"IT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF WISDOM NOT TO DO DESPERATE THINGS."

THOREAU

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As we begin a New Year in the H.P.S., I want to acknowledge the work of the 1968 Central Committee for their part in the 41 outings and 111 peaks we climbed. The effort required to plan the trips, programs and the routine tasks of the Club are more than most members appreciate. Also, a special thanks to W. E. von Pertz for his tireless efforts on the "Climber's Guide" with 85 peaks now complete.

A congratulatory note to Les Stockton and Jerry Russom for the Lookout - a year of fine reporting. My only request remaining is that during the coming year all members will give Les the cooperation that I received and which he needs and deserves.

BRUCE COLLIER

NEW CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It is a rare privilege, indeed, to be elected chairman of such a successful section. We have no internal problems in the Hundred Peaks Section. I am extremely grateful to inherit a section fiscally sound, well organized, with outstanding trip leaders, dedicated Committee Chairmen, and extremely active members. With How Bailey repeating as your schedule chairman, I am certain our climbs this year will be varied, enjoyable, and exciting.

While our section structure is solid, the Sierra Club is in dire straits, both financially and politically. Our Club has grown rapidly (into an international organization), and the growing pains are beginning to be felt. Deep structural crevasses can be seen with the collapse of some of the organizational snow bridges and we are treading on ice that is not only thin but also too transparent. It is unfortunate that the Club is torn by political strife at a time when we have finally become strong enough for our voice in the wilderness to be heard - loud enough, unfortunately, to earn the wrath of governmental agencies.

This coming year the decisions of our leaders can be vital to the very existence of the Club. I ask each of you to increase your knowledge of Club organization, to carefully evaluate your individual voting, and to actively participate in the conservation program.
I realize a climbing section such as ours should be concerned only with its particular activity. I would be remiss, however, if I did not keep you fully informed of pertinent Club developments so that you can contribute intelligently and meaningfully. We cannot remain comfortable and secure at our level, ignoring the storm at the higher elevations, possibly allowing the entire expedition to fail because of our negligent lack of support. We must be certain our support is properly directed and our direction is properly charted. We must not fail. Our Club is too precious to our way of life. I am optimistic that we can weather the storm if we accept the responsibilities of membership as well as enjoy the privileges. Each of us must become involved now. I know you can. I am certain you will.

LES STOCKTON

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

New 100 Peak Emblem Holders  New 200 Peak Emblem Holders
Jay Frogel #193  Dave McGlone #21
Beth Henry #194  Ken Ferrell #22

New Members  New Mascots
Al Campbell  Ricky Henry
Ben Price  Joanna Keating
Horace Ory  
Max Herman  
Barbara Salmon  
Jerry Lawrence  
Brent Washburne  
Ruth Smith  
William E. Warner  
John Kesseuring  
Paul A. Bloland

SAFETY CORNER

Check your emergency kits and utilize your checklists. The matches may be old, batteries in the flashlight corroded or the first aid kit unusable. The checklist system is the only method to determine whether you are completely equipped. Remember there are no emergencies, just incidents, if you are equipped.

I even have checklists for leaving the car at the trailhead (these are the results of painful experience). Turn out the lights, secure the car key, check the glove compartment, be sure you have the dark glasses for snow, etc. Checklists for day hikes, backpack, snow-backpack, rock climbs, are absolutely essential. "I forgot my flashlight" can be disastrous.

On the surface, checking lists by an old mountain pro seems non-essential, but I have read about major expeditions needing some forgotten basic essential, and difficult technical climbs improvising aids because a survival item was overlooked.

Sometimes only your comfort is involved, but your oversight can easily involve your existence. You may have brought along a piece of plastic thinking it was a tube tent; a frying pan with no Nucoa (advertisement); your stove is in the car; your tire chains are in the garage; your food and water are on the back seat; your gloves and parka in the trunk; your first aid kit in your backpack; "I thought you were carrying the rope."

Don't you be the one others must take care of - make your checklists and use them; you will be snug, fed, warm, dry, happy, and alive!

LES STOCKTON
FUTURE TRIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Trip/Event</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Cuyama Peak</td>
<td>Collier, Jackman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Lizard Head</td>
<td>Reid, McDaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Social Meeting</td>
<td>The Romero's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15-16</td>
<td>Sat.-Sun.</td>
<td>Joshua Tree (rock and climb)</td>
<td>Van Allen, Ferrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Rattlesnake Peak</td>
<td>Backus, McRuer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Mt. Wilson</td>
<td>Kaicener, Hayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Kitching Peak</td>
<td>McDavid, Hardt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Morgan Hill, Eagle Crag</td>
<td>Ferrell, S. Gleason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Social Meeting</td>
<td>Collier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Twin Peaks, Waterman</td>
<td>Akawie, Mohn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Smith, Monrovia</td>
<td>Stockton, Salmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Peak Bagger's Special</td>
<td>Stockton, Bailey, Ferrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>San Rafael Peak</td>
<td>Salmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Social Meeting</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Ranger, Indian, Rouse Hill</td>
<td>Hawthorne, McLellan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17-18</td>
<td>Sat.-Sun.</td>
<td>Desert Divide Traverse</td>
<td>Hill, Van Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Tehachapi, Double</td>
<td>Akawies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30-June 1</td>
<td>Fri.-Sun.</td>
<td>Southern Sierra Expl.</td>
<td>Bailey, Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>San Berdo, Ridge</td>
<td>Stockton, Ferrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Social Meeting</td>
<td>Ferrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-15</td>
<td>Sat.-Sun.</td>
<td>Polly, San Jacinto, Jean</td>
<td>Bailey, V. Gleason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Baden-Powell, B., Throop, Hawkins</td>
<td>Wheelock, O'Neill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PAST TRIPS CORNER

SILVER PEAK, TIP TOP, MINERAL, CHAPARROSA PEAK

October 12, 1968

Leader: DICK AKAWIE
Asst: ALICE AKAWIE

This trip involved various activities such as partying, dirt road driving, and a little hiking. After assembling near Big Bear Lake, we caravanned over paved roads to the mine site near Silver Peak. When the leader stopped to post an arrow, the other cars pulled over to the side of the road, and one of them got stuck in deep sand. It was left while we climbed Silver Peak, at the top of which the first party took place. There were three new 100 peak emblem holders -- Vicki Duerr, and Murray and Cecile Rosenthal -- and one new 200 peak bar holder -- Bob Herlihy. We then went back to the cars and out to the highway for a brief exercise in towing and pushing the car out of the sand. Then the group went on the Rose Mine Road to its intersection with the Tip Top Mtn. road. After consolidating into about half a dozen high clearance vehicles, we drove to the relay station and climbed about 100 feet to the top of the mountain. Sixty signed the register here, the same as on Silver Peak. When we got back to the vehicles, we found the road blocked by a Bronco which had had a fire in its ignition wiring. So more pushing followed to get the Bronco out of the way. Then back to the main dirt road and the rest of the cars, and on to the parking area for Mineral Mtn. Here there was a parking problem, as the road is narrow. After the cars were arranged to allow traffic to go through, we took off for the one-mile hike to Mineral Mtn., which was reached in 18 minutes. Fifty signed the register here. The caravans of about 20 vehicles then proceeded to Rimrock, passing several astounded drivers coming the other way, and again we combined into 7 vehicles and drove to the trailhead. The climb of Chaparrosa Peak, over three false peaks, was climaxed by another party for the group of 45, as this was Bruce Arbuckle's 100th peak. There was one small injury on this trip because a rock moved when it shouldn't have, but after the scraped arm and leg were patched, the victim continued on to the top. The return trip was uneventful, except for groans about going over the three peaks again, and everyone was in his car headed home by 6:15 p.m.

HINES PEAK

November 3, 1968

Leader: WARREN VON FERTZ
Asst: HOW BAILEY

The third attempt to lead a scheduled climb, using the Sespe and Red Reef Canyon's approach to this challenging peak proved that the proverb is correct, and that the third time is the charm, since 42 of the 48 participants successfully attained the summit.

In the cool intermittent dawn and/or showers, highlighted by a double rainbow, the group of eager mountaineers assembled at the junction of Hwy. #33 and Rose Valley Road in anticipation of finally realizing a successful trip into this seldom visited area of the Los Padres.

Promptly at 7:35 a.m. the group hastily condensed from 25 cars into 10 cars, which immediately caravanned down the rough but passable Sespe Canyon road to the trailhead at Red Reef Canyon. Realizing that time was of the essence, the group started by 9 a.m. up the trail, pausing first at Horse Thief Camp, then at Ladybug Camp for a short rest before starting up the steeper ascent to the saddle on the main Topatopa Ridge.

Meanwhile the weather was steadily deteriorating as we progressed, from intermittent light showers at Ladybug to a steady drizzle at the saddle, where the group huddled in the lee for a fast snack.
Before assaulting the final cruddy knife ridge to the summit, the leader scanned the circle of wet/cold faces that sparkled with determination, and knew immediately that up was the only direction, so up we went.

Needless to say, the summit lay-over was of short duration, since the peak was encapsulated in ubiquitous clouds combined with a cold wind-driven rain. This was truly unfortunate, as the view from this peak on a clear day is spectacular.

After returning to the saddle for a short second snack, the group’s return trip was a bit on the fast side, with only one rest stop at Horse Thief Camp. Since it had not rained in the canyon, none of the cars experienced difficulties in driving out to the highway, which was completed before dark.

Most everyone who participated expressed appreciation for this introduction into this beautiful unspoiled section of seldom traveled back country. Even though the very dramatic weather dampened their clothes, it did not affect their spirits.

WARREN VON PERTZ

THREE SISTERS  November 9, 1968  Leader: HOW BAILEY
Asst: DICK AKAWIE

Twenty-seven hikers turned out to explore the ridge between Big and Little Morongo Creeks in search of three sisters. We found all three, and perhaps big brother as well. After caravanning about 9 miles up Sherman Rd. from the town of Morongo Valley, we took off up an open but steep ridge to peak 8080'. This is the highest and most westerly of an obvious group of three major bumps on the ridge. It is a pleasant peak, with extensive views of San Gorgonio, San Jacinto, Salton Sea, and far out over the desert to the east and north. We then traversed southeasterly over two intermediate bumps, ending up on a fairly rocky and fairly brushy summit at 7631'. Registers were left on both peaks. Descent was due south over rocks and through moderate brush, then down a canyon to the cars. Unfortunately, there is still some confusion as to whether the name Three Sisters applies to the 3 most easterly or the 3 highest of the 4 peaks we covered. The leader is pursuing this question further by correspondence with the Forest Service; but, whatever is decided, the group on this hike has done them.

HOW BAILEY

WILL THRALL, PLEASANT VIEW,
PALETT MOUNTAIN  November 16, 1968  Leader: BEN NEFFSON
Asst: DAN POPPER

On Friday, it did not appear as if our scheduled trip would even get off the ground. The forecast was for snow and rain during the night, with icy road conditions projected for early morning on Saturday. Judging by the number of phone calls I received Friday evening, I was not the only one worried by the weather. However, the only person I actively discouraged was Norm Rohn; the odds did not favor his making the long trip from Oxnard. My apologies, Norm.

Happily, our meteorological prognosticators were in their usual fine, erring form. There was a winter snap in the air, but as Dan and I drove up Angeles Crest we encountered nothing worse than a wet road. We were the first to arrive at the designated meeting place, but in short order, others came until, at 7:45 a.m., the total stood at twenty-four. After a short introduction and quick exposition on the "rules of the trail," we were on our way at 8:00 a.m. As advertised, the pace was what I considered to be moderate. This proved to be too slow for three eager beavers who had difficulty
in restraining their enthusiasm, and somewhat arduous for a few. Most, however, thought the pace just right. As we approached the Saddle the fine weather of the previous hours began to deteriorate and we could see the mist billowing up from Antelope Valley.

As we ascended the steep ridge to Will Thrall, we were gradually enveloped by the mist and completely "socked in" by the time we made the peak. There was a brief pause for signing the register, removing packs, and for donning sweaters and parkas before proceeding along the ridge for the additional half mile to the high point. We were back on Will Thrall for lunch at 12:00 noon, exactly as planned. The weather was still miserable.

To take the chill off the air, Vic Gleason graciously produced some RMB, which was eagerly shared and vanquished with dispatch. While we were wondering how we might now keep warm, the mist began to clear and, almost instantly, there was an intensely blue sky above us and a warming sun shining through. Thus, lunch turned out to be a very enjoyable affair with magnificent views, to the east and south, of the snow-covered San Gabriels, made even more spectacular by hanging masses of broken clouds. As Mummy said, "The chief delight of mountaineering is to be found in the skillfully selected halt."

However, with one more peak to climb, and aiming for a 4:30 p.m. return to the cars, this "skillfully selected halt" could be enjoyed no longer. It was down to the Saddle again from where we would make our climb of Pallett Mtn. This time, the steep ridge scramble was led by Dan Popper, and I brought up the rear. Inasmuch as lunch had already been consumed, it appeared that the ingredients for another "skillfully selected halt" were missing. Mountaineers, however, are resourceful. With fresh, clean snow available on Pallett, and with a green elixir made available by Bob Funke, we all enjoyed another delight of mountaineering, C de M snow cones.

Regrettfully, after a while, we had to call a halt to our simple pleasures and start the return to the cars. It was very pleasant; the weather remained fine, and with a few rest stops the long trip out, especially the thousand feet uphill climb in the last mile and a half, was made in good time. We reached the cars at 4:30 p.m.

Of the twenty-four participants, fifteen climbed all three peaks, nineteen climbed two, and five found time for only one ascent. For all, however, it appeared to be a very enjoyable trip.

BEN NEFFSON

CHALK PEAK
GOBBLERS KNOB November 23, 1968  Leader: JOHN FROST

Chalk Peak was Number 200 for Walt Wheelock. Burdened down with several quarts of vintage champagne, he struggled successfully against the brush and steep hillside and emerged smiling at the summit, last of the 53 hikers to sign in. We all shared in the wine and in the good spirit of the occasion.

Timber Gulch is a pleasant approach to the peak. The stream runs wet all year from the south slopes of the mountain down to within a half mile of the trailhead. There is a small and pretty waterfall about halfway along the way. From this place the foliage thickens, and the rest of the route is brushy and slow. We descended over the rocks and through the weeds to the east, a faster but more strenuous route to the cars.

While the leader waited for stragglers, How Bailey conducted a safari over Ltyle Creek Ridge to Gobblers Knob. Cars can be driven to within 1/2 mile of the summit, making the peak a questionable candidate for the 100 Peaks list. But the view from the top is superb, offering vistas of the north slopes of Telegraph Peak Ridge and a good overlook of the Stockton Flat area.

My thanks to Al Fowler for his able performance in the (usually) thankless job of assistant.

JOHN FROST
OLD MAN MTN.
MONTÉ ARIDO

December 7-8, 1968
Leader: WARREN VON PERTZ

Saturday, December 7, dawned bright and clear which was particularly appreciated by the leader after his experience on the previous Hines Peak trip, and which undoubtedly accounted for the large turnout (21), especially encouraging when compared to last year's total of 3 persons.

After a short briefing, the group started up the road/trail headed for Marietta saddle via Marietta Camp. Contrary to anticipated conditions, the streams were flowing and the countryside was green and beautiful, which was indeed rewarding. By middle afternoon, the entire group had arrived in base camp, which was situated high on the ridge above the saddle, where they immediately started selecting camp sites, while enjoying the magnificent view.

An exceptionally balmy - windless night was enjoyed by all, and with the cooperation of a full moon which remained on the scene long enough to light the pre-dawn preparation activities, the group was able to be on the trail headed for Monte Arido by 6:15 a.m.

Shortly before attaining the summit of Monte Arido, Ken Ferrell surged ahead of the group in a final burst of energy ascended his 200th peak, followed by the congratulations from his companions. The exceptional weather conditions permitted unlimited visibility in all directions, including all the northern Channel Islands, a truly beautiful sight which was appreciated by all participants.

After a short chow down session, all 21 persons started a rapid descent to the saddle followed by a lunch break on the summit of Old Man Mountain. Unfortunately, as the day progressed the visibility deteriorated, so that our view from Old Man afforded only a partial view of that enjoyed from Monte Arido; however, this peak presented a more challenging ascent which made up for the difference. The return trip to base camp was in part via the old trail and an interesting high route, which served as a short cut and enabled the group to be back at their cars before dark.

The trip was enjoyed by all participants, who expressed their appreciation for the insight to the beauty of the Santa Barbara mountains, witnessed under exceptionally fine weather conditions.

WARREN VON PERTZ

RABBIT PEAK

December 14-15, 1968
Leaders: BILL FELDMANN
Asst: FRED BODE

Forty-seven climbers met at the junction of Ave. 74 and Hwy. 86, 15 miles south of Indio, 8:00 a.m., Saturday under cloudy skies. By 9:00 a.m. no sign of Bob Van Allen, our scheduled leader, so Bob Guyan and myself called his house from a nearby gas station. Then we heard from Bob, the problems and frustration he had given through trying to get to Indio three times but each time having car trouble. Bob shouldn't have tried to drive out on Friday the 13th.

After some advice via phone from Bob, Bob Guyan and I led to base camp 7 miles and 2500 feet up the ridge to Rabbit Peak. Fred Bode assisted by getting 45 of us to camp and not letting anyone get lost down a side canyon.

At 5:50, Sunday morning, all 45 of us started for the summit of Rabbit by flashlight. 1,000 feet above camp we were rewarded for our early start by a fire -- red sunrise over the Salton Sea. During the whole trip the weather was ideal with temperatures between 74°F and 47°F, cloudy skies but no wind nor rain.
At 8:35, Gary Bowen ran on to the summit rock to qualify for his DPS emblem. Frank Riseley also qualified for his emblem by this climb. By 9:30, all 45 climbers were swarming over the summit rock or flaked out around it removing thorns received from the many friendly plants in this area. After skimming through the summit register, our group of 45 appeared to be a record for Rabbit Peak.

Bob Guyan and Gary Bowen led down to camp with Fred Bode and myself bringing up the rear. After a short lunch we packed up and headed for the cars arriving just before dark.

I want to thank Bob Guyan, Fred Bode, and all members of the party for their help and cooperation, and trusting a couple of 5 P S'ers, Bob Guyan and myself, to lead them.

BILL FELDMANN

ANNUAL BADEN-POWELL-HAWKINS SPECIAL

Leaders: PETER ROIEN
          LES CAMP
          LAURA GARD

July 20, 1968

(July 20, 1963, we made our first Vincent Gulch to Crystal Lake hike via the summits of Mt. Baden-Powell, Burnham, Throop, and the three Hawkins peaks. The hike was repeated in 64, 65, and 66.)

On July 20, 1968, we made our annual attempt. This attempt was partially successful in that Peter Roien did climb all six summits. Les was handicapped with a hip injury but gamely hiked all the way to Crystal Lake via the Windy Gap trail. Laura hiked with Pete to the summits of Mt. Burnham, Hawkins, and Middle Hawkins and went with him on the long trails hike from Middle to South Hawkins. They left Vincent Gap at 6:45 and were back at Crystal Lake at 5:45. It had been a very warm day and the heat slowed us down. We were both in fine condition at the end of the long hike.

On August 24, 1968, Laura and Pete hiked from Poopout Hill to Camp Angelus via the high altitude Ridge Trail which for 8 of the 20 miles are at an average altitude of more than 10,200 feet. The day included a shuttle and round trip drive of 180 miles from Long Beach.

PETER ROIEN

(Pete writes: "Publicity never meant anything to me but the completion of long hikes with multiple summit climbs at our age might serve as an incentive to elderly mountain climbers who may feel they are getting too old for that kind of sport. Perish the thought! No other exercise is as beneficial to our health as "mountain climbing and I hope we can enjoy it for many more years." -- and how old are they? Pete is 81, Laura is 71 and Les is 77. O.K., you peakbaggers, match these records! Pete, Laura, and Les - you have our highest respect and unbounded admiration.)

L. S. - Editor

CORNELL PEAK, MT. SAN JACINTO December 28-29, 1968 NON-SKED

The ascent of these two peaks at this time of year presents a significantly different problem than an ascent in the summer.

The most noticeable difference is the absence of flies, gnats, mosquitoes, and boy scouts. The second largest difference is that there is much more snow in December than there is in July.
On Saturday morning, Bruce Masson and I took the first tram car up from Palm Springs. We were greeted at the top by 50° in the shade, had coffee, checked in at the ranger station and proceeded to Round Valley. About 10 minutes out from the station we came to the end of the path beaten in the snow by all of the visitors. Here we put on snowshoes. We did not go to Round Valley to camp. Instead, we camped by a corral shed at the base of Cornell Peak. We arrived there in mid-afternoon and immediately prepared to climb Cornell. Continuing on snowshoes we climbed to within 150 or so feet of the summit. We then proceeded (without snowshoes) on the rocks which were sometimes bare and sometimes covered with ice. It was cold and getting colder. Clouds were beginning to move in from San Jacinto. We reached the northwest ridge about 60 feet below the summit, proceeded up traveling south to the chimney on the west. No ice in the chimney but very strong winds. Anticipating severe conditions, we went prepared. At the top of the chimney (sitting on the checkstove) Bruce set up a belay for me. We checked important data, 27°, winds steady at 20 m.p.h. with gusts to 30 and 40 m.p.h. As I started up the final rib and started the step over to the edge on the right (east) side, a gust threw me off balance but I recovered. At this point I decided this easy 3rd class had just become 5th class so I used a piton as protection from another sudden gust of wind. Once on top and sitting in snow, I belayed Bruce. The register was not there. Part of the old box remains - but no book. We took it easy for approximately one minute and then started down. As we reached the northwest rib again we were engulfed in a cloud and to make it more interesting, it was getting dark. The descent was slow and we returned to camp in the dark.

All night long the wind kept up at approximately 10 m.p.h. with occasional gusts that sounded like a 707 coming through.

We woke at 6:45 Sunday and ate breakfast in the sack. All our gear was packed and we left for San Jacinto at 8 a.m. After a very strenuous trip we arrived on the summit at 11:45. Again we found no register but it may have been under snow. This was Bruce's 25th peak. If he picks one this difficult for his 25th, I can imagine what his 100th will be like. Noon temperature, 26°, wind 10 m.p.h. with gusts to 20. Picture taking was great. We felt we could see Telescope Peak (at least it was snow covered and in the right direction). Seeing the San Diego peaks was no problem. Everything in between was magnificent.

After pictures we retreated to the hut to eat lunch. We left for camp at 1 p.m. and what had taken us 3 3/4 hours to climb, we descended in 1 hour. After a short break at camp we left for the tram and made that portion in 1 1/2 hours.

Estimates:  
Hiking without snowshoes - 1/2 mile  
Hiking with snowshoes - 13 miles  
Gain without snowshoes - 200 feet  
Gain with snowshoes - 3000 feet

While it was a strenuous trip, I believe both of us would like to do it again. (In about 12 months.)

BOB VAN ALLEN

We sat in cool grass to listen to the muffled clatter of the leaves. There was nothing to do; the leaves required no answer. So we sat still and were glad to be alive.

F. B.  (Westways)
The year began with our Annual Banquet attended by 98 members and guests and featuring the renowned adventurer - John Goddard.

Scheduled during the year were 41 outings including eight weekend trips, which involved climbs of 111 peaks. The intent of the Section is to offer a wide variety of trips, and turnouts reached an individual high of 142 persons. Our annual Peakbaggers Special included a total of 21 peaks, believed to be a record for one day on a Club outing.

Also held were 12 monthly business meetings and ten social meetings with subject programs ranging from slides and films of various areas to equipment displays and conservation subjects.

The Section was represented by its Conservation chairman, Les Reid, at the Angeles Chapter Conservation Committee meetings. Donations totaling $65 were made to the Long Beach group - "Conservation Cooperators" to further their "Flash" project during the year.

The position of vice-chairman of the Advisory Council was held by the Section Chairman, Bruce Collier, and another active member, Mrs. Rosalie Jackman, served as Council secretary.

The Hundred Peaks Section Climbers Guide effort was expanded to include 85 peaks at the year end. Primary credit for this effort belongs to the Mountain Records Chairman, W. E. Von Pertz, and to Bernie Petitjean for providing duplicating services.

Another program was undertaken to include a trail maintenance/cleanup trip in each schedule. The first - an improvement project in conjunction with the Forest Service at Mount Lowe received recognition in a Pasadena Star-News article.

Future plans include an effort to schedule a variety of outings specifically in conflict with one another to reduce the members on individual trips while providing sufficient variety for a growing membership.

New officers for the year 1969 are:

Les Stockton, Chairman
How Bailey, Vice Chairman
Vic Gleason, Secretary
Vicki Duerr, Treasurer
Bruce Collier, Past Chairman
Lew Hill, Member at Large
Larry Salmon, Member at Large

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Collier, Chairman
THE HUNDRED PEAKS LOOKOUT - Published bi-monthly by the Hundred Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Editor: Les Stockton                                      Publisher: Jerry Russom

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ARTICLES AND LETTERS - This publication is the official newsletter of the HPS and as such welcomes articles and letters pertaining to the Section. Type, double space, if possible.

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