Photo by Tom Ross, showing North Palisade and Thunderbolt with glacier, taken from John Wedberg's Cessna on March 15, 1969.
REINSTATED MEMBERS

Oh, how section election time brings out the dues! Reinstated members include Ken McNutt, Gene Gail, Nick Clinch, Eric Schumacher, Bob Van Allen, Jon Insekep and Howard Stephens.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Gerald Aikman, 8521 Adah St., Garden Grove 92641, Alan & Rosemarie Carlin, 627-J San Vicente Blvd., Santa Monica 90402.


NEW BACKPACKING FOOD

Barbara Lilley reports a new individual casserole food, "Tea Kettle" brand, is being sold in many local markets. They consist of freeze-dried meat and vegetables in an aluminum foil pan and are prepared simply by adding hot water.

Barbara recommends two per person; they are expensive but certainly convenient. (Editor's note: Each dinner is only 200 calories—so be forewarned!)

ECHO STAFF

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NEW COPY DEADLINE:
November 17, 1969

NEWS

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

We have two new emblem holders to welcome to the SPS this month. They are Gerald Aikman and Grenda Bausback. Congratulations!

NEW MEMBERS

And we have eight new members! We welcome:
George McKelvey, 338 E. Walnut, Costa Mesa 92627,
Judith Cohen, Cal Tech Dept. of Astronomy, Pasadena 91109
Ron Eckelman, 521 W. Hyde Park Bl., #17, Inglewood 90302,
Fred Johnson, 5 Roble Court, Berkeley 94705,
John Moore, 2707 Killingsworth, Orange 92667,
Keith Newcomb, 59293 Snapdragon Pl., Saugus,
Jay Wiley, Keck House, Cal Tech, Pasadena 91109,
Keith Rose, 4348 Crossevale Ave., El Monte 91732.

POSTSCRIPT TO SEPTEMBER ISSUE

With the climbing of Mt. Mills (during the Abbot trip) and Mt. Ritchie (during the Picket Guard-Kern Point outing), the number of qualifying peaks reached on SPS scheduled trips in the past 13 years has increased to 209! This leaves only 33 peaks unclimbed by the SPS. Anyone willing to lead one or more in 1970 should contact the schedule chairman, Jerry Keating.

BANQUET

An exciting program is scheduled for the SPS banquet this year. George Barnes, an SPS member now residing in the San Francisco Bay area, will describe the climb of Noshahq, highest peak in Afghanistan, in which he participated.

The banquet will be held Thursday, December 4, at Sir Michael's, 6309 E. Washington Bl., City of Commerce. $4.98 covers a club sirloin dinner, tax, tip, and a chance at a door prize. Don't delay—send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Fred Hoepner, 2736 Montrose Ave., Montrose 91020, for your reservations.

HONORS FOR A TIGER

Congratulations are in order for Barbara Lilley, who has wiped out all the peaks on the SPS list. Mt. Whitney was her first peak, climbed 20 years ago, while State and Marion were the last to fall.
SOMETHING NEW IN CLIMBING

Participants on the August climb of Half Dome and Clouds Rest report some unusual Sierra scenery. They report meeting "hippie-type" girls wearing floor length skirts—and no tops at all! (This editor would like to be the first to predict an immediate upswing in the popularity of Yosemite Valley.)

Another note from that climb: many hippies backpacking into Little Yosemite Valley were carrying only sleeping bags. Rangers report they have been depending upon others to supply their food in the back country. If you don't care to share your food supply with thieves, hide your pack and equipment.

DDT FOUND IN POLAR BEARS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has announced that preliminary testing of Canada's polar bear population in the high Arctic shows unexpectedly high concentrations of DDT residue.

The insecticide was found in the bear's fat tissues. Since the bears are at the top of a food pyramid, the DDT concentrates may become even higher in the future.

CLEANING DOWN PARKAS AND BAGS

The "Redwood Chips" (September, 1969) reports you can clean your down sleeping bag and gear yourself.

Make a soft soap with mild soap flakes, whip with an eggbeater or electric beater until the soap has the consistency of whipped cream. Wipe this soap onto the bag, a small area at a time, with a soft cloth. Wipe it off with another soft, clean cloth. Repeat if necessary.

This method doesn't get the down wet and takes off most surface soil.

Do not use a coin-operated cleaner on your sleeping bag, ever. If it is not properly aired after this cleaning, you can suffocate from the fumes left in the bag. Besides, the bag gets rough treatment from the machine.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Starting in 1970 the annual subscription rate of the ECHO will be raised from $1.00 to $2.00. This change has been discussed for several years and was agreed upon by the management committee earlier this year. When you consider that the postage for mailing 12 issues is 72 cents, it is evident that the increase is justified. Also, in my mind, there is no doubt that the ECHO is one of the best section publications around. For this we can give a well-deserved thanks to Sue Thornton and the rest of the ECHO staff.

The enforcement this year of the activity requirement of our bylaws to retain regular membership in the SPS is, as expected, shortening our membership list considerably. Again I want to emphasize that, as in the past, anyone may subscribe to the ECHO and all are welcome on our section trips. Former members may also become active again by participating in a section activity, reapplying to the secretary and continuing to subscribe to the ECHO.

Be sure to fill out and mail in the subscription form on the last page of this issue.

--Bill Hunt, Chairman--

ASCENTS

MT. ABBOT, July 20 – 21. .......................... Bill Rausch

More than a dozen Loma Prietan PCS members were met by about double that number from the Angeles Chapter Sierra Peaks Section at 8 a.m. Saturday at the end of the Rock Creek Road at Mosquito Flat (appropriately named!). We walked up the Mono Pass Trail to within a quarter-mile of Ruby Lake, turned off to the lake and followed a fisherman's path around the west side. By 10:30 we were settled down in a campsite a few hundred feet above Ruby Lake and a short walk from Mills Lake.
ASCENTS, cont.

After a leisurely lunch about 24 climbers set off for Mts. Mills and Abbot. We started from camp with sunny skies overhead, but by the time we reached the cirque below the peaks, thunderheads towered over the crest. Six of us split off to pursue the couloir route up Mills before the weather god, Huey, could claim it for his own. One climber found the Third Class rock above the couloir beyond his ability and took a nap in the couloir itself! From here he could see a long, thin line of dots inching up the north couloir of Mt. Abbot.

Although the summit of Mills is some 400 feet lower than Abbot, the two parties arrived on top at approximately the same time. They were met by some of Huey's minions—an electrifying experience on both summits. A short session of St. Elmo's Fire Drill was held as blue corona discharges haloed around ice axes and hair stood on end. No one dallied on the descents, and all were back in camp around 6:30 p.m. without incident.

Less than an hour later the evening sky was jeweled with stars as dinner was polished off by a cheesecake, miraculously created on the spot.

A dozen climbers turned out early Sunday morning for a try on Abbot -- on the day that two astronauts set foot on the moon. At slightly less expense, all 12 of our band made the summit of Abbot, arriving about 10 a.m. amid clear skies. We basked there for almost an hour (compared to the 10 minutes of the day before!) reading the registers and gazing at the vast, kaleidoscopic view that a main crest Sierra peak gives. Then back along the exposed ridge, to dodge down through crud-strewn shelves, and a fun glissade to the bottom of the cirque. This was the second ascent of Abbot in the weekend for Mike Lee!

Some of the group were already leaving camp when we returned, and some climbed Mt. Starr from Mono Pass on the way out. The trip down was fast and uneventful, although we had a welcoming party of mosquitoes back at You-Know-What Flat. Some of the group reunited for a soak in Hot Creek near Mammoth before dashing home.

MNTS. MENDEL AND DARWIN, August 9-10. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jerry Keating

The first SPS trip to Mt. Mendel (13,691') proved successful despite wet weather. It also showed that future parties should be kept small in the interest of safety.

With Rich Gnagy in Europe, Norm Rohn and I, with assistance from Art Wether, took charge of the seven-man party. From the North Lake roadhead the backpack over Lamarck Col to Darwin Canyon took five hours. Camp was established on a woodless but grassy bench at 11,900 feet -- just north of the highest lake in the Darwin chain.

At 2:30 p.m. six climbers departed for Mendel under darkening skies. The route went past a frozen lakelet to the south, thence to the western edge of the Darwin Glacier. From high on the glacier we sighted a chute angling back toward camp. After gaining about 400 feet in the chute, we traversed about 200 yards to the left (westward) on a wide ledge and entered a much broader chute. Like the first, it was filled with sand and loose rocks, prompting care in climbing. Even though there was a rockfall danger, however, the route was Class 2. Entering on the peak's northeast ridge, the broad chute took us slightly past the summit. Once on the ridge, we encountered easy Class 2 to 3 climbing until 10 feet from the summit. At this point, with the rocks wet from a 15-minute shower, we used the rope to gain the final pitch. One either can go straight up an exposed crack or traverse 20 feet on an exposed ledge before going up an easier crack.

Like Mt. Darwin, Mendel has a broad, flat summit plus an excellent view into the Evolution country. Fortunately the clouds had parted and we enjoyed sunshine during our 25-minute stay. We descended via the route of ascent, reaching camp about 7:30 p.m. After a hasty dinner, tube tents were erected as lightning flashed to the east. Drizzles fell during the night and it rained for an hour before we arose Sunday morning.

Steve Rogero and I elected to return immediately to the cars, while Norm, Art, Elton Fletcher, John Castel and Bob Mason decided to try for Darwin (13,830'). With rain falling at the top of the glacier, all but Norm and Elton turned back. The two were
rewarded for their persistence as the rain halted long enough for them to complete the climb along the standard route without incident.

The five-man Darwin group was reunited at the cars after a showery backpack out, ending another soggy but successful weekend. And who says it never rains at night in the Sierra? This is my third straight SPS trip during which it poured before daybreak Sunday!

MTS. STANFORD AND MORGAN, August 9 - 10. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dick Sykes

Have you ever heard the "oldy" about wouldn't it be terrible if all of the air collected on one side of the room and you were left in a vacuum? A variation of the "oldy" has just the oxygen collecting on one side of the room.

Something close happened on the Stanford-Morgan trip. Twenty females, all lovely in their assorted ages, sizes and shapes, were presented to be adored, admired, flattered, teased, and perhaps even led to a summit somewhere. You leaders of death marches—eat your hearts out!!!

Unfortunately, 25 guys in addition to leaders Bob Strommer and me, also showed up.

The five mile, small elevation gain to camp at Hilton Lake Number 3 was uneventful. Somehow one couple got separated from the main group and was not detected by the rear guard leader. They had a private weekend at Davis Lake.

In the afternoon about half the group practiced rock climbing. A half-dozen or so beginners learned to rappel and climbed some easy pitches under belay. The remainder of the group tackled several interesting pitches of fine granite near the end of the lake.

Unfortunately, the mosquitoes had well-established themselves and had a veritable blood bath at our expense. Saturday night was the hottest that most of us had ever experienced at that altitude. It felt like it never got below 60 degrees.

At 5:15 a.m., half-drowned in pools of sweat and half-suffocated by enormous piles of happy, blood-gorged mosquitoes, we hauled out in light rain to prepare an assault on our crud-heap.

At about 10 a.m. some 33 climbers got to where we felt the summit of Stanford should be. It wasn't. After three bumps on the ridge, we decided that the summit register was missing and improvised one of our own. It started to rain fairly hard just as four started for Morgan. The rest of us returned to camp and out that afternoon.

LEAVITT AND STANISLAUS PEAKS, August 16 - 17 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Roy Michel

Some of the participants were surprised to find "striking views of the Northern Sierra" from these peaks near Sonora Pass, just as the trip description had indicated—the panorama to the south included Tower Peak, Banner, Ritter, Lyell, the Clark Range, etc. All 14 climbers, including some BMTA types, made Leavitt on Saturday, enjoying perfect weather and a long glissade on the return.

On Sunday Jerry Keating took over co-leader duties from John Peckham, and all 16 climbers registered on Stanislaus, including the three Keating children. The youngest—Ionna, age four — took the easy way up: via kiddie carrier.

In spite of a few raindrops, half the party went on to bag Sonora Peak. This is unlisted but several hundred feet higher than Stanislaus. Their efforts were rewarded with a delightful descent along a watercourse teeming with wildflowers. This rockgarden had easily a dozen varieties of flowers in bloom and must rank as one of the most lush areas of the Sierra.
PYRAMID AND ARROW PEAKS, August 16-17

Departing the road's end in King's Canyon at 7:45 a.m., a group of six climbers started the backpack up Paradise Valley. At the upper end of the Valley the King's River crossing was accomplished easily via a log, although on the other side momentary difficulty was encountered getting through a "jungle" of heavy downed timber caused by avalanches and/or high water.

Finally back on Woods Creek trail, we proceeded about 2.5 miles to where the first unnamed stream from the north intersects the trail. This stream drains the large basin to the west and south of Pyramid Peak. Leaving the trail at this point, we followed the stream drainage up a very steep slope through a maze of mansonita, steep rock slabs and sand and scree. Adding to our difficulty was rain. We reached the lower end of the basin about 4:30 and made contact with Elton Fletcher and Ron Jones. They were returning from an ascent of Arrow Peak. Ron and Elton had backpacked part way to Paradise Valley the day before. On Saturday they completed the backpack to camp and then climbed Arrow Peak.

Promptly at 6:30 the next morning we proceeded up and across the basin to the north to the good Class 2 west ridge of Pyramid. There was one short Class 3 pitch to the summit, which we reached shortly before 9 a.m.

Since it was early and all members of the group agreed, we decided it was "go" for a climb of Arrow Peak. We descended the same west ridge of Pyramid that we had ascended. Ron and Elton left the group and dropped off the ridge to the south for camp and then returned to their cars. Paul Lipshon left with them.

The remaining five of us proceeded further down the ridge and descended to Upper Arrow Creek basin at 10,800 feet. Crossing this basin we climbed to a low, prominent saddle east of Arrow Peak. From here we continued up the eastern Class 2 slopes of Arrow via Route 3 of "The Climber's Guide." The Arrow summit was reached a little after noon. The view from this peak is great, but was somewhat hampered this day by low swirling clouds.

Leaving the summit at 1:15 p.m. we proceeded north down the ridge about 50 yards and then east, dropping to the saddle which we had ascended. This provided us with a fast, sandy ridge separating the Arrow basin and an unnamed basin (in which we were camped) at its low point. We arrived in camp at 3 p.m. Leaving an hour later with packs, we proceeded down the grueling and torturous slope to Woods Creek trail.

Norm Rohn and Bob Herlihy stopped in Paradise Valley for the night. Three of us dumbbells proceeded on out to the cars, arriving there at 11 p.m. What a death march that turned out to be -- 25 miles and two peaks in one day!

INCONSOLABLE AND GOODE, September 13-14

In contrast to the previous weekend in this area, we were blessed with fair weather and sunshine. The climbs were made with two sets of leaders--Elton Fletcher and me Saturday and Dave McCoard and Don McLean Sunday.

Saturday at 8:30 we started for Inconsolable, having changed our starting point to the South Lake parking lot on advice from a packer. There is an old pipeline that can be followed from the lot until it intersects the trail to Green Lake, making for very easy "cross country." We kept to the trail until the upper end of Green Lake and then took off up a steep slope of talus and boulders, crossed the saddle, then climbed nearly across Peak 13,356. We went down and up again to Inconsolable, with 12 climbers making the summit. Frank Yates climbed separately and stayed on the trail past Green Lake and then up to the top of the ridge before starting cross country. Future climbers are advised to follow his example.
Saturday evening several climbers left the group, some suffering from altitude sickness, and two newcomers were added for the climb of Goode on Sunday. At 7:15 a.m., eight climbers began to follow the trail to the upper end of Saddle Rock Lake, then up the bowl and the back side of Goode. All made the summit and returned to the cars without incident.

We were delighted to have with us this weekend an unusually large number (11 on Saturday) of Sierra Clubbers and guests who are not yet SFS members. We hope to see them with us again on future SFS trips.

COYOTE PEAKS, ANGORA MT., September 20 - 21. . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ron Jones

The 41-mile exercise scheduled for this weekend attracted only four participants. There would have been a few more (including assistant leader Art Wester) except that at least one car was defeated by an obscure roadhead, despite seven arrows marking directions. Further trips should have the turnoff described as being at the end of highway 190 at the Woody Pack Station turnoff. Cars are left near Junction Meadow, at about 7,850 feet on the Crest Trail Road (20381) at its intersection with the Crest Trail.

After waiting 45 minutes for latecomers, Don Anderson was selected as acting assistant leader and the group set off down the Crest Trail. We turned off the trail onto the well-marked Clicks Creek Trail at about one-quarter of a mile. This trail, fortunately closed to trail bikes, led downhill for six miles until we reached the Little Kern River at about 6,000 feet.

At this point we started the uphill portion of our climb, to our basecamp at Coyote Lakes at 10,100 feet. After passing through Lion Meadows we continued on for about one-half mile to the intersection of a trail, 32305, which is positioned incorrectly on the USGS topo map and actually starts up the drainage of Lion Creek. An alternate route, recommended by a hunter but untried by us, would be to continue on to the Willow Creek Trail (located on Forestry maps but not on USGS topo maps) and follow it to Coyote Lakes.

Just before reaching the Deep Creek Trail, after about 12 miles, one member of our party dropped out with a minor but aggravating muscle pull. From Deep Creek we turned north on a steep, dusty trail which climbed to the crest of the Great Western Divide at 9,700 feet. After about one-half mile of nearly level hiking, the trail begins its descent to Grasshopper Creek. Here we contoured cross-country, making certain not to lose any elevation, and headed for an obvious saddle (10,400'), east of Peak 10,889'. One should cross this saddle and descend to the Coyote Lakes.

After reaching Coyote Lakes at 5:30 p.m., the second member of our party dropped out. This left Don Anderson and me to climb the last 900 feet to Coyote Peaks (10,892') from the larger of the Coyote Lakes. Ours were the 13th and 14th recorded ascents of the peak from its first ascent 7-1-12 by a Sierra Club group of four led by Charles Michael. The next recorded ascent was 10-4-64 by Erb, MacLeod and Mike McNicholas. Then it was climbed 9-30-65 by Henry, Stephenson and Schumacher on a scheduled trip. The climb which pioneered our route was made 10-16-66 by Snagy, Lilly and Keating, and ours was the first climb since then.

After one of the most beautiful and quiet nights I have ever spent in the Sierra, the three of us backpacked out the way we came. At the great Western Divide Don and I dropped our packs on the west side of the Divide where the trail begins to descend to Deep Creek. We bagged Angora Mountain (10,202') in about half an hour. We searched thoroughly but found no register, so we left one at the summit cairn. The rest of the hike out was uneventful except for the six mile, 1,800-foot elevation gain from the Little Kern to our cars.

THE SPHINX, September 27 - 28. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Izzy Lieberman

Twelve climbers met at the road's end in King's Canyon Saturday morning, including two from the Bay Area, for a weekend of perfect weather and not-too-strenuous climbing. Four of the 12 decided they were tigers and set out to get Cross Mountain. But only Wally Henry proved
to be the real thing, making the top and returning to camp shortly after dark. The rest of us set a leisurely pace and got to camp early in the afternoon. We found a fairly good spot at about 7,600 feet, shortly after the Sphinx Creek trail enters the woods, but don't recommend it for a larger party.

The next morning 11 of us left for the summit, first crossing the creek at our camp and then following the series of gullies directly up to the ridge at about 9,000 feet. Turning right here brought us a few hundred yards further to the highest point of the Sphinx. From here it is a short rock climb down to the spectacular overhang that is visible from the canyon floor. The two leaders had made this climb in 1955 using only one fixed rope on an exposed friction pitch, but it appears that a piece on the face not visible from the top may have broken off, making the climb a bit harder. In any event, the route described in the Climber's Guide is neither correct nor the easiest way.

For anyone wishing to take in the frightening view afforded by this climb, we recommend a rope, a few pitons including one angle type, and the following route: After reaching the high point, continue down the ridge on the opposite side, heading north, for two rope lengths. This is about as far as you can go. Go beyond and to the left of the notch, but do not go into it. This part is upper Third Class. You can now see the north face, not visible from the top, and the rest of the route. Go to the right down an exposed friction pitch, one rope length to a more level rocky ledge. At the far side of this a vertical pitch of about 20 feet, rather devoid of holds and described by the four people who climbed it as middle Fifth Class, leads to the ridge just a short way from the top of the overhang. This last vertical pitch is the part that seems to be much harder now, indicating some of the ledge has fallen away, making it both longer and more exposed.

As you no doubt gathered by now, the leaders, as a result of wisdom brought on by advancing years, stayed safely on top and shouted directions to those making the climb down. The other five climbers chose to do likewise. After talking back and forth for a short while to those on the point below us (just a few hundred feet as the crow flies), they all made it back to the high point and we were back at the cars by 5:30.

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DENNISON Mt., October 4 - 5 ........................................... John Robinson

Eighteen participants, ranging in ability from veteran Sierra Peakers to rank beginners, assembled at the Clough Cave roadhead on the South Fork of the Kaweah on Saturday morning. Our destination was seldom-climbed Dennison Mountain, with a side trip to the Big Trees of Garfield Grove. Dennison is the western high-point of the long Dennison Ridge, forming the watershed between the Kaweah and Tule River systems.

Saturday morning we backpacked four uphill miles to a Sequoia-shaded campsite near the western edge of Garfield Grove. The trail is shaded most of the way and passes through beautiful stands of spruce, Ponderosa and white fir. Few pathways in the Sierra are more scenic.

That afternoon some loafed in camp under the Big Trees, some explored Garfield Grove and six hiked five miles up the trail to its junction with the upper South Fork, a mile short of Rockett Lakes. This Kaweah River country is superb with its fall colors, truly a delight to explore.

Sunday morning all 18 of us started out up Dennison Ridge behind co-leader Jim Jenkins. A steep pull through the Big Trees got the party to the ridge-top about a mile and one-half east of the summit. Fourteen adventurers followed the crest over several rocky false summits, occasionally through brush, to Dennison Mountain, enjoying a fine panorama of Sierra peaks stretching as far north as Mt. Goddard. We found a small, seldom-signed register left by Chester Versteeg in 1950.

The descent to camp was made in rapid fashion via steep Snowslide Canyon.

This Garfield Grove - Dennison Ridge region is certainly worthy of future SPS trips. The Sequoias include some beautiful specimens; the trail is scenic and well-graded, and the peak offers a fine view. The group recommended Dennison (8,650') for qualifying status -- it is a 5,000-foot pull from the cars and makes for a superb spring or fall trip.
Two friends from work — Bob Ryerson and Rich Kirts — and I spent a delightful week in the Central Oregon Cascades. We climbed four major peaks (the Three Sisters and Mt. Jefferson) and revelled in deep forests, broad meadows filled with wildflowers, and blue-green mountain lakes.

The Mazamas of Portland have published "A Climber's Guide to Oregon" which has excellent route descriptions and climbing time estimates. By using it and the Three Sisters and Mt. Jefferson (Oregon) quadrangles, USGS 15 minute series, we were able to figure our way up the peaks. The Mazamas rate the route in NCCS system rather than our more familiar decimal system, but we found that Grades 2 and 3 correspond to Class 2 and 3 — rather than Class 3 and 4, as suggested by the Guide. Also, we had no trouble making the climbs in the minimum times suggested, although perfect weather helped us.

We flew to Eugene, Oregon, on Friday night and drove to Frog Camp near McKenzie Pass Saturday. We then hiked to Sunshine Shelter near timberline.

The next morning after sunup we set out to climb North Sister (10,085') and Middle Sister (10,047') with five climbers from the Obsidian climbing club of Eugene. We hiked up to the col between the peaks and up cruddy volcanic rock on the south rim of the North (Route 1 in the Guide). The summit block, fortunately, is good rock and we did not need the rope we had brought along.

Middle Sister was quickly climbed after return to the col (Route 1). As is the case on all of these mountains, the most-used route has become almost a trail to the summit. The rock was again pure volcanic crud — annoying going up, but fast to descend.

We then moved camp a few miles south to Husband Lake for our go at South Sister (10,358'). We found later that a new trail not on the topo leads to a small pond closer to the peak. But no matter, as our camp was delightful and really wasn't that much farther from the peak.

South Sister was uneventfully climbed from the northwest (Route 5). The approach was beautiful, taking us through woods and meadows, and we avoided some of the cruddy rock by climbing along the edge of the Lost Creek glacier. We made the round trip in plenty of time to enjoy an afternoon swim in the lake upon our return.

The next day we returned to Frog Camp and headed north. The following morning we got a late start up the trail to Jefferson Park for our climb of Mt. Jefferson. The trail from the end of the North Whitewater Road to the Skyline Trail is not shown on the topo but is very good. In the park we camped at Scout Lake.

The park is just that, with clumps of trees, wide aisles of grass, many wildflowers and ponds and lakes. It was so beautiful that after our climb we spent a leisurely day just exploring it, swimming and eating wild huckleberries.

Our climb up Mt. Jefferson was via the Whitewater Glacier on the east side of the peak (Route 1). Except for briefly getting lost among some very large crevasses at the southern end, the traverse of the glacier was uneventful. One should try to stay high on this portion; it is easier. From the glacier, we went up the rather cruddy southeast ridge to the summit block, and traversed around to the west to the northwest side. There we found a Third Class route on good rock which goes to the summit.

We returned to camp, spent the next day in the area, and then returned to Los Angeles via Eugene. We had climbed four peaks in nine days, which may not sound impressive to some. But it would be a real mistake to rush, peakbagging, through this country. Much of its attractiveness lies in the near-timberline forests, meadows and lakes. The peaks are less enjoyable because of their volcanic rock, but they might be fun as snow climbs at an earlier date.
PRIVATE CLIMBS. cont.

MT. RITTER, September 13 - 14 ........................................................................ Fred Hoepner

The Climber's Guide, page 65, in describing route 6, states: "From Lake Eilisa proceed to the snout of the glacier and below it..." From the description it seemed that there should be no problem getting to the snout of the glacier, so my climbing partner Guy Williams and I proceeded directly toward it. An extensive cliff intervened. Not knowing even where to start looking for the usual route, we were forced to attempt to surmount the cliff via a route Guy thought might go. The route we discovered saves significant time and distance over what we later determined to be the usual route, as it is far more direct. There were no signs of previous use, and I thought this route might be of interest to other climbers.

While standing in the valley southeast of Ritter along the usual route from Lake Eilisa to Ritter-Banner Pass, one notes an obvious ledge with considerable vegetation running diagonally upward from left to right across the cliff below the glacier. Climb the slabs immediately to the south of a gulley at the south end of this ledge. This gulley must then be crossed at its head to get onto the ledge, involving several third class moves. From here one, most of the ledge is merely a walk. Several streams apparently emanating from the glacier are crossed at the base of cascades, one involving moderate but not extensive third class.

Once past this section, there is a place where the ledge splits, and it is possible to go somewhat downward onto some fairly wide benches. Do not do this—but proceed steeply upward on the rather narrow grassy ledge instead. Soon another ledge coming steeply downward from the left will be noted. Switchback and climb up this ledge. This is just beyond a buttress with the last scrubby pine trees (no more than bushes) to be seen. You will exit from the ledge system about halfway between the glacier snout and the south-facing cliffs of Mt. Ritter at which point the regular route is joined. An ice axe is unnecessary unless extensive snow remains, since the glacier itself is completely avoided.

MT. CORCORAN, September 14 ........................................................................ Barbara Lilley

While on an RCS trip to Meyers Lakes, Wally Henry and I reached the highest and northernmost of the "Corcoran Pinnacles," which has now been designated by the USGS as the official Mt. Corcoran. The register found on what appeared to be the highest of several summit blocks had been placed by Carl Heller and others from China Lake in 1958, with no entries since. Apparently the 1968 Smatko party did not reach this high point, which is the northernmost summit block.

We climbed the peak via chutes from the west side; however, we were able to return over the summit of Mt. LeConte, passing on the west side of Le Conte's pinnacle. It appeared that most of the Corcoran Pinnacles can be reached by descending and climbing the chutes on the west side, with a maximum of 500 feet of elevation loss and gain.

STATE AND MARION PEAKS, September 27 - 29 .............................................. Barbara Lilley

On Saturday, under sunny skies, Elton Fletcher, Art deGoede, Rich Graggs and I backpacked the 17 miles, 6,800 feet elevation gain, from Kings Canyon roadhead over Granite Pass to State Lakes (10,300'). Many flowers, grass, ripe gooseberries and even a few mosquitoes were left as reminders of the heavy snow year.

Sunday we climbed State Peak (12,620') in two hours via the west face and southwest ridge, then descended the northeast side and continued northeast, crossing two intermediate ridges to Marion Peak (12,719'). This was climbed by the southeast side. Thoughtful—and heroic—Rich carried a bottle of champagne and two goblets to this summit to help me celebrate the climb of my last peak on the current 163 list! Retracing part of our route, we crossed a saddle just north of State Peak and were back in camp after a 10-hour day.

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