ASCENTS

LOOKOUT PT. AND SAWMILL PT., APRIL 20-21. ......................... Arkel Erb

Saturday morning 13 S.P.S.ers started up the Sawmill Pass trail from just above the Division Creek Power Station. Where the trail levels off we went up the SE ridge to the 3rd class summit rocks. Those who arrived early followed the 4th class east ridge to the summit. Those who arrived later were directed to traverse westward below the summit ridge and finally climbed 3rd class to the summit ridge—reached less than a hundred feet east of the summit. Early arrivals made the 5,000 foot ascent to Sawmill Pt. (9,460') in a little more than four hours.

By the time everyone reached the summit another hour and a half had passed. The sky had become overcast, the temperature dropped to the low 40s, and snow flurries had begun. Everyone was back at the cars in less than two hours, with those who made use of the scree having a faster descent.

Sunday we started from the end of a road to the southeast of Lookout Pt. (10,160'). The old road to the south of the valley, south of Lookout, was followed to the Bighorn Mine. After a gain of 200 feet above the mine, five of the 11 climbers turned back. The rest dropped 400 feet to the north, crossing a stream and continuing up the south slopes and southeast ridge to a very windy and overcast summit.

We had impressive views of the many ridges running down from the east of massive Mt. Baxter. A fast descent was made down the scree on the east slopes.

* * * *

CIRQUE PEAK, MUAAH MT., JUNE 8-9. ........................... Jerry Keating

A wintry setting confronted 20 Sierrans who gathered at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the new 9,300 foot roadhead on Cottonwood Creek for the scheduled climbs of Cirque Peak (12,900') and Muah Mountain (11,016'). Dark clouds hovered over nearby peaks and fresh snow coated the trees and ground.
ASCENTS, Continued

This June surprise notwithstanding, we embarked for Cirque, crossing the tableland above Horseshoe Meadow before heading toward a marsh below the peak's extensive SE ridge. From the marsh we gained the ridge and proceeded over easy but snow-covered rocks to the summit, noting the wreckage of a twin-engine Navy plane at the 12,500' level.

The ascent had been favored by mostly clear skies overhead, with the clouds keeping their distance. But the 28-degree reading at 2 p.m. hardly could be considered June-like by the 15 persons who reached the top.

We descended via the cirque SE of the peak, thence along the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, making a 12 mile circular route. An increase in the cloudiness, coupled with a hailstorm, speeded the pace, and we reached the cars at 6 p.m.

After a chilly night at the primitive campground adjoining the roadhead, we were roused by a steady snowfall starting at 6 a.m. Sunday. Leaders Jerry Keating and John Robinson canceled the climb of Muah in view of the six mile distance to the peak, leaving those who wanted a peak free to climb Owens.

The roadhead, reached via the Tuttle Creek road, eventually will be pushed to the base of Trail Peak to allow development of a ski area. The present terminus is near the Cottonwood Sawmill ruins shown on the Olanacha quad.

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KERN PEAK, JUNE 15-16

Driving approach: From U.S. 395, proceed 42 miles up Ninemile Canyon, over the South Fork of the Kern River, past Troy Meadows to a 'Y' in the main road. The left fork of the 'Y' drops to Beach Meadows, while the right fork yields the trailhead in half a mile at 7,800 feet. After passing the trailhead, the road continues on toward Lion Meadow, but is no closer to the peak. See a 1967 Forest Service map called "Restricted Motor Vehicle Area, Sequoia and Inyo National Forest." Harry Melts reports an even later forest map is due out this summer.

Topographical maps: Hockett Peak and Kern Peak (both 1956).

The trip: With Arkel Erb and Jerry Keating as leaders, 15 persons departed at 8:30 a.m. Saturday for the 12-mile backpack to Redrock Meadow (8,560'), passing Osa Meadows in three miles, a 9,100 foot saddle in 4.5 miles, Casa Vieja Meadows in six miles and Beer Keg Meadow in nine miles. The gross gain amounted to 2,700 feet going in (as compared with 2,100 going out). Camp was set up next to an abandoned guard station at 2:10 p.m. At 3:20 p.m., nine persons started for the 11,510 foot summit of Kern Peak, first ascending the trail to the peak's broad south ridge at 9,700 feet and then going the rest of the way via open Class 1 terrain. With three turning back, six reached the lookout ruins on top at 6:10 p.m. There we saw an earlier entry that day by Bill Wickmer and Art de Goede, who had come in from Cottonwood Creek. The return to camp was completed by 7:30 p.m., ending a 20 mile day.

On Sunday, while Arkel and Ruth Erb climbed the peak in the early morning, the others retraced their route to the cars, arriving in five to six hours.
Although Kern Peak offers no technical challenge, it is extremely remote and situated in a wonderland of deep forest and sparkling meadowland. Water was abundant in mid-June of a dry year, and there was no snow. Future parties would do well to sack out near the trailhead Friday night and get an earlier start Saturday in order to end the day at a reasonable hour. And anyone who plans to climb the peak should be in top backpacking condition and have tough, blister-resistant feet.

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**ECHO STAFF**

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**EDITOR:**
Susan M. Thornton
P. O. Box 1532
Manhattan Beach, California

**STAFF:**
Bob Mason - typing
City National Bank - printing
Juoy Hoeptner - mailing

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**PRIVATE TRIPS**

From a number of gung-ho climbers we have reports of "outlaw" trips. The following are some of the more unusual:

**TOWER PEAK, JUNE 22-23...Barbara Lilley**

Elton Fletcher of Lodi was generous enough (or desperate enough) to meet me at the bus depot in Stockton at 4:00 a.m. Saturday.

From Leavitt Meadows Campground at 8:00 a.m. we backpacked past Secret and Roosevelt Lakes, along the west fork of the Walker River, through beautiful Piute Meadows (and swarms of mosquitoes). We made camp at 9,200 feet on Tower Creek after a trip of approximately 16 miles.

Leaving camp at 3:00 p.m., we ascended the snowslopes directly above camp, crossed to the south side and climbed Tower Peak (11,755') by the route described in the Climber's Guide. The snow was well consolidated and we had good standing and sitting glissades on the descent. We reached camp at 7:00 that night.

Leaving camp at 7:45 Sunday, we reached the car at 2:00 p.m. (and cold beverages at the Leavitt Meadows store shortly thereafter).
Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to drive across Leavitt Meadows (private property). This adds about four miles and many ups and downs to the backpack.

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ARROW AND PYRAMID PEAKS, JUNE 1-2. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jerry Keating

Leaving Road's End (5,035') in Kings Canyon early Saturday, Barbara Lilley and I back-packed 11 miles to the 7,500 foot level on Woods Creek. From there we climbed a steep gully leading northward into the high basin holding Arrow Creek. The gully was brushy in spots and was interrupted by a third-class rock pitch over which a small amount of water was running, but it allowed us to arrive in camp at 4:30 p.m.

As our intent was to follow a route a mile to the east (used earlier by Gordon MacLeod) and leading into the basin immediately SW of Pyramid Peak, we should have followed the trail another mile, or three miles beyond the Woods Creek junction. But we erred without knowing it and therefore set ourselves up for an 18-hour "death march" on Sunday.

Our wooded campsite, we determined later, was at 9,900 feet on Arrow Creek. From it we proceeded northward Sunday to the top of a prominent ridge heading toward what we believed to be Pyramid. Once near the top, however, we found that we were on the Arrow Ridge. Instead of approaching Pyramid, we were nearing Arrow Peak (12,958').

Nevertheless, we continued on to the 2nd class summit, arriving at 10:30 a.m. By noon we had dropped to upper Arrow Creek and started to ascend Pyramid (12,777'). Since we had no lunch along, our pace was slow.

From two tiny lakes (11,040') NW of Pyramid, we gained the peak's west ridge via a steep, snow-filled chute and then went on to the top over Class 1 and 2 talus, arriving at 3:30 as snow flurries began. Twenty minutes later we scurried downward as lightning erupted nearby. On the lower slopes, patches of rotten snow slowed us, but we reached camp at 5:15 and enjoyed some food. Descending the steep gully to the trail, we crossed the log bridging the Kings River, over which three inches of water were flowing—just at dusk, in stocking feet and fortunately aided by a handline already in place. By 12:45 a.m. Monday we had reached the car.

The Arrow Creek basin is a remote, rarely visited part of the High Sierra and offers unspoiled beauty, ideal camping and a good starting point for the two peaks. Getting in and out of it, however, is another matter, for there is no trail and the surroundings are extremely rugged. How horse dropping came to be at the 10,400' level puzzled us—perhaps they signified a dedicated fish-bagger!

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ASCENTS, Continued

PEAK 13,259', JUNE 8-9. ..................................................... Andy Smatko

On the weekend of June 8-9, Tom Ross, Ellen Siegal, Bill Schuler and I climbed peak 13,259' one mile north of Mt. Pinchot.

We backpacked up Goodale Creek, staying on the south side of this stream and making use of overgrown, faint trail—man-made many years ago. We encountered an occasional duck.

We made camp Saturday afternoon at the small lake at the head of the south branch of Goodale Creek in good time. Elevation was about 1,400'(?), gain about 4,400'. That afternoon a brief snowstorm filled us with doubts as to the morrow. About dark the sky clouded over after having cleared briefly and at daybreak snow was still falling, with 4-5 inches on the ground.

Our aim was to pack up quickly, as treacherous boulder fields lay before us. When all was readied the snowfall ceased and the clouds miraculously vanished. A glorious, scintillating, bejeweled fairly land unfolded.

We decided to try for the peak and started out at 8:00 a.m. directly to the west up a curving couloir to the crest, which here was at 12,400'. During this part of the ascent clouds filled the canyons below us.

However, we proceeded, dropping about 400 feet to the lake east of Mt. Pinchot, moving in 10 inches of excellent fresh snow. The 1,260' climb to the summit proceeded via a broad field of snow at a 35 degree angle, steepening to near 40 degrees near the rocky summit.

You would have to view the extensive panorama to appreciate the wintery aspect presented to us. The rock-rotten ridge leading north to the massive south face of Striped Mountain looked long and difficult, Class 3. The NNE face of Peak 13,259' was steep and loose Class 3. The NW face was also loose and Class 2 to easy Class 3. The east and west ridges were Class 2. The south face presented steep cliffs above the lake and would not be practicable except for rock climbers. The SE and SW faces were Class 2.

We could not find a register in the summit cairn, so we left our signatures in a tobacco can wrapped in polyethylene bags. We returned via our ascent route to our packs and arrived at our cars at dark, again having some difficulty in following the vague trail.

Anyone interested in climbing Pinchot via this route would find the east face a formidable climb. Indeed, from this east side an ascent of Mt. Pinchot would be very difficult; steep and loose. There are many fine rock climbs up to 6th class available from our campsite. In particular a face 1,800' to 2,000' directly to the SSE would challenge the most ardent Yosemite Valley enthusiast.

These remote, seldom visited east side Sierra canyons offer fine exploratory visits and spectacular scenery—a worthwhile adventure.

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LETTERS

To the Editor:

I'd like to announce the beginning of a referral service for mountain climbers. We have organized a group of "host" climbers in the Cascades and Olympics to serve as climbing partners and guides for visiting mountaineers. We will also arrange all air and ground transportation necessary.

The costs will be reasonable, as all the host climbers are people with other full-time employment. The fee will be estimated individually for each trip, and will depend on the number of host climbers, the number of days for a trip, and the distance of the ground transportation.

Obviously we cannot take novices with no snow climbing ability, but we will give a bit of glacier training on each trip. All our host climbers have previous experience, have led glacier climbs, and are familiar with the mountains.

Anyone who wishes to use this referral service can pick any mountain in the Cascades or Olympics and call or write me:

Elizabeth Cuadra (213) 472-8201
12416 Deerbrook Lane
Los Angeles 90049

Another thought: are there any SPS members who would like to form a group of paid host climbers for visitors to the Sierras? Contact me!

Elizabeth Cuadra

"Nyet, Tovarisch!"
NEWS

CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE OPEN THOUGHOUT YEAR

Thought of by many Sierra Club members as first choice for ski trips and winter holidays, Clair Tappaan Lodge actually is open year around as a pleasant and relaxing place for vacations and weekends. A resident manager is always on duty; a professional cook prepares meals during peak summer months; and a baby sitter is usually available during the summer at reasonable rates.

There are trails for local hikes or walks, and nearby lakes and streams offer swimming and fishing. Riding stables are not far away, and Reno and Lake Tahoe are within an hour's drive.

The Lodge is located on "old highway 40" at Norden near Donner Summit. It is informal and is operated on a co-op plan. Facilities include a large living room, men's and women's dormitories, "cubicles" for married couples, work shop, etc.

Summer rates are $5 per day for adults (including three meals), with lower rates for longer stays, for children, and for infants.

More details may be obtained on request from the Sierra Club office or the lodge manager at Norden. For reservations, write the manager indicating the number of persons in the party and date of arrival, including first meal desired (no reservations to begin with lunch). During summer and fall, payment should be made at the Lodge, not to the Club office.

Address: Manager, Clair Tappaan Lodge, Sierra Club, Box 36, Norden, Calif. 95724.
Telephone: (916) 426-3632.

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Louise Werner sends us this word:

Carlos Perello, one of the four from Mexico City who climbed Picacho del Diablo last Thanksgiving, would like to recruit climbers for one of two peaks.

Carstene, unclimbed 5,000 meter highpoint of New Guinea, is also the highest point of an island. Or Cristobal Colon, highest point in Columbia, in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria.

Write to:
Carlos Perello
Centro De Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados Del Instituto Politecnico National A.P. 14-740
Mexico 14 D.F.
Mexico.

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It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Anita Ossofsky in a climbing accident in the Mt. Whitney area.

Anita was climbing McAdie Peak with her husband, Sy, and Barbara Lilley on Saturday, June 15. She slipped and fell about 300 feet down the mountain and was killed instantly.

On Sunday a joint effort by the Rock Climbing Section and the China Lake Rescue Team brought out the body to Arc Pass. The China Lake Rescue group flew a Naval helicopter to the pass to complete the rescue.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Sy and to Anita's parents.
From Faithful Member Jerry Keating comes this announcement:

A new road, from which two S.P.S. qualifying peaks can be climbed, was dedicated in May by the federal government.

Paralleling the crest, it connect Walker Pass Highway (California 178) with Ninemile Canyon Road, passing Lamont Meadows on the way. The first 11-mile stretch is dirt, and the remaining four mile section is oiled, but the entire road is well graded and two lanes wide.

At the 11-mile mark (from California 178) is the entrance to the Chimney Meadows Recreation Area (5,700'), which features several excellent campgrounds with piped water and modern pit toilets. Campsites are well spaced and located in a heavy forest of pinyon and digger pines.

From the end of the road in the campgrounds, Sawtooth Peak (7,970') lies less than three miles to the SE--SPS'er Elton Fletcher of Lodi led a successful climb of Sawtooth from here on May 26. Among those in the party were David (9) and Jim (7) Keating, who bagged their first qualifier in about nine hours' time. Care was required to avoid brush.

The other summit which can be reached from the new road is Lamont Peak (7,430'). Instead of starting from the usual point SW of the mountain, climbers now can begin higher at Lamont Pass (5,520').

The new road and campgrounds appear on the Auto Club's latest Tulare County map and also on a 1967 U.S. Forest Service map called "Restricted Motor Vehicle Area, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests." The latter is available from the Cannell District Ranger, P.O. Box 6, Kernville 93238.

Another new campground is shown in Long Valley, and the maps indicate the road to the South Fork of the Kern River at Rockhouse Meadow--from which Rockhouse Peak can be climbed--is once again passable.