of those who had not been frightened by the writeup were frightened by the trail, for by the time the group reached Glacier Pass (11,100’) three hours later, several people had already dropped out. (Note: Glacier Pass is not named on the topo--it is the low point between Sawtooth Pass and Empire Mountain.)

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

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REMITTANCE: Must be sent to the SPS Treasurer (1966 - Graham Stephenson).

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: November 15 Articles should be typed double-spaced and mailed to the Editor: John Thornton, P. O. Box 1532, Manhattan Beach
Great Kaweah (Cont.)

Since no one was sure of the class or condition of various knapsack routes from this point (via Culmbine Lakes, or south of Black Rock Pass, etc.), the group dropped down to Spirit Lake (10,000') for lunch, went over Black Rock Pass (11,600') by 1630 and down to a campsite at the northern-most of the Little Five Lakes (10,600') by about 1800.

A group remained at Black Rock Pass to attempt the traverse to Mt. Eisen. Cold winds and clouds frustrated this group and they came into camp without the peak. One co-leader, Fred Jensen, had some very colorful and earthy descriptions of Mt. Eisen and the condition of the rock thereon, but since this is being typed by the other co-leader's secretary, these remarks will have to be reserved for other EPS trips.

The next day the group set out at 0715 for the peak. The route taken was N.E. directly across the upper end of the Big Arroyo (towards Red Kaweah); dropping into the canyon, crossing the river and climbing up to the High Sierra Trail on the other side. This means about 800' loss but is better than following the trails around to the north. The High Sierra Trail was then followed past a couple creeks to a point S.W. of the peak. Then the group ascended a ridge which leads to a saddle N.W. of the summit. This route is relatively solid and avoids most of the loose scree which has led to this peak being called "The Great Crud Heap." From this saddle the summit (13,800') was quickly reached; most of the group arriving around noon. 24 people (eventually) made the summit.

The summit is actually quite spectacular, with its steep east face and an unmatched view of the Great Western Divide and the Sierra Crest. And, due to the clearness of the day, one could see from the coast ranges across the San Joaquin Valley to the west, all the way to the desert ranges to the east. Certainly it was worth the climb, which is not as bad as advertised. After an hour on the summit, the main group descended, passing a few stragglers who insisted in going on. This group had its problems, including a lost Kelty pack! This pack, which was being used as a summit pack, had been left "behind a rock" on the way up and could not be found on the way down. A two-hour search proved futile. So, if some one wants a Kelty, here is where (sort of) he can find one.

Other SED's in the area ascended Red Kaweah, following the obvious straight ridge up the west side (class 2 and very cruddy). This group also attempted the Black Kaweah along the N.W. ridge (high Class 3, and very slow) but were turned back due to lack of time.

The entire trip to the peak and back leads through some very beautiful country; with forests, meadows, lakes and little waterfalls. On the return trip, this co-leader used his duty to stay behind the group as a splendid excuse to 'enjoy' and take pictures of some high meadows and forests with the jagged spires of the Kaweah Ridge in the background. Then a leisurely walk in the warm sunshine back to camp. Most people were in by 1700 with the stragglers arriving some hours later.

The next day was spent in getting out over the same route used coming in. We left our camp at 0700, reached Glacier Pass in time for lunch, and were out by 1430.
Great Kaweah (Cont.)

It is quite a trip, with some 36 miles hiking and about 12,500' gain, but it leads through an extremely pleasant area and is certainly worth the effort. In order to add a more interesting mountain to the trip (although the Great Kaweah isn't that bad, the Black, Red and Great Kaweahs might be designated an "Emblem Group" with any one of them counting as a peak toward the Emblem requirement. This idea might also apply to Sill and North Palisade.

Mt. Clarence King, Fin Dome, July 16-17, 1966 . . . . . . . . . . . R. Jali

Topographic map - Mt. Pinchot quadrangle USGS 15 minute series.

Clarence King is one of the most spectacular peaks in the Sierra and is "generally conceded to be one of the most difficult ascents of the Sierra" (Norman Clyde). It is also relatively inaccessible and is a nice three-day trip. However, the SPS scheduled trip, led by Gordon MacLeod and Don Anderson, did it in two days, along with Fin Dome; and two members of the group, Roy Michel and Joe DeVries, climbed Bago and Gould on the way into camp.

Nineteen people left the Onion Valley roadhead (9200') at 0800 and started up the steep trail toward Golden Trout Lake and on up to the col just north of Dragon Peak (12,400'). Although a few people turned back, the rest quickly dropped down a long scree slope to Dragon Lake for lunch. A trail drops from Dragon Lake to Rae Lakes and then goes up to a pass just south of Fin Dome, a low (11,639') but spectacular landmark dominating this area of beautiful blue lakes. Despite the hour (1600), the group dropped their packs and set out for Fin Dome. The best route up Fin Dome is up the SW "side" by the ducked route described in the Climber's Guide. However, the group tackled the NW side and found that several roped pitches were necessary. The summit was reached by 13 climbers who briefly enjoyed the view before descending. The climb took about two hours round trip. Camp was made at the lake (11,200') just south of Fin Dome due to the lateness of the hour and the desire to avoid unnecessary backpacking.

Next day the party left camp at 0545 for Clarence King, following the trail to Sixty Lakes Basin and a "Scenic route" up to the saddle just south of the low but impressive summit (12,905'). From the saddle the route becomes a second-class scramble to the hole in the rock just below the summit which is described in Route 1 of the Climber's Guide. As also mentioned therein, the slab just west can be climbed (and was by several people) instead of trying to go up through the hole. Belays are desirable on the slab. The summit block is Class 4. Belays and rappels were rigged and two hours (from 1000 to 1200) were required to get everyone up and down from the summit. However, the entire group of 15 successfully completed the ascent.

Then the long way back. The group was back in camp by 1530 and, in order to have good trail all the way out, it was decided to go out over Glen and Kearsarge Passes. The route taken was to contour south around Point 11,942 to the trail going over Glen Pass. The Pass (11,978') was reached by 1715. A fine, new trail high above Charlotte and Bullfrog Lakes gently rises to Kearsarge Pass.
Clarence King (Cont.)

(11,823') which we reached by 2000. Then a quick descent in gathering darkness brought us to the roadhead by 2130.

As advertised, there were 9000' of gain and about 29 miles of hiking (24 with packs). And with 2 peaks and 3 passes it was a full two days. But it was a good, well-conditioned group and the trip was completed without incident.


Saturday night we camped at the lower of the two lakes north of Golden Trout Lake, having climbed from Onion Valley on a moderately good trail. This is an excellent campsite, having good water, ample wood, trees and many flat and protected sleeping places. Unfortunately, it rained most of Saturday so that we did no official climbing above camp. Among the un-official wanderings on Saturday was a climb to the 12,000 ft. plateau west of Kearsarge Peak via the obvious chute from camp. The chute is class 1 plus a little easy class 2, and seems like a very nice route to Kearsarge Peak.

Sunday morning the weather was good, and a group of 13 climbed to the summit of Dragon Peak in less than two hours. The traverse to Mt. Gould took an hour and a half, and we picked up three additional climbers at the col for the second part of the trip. The route up Dragon was direct to the col south of the peak, and then up the ridge to the summit. We mostly stayed 20-50 feet below the top of the ridge on the west side, but sometimes rose to the top of the ridge where that was easier. The route was mostly class 1, with a handful of class 3 pitches of medium difficulty.

Returning to camp from Mt. Gould, we descended a scree slope and some talus to Golden Trout Lake. This is a fast way down, but would not be a good way up because it is so loose. From Golden Trout Lake we traversed to camp, climbing about 200 feet to a bench for the traverse to avoid a cliff at the lake level. There is a docked route just west of the trees on this bench.

Mr. Stanford (12,851'), Red and White Mtn. (12,850'), Aug. 13-14 ... Mike Hiehle

Ten S.C. members and 3 guests assembled at the McGee Creek roadhead at 8:00 A.M. It was concluded that the "13" number was all right because someone must be a split personality. Only six of the party expressed interest in climbing Stanford en route and they accordingly peeled off to Steelhead Lake. The others continued on to Big McGee Lake, where, due to the popularity of the area, good camp spots were gone. Camp was made along side the trail about a half mile from the lake.

After the climb up to Steelhead Lake, two of the six adventurers changed their minds and went 'over' the Steelhead-McGee pass trail to join the main group. The remaining four started for what appeared to be Mt. Stanford. Two got to the top of some unnamed, unducked and unhonored peak (but not Mt. Stanford). They dragged into McGee Lake at 7:00 p.m.
Red & White Mtn. (Cont.)

Sunday at 7:00 A.M., nine of the group assembled to climb Red & White Mtn. The route to Red & White follows the Hopkins Pass trail around Big McGee Lake. Where the trail starts up to the pass, a little lakelet provides the last water. Here we climbed a bench to the mountain proper. The route followed was up a red rock chute which, because of loose material, became dangerous. The path was then changed to an adjacent rib. Two of the group decided not to continue at this point and returned to camp. The remaining seven were at the summit at 10:30 A.M. and back in camp at 1:00 P.M. The whole mountain seems to consist of fractured loose rock, but if care is taken, there is no problem. Weather was hazy so the view was poor. A new register should be placed as the one used is an old S.C. tube. Several of those not climbing hiked up to Hopkins Pass and observed the ascent.

A leisurely trip out along the beautiful McGee Creek and its beaver dams completed the trip.

Mt. Henry, Aug. 20-21, 1966

Jerry Keating

What was billed as a strenuous exploratory trip to never-before-scheduled Mt. Henry turned out to be highly successful as on Aug. 20-21 all 17 participants reached the summit. Twelve climbed the peak Saturday afternoon and six (including one repeater) reached it Sunday morning.

From the Courtright Reservoir Spillway (8,170') a good but often dusty trail led 11 miles past Maxson, Long and Post Corral Meadows to Fleming Lake (9,724') where base camp was established. With Jerry Keating leading, the forward party completed the backpack in five hours, while the others required eight.

After relaxing in camp for an hour, the fleetfoots started for Mt. Henry, which rises to 12,196' on the Le Conte Divide. The route was via trail to Lower Indian Lake, thence cross-country to the Turf Lakes and up the second-class west ridge of the peak, a distance of four miles. Although somewhat dimmed by late afternoon clouds and haze, the panorama was rewarding in that it extended from the Abbot group southward to the Great Western Divide and included excellent views of Mt. Goddard and neighboring summits. By 7:45 p.m., all 17 participants were united in camp, and Don Anderson was heard chiding himself for leaving his summit pack on the peak. But Don's oversight was not altogether a misfortune, for he agreed to repeat the climb on Sunday morning and take along those who were too slow on Saturday.

This plan was carried out successfully, and the last man reached the roadhead about 7:30 p.m. Sunday as compared with noon for those whose only chore that day was to backpack out. While Mt. Henry provides no mountaineering challenge beyond stamina, it is among the more pleasant SPS qualifying peaks in that it offers a superb view plus a chance to visit a scenic area off our beaten path.
NON-SCHEDULED TRIPS

Canadian Rockies, July-August 1966. .................Barbara Lilley

A three-week hiking and climbing trip in the northern Canadian Rockies was taken during July-August 1966 by Sierra Club members George & Marcia Walterstein, Mike McNicholas, Alex McDermott, Rich Gnaey and Barbara Lilley. Arriving by air at Ft. Nelson, B.C., they and their supplies were flown by bush plane on July 23 to a landing strip near a newly opened copper mine on Churchill Creek (the previous day George and Marcia scouted the peaks and valleys in their private plane). On a three-day side trip, they made the apparent first ascent of Mt. Roosevelt, 9750', via the west ridge. The backpack to camp at 5500' began with an interesting stream crossing (rope used) and included about 1500' of vertical brush; the peak climb was non-technical altho ropes were used en route crossing glaciers. Next, a 10-mile ride downriver generously provided by the miners brought them to a cabin at Delano Creek where they waited out a day of rain; then packed up a mining road, up Delano and Magnum Creeks, to a camp at 5500'. From here, an attempt on peak 9381' was thwarted by continually stormy weather and route difficulties.

Returning to the mine on July 31, where hot showers and laundry facilities were welcomed, they hired the mine's helicopter to land their "airdrops" at a pass between Churchill Creek and the Gagata River, and also at a pass just west of Mt. Churchill (advantage of helicopter "airdrop" is not only can supplies be landed exactly at a choice campsite but can contain certain bottled liquid goods). A day's hike from the mine took them to the first "airdrop"; from a camp here (5500'), apparent first ascents were made of Peak 8900', south of the pass (via the north ridge) and Peak 9200, north of the pass (via its east ridge). Both involved Class 3 rock and snow. Next, after spending a day packing over the pass, down to the Gataga River and up to the supply dump below Mt. Churchill (worst brush of the trip), the apparent first ascent of Mt. Churchill (approx. 9300') was made on Aug. 5 via the west face (Class 2-3 rock scramble) in the best weather of the trip (it rained on and off nearly every day).

Then, with 7 days food, they began the 35 mile walk to Tuchodi Lakes by continuing south over the pass, up the Gataga River (camping one night by a side stream so that the water would drop enough to cross safely, even with a rope) and over another pass--goat trails very helpful--down the Tuchodi River to the Lakes. Altho one camp was located just below the pass, continuing bad weather (snow and rain) and general lassitude on the part of the majority of the climbers (not enough real "peak baggers") prevented any further ascents. They were picked up at the Lake by float plane on Aug. 12 and flew to Vancouver that evening to begin the drive home.

Identity of Mystery Peakbagging Nuts Revealed! .........Bob Michael

Andy Smatko has an article in the last Echo in which he describes an ascent of Peak 13,520. He says that from the top, "the Thumb looked easy and we did see two people on its summit." These two people were Don Anderson and myself,
who were watching a suspicious party on Peak 13,520'. We could hear their shouts; most in evidence was an unmistakably feminine voice, but who would have known 'twas none other than Ellen Stiegel. However, while the Thumb is indeed Class II from the south, we had come up the far more interesting north side. A short description of the trip might be in order before more people are waylaid by the typically free-and easy route description in the Climbers' Guide. To quote, "Northwest face. Class 4. Climb up a (note underlining) couloir of the NW face, then circle around the final peak to the S or SE slope." After Don and I had backpacked into the Grinnell Lake area with the intention of climbing Middle Palisade that weekend, we decided to get the Thumb that afternoon (har, har). Of course, the N. face of the Thumb is loaded with couloirs, and we naturally took the wrong one that took us to a false buttress hopelessly far from the summit. Also, Don lost his shades, making any glacier travel the next day out of the question. Thus we decided to climb the Thumb as a consolation prize on Sunday, having turned thumbs down on our original goal. The trick, as we had learned, is to enter the large recessed couloir well to the W. of the Thumb itself—almost to Southfork Col. It was steep and icy in the early morning, and as Don had forgotten his crampons, we went roped, with myself in the lead. Later the couloir became narrower as well as softer, and higher an enormous choke-boulder blocked our path. We worked up and out of a steep yard-wide chute on our right which contained the rottenest conceivable slush. When the going got impossible we worked up the wall (Class 4-ish) and out. A deft rappel into the neighboring dry class 2 crud chute brought us in fine style to the gentle summit slopes. A return over Southfork Col ended an enjoyable, if exhausting climb.

Had Don not lost his shades we would have the shocking experience of charging right into an ambush by the most suddenly-appearing electrical storm I have ever seen. While we were near the top of the Thumb a curtain of rain lowered on first the North and then the Middle Palisade groups. I would guess that at least 6 bolts hit the Middle Pal in a short time span. Pot-sa-ga-wa was having a real field day, and we came within a shade of being either charcoal-ized or at least unwilling participants.

COMING NEXT ISSUE - How to Climb Coyote and Angora Peaks and save 20 miles of walking.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The central purpose of the SPS, as stated in its bylaws, is to encourage knapsacking and climbing in the Sierra Nevada. One method the Section uses for promoting this objective is the maintenance of a list of qualifying peaks—essentially an honor roll of outstanding high points representing all regions of the Range of Light. Over the years the qualifying list has gone through numerous revisions and modifications—peaks being added and removed—until today, after a decade of Section activities, the number stands at 234 (240-ed.). After climbing some two-thirds of these peaks, it is my feeling that the summits listed have been wisely chosen and do, in general, represent the outstanding high points throughout the Sierra.
LETTERS TO EDITOR (Cont.)

The very existence of our wide-ranging list acts to encourage visits to all sections of the Sierra - including some less lofty regions that probably would be known to few Section members were it not for the existence of qualifying peaks there. Good examples are Three Sisters and Spanish Mountain, just to name two.

Recent proposals to arbitrarily reduce the list to a so-called "Golden 100 or 200 Peaks" seem inconsistent with the Section's stated purpose of encouraging the exploration of the Sierra. Any competitive peak listing would rule out many of the less-lofty summits in less-visited regions in favor of the higher rugged peaks of the Sierra crest. A limited list might tend to limit trips into the less well-known regions of the Sierra.

In contrast, it is my belief that we should add to the list - not indiscriminately, but selective additions of summits in regions still under-represented on the qualifying list. The vast Mokelumne wilderness area of the northern Sierra is unrepresented. The addition of Mokelumne Peak (8371'), highest summit in the region, would provide the list with the only qualifying peak north of Tower that could not be easily climbed in a day. The Madera Ridge just south of Yosemite is unrepresented - Gale Peak (10,693') would fill a gap here and provide another peak not easily climbed in less than a weekend.

If our qualifying list is viewed in its proper perspective - not as an end in itself but as a means to encourage and expand climbing in the vast Sierra Nevada - it seems obvious that any arbitrary limit of the list to the highest, most rugged summits would not be in keeping with the purposes or spirit of the Section.

JOHN ROBINSON