TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.......  

Barbara Lilley is supplying this information to us to make sure that our complaints or questions go to the proper authorities.

It should be noted that it is the National Park Service (Department of Interior) rather than the US Forest Service (Department of Agriculture) which is restricting entry into the Sierra this year. The Inyo National Forest is issuing National Park Wilderness Permits as a cooperative service for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park for east side entry points. Permits for entry into only a Wilderness or Primitive Area under the Jurisdiction of the USFS remain the same as last year, but will, of course, no longer be valid in adjacent areas of Kings Canyon National Park.

NEW MEMBERS

This month we wish to welcome four new members into the SPS. Congratulations!

Dale Boren  
David Erikson  
Raymond Lantz  
Joe Vasilik.

PEAK LIST CORRECTIONS

Left Off –  
*Cathedral Peak (10,940) 3(S-4) Tuolomne Meadows  
( place after Vogelsang Peak in the Cathedral Range)  

West Vidette (112,560) 2 Mt Whitney  
( place after East Vidette in the Kings-Kern Divide)

Changed –  
The topo after Castle Peak should be Donner Pass.  
“Klop” should be spelled “Koip”

Sorry—Ed

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ten Years Ago in the SPS
by Ron Jones

The Spring of 1963 afforded good snow climbing conditions well into the year. The first scheduled trip of June was a beginner’s backpack into Domeland, led by Tom and Trudie Hunt. Bud Bingham was present to lead for the ambitious beginners-up-Rockhouse Peak. The next weekend (June 15-16) John Robinson and Jon Shinn led a group of 20 from Shake Camp up the Tule River from where new registers were placed on North Maggie and Moses mountains. Two weeks later John Robinson again, with Frank Sanborn subbing for Gene Gail, led 17 climbers from Devils Postpile to a snow covered campsite below frozen Ashley Lake. Sunday morning the party ascended the steep Iron Glacier, which has an angle of about 60 degrees on the steepest slopes and a cornice to climb over at the top. A tremendous glissade was enjoyed back to camp. On the descent the group met Jon Shinn, Sy Ososfky, Arky Erb, and Tom Ross climbing Iron Mountain after traversing over from Clyde Minaret.

Earlier in the month on a non-scheduled trip Arky, Tom, Neko Colevins, Gordon MacLeod, Ellen Siegal, and Andy Smatko climbed 13,832-foot Cal Tech Peak by going over a 12,800 notch just north of University Col. Center Basin was completely covered by 8 to 10 feet hummocks of snow. Several peaks were climbed by various members of the group (University, Bradley etc) and Andy led two persons to a first ascent of Peak 12,288 just west of the campsite in Center Basin. On the way out the group met Sy Ososfky and his RCS party who were thwarted in their attempt on the NW arete of University Peak.
USE PROGRAM TO AFFECT ALL OF
KINGS CANYON BACKCOUNTRY THIS SUMMER

All of Kings Canyon National Park's backcountry will be managed with visitor use limitations from June 15 through September 3, Superintendent Henry G. Schmidt announced today. Purpose of the program, Schmidt said, is to protect the fragile ecology of the Sierra high country from overuse and to provide a more rewarding experience for back packers by eliminating overcrowding.

During the summer of 1972, a similar visitor control program was in effect for the central part of the Park's backcountry, on an experimental basis, and that effort was so successful that the program has been expanded this year to include the entire backcountry area, Schmidt said.

"Daily entry limits at the 16 major trailheads leading into the backcountry have been set," he announced, "and the total number of entries permitted daily will be 510." The visitor limitation program will be conducted jointly with the U. S. Forest Service, Schmidt said. Seven of the 16 trailheads leading into the Kings Canyon backcountry are located in Inyo National Forest, which is adjacent to the park on the East and Forest Service personnel will handle entry permit at these points.
The use limits are based on a two-year study of visitor impact. From this information park officials determined the level of optimum use which the fragile alpine ecological systems can support and still be sustained.

Schmidt said backpackers may make advance reservations by mail for the summer season until June 14. One half of each day's entry limit for the summer has been set aside for assignment through the free mail reservation system. "Reservation requests," Schmidt explained, "should include a complete trip itinerary, with day of entry. Also, it is advisable to include at least one alternate entry date and route, in case the first preference is not available."

Beginning June 15, Schmidt continued, the entry permits may be obtained only in person on a first come, first served basis. Because weekends and holidays are heavy-use periods, Schmidt urged backpackers to plan mid-week trips whenever possible.

Additional information on this program is available from:

Sierra District Ranger
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, California 93271
Phone (209) 565-3314

Mt. Whitney Ranger District
Highway 395
Lone Pine, California 93545
Phone (714) 876-4545

(Taboose, Sawmill, Baxter and Shepherd Passes)

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

(North Lake and South Lake)

Schmidt reminded backcountry visitors that all pets, fire arms and hunting are prohibited in the National Park.

"This management program has a two-fold benefit. The environment is being protected and enhanced, and visitors are being afforded an opportunity for a rewarding backcountry experience," he concluded.
WILDERNESS PERMIT APPLICATION

Please supply the following information concerning your back country trip plans in these National Parks:

My trip will be in:

☐ Sequoia National Park only.

☐ Kings Canyon National Park only.

☐ Both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

________________________________________
(Applicant's Name)

________________________________________
(Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Dates of Trip: From (Mo.) (Day) To (Mo.) (Day)

Please list as full an itinerary of your planned trip as is possible:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
The number of people in the group will be __________.
The number of pack or saddle stock will be __________.
The place of entry will be ____________________ (Location).
The trip will end at ____________________ (Location).

________________________________________
(Date) (Applicant's Signature)

HELP US TO HELP YOU PRESERVE YOUR NATIONAL PARK AND WILDERNESS LANDS.

Please return to this office by June 1, 1973.
The Echo is borrowing a story from "Yeti Yelli" who happened to pass their new stand the other day, where certain secret documents were being sold and found this unbelievable story concerning the government's plan to create a new national park, based on the results of a survey to see what people really want out of their National Parks.

The secret survey first asked what visitors liked most about Yosemite. The results stated:
1. The tree you can drive your car through
2. The garbage dump, with the bears
3. Souvenir shops and the selection of postcards
4. Competent law enforcement
5. The Swiss guides scaling El Capitan.

They were then asked what could be best changed or improved. They stated thus:
1. Get rid of the hippies
2. Reinstitute the firefall
3. Dam the river for boating and waterskiing
4. Clear more forests
5. Pave the campground.

Some of the common complaints about other parks were:
1. Old Faithful was too irregular
2. The glaciers in Mt Rainier and Glacier parks were too cold and wet the feet
3. Boating facilities in Grand Canyon were inadequate
4. In Grand Teton, Rainier and other parks there was no way to get to the top of the mountains
5. In Olympic and Sequoia parks the vegetation was monotonous
6. One park lacked the features of another park; there are no glaciers in Canyonlands Park and no cactus at Crater Lake.

So the government, after a lengthy study, came up with this report, which we are reproducing in the public interest:
Hetch Hetchy Valley was the site selected for several reasons: (1) the land is already part of Yosemite National Park, (2) a dam and waterfalls exist at the site, (3) no shrill objections are anticipated from conservationists, since they had their say when the valley was damned fifty years ago, (4) a redwood tree need be transported only a short distance, (5) it is easily reached by residents of our most populous state, and (6) the name conveys a rugged wilderness image.

According to plans, construction will begin next summer, with the clearing of trees and vegetation, and the paving of the entire valley floor except for a marked nature trail, ¾ mile long and 10 feet wide. Scaffolding will be erected in the distance behind both sides of the valley for the backdrops, on which will be painted scenes from the Swiss Alps.

Late in 1974 holds will be cut and eye bolts placed in the sheer cliff where the Swiss guides will scale. On the recommendation of Grand Teton Park officials, no other climbing will be permitted. The snowmaking machine will begin operation, so that the glacier will extend to the valley by the anticipated opening of the park in 1975.

Only minor projects will remain for the Spring of 1975. Logs for the firefall will be moved to the top of Kolona Rock. Bears will be brought from other parks and fences erected to keep them near the campgrounds. Indians will be recruited to form the local tribe and their fiberglass tepees set up.

A proposal, not yet authorized, but under advisement, would erect a plastic dome over the entire valley to guarantee year-round good weather.

Publicity for the park has not been overlooked. In 1974 a series of commercials to be shown on Los Angeles and San Francisco television will feature happy families watching the firefall and feeding bears, and clean-cut rangers removing hippie types.

"Man, what a rip-off! Ten bucks a night, and a three day wait for the nature trail!"
ASCENTS

SPS ROCK CLIMBING PRACTICE, Joshua Tree, April 7–8 ........................................ Dan Eaton

The weather was fine and the company good, but the task seemed enormous. One needed as many arms as Shiva, at worst, and could have been a prehensile centipede at best. Many thanks to those who so generously helped us with the instruction.

Such amenities as hot tea at lunch were enjoyed by the leaders, who had the good sense to hold the classes near their County Truck, also known as the Corpus Luteum. Saturday night featured entertainment by Maynard Brandsmo on the classical guitar. One observed a few toasts silently quaffed in his honor. Not unlike a college frat imploding itself into a phone booth, most of the group, it seemed, managed to get itself inside the Corpus Luteum to hear Maynard play. When the party broke up (out) it was like a sea cucumber enervating.

Sunday saw an exercise in multi-pitch climbing, and several aspirants had the Mountaineers’ List requirement signed off.

TROJAN PEAK, MT BARNARD, May 12–13 .................................................. Diana Dee

Assistant Leader Dave Gladstone called me from Phoenix at 3 PM Friday afternoon. “What plane are you coming in on?” I asked. “I don’t even know what planes there are, and I haven’t packed yet,” was the reply. And to make a long story short, the plane was full.

Inside the Sportsmen’s Cafe Saturday morning we were met by Mr. Vernon J. Burandt, California Fish and Game Warden stationed in Lone Pine. He talked to us about the bighorn sheep problem — the official estimate is that there are 225 left, but he thinks he’s seen all 85 of them. He asked us to let him know if we saw any sheep. (We didn’t.) He also said that he, with the support of the Sierra Club, was the main person responsible for thwarting the plans to develop the Cottonwood Springs area (ski resort, condominiums, . . .).

Twenty assorted climbers were outside the cafe at 7 AM to sign in. All but three had been carefully “screened” as to past experience. Two were from San Francisco, and had not been contacted because their letter had not been forwarded to Dave until Thursday; they were obviously OK. While I was running around trying to get organized and get everyone signed in, one of the participants came up to me. “I’m —,” he introduced. “My son couldn’t come, so I brought a friend instead.” A pained expression came to my face. “Is he qualified?” I asked. “He has all the necessary equipment,” — replied. (Looking back on that reply later, with hindsight, I’m very displeased with myself for not pushing the matter further.) Anyway, trusting soul that I am, I trusted — and I was in a hurry, so I said OK.

We caravanned to the George Creek roadhead on the improved dirt road. (The stream crossing near the start isn’t bad at all. There’s only one semi-exciting ditch crossing near the end.) The plans were to leave at 8 AM, but we didn’t get started until almost 9 because one of our cars — a big heavy station wagon, of course — got two of its wheels off the road. Trying to push the thing only made the situation worse. So we took the tire chains, attached them to the frame on the uphill side both front and rear, and with six people pulling on each chain as the car rolled forward, the car came back uphill onto the road.

Okay, we were off up the trail. Of course, everyone was familiar with the rules on the sign-in sheet. So three of the stronger hikers immediately sprinted ahead of the not-so-strong leader. “Oh, we aren’t going to get too far ahead,” they said. What could I say? They were very experienced, as well as strong, and one of them had been up the trail just last year. Because of the river, they were soon out of earshot, then out of sight. I kept thinking of how every time a group gets separated, at the very minimum something frustrating happens. Sure enough, I soon saw them head up towards the ridge. They yelled “Up here!” By the time we decided that the trail really crossed the stream, they were gone. We crossed, then waited 15 minutes for them (during which time I had to corral three others who had crossed ahead of me and proceeded up the trail, thinking that a leader was ahead of them). Finally the guys on the ridge realized their mistake, came down the extra 300 feet they had done, and rejoined us.

Two stream crossings, two hours, and two thousand feet later, as we had stopped for lunch (with still 2800’ of gain to go!), the fourth-from-the-end came truckin’ up. “Some guy hurt his ankle,” he said. “Horrors,” I thought. Sure enough, it was the friend of —. They were both back with Elton Fletcher, who had been appointed Assistant Leader because he said he’d be in the rear anyway, and because I knew he was competent. Elton got to the lunch stop 30 minutes later. It turned out that the guy was —’s brother-in-law, who had never backpacked before!! At least the situation was under control; the two would camp at our lunch-stop and go out Sunday. —’s ears were saved from my tongue only because they still weren’t there. I sure leaned my lesson!

The rest of the day went rather well; we completed the 5000’ backpack to the lake at 10,900’ by 5:30. An afternoon cloud cover helped us keep our cool. And when we arrived, we were greeted with the beautiful sight of the best campsite many of us had ever seen in the Sierra — a whole shoreline of flat sand! Paul Lipsohn, remembering Lake Catherine, celebrated with a Tres Equis. (Yes, Tres.) Neither snow, nor rocks, nor tufts of grass disturbed our sleep that night.

We got up at 4 and started moving at 5:30. There was good cramponing the whole 3000 feet up to Trojan Peak. (No register, though. The sun was out most of the time, but the clouds were moving in. I had asked for a cloud cover (it was just a suggestion) so that the snow wouldn’t get too soft. Because I was tired, I asked Roy Magnuson to lead the “fast group”, while I led the more exhausted people. So all but two went over to climb Barnard, dropping back down into the bowl, then chugging up 1000 feet of snow and Class 2 rock scrambling. The wind picked up, the clouds descended to cover up Mt Whitney, but the original register (with three Norman Clyde autographs) was up there to enjoy.
It snowed for 15 minutes during our descent. When we returned to camp at 12:45, we learned from the two who had climbed only Trojan that Myron Rosenberg, who had had to work until 2:30 PM Saturday, had started hiking at 9 PM Saturday night and was now coming down from Trojan. (Later, he told me he could have done both peaks if he hadn't gotten off-route in the canyon in the dark by following some footprints which happened to lead to the ridge rather than crossing the stream.) We broke camp and started down the rugged canyon at 1:30, arriving at the cars some 4-1/2 hours later. Our departure from the roadhead was delayed only by someone who thought he had dropped his car keys in the sand but who really had put them in his wool pants. We invaded the Mt Whitney Cafe at 7:30.

I think we all decided it was one helluva trip for the first backpack of the season. Some learned what an SPS "deathmarch" is. I sure learned a lot.

My special thanks go to Roy Magnuson and Elton Fletcher, who unhesitatingly helped me as assistant leaders, and to all those gnats and other weird insects in the canyon, who looked but didn't bite.

TEMPLE CRAG, MT GAYLEY, May 19–20 .......................................................... Mark Goebel, Doug Mantle

Although 20 made reservations, only 14 climbers showed up at the South Fork, Big Pine Creek roadhead. Due to high rushing water in the South Fork, we did not cross the stream as the trail does, but remained on the west side. A faint trail was found, but some brush was encountered.

Camp was located 1/2-mile west of Willow Lake where three little ponds appear on the map, and there was just enough bare ground for camping purposes.

At noon most of the group started over the soft snow for Temple Crag. A short distance from camp light snow flurries were encountered, and they continued off and on during the climb. Route 1 in the Climbers' Guide (1965 edition) was used both going up and down. This consists of some ledges and gullies on the lower portion of the peak, a snow field above, and a final exposed ridge to the summit. A delay was provided at a gap in the ridge just short of the summit. From the summit we enjoyed views down the north face of the peak, and south along the Palisade Crest. The return to camp was high-lighted by several long sitting glissades, and everyone returned to camp in one piece, but tired.

The two leaders didn't realize how tired the group was until Sunday morning, when only 4 other climbers could be aroused for the attempt on Mt Gayley. Although dark, threatening clouds hung low in the sky, we climbed to Glacier Notch above the Sill Glacier. The clouds and cold wind were actually a blessing, as this kept the snow hard and allowed for easier hiking.

Just as we reached Glacier Notch, the sun appeared and the grand expanse of the Palisade Glacier and its surrounding peaks unfolded in front of us. We then proceeded up the narrow ridge to the summit of Mt Gayley. Everyone enjoyed this as it involved fun 3rd class with a mixture of snow. The view from the top extended from Mt Goddard to Mt Williamson, and we were the first group on top this year.

The descent went smoothly and sitting glissades were again enjoyed in the now very soft snow. Most of the group had returned to the cars earlier, and the remainder were out and down to Owens Valley by dinner.

MT LANGLEY (14,042') May 19–20 .......................................................... Ron Jones

Seven thrill-seekers met at the Tuttle Creek roadhead on Saturday for the five-mile, 4700-foot, trail-less backpack to base camp. There was a short delay for the group to gather as some people thought that the roadhead was easily reached from the new Tuttle Creek Campground. This is not the case and the proper access is still Sunset Drive, just south of the campground entrance.

The weather was warm and bright until early afternoon at lunch break when a few large fluffy flakes of snow fell from the nearly cloudless sky. These turned into a light sprinkle followed by clouds causing us to find cover briefly. A nearly continuous covering of winter snow was encountered at 9,000 feet, extending all the way to the Sierra crest except on the steepest (loosest) slopes and wind swept areas. The afternoon snow was too soft for cramponing but just right for breaking through up to the knees or beyond.

Camp was made at the traditional location at about 11,200 feet which had running water and scattered dry tent sites. While setting up camp we listened to and watched large rock avalanches booming down the north facing slope of the canyon below the amphitheater our camp was located in. It was interesting to watch the mass of boulders and snow slowly sliding, rolling, and bounding 1500 feet down the snow and talus slopes below us. There was no action near camp.

That afternoon four of us set off on a reconnaissance of the Corcoran ridge. We entered the bowl north of our camp. This bowl is divided into two sub-basins and we climbed into the northernmost, higher one of the two. There are two fine photographs of the ridge and the bowl used in the climb in the University of California book (published in paperback) Sequoia National Park - A Geological Album by Francois Matthes, plates 33 and 34. From this bowl one has an excellent panorama of the entire Corcoran-Le Conte Ridge (see sketch following). Several years ago I had traversed this ridge from north to south and I am convinced that the northernmost summit (just south of bulky Le Conte Peak) is the true peak. I had climbed up to this peak by the steep narrow
chute shown in the sketch. This was done in the summer when the chute was nearly free of snow and ice and I considered it a direct but loose route, generally 2nd class except where one traverses south from the head of the chute to the summit where the route becomes high 3rd or low 4th class depending on the route chosen. The backpack in and climb was done in one day. On this trip we climbed to nearly 13,000 feet to the base of the chute which was snow-filled and looked as if it would go. Time was running out and we turned back at this point.

After a windy Saturday night we were awakened at 5:15 (24 degrees) by the loud report of a boulder as large as a Volkswagen which broke loose from an overhanging talus slope, plunged over a 500-foot cliff and landed 300 yards away shattering as it hit. At 7:00 the summit party of five left and crammed on perfect snow the 2800 feet from camp to the Langley summit via the northeast chute. The surface of the snow was strewn with butterflies — Fritillaries, Sulfur Wings, Hairstreaks, and even Sphinx Moths, a veritable collection of Lepidoptera!

Two hours and 45 minutes later we were on the summit, without casualty except for one climber who ripped open his pant's leg with a point of his crampons. The view was beautiful ranging from Olancha across the Great Western Divide, the Kings-Kern Divide and north to the Palisades. Then came the part of the trip for which I had planned several seasons when I first climbed Langley by this route during a dry summer. We down-climbed the steepest one or two hundred feet from the summit to the top of the chute (2 or 3 unplanned self-arrests) and then glissaded about 1500 feet without a stop. At that point we moved a few yards across the chute for a better angle and finished up with another 1000-foot glissade down to 30 yards of camp. Down-climbing took about 10—15 minutes, the glissade was done in 35 minutes or so. With the quick trip we were at the cars by 2:30 PM.

My thanks to Larry Goetz for co-leading, Roy Ward for his help, and Ron Grinstein for his sense of humor and brilliant display of crampon technique.

MT WILLIAMSON (14,375'), May 26—28 ................................. Tom Cardina

Blue skies and sunshine greeted all those gathered at the Manzanar turnoff of Hwy 395 for the climb up George Creek, for a try at Mt Williamson, one of the truly beautiful and impressive Emblem Peaks. After signing in all 25 spaces allotted, with a couple extra people having their own permits, we caravanned to the roadhead and found several other groups occupying most of the parking spaces. Most of the cars parked about 1/2-mile back and hiked up to the roads end. We started up the trail about 8:30 AM and progressed to the first crossing of George Creek, already twice as high as it was two weeks previous on the Barnard—Trojan trip. We crossed with no problems and headed up through the brush to the second crossing. Up the north side again to the next crossing, where we regrouped as several people had a difficult time keeping up. This was no trip for a first time out as several people found out. Eight to nine thousand feet of gain took its toll of strength.

After some refreshments we were again off on the south side of the creek and progressed up the "Trail" — which is deteriorating fast. Part of the group stopped for a lunch break and several others wanted to continue on, which they did and were told to wait at the next stream crossing, our intended campsite at 9300 feet. So when we arrived later at the campsite, we saw the others proceeding up the trail to a higher campsite. We called for them to come back, but they decided they wanted to stay above. So we had 18 in the main campsite and 7 above. A leisurely afternoon was spent in the sun with May Heishei entertaining all. The cocktail hour started early and progressed to dinner and a campfire since we were surrounded by a lot of wood. We agreed to getting up at 5 AM and leaving for the summit at 6 AM, then all drifted off to bed. It was a warm night and the dawn arrived warm and clear as before.
MT WILLIAMSON — continued

All got on the top up to the peak via the high camp and went well until leaving for the climb up to the saddle of the peak. This climb up a steep slope separated the men from the boys. The end of the line got farther from the front each hour. Everyone made the peak but a family of 3 who turned back after one member got some altitude sickness. There was a 2 hour time lapse between the first and last arrivals on the summit. The view was superb, clear as a bell. Mt Charleston, above Las Vegas, was visible as were all the peaks on the Crest.

We looked at the eastern horns of Williamson and decided we did not have enough people with 4th class experience to try them, plus the snow conditions were deteriorating fast. So after several glissades we arrived back in camp for a drying out. Next morning all were up early and arrived at the cars about 10:30, for the worst part of the trip, the drive home in holiday traffic.

I must give special thanks to Maynard Brandsma, who co-led the trip in Howard Stephen’s absence. He did a superb job and I look forward to more trips with him. All in all the climb, the peak, and the group were great.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

SUGARLOAF TO DEERHORN MOUNTAIN, August 1971 .................................................. Frank Meyers

With five boys of Explorer Post 528 (sponsored by the S F Valley Group), I made a 9-day trip from Horse Corral Meadow to Onion Valley which included several interesting climbs.

First was the ascent of Sugarloaf, in Sugarloaf Valley, by the following route. From the trail, gain the low southwest ridge only a few hundred feet west of the dome. Enter the Great West Chimney which (as you will see later) splits the rock into a north (higher) and south mass. When the chimney becomes harder to climb, crawl under a chockstone. Repeat two more times. Some parts of the passage are quite narrow and cave-like. The last squirrel hole leads to a large, almost dark room. A chimney leads up and out at the south, still within the Great Chimney. I led and descended this twice with no trouble but the boys all used delay there. Then scramble over easy rocks to the summit. There were a few notes of previous ascents; we left a simple register. Flashlights are highly recommended!

Next we made a “first recorded ascent (?)” of Peak 12,165’ on Glacier Ridge. This had an old bench mark and a cairn. We named it “Heartland Peak” and left a film can register. The climb to Lake 10,845’ (good swimming) was Class 2. “Heartland Peak” was Class 2 by the east ridge (by me) and Class 2–3 by the southeast slopes (Kim Aufhauser, Paul Riley, Jack Wolfe). We then all traversed to Peak 11,920’+, 0.5 mi NE, which was Class 1–2 and had no signs of previous ascent. We named that “Pistachio Peak” in honor of lunch!

Jack Wolfe and I then climbed WhalebacK (11,726’), making a 3rd ascent. It had not been climbed for 20 years; the second ascent had been via the north ridge, using 1 piton, by Fred Davenport and others. We started from the valley to the east which is reached by the trail from Cloud Canyon to Colby Lake. Our route was up the south part of the east face, diagonally from south to north, into the first dip south of the true peak. It is easy Class 3.

Peak 13,255’ next fell to us, via Colby Pass. It had a Smatko-Ross register. The boys decided to call it “Rockpile Peak” as Andy and Tom had neglected to name it! While on top we saw a large party of Sierra Clubbers on Milestone Mountain.

Milestone Col (east of Milestone Mtn) was crossed in rain and snow. Midway-Milestone Col is an easier route from Cloud Canyon to Milestone Creek. It is steeper on the west than on the east. From either col, going east, go by the south side of the rounded bump in the upper valley and follow the low ridge down to the middle of the valley until a descent to the stream on the north is easy. Do not follow the stream on the south side of the valley as it tumbles down a hanging moraine (deathtrap!).

We also climbed Milestone Mountain, Mt Ericsson, and Deerhorn Mountain. The canyon below Harrison Pass and for a mile or more north of Deerhorn Saddle is sometimes rough going with packs because of talus and loose rocks.

WISHON RESERVOIR TO BISHOP PASS, August 1972 .................................................. Frank Meyers

The following year six boys and I made an 11-day trip. We (Paul Maglico, Doug DeWolf, and I) first climbed Crown Rock, apparently so named because of the “crown” which sits on what would otherwise be a simple dome. The best route of ascent is to work your way up on the northwest and pass inside the “crown”, chimneying up into the middle of the flat summit (Class 2 or 3).

Our next ascent was Tehrite Dome. We tried too much contouring and were beset with numerous small gullies on the west-facing slope above the stream. Leave the trail to cross the low pass at 7500 but pass fairly directly over to the ridge north of the dome.

Next, Tunemah Peak fell to us. There was no register; we left a notebook in a Curad tin but forgot to put the name of the peak on it. We then did Finger Peak, Peak 11,541’ (0.7 NW of Blue Canyon Pk) and Blue Canyon Peak. We (Paul, Doug, Brad Smith, Kim Aufhauser, and I) found a cairn on Peak 11,541’ but named it “Chisholm Peak” in honor of Shirley Chisholm. It may be climbed from almost any side.
WISHON RESERVOIR — continued

We descended Goddard Creek, which is a rather rough knapsack route, especially going up. In the middle part we followed the inner gorge along the stream to the top of the biggest waterfall, at 7700’ elevation; fortunately, we could then climb up to the northwest along a small ridge to get around it. We planned to cross Rambaud Pass (11,553’) but due to a minor accident as we started up (and also due to incipient mutiny), we diverted to Simpson Meadow. The lower part of Goddard Creek is quite bushy, although near the end we found a reasonable ducked route, perhaps the Tunemah Trail. We had spent 1-1/2 days just getting down from camp at Lake 10,089’.

Our attempt on Devil’s Crag #1 via the northwest ridge was stopped just at the summit arete by snow, rain and lightning. It is a bad spot to be in an electrical storm since one cannot get off the arete easily.

FIRST ASCENT PEAK (10,000+), August 1972 ............................................ Harvey Mudfoote

After reading a few first ascent accounts, I was determined to see what the thrill of being first on a mountain was all about. I drove crosscountry to the roadhead part way up on the eastern escarpment of the Sierra. It seemed impossible no one had climbed Peak 10,000+ before, but in checking all available sources — one fact stood out — it definately hadn’t been climbed. It wasn’t mentioned in the new Climber’s Guide!

From where I parked the car, my buddy and I were unable to view the summit we hoped to obtain. Nevertheless we started out from the car at about 4:30 AM and proceeded up Chicken Trot Creek, keeping high on the right side to avoid the bare branches of the alders. They had been burned, but the stark beauty of the barren stalks was so overwhelming we decided on a quick snack in the area. At this point we were about 10 minutes from the car. The dried oatmeal was very refreshing mixed with the water we managed to find by brushing aside some of the red alga in the little creek.

We climbed directly up a very loose scree slope and saw 2 climbers advancing in our direction. We could see immediately how ill-equipped they were. They carried 2 ropes, a large snake-bite kit, crampons, ice axes, and on their packs were snowshoes and hardhats. My buddy was as mystified as I until they revealed they were BMTG students who had lost their way after an overnight campout.

We loaned them one of our topos so they would have a map. It was the Goddard Quadrangle, which wouldn’t be too useful in the area of Hawai’i Pass, but they seemed to like it just fine and thanked us.

We could now see our objective beyond the top of the scree slope so we trudged up to the ridge on the eastern side of the southwest face. The route at this point is quite obvious — behind a small bush is a crack which leads down to a small ledge about 3 inches wide, sloping downward at about 45 degrees, which is low Class 2. This route is fairly easy to spot as the precipice here is vertical with about a 2000-foot drop. After continuing around an overhang, under a chockstone, and about 10 feet over a friction slab on the face, it seemed prudent to place a pin for a handhold. A small rockfall fell on my left leg and it was necessary to take 19 stitches and place a bandage over the wound. However, the route went easily and is high Class 2 with only moderate exposure.

We were now faced with 3 identical chutes leading directly to the summit. We flipped a coin and soon found ourselves on the very top. (Note — do not use the other 2 chutes as they are very loose and dangerous.) Lo and behold! a first ascent!!

As I sat on a small cairn looking about me — I finally knew how thrilling it was to be the very first person on a mountain. When we were eating our lunches ( Note — my buddy had Trail Lunch #2, and it seemed to be better then mine which was #3) my buddy picked up a scrap of paper which the wind had blown up here from the Owens Valley. It was torn, brown, and the watermarking made it almost unreadable. We figured out it probably belonged to a couple of shepherders from the valley , and was very hard to make out their names. One was Clyde or Clive and the other was Norman. It was growing a little late so we left a small cairn can with the name “First Ascent Peak” (as I thought “Broken Leg Peak” was too presumptuous) and hid it under a rock near a bronze marker which somehow had fallen there. I hope this ascent will appear in the next edition of the Climber’s Guide!

A quick glissade down the other side put us back at the cars just after dark. We really should have stopped to fix the bandages on my left leg as I kept tripping on the loose ends — but it had started to grow cold. The route back was a little longer than planned, but the trip was quite a success. I would like to do this trip again taking along a small fast group. We would come out earlier as I now know how to avoid the extra 3000 feet elevation loss and gain coming back to the roadhead.
ECHOES OF THE PAST

Following are a list of officers and a list of committee chairpersons who have served the SPS from the time of its inception in 1956. The information was obtained by a careful reading of meeting minutes and Echoes.

Dashes indicate that the name of the person who served in a particular year could not be found in the Section's written records. The service of these people should be acknowledged; please contact the secretary if you can fill in a blank.

Diana Dee
May 1973

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