A GOOD BUY

The quarterly schedule of the Mother Lode Chapter, which encompasses all or part of 24 counties in north-central and northeastern California, is a good buy for only 25¢. This chapter has knapsacking, rock climbing, peak climbing and gorge scrambling sections with a wide range of activities scheduled throughout northern California, the Oregon Cascades and the Basin Peaks of Nevada. Their current schedule (June 18 to October 11) includes peak climbs of several fine Sierra peaks. For those seeking new adventures, there is a swim tour section — no details are given. If you are interested, send a quarter to Mother Lode Chapter, P.O. Box 1335, Sacramento 95806.

NEW EMBLEM HOLDER

Congratulations to the first new emblem earner of the 1971 climbing season, NATALIE SMITH of Sacramento.

NEW MEETING DAY

Beginning in October the monthly meetings will be on the second Monday instead of the second Wednesday. The clubhouse will be used for basketweaving or similar activities on Wednesdays.

COVER PHOTO

This month's unusual cover format was inspired by JOHN ARDEN'S panoramic shot of Bear Creek Spire taken from the saddle below Treasure Lakes on May 30, 1971.

APOLOGIES

If we never published lists of names, we'd never omit anyone accidentally. And then how would we fill up this page? The editor is always distressed when she learns that an emblem holder has been slighted, as she feels that anyone who has earned that emblem deserves the little star by his or her name. (Has an honorary emblem ever been awarded?) Please note that MARK GOEBEL is an emblem holder and mark it on your roster. Also, add ARKEL ERB and LES STOCKTON to the Mountaineer's List in last month's ECHO.

Further, if any subscriber did not receive the March-April issue, please notify mailer Izzy Lieberman.

DARWIN DESCRIBED

SPS'ers John Robinson and Tom Ross joined skills in their absorbing article "Darwin: Monarch of the Evolution Country" in the May, 1971, issue of SUMMIT magazine.
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

DRIVING WHILE SLEEPY

Submitted by Duane McKee from a government publication

Driving while sleepy or drowsy is a deadly business which has escaped public attention to an amazing extent. No one is immune to sleep. Generally, there appear to be two types of drowsiness which affect drivers. One is a type of hypnotism which can usually be broken by a rest stop or a cup of coffee. The other springs entirely from fatigue and can only be properly counteracted by sleep. When one is driving, they are equally dangerous.

There is absolutely no excuse for falling asleep at the wheel and the courts have so ruled. A driver does not fall immediately into slumber as if he had received a jolt of sodium pentathol. He is warned of approaching sleep by drowsiness, and it is incumbent upon him to do something about it, no matter how inconvenient it might be. Crashes involving drivers who fall asleep will be severe, since there is no opportunity of braking or evasive action which might minimize the results.

If a spell of drowsiness cannot be broken by a walk or coffee, and there is no one else to take the wheel, the driver should not attempt to fight nature. He should stop and sleep, even though it might mean sleeping in his car. He should try to pick some lighted space like a corner of a service station, lock his doors and catch a nap. This is the simplest solution to a potentially fatal problem.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT: Driving alone is expensive, antisocial and dangerous. At least one passenger, preferably in the front seat, should be awake at all times to belay the driver.

THE WILDERNESS AREA ENTRY PERMIT

--Barbara Lilley--

The following information was obtained by writing to Forest Headquarters of Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests, the areas of most interest to Southern California hikers for Sierra hikes. Since these inquiries were made before the permit system actually went into effect on June 25, some items may be changed. The most helpful document received (from Inyo National Forest Headquarters but should be available elsewhere) was a brochure entitled "To the Wilderness Traveler" which contains a map of all California national forests and national parks, showing the location of wilderness/primitive areas and locations of all ranger stations.

Entry permits can be obtained from forest headquarters or from any district ranger station nearest the point of entry, either in person, by mail or by phone. Forest headquarters are closed on weekends, but all ranger stations, in the summer at least, are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (The ranger station in Lone Pine indicated they would be open until 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.) The permit is good only for a single trip; a separate permit is required for each trip. Only one permit is required for a group traveling together, and it must be in the possession of the trip leader. If the trip is to last more than ten days, an approximate route description is requested. Apparently the permit is required even for a one-day hike into a wilderness or primitive area. (Perhaps after the system goes into effect, someone could check on this.)
If entry is made into a wilderness area through a national park, the backcountry fire permit issued by the national park (which has been in effect for some time) will be honored in the wilderness area, and the Wilderness Entry Permit will be honored in the national park.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

Headquarters: Inyo National Forest  
2957 Birch St.  
Bishop, Ca. 93514

Wilderness Areas: John Muir Wilderness Area (east side entry)  
Minarets Wilderness Area (east side entry)  
Hoover Wilderness Area (south side entry)

District Ranger Stations: (open weekends)  
Mt. Whitney Ranger District  
Lone Pine, Ca. 93545  (714) 876-4545

White Mountain Ranger District  
151 Grandview Road  
Bishop, Ca. 93514  (714) 873-4207

Mono Lake Ranger District  
Lee Vining, Ca. 93541  (714) 647-6525

Mammoth Ranger District  
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546  (714) 934-2505

**SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST**

Headquarters: Sequoia National Forest  
900 west Grand Ave.  
Porterville, Ca. 93267

Wilderness Areas: High Sierra Primitive Area  
Domeland wilderness Area

District Ranger Stations: (open weekends)  
Cannel Meadow Ranger Stn.  
P.O. Box 6  
Porterville, Ca.

Hot Springs Ranger Stn.  
Rt. 2, Box 548  
Calif. Hot Springs, Ca. 93207

Tule River Ranger Stn.  
Rt. 2, Box 125  
Springville, Ca. 93265

Hume Lake Ranger District  
Sequoia National Forest  
Miranonte, Ca.

In addition, an entry permit for High Sierra can be issued by the operator of Boyden Cave, and an entry permit for Domeland can be issued by the Bureau of Land Management station at Chimney Meadows.

**SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST**

Headquarters: Sierra National Forest  
1130 "Q" Street  
Fresno, Ca. 93721  (209) 485-5000

Wilderness Areas: Minarets wilderness Area (west side)  
John Muir wilderness Area (west side)

District Ranger Stations: (open weekends, June 1 to Oct. 1)  
Mariposa Ranger Stn.  
Mariposa, Ca. 95338  
(209) 966-3638

Pine Ridge Ranger Stn.  
Big Creek, Ca. 93605  
(209) 893-3311
DISTRIBUTION STATIONS. SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, cont'd.

Bass Lake Ranger Stn.  Kings River Ranger District
Oakhurst, Ca. 93664  Trimmer Rv., Sanger, Ca. 93657
(209) 683-4665  (209) 855-2405 (winter)

Minarets Ranger Stn.  or Dinkey Creek, Ca. 93617
North Fork, Ca. 93643  (209) 841-3404 (summer after 6/15)
(209) 877-2218

High Sierra Ranger Station
Mono Hot Springs, Ca. 93642
(summer only)

NATIONAL PARK BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

These can be obtained in person at ranger stations located within Yosemite and
Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks or can be applied for by mail or by phone. The
information the national parks need is: Name and address of applicant, vehicle license
number, number in party, approximate itinerary, date and place of entry, date and place
of exit. Park headquarters addresses are:

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Nat'l Park
Three Rivers, Ca. 93271
(209) 565-3341

Yosemite National Park
Yosemite, Ca. 95389

ASCENTS

MT. GILBERT, April 17-18 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . R. Boyles & R. Keenan

Snow flurries filled the air as we rolled out sleeping bags, 2 a.m., at the South
Lake Dam. They were to stay with us the rest of the weekend. Nine would-be mountaineers
gathered at the lake Saturday morning in the cold, windy gloom for a try at Mt. Gilbert.
Seven actually started across frozen South Lake toward Treasure Lakes, a few miles up
the valley and our base camp for that night. Snowshoes were required shortly after
leaving the easy walking of the lake. The increasing snowfall limited visibility to the
local area, and, though it's hard to get lost on the way to Treasure Lakes, we were
happy to get one good fix on South Lake and Mt. Hurd around noon to show we were still
on course. We reached the windswept lake about 1 p.m. -- only six of us left now.
Heroic efforts by the leaders to demonstrate the technique of building an igloo were
frustrated by uncohesive, granular snow and an icy crust underlying the fresh cover.
Meanwhile, light to moderate snow whipped through the bowl containing the lakes -- this
is certainly an inhospitable camp in stormy weather.

Early morning found us brushing aside another few inches of fresh snow -- perhaps
eight to ten inches accumulation since we began -- and debating the weather possibilities.
Two more turned back for home, while the remaining four decided at least to give the
route to Gilbert a try and see how the storm developed. A half-hour or so of plowing
through various depths of drifted snow brought us to the mouth of the steep valley lead-
ing up to the Gilbert-Johnson ridge with the hard climbing all ahead. A fierce, cold
snow-filled wind was at our backs as we searched for sunny holes in the storm clouds.
A reasonably safe ascent seemed unlikely, and we turned back.
M.T. GILBERT, cont'd.

This is the second year in a row we have met the same end -- at least last time we made it up over the 12,500' ridge before giving up. Join us in '72 as the third annual attempt at Mt. Gilbert will undoubtedly find new discouragement but offer lots of winter experience in the snows and winds of the Sierras.

* * * *

KEARNSARGE & INDEPENDENCE PEAKS, April 24 - 25 ................. Roy Magnuson

On a windy but otherwise beautiful morning 24 SP'ers and guests signed in at Union Valley for the climb of Kearsarge. Two others refused to sign in but very shortly turned back. We took the trail that leaves from the short spur road off the Union Valley road, a short distance below the valley. The trail took us all the way to the easy summit ridge which we followed to the peak. As we scrambled up the ridge, the weather deteriorated and became very cold with a light snow fall. The temperature was 12° at 2 p.m. Everyone who signed in made the summit, but it was very cold indeed waiting for the last group. On returning to the cars, everyone scattered for warmer environments.

On Sunday morning a surprisingly large group of 16 reassembled for the climb of Independence Peak. The weather was very cold and windy. We headed cross country on firm snow toward Robinson Lake with considerable reservations about the climb. Our luck changed, however, and by the time we reached the lake the wind had died down, and it became ideal climbing weather. From the lake we climbed the loose slopes to the summit ridge and then had a fun rock scramble to the peak. Everyone reached the summit where we had a leisurely lunch and enjoyed the great views. On the return trip, while traversing a hard, steep snowfield, we discovered that three of the group had never used an ice ax. This required some hasty instruction after which we proceeded without any major incidents.

I wish to express my thanks to Bill Feldmann who brought up the rear on Sunday and provided valuable aid to some of the newcomers.

* * * *

SPLIT MOUNTAIN & MT. PRATER, June 5-6 ......................... Dennis Lantz

With scheduled leader Al Fowler out of town on business, Jay Wiley moved up a notch to leader; he still elected to trail drag on the trip in, while doing penance for a Friday night party at Cal Tech. After an hour of proving that Forest Service Road 10301 is the correct route, 20 climbers saddled up.

Contrary to the 1950 topo map, the "trail" is on the north side of Red Mountain Creek all the way in, starting with an unbelievable 600-foot scree slope from the road to a rock outcrop on the slope of Mt. Tinemaha. The indistinct trail winds from there up the canyon to a gravel flat (last sure water for 2,000 feet), then up another long scree slope. From there the trail is distinct all the way to Red Lake, except around a rock outcrop and through a thicket. The outcrop works as a low-level system, and a semi-ducked stream is the least painful way through the thicket.

After lunch, seven tigers, including Vi Grasso and Barbara Rosen, charged up Mt. Tinemaha by the obvious direct route -- which leads east of the summit block. Several disdained a scramble up the back and climbed the short Class 3 face of the block. The view of the Owens Valley is great.
The route up Split the next morning was classic Climber's Guide, but on crampons with step kicking up to the saddle. A whiteout threatened briefly, but abated as 18 climbers made the summit in spotty sunshine. Back at the saddle, only the leaders and one other wanted to go for Mt. Prater. Due to this and the speed of the group, it was abandoned. The descent was cautious, back down the steps on crampons, past the site of a fatal accident the week before. The pack out was routine, except for that 600 feet of scree at the roadhead. Sure seems shorter going down.

* * * *

MT. GOODE & MT. AGASSIZ, June 19-20 .......................... Bob Mason

Beautiful weather made this an enjoyable trip for the 73 (731) participants, including about 15 children. Three additional assistant leaders were deputized to help control the extraordinary group.

Despite several lengthy catch-up stops, the group spread over a half-mile length of trail.

The campsite, reached at 11:30, offered choices of 73 bedsites, either wet, rocky or slanty, but all well ventilated and with good views. Due to the absence of wood and a satisfactory site, no campfire was made.

Thirty-six hikers remained in camp, while John Isaac led 37 up to Mt. Goode. A rapid pace and some frighteningly steep ice-crusted snow put only 15 (25) on top, while I gathered up stray bodies from all over the mountain. Fortunately an accurate count of the 37 was achieved, avoiding the need for a 73-man rollcall at camp. Of the many children, only three tried the climb, and only Al Fowler's nine-year-old succeeded. The two Mason girls came close but ran out of time.

Large quantities of aspirin and dramamine were dispensed to the largely unacclimatized group.

At 6:30 Sunday, I led 24 tigers (no children) up Agassiz via the main rib, an easy and enjoyable scramble on fairly solid boulders and talus. The summit, reached at 11 o'clock, was windless and offered a marvelous view but no sign of our fellow climbers on Thunderbolt. The bottom few hundred feet of snow chute made a deceptively fast and exciting glissade, but with a good, safe runout.

Meantime, back at the camp, Al Fowler's ice axe course instructed many but graduated none. The party was released from camp between 2 and 3 in 12 groups of various sizes, each with a responsible leader.

* * * *

SPS ANNUAL WOMEN'S BACKPACK, June 12-13 .......................... Joan Hack & Eric Schumacher

Twentyseven backpackers, with only 12 males, one of whom was Clint Smitheman, nine months old, started from Fish Creek Campground at 8 a.m. on Saturday. From there, all hiked six miles along the Jackass Creek Trail to the base of Smith Mountain, where 17 people left their backpacks, donned summit packs, and climbed Smith. Then the group continued on to our camp near the crater of lush Albainia Meadows. Camp was made near a small, ice cold spring coming out of the meadow.

Sunday at 8 a.m. nine people left to return to their cars, four stayed in camp, while 12 started out to climb Crag. On reaching Crag (Clint stayed below the summit) the remaining 11 made the Class 3 summit, including two beginners climbing their first peaks, Sue Frolovsky and Michael Weinstein.

Returning to the camp, we picked up our packs and continued the five miles return to the cars via Hooker Meadow, completing the 13-mile loop trip.
ASCENTS, cont'd.

MOUNT MORGAN, THE ANATOMY OF A RESCUE
April 3-4, 1971

--Howard Stephens--

Because of partial information and some conjecture, the Mt. Morgan snow climb and
the subsequent rescue operation have aroused considerable interest and some controversy.
For this reason I would like to report rather completely on the trip from the leader's
point of view.

The climb turned out to be an interesting trip in several aspects. First, the Rock
Creek road being passable almost to the lodge, the perfect weather conditions, and
the beautifully spectacular views from the ideally-positioned summit made it an ex-
perience of unforgettable joy. Second, although a most planned trip, small errors in
the planning set the stage for the resulting emergency. Third, partially designed as
a learning experience for participants who were taking the Leadership Training Course,
it became a tremendous learning experience for the trip leaders as well.

All of us have favorite climbing areas, and the upper Rock Creek area is one of
mine. Often as I've climbed the more interesting peaks in the area, I've looked at the
tremendous Wheeler Ridge terminating in Mt. Morgan towering above anything else in the
region and wanted to climb it. But it looked like a long, dull climb. Why not a winter
climb? To make the most from it, why not an SPS trip to fill an LTC requirement also?

The two great uncertainties on a winter trip are the weather and the participants.
To solve these problems we made the date variable (April 3-4 or later) and required
advance information from the participants. At the trip planning meeting (April 1),
17 climbers attended: John Arden and son John, Bill Britten, Bob Eakin, Greg Eigh,
John Finn, Jurgis Gedugas, Bill Houze, Don Inman, Paul Kellow, Stuart Long, Roy
Magnuson, Jeff Moore, Ed Rose, Barbara Rosen, Ben Schiff and myself. Paul Kellow and
Jeff Moore were unable to go on the trip. Two others, Ken Berger and Dick RAMirez,
were unable to attend the meeting but did go on the trip. It is a coincidence that these
two became a contributing factor and victim in the "tragedy" which followed. Both had
been in touch with me previously by telephone, and we had been together on previous
snow trips. I had no doubt of their abilities and was glad to have them on the trip.

At the meeting we decided to try the climb as scheduled on April 3-4 (a call to
the Mono County Road Commissioner in Bridgeport had indicated that the Rock Creek road
was open for several miles) and that snowshoes were mandatory -- crampons advisable.
When Dick checked with me Friday morning, we discussed the necessity of snowshoes.
Since he had to rent them and since there is usually a firm base below the spring snow
in the Sierra, would they be absolutely necessary? It was reasoned that after seven-
teen pairs of snowshoes had passed over the trail, that the snow would be passable to
one without snowshoes. At the meeting time, 7 a.m., 16 participants and the two leaders
were ready to go. Seventeen with snowshoes, one without. Fourteen with crampons, four
without. We were happy to find the road passable to within a few hundred yards of the
Rock Creek Lodge. The early morning climbing was on fairly hard snow, and the snow-
shoes were carried. As the snow softened, snowshoes were used. We lunched at kenneth
Lake and the trip continued on to Francis Lake (10,900') where overnight camp was made.
In the latter part of the climb, Dick had experienced considerable difficulty on the
soft snow with no shoes. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the view from the camp was
spectacular. The mountain was partially snow covered, and it appeared that a snow route
could be used nearly all the way to the summit. For those without crampons, it ap-
peared that a rock could also be found. Neither seemed to present any technical dif-
iculty. The route lead up the gentle watercourse above the lake to a snowbowl. Above
the snowbowl a steep face fronted the summit plateau with the summit block sitting back
and above. The situation somewhat resembled the Mt. Baldy bowl. Snow gullies broke
the face, and one seemed to promise a fast snow glissade. Below the face the water-
course veered toward the right (north) ridge, where a gentler slope on either snow or rock lead to the summit block. The route (rated Class 1 in the Climber's Guide) was visible all the way. No problems.

The summit climb began about 7 a.m. (It had been scheduled for 6:30.) This delay was leading toward the developing emergency. Many were ready at 6:30 and were anxious to be under way. We estimated a three-hour climb; two hours back to camp; lunch and out to the roadside by early afternoon. It was especially important that Dick, without snowshoes, should get out early to avoid the soft afternoon snow. Impatience mounted. Why not let those in Dick's car, all capable and ready, go ahead. Why not? Should we use the glissade to descend? No. Time gained would not justify the risk. So the separation was made, and five went on ahead. All were strong and capable. All had crampons and ice axes. The slower group left only minutes later. All had ice axes but four lacked crampons. On the steeper snow these four climbed by the rock route. Fourteen cramponed to within a few hundred feet of the summit. Seventeen of the eighteen made the summit. The faster five were descending as the rest approached the summit. They expressed a desire to glissade the steep fulley. This was advised against, and it was agreed that some would "just go by and take a look."

The views from the summit were the grandest I have ever seen in the Sierra. The position of this peak east of the crest, its height above the surrounding peaks, and its position north-south near the middle of the range, and the perfectly clear, sunny day allowed perfect viewing of all the peaks and valleys on all sides from Whitney to Lyell, from the western Sierra and the Lake Italy region to the snow-covered white Mountains, including Boundary and Montgomery. All in best winter dress glimmering in the late morning sun.

Descent was mostly by the rock route, and crampons were not needed. Of the lead group, Dick Ramirez had bombed down the ridge in his haste to get over the softening snow as quickly as possible. Roy and Barbara had followed down the ridge. However, Ken and (I believe) Ben had gone by the top of the snow gulley to take a look and had decided to glissade down the gulley. Neither of the leaders (on the summit) was aware of this action. Near the bottom of the glissade Ken's left foot (wearing crampons!) struck against an ice front and was slammed into his crotch, punching a hole through his trousers at this point but not penetrating the skin. It did, however, cause a severe pain in the ankle. Ken painfully worked his way to the bottom of the chute.

when the rest of the group arrived, including the leaders, Barbara and Ben were waiting with Ken. Dick had continued on down (probably unaware of the accident), and Roy had already hurried down for help in the form of a helicopter or rescue party. The die was cast. We had no way to turn back from the rescue even if such had seemed desirable. Examination of the ankle seemed to indicate no fracture but only a painful sprain. The camp, about a mile down the gentle slope on the barren shore of frozen Lake Francis, now seemed a haven of safety. Relative comfort was there and room for a copter pick up. All members of the group participated in moving Ken down to camp in the following manner. Ken sat on his own poncho. His injured foot was resting on his good one, which in turn was supported off the ground by two members using a parachute cord nylon tied to the good foot and to ice axes carried by the two members of the party. two others held the front corners of the poncho and pulled it along to keep it in place, while two additional members grasped the victim by the hands and slid him along on his own buttocks down the slope. This proved to be quite satisfactory, and camp was reached by about 4 in the afternoon.

Since the group included many leaders, there was much discussion and many helpful suggestions. All participated and concurred in the decisions made and the actions taken. The unanswerable questions were: Would we be rescued? And if so, when and how? Since we were committed to it, we had to plan on rescue but we also had to consider that it might not come.

Our resultant plan was as follows: six of us would stay with Ken. George would take the other nine out, check up on rescue, etc., and notify our families. All left-
over food was to be left with the ones remaining. We would stay in camp awaiting rescue until 10 a.m. Monday before setting out on our own.

Although by Monday morning there was some improvement in the injury, Ken could not walk out on his injured foot. We were just finishing an improvised transport sled when, at about 9:45, three members of the Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue arrived with a litter and a canvas cover. With our victim in the litter, we had just enough manpower to drag him over the snow to the roadhead. The snow was very soft, and the going was slow and difficult. We reached the roadhead at 4:30 p.m. Chuck Spencer, Bob Thornberg and John Helmbold of the Rescue Group had performed willingly and well, and we were grateful to them. Our voluntary contribution to them amounted to $45. (I do understand that the Section as made an additional contribution since. Ed's note: $25.) Back in Los Angeles an x-ray revealed no fracture, only a sprained ankle.

After the battle is over and all the facts are in, by the wonderful gift of hindsight, the situation can be analyzed and the causes, direct and indirect, become apparent. Although we can now determine that certain actions and decisions led to, or contributed to the emergency on Mt. Morgan, we believe that at the time all decisions were made honestly and correctly in the light of the then-known conditions and previous experience. We offer this analysis not to censure anyone, but as a means of learning for those who may benefit from it.

Allowing one member to participate without snowshoes lead to the hurry situation which at the time seemed to justify error of separation into two groups. The usual firm base below spring snow seems to be lacking this year, making snowshoes much more of a necessity.

While keeping a group together does not insure against accidents, separation greatly increases the risks and greatly increases the problems after an accident occurs.

Although the glissade was not authorized by leadership, it was not really a bad glissade gulley, but it was a mistake to glissade while wearing crampons.

Getting out for the rescue was done hastily and without sufficient consultation. While we realize the concern to get out early on a Sunday afternoon, the question is -- did we really need rescue in the light of the nature of the injury and the fact that there were 17 of us uninjured with 17 pairs of snowshoes? Removed from the pressure of the situation and having had adequate time for consideration of the possibilities, the answer is no. We did have the manpower and the possibility to effect a rescue, although the means necessary to accomplish it did not occur to any of us at the time.

We greatly appreciate the Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue and their efforts in our behalf. We believe that this incident will increase our appreciation of our friend Ed Olcott and this fine organization. We believe that the Sierra Club, the Angeles Chapter, especially the Sierra Peaks Section, and each of us as individuals should support them in every way possible. As a new organization, they need financial support for new rescue and communication equipment. Contributions may be sent to Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue, Post Office Box 1297, Bishop, California 93514.

PRIVATE TRIPS

MATTERHORN PEAK, May 21-22 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Mike Morrison

Using the age old excuse most high school seniors discover this time of year (we cut), Chuck Harmon and I set out on Friday for the long drive to Bridgeport. Due to low clouds and rain, the desert was extremely cool with snow being encountered near Mammoth.
Starting out from Upper Twin Lake that evening (Friday), we hiked through light snow flurries and established camp at 8,500'. This was not your ordinary run-of-the-mill camp -- it was under a very large boulder! Lacking a snow tent, we found our 8 x 8-foot cubical to our liking and bedded down for the night.

Saturday morning dawned just as dismal as the day before, with clouds shrouding the entire Sawtooth Ridge from view. Starting later (as usual) than expected, we donned crampons and ice axes and proceeded up Horse Creek Canyon. The crampons became essential on a 60° snow slope just below Horse Creek Pass, making the ascent possible.

Visibility was now down to about 30 feet as we followed Route 3, as listed in the Climber's Guide. Approximately 200 feet from the summit we began to speculate (climbers speculate; they never worry!) about the final pitch over the snow and icy rocks, especially since we couldn't see a thing!

Someone or something must have liked us that day, for a second later a strong wind began to blow, whipping the snow off the slopes around us (it didn't snow that day) and driving it hard into us, the clouds began to break. The first thing to be uncovered was the 12,264-foot summit of Matterhorn Peak, our northernmost emblem peak.

Completing our climb quickly but cautiously, we were treated to an awe inspiring view of the Sierra, still dressed in her winter glory. After going through the better part of a roll of film, we returned to the pass by our previous route. Utilizing several long glissades, we spent a leisurely afternoon at camp before returning to civilization.

We saw no other humans while climbing that weekend, and the roads were virtually devoid of tourists. The week before a holiday is truly a rewarding time to visit one of our last remaining and rapidly disappearing wild areas -- the Sierra Nevada.

OUTINGS IMPACT
--Fred Hoeptner--

The Outings Impact Committee of the Chapter Advisory Council recently met and recommended upon several issues of interest to the SPS.

First the matter of requiring central commissary on all overnight trips was broached. The argument in favor appeared to be that it would tend to centralize the group within the camping area. The leader could then site the eating area on hard rock and there would be less disturbance of the ground. However, the many arguments against this system, namely, that the amount of preparation required by the leaders would be excessive compared to any small benefit derived, that people did not all like the same food, and that "chow time" for everyone would be governed by the slowest returning climber, resulted in its almost unanimous rejection.

The matter of group size was discussed. It was generally agreed that the social impact of large groups was a far greater problem than their physical impact. The Forest Service is suggesting a size limitation of 25 in wilderness areas as a standard policy. It was moved to limit all trips within designated wilderness to 20 plus the leaders. While discussion indicated that this would allow for a "slopoever" of three in case would-be participants without reservations appeared at the roadhead, no such stipulation was actually included in the motion. My attempts to amend the motion to allow a total of 25 including the leaders failed, and the motion passed as proposed. This would apply only to trips in designated wilderness, presumably including even local hikes into the Cucamonga Wild Area.
Next discussed was revision of the rule requiring slit trenches for toilet purposes in campsites. It was noted that the trench, practically speaking, must be located near the camping area in a relatively flat place; otherwise it is difficult to find. This is not especially desirable. It was moved, seconded and carried to have the trip leader designate the toilet location at all rest stops and immediately upon entering camp, said location to be at least one-eighth mile (if physically possible) from any water, trail, or other frequented area. White toilet paper should always be used (more easily degraded), and feces should be buried about four to six inches beneath the soil.

These proposals will go as recommendations to the Chapter Advisory Council, and if passed there, to the Executive Committee for final approval. Anyone desiring to comment should write to Murray Rosenthal, Chairman, Advisory Council, or to Bruce Collier, Acting Chairman, Executive Committee.

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Kings Canyon-Sequence National Parks: The wilderness proposal recently sent to Congress by the President is sure to provoke a major fight between conservationists and the National Park Service. At the hearings in 1966, 311 of 371 persons testifying asked for a larger wilderness than that proposed by the Park Service. Instead, the new proposal has deleted 26,737 acres of the original proposal, leaving 721,790 acres in two parks.

As feared, 12,500 acres of this deletion are around Mineral King. The Park Service has determined that this will be necessary should the planned Disney ski development be constructed.

5,400 acres have been left out above Giant Forest for overlooks into the high country. A one-eighth mile "management zone" has been deleted along the park boundary where non-park lands are not now classified wilderness. This totals 6,610 acres, and includes a strip of land between the proposed Kings Canyon wilderness and the High Sierra Primitive Area because the latter is not now wilderness.

Perhaps the worst part of the new plan are 32 enclaves within the proposed wilderness. These deletions range in size from nine to 482 acres and are said necessary to allow snow measuring devices and provide trail shelters and visitor facilities. One of these enclaves would include the Rae Lakes area. These deletions are not necessary under the Wilderness Act, and conservation groups will be fighting the National Park Service proposal when it reaches Congress soon.

---Jim Eaton
June '71 BONANZA

CLIMBING TRAGEDIES REPORTED

James Evans, 38, of Newport Beach, died in a fall on Split Mountain on May 30th, according to an article in the Inyo Register. Evans fell to his death in the afternoon after he lost his footing and plunged 400 feet down a steep snowbank.

A second, much-publicized accident took place on Mt. Ritter on Memorial Day when four members of a Sierra Club group (reportedly a San Francisco area singles group) lost their lives on Mt. Ritter. One man, Bill Alves, of Mountain View, walked into the Minaret Ranger Station in the afternoon of June 3 while search crews were still probing a Mt. Ritter avalanche for his body, according to the Inyo Register.
He told Madera County officials that he and his companions were within 200 feet of the 13,157-foot peak when a sudden snowstorm forced them to turn around. He spent the night in a snow cave and awoke to find two companions dead. The bodies of two others were found 1,000 feet below the cave, and Madera deputies suspect they were caught in an avalanche.

Since the five men, part of a larger 13-man group, expected to make the climb in one day, they wore light clothing and carried only candy bars. The dead men were identified as Glenn Walsh, 30, Redwood City, Gordon Howe, 32, Palo Alto, Bob Smith, 25, Santa Clara, and Richard Schroeder, 25, San Jose.

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL FORESTS

APPLY TO ONE OF THESE NATIONAL FORESTS FOR YOUR WILDERNESS PERMIT TO VISIT A WILDERNESS OR PRIMITIVE AREA:

(1) Marble Mountain
Klamath National Forest
1215 So. Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097

(2) South Warner
Modoc National Forest
441 No. Main Street
Alturas, CA 96001

(3) Salmon Trinity Alps
Shasta-Trinity National Forests
19810 Centennial Street
Redding, CA 96001

(4) Thousand Lakes
Lassen National Forest
707 Nevada Street
S comparable, CA 96030

(5) Caribou
Lassen National Forest
707 Nevada Street
S comparable, CA 96030

(6) Yoopa Middle Fire
Mendocino National Forest
420 S. Lassen Street
Willows, CA 95818

(7) Desolation
Eldorado National Forest
100 Farm Road
Placerville, CA 95667

(8) Mokelumne
Eldorado National Forest
100 Farm Road
Placerville, CA 95667

(9) Emigrant Trail
Stanislaus National Forest
175 So. Fineview Lane
Somers, CA 95220

(10) Hoover (For east side entry)
Tongue River National Forest
Main Post Office Building
Reno, Nevada 89504

(11) Minaret (For east side entry)
Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch Street
Bishop, CA 93514

(12) John Muir (For west side entry)
Sierra National Forest
3130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

(13) John Muir (For east side entry)
Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch Street
Bishop, CA 93514

(14) High Sierra
Sierra National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

(15) San Rafael
Los Padres National Forest
4700 Peach Avenue
Goleta, CA 93117

(16) San Gabriel
Angles National Forest
150 S. Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

(17) San Jacinto
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408

(18) San Gorgonio
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408

(19) San Jacinto
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408

(20) San Jacinto
San Bernardino National Forest
144 No. Mountain View
San Bernardino, CA 92408

(21) Agua Tabo
Cleveland National Forest
3211 Sth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103

HOW TO OBTAIN PERMIT Wilder-
ness Permits are issued at Ranger Sta-
tions and other Forest Service offices
throughout California. To obtain your
permit by mail, complete the attached
application form and mail to an ad-
dress shown on the map. If your trip
extends through more than one Wilder-
ness area, or more than one Na-
tional Forest, you should obtain your
permit from the National Forest where
your trip starts. (See map.)

NATIONAL PARK PERMITS. If
your trip starts in a National Park, get
a permit from the National Park office.
This permit is valid in any National Park
Wilderness and Primitive Areas.

SPECIAL NOTE. If you expect your
trip to last more than 10 days, please
include your approximate route
in general terms.
THE SIERRA ECHO
3300 Corinth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA. 90066

"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

Chuck Miller
23930 Via Flamenco
Valencia, Cal. 91355