

THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

September-October 1986 ISSUE #17

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Although the insurance guest on Rukeyser's Wall Street Week recently claimed that it would be easier this year to obtain many forms of insurance, we have not yet heard anything about climbing insurance for the Sierra Club. The Club's current coverage ends October 1.

A more liberal climbing policy would certainly help restimulate interest for potential new leaders and for Peak and Gorge Section leadership in general. I shall end my 'turn' as Section Chair in October (so the new Chair can be involved in the winter Bonanza schedule of events). For me a two-year term has been just about right. It's given me an opportunity to get into the swing of advance planning for activities and to work on the recruitment of new trip leaders. It's up to each volunteer to decide how much time can be given. With a little help from his 'friend', Anne, Preston Andrews has offered to be the new Training Coordinator. Doug Joy did an outstanding job this past year. Too bad for us that he now has a full-time job so he can feed his family! But rumor has it that he's spending lots of time on those private trips where they use real ropes and hardware!

Our current recruitment efforts are concentrated on filling the slots of Section Chair, Meetings Coordinator, Treasurer, and Trip-Kit Coordinator. Many thanks to Barbara Hinkle and Harry Erl for helping out so much this past year. Persons suggested as P and G "volunteers" include: Jean Brubaker, Debbie Bulger, Al Gutowsky, Doug Joy, Camille Nahlovsky, Charlie Smith, Rex Smith, Toby Tyler, and Ellen Van Fleet. Since some of the nominees may not be willing, we will be adding nominees at the September 16th meeting. So please come to share your summer slides and to help select new leadership for next year.

It is always very encouraging to see new faces on trips and at meetings. At least half the persons who came to this year's picnic were new to me. 'New blood' will help keep the organization active and responsive to needs of the participants. Although I will now have more time to pursue other interests (yes, I do have several), I hope to continue to lead some trips and to get to the mountains at least often enough to renew my energies. And I hope to see some of my ol' climbing buddies there, too.

Congratulations on a safe summer!

Jackie Stroud

Wilderness Skills Program

Avalanches do happen in the Sierra Nevada, as their destructive aftermaths have testified to many of us during our summer's mountain activities. A knowledge of avalanche hazard recognition, evaluation and rescue techniques could be vital to your survival or that of a companion during this coming winter's ski season.

A 2-day avalanche seminar is scheduled for the weekend of January 10-11, 1987. The instructor will be Rodney Babcock, trained at the National Avalanche School and the avalanche instructor for Alpine Skills Institute. During the first day of the seminar important elements of meteorology will be presented including the formation and recognition of snow crystal types and the changes that occur to them in the snowpack. This information will provide the basis for evaluating current avalanche hazard in specific terrain. The second day will consist of field training, providing the "hands-on" experience necessary for accurate avalanche hazard recognition, evaluation and rescue techniques.

The seminar will be conducted at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappan Lodge near Donner Pass. Advanced registration is required in order to reserve the required number of rooms at the Lodge. Estimated cost for the seminar, including room and meals is \$75. Sign up by October 1 by phoning Preston Andrews, 1-758-0374 (Davis).

PRIVATE NON-SIERRA CLUB TRIPS

Looking for experienced mountaineers in good physical condition to climb ACONCAGUA in Argentina during two weeks of this upcoming Christmas Holiday Season. Call Boris Nahlovsky (1-677-4600) for details.

LOST AND FOUND

Found - 1 pair Woolrich Pants (kind of patched up) in Pete Yamagata's closet mixed with laundry, probably inadvertently left with Pete at the end of a hike. Call 444-6319 to recover.

quote from MEDICINE FOR MOUNTAINEERING

Acute mountain sickness is a term applied to a group of unpleasant symptoms related to high altitude. Their primary cause is probably the direct effect of low oxygen on the brain. However, changes in the circulation of blood to the brain may also be important. Blood vessels in the brain dilate when blood oxygen saturation is decreased, which occurs at high elevations. These blood vessels constrict when the blood carbon dioxide concentration is decreased, which occurs as the result of increased pulmonary ventilation at high altitude. Either dilatation or constriction of blood vessels in the brain may cause headache. The hydration or water content of the body does not seem related to the symptoms of acute mountain sickness.

ADDENUM TO EASTERN SIERRA RESTAURANT REVIEW SUMMARY

BRIDGEPORT: The Bodie Union Mining Company Eatery and Saloon indeed does still have the Miner's Sandwich (roast beef, peppers, and cheese) for \$3.95 in addition to other similarly priced sandwiches--recommended are the Corned Beef, Reuben, and, of course, the various burgers are fine.

LEE VINING: The Mono Deli has good, thick, meat sandwiches for about \$4.00. The Mono Inn was noted to have dinners from about \$9.00-\$15.00, with a very nice window view of the lake.

MAMMOTH LAKES: Anderson's Pea Soup is now the Eastern Winds, a Szechuan restaurant with main dishes starting at about \$7.00 (the Sesame Chicken and Lemon Chicken were found to be very good) but with plates like Chow Mein at about 5.25. We found the Swiss Cafe (open 7 a.m.) to have good breakfasts. The Pot Belly Deli was also very good. Giovanni's, I was advised once, has the best pizza; I thought that it was high-priced, but sufficeient. There is a Burger King, too.

LONE PINE: Bobo's Bonanza was tried and found to be very good with extremely reasonable prices.

Pete Yamagata 8-86

A SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER PEAK CLIMBING REVIEW

May, 1986 saw the completion of the Twin Rivers Loop, a very spectacular hike in the Toiyabe Range in Central Nevada. This traverses "two of the finest gorges in the Great Basin." I estimate over 40 stream crossings were made during the one-day hike of this 14 mile loop. About three miles from the end of the North Twin River Gorge, former chair Gene Markley was discovered dozing apparently on a solo reconnaissance for his Placer Co. Adult Ed. group. They had been left on their own; apparently there was some agitation about his separation from the group. The Sierra Club group that I was leading went on the next day to visit old mining towns of Manhattan, Belmont, then climb Mt. Jefferson, and then tour the eastern side of the Toquimas, which included seeing Diana's Punchbowl, the Monitor, Toquima Caves, and bathing in Spencer's Hot Springs.

June was a good month-- on the second weekend Steve Thaw and I climbed Silliman and Alta on two back-to-back day climbs, and also managed to visit the McKinley Tree, see Tokopah Falls, and watching the sunset from Moro Rock for a total gain for the two days of 9,500'. I estimate the total loss on glissades as over 4,500', almost all standing.

A visit to Onion Valley near Independence, CA, netted both University (13,632') and Kearsarge (12,598') Peaks for Boris Nahlovsky and me, for a total of over 8,000' gain. University involved climbing up Robinson Creek, the site of a huge winter avalanche which wiped out the USFS Ranger Station, and climbing a fairly steep snow gully (about 45-50°) led mostly by Boris. The views were absolutely incredible--of the Kings-Kern Divide and Bubbs Creek Canyon immediately below. On Kearsarge, the somewhat hard-to-find and overgrown trail comes to about 1,000' below the summit ridge and don't let the Climbers Guide lead you to believe "almost" is almost, as there are three false summits and a lot of traversing and climbing to gain the top. We were entertained by three hang-gliders wafting above us during our summit stay and descent.

Other climbs for the summer include: Job's Peak, Basin Peak (next to Castle), Spanish Mountain, Three Sisters, Eagle Peak (10,318'), Tallac again, Black Buttes (Grouse Ridge area), Vogelsang and Cathedral, Iron Mountain (11,149'), and Mt. Patterson including the "bumps" 10,789', 11,440+', and 11,680+'.

Pete Yamagata

TRAIL and ERROR (Split Mountain-14,058 and Mt. Prater-13,329)
August 23-25, 1986 --- Andy Sawyer, Leader

Persistent and undaunted, we eventually found an improbable 4WD road that took us to the Red Lake Creek Trailhead above Big Pine. The road would finally claim Phil Silva's Chevy on the return trip (oil pan, catalytic converter, and tailpipe!)

Persistent and undaunted, we turned the customary eastside approach (4,000' in desert heat) into an all day, cross country bushwhack that had two characteristics--- it was either up or down. Andy wouldn't hear out protests--- he was too far ahead.

The next day's climb was simple by comparison. Three to four hours (depending on one's age) and about 4,000' and we were on top of Split Mountain, the western side offering a lengthy Class 2 route. (We saw brief sections of loose Class 3 on the ridge leading up to the Divide). Nine members of a National Sierra Club trip came up behind us, including Sierra Club pioneer's great-grandson William Colby IV (actually his name was Miles something-or-other, but he brought up his ancestry because he signed the register right behind our own teammate--- (John) Scott Muir! Scott is newly arrived from Santa Barbara and doesn't use his first name. Others who made the summit--- Andy Sawyer (wishing for rain), Phil Silva (worried about his Chevy) and Don Hoffman (worried). Toby Tyler waited at Red Lake (worried about her blisters). Sawyer and Silva knocked off Mt. Prater on the way down and arrived for a late afternoon swim about two hours after the fainthearted. Time-- 3-4 hours up and 2-3 hours down. Primarily talus (some loose) with one glacier---no axes needed.

On Monday, following the correct trail, we made a pleasant 3 1/2 hour return trip. Please ask directions to this trail if you're contemplating doing Split Mountain from Red Lake!!!

Don Hoffman

Buena Vista Peak

June 7-8, 1986

Rex Smith & Boris Nahlovsky led a trip to this peak via the scenic Chilnualna Falls trail in Southern Yosemite. The brave participants included Camille Nahlovsky, Tobi Tyler, John Besbekos, Roger Ehret, and Bill Hauser. The trailhead is just a short distance from the Wawona Ranger Station. The Yosemite campgrounds were completely filled when we drove into the park Friday night, so Boris, Camille and Rex enjoyed the hospitality and quiet of the Mariposa County Dump just outside the Southern entrance to the park. We picked up our permit early Saturday morning with the ranger's warning of possible hazardous stream crossings and snow above 8000 feet. The weather was absolutely perfect both days, and because of heavy snow melting, the falls were at their peak performance. The trails were excellent in this section of the park until we lost them in the snow. Roger Ehret proved to be a real expert in locating the safest and easiest stream crossings, so our three crossings went rather easily. After losing the trail under heavy snow, we went cross country to our Saturday night camp and to the summit of Buena Vista Peak Sunday morning. Buena Vista ("good view" in spanish) is well named. The views from the summit are among the best in the park. The views of the Clark Range, Mt. Starr King, etc. are excellent. Although the round trip was moderately strenuous, everyone agreed a visit to the southern part of Yosemite is well warranted, esp. in the spring when Chilnualna Falls is putting on its best performance.

Rex Smith

SPANISH MOUNTAIN (10,051'), THREE SISTERS (10,619')
AND EAGLE PEAK (10,318')

JULY 4-6, 1986

It was a place that probably no one had ever been to before, and probably where no one would ever be again---fallen logs, heavy scattering of downed tinder, with pine needles thicker than a carpet. There was a small pond not shown on the maps that I waded across, vainly trying to maintain a line that I hoped would lead us to intersect the trail that we had lost. I thought of what the others must have been thinking---"What an incompetent leader--I'll never go on a Sierra Club Climbing-Knapsack trip again!"

Yes, I thought of a lot of excuses as I saw and heard the ~~sentimental~~ of Chapter outings management---a chance to wreak vengeance for my critical letters of past. I had the whole group looking for the trail which was not quite well maintained; I had the most updated maps; I used my compass frequently, and finally, my plan of deliberate error did get us back on the trail. "Lucky break," it was called. I, too, had visions of night bivouac with poor, cold, and miserable outings participants that had trusted me so fully and believed that this would be "an easy peak."

It all started as a regular outing---to explore the western mid-Sierra and climb a few SPS peaks, with day hiking to fulfill our penchant for new exploration and car camping to fulfill our gluttony. ~~and~~ no strain of heavy packs, inconveniences of wilderness cookery, the problem of infected water, and the discomforts of thin foam pads. We met at the Dinkey Lakes Ranger Station, drove past Wishon Reservoir, drove to the wrong trailhead, relying on some packers to straighten us out. I had some doubt as to the accuracy of my guidances but eventually my decisions proved correct--we climbed Spanish Mountain and enjoyed the panoramic view from Ritter to Mineral King from this vantage point far out on the western slope. The 8,000 foot drop down to the adjacent Kings River was visually awesome---not quite the manicured viewpoint but wilderness raw in its imperfection and ruggedness.

The next day, we hiked Three Sisters, encountering the usual holiday weekend traffic intent on fishing, camping, or just enjoying wilderness. I was relieved that we had managed to stay within the scheduled itinerary's margins. The view was similar and the climb disappointing--a straightforward walk-up with easy navigation--I thought back to our views of the impressive Obelisk and that aside from the view of Dinkey Lakes that this was a ho-hum summit. Eager for a third peak, half the group climbed Eagle Peak in a two-hour, cross country ascent on the last day.

What tremendous impacts must have been made by the creation of these two reservoirs, Wishon and Courtwright. No doubt they were necessary for agricultural irrigation, cities, power generation, employment in construction jobs, and an increase in tax revenues and power for the local or benefitting governments--all environmentally sound, of course. Well, I thought that they were right, too. The domes were not submerged, the slopes of timber were not clearcut, and the existence of trails and wilderness pointed to the multiple-use planning success, and indeed, the lakes were pretty. But, of course, I thought, there were more plans in the offing, well-thought out or not. I was glad that this was still 1986, not a distant future when the bulk of the natural beauty of the area would be ravaged and gone forever.

Pete Yamagata



MOKELUMNE WILDERNESS LOOP
4-6 JULY 1986

BY DAVE CALDWELL

The trip participants met at Hams Station Friday morning on Hwy. 88. There were 16 people, the group being fairly evenly divided between Bay Area and Sacramento folks. After breakfast, we left two shuttle cars on the Mud Lake road just to the west of Silver Lake, and proceeded on to the trail head at Carson Pass. From Carson Pass, we hiked over to Winnemucca Lake and up to the saddle over-looking Round Top Lake. From there most of the group proceeded to climb Round Top, the remainder opting for lounging in the sun until we returned (rock potatoes?).

After returning from Round Top, we made our way past Round Top Lake towards Fourth Of July Lake and climbed over the top of peak 9526 (pant, pant). We had not gotten a very early start that morning, so it was late enough that we decided to camp for the night on some terraces just on the other side of this peak. The next morning, three people announced their desire to quit the trip, one having had trouble with the steep terrain the day before. After gaining their signatures in this regard the rest of the group headed out. We didn't get very far (a few hundred yards) before the trip leader, Bill Hauser, announced that he had injured his knee that morning and would have to leave the trip also. Marty Winaker sacrificed himself to help Bill get back to the road, so the trip was then down to 11 people.

After Bill appointed Howard Cole, from the Mother Load Chapter as leader, we hit the trail again. We climbed over peak 9774 above Emigrant Lake (pant, pant) and met up with the Horse Canyon Trail on the other side. Several squishy marsh areas later, we gained Squaw Ridge and the site of the old Plasse Trading Post. Just a few old timbers were all that were left of the trading post, and those someone had been using for fire wood.

At this point we reentered the Mokelumne Wilderness, having left it at some unknown point the day before. We also entered a mosquito breeding ground because of all the small lakes and marshy areas. Covered with insect repellent, we passed Long Lake to the base of Mokelumne Peak and made camp on a deeply wooded saddle at about 8000 ft., with not too many mosquitos in residence. One of the people became angry because of our Bataan Death March pace, and signed off the trip at this point. Now we were down to 10.

After a good nights rest, we got up early Sunday morning and headed out for the peak at about 6:00 am. Within an hour we had gained the summit and were marveling at the views afforded us. We didn't stay on top very long, since we had a long hike back to the shuttle cars. Upon returning to camp, we packed up our gear and started out. We took another trail to the west back to Long Lake and were feasted on by mosquitos the whole way. The trail was difficult to find at times, owing to lots of fallen tree limbs and overgrown bushes. One set of duck trail markers even went across the middle of a shallow lake. Preferring to stay dry, we opted for crashing through a group of willows instead.

Arriving again at the Plasse Trading Post we took the trail to Allen. Many slippery snow fields later (better than hungry mosquitos) we arrived, and proceeded around peak 8451, the sight of Dave's famous Mud Lake loop ski

tour. From there we made our way down to where the cars were parked on the road to Tragedy Spring, arriving at 4:00 PM. Once there, we were glad to see that Bill and Marty had already shuttled the cars for us. After packing up, we met at the Country Kitchen restaurant on Hwy. 88, between Black's Station and Pioneer for a slow but good meal.

I feel that Howard Cole did an excellent job of route finding and herding us around in Bill's absence. Our thanks!

July 12: Mount Ralston

Picture us, seated atop Mt. Ralston, beautiful clear day, a pleasant climb behind us and our lunches unpacked. What a great spot for a Tupperware party.

That thought clearly occurred to Bob Hodam. On Mt. Ralston, he took the opportunity to survey Sierra Club consumers on their reaction to a test product: a packet of 10 moist towelettes with a resealable top, manufactured in Japan. Bob is a guy with world-wide connections. He determined that club members would pay about \$1 for the product.

Market research: It's everywhere.

Marilyn Jouini led the hike and didn't lose any of the 20 participants as we made the 2,900 foot climb to the 9,300 foot peak (approximate). The weather was a bit warm (101 in Sac) and there was a dry breeze. The trip was only about five miles each way. We started at 9:30, reached the peak by noon, and were down by 4 p.m. despite several lengthy rest stops. Several of us took the opportunity to drop in on Folsom Lake on the way home.

One question I had: How did Stockton Bobby Maher fit that big chunk of ice into that narrow-necked canteen? Is this guy a genius or what?

-Ted Reed

Mt. Rose (10,776')

Aug. 24, 1986

The sun was hot; the day was high as 7 souls climbed to the top of the third highest peak in the Tahoe Sierra. No huge effort needed be expended however, as we started walking from a paved road at 8800' along a shaded dirt road which turned into a well worn trail ending at the top. We met quite a number of different parties along the trail, who took interest as Pat Purcell pointed out various wildflowers along the way; its suppose to be one of the best places in the Tahoe area for them. Bob Maher read some interesting anecdotes to us from the register at the top as the rest of us (tried to) identified various peaks in the distance, Lassen, Freel, Tallac, etc. through the slight haze. My thanks to my co-leader Marleen Barnett who took some time off from building the Tahoe Rim Trail to find all the right turns along the way. And congratulations to John, Linda, and Marsha, who bagged their first California peak.

John Sarna

Six peaks in one day - a "peak-bagger's" delight!

The objective of this trip was the cluster of 9 Echo Peaks located 1 mile south of Cathedral Peak in Yosemite NP. After a car camp at the Tuolumne Meadows CG our party of 6 got off to an 8 AM start from the Cathedral Lakes trailhead. The ubiquitous mosquito population in early July provided us with incentive for fast hiking and infrequent rest stops enroute to our base camp a few hundred yards SE of Cathedral Pass. Our spacious campsite was relatively free of mosquitoes, but the scattered remains of food bags testified to the resourcefulness of Yosemite's infamous bears. After the tents were set up, lunch eaten and the food bags properly (?) hung, the party set off to climb as many of the Echo Peaks as time permitted.

An hour's approach brought us to the east side of the Echo Peak 1-2 notch, where we divided the group into 2 parties. Easy Class 3 climbing to the 1-2 notch provided access to the south and north ridges of Peaks 1 and 2, respectively. Peak 3 was climbed via a traverse from the summit of 2. Peaks 5 and 7 were alternately climbed, followed by Peak 8. Peaks 4 and 9 were Class 4 and 5, so were off limits to a Sierra Club outing. After a short exploration of Peak 6's north face we determined that Class 3 was an underratement of its difficulty. Peak 7 provided the most airy route and all summits provided exceptional views of Matthes Crest and the south face of Cathedral Peak. N-

On Sunday the party decided to climb Columbia Finger located approximately 1.5 miles SSE of Cathedral Pass. Traveling south on the trail from the pass we ascended to the broad saddle between Columbia Finger and Tresidder Peak, and traversed to the west side of the Finger. A short, enjoyable pitch up the blocky west face led us to the spectacular summit block. Our party was near maximum occupancy for the summit, where we spent an hour identifying familiar peaks and spotting deer in Long Meadow below us to the west. On the descent two members of the party requested a belay down one steep section of the face. We then traversed around the south end of the Finger, returned to camp and made our way to the cafeteria in the Meadows for vanilla shakes and french fries.

Enjoying an exceptional weekend of weather and climbing were Anne Adams, Preston Andrews, Howard Cole, Gary Darula, Doug Joy and Ellen Van Fleet.

Preston Andrews

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*****
*          attention: TRIP LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS          *
*                                                                 *
*   Spread the word! Let us know how your recent (or not so   *
*   recent, but memorable) peak climb or gorge scramble went   *
*   by writing up a summary for the Boulder.                    *
*   Say what you like before somebody else says it wrong for you! *
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WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

Mono Lake, Pass, Craters, Dome ...

"Mono County and Lake are named after a wide-spread division of Shoshonean Indians on both slopes of the Southern Sierra Nevada....By their Yokuts neighbors they are called Monachi....The Yokuts word for 'flies' was *monoi*, *monai*, or *monoyi*." (Alfred Kroeber in "California Place Names of Indian Origin," *Univ. of Calif. Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology*, June 15, 1916.)

"If we assume that this word forms the stem of *monachi*, it is quite certain that the name means 'fly-people' and is quite properly applied. On the shore of the otherwise barren lake are found countless millions of the pupae of a fly....These pupae were not only the favorite food of these Indians, but they used them for trading with the neighboring tribes....The conclusion is forced upon us that the Yokuts called these Indians *Monachi* because their wealth consisted of flies." (*California Folklore Quarterly*, Jan. 1945)

"The worms are dried in the sun, the shell rubbed off, when a yellowish kernel remains, like a small yellow grain of rice. This is oily, very nutritious, and not unpleasant to the taste, and under the name of *koo-chah-bee* forms a very important article of food. The Indians gave me some; it does not taste bad, and if one were ignorant of its origin, it would make fine soup. Gulls, ducks, snipe, frogs, and Indians fatten on it." (William H. Brewer. *Up and Down California in 1860-1864*.)

Place Names of the Sierra Nevada - Peter Browning

NORTH PALISADE, THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 1939

The sun drops daily down the sky,
The long cold crawls near,
The aspen spills its gold in the air,
Lavish beyond the mind.
This is the last peak, the last climb.
New snow freckles the granite.
The imperious seasons have granted
Courage of a different kind.
Once more only in the smother
Of storm will the wary rope
Vanquish uncertain routes,
This year or another.
Once more only will the peak rise
Lucent above the dropping storm,
Skilled hand and steadfast foot accord
Victory of the brain and eye.
Practice is done, the barren lake
That mirrors this night's fire
Will hold unwinking unknown stars
In its unblemished gaze.

"Now winter nights enlarge
The number of our hours."
They march to test their power,
We to betray their march.
Their rabbit words and weasel minds
Play at a losing game.
Ours is the unity of aim,
Theirs the diversity of pride.
Their victories on either side
Drive more deep the iron.
Ours is the victory to claim,
Ours is the peace to find.

narrative submitted by
Jackie Stroud

poem submitted by
Charley Smith

from
In What Hour
by Kenneth Rexroth

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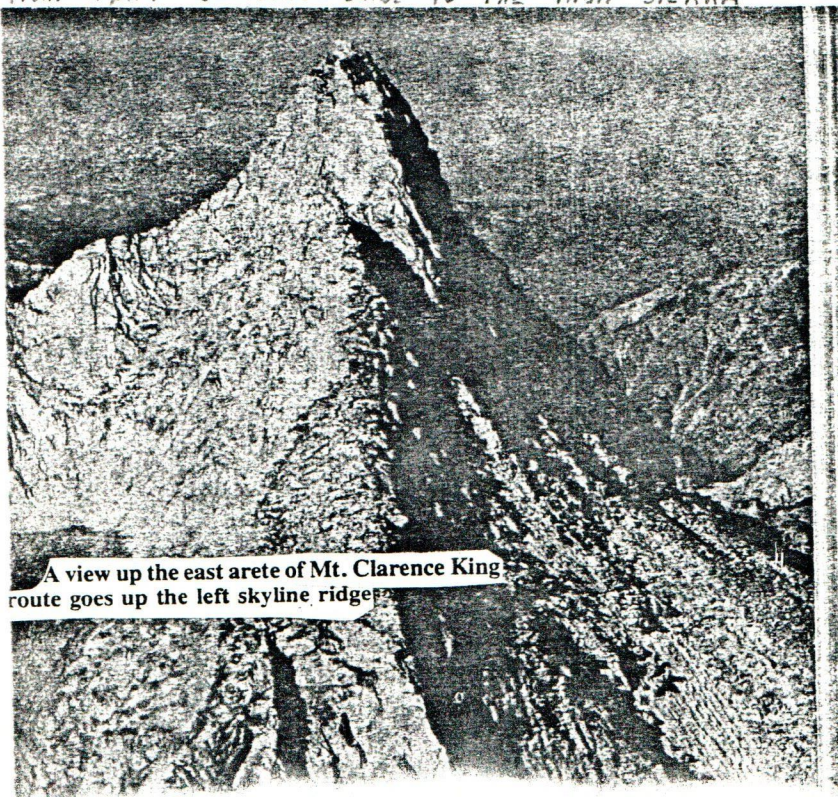
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to editor, per*

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from Roper's CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE HIGH SIERRA



A view up the east arete of Mt. Clarence King
route goes up the left skyline ridge