NEW CLIMBING SCHOOL OPENS

Ken McNutt is opening a rock climbing school which will feature weekend climbing seminars in the San Fernando Valley, the San Gabriel Valley and at Idyllwild.

Qualified leaders will teach techniques in 5th and 6th class climbing with all equipment furnished (except boots).

The rate is $15 per person per day, and reservations are required. Contact Ken at P.O. Box 927, Topanga, or call (213) 346-8030.

FOR SALE

Eric Schumacher has some goodies for sale--again! He offers a blue tent for $25, a 7/16 by 150-foot goldine rope for $20. In addition, he has expedition food, packaged in 6-man breakfasts, lunches and suppers.

Contact your friendly salesman at 398-0680 for a food list and prices.

ECHO STAFF

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4748-G La Villa
Marina
Marina del Rey 90291

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Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1969

NEWS

COVER PHOTO

The photograph on the cover was taken by Tom Ross from John Wedberg's Cessna, January 5, 1969. It shows Table Mountain.

SECTION OFFERS THANKS

We owe a special thank you this month to a charming new Sierra Club member, Charlesann Mudd.

"Charlie," who is working on her fourth SPS qualifying peak, did the excellent job of typing for this issue.

EMBLEM PRICE GOES UP

For several years the SPS has been selling emblems to eligible members for $5.50--the exact price charged by the supplier. The section treasury has been absorbing the sales tax and postage for mailing the emblems.

These additional costs bring the real price to almost $6. Therefore, in order to eliminate this small but continuous loss, the price of the SPS emblems has been raised to $6 each.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Carl Lundquist has moved to 1543 So. Holt Avenue, Apartment 3, Los Angeles 90035. And Art Wester has moved to 14719 Valleyheart Drive, Sherman Oaks 91403.

Tom Ross, Box 93, Independence 93526, has been reinstated upon payment of his delinquent. Not that we were worried, Tom....

NEW MEMBERS & EMBLEM HOLDERS

We are welcoming two new members to the SPS this month. John Forester lives at 12301 Pacific Avenue, Apartment 5, Los Angeles. And Kent Volkmann lives at 1650 Bayview Drive, Hermosa Beach.

Carol Akawie is our sole new emblem holder--but she is making some kind of record. Carol is the third emblem holder in the Akawie family. This ties the Akawies with the Buehler family for second place among family emblem holders. The Elton Fletcher family with four emblem holders stands alone in the lead!
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Off and on over the past few years I have brought up the subject of obtaining our SPS emblem. In my opinion, the requirements to obtain emblem status are too easy to satisfy and are inconsistent with the emblem requirements of other sections.

A check of our latest membership list shows that 102 members out of 228—or 44 percent—have their emblems. I believe this percentage is too high, and degrades in a small way the status of having an emblem. Obtaining the emblem should be a goal one works hard for over a period of time. Those obtaining it should be recognized as being experienced, climbers active in the section. It should not be just another list for peak baggers to get on and forget.

A change in the requirements to obtain emblem status requires a change in the bylaws which must be approved by a two-thirds majority of members voting in an election. I plan to bring this matter up with the management committee. If it meets with approval, it will be placed on the ballot this fall for the membership's vote. I will recommend that, as a minimum to obtain his emblem, a member must climb 15 peaks on the SPS list in addition to 10 emblem peaks and be a section member for at least one year. It is the feeling of your chairman that this change will make our emblem more meaningful.

--Bill Hunt--

ABOUT THE SECTION ELECTIONS

At its August meeting the management committee decided to try a different approach this year for the selection of candidates for the annual section elections.

A nominating committee, headed by Dick Jali, will select a minimum of eight nominees for next year's management committee. This slate of candidates will be submitted to the membership at the October meeting. If approved, the names will be placed on the ballots. In addition, other names can be placed in nomination at the October meeting as has been our custom in the past. If these nominations from the floor are seconded and the nominees are willing to serve if elected, their names will also appear on the ballot.

The management committee believes that the nominating committee will ensure a good selection of qualified, willing candidates. Spur-of-the-moment decisions to nominate some one or to be willing to run will be avoided.

The ballots will be mailed to all active section members shortly after the October meeting. The returned ballots will be counted during the November meeting as required by the section bylaws. If you have suggestions for nominees, contact Dick Jali or any other member of the nominating committee (to be announced at the September meeting). Also, remember that the requirement to participate in at least one section activity per year to retain active status (and the privilege to vote in section elections) will be enforced this year.

--Bill Hunt--

SECTION CONQUERS 207 SUMMITS IN 13 YEARS

Since the SPS began scheduling trips—the first outing was May 5-6, 1956, to Deer Mountain with Frank Sanborn and John Robinson as leaders—thousands of miles of trails have been covered and hundreds of summits have been scaled.

Some section records are incomplete due to leaders' failures to report trip results. The schedule chairman found that of the 242 listed peaks, all but 35 have been climbed as
part of scheduled outings. This is a gratifying finding, as efforts have been made to offer all the peaks that can safely be led.

Following are peaks for which there is no record of successful ascent:

- Lippincott (scheduled in 1964 but apparently not climbed)
- Eagle Scout and Stewart (scheduled in 1969 but canceled)
- Hitchcock (scheduled in 1967 and 1968 but aborted due to rain)
- Observation (scheduled in 1966 but unsuccessful due to rain)
- Pettit and Volunteer (scheduled in 1966 but aborted)

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Any qualified SPS leader interested in leading any of the above in 1970 should contact me. Information about ascents of these peaks on scheduled ascents would also be appreciated so that records can be corrected.

--Jerry Keating--

HELP WANTED

Bill Engs, mountain records chairman for the Club, needs information about the following registers:

- Clyde Peak
- Cockscamb
- Mt. Connex
- Dick's Peak
- Mt. Gardner
- Mt. Gayley
- Grizzly Peak
- L. Cathedral Pk.
- Mammoth Mt.
- Monday M. Slab
- Mt. Morrison
- Mt. Muir
- Red Slate Mt.
- Round Top
- Mt. Ruskin
- Mt. Tallac
- Telescope Peak
- Volunteer Peak
- White Mountain
- Mt. Winchell

Some of these peaks need new registers, others need new register books. Bill would appreciate any information about the condition of these registers. New register books can be obtained from George Sainno. Old records should be sent to: Sierra Club, Mountain Records, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street, San Francisco 94104. The club is also preparing photocopy extracts of old registers to be placed on significant peaks. If you would like to assist in this activity, contact Bob Philpott.

LONE VENTURE

(This is the third installment from one of our young members who attempted to traverse the Sierra Nevada this summer - alone.)

Tuolumne Meadows, July 29... Dick Jali's letter affirmed his intention to meet me for the next leg of my trip when I arrive at Upper Cottonwood Creek roadhead in August. Then, suddenly serious, he shocked me with news of Ed Lane's death. The sun still shone brightly, but the morning had lost its cheerfulness at the entrance to Parson's Memorial Lodge.
LONE VENTURE, Cont.

Ed had undertaken the trying task of introducing a blundering novice--me--to the rigors of winter mountaineering with patience and without complaint. His companionship and advice will be sorely missed.

I arrived here on the 27th, after limping a 20-mile stint with an inflamed achilles heel, which, I am told, is the result of over-exertion. There's nothing for it but to rest here a few days, then continue limping southward using my ice axe as a crutch.

I have arrived at the half-way point of my trip, with a little over 300 miles recorded on my lug-soled boots. I look back with fascination to the radio transmissions from the moon which I heard near Sonora Pass at Leavitt Meadows Campground.

Nowhere have I felt more desolate and lonely than at Connel's Cow Camp, of "The Thousand Mile Summer" fame. There were no people for miles, and a swarm of persistent, biting deer flies hung a veil of depression over the day. I feel a growing empathy with the philosophy of John Steinbeck in "Travels with Charley." I find that I derive no pleasure in camping alone, miles from anyone; I want to discover not only the land, but the people who love it. And I will get the opportunity of pursuing my new purpose, for I am about to begin the densely populated John Muir Trail.

And so a truth is ultimately derived: the function of literature is to open our eyes to things we were previously blind to....

--Jim Jenkins--

ECHOLS FROM THE PAST

10 Years Ago in the SPS

An eight-man expedition comprised of several Sierra Peakers spent more than 3 weeks in August, 1959, climbing in the St. Elias Range of Canada. Included in the group were Bud Bingham, Barbara Lilley, Sy Ossofsky and George Wallerstein.

The group flew into Anderson Glacier, spent two days in carrying to a high camp and on August 11 and 12 made first ascents of Mt. Slaggard and Mt. McCauley. Both first ascents were of the highest unclimbed peaks in North America at that time. Exact elevations were not known, but Slaggard rises approximately 15,400 feet and McCauley 15,300 feet. High camp was then moved on a long traverse to 13,000 feet and a second ascent of Mt. Wood, 15,800 feet, was made in a strong wind.

A series of storms set in, preventing further ascents. On August 21 base camp was abandoned and the group retreated 30 miles down the Anderson Glacier to their plane pick-up point.

Barbara Lilley and Sy Ossofsky, leading a group of fifteen climbers, passed a nudist camp (abandoned only shortly before) on what must have proved an interesting approach to Mts. Corcoran and Langley in September. Sy, Frede Jensen and Graham Stevenson were so motivated that they climbed Langley the first day. The next day two additional climbers made Langley while the main party of ten climbed Corcoran.

New section members included Elywn Beach and Lothar Kolbig.

--Ron Jones--
ASCENTS

MT. STEWART and EAGLE SCOUT PEAK, July 4-6...............................Fred Hoepner

The trip was cancelled because:
(1) The High Sierra Trail was officially closed by the National Park Service,
(2) Stream crossings were very hazardous,
(3) The distance involved and the poor snow conditions would have meant an extremely difficult trip.

Maybe next year?

MINERAL KING AREA, July 3-5...........................................George Shinno

The heavy snow year required the rescheduling of this trip as a car camp. We met on Friday morning and made a decision to climb Vandefer Mt. that day. The climb to Farewell Gap and the peak was made in a leisurely fashion. More than a third of the climbing was on good snow with some huge snow trenches to surmount. The peak was topped by ten of us, with eleven starting. This climb is definitely better on snow than on talus. Back to cars, not too tired?

The Saturday objective was Florence Peak; the trail marked said eight miles to Franklin Pass. Franklin Lakes were frozen, with patches of blue ice showing. The climb of Florence was made to Franklin Pass, following the trail, then up the ridge to the summit, mostly on snow. Ten of us started and eight made the top.

The third day we climbed Sawtooth Peak by following the trail to the pass, then contouring up to the summit. The trail was obscured by the snow in many places, with our group not gaining the pass but going below it. Descending, we dropped too low too soon, and encountered Third and Fourth Class slabs above Monarch Lakes. Stay high until you reach Sawtooth Pass - then drop down.

Two climbers, Horace Ory and John Castel, made a rapid climb of Needham and returned to the cars about a half hour after our group. Seven of us started and six managed to make the summit.

Avalanche damage was visible wherever one looked in the valley. Many, many trees were broken off six or eight feet above the ground.

MT. ABBOT, July 19-20......................................................Art Wester

Able-bodied mountaineers, 10 from the Loma Prieta Chapter and 22 from our SPS, met at 8 a.m. at Rock Creek for the Mt. Abbot climb. A leisurely walk (for those at the end of the line, anyway) of 1,300 feet, four miles and 2-1/2 hours put us at a very pleasant camp south of Ruby Lake. The campsite provided wood, water and fine views of Mts. Starr, Morgan, Mills, Abbot, Dade and Bear Creek Spire.

After lunch 24 of us took off to climb Abbot, hoping to beat a building storm. On the snow field below Abbot and Mills, five climbers decided to attempt Mills while the remaining 18 attempted Mt. Abbot. As we reached the north ridge of Abbot we could see lightning flashing near the summit of Mt. Gabb to the southwest. We also saw that only four climbers were strolling along the summit plateau of Mills.

At 4 p.m. 16 names were entered in the Abbot register. First on the summit, bagging her ninth emblem peak, was Carol Akawie. Rumor has it that the two gentlemen leading the pack offered Carol the honor of being first on the summit in exchange for her company on an excursion to Hot Creek later that evening. Daddy (Dick, on his second ascent of this peak)
probably had some influence on the negative outcome of this offer. With ice-axes buzzing
and hair standing on end, we didn't remain on the summit too long. The section of descent
below the north ridge and above the snow coulter can be classified as a genuine Nastiff
(see Conquest of Tillie's Lookout, 1969 "Ascent"). Long traverses with the group held
closely together avoided the danger of stonefall.

A pleasant but wet glissade and a two-mile shag had us back in camp by 6 p.m. There we
learned why we saw only four bodies on Mills. Fearless Leader From the North was feeling
slightly sleepy when he reached the bergschrund. Selecting a comfy seat, he elected to
rest his eyes for a few minutes before continuing the ascent. You know the rest.

After Saturday dinner Ann treated some of us to the finest cheesecake ever experienced
on an SPS trip.

Sunday morning Fearless Leader From the North lead those climbers who had not done so
on Saturday to the summit of Mt. Abbot. The rest hiked out early to view the Apollo Moon
Walk.

THE HERMIT, July 26-27............................................................Dick Jali

The scheduled write-up must have been frightening, for only five climbers, including the
two leaders, showed up at North Lake Roadhead for the climb of Goethe and the Hermit. This
happy little group soon set out (encouraged by mosquitoes) along the good trail to Lower
Lamarck Lake.

From Upper Lamarck Lake a trail goes directly up the east end of the ridge just to the
south of the lake, or one can tred southwest up the steep snowfield just south of Point
12,396'. We went up the first and came down the second—probably the preferred arrangement.
From either it was easy to reach the Col by noon.

Three climbers set off for Mt. Lamarck, which the rest (2) dozed in the hot sun and then
went over the Col and down to the campsite at the mouth of Darwin Canyon just below the
lowest of the five lakes. After we looked at the featureless dome of crud that the topo
told us was Mt. Goethe, we decided that we were not really interested.

Despite a cloudy and cool Sunday, the group set out for the Hermit. We contoured a-
round to the north end of Evolution Lake, and waded across the outlet. Words cannot de-
scribe the stimulation of this experience!

Having survivied the wave, the group contoured high to the base of the Hermit, then
traversed a snowfield to the bottom of a conspicuous chute. The chute was a rock scramble
except for some interesting third class around two chockstones (two people used a rope).
From the top of the chute it was a short traverse to the summit block. Big Elton gave
everyone shoulder stands to the top, then two of us got Elton up! All were on top by noon.

As the last climber reached the top, hail began to fall. It did not last long, however;
soon it turned to rain. We headed down the face through scree, and returned low to the
chute by way of a ramp that leads off to the right (looking up) at a point where a buttress
appears to divide the chute. It was quick coming down, but might be a treadmill going up.

We returned to camp by the same route, with another delightful wading party, in con-
tinuing rain. We had visions of stumbling up the Col in a drizzling fog, but fortunately the
clouds partially cleared. Everyone got down to the roadhead by 8 p.m. We had covered
approximately 22 miles for the weekend.

Recommendations for a future trip include: 1) Have a big leader or other tall person
along, and 2) Limit the rest of the party to five or six people, as small as possible.
ED LANE PEAK, July 19-20..................................................Andy Smatko

Over the weekend of July 19th Bill Schuler, Dave Wallace, Tom Ross and I picked out one of our favorite climbing areas—the south fork of Bishop Creek—to climb some peaks on the crest. We backpacked to the Treasure Lakes to a campsite at 10,600 feet, the last one before nearly continuous snowfields.

After a brief rest we set our sights on Peak 13,050 lying 4/10 miles west of Mt. Goode. As we entered the large basin east-south-east of Mt. Johnson a steep couloir heading the same direction toward a notch near the summit seemed to offer a feasible route. At the top of the chute an easy Class 3 wall led up and to the front. After another 30 feet of loose Class 3, we reached the sloping summit plateau and the summit block. The north and northeast faces fell about 1,500 feet to the glacier. The ridge over to Mt. Goode also looked formidable.

In the summit cairn we found a register—a PPC—and before we opened it, we knew that we would find Ed Lane's name inside. Indeed, we did, and for a moment remained silent in memory and tribute to our departed climbing friend. Ed had made the first ascent of this peak in 1968 and ours was the second ascent. With one accord we agreed that a fitting name for this peak, in his favorite climbing area, would be "Ed Lane Peak." In an improved register we so placed the name and hope that through the efforts of the Sierra Peaks Section, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names will accept this name for Peak 13,040. Our altimeter, set exactly at 10,650 feet at Lake 10,646 only 1-1/2 hours before, read 13,050 feet. Ed's register shows he recorded 13,040 feet, so the peak is indeed over 13,000 feet and may very well be 13,050 feet, give or take 10 to 15 feet.

Later Tom Ross wrote to me that Ed's sister would much prefer to have a peak that Ed had made a first ascent of to be named in his honor. Her wishes should weigh heavily in deciding which peak the SPS selects to honor him. I, for one, feel that a proper peak should be selected in the range which he so loved and in which he climbed so extensively.

Tom and Dave remained for some time on the summit, while Bill and I traversed the Class 2 to 3 crest of the Sierra to the summit of Mt. Johnson, and thence returned to camp.

Next day we four ascended the steep snow chute of the standard route toward Mt. Gilbert. From the head of the chute we climbed Peak 12,560' just southeast of the saddle in the crest. In honor of our Apollo astronauts, we named this peak "Moonwalk Peak." Here we found a cairn but no register. Ascent over large granite blocks was essentially Class 2. We then dropped back to the saddle and climbed Peak 12,800 3/10 miles east-northeast of Mt. Gilbert and named this peak "Moonshot Peak." Both peaks are clearly visible, impressively so, from South Lake. Moonshot Peak was Class 1 to 2. We then traversed to the summit of Mt. Gilbert.

MISSING PLANE FOUND IN SIERRA

Barbara Lilley reports that the UC-3 missing with 35 passengers on a flight from Nevada to Los Angeles since February 18, has been found—but not on Mt. Whitney as many news releases have stated.

The plane had crashed into Hogback Ridge at 11,900 feet with debris buried under the 30 feet of snow which later fell. The ridge is located about a mile east of Mt. Tunnabora and would seldom, if ever, be visited by hikers.

"During the next three thousand feet I don't want to hear any jokes too good to keep."
MUIR’S METHODS

Barbara Lilley has dared your ECHO editor to print the following paragraph from the July 1969 issue of "Westways." This trusty mountain wife dares not refuse:

"When 'John of the Mountains' married on April 14, 1880, and started growing fruit in California's Alhambra Valley, he had an agreement with his bride to reserve midsummer to midfall of each year for the wilderness trips that were so much a part of his life. Thus, after only four and half months of marriage he was again in the Glacier Bay region..."

(Given the upright character of John Muir, one cannot doubt that Mrs. Muir was given equal time. Surely Mr. Muir took over care and feeding of children and pets each winter while Mrs. Muir headed for civilization? --Editor)

LITTLE-KNOWN SIERRA GLACIER

Lilliput is a mini-glacier, a remnant of the Little Ice Age 4,000 years ago. Although this glacierette is much older than most of us, it was not discovered until October of 1951 by artist Albert Marshall.

If you climb Mt. Stewart in 1970 (trail closure caused cancellation this year), you will see this unusual 20-acre glacier. Until it was discovered, there were no glaciers known to exist below 13,000 feet.

Marshall discovered Lilliput by climbing Alta Peak. From the summit he was looking at the Great Western Divide to the east when he noticed a small white patch in the cirque of Mt. Stewart.

Closer examination showed that Lilliput had a terminal moraine about 30 feet high and crevasses up to 20 feet deep.

This cirque is different from true glaciers, which are rivers of ice. Lilliput is small by comparison with other glaciers and has formed in its protected cirque. It has the same characteristics as mammoth glaciers, however.

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT SEEN

The senate has accepted House amendments to a bill to establish 5,000-acre Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado. When signed by the President, this area will become the first unit added to the National Park System under the Nixon Administration.
"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

Roy V. Keenan
4317 Paseo de las Tortugas
Torrance, Cal. 90505