Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H.

Hervey Voge, editor
1954

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r

r **Warning:**r This guidebook is for historical reference only.r Routes and terrain may have changed since this guide was written in 1954.r Bring and use a up-to-date guidebook instead, such asr R. J. Secor's *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails* (2009).r From the original guide book:r r

> r *A guidebook is not a substitute for mountaineering skill,r nor can it make climbing safe for those who do not practicer the principles of safety. It is urged that inexperienced climbers avail themselves of the instruction and training given byr the Sierra Club or other organizations before attemptingr difficult ascents.*r

r

r r

r r

About the Editor

r r
r *Hervey Voge*r (fromr
r Steve Roper, *Camp 4*)r

r r Hervey Harper Voge was born June 29, 1910.r He earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from University of California,r thenr received a chemistry fellowship in 1935 from the National Academy of Sciences.r Voge was a Sierra Club member and mountaineer and started climbing in the early 1930s while he was a student at Berkeley, California.r Voge made first ascents of multiple peaks,r including Washington Column from below.r He climbed with other well-known area climbers of the day, includingr David Brower, Norman Clyde, Bestor Robinson, Dick Leonard, and Jules Eichorn.r Fellow student David Brower joined the Sierra Club in 1933 at the suggestion of Voge.r In 1934,r Voge and Brower traversed the High Sierra from Kearsarge Pass area to Yosemite, climbing 59 peaks in 69 days.r Voge named two peaks, Norman Clyde Peak and Muriel Peak.r While climbing peaks, he made a effort to preserve peak registers and record first ascents.rr

r Dr. Voge lived in Berkeley, California.r He married and had at least one daughter, Tamara.r Professionally, Voge was a chemical engineer for Shell Development.r His work includes heading a team that developed a rocket fuel for use in the vacuum of outer space.r Voge was issued 25 US patents for his research work.r He died in the Caribbean Islands on June 20, 1990.r

r r

---

r r

Bibliographical Information

r r

r Hervey Harper Voge, editor (1910-1990),r *A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*r 1st ed.r (Sierra Club, 1954),r Copyright 1954 by the Sierra Club.r LCCN 54014261.r 301 pages. Illustrated. 20 cm. Bound in dark blue board with silver lettering.r Library of Congress call number F868.S5 S47 1954.r

r r

r *Other editions.*r This book first appeared in serial form in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for 1937-1942.r A "preliminary edition," edited by David Brower, appeared in 1949 (118pp., paper wrappers).r The first complete edition in book form, used here, appeared in 1954.r Voge also edited a revised 1965 edition.r In 1972, another edition appeared (with the title changed to *Mountaineer's Guide*), but it was not edited or authorized by Voge,r although he's listed as a co-authorr (*Am. Alpine J.* 22:530).r

r r

r Book review: *Sierra Club Bulletin* 39:28 (1954).r

r r

r Converted to HTML by Dan Anderson, April 2009,r from a copy in my personal library.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r
r —Dan Anderson, www.yosemite.ca.usr

r r r
r

---

r r

r **r Next: coverr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/r

r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Cover and jacket >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Title page •r Contentsr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Cover and jacket

r r r r

r r r

r r

[From inside jacket cover]

r r

r Climbing in California's High Sierrar offers a combination of satisfactions.r Here are cliffs difficult enough to challenge the most intrepid sixth-classr climber; lofty, isolated peaks that stimulate the spirit of exploration

and adr venture; and a timberline wildernessr country with off-trail beauty spots seldomr visited and completely unspoiled. Thoser who wish to try the climbs or visit ther peaks will find this book useful, for itr describes routes worked out by severalr generations of climbers and explorers.r These who wish to seek out unknownr climbs or peaks will also find the bookr helpful, for it tells what has alreadyr been done and some of what remainsr to be tried.r

r r

r The Guide covers the High Sierrar Region from Bond Pass on the northernr boundary of Yosemite National Park tor Army Pass south of Mount Whitney.r Included are rock climbs of the famousr Yosemite Valley, which has attractedr devotees for over twenty years. Mostr of the Yosemite climbs are of fifth andr sixth class difficulty and require specialr equipment and careful training. Butr many peaks of the High Sierra can ber climbed by hikers without technicalr skill, and the Guide has not neglectedr the interests of these.r

r r

r r Routes on some 450 named peaks andr over 300 unnamed summits are described,r together with dates of first ascent andr the names of the first climbers, whenr known. This material, along with earlyr history, advice on approaches and camping, and some description of topography,r is organized on the basis of seventeenr different climbing areas.r

r r

r Trails, passes, and cross-country routesr are also discussed — information of realr value to those who desire to see ther Sierra from somewhat lower elevationsr than the summits of the peaks. Knapsackers who wish to set off across countryr with supplies on their backs will findr material here for many trips.r

r r

r Authors of the Guide are twenty-twor climbers of varied experience. Compilation of the Guide started in 1937 whenr Richard M. Leonard, later president ofr the Sierra Club, collected all records forr High Sierra Peaks. Since then numerousr well-known climbers have participated.r The present Guide was edited by Herveyr Voge, who has known the Sierra for ther past twenty years. Once he spent tenr weeks in the mountains with David R.r Brower, now executive director of ther Club, during the course of which theyr personally inspected some 90 routes. Her and the other authors have visited manyr parts of the world, but have alwaysr found variety, challenge, or inspirationr in the Sierra.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Title page •r Contentsr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/cover.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Title page >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Table of Contents •r Contentsr • Previous: Coverr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r r r r r

r A Climber’s Guide to ther r High Sierrar

r r r

r r r

r r r

*A guidebook is not a substitute for mountaineering skill,r nor can it make climbing safe for those who do not practicer the principles of safety. It is urged that inexperienced climbers avail themselves of the instruction and training given byr the Sierra Club or other organizations before attemptingr difficult ascents.*r

r r r

---

r r r

r r

r

r r r

r MOUNT HUXLEYr r *Ansel Adams*r

r r r

---

r r r r

r A CLIMBER'S GUIDEr
r TO THE HIGH SIERRAr

r r

r ROUTES AND RECORDS FORr
r CALIFORNIA PEAKS FROMr
r BOND PASS TO ARMY PASSr
r AND FOR ROCK CLIMBS' INr
r YOSEMITE VALLEY ANDr
r KINGS CANYONr

r r

r *Edited by*r

r r

r Hervey Voger

r r

r r

r r

r THE SIERRA CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO • 1954r

r r

---

r r r r

r Published by the Sierra Clubr
r on the fund established inr
r memory of William Shand, Jr.r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r *Manufactured in the U.S.A. byr*
*r Vail-Ballou Press, Inc., Binghamton, N. Y.*r

r r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Table of Contents •r Contentsr • Previous: Coverr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Contents >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Illustrations •r Contentsr • Previous: Title pager** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Contents

r r r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Illustrations •r Contentsr • Previous: Title pager** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/contents.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Illustrations >r

r r

r

r r r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Illustrations

r r

r [Editor's note:r this list does not appear in the original book,r but was added as a finding aid—dea.]r

r r r

- r Sentinel Rock (Ansel Adams)r r

  r
- r Route to El Capitan Tree (arrow) (Robert L. Swift)r r

  r
- r Higher Cathedral Spire (Francis P. Farquhar)r r

  r
- r North Palisade (Leigh Ortenburger)r r

  r
- r Arrow Peak (Cedric Wright)r r

  r
- r Kearsarge Pinnacles (Ansel Adams)r r

  r
- r Peaks South of Lake Reflection (Philip Hyde)r r

  r
- r Junction Peak from Bubbs Creek (Philip Hyde)r r

rr

r r r

- Sketchesr

  r
- r Sketch 1. Northern Areas

  r
- r Sketch 2. Southern Areas

  r r
- r Sketch 3. The Sawtooth Ridge from the northeast

  r r
- r Sketch 4. Yosemite Valley Climbs

  r r
- r Sketch 5. Cathedral Peak Area

  r
- r Sketch 6. Mounts Lyell and Maclure from the northeast

  r r
- r Sketch 7. The Ritter Range and the Minarets

  r
- r Sketch 8. The Minarets from Minaret Creek

r

- r Sketch 26. East face of Mount Whitney

r

- r Sketch 27. South wall of Thor Peak

r r

- r Sketch 28. The Kaweah Ridge from the west

rr

rr r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: William Shand, Jr. •r Contentsr • Previous: Table of Contentsr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Preface •r Contentsr • Previous: Illustrationsr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

r r r r

r William Shand, Jr., 1918-1946r

r r r

William Shand, Jr.

r r r r

r WILLIAM SHAND, JR.,r was born October 5, 1918, in Lancaster,r Pennsylvania, second son of William and Dorothy (Schaeffer)r Shand. After attending Franklin and Marshall Academy and Phillipsr Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, from which he was graduated second in his class, he entered Princeton University with the class of 1940r His many achievements in college were climaxed by his graduation asr valedictorian of the class, with highest honors in chemistry. After receiving the freshman First Honors Prize, Bill went on to win ther Wood Legacy Prize, the McCay Prize in Chemistry, and a Phi Betar Kappa key in his junior year. He

was a member of the Princetonr Quadrangle Club, and found time for the varsity cross-country squadr and the varsity swimming team, the German Club, and the Experiment in International Living. It was during the summers of 1935,r 1937, and 1938 in Europe with the latter organization that his interestr in mountain climbing was aroused.r

r r

r After graduation, Bill entered the Graduate School of the Californiar Institute of Technology as a fellow in the department of chemistry.r During the war, he performed research with the Office of Scientific Research and Development for the Army in Panama in 1944, and in ther South Pacific and the Philippines in 1945. After the war, he returnedr to California Institute of Technology, where he received his Ph.D. inr physical chemistry in June 1946. He was appointed an instructor inr molecular physics at the University of California, Berkeley, on July 1,r 1946.r

r r

r An enthusiastic mountain climber, Bill was a member of the Sierrar Club, The American Alpine Club, and the Swiss Alpine Club. In ther summer of 1938, he climbed the thirteen highest peaks in Switzerland.r He was a member of the party, headed by Bradford Washburn, whichr first scaled Mount Hayes in Alaska in 1941. With Dr. Ben Ferris, her later in the same year ascended a then unnamed peak near Mountr Hayes, which had never before been climbed; later the peak wasr officially named Mount Shand in his memory. The Canadian government has similarly named a peak after him in the Coast Mountains ofr r r r British Columbia. Bill’s unrealized ambition was to take part in anr expedition to K-2, in the Himalaya.r

r r

r In addition to his great enthusiasm for mountaineering, Bill showedr an unusual ability in rock climbing. His friends in the Sierra Club reportr that he was a most capable rock climber during his years with the clubr and frequently undertook difficult ascents at Tahquitz Rock, in southernr California, in Yosemite Valley, and in other places in the Sierra. Hisr natural abilities and personality made him a popular leader in the rockr climbing and mountaineering activities of the Southern Californiar Chapter of the Sierra Club. Bill’s favorite mountain was the Grandr Teton in Wyoming, which he ascended several times. It was whiler driving alone to repeat an ascent of this peak that he met his deathr in a collision in Nevada on August 11, 1946.r

r r

r Publication of this work was made possible through a gift to ther Sierra Club from Bill’s parents as a memorial to him, with the hoper that many young climbers may benefit from the information containedr herein.r

r r

r The portrait by Raymond P. N. Neilson, reproduced in this volume,r hangs in the William Shand, Jr., Memorial Library of the Chemistryr Department of Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Preface •r Contentsr • Previous: Illustrationsr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/william_shand_jr.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Preface >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Photographs •r Contentsr • Previous: William Shand, Jr.r** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Preface

r r r

r THIS VOLUME represents the culmination of an effort begun inr 1933 when the Sierra Club Committee on Mountain Records startedr the collection of information on the ascents that had been made in ther High Sierra. The project was soon enlarged with the ultimate aim ofr publishing a guidebook to Sierra climbs. Eight separate regions werer described in a series of articles published in the *Sierra Club Bulletin*r over the period 1937 to 1951, and these have now been corrected andr combined with new material to make this volume. It is to be noted,r however, that the project cannot be considered complete or final because many omissions have undoubtedly been made and there is certainr to be additional material in the future as new generations of climbersr seek out novel routes and unclimbed pinnacles. Therefore the compilersr of this guide, now constituting the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee, will welcome any additions or corrections. For omissions committed because of ignorance we can only offer our sincerest apologies,r and shall gently suggest that in the future these climbs can be recordedr if we are informed of them.r

r r

r Mr. and Mrs. William Shand of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, have particularly aided this project through the William Shand Fund contributedr in memory of their son, William Shand, Jr., who lost his lifer in an automobile accident en route to the Tetons in 1946. His parents'r generosity has made possible the publication of the *Climber's Guide*r in the present form.r

r r

r Many members of the Sierra Club have contributed to the materialr in his guide. The patience and ingenuity of the authors of the variousr sections in correlating heterogeneous bits of information have beenr invaluable. Others who deserve special mention are: Arthur H. Blake,r chairman of the Committee on Mountain Records during the periodr when many sections of the Guide were compiled; David R. Brower, whor throughout has contributed leadership and advice; Norman Clyde, whor supplied much material in the region from Mammoth Pass to Kearsarge Passr from his personal notes; Richard M. Leonard, who in 1937r compiled the "Mountain Records of the Sierra Nevada," which listedr all peaks and all known ascents (up to the first five); Gene Hammelr r r r and Allen P. Steck, who for successive periods organized and directedr work on the Guide; and Walter Starr, who had the "Mountain Recordsr of the Sierra Nevada" and the climbing notes of Walter Starr, Jr.,r mimeographed for distribution to those who were active in climbing and might make further contributions.r

r r

r Still others who have helped in various ways are: Kenneth Adam,r Ansel Adams, Marjorie Borland, Chispa Chamberlain, Jack Davis, Glenr Dawson, Betty De Coe, Marjorie Dunmire, Jules Eichorn, Joan Firey,r

Samuel W. French, Morgan Harris, Mary Houston, Elizabeth Klevesahl,r Jim Koontz, Oscar Krupp, Norvill LaVene, R. G. Meisenheimer, L.r Bruce Meyer, Howard Parker, Fernando Penalosa, Bill and Ellen Phillips, A. J. Reyman, William Rice, Ed Roper, Ned Robinson, Ruthr Shapero, Jack Sturgeon, Denese Summitt, Chester Versteeg, Suzier Voge, Dale Webster, Laurie Williams, and Owen Williams. Amongr these A. J. Reyman and Chester Versteeg have been particularly activer in climbing peaks for which no information was available and particularly helpful in sending in records from summit registers. The contributions of all are gratefully acknowledged.r

r r

r Since it is hoped that revised editions of the *Guide* will be publishedr in the future, climbers are asked to send in additions and corrections.r These should be addressed to the Mountaineering Committee,r Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street, San Francisco 4, California.r

r r

r Especially desired are records of first ascents and of new routes, eitherr based on personal experience or copied from summit registers. Wer urge all climbers to carry pencils and notebooks so that details regardingr routes and landmarks can be entered on the spot. For new routes,r starting points, general orientation of route (compass direction from ther summit), and a reasonable amount of detail are desirable. This willr make identification of routes much more certain than it is in many ofr the descriptions in this guide.r

r r

r There are still many minor peaks of the Sierra for which no recordsr are available. For the most part these peaks have not even been listedr here. Those who harbor a desire to tread rocks which have never beforer felt the presence of man may wish to seek out such peaks. Others willr find the same satisfaction of pioneering in making new and perhapsr more difficult routes on nonvirgin peaks.r

r r

r H. V.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Photographs •r Contentsr • Previous: William Shand, Jr.r** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Photographs >r

r r

r

r r r

r r **Next: Introduction** **•r Contentsr • Previous: Prefacer** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

---

r r r

Sixteen Photographs

r r r r r

r r

r r r

r MOUNT WINCHELLr r

r

r *Ansel Adams*r

r r

The Climber's Sierra

r r

SIXTEEN PHOTOGRAPHS

r r r r r

r r r

r r

r r r

r r

r

r r r
THE THREE TEETH r

r *Ansel Adams* r

r r

r r r r r

r

r r r
RAGGED PEAK r

r *Ansel Adams* r

r r

r r

r

r r r

r THE MINARETSr r

r *Philip Hyde*r

r r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r MOUNT RITTER AND BANNER PEAKr

r *Philip Hyde*r

r r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r PEAKS ABOVE PURPLE LAKEr r *William Hail*r

r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r r *Robert L.*

r NORTH FROM MOUNT RITTER, WINTERr *Swift*r

r r r r r

r r

r

r r r
r CLIMBING IN YOSEMITE VALLEYr r *Richard M. Leonard*r

r r r r r r

r r r

r r r r

r SENTINEL ROCKr r

r *Ansel Adams*r

r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r r *Robert L.*

r ROUTE TO EL CAPITAN TREE (arrow)r r *Swift*r

r r r r r

r HIGHERr r r

r CATHEDRALr

r SPIREr

r *Francis P.r*

*r Farquhar*r

r

r r r

r r

r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r NORTH PALISADEr r

r *Leigh Ortenburger*r

r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r ARROW PEAKr r

r *Cedric Wright*r

r r r

r r

r

r r r

r KEARSARGE PINNACLESr r

r *Ansel Adams*r

r r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r PEAKS SOUTH OF LAKE REFLECTIONr r *Philip Hyde*r

r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r JUNCTION PEAK FROM BUBBS CREEKr r *Philip Hyde*r

r r

r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Introduction •r Contentsr • Previous: Prefacer** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/photographs.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Introduction >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Area Covered •r Contentsr • Previous: Photographsr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

---

r r r

Introduction

r r r r r

r MOUNTAINEERING in the Sierra Nevada of California is a sportr that offers an especially attractive combination of satisfactions.r There arc many precipitous cliffs and jagged peaks to challenge ther climber, including many possible routes that have not yet been attempted. There is the High Sierra timberline country, an area unexcelled in natural beauty, with thousands of streams and lakes, and ar parklike quality that often permits the climber to go cross country without need of a trail. There is a summer climate seldom rivaled in mountainous areas, which nearly guarantees fair weather for both campingr and climbing. There is an unspoiled wilderness, yet any peak can ber reached in two days from the nearest roadhead. Lower down, in Yosemite Valley and elsewhere, there are readily accessible granite cliffsr where rock climbers can find routes as difficult and demanding as anyr that have yet been ascended. Some idea of the Sierra terrain is given byr the photographs included in this volume, but the climber will have tor go out into the real mountains to experience the special Sierra charm.r

r r

r It is the purpose of this guidebook to supply brief descriptions of ther routes of ascent for the High Sierra peaks and for certain cliffs in Yosemite Valley and Kings Canyon. An attempt has been made to includer all novel ascents, and thus the guide is also a compilation of mountainr records. In this introduction something is said about the area covered,r the general nature of Sierra climbing, the classification system used,r the method of describing routes, and necessary safety precautions. Forr other information the reader may wish to consult some of the booksr listed in ther References and mapsr section at the end of this volume.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Area Covered •r Contentsr • Previous: Photographsr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Area Covered >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Sierra Camping & Climbing •r Contentsr • Previous: Introductionr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Introduction

r

Area Covered

r r r r

r THE GENERAL area covered is the Sierra Nevada between Bondr Pass on the north and Army and Franklin passes on the south. Usuallyr only peaks above 10,000 feet elevation are included, but a notable exception is made for the Yosemite Valley, where many rock climbs tor points 6,000 to 9,000 feet in elevation are described. Throughout,r peaks and climbs have been selected on the basis of interest to ther r r r climber or because of their prominence in a region, rather than byr definition in terms of a minimum of so many hundreds of feet abover the nearest saddle. This choice has been arbitrary and has left out manyr small peaks which may ultimately attract attention. On the other hand,r the peaks included are quite numerous, and many are listed which canr be very easily climbed.r

r r

r The whole area is subdivided into sections marked off by the majorr passes across the Sierra Crest, as shown in Sketches 1 and 2. Dividingr lines between sections follow water courses, with a few exceptions suchr as the Tioga Pass Road. Within sections there are certain areas which,r because of their isolation or because of their accessibility from a singler base, or because of unusual attractiveness for climbers, have come to ber considered as units. Such, for instance, are the Sawtooth Ridge, ther Palisades, and the Evolution Region. These areas are treated separatelyr within the major sections. For each such area there are usually given ar brief description, some history of the climbing, routes of access, informationr on campsites, a listing of passes and knapsack routes, and ther routes and records for the peaks. In some sections general informationr for the individual areas is given only at the head.r

r r

r Sketch maps are included for a few sections. These show certainr features or routes not on the topographic maps of the U.S. Geologicalr Survey, but are not intended as substitutes for the latter. Every climberr will need the topographic maps to aid in identification of peaks andr finding of routes. The Sierra region of interest has been completelyr mapped on a scale of 1:125,000. The maps are listed in the bibliography.r Larger sheets made up of the above show the areas of Sequoia andr Kings Canyon National Parks and Yosemite National Park and thusr cover much of the High Sierra. Climbers should be warned againstr possible errors in all of these old maps.r

r r

r Recently, publication of a new series of maps, on a scale of 1:62,500,r and based on stereophotographic aerial surveys, has been started byr the U.S. Geological Survey. These new maps are more reliable than ther old ones and show much more detail. Unfortunately only a small portionr of the total High Sierra region has so far been covered by the newr maps, but within a few years all will have been.r

r r

r The existence of two sets of maps poses certain problems in makingr up a guidebook which is of necessity based on names and elevationsr shown on the maps. For most places the elevations shown on the twor sets of maps differ, yet for unnamed peaks the elevations serve asr primary identification, being followed by the distance in miles from ar r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 1. Northern Areas.r r

r r r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 2. Southern Areas.r r

r r r r r nearby named feature. In many places an exact elevation is given forr a certain peak on one set of maps, but not on the other. Because ofr these difficulties, because the records compiled by the Sierra Club werer all based on the old maps, and because the new maps will not be complete for several years, it has been decided to show both old and newr elevations, when available, for all peaks. Elevations from the new mapsr are followed by *n;* thus North Palisade, 14,254; 14,242n. When an exactr elevation is not given on a map, the

elevation for the last contour liner is written in the guide, followed by a plus sign to indicate the unknownr additional elevation. Some of the new elevations have been taken fromr advance sheets of the new maps, and it is possible that discrepanciesr will appear when they are published.rr r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Sierra Camping & Climbing •r Contentsr • Previous: Introductionr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/area_covered.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Sierra Camping and Climbing >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Safety Precautions •r Contentsr • Previous: Area Coveredr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Introduction

r

Sierra Camping and Climbing

r r r r r

r CAMPING is the customary mode of habitation in the Sierra, althoughr more civilized accommodations are available in the national parks andr forests at a few places, and at a few pack stations. The climate inr summer and fall is quite suitable for camping with a minimum ofr equipment, but a small tent or a large tarpaulin is advisable since rainr can fall in spite of the fabled California climate. Wood for fires andr trees for shelter are usually found up to about 11,000 feet; the knapsackerr equipped with air mattress and primus stove can camp higher—evenr on the summits. The temperature at night in the summer is usuallyr in the thirties; or low forties at timberline, and ice on puddles isr not uncommon. Daytime temperatures are usually much higher.r

r r

r Campers are rarely bothered by animals in the High Sierra. In ther national parks, when near popular centers, it may be desirable to hangr food out of the reach of bears at night. Otherwise the only likely thievesr are small rodents or birds. Rattlesnakes are very infrequent abover 8,000 feet. Mosquitos are the insects most apt to be troublesome; theyr are worst near moist meadows and just after the snow has melted. Inr early spring or late summer very few mosquitos should be encountered.r Often, if they are numerous, a camp a few hundred feet higher or lowerr will largely solve the problem. And the active climber, high up on ther peaks, is never plagued by insects.r

r r

r Access routes for the principal regions are described in the individualr sections of the Guide. The whole subject of trail routes is well reviewedr in the *Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region,* byr Walter A. Starr, Jr. (see References).r

r r r r r

r Climbing in the Sierra is largely rock climbing, although some steepr snow and even ice may be encountered. The rock is chiefly granite andr is quite firm compared to that of many mountains. This granite tendsr to fracture on planes at right angles, producing cubical or rectangularr blocks and horizontal ledges well suited to climbing. Metamorphic rocksr of various qualities are found in certain small regions, particularly inr the Kaweahs, near Rae Lakes, the Black Divide, Convict Lake, and inr the Minarets. With a few exceptions the metamorphic rocks are alsor fairly sound. Loose rock must be guarded against, however, and particularly in gullies or chutes will the climber meet loose rock whichr must be trod with care. The high

Sierra Peaks have been deeply carvedr by glaciers in the past. Steep glacial cirques, common on north andr east sides, sometimes have overhanging upper edges or are borderedr by sharp arêtes. Avalanche chutes cut by winter snow slides are ther most notable additional characteristic of the peaks.r

r r

r The easier routes up peaks are commonly chutes or ridges, since ther faces are generally more difficult. In almost all ascents an approachr must be made over intermediate terrain where one thousand feet orr more of talus, broken shelves, snow slope, or meadow are ascended. Ther actual climbing may then involve one to two thousand feet of rock,r snow or ice. It is always interesting, while passing over the intermediate terrain, to choose the best route of approach, which will depend to some extent on the personal tastes of the climbers. In May orr June the approach may be entirely over snowfields, while in Augustr or September it is more likely to be over talus.r

r r

r There are dozens of small glaciers remaining in the Sierra, but theyr are usually hidden under the northeast faces of peaks and are not majorr geographical features. Except for the bergschrunds that separate ther moving glaciers from the fixed rock and ice above, there are no crevasses of consequence. The hazards of the glaciers are largely those ofr steep ice and snow, although sometimes a certain amount of difficultyr is met in crossing a bergschrund. The largest Sierra glacier, the Palisader Glacier, is quite flat, and may be crossed without difficulty. Steep snowr is fairly frequent, especially early in the season, but the late-summerr climber can often avoid all snow.r

r r

r Annual and seasonal variations can cause a considerable variation inr the difficulty of climbs. A chute which is ascended by easy rocks oner summer may be filled with steep ice and snow in another year. Or ar feasible snow slope may be replaced by a rather difficult rock climb.r No attempt has been made in this Guide to judge all such variations andr r r r the climber should not be too surprised if a supposed class 3 climbr actually turns out to be class 4 or 5.r

r r

r Weather in the Sierra is quite dependable, and summer storms, whenr they occur at all, are usually mild. Furthermore, storms most oftenr come in the afternoon. Thus a cloudless morning sky will sometimes ber transformed by noon or mid-afternoon into a region of towering cumulusr clouds and a little later lightning and rain may develop. Because ofr this it is well to start and finish a climb early in the day. Occasionallyr the thunderstorms are quite violent, and then the climber should taker pains to remain well off summits and ridges, where lightning mayr strike. Chutes or couloirs are also to be avoided, for rain or hail canr loosen dangerous barrages of falling rock. Since such storms are usuallyr rather brief it is well to wait them out in some safe place rather than tor try to proceed in spite of weather. In late May and in June there mayr be general storms of the type characteristic of the California winterr climate. These will bring rain or snow in moderate amounts, but theyr will pass in a few days. July and August are normally fair except forr infrequent thunderstorms. In September or October the first fall stormsr may be expected. These, like those of June, are usually brief and arer followed by fair weather, so that foot travel in the High Sierra is oftenr quite possible in September, October, and November. It sometimes happens, however, that quite heavy storms bringing much snow strike inr the fall.r

r r

r Equipment needed in the Sierra depends largely upon the type ofr climbing to be done. All climbers will want sturdy pants, a strongr shirt, a sweater, windproof jacket, and a hat. Rock climbers will bringr a 120 foot nylon climbing rope, a 200 foot Manila rappel rope, slings,r pitons, carabiners, and a hammer. Those who go early in the season,r or who visit the Palisades, the north face of Darwin, the Minarets, ther Sawtooth Ridge, and other areas likely to require crossing steep snowr and ice, will need ice axes and boots suitable for snow work. There isr seldom enough hard snow or ice to justify carrying crampons. Footwearr depends somewhat on individual taste. Formerly nails were used onr snow and a change to light rubber-soled shoes was made for dry rock.r At present, stout leather boots with rubber-cleated soles are the preferredr all-around footwear. Those who plan to avoid snow can use sneakersr or shoes with composition soles, but the Bramani, Vibram, or otherr lug-type cleated soles are generally better even if snow and wet rock are neverr crossed.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Safety Precautions •r Contentsr • Previous: Area Coveredr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/sierra_camping_climbing.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Safety Precautions >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Route Descriptions •r Contentsr • Previous: Sierra Camping & Climbingr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

---

r r r

Introduction

r

Safety Precautions

r r r r

r ESSENTIALLY, safety results from the judgment and competence ofr the climbers. Without these, rules or warnings are futile. Therefore itr is most important that every climbing party should be aware of itsr abilities and limitations and should not attempt ascents beyond its power.r The only safe way for a climber to develop ability and judgment is inr prolonged practice climbing within a few feet of level ground or withr an upper belay, and later on, in actual climbs with experienced persons.r This guidebook is in no sense a substitute for such experience, and it isr strongly urged that climbers limit themselves to class 1 or class 2 climbsr until they have had opportunity to gain experience with competentr climbers. Even on class 1 and class 2 climbs there are possible hazards,r and all climbers are urged to refrain from attempting anything theyr are not confident of successfully completing. In mountaineering it is ar sign of competence to retreat if the weather turns bad, if the partyr proves too weak, or if the route proves to be more difficult than expected.r An adequate margin of safety should always be maintained.r

r r

r The chief hazards in climbing are:r

r r

r
1. Falling off because of loss of balance or loss of grip.

r
2. Falling off because of loose rock, as when a handhold or footholdr breaks.

r
3. Being struck by falling rock from above.

r
4. Slipping on steep snow or ice.

r
5. Being struck by or carried down by an avalanche of snow.

rr r

r Hazard 1 is commonly recognized, and is the chief justification for ther need of practice climbing. A competent leader knows his limits and isr not at all likely to fall for these reasons.* In the event that a fall doesr occur, proper rope technique offers a strong secondary defense againstr serious injury.† Hazard 2 is a very real one and must be constantlyr guarded against. Especially dangerous is the rare but quite possibler occasion when a large block, perhaps one to ten feet in size, is pulledr loose by the leader. Many serious accidents have resulted from such anr event. Falling rock, listed as hazard 3, may result from natural causesr r r r or from actions of a member of a climbing party. Natural rock falls arer rather rare in the Sierra and do not constitute an intolerable risk exceptr under certain circumstances, as in a chute when there is heavy rainfallr or much melting snow and ice. On the other hand, knocking down ofr rocks by climbers is very common, and the hazard thereby created mustr be minimized by (*a*) avoiding whenever possible (and it usually is!)r knocking or throwing down any rocks, (*b*) keeping the party spreadr out horizontally when this is feasible, or staying close together so thatr the velocity reached by a falling rock will be low, or staying in ar sheltered spot while waiting or belaying, and (*c*) by calling out rock!r whenever a rock is accidentally loosened.r

r r

r * For an excellent discussion see the article by Morgan Harris, “Safety Last?”r *SCB*, 1942, 65-74.r

r r

r † See “Belaying the Leader,” by R. M. Leonard and Arnold Wexler, *SCB*,r 1946, 68-90 (available as reprint).r

r r r

r Snow or ice is chiefly dangerous because the climber may slip andr slide onto rocks below, even though the snow is not especially steep.r Since so much Sierra climbing is on rock, both footgear and experiencer are often ill-adapted to deal with this hazard. Furthermore it is notr always possible to avoid crossing such slopes. When they are crossedr good steps should be kicked or cut and the rope should be used forr belaying.r

r r

r Snow avalanches are uncommon in the summer but they may occurr when snow lies on smooth slabs or when there is a steep slope of wetr snow. Warm afternoons are the most dangerous times. Experience isr the prerequisite for judging the safety of a snow slope.r

r r

r In the above paragraph a few hints on safety have been given withr the hope that they will help the users of this Guide to avoid trouble.r These brief remarks are not intended to supply instruction, for, as notedr elsewhere, this can best be obtained from organized groups. Thoser desiring information in print should consult one or more of the following:r

r r

r *Manual of Ski Mountaineering*, David R. Brower, editor, Universityr of California Press, 1947. Three excellent chapters on climbing techniques are included.r

r r

r *Handbook of American Mountaineering*, Kenneth A. Henderson,r editor, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1942.r

r r

r *Mountaineers Handbook*, published by the Seattle Mountaineers.r

r r

r *General safety rules*—Safety comes primarily from a state of mindr and cannot be insured by the blind observance of any number of commandments.r A few rules, however, help to build safety consciousness.r Some valuable ones are:r

r r

r 1. A climbing party of three or more is best. Two is tolerable ifr nearby support knows of the plans of the climbers. Solo mountaineeringr r r r exposes the climber to very grave risks and may work unnecessary hardships on friends or would-be rescuers.r

r r

r 2. Climbers should at all times carry adequate clothing, food, andr equipment.r

r r

r 3. The rope should be used on all exposed places. (This assumes ar knowledge of rope management.) The leader should never refuse ar belay if any member of the party requests it.r

r r

r 4. The party should be kept together. All must agree to obey ther leader or the majority rule.r

r r

r 5. Climbers should never attempt anything beyond their ability andr knowledge. Physical and mental condition at the time of the climbr must be considered.r

r r

r 6. Judgment should not be swayed by desire when a retreat or anr easier route is necessary. No climb is worth the deliberate risk of life.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Route Descriptions •r Contentsr • Previous: Sierra Camping & Climbingr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/safety_precautions.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Route Descriptions >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Climb Classification •r Contentsr • Previous: Safety Precautionsr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Introduction

r

Route Descriptions

r r r r r

r ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS in this Guide are mostly rather general andr will require a considerable amount of route-finding ability from anyr climbers who follow them. In some, only the direction of approach isr given, while in others, the entry merely constitutes a record that ther peak has been climbed. For many climbs no more is needed, but inr other descriptions, particularly for prominent peaks, ultimate furtherr elaboration is desirable, and it is hoped that users will supply this.r

r r

r Information has come from personal experience of the authors andr their friends, from summit registers, from letters sent in to the Mountaineering Committee (formerly the Committee on Mountain Records),r and from articles in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* and the Sierra Club Baser Camps' mimeographed books. This information is incomplete and it isr certain that many ascents worthy of record are not included. A climbing party may thus ascend a peak for which no record is available andr still find a cairn on the summit. An effort has been made to limit ther term "first ascent" to those cases where climbers stated that no cairnr was found, but even this may be in error as cairns can be destroyed byr storms or may not have been erected in the first place. Sardine cansr and other human artifacts constitute fairly good proof of previousr ascents and have been found when no cairns were evident. The priorityr of ascent of a new route up a peak is even harder to certify, and it isr quite possible that some injustices have been done.r

r r

r Conventions followed in describing routes should be mentioned. Ther r r r basic location of a route is given by compass direction from the summit,r for example, north face, west ridge, etc. Actions of the climber arer stated for him as though he were advancing (usually toward the summit) in the general direction of the route; thus he may be told to turnr left or right. For added certainty the compass bearing of his new liner of advance is sometimes given. For example, directions may call for ar traverse to the left (N). Since route descriptions are not detailed, theyr should not be taken too literally. If the description says: "Follow ther west ridge to the summit," the climber should remember that the bestr route may actually involve a number of small deviations to one side orr the other of the ridge, and that it is up to him to find these rather thanr to stick stubbornly to the ridge in difficult places. Actually on mostr routes a considerable number of variations will be possible, and manyr variations may be of about the same difficulty.r

r r

r Times of ascent are given rather rarely. They should be consideredr as rough estimates, since the time for a given ascent will vary markedly,r depending on the skill, speed, and condition of the party.r

r r

r “Ducks” made up of two or three stones stacked vertically have beenr placed by various persons to mark routes on peaks and along knapsackr routes. These are sometimes useful, but should usually be viewed withr skepticism. Many ducks have little significance. Some may lead tor poorer routes. The climber who encounters ducks does not usually knowr what the builder of the duck had in mind, and it is better for the climberr to judge the situation himself than to follow blindly a series of ducks.r Sometimes a duck‘ is built to mark the right (or the wrong) chute forr descent from a ridge. It is the feeling of the editor that climbers whor know their business will rarely need a duck to find the return route.r If a duck is built for such a purpose it is usually best to destroy it onr return. The building of ducks, except in a few exceptional places, shouldr probably be discouraged.r

r r

r Terms commonly used in the Guide have been roughly defined asr follows:r

r r

r *Gully*—the broadest and lowest angle of depression that grooves ther mountainside.r

r r

r *Chute*—steeper than a gully, and often subject to recurrent avalanchesr of rock or snow.r

r r

r *Couloir*—a chute which has or is likely to have ice or snow.r

r r

r *Chimney*—a steep, narrow chute with approximately parallel walls.r

r r

r *Crack*—a narrow separation between rock faces varying from aboutr one foot to two or three millimeters.r

r r r r r

r *Face*—a steep side of a mountain, which may vary from a slope ofr about 40° to a vertical cliff.r

r r

r *Slope*—a side of a mountain gentler than a face.r

r r

r *Ridge*—a high divide extending out from a peak.r

r r

r *Arête*—a narrow, steep ridge.r

r r

r *Summit*—the highest point of a peak.r

r r

r *Pass*—the lowest or most convenient point at which a long ridger can be crossed.r

r r

r *Col*—a high, steep pass. A rounded col is often called a saddle.r

r r

r *Notch*—about the same as col.r

r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Climb Classification •r Contentsr • Previous: Safety Precautionsr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/route_descriptions.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Classification of Climbs >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Bond Pass to Tioga Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Route Descriptionsr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Introduction

r

Classification of Climbs

r r r r

r THE classification system employed in this Guide essentially tells ther equipment required for a safe ascent by a competent party. The systemr does not presume to measure actual physical difficulty. The climbingr leader should avail himself of the information conveyed by the classr number so that he may more capably judge the ascents he might wishr to undertake and what equipment he will need. In the last analysis, however,r it is the leader's judgment that will indicate to him which class ar particular lead will be; that is to say, he will decide when to rope upr and when to use pitons for protection or direct aid. His decisions willr be influenced by weather and other seasonal variations, the capacitiesr of his companions, and, of course, his own climbing skill and experience.r It should be noted that greater climbing skill is often required forr class 4 and class 5 ascents than for those of the class 6 category. No oner should attempt a climb unless properly equipped and prepared byr experience to meet the requirements for a safe ascent. The classificationr system is as follows:r

r r

r

r *Class 1.* Hiking. Any sturdy footgear will do.r

r r

r *Class 2.* Proper footgear is necessary, such as rubber lugs, nails, orr composition soles.r

r r

r *Class 3.* Ropes should be available. There will generally be some exposedr climbing requiring use of the hands. Occasional belays arer suggested for less experienced climbers.r

r r

r *Class 4.* Ropes and careful belays must be used for safety. Pitons arer desirable for anchoring belayers.r

r r

r *Class 5.* Pitons should be placed above the belayer by the leader asr he proceeds.r

r r

r *Class 6.* Pitons or bolts must be placed for direct aid.r

r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Bond Pass to Tioga Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Route Descriptionsr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/climb_classification.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Bond Pass to Tioga Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Sawtooth Ridge •r Contentsr • Previous: Climb Classificationr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Bond Pass to Tioga Pass

r r r r r r

r NORTHWARD from Tioga Pass and Tuolumne Meadows peaksr of the High Sierra diminish rapidly in elevation and, with a fewr notable exceptions, in ruggedness as well. Nevertheless this northernr portion of Yosemite National Park, and the region to the east, containr much of interest to climbers. The Sawtooth Ridge, which is describedr as a separate area following these introductory remarks, is outstandingr for its clean granite climbs and its accessibility from the east. The otherr peaks are scattered in a mountain area of quiet charm, and are listedr in alphabetical order in the second subdivision of this section.r

r r

r Many of the peaks may be climbed without encountering technicalr difficulties, merely by following the routes dictated by an inspection ofr the topographic map or the mountain itself. There remain, however,r a few summits which are best approached by specific routes; and therer exist peaks which by virtue of their more impressive faces might bluffr wary mountaineers out of enjoyable ascents.r

r r

Approaches and Campsites

r r

r The central part of the Bond Pass-Tioga Pass area is not often approachedr from the west, probably as a result of the distance which mustr be covered and the less exciting terrain which lies along the route. Allr three of the other directions provide easy and popular routes of entry.r

r r

r From the north trails leading southward from the Sonora Pass highway start at Kennedy Meadow and at Leavitt Meadows. The Leavittr Meadows route follows the Walker River for several miles before trending southwest and crossing an unnamed pass at the eastern end ofr Dorothy Lake. The better-defined Relief Valley Trail starts at Kennedyr Meadow, and joins the other route at Dorothy Lake after entering ther park by way of Bond Pass. Either trail may be hiked to its crossing ofr the park boundary in a matter of two or three days. A newly completedr temporary mining road (closed) leads from the Sonora Pass road tor Bond Pass. Campgrounds have been established at Kennedy and Leavittr meadows, and stock is available.r

r r

r The eastern approaches consist of secondary roads leading in tor r r r r r short, steep trails. Campsites and stock are available at some road ends,r and in general trail systems lead into the park. The Robinson Creekr route does not provide a trail, and bushwhacking is necessary betweenr Barney and Peeler lakes. The approaches to the Sawtooth Ridge arer described separately for that area.r

r r

r The southern routes start from the Tioga Pass road. From Tuolumner Meadows and Snow Flat, trails lead to Glen Aulin and thence northward. Or, from a point near White Wolf a trail descends into the Grandr Canyon of the Tuolumne at Pate Valley; and then, after 3,500 verticalr feet of switchbacks, leads north over easy country to Benson and Smedberg lakes.r

r r

r The major trails in the northern Yosemite Sierra area are fairly wellr shown on the USGS sheet of Yosemite National Park, and several routesr within the area are described in detail in Starr's Guide to the John Muirr Trail. A few days of hiking on these trails should indicate to most hikersr what sort of terrain difficulties may be encountered in the region and howr the trail system will cope with them. Only a few passes reach heightsr of more than 10,000 feet, and the meadows and valley floors lie betweenr the 6,000- and 9,000-foot levels. The trails are for the most part wellr constructed, and although they follow considered routes along the pathsr of least resistance, cross-country knapsack routes are often open to hikersr not hindered by the limitations imposed by stock. It is well to seekr advance information, however. The traveler who inspects the map andr can imagine no reason for the lack of a direct trail connection betweenr Waterwheel Falls and Matterhorn Canyon can quickly if not easily findr the reason for the longer route followed by the trail. But hiking throughr some areas in which the contour lines indicate no topographic obstaclesr is neither unreasonable nor difficult even if no trails exist. For example,r a recent Sierra Club knapsack party crossed from Matterhorn Canyonr to Spiller Creek Canyon by the unnamed pass north of Whorl Mountain and later left Spiller Creek by a pass north of Spiller Lake whichr led to the plateau west of Camiaca Peak. These passes were easy class 3.r

r r

r Campsites are plentiful throughout the area, particularly along laker shores (Tilden Lake, Benson Lake), and in the major canyons (Virginia Creek, Matterhorn Canyon), and only at the most popular campsites is a shortage of grass or wood likely.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Sawtooth Ridge •r Contentsr • Previous: Climb Classificationr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/bond_pass_to_tioga_pass.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The Sawtooth Ridge >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Bond to Tioga—Other Peaks •r Contentsr • Previous: Bond Pass to Tioga Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Bond Pass to Tioga Pass

r

The Sawtooth Ridge

r r r

Richard M. Leonard (1937) and Hervey Voge (1953)

r r r

r THE SLENDER PINNACLES and narrow arêtes of the Sawtoothr Ridge form a portion of the northeast boundary of Yosemite Nationalr Park. The main peaks are shown on the U.S. Geological Survey mapr (Bridgeport Quadrangle) and on the map of the Yosemite Nationalr Park, but the accompanying Sketch 3 must be consulted for more complete detail and for names not shown on the official maps. Although ther peaks are only from 11,400 to 12,281 feet in elevation, neverthelessr they constitute one of the most interesting and difficult climbing regionsr r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 3. The Sawtooth Ridge from the northeast.r r

r r r r of the High Sierra. The rock is a firm white granite, often of a spiryr formation. The northeast face of the ridge is severely undercut byr recent glaciation, four small glaciers still remaining. The portion of ther climbing that requires the use of the rope averages about 500 feet inr height. In general climbing is more challenging from the northeast orr glacier side, although the Three Teeth are difficult from all sides. Thisr same northeast side is attractive for combined skiing and climbing inr the spring, since it is easily accessible and the snow slopes are excellent.rr r

r The region may be reached from the south by good trail fromr Tuolumne Meadows to campsites below Whorl Mountain, in Matterhorn Canyon at 9,600 feet, and north of the Finger Peaks, in Slider Canyon, at 10,000 feet elevation. However, the peaks are more accessibler r r from the north, via Bridgeport and Twin Lakes. By a climb from ther road of only 3,000 feet in three miles, without trail, a fine campsite canr be reached at an altitude of 10,000 feet near a glacial lakelet on ther east branch of Blacksmith Creek. Good camping is available on the westr branch of the same creek. Campsites are also to be found on the headwaters of Horse Creek at somewhat higher elevations, and these sites arer closer to the Three Teeth and the peaks to the southeast.r

r r

r Although Matterhorn Peak was climbed in 1899, most other pointsr seemed too difficult until modern methods of rock climbing were introduced in the summer of 1931. With the application of a new techniquer all major points have now been ascended. There are, however, severalr minor summits yet unclimbed, and many fine new routes still to ber made.r

r r

Principal Passes

r

r *Polemonium Pass.* Class 3. This is the deep notch between the Doodadr and the Dragtooth. The southwest side is class 2, and presents no difficulties. On the northeast a very broad, steep chute descends to ther glacier. For 500 vertical feet the slope is 45° or over. When this is snow-covered in the spring and early summer it offers an attractive mountaineer's route for crossing the ridge, with steep snow the only problem.r Later in the season bare ice and a bergschrund may make this northeast side more difficult.r

r r

r *Col de Doodad. East chimney, south to north.* Class 4; 200-foot reserve rope required, ice axe useful. This pass was first used July 2, 1933,r by Henry Beers, Bestor Robinson, and Richard M. Leonard. It is ther most convenient route from Slide Canyon to the northeast face of ther central portion of the ridge. The approach from Slide Canyon is upr easy scree to the lowest and most prominent gap between the Threer Teeth and the Doodad. The 45° couloir on the north is usually snow-filled in the upper half and is bare disintegrating granite in the lowerr parts. From the col, rappel down the snow coo feet to a ledge. Traverser 10 feet horizontally left (NW) to the head of a dry disintegrating chimney. From there rappel 90 feet to a steel spike driven into a crack in ther right (NE) wall at the head of a steep 60-foot drop to the glacier. Ar third rappel brings one to the head of the glacier.r

r r

r *Col de Doodad. West chimney, north to south.* Class 3. From ther northeast ascend a moderate 35° gully close against the East Tooth.r Follow this gully left (SE) under an overhanging block to the crestr r r of the ridge. Thence, drop to the right (SW) 30 feet over moderatelyr hard climbing to a platform, then to the left (SE) to a chockstone atr the head of a short steep chimney. Climb down this chimney to ther scree gully on the south side of the Col de Doodad. This route is muchr easier from north to south than the East Chimney and is somewhatr easier from south to north, but should be attempted in the latter direction only by those experienced in route finding as it is poorly definedr from the Slide Canyon side.r

r r

r *Glacier Col.* Class 2; ice axe advisable. The ascent of this pass between Cleaver Peak and Blacksmith Peak is over moderate scree andr benches from Slide Canyon and 40° snow and glacier on the north. Itr is probably the least difficult pass across the Sawtooth Ridge.r

r r

r *Cleaver Notch.* Class 2. First used July 2, 1933, on the first ascentr of the Three Teeth. It is the most practical route across the exceedinglyr sharp arête of the Cleaver. The notch is crossed at its southern edge,r only 30 feet above the glacial benches on either side.r

r r

r *Hawk's Head Notch.* This notch is on the arête about 100 yards northr of Blacksmith Peak just short of the sharp minor pinnacle with ther overhanging summit known as the Hawk's Head. The eastern approachr is moderate, but on the west very difficult crack climbing may be required; details are not available.r r

Routes on the Peaks

r r

Twin Peaks (12,314)

r

r Early records are not available. The saddle between the two peaksr stay be reached from the north or the south, and both peaks may ber readily climbed from this saddle. Class 2 to 3.r

r r

Matterhorn Peak (12,281)

r

r *Route 1. South face.* Class 2. First ascent 1899 by M. R. Dempster,r J. S. Hutchinson, Lincoln Hutchinson, Charles A. Noble. This peak, ther highest point of the Sawtooth Ridge, offers the most extensive viewr in the region. There is an easy route from near Burro Pass up the broadr scree gully on the center of the southwest face.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest face.* Class 3. First ascent July 20, 1931, by Walterr Brem, Glen Dawson, and Jules Eichorn. Proceed from Matterhornr canyon to the notch between the Dragtooth and the Matterhorn Peak,r and climb up a gully, or the face, to the summit.r

r r r r r

The Dragtooth (12,150)

r

r *Route 1. South face.* Class 2. First ascent July 20, 1931, by Walterr Brem, Glen Dawson, and Jules Eichorn. Nearly any portion of the southr face will be found practicable.r

r r

r *Route 2. North face.* Class 4. First ascent July 16, 1941, by J. C.r Southard and Hervey Voge. From the Dragtooth Glacier ascend ther steep snow slope below the north face to a point about 100 feet to ther left (E) of the main chute that comes down the north face. This chuter is just east of the massive northwest buttress. Leave the snow by ledgesr leading up to the left, and follow these ledges to a less prominent chuter that lies about 200 feet east of the main chute. Climb this chute forr about 200 feet and then cross over to the right to the main chute. Climbr up the left (E) side of the main chute to within 100 feet of the summitr ridge, and then ascend a 75-foot chimney which leads to the ridger about 50 feet northwest of the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast buttress.* Class 4. Ascended 1952 by Joe Firey,r Norm Goldstein, Chuck Wharton, and John Orrenschall. From ther Dragtooth Glacier proceed to the base of the buttress, and ascend itr largely on the eastern flank. Higher up stay directly on the crest, whichr ends in a short chimney below the summit.r

r r

The Doodad (11,700)

r

r Class 4. First ascent July 7, 1934, by Kenneth May, Howard Twining.r Several routes varying from difficult to very difficult, are possible up ther south face to the 25-foot granite cube which forms the summit andr which overhangs on all sides. The final climb is up a crack on the southeastr corner. On September 7, 1936, Carl Jensen made a traverse byr descending the more difficult crack on the northwest corner. There isr another route on the southwest corner.r

r r

The Three Teeth (11,750)

r

r *Route 1. Traverse northwest to southeast.* Class 4; rappel rope required.r First ascent July 2, 1933, by Henry Beers, Bestor Robinson, andr Richard M. Leonard. (See “Three Teeth of Sawtooth Ridge,” *SCB*,r 1934, 31-33.) The route is up a series of ledges in a broad depressionr on the center of the northeast face of the West Tooth. Several variationsr are possible at the start. About one-third of the way up, traverse diagonally upward to the right (SW) to less difficult ledges leading upwardr to the sawblade. Follow the arête back to the left (SE) to the tunnelr r r beneath the summit block. Climb to the northwest out of the tunnel,r and then up the northwest face of the block to the summit of the Westr Tooth.r

r r

r From a point at the southeast end of the tunnel rappel 75 feet towardr the Middle Tooth to a 3-foot ledge. Climb downward toward Slider Canyon 100 feet along steeply sloping ledges and cracks. Traverse backr northeast to the West Notch. Ascend a chimney rising from the notchr toward the summit of the Middle Tooth. Follow this chimney aboutr Zoo feet until easier face climbing appears on the left (NE). Traverse thisr

face diagonally right (SE), cross the chimney about 50 feet below ther summit, and then by good holds on the face to the right of the chimneyr climb to the summit of the Middle Tooth.r

r r

r The route down to the East Notch follows a short chimney near ther northeast end of the summit, then steep cracks to the head of the larger chimney a short distance below the notch on the Slide Canyon side.r Traverse southeast 75 feet along ledges on the Slide Canyon face ofr the East Tooth to a narrow steep chimney up the face. Climb the chimney to a chockstone, then traverse to the right (SE) a few feet on smallr holds out of the chimney to a parallel crack. Follow this crack to ther summit of the East Tooth.r

r r

r From the summit follow the Slide Canyon side of the southeast arêter down over steep, exposed and very difficult climbing. About half-wayr down this arête a pinnacle about 20 feet high will be encountered. Thisr can be passed by direct attack and a rappel down a steep chimney onr the opposite (SE),,side to less difficult climbing leading to the Col der Doodad. A better route is to turn right at the Pinnacle and descend ther southwest face over progressively easier climbing to the Slide Canyonr base of the Middle Tooth.r

r r

r *Route 2. Traverse southeast to northwest.* Class 5. First ascent Julyr 25, 1934, by Glen Dawson and Jack Riegelhuth. From a short distancer below the Col de Doodad, on the Slide Canyon side, ascend the shortr chimney with the overhanging chockstone leading to the arête and ther west chimney of the Col de Doodad. Follow the arête to the base ofr the tall pinnacle. Pass this on the left by crawling through a remarkable tunnel on the southwest, to more difficult climbing leading back tor the southeast arête. Thence by Route 1 to the summit of the East Tooth.r A more obvious route is from the Slide Canyon base of the Middle Toothr to the tall pinnacle on the southeast arête of the East Tooth and thencer to the summit.r

r r

r Traverse the Middle Tooth by Route 1, thence to the base of ther r r r rappel on the West Tooth. The angle of the next 75 feet is about 80°,r highly exposed. The holds are rather unsound. Protected by pitons, ther ascent is made up thin cracks and narrow ledges to the tunnel, thencer by Route 1 to the summit of the West Tooth. Route i may then be followed to the base on the northeast, or various routes hereinafter describedr may be used for rappelling the Slide Canyon face.r

r r

r *Route 3. The Middle Tooth from the north.* Class 4; ice axe required.r First ascent July 2, 1933, by Lewis F. Clark, Richard G. Johnson, Oliverr Kehrlein, and Randolph May. From the northeast, ascend the steepr snow couloir leading toward the West Notch. One hundred feet abover a chockstone leave the snow and traverse diagonally back northeast onr a ledge on the left (SE) wall. When snow is low some difficulty may ber experienced in getting on the ledge. After traversing the ledge fairlyr well onto the face, ascend a prominent chimney and ledges upward tor the right (SW) to a point on Route 1 in the chimney rising from ther West Notch. Follow Route 1 to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. The West Tooth from the southwest.* Class 5. First ascentr July 23, 1941, by David R. Brower, L. Bruce Meyer, and Art Argiewicz.r From the scree slope at the base of the West Notch, on the Slide Canyonr

side, begin climbing up the left (W) shoulder, working diagonallyr toward a ledge at the top of the lowest and first chimney. From thisr point a delicate fingertip traverse is necessary to cross the top of ther chimney to another scree chute directly above the lower chimney. Afterr ascending the chimney to about 30 feet below its mouth one must workr back (SW) and to the left (W) over an easy ledge. After working overr this ledge a short distance, ascend the chimney above by swingingr around a flake to the left (W) and above the ledge and then usingr cross pressure in the chimney. At the top of this chimney work to ther left (W) and then up the southwest face to the prominent vertical facer of the West Tooth. From here the summit is reached as in the last partr of Route 2.r

r r

r *Route 5. West Notch from the glacier.* Class 4 to 5. In 1949 Oscarr Cook, Joe Firey, Larry Taylor, and Jack Hansen ascended the couloirr or chimney leading to the West Notch from the northeast. From ther notch traverse directly out to the right on a hand ledge ending in ar chimney which leads straight up to the end of the tunnel.r

r r

r *Rappel Routes.* Class 5 to 6; 200-foot rappel rope required. By the user of many pitons nearly any route is probably possible. It is well, however, to mention certain routes that have actually been used. Slider r r r Canyon can be reached from the northwest arête of the West Toothr near the junction with the Sawblade by a series of four rappels involving the use of one piton. It is also possible to rappel from the Westr Tooth toward the Middle Tooth by Route 1 and thence by three morer rappels along the southeast buttress to Slide Canyon. The last rappel,r from a piton on a ledge, is 105 feet, most of it overhanging. From ther West Notch it is practicable to rappel the north chimney to the glacier,r though the last rappel is about 125 feet. A successful rappel route fromr the Middle Tooth to Slide Canyon by the great southeast chimney fromr the East Notch has been followed. Another route down from the Middler Tooth, to the north base, proceeds from the lower end of the chimneyr on the northwest face, the upper part of which forms a portion ofr Route 3. About half of the last rappel is overhanging. A severe route,r not recommended, goes down the north face of the East Tooth from ther East Notch; it involves the use of pitons, and slings to sit in as one ofr the intermediate stances.r

r r

The Sawblade (11,600)

r

r *Traverse south to north.* Class 4; rappel rope useful. First ascentr July 25, 1934, by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge. From Slide Canyonr the route proceeds up steep climbing to the notch just west of the tallr pinnacle on the northwest arête of the West Tooth. An attempt tor faverse this portion of the Sawblade to the West Tooth was blocked byr the pinnacle which could not be turned. Descent was made to ther northeast.r

r r

Cleaver Peak (11,850)

r

r *Route 1. Southwest face.* Class 3. First ascent July 3, 1933, by Henryr Beers and Oliver Kehrlein. From Glacier Col climb on to the southwest face and traverse diagonally upward to the left (N) to a broadr depression on the northwest face. Follow this to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast face.* Class 3. First ascent July 27, 1934, by Glenr Dawson and Jack Riegelhuth. Go up a series of ledges and blocks onr the northeast face to the arête of The Cleaver 50 feet north of the summit. Traverse the arête to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. South face.* Class 5. Ascended August 6, 1950, by M. L. Wader and F. Chrisholm. Ascend a chute (easy class 4) facing Burro Passr until within about 150 feet of the notch separating Cleaver Peak fromr the Sawblade. Here a large block leans against Cleaver Peak. (By climbingr r r under this block one reaches the notch southeast of Cleaver Peak.)r Turn left at the lower side of the block and ascend the south side ofr Cleaver Peak. Several interesting fifth class pitches.r

r r

Blacksmith Peak (11,850)

r

r *Route 1. Southwest face.* Class 3. First ascent July 3, 1933, by Bestorr Robinson and Richard M. Leonard. Go up a prominent gully on ther southwest face to its head among the four summit pinnacles. The highestr is on the northwest end. The register is on the flat-topped pinnacle thirdr from the highest.r

r r

r *Route 2. The north gully.* Class 5; pitons required. First ascent September 8, 1936, by Bestor Robinson and Carl Jensen. From the base of ther north arête ascend a steeply sloping ledge on the Cleaver Glacier sider diagonally upward toward the south. About 200 feet above the talusr the ledge ends against a vertical face. Traverse to the right (W) andr protected by several pitons climb about 20 feet of face on small holds tor the large north gully. Ascend this gully to its head among the summitr pinnacles. On the first ascent (1933) the peak was traversed from southr to north by rappelling from the lower end of the north gully.r

r r

Eocene Peak (11,555; 1 NW of Blacksmith Peak)

r

r Class 3. First ascent July 16, 1932, by Herbert B. Blanks and Richard M.r Leonard. A ropeless ascent may be made of the southwest slopes of thisr fragment of the ancient Eocene landscape. The final pinnacle rising 50r feet above the plateau may require ropes for inexperienced climbers.r

r r

Other peaks and ridges

r

r There are many minor pinnacles and sharp ridges in the Sawtoothr area that offer enjoyable climbing. These are not listed in detail. Manyr have been climbed, while others have yet to be visited. Worthy of mention are

The Cleaver, including Spiral peak at the lower end, the ridger running north of Blacksmith Peak, the ridge north of Eocene Peak,r and the northeast side of the ridge between Twin Peaks and Matterhornr Peak.r

r r

References

r

r *Text: SCB*, 1934, 31, 98; 1935, 46, 105; 1942, 126.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1900, pl. 23; 1934, 46-47 (Dragtooth, Three Teethr from the north); 1935, 110-111 (Blacksmith Peak; Three Teeth fromr the south).r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Bond to Tioga—Other Peaks •r Contentsr • Previous: Bond Pass to Tioga Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/sawtooth_ridge.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Bond to Tioga—Other Peaks >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Sawtooth Ridger** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

---

r r r

Bond Pass to Tioga Pass

r

Bond to Tioga Pass—Other Peaks

r r r

Robert L. Swift and David A. Nelson

r r r

Acker Peak (10,918)

r

r The first ascent was made July 28, 1945, by A. J. Reyman who climbedr the east side from the saddle above Kerrick Meadow. Class 2.r

r r

Bath Mountain (10,560)

r

r Glen Dawson and John Cahill made the first ascent July 30, 1934.r

r r

Bigelow Peak (10,510)

r

r First ascent in 1927 by Allan M. Starr, Ralph Minor, and Shermanr Chickering. The peak may be climbed from Bond Pass or by traversingr from Kendrick Peak. Class 1.r

r r

Black Mountain (11,794)

r

r First ascents in 1905-1909 by A. H. Sylvester, G. R. Davis and P. Chapman, topographers of the USGS. The second ascent was made by Howardr Sloan on June 17, 1931, from Trumbull Lake via Cooney Lake andr northeast slope. Class 2. (*SCB*, 1932, 120.)r

r r

Camiaca Peak (11,751)

r

r First ascent was' made in 1917 by Walter L. Huber. The peak is accessible from Summit Lake near Virginia Pass. Class 2.r

r r

Center Mountain (11,220)

r

r First ascent in 1905 by members of the survey party who placedr Boundary Mark No. 87. Second ascent was made on July 28, 1914, byr Robert Batyer, Leland Day, Herman Sayers, and George Kenney. Ther easiest route is found on the south slope. Class 1.r

r r

Cirque Mountain (10,739)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Chittenden Peak (10,133)

r

r First ascent August 29, 1894, by Lt. N. F. McClure. The easiest router is from the east. Class 2.r

r r r r r

Colby Mountain (9,616)

r

r Climbed by John Muir in September 1871. The ascent is an easy walkr from Ten Lakes Trail by the south ridge and affords a good view ofr Tuolumne Canyon. Class 1.r

r r

Cold Mountain (10,200+)

r

r First recorded ascent by Glen Dawson and party in 1929. Class 2.r

r r

Mount Conness (12,556)

r

r This mountain was first climbed by Clarence King and James T.r Gardiner on September 1, 1866. Many ascents have been made sincer then by various routes, three of which are given below. (*SCB*, 1945, 94.r Photographs: *SCB*, 1918, 292, 369; 1933, 70-71; 1935, 62-63; 1949, 86-87.)r

r r

r *Route 1. Young Lakes.* Class 2. This is the most popular route andr is essentially that of the trail shown on the topographic map. Followr the south fork of Conness Creek to a point just past a group of boggyr ponds shown on the map as a lake. Then go north up the scree slopes tor a valley on a large plateau, up this valley to the ridge above the glacier,r and then west on this ridge via a trail to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. McCabe Lakes.* Class 3. From the saddle east of the upper-most lake follow the narrow crest southeasterly. Turn a shoulder tor the southeast by traversing diagonally upward to the crest. Follow ther crest southward to the top of the mountain.r

r r

r *Route 3. Glacier.* Class 3. From southwest shore of Saddlebag Laker go up the glacier valley and cirque between the east ridges of Connessr and North Peak to the glacier. Traverse the glacier in the directionr of a pronounced depression in the east ridge of Conness, then climb upr over steep slopes of loose rock to the ridge at the foot of the summit.r Follow the trail from there to the summit.r

r r

Craig Peak (11,041)

r

r Though apparently climbed in July 1911 the first known ascent wasr that made by John Dyer in 1938. The peak is a class 2 traverse from eitherr north or south, but reaching the northern ridge from Tower Peak involves class 3 climbing. (*SCB*, 1942, 126.)r

r r

Crown Point (11,355)

r

r First ascent was made in 1905 by Geo. R. Davis, A. H. Sylvester, andr Pearson Chapman of the USGS. It is an easy ascent from Snow Laker r r r immediately to the south, or from Peeler Lake. Class 2. (*SCB*, 1951, 31.r Photographs: *SCB*, 1923, 451; 1924, 93.)r

r r

Doghead Peak (11,000+)

r

r Climbed before 1911 by H. C. Bradley. A very good view is affordedr from this peak which can be easily climbed by following up Wilsonr Creek. Class 2. (*SCB*, 1911, 136.)r

r r

Double Rock (9,850+)

r

r Both summits, on the rim of Tuolumne Canyon, were climbed on Julyr 18, 1934, by Glen Dawson, Joel Hildebrand, Milton Hildebrand, Dorothyr Morris, May Pridham, and David Parish.r

r r

Dunderberg Peak (12,374)

r

r The first ascent was made in 1878 by Lt. M. M. Macomb and partyr of the Wheeler Survey. The peak is composed of steep, broken rockr hut presents no technical difficulties. Class 2. A spring ascent was mader on April 10, 1936 by Robert Brinton and Walter Mosauer. (*SCB*, 1932,r 120; 1937, 108.)r

r r

Eagle Peak (11,825)

r

r First ascent in September 1905 by Geo. R. Davis, A. H. Sylvester, andr Pearson Chapman, topographers of the USGS. Approaches are ther same as for Hennerville and Robinson peaks. Class 2.r

r r

Ehrnbeck Peak (11,194)

r

r First ascent on July 27, 1945, by A. J. Reyman. The climb was startedr from the saddle north of Wells Peak and the ridge between Stubblefieldr nd Thompson canyons. Class 2. Another route is by the West Walkerr River and the northeast ridge. Class 3.r

r r

Epidote Peak (10,950+)

r

r Climbed by several Sierra Club members in 1917. Class 2.r

r r

Excelsior Mountain (12,440)

r

r Ascended by Howard Sloan on June 13, 1931, by way of the pass atr the head of Virginia Creek.r

r r

Finger Peaks (11,491)

r

r First ascent on July 19, 1931, by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, andr r r Walter Brem, who climbed the east peak from the lake below Burror Pass. It is lower than the peak to the west, which was climbed later.r The climb to the lower peak direct from the lake has several difficultr pitches. Class 3. On July 25, 1934, the fingers were traversed from westr to east by Lewis Clark, Allan MacRae, and Carl Scheerer. (*SCB*, 1932,r 113-114.)r

r r

Forsyth Peak (11,140)

r

r The first ascent was made by Rene Kast, Don Hersey, Paul Hersey,r AI Teakle, Harry Tenney, Jr., Arthur Evans, and Leon Casou, on July 10,r 1937. The original route led up from the south, but the west slope isr also easy. Class 2. On August 23, 1953, Le Roy Johnson, Fred Schaub,r and Ken Hondsinger climbed the north ridge from Dorothy Lake.r Class 3.r

r r

Gabbro Peak (11,022)

r

r This peak may be climbed from East Lake or the Virginia Pass trail.r Class 2.r

r r

Grand Mountain (9,400+)

r

r Climbed by John Muir in September 1871. It is an easy walk by ther south slope.r

r r

Grey Butte (11,333)

r

r The first known ascent was made by Howard Twining in Augustr 1934. A trail passes a short distance east of the peak. Class 2.r

r r

Grouse Mountain (10,764)

r

r First recorded ascent by Le Roy Johnson, Fred Schaub, and Ken Hondsinger August 18, 1953, via the east face. Class 3.r

r r

Hanna Mountain (11,489)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Hennerville Peak (11,754)

r

r First recorded ascent was made August 8, 1946, by Ken Crowley,r R. Dickey, Jr., Ken Hargreaves, and H. Watty, who climbed from Barneyr Lake. Once the four thousand feet of talus have been overcome, all ther peaks of the Buckeye Ridge may be traversed easily. Class 2.r

r r r r

Mount Hoffmann (10,921)

r

r The first ascent was made by J. D. Whitney, Wm. H. Brewer, andr Chas. F. Hoffmann, members of the Whitney Survey, June 24, 1863. Ther peak is a popular climb and is easily climbed by south slopes after approaching from May Lake or the Tioga Pass Road. It may be climbedr by the north slope and west ridge from a branch of Yosemite Creek.r Class 2. (Photographs: *SCB*, 1912, 151; 1915, 292; 1923, 386.)r

r r

r *Hoffmann Thumb.* The first ascent of the western pinnacle was mader by Jules Eichorn October 16, 1932. The route lies on the face awayr from the summit of the main peak and consists of a single pitch onr steep loose rock. Class 5. On July 20, 1934, Muir Dawson made the firstr ascent of the upper side of the pinnacle, using an upper belay. (*SCB*,r 1935, 105. Photographs: *SCB*, 1923, 386; 1935, 105, 110-111.)r

r r

Hooper Peak (9,562)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Kendrick Peak (10,346)

r

r First recorded ascent was made by A. J. Reyman July 25, 1945, whor traversed south from Bond Pass via Bigelow Peak. A shorter and easierr route starts from Jack Main Canyon. Class 2.r

r r

Kettle Peak (11,040)

r

r First ascent in August 1948 by William Dunmire and R. L. Swiftr from the pass between Big Slide and Little Slide canyons. Class 2.r

r r

Keyes Peak (11,051)

r

r First ascent on September 1, 1942, by A. J. Reyman. An easy router may be found starting from Tilden Lake. Class 2.r

r r

Leevining Peak (11,691)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Lembert Dome (9,400+)

r

r This is a very popular viewpoint. The first ascent is unrecorded.r (Photographs: *SCB*, 1908, 235; 1911, 1; 1915, 225, 293; 1923, 411; 1931,r p1.)r

r r

r *Route 1. North slope.* Class 1. The Dog Lake trail takes one practicallyr to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East or south slope.* Class 2 and class 3.r

r r r r r

r *Route 3. West face.* Class 5. First ascent by the west face was mader in August 1951 by Dorothy Dern, Philip L. Dern, Alfred R. Dole, H. Stewart Kimball, and Richard Leonard. The route follows a wide class 2r ledge on the west face climbing gradually to the south to a smooth,r slightly overhanging buttress at the junction with the south face. Oner or two pitons are necessary at this point for protection in about fifteenr feet of climbing to gentler slopes above.r

r r

Michie Peak (10,339)

r

r May be climbed from either Twin Lakes or Jack Main Canyon. Class 2.r

r r

Mono Dome (10,612)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Monument Ridge (11,752; 11,800+)

r

r Though early ascents may have been made by prospectors, the firstr recorded ascent of the highest point was made by A. J. Reyman September 10, 1946. The ridge may be reached from West Lake or Green Laker or from Cattle Creek and Crater Crest. Class 2.r

r r

North Peak (12,256)

r

r First ascent was made on June 26, 1937, by Bill Blanchard, Hubertr North, and Gary Leech from Saddlebag Lake. Class 2. (Photographs:r *SCB*, 1933, 70, 71; 1949, 86-87.)r

r r

Page Peaks (11,000+)

r

r The climb is a long pull over scree if started from the cirque westr of East Lake or the gully between Page Peaks and Epidote Peak. Ther approach from Virginia Pass is shorter and may be preferred. Class 2.r

r r

Pettit Peak (10,775)

r

r Climbed by Lewis F. Clark and Virginia Greever on August 1, 1934,r at which time a cairn was found indicating an earlier ascent. It is anr easy traverse from Regulation Peak and can also be traversed from Westr Peak. Class 2.r

r r

Piute Mountain (10,489)

r

r First ascent July 27, 1911, by Francis P. Farquhar, James Rennie, andr Frank Bumstead. An easy ascent may be made by the Bear Valley trail.r Class 2. A more difficult route would be by the north chute.r r r r

r r

Polly Dome (9,786)

r

r Climbed on June 16, 1896, by Theodore S. Solomons with four girls.r

r r

Price Peak (10,603)

r

r The first ascent was made July 28, 1945, by A. J. Reyman on a traverser from Acker Peak and connecting ridges. Another route would be upr the west slope from Thompson Canyon. Class 2.r

r r

Quarry Peak (11,162)

r

r First ascent in 1905-1909 by Geo. R. Davis, A. H. Sylvester, and Pearsonr Chapman of the USGS, who established a triangulation station atop ther peak. Class 2.r

r r

Ragged Peak (10,858)

r

r First ascent was made on July 6, 1863, by William H. Brewer andr Charles Hoffmann. The usual route is by the saddle, west shoulder,r through scree and talus to the top. Class 2. On August 25, 1939, Boyntonr Kaiser led a Sierra Club party up the northwest face. Class 4. A classr 5 route has been made on the northwest side by Warren Harding.r (Photograph: *SCB*, 1918, 286; 1932, 15.)r

r r

Red Peak (11,968)

r

r First ascent by Kenneth May and Howard Twining July 3, 1934. Classr (Photograph: *SCB*, 1935, 62-63.)r

r r

Regulation Peak (10,500+)

r

r First known ascent was made in 1921 by R. A. Chase. The peak is anr easy climb from the trail. Traverses may be made to the adjoining summits of West, Volunteer, and Pettit peaks. Class 2. (Photographs: *SCB*,r 1910, 151; 1915, 257.)r

r r

Richardson Peak (9,845)

r

r First ascent was made July 18, 1928, by Allan M. Starr and Ralphr Minor. Class 2.r

r r

Robinson Peak (10,823)

r

r Although circumstances of the first ascents are not known they werer probably made by members of the 1905-1909 survey and by various sheepherders. The first recorded ascent was made August 22, 1946, by K. Hargreaves,r r r r H. F. Watty, R. F. Dickey, Jr., and Ken Crowley from Twinr Lakes. The northerly approach from Buckeye Creek and Eagle Creekr would appear to be better. Class 2.r

r r

Saurian Crest (11,065)

r

r First ascent on September 7, 1938, by John Dyer. Long talus slopesr extend to within a few feet of the summits, which require a short bitr of scrambling. Class 3. (*SCB*, 1942, 126. Photographs: *SCB*, 1912, 157;r 1942, 79.)r

r r

Sheep Peak (11,852)

r

r First ascent July 1, 1934, by Kenneth May and Howard Twining.r Class 2.r

r r

Shepherd Crest (11,860; 12,001)

r

r First ascent was made by Herbert B. Blanks, Kenneth May, andr Elliot Sawyer July 13, 1933, via one of the steep avalanche chutes fromr the south. Class 2. The class 3 northeast ridge was climbed by W. Rylandr Hill and Charles W. Chesterman on July 5, 1941. (Photographs: *SCB*,r 1918, 288; 1933, 70, 71; 1949, 86. Interesting articles on “Little Lost Valleyr of Shepherd Crest” appear in *SCB*, 1933, 68-80, and 1949, 82-86.)r

r r

*Slide Mountain (11,092)*r

r Climbed by Norman Clyde in 1921. A trail leads over the top ofr the peak.r

r r

Snow Peak (10,933)

r

r The first known ascent was made by John Dyer in 1938. The southernr slope of the mountain is easily climbed from Tilden Lake. Class 2.r

r r

Stanton Peak (11,666)

r

r First ascent was made during a blizzard May 31, 1934, by Richard G.r Johnson, Kenneth May, and Howard Twining. Class 2.r

r r

Suicide Ridge (10,050+)

r

r First ascent by Glen Dawson and John Cahill May 31, 1934. Class 2.r

r r

Tioga Crest (11,900+)

r

r No information is available.r r r r

r r

Tioga Peak (11,532; 11,513n)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Tower Peak (11,704)

r

r The first ascent was made from the north “without any difficulty”r in 1870 by C. F. Hoffmann, W. A. Goodyear, and Alfred Craven afterr earlier unsuccessful attempts by Goddard, King, and Gardiner. Fromr the saddle northwest of the peak and directly above Mary Lake a ridger is followed to a staircase gully which leads to the summit. Class 3. Classr 4 routes involving roped climbing have been made on the west facer and on the side leading toward Craig Peak. The southeast chute intor Stubblefield Canyon has been used for descent. (*SCB*, 1927, 419; 1942,r 126. Photographs: *SCB*, 1912, 155, 157; 1942, 79.)r

r r

Tuolumne Peak (10,875)

r

r A cairn was found on the summit when the first recorded ascent wasr made by Richard M. Leonard and Sierra Club party on July 9, 1932.r

r r

Victoria Peak (11,732)

r

r First recorded ascent on September 8, 1946, by A. J. Reyman. Ther peak is one of the Buckeye Ridge group, all of which may be approachedr from either north or south. Class 2.r

r r

Volunteer Peak (10,503)

r

r First ascent was made in 1895 by Lts. H. C. Benson and McBride. Anr easy ascent can be made from the south. Class 2. Traverses may be mader to or from West, Regulation, and Pettit peaks.r

r r

Walker Mountain (11,572)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

Mount Warren (12,337; 12,327n)

r

r First ascent by Mr. Wackenreyder prior to 1868. Class 2.r

r r

Wells Peak (11,071)

r

r First ascent was made on July 27, 1945, by A. J. Reyman from ther saddle between Wells and Ehrnbeck peaks by the north ridge. Class 2.r

r r r r

West Peak (10,510)

r

r First known ascent July 17, 1931, by Kenneth May and Gus Smith.r The peak is commonly approached by a traverse from Volunteer andr Pettit peaks. Class 2.r

r r

White Mountain (11,850+)

r

r Climbed in 1917 by Walter L. Huber. Class 2.r

r r

Whorl Mountain (12,050)

r

r From near the head of Matterhorn Canyon several practicable gulliesr lead to the main north-south ridge. (*SCB*, 1934, 99. Photograph: *SCB*,r 1935, 62-63.)r

r r

r *South Peak* (11,975+). First ascent by J. W. Combs, R, W. Messer, andr William T. Goldsborough July 23, 1911. Class 2-3.r

r r

r *North Peak* (11,950+). First ascent by Ralph A. Chase and Sierrar Club party July 17, 1921.r

r r

r *Middle Peak* (12,050). First ascent by Herbert B. Blanks, Kennethr May, and Elliot Sawyer July 9, 1933, on a class 4 route.r

r r

Wildcat Point (9,400+)

r

r Climbed by F. P. Farquhar and Mr. Wells on July 21, 1911.r

r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Sawtooth Ridger** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/bond_to_tioga_other_peaks.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Yosemite Valley •r Contentsr • Previous: Bond to Tioga—Other Peaksr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass

r r r r r r r

r THE SOUTHERN PORTION of Yosemite National Park, and ther Mount Dana-Minarets Wilderness Area of the adjacent Nationalr Forests, which together make up the section from Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass, constitute a very popular area for climbers because of ther varied terrain and the ready accessibility. Good roads lead to Yosemiter Valley, Tioga Pass, and Minaret Summit, on the boundaries of thisr section. Descriptions of history, trail approaches, and topography arer given in the individual areas, which are arranged as follows:r

r r

r

r *Yosemite Valley.* The climbs are listed in geographical order, startingr at the northwest corner of the valley.r

r r

r *The Cathedral Range and Eastward.* This includes the Sierra Crestr from Tioga Pass to Donohue Pass. The peaks are arranged inr geographical order, from north to south, first in the Cathedral Ranger and then in the crest.r

r r

r *The Clark Range and Adjacent Peaks.* This area, like that from Bondr Pass to Tioga Pass, but unlike all others, has been arranged inr alphabetical order.r

r r

r *The Minarets and the Ritter Range.* Here again a north-south description of the peaks is given.r

r

r r

r It has been indicated in Sketch 1 that the Main Crest from Island Passr Mammoth Pass is not considered in *The Guide*. Since there is veryr little possibility for real climbing in this short section of the crest, thisr omission will not be regretted by many.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Yosemite Valley •r Contentsr • Previous: Bond to Tioga—Other Peaksr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/tioga_pass_to_mammoth_pass.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Yosemite Valley >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Cathedral Range •r Contentsr • Previous: Tioga Pass to Mammoth Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass

r

Yosemite Valley

r r r

Richard M. Leonard and David R. Brower (1940), andr William W. Dunmire (1953)

r r r

r YOSEMITE VALLEY offers one of the finest localities in America forr a sport that has made the Kaisergebirge and the Dolomites internationallyr famous—concentrated rock climbing. Long enjoyed throughout ther world as complete in and of itself, this sport does not require attainmentr r r r of high summits, but tends to emphasize route finding, whetherr on summits, walls, or arêtes. For that reason Yosemite has been a meccar for pure rock climbing for many years, more perhaps than any otherr region in the country.r

r r

r Even in those prehistoric days before the discovery of the incomparable valley, there were legendary rock-climbing exploits. Such wasr the first descent to the base of the Lost Arrow. The Indian maiden,r Tee-hee-neh, rappelled on lodgepole saplings joined with deer thongsr to recover the lifeless body of her lover, Kos-soo-kah. By means ofr thongs and the strong arms of other members of the tribe, they werer brought back to the rim of the valley, where Tee-hee-neh perishedr in grief. This legend is reported in many different sources; Hutchings,r in 1886, stated the height of the rappel to be 203 feet, a truly remarkablr rock-climbing achievement.r

r r

r It was not until 1833 that the white man is known to have seenr Yosemite Valley. From reports published long before the later and widelyr publicized discovery of the valley, we learn that Joseph Reddeford Walkerr and party came from the vicinity of Bridgeport, perhaps over Virginiar Pass and along the divide between the Tuolumne and the Merced rivers,r to the valley rim. There they marveled at waterfalls over "lofty precipices . . . more than a mile high." The first rock-climbing attemptr by white men was soon stopped by difficulty, for "on making severalr attempts we found it utterly impossible for a man to descend."r

r r

r In 1851, however, Yosemite Valley was really made known to ther world, when the Mariposa Battalion, organized by harassed settlers ofr the foothills, trailed Indians to their stronghold in Ahwahnee—"deepr grassy valley."r

r r

r [Editor's note:r Ahwahnee does *not* mean "deep, grassy valley."r Ahwahnee means "mouth"r because the valley walls resemble a gaping bear's mouth.r For details see the articler "Origin of the Word Yosemite."r —dea]r

r r

r Yosemite soon became a source of attraction for tourists from all overr the world. One of the earliest to arrive was James M. Hutchings, whor first came to the valley in 1855. Throughout the early history of ther valley he was interested in attempting to climb every point around ther valley.r

r r

r John Muir first came to the Sierra in 1868. Through him more thanr any other man has the beauty of the region been made known to ther entire world. His climbs in Yosemite Valley and the High Sierra, manyr of them the earliest of which we have knowledge, place him amongr the pioneers of California mountaineering. His Sunnyside Bench, eastr of the lip of Lower Yosemite Fall, is still one of the untrammeled beautyr spots of the valley. His early exploration of the Tenaya Canyon led tor route finding in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne. He made the firstr r r r ascents of Cathedral Peak and Mount Ritter, and was first to traverser under the Lost Arrow along Fern Ledge, beneath the crashing power ofr the Upper Yosemite Fall.r

r r

r In early October of 1864 Clarence King, assisted by Richard Cotter,r fresh from a victory over Mount Tyndall, made the first serious topographical and geological reconnaissance of the Yosemite Valley. On thisr survey they climbed practically every summit on a circuit of the rimr of the valley. This circuit included only the easier points, such as Elr Capitan, Eagle Peak, Yosemite Point, North Dome, Basket Dome, Mountr Watkins, Sentinel Dome and the Cathedral Rocks. Any summits whichr were much beyond this standard of difficulty seemed to them completelyr beyond the range of human ability. In 1865 the California Geologicalr Survey wrote concerning Mount Starr King and Mount Broderick,r "Their summits are absolutely inaccessible"; and of Half Dome, "it isr a crest of granite rising to the height of 4,737 feet above the valley, perfectly inaccessible, being probably the only one of all the prominentr points about the Yosemite, which never has been, and never will ber trodden by human foot."r

r r

r Spurred by this challenge James M. Hutchings and two others mader the first recorded attempt on Half Dome in 1869, but were stopped atr a saddle east of the Dome. After at least two intervening attemptsr the Scotch carpenter and trail builder, George G. Anderson, finallyr engineered his way to the top on October 12, 1875.r

r r

r Inspired by the success on Half Dome, adventurous climbers turnedr their attention to Mount Starr King, the "extremely steep, bare, inaccessibler cone of granite" referred to by Whitney in ther *Yosemite Guider Book*. George B. Bayley and E. S. Schuyler made the ascent in August,r 1876, somewhat to the dismay of Anderson,

Hutchings, and J. B. Lembert, who, using a different route, a year later found the summit monuments built by the first party. Bayley was one of the most remarkabler climbers of the time. In 1876 Muir recorded that "Mounts Shasta, Whitney, Lyell, Dana, and the Obelisk (Mount Clark) already have felt hisr foot; and years ago he made desperate efforts to ascend the South Domer (Half Dome), eager for the first honors." Later he was distinguishedr by an early ascent of Cathedral Peak, and an ascent of Mount Rainierr during which he was seriously injured by a fall into a crevasse, recoveringr only to be killed in a city elevator.r

r r

r After the great ascents of the "inaccessible" summits of Yosemite, therer was a period of quiet in the climbing history, for everything seemed tor have been done. Hutchings had claimed the ascent of all Yosemite points,r r r r except Grizzly Peak and the Cathedral Spires, and a climber of another generation came forward in 1885 to make the ascent of Grizzlyr Peak. He was Charles A. Bailey, who later became an enthusiastic member of the Sierra Club, locating, climbing, and naming Sierra Pointr for the club.r

r r

r Since it now appeared that all major summits in the Yosemite regionr had been climbed, there was a long gap in the climbing history, brokenr only by the exploratory routes of a few outstanding climbers of ther period. Those whose climbs are best known are S. L. Foster, Joseph N.r LeConte, Charles and Enid Michael, William Kat, and Ralph S. Griswold. Foster was best known for his canyoneering in the Merced andr Tenaya canyons beginning in 1909. LeConte has been rememberedr through the description of his ascent of the gully on Grizzly Peak,r which permits a route to the Diving Board on Half Dome. He alsor wrote of several other interesting "scrambles about Yosemite" of nearlyr three decades ago. It has been said of the Michaels that they climbedr everything that did not require pitons. The same description might apply to Kat and Griswold. All have been so modest that it is possibler we may never know the true history of the interesting routes whichr they have pioneered. For, wherever a young rock climber attempts ar "new route," he is quite likely to find a cairn or other indication thatr someone has been there many years before him.r

r r

r Again it seemed that nothing more could be done. However, in ther early thirties, a new phase of rock climbing was growing, based onr development of modern technique in Europe. In the summer of 1931,r Robert L. M. Underhill, the leading American exponent of the user and management of the rope in rock work, interested Californians inr this phase of climbing. It has been mentioned that some very remarkable climbing was done without the knowledge of this safety technique;r but the early climbers who have discussed the matter agree that theirr climbing frequently involved unjustifiable hazard. Moreover, it was clearr to all of them that they could not attempt routes of very high angler and small holds. Thus the introduction of a new type of climbing, combined with the protection of pitoncraft, again opened a new field.r

r r

r It was not until September 2, 1933, that the first rock climbing section of the Sierra Club felt competent to make organized attempts uponr the spectacular unclimbed faces and spires of Yosemite. Although asr long ago as 1886 Hutchings, in reporting the relatively easy ascent ofr Grizzly Peak, claimed that the last "unclimbed summit" of Yosemiter had been ascended, nevertheless the Cathedral Spires, the Church Tower,r r r r the Arrowhead, Split Pinnacle, Pulpit Rock, Watkins Pinnacles, andr the Lost Arrow still stood forth without even an attempt ever havingr been recorded against them. In addition to these summits there wasr a field, practically unexplored, of route finding on faces, arêtes, gullies,r and chimneys. Among these may be mentioned Washington Column,r Royal Arches, Panorama Cliff, Glacier Point, Yosemite Point Couloir,r Cathedral Chimney, and the arête of the Lower Brother. Ropes, pitons,r and trained experience in their use

were the keys to these ascents, whichr were later to become so popular. Climbers, profiting by the achievements of their predecessors, added still more ascents to the growingr list of Yosemite routes.r

r r

r But there was a further challenge. The higher cliffs and arêtes, hithertor neglected, beckoned to the new generations of climbers. These longr and severe climbs were not easily judged, but it was obvious that theyr would demand the utmost in skill and aggressiveness. And so, duringr the middle forties, as in the Dolomites a decade previously,* a tradition of direct-aid climbing began in which many pitons were used,r together with expansion bolts when no suitable cracks were to be found.r With this new tradition came the direct ascent of the Lost Arrow inr 1947, a success born of dogged determination and great physical endurance, and requiring five consecutive days on the rocks. Still other difficult ascents followed, such as the four-day climb of the north wall ofr Sentinel Rock, and the three-day climb of the El Capitan Buttress. Theser severe climbs stand in a class of their own, and the traffic on them isr likely to remain light. There are still many routes of apparent moderater difficulty that have not been tried. Also, the climbs first done twentyr years ago are popular today and will doubtless remain so in the future.r

r r

r * Worthy of mention is the first direct ascent of the north face of the Cimar Grande (Grosse Zinne), which was accomplished in August, 1933, by threer Italian guides using 200 meters of rope, 150 meters of slings, 90 pitons, andr 40 carabiners.r

r r

Topography and its Relation to Climbing

r

r Yosemite Valley is now just a few hours from San Francisco and Losr Angeles. Campsites are excellently provided for by the National Parkr Service and need no further details. Accommodations of all types arer provided by the concessionaire.r

r r

r The geology of Yosemite has been under consideration, ever sincer r r r r its discovery, by eminent scientists throughout the world. Of the earlyr conflicting theories, those of John Muir have best stood the test of timer and study. These were amplified in detailed studies by François E.r Matthes (see References and Maps). Yosemite Valley seems to haver had a greater variety of granitic intrusions than most of the Sierrar Nevada. This, together with the prominence of master joints, has amplified the effect of erosion. Upon long-continued and alternate sculpturer by running water and glacial action, the valley was deepened to essentially its present form. This geomorphological history has producedr smooth faces of high angle with holds widely spaced but exceptionallyr firm. While loose hand or footholds must be expected occasionally,r rock as sound for climbing is seldom found. The scarcity of talus pilesr under the high cliffs is clear evidence of this. On the other hand ther infrequency of large holds tends to emphasize precise balance climbing,r frequently requiring long leads on minute holds. For this reason plentyr of rope should be available; at least 120 feet between climbers, plusr 200 feet of rappel rope with ample material for slings. As will be indicated hereafter, pitons are definitely advisable on most climbs, and arer essential on many. Most climbers will prefer, wherever possible, tor avoid using pitons as direct aid. No party, however, should hesitate tor use pitons for safety as frequently as desired even though not specificallyr recommended by this Guide. The best footgear is rubber. There seemsr to be no necessity for nails, at least in summer. In common with ther rest of The Range of Light,

the weather in summer need rarely be considered as a factor in climbing. In general, the altitude is so low andr camp so close that no protection against weather need be arranged.r Nevertheless, since friction holds play such an important part in climbing on these smooth walls, retreat in case of rain must be adequatelyr planned.r

r r

r A very useful topographic map of the Yosemite Valley may be purchased at the Government Center or at certain stores in large cities. Thisr is the Yosemite Valley sheet, published by the U.S. Geological Surveyr in 1938, with a scale of 1:24,000.r

r r

Registration with the National Park Service

r r

r The Park Officers request that all parties register with the Nationalr Park Service at the Office of the Chief Ranger at Park Headquarters inr Yosemite Valley before attempting any climbs, and that they check inr at the same place after completing a climb. There are many reasonsr r r for this request, chief among them these: Rangers wish to counsel withr inexperienced climbers about undertaking ascents which might seriously endanger their lives. They need to know which of the inevitabler reports of people stranded on cliffs need not concern them. And theyr will know, from the registration, where to look for climbers who do notr return.r

r r

r The National Park Service has asked mountaineering clubs for helpr in judging the qualifications of climbers who sign out for climbs inr Yosemite Valley. Park officers request that at least one qualified leader,r or the equivalent, be included in every climbing party. This requirement is sound, since the recovery of accident victims is a duty of ther Park Rangers, and because a segment of public opinion holds the National Park Service responsible for the prevention of climbing accidents.r Several of the rock-climbing sections of the Sierra Club, and some otherr mountaineering organizations, use the qualified-leader system, underr which qualified leaders are selected on the basis of climbing experience,r judgment, and ability to manage a climbing party. Each organizationr submits to the National Park Service a list of persons qualified to act asr leaders, and when club climbs are scheduled only parties containingr qualified leaders are permitted to go out. Climbers not connected withr clubs employing the qualified-leader system must demonstrate to parkr rangers that they have a capable and experienced leader.r

r r

Routes and Records

r

r The Yosemite Valley climbs are arranged in geographical order, starting at the west end of the north side of the valley and working aroundr in a clockwise direction. Sketch 4 shows the approximate locations ofr some of the climbs in the valley.r

r r

Kat Pinnacle (3,950)

r

r Class 6. First ascent November to, 1940, by DeWitt Allen, Torcomr Bedayan, and Robin Hansen. This pinnacle is on the north wall ofr Merced Canyon, a mile below the Coulterville Road-All-Year Highwayr junction, and about midway between the two roads. From the cliff northr of the pinnacle a rope is thrown over the tree just below the platformr supporting the overhanging summit block. Anchored from below, ther rope is crossed with carabiner protection; this is the only practicabler means of passing the 90-foot shaft, which is overhanging on all sides.r From a three-man stand below a large crack on the west side of ther r

r r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r [Sketch 4. Yosemite Valley Climbs.]r r

r r r r r r

Key to Sketch 4.

r

(Listed in clockwise order around the valley)

r r

RF	Ribbon Fall	RA	Royal Arches	PC	Panorama Cliff
KP	K.P. Pinnacle	WC	Washington Column	GR	Grizzly Peak
ECG	El Capitan Gully	ML	Mirror Lake	GP	Glacier Point
ECC	El Capitan Chimney	TC	Tenaya Canyon	SD	Sentinel Dome
EC	El Capitan	ND	North Dome	SR	Sentinel Rock
ECB	El Capitan Buttress	BD	Basket Dome	TP	Taft Point
SP	Split Pinnacle	WP	Watkins Pinnacles	LBR	Lost Brother
LB	Lower Brother	MW	Mount Watkins	LS	Lower Cathedral Spire
MB	Middle Brother	CR	Clouds Rest	HS	Higher Cathedral Spire
EP	Eagle Peak	QD	Quarter Domes	CT	Church Tower
LA	Lost Arrow	AP	Ahwiyah Point	HCR	Higher Cathedral Rock
YF	Yosemite Falls	HD	Half Dome	MCR	Middle Cathedral Rock
YP	Yosemite Point	DB	Diving Board	LCR	Lower Cathedral Rock
YPB	Yosemite Point Buttress	BP	Bunnell Point	GU	Gunsight
IC	Indian Canyon	LY	Little Yosemite	BF	Bridalveil Fall
CA	Castle Cliffs	BR	Mount Broderick	LT	Leaning Tower
AS	Arrowhead Spire	LC	Liberty Cap	MR	Merced Riyer
GC	Government Center	CC	Cascade Cliffs	OV	Old Village

r r r r summit block, several pitons are placed for direct aid, and the climbr proceeds directly to the summit.r r r

r An alternate route (Dick Irvin and Dave Hammack) traverses leftr (E) from the Tyrolean tree along the north side, and then back (W)r on a higher ledge. From the northwest corner of the upper ledge pitonsr are placed for direct aid under and across an overhang. Then a class 5r gully leads to the top.r

r r

*El Capitan Gully (7,500)*r Class 3. First recorded ascent June 5, 1905, by J. C. Staats, who continued the climb to the rim to get help after Charles A. Bailey hadr fallen 400 feet to his death. This, the western of the two gullies betweenr El Capitan and Ribbon Fall, does not involve any real climbing problems until the steep upper 500 feet.r

r r

K-P Pinnacle (6,200)

r

r Class 6. First ascent May 30, 1941, by Ted Knoll and Jack Pionteki.r This is the second highest pinnacle west of El Capitan between Elr Capitan Gully and Chimney. The route involves a two-hour bushwackr and some class 4 climbing to reach the base of an open chimney, whichr is surmounted by direct aid. Cross an exposed 4-foot cleft and climb tor the 2- by 4-foot summit.r

r r

El Capitan (6,750)

r

r *West chimney.* Class 6. First ascent October 9, 10, 1937, by Ethel Maer Hill, Gordon Patten, and Owen Williams. From the toe of El Capitanr follow up along the base of the cliffs (W) to the chimney clearly shownr on the map. Chockstones are responsible for seven overhangs whichr present the principal difficulty. From the notch (6,600) a rappel bringsr one to the class 4 climbing of the main gully leading to the summitr plateau. The initial climb took two days and 18 pitons; a third of ther pitons were used for direct aid.r

r r

r *Tree traverse.* Class 6. First ascent March 1952 by William Dunmire,r Will Siri, Allen Steck, and Robert Swift. From the valley floor this extraordinary pine appears to grow out of the granite wall one-quarter miler east of the main El Capitan abutment and 350 feet above the talus.r The overhanging route begins below and to the east of the tree via ar ladder of expansion bolts and pitons which have been left by previousr parties. After the first 110-foot pitch (average angle 110°), class 4 and 5r r r r pitches lead west to the tree. With an early start the climb can be mader in one day. (*SCB*, 1952, 93-94.)r

r r

r *East buttress.* Class 6. First ascent June 1, 1953, in three days by Willr Siri, Bill Long, Bill Unsoeld, and Allen Steck. The buttress forms ther eastern edge of the unbroken southern wall of El Capitan. The approach is the same as for the Tree Traverse, only upon reaching ther foot of the wall traverse right (E) to the foot of the arête and ascendr a class 6 chimney 110 feet to a scrub oak. Climb up (class 4) to the footr of a 60-foot wall which can be climbed on its steep left (W) side by user of sound holds and one piton for protection. Traverse slightly left andr upward over easy ground to base of open chimney leading to the noser directly on the arête. Ascend directly to nose (class 4-5). From thisr platform two class 6 leads, on perhaps the steepest portion of the buttress, and a short class 5 pitch lead to some small ledges (site of secondr bivouac). The wall to the right of these ledges was ascended (class 6)r in two leads to a large ledge. Traverse right a few feet and climb a shortr 5-foot chimney to the final 70-foot lead up a steep broken wall (classr 5-6). Several attempts were made here, the chimney farthest to ther right (E) offering the best route. The two final days of the ascent werer during rainy weather; other ascents could be made in two days, orr possibly one day.r

r r

Split Pinnacle (5,100)

r

r Class 6. First ascent May 28, 1938, by Raffi Bedayan, Muir Dawson,r Richard M. Leonard, and Jack Riegelhuth. Follow the west fork ofr Eagle Creek to the 5,000-foot contour and circle back to the southwestr corner of the West Pinnacle. An easy upward traverse on the valleyr side of the West Pinnacle, past its class 3 summit, brings one to anr ample ledge beneath the 25-foot, 117° summit pitch. A shoulder-standr and three well-placed pitons with slings enable the leader to graspr excellent hidden holds on the edge of a ledge on the extreme left. User minute transient footholds and pull up onto the ledge, from whichr the summit is easily reached. This pinnacle is one of the most popularr short climbs in the valley.r

r r

Lower Brother (5,900)

r

r *Michael's Ledge.* Class 4. First recorded ascent in the twenties orr earlier by Charles W. Michael. From the south base a broad tree andr brush-covered ledge spirals high up the east face, and may be easilyr followed to a point swept by recent rock avalanches from the Middler r r r Brother. From here the ascent over scree-covered ledges and slabs tor the arête which forms the summit is exposed enough to require consecutive roped climbing.r

r r

r *West face—north corner.* Class 5. First ascent October 21, 1934, byr H. B. Blanks, Boynton Kaiser, and Elliot Sawyer. Although the average angle is not high, the rounded character of the holds, polished byr winter avalanches, and the ten-foot overhanging steps make this a goodr climb. The route follows closely the angle formed by the intersectionr of the Lower and Middle Brothers, and the problem is mainly one ofr friction. Bypass difficult sections of the corner on the right (S).r

r r

r *West face—middle.* Class 5. First ascent April 22, 1952, by Donaldr Goodrich and Gary Lundberg. Follow the first ledge leading from ther angle between the Middle and Lower Brothers to the right past a treer to its far end; here a delicate pitch leads around and up a corner ontor a large slanting slab. Continue south on ledges for about 100 feet andr work up toward the vertical wall that divides the face. Surmount thisr wall and climb up several pitches more to the summit.r

r r

r *Southwest arête.* Class 5. First ascent July 15, 1937, by David R. Browerr and Morgan Harris. Ascend Eagle Creek until 300 feet below the prominent black chimney in an angle of the west face. Traverse (SE) on ar broad tree-covered ledge, where a moderately difficult crack leads up ther west face about 30 feet. From here a delicate friction traverse leads tor the left (N) where a shelf, a short chimney, and easy pitches continuer straight up over smooth mossy cracks in unsound rock; then traverser right (E) across a smooth gully to a broad ledge. Ascent of a 50-footr friction pitch, slanting upward (E) brings one to the base of an open,r almost holdless, chimney at an angle of about 70°. From the top ofr the chimney a short traverse (W) leads to the broken south edger of the upper west face. From here easy climbing leads to the summit.r

r r

r Another class 5 route on the south arête starts from about 300 feetr up Michael's Ledge. Here a much smaller ledge leading diagonallyr upward and to the left (W) should be followed out on to the southr face. An ascent directly upward from the tree where the upper endr of the ledge terminates brings the climber to an alcove. From here ar narrow 50° chimney opening higher up leads eastward. At the end ofr this chimney another open chimney leads directly upward. Severalr pitches in this chimney bring the climber to the upper granite slabs wherer climbing may be done continuously to the summit. There are severalr variations of this route.r

r r r r

r The several routes on the Lower Brother are among the most popularr one-day ascents in the valley.r

r r

Middle Brother (6,850)

r

r *West face.* Class 4. First ascent either by Charles W. Michael in ther twenties or by Ralph S. Griswold and William Kat in the early thirties.r Follow Eagle Creek to about 5,850, then climb out to the right and upr steep slabs to the arête. The lower point overlooking the Lower Brotherr should probably be considered the summit of this sloping ridge.r

r r

r From *Michael's Ledge.* Class 4. First ascent June 2, 1951, by Ronaldr Hahn, David Hammack, Anton Nelson, and John Salathé. Followr Michael's Ledge (see Lower Brother for description) clear on aroundr (NE) past the Lower Brother and through dense brush to a pointr where the angle of the headwall is quite low. There are many tree-covered ledges that lead toward the summit of the Middle Brother. Ther climb is minimum class 4.r

r r

r *Southwest arête.* Class 5. First ascent May 30, 1941, by David R. Brower,r Morgan Harris. See Lower Brother climbs for the routes to the notchr between Middle and Lower Brother. From just west of the notch traverse diagonally upward and to the right on class 4 rocks for aboutr 50 feet, then climb straight up for another pitch. Since the face risesr sharply in holdless cracks, a traverse horizontally to the left (W) a fewr feet around a little nose is advisable; then ascend about 15 feet overr smooth holds to a small ledge. On the first ascent a shoulder-standr enabled the climbets to overcome the bulging overhang above. Beyondr lies a little alcove under a big block overhang which looks impossibler from below. However, just under the overhang, holds permit a traverser to the right (E) around the block to the ridge. Exposed scrambling leadsr to the indefinite summit of the Middle Brother.r

r r

r *Southwest arête*—variation. Class 6. First ascent May 1950, by Nickr Clinch, David Harrah, Sherman Lehman, and John Mowat. From ther crest of Lower Brother traverse left (W) for two rope lengths. Climbr up a short overhanging chimney and a steep slab to a pine seen fromr the Lower Brother. Continue up slabs, past a small platform, to anr alcove. Work right to a flat ledge, around a corner, and up an easy crackr to a broad, sloping ledge. Walk down and to the left on the ledge tor where a smooth overhang intervenes. So far, all parties have used ar direct-aid piton or two to cross the overhang. On the far side work upr and around the corner of the south face to the west face. Climb up ther arête for several hundred feet. then proceed tin a scree gully and crossr r r r onto the south face. A thin horizontal ledge leads to where the westr face may be regained. Work across flat ledges in the face to an easyr gully leading to the summit.r

r r

r At least one ascent of the Middle Brother has been made via ther southwest arêtes of the Lower and Middle Brothers. This combinationr of routes requires efficient teamwork if it is to be accomplished in a day.r

r r

Eagle Peak (7,773)

r

r *From Camp 4.* Class 6. First ascent early June, 1952, by Ron Hayes andr Jon Lindbergh. From the top of the talus directly above Camp 4, walkr (W) toward the large clump of trees on the prominent ledge. Ther climb, a long chimney, begins just to the east of the trees. It presentsr the only ascending route in the area which appears climbable withoutr extreme difficulties. Climb up through a tree and into the chimney. Ther route continues up a series of increasingly difficult secondary chimneysr to a final overhanging mossy chimney which requires many direct-aidr pitons. Above, one more pitch and a long bushwhack lead to Eagler Peak and the trail.r

r r

Rixon's Pinnacle (4,600)

r

r Class 6. First ascent August. 1948 by Charles and Ellen Wilts. This isr the 400-foot remnant of an exfoliation slab against the vertical southr face of the Middle Brother. The first pitch is 150-feet long (two ropesr were used on the first ascent) and leads to a prominent tree. Above, ar short, difficult Mummery crack is climbed to a small ledge, and an openr chimney continues farther. An easier class 6 pitch ends at the secondr tree, from which point several varied pitches lead to the summit. Ther original ascent took two days and required about 60 pitons (*SCB*, 1949,r 148-149).r

r r

Lower Yosemite Fall (4,420)

r

r *West side.* Class 4. First ascent September 13, 1942, by Alan M.r Hedden and L. Bruce Meyer. From the bridle-path bridge follow ther creek and talus up the left (W) side of the fall as far as possible. At ther head of the talus a crack leads over flakelike rocks up to a ledge 40 feetr above the talus. At this point ascend a small crack leading to the rightr to some bushes, then continue upward to a large fir tree. Proceed leftr around an overhanging rock and then vertically to a ledge. Climb tor the right and continue right on another ledge a few feet lower. Ther route then leads upward to a tree clump, right around a nose, and upr r r r a grass-covered ledge leading to the top of the fall. The rock on thisr climb is generally insecure, so care should be taken not to dislodger rocks onto tourists who might climb to the talus below.r

r r

r *Gorge traverse* (between upper and lower falls). Class 5. Low waterr only. First ascent by Dave Hammack and George Larimore, 1950. Fromr the top of Lower Yosemite Fall an easy walk on the west side of ther creek for several hundred feet follows. The first major cascade is passedr to the left (W) until progress is blocked; then traverse right to ther brink of this fall. The route then follows a steep granite slope to ther left of the creek to a point about 75 feet above it where progress isr blocked by a 15-foot overhang, which may be climbed beside a tree onr the somewhat broken face. From here it is easy going to the base ofr the Upper Fall.r

r r

Sunnyside Bench (4,420)

r

r *Waterfall route.* Class 4. First ascent July 22, 1935, by David R.r Brower and William W. Van Voorhis. On the right (E) side of ther stream a short distance above the Lower Yosemite Fall bridge easy cracksr and ledges lead to the right (E) to a small platform about 40 feet abover the stream. From here the route ascends vertically through a shallowr chimney and up a difficult friction slab to the tree-covered ledge.r

r r

r *South face route.* Class 4. First ascent unknown. About 50 yards eastr of the Lower Yosemite Fall horse trail bridge, just above the Lost Arrowr Loop Trail, a deep chimney leads upward and to the east. The router follows this chimney to a large ledge leading to the right (S) of ther chimney. From the' ledge work out onto the south face and up a 70°r crack on the otherwise smooth granite. The crack ends at Sunnysider Bench. The top of Lower Yosemite Fall may be reached by traversingr on the ledge around the corner to the left (W). The south face may ber superior to the waterfall route during high water.r

r r

r Although Sunnyside Bench may be climbed by a brushy class 3 router starting from behind Government Center and traversing west (firstr ascent unknown), the two more direct routes are preferred by climbersr and are among the most popular short day ascents in the valley. In later summer the basin above the fall provides a remarkable swimming pool.r

r r

Lost Arrow (6,875)

r

r *First Error* (6,050). Class 6. First ascent May 29, 1937, by David R.r Brower and Richard M. Leonard. Since the Lost Arrow, just west of ther benchmark at Yosemite Point was facetiously named the "Last Error,"r r r r its two ledges and its notch are appropriately called First, Second, andr Third errors, respectively, The route to the first ledge leads between ar 70° buttress and the 85° face on small holds, highly polished and roundedr by water and avalanches. Ascent in the main couloir to a point levelr with the First Error can be made without direct aid, and a rope traverser to the ledge is possible.r

r r

r *Second Error (6,450).* Class 6. First ascent by Anton Nelson and Johnr Salathé, July 4, 1947. A 400-foot, 80° chimney leads from the Firstr Error to this ledge. Many direct-aid pitons are necessary. Time fromr base is about two days.r

r r

r *Third Error (6,750).* Class 6. Reached by John Salathé in Augustr 1946 by a descent from the rim of the valley (*SCB*, 1947, 2, 3).r

r r

r *Last Error (6,875).* Class 6. First ascent September 2, 1946, by Jackr Arnold and Anton Nelson, who prusiked up a rope thrown over ther summit, and Fritz Lippmann, who came via the Tyrolean traverser which

was set up (*SCB*, 1947, 1-10). First direct ascent from the base,r by Anton Nelson and John Salathé, September 3, 1947. The route follows the long chimney via the first and second errors. The ascent wasr accomplished in five days and required much preparation (*SCB*, 1948,r 103-108).r

r r

Yosemite Point Buttress (6,935)

r

r Class 6. First ascent July 1952 by Allen Steck and Robert Swift. Ther granite buttress forming the southeast wall of Yosemite Point can ber divided into two' parts: the pedestal and the steep face immediatelyr above it. Climb the Yosemite Point Couloir until in line with ther broken ledges and chimneys which form the right-hand side and, partly,r the face of the pedestal; then aim for the large pine tree visible severalr hundred feet above. From the tree work upward via class 6 cracks andr chimneys to the top of the pedestal, which affords an ample bivouacr spot if the climb cannot be completed in one day. Above, an obviousr class 6 route continues upward and to the left, then right to a sandyr ledge. Several more pitches of varying difficulty lead finally to the summit. Several one-day ascents of the pedestal have been made, but ther only complete ascent of the buttress thus far required two days. (*SCB*,r 1952, 91-93.)r

r r

Yosemite Point Couloir (7,250)

r

r Class 6. First ascent June 8, 1938, by Torcom Bedayan, David Brower,r and Morgan Harris. This is the prominent gully between Yosemiter r r r Point and Castle Cliffs. Its full length may be ascended from the valleyr floor, at the incinerator behind Government Center, or the lower halfr may be by-passed with the Arrowhead approach route. Difficulties beginr shortly above the halfway mark with a 30-foot, 55° slab of polishedr granite which may be ascended directly or may be passed on a morer exposed route to the right. The next problem, a large chockstone, isr overcome by starting some 50 feet below on the east wall and climbingr to a narrow, scree-covered ledge, from whose upper end it is possibler either to rope-traverse to the top of the chockstone or climb upward.r Farther up the couloir a second chockstone may be climbed directly, andr a third may be passed by a four-sided chimney behind it. Here ther couloir floor rapidly steepens and narrows. From the top of the narrowr chimney ascend the 45° polished granite to an overhang above, whichr may be climbed class 5. From this point the couloir opens out, and it isr but a scramble to the valley rim. The couloir is a long day climb. (*SCB*,r 1939, 63-68.)r

r r

Castle Cliffs (6,750)

r

r Class 5. First ascent May 29, 1940, by David R. Brower and Morganr Harris. Follow the usual route toward the Arrowhead (which see).r From the main gully below and west of the Arrowhead traverse gradually upward (W) through brush and class 2 scrambling to the lastr arête before Yosemite Point Couloir. The route leads up this arête somer 300 feet, ending after a long bushwhack near the head of the Yosemiter Point Couloir. Time for the first ascent was six hours.r

r r

West Arrowhead Chimney (6,800)

r

r Class 6. First ascent December 7, 1941, by Torcom Bedayan and Fritzr Lippmann. The large gully immediately west of the Arrowhead terminates in a dark, massive chimney blocked by room-sized chockstones.r From an alcove above the first chockstone work up a class 6 crackr formed by the huge chockstone and the left (W) wall of the chimney.r Higher up the fourth and very difficult chockstone is climbed aroundr its right side. Where the chimney opens up about 300 feet below the lastr chockstone, climb up onto the left wall of the cleft and traverse upwardr and to the right on friction holds to the top of the chockstone (directr aid will be required). From this point the remainder of the climb is overr easy terrain to the rim of the valley. This difficult climb requires a fullr day. (*SCB*, 1942, 134-136.)r r r r

Arrowhead (5,800)

r

r *South arête.* Class 5. First ascent September 5, 1937, by David R.r Brower and Richard M. Leonard. This is a spire in Castle Cliffs prominent from Yosemite Lodge. Follow the old Indian Canyon Trail (startsr behind the incinerator on the stub road just east of the postoffice) forr about 1,200 vertical feet to a point where the trail is about to passr northeast of the Arrowhead. Leave the trail and traverse diagonallyr upward to the left (NW) over class 2 and 3 forested ledges around ther south buttress of the Arrowhead to the deep cleft just west of the pinnacle; this is the West Arrowhead Chimney. Traverse a horizontal ledger back to the right (SE) to a tall Douglas fir at the base of the sharpr arête which is followed to the summit. Most of the route is at a highr angle but on enjoyably deep holds. Rappel via the route of ascent orr into the gully below West Arrowhead Chimney, making the first rappelr to the notch. The greatest difficulty on this climb seems to be findingr where to start the rope work.r

r r

r *East face.* Class 5. First ascent December 1946 by Fritz Lippmann andr Anton Nelson. Proceed up the gully at the foot of the deep East Arrowhead Chimney to a horizontal tree-covered ledge on the left (W) sider of the chimney. The first pitch, and the most difficult, leads directlyr up from the ledge in a high-angle open chimney on the east-facing wall;r this open chimney narrows down to a closed chimney which leads to ther south arête, where the usual route (one pitch) is followed to the summit. Either Arrowhead route is an all-day ascent and provides some ofr the most enjoyable climbing in the valley.r

r r

Royal Arches (5,400)

r

r Class 6. First ascent October 9, 1936, by Kenneth Adam, W. Kennethr Davis, and Morgan Harris. Plan for an all-day ascent. This is one of ther most enjoyable routes in the valley, providing all varieties and difficulties of climbing technique. Proceed along the trail a little beyond ther base of the Royal Arch Cascade, head up toward the wall, and climbr a moderate class a crack. Traverse diagonally upward to the right (E)r along the steps of a broad ledge, then up a steep, open chimney, veryr smooth and difficult. From a broad sandy ledge a short friction leadr brings one to easier pitches, where small ledges may be ascended untilr they give out on a

smooth face. Here, a rope traverse to the left (W)r leads to a narrow ledge, which widens out during an 80-foot traverser to the west. A jutting rib interrupts the ledge and is passed by anotherr r r rope-traverse from a small tree above. This brings one to the Rottenr Log, bridging a wide chasm. From the top of the log climb directlyr upward, keeping generally to the left. A few hundred feet of moderater climbing brings one to the final friction traverse, which leads overr (left) to the Jungle, or source of the Royal Arch Cascade. Descent tor the valley floor can be made by rappel if one is careful to follow ther route used for the ascent, or by traversing along the rim of the valleyr (E) to North Dome gully (see Washington Column). It is possibler to avoid use of the Rotten Log by a class 6 lead upward and to the leftr of the trunk.r

r r

Washington Column (5,912)

r

r *Lunch Ledge (5,000).* Class 4. First ascent September 2, 1933, byr Jules M. Eichorn, Richard M. Leonard, Bestor Robinson, and Herveyr Voge. From the base of the chimney separating the Column from ther Arches, traverse right around the corner onto the 65° face. Follow ar series of ledges and cracks of difficult class 4 climbing diagonally upwardr to the right (NE) to a drop-off, where a cairn will be found. This pointr is about 800 feet above the talus and 400 feet to the right (E) of ther starting point. From here climb directly up 75° cracks and chimneys,r interrupted by oak-grown ledges, for a distance of about 200 feet. Ther final vertical crack, known as Riegelhuth Chimney, leads to a ratherr inconspicuous three-foot ledge without vegetation which traverses ther face horizontally about 50 feet to the left (W). This is the Lunch Ledger and is at the end of the class 4 climbing. The routes split here and arer class 5 above. Many climbers enjoy the excellent climbing to this pointr with almost unexcelled rappelling as a climax; the Lunch Ledge andr the routes above are undoubtedly the most popular roped climbs inr the valley.r

r r

r *Piton traverse.* Class 5. First ascent May 31, 1935, by Morgan Harris,r Richard M. Leonard, and jack Riegelhuth. At the west end of ther Lunch Ledge traverse diagonally upward to the left (W) on an avalanche-polished 65° face with very small and rounded holds. Pitonsr should be placed for protection but are not needed for direct aid. Atr the top of this 75-foot pitch climb upward and somewhat to the right tor a small chimney. From its top enter the main gully west of the columnr and continue via the gully to the brush covered sand slopes leading tor the summit. The only impediment in the gully is a short waterfall whichr may cause considerable difficulty in the wet season. This is the easiestr of the routes leading upward from the Lunch Ledge.r

r r r r r

r *Fat Man Chimney.* Class 5. First ascent May 26, 1934, by Virginiar Greever, Randolph May, and Bestor Robinson. Directly from the Lunchr Ledge ascend the chimney which leads diagonally upward and to ther right. The chimney is on a 70° face and the upper portion is onlyr 15 inches wide and of a crumbling nature. From the top continuer diagonally to the right into a specious alcove. From this traverse horizontally back to the left (W) for 200 to 300 feet and continue on intor the main gully.r

r r

r *Direct route.* Class 5. First ascent August 17, 1940, by DeWitt Allen,r John Dyer, and Robin Hansen. From the alcove above Fat Man Chimneyr traverse right (E) around the corner and up a friction pitch to the baser of a small scree slope. This leads to a spectacular chimney, prominentr from the valley floor, which is 200 feet

high and divided in two sections.r From deep within the chimney proceed directly up and either behindr various chockstones or out toward the front to the second half whichr is relatively open and which steepens near the top. From here work leftr (W) and then ascend a small chimney to a large platform. Continuer left around the corner, then ascend another chimney into a cave andr out its window. Continue up on the scree to the base of the final cliff.r From the base work onto a sloping alcove by using a large embeddedr flake. After gaining a second ledge, cross an open chimney and traverser upward (E) to a tree-covered platform. Climb up a short cleft, thenr halfway up a right-angle chimney. At this point traverse (W) across ar smooth face to the summit slope of the Column. This route is considerably longer than the other two routes above the Lunch Ledge.r

r r

r The descent from Washington Column is best made by contouringr from the summit (E) into the gully across from the Column and following down the gully to easy ledges and scree slopes which lead towardr Tenaya Creek. The final cliffs may be by-passed by going to ther right (W).r

r r

r *Dinner Ledge (5,250).* Class 6. First ascent April 30, 1952, by Daver Dows and Don Goodrich. From Indian Caves climb talus until justr under the vertical upper face of the Column and just east of the regionr of great overhangs. Work to the left (W) along a grassy bench as farr as possible and up loose rock ledges to the left. A foot-wide, eight-footr high crack leads toward a large flat ledge with small trees, about 100r feet higher, and a class 6 pitch proceeds up the left side of three cracksr to a large pine. From here varied climbing continues to the Dinnerr Ledge, which is the top of a buttress, and the highest ledge of ther south face of the Column.r

r r r r r

Watkins Gully (6,750)

r

r Class 6. First ascent September 1946 by Robin Hansen, Fritz Lippmann, and Rolf Pundt. Approach the deep gully immediately west ofr Mount Watkins from the east up a prominent ramp directly below ther Watkins Pinnacles, pass through a unique tunnel, and attain the gullyr proper via a delicate pitch. From here there is not much chance ofr getting off route as the gully walls are nearly unbroken and vertical.r The main obstacles are overhanging chockstones, one of which requiresr direct aid. Water in the gully will increase difficulties considerably.r This is an all-day climb.r

r r

Watkins Pinnacles

r

r *Middle Pinnacle.* Class 6. First ascent December 1946 by Alfredr Baxter and Rupert Gates.r

r r

r *Upper Pinnacle.* Class 6. First ascent May 1947 by Alfred Baxter,r Rupert Gates, and Ulf Ramm-Ericson.r

r r

r These pinnacles jut out from the southwest shoulder of Mount Watkins, and are best seen from the Snow Creek trail just below the falls.r After climbing to the summit of Mount Watkins descend the southwest shoulder until fixed ropes become advisable. A 300-foot rappelr from a tree brings one to another tree on the edge of the south facer overlooking the notch which separates the pinnacles from the wall.r Rappel from this point into the notch. Enough rope should be carriedr so that these last two rappels may be left as fixed ropes. One short pitchr from the notch leads to the saddle between the pinnacles from whichr point ascents of the Upper and Middle Pinnacles can be easily made.r Pitons are necessary on the Upper Pinnacle. Thus far the lowest pinnacle, about 150 feet below the notch, has repeatedly turned back attempts to reach its summit. Its walls are overhanging and quite smooth.r One or two expansion bolts have already been placed.r

r r

Tenaya Canyon (4,000—8,000)

r

r Class 3. First recorded traverse 1866, by Joseph Farrel, Alfred Jessup,r and Mr. Stegman. Although a traverse of the canyon involves no difficult climbing, the problem of route finding arises often. Ropes should ber carried, but are not always needed.r

r r

r *High water routes.* At Inner Gorge (opposite Quarter Domes) ascendr either side of the canyon until about 250 feet above the stream. Fromr his point work eastward and traverse diagonally down into Lost Valley,r r r r at the upper end of the gorge. Routes involving talus, smooth granite,r and brush may be discerned alongside Pyweack Fall, at the head ofr Lost Valley. These lead to Waterwheel Valley, and no further difficulty is encountered on the way to Tenaya Lake. The south side of ther canyon has perhaps more brush than the north throughout the climb.r

r r

r *Low water.* The low water traverse of Tenaya Canyon, which can ber made in late August or September, should appeal more to rock climbersr since there is more rock-climbing and less bushwhacking. From ther lower end of the Inner Gorge, the course of the stream may be followedr to the first waterfall where the stream divides around a chockstone.r Below this a detour to the left (N) is made, and a scree-covered ledger some 50 feet above the stream is followed until well past the fall. Returning once again to a point on the stream marked by a split rock throughr which lies the only easy route, climb approximately 150 feet above onr brush-covered slopes until it is possible to continue eastward into lowerr Lost Valley over a series of narrow, exposed ledges, including Initialr Ledge, which bears the dates of the annual trips made by S. L. Foster,r from 1909 to 1937.r

r r

Clouds Rest (9,929)

r

r *North face.* Class 5. First Ascent August 16, 1952, by Jack Davis andr Dick Long. From Mirror Lake follow Tenaya Creek for about a mile.r Gradually work upward and eastward toward the north face makingr use of a series of gullies and ledges and arriving at a point about threer quarters of a mile west of the summit and several hundred feet belowr the south rim. Some bushwhacking and one or two class 4 pitches willr be encountered. Here is a junction of routes: one leading (SW) to ther Quarter Domes, the other continuing left

(E) a considerable distance tor the north face via a large class 2 ledge until the route is blocked by ar great couloir. A series of ledges of varying difficulty circumvents ther couloir and terminates at the top of a large sloping face. From here therer seem to be several easy routes leading to the rim slightly west of ther summit. This is definitely an all-day climb.r

r r

Quarter Domes (8,276)

r

r *From Tenaya Canyon. West of the Domes.* Class 2. First ascent Juner 11, 1939, by R. S. Griswold, C. A. Harwell, and Julian Howard. Fromr 500 feet above the mouth of the Tenaya Creek Inner Gorge (see Tenayar Canyon) a broad ledge ascends 1,200 feet to the southwest, terminatingr in a gully heading just west of the Domes. When free of snow, the router r r r is a moderate climb, complicated principally by dense brush. The firstr ascent began within the Gorge.r

r r

r *From Tenaya Canyon. East of the Domes.* Class 4. First ascent Augustr 16, 1952, by Norman Goldstein and George Mandatory. From Mirrorr Lake follow the Clouds Rest-North Face route to the route junction.r From here a prominent class 2 ledge with a 20° slope leads right (SW)r directly to the rim, emerging about a half mile from the trail to Cloudsr Rest via flat country. The Domes are passed on the right.r

r r

Ahwiyah Point (6,925)

r

r *From the west.* Class 3. First ascent obscure, probably by Charles W.r Michael. First recorded ascent, September 3, 1933, Richard G. Johnson,r Jack Riegelhuth, and Hervey Voge, who climbed from Mirror Lake. Itr is most easily climbed from above.r

r r

r *Northeast gully.* Class 3. First recorded ascent, August 5, 1937, Davidr R. Brower and Morgan Harris. Correct route finding is essential. Ascendr avalanche debris below the gully to easy slabs leading to a 30-foot waterfall. Pass this over easy ledges to the left (E) and enter the gully proper,r from which point it is impossible to leave the route. The ascent is greatlyr complicated by water in the early season.r

r r

Diving Board (7,500)

r

r *From Little Yosemite.* Class 2. First ascent unknown but probablyr early. From Lost Lake proceed through brush toward the 7,000-footr mark on the map at the base (SW) of Half Dome. An easy route canr be worked out near the right (E) end of an intricate maze of ledgesr separated by 45° massive granite slopes. If the lucky ledge is found, ar horizontal traverse (W) will bring one to easy sand slopes. Followr these, as directly as

convenient, to the base of the Dome and skirt ther cliffs to avoid brush. This route is usually too intricate to find whenr going toward Little Yosemite. Unless the party is equipped with ar rappel rope, it is safer to plow through heavy brush and skirt the cliffsr on the west.r

r r

r *From Mirror Lake.* Class 3. First ascent by Charles W. Michael priorr to 1927. Follow the Mirror Lake-Half Dome route as far as the greatr face of Half Dome. Until July in a normal year an ice axe is advisabler in ascending the 400-foot, 40° snow couloir below the west end of ther overhang. At the head of the couloir traverse upward on a 6-foot, sloping, scree-covered ledge overhanging 1,000 feet of space.r

r r

r *West Buttress.* Class 4. First ascent May 29, 1938, by Kenneth D. Adamr r r r and W. Kenneth Davis. Starting from Mirror Lake ascend a brush-covered gully for 2,500 feet. Above, climb the broken face of the Westr Buttress to the Diving Board. There are probably several possible routesr here.r

r r

r *Half Dome (8,852)*r

r *From Mirror Lake.* Class 3. First ascent unknown. The initial barrierr is a 200-foot cliff stretching along the entire base. This can be passed byr an easy gully at the west end. After reaching the ledge on top of ther cliff, traverse east to polished, massive granite at an angle of 35° tor 40° rising west of the water course. The principal problem is to avoidr brush without getting onto rock of too high an angle. At the base ofr the great face there is an easy route eastward to the Clouds Rest saddle.r There is water at the base of this face in all seasons. After reaching ther saddle the Dome may be climbed by means of the trail and cable.r

r r

r *By trail and cable.* Class 2. First ascent October 12, 1875, by Georger G. Anderson. From Nevada Fall a trail leads up to the east side of Halfr Dome, where parallel cables at waist height are placed in the summerr season and greatly facilitate the ascent of the east slope of the dome.r The history of this route is interesting. After three attempts by otherr parties, Anderson was able to make the ascent by drilling holes for ironr spikes. A detailed account of a somewhat later climb has been givenr (*SCB*, 1946, 1-9). The present one-inch steel cables, with wooden foot-rests placed at ten-foot intervals on the 46° slope, make the 450-footr climb up the dome entirely safe for those not troubled by height. Rubberr soles are essential.r

r r

r *Without the cable.* Class 4. First ascent in 1931 by Judd Boynton,r Warren Loose, and Eldon Dryer. This is purely a problem of adequater friction on the 46°, moderately rough granite. Ascents have been mader on both sides of the cable.r

r r

r *Southwest face.* Class 6. First ascent October 13-14, 1946, by Antonr Nelson and John Salathé. The route starts at the base of the convergingr vertical breaks in the west face just to the right of the two conspicuousr pines about 100 feet up. Three hundred feet up one encounters a crackr running straight up 300 more feet, without feasible alternatives, almostr to the great overhang which circumscribes the climb on the left (N).r From the top of this crack rope-traverse 25 feet to the right and climbr up another crack that contains a deep

diagonal overhang which is passedr on the right. Above, friction work on easier slabs brings one to ther summit. Descend either by the cable or rappel somewhat north of ther r r r climbing route. The first ascent took 20 hours and used 150 pitonsr (*SCB*, 1946, 120-121).r

r r

r *LeConte Gully (5,925)*r

r Class 4. This is the gully just north of Grizzly Peak. It was probablyr climbed by Hutchings as early as 1869 in an attempt on Half Dome.r It is class 2 all the way except for one 25-foot pitch. Follow the Sierrar Point trail until it definitely leaves the gully and turns south. Followr up the broad gully on easy scree for about 750 vertical feet above ther trail. Here a 100-foot, 45° pitch can be passed on a rock-garden ledge onr the right (S). This leads to a pocket out of which one climbs the shortr class 4 pitch at the upper left (N) corner to easy climbing above.r

r r

Grizzly Peak (6,219)

r

r *From Little Yosemite.* Class 2. First ascent 1885, by Charles A. Bailey.r From Little Yosemite proceed to the notch at the head of LeConter Gully (see route to Diving Board). Follow the south side of the ridger to the summit.r

r r

r *South arête.* Class 3. Two gullies ascend the south wall of Grizzlyr Peak. The easternmost and most precipitously walled of these is class 5.r The west side of the arête between them, partly covered with brush, mayr more easily be ascended to the first notch east of Grizzly Peak. To approachr this route, leave the Vernal Fall trail below its junction withr the abandoned Anderson trail.r

r r

r *Southwest arête.* Class 4. First ascent unknown. Take the trail tor Sierra Point. From there ascend a minor gully, a short rock pitch, andr ledges to the arête. Follow the arête, turning right or left where it becomes difficult, to the summit.r

r r

r *West face.* Class 5. First ascent June 1942, by Dick Houston andr Ralph McColm. Follow the Sierra Point trail until level with Sierrar Point and then proceed left (NE) over brushy ledges until a point isr reached where further traversing would involve difficult climbing. Fromr this point easy climbing up several open chimneys and through thickr brush brings one to the crux of the climb, a large open chimney 150r feet long and requiring pitons for protection. Easy climbing then leadsr to the summit. Several routes are possible on this broken face and theyr provide good climbing in the sun for cold days.r

r r

r *South gully.* Class 5. First ascent June 7, 1938, by David R. Browerr and Morgan Harris. The abandoned Anderson Trail to Vernal Fall mayr be followed high into the talus below the south gully, the easternmostr r r

r of the two gullies ascending the south wall. Ascend 250 feet, zigzaggingr over oblique, intersecting ledge planes. Just west of the gully wherer the ledges run out, rope-traverse down and east to a narrow ledger which continues its narrowing course to the northeast, returning at anr angle of 40° to the gully. The lead becomes increasingly exposed as oner nears the gully. The gully may be ascended without difficulty to a cave,r which is passed on a smooth, high-angle face to the right. The upperr gully rapidly opens out into easier climbing at a diminishing angle, butr parties should remain roped until well past the apparent exposure. Ar moderate scramble brings one to the second notch east of Grizzly Peak,r where the usual ducked route west of the summit ridge may be followedr to the top. Any of the Grizzly Peak routes can be completed inr half a day.r

r r

Mount Broderick (6,705)

r

r Class 3. First ascent obscure, but probably by James M. Hutchingsr before 1869. A friction climb up the smooth granite on the northeastr ridge. A rope is sometimes needed on one pitch.r

r r

Mount Starr King (9,081)

r

r *Northeast side.* Class 4. First ascent August 1876 by George B. Bayleyr and E. S. Schuyler. From the top of 30° slabs at the northeast base of ther dome traverse diagonally upward to the right (W) on 43° roughr granite for 40 feet to a stance on a small ledge. Climb directly up, following a grass-filled two-inch crack, and proceed along and over ther edges of two-foot exfoliation shells to the summit.r

r r

r *Southeast saddle.* Class 4 (minimum). First ascent August 23, 1877,r by George G. Anderson, James M. Hutchings, and J. B. Lembert. Anr easier route than from the northeast, but still requiring care in frictionr climbing along and over exfoliation shells. In climbing trend graduallyr to the left (W).r

r r

Panorama Cliff (6,250)

r

r Class 5. First ascent October 12, 1936, by David R. Brower and Morganr Harris. From the Nevada Fall trail at the base of Grizzly Peak an immense diagonal trout-shaped scar may be discerned as the source of oner of the largest recent Panorama Cliff rockslides. The route follows, withr slight variation, a line drawn from the highest talus of the north facer of the cliff, passing immediately above the scar, and continuing upwardr and to the right (SW) into the broken and forested upper face. Ther r r r first pitch leads to the shelf with a large Douglas fir. From here continue upward and to the right. One should be on the lookout for larger loose blocks when climbing above the scar. From here it is possibler that a number of routes may be followed. Although the brush andr scree slopes may not seem to require consecutive climbing, the considerable exposure justifies it. This is one of the longest one-day climbsr in the valley.r

r r

Illilouette Fall (5,816)

r

r *West side.* Class 4. First ascent probably by Charles W. Michael in ther twenties. First recorded ascent September 3, 1933, by Marjory Bridge,r Lewis F. Clark, and William Horsfall. There is probably more than oner feasible route up the broken face west of the fall.r

r r

Glacier Point (6,750)

r

r *East face.* Class 5. First ascent May 28, 1939, by Raffi Bedayan, Davidr R. Brower, and Richard M. Leonard. This route follows close to ther first watercourse south of Glacier Point, directly opposite Sierra Point.r From the Fish Hatchery follow the pipe line road to the settling basin.r Turn right and follow a small stream to the cliffs. A chimney just tor the left (S) of the stream constitutes the route all the way. Once the firstr high-angle diagonal chimney is passed, the route abounds in bomb-proof belay positions and well-watered rock gardens (in season).r

r r

Glacier Point Terrace (5,500)

r

r Class 5. First ascent June 24, 1937, by David R. Brower and Morganr Harris. From an elevation of about 4,800 feet on the Ledge Trail traverser diagonally (E) along a broken connecting ledge under the great overhang toward the terrace that forms the ultimate base of the Firefall.r The east end of the traverse is quite exposed and should be well protected. A small tree serves as a splendid belay for a final delicate traverse ending in an open chimney that leads to the terrace. It is interesting here to observe the variety of debris that has come over the cliffr through the ages. Several attempts to leave the terrace by an upperr route have so far been blocked by difficulty and have been subject tor the gratuitous hazard of falling miscellany dropped by tourists onr Glacier Point—golf balls, fountain pens, beer cans, and rocks. Ther rocks can be heard but not seen as they pass by.r

r r r r

Potato Masher (5,750)

r

r Class 5. Rappel rope necessary. First ascent July 28, 1951, by J. Georger Maring, Don Currey, Don Sorensen, and John Marten. From the switchbacks of the Glacier Point Four Mile Trail between the 5,500- and 6,000-foot contours, an easy traverse eastward brings one to a notch abover a short arête (contour circle 5,750) lying nearly due north of Unionr Point. This arête culminates to the north in the Masher, separated by itsr col from two other pinnacles forming the crest. The first pinnacle isr passed on the left (W) in easy climbing which brings one to a loftyr amphitheater south of and below the second pinnacle, which is passedr

to the east. From the north side of its summit rappel 40 feet to a chock-stone platform at the base of the col leaving the rappel in place for ther return. A class 5 route lies up the southeast corner of the Masher; allr other sides overhang. On the return the second pinnacle is easily regainedr via the fixed rope. Time for the original ascent was three hours.r

r r

Sentinel Rock (7,000)

r

r *South notch.* Class 3. First ascent obscure, but it was a popular touristr ascent by 1870. Approach on the Four Mile Trail and ascend the gullyr heading in the notch just south of the summit.r

r r

r *Circular Staircase.* Class 5. First ascent May 1940 by David Browerr and Morgan Harris. Traverse over from the Four Mile Trail on easyr scree-covered ledges to the Tree Ledge directly under the north face.r Descend an exposed route 70 feet to the broad, sloping ledge crossingr the west face of the massif. Follow the ledge to within 50 yards of itsr terminus in a watercourse and ascend 150 feet. There follows a 120-foot lead requiring pitons up a shallow chimney to the next broad ledge.r A traverse back to the watercourse connects with an open gully leadingr to the notch behind the summit. Ascend through brush to the top.r

r r

r *Northeast bowl.* Class 6. First ascent June 12, 1948, by Anton Nelsonr and John Salathé. From tree ledges below the north wall traverse (E)r around and down into the bowl. The route consists of vertical cracksr and open chimneys, starting near the middle of the bowl and workingr toward the left (E) side. One emerges on top of the ridge through ar needle's-eye at the top of an overhanging chimney, followed by a veryr rotten chimney and a second needle's-eye. Relative to Yosemite standards, rock on this climb is rotten in the extreme; therefore, the router is advisable only for the cautious, experienced climber. It would be ar poor place to be benighted.r

r r r r

r *North face.* Class 6. First ascent June 30 through July 4, 1950, byr John Salathé and Allen Steck. (*SCB*, 1951, I-5.) The wall can be dividedr into parts of somewhat equal distance: Tree Ledge to the top of ther prominent buttress, and from the latter to the summit. Route of firstr ascent leads up right (W) side of the buttress to the tree-studded ledgesr of its top (two days). Continue up the headwall with aid of expansionr bolts for a full rope length and traverse left (E) into steep cracks beneathr the Great Chimney (one day). Follow this chimney for the remainingr distance (about 500 feet) to the summit (one and one-halfr days). Other ascents should require less time as the expansion boltsr were left in place.r

r r

Lost Brother (6,625)

r

r Class 5. First ascent July 27, 1941, by David R. Brower and L. Brucer Meyer. The semi-isolated buttress across the valley from the Threer Brothers and well up Taft Arête is known as the Lost Brother. Ther best

approach is to ascend the avalanche gully heading between Taftr Arête and Taft Point to a point in line with the Lower Cathedral Rockr and the massive white-scarred overhang on the north face of the Lostr Brother, and thence contour east to the base of the broad, sloping,r brush-and-tree-covered ledge under the white overhang; ascend thisr ledge to the highest point readily accessible at its eastern end. Here ther first pitch involves a shoulder stand and leads up a narrow crack to ther top of a 30-foot block. Two fine chimneys and some intervening cracksr bring the climber to the Douglas fir ledge 600 feet below the top. Fromr its southern end a higher alcove may be reached, and finally the notchr in Taft Arête, by climbing an exposed face, an open chimney, and anr easy ledge. The summit is attained by proceeding directly from ther notch.r

r r

Phantom Pinnacle (5,900)

r

r Class 6. First ascent September 9-10, 1950, by William W. Dunmirer and Robert L. Swift. This 400-foot shaft lies on the south side of ther Cathedral Spires Buttress and is therefore hidden from most view spotsr in the valley. The climb from the base is made on the upper side andr ascends the vertical cracks formed where the pinnacle makes a rightr angle with the cliff; the route is obvious to the notch. From the notchr cross above the chockstone and ascend to the summit on the northeastr side of the spire. The first ascent took two days of climbing.r r r r

Harris's Hangover (6,250)

r

r Class 6. This is the northeast chimney of the Spires Buttress. Firstr ascent August 13-14, 1949, by Oscar A. Cook, William W. Dunmire, andr Robert L. Swift. A prominent chimney divides the sheer buttress immediately southeast of Cathedral Spires. The ascent is made entirely withinr this chimney and involves a series of overhanging chockstones. Ther largest of these, several hundred feet up the chimney and clearly visibler from the valley floor, requires direct-aid pitons and should be climbedr on the right-hand (W) wall, from a start deep inside the chimney.r Beyond this chockstone the difficulties lessen considerably. The firstr ascent took 12 hours. This is an excellent climb for hot weather; ther entire route is in shade.r

r r

Church Tower (5,500)

r

r *From the southwest notch.* Class 5. First ascent May 30, 1941, by Billr Horsfall, Dick Houston, Ed Koskinen, and Newton McCready. Ascendr the broad talus chute east of the Church Tower to the base of the notchr between it and the Lower Cathedral Spire. Climb the broken face to ther right (E) of the notch to a short chimney and traverse farther right (E)r to a large tree. Attain the east arête via a short, deep chimney and continue along the arête, crossing a deep notch to the small summitr tower, which may be climbed from the north over a smooth 50° face orr by circling farther right north around the tower to the back (W) side.r This is the shorter and easier of the two very popular class 5 routes onr the Church Tower.r

r r

r *East arête.* Class 5. First ascent October 12, 1935, by Kenneth Adam,r Olive Dyer, and Morgan Harris. Several hundred feet below and tor the right (NE) of the notch (see above) an easy tree-covered ledge leadsr right to the northeast corner. From here ascend a 60-foot open chimney,r the most difficult pitch on the climb. Walk along a “rue de bicyclette”r on the southeast side of the steep arête just below the crest to a larger tree where the southwest-notch route is joined. Descend from the summitr by rappelling to the notch.r

r r

r *North wall.* Class 6. First ascent June 1, 1946, by Dewitt Allen, Fritzr Lippmann, Anton Nelson and John Salathé. Start at the highest talusr just under the north side of the overhanging summit block and workr up to the left (E) toward the northeast ridge. Proceed upward on ther east side of the north face by means of a piton ladder or a long andr r r r exposed open chimney. Above, the climbing is mainly class 4 and 5 untilr a junction is made with the original route to the summit along the eastr arête.r

r r

Lower Cathedral Spire (5,903)

r

r *Main Ledge.* Class 4. First ascent November 4, 1933, by Jules M.r Eichorn, Richard M. Leonard, and Bestor Robinson. Ascend talus chutesr east of the Spire to a point about 150 feet down from the notch betweenr the Spires. Starting here, at a large tree, climb through brush and treesr onto a small ledge which leads to a shallow chimney dropping sharplyr to the right (S). Climb straight up the left (W) buttress of the chimneyr about 40 feet and traverse to the left (W) past an airy step. From herer a 200-foot open chimney leads up to the main ledge. There are at leastr two other variations in the lower part of this climb. One starts higherr and closer to the notch on a difficult 75° face, while the other startsr lower down from the notch in an open chimney. Above the Main Ledger difficulty increases considerably, but the climb that far is enjoyable andr instructive for its own sake.r

r r

r *Right-hand Traverse.* Maximum class 5. First ascent May 30, 1948,r by Raffi Bedayn, Paul Estes, Jerry Ganopole, and Roy Gorin. This variation may be used as an alternative to a direct ascent of the Flake. Itr minimizes the amount of direct aid necessary, substituting difficult classr 5 climbing. From the east end of the Main Ledge at the base of ther Flake Pitch traverse down and right, using a sling in a piton for supportr until the rock itself again provides adequate holds. The traverse endsr at a small shelf twenty feet east of the starting point. From here ther exposed route leads directly up on small holds, but is fortunately provided with cracks for protection by pitons. Two long pitches abover its inception, this variation joins the following route on the wide ledger above the Flake.r

r r

r Descent from the Spire involves an overhanging toy-foot rappel overr the Flake, so a check of rope length is important. Average time ofr ascent for either route is about 6 hours.r

r r

r *Flake Pitch.* Class 6. First ascent August 25, 1934, by Jules M. Eichorn,r Richard M. Leonard, and Bestor Robinson. (*SCB*, 1935, 107.) From ther right-hand (E) end of the Main Ledge a huge granite flake can be discerned directly above. From a shoulder-stand ascend the 83° face tor just under and to the left (W) of the

Flake. The usual technique isr to lasso the horn of the Flake with sling rope, anchor the sling rope tor r r r carabiners, and mount the Flake using the fixed rope. Care should her taken in placement of pitons to avoid rope drag, and for this reasonr double-rope technique is preferable. Above, traverse the wide ledger around the corner to the right (E) into a chimney which leads upward.r Continue to the summit via easy pitches. The Flake has been ascendedr at least once without lassoing the horn.r

r r

Higher Cathedral Spire (6,114)

r

r *Southwest face.* Maximum class 5. First ascent April 15, 1934, byr Jules M. Eichorn. Richard M. Leonard, and Bestor Robinson. (*SCB*, 1934,r 34-37.) The flood channel near the Cathedral Rocks will be found anr easier approach than the forest. Starting from upper scree slopes south ofr the Spire, climb a short crack to the wide ledge known as First Base.r There a difficult overhang 20 feet above the belayer must be surmountedr in an open chimney, and a delicate traverse left (W) is required aroundr the corner to the Bathtubs, remarkable solution pockets on a 77° face. Ar further traverse of about 15 feet to the left (N) brings one to an expansion bolt to protect a difficult step into a high-angle crack on the westr face. Follow this crack diagonally upward to an alcove known as Secondr Base. Above this rope-traverse around the corner to the left (N), andr then climb up another chimney on excellent holds. From 20 feet higherr another traverse to the left onto the north face brings one to Third Base.r Follow this prominent ledge (right) south around the west and southr (or north and east) faces to an easy chimney up the summit block onr the southeast corner. Although direct aid has been used with two ofr the pitches on most ascents, the Higher Spire has been climbed severalr times entirely class 5. Average time of ascent is most of a day.r

r r

r *South face.* Class 6. First ascent August 18, 1948, by Fletcher Hoyt,r William Hoyt, and Allen Steck. From First Base the route leads to ther right in a delicate traverse and then upward in a broken chimney andr over a bulging chockstone. Around farther to the right is a thin ledger which provides an easy route to a welcome platform 25 feet above. Fromr the platform a class 6 crack leads upward to the left, ending below ar flake, directly over and 150 feet above the First Base ledge. Ascent ofr the easy chimney between the flake and the wall brings one to the ledger leading to the base of the Rotten Chimney (Second Base). The southr face route, however, follows a vertical crack 15 feet to the right (E)r of the base of the talus notch. At the top of this difficult 80-foot crack ar traverse on tension enables the leader to reach a break in the verticalr face which ends in a sloping shelf. From here a short closed chimneyr r r r leads to another ledge and a 45° trough ends at the base of the summitr block. The first and only ascent to date took a full day and used 41r pitons, 34 for direct aid.r

r r

Cathedral Chimney (6,300)

r

r Class 5. First ascent October 11, 1936, by David R. Brower andr Morgan Harris. Moderate continuous climbing leads up the floor of ther spectacular broad chimney between the two highest Cathedral Rocksr to the base of a 150-foot, 70° pitch in the upper portion of the gully.r This may be climbed by ascending the face a few feet to the right (N)r then traversing left to easier rocks. Continue for several hundred feetr to an overhanging chockstone, which, when dry, may be climbed withr the aid of a small tree growing near the top.

A more difficult variation,r over smooth slabs to the right (N) of the chockstone, has been used inr the early season, when the chockstone becomes a miniature waterfall.r The rest of the gully is easy.r

r r

Penny Pinnacle (5,000)

r

r Class 5. First ascent April 1946 by Torcom Bedayan and Fritz Lippmann.r Approach the pinnacle attached to the lower east face of Middler Cathedral Rock via the talus gully to the south. Two pitches are requiredr to reach the notch, and a shoulder stand is helpful to get ontor the ledge leading to the summit pitch.r

r r

Middle Cathedral Rock (6,551)

r

r *Kat Walk.* Class 4. First ascent September 1929 by Ralph S. Griswold.r Moderate continuous climbing leads up the great chimney between ther two higher Rocks to a 70-foot cliff. From the base of this cliff followr a brush-covered ledge out on the face to the right (NE) for severalr hundred feet, thence up steep ledges and pitches to the summit. Descentr via this route or, more easily, by the Gunsight. To reach the Gunsightr descend (W) to Bridalveil Creek, keeping to the left (S) of the smoothr slabs, until an easy traverse right (N) can be made to the Gunsight notch.r

r r

r *Northwest buttress.* Class 5. First ascent April 18, 1953, by Jack Davis,r Marjorie Dunmire, William Dunmire, Richard Houston, Richard Long,r and Dale Webster. From the top of the Gunsight (see below) a notchr may be discerned on the Middle Cathedral Rock skyline below and tor the right (W) of the summit. The route generally follows a line ofr several trees up the broken face to this notch. Above and about 100 yardsr southeast of the Gunsight notch a brushy crack leads to a large Douglasr r r fir. From here continue directly upward several hundred feet until along-side of a vertical open chimney on the right. Lack of holds may requirer the use of a direct-aid piton in one place below the chimney. Traverser right (S) into the chimney, ascend it, and continue upward to easyr scrambling leading to the summit. The ascent can be made in part ofr a day.r

r r

Gunsight (5,200)

r

r Class 4. First ascent obscure and probably early. This gully lies betweenr the Middle and Lower Cathedral Rocks. The large chockstoner near the top is best passed to the left (S) on sound, angular holds; ar rope is desirable here. The Gunsight gully offers an interesting shortr rock scramble to attractive lunch spots on Bridalveil Creek above ther fall and to climbs on Middle Cathedral Rock or the Leaning Tower.r

r r

Lower Cathedral Rock (5,610)

r

r *Northwest face*—Overhang bypass. Class 5. First ascent June 1, 1952,r by William Dunmire, Richard Long, William Long, and Edward Robbins. Two overhanging blocks within 100 feet of each other may be discerned part way up on the northwest face. For both routes, roped climbing starts from below the easternmost of the two overhangs. Fromr the highway on the east side of Bridalveil Creek work up forestedr class 2 ledges to a gully heading diagonally upward and to the left (E).r This gully may be ascended to just below the 160° overhang extendingr 8 feet from the face. A short, touchy traverse left of the overhang leadsr to a 45° chimney veering eastward. At the top of the chimney climbr upward from a bushy ledge and then right (W) on a new ledge. Wherer the ledge terminates, ascend the partly broken but very exposed face.r Above, traverse left again into an open gully which overhangs above.r Friction climbing in the gully leads to an alcove on the right side. Thisr alcove can also be attained by ascending a short open chimney justr before reaching the gully, but this variation seems to require a direct-aidr piton. From above the alcove continue via an easy pitch or two to ther tree-covered slopes above.r

r r

r *Northwest face*—Overhang route. Class 6. First ascent September 7,r 1935, by Doris F. Leonard, Richard M. Leonard, and Bestor Robinson.r Follow the route described above to below the 160° overhang. Fromr a half-inch ledge on a 70° face immediately under the overhang ar shoulder-stand (with pitons supporting the second man) enables ther leader to ascend a vertical chimney to the right of the overhang to ar r r r cave beneath a second overhang 15 feet above the second man. Traverser to the right (W) on almost inadequate holds and reach a large platform above the upper overhang. Enjoyable climbing at 85° on remarkably fine holds then brings one to an easy walk to the summit.r Either of the two northwest face routes can be accomplished in partr of a day. Descend via the Gunsight.r

r r

Leaning Tower (5,863)

r

r Class 4. First ascent probably by Charles W. Michael, date unknown.r Approaching Bridalveil Creek by the Gunsight (or any of the morer difficult routes leading to the top of the fall), traverse over moderater friction climbing to the notch south of the Leaning Tower. From herer friction climbing continues over varied routes to the summit, with ther higher angle of the slope indicating use of the rope in consecutive climbing.r

r r

Leaning Chimney (5,675)

r

r Class 5. First ascent October 13, 1940, by Kenneth D. Adam, David R.r Brower, Morgan Harris, Richard M. Leonard, and Carl Rosberg. Thisr is a spectacular chimney, blocked by overhanging chockstones, due southr of the Leaning Tower. From the Bridalveil Fall parking area ascendr 1,000 feet of class 1 climbing to the head of the amphitheater west ofr the Tower. By a 30-foot narrow chimney leading upward to the rightr (W), or by talus around a buttress further to the west, tree-coveredr ledges are reached leading easily back, eastward, and upward 500 feetr or more into the Leaning Chimney and to the first big chockstone. Thisr can be passed by a

lead on the high-angle north wall. Easy climbingr continues to the next series of chockstones marking the summit of ther chimney. Here the route is on the south wall. A small overhang withr exceptionally good holds is the crux of the pitch; above this a tunnelr through additional chockstones ends at the notch above the chimney.r Easy bushwhacking leads to Bridalveil Creek, only 750 feet below. Ther first ascent took three hours.r

r r

Stanford Point (6,659)

r

r Class 5. First ascent September 5, 1942, by David R. Brower, Morganr Harris, Alan Hedden, and L. Bruce Meyer. Climb to the top of the talusr immediately beneath Stanford Point and proceed 200 feet higher onr a series of easy ledges to an overhanging crack at the east end of ther top ledge. Surmount this overhang and reach a less steep brushy sectionr r r that leads to the broad ledge which is conspicuous from below.r The route generally follows this ledge to its upper (E) end where itr breaks off into the gully east of Stanford Point. Climb up the face, usingr several chimneys and a short traverse (W) to a shallow gully with ar diagonal upward return, until the top of a minor buttress is reachedr from where a route into the main gully is visible. Delicate and exposedr climbing is involved in reaching the gully, but from here scramblingr leads to the valley rim and Pohono Trail.r

r r

Pulpit Rock (4,195)

r

r Class 6. First ascent May 29, 1939, by Raffi Bedayan, Carl Jensen, andr Randolph May. The topmost branch (which leans toward the rock) ofr a large tree at the southeast corner enables the climber to make a traverser toward the notch of the Pulpit. Advance vertically up the broken facer until the cave underneath a huge overhang is reached. Direct aid isr necessary to overcome the rounded 70° face and reach an overhangingr gully. Climb out of this gully toward the notch, descending upon ar broad ledge and along this to a large platform seen from below. Fromr here the summit is reached by climbing a three-inch crack on a 400 face.r Care should be taken with loose rocks throughout the climb.r

r r

r Another route on Pulpit Rock proceeds directly up from the notchr to a sloping, curved shelf. From here traverse up and to the left (W)r to a narrow ledge, continue farther left some 15 feet, and ascend diagonally up and to the right via a piton ladder. At the top of this pitchr it is easy scrambling to the summit by the original route.r

r r

The Rostrum (4,500)

r

r Class 5. First ascent October 12, 1941, by Kenneth Adam, David R.r Brower, Richard M. Leonard, and Rolf Pundt. This is a detached platform on the south wall of the Merced Canyon 174 miles west of Pulpitr Rock,

and is reached by descending Turtleback Dome from the Wawonar Road, 1 mile west of the Tunnel. Rappel from the canyon rim to ther large granite blocks of the intervening notch, then climb over smallr holds just to the right (NE) of the notch and above an 800-foot dropr to the talus. The exposure warrants the use of a piton here. The returnr from the notch to the rim is made by a series of rock-plant coveredr ledges to the right (SW).r

r r r r r

References

r

r *Text: SCB*, 1934, 98; 1935, 107; 1936, 96; 1937, 106; 1938, 115; 1939,r 128; 1940, 118; 1941, 135; 1942, 132; 1946, 118; 1948, 121, 127; 1949, 147;r 1950, 124; 1952, 88, 91.r

r r

r *Photographs:* See the books on Yosemite listed in ther References, asr well as many of the *SCB* references cited above.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Cathedral Range •r Contentsr • Previous: Tioga Pass to Mammoth Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/yosemite_valley.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The Cathedral Range and Eastward >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Clark Range •r Contentsr • Previous: Yosemite Valleyr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass

r

The Cathedral Range and Eastward

r r r

Edward S. Robbins and Alfred W. Baxter, Jr.

r r

r BETWEEN MOUNT LYELL and the Tioga Road the Sierra Nevadar has two crests: the Cathedral Range running in a northwesterly direction from Mount Lyell to Cathedral Peak, and to the east of this ther higher true crest from Mount Lyell to Mount Dana. Almost all this arear lies within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park and is easily accessible by good trails. Most of the peaks can be climbed in a single dayr from the Tioga Road.r

r r

r The Cathedral Range forms the divide between the upper basins ofr two of the most spectacular river courses in the Sierra, the Tuolumner and the Merced. The general aspect of the range differs from that ofr other climbing areas in the High Sierra, for forests of lodgepole piner and mountain hemlock often extend high on the shoulders of the peaks,r and an abundance of nearby lakes and subalpine meadows create ar friendly sort of beauty when contrasted with the spectacular expansesr of rock and ice found in the higher mountain areas to the south. Ther beautifully castellated peaks of the northern part of the range provider a number of short but popular rock climbs. While there are no larger permanent snowfields, fine practice slopes for snow work can be foundr in early summer, around Budd Lake and elsewhere. This range isr largely granite.r

r r

r The main crest of the Sierra in this region is considerably higherr than the Cathedral Range. In common with most peaks of the range,r (lie main peaks have easy routes for ascent from the west. The firstr ascent of Mount Gibbs was on horseback. There are a few small glaciersr on their northern and eastern sides, the best known being on Lyell, Dana,r and Kuna. It was on the Maclure lobe of Lyell Glacier that John Muirr made the measurements first proving the existence of glaciers in ther r r r Sierra. In the Mount Lyell region the rock is Half Dome quartz monzonite, but farther north much of the rock is volcanic and sedimentary;r Parker, Dana, and Gibbs especially are composed of the original rockr that once formed a thick roof over the Sierra.r

r r

History

r

r This is one portion of the Sierra where the climbing history should mention the original Indian inhabitants. The Mono and Yosemite Indiansr had a trading area in the vicinity of Tuolumne Pass, and François E.r Matthes found a bow high on the slopes of Parsons Peak. White menr who first entered the area, under the leadership of Joseph Reddefieldr Walker in 1833, traveled along the western extension of the Cathedralr Range. In 1863, the California Geological Survey, led by Josiah Dwightr Whitney, made several ascents, including one of Mount Dana. Ther group attempted to climb Mount Lyell, but they were stopped 600 feetr short of the summit, which they regarded as inaccessible. Gold wasr found east of the crest in 1852, and several mines were established, oner at the head of Bloody Canyon. Mining equipment was carried by packr train across the Mono Pass Trail until 1882, when the Tioga Road wasr opened by a private company.r

r r

r All the main peaks of these areas have now been ascended, the lastr being those in the Echo Peak group and on Matthes Crest.r

r r

Approaches and Campsites

r

r The Tioga Road, usually open from late June until November, makesr this area easily accessible from east or west. For the backpacker, trailsr into the area include several from Yosemite Valley, including ther Tenaya Lake Trail, the Sunrise and Soda Springs Trail by way of Littler Yosemite, and the Merced Lake Trail combined with either the Babcock Lake Trail or the Vogelsang Pass Trail. From the south a trail leadsr from Agnew Meadow via Thousand Island Lake over Donohue Pass.r From the east a. trail may be followed from Walker Lake up Bloodyr Canyon and over Mono Pass. Another trail goes from Silver Lake upr Rush Creek where it joins the Parker Pass Trail and, higher, the Johnr Muir Trail, leading to Donohue Pass.r

r r

r There is a lodge, store, garage, ranger station, and automobile camping in Tuolumne Meadows. Fine camping areas may be found at Buddr Lake, Cathedral Lake, the head of Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne, onr the Lyell Fork of the Merced, Vogelsang Lake, and in many other places.r r r r Plans to camp at sites within the park other than those maintained byr the Park Service, as well as all plans for climbing in the park, should ber checked with the rangers in advance.r

r r r

The Cathedral Range (North to South)

r r r

Fairview Dome (9,737)

r

r First ascent July 4, 1863, by William H. Brewer and Charles F. Hoffmann. The east face is class 3.r

r r

Tenaya Peak (10,700)

r

r The south slopes are class 2, and have been climbed on skis.r

r r

Cathedral Peak (10,933)

r

r The first ascent was made by John Muir in September 1869, probablyr by Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 1. East slope and west face.* Class 3 except for the summit pitch,r which is class 4. Three fourths of a mile north of Budd Lake on ther Budd Creek Trail, go west and ascend a broad talus slope to a shallowr notch on the ridge. Descend on the west side of this notch and followr a series of ledges to the broken rock north of the ridge between ther summit and the west peak. Climb a series of ledges to a sloping ledger just below the summit block. A wide sloping crack goes up to the westr of the summit block. From here traverse eastward to a mantelshelf andr climb to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face.* Class 3 with one class 4 pitch. Leave the Sunriser Trail from a point about a half mile north of Lower Cathedral Lake andr climb talus and slabs of the west face to a point opposite and just belowr the notch on the ridge between the summit and the west peak. Scrambler up over blocks and slabs to the sloping ledge just below the summit block.r Follow Router to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. South face.* Class 4. From the south ascend the talus chuter toward the main chimney to the west of the summit, as high as possible.r Then traverse to the left to the base of the chimney proper. Ascendr the chimney for about 125 feet, then traverse to the right and upwardsr to a ledge just below the crest and east of the west peak. Climb to ther ridge and follow Router to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast buttress.* Class 5. First ascent by Charles Wilts andr Spencer Austin. Follow the broad southeast buttress of Cathedral Peak.r The climb is long as well as difficult in comparison with other climbsr r r r in this area, involving almost 500 feet on 60° to 70° slabs. Other routesr on the south face and the southeast buttress offer the most interestingr possibilities for new routes of class 5 to 6 difficulty on Cathedral Peak.r

r r

r *Route 5. Northeast face.* Class 5. Climbed by Frank Tarver and Gordonr Petrequin July 1953. Start about 100 yards to the right of the lowestr point on the northeast side of the southeast buttress. Ascend to the ridger which rises on the left and follow it to the summit.r

r r

r *Eichorn's Pinnacle* (the prominent pinnacle below and west of Cathedral's west peak). Class 4. First ascent July 24, 1931, by Glen Dawsonr and Jules Eichorn. From the notch between the pinnacle and the westr peak, descend a short distance on the north, traverse out onto the sider facing Cathedral Lake, and climb to the top.r

r r

Cockscomb Peak (11,100+)

r

r First ascent by Lipman and Chamberlain in 1914. Second ascent byr Jules Eichorn and Glen Dawson in 1931, by the west face. There arer various class 4 and 5 routes.r

r r

r *West face.* Class 4. From the northwest corner of the peak ascendr on the west face to a large flat ledge exposed to the east. From herer traverse to the south by the west face to a wide cleft. The summit isr the knife-edge east of this cleft which is a few inches higher than ther large block to the west.r

r r

Unicorn Peak (10,849)

r

r From the north, this peak appears to be a single spire on a ridge;r however there are three pinnacles, of which the north one is the truer summit. There are many possible routes on the west face, and the poorlyr defined north arête, many of class 5 difficulty. The first ascent was byr the northeast face by Francis P. Farquhar and James Rennie in 1911.r Twenty years later, with Farquhar, Robert L. M. Underhill introducedr the use of modern rope management to the Sierra on the north face.r

r r

r For a class 3 route from Elizabeth Lake, ascend to the notch betweenr the north and middle pinnacles and follow the arête to the summit.r

r r

Echo Ridge (11,100+)

r

r This is the prominent summit between the Cockscomb and Echo Peaks.r

r r

r *Route 1. West ridge.* Class 2. From Budd Lake go up to the col between Echo Ridge and Echo Peaks, and from there scramble east to ther summit.r

r r r r r

r *Route 2. North face and east ridge.* Class 4. First ascent by Joe Firey,r Peter Hoessly, Ron Hahn, and Ed Robbins in 1949. From the eastr end of Budd Lake ascend talus to the base of the eastern chimney onr the cliff at the base of the north face. Two or three pitches lead ontor the broad east ridge. Ascend to and traverse the ridge from this point,r or proceed along the north face (class 3) to a notch, cross to the southr face and traverse west until beneath the peak at the north end of ther ridge, and then scramble to the top. Some of the rock on the north facer is rather rotten.r

r r

Echo Peaks (11,000+)

r

r This group of pinnacles west of Echo Ridge can be approached fromr Budd Lake or Upper Cathedral Lake. The numbering is indicated onr Sketch 5, which lists the most prominent nine.r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 5. Cathedral Peak Arear

r r r r

r *Peak 1. Route 1. East face.* Class 3. First ascent on August 4, 1936,r Owen L. Williams. Ascend the center of the east face to the notch between Peaks 1 and 2 and follow the ridge north to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face.* Class 4. Ascend the west face to the notch betweenr Peaks 1 and 2, and follow the east side of the ridge to the summit.r

r r r r

r *Peak 2. East face.* Class 3. Ascend the east face to the notch betweenr Peaks 1 and 2. Follow the ridge south to the summit.r

r r

r *Peak 3.* This, the highest of the Echo Peaks, was climbed July 7, 1931,r by Norman Clyde and Carl Sharsmith.r

r r

r *Route 1. East face.* Class 4. Ascend the gully on the east face to ther notch between Peaks 2 and 3. Follow the ridge south to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face.* Class 3. From the summit of Peak 2 traverse onr the west face of Peak 2 and ascend the ridge to the summit of Peak 3.r

r r

r *Peak 4.* First ascent by Owen L. Williams and Ethyl Mae Hill, Augustr 6, 1936.r

r r

r *Route 1.* Class 4. From the summit of Peak 3, descend the east sider of the ridge between Peaks 3 and 4 to a point about 30 feet below ther notch. From here climb the northeast face directly to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Class 4. Climb from the left of a prominent row of shrubsr at the base of the northeast face, directly to the summit.r

r r

r *Peak 5.* Class 4. Ascend the north ridge.r

r r

r *Peak 6.* Class 3. Ascend vague northeast ridge.r

r r

r *Peak 7.* Class 3. Ascend northeast ridge.r

r r

r *Peak 8.* Class 3. Ascend north face.r

r r

r *Peak 9.* Class 5. First ascent by Charles Wilts and Spencer Austin.r Descend from notch west of Peaks 8 and 9 until the south face can ber easily reached, traverse out on the south face and go straight up to anr overhang. Traverse east and up and back west to the arête. Then go alongr the arête to the summit.r

r r

Matthes Crest (10,900+)

r

r First ascent by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, and Walter Brem onr July 26, 1931. This is the spectacular knife edge on the south slope ofr Echo Ridge. In the past it has borne other names since it has also beenr known as Echo Ridge, and Echo Crest. The present name, in honorr of François C. Matthes, the geologist, was made official in 1946. Ther north peak is the higher.r

r r

r *Route 1. East face.* Class 4. Ascend the east face directly below ther north peak.r

r r

r *Route 2. South arête.* Class 5. First ascent by Charles and Ellen Wiltsr in June 1947. Ascend the south arête above a group of pines and traverser along the ridge.r

r r

r *Route 3. North pinnacle.* Class 4. Ascend the north arête and then gor out on the east face and climb to the summit.r

r r r r

Peak 10,700 (0.7 N of Columbia Finger)

r

r This is a cockscomb between Columbia Finger and Tenaya Peak andr was ascended prior to 1948. The south peak is the highest.r

r r

r *Route 1.* Class 4. Approach up the south arête. Near the top traverser north on the west face, then up the face to the south summit. The peakr on the north end of the ridge is class 3.r

r r

Columbia Finger (10,400+)

r

r A cockscomb; first ascent July 22, 1921, by William H. Staniels, Donald E. Tripp, and B. H. Bochmer.r

r r

r *Route 1. West face.* Class 3. Ascend the easy ridge north of the pinnacler and climb the west face.r

r r

Johnson Peak (11,000+)

r

r First ascent in 1933 by H. B. Blanks. This peak can be climbed easilyr from Elizabeth Lake.r

r r

Rafferty Peak (11,178)

r

r First ascent by Edward W. Hernden. Second class by talus and ledgesr from the col at the head of the middle fork of Rafferty Creek.r

r r

Peak 11,300+ (1 SW of Raflerty Peak)

r

r First ascent in 1931 by Julie Mortimer, Alice Carter, and Eleanorr Smith. Class 2 from Booth Lake, the largest in the group of small lakesr between Fletcher and Emeric creeks, southwest of Tuolumne Pass.r

r r

Fletcher Peak (11,100+)

r

r No record available.r

r r

Vogelsang Peak (11,511)

r

r Ascended before 1923 by F. E. Matthes. Class 2. From Vogelsang Laker climb to the saddle between the main peak and the north peak, thenr south to the summit.r

r r

Parsons Peak (12,120)

r

r First ascent by Marion Randall Parsons before 1931. The ascent canr he made either from the head of Ireland Creek or from the Bernicer lake area south of Vogelsang Pass. Class 2.r

r r r r r

r *Simmons Peak (12,504)*r

r First ascent in 1931 by Sierra Club members. Class 2 from upperr Bernice Lake.r

r r

Mount Florence (12,507)

r

r First ascent by Theodore S. Solomons and F. W. Reed August 4, 1897.r Class 2. From Washburn Lake follow the stream toward Mount Florence.r At the source scramble over shale and weather-beaten rock to ther summit.r

r r

Peak 12,700 (1/2 SW of Lyell)

r

r No record available.r

r r

Peak 12,100 (2 SW of Lyell)

r

r No record available.r

r r r

Peaks on and near the Main Crest

r r

Mount Dana (13,050; 13,053n)

r

r First ascent June 28, 1863, by W. H. Brewer and C. F. Hoffmann, whor found the view so impressive that J. D. Whitney climbed the peak ther next day.r

r r

r *Route 1. Class 1.* From the Tioga Road many easy routes are availabler up the west and south slopes.r

r r

r *Route 2. Glacier route.* Class 3. Ascend over the glacier on the northr side of Mount Dana to the prominent couloir that heads just east of ther summit (ice axe necessary), or climb the rock east of the couloir.r

r r

Mount Gibbs (12,700; 12,764n)

r

r The first ascent was on horseback, August 31, 1864, by W. H. Brewerr and F. L. Olmsted (*père*). The ascent from any direction except ther east is class 1.r

r r

Mount Lewis (12,200+; 12,296n)

r

r No records. The ascent from Mono Pass at the northwest is class 1.r

r r

Kuna Peak (12,951; 12,895n)

r

r First ascent in 1919 by Walter L. Huber. Third class routes may ber selected on the northwestern side.r

r r r r r

Kuna Crest (12,200+; 22,207n)

r

r This is the long ridge extending in a northwesterly direction fromr Kuna Peak and forming the east wall of Lyell Canyon. First ascent byr Walter L. Huber in 1909. Class 3 routes may be selected on either ther east or west side.r

r r

Mammoth Peak (12,225)

r

r This is the high point at the north end of Kuna Crest. First ascentr by Walter L. Huber in 1902. Careful inspection will reveal many classr 2 and 3 routes.r

r r

Parker Peak (12,850; 12,861n)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde in 1914. It may be easily climbed fromr the Parker Pass Trail where it passes between Parker and Koip peaks.r Class 1.r

r r

Koip Peak (13,000+; 12,979n)

r

r First ascent by François E. Matthes before 1919. Most easily climbedr from Parker Pass Trail where it passes between Parker and Koip peaks.r Class 2.r

r r

Mount Wood (12,663; 12,637n)

r

r No records are available.r

r r

Koip Crest (12,000+ to 12,600+; 12,120 to 12,585n)

r

r Koip Crest extends south from Koip Peak to Blacktop Peak and thenr southeast from Blacktop Peak. On the northern section of the crestr there are nine pinnacles. The first traverse, by George Templeton andr Milton Hildebrand on August 9, 1939, took 12 hours. Class 4.r

r r

r On the southern section (southeast of Blacktop) there are seven pinnacles; the largest and highest is the round one at the northwest endr joining the Eocene plateau of Blacktop. This pinnacle is class 2 fromr Blacktop, class 3 from the southeast arête. From the southwest it is possible to make a class 5 climb up the most prominent chimney on the southwest face of the highest summit. This chimney strikes the ridge just eastr of the summit. The first ascent of this last route was made by Richard M.r Leonard and Jim Koontz August 1950.r

r r r r

Blacktop Peak (12,723; 12,700n)

r

r No records except for the traverse of Koip Crest (above).r

r r

Donohue Peak (12,073; 12,023n)

r

r First ascent in 1895 by Sergeant Donohue, U.S. Cavalry, on horseback.r The northwest face affords class 1 and class 2 routes.r

r r

Mount Lyell (13,090; 13,1140)

r

r The highest peak in Yosemite National Park was described as anr “inaccessible pinnacle” by the first party to attempt it, Wm. H. Brewerr and Charles F. Hoffmann in 1863. It was first climbed by John B. Tileston, August 29, 1871. The first winter ascent was on March 2, 1936,r by David R. Brower, Lewis F. Clark, Boynton S. Kaiser, Einar Nilsson,r and Bestor Robinson, who skied up the Merced Canyon from Yosemiter Valley via Bernice Lake and crossed the north ridge of Maclure to Lyellr Glacier (4 days).r

r r

r *Route 1. North glacier and north face.* Class 2 to 3. This is the easiestr and most popular route; however, it requires careful judgment. A roper should be carried, especially if there are inexperienced people in ther party. The difficulty may vary considerably with the season, dependingr on the amount and condition of the snow or ice. Ascend the talus andr the west end of the glacier to the notch between Mount Lyell and Mountr Maclure. From here climb toward the summit of Lyell along slopingr class 2 ledges somewhat above the snow, but below the rock face. Afterr a rather short distance on these ledges, ascend a narrow, steep crackr at 65° to the arête (class 2 to 3). Then ascend the arête to the summitr (see Sketch 6).r

r r

r It is also possible to climb to the summit slopes up ledges or chutesr a little farther east, but this will necessitate climbing rather steep snowr above the glacier. Nevertheless it is a popular route, and may be reachedr from rather high on the Donohue Pass trail by walking to the morainer below the east lobe of the glacier, crossing the moraine through a saddle,r climbing directly up the face of the glacier, crossing the bergschrund,r and proceeding westward along the base of the cliff above the glacierr until a series of ledges is found by means of which the easy summitr plateau can be reached.r

r r

r *Route 2. North glacier and east arête.* Class 3. From the base of ther glacier, climb to the col east of Lyell, crossing the upper snowfield asr soon as possible. Ascend the east arête to the summit.r

r r r r

r *Route 3. Southwest gully and west ridge.* Class 3. From the head ofr the Lyell Fork of the Merced ascend the obvious gully to the col betweenr Mount Maclure and Mount Lyell and follow the arête to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. South face.* Class 3 to 4. From the Lyell Fork of the Mercedr ascend the talus chute directly to the summit. Care must be taken onr the loose rock in the upper portion of the gully.r

r r

r *Route 5. East arête.* Descended in 1950 (Sierra Club High Trip); nor known ascents. Descend the north side of the east arête to snow, thenr cross the lowest gap to the south face and follow the talus to the nextr r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 6. Mounts Lyell and Maclure from the northeast, showing Route 1 on each.r r

r r r r low point. Descend to the snow and traverse east to the rock betweenr Upper and Lower Marie Lake. Go around the west side of Lower Laker and to Rush Creek.rr r

Mount Maclure (13,000+; 12,988n)

r

r First ascent by Willard D. Johnson in 1883.r

r r

r *Route 1. East ridge.* Class 2 to 3. From the col between Mounts Lyellr and Maclure ascend the talus and ledges to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. South face.* Class 3. First ascent by a Sierra Club party ledr by Ted Waller, 1934. From the Lyell Fork of the Merced ascend on ther left side of the prominent gully on the south face and then traverse eastr to

the ridge. Follow the ridge to the summit.r

r r r r

r *Route 3. Northwest ridge.* Class 4. First ascent by Al Steck and Georger Steck. From the V-shaped pass between Simmons Peak and Mountr Maclure follow the ridge to the summit.r

r r

References

r

r *Text* (*SCB*): Cathedral Range: 1920, 21; 1932, 113. Cathedral Peak:r 1935, 103. Cockscomb Peak: 1920, 21; 1949, 110. Dana Peak: 1928, 68,r 319; 1922, 246; 1931, 108. Echo Peaks: 1935, 104; 1948, 110. Foersterr Peak: 1923, 395. Koip Crest: 1940, 122. Mount Lyell: 1910, 218; 1915, 251;r 1924, 55; 1922, 247; 1926, 304; 1938, 7, 110; 1941, 143. Matthes Crest:r 1949, 110.r

r r

r *Photographs* (*SCB*): Budd Lake: 1919, 470. Cathedral Peak: 1919,r 470; 1920, 24; 1935, 110. Columbia Finger: 1928, 28. Dana Peak: 1928,r 48; 1933, 71. Echo Peaks: 1915, 292; 1920, 21. Mount Florence: 1923,r 470; 1931, 47; 1944, 46. Mount Lyell: 1915, 250; 1917, 231; 1932, 22;r 1935, 104; 1944, 46. Mount Maclure: 1909, 94; 1917, 231; 1923, 410; 1935,r 104; 1944, 46. Matthes Crest: 1930, 59; 1935, 110; 1949, 86. Tenaya Peak:r 1919, 487. Unicorn Peak: 1909, 95; 1910, 149; 1911, 1; 1912, 225; 1915, 224.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Clark Range •r Contentsr • Previous: Yosemite Valleyr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/cathedral_range.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Minarets & Ritter Range •r Contentsr • Previous: Cathedral Ranger** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass

r

The Clark Range and Adjacent Peaks

r r r

Richard M. Leonard

r r r

r THE CLARK RANGE early attracted the attention of geologists, topographers, and mountaineers because of the commanding position ofr its peaks, standing as they do near the center of the granite wildernessr of the headwaters of the Merced River. Clarence King wrote of itsr principal peak:r

r r

r "From every commanding eminence around the Yosemite no distantr object rises with more inspiring greatness than the obelisk of Mountr Clark . . . its slender needlelike summit had long fired us with ambition. . . .r There was in our hope of scaling this point something morer than mere desire to master a difficult peak. It was a station of greatr topographical value, the apex of many triangles, and, more than all,r would command a grander view of the Merced region than any otherr summit."r

r r

r Accordingly, after he had spent the summer of 1864 surveying ther Yosemite Grant, the new park that had just been granted by the Federalr Government to California, King started out on November 11, 1864,r r r r with Richard D. Cotter, and reached a fine camp near timberline inr the cirque between Clark and Gray Peak just to the south. There ar violent early winter storm nearly trapped them in a foot and a halfr of new snow. Their escape provides a fine tale of early mountaineering.r More prudently, his next attempt was made in warm weather, July 12,r 1866, with James Terry Gardiner. They made the ascent by a thrillingr route along the southeast arête from the same cirque at the head of Grayr Creek.r

r r

Geology

r r

r The Clark Range is a remnant of the ancient, folded, metamorphic mountains of Appalachian type that reached an elevation of approximatelyr half that of the present range about 130 million years ago. Ther northwest-southeast trend of these peaks is roughly at right angles to the greatr southwest slope of the Sierra granite block, which was uptilted onlyr ten million years ago. Remnants of the ancient metamorphic rocks canr still be found in the quartzite of "Quartz Peak," just north of Mountr Clark, and in the ancient metamorphic lavas similar to those of the Ritterr Range which give the dark color to Merced Peak and explain its earlierr name, "Black Mountain."r

r r

r Mount Clark is composed of a very firm granite rather free of masterr joints, and would probably have become a dome except that it wasr severely glaciated on three sides. The absence of the black iron-bearingr minerals gives Mount Clark an exceptionally light appearance. Gray andr Red peaks, as the naives indicate, are strangely different. Their granitesr are similar to the white granite of Mount Hoffmann, but on Red Peakr Hie black iron-bearing minerals seen in Gray Peak are weathered tor an iron rust that colors the granite brilliantly. On Gray Peak theser minerals are still predominantly black. Merced Peak is composed ofr extremely hard metamorphic lavas approximately 190 million yearsr gold, similar to those that form the sharp crest of Mount Ritter and ther Minarets. The mixture of red and white granite and the black rocksr of Merced Peak combine with brilliant blue lakes and bright greenr meadows to form a bowl at Ottoway Lakes that is one of the most colorful in the Sierra.r

r r r

Approaches and Campsites

r

r The peaks of the range are easily accessible by fine trails and openr inches on all sides. The easiest route is from Glacier Point or Monor r r r Meadow to the point where the trail crosses the Clark Fork of Illilouetter Creek, where there is fine camping and scattered animal feed. Therer are many additional camp spots above the trail along the west slope ofr the range, with a particularly fine site on the trail at Ottoway Lake;r across Red Peak Pass there are good campsites by a series of fine lakesr at timberline on the Merced Peak Fork of the Merced River. Mountr Clark can also be reached from the Nevada Fall trail by the old Armyr trail to Starr King Meadow, or from Merced Lake Ranger Station upr the other end of this early trail on Gray Peak Fork of the Merced River.r The trail has not been maintained for nearly fifty years and thereforer must not be considered as more than an indication of a feasible route.r The southern peaks of the range are easily accessible from the roadheadr at Clover Meadow Ranger Station, in Sierra National Forest, reachedr from the Bass Lake junction of the Fresno-Wawona Road.r

r r

r There are four passes, each crossed by good trails, which bring oner into the southern portion of the Clark Range and its adjacent peaks. Seer the Mount Lyell quadrangle (U.S. Geological Survey) for details.r

r r

Routes on the Peaks

r r

r This portion of the guide includes the peaks of the southern Yosemiter National Park and northern Sierra National Forest from the Merced tor the San Joaquin rivers. The peaks are listed alphabetically owing to theirr scattered location.r

r r

Mount Ansel Adams (11,760+n, 1 NE of Foerster Peak)

r

r Class 3. First ascent July 11, 1934, by Glen Dawson, Jack Riegelhuth,r and Neil Ruge. From the Lyell Fork meadows on the Merced Riverr this is the most spectacular and beautiful peak in sight. Two days afterr the first ascent, Ruge led to the summit a Sierra Club High Trip partyr which proposed the name “Mount Ansel Adams.” The route ascendsr a prominent gully to the south of the peak, thence to the summit overr the south face.r

r r

r *Black Peak* (10,507). (See Madera Peak.)r

r r

r *Buena Vista Crest (9,712; 9,757n)*r

r Class 1. An excellent ski ascent from Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.r r r r

Mount Clark (11,506; 11,522n)

r

r *Route 1. Southeast arête.* Class 3. First ascent July 12, 1866, by Clarencer King and James T. Gardiner. A thrilling account of this climb is givenr by King inr *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada*.r Although a rope hasr probably never been used on this route, one should be available. Ther sharp southeast arête can be reached without difficulty from either westr or east. On the arête, King’s thrilling gaps in the knife-edge will stillr be found, and it is at those points that a rope is welcome protection.r Approach from Merced Lake: Cross over logs at the confluence of ther Merced River and Gray Peak Fork and proceed up fishing trail alongr Gray Peak Fork to the upper basin (above the waterfall) and, keepingr to the right, follow to a small creek (8,400 feet) running from Mountr Clark into the Gray Peak Fork. Follow this watercourse to the lakesr and thence to foot of Mount Clark over fairly open and gradual slopes.r One can also proceed directly south from Merced Lake.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast face.* Class 2. Although Mount Clark was a popularr climb with at least four ascents before 1893, it was not until the solor ascent by Francis P. Farquhar on July 4, 1916, that the easiest route wasr clearly described. He climbed from Merced Lake, and observed, onr reaching the head of the snowfield on the northeast face, that a seriesr of broad ledges on the north edge of the face provided a simple router to the summit (*SCB*, 1917, 227).r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest arête.* Class 4. On September 8, 1935, Kennethr May, Don Parkin, and Howard Twining pioneered this difficult route,r which is unmistakable to one with class-4 training and equipment. Itr consists of 1,500 feet of roped climbing on sound granite.r

r r

r The true north face at the head of the great cirque has not beenr attempted so far as is known.r

r r

r *Winter Ascent.* Class 4. On February 21, 1937, Kenneth Adam, Davidr Brower, Kenneth Davis, and Hervey Voge skied from a camp low onr the Starr King Plateau to the notch southeast of the summit, from whichr they continued on foot and belayed across the east face and thence tor the summit, arriving at sunset.r

r r

Electra Peak (12,462; 12,442n)

r

r Class 2. Ascents were made by Norman Clyde in 1914 and 1919, andr one by Ansel Adams in 1931. Ted Waller led a Sierra Club High Tripr party of eight to the summit on July 12, 1934. From the upper Lyellr r r r Fork of the Merced, climb to the ridge north of the summit, and thencer southward to the summit.r

r r

Foerster Peak (12,062; 12,058n)

r

r Class 2. Norman Clyde led a knapsack party in 1914, Robert Owenr made an ascent on July 13, 1929, and three ascents were made on successive days by the Sierra Club High Trip in July 1934. The best router is on the southern slope. The west face is dangerous owing to rottenr rock.r

r r

Gale Peak (10,690; 10,693n)

r

r Class 2. The first recorded ascent was made in 1920 by Lawrencer Fley, Freeman Jones, and Thomas Jones. The peak is well situated atr the head of the beautiful Chain Lakes, almost at the southernmostr boundary of the park, and can be climbed easily by ascending the ridger dividing the Chain Lakes from Breeze Lake to the north.r

r r r

Gray Peak (11,581; 11,574n)

r

r Class 2. In 1920 Ansel Adams placed a Sierra Club cylinder typer register on the summit. The best route is up the broad southwest sloper of the Illilouette Basin. From the Gray Peak Fork side, an ascent wouldr be considerably more difficult.r

r r

Horse Ridge (9,600+)

r

r Class 1. An excellent ski ascent from the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.r Fine view of the main crest peaks.r

r r

Isberg Peak (11,000; 10,996n)

r

r Class 1. The first recorded ascent was made April 20, 1924, by Anselr Adams. It is an easy ascent from the upper basin of the Triple Peakr Fork of the Merced.r

r r

Long Mountain (11,468; 11,507n)

r

r Class 2. Ansel Adams made an ascent in August, 1922. The best router is from the south.r

r r

Madera Peak (10,507; 10,509n)

r

r This is the approved name for the “Black Peak” of earlier editions ofr the topographic map. The peak is the southernmost high point of ther r r r northwest-southeast ancient ridge that formed the Clark Range. Class 2.r Mr. and Mrs. Garthwaite, their 7-year-old son Ted, and Mrs. Herminar Daulton made the ascent in August, 1931. They “found a cairn but nor records.” The Brewer Survey reports an ascent on August 19, 1864, butr they were probably referring to Merced Peak, 7 miles to the north,r which at that time was known as “Black Peak” owing to its dark volcanic rock. The peak may be ascended from the upper basin of ther Black Peak fork of Granite Creek. An easier ascent can be made overr the west slopes.r

r r

Merced Peak (11,722; 11,726n)

r

r The highest peak of the Clark Range was an early favorite as a climbing objective. In 1870 the California Geological Survey wrote that “Allr these points [of the Clark Range] except Gray Peak have been climbedr by

the Survey." In 1878 the peak was again occupied, this time by ther Wheeler Survey party under Lieutenant M. M. Macomb. On July 29,r 1897, Robert M. Price, his wife, F. W. Reede, and Theodore S. Solomons,r placed Sierra Club Register number 56 on the summit. Fifty-two yearsr later the tube was still there, though the records were missing. In 1871r the glacier in the cirque below the north face was found by Muir andr described in detail in 1875 as the first living glacier to be found in ther Sierra Nevada. His drawing of the great icicles in the bergschrund "12r to 14 feet wide" is a fascinating bit of recent Sierran geological history.r The glacial milk in the lakelet below the cirque in 1949 promptedr Alfred R. Dole and Richard M. Leonard to reëxplore the glacier. Icer was still present in good quantity, but they felt the glacier, one of ther lowest glaciers in the Sierra, should probably be classed as "fossil" orr inactive.r

r r

r The early accounts do not give the route of climb.r

r r

r *Route 1. Northeast arête.* Class 2. On a traverse of the peak in August,r 1949, Alfred R. Dole, Stewart and Elizabeth Kimball, and Richard M.r Leonard found the northeast arête the easiest. It is reached from finer camping on lower Ottoway Lake by following up the canyon to ther class-2 pass between Ottoway and Merced peaks, and ascending ther blocks of talus, keeping to the ridge crest to lessen danger from looser blocks.r

r r

r *Route 2. West arête.* Class 3. This route is a half-mile in length andr contains several steep pitches that require detours on the south sloper down onto smooth 50 degree slabs of very hard ancient metamorphicr lava. Traversed in August 1949 by Dole, the Kimballs, and Leonard.r r r r

Ottoway Peak (11,500+; 11,360+n)

r

r Class 2. The first recorded ascent was made by Ansel Adams onr September 16, 1934, when scouting the route for the present trail, justr a half-mile to the west. The route from the summit of the trail is easilyr ascertained.r

r r

Post Peak (10,996; 11,009n)

r

r Class 1. The first recorded ascent was by Ansel Adams. It was climbedr September 7, 1930, by Walter A. Starr, Jr., who described it as "A finer vantage point from which to get a fine view of the upper Merced andr San Joaquin region." A branch of the old Isberg Pass Trail passes withinr a few hundred feet of the summit. The route is obvious.r

r r

Mount Raymond (8,548)

r

r Class 1. Two miles by easy trail from Wawona Point, in the Mariposar Grove of Big Trees.r

r r

Red Peak (11,700; 11,699n)

r

r Class 2 to 3. Presumably climbed by the California Geological Surveyr by 1870. In 1910 S. L. Foster made a solo ascent and found a cairnr (*SCB*, 1911, 25-33). In 1920 Ansel Adams placed a Sierra Club cylinderr type register. This peak has some steep cliffs on the north. The easiestr route is via the canyon to the north of the three summits, or via ther crest of this summit ridge. The cliff face is very difficult.r

r r

Redtop (9,900+; 9,840+n)

r

r This peak, on the south boundary of Yosemite, was at one time knownr as “Madera Peak” (*which see*). William Frederick Badè made an ascentr prior to 1919.r

r r

Rodgers Peak (13,056; 12,978n)

r

r Class 3. This peak was known in early literature as “Kellogg Peak.”r The first recorded ascent was made on August 5, 1897, by Robert M.r Price, who climbed from the Lyell Fork of the Merced. Captain N. F.r McClure made an early ascent, and in 1924 Ansel Adams placed ar Sierra Club cylinder type register. The best route is from the east (Rushr Creek Basin). It can be climbed from the upper canyon of the Lyellr Fork of the Merced, but is more difficult from that side.r

r r r r

Triple Divide Peak (11,613; 11,600+n)

r

r Class 2. The peak splits two forks of the Merced from the East Forkr of Granite Creek, a tributary of the San Joaquin. It affords a fine view.r It was climbed by Norman Clyde in 1920. Ansel Adams, Elizabethr Adams, and F. C. Holman placed a Sierra Club cylinder type registerr in 1922. The best route is from the upper valley of Triple Peak Fork.r The summit should be approached from the northeast.r

r r

Peak 10,755 (10,823n; 2 SW of Triple Divide Peak)

r

r Class 2. Climbed in August 1934 by Edwin L. Garthwaite, Ted Garthwaite, and Jean Scupham.r

r r

Peak 11,200+ (11,200+n; 1 SW of Triple Divide Peak)

r

r Climbed August 3, 1934, by Edwin L. Garthwaite, Ted Garthwaite,r and Jean Scupham.r

r r

Peak 11,500+ (11,535n; 1 S Of Foerster Peak)

r

r Climbed July 13, 1929, by Robert Owenr

r r

Peak 12,000+ (12,000+n; 3/4 E of Foerster Peak)

r

r Climbed July 13, 1934, by Marjory Bridge, Helen LeConte, and Louiser Hildebrand.r

r r

Peak 12,500+ (12,560+n; 0.7 S of Rodgers)

r

r Class 2. Climbed July 10, 1924, by Ansel Adams, Cedric Wright, andr Willard Grinnell.r

r r

Other peaks

r

r There is no record of ascent for Buena Vista Peak, Cattle Mountain,r Green Mountain, Junction Butte, Lion Point, Moraine Mountain, Quartzr Mountain, Quartz Peak, Sadler Peak, Sing Peak, or Timber Knob.r Several of these summits should afford fine panoramas, and none ofr them is likely to exceed class 2 in difficulty. It is quite possible thatr ascents have been made of all these peaks, and in particular Greenr Mountain, since a trail passes almost over its summit.r

r r

Photographs in Sierra Club Bulletin

r

r Mount Ansel Adams: 1922, 258. Mount Clark: 1917, 230; 1930, 59.r Electra Peak: 1935, 31. Gray Peak: 1941, 94. Rodgers Peak: 1932,r 23 and 26; 1935, 31.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Minarets & Ritter Range •r Contentsr • Previous: Cathedral Ranger** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/clark_range.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r The Minarets and the Ritter Range >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Clark Ranger** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Tioga Pass to Mammoth Pass

r

The Minarets and the Ritter Range

r r r r r

Walter A. Starr* (1938) and Louis A. Elliott (1953)

r r

r * Assisted by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, William Rice, Ansel Adams, andr the climbing notes of Walter A. Starr, Jr.r

r r

r THE SIERRA CREST south of Island Pass surrenders its Alpine summits and scenic attractions to the Ritter Range, whose peaks rise twor to three thousand feet higher to the west. The Ritter Range is a remnantr of an ancient mountain system and, as François Matthes writes, "whenr you climb Mount Ritter you climb the core of one of the ancestral mountains that were formed more than a hundred million years before ther present Sierra Nevada was uplifted" (*SCB*, 1930, 1-8).r

r r

r Geologically the Ritter Range is composed of dark mottled rocksr representing ancient lavas, highly metamorphosed, associated with ar complex of dark igneous rocks. This tough rock has resisted the forcesr of erosion through the ages, which accounts for the height of the range.r The joint planes generally are vertical, or at high angles, with northwesterly trends. This structure causes the almost vertical faces andr knife-edge ridges which are characteristic of the range. Caution is calledr for in climbing because of the danger of loose blocks or slabs which mayr pull away from the faces.r

r r

r The chutes in the Minarets, as in other parts of the Sierra, constituter convenient routes of approach. But the systems of chutes in the Minaretsr are often complex, and many chutes carry difficult chockstones. Oner must watch with care to select the right chute, and should carry a rappelr rope for the descent. The rocks are on the whole quite sound, but handholds, which are usually plentiful and of adequate size, need to ber tested carefully. Many of the ledges slope downwards, and exposure isr often considerable. There are a great many possible routes up almostr any of the Minarets when combinations of chutes, ridges, and ledgesr are considered. The rocks are very hard and many have sharp edgesr that approximate right angles and will cut

hands or ropes unless carer is taken. It is difficult to round the edges of some of these rocks withr a hammer, and hence padding is sometimes desirable for a rappel point.r

r r

r The John Muir Trail passes east of the range close to its base. Herer lie several lakes, famed for their beauty—Thousand Island, Garnet,r Ediza, Shadow, Upper and Lower Iceberg, and Minaret. The nearestr r r r approaches by road are Silver Lake, Agnew Meadow, and Devil's Postpile. Good campsites will be found above the western end of Laker Ediza (9,400) and on the meadows of Shadow Creek above Shadowr Lake (9,000). More exposed campsites may be found at Garnet Laker (9,700), and Thousand Island Lake (9,850). There are good campsitesr on upper Minaret Creek (9,000-9,500), and between Lake Ediza andr Lower Iceberg, from which to approach the southern end of ther Minarets. For detailed information concerning approaches and trailsr see Starr's *Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region.*r

r r

r Mount Davis is the most northerly peak of the range and Iron Mountain the most southerly. Sketch 7 presents a map of the region. Although peaks of this range have been climbed for many years, no pinnacle of the Minarets was climbed until 1922. Since 1931, by applicationr of sound rock-climbing methods, the difficulty and danger have beenr greatly lessened, and most of these pinnacles have been ascended. Thisr region offers some of the finest climbing in the Sierra Nevada, and itr is also endowed with unusual grandeur, beauty, and fascination.r

r r

r Banner and Ritter are twin peaks, connected by a saddle. To the eastr a cliff drops off from the saddle. Sloping northwestward from ther saddle, North Glacier covers the floor of the chasm between the twor peaks, flowing down to North Glacier Lake. Half a mile south of thisr lake and lapping the western base of Ritter lies Ritter Lake. Beyond andr somewhat above, another lakelet is fed by Southwest Glacier whichr fills a rugged amphitheater on the north side of a bold jagged spurr extending southwesterly from the summit of Ritter. The highest pointr on this arête might be regarded as the western summit of Ritter. Onr the southeast side of Ritter, draining into Lake Ediza, Southeast Glacierr slopes steeply down, enclosed in an amphitheater bounded on the northr by the face of the peak and on the south by pinnacles extending downward from the crest of a spur which dips southeastward from the summit to a saddle. South of this saddle the knife-edge ridges of the Minarets,r crowned with many pinnacles, split the sky. At its southern end ther ridge forks into two groups of minarets, the eastern dominated byr Clyde Minaret and the western by Michael Minaret, the two highestr pinnacles. Between them a remarkable amphitheater is formed by theirr sheer walls, in which lies a small ice lake. Several small, steep glaciersr lie along the sloping walls of the eastern base of the Minarets.r

r r

r An ice axe is necessary and crampons may be helpful for ascents overr the glaciers east of mounts Banner and Ritter and of the Minarets.r

r r r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 7. The Ritter Range and the Minarets.r r

r Note: The new Muir Trail goes east of Garnet Lake.r

r

1	Clyde Minaret	6	Dawson Minaret	11	Volcanic Peaks	D	Ken Minaret
2	Michael Minaret	7	Leonard Minaret	A	Riegelhuth Minaret	E	Jensen Minaret
3	Eichorn Minaret	8	Waller Minaret				
4	Rice Minaret	9	Adams Minaret	C	Kehrlein Minaret		

5 Bedayan Minaret 10 Starr Minaret

r r r r

Principal Passes

r r

r The Ritter Range may be approached from the North Fork of the Sanr Joaquin River on its western side, but by far the nearest and mostr interesting approaches are from the trails leading to its eastern side.r To cross the range several passes are available.r

r r

r *Glacier Lake Pass, east to west.* Class 1. From the head of Thousandr Island Lake ascend to the saddle between Banner Peak and Mountr Davis, keeping to the side of the basin toward Davis. North Glacierr Lake lies on the saddle. Easy rocky slopes are met on the west side.r

r r

r *Banner-Ritter Saddle, east to west (11,600+n).* Class 3; ice axer needed. From Lake Ediza, or Garnet Lake, ascend to the basin lyingr east of the cliff between Banner and Ritter. Climb the cliff to the saddle,r keeping to the right of black stains made by water courses near ther middle of the cliff, and following a series of zigzag ledges. From ther saddle descend on the north side of the glacier to the east end of Northr Glacier Lake.r

r r

r *Ritter Pass, east to west.* Class 1. From Lake Ediza ascend the cliffr southwest of the lake to the saddle between Ritter and Waller Minaret.r Easy, rocky slopes lie on the west side.r

r r

r *The Gap, east to west.* Class 2; ice axe usually needed. From Laker Edina climb the cliff or chimneys below the gap south of Waller Minaret,r and ascend the small glacier to the gap. Steep talus slopes are on ther west side.r

r r

r *North Notch, east to west.* Class 3; ice axe useful (seasonal). Fromr Lake Ediza ascend southwest up the stream which enters the head ofr the lake to an easy ridge leading toward the notch (lowest point)r between Jensen and Dawson minarets. There is a nice ledge leading upr from the north into the chute. Climb the chute past one small chock-stone to the notch. This is the shortest route to the west side of ther highest minarets from Lake Ediza. Rough steep talus slopes extendr along the west base of the Minarets.r

r r

r *South Notch, east to west.* Class 2 to 3 (seasonal); ice axe needed.r To approach from Minaret Lake, ascend the stream entering the laker to a bench above the southwest end of Upper Iceberg Lake. To approach from Lake Ediza, ascend the stream on the south side of ther lake to Lower Iceberg Lake. Traverse on the east side and climb up tor Upper Iceberg Lake. Traverse on the west side of this to a bench abover the southwest end.r

r r r r

r From the southwest end of Upper Iceberg Lake ascend the steepr slope (snow conditions seasonal) to the col or notch between C Minaretr and D Minaret, which rise just south of Clyde Minaret. A prominentr pinnacle stands above the north side of the notch. Traverse west fromr the notch into Minaret Amphitheater which contains a small ice lake.r Ascend to the col on the southeast side of Michael Minaret and descendr a chute (class 4) to the base (western side) of that minaret. To reachr this point by the long route (class 1) from the amphitheater, circler Adams Minaret to the south and west and then cross a spur ridge tor the north, keeping well to the west to avoid difficult chutes on ther north side of the spur.r

r r

r *Beck Lakes Pass, south to north.* Class 1. From the northwest sider of Upper Beck Lake ascend northwest up talus, rocks, and snowslopesr to a saddle. Cross the basin at the head of Iron Creek and cross a spurr ridge extending southwest from Adams Minaret at a low point to ther head of Dike Creek. Or, ascend to the upper end of Iron Creek intor Minaret Amphitheater and proceed as from the South Notch. Therer is a trail from Devil's Postpile to Lower Beck Lake.r r

Routes on the Peaks (North to South)

r r

Mount Davis (12,308; 12,311n)

r

r First Ascent August 28, 1891, by Milton F. Davis.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast slope.* Class 1. From Thousand Island Lake proceedr to the low pass between Davis and Banner (Glacier Lake Pass) andr climb up toward the summit, staying on the southwest side of ther sharp ridge. The slope to be traversed is quite gentle and leads up tor the easy southeast slopes of the peak. This route may also be reachedr by traversing southwest from Island Pass and passing through a notchr in the ridge southeast of the summit. On this variation some care isr necessary in route finding across the high shoulder above Thousandr Island Lake.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast buttress.* Class 4. Ascended by Hervey Voge andr Virginia Romain, August 20, 1950. The northeast buttress rises abover a slope of snow or ice somewhat east of the main north buttress. Ascendr the east side of the northeast buttress, climb an open chute to the ridger of the buttress, follow this to the broad slopes southeast of the summit,r and walk up these to the top.r

r r

r *Route 3. North buttress.* Class 4. Ascended by Jim Koontz and companion,r August 20, 1950. Climb up between the main north buttressr r r r and the glacier to the west, and when the rocks become easier go upr the rocks to the top of the buttress which is followed almost directly tor the summit.r

r r

Banner Peak (12,957; 12,945n)

r

r *Route 1. North glacier and southwest slope.* Class 2. First ascent,r August 26, 1883, by Willard D. Johnson and John Miller (*SCB*, 1905,r 193). From Thousand Island Lake, ascend to the east end of Northr Glacier Lake (see Glacier Lake Pass), climb the rocks to the northr edge of the glacier lying between Banner and Ritter, and ascend ther glacier on that side to the saddle at its head, just short of the east cliff.r Thence ascend steep talus slopes and easy rocks to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East cliff and southwest slope.* Class 3. From Lake Ediza, orr Garnet Lake, climb to the saddle between Banner and Ritter, thence tor summit as on Route 1 (see Banner-Ritter Saddle).r

r r

r *Route 3. East face.* Class 4. First ascent August 3, 1931, by Jules M.r Eichorn and Robert L. M. Underhill (*SCB*, 1932, 114-115). Fromr Garnet Lake start up the chimney to the left of the buttress to the southr of Banner Glacier. Leave the chimney and take to the ridge north ofr the chimney leading up from the buttress. Climb the ridge until anr overhang makes the ridge look impossible. Traverse diagonally rightr upward about 80 feet along a rather smooth wall, and then climb broadr steep chutes or faces to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast face.* Class 5. Ascent July 6, 1946, by Charles Wiltsr and Harry Sutherland, who went about up the middle of the southeastr face as viewed from near Lake Ediza, and described the climb as ther finest in two trips to the Minarets. They started in the first couloir rightr of a deep chimney, ascended to a point where it was necessary to crossr left into another couloir rising from the chimney, and then continuedr diagonally right and up a nearly vertical face to a balcony which usuallyr has a small snowfield. Then after traversing right about 100 yards, theyr went straight up to reach the top about 100 yards left of the summit.r

r r

Mount Ritter (13,156; 13,157n)

r

r *Route 1. North glacier and north face.* Class 3. First ascent Octoberr 1872 by John Muirr (*The Mountains of California*, 1894, 52-73).r Fromr Thousand Island Lake proceed as on Route 1 for Banner Peak to ther saddle between Banner and Ritter. Ascend the snowfield to the rightr hand or west chute of two chutes leading up the north wall of Ritter.r From the top of the chute cross a ridge to the left into the head of ther r r r left hand chute to a wide ledge leading diagonally left to the arête.r Thence follow the arête west to summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East cliff and north face.* Class 3. From Lake Ediza or Garnetr Lake proceed as on Route 2 for Banner Peak, to the saddle betweenr Banner and Ritter, and thence to the top as in Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 3. Glacier Lake pass. Ritter Lake. West slope.* Class 2. Firstr ascent August 20, 1892, by Theodore S. Solomons (*SCB*, 1894, 69-70).r From Thousand Island Lake proceed to North Glacier Lake (see Glacierr Lake Pass). Thence proceed around the west side of the mountain tor Ritter Lake. Climb the west slope (various routes) to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast glacier, south side.* Class 3; ice axe useful. Firstr ascent, June 28, 1928, by Norman Clyde (*SCB*, 1929, 87). From Laker Ediza proceed to the base of the cliffs slightly to the left (S) of ther lower end of the glacier. Climb the cliff to the left of the lowest of ther pinnacles on the south side of the glacier. Pass through a gap abover the lowest pinnacle onto the glacier, Continue up on the south side ofr the glacier, keeping left of an ice ridge which extends from the lowerr to the upper part of the glacier, until a crevasse renders further travelr upward on the glacier impossible. Leave the south side of the glacier,r climb over the ice ridge and descend across the glacier (use ice axe forr safety) to its extreme northwest edge, whence ascend easy rocks and talusr slope to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 5. Southeast glacier, north side.* Class 2 to 3 (seasonal); ice axer may be needed when snow is high on the north side of the glacier.r Evidently this was John Muir's route of descent in October 1872. It isr the easiest route from Lake Ediza. First known ascent August 3, 1931,r by Sierra Club party led by Lewis Clark and Ernest Dawson (*SCB*,r 1932, 115). From Lake Ediza proceed to the snout of the glacier andr below it to its north side, and thence up talus at the base of the southr cliff of Ritter along the north side of the glacier to a chute which leadsr up (N) to the talus slope extending northwest to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 6. Northeast buttress.* Class 3 to 4. Ascent August 7, 1941, byr Art Argiewicz and Lorin Trubschenk. This buttress rises 2,000 feetr from the cirque enclosed by Banner and Ritter to the summit ridge, andr is east of the prominent snow ledge on the north face as viewed fromr Garnet Lake. Proceed directly up the buttress on firm angular rock andr over debris-covered ledges.r

r r

r *Winter Ascent.* An ascent was made in February 1952 by Georger Bloom, Bob Swift, and Floyd Burnette (*SCB*, 1953, 40), who used 1r Route 3.r

r r r r

r *Pinnacles (highest pinnacle, 12,300).* Class 3. First ascent of highestr pinnacle August 4, 1936, by Richard M. Jones and William Rice. Fromr Lake Ediza proceed as on Route 4 for Ritter to the lowest pinnacle.r After crossing through the gap above, contour west a short distancer and climb the highest pinnacle by one of several possible routes.r

r r

r *Ritter, southwest spur.* There have been no recorded ascents of ther several summits on the arête.r

r r

The Minarets

r r

r These are listed from north to south, and the identifying numerals orr letters correspond to those on the accompanying Sketches 7, 8, and 9.r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 8. The Minarets from Minaret Creek.r r

r

1	Clyde Minaret	6	Dawson Minaret	11	Volcanic Peaks	D	Ken Minaret
2	Michael Minaret	7	Leonard Minaret	A	Riegelhuth Minaret	E	Jensen Minaret
3	Eichorn Minaret	8	Waller Minaret				
4	Rice Minaret	9	Adams Minaret	C	Kehrlein Minaret		
5	Bedayan Minaret	10	Starr Minaret				

r r

r The Minarets have been named after the climbers who made the firstr ascents, with one or two exceptions.r

r r r r

No. 8. Waller Minaret (11,711n)

r

r Class 4-5. First ascent August 1934 by Ted Waller and Jules M.r Eichorn. This minaret is the summit of the ridge between the Gap andr Ritter Pass. From the crest of the Gap follow the south end of ther Waller ridge down and east for approximately 150 feet where a ledger will be found running east and then around a buttress and northerlyr on the east face. Rope up and follow this ledge. About one pitch alongr r r r the ledge, work diagonally up the east face, aiming to reach the arêter just above the vertical wall rising from the Gap. One or two pitonsr may be needed for protection in this section. Walk north up the chuter dividing the arête for about 150 feet, until stopped by the high angle,r smooth south face of a large tower or step. This 180-foot face may ber climbed directly by following a series of cracks and small footholds upr the center. Pitons will probably be desired on this high angle, airyr r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 9. East Face of the Minarets from Shadow Creek.r r

r r r r

1 Clyde Minaret 5 Bedayan Minaret 8 Waller Minaret
3 Eichorn Minaret 6 Dawson Minaret E Jensen Minaret
4 Rice Minaret 7 Leonard Minaret 11 Volcanic Peaks

r r series of pitches. Scramble north along this step, crossing over to ther west side. Descend 20 feet, traverse around top of steep couloir andr around a rib on west face. From here go diagonally right directly towardr summit via one more step on ridge. Descent may be effected by ther same route providing a 300-foot rappel rope is available. An ascent fromr the north and east may be easier.rr r

No. 7. Leonard Minaret (11,600+n)

r

r *Route 1. Southeast rock chimney.* Class 4. First ascent August 4, 1932,r by Richard M. Leonard and H. B. Blanks. From Lake Ediza proceedr on the route toward North Notch. From the benches above (W) ofr Lower Iceberg Lake, Leonard Minaret will be seen on the right as ar sharp spire, being the abrupt termination of a narrow arête projectingr r r r east at right angles to the main crest. A prominent (and sometimesr snow-filled) chimney will be noted on the right center of the terminusr of the arête. The best route on this face is up a less prominent rockr chimney left (S) of the snow chimney, to a conspicuous ledge on ther northeast face of the arête at the head of the snow chimney. Climb thisr face diagonally to the left (SE) to the crest, thence along the arête eastr to the cairn and register above the terminus.r

r r

r *Route 2. Traverse west to east.* Class 4. First ascent August 19, 1933,r by Norman Clyde. From the Gap climb up the ridge of the minaret, andr traverse the arête east to the cairn and register at the east end.r

r r

Point F. Turner Minaret (11,600+n)

r

r A party of three led by Ed Turner made a first ascent of the Minaretr north of Point “E” on July 14, 1938.r

r r

Point E. Jensen Minaret (11,760+n)

r

r First ascent by Carl P. Jensen and Howard Gates June 1937. A newr route was used in climbing Jensen Minaret by Spencer Austin, Danr Bannerman, and Charles Wilts July 27, 1943. From the Shadow Creekr Basin, two prominent cracks or chimneys can be seen immediately tor the right of the Minaret. The right-hand chimney was ascended to ar sharp saddle on the main ridge. The arête was then followed to the leftr to the summit. Minumum class 5 (1 or 2 pitons).r

r r

No. 6. Dawson Minaret (11,920+n)

r

r Class 4. First ascent August 16, 1933, by Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn,r and Richard M. Jones (SCE, 1934, 83, 99). From North Notch workr along the west side of the first little minaret to the south, and traverser around it into the next chute. Then climb directly toward the summitr up a broken face, work to the right to a prominent shelf on the ridge,r and cross the head of the next chute to the final south face, where anr open chimney leads to the summit. The final south face can also ber reached from the west via the chute that heads just under this face, ar chockstone being bypassed by a ridge to the left.r

r r

No. 5. Bedayan Minaret (12,080+n)

r

r Class 3. First ascent August 11, 1936, by Torcom Bedayan and Williamr Rice. Traverse from Rice Minaret to the next minaret north. Anotherr route was made August 25, 1950, by Hervey Voge and L. Bruce Meyer.r From the west climb the chute that heads north of Bedayan Minaret,r r r r entering the chute by a ledge at the right (S) base, and about 100 yardsr from the top cross over to the next chute south and climb the southr face.r

r r

No. 4. Rice Minaret (12,080+n)

r

r Class 4. First ascent August 1936, by William Rice and Torcomr Bedayan. Ascend Starr’s Chute, as on the start of Route 3 for Michaelr Minaret, and climb the minaret north of the head of this chute. Anr ascent from the chute to the northwest was made August 25, 1950, byr Hervey Voge and L. Bruce Meyer, who crossed over from the chuter southwest of Dawson Minaret.r

r r

No. 3. Eichorn Minaret (12,160+n)

r

r Class 3. First ascent July 31, 1931, by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson,r and Walter Brem (*SCB*, 1932, 114). This minaret is at the junctionr where the minaret ridge divides into east and west spurs. The eastr spur goes to Clyde Minaret, while the other turns south to Michaelr Minaret. Eichorn Minaret may therefore be reached by traverses alongr the arête from either Clyde or Michael minarets, or may be climbedr directly up either Eichorn's Chute or Starr's Chute (see Michaelr Minaret).r

r r

No. 1. Clyde Minaret (12,278; 12,281n)

r

r *Route 1. Glacier.* Class 4; ice axe needed. First ascent June 27, 1928,r by Norman Clyde. From Minaret Lake or Lake Ediza proceed to ther northwest end of Upper Iceberg Lake and climb around the base ofr the minaret to the glacier. Ascend the glacier to near its head, andr cross over to rocks (seasonal difficulty of bergschrund must be considered).r Climb rocks diagonally left across a series of broad chutes andr slight ridges to just below the summit, thence up a chimney to the summit arête. The summit is then about 30 yards to the left along ther toothed arête. Variations are possible.r

r r

r *Route 2. Rock route.* Easy class 4. First ascent July 26, 1929, by Glenr Dawson, John Nixon, and William A. Horsfall (*SCB*, 1930, 109-110).r A variation of Route 1 and a preferable route. From the northwest endr of Upper Iceberg Lake traverse to the first chute south of the glacier.r This chute may be entered by a ledge from the lower part of the glacier,r or via a chimney directly under the chute, or, better, by an easy ledger that starts about 100 yards southeast of the chimney. Ascend the chuter to near its head and climb diagonally left to the summit as on Route 1.r r r r

r *Route 3. East face.* Class 4. First ascent, August 8, 1932, by Walter A.r Starr, Jr. From the southwest end of Upper Iceberg Lake, turn into ther amphitheater below the minaret. On the right side of the cirque arer three high points. Work up a ledge in red rock into a narrow chute.r The chute comes out on a ledge running across the east face of ther minaret. Proceed up along the ledge to a second chimney and climbr the chimney until progress becomes impossible. Diagonal to the rightr up ledges, ridges, and chimneys to the arête north of the summit, andr thence to the top.r

r r

No. 2. Michael Minaret (12,240+n)

r

r *Route 1. Michael's Chute.* Class 4. First ascent September 6, 1923, byr Charles W. Michael (*SCB*, 1924, 28-33). From Lake Ediza or Minaretr Lake proceed via North or South Notch to the west base of Michaelr Minaret. Climb the deep, narrow chute leading to the skyline directlyr north of the main pinnacle. From 200 to 300 feet up the chute, larger stones are encountered. A third wedged boulder can be surmounted byr a series of projections starting about 30 feet below the boulder. Theser projections bring one to a ledge leading back into the chute above ther boulder. A less difficult route is by a shoulder stand over the "ladderr with the lower

rungs missing" nearer the huge boulder. Continue upr the chute to the Portal at its top between Michael Minaret and twor large spires. From the Portal follow a ledge going east on the minaretr away from the chute and then work back up steep, difficult, exposedr rocks to the summit,, It is also possible but very difficult to work directlyr up from the Portal to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Eichorn's Chute.* Class 4. First ascent August r6, 1933, byr Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn, and Richard M. Jones (*SCB*, 1934, 83).r Go up the first chute north of Michael's Chute, meeting Route 3 nearr the top of the chute.r

r r

r *Route 3. Starr's Chute.* Class 4. First ascent August 3, 1933, by Walterr A. Starr, Jr. (*SCB*, 1934, 83). Go up the second chute north of Michael'sr Chute to a point about 300 feet below the main crest. There cross tor the right into a branch chute leading up the south side of Eichornr Minaret. When near the head of this chute cross right into the headr of Eichorn's Chute, thence cross a ridge of rock into Michael's Chute,r just below the two spires. Thence follow Route 1 to the summit. Thisr seems to be the best mountaineering route to the Portal.r

r r

r *Route 4. Clyde's Ledge.* Class 4. First ascent August 25, 1933, byr Norman Clyde (*SCB*, 1934, 84). From the southwest base of Michael'sr r r r Minaret ascend the cliff to a ledge which leads around into Michael'sr Chute at a point just above the 40-foot drop over the big chockstone.r Continue up as on Route T.r

r r

No. 9. Adams Minaret (12,000+n)

r

r Class 3. First ascent July 15, 1937, by Ansel Adams and Rondalr Partridge. From the col on the southeast side of Michael Minaret abover the Minaret Amphitheater (which may be reached via South Notch;r see Passes), climb cliffs south of col to a small peak. Thence proceedr southeast along the crest to the summit of the minaret.r

r r

Point D. Ken Minaret (11,760+n)

r

r Class 3. First ascent by W. Kenneth Davis and Kenneth D. Adam,r September 5, 1938, via northeast face. Descent via west face was class 2.r

r r

Point C. Kehrlein Minaret (11,440+n)

r

r On July 13, 1938, Oliver Kehrlein, Dick Cahill, Jim Harkins, andr Fred Holmes climbed Point “C” which, although first ascended Augustr 23, 1933, by Norman Clyde, is named after Kehrlein to avoid duplication.r

r r

No. 10. Starr Minaret (11,520+n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent, July 14, 1937, by W. A. Starr, Ansel Adams, andr Rondal Partridge. From South Notch traverse south to the northwestr base of the minaret and climb a rocky slope to the summit.r

r r

Point B (10,960+n)

r

r Class 2 from the east. Ascended July 4, 1938, by May Pridham andr Mary Van Velsen.r

r r

Point A. Riegelhuth Minaret (10,560+n)

r

r Point A was ascended for the first time July 13, 1938, by Jack Riegelhuth, Charlotte Mauk, Josephine Allen, and Bill Leovy. Class 4 by ther west face from the divide between A and B.r

r r

Volcanic Ridge (11,400+; 11,501n)

r

r West Peak. Class 2. First recorded ascent August 13, 1933, by Craigr Barbash and Howard Gates. From the northwest end of Minaret Laker ascend to the saddle north of the lake and climb rocks to the summitr west of the saddle. Or, from Lake Ediza, climb the shoulder ofr r r r r Volcanic Ridge just east of the lower end of the stream flowing down fromr Iceberg Lakes and traverse the north ridge to the summit. There is ar sweeping panorama of the Ritter Range from here.r

r r

Peak 11,115 (11,110n; 2 W of Minarets)

r

r An apparent first ascent of this peak was made July 13, 1938, byr Oliver Kehrlein, John Cahill, Jim Harkins, Fred Holmes, Frank Aitken,r and Edwin Koskinen.r

r r

Iron Mountain (11,157; 11,149n)

r

r *Route 1. South slope.* Class 1. From the Devil's Postpile trail, justr west of Cargyle Meadow, an old trail works north up the south slope tor a point just west of the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East face.* Class 2; ice axe useful. From Ashley Lake, whichr lies at the east base of the peak, ascend directly up the long snow tonguer from the head of the lake, or by way of the spur on the south side ofr the lake, to the crest. Traverse the ridge north to the summit. A trailr leads to Ashley Lake from Devil's Postpile.r

r r

References

r

r *Text: SCB*, 1894, 66-70; 1905, 186-193; 1908, 290-306; 1922, 248;r 1924, 28-33; 1930, 2-8, 17-18; 1934, 81-85; 1953, 40. See also LeConte'sr "An Ascent of Mt. Ritter," *Appalachia*, February 1893, 1-8, and Solomon' "Unexplored Regions of the High Sierra," *Overland Monthly,*r May 1896.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1908, pls. 67, 69, 70; 1919, pl. 238; 1924, Pls. 13,r 14; 1930, 1, 31, 34, 39, 47, 50, 58, 75; 1932, 27; 1938, 30-31; 1939, 30;r 1049, 15; 1951, 28-29; 1953, 36-37.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Clark Ranger** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/minarates_ritter_range.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Mammoth Pass to Mono Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Minarets & Ritter Ranger** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass

r r r r

r THE NORTH-CENTRAL section of the High Sierra, from Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass, is a colorful area containing many beautiful lakes and fine peaks. The climbing is not quite so challenging asr in certain other areas, but there is still much to satisfy the mountaineer.r The northern portion, near Mammoth Lakes and Convict Lake, contains dark volcanic rock and reddish metamorphic rock, and hence isr a region where the colors of the landscape contrast markedly with thoser seen in most other parts of the Sierra.r

r r

r Mount Humphreys, near Piute Pass, is the outstanding peak in thisr section; it stands tall and isolated on the crest of the Sierra, withr distinctive terra-cotta-colored rocks forming its summit. Mount Humphreys is one of the more difficult peaks of the Sierra. Nearby the Piuter Crags offer fine rock climbing. Another good climbing region is thatr around Mount Abbot, where there are sixteen peaks over 13,000 feetr within a circle of 4.5 miles radius. In the area near Convict Lake challenging rock climbs may be made from camps at the roadhead.r

r r

Approaches and Campsites

r r

r The most convenient approaches are from the east side. A fine roadr leads to the Mammoth Lakes, close to Duck Pass, which may be crossedr to reach the Muir Trail. Another road leads to Convict Lake, under ther slopes of Laurel Mountain and Mount Morrison. A trail goes from ther McGee Creek road barrier (3 miles from U.S. 395) over McGee Creekr Pass just south of Red Slate Mountain. Little Lakes Valley is reachedr by a road up Rock Creek which ends at 10,000, and is a good place fromr which to climb Mount Morgan, Mount Abbot, or Bear Creek Spire.r Another road goes up Pine Creek (to 7,000) from Round Valley andr may be used to approach Pine Creek Pass or Granite Park. A privater upper section of this road, not open to the public, leads beyond a tungsten mine on Morgan Creek and actually crosses over Morgan Passr (about 11,000) into Little Lakes Valley. Finally, there is a road upr Bishop Creek to North Lake (9,300) where the trail to Piute Pass starts.r

r r

r From the west the only practicable approach to the peaks of ther r r r Mammoth-Piute section is by way of the road from Huntington Laker over Kaiser Pass, which may be followed to Florence Lake or to Monor Hot Springs. From Florence Lake (boat service) a trail leads up ther South Fork of the San Joaquin to Selden Pass

or on to Piute Creek andr Humphreys Basin or French Canyon. From Mono Hot Springs one mayr travel to Bear Creek, the Mono Recesses, or Silver Pass via Vermilionr Valley (reservoir under construction).r

r r

r In this part of the Sierra trees adequate to supply firewood and shelterr for camping grow up to an elevation beyond 11,000 feet (there is anr albicaulis pine at 12,700 feet on Mount Stanford). There are hundredsr of attractive places where knapsackers can camp, and an abundance ofr places suitable for those with stock. Some rocky canyons or uplandsr at about 11,000 feet are devoid of timber, however. For example, ther environs of Lake Italy (11,154n) are barren, and those desiring a firer will do well to camp below the lake about half a mile.r

r r

r There are many possible mountaineering and knapsack passes in thisr region. A few of the more useful ones are noted under the individualr areas. With the aid of the new topographic maps and some experience,r climbers should be able to pick out other passes to suit their needs.r

r r r

Subdivision into Areas

r r

r The section from Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass is divided into the following areas:r

r r

r

r *Mammoth Pass to Mono Pass.* This includes the peaks near Red Slater Mountain, those around Convict Lake, the Silver Divide, and ther peaks around Pioneer Basin.r

r r

r *Mono Pass to Pine Creek Pass.* This includes Mills, Abbot, and Bearr Creek Spire on the Sierra Crest, the Mono Divide, peaks of ther Bear Creek drainage, and the Mount Morgan (south) peaks eastr of Rock Creek.r

r r

r *Mount Humphreys Region.* This is the area from Pine Creek Pass tor Piute Pass.r

r

r r

r The arrangement of peaks within an area is first from north to southr along the main ridge, and then roughly from north to south, first onr the west side of the ridge and then on the east side. In all the areas therer are peaks for which no information is available; some of these are listedr without further comment, while others,

of seemingly lesser importance,r are not mentioned at all.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Mammoth Pass to Mono Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Minarets & Ritter Ranger** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/mammoth_pass_to_piute_pass.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Mammoth Pass to Mono Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Mono Pass to Pine Creek Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Mammoth Pass to Piute Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass

r

Mammoth Pass to Mono Pass

r r r

George Bloom and John D. Mendenhall

r r r

r THIS COLORFUL AREA may be approached from the north by ther John Muir Trail or Duck Pass, from the south by way of Mono Creek,r and from the east along Convict Creek, McGee Creek, Hilton Creek, orr Rock Creek. The Muir Trail traverses the area from north to south,r crossing Silver Pass before dropping down to Mono Creek. (*Photograph:*r Peaks near Purple Lake: *SCB*, 1948, 30-31).r

r r

r Much of the climbing in this area has been centered around Convictr Lake, which is dominated by Mount Morrison, and is notable for ther maroon, black, cardinal, buff, and grey colors of the surrounding peaks.r Here the north face of Mount Morrison and the east cliffs of Laurelr Mountain provide imposing routes that are only a few miles from ther end of the Convict Lake road. Some of the history of this region is ofr interest, since it includes an appealing Indian legend, blazing guns, andr bodies swinging from gallows.r

r r

r According to tales of the Indians, once there was no Convict Lake.r Little Pot-sa-wa-gees—spirits with the faces of Indian babies and fish-like bodies—lived in the stream. Hi-na-nu, roughly the Indian versionr of our Adam, strove to net them as they fled upstream. Desperate, theyr appealed to the Great Spirit to save them. He created the lake knownr to the Indians as Wit-sa-nap, our Convict Lake, and the little spiritsr were saved.r

r r

r In 1871, convicts escaped from Carson City and headed south, murdering and looting. A posse led by Robert Morrison closed with themr at Monte Diablo (now Convict) Creek, and both Morrison and anr Indian aide, Mono Jim, were slain. Western justice was swift; the convicts were captured a few days later, and several were lynched.r

r r

Principal Passes

r r

r Trails cross Duck, Silver, and Goodale passes, as well as a pass betweenr Bloody and Laurel mountains connecting Convict and Laurel creeks.r A rudimentary trail crosses the crest at McGee Creek Pass, just southr of Red Slate Mountain.r

r r

r Climbers or knapsackers may cross from Lake Dorothy on Convictr r r r Creek over the crest to Purple Lake or Lake Virginia by passing justr north of Peak 12,292 (12,277n). Another knapsack pass lies just westr of Peak 12,309 (12,380n) and leads from the head of McGee Creekr to Lake Dorothy. A scenic route from Mono Creek to the headwatersr of Fish Creek passes just west of Red and White Mountain; it is bestr reached by a trail that starts up Laurel Canyon (opposite Second Recessr of Mono Creek) on the west side, crosses to the east of the stream inr the basin, and leads to lakes around which a way is picked to the saddler between Red and White Mountain and Peak 12,225 (12,238n). Theser knapsack routes are class 2.r

r r

r Pioneer Basin is reached by a trail which leaves the Mono Pass trailr east of the stream from the basin. Walking through the basin is quiter easy, and the saddle west of Mount Stanford can be crossed by a knapsack route leading to McGee Creek.r

r r

Peaks of the Main Crest

r r r

Peak 11,300+ (11,348n; 1 NW of Duck Lake)

r r

Peak 11,200+ (11,040n; 0.3 N of Duck Lake)

r

r This peak was traversed from south to east August 17, 1937, by Owenr Williams.r

r r

Peak 11,765 (11,772n; 1 NE of Duck Lake)

r r

Peak 12,059 (12,052n; 1.7 W of Bloody Mountain)

r

r First ascent prior to 1932. Class 1 from the west.r

r r

Peak 12,003 (11,975n; 1 SW of Bloody Mountain)

r r

Peak 12,292 (12,277n; 1 SW of Lake Dorothy)

r

r Ascended July 17, 1934, by David Brower. Class 2 from the north.r

r r

Red Slate Mountain (13,152; 13,163n)

r

r First ascent possibly by J. T. Gardiner in 1864, although he may notr have reached the summit. The peak is class 1 or 2 from any directionr but northwest. The McGee Creek trail is a good approach; so is Convictr Creek. The southwest ridge, from upper Fish Creek, is another goodr route. The upper portions are quite steep, and care should be takenr if snow is present.r

r r r r r

Red and White Mountain (12,840; 12,850n)

r

r First ascent in 1902 by J. S. Hutchinson, Lincoln Hutchinson,r C. A. Noble (*SCB*, 1903, 197, 201, 242).r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest face.* Class 2. From Mono Creek ascend Laurelr Canyon (opposite Second Recess) passing to the west of the large laker near the head. Ascend the large chute at the southwest side of the peak;r then follow the ridge a short distance to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 3. Climb the west ridge from the saddler between Red and White Mountain and Peak 12,225 (12,238n).r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast ridge.* The McGee Creek trail is a good approachr to the mountain according to Norman Clyde who climbed it by ther northeast face and ridge in 1928.r

r r

Mount Crocker (12,448; 12,457n)

r

r First known ascent August 25, 1929, by Nazario Sparrea, a Basquer shepherd. Class 1 by south or east ridges.r

r r

Mount Stanford (12,826; 12,851n)

r

r First ascent 1907-1909 by George R. Davis, C. F. Urquhart, R. B. Marshall, and L. F. Biggs, surveyors of the Goddard Quadrangle. Class 2.r A good approach is from the McGee Creek Trail. It may also be ascendedr readily from Pioneer Basin via the west ridge or southern gullies.r

r r

Peak 12,333 (12,309n; 1 NW of Mount Huntington)

r

r Ascended July 14, 1934, by David Brower, Norman Clyde, and Herveyr Voge en route from Mount Huntington to Mount Stanford. Class 2.r

r r

Mount Huntington (12,393; 12,405n)

r

r First ascent July 14, 1934, by David Brower, Norman Clyde, and Herveyr Voge. Class 2 by the southwest ridge, from Pioneer Basin. Class 3 byr the south ridge.r

r r

Mount Starr (12,900; 12,874n; 0.5 E of Mono Pass)

r

r First ascent July 16, 1896, by W. A. Starr and Allen L. Chickering.r

r r

r *Route 1. West slope.* Class 2. From Mono Pass climb tedious unstabler talus to the east of the pass to a broad, sandy false summit. Two hundredr yards south of the false summit is a pinnacle which is higher than ther sandy summit and which requires a shoulder stand.r

r r

r *Route 2. East slope.* Class 2. From Mosquito Flat Campground onr r r Rock Creek ascend the chute under the permanent snowfield visibler on the northeast face of the north ridge.r

r r

Peaks West of the Crest

r r

Peak 11,783 (11,787n; 1 SE of Duck Lake)

r r

Peak 11,155 (11,083n; 1 S of Purple Lake)

r r

Peak 12,375 (12,354n; 1.3 NE of Lake Virginia)

r r

Peak 11,920 (11,915n; 0.7 E of Lake Virginia)

r r

Balloon Dome (6,900; 6,881n)

r r

Double Peak (10,637; 10,644n)

r r

Pincushion Peak (9,817; 9,819n)

r r

Saddle Mountain (11,200; 11,192n)

r

r First ascent prior to 1922 by François Matthes.r

r r

Peak 11,500 (11,483n; 1 NE of Sharktooth Peak)

r

r First ascent July 1, 1951, by A. J. Reyman. A class 2 traverse up ther southwest ridge from Sharktooth Peak.r

r r

Sharktooth Peak (11,630; 11,639n)

r

r First ascent prior to 1951. The southeast ridge from Silver Peak, andr the south slope are class 2.r

r r

Silver Peak (11,883; 11,878n)

r

r First ascent prior to 1937. The ascent from Margaret Lakes is class 2.r

r r

Peak 11,500+ (11,476n; 1 SE of Silver Peak)

r

r Ascended July 2, 1951, by A. J. Reyman. Class 2 by the northwest ridge.r

r r

Peak 11,551 (11,554n; 1.5 S of Silver Peak)

r

r Ascended August 8, 1937, by Ed and Jed Garthwaite and Malcolmr Smith.r

r r

Graveyard Peak (11,584; 11,520+n)

r r

Peak 11,334 (11,336n; 1.5 E of Graveyard Peak)

r r

Peak 11,365 (11,365n; 1.2 SW of Silver Pass)

r r

Peak 11,469 (11,428n; 0.3 W of Silver Pass)

r

r First ascent unknown. There are three summits, the middle beingr highest. They were traversed by Owen Williams, August 17, 1937.r

r r r r

Peak 11,527 (11,516n; 1 S of Silver Pass)

r

r Climbed by Owen Williams via north arête, August 17, 1937.r

r r

Peak 12,211 (12,221n; 0.7 E of Silver Pass)

r

r The southeast and southwest sides are class 2 scree and boulders.r

r r

Mount Izaak Walton (11,900+; 11,840+n)

r

r *Route 1.* Class 3. Follow the northwest ridge to the summit. One ofr two touchy points may be encountered near the top. Other, more difficultr routes have been made, including one from the south involving a shortr class 4 overhanging pitch (photographs: *SCB*, 1930, 30, 74; 1939, 1).r

r r

Peak 11,678 (11,680+n; 1.7 W of Red and White Mountain)

r r

Peak 12,225 (12,238n; 0.7 SW of Red and White Mountain)

r

r Ascended August 14, 1952, by G. A. Daum, G. F. Hurley, andr J. M. Schnitzler. Class 2 by a choice of routes from upper Fish Creekr or from the saddle to the east.r

r r

Peak 11,915 (11,919n; 2 W of Mount Hopkins)

r r

Peak 12,040 (12,067n; 2 SW of Mount Hopkins)

r r

Peak 11,660 (11,669n; 1.5 SE of Mott Lake)

r

r Climbed July 11, 1947, by Wallace Hayes. The summit is readilyr reached from the east by way of Laurel Canyon.r

r r

Mount Hopkins (12,300; 12,302n)

r

r First ascent July 16, 1934, by David Brower, Norman Clyde, andr Hervey Voge.r

r r

r *Route 1. From the east.* Class 2. A good sand climb from Pioneer Basin.r

r r

r *Route 2. From the west.* Class 2. From Hopkins Creek the route isr similar to the eastern route, except for a rock cliff which can be avoided.r Mount Hopkins may also be climbed by the south slope from the base ofr the Third Recess.r

r r

Peaks East of the Crest

r r

Mammoth Rock (9,200+)

r

r Probably climbed very early by miners from the mining camp justr below.r

r r r r

Crystal Crag (10,100+; 10,364n; 1 SW of Mammoth Lakes)

r

r Climbed August 11, 1936, by Owen Williams via the northeast face.r

r r

Peak 10,730 (10,717n; 1.5 SE of Mammoth Lakes)

r r

Peak 11,641 (11,721n; 2 N of Duck Lake)

r r

Peak 11,389 (11,382n; 1.7 W of Laurel Mountain)

r r

Peak 12,400+ (12,465n; 0.8 E of Red Slate Mountain)

r

r First ascent August 29, 1952, by A. J. Reyman. A class 3 ascent byr the northwest ridge from the saddle east of Red Slate Mountain. Thisr is a shaly and loose rock knife-edge and care must be taken in makingr the ascent.r

r r

Peak 12,309 (12,380n; 1.2 E of Red Slate Mountain)

r

r Ascended July 17, 1934, by David Brower and Hervey Voge. Class 2 viar western saddle.r

r r

Bloody Mountain (12,592; 12,544n)

r

r First known ascent July 3, 1928, by Norman Clyde. From the southr or southwest the climb is tedious, on rubbly slate. Class 2.r

r r

Laurel Mountain (11,800; 11,812n)

r

r First recorded ascent September 25, 1926, by Norman Clyde. The eastr wall of Laurel offers a variety of unexplored routes starting only 500r feet above the end of the road.r

r r

r *Route 1. North ridge.* Class 1. First ascent unknown. From the upperr end of Convict Lake ascend brushy slopes to the ridge crest. Turn southr and proceed across a small cirque to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast trough.* Class 2. First ascent in 1925 by John D.r Mendenhall. From the upper end of Convict Lake climb directly to ther summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast gully.* Class 4. First ascent September 7, 1930, byr James M. Van Patten and John D. Mendenhall (*SCB*, 1931, 106). Midwayr between the northeast trough and the bight that splits the east cliffsr rises a steep gully. The base is easily reached from the Convict Gorger trail. The lower thousand feet are enjoyable climbing, with firm belaysr occurring where needed. The steeper pitches approximate 60°. Whenr the airy arête is reached, turn right and proceed directly to the summit.r

r r r r r

Mount Morrison (12,245; 12,268n)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde, June 22, 1928, by Route 1. The northr face of Morrison is quite impressive, and it is easily reached from ther road at Convict Lake. The woods beyond the upper end of the laker provide good camping. There is an interesting hanging valley belowr the north face of Morrison.r

r r

r *Route 1. Northwest ridge.* Class 2. From the upper end of Convict Laker ascend a talus slope to the base of the northwest ridge, which is followedr to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest chute.* Class 3 (ice axe seasonal). First ascent inr 1931 by John D. Mendenhall. From the upper end of Convict Laker climb into the hanging valley below Morrison's impressive north wall.r Just past the prominent buttress at the valley's entrance, turn right andr ascend a steep chute. Snow may be somewhat treacherous. Follow to ther crest of the ridge, joining Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast wall.* Class 5. First ascent September 1946 byr Charles L. Wilts and Harry Sutherland (*SCB*, 1947, 130). Follow ther hanging valley of Route 2 until directly beneath the summit of Morrison.r Ascend the northeast face just left of the northeast buttress, workingr diagonally right for nearly 1,000 feet over high-angle rock, and thenr follow the buttress and a couloir to the top. About 18 pitons.r

r r

r *Route 4. East ridge.* Class 2. First ascent in 1928 by John D. Mendenhall. Follow the hanging valley of Route 2, and from its head work upr the east ridge to the. summit. An easier but less scenic approach is fromr Convict Lake via the canyon that drains the north slopes of Mountr Gillett.r

r r

r *Route 5. South summit (12,100+; 12,334n). From the east.* Class 2.r First ascent September 9, 1930, by James Van Patten and John D. Mendenhall (*SCB*, 1931, 106). From Convict Lake follow the canyon north ofr Gillett to the east base of South Peak. Follow a steep, loose chute tor the summit. The unsound rock demands care. A safer and more interesting climb could be made up the rocks south of the gully.r

r r

r *Route 6. South summit from the west.* Class 2. First recorded ascentr in 1928 by John D. Mendenhall. Ascend the Convict Creek trail abover Convict Lake until past the west face of Morrison. Turn left and ascendr a long talus slope and rocks to the summit.r

r r r r r

Mount Baldwin (12,595; 12,614n)

r

r First known ascent July 2, 1928, by Norman Clyde.r

r r

r *Route 1. North side.* Class 1. Ascend the trail up beautiful Convictr Gorge until approximately northwest of Mount Baldwin. Breaks in ther cliffs east of Convict Creek allow one to easily reach the plateau belowr Baldwin. By skirting a few patches of steep rocks on the final peak,r one may gain the summit without difficulty.r

r r

r *Route 2. North ridge.* Class 2. Follow Route 1 onto the plateau, thenr ascend the north ridge (ice axe seasonal).r

r r

Mount Gillett (10,880n; 0.8 N of Morrison)

r

r (Name used by Mr. and Mrs. Raymer, proprietors through the 1920'sr of Convict Camp.) From the southeast shore of Convict Lake climb talusr and easy ledges to the crest of the ridge and on to the summit. Class 1.r The view of the north wall of Mount Morrison is singularly impressive.r

r r

McGee Mountain (10,859; 10,871n)

r

r First ascent unknown. Class one from any direction. Has been reachedr by jeep.r

r r

Peak 11,536 (11,561n; 1.3 SE of Mount Morrison)

r

r Locally called Mount Aggie. First ascent September 1, 1952, byr A. J. Reyman. From a camp on McGee Creek south of McGee Mountain,r follow up the small stream (usually dry in summer) southwest of McGeer Mountain and ascend to the ridge at any point west of the creek bed.r Go south on the ridge to the summit, the

point farthest south on ther knife-edge. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 11,846 (11,899n; 0.8 SE of Mount Baldwin)

r r

Mount Morgan (12,984; 13,005n)

r

r First ascent July 9, 1934, by David Brower and Norman Clyde viar the ridge from Mount Stanford.r

r r

Peak 12,268 (12,268n; 1.5 NW of Mount Morgan)

r r

Red Mountain (11,461; 11,472n)

r

r First recorded ascent about 1938 by John Burns. Class 1 from the southr Above Rock Creek watershed.r

r r

Peak 12,506 (12,522n; 1 E of Mount Stanford)

r r r r

Peak 12,240 (12,252n; 1.5 SE of Mount Huntington)

r

r This peak was ascended in 1930. It has been called Mono Mesa. It isr class 1 by the southeast slope from Rock Creek Lake, and may also ber climbed from the head of Mono Creek.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Mono Pass to Pine Creek Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Mammoth Pass to Piute Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/mammoth_pass_to_mono_pass.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Mono Pass to Pine Creek Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Mount Humphreys •r Contentsr • Previous: Mammoth Pass to Mono Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass

r

Mono Pass to Pine Creek Pass

r r r

Hervey Voge, James W. Koontz, II, and George Bloom

r r

r THE AREA FROM Mono Pass to Pine Creek Pass, including Wheelerr Crest and Mount Morgan east of Rock Creek, lies almost entirely withinr the High Sierra Wilderness Area, and is one of the finest mountainr regions to be found in California. The rock is largely granite. A fewr small glaciers lie under the north or east faces of some of the peaks,r among them being Mills, Abbot, and Gabb.r

r r

r Trails follow the northern and southern boundaries of this area, butr the only trails that cross it are the Muir Trail in the western part, ther rough road (closed to autos) from Little Lakes Valley to Morgan Creekr and Pine Creek, and a rudimentary trail from Bear Creek past Laker Italy to Granite Park.r

r r

r Footpaths enter the Mono Recesses from Mono Creek, and also willr be found in some other canyons. To enter First and Second recesses,r proceed up the east sides of the streams that drain them. To enter Thirdr Recess, start up the east side, but after a short while cross to the west.r To enter Fourth Recess, leave Mono Creek east of the Fourth Recessr stream and proceed up that side to the large lake in the recess, wherer the stream may be crossed to the west side; then follow a ducked trailr that climbs high on the west wall to avoid the cliffs.r

r r

r In the region east and south of Rock Creek, Wheeler Crest runs northr from massive Mount Morgan (13,748n; not to be confused with ther Mount Morgan, elevation 13,005n, eight miles to the northwest). Ther peaks east of Rock Creek are easily accessible and can be climbed in ar single day from the roads along Rock Creek or Morgan Creek. Six summitsr over 13,000 feet are listed in this small region. The climbing isr not especially difficult, but the views of the main crest are excellent,r and the colorful metamorphic rocks composing this ridge add a degreer of charm.r

r r

r r r r

Principal Passes

r r

r *Mono Divide* may be crossed at several places. First Recess provides ar very scenic cross-country route to Bear Creek; follow First Recess Creekr and cross a notch between Recess Peak and Peak 12,135 (12,205n). Thisr class 2 pass may have snow on the northeast, but offers meadow-coveredr table lands on the southwest. Second Recess may be traversed on routesr leading from Mono Creek to Lake Italy. The best of these leaves ther meadows of Second Recess to climb the slope on the north side of ther Mills Creek cascade, follows the left side of Mills Creek to its head,r and crosses Gabbot Pass, between Mount Gabb and Mount Abbot. Onr the Lake Italy side the walking is quite easy; follow the north shorer of Lake Italy to the outlet and cross to the trail on the south side.r Another route from Second Recess proceeds directly up the recess, ascendsr a steep headwall at timberline by sloping ledges on the right (W)r side, and crosses the Mono Divide at a broad pass about 0.6 mile northeast of Mount Hilgard. This route is rougher than the Gabbot Pass route.r Neither is suitable for stock.r

r r

r *Bear Creek headwaters* are splendid terrain for those who liker cross-country walking, and many lovely lakes hidden away in granite bowlsr will be met. A shortcut from the Hilgard Branch of Bear Creek to ther East Fork may be taken on either side of Peak 12,536 (12,550n). Fromr the upper basin of the East Fork of Bear Creek a route proceeds southeast to a pass between Peaks 13,234 and 12,817 (13,242n and 12,831n)r and follows the stream to the south down to French Canyon. Otherr cross-country routes may be made from the region of Sally Keyes Laker to French Canyon, crossing north of the Pinnacles and of Peak 12,363r (12,427n)r

r r

r *Photographs:* View west and south from Bear Creek Spire, *SCB*, 1942,r 30-31; First Recess, *SCB*, 1930, 11; Fourth Recess, *SCB*, 1918, 293; 1947,r 30-31.r

r r

Peaks of the Main Crest

r r

Peak 13,202 (13,198n; 1 SW of Mono Pass)

r

r *Route 1. West couloir.* Class 3. Ascended July 25, 1946, by Fritzr Gerstacher and Virginia Whitacre from the Fourth Recess by a couloirr that comes down just under the highest pinnacle.r

r r

r *Route 2. East buttress.* Ascended August 1, 1946, by Lester Lavelle andr Malcolm Smith.r

r r r r

r *Route 3. West wall and north ridge.* Class 5. First ascent August 17,r 1953, by Jim Koontz, Ralph Perry, and Fred Peters. From between ther third and fourth lakes in the Fourth Recess a large col is seen in ther ridge north of Peak 13,202, with a chockstone below it, and a chimneyr containing chockstones at the base. Ascend the chockstone chimneyr and then up the face to the col. Traverse south along the ridge, mostlyr on the west face, to the western couloir, and climb this to the top.r

r r

Mount Mills (13,352; 13,468n)

r

r First ascent July 10, 1908, by J. S. Hutchinson, J. N. LeConte, andr Duncan McDuffie (*SCB*, 1909, 9) by Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 1. North face.* Class 3 (ice axe advisable). From the Fourthr Recess ascend the glacier, cross the bergschrund, and climb the brokenr face on a tongue or rib of rock which comes down almost to the bergschrund.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face. Class 4.* Ascended July 23, 1953, by Jim Koontz,r Marian Steineke, Louis Christian, and Jim Carl. Ascend avalanche chutesr near the southern end of the face. The top 200 feet require class 4r climbing.r

r r

Mount Abbot (13,736; 13,715n)

r

r See Sketches 10 and 11; *photographs: SCB*, 1909, 7, 14; 1930, 15, 18.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest chute.* Class 3. First ascent July 13, 1908, byr J. S. Hutchinson, J. N. LeConte, and Duncan McDuffie. From Lake Italyr or the Second Recess of Mono Creek proceed to the base of Mount Abbot.r A fan of talus leads just to the south (right) of the bare granite facer of the summit peak. From the apex of the fan three chutes lead towardr the crest. The northern one becomes a chimney with a prominent chock-stone, the central one is quite broad, and the southern one leads to ther crest quite a way south of the summit. Ascend the central chute, whichr is most easily entered from the rocks to the right (S) of the bottom.r At the top of the chute the cliffs are not nearly so difficult as they appearr to be from a distance, and they can be ascended by several ways to ther broad summit plateau a short distance south of the summit proper.r

r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 4. First ascent August 30, 1927, by M. Yeatman and M. L. Huggins. Follow the ridge from the Abbot-Gabb saddler (Gabbot Pass), with some minor deviations.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southeast buttress.* Class 3. First ascent August 19, 1932, byr S. W. French. From Little Lakes Valley climb to the glacier betweenr Dade and Abbot and ascend on the south side of the buttress or spurr

r r r r r

r r

r
r r r
r Sketch 10. Mounts Dade and Abbot from the east. From left to right: Mount Dade, Route 1 and variation; Mount Abbot, Routes 3 and 4.r r
r r r r r r at the southern end of the east wall of Abbot, occasionally crossing tor the north side of the buttress.rr
r

r *Route 4. Northeast buttress.* Class 3. This route was descended byr S. W. French on August 19, 1932. The buttress leads more or less northeast of the summit of Abbot, and is south of a prominent snow gully.r The rock is fairly broken and may be ascended or descended by a varietyr of routes from ledge to ledge.r

r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 11. Mount Abbot from the west. From left to right: Routes 2, 5, and 1. S—summit.r r

r r r r

r *Route 5. West chimney.* Class 4. First ascent July 22, 1953, by C. N. La Vener and Hervey Voge. Ascend the northern chute above the talusr fan described under Route 1. The chockstone may be passed on ther left (N) side. The chimney reaches the west ridge just southeast of ar prominent, overhanging spire. From here cross the north face to ther summit plateau, or go up the face.r

r r

Mount Dade (13,635; 13,600+n)

r

r First ascent August 19, 1911, by Liston and McKeen of Fresno.r

r r

r *Route 1.* South Slope. Class 2. The south slope of Mount Dade is easilyr climbed and may be reached from the west or east sides of the crest.r

r r

r *Route 2.* West chute. Class 2. From the slopes northeast of Lake Italyr a chute leads almost directly to the summit of Mount Dade. The rockr rib just south of the chute may also be climbed (class 3).r

r r

r *Route 3.* On August 24, 1951, Lloyd Chorley and Don Chorley climbedr by a western chute and the north ridge.r

r r r r

Bear Creek Spire (13,706; 13,713n)

r

r *Route 1. Northwest slopes.* Class 3. First ascent August 16, 1923, byr H. F. Ulrichs. From Lake Italy easy benches lead around the northr side of the subsidiary peak west of the Bear Creek Spire and onto ther easy northwest slopes of the peak. The last few hundred feet are moderately difficult and may require use of a rope. Usually the north arête isr followed on the final approach to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast face.* Class 3. First ascent by Norman Clyde, October 6, 1931. A rather devious route may be worked out up this face,r with good climbing most of the way.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast arête.* Class 3 to 4. Ascended by Norman Clyde,r May 27, 1932.r

r r

r *Route 4. North ridge.* Class 3. From the east side the broken face mayr be climbed to the ridge north of the Spire. Then the north ridge canr be followed to the summit or the sloping plateau can be crossed westward to join Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 5. From Pine Creek.* Class 4. Climb to the crest about 400 yardsr to the southwest of the summit and traverse along the crest or on ledgesr on the sides to the summit (Norman Clyde).r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1931, 6; 1942, 30-31 (winter), 1947, 30-31.r

r r

Peak 13,173 (13,196n; 1 SW of Bear Creek Spire)

r

r The name Mount Julius Caesar has been proposed because of ther proximity to Lake Italy. First ascent August 12, 1928, by A. H. andr Myrtle Prater. The south ridge, west ridge, and southwest slopes arer class 2. An ascent by the north face and east arête, from the lake in ther cirque to the northeast was made August 9, 1953, by Jim Koontz, Peter Murphy, Al Wolf, and Ed Toby.r

r r

Peak 12,736 (12,720+n; head of Granite Park)

r

r First ascent July 21, 1953, by C. N. La Vene and Hervey Voge.r Class 2 by west or north ridges.r

r r

Peak 12,542 (12,563n; 1.2 NW of Pine Creek Pass)

r

r Ascended by Norman Clyde in 1938 via the west slope. An easy ascentr except for class 3 on the summit monolith.r

r r r r

Peaks West of the Crest

r r

Volcanic Knob (11,153; 11,168n)

r

r The east slope was climbed August 14, 1937, by Owen Williams.r

r r

Peak 12,135 (12,205n; 1 NW of Recess Peak)

r

r Ascended by members of the 1953 Sierra Club Base Camp. Class 2r by the west slope, which may be reached from First Recess by the saddler south of the peak.r

r r

Peak 12,100+ (12,241n; 1 NE of Recess Peak)

r

r Ascended by members of the 1953 Sierra Club Base Camp. Class 3r by the northwest face.r

r r

Recess Peak (12,841; 12,836n)

r

r First ascent prior to 1937.r

r r

r *Route 1. Northeast arête.* Class 3. Walk up the Second Recess tor timberline, climb the west wall beyond the sharp cliffs, and follow ther canyon leading toward Recess Peak; this canyon holds two lakes. Fromr the head of the canyon cross a snowfield to a large col in the arête andr follow the arête to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East arête.* Class 3. Climb to the arête from the snow sloper below.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southwest arête.* Approach from Bear Creek.r

r r

Peak 12,751 (12,720+n; 1 NW of Mount Hilgard)

r

r First ascent August 11, 1953, by Jim Koontz, Al Schmitz, G. Wallerstein, and Fred Peters, by the east arête (class 4). The descent by ther south arête into the cirque at the head of the Second Recess was class 2.r

r r

Mount Hilgard (13,351; 13,361n)

r

r First ascent July to, 1905, by Charles F. Urquhart. Class 2 from Laker Italy by the south slopes, or class 3 by the southeast face. *Photograph:*r *SCB*, 1942, 30-31.r

r r

Mount Gabb (13,701; 13,711n)

r

r First ascent June 17, 1917, by H. H. Bliss and A. L. Jordan.r Route 1. Glacier and northwest ridge. Class 2. From the head ofr Mills Creek ascend the glacier and the scree headwall to the northwestr r r ridge. Follow the ridge over large blocks to the summit. This is a finer route for descent if the snow is in condition to glissade.r

r r

r *Route 2. East spur of the northwest ridge.* Class 3. From the largestr lake near the head of Mills Creek, follow talus to the notch right (W)r of the prominent gendarme on the east spur of the northwest ridge.r In places the talus is quite steep and loose and could be dangerous forr large parties. From the notch follow the ridges over more sound rockr to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. South slope or west ridge.* Class 2. From Lake Italy ascendr over broken rock and scree to a 100-foot cliff at about 12,000 feet. Thisr can be climbed via several broad chutes or directly over the rock. Workr to the west to avoid further cliffs, or head directly for the summit byr means of broad sandy chutes and a series of chimneys.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northeast ridge.* Class 3 to 4. Ascend directly from Gabbotr Pass.r

r r

r *Route 5. North face.* Class 4. Ascended August 13, 1953, by Jimr Koontz, Ralph Perry, Fred Peters, George Wallerstein, and Al Schmitz.r From upper Mills Creek climb the glacier to a point just west of ther prominent split in the middle of the north face. This split diagonalsr upward (E to W) and ends about 300 feet directly below the summit.r climb the slabs to the split and ascend the west side of the split until ar large chockstone is reached. Pass this by exposed ledges, a 25-footr crack, and a 20-foot chimney which leads to the top of the west wall ofr the split. Then proceed to and up the northwest ridge.r

r r

Peak 12,367 (12,320+n; 1.2 NW of Mount Gabb)

r

r First known ascent September 8, 1927, by James Wright. From ther largest Mills Creek lake ascend talus to a couloir, ascend the (snow-filled) couloir to the ridge, and thence go to the left to the summit.r Class 3.r

r r

Peak 12,124 (12,145n; 2.5 NW of Mount Mills)

r

r First ascent record illegible. Class 3 to 4 from the Second Recess byr way of northwest ridge and west face. The next peaklet to the south,r 12,200+ (12,160+n), was climbed for the first time by Hervey Voge,r Jane Collard, and Mary Crothers on July 23, 1953. They approachedr over Peak 12,124 and descended the west face. Class 3 to 4.r

r r

Peak 12,701 (12,691n; 1.7 NW of Mount Mills)

r

r First ascent August 3, 1864, by W. H. Brewer.r

r r r r

Peak 12,301 (close to 12,406n; 2.3 NW of Mount Mills)

r r

Mono Rock (11,500+; 11,555n)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde and companion, July 18, 1934.r

r r

r *Route 1. East slope and south ridge.* Class 2. From the lowest laker of the Fourth Recess climb via the ducked trail and slopes below ther buttress to the lowest point of the ridge south of Mono Rock andr proceed north along the crest to the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. East wall.* Class 4. From the top of the headwall above ther lowest lake in Fourth Recess angle across the face on ledges to a smallr bowl from which the summit can be gained. Ascent by Bill Wallace,r August 17, 1953.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 5. First ascent by Lester LaVelle, Paulr Hunter, Joe Sharp, Willard Dean, Dan Sharp, and Homer Wellman,r August 6, 1946.r

r r

Peak 12,351 (12,356n; 1.5 NW of Mount Mills)

r

r Ascended July 18, 1934, by James Wright and Norman Clyde.r

r r

Peak 12,934 (12,880+n; 0.5 NW of Mount Mills)

r

r Climbed July 18, 1934, by James Wright and Norman Clyde.r

r r

Bear Dome (9,930; 9,947n)

r r

The Tombstone (10,003; 10,059n)

r

r Ascended in 1929 by Walter L. Huber.r

r r

Mount Hooper (12,322; 12,349n)

r

r First known ascent in 1929 by Glen Dawson, William D. Horsfall,r and John Nixon.r

r r

Peak 12,000 (12,01412; 1 SE of Mount Hooper)

r

r Ascended prior to 1947. Crossing from Hooper is difficult. Class 1r from Upper Sally Keyes Lake.r

r r

Peak 11,845 (11,851n; 2 N of Mount Hooper)

r r

Peak 11,583 (11,615n; 1.2 SW of Mount Hooper)

r r

Mount Senger (12,253; 12,271n)

r

r First ascent 1907-9 by George R. Davis, T. G. Gerdine, C. F. Urquhart,r r r r and L. F. Biggs of the USGS. The peak is class 1 from the south orr west, and class 2 from the east.r

r r

Turret Peak (12,060; 12,000+n)

r

r Climbed prior to 1930. A south to north traverse was reported tor be easy.r

r r

Peak 11,700+ (11,760+n; 2 SW of Mount Hilgard)

r

r First ascent in July 1947 by W. J. Losh via the east ridge. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,200+ (12,287n; 1.7 S of Mount Hilgard)

r

r First ascent in July 1947 by W. J. Losh, by the west ridge. Class 2 to 3.r

r r

Peak 12,536 (12,550n; 1.2 S of Lake Italy)

r

r On July 11, 1934, James Wright found ducks on the west slope butr no cairn on top.r

r r

Peak 12,777 (12,756n; 1 SE of Lake Italy)

r

r First known ascent July 13, 1933, by George Rockwood and Davidr Brower, who described it as one of the better sand climbs of the Sierra.r

r r

Seven Gables (13,066; 13,075n)

r

r First ascent June 29, 1898, by J. N. LeConte and C. L. Cory. *Photographs: SCB*, 1916, 104; 1930, 22; 1939, 30-31.r

r

r *Route 1. West slope.* Class 2. Ascend from the South Fork of Bearr Creek, climbing up to the central valley of Seven Gables on the southr side of the creek running from it. The creek is then followed throughr a small meadow, thence up to the saddle on the east rim. The highestr point is reached by clambering southward over large broken rock andr a simple system of ledges and chimneys. If snow-filled chutes are encountered, they may be circumvented on the rock ridge above.r

r

r *Route 2. East slope to saddle.* Class 2. From the oblong lake northeastr of Seven Gables climb slabs and snow to the chute running east fromr the main saddle north of the summit. Climb the north side of ther chute and proceed to the summit as in Route 1.r

r r

Peak 12,800+ (12,866n; 1.4 SE of Seven Gables)

r

r This is a prominent twin peak. The first ascent was made July 30,r 1953, by Jim Koontz and Rosemarie Lenel by the north ridge from ther r r r little lake in the saddle to the northwest. Class 2. The saddle may ber reached from the east or west.r

r r

The Pinnacles (12,264; 12,240+)

r

r The highest point of the Pinnacles was reached, apparently for ther first time, by Glen Dawson, Neil Ruge, and Alfred Weiler on July 14,r 1933. There is good climbing on the east side of the ridge but not onr the west. Some of the pinnacles appear very difficult. They extend forr about one mile, the southern end being a little lower (12,106; 12,122n).r Two southern pinnacles were climbed July 5, 1939, by Bruce Meyerr and Jim Harkins. Another pinnacle was climbed in June 1931 byr Nathan Clark.r

r r

Peak 12,395 (12,421n; 2 SE of Seven Gables)

r

r First ascent July 12, 1933, by David Brower. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,363 (12,427n; 1.5 NW of Hutchinson Meadow)

r

r Ascended July 7, 1940, by members of Sierra Club Burro Trip.r

r r

Peak 12,530 (12,530n; 2 E of Seven Gables)

r r

Peak 12,817 (12,831n; 1 W of Royce Peak)

r

r First ascent July 13, 1933, by George Rockwood. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 13,234 (13,24212; 1 NW of Royce Peak)

r

r First ascent July 13, 1933, by David Brower. Class 3 by the southwestr ridge.r

r r

Royce Peak (13,238; 13,253n)

r

r First ascent June 23, 1931, by Nathan Clark and Roy Crites. A class 2r ascent over talus. From the pass between Royce and Merriam climb ther southeast ridge. The southwest ridge is also easy, as is the west slope.r The east face was climbed in 1936 by Ellis Porter, Herbert Welch, andr Frank Richardson.r

r r

Merriam Peak (13,067; 13,077n)

r

r Ascended July 14, 1933, by Lewis Clark, Julie Mortimer, and Tedr Waller. Class 2 by the northwest ridge. The east face was climbedr July 3, 1939, by Alden Bryant and Bob Helliwell. The southwest sider has also been climbed. *Photograph: SCB*, 1934, 94-95.r

r r r r r

Peaks East of the Crest

r r

Peak 11,757 (11,742n; 3 SE of Red Mountain)

r

r This peak, on the northern end of Wheeler Crest, is class 1 up ther northwest slope from Rock Creek. It was climbed in 1933 by ther USGS, and in 1946 there was a mining claim on the summit.r

r r

Peak 11,500 (11,498n; 2.2 N of Round Valley Peak)

r

r Ascended August 7, 1945, by Chester Versteeg. Class 2 by the northr ridge from Rock Creek.r

r r

Peak 10,663 (10,601n; 2 NW of Round Valley Peak)

r

r First ascent by Chester Versteeg, September 29, 1944. Class 2 fromr the north except for a short class 3 summit pitch.r

r r

Peak 11,888 (11,791n; 1.3 N of Round Valley Peak)

r

r First ascent by Chester Versteeg, September 26, 1944. Class 2 fromr the north, or along the south ridge from near Round Valley Peak.r

r r

Round Valley Peak (11,932; 11,943n)

r

r First ascent prior to 1944. This peak may be approached from ther west via a breach in Wheeler Crest just west of the peak. Class 1. Treesr grow almost to the summit, and it is easy from almost any direction.r

r r

Peak 12,531 (12,541n; 1.5 S of Round Valley Peak)

r

r Ascended September 24, 1944, by Chester Versteeg and Niles Werner.r Class 1 to 2 by north slopes.r

r r

Peak 12,970 (12,966n; 2.5 S of Round Valley Peak)

r

r The highest point of Wheeler Crest was ascended August 14, 1945,r by Don McGeein and Virgil Sisson. The west slope of Wheeler Crestr can be ascended in many places, although the footing is poor, consisting mostly of rubbly slate or limestone. One can walk along ther top of the crest easily. Peak 12,970 is class 2 from the northeast orr southwest.r

r r

Peak 13,200+ (13,265n; 1 NE of Mount Morgan)

r

r First ascent by Chester Versteeg, September 25, 1944. Class 1 fromr the East Fork of Rock Creek by the eastern slope of the north ridger and the north ridge.r

r r r r

Peak 13,450 (13440+n; 0.6 NE of Mount Morgan)

r

r First ascent prior to 1942. Class 2 to 3 by the southwest ridge fromr Mount Morgan or from the north.r

r r

Mount Morgan (13,739; 13,748n)

r

r First ascent by the Wheeler Survey, about 1870. Class 1 to 2. Mountr Morgan can readily be climbed by several routes from the mines onr Morgan Creek. It is probably best to go well up toward the head ofr the northwest fork, from which place a route can easily be picked outr by inspection. In spring and early summer the mountaineer can usually avail himself of a snow-filled chute running up to the summit above.r The northwest ridge from Francis Lake on the East Fork of Rockr Creek is class 1. Mount Morgan is not a mountain having any veryr real appeal to the mountaineer, but its summit affords a spectacularr view.r

r r

Peak 13,200+ (13,160+n; 0.8 E of Mount Morgan)

r r

Peak 13,206 (13,200+n; 1.2 SE of Mount Morgan)

r r

Peak 13,201 (12,920+n; 1.7 SE of Mount Morgan)

r r

Peak 12,887 (12,866n; 1 NE of Bear Creek Spire)

r

r First known ascent in 1927 by Norman Clyde. This peak is class 2r from the col immediately northeast of Bear Creek Spire.r

r r

Peak 12,750 (12,640+n; 1.8 NE of Bear Creek Spire)

r

r Class 2 to 3 from saddle to west of summit. Has been called Tempestr Peak. Photograph: *SCB*, 1942, 30-31.r

r r

Peak 12,819 (12,808n; 1 SW of Mount Morgan)

r

r First ascent by A. J. Reyman, October 2, 1947. Class 2 by the southr slope from the upper Morgan Lake.r

r r

Peak 12,560 (12,571n; 1.3 SE of Bear Creek Spire)

r

r First ascent September 29, 1931, by Norman Clyde. Class 2 to 3 fromr Morgan Creek or Pine Creek. A number of routes are possible up chutesr or intervening ribs.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Mount Humphreys •r Contentsr • Previous: Mammoth Pass to Mono Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Mount Humphreys Region >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Mono Pass to Pine Creek Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass

r

Mount Humphreys Region

r r r

George Bloom, Hervey Voge, and Ray Van Aken

r r

r THE PIUTE PASS TRAIL provides the easiest access to the Humphreys group from the east inasmuch as the North Lake roadhead isr 2,000 feet higher than the Pine Creek roadhead. Off-trail approaches fromr the east, such as via McGee Creek, are apt to be arduous. Various knapsack routes lead to the region from the Evolution Region (which see).r Golden Trout Lake is the highest comfortable campsite west of ther crest for Humphreys itself; upper French Canyon timber grows at higherr elevations and provides good camping for the northern peaks of ther group.r

r r

Peak 12,888 (12,480+n; 1.4 E of Pine Creek Pass)

r r

Four Gables (12,759; 12,801; 12,760+n)

r

r Climbed in 1931 by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Mount Humphreys (13,972; 13,986n)

r

r The first ascent was made July 18, 1904, by E. C. Hutchinson andr J. S. Hutchinson, who used Route 1 (*SCB*, 1905, 153). This route andr others from the west side are indicated on Sketch 12. The easiest wayr of ascent is probably Route 2. Routes 1, 2, and 3 are easy class 4.r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 12. Mount Humphreys from the west. From left to right: Route 2 (variation), Route 2, Route 6, Route 1, Route 4, and Southeast Pinnacle Route.r r

r r r r r r

r *Route 1. South couloir and southeast face.* Class 4. From Humphreysr Basin southwest of the peak proceed up a gully leading toward the veryr deep notch south of Humphreys, or the next gully north. In either caser turn left (N) and enter the deep couloir that comes down southwardr from the summit. This couloir leads to the southeast, secondary summitr named "Married Men's Point" by those in the party of the first ascentr who saw no point in going farther. Steep snow or ice may be encountered in the couloir. From the head of the couloir the steep southeastern face is climbed up a ladder-like series of small ledges.r

r r

r *Route 2. West slope and northwest face.* Class 4. First ascent August 3,r 1919, by G. R. Bunn and two others (*SCB*, 1920, 56). Follow the rockyr shoulder between the two lakes nearest the west base of the mountainr to the first scree-covered ledge leading upward to the left (N). Followr the ledge to the second broad gully, which ends to the north of ther notch immediately north of the final pinnacle. Near the top of thisr gully cross over to the right (S) to the gully leading to the notch northr of the pinnacle. From the notch follow a ledge to the steep trough tor the right (S), and climb the trough toward the summit. When ar vertical wall is encountered climb out to the right (W) and upwardr on the right side of the arête over good holds to the final summitr ridge, which is followed eastward to the summit.r

r r

r There are a number of variations of Route 2, but in all of them ther final peak is climbed by the northwest face. The notch from which thisr final climb is made can be reached by several routes up the westernr slope, including one that leads up from Desolation Lake to the ridger about one mile north of the summit. The more or less flat ridge is thenr followed southward to the notch.r

r r

r *Route 3. East slope and northwest face.* Class 4. First ascent July 18,r 1920, by C. H. Rhudy, L. C. Bogue, and J. L. Findlay (*SCB*, 1921, 203).r From McGee Creek go half-way around the upper McGee Lake shownr on the map and then proceed westward, skirting to the south and westr of a prominent ridge which projects eastward from the main range.r Climb the ridge to a wide flat about one mile north of the summit,r follow the

north ridge to the notch north of the peak, and followr Route 2 to the top.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast buttress.* Class 4. First ascent July 7, 1933, byr Hervey Voge. From the west climb to the deep notch about 0.3 miler southeast of the summit. Ascend the northwest wall of the notch directlyr toward the peak, and then gradually work to the right (E) until ther r r r easy top of the southeast ridge is reached. Proceed along the ridge andr to the summit as in Route 1.r

r r

r *Route S. East arête.* Class 4. First ascent June 29, 1935, by Normanr Clyde (*SCB*, 1936, 49). From the head of the south fork of McGee Creekr enter the cirque southeast of Mount Humphreys, and climb to a notchr in the crest of the cleaver-like arête to the north. This is the east arêter of Humphreys; farther west it is joined by the northeast arête, andr the combined ridge joins the main ridge at Married Men's Point. Followr the arête westward, passing a precipitous wall by means of a ledge atr the left (S) and cracks which lead back to the top of the arête. Followr the arête to the main ridge and climb to the summit as in Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 6. Southwest face.* Class 5. From a prominent pointed spire atr the west base of the mountain, climb the face diagonally upward to ther left (N) to the summit. Five pitons. Climbed July 28, 1938, by Jackr Riegelhuth, Dick Cahill, George Wilkins, Bill Leovy, Bruce Meyer.r

r r

r *Route 7. Northeast glacier.* Class 4. From the northeast glacier ascendr difficult ice chutes, or rocks on the right (N) of the ice, to the notchr just north of the topmost spire, and climb to the summit as in Route 2.r

r r

r *Route 8. Southeast cirque and south couloir.* Class 4. Descended Juner 29, 1935, by Norman Clyde. He followed Route 1 from the summit tor the deep notch south of the prominent southeast buttress, then descendedr the headwall and a steep gully to the cirque southeast of the peak.r

r r

r *Southeast pinnacle.* The sharp pinnacle about 0.4 mile southeast ofr the summit of Humphreys was climbed for the first time by Julesr Eichorn and Marjory Bridge on July 20, 1933. They ascended the westr face and descended the northwest ridge (*SCB*, 1934, 15).r

r r

r *Photographs of Mount Humphreys: SCB*, 1905, 1; 1920, 56 (N face);r 1921, 204 (from NW); 1930, 10 (routes on W face); 1934, 16 (routesr on W face).r

r r

r *References: SCB*, 1905, 153; 1920, 56; 1921, 203; 1931, 104; 1932, 119;r 1934, 15; 1936, 49.r

r r

Peak 13,176 (13,112n; 1.2 SE of Mount Humphreys)

r

r First ascent July 7, 1926, by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Pilot Knob (12,237; 12,245n)

r

r First ascent by unknown persons. Class 2 by the east slope from Piuter Creek or Humphreys Basin.r

r r

Peak 12,274 (12,280n; 0.7 SE of Pine Lake)

r r r r

Peak 12,388 (12,360+n; 2 SE of Pine Lake)

r

r This peak is just east of Peak 12,575n. It was ascended in 1912 byr W. L. Huber and C. S. Brothers.r

r r

Mount Tom (13,649; 13,6526)

r

r First ascent may have been made about 1860 by Thomas Clark. Class 2r from Gable Creek northwest of the peak. Start up Gable Creek on ther west side and follow the tramway of an old mine; then cross over ther creek and follow a good trail up the west slope to mines just belowr the summit. From there it is easy going to the summit.r

r r

Basin Mountain (13,229; 13,240n)

r

r Climbed by Norman Clyde September 15, 1937. Class 2 from Hortonr Lake by the north slope of the mountain or the north ridge.r

r r

Peak 13,216 (13,200+n; 1.3 N of Mount Humphreys)

r r

Peak 12,222 (12,228n; 1.2 E of Mount Humphreys)

r r

Mount Emerson (13,226; 13,225n)

r

r The north face was climbed by Norman Clyde, July 3, 1926.r

r r

Piute Crags

r

r The Piute Crags comprise the ridge that extends eastward fromr Mount Emerson. They may be identified on the Mount Goddard Quadrangle as the series of summits between Mount Emerson (13,226) andr Peak 10,666 which is north of North Lake. Since the crags are close tor a road, and a trail parallels their base, they offer easy access. At ther end of the North Lake road (9,400) is a public campground from whichr climbs of the crags may be made. There are several other campsites alongr the trail leading to Piute Pass.r

r r

r There is much loose rock on the crags so caution must be observed.r Loose rock was sent down from Crags i and 2 by blasting from a miner at 1 i,800 in 1953. Ice equipment will not be needed during the summer months, although ice may be found in the couloirs in the spring.r Otherwise the couloirs to the various notches from which the climbsr are made are about class 3. Sketch 13 identifies the crags. See also *SCB*,r 1951, 156.r

r r

Crag 1

r

r Class 5. First ascent September 2, 1950, by Charles Wilts and Georger r r r Harr. Ascend the couloir between Crags 1 and 2, that passes to ther west of the White Tower, to the notch. Approach the crag from ther northeast and traverse diagonally upwards across the 700 north face onr ladder-like holds to the summit ridge. Traverse to the summit.r

r r

Crag 2

r

r Route 1. Class 5. First ascent August 27, 1949, by Ray Van Aken,r George Harr, and Ray Osoling. From the notch between Crags i and 2r ascend (class 4) the west face to a belay point at the junction of ther west face and the west arête. The route goes diagonally upwards and tor the right on the smooth slab (class 5, 4 pitons). At the end of thisr pitch gain the west arête and follow it to the summit.r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 13. The Piute Crags from the south.r r

r r r r

r *Route 2. Class 5.* First ascent September 3, 1950, by George Harr andr Charles Wilts. From slightly below the Crag 1-2 notch traverse ontor the south face and ascend a series of interesting pitches to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Class 4.* First descent September 3, 1950, by George Harr andr Charles Wilts. From the Crag 2-3 notch climb over loose, high angler rock up the east-northeast side.r r

Crag 3

r

r *Route 1. Class 4.* First descent July 7, 1951, by Ray Van Aken, Wallacer Hayes, and Lou Hayes. From the Crag 2-3 notch ascend the arête tor the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Class 4.* First ascent July 7, 1951, by Ray Van Aken, Wallace Hayes,r r r r and Lou Hayes. From the Crag 3-3' notch ascend over looser rock (class 3) to the base of the east face. Traverse around the cornerr to the north and ascend upwards and traverse onto the north facer (class 4). Scramble to the ridge and follow it to the summit.r

r r

Crag 3'

r

r A minor summit between Crags 3 and 4'. Class 3. Traversed July 7,r 1951, by Ray Van Aken, Wallace Hayes, and Lou Hayes.r

r r

Crag 4'

r

r Class 5. First ascent September 1949 by George Harr, Charles Wiltsr and Ellen Wilts. May be climbed from the Crag 3'-4' notch.r

r r

Crag 4

r

r Class 5. First ascent September 1949 by Charles and Ellen Wilts,r and George Harr. From the Crag 4'-4 notch traverse across the steepr north face to a platform. A delicate pitch leads straight up to the eastr ridge from which an easy pitch-and-a-half brings one to the summit.r

r r

Crag 5

r

r Class 3. First ascent by Norman Clyde, 1927. Traverse from the Cragr 5-6 notch onto the south ridge and follow it to the summit. There is ar minor but sharp summit between Crags 5 and 6; this is class 4, andr was ascended June 17, 1950, by George Harr and Ray Van Aken. Itr may be traversed west-east or vice-versa.r

r r

Crag 6

r

r *Route 1. Class 4.* First ascent June 17, 1950, by George Harr and Rayr Van Aken. Ascend diagonally upwards and to the right from ther Crag 5-6 notch.r

r r

r *Route 2. Class 2.* First descent June 17, 1950, by George Harr andr Ray Van Aken. Ascend talus and ledges to the summit from the Cragr 6-7 notch.r

r r

Crag 8

r

r This is a prominent red pinnacle on the south face of Crag 7. Class 3.r First ascent July 21, 1951, by Ray Van Aken, George Harr, and Charlesr and Ellen Wilts. Ascend the couloir to the east of Crag 7 and branch

fromr this to the notch behind the crag. Climb over sound rock up the northeastr r r face to the ridge from which the summit is easily reached. Therer are some excellent long climbing routes on the south face of this crag.r

r r

Crag 9

r

r The higher of two pinnacles to the east of Crag 8.r

r r

r *Route 1. Class 5.* First ascent July 21, 1951, by Charles and Ellenr Wilts, George Harr, and Ray Van Aken. From the notch between Cragsr 10 and 11 climb the south ridge (2 pitons) over sound rock.r

r r

r *Route 2. Class 3.* First descent July 21, 1951, by Charles and Ellenr Wilts, George Harr, and Ray Van Aken. From the broad couloir to ther east of Crag 9 gain the notch on the uphill side of the crag. Ascend ther ridge to the summit.r

r r

Crag 10

r

r The lower of two pinnacles to the east of Crag 8. Class 3. First ascentr July 21, 1951, by George Harr, Charles and Ellen Wilts, and Ray Vanr Aken. Ascend the gully between the two crags and climb the northr face over loose rock to the summit.r

r r

The White Tower

r

r A prominent point of white rock as seen from the trail. Class 1. Firstr ascent August 27, 1949, by Ray Osoling, George Harr, and Ray Vanr Aken. Scramble to the top over loose rock from the talus on the westr side.r

r r

r No recorded ascents have been made of Crags 7, 11, and two towersr on the northeast side of Mount Emerson.r

r r r
r r

r r

r **r Next: Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Mono Pass to Pine Creek Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/mount_humphreys.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: LeConte Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Mount Humphreysr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass

r r r r r

r BETWEEN PIUTE and Kearsarge passes is to be found some of ther finest high country of the Sierra. Most of this high country liesr within the Kings Canyon National Park. It is indeed fortunate that thisr magnificent wilderness area, which is not penetrated by a single road, isr thus preserved for study and enjoyment by man. Climbers are probablyr in the minority among users of the area, and it is not likely that theirr little cairns, their footprints on the sandy shelves, and the evanescentr tracks left upon the sparkling snowfields will cause significant changesr in the landscape.r

r r

r For the organization of the Guide the section from Piute Pass tor Kearsarge Pass has been divided into five areas, as has been indicatedr in Sketch 2 in the Introduction. The areas are:r

r r

r

r *LeConte Divide and Adjacent Peaks.* This includes the peaks westr of the LeConte Divide to Helms Creek, and those south to Crownr Mountain.r

r r

r *The Evolution Region and the Black Divide.* This includes the mainr crest from Piute Pass to Bishop Pass, the Glacier Divide, the Goddardr Divide, the Black Divide, and some neighboring peaks.r

r r

r *The Palisades Region.* This includes the main crest from Bishop Passr to the Thumb, peaks south and east of Bishop Creek (south fork),r the Inconsolable Range, and a few adjacent peaks.r

r r

r *Kings Canyon Region.* Here are described Spanish Mountain, ther peaks of Kettle Ridge, the White Divide, and Monarch Divide, andr rock climbs of the lower canyons of the Middle Fork and Southr Fork of the Kings.r

r r

r *Palisades to Kearsarge Pass.* The main crest is covered from Mountr Bolton Brown, just south of the Palisades, to Kearsarge Pass, together with peaks south and east of those in the other areas. Included are the peaks around Amphitheater Lake, Cirque Crest,r Goat Crest, Arrow Ridge, and the peaks around Sixty Lake Basin.r

r

r r

r In using maps of this section, it is well to remember that the oldr Goddard Quadrangle has gross inaccuracies, particularly in the area ofr the Middle Fork of Bishop Creek. The new Goddard Quadrangle showsr r r r r the geographical features properly, but gives names for some of ther lakes that are not in agreement with local usage. Sketch 14 gives ther names of the lakes of the Bishop Creek region.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: LeConte Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Mount Humphreysr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/piute_pass_to_kearsarge_pass.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The LeConte Divide and Adjacent Peaks >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Evolution & Black Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Piute Pass to Kearsarge Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass

r

The LeConte Divide and Adjacent Peaks

r r r

Fred L. Jones

r r r

r THE TERRAIN of the LeConte Divide and environs is not as ruggedr as that of the higher peaks to the east; neither is it as austere. It has notr been frequently visited by climbers.r

r r

r Approach may be made from the east from Goddard Canyon, viar Florence Lake and the South Fork of the San Joaquin River, or fromr the west by way of tributaries of the North Fork of the Kings, wherer a road runs from the Kings to Dinkey Creek and Shaver Lake. Hell-for-Sure Pass crosses the LeConte Divide from Fleming Creek tor Goddard Canyon. This pass, at an elevation of 11,280+n, was crossedr from east to west in 1898 by LeConte and Cory, who followed ther directions of a sheep herder. They continued to Crown Valley and thenr to the Kings Canyon.r

r r

Routes on the Peaks

r r

Peak 11,567 (11,600n; 1 NW of Mount Henry)

r

r Class 1. First ascent July 10, 1951, by Art J. Reyman. He ascended ther west slope and the northwest ridge.r

r r

Mt. Henry (12,197; 12,196n)

r

r It is not known when or by whom the first ascent of this peak wasr made.r

r r

r *Route 1. Northeast ridge.* Class 2. First ascent July 7, 1939, by a Sierrar Club Party led by Dave Brower. They ascended the northeast side fromr Goddard Canyon.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest slope.* Class 2. First ascent August 14, 1939, by ar party of eight via the southwest slope from Fleming Creek.r

r r

r *Route 3. West slope.* Class 2. First ascent August 29, 1940, by Bobr Helliwell and Alden Bryant via the west slope from Blaney Meadows.r The climb was described as long and tedious.r

r r

r *Route 4. North ridge.* Class 3. First ascent July 10, 1951 by Art Reymanr r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 14. Local Names of Lakes of Bishop Creek and Environsr r

r r r r r r r via the north arête on a traverse from Peak 11,567. Keep on the arêter or to the east in order to bypass large blocks and notches. Drop to ther west when the west ridge is reached and walk to the summit plateau.rr r

Peak 12,100+ (12,154n; 1 SE of Mount Henry)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 10, 1951, by Art Reyman via the northwestr ridge on a traverse from Mt. Henry.r

r r

Peak 12,023 (12,040n; 0.5 NW of Red Mountain)

r

r Class 1. First ascent July 11, 1951, by Art Reyman. He ascended ther south slope from Red Mountain Basin.r

r r

Red Mountain (11,933; 11,951n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent July 12, 1898, by J. N. LeConte and C. L. Coryr via the north side. It is class 1 from any side.r

r r

Peak 11,833 (11,760+n; 0.3 S of Hell-for-Sure Pass)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 11, 1951, by Art Reyman via the northwestr ridge. It is a rough knife-edge climb from Hell-for-Sure Pass.r

r r

Peak 12,028 (12,034n; 1.5 S of Hell-for-Sure Pass)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 13, 1951, by Art Reyman via the northwestr arête from Red Mountain Basin.r

r r

Peak 12,038 (12,011n; 1.5 SE of Hell-for-Sure Pass)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 13, 1951, by Art Reyman via the west ridger on a traverse from Peak 12,028.r

r r

Peak 12,254 (12,265n; 2.5 W of Mount Goddard)

r

r Class 3. First ascent July 13, 1951, by Art Reyman via the west ridge.r It is a knife-edge traverse from Peak 12,038. He descended into Laker Basin to the southwest.r

r r

Mount Reinstein (12,595; 12,604n)

r

r No record of ascent is available, though Art Reyman believes he sawr ,t cairn on its summit while on Peak 12,254.r

r r

Ward Mountain (10,395; 10,392n)

r

r No record of ascent is available.r

r r r r r

Mount Shinn (11,013; 11,020n)

r

r First ascent August 8, 1925, by Francis A. Corey.r

r r

Peak 11,139 (11,148n; 2 W of Mount Henry)

r

r Class 1. First ascent July to, 1951, by Art Reyman via the south andr southeast slopes.r

r r

Fleming Mountain (10,750; 10,762n)

r

r No record of ascent is available.r

r r

Peak 11,900+ (11,967n; 1.2 S of Hell-for-Sure Pass)

r

r Class 1. First ascent July 12, 1951, by Art Reyman up the broadr southwest slope.r

r r

Peak 11,275 (11,286n; 0.7 SE of Devils Punchbowl)

r

r First ascent July 1, 1936, by W. M. Wyman and eight others. It isr class 1 from the west, south or east slopes.r

r r

Peak 11,394 (11,398n; 1.5 SE of Devils Punchbowl)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 12, 1951, by Art Reyman along the northr ridge from the saddle.r

r r

Maxson Dome (9,538)

r

r First ascent August 15 (year not given, but it was prior to 1933 whenr the second ascent was made) by Waldo Knight and M. Kaye, a surveyr party for the San Joaquin Light and Power Co. It is class 1 from allr sides.r

r r

Blackcap Mountain (11,159; 11,559n)

r

r This is a USGS benchmark so it has been climbed.r

r r

Peak 10,624 (10,622n; 1 SW of Scepter Pass)

r

r First ascent in 1951, by a USGS survey crew. Class 1 by west, southr or east slopes.r

r r

Loper Peak (10,059)

r

r This peak is a USGS benchmark so it has been climbed.r

r r

Finger Rock (9,500; 9,606n)

r r r r r r

Castle Peak (10,668; 10,677n)

r r

Volcanic Cone (9,180; 9,180n)

r r

Crown Mountain (9,339; 9,318n)

r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Evolution & Black Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Piute Pass to Kearsarge Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/leconte_divide.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The Evolution Region and the Black Divide >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Palisades •r Contentsr • Previous: LeConte Divider** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass

r

The Evolution Region and the Black Divide

r r r r

Alan M. Hedden and David R. Brower (1942), andr Alan M. Hedden (1953)

r r

r WELL BACK in the central High Sierra is the Evolution region, wherer there are concentrated examples of almost every essential part of ther High Sierra scene—cathedral-like Mount Huxley as an example of finer peak sculpture, the Enchanted Gorge for the majesty of exotic cliffs,r Mount Goddard for superb views, and the Devil's Crags to provider the challenge of jagged summits. This area has remained the most remote section of the entire crest, having no one-day route into its heartr for pack animals and being hardly more accessible to knapsackers.r

r r

r The Evolution region lies sixty miles southeast of Yosemite Parkr and twenty miles southwest of the town of Bishop. Almost all of ther area is within the Kings Canyon National Park. The peaks are herer divided geographically into four sections: (I) peaks of the crest, (2)r peaks west of the crest, from north to south through the Goddard Divide, (3) peaks west of the crest and south of the Goddard Divide, andr (4) peaks east of the crest. This, the natural grouping of the peaks,r is used in describing them. The Mount Goddard quadrangle of ther United States Geological Survey (either the 1937 or the 1951 editions)r or the map accompanying Starr's Guide should be referred to for cartographic detail.r

r r

Historical Résumé

r r

r Had sheepherders spent their hours keeping notes instead of sheep, morer might be known with respect to who, in this as in many other parts ofr the Sierra, may have been the first white—or nearly white—mountaineer.r The first known record of exploration is that of the California Geological Survey party, led by William H. Brewer, who approached the regionr from the north in August of 1864. Four members of this party attemptedr to climb Mount Goddard from a camp about twenty miles distant, andr of these, two, including Richard Cotter, companion of Clarence Kingr r r on that same year's first ascent of Mount

Tyndall, all but made it. Inr thirty-two hours, twenty-six without food, Cotter covered the forty-mile round trip, missing the summit by just 300 feet, according tor Brewer's journal.* Next of record is John Muir, who in about 1873,r according to Francis P. Farquhar*, climbed the highest mountain atr the head of the San Joaquin, probably Mount Darwin.r

r r

r * Farquhar, Francis P. (ed.).r r Up and Down California in 1860-1864, ther Journal of William H. Brewer. New Haven, 1930.r

r r r

r In 1879 Lil A. Winchell's explorations took him to Mount Goddard,r which he climbed with L. W. Davis; he returned to repeat the ascentr in 1892. But the region remained virtually unknown and incompletelyr explored until July of 1895. Then, hoping to find a high mountain router between the Kings River Canyon and Yosemite Valley, Theodore S.r Solomons and Ernest C. Bonner, left Florence Lake on a memorabler expedition into the region.† Following sheep trials, they knapsackedr up the south fork of the San Joaquin River and continued on into ther Evolution Creek valley. At the head of what is now called Colby Meadow,r a prominent mountain shaped like a sugarloaf suggested to Solomonsr a name, The Hermit, which he promptly bestowed. From here, also,r he named the flat-topped Mount Darwin, Evolution Creek, Evolutionr Lake, and, to complete the homogeneity of the place names and tor honor the respective philosophers, Mounts Huxley, Fiske, Spencer,r Haeckel, and Wallace. Retracing their steps to the junction of Evolutionr Creek and the Goddard Canyon, the two men turned south and followed the canyon to its source, southwest of Mount Goddard, and mader the third ascent of this peak. Dropping down the southeast side ofr the Goddard Divide, Solomons and Bonner entered the deep Enchantedr Gorge, passing through a gateway formed by two black metamorphicr peaks, which became Scylla and Charybdis, and descended Disappearing Creek, then Goddard Creek, and finally the Middle Fork of ther Kings to Tehipite Valley. Thus they succeeded in finding a route fromr Yosemite to the Kings. The complete route has seldom been used since,r but the place names Solomons left behind—and almost all in the region are his—are some of the most pleasing in the Sierra.r

r r

r † Solomons, Theodore S. "Mount Goddard and Its Vicinity." *Appalachia,*r 8:41-57, 1896-1898.r

r r

r The rest of the story follows a familiar pattern. Explorers had doner their work. Then came the decades of scrambling, with the last of ther important summits going down before the onslaught of members ofr high-mountain outings. As yet, relatively little roped climbing has beenr r r r r done in the region, except among the Devil's Crags. A glance at ther rugged terrain, however, is enough to convince a rock climber that therer are still many excellent and difficult routes to be pioneered.r

r r

Topography and Its Relation to Climbing

r r

r In the Evolution Region, as in nearly all parts of the High Sierra, therer is an easy way to climb almost every peak. In general, the peaks onr the crest are most easily climbed from the southwest, while the northeast sides present higher, more vertical faces for the rock-climber. Ther small glaciers of the region provide interesting

routes for climbs ofr several peaks, such as Darwin, Goddard, and Mendel.r

r r

r For the most part, the peaks of the crest are of granite. A substantialr part of the region is composed of dark metamorphic rock, resemblingr the highly metamorphosed ancient lava of the Ritter Range. The Blackr Divide, Scylla, Charybdis, the Enchanted Gorge, Mounts McGee, Goddard, and the Black Giant are all, as many of the names imply, of darkr rock, much of it beautifully sculptured. The beauty is not so apparent,r however, to the rock-climber, who will find much of the metamorphicr rock unsound and easily fractured. Chutes in the Devil's Crags arer particularly unsound and should be avoided during storms.r

r r

Approaches and Campsites

r r

r *From the east. Bishop Pass, 11,989 (11,972n).* At an elevation of 9,750r (9,755n) feet, leave the end of the road which follows the South Forkr of Bishop Creek. From here a horse trail continues from South Laker over Bishop Pass into Dusy Basin, then down into LeConte Canyon.r Excellent campsites are found in Dusy Basin and at Grouse and Littler Pete meadows in LeConte Canyon.r

r r

r *From the east. Piute Pass 11,409 (11,423n).* From the roadhead atr North Lake the Piute Pass trail leads past Mount Humphreys andr descends through Humphreys Basin and Hutchinson Meadow, following Piute Creek to its junction with the South Fork of the San Joaquinr River. Here the Muir Trail may be followed southward into the Evolution Region. Campsites are both good and plentiful anywhere alongr Piute Creek or the upper reaches of the South Fork, particularly onr Evolution Creek.r

r r

r *From the east. Lamarck Col, 13,000 (12,920+n).* Lying 1/4 mile southeast of Mount Lamarck on the main Sierra crest, this high pass providesr r r r the most direct route for knapsackers into the Evolution Region.r Because of the difficulties encountered by many climbers who did notr follow the exact route, it will be described in detail. At the end of ther road above North Lake leave the Piute Pass trail and follow a forkr to the south (left) toward Grass Lake. Shortly after reaching the levelr of the first bench, on the northwest side of Grass Lake, the trail againr divides. Here, follow the west (right) branch to Lower Lamarck Lake,r skirting its southeastern end and continuing on westward toward Upperr Lamarck Lake. Shortly before arriving at this latter lake, the trail forksr into a western branch, which continues on to the lake, and a southern branch, which leads toward the spur forming the southern boundary of this upper lake basin. Follow the southern branch over thisr spur via a series of switch-backs, which ascend a north slope in a southerlyr direction reaching the first of several sand flats. (When crossing fromr west to east it is highly advisable to follow the side of the spur ratherr than to drop directly down to Upper Lamarck Lake.) Proceed in ar southwesterly direction to the second sand flat, at which point the crestr comes into view. Continue toward what appears to be a low gap tor the southwest. On the north (right) side of this and somewhat beyondr the low wall in which the gap is situated is a prominent butte with ar large monolith. Continue up and through the gap, beyond which is ar third sand flat which leads into the final cirque basin, after curvingr around the southern side of the butte with the monolith. At the headr of this cirque valley is a tiny lake, to the south of which can be seenr a jagged spire somewhat higher than its neighbors. To the east (left)r of this spire is a low‘ notch, which leads to Bottleneck Lake. To ther northwest (right) is a series of three or four notches in the arête leading up to Mount Lamarck.

The first notch to the northwest (right) ofr the jagged spire is Lamarck Col, and it is best reached by passing tor the south (left) of the lake, climbing between it and the tall spire, andr then ascending directly to the col itself.r

r r

r When the summit has been reached, the “trail,” now no more thanr a route, drops down toward the upper lakes of Darwin Canyon. Afterr a descent of several hundred feet, it ends altogether save for an occasional duck. It is not imperative to follow the ducks, for any router may be followed over the talus and down the north side of Darwinr Canyon. From the lower end of the canyon a ducked trail contours southr to the Muir Trail at Evolution Lake. Fair campsites for small groupsr may be found around the lowest lake in Darwin Canyon. Excellentr r r r campsites are available on Darwin Bench halfway between the mouthr of Darwin Canyon and Evolution Lake.r

r r

r *From the west.* At Florence Lake, where the road from Fresno ends,r a pack trail follows the South Fork of the San Joaquin River, joiningr the Muir Trail in Blaney Meadows; the Muir Trail ascends the Southr Fork into Goddard Canyon, and leads up Goddard Canyon to ther Evolution Creek junction. The Muir Trail, following Evolution Creek,r winds up a steep canyon, passes Evolution, McClure, and Colby meadowsr and continues on past Evolution Lake and over Muir Pass. With its vastr supply of pasturage, wood, water, and scenery, Colby Meadow is oner of the finest camping spots in the Sierra.r

r r

r On the south shore of the large peninsula which enters Evolutionr Lake from the east and about one hundred yards from the trail therer is a fairly well sheltered campsite for a small group, with feed for ar few animals, firewood, and an excellent view of the southern half ofr the lake.r

r r

r *From the West. Hell-for-Sure Pass, 11,280+n.* One of the first routesr of access to the Evolution country, but now seldom used, is the trailr from Dinkey, on the North Fork of the Kings, over Hell-for-Surer Pass, and down to Goddard Canyon. Knapsackers may easily travelr directly up Goddard Canyon, taking the east branch for the Evolutionr Peaks or Muir Pass, or taking the main branch on south to Mount Goddard.r Martha Lake, at the head of Goddard Canyon, is above timberline.r

r r

r From Blackcap Basin it is readily possible to cross the saddle (11,850;r 11,800+n) just north of Mount Reinstein. There is good camping atr Lake 10,237 (10,212n), near the head of Goddard Creek.r

r r

r *From the South. Mather Pass (12,050).* The John Muir Trail descendsr Palisade Creek to its junction with the Middle Fork of the Kings River.r Just north of this junction is Grouse Meadow, a perfect little alpine valley.r For climbs among the nearby Devil’s Crags there is an excellent siter high up on the south fork of Rambaud Creek at about 10,200 feet.r

r r

Passes

r r

r *The Goddard Divide. Muir Pass.* The only trail that crosses ther Goddard Divide is that over Muir Pass, 12,059 (11,955n). At the summitr of the pass is the John Muir Memorial Shelter. Through the generosityr of George Frederick Schwarz, the Sierra Club was able to build thisr r r r stone hut in 1930. Since it is high above timberline, its fuel supply isr strictly limited. Signs along the trail at the bottom of the pass adviser the traveler of the last place to get wood before beginning to climbr to the hut. Every extra branch that he can carry to the pass is just sor much added insurance that the weary hiker, caught in a sudden summerr storm, will find warmth in the hut.r

r r

r Knapsackers may cross the Goddard Divide at the gap southwest ofr Wanda Lake. It is also practicable to go from Davis Lake to Martha Laker by a route west of Mount Goddard. A pass north of Davis Lake mayr be crossed to upper McGee Lake.r

r r

r *The Black Divide. Black Giant Pass, 12,200+ (12,200+n).* Althoughr not a pass of the Black Divide, Black Giant Pass offers the best approach to the Enchanted Gorge from Muir Pass. It is an easy, broad,r knapsack pass, located about 1/2 mile due west of the Black Giant andr about 1/4 mile north of a large lake at the headwaters of Disappearingr Creek.r

r r

r *The Black Divide. Rambaud Pass, 11,500+ (11,553n).* There is anr old trail which ascends Rambaud Creek and crosses the Black Divide,r dropping down its western slopes to Goddard Creek.r

r r

r *Glacier Divide.* At the eastern end of Glacier Divide are two rockyr knapsack passes connecting Piute Pass with Evolution Lake. From Piuter Pass go southwest to Muriel Lake. Above the head of the southeasternr tributary to this lake is a low notch, The Keyhole, 12,550 (12,560+n),r so named because the climber may pass through it rather than over it.r On the western side the slope drops sharply to a small lake basin, whichr is descended to its junction with Darwin Canyon. (See Sketch 14.)r

r r

r Another tributary to Muriel Lake, which enters from the southwest,r leads to a large basin filled by Goethe Lake, 11,511 (11,528n). Abover the southeastern end of this lake a small tributary stream comes downr the ridge wall from a small notch, Alpine Col, 12,200+ (12,320+n),r which leads into the same lake basin and on down to Darwin Canyon,r thence to Evolution Lake.r

r r r

Peaks of the Crest

r r

Peak 13,162 (13,160+n; 1.5 S of Piute Pass)

r r

r Class 2. First recorded ascent July 3, 1939, by James R. Harkins, Fred L.r Toby, and Herbert L. Malcolm on a traverse of the crest from northr to south; class 3 by this route, but estimated as class 2 from the headr of the north fork of Lamarck Creek.r

r r r r

Mount Lamarck (13,450+; 13,417n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent in the summer of 1925 by Norman Clyde, whor found it an easy scramble from the south.r

r r

Peak 13,252 (13,248n; 1 NE of Mt. Darwin)

r

r Class 2. First recorded ascent by Norman Clyde in the summer ofr 1925; however, he found a cairn.r

r r

Mount Darwin (13,841; 13,830n)

r

r The broad, sandy, nivated summit table of Mount Darwin is a fascinating indication of what the ancient Sierra was like, before the greatr uplifts and the extensive glaciation. It is particularly odd that anr unsteady-looking pinnacle, well detached from this summit plateau and southeast of it, is actually the highest point.r

r r

r The first ascent on record was made by E. C. Andrews, Geologicalr Survey of New South Wales, and Willard D. Johnson, of the Unitedr States Geological Survey.r

r r

r *Route 1. West wall.* Class 3. First ascent by Andrews and Johnson,r August 12, 1908. Although their exact route is not known, it seemsr to parallel closely the following. Near the south end of Evolution Laker ascend a small tributary east of the lake, through meadows leadingr to the base of the west face. Here, cross to the left (N) to the base ofr the third of three talus fans, counting from south to north, and ascendr the chute from which the fan emanates. Midway to the crest this chuter branches, and the right-hand (S) branch is followed to the saddler just above the first pinnacle on the right (S) side of the chute. By ar series of easy ledges drop down into the middle chute and continue upr its right-hand (S) side to an indented trough, which leads to the crestr of the main shoulder. The only difficulty yet to remain in traversingr to the nearly flat plateau is a

knife-edge which must be straddled.r

r r

r Variations are possible for most of this route. The chutes formingr the first and second talus fans may also be climbed; thus avoiding ther knife-edge. The climber must be prepared, however, to cross from oner chute to another frequently. No one has yet determined which combination of chutes and traverses is best.r

r r

r *Route 2. Via glacier and west ridge.* Class 3. First ascent by Robert M.r Price and Peter Frandsen, August 21, 1921 (*SCB*, 1922, 284). Betweenr Mounts Mendel and Darwin there is on the ridge a large notch withr a smaller one about one hundred yards farther to the east. In an approachr r r r from the north via Darwin Canyon the glacier presents a problem. If weather is favorable and adequate equipment is available, ther quickest route is directly up the glacier to the bergschrund, over it ifr possible, and on up to the smaller, eastern notch. The easier but longerr route is to skirt the right (west) side of the glacier and then traverser above it from west to east to any of several routes to the small notch.r The route then proceeds along the ridge to the summit plateau andr thence to the higher, southeastern end.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 3 to 4. First ascent by David R. Browerr and Hervey Voge, July 5, 1934. Two ribs or arêtes run down the northr face, partly dividing the glacier. The east (left) side of the east rib,r which lies one-quarter of a mile west of the northeast ridge, is ascendedr a short distance over talus and snow. The route then goes up onto ther rib itself and ascends, via easy ledges, up to the point where the ribr merges with the face. Here a moderate pitch is passed by a crack tor the left (east), and the final climb to the summit may be made via ar small chimney having an overhanging south wall and containing severalr large, loose blocks. (See Sketch 15.)r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 15. Mounts Darwin and Mendel from the north. From left to right: Mount Darwin, Routes 4, 3, and 2; Mount Mendel.r r

r r r r

r *Route 4. Northeast ridge.* Class 4. First ascent in 1945 by Austin, Pabstr and Wilts who climbed some 500 feet of difficult class 4 terrain to ther summit. (See Sketch 15.)r

r r r r r

r *Route 5. East face.* Class 3. Climbed from Blue Heaven Lake (abover Midnight Lake) by members of the 1950 Base Camp. Above the glacierr on the east side a snow tongue and rock rib were climbed to the summitr plateau.r

r r

r *Summit Pinnacle.* Class 4. The detached summit pinnacle was firstr climbed by E. C. Andrews on August 12, 1908; he descended into ther chimney east of the arête between the summit and the pinnacle, thencer reaching the top by means of a "monstrous icicle," referring doubtlesslyr to the snow tongue which lies in the chimney well into the summer.r Ascent of this chimney fortunately does not depend upon the existencer of the icicle. It is a rock scramble permitting several variations, exposedr just enough to warrant a belay for the unsteady.r

r r

Peak 13,332 (13,280+n; 3/4 SE of Mt. Darwin)

r

r Class 3. Climbed on July 19, 1933, by Glen Dawson, Neil Ruge, andr Bala Ballantine. There was no evidence of previous ascent.r

r r

Mount Haeckel (13,422; 13,435n)

r

r *Route 1. West shoulder.* Class 2. On July 14, 1920, a party of niner climbers, led by Walter L. Huber, left Evolution Lake, going aroundr the west shoulder of Mount Spencer, and climbed into a small basinr between Mounts Spencer and Huxley (*SCB*, 1921, 144). From this pointr they crossed along the left of the basin and then ascended a chute tor the top of a ridge which joined the crest just south of the summit. Ther only serious obstacle remaining, a vertical face of 30-40 feet, was surmountedr with the help of a number of excellent hand-holds.r

r r *Route 2. South ridge.* Class 2. First ascent by Edward O. Allen, Francis E. Crofts, and Olcott Haskell, also on July 14, 1920. From the smallr basin between Mounts Spencer and Huxley, proceed directly across thisr amphitheater, climb to the saddle between Mounts Haeckel and Wallace,r and traverse the many sawteeth to the summit. Allen, Crofts, and Haskellr were quite surprised to find that they had been beaten to the summitr by a matter of minutes. Yet, still greater was their surprise on learningr that they had not, as they had intended, climbed Mount Darwin.rr r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 3. The first ascent was made on July 20,r 1933, by Jack Riegelhuth, who climbed up the northwest chimney andr then the north face to the top.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northeast ridge.* Class 2. On August 8, 1935, Merton Brown,r O. H. Taylor, and Angus E. Taylor reached the larger of two arêtes onr the northeast side of the summit. Here Brown climbed the slabs to ther r r r lower and then the higher summit. The Taylors ascended the arête,r traversing to the crest at about the point where the west shoulder joins it.r

r r

Mount Wallace (13,328; 13,377n)

r

r On an early edition of the Mount Goddard quadrangle, Mount Wallacer was erroneously placed upon the 13,701 (Mount Mendel, 13,691n)r foot peak northwest of Mount Darwin. On the 1937 edition it is still,r according to Solomons who named it, incorrectly marked as the peakr at the junction of the Goddard Divide and the crest. The true Mountr Wallace is peak 13,328 (13,377n), on the crest about one-half mile northr of the junction of the Goddard Divide and the crest.r

r r

r Class 2. First ascent by Theodore S. Solomons, July 16, 1895. Fromr the amphitheater west of the summit, climb up a rock-filled chute thatr leads to a splintered wall whose highest point is the summit. A class 3r route leads up the north ridge from the east.r

r r

Clyde Spires (13,300+; 13,267n)

r

r Between Mounts Wallace and Powell on the main crest are two smallr granite spires. The north spire (13,267n) was first climbed on July 22,r 1933, by Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn, Theodore Waller, Helen LeConte, Julie Mortimer, Dorothy Baird, and John D. Forbes. The southr spire was ascended the same day by Clyde, Eichorn and Waller andr proved to be a difficult slab climb. The spires were named after the party'sr leader.r

r r

Mount Powell (13,361; 13,360+n)

r

r *Route 1. South plateau.* Class 2. First ascent August 1, 1925, by Walter L. Huber and James Rennie. From Helen Lake climb an interveningr ridge of about 12,200 feet, and drop down several hundred feet intor a small cirque. Then climb the ridge just south of the summit and follow the long, barren plateau to the top. The final peak is a huge summitr block where "a careless step might result in a drop to the glacial icer far below, under the north face."r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest chute.* Class 3. First ascent by Norman Clyde onr June 29, 1931, who described it as "an interesting climb from ther northwest." Members of the 1950 Sierra Club Base Camp proceeded past

Moonlight Lake and ascended snow patches between the Powell ridge andr the eastern lateral moraine. They crossed the snow below the flat turretr which marks the northeast end of Mount Powell and climbed up ther southernmost of two large, parallel cracks in the west wall for twentyr feet, after which they climbed the face of the wall itself toward the south.r

r r r r

r *Route 3. East ridge.* Class 3. First ascent by Norman Clyde (date unknown) who climbed from Blue Lake on the middle fork of Bishopr Creek via the col between Mounts Powell and Thompson.r

r r

Mount Thompson (13,494; 13,480+n)

r

r The first ascent of this peak, which marks the junction of Thompsonr Ridge with the main crest, was made by Clarence H. Rhudy andr H. F. Katzenbach in 1909. Their route is unrecorded. Several routes haver since been used.r

r r

r *Route 1. Northwest face.* Class 3. First ascent, June 30, 1931, byr Norman Clyde.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest face.* Class 2. First ascent by Jack Sturgeon onr August 14, 1939. Ascend via some steep slopes and a narrow chute onr the face itself.r

r r

Mount Gilbert (13,232; 13,103n

r

r Although correctly marked on the 1937 edition, Mount Gilbert hasr been incorrectly labeled on the 1951 edition of the Goddard quadrangle;r it is actually Peak 13,103n which is 3/8 mile west of the incorrectly labeledr summit.r

r r

r Class 2. First ascent by Norman Clyde on September 15, 1928. Clyder desk ribed it as an “easy ascent except for a chute which may at timesr be icy; no cairn.” On August 14, 1939, Jack Sturgeon followed the crestr and climbed it via the southeast slopes, reporting a cairn but no record.r

r r

Mount Johnson (12,850; 12,868n)

r

r Class 2. Jack Sturgeon, who ascended the peak on August 14, 1939,r by way of the western arête, reported that it had previously been climbedr twice by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Mount Goode (13,068; 13,092n)

r

r Class 1. The first recorded ascent, via the southeast face, was mader by Chester Versteeg, July 16, 1939; a cairn was found but no record. Anr ascent of the south ridge was made by Jack Sturgeon on August 12, 1939,r while traversing the crest from Bishop Pass to Mount Thompson.r

r r

Peak 12,903 (12,916n; 1/2 S of Mount Goode)

r

r Class 1. On July 12, 1939, Chester Versteeg made the first recordedr ascent of the higher summit. Norman Clyde, in 1936, climbed the lowerr but more difficult summit, which Versteeg considered to be class 3.r

r r r r r

Peaks West of the Crest:r r the Goddard Divide and North

r r r

Peak 12,026 (12,045n; 1.5 SW of Hutchinson Meadow)

r

r Class 2. The first ascent of this northernmost peak of the Glacier Divider was made on July 4, 1939, by Marion Abbott and Scott Smith.r

r r

Peak 12,592 (12,582n; 2.2 S of Hutchinson Meadow)

r

r Class 2. First ascent on July 14, 1933, by Hans Helmut Leschke, Dr.r Hans Leschke, and Helen LeConte from the north.r

r r

Peak 12,251 (12,241n; 1.5 NE of Evolution Meadow)

r

r Class 2. Weldon Heald and Alden Smith made the first ascent onr July 5, 1939.r

r r

Peak 12,486 (12,498n; 1 S of Golden Trout Lake)

r

r Class 3. First ascent by Glen Dawson and Neil Ruge on July 11, 1933.r

r r

Peak 12,961 (12,971n; 1.8 S of Golden Trout Lake)

r

r Class 2. Northwest of the Goethe Glacier and lying on the crest ofr the Glacier Divide, this peak was first climbed by R. S. Fink on July 25,r 1942. The second ascent was on August 29, 1942, by August Frugé, Nealr Harlow, and William A. Sherrill, who climbed from McClure Meadowr to the saddle between Peak 12,961 (12,971n) and Peak 13,250+ (13,240+n) to the southeast and thence directly to the summit.r

r r

Muriel Peak (12,951; 12,942n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent on July 8, 1933, by Hervey Voge, who describedr it as “an easy rock-climb from the west.”r

r r

Mount Goethe (13,277; 13,240+n)

r

r Class 1. First recorded ascent by David R. Brower and George Rockwood on July 6, 1933. This, the highest point on the Glacier Divide, isr an easy ascent from the east.r

r r

Peak 12,741 (12,720+n; 1 W of Mt. Lamarck)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 5, 1934, by David R. Brower, who climbedr the south side and descended the west ridge. There is some scramblingr among the large blocks of the summit ridge. Brower could not determine which end of the ridge was higher.r

r r r r r

Ridge 11,922 (12,355n; 1.5 NE of Colby Meadow)

r

r First ascent July 29, 1941, by members of the Sierra Club knapsack trip.r

r r

Mount Mendel (13,701; 13,691n)

r

r For many years this peak was erroneously labeled Mount Wallace onr the topographic map. On the 1937 edition it bore only the elevation andr soon acquired among climbers the rather inelegant title of "Ex-Wallace."r On the 1951 edition it has at last been named correctly and thus assumesr its rightful place among the great Sierra summits.r

r r

r Class 3. The first recorded ascent was by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson,r and John Olmstead on July 18, 1930; they found a cairn. The chimneyr by which they ascended was considered more difficult than the climbingr on Darwin. It is quite possible that the first ascent was made in errorr by climbers, seeking the summit of Darwin, who started climbing, asr has so often been done, too far north along the shores of Evolutionr Lake.r

r r

r The easiest route up Mount Mendel is readily apparent from Ther Hermit. About 400 yards along the Muir Trail south of the peninsular jutting into the lower end of Evolution Lake, a massive buttress ofr glaciated granite descends from the peak, in contrast to the extensiver accumulation of talus bordering the lower half of the east shore. Ascendr this buttress for 1,500 feet, diagonally up and southward, until ther glaciated granite gives way to the broken rock of the summit mass.r Then continue upward by crossing right (SE) to a talus fan, the firstr fan southeast of the buttress, and ascend this fan into the chute fromr which it emanates, keeping in the north branch of the chute, to ther notch at its head. Thence, traverse north along the broken and serratedr ridge to the summit.r

r r

r Two of the most spectacular snow couloirs in the Sierra descend ther north face of Mount Mendel. So far as known, these have not been attempted. Climbers who would explore them are urged to investigater i hem cautiously from Mount Lamarck to the north or from Darwinr Canyon at the base.r

r r r

The Hermit (12,352; 12,360n)

r

r The cleanly sculptured granite of The Hermit culminates in an inviting summit that dominates the view from Colby Meadow. It wasr first ascended by George R. Bunn on July 28, 1924, but his route is unrecorded.r r r r

r The final summit monolith was ascended in 1925 by James Rennier and Norman Clyde. Bunn had declared that the “20-foot summit slab”r was unclimbable. However, it was climbed by sixty-five persons inr three days in July, 1939. Because of the exposure, a rope is recommended for the final pitch. A shoulder stand is usually used and dexterity is required.r

r r

r *Route 1. From Evolution Lake.* Class 2. The easiest and most oftenr used route is to cross just below Evolution Lake, contour to the baser of the peak, and climb the eastern talus chute to the notch just southr of the summit, traversing from there to the summit. From the base ofr the peak on the east side it is also fairly simple to work out on the morer exposed face and thence directly to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. From McGee Canyon.* Class 2. Ascend McGee Canyon tor about 10,400 feet and proceed east up the first tributary to the smallr lake that feeds it; thence, ascend over talus and scree to the top of ther chute heading in the notch south of the summit, from which pointr proceed as in Route 1. Special care must be taken to avoid loosening ther rocks in the chute.r

r r

r *Route 3. North ridge.* Class 3. First ascent on July 9, 1936, by Richardr G. Johnson and Peter Grubb. From Colby Meadow ascend throughr forest and over easy, open granite to a shelf on the north shoulder,r usually sheltering a snow bank, just beneath the high-angle granite slabsr of the final 1,000 feet of the summit. From here traverse to the left (E)r under the cliffs and proceed diagonally up and westward over graniter slabs, now more broken and at a lower angle, to the final summit pitchr which must be reached by traversing to the south of the peak, 25 feetr below the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northwest face.* Class 3. First ascent July 9, 1939, by Harrietr Parsons, Madi Bacon, and Maxine Cushing. Follow Route 3 to the snow-bearing shelf. Here a broad ledge extends up and around the west facer to a chute leading back to the shoulder, but above the cliffs that shelterr the snow. Continue over the steep but broken ridge to the summit, as inr Route 3.r

r r

Peak 12,341 (12,35012; 1/2 SE of The Hermit)

r

r This peak erroneously bore the name of The Hermit on an earlierr edition of the map. It was first climbed by Dr. Grove Karl Gilbert andr Mr. Kanawyer, the packer, in July, 1904. It is a class 1 climb by eitherr the southeast ridge or from the saddle on the northwest ridge.r

r r r r r

Mount Spencer (12,428; 12440+n)

r

r Class 1. First climbed by Robert M. Price, George J. Young, H. W.r Hill, and Peter Frandsen on August 20, 1921. About one-half mile abover Evolution Lake ascend one and a half miles east along a tributary creek,r reaching lake 11,592n. Climb over broken granite and talus to the eastr saddle of the peak, thence westward and up to the summit. The saddler is just as easily reached from the lake basin east of Sapphire Lake.r

r r

Mount Fiske (13,560; 13,524n)

r

r Named in 1895 by Theodore S. Solomons for John Fiske, historianr and philosopher, this peak was first climbed by Charles Norman Fiske,r John N. Fiske, Stephen B. Fiske, and Frederick Kellet on August so,r 1922 (*SCB*, 1923, 417).r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast ridge.* Class 1. First ascent by the above party onr August 10, 1922. From Muir Pass contour at about 12,000 feet aroundr the southeast side of Peak 13,223 (13,231n), and then drop down aboutr 200 feet to the small lake to the northwest of Helen Lake. A steady climbr then leads to the southeast peak, whence the ridge may be followedr to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest ridge.* Class 2. First ascent on August 18, 1939,r by jack Sturgeon, who traversed from Peak 13,233 (13,231n) and ther basin to the south, ascending by way of the southwest arête. The southwest saddle is easily accessible from the group of lakes, nestled betweenr Mounts Fiske and Huxley, which drain into Sapphire Lake. The nivatedr slope east of this ridge provides a class 1 route.r

r r

Mount Huxley (13,124; 13,117n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by Norman Clyde on July 15, 1920. From ther trail on the first bench above Sapphire Lake, ascend the southern sider of the western shoulder until the angle steepens appreciably; then continue up the shallow chute, which empties almost on the shoulder itself,r to the slabs and large blocks of the sharp summit arête. Descent ofr the southwest chute and face may require the use of rope.r

r r

Peak 13,223 (13,231n; 1 N of Muir Pass)

r

r Class 1. First ascent in 1926 by Nathaniel Goodrich and Marjory Hurd.r This is an easy traverse from either Muir Pass or Mount Huxley. Ther best opportunities for rock-climbing are found on the east face and inr r r r the small cirque to the north of the summit, between Mounts Huxleyr and Fiske, but no climbing has yet been reported there.r

r r

Peak 12,800+ (12,800+n; 3/4 W of Muir Pass)

r

r First ascent by Jack W. Sturgeon in 1939. Route and class unknown.r

r r

Peak 13,012 (13,016n; 1/2 SW of Muir Pass)

r

r Class 2. The first ascent was made by M. H. Pramme and T. F. Harmsr on August 12, 1929. It is an easy climb directly from Muir Pass via ther northeast shoulder or by the snow chute which heads in very looser rock just under the flat summit. By way of the southwest ridge it is ar class 1 climb, but the ridge itself is remote. The summit affords a striking view of Scylla, Charybdis, and the Ionian Basin.r

r r

Peak 13,070 (13,081n; 1 S of Wanda Lake)

r

r Class 1. First ascent by Jack Sturgeon on August 16, 1939. Held to ber an easy climb by the northeast ridge or almost anywhere on the southernr or western slopes.r

r r

Mount Goddard (13,555; 13,568n)

r

r The early history of the Evolution Region is, in many respects, ther early history of Mount Goddard. Many were the explorers who werer enamoured of its summit, and for good reason: it was not only one ofr the highest summits in the range, but also it was well isolated, distinctly set off to the west of the crest, and could promise a unique viewr and admirable triangulation station for topographic mapping. Members of the Whitney Survey viewed the peak from far to the south inr 1864, named it in honor of civil-engineer George Henry Goddard, attempted to climb it twice, and estimated the height to be 14,000 feet. Itr was not climbed, however, until fifteen years later, when, onr September 23, 1879, Lil A. Winchell and Louis W. Davis made the firstr ascent.r

r r

r *Routes.* There are class 1 routes up the talus of the southwest ridger from Martha Lake, and up the east slopes rising from the head of ther northernmost tributary to Goddard Creek. Neither of these routes isr readily accessible, however, from the most frequented trails. Walterr Starr, Jr., has given a detailed description of the class 2 approach fromr the Muir Trail, which is essentially as follows:r

r r

r At the lower end of Wanda Lake, ford the outlet, cross the saddle tor the southwest at its lowest point, and descend into the rocky basin beyond.r r r r Continue almost due south across the basin, fording several smallr streams some distance above Davis Lake, and proceed toward the veryr steep spur which ascends from the floor of the basin southward to ther crest of the Goddard Divide. Rock-climbers may proceed straight upr the very steep top of the ridge from the floor of the basin. Those whor prefer snow climbing may work their way onto the buttress higher upr from the snow on the right. A short distance below the crest, where ther buttress becomes almost perpendicular, a ledge leads around the leftr side, above the long snowfield, and comes out on the crest to the leftr of the point at the top of the buttress. From here a long talus sloper leads up the crest to the summit. There is a double summit, the fartherr peak being higher.r

r r

Peak 12,908 (12,913n; 1 N of Mt. Goddard)

r

r First ascent by R. S. Fink on July 27, 1941, by an unrecorded route.r Second ascent on September 2, 1942, by August Frugé, William A. Sherrill, and Neal Harlow whose route was as follows:r

r r

r Class 3 to 4. After leaving the Muir Trail at the outlet of Wandar Lake, proceed over the low saddle to the southwest and thence acrossr the large basin toward the ridge connecting Peak 12,908 (12,913n) withr the crest of the Goddard Divide. Ascend this ridge via the steep, bluntr buttress to the southeast of the summit. Then follow the ridge, passingr to the right (E) of a large pinnacle and then out onto the left (W) sider of the ridge, traversing onto the steep south face of the summit massr itself. A narrow chimney then leads up to several chutes which may ber followed to the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,279 (12,290n; 1 NW of Wanda Lake)

r

r Class 1. First ascent by Kenneth Adam, 1933. This peak may be easilyr climbed from the north or east.r

r r

Mount McGee (12,966; 12,969n)

r

r Mount McGee dominates the westerly panorama from Muir Pass.r Sharply sculptured, dark with metamorphic rock, it is situated just farr enough from the Muir Trail to have discouraged most climbers whor might have liked to reach the summit. It may be approached fromr Goddard Canyon, Colby Meadow, or from Wanda and Davis lakes.r It was first climbed July It, 1923, by Roger N. Burnham, Robert E.r Brownlee, Ralph H. Brandt, and Leonard Keeler; their route is unrecorded.r

r r r r r

r *Route 1. North chute.* Class 4. First ascent by Glen Dawson, Charlesr Dodge, Jules M. Eichorn, and John Olmstead on July 16, 1930. Fromr Colby Meadow proceed up McGee Canyon directly toward the summit,r turning southwest when past timberline to climb over moraine andr talus toward a spur at the base of the west peak, which resembles ar massive inverted shield. Ascend the ridge that circles west of the residualr glacier and which deflects westward the drainage from the mouth of ther steep snow-chute cleft in the north face of the peak, but well to ther west of its center. It is usually possible to ascend this chute alongr the edge, where the snow has melted back from the rock wall. The lastr 800 feet of the chute is exposed enough to merit use of a rope for safety.r From the notch at the top of the chute, proceed east along the well-broken ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face.* Class 2. First ascent by Glen Dawson, Neil Ruge,r and Bala Ballantine on July 17, 1933. From Goddard Canyon ascendr the east fork of North Goddard Creek to about 11,000 feet. Proceedr northwest to the base of the west face and ascend the talus to the summit of the west peak, traversing from there into the notch at the headr of Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 3. South chute.* Class 1. (Probably the route of the first ascent.)r From the lower end of Davis Lake ascend the broad fan of scree andr talus to the prominent chute ending in the notch between the west andr east summits. Ascend the scree in this chute to the notch and proceedr east to the summit. The sliding nature of the scree makes this route ar bit disagreeable as a means of ascent.r

r r

Peter Peak (12,514; 12,543n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent on July 11, 1936, by Peter Grubb and Richardr G. Johnson. Ascend to the northeast notch from the head of McGeer Canyon, and climb the ridge to the summit. Grubb and Johnson alsor climbed the eastern buttress of the peak when making the first ascent.r The metamorphic rock of the peak, and particularly of the chuter leading to the notch, is quite unsound. One must “hold the mountainr together with one hand while he climbs it with the other.”r

r r

Peak 12,200 (12,258n; 1/4 NE of Peter Peak)

r

r First ascent July 11, 1936, by Peter Grubb and Richard G. Johnson.r

r r

Peak 12,407 (12400+n; 3/4 SE of Emerald Peak)

r

r First ascent July 9, 1939, by Alden Smith and Grace Nelson.r

r r r r r

Emerald Peak (12,517; 12,546n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent made by Norman Clyde, Julie Mortimer, andr Eleanor Bartlett, August 8, 1925. From Evolution Meadow ascend ther steep south wall of the canyon and continue over the gradual sloper above to the north base of Peak 11,764. It is perfectly feasible to climbr this peak first, traversing the northwest ridge of Emerald Peak to itsr summit. It is much easier, however, to contour a mile at 11,000 feetr (timberline) until almost due west of the peak, thence climbing overr talus and nivated slope to the top.r

r r

Peak 11,764 (11,767n; 1 NW of Emerald Peak)

r

r First ascent in 1925 by Norman Clyde; see Emerald Peak above.r

r r r

South of Goddard Divide

r r

r South of the Goddard Divide, between LeConte Canyon and the Whiter Divide, is the wildest part of the High Sierra. Perhaps no more than ar dozen parties have been through the Enchanted Gorge since its discovery.r Of the Ragged Spur peaks, only Scylla is known to have been climbedr and that but once. Place names are rather far between. From the oldr map it is apparent that the Geological Survey parties were not toor familiar with the topography. Lack of trails, rugged terrain, high altitude and low timberline, remoteness, and the lack of any great numberr of mountaineers who would prefer to cope with these conditions—allr this has contributed to ‘the final result: a knapsacker’s wilderness, asr black, ragged, and enchanting as its place names.r

r r

Peak 12,700+ (12,760+n; 3/4 SW of Mt. Gilbert)

r

r First ascent by Jack W. Sturgeon in 1939. Route and class of climbr unreported.r

r r

Peak 12,100 (12,148n; 1/2 SW of Mt. Johnson)

r

r First ascent made in 1939 by Jack W. Sturgeon via unreported route.r

r r

Peak 12,700+ (12,760+n; 3/4 S of Muir Pass)

r

r First ascent by Jack W. Sturgeon in 1939. Class and route unknown.r

r r

Scylla (12,943; 12,939n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent by David R. Brower and Hervey Voge onr July 2, 1934. From Muir Pass, cross Black Giant Pass and contour atr r r r an elevation of about 12,000 feet along the north slope of the Ionianr Basin, past Lake 12,002 (11,824n) to the lake just north of Scylla. Fromr here the route to the summit is an easy scramble, the best rock-climbingr near the peak being found on the sharp crags to the east.r

r r

Charybdis (13,077; 13,091n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent on July 7, 1931, by Anna and John R. Dempster.r Cross Black Giant Pass to the large lake at the head of the east forkr of Disappearing Creek and follow up the northeast ridge, going somewhat to the south of the ridge at times. There are several chutes on ther north face, any of which may be used.r

r r

Peak 12,818 (12,800+n; 1 E of Muir Pass)

r

r Class 1. First ascent by Kenneth Davis and John U. White on Augustr 3, 1938, from Muir Pass via the west slope.r

r r

Black Giant (13,312; 13,330n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent by George R. Davis in 1905. Along the westernr side the climb is little more than a rock scramble. On the eastern approaches, however, the whole ridge is sharply broken off. Any ascentr from this side would be considerably more difficult.r

r r

Peak 13,046n (1.5 E of Charybdis)

r

r No records are available. The name Mt. Locker has been suggestedr for this peak to commemorate Charles Bays Locker who was killedr while descending with three companions from a first ascent of a smallr peak one-half mile east, Peak 12,360+n.r

r r

Peak 13,260 (13,271n; 2 SE of Charybdis)

r

r *Route 1. North ridge.* Class 3. First ascent by Charles Bays Locker,r Karl Hufbauer and Alfred Elkin on July 23, 1951. From the northwest,r climb to the saddle between peaks 13,260 (13,271n) and 13,000+r (13,046n) to the north, and thence along the ridge to the south, keeping 50-100 feet below the top of the crest. The final summit climb isr up the north side of the 150-foot snow chute which lies just below ther summit on the west face.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southeast ridge.* Class unreported. First ascent by Charlesr Bays Locker, Don Albright, Gary Hufbauer, and Karl Hufbauer onr July 15, 1952. From the small lake 3/4 mile to the southeast of the summit,r r r r proceed up the west (left) side of the southeast ridge, following it tor the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,114 (12,1250; i W of Langille Peak)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by George R. Davis and George W. Hoop onr August 19, 1907. This is a class 2 climb by either the southwest ridger or on a traverse from Langille Peak.r

r r

Langille Peak (11,981; 11,991n)

r

r Class 3. The first ascent of this magnificent example of finely sculptured, gleaming granite was accomplished in August 1926 by Nathanielr L. Goodrich, Marjory Hurd, and Dean Peabody, Jr. The route of theirr ascent is unrecorded, possibly via the west ridge. They descended byr way of the south face, a vast glaciated granite apron of polished smoothnessr (class 3). The first ascent by this latter route was made by Glenr Warner and Suzanne Burgess on August 5, 1941. From LeConte Canyonr ascend the tributary opposite the Dusy Branch and climb the cirquer wall just north of the prominent waterfall above 11,000 feet. Traverser to the north onto the west ridge, and follow this to the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,699 (12,652n; 1.3 S of Mt. Goode)

r

r Class 1. First recorded ascent by Chester Versteeg on July 14, 1939.r An easy climb either by the southeast ridge or from Dusy Basin onr the south.r

r r

Peak 12,566 (12,520+n; 2.2 E of Charybdis)

r

r Class 2. First ascent August 5, 1941, by Glen Warner and Suzanner Burgess. From LeConte Canyon ascend the tributary opposite Dusyr Branch to 10,500 feet, climb the chute leading to the notch just southr of the summit. A narrow snow chute provides a class 3 route up ther north face.r

r r

Peak 12,400+ (12,483n; 1.5 N of Ladder Lake)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 13, 1952, by Charles Bays Locker, Karl Hufbauer,r and Don Albright. A difficult class 2 climb from Ladder Laker via the south arête.r

r r

Peak 12,935 (12,920+n; 1 SE of Charybdis)

r

r No records are available.r

r r r r r

The Citadel (11,700+; 15,744n; 1.5 NW of Grouse Meadows)

r

r *Route 1. West ridge.* Class 2. First ascent on June 24, 1951, by Richardr Searle and William Wirt. Proceed from Ladder Lake directly up ther west ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast face.* Class 4. First ascent by Donald Goodrichr and Robert Means on June 24, 1951, arriving on top several hours afterr the party of the first route. Ascend the northeast face via several gulliesr and chutes to the summit ridge, climbing southwest along this ridger over the subsidiary East Peak and traversing along the ridge to ther higher West Peak.r

r r

r *Route 3. North wall.* Class 4. First ascent by Charles Bays Locker,r R. J. McKenna, S. Hall, D. E. Albright, and Karl G. Hufbauer. Ascendr to the base of the northwest buttress from the eastern end of Ladderr Lake. Climb up the first chute on the northwest side of the peak. Fromr the top of the chute proceed along the ridge to the left (E) directlyr to the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,015 (12,009n; 1.5 W of Grouse Meadow)

r

r *Route 1. Southeast arête.* Class 2. First ascent on August 9, 1934, byr H. B. Blanks and B. S. Kaiser who climbed from the Rambaud Laker Basin via the southeast arête. This party made a complete traverse of ther ridge from east to west.r

r r

r *Route 2. North ridge.* Class 2. First ascent by this route by Charlesr Bays Locker, Donald Albright, Gary Hufbauer, and Karl Hufbauer.r Climb from Laddei Lake in a southeasterly direction to the north ridger and follow it to the summit; no particular obstacles are encountered.r

r r

r The western summit of this peak (approx. 12,000) was also climbedr by both parties and is a class 1 traverse from the eastern summit.r

r r

Peak 12,400+ (12,425n; 1 SW of Ladder Lake)

r

r Class 3. First ascent on August 9, 1934, by H. B. Blanks and B. S.r Kaiser who traversed the ridge from the east.r

r r

Peak 12,767 (12,760+n; 1 NW of Wheel Mtn.)

r

r First ascent by Charles Bays Locker, Donald Albright, and Gary andr Karl Hufbauer, July 15, 1952. Class 3 from the crest of the Black Divide,r

r r r r r

Peak 12,400+ (12400+n; 1/4 SW of Peak 12,425n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent on August 9, 1934, by H. B. Blanks and B. S.r Kaiser on a traverse from the ridge to the east.r

r r

Wheel Mountain (12,778; 12,781n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent on July 26, 1933, by Marjory Bridge, John Cahill,r Lewis F. Clark, and John Poindexter. Climb from the lakes at ther Bead of Rambaud Creek to the basin south of the peak. Traverse ther ridge and plateau on the south and west. Ascend the ridge on the northwest to the summit. Descent is possible by means of two steep gulliesr on the south face.r

r r

Rambaud Peak (11,023; 11,040+n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent in 1925 by Albert Tachet and Ruth Prager. Thisr is a scramble from Rambaud Creek campsites to the north, and is anr excellent point from which to study the Devil's Crags.r

r r

Devil's Crags (12,612—11,000; 12,600+n—11,240+)

r

r The Devil's Crags are about two miles southwest of Grouse Meadowr and form the southern end of the Black Divide. They are slightly overr mile in length, have a northwest-southeast trend, and the highest cragr is at the northern end. Although several systems of numbering haver been employed, the system here used numbers only those crags whichr rise 150 feet or more above their notches (see Sketch 16). Since thisr r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 16. The Devil's Crags from Rambaud Peak.r r

r r r r nomenclatorial system is rather recent, the numbers in the crag registersr will not always be in agreement. There are eleven crags, and the routesr of ascent lie, generally, in their neighboring chutes. From the southwestr r r r west the chutes which are fairly easy to climb are those between cragsr 2-3-4, 6-7-8-9-10.

From the northeast, they are 2-3, 4-5, 8-9.rr r

Highest (12,612; 12,600+n)

r

r *Route 1. Southwest face.* Class 3. First ascent made by Charles Michaelr on July 21, 1913. Two chutes on the southwest face cross each otherr forming an "X." Climb the left (northwest) chute to the junction,r where the most direct route is to continue on straight across, followingr the upper right-hand chute nearly to the summit and then swinging tor the left to the arête and following it to the top. An alternate and lessr difficult route is to take the upper left-hand chute at the intersection,r following it to the arête, and climbing along the arête to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest arête.* Class 3. First ascent by Jules Eichorn, Helenr LeConte, and Alfred Weiler on July 25, 1933. Follow the crest of ther northwest arête to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast face.* Class 4. First ascent by Raffi Bedayan, Kennethr Davis, and Jack Riegelhuth on August 5, 1938. From the upper end ofr the lake at 10,450 feet on Rambaud Creek, proceed southeast half ar mile to the notch just under and northeast of the face; this is the roping-up point. Traverse to the right (northwest) and up over somewhat looser rocks of a delicate pitch to the chute marking the middle of the face,r planning the traverse so as to end well above the overhanging lowerr portion of the chute. Ascend this chute toward the summit over rockr that is fairly sound. Belay positions are good for the most part. Whenr 35 feet below the summit, cross to the north wall of the chute, ascendr a high-angle pitch to the summit ridge, and scramble to the top.r

r r

Crag 2 (12,350)

r

r Class 4. First ascent by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, and Ted Wallerr on July 26, 1933. Climb the first chimney south of the main peak on ther northeast side. It is most difficult in the lower portion. From the notchr the ridge is easily climbed to the summit. From the southwest it isr possible to climb the chute that heads between Crag 2 and the subsidiary crag to the north. From the notch follow the arête.r

r r

Crag 3 (12,350)

r

r First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Norman Clyder on June 24, 1934.r

r r

r *Route 1. From the northeast.* Class 4. Climb the northeast chute betweenr Crags 2 and 3, remaining on the floor of the chute and passingr r r r under the huge chockstone. From the notch climb the first pitch by ther left side of the broken face. Contour out and up on the broad, slopingr ledge on the north face to the north arête. Climb the left side of this tor the northwest arête, and thence to the summit. With little more difficulty the northwest arête may be followed from the notch.r

r r

r *Route 2. Traverse.* Class 4. The southeast arête may be descended 250r feet without too much difficulty. Descend a sloping, broken ledge heading on the east side of the peak. Follow this down and to the south,r traversing easterly to a very broad shelf when the angle becomes toor severe. Climb down an additional 60 feet just west of the southeast arête.r Ensuing overhangs will suggest roping down into the notch betweenr Crags 3 and 4. Descend via the southwest chute. If this route is used forr an ascent, pitons are necessary for spfety while climbing the largest overhang, 100 feet above the notch.r

r r

r *Route 3. From the southwest.* Class 3. Climb the southwest chute between Crags 2 and 3 to the 2-3 notch, following Route 1 from the notch.r

r r

Crag 4 (12,250)

r

r Class 3. First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Normanr Clyde on June 24, 1934. From the southwest reach the 3-4 notch andr follow the much-broken westerly side of the northwest arête to ther summit. Descend the same route. A traverse would involve an 800-footr descent on a steep, ledgeless face.r

r r

Crag 5 (12,250)

r

r Class 3. First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Normanr Clyde on June 25, 1934. From the northeast climb the floor of the northeast chute between Crags 4 and 5, keeping to the left branch at the extreme top. From the notch contour into the shallow western chute, upr which there are several variations in route to the arête above. Follow ther arête to within about 25 feet of the summit monolith, contour aroundr the western side, and walk up the south debris to the summit. Therer are several routes of descent on the southeast arête.r

r r

Crag 6 (12,250)

r

r Class 3. First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Normanr Clyde on June 25, 1934. From the northeast follow the arête from Cragr 5 to the 5-6 notch, and ascend the west side of the northwest arête.r r r r

Crag 7 (12,250)

r

r Class 3. First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Normanr Clyde on June 25, 1934. From the northeast walk up the northwest arêter from the 6-7 notch, which has been reached by the traverse of Crags 5r and 6. Descend the southwest chute, roping down in the lower portion.r

r r

Crag 8 (12,250)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Normanr Clyde on June 25, 1934. From the southwest climb the southwest chuter between Crags 7 and 8, and follow the northwest slope to the summit.r

r r

Crag 9 (11,950)

r

r First ascent by Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn on August 1, 1933.r

r r

r *Route 1. From the northeast or the southwest.* Class 4. Climb to ther notch between Crags 8 and 9 by either the northeast or southwest chutes.r From the notch climb up and slightly to the west onto the arête,r which is followed just below and to the north of its crest to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Traverse.* Class 4. A traverse involves a little climbing andr two rope-downs into the 9-10 notch, from which one may descend byr traversing Crag 10.r

r r

Crag 10 (11,950)

r

r First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Norman Clyder on June 23, 1934.r

r r

r *Route 1. From the northwest.* Class 4. Traverse Crag 9 to the 9-10r notch and follow the west side of the northwest arête to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. From the southeast.* Class 2. Climb the northeast chute between Crags so and 11 to the 10-11 notch. Traverse to the northwest,r over a subsidiary crag and along the arête to the summit.r

r r

Crag 11 (11,950)

r

r Class 4. First ascent by David R. Brower, Hervey Voge, and Normanr Clyde on June 23, 1934. Climb the northeast chute between Crags tor and 11 to the 10-11 notch. From the notch climb up toward the summitr over rather exposed pitches on somewhat broken rock.r

r r

Mount Woodworth (12,214; 12,219n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by Professor Bolton Coit Brown on August 1,r 1895, who climbed straight up the southwest spur, and above thisr r r followed along the base of the jagged spires bounding the southern face.r Descent was along the easterly edge of the south face.r

r r

Peaks East of the Crest

r r r

Peak 12,317 (12,320+; 3/4 SE of Piute Pass)

r

r Class unreported. First ascent on July 3, 1939, by Jim Harkins, Fredr Toby, and Bert Malcolm. Contour from Piute Pass to the north shoulderr and then follow this to the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,702 (12,707n; 1.5 SE of Piute Pass)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by John Cahill and Neil Ruge on July 9, 1933,r from the north fork of Lamarck Creek.r

r r

Peak 11,257 (11,215n; 1 SE of Lake Sabrina)

r

r Class 1. First ascent by Chester Versteeg on July 21, 1939. An easyr climb from Lake Sabrina southeast and up to the summit monolith,r where a shoulder stand is required.r

r r

Table Mountain (11,707; 11,696n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent October 24, 1931, by Norman Clyde. The easiestr route is along the trail between George and Tyee Lakes until beneathr the summit rock pile.r

r r

Peak 13,202 (13,198n; 1 SE of Mount Lamarck)

r

r First recorded ascent of this peak was made by Norman Clyde in 1925,r but the route and class are not recorded.r

r r

Peak 11,827 (11,800+n; 2 S of Lake Sabrina)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by Angus E. Taylor on July 29, 1936. This peak isr an easy climb from the west and south except near the summit.r

r r

Peak 11,943 (11,936n; 1/2 W of South Lake)

r

r First ascent 1918 by Walter L. Huber.r

r r

Peak 12,993 (12,993n; 1.5 N of Mount Thompson)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde on November 7, 1931. A class 1 climbr along the east arête and a class 2 climb from the southeast face.r

r r

Peak 13,100+ (13,120+n; 3/4 E of Mount Haeckel)

r

r The first ascent of this peak was on June 27, 1931, by Norman Clyde.r

r r r r r

Peak 13,029 (13,000+n; 1 NE of Mount Thompson)

r

r First ascent by Chester Versteeg on July 24, 1939. He did not climbr the summit block.r

r r

Peak 13,350 (13,323n; 3/8 NE of Mount Thompson)

r

r Norman Clyde made the first ascent of this peak on September 6, 1931.r

r r

Peak 13,000+ (13,300+n; 1/2 N of Mount Powell)

r

r First ascent of this peak was accomplished by Walter L. Huber andr James Rennie on August 1, 1925.r

r r

Hurd Peak (12,224; 12,219n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent by H. C. Hurd in 1906, route unknown. It is ar class 2 climb from Treasure Lakes via either the east or west face.r

r r

References

r

r Various authors. *Sierra Club Bulletin:* 1895, 221-37; 1896, 287-8;r 296-337; 1899, 259; 1901, 255; 1905, 233, 235, 237; 1913, 52-3; 1921,r 117, 140, 144-6; 1922, 251, 275-89; 1923, 417-20; 1924, 87-90; 1926,r 220-2, 250-1, 306-7; 1927, 379-80; 1928, 81; 1929, 87; 1931, 104-5; 1932,r 19-20; 1934, 19-23, 93-5, 97; 1936, 102; 1938, 14; 1939, 127-8; 1942, 128.r

r r

r *Photographs:* (References are to annual magazine numbers of *Sierrar Club Bulletin*)r

r r

r Black Giant: 1931; 11. Charybdis: 1924, 12, 20. Darwin: 1905, 232;r 1922, 286; 1934, pl. XVII (summit pinnacle); 1952, 28-29. Devil's Crags:r 1904, 2; 1914, 162, 163, 188, 189; 1931, 15; 1934, 20, pl. X. Fiske: 1923,r 418, 419; 1934, pl. IV. Haeckel: 1921, 145; 1922, 279; 1923, 418. Hermit:r 1931, 7; 1934, pl. II. Hurd Pk.: 1915, 306; 1938, 14. Huxley: 1921, frontis.,r 117; 1934, pl. IV; 1952, 28-29. Langille: 1934, pl. VI. Powell: 1922, 275;r 1926, 248. Scylla: 1924, 12, 17. Spencer: 1921, 144; 1934, pl. IV. Thompson: 1922, 275. Wallace: 1905, 235; 1934, pl. IV.r

r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Palisades •r Contentsr • Previous: LeConte Divider** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The Palisades Region >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Kings Canyon •r Contentsr • Previous: Evolution & Black Divider** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass

r

The Palisades Region

r r

Hervey Voge and David R. Brower (1939), andr Hervey Voge (1953)

r r

r ALTHOUGH there are higher peaks in the Sierra Nevada than thoser found in the Palisade Group, there are none of bolder or more ruggedr r r relief, or more beautifully alpine in character. The Palisades divide ther watersheds of the Middle Fork of the Kings and the branches of Big Piner Creek; they rise 6,000 feet above LeConte Canyon to the west andr nearly two vertical miles above the desert environs of the little townr of Big Pine to the east. The Palisades form the second highest group inr the Sierra. They are about 40 miles northwest of the higher Muir Crestr peaks which culminate in Mount Whitney, and about 70 miles southeastr of Yosemite. North Palisade (14,242) is the third highest peak in California. Four other points of the Palisade range exceed 14,000 feet inr elevation: the northwest peak of North Palisade (about 14,200), Mountr Sill (14,162), Middle Palisade (14,040), and Thunderbolt Peak (aboutr 14,040). Split Mountain (14,058), formerly known as South Palisade,r is actually apart from the Palisades, and is not included in this arear of the Guide.r

r r r

Historical Résumé

r r

r THE PALISADES were named by the California State Geologicalr Survey in 1864; the heights of North Palisade and Split Mountain werer determined at over 14,000 feet in 1875 by the Wheeler Survey. Fourr years later the late Lil A. Winchell was in the region and named Mountr Winchell, after his father's cousin, geologist Alexander Winchell, andr Agassiz Needle, after naturalist Louis Agassiz. It is hardly possible thatr "Agassiz Needle" could have been intended for the gradual peak whichr bears the name on the topographic map, and, in order to correct a falser impression, the name "Mount Agassiz" has been substituted. Winchellr also gave the name "Duly Peak" to North Palisade, but the name didr not become established. In 1895 Professor Bolton Coit Brown renamedr it "Mount Jordan"; but finally the original "North Palisade," an admirably descriptive name, was restored, and David Starr Jordan wasr commemorated by a peak on the Kings-Kern Divide.r

r r

r Approaching the Palisades from Cartridge Creek in 1903, Joseph N.r LeConte, with James S. Hutchinson, James K. Moffitt, and Robert Pike,r attempted to climb North Palisade. Stopped in their first attempt, theyr turned to Mount Sill, and met with success on its easier slopes. The following day, however, July 25, 1903, they discovered a route, and LeConte, Hutchinson, and Moffitt made the first ascent of North Palisade.r

r r

r Middle Palisade did not fall so soon or so easily. An unsuccessful attempt was made July 20, 1919, when H. H. Bliss, A. L. Jordan and J. M.r Davies climbed a peak just south of the true summit, which they namedr "Peak Disappointment" upon discovering their error. A storm stoppedr r r a subsequent attempt upon the correct peak. Two years later, Francisr P. Farquhar and Ansel F. Hall, unaware of the earlier attempt, repeatedr the mistake, but upon discovering their error descended 2,000 feet andr then climbed the true summit, thus accomplishing the first ascent, onr August 26, 1921.r

r r

r For the pioneering of new and more difficult routes in the regionr principal credit must go to Norman Clyde, veteran of at least a thousandr Sierran ascents. Because of his residence in Owens Valley, it was naturalr that his interest in the Palisades should center upon routes from ther glaciers. Several fourth class routes were established in 1931, when ar party of nine, led by Robert L. M. Underhill, of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Farquhar and Clyde, of the Sierra Club, introduced ther proper use of the rope to the Sierra. Routes of still greater difficulty haver evolved from the application of pitoncraft. One should not conclude thatr all the climbs of moderate difficulty have already been made, althoughr it is likely that quite a few not reported below have been done.r

r r

Topography and its Relation to Climbing

r r

r Unlike most peaks in the Sierra, the Palisades have few easy approaches.r The southwest walls, where one usually expects gradual slopes, arer high; while the northeast sides are severely glaciated, with steep-walledr amphitheaters and residual glaciers to complicate the climbing routes.r The main Palisade Glacier is the largest in the Sierra. The peaks abover it are shown in Sketch 17. For details of the topography reference is mader to the Bishop and Mt. Goddard quadrangles of the United States Geological Survey, and the new Mt. Goddard and the Big Pine quadrangles.r

r r

r In 1864, members of the California State Geological Survey, seeingr the Palisades at a distance, spoke of them as of volcanic origin. Thisr was wrong, however, for the area is largely of granite, very much disintegrated along lines of cleavage, but very sound and excellent forr climbing. Nevertheless, the ceaseless testing and care inevitably associated with climbing above timberline are essential. The glaciers, althoughr contributing much to the scenic magnificence of the Palisades, do notr figure largely in mountaineering except as convenient avenues of approach. Crevasses are small and do not often impede progress; furthermore, the declivities are not extreme except where ice meets rock walls.r In chutes and couloirs steep ice is frequently encountered, and though itr may sometimes be avoided, an ice axe is necessary if peaks are approachedr from the northeast.r

r r r r r

r Climbers who approach the Palisades from this side should use lugr soles or nailed boots, and they will find crampons useful in the couloirs.r Snow and ice conditions vary greatly, and the exercise of sound judgment backed by experience is prerequisite to many of the climbs. Ther steep chutes and couloirs on the north of the Palisade Ridge containr much loose rock, especially when the snow is low, and rockfalls causedr by man and nature are perhaps more common here than elsewhere inr the Sierra.r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 17. Peaks above the Palisade Glacier from the northeast.r r

r r r r

Approaches and Campsites

r r

r *From Big Pine.* The quickest approach and the most dramatic, becauser of the sudden transition from barren desert to alpine splendor, is fromr the east. From *El Camino Sierra* (U.S. 395) in Big Pine an 11-miler road extends to an elevation of 7,900 feet at Glacier Lodge (accommodations, supplies, packing) and slightly above. A horse trail continues upr the North Fork of Big Pine Creek and above Fourth Lake to Glacierr Lodge Upper Camp (meals, accommodations) at 10,900 feet, with shortr laterals to many lakes, fine campsites, and the Palisade glaciers. One ofr the higher campsites is on the south shore of Sam Mack Lake. Fromr Glacier Lodge there is also a trail into the South Fork basin, andr knapsackers will find many campsites beyond the end of the trail, up tor 11,400 feet under Temple Crag, and to 11,000 feet beneath Middler Palisade. There are good campsites just south of Contact Pass, by ar little meadow.r

r r

r *From Bishop.* A road follows Bishop Creek 20 miles to an elevationr of 9,750 feet at Parcher’s Camp (accommodations, supplies, packing),r from which a horse trail continues over Bishop Pass to fine campsitesr in Dusy Basin.r

r r r r r

r *From the Muir Trail.* The Bishop Pass lateral approaches Dusy Basinr campsites. The Muir Trail passes within two miles of Middle Palisader on the way to Mather Pass and the South Fork of Kings River. Finer campsites are to be found in Little Pete, Grouse, and Deer meadows.r Palisade Basin is quite desolate, but knapsackers can camp at its lowerr border (11,200) and also along Glacier Creek or at 10,500 feet on Palisade Creek.r

r r

Principal Passes

r r

r There are no passes over the Palisades for stock. The following passesr are suitable for knapsackers or climbers. The explored passes over ther crest are listed from north to south, followed by passes over the easternr and western spurs.r

r r

r *Jigsaw Pass (12,622n).* Class 1. This pass offers a convenient router from Fifth Lake to Bishop Pass. *East to west:* Follow the south shore ofr Fifth Lake, and ascend talus and slabs south of the creek flowing fromr Mount Agassiz. It is well to stay about 300 feet above the stream tor avoid the bluffs over which it cascades. Follow the north branch of ther creek for about one mile and then angle to the left over easy groundr that may be covered with snow to the pass. Jigsaw Pass is not the lowestr point on the divide, but lies a few hundred yards south, beyond a minorr rise. It is marked with a cairn. Peak 13,200+ separates the pass fromr Mount Agassiz. Descend on the west by a steep but easy chute andr cross large talus blocks to the nearest point of the Bishop Pass trail, justr north of Bishop Pass. *West to east:* As with many climbs in the Sierra,r the west approach to Jigsaw Pass is a problem in choosing the correctr chute. From the trail at Bishop Pass one sees that the ridge north ofr Mount Agassiz extends one mile to the first important peak of the Inconsolable Range (Peak 13,278n). Jigsaw Pass is just south of the lowr point of this ridge, and is separated from the low point by an angularr but low peak. Proceed up the chute ending at the pass. The climb, overr scree, grass, and well-fractured granite, will be found much easier thanr it had appeared. On the two-mile descent to Fifth Lake all one needr remember is to keep south of the inlet stream and to stay well abover it for the last 400 yards.r

r r

r *Agassiz shoulder.* Class 2 to 3. As a rugged route from Palisade Glacierr to Bishop Pass, Alfred Wilkes has suggested a 13,000 foot pass just northr of Mount Agassiz. From the foot of the Palisade Glacier cross the eastr ridge of Mount Agassiz and follow the contours around to the pass.r r r r Descend a small ridge just south of the pass to the top of Bishop Pass.r

r r

r *Agassiz Col (13,200+).* Class 2. This pass is higher and more difficult than Jigsaw Pass, but provides knapsackers the opportunity for side-tripsr to Mount Agassiz or Mount Winchell. *East to west:* Follow ther Palisade Glacier trail south to Sam Mack Lake, turn west from the upperr end of the lake, and proceed north of the east spur of Mount Winchell,r which cannot be seen until the lake is passed. The route leads past ar small lakelet, up through a series of moraines, and across the small glacierr north of Winchell. The col is the low point at the head of the cirque,r and is best reached by climbing to the top of the right (N) side of ther glacier and then continuing diagonally up to the left over broken rock.r The descent over scree and talus to Dusy Basin is not nearly as tediousr as the climb back. *West to east:* The correct chute is the largest betweenr Mounts Agassiz and Winchell. Ascend the chute to the col and descendr the stream from the Winchell Glacier.r

r r

r *The U Notch* (13,900+). Class 3. This spectacular alpine notch separates North Palisade from the Mount Sill massif, and from it both peaksr are accessible. It is a climber’s route and is not suggested for knapsackers.r For details, see North Palisade, Routes 2 and 3.r

r r

r *Southfork Pass (12,400+).* Class 2 to 3. This is the lowest pointr between Middle Palisade and The Thumb, and provides the best knapsack route between the South Fork of Big Pine Creek and the Muirr Trail near Mather Pass. *North to south:* From the end of the South Forkr trail follow the easternmost of the South Fork tributaries, passing eastr of Brainard Lake. Work up over open granite slopes, through old moraines, and across the small glacier northwest of The Thumb. A steep,r narrowing slope, which may be icy, leads to the pass; it makes littler difference upon which side one chooses to pass the tiny pinnacle inr the pass. A gentle lake basin extends to the south, and the stream whichr drains it crosses the Muir Trail. *South to north:* Follow the stream,r which enters the upper of the twin lakes at the head of Palisade Creek,r east a mile and a half into the amphitheater which it drains. From ther first large lake in this basin it is another mile and a half due north tor Southfork Pass. Beware of ice on the north side. Descending from ther glacier below The Thumb, keep to the right of the stream. The trailr will be found about two and one-half miles below on a bench aboutr 200 feet above and south of Willow Lake. The trail down the Southr Fork is not too easy to follow. In the central part it crosses a high ridger well south of the stream.r

r r

r *Contact Pass (11,640+n).* Class 1. This rounded notch just east ofr r r r Temple Crag affords a good route between the two forks of Big Piner Creek. It receives its name from the contact zone between two different granites, to which it also owes its origin. *North to south:* Fromr the upper end of Second Lake follow the contact zone to the notch. Ar few hundred feet below the pass is a small lake that drains into Willowr Lake, with the connecting stream about one and a half miles long. Follow the north side of the stream, crossing shortly above Willow Lake,r and climb about 200 feet to the trail on the bench south of the lake.r *South to north:* Follow the north inlet of Willow Lake and the northr branches of this inlet stream to the little amphitheater and lake at timberline just under Temple Crag, which may be identified by its beautifullyr castellated summit. From the lake Contact Pass is unmistakable, andr the route of descent to Second Lake is likewise obvious. A fisherman'sr trail leads from Second Lake to Third and Fourth lakes.r

r r

r *Glacier Notch (13,000+).* Class 2. The saddle between Mounts Sillr and Gayley, called Glacier Notch, is not difficult on either side, andr forms part of a route from the Palisade Glacier to the Sill Glacier. Itr is probably best to cross the level portion near Mount Sill. On the northr side the chute leading to this level portion is easiest to follow on ther east side.r

r r

r *Knapsack Pass (11,673n).* Class 1. Although stock has been takenr from Dusy Basin to Palisade Basin over the pass south of Columbiner Peak (Knapsack Pass), it is recommended only for knapsackers orr hikers. The divide between the two basins may also be crossed justr northeast of Columbine Peak (12,000+n), or where the divide joinsr the Palisade wall (12,360+n). The route across Knapsack Pass is anr interesting way for knapsackers to proceed from Bishop Pass to Matherr Pass, and it will therefore be described in a little more detail. Leave ther Bishop Pass trail in Dusy Basin where the trail swings close to the lowerr lakes, and head southeast across easy open country to Knapsack Pass,r which is the obvious gap just south of Columbine Peak. The router from the top of the pass goes to the left, where a well-defined trail leadsr below the cliffs of Columbine Peak, eventually dropping into Palisader Basin. A fairly well ducked route can then be followed to the diker west of the largest and highest lake in Palisade Basin (Barrett Lakes).r Travelers should be warned that there is no wood at this lake, or, in {r fact, anywhere in the Basin above about 11,200 feet. It is probably bestr to skirt the lake around its north and east banks, staying right at ther edge of the lake. A stream flows into the southeastern corner of ther lake. A ducked route can be followed, starting up the south bank ofr r r r

the stream, and leading up the ridge and across gentle country to Potluckr Pass (12,120n), which marks the division between Palisade Basin andr Glacier Creek Basin. The east side of Potluck Pass is quite steep; bearr to the right while descending and work off the sloping ledges to a sloper of scree, and then descend to the north shore of the large lake, fromr which Mount Sill can readily be climbed (see Mount Sill, Route 1).r One can camp a little ways down the steep canyon of Glacier Creekr below the lake. To continue on the route, cross Glacier Creek at ther outlet of the lake and ascend the cliff. A ducked route starts at the baser of the cliff somewhat to the right of the pass (Cirque Pass, 12,040+n),r and zigzags up a series of ledges to the top. From this pass a route isr picked down to the west side of a small lake at 11,100+ (11,400+n)r in the mouth of the cirque. Continue southeast and work down a cliffr to a small stream which may be followed to the Muir Trail just belowr the Palisade Lakes.r

r r

r *Other passes.* There are doubtless many routes, not described here,r which can be traversed by climbers or knapsackers. One, known asr Chimney Pass, crosses the southwest spur of Palisade Crest at 12,500+r (12,600+n). The gap between Palisade Crest and Peak 13,336 (13,390n)r is easily approached from Glacier Creek, but has a cliff on the northeast.r The col southeast of Mount Winchell involves a 100 foot rappel fromr east to west, and is therefore not practical for knapsackers.r

r r

Peaks of the Crest (North to South)

r r

Mount Agassiz (13,882; 13,891n)

r

r Ascended August 30, 1925, by Norman Clyde.r

r r

r *Route 1. West slope.* Class 1. This is the easiest of the major peaks ofr the Palisades. A good view of the North Palisade and the basin of ther Big Pine Lakes is obtained from the summit. The ascent is made viar the spur of the peak that extends to Bishop Pass. This slope might almostr be described as nivated; the route has been used for a moonlight ascent.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southeast face and south ridge.* Class 2. See Agassiz Col, underr passes, for the approach. From the terminal moraine of the Winchellr Glacier work up the debris-filled chute that empties just north of ther moraine, follow the chute to the ridge north of Agassiz Col, and followr the ridge to the summit. It is also possible to follow the east side ofr the south ridge all the way from the Col, and this route may be preferred since it avoids the scree of the chute.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast face.* Class 4. First ascent by Norman Clyde.r r r r Approach by the canyon leading directly from Fifth Lake to Mount Agassiz.r From the snowfield proceed to the foot of the Y-shaped couloir thatr heads on the north arête, ascend half-way up to the “Y,” then climbr left (S) to the rocks. Continue

diagonally upward and half-way tor the summit over the moderately difficult face, and then it will be possible to traverse right (N) to the little arête dividing the lower portionr of the route from the south branch of the "Y." Follow this arête a shortr distance, and then either continue along the east face to the top or crossr the ridge to the less exposed northwest face and climb it to the top.r

r r

Mount Winchell (13,749; 13,768n)

r r

r The ascent of Mount Winchell is not difficult, but it is quite satisfyingr as the peak is rugged and the view down the sculptured western facer is impressive. The first ascent was made June 10, 1923, by H. C. Mansfield,r J. N. Newell, and W. B. Putnam by Route 1 (*SCB*, 1924, 90).r

r r

r *Route 1. East arête.* Class 3. From near Sam Mack Lake walk up southr of the east arête to within about 500 yards of the col southeast ofr Winchell. Climb the south face to the east arête and follow the arêter westward until it becomes a knife-edge. From here an exposed router leads a short distance to the left into a steep chute which leads to ther spectacular summit. A variation of this route, ascended in September,r 1953, by George and Kay Bloom and Glenn Cushman, is also class 3.r Go to the north of the large buttress at the end of the east arête andr climb up a broken face to the top of the arête. Then follow the arêter to join the usual Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face.* Class 4. First ascent July 29, 1930, by Jules Eichorn,r Glen Dawson, and John Olmstead. From upper Dusy Basin climb ar chute to the left (NW) of the summit and work up through a seriesr of tricky chimneys.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southwest chute.* Class 4. First ascent August If, 1938, byr W. K. Davis and Jack Riegelhuth. Start in the largest chute on ther west face of Winchell that has a large buttress on the north side. Fromr the top of the chute traverse left into a notch east of the buttress. Thenr climb to the top. There are many possible routes on the west face, mostr of them class 4. The most northerly chutes lead to the north arête, whichr involves class 5 or class 6 climbing.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast face.* Possibly class 5-6. A descent was made Augustr 11, 1938, by W. K. Davis and Jack Riegelhuth. Follow the skyline ofr Winchell as seen from Dusy Basin. The overhanging southerly buttressr was turned to the east, but a rope-down was still necessary.r

r r r r r r

r *Winter ascent.* January 10, 1938, by Norman Clyde, Morgan Harris,r and David R. Brower (*SCB*, 1938, 44), by Route 1.r

r r

Thunderbolt Peak (13,900+; 14,040n, about)

r r

r The name of this peak was inspired by a thunderstorm which harriedr the first ascent party and hurried them off the ridge after a bolt hadr struck very close to one of the climbers (*SCB*, 1932, 124). First ascentr by Route 1 on August 13, 1931, by Norman Clyde, R. L. M. Underhill,r Bestor Robinson, F. P. Farquhar, Glen Dawson, Lewis Clark, and Julesr Eichorn.r

r r

r *Route 1. East couloir.* Class 4. From Palisade Glacier twin couloirsr lead to the notch between Thunderbolt Peak and the northwest peakr of North Palisade. The right (NW) one is the so-called Underhill Couloir. Climbing in these couloirs depends greatly on snow conditions,r and sometimes one may be preferred over the other (see *SCB*, 1950, 127).r Ice may be met in either. To reach the notch the left (SE) couloir mayr be climbed about half way up and then the arête between the two mayr be followed the rest of the way. However this left couloir containsr much dangerous loose rock if the snow is low, and then the right oner is better. About two-thirds of the way up, the floor of the right couloir is blocked by a large chockstone, which may be passed on the rightr up a rock wall with good holds. From the notch climb slabs leading tor the north, and then work upward along the southwest side of the ridge,r finally climbing to the crest and following it to the summit block. Ther smooth summit block. may be climbed with the aid of a shoulder standr or with protection from a rope thrown over the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest chute, No. 1.* Class 4. First ascent August 3, 1933,r by Norman Clyde, John Poindexter, Philip Von Lubkin. Climb the larger chute southeast of the divide between Palisade and Dusy basins to ther deep notch southeast of Thunderbolt, and proceed to the summit asr in Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest ridge.* Class 5. First ascent August 11, 1938, byr W. K. Davis and Jack Riegelhuth. They followed the ridge from ther col southeast of Mount Winchell. The first third of the route was class 3,r while the rest was class 4 and 5. The first ascent was made as part ofr a climb from Dusy Basin to the summit of Winchell and then alongr the ridge to North Palisade; the total time was 13 hours.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northeast buttress.* Class 4. First ascent by Norman Clyder on an unknown date. There is a large, ice-filled couloir west of ther great northeast buttress of Thunderbolt. Cross the bergschrund aboutr r r r 20 feet to the right of the eastern margin of the lower end of the couloir, and cut steps up to accessible ledges, all the while being protectedr from falling rocks by an outward bulge in the wall of the couloir above.r After a short distance on the ledges, climb upward and eastward to ther crest of the buttress, and follow this to the main ridge, where an upwardr traverse to the right leads to a notch of the main ridge. From this traverser to the left around a shoulder and into a couloir which leads to ther summit block.r

r r

r *Route 5. West face.* Class 4. First ascent September 3, 1949, by Oscarr Cook, Sylvia Kershaw, Mildred Jentsch, and Hunter and Isabella Morrison (*SCB*, 1950, 123). They ascended the first feasible chute on ther Dusy Basin (N) side of the Palisade-Dusy basins divide. They followedr the right (SE) branch of the chute

until it ended in an ice-filled chimney,r and then worked to the right to an arête which was left higher upr by a vein of rotten quartz that led to next chute to the southeast. Ar chockstone in this chute was passed on the left by a class 4 pitch. Ther chute led to a spur which was followed to the main ridge west ofr Thunderbolt, and from there they followed the ridge southeast to ther small notch between the twin summits of Thunderbolt. The highestr is the southwest peak, and a class 4 pitch from the notch takes one tor the east side of this.r

r r

r *Route 6. Southwest chute, No. 2.* Class 4. From the Palisade Basinr side of the Palisade-Dusy basin divide, take the first chute east of ther divide. This chute heads between the twin summits of Thunderbolt.r First descent September 3, 1949, by the party of Route 5. This is probably the easiest route of ascent of Thunderbolt yet found. About one-thirdr of the way up the chute there is a narrow chimney choked withr stones. The chimney can be passed on the right side (looking up) byr traversing out on a three-foot, scree-covered ledge. Above the chockstonesr the chute divides several times. Wherever it divides, always take ther right-hand chute, looking up. Ascend the chute to the notch betweenr the twin summits. At the notch the highest peals is to the right (SW).r There is one class 4 pitch directly up from the notch which leads aroundr to the left of the peak to the flat ridge on the east side, and then a larger crack leads to the south side of the summit block.r

r r

North Palisade (14,254; 14,242n)

r r

r First ascended July 25, 1903, by J. N. LeConte, J. K. Moffitt, andr J. S. Hutchinson, by Route 1 (*SCB*, 1904, 1; 1921, 204; 1934, 24).r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest chute* (LeConte route). Class 3. See Sketch 18.r r r r Enter the chute which leads to the U Notch (this is the deep notchr southeast of North Palisade) from the southwest. This chute may ber identified from the upper end of the highest and largest of the lakesr in Palisade Basin, where one sees at the base of the southwest wall ofr North Palisade three white cliffs, resembling inverted shields, and marking the entrances to two chutes. The right (SE) chute is ascended, andr would lead to the U Notch if followed to the crest. About half-way up,r at the upper end of a bare granite bottom area in the chute, where itr r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 18. North Palisade from the west, and Route 1.r r

r r r r widens out somewhat, is a narrow ledge running to the left (NW).r Follow the ledge, which is only a few feet wide at one point, aroundr to the next chute. Climb this second chute until progress is stopped, andr then cross to the right to a third chute, which usually has snow in itr and which is not visible from below, and ascend to the crest of the ridge.r Then proceed northwest over large blocks to the summit.rr r

r *Route 2. Southwest chute to U Notch.* First ascent July 19, 1921, byr Hermann Ulrichs. Enter the first chute described under Route 1 andr climb to the U Notch. A steep, open, class 4 chimney leads up the westr wall of the U Notch. From the top of the chimney an easy ridge leadsr to the summit. *Clyde's variation:* Leave the chute about 100 feet or sor down on the southwest side of the U Notch, climb the left (W) wall,r work to the left around a shoulder, and then climb up to the right tor the crest and follow it to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Via U Notch from the glacier.* Class 4. First ascent in June,r r r r 1928, by Norman Clyde (*SCB*, 1929, 58; 86). Follow the trail to ther main Palisade Glacier and cross the glacier to the broad, steep couloirr leading to the U Notch. Neither the couloir nor the notch can be mistaken; the notch is the most prominent one between North Palisader and Mount Sill. Late in the season the bergschrund may be a seriousr obstacle; it is usually best crossed at the northwest side of the couloir. Icer is always present in the couloir, and any snow surface should be carefully probed before it is trusted. Late in the season bare ice will be met.r It is well to work up along the northwest edge of the couloir, out ofr range of rock or snow sliding down the couloir. About half-way up ar peninsula of rotten granite is reached, and this can be followed withoutr difficulty to the notch. From there proceed as in Route 2. An ice axer is a must for this climb. There is a real danger of rockfalls in this, asr in other couloirs on the northeast side of the Palisades, especially inr late afternoon, during storms, or late in the season of a low snow year.r Some remarks by Norman Clyde on this subject are of interest (*SCB*,r 1950, 127). Clyde says: "More ricocheting rocks and rockslides comer down the Palisade than was the case when there was more snow. Theser [rockfalls] are rather numerous in the latter half of July and are stillr numerous in August. They are most common also in the afternoon, butr may occur at any time—even early morning."r

r r

r *Route 4. North face.* Class 4. First ascent in July, 1929, by Normanr Clyde. This climb starts up the steep and rather narrow couloir westr of the couloir leading to the U Notch. This couloir splits the northr face of North Palisade, and heads at a high notch between the summitr and the northwest peak. Sometimes the bergschrund

below this couloirr is nearly impassable. Climb the west wall of the couloir to the notchr and follow the ridge, mostly on the southwest side, to the summit. Thisr is said to be one of the finest climbs in the area. It is also possible, whenr about half-way up the couloir, to cross over to the left to the north facer of the main peak and to climb this face directly to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 5. West chute.* Class 4. First ascent July 13, 1933, by Jamesr Wright. From the extreme north portion of Palisade Basin climb up ther "second large cleft which narrows in the ascent; thence up a steep snowr tongue into a wide chute. At the head of this chute cross to next chuter to the southeast, then climb to the pinnacle northwest of the summit.r Cross to the east side of the ridge, carefully cross a notch, and proceedr to the summit" (*SCB*, 1934, 95).r

r r

r *Route 6. Northwest ridge.* Class 4. First ascent June 29, 1934, by Norman Clyde, David R. Brower, and Hervey Voge. From the notch betweenr r r r Thunderbolt Peak and North Palisade (see Thunderbolt Peak,r Route 1) work upward along ledges on the southwest side of the ridge.r When progress becomes difficult, climb by an intricate route behindr some large blocks to the crest and follow it to the northwest peak ofr North Palisade. From there the best route follows the crest rather closely,r crossing from side to side several times, and, in particular, crossing tor the north at a prominent gendarme in order to pass a difficult gap.r *Variation:* Cross to the northeast (glacier) side of the ridge when progress onr the southwest side becomes difficult, and proceed along ledges andr snow until directly beneath the main summit; then climb to the top.r

r r

r *Route 7. West face.* Class 5. First ascent in August, 1936, by Richard M.r Jones and Mary Jane Edwards. Start to the left of a black streak onr the base of the mountain, cross to the right above this mark by goingr under a large, fallen slab on the slanting shelf, continue up a fairly wider chute to a point where it becomes very narrow, cross to the right intor the next chute on a horizontal white vein, passing slightly above a larger block. Then proceed more or less directly to the summit.r

r r

r *Winter ascent.* North Palisade was climbed March 17, 1940, by David R.r Brower and Fred Kelley, by Route 3.r

r r

r *Northwest peak of North Palisade (about 14,200).* This peak may ber reached by the northeast face, by a variation of Route 4 for Northr Palisade, either directly up the face or by returning from the notchr separating it from North Palisade. It can also be climbed by Northr Palisade Route 6, either from the summit of North Palisade, or fromr the notch southeast of Thunderbolt. The first ascent was made July 9,r 1930, by Norman Clyde. The summit is a large block somewhat resembling a milk bottle; this block can be climbed without artificial aid.r

r r

Mount Sill (14,100+; 14,162n)

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest slope.* Class 2. First ascent July 24, 1903, byr Joseph N. LeConte, James K. Moffitt, James S. Hutchinson and Robert D.r Pike. Go up Glacier Creek to a cirque, then up a steep talus slope tor the left to the foot of the small glacier southeast of North Palisade. Ther summit of Sill is not visible from here. There are two alternatives. Oner can ascend the steep cliff on the northeast side of the glacier directlyr to the summit, or follow up the glacier and the snowfield at its headr and then work to the east over the easy slopes to the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest face.* Class 3. Ice axe necessary. First ascent, Juner 10, 1927, by Norman Clyde. A number of routes are possible up the facer to the summit, or up the wall to the ridge west of the summit. Ther r r r bergschrund of the main Palisade Glacier may cause difficulty but canr almost always be crossed along the left margin of the lower edge ofr the large couloir running up toward Mount Sill.r

r r

r *Route 3. Traverse from the U Notch.* Class 4. First ascent, July 27,r 1930, by Jules M. Eichorn, Glen Dawson, John Olmstead and Charlesr Dodge. From the U Notch (see North Palisade, Routes 2 and 3) climbr about 20 feet up the southeast wall and traverse right to the southwestr arête. Then follow the ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. North couloir.* Class 4. First ascent, September 25, 1931, byr Walter A. Starr, Jr. From Glacier Notch go up the chute between ther face of Sill and a small pyramid under the face. Pass through the gapr and traverse on ledges across the face to an arête which leads to ther crest on the north side of the summit. Then ascend the easy ridge to ther summit.r

r r

r *Route 5. East couloir and southeast ridge.* Class 3. Descended June 16,r 1934, by Norman Clyde, Hervey Voge, and David R. Brower. For anr ascent proceed from the east to the Sill Glacier and up to the firstr deep notch southeast of the summit of Mount Sill. A couloir just southr of the precipitous east face leads up to this notch; this couloir is bestr entered by the left (SE) branch. From the notch follow the easy ridger to the summit. An ice axe is necessary.r

r r

r *Route 6. North buttress.* Class 5. First ascent July 3, 1938, by Spencerr Austin, Ruth Dyar, Ray Ingwersen, Richard M. Jones, and Joe Momyer.r From Glacier Notch cross the north couloir diagonally upward to ther buttress. Climb to the ridge of the buttress and follow it about half-wayr to the summit. Then traverse around an awkward corner to the rightr (W) on a series of ledges formed by a prominent band of light coloredr rock. One can climb back to the ridge from several places on these ledges.r On the ridge proceed up over huge blocks to the summit. This router has more exposure than Route 2, but is almost free of loose rock. Ar class 4 variation may be made by traversing to the right (W) earlier andr farther.r

r r

Peak 13,336 (13,390n; 1/2 SE of Mount Sill)

r r

r First ascent July 4, 1940, by Ted Sanford and Tom Jukes, from ther south side.r

r r

Palisade Crest (13,568; 13,520+n)

r

r This is a serrated crest carrying many jagged spires. There is no information available regarding ascents.r

r r r r r

Peak 13,956 (13,920+n; 1/2 NW of Middle Palisade)

r

r *Route 1. North face.* Class 3. First ascent June 9, 1930, by Normanr Clyde. Go up the glacier north of the peak and ascend the first couloirr west of the peak to the ridge. Then traverse southeast down the northr face, around a buttress, and into the main chute north of the peak. Climbr to the ridge just west of the summit and follow the ridge to the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. South face.* Class 3. First ascent June 19, 1930, by Normanr Clyde.r

r r r

Middle Palisade (14,049; 14,040n)

r

r First ascent August 26, 1921, by F. P. Farquhar and A. F. Hall, byr Route 1 (*SCB*, 1922, 264).r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest chute and south face.* Class 3. The history of thisr peak reveals much disappointment that has resulted from the choicer of the wrong chute. Those wishing to climb Middle Palisade insteadr of Disappointment Peak should take the third chute north of the angler between the Middle Palisade wall and its southwest spur, counting ther chute that marks the angle as the first. The first and second chutes leadr to Disappointment Peak, while the third leads to Middle Palisade, andr heads just north of the little sawtooth peak between the two peaks. Ther route is intricate at the top, and there are a number of possible variations.r Three-fourths of the way up, work to the left out of the chute and ascendr the face south of the summit to the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast face.* Class 4. First ascent by Norman Clyde, June 7,r 1930. The northeast face may be climbed by means of several routes upr chutes and arêtes leading up from the glacier. This face is west of ther prominent buttress that projects eastward from the peak.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest ridge.* Class 4. Traverse along the ridge fromr Peak 13,956 (13,920+n), with a few deviations to pass gendarmes. Firstr done July 30, 1933, by Jules Eichorn and Glen Dawson.r

r r

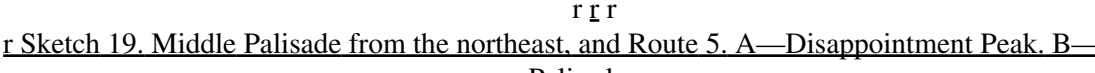
r *Route 4. Southeast ridge.* Class 4. Traverse from Disappointment Peak,r mostly on the northeast side of the ridge. First done July 20, 1939, byr David Brower, Bruce Meyer, and Keith Taylor.r

r r

r *Route 5. East face.* Class 3. This route is probably the easiest way tor the top of Middle Palisade; it follows a prominent chute or couloir directly below the summit and directly above the moraine that dividesr the glacier to the northeast of the peak (see Sketch 19). First ascentr uncertain. From the top of the moraine that divides the glacier proceedr onto the left hand (S) glacier. About half way up the glacier a ledger r r r is seen leading up the buttress to the right. Follow this ledge to ther broad couloir and follow this couloir until it ends; then cross over tor the next couloir to the north. After a short distance this couloir dividesr and the left branch may be climbed to a notch on the ridge just northeast of the main peak.r

r r r r

r r r



r r r

r Sketch 19. Middle Palisade from the northeast, and Route 5. A—Disappointment Peak. B—Middle Palisade.r r

r r r r r

Disappointment Peak (13,900+; 13,917n)

r

r This is the highest peak just southeast of Middle Palisade, and ther central one of three on that ridge. From some places it appears to ber higher than Middle Palisade. First ascent July 20, 1919, by J. M. Davies,r A. L. Jordan, and H. H. Bliss, by Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest chute.* Class 3. Climb up the large chute just northr of the prominent buttress or spur that extends to the southwest fromr the main ridge. The chute leads to a point just south of the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast couloir.* Class 3. First ascent June 20, 1930, by Norman Clyde. It was stated to be a good climb, with some difficulty at ther foot of the couloir.r

r r

r *Route 3. East ridge.* Class 3. From the north climb to the main ridger about midway between Southfork Pass and Disappointment Peak andr follow the ridge to the summit, sometimes deviating to the north side.r William Dunmire and Allen Steck climbed Middle Palisade by thisr route in September, 1953, but they bypassed the summit of Disappointment.r

r r r r r

The Thumb (13,885; 13,388n)

r

r This peak has sometimes been called East Palisade. The old elevationr was undoubtedly incorrect. The first ascent was made December 12, 1921,r by W. B. Putnam (*SCB*, 1922, 271).r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast slope.* Class 2. The peak was first climbed by thisr slope after an approach from Birch Creek. From Birch Lake (little orr no wood for camping) proceed southwest to the cirque southeast ofr The Thumb. The wall of the cirque can be climbed near the southwestr end on ledges (class 3). Then proceed up the easy southeast slope ofr the peak. To climb The Thumb from the Muir Trail, follow the streamr that comes from the east into the upper Palisade Lake. Cross the Sierrar Crest by ascending the more easterly of the two talus-filled chimneysr in the wall to the right of a small peak to the right (E) of Southforkr Pass. The Thumb lies north of the main crest. Proceed up the easy southeast slope.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest face.* Class 4. First ascent June 5, 1930, by Normanr Clyde. Climb up a couloir of the northwest face, then circle around ther final peak to the south or southeast slope.r

r r r

Peaks East of the Crest

r r

Coyote Ridge (12,246) (renamed "The Hunchback," 12,226n)

r

r As this peak was an old benchmark it was climbed early by a surveyr party.r

r r

Peak 12,378 (12,322n; 4 E of South Lake)

r

r First ascent September 14, 1938, by Arthur Blake.r

r r

Round Mtn. (11,165; 11,188n)

r

r Class 1. As this peak is an old benchmark it was climbed early by ar survey party. The first recorded ascent was in August 1935 by Chesterr Versteeg and Mr. Stevens. It is climbed often by deer hunters.r

r r

Sugar Loaf (11,003)

r

r No record of ascent is available. It is class 1 by inspection and is easilyr reached via the jeep road through Coyote Valley.r

r r r r r r

Chocolate Peak (11,712; 11,658n)

r

r Class 1, by the southeast ridge. First recorded ascent July 16, 1939, byr Chester Versteeg, who found empty cartridges on top.r

r r

Inconsolable Range, Peak 13,400+ (13,501n)

r

r First known ascent June 15, 1927, by Norman Clyde. The name “Cloud Ripper”r has been proposed. Class 1 from Seventh Lake via the east ridge,r or class 2 from Green Lake via the north ridge.r

r r

Inconsolable Range, Peak 13,210 (13,278n)

r

r First recorded ascent June 15, 1937, by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Peak 12,850 (12,834n; 1 N of Fifth Lake)

r

r Climbed prior to July 1940 by Morgan Leonard.r

r r

Peak 13,200+ (13,200+n; 1/2 N of Mount Agassiz)

r

r Climbed June 14, 1934, by David R. Brower and Hervey Voge. A class 3r ascent from Jigsaw Pass or the glacier northeast of Mount Agassiz.r

r r

Peak 12,986 (12,880+n; 0.7 W of Fifth Lake)

r

r First ascent July 6, 1929, by Norman Clyde. The ascent from Fifth Laker by the east ridge and the north side of the east ridge is class 3. Ther summit is a large, smooth block.r

r r

Peak 12,981 (12,840+W; 0.8 NE of Mount Agassiz)

r

r *Route 1. Northeast face.* Class 3. First ascent July 4, 1930, by Normanr Clyde, who described it as a good rock climb, involving the passing ofr numerous pinnacles.r

r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 3. First ascent June 14, 1934, by David R.r Brower and Hervey Voge. Follow the ridge from the little glacier northeast of Mount Agassiz.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southeast face.* Class 3. Descended June 14, 1934, by the partyr of Route 2. The face is cut by rough, broken chutes, which are readilyr climbed or descended.r

r r

Mount Gayley (13,500+ 13,510n)

r

r This is the peak just northeast of Mount Sill. It has sometimes beenr called Mount Alice. The first ascent was made June 10, 1927, by Normanr Clyde, by Route 1.r

r r r r r

r *Route 1. Southwest ridge.* Class 2 to 3. Follow the ridge from Glacierr Notch. An alternative (Norman Clyde, 1949) is to climb from ther Palisade Glacier to the ridge north of the buttress north of Glacier Notch,r rather than first climbing to the notch.r

r r

r *Route 2. South face.* Class 3. Descended September 28, 1931, byr W. A. Starr, Jr. A number of routes are possible.r

r r

r *Route 3. West Face.* Class 3. First ascent June 1950 by Robert Cogburn and Ed Robbins. A fairly large gully comes down the west wallr south of Gayley. Ascend on the northeast side of this gully for a shortr distance in a rotten chimney, and then traverse left (N) on a series ofr ledges underneath a prominent gendarme to a couloir that leads up tor the summit ridge.r

r r

Temple Crag (13,016; 12,999n)

r

r From the north Temple Crag is one of the most beautiful mountainsr of the Sierra, chiefly because of the splendid sculpture of the precipicesr on that side, which are of dark, massive granite and rise 3,000 feet abover the lower Big Pine Lakes. The north face is cut by two deep and narrowr snow chimneys; the northwest face by a broader couloir. These haver carved the intervening buttresses into tremendous, fantastic towers.r

r r

r The first ascent was made by the USGS in 1909, probably by Route 1.r Three new routes have been established, but these have hardly touchedr the climbing possibilities. (*SCB*, 1922, 312; 1941, 141).r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast face.* Class 3. Climb the deepest chute in the brokenr southeast face to the gradual nivated slope above it. A shallow chuter connects the top of this slope with a spectacular knife-edge leadingr to the summit. As a variation, the nivated slope of Route 1 may ber reached by a steep crack or chimney up the west wall of Contact Pass,r just south of the highest point of the pass. Fourth class climbing up ther crack, or up the wall outside, leads to the slope above.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest face.* Class 3. First ascent by Norman Clyde inr 1930. Go up the chute to the right (SW) of the broad northwest couloirr until it joins the latter, then follow the right wall of the main couloirr to the broken face at its head. Here cross to the left of the left branchr of the chute for a way and work up to the west arête of the Crag, whichr is followed to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 4. First ascent August 11, 1931, by Normanr Clyde, R. L. M. Underhill, Glen Dawson, and Jules Eichorn. Climb ther narrow crack just east of the western snow-chimney of the north face.r

The crack goes more or less up the center of the north buttress. Then.r r r r climb the east wall of the snow-chimney to a point below the notchr between Temple Crag and its north peak. Proceed diagonally upwardr and east to the summit knife edge.r

r r

r *Route 4. North peak from the northeast.* Class 4. First ascent July 7,r 1940, by John and Ruth Mendenhall. From Third Lake ascend screer and snow slopes and enter the first deep chimney or couloir southeastr of the north buttress. Well up in the chimney the angle diminishes andr climbing becomes class 3 until the notch looking down the northwestr face is reached. To reach the north peak, first ascended by the Mendenhalls, climb north along the ridge, winding in and out of, and over,r rocky teeth. The summit of Temple Crag should also be accessible fromr the notch.r

r r

Peak 12,840 (12,861n; 1 E of Temple Crag)

r

r First ascent Nov. 22, 1925, by Norman Clyde. Class 3 from the north.r

r r

Peak 13,530 (13,165n; 1 NE of The Thumb)

r

r First ascent November 14, 1926, by Norman Clyde.r

r r r

Peaks West of the Crest

r r

Columbine Peak (12,545; 12,652n)

r

r First ascent prior to 1925, by persons unknown. Class 2 by northeastr or south ridge.r

r r

Peak 12,339 (12,359n; 1 E of Giraud Peak)

r

r First ascent by John White, August 11, 1938. A class 2 traverse fromr Knapsack Pass.r

r r

Isosceles Peak (12,100+; 12,280+n)

r

r This is the most striking feature of the south wall of Dusy Basin, andr is a good class 3 climb by the northwest face. The first ascent was mader July 10, 1938, by Wear and Morse.r

r r

Giraud Peak (12,539; 12,585n)

r

r First ascent September 1, 1925, by Norman Clyde. Class 2 by ther east arête.r

r r r r r

Peak 13,900+ (13,920+n; 0.4 SW of Mount Sill)

r

r First recorded ascent July 25, 1925, by W. A. Starr and A. M. Starr. Ar class 2 climb from the cirque southwest of Mount Sill.r

r r

Peak 12,688 (12,692n; 1.3 S of North Palisade)

r

r First ascent in 1925, by Ralph A. Chase.r

r r

Peak 12,200+ (12,220n; 2 S of Mount Sill)

r

r No information is available.r

r r

References

r

r *Text: SCB*: 1904, 1-19; 1905, 15; 1913, 55; 1914, 80, 189; 1915, 262;r 1921, 204; 1922, 264, 271, 312; 1928, 33, 87; 1929, 58; 1931, 105, 107;r 1934, 24, 94; 1935, 72; 1938, 33, 45; 1939, 40; 1950, 123, 127.r *American Alpine Club Journal*: 1930, 186; 1931, 344, 395.r

r r

r *Photographs:* Palisades in general: *SCB*, 1896, 297 (sketch of “Mount Jordan”);r 1903, plate 68; 1904, plates 2, 3, 4; 1913, plate 29; 1917, 223;r 1922, 266, 267; 1934, 95; 1936, 30-31; 1938, 62-63.r

r r

r North Palisade: *SCB*, 1904, plate 5; 1915, 262; 1921, 205 (route fromr SW); 1931, 14 (W face); 1934, 14 (from S), 25 (sketch of route fromr SW); 1938, 62-63.r

r r

r Mount Sill: *SCB*, 1904, 11; 1924, 64; 1926, 304; 1934, 94-95.r

r r

r Palisade Crest: *SCB*, 1934, 95.r

r r

r Northwest peak of Middle Palisade: *SCB*, 1922, 267; 1934, 94-95.r

r r

r Middle Palisade: *SCB*, 1914, 189; 1917, 223; 1922, 266 (route from SW),r 274 (from the E); 1934, 94-95 (from the S).r

r r

r Temple Crag: *SCB*, 1913, 55.r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Kings Canyon •r Contentsr • Previous: Evolution & Black Dividerr**

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/palisades.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Palisades to Kearsarge Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Palisadesr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass

r

Kings Canyon Region

r r r r

Robert L. Smith*

r r

r *Assisted by Elwin Covey, David Hammack, and Clinton Kelley.r

r r

r FOR WILD and rugged grandeur the Kings River Canyon Region ofr lie Sierra Nevada has no peer. A mighty panorama, beginning at ther laundering snow-fed streams, sweeping up the terrifying gorges pastr jagged spires, and culminating in towering granite peaks and domesr presents itself to the adventurer. In this vast, largely unknown arear r r r r the opportunities for exploration are limitless. With the imposing arrayr of peaks and rock towers, and with many unclimbed summits still awaiting an ascent, the climber can fare very well.r

r r

r Deepest of all Sierra canyons are those of the Kings River and its twor main forks. The great canyon of the Middle Fork of the Kings Riverr is one of the most spectacular parts of the entire Sierra. It is indeedr an awe-inspiring sight to break out of the pine forest onto the rim ofr the Tehipite Valley and gaze across at the opposite mountain wall,r fantastically cut up into multiple flying turrets soaring in the bluer haze. The thin ribbons of streams, sweeping down the myriads of steepr gorges from the high country, line the mountain sides with bands ofr silver. The great river, four thousand feet below, sends its dull roarr echoing about the valley. Here also is the graceful and symmetricalr Tehipite Dome, the sentinel of this seldom-visited domain.r

r r

r To the southwest stands an even greater mountain wall. Spanishr Mountain, on the edge of an immense plateau, towers 8,200 feet abover the Kings River. The expanse between, dropping off in dizzy contours,r is a vast jumble of deep gorges, madly cascading and falling streams,r and steeply-tilted spurs, all more vertical than horizontal.r

r r

Historical Résumé

r r

r In this section of the Sierra, as well as many of the others, the sheepherders played an important part in early exploration. Perhaps the bestr known and certainly the most ambitious of this group was Frank Dusy.r In 1869 Dusy and Bill Helm set up partnership in sheep raising at Dinkeyr on Dinkey Creek. On a hunting trip the same year, Dusy shot a grizzlyr bear near Crown Creek, and followed the wounded bear all the wayr down to the Middle Kings Canyon. He hiked up to the Tehipite Valleyr and can presumably be given credit for its discovery. Dusy also builtr the Dinkey trail to Crown Creek and its extension, the Tunemah trail,r to the upper Middle Fork Canyon, both of which were needed to get hisr sheep to Simpson Meadow.r

r r

r Around 1876 there was a Hydrographic Reconnaissance of the samer area. Among other things, the height of Tehipite Dome was estimated.r

r r

r Known primarily for his early mountaineering in the Kings Canyonr area was Prof. Bolton C. Brown. Among his many achievements werer first ascents, in 1895, of Mt. Woodworth and Avalanche Peak and hisr extensive work in exploration and route finding.r

r r r r r

r Until recent years, very little climbing has been done here. Some ofr the peaks above the canyon walls were climbed in past years by hikersr or members of the USGS, but the more difficult peaks and the rockr climbs remained untouched. In 1935 an attempt was made on ther Sphinx, but it was not until 1940 that it was finally conquered. In ther years that followed many of the difficult rock towers fell to Sierra Clubr climbing parties. First was the Obelisk in 1947, and then the towers ofr the Grand Dike, Gorge of Despair, and Silver Spur in 1951 and 1952.r A reconnaissance party in late 1952 returned with the information thatr there are even more great rock towers to be ascended, which leaves ther climbing in this region with a very hopeful future.r

r r

Topography and its Relation to Climbing

r r

r The canyons of the Kings River owe their astounding depth mainlyr to streamwork, although they have been remodeled and enlarged byr intense glaciation. Often compared with Yosemite, the Kings Canyonr is actually different in most respects. While Yosemite has its hangingr valleys and great water falls, nearly all the tributary streams in Kingsr Canyon have cut their valleys down to so great a depth that they nowr descend in broken cascades engulfed in slot-like gorges, dark and narrow. The walls are further scored by great avalanche chutes. In ther canyon of the Middle Fork of the Kings River, particularly on ther southern wall above Tehipite Valley, the actions of streams, glaciersr and the elements through countless centuries have left in their waker many fantastic spires and towers. It may be safely said that these arer the finest rock climbs in the entire Sierra, outside of Yosemite Valley.r The fact that they lie in lonely, barely accessible country only adds tor their enchantment.r

r r

r The great canyon of the South Fork also has attractions for the mountaineer. The best climbing is undoubtedly on the Grand Dike, an immense steep and broken ridge comprised of eight large towers and ar number of minor summits. Farther up this canyon may be found ther Grand Sentinel and the Sphinx, also fine climbs, which are easilyr reached from roads end.r

r r

r In general, the rock in this region is fairly sound granite, but that ofr a crumbling nature is occasionally encountered. Many of the rocks haver peculiar knobs protruding from their surface shells, a remarkable characteristic seldom found elsewhere. These knobs can be found on the towersr r r r above the Gorge of Despair, where they enable one to climb high-angler walls, and on the Obelisk, where they are sound enough to safely holdr a rappel rope.r

r r

Approaches

r r

r *From the north.* A trail leaves the John Muir Trail at the mouth ofr Palisade Creek (8,125) and follows down the Middle Fork of the Kingsr River to Simpson Meadow. Here the trail divides, one branch continuing down the Middle Kings to Tehipite Valley, the other branch rising to Dougherty Meadow, and still upward to cross the Monarch Divider at Granite Pass (10,677), then dropping down to meet the Kings Riverr Canyon at the old Kanawyers campsite.r

r r

r *From the south.* Starting from Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park,r the most direct route is over J. O. Pass (9,410) to Rowell Meadow, wherer two branching trails lead to the same route. One joins at Horse Corralr Meadow and the other goes over Marvin Pass (9,100) to join betweenr Horse Corral Meadow and Summit Meadow. The trail descends byr switchbacks to the floor of Kings River Canyon at Cedar Grove (4,631).r

r r

r *From the east.* Leaving the John Muir Trail at the forks of Woodsr Creek, a trail goes down the creek to its intersection with the Southr Fork of the Kings River. After fording the river, the trail follows downr the west bank through Paradise Valley to a junction with the Kingsr River Canyon trail. Farther south on the Muir Trail, the Bubbs Creekr trail leads westward to the Kings River Canyon.r

r r

r *From the west.* Highway 180 from Fresno leads first to Generalr Grant Grove, then continues to Cedar Grove. From here all points ofr the Kings Canyon area are accessible with the exception of the Tehipiter Valley and peaks on the north wall of the Middle Fork. A long trailr from Cliff Camp on the North Fork of the Kings River passes throughr Three Springs, Collins Meadow, and finally drops into the Tehipiter Valley, from which Simpson Meadow may be reached. At Collinsr Meadow an alternate trail branches eastward over Tunemah Passr (10,879), and descends a steep and unsafe route to Simpson Meadow.r

r r

r The Tehipite Valley may be reached from Cedar Grove by crossingr the Monarch Divide at Happy Gap and following down the east bankr of Silver Creek. This is a dangerous route, unfit for pack animals, andr is further complicated by the fact that it is often impossible to cross ther Middle Fork of the Kings in the valley. In the spring, at high water,r r r r this river may present an impassable barrier at many points, as the onlyr bridge is a suspension bridge at Simpson Meadow.r

r r

r The rock climbs on the great spurs above Tehipite Valley are notr easily approached from any direction. The only feasible route is to startr from the South Fork of the Kings River, following up either the Lewisr Creek or Deer Cove trails to Wildman Meadow. Just west of thisr meadow is Grizzly Creek, which can be followed along its west bankr to the top of the Monarch Divide. The divide is crossed at a saddle justr west of Hogback Peak. Care must be taken at this point to descend intor the correct canyon. A route due north would continue past Swampr Lakes and then down into Lost Canyon, which is virtually unexplored.r A one-half mile traverse to the west must be made from the saddle tor enter the upper end of the Gorge of Despair. This gorge can be followed down; keeping on the north side of the Creek, until a suitabler base campsite can be found at about 8,000 feet elevation. Many fine rockr climbs are available from this point.r

r r

r Because of the three thousand foot precipice at the lower end, it isr impossible to enter the Gorge of Despair from the Tehipite Valley. Thoser exploring the other great spurs and canyons in this area will find thatr the obstacles to cross-country traveling are often great, and sometimesr insurmountable. Because of this fact, there are many rock towers thatr have never been closely approached, some of which may well prove tor be more than worth the arduous trip to their base.r

r r

Campsites

r r

r Most of the meadows in this region provide excellent campsites, having water available all year. Especially to be recommended because ofr their beautiful setting are Collins Meadow in the Crown Valley, Simpson Meadow on the Middle Fork of the Kings River, and Zumwaltr Meadows in the Kings River Canyon. Pasturage is good in general, butr is very meager on portions of the Granite Pass Trail, especially betweenr the pass and Granite Basin. The floor of Tehipite Valley is also quiter barren, except in early spring. Not shown on the USGS quadrangle mapr are several meadows about one-third mile northwest of the Obelisk,r which are the best campsites in that vicinity.r

r r

r A good base camp can be established alongside the creek in the Gorger of Despair at an elevation of approximately 8,000 feet, which is near ther base of Cobra Turret, and close to the best climbs in the region.r

r r r r r

Routes and Records for the Peaks

r r

r The peaks covered in this section of the Guide lie in an area partiallyr within the borders of Kings Canyon National Park and partially in ther Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. This region extends from Mt.r Woodworth on the north to Sentinel Dome on the south. The westernr boundary follows from Finger Peak south along Kettle Ridge to ther Obelisk, and jogs over to include Spanish Mountain. The eastern boundary, starting at the intersection of Goddard Creek with the Middle Forkr of the Kings River, follows down the Middle Fork to the Granite Passr trail near Simpson Meadow. This trail serves as the easterly limits ofr the arbitrary region from here on south. Avalanche Peak and Ther Sphinx are also included in this section.r

r r

r Because they are widely scattered, the peaks and rock climbs in ther Kings Canyon area cannot be grouped in any strict order. Therefore,r they are arranged in order from west to east as follows:r

r r

r Peaks north and west of the Monarch Divider
r Peaks of the Monarch Divider
r Peaks south and east of the Monarch Divider

r r

r There is, however, an exception to the above rule. On spurs havingr a number of rock towers on them, the towers are grouped according tor elevation, from the lowest to the highest. The spurs themselves willr follow the original west to east classification.r

r r r

Peaks North and West of the Monarch Divide

r r

Spanish Mountain (B.M. 10,044; 10,051n)

r

r Climbed in 1921 by Hermann F. Ulrichs. May be climbed from ther northwest by a number of routes, but the most interesting route liesr along the southeast ridge, where the best view of the 8,000 foot deepr canyon can be had. Class 2.r

r r

Obelisk (9,707; 9,700n)

r

r *Route 1.* Class 5. First ascent in 1948 by Jim Wilson and Allen Steck.r The route starts up a long, well broken chimney on the south face. Ther chimney ends at the foot of a steep wall about 100 feet high. This pitchr is the crux of the climb, for it is quite exposed and the holds are unreliable. Several pitons are used here for safety. The lead is about 100r feet with no intermediate belay spots. The route to the summit is easyr r r from the top of the wall. Six rappels are required to reach the ground.r Length of climb: 500 to 600 feet.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Extreme class 4. First ascent June 1951 by Anton Nelson,r David Hammack, John Salathé, and Alice Ann Dayton. The climbr starts on the short 45° ridge near the center of the north face. Ther slabs are ascended for about 100 feet, at which point the ridge ends. Ar traverse to the right (west) is made around the face on very small, exposed ledges to the west arête. The arête is followed to the summit onr excellent holds. Time required: 1 1/2 hours.r

r r

r The rope-down, if made from the northeast shoulder over the greatr overhang, involves a 130 foot rappel. Some of the large knobs that protrude from the surface of this rock make excellent anchor points. Carer should be taken to see that the rope will run around the knob used.r

r r

Kettle Dome (9,452; 9,448n)

r

r First ascent July 20, 1920, by Hermann Ulrichs. Climbing data isr meager on this dome as ascents are rare. In the notes of Ulrichs, we findr this description: “Only one or two narrow cracks in the smooth roundedr granite afford finger holds sufficient to make an ascent possible.” Ther climb is probably class 3.r

r r

Tehipite Dome (7,713; 7,708n)

r

r First known ascent by Allan L. Chickering and Walter A. Starr onr July 31, 1896. The summit can be gained by climbing out along a sloping ledge on the west face or by going out the backbone, which involvesr nothing more than a rock scramble. The easiest way to reach the northr base of the dome is to leave the Tunemah trail at the 7,500 foot levelr and contour around, as severe brush is encountered at higher elevations.r

r r r

Towers above the Gorge of Despair (see Sketch 20)

r r

Fascination Turret (7,000; 7,000+n)

r

r Unclimbed. This is the lowest rock tower on this immense spur, beingr almost out of sight of the larger towers above. It is located on ther extreme end of the spur, immediately above the tremendous drop-offr into Tehipite Valley. The only possible way to reach it would be tor start from the notch connecting Frustration Turret to the wall, andr traverse around the base of Frustration on the north side. The base ofr r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 20. Turrets above the Gorge of Despair.r r

r r r r r r Fascination Turret could then be reached by ascending the steep sloper for about 300 feet. The climb itself appears to be class 3.rr r

Frustration Turret (7,500; 7,500+n)

r

r First ascent June 18, 1952, by David Hammack, Jules Eichorn, Clintonr Kelley, and Bob Smith. The climb starts from just below the notch atr the base of the east face, and goes straight up this face for about 100r feet

to a small tree ledge, which serves as the first belay point. Ther holds up to this ledge are very small at the start, but improve fartherr up. From this ledge continue upward on good holds for another 15 feetr to a smaller ledge. Traverse around the face to the right, passing underr the huge overhanging slab to a broken shoulder. This is ascended to ther large friction ledge above. Cross this outward slanting ledge to ther other end and up a semi-chimney. By going upward and to the right,r a large steep slab on the northwest corner of the tower is ascended. Ther route follows up the vertical jam-crack from the slab, and then up to ther right to a small platform. Several variations of the route can be mader here. By going up to the left, a class 5 route on small holds can be followed.r The other choice is to work slightly to the right (W) and up ar highly-polished trough at the limit of friction. At the upper end of ther trough a traverse is made to the left. Either route brings one to a narrowr ledge under a vertical face about 100 feet below the summit, which canr he climbed with one or two pitons for direct aid, and with the aid of ar small crack. Continuing slightly to the left, the route goes up a short,r steep pitch requiring long arm pulls on hidden holds, and finally bringsr one out on the northeast shoulder at the summit block. A traverser around the block to the south side of the tower leads to an easy route tor the summit. The rope down is made on the north face down to ther large friction ledge in two rappels. The first ascent party climbed downr from here to the tree ledge on the east face, and then rappelled fromr there. Time required: 3 hours. Length of climb: 400 feet. Class 6.r

r r

El Corporale Turret

r

r First ascent July 25, 1951, by David Hammack and Anton Nelson. Ther climb is made up the prominent gully, making use of the large solutionr knobs, and is just difficult enough to justify a rope. Class 4.r

r r

El Commandante Turret (8,600; 8,590n)

r

r *Route 1.* First ascent on July 25, 1951, by David Hammack andr Anton Nelson. Class of climb: Extreme class 5. The only apparent router r r r on this tower is the obvious chimney that starts from the south (lower)r corner and leads to a large platform about half way up. The climb isr started by ascending the chimney for about 30 feet until it begins tor steepen, and then out on to the southwest face, where use is made ofr the large solution knobs. The chimney is intersected again at the platform. From the platform, which is at the northwest corner, a class 5r route zig-zags up the 70° face to a point just below the summit block.r Here a delicate friction pitch, either up a steep arête or across the facer to the southwest corner leads to a point from which the summit mayr be attained. Time required: 3 hours. Length of climb: 300 feet.r

r r

r *Route 2.* First ascent on July 19, 1952, by a Sierra Club party of nine.r Class 5. The climb starts in the same chimney as Route 1, but insteadr of going out on to the face, the chimney is followed up until it ends.r Here a short traverse is made to the right (NE) which leads to ther platform. From this point the deep chimney is climbed until it alsor ends. The route traverses slightly to the right, and then up a high angler class 5 crack to the easy summit pitch.r

r r

Cobra Turret (9,100; 9,050+n)

r

r First ascent July 26, 1951, by David Hammack and Anton Nelson.r The highest point on the northwest side is reached by skirting the cliffs.r This point, from which the climb is started, is just to the southwest of ther ridge above Crystal Creek. A large tree may be seen about 75 feet abover the ground on the face of the turret, and may be reached by a 3rd classr scramble. From the tree, the route leads to the southwest for aboutr 50 feet, and then up and back into a semi-chimney, passing the overhang to the right (SW), and continuing to a suitable belay spot. Thisr lead is a full 120 feet, and requires the use of several class 5 pitons.r From here, the climbing continues directly up by a number of possibler routes. Solution knobs allow one to ascend the vertical face in severalr spots. It would seem best, however, to remain just above the prominentr semi-chimney. Approximate time: 21/2 hours. Length of climb: 500 feet.r Class 5.r

r r

Crystal Turret (9,600; 9,500+n)

r

r The highest rock tower in this group. First ascent July 25, 1951, byr David Hammack and Anton Nelson. This climb is started from ther southeast corner. A “window” may be seen from this side throughr which the route passes. Beyond the window, the climb is simply thatr r r r of mounting a short arête to a large platform, and then traversingr around the south side of the summit block to a point where it can ber easily climbed. Time required: 45 minutes. Length of climb, 200 feet.r Class of climb: Extreme class 4.r

r r *Towers on Silver Spur*r

r *Silver Turret (9,914; 9,991n).* This is the most prominent feature onr Silver Spur, and is shown on the USGS quadrangle map (elevation).r The summit is reached by a 3rd class scramble from the south. Firstr ascent by David Hammack and Anton Nelson on July 27, 1951.r

r r

r *Fang Turret.* A very difficult 100 foot rock spire immediately to ther south of Silver Turret. From the southeast notch, the route is easilyr seen. Pitons for direct aid and safety are required on the almost verticalr route. First climbed on July 27, 1951, by David Hammack and Antonr Nelson. Approximate time: 1 hour. Class 6.r

r r

r (Below and to the east of Silver Turret is another large rock mass,r as yet unclimbed, which promises to provide an interesting climb.)r

r r

Finger Peak (12,401; B.M. 12,404n)

r

r First ascent by government surveying party. Records of the route usedr are not available, nor is the date of ascent.r

r r

Burnt Mountain (10,602; 10,608n)

r

r Probably climbed by early exploring parties. There appear to be nor climbing difficulties ‘to surmount this peak, and it is easily approachedr from the Tunemah trail.r r

Blue Canyon Peak (11,838; 11,849n)

r

r There is no recorded ascent of this peak.r r

Tunemah Peak (11,873; 11,894n)

r

r No recorded ascents, but may have been climbed by an early partyr or by sheepherders.r r

Slide Peak (11,007; 10,9150)

r

r Unclimbed. The north and west faces of this peak are very steepr mid would no doubt provide some interesting class 4 routes. An ascentr from the south could be done class 3, however. From any direction, itr would be a rewarding climb.r

r r r r r

Peaks on the Monarch Divide

r r r r

Wren Peak (9,449; 9,450n)

r

r No recorded ascents. This is a group of formidable-looking crags atr the upper end of Junction Ridge. Several of the rock towers in the groupr may prove to be difficult climbs. The best approach would be fromr Happy Gap.r

r r

Eagle Peaks (9,800; 9,750+n)

r

r While there are no records of ascents in this group of peaks, somer of them may have been climbed by exploring parties. All of them appearr to be rock scrambles from their bases.r

r r

Mount Harrington (11,001; 11,005n)

r

r First recorded ascent July 27, 1951, by David Hammack and Antonr Nelson. The best approach to the base is from the north. The lower partr of the mountain presents no serious climbing difficulties. The jaggedr summit spire is a climb of extreme class 3 difficulty, with large holdsr all the way up.r

r r

Hogback Peak (11,164)

r

r This great heap of huge talus blocks on the crest of the Monarchr Divide has probably never been climbed, for obvious reasons. An ascentr would involve hours of drudgery for rather dubious rewards. Anyoner wishing to climb it, however, would find the best starting place to ber the saddle just to the west.r

r r

Kennedy Mountain (BM. 11,424; 11,433n)

r

r First ascent by government surveying party. This peak appears tor be a class 2 ascent from any direction except the north, where the facer drops a sheer 600 feet.r

r r r

Peaks South and East of the Monarch Divide

r r

The Grand Dike (7,500 to 8,500)

r

r A traverse of seven of the eight towers was made on July 28,r 1951, by David Hammack and Anton Nelson, which constituted firstr ascents of all but tower number 4. The towers are numbered startingr from the lower (SE) end. Below the first tower there is a minor unclimbed pinnacle.r

r r r r r

r *Tower No. 1.* The route leads up the eastern face of Tower No. 2 forr about 70 feet to a broad, horizontal ledge. (A diagonal upward ledger from low down on Tower No. 2 is not the route.) The broad ledger leads to the notch between No. 1 and No. 2. From the notch, Towerr No. 1 is easily climbed by circling around to the

west face. Class 4.r

r r

r *Tower No. 2.* This is the truncated, small tower between the largerr towers No. 1 and No. 3. From the broad ledge mentioned above, ar short chimney continues up the east face to the summit. Class 4.r

r r

r *Tower No. 3.* From the notch between Nos. 2 and 3 a traverse is mader around the southeast face. After it becomes impossible to traverse easilyr any further, the route goes up and back to the right (SE) on a highr angle face with good holds, to a large ledge. The next lead bears to ther left (NW) and follows, in general, the northwest corner. This bringsr one to the base of the main pitch of the climb, a 70 degree face withr few prominent holds. This pitch should be done by working slightly tor the right (S) and up until a cornice is reached that supplies a few underholds. From the top of this pitch the summit is easily reached. Approximately 2 hours to climb. Length of climb: 300 feet. Class 5.r

r r

r *Tower No. 4.* First ascent June 15, 1952, by David Hammack, Bobr Smith, George Larimore and Bob Purington. The route starts in a larger chimney on the northeast side. The chimney is ascended about 30 feet,r or until it is possible to work out to the right on small holds onto ther fate. The route follows up a short distance to a suitable belay point onr one of the small ledges. A piton anchor should be used here by ther belayer. From here the ascent continues up the northeast face at highr angle on good holds, and up a tight chimney to a small but conspicuousr tree ledge, the next belay point. Continuing straight upward and thenr traversing slightly to the left, a large, partially detached flake is reached.r The broken edges of the flake make a ladder enabling one to ascendr the vertical face quite easily. The face is climbed until the great northr shoulder is reached. This is the next belay point. From here, a shortr class 3 pitch leads to the summit. The best method of descent is to climbr down to the shoulder and rappel down the northwest side into the notchr between Nos. 4 and 5. Adequate rope must be carried, as this is a 120r foot rappel. Time required: 2 hours. Length of climb: 350 feet. Class 5.r

r r

r *Tower No. 5.* From the notch between Nos. 4 and 5, the summit mayr be attained by climbing up the broken southeast face. There is only oner spot that offers any difficulty, and that is a short, slightly overhangingr wall that must be climbed to get out of an alcove about half-way up.r From there the main arête is more or less followed to the summit. Itr r r r appears as though there is an easier route leading up the north face, butr it has not been investigated. The rope-down is to the notch betweenr Nos. 5 and 6. Class 3 to 4.r

r r

r *Tower No. 6.* From the notch between Nos. 5 and 6, there is onlyr one obstacle on the entire climb and that is the to foot overhangingr wall that extends along the base immediately beside the notch. This isr overcome by climbing a small tree about 30 feet below the notch (Wr side) and traversing across to the wall. The rest of the climb is 2nd andr 3rd class.r

r r

r *Towers No. 7 and No. 8.* May be climbed by any number of routes,r none of which offer any serious difficulties. Each of these summits mayr be attained by 2nd and 3rd class routes.r

r r

Lookout Peak (8,547; 8,501n)

r

r First ascent by Elisha Cotton Winchell on Sept. 27, 1868. The climbr is described as an easy scramble from Summit Meadow. It is probablyr no more difficult than class 2.r

r r

Stag Dome (7,707; 7,704n)

r

r Records of first ascent are not available, but there is now a USFSr lookout station on the summit.r

r r

Sentinel Dome (9,127; 9,024n)

r

r This peak is climbed often by hikers to obtain a view of the highr country. Information of the first ascent is not obtainable.r

r r

Comb Spur (11,617; 11,618n)

r

r A traverse was made of this spur from July 11 to 25, 1931, by Robertr A. Owen.r

r r

North Mountain (8,642; 8,629n)

r

r No recorded ascents.r

r r

Mount Hutchings (10,787; 10,785n)

r

r No recorded ascents.r

r r

North Dome (8,657; 8,720+n)

r

r First ascent June 30, 1940, by Neil Ruge and Florence Rata via Graniter Creek and Copper Canyon.r

r r r r

Avalanche Peak (10,085; 10,000+n)

r

r First ascent in July 1895 by Prof. Bolton C. Brown and A. B. Clark.r From the description of the ascent by Brown, it was just a stiff hike tor the summit from the outlet of Copper Creek.r

r r

Grand Sentinel (8,514; 8,464n)

r

r First ascent in 1886 by J. N. LeConte, Helen M. Gompertz, Mr. and Mrs.r W. S. Gould and party. This ascent was from the back (S) and did notr involve any difficult climbing.r

r r

r An interesting rock climber’s route is that used by Roy Gorin andr Jerry Ganapole on July 7, 1951. Two major steps can be seen in ther outline of the Grand Sentinel from the canyon floor at Zumwaltr Meadows. The base of these steps is approached by working up ther stream bed immediately to the west. The lower of the two rock facesr can be climbed on the edge of the buttress overlooking the 90 degreer north face, with class 4 and one or two easy class 5 pitches. A walk acrossr the wide shelf leads to the base of the upper face. From here severalr moderately difficult class 5 pitches lead to the summit. Climbing timer from the base of the lower face is 4 hours. Total time to reach ther summit from the canyon floor is to hours.r

r r

The Sphinx (9,122; 9,039n)

r

r First ascent July 26, 1940, by Art Argiewicz and Bob Jacobs. Ther Sphinx is the farthest north and slightly lower of the two points comprising the mass. In order to reach the top it is necessary to climb overr the higher point, down the north face about 300 feet and up to the notchr between the two. The key pitch is a 200 foot face, triangular and almostr devoid of holds. Above this is the 150 foot summit ridge. A delicater traverse is made across the face to the south wall, where a small ledger can be found around the corner. From here an open chimney leads tor the top of the ridge and the summit. Class 4.r

r r

References

r

r *SCB*, 1896, 241, 295; 1897, 44, 79, 106; 1907, 115; 1922, 313; 1935, 66;r 1941, 127, 131; 1948, 121.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, year and page or plate number as shown: Gorger of Despair and El Commandante: 1898, pl. 8. Middle Fork Kingsr Canyon: 1908, pl. 8; 1921, pl. 55. Simpson Meadow: 1907, pl. 30; 1911,r pl. 19; 1917, pl. 180; 1921, pl. 45. South Fork Kings Canyon: 1907, pl. 20;r r r r 1914, pl. 65. Tehipite Dome: 1897, P. 44; 1898, pl. 7; 1907, pl. 28; 1913,r pl. 28; 1914, frontispiece; 1914, p1. 57; 1921, pl. 58; 1935, p. 63; 1944,r p. 46. Tehipite Valley: 1913, pl. 9, 28, 32, and 48.r

r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Palisades to Kearsarge Pass •r Contentsr • Previous: Palisadesr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/kings_canyon.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r Palisades to Kearsarge Pass >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Kearsarge Pass to Army & Franklin Passes •r Contentsr • Previous: Kings Canyonr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass

r

Palisades to Kearsarge Pass

r r r

Fred L. Jones

r r r

r THE AREA south of the Palisades, as far as Kearsarge Pass, does notr contain many outstanding peaks, but it nevertheless is very fine Highr Sierra country, with much of charm and interest. There are manyr places where trails do not go that can be reached by knapsackers. Peaksr of special note are Mount Bolton Brown, Split Mountain, Mountr Baxter, Arrow Peak, and Mount Clarence King. Most, but not all, ofr the peaks have at least one moderately easy route. Granite predominatesr throughout, although dark, metamorphic rock is found on Crater Mountain, Cardinal Mountain, Split Mountain, and near Rae Lake.r

r r r

Historical Résumé

r r

r Indians used Kearsarge Pass as a trading route for untold centuries before Captain John Frémont entered the region to the northwest in 1845r and traveled to 11,000 feet on the North Fork of the Kings. In 1858r J. H. Johnson was led across Kearsarge Pass by a Digger Indian. Prospectors were also active at about this time. The California Geologicalr Survey party led by W. H. Brewer arrived in the Kings River watershedr in 1864, and made further explorations in 1865.r

r r

r In 1873 John Muir traveled up Bubbs Creek and went over Kearsarge Pass. In the years after 1875 sheep came to the South Fork, andr in 1876 or 1877 Frank Dusy explored the Middle Fork of the Kings asr far as the Palisades. In 1878 the present Split Mountain was namedr Southeast Palisade by George Wheeler. Taboose, Sawmill, and Pinchotr passes were in use by sheepmen by 1890. Bolton C. Brown made a solor trip up the headwaters of the Middle and South forks of the Kings inr 1895, and made ascents of Mount Woodworth, Mount Ruskin, andr Arrow Peak. Brown explored Sixty Lake Basin and the Rae Lake regionr in 1899 and made a map of the area.r

r r

r The early visitors to the mountains naturally paid more attention tor r r r passes than to peaks. Mather Pass was first used by stock in 1897 whenr a sheepman was trapped by snow in the upper Middle Fork of ther Kings. Packstock were taken over Glen Pass for the first time in 1906.r The Sierra Club conducted its second annual outing in 1902, takingr about 200 people into the Kings Canyon. Stock were taken over Muirr Pass in 1907 by George R. Davis, who then worked out of the Middler Fork to Cartridge Creek, since there was, of course, no trail down ther rugged Middle Fork.r

r r

r In 1908 J. N. LeConte, James Hutchinson, and Duncan McDuffier made the entire trip from Yosemite to Kings Canyon via high route,r with stock. From the Middle Fork, after crossing Muir Pass, they triedr to scout out a route over Mather Pass but decided that it was impassabler and went up Cataract Creek, across to Cartridge Creek, over Cartridger Pass to the South Fork, over Pinchot and Glen passes, and finally downr Bubbs Creek. This trip took 27 days. In 1915 work was begun on ther John Muir Trail, which was finally completed in 1938.r

r r

r When the trails threaded their way through the mountains, ther travelers began to climb the peaks. The early trips of Brown, LeConte,r Davis, Solomons, and others left relatively few conquered peaks behind.r During the 19305 Sierra Club climbers made many first ascents. Normanr Clyde, who began his Sierra climbing in the early 1920s while principal of the High School at Independence, has been and still is the unchallenged dean of modern Sierra mountaineers. He and a few othersr whose names stand out in the records have accounted for the majorr portion of the original climbing to date.r

r r r

Approaches and Campsites

r r

r Eastern approaches are described first, from north to south, startingr with Birch Creek and ending with Kearsarge Pass. Western approachesr and a few words about camping follow.r

r r

r *Birch Creek.* There is no pass over the crest at Birch Creek. Fromr Big Pine drive west on the road to Glacier Lodge. Just past the firstr bridge take the branch road to the south to McMurray Meadow. Walkr north along the fence to the north; about 200 yards north of the creekr the trail runs west among a network of cattle trails. If necessary ther trail can be picked up where it climbs up the first draw north of Birchr Creek. At about 9,100 one branch of the trail crosses the ridge to ther south into a basin on Birch Creek, while the other continues up ther r r r ridge to meet the first at a willow patch at about 10,000. Mediocre campsites can be found. The crest can be crossed by knapsackers between ther Thumb and the next peak south.r

r r

r *Red Mountain Creek.* This is another approach that does not lead overr the crest. From Fish Springs on Highway 395 drive southwest to ther old Red Mountain Fruit Ranch. Turn west through the stone portalsr and go past the pumice mine. Keep to the left and cross Tinemahar Creek. At the next fork turn left again. The

road ends at a spring northr of Red Mountain Creek. The steep, rough trail rounds the hill just abover the first little rocky point above Red Mountain Creek. There are campsites on the flat just below Red Mountain Lake. The saddle to the northr of Split Mountain can be reached by climbers or knapsackers by climbing above the lake to the northwest, and this saddle can be crossed tor Upper Basin.r

r r

r *Taboose Pass (11,400+).* Taboose Pass offers an approach to ther Upper Basin of the South Fork of the Kings, but it is little used andr has fallen into disrepair. Animals must be led over several stretches ofr jumbled talus blocks. It is a long, dry climb. To reach the foot of ther trail turn off Highway 395 about 16 miles north of Independence onr the first dirt road north of Taboose Creek. Keep to the right after passingr through the drift fence and drive to the end of the rocky road. Ther trail is signed and leads to the north. Camp can be made in the flatr below the falls at about 8,800, or at the last timber at about 10,500.r

r r

r *Sawmill Pass (11,200+).* From Highway 395 take the first dirt roadr north of Sawmill Creek and drive to the mouth of Sawmill Canyon. Ther trail goes up the low ridge north of the canyon mouth. An alternativer approach is to drive up the oiled road to the Division Creek powerhouse. A trail leaves the road about one-quarter mile above the powerhouse and meets the Sawmill Canyon branch in the sandy saddle westr of the red hill to the south. The trail to the pass is long and arduous,r though not particularly rough. Sawmill Meadows is a good camp spot,r as is Sawmill Lake, east of the pass.r

r r

r *Baxter Pass (12,000).* Drive up the road up the North Fork of Oakr Creek to the end. The trail is steep, long, and rough, but there are goodr campsites at Summit Meadows on the southeast side of the pass, and alsor at Baxter Lakes on the northwest.r

r r

r *Kearsarge Pass (11,823).* From Independence a good road leads tor Onion Valley at 8,900 feet, where the trail to the pass starts. This is anr excellent and easy trail. Camps can be found at elevations of aboutr 11,000 on either side of the pass.r

r r r r r

r *Western approaches.* From Cedar Grove on the South Fork the pathr follows up the stream. At the Bubbs Creek junction the right hand trailr can be followed up Bubbs Creek to Bullfrog Lake, or the left hand oner can be taken up Paradise Valley and Woods Creek. From Kings Canyonr at Copper Creek a trail can be followed to Granite Pass. It is also possibler to approach up the Middle Fork of the Kings, by way of Tehipiter Valley, but this approach is quite lengthy.r

r r

r *Campsites.* Places with wood and water can be found along mostr streams up to about 11,400 feet, which is the average timberline for thisr area.r

r r r

Principal Passes

r r

r Besides the passes mentioned under approaches, there are a number ofr others within the area. Mather Pass, Pinchot Pass, Glen Pass, andr Granite Pass are crossed by good trails. Cartridge Pass (11,700+) wasr for long the Muir Trail route between the Middle and South Forks ofr the Kings, but since the Muir Trail has been rerouted over Mather Pass,r Cartridge has fallen into disrepair. Parties use it for stock each year, butr it is considered rather rough. Gardiner Pass provides a rough route inr current use by packers into Gardiner Basin from Charlotte Lake; ther pass lies west of Mount Gardiner.r

r r

r The remaining routes of this section are recommended only for knapsackers or hikers, although some have been traversed with stock.r

r r

r *Cataract Creek Pass (11,500+).* This pass connects Amphitheaterr and Dumbbell lakes. The trail along Cataract Creek is said to be ther worst section.r

r r

r *Dumbbell Lakes Pass (12,200+).* This is an old sheep route fromr the head of Cartridge Creek into Dumbbell Lakes.r

r r

r *Upper Basin Pass (12,300+).* LeConte and Lindley pioneered a router eastward out of the head of Cartridge Creek into Upper Basin. It isr for knapsackers only.r

r r

r *Red Pass (11,600+).* Red Pass lies between Marion Peak and Redr Point. It provides a route between Marion Lake and the South Forkr of Cartridge Creek, and can be used on a cross-country route fromr Dougherty Meadow via Horseshoe Lakes, Windy Ridge, and Red Passr to Marion Lake, as was done by the 1935 High Trip.r

r r

r *Arrow Pass (12,600+).* The notch about three-quarters of a miler southeast of Arrow Peak may be used to go from the creek southwest ofr Bench Lake to Arrow Creek. It was once used by sheepmen, andr r r constitutes part of a knapsack route between Upper Basin and Paradiser Valley.r

r r

r *Muro Blanco.* The Muro Blanco can hardly be termed a pass, but itr does offer an unconventional route between Upper Basin and Paradiser Valley. The descent may be made by knapsackers by following alongr the river bottom. Although stock have been taken over the same router during periods of low water, the route is decidedly not recommender for animals. The ascent by knapsackers is difficult, and the party shouldr consider that it may be turned back.r

r r

r *Baxter Col (12400+).* Between Mount Baxter and Peak 13,167 isr a notch which, though up to class 3 on the north, provides a handy router between Woods and Baxter lakes.r

r r

r *Rae Lake-Sixty Lake Basin passes.* A route passable to stock liesr between Peak 11,904 and Peak 12,553. Another within the basin, (11,800+),r is south of Peak 11,950. A ducked trail departs from the Muir Trail onr the west side of Rae Lake and crosses the intervening ridge south ofr Fin Dome.r

r r

r *Sixty Lake Col (11,600+).* This pass crosses the ridge betweenr Gardiner Basin and Sixty Lake Basin just north of Peak 12,565. It is rough,r but is passable to burrows.r

r r

r *Knapsack routes from Onion Valley to Rae Lake.* It is possible to gor from Onion Valley to Rae Lake in one day by crossing the Woods Creekr -Bubbs Creek divide just west of the crest, near Mount Gould andr Dragon Peak. Follow the trail to Kearsarge Pass, then either follow upr the west side of the crest toward Gould or follow the main trail west tor a point a few hundred yards below the place where the Kearsarge Lakesr trail leaves the main trail. At this point an old trail departs to the northr and winds up to the top of the ridge between Gould and Rixford andr ends on the crest about one-half mile north of Gould at an elevation ofr about 12,800. Descend down talus to the three lakes just south of Dragonr Lake, then follow the stream to Dragon Lake, where a trail leading tor Rae Lake is found. In the reverse direction, take the stream that fallsr into Dragon Lake from the south and follow it to the easternmost of ther three lakes south of Dragon Lake. From this lake climb the southernmostr talus slope which looks negotiable to the ridge, follow the ridger to Mount Gould, and descend to the Kearsarge Pass trail or to the passr itself. This route is class 2 to 3, and may be done in five hours fromr Rae Lake to Onion Valley.r

r r r r r r

Peaks of the Main Crest (North to South)

r r r

Peak 13,474 (13,520+n; 1 N of Mt. Bolton Brown)

r

r First ascent June 14, 1930, by Norman Clyde. It is a long, class 3 climbr from Glacier Lodge. The peak is more accessible from the basin to ther west via the northwest ridge.r

r r

Mount Bolton Brown (13,527; 13,538n)

r

r *Route 1. Northwest ridge.* Class 2. First ascent August 14, 1922, byr Chester Versteeg and Rudolph Berls. From the pass to the west proceedr along the top of the ridge. A narrow, 100 foot chimney is climbed tor reach the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest slope.* Class 3. First descent August 14, 1922, byr Chester Versteeg and Rudolph Berls. Descend the slope to the basinr below.r

r r

r *Route 3. North slope.* Class 2. First ascent October 6, 1948, by Fredr L. Jones. From the basin to the north ascend the slope to the top ofr the ridge west of the summit. Cross to the south side and proceed to ther summit.r

r r

Mount Prater (13,501; 13,329n)

r

r *Route 1. South ridge.* Class 1. First ascent unknown. Climb from ther saddle to the south, which is reached from Lake 11,563 to west. Ar short knife-edge ridge just south of the summit presents no great difficulty.r

r r

r *Route 2. North ridge.* Class 3. First ascent October 6, 1948, by Fredr L. Jones from the basin at the northernmost tip of the South Fork ofr the Kings. Ascend the largest chute to south of the pinnacles south ofr Mount Bolton Brown. Cross to the plateau on the east side of the crest,r then ascend over the boulders at the south end of the plateau to ther summit of the north peak of Mount Prater. A class 3 notch separates ther two peaks.r

r r

Split Mountain (14,051; 14,058n)

r

r This peak was formerly known as the Southeast Palisade.r

r r

r *Route 1. North ridge.* Class 1. First ascent July 23, 1902, by Joseph N.r LeConte, Helen G. LeConte and Curtis M. Lindley. From Lake 11,563r proceed east to the saddle north of the peak. The U.S. Geological Surveyr r r r took horses and mules to the saddle in 1943. Ascend the easy north sloper to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest shoulder.* Class 2. First ascent by Norman Clyde,r date unknown. He states only that the shoulder is class 2.r

r r

r *Route 3. West face.* Class 3. First descent by Norman Clyde, date unknown. He came directly down the west face, keeping to the ribs instead of the chutes due to drop-offs. Clyde states that the peak can ber climbed by this route. It is class 3, with class 4 if the best route isn’tr chosen.r

r r

r *Route 4. From east.* Class 3. From Red Mountain Lake east of Splitr Mountain go northwest to the ridge east of the saddle. Ascend this,r which is rubbly, to the saddle. The last few hundred feet of the ridger are class 3. Red Mountain Lake is reached by a trail following the northr slope of the creek from the road end.r

r r

r The first gendarme south of the summit affords several hundred feetr of class 3. First ascended by Norman Clyde and Jules Eichorn, dater unknown.r

r r

Cardinal Mountain (13,388; 13,397n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent August 11, 1922, by George Downing, Jr. Fromr Taboose Pass ascend either the southwest spur or the chute slightly tor east. A narrow, pinnacled stretch, which must be traversed if the southwest spur is followed, is bypassed by using the chute.r

r r

r Cardinal Mountain can be easily ascended from Stecker’s Bench onr the north side of Taboose Creek, to which a trail leads from the endr of the road on Red Mountain Creek.r

r r

Striped Mountain (13,160; 13,189n)

r

r First ascent July, 1905, by George R. Davis, route unknown.r

r r

r *Route 1. From Taboose Pass.* Class 2. From Taboose Pass proceed pastr Lake 11,450 and ascend either the northeast or east slopes. This is probably the route of first ascent.r

r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 2. First descent August 1, 1948 by Fredr L. Jones. In climbing by this route follow the drainage above the twinr lakes west of Striped Mountain, keeping well up on the north slope.r Any of several chutes on the southwest face of the mountain lead to ther summit plateau, though some are more difficult than others.r

r r

r *Route 3. From Woods Creek.* Class 3. First ascent August 11, 1948,r by Fred L. Jones. From the lake east of Mount Pinchot ascend the westr slope of the crest to the junction of the ridge running east to Peakr r r r 12,281. Descend a steep, narrow chute to the head of the north fork ofr Goodale Creek. Ascend an easy chute to the saddle between Goodaler and Striped Mountains from which either can easily be climbed. Ther route is class 3 to Goodale Creek and class 2 from there.r

r r r

Mount Perkins (12,557, 12,591n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent before 1910 by a U.S. Geological Survey party.r The west slope and the crest to north and south are easily climbable.r Mount Perkins is a mere bump on the crest.r

r r

Colosseum Mountain (12,417; 12,473n)

r

r *Route 1. Southwest slope.* Class 1. First ascent August 5, 1922, byr Chester Versteeg. From Woods Lake climb to the highest lake to north,r ascend the southwest slope of Colosseum Mountain over gravelly sand.r

r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 1. From the basin to northwest ascend tor the saddle west of the peak, then go east to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest chute.* Class 2. From the basin to northwestr ascend the gully north of the summit and climb out near the top.r

r r

r *Route 4. North ridge.* Class 4. From the crest to north traverse overr several sheer-sided notches to the summit. This route is generally chosenr in error.r

r r

Peak 12,101 (12,080+n; 3/4 S of Colosseum Mountain)

r

r Class 2. First ascent in 1935 by Marjory Farquhar, Helen LeConte,r Peter Grubb, C. Burkett, et al. It is art' easy ascent from the west. Hasr been called Woods Pinnacles.r

r r

Peak 11,991 (12,000+n; 1 N of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 1. First ascent August 27, 1945, by Art Reyman. It is class 1r from any side.r

r r

Mount Baxter (13,118; 13,125n)

r

r First ascent in 1905 by George R. Davis, route unknown.r

r r

r *Route 1. North ridge.* Class 2. Ascend the north ridge from the saddler south of Peak 11,991. Cross the area of large, jumbled blocks south ofr the saddle to the large chute above. Bear to the east at the top of thisr and wind back and forth across the ridge. Bear east for the last 50 feetr below the summit. This is probably the route of first ascent.r

r r

r *Route 2. From northwest.* Class 3. From the lake northwest of Mountr Baxter climb to the saddle west of the peak, then ascend the west sloper r r r of Mount Baxter to the summit. The route to the saddle is class 3, ther upper slope class 2. The basin above the lake is subject to heavy rockfall during the summer and due caution should be exercised.r

r r

r *Route 3. From southwest.* Class 2. From the upper Baxter Lake climbr northeast to the small lake above. The large talus chute northeast of ther lake offers the shortest route to the summit plateau. However the rocksr are loose and delicately balanced. An alternate class 2 route from ther lake via the west slope of the basin to the saddle to west of Mountr Baxter (see Route 2) provides surer footing.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northeast ridge.* Class 3. First descent July 25, 1948, by Fred L.r Jones. In climbing by this route, which is a traverse from Peak 12,411 tor the east, descend the north side of the ridge and work around andr over the first point to west. Cross a knife-edge to the next point, andr drop into the notch to west. Ascend one of the chimneys leading tor the slope above. Ascend the large chute to near the summit of the sharpr point above. Traverse the blocks on the north side of the ridge to ther summit plateau of Mount Baxter.r

r r

r *Route 5. South ridge.* Class 3. First descent August 5, 1948, by Fred L.r Jones. In ascending from the upper Baxter Lake climb northeast towardr the notch in the crest between Mount Baxter and Peak 12,206. Crossr the crest to the east side and traverse the ribs and chutes, keeping as highr as possible, until the top of the crest can be followed to the summitr plateau.r

r r

Peak 13,051 (13,070n; 1/2 N of Diamond Peak)

r

r First ascent 1925 by Norman Clyde, route unknown. It can easily ber ascended by long class 2 climbs from the Baxter Pass trail to west orr on a traverse from Diamond Peak. A class 3 route was followed fromr Baxter Pass, on August 6, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. Climb along the crestr to west. Traverse the ribs and chutes on the south side keeping high,r until beneath the summit. Several fairly difficult pitches lead to the top.r

r r

Diamond Peak (13,105; 13,126n)

r

r First recorded ascent August 1922 by Norman Clyde, route unknown.r He thinks that there was a cairn there.r

r r

r *Route 1. West slope.* Class 2. This route is a long climb from Rae Lakes.r It is the most often used and probably was the route of first ascent.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Black Mountain.* Class 2. First recorded ascent Augustr 20, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. From Black Mountain descend into the basinr r r r to north, then cross the crest to the west side through the notch. Ascendr the south slope of Diamond Peak.r

r r

r The plateau south of the summit can be reached from the head ofr the North Fork of Oak Creek via the southeast slope. This route hasr apparently not been used, however.r

r r

Black Mountain (13,258; 13,289n)

r

r First ascent in 1905 by George Davis, route unknown.r

r r

r *Route 1. South slope.* Class 2. Take the trail from Rae Lake to Dragonr Lake and ascend the south slope from it.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Diamond Peak.* Class 2. Follow the reverse of route 2r for Diamond Peak.r

r r

r *Route 3. East ridge.* Class 2. First descent August 19, 1948, by Fred L.r Jones. The large blocks directly below the summit present the only difficulty. The summit of the east ridge can be reached from the North Forkr of Oak Creek, Charlie Canyon, or the South Fork of Oak Creek.r

r r

Dragon Peak (12,955; 13,040+n)

r

r First ascent in 1920 by either Fred Parker and J. E. Rother, or byr Norman Clyde.r

r r

r *Route 1. From east.* Class 3. From the east climb to the col immediatelyr to the south, then go along the crest to the peak and up the west face.r

r r

r *Route 2. South ridge.* Class 2. Traverse from Mount Gould along ther connecting ridge and knife-edge to a point south of the top. Ascend ther couloir on the southeast face to the ridge and proceed over blocks tor the top.r

r r

r *Route 3. From southwest.* Clyde states that the best route is from ther lakes to the southwest, though he gives no details of the route.r

r r

r The summit is a gendarme and is class 3. See Mount Gould for ther route of the trail to the plateau to south, which gives access to Dragonr Peak.r

r r

Mount Gould (13,001; 13,005n)

r

r *Route 1. South ridge.* Class 1. First ascent July 2, 1890, by Joseph N.r LeConte, Hubert P. Dyer, Fred S. Pheby and C. B. Lakeman fromr Kearsarge Pass via the south slope.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southeast ridge.* Class 1. From east of Kearsarge Pass ascendr the southeast ridge keeping to south of the ridge top.r

r r

r *Route 3. From the north.* Class 1. The plateau to the north is readilyr r r r reached on a traverse from Mount Rixford or Dragon Peak and it isr an easy climb to the summit. A trail leaving the Kearsarge Pass trailr a short distance west of the Kearsarge Lakes turn-off winds up the sloper to north and proceeds to the north end of the plateau. Both Mount Gouldr and Dragon Peak are then easily reached.r

r r r

Peaks West of the Crest

r

r (Middle Fork to South Fork of Kings, east of Granite Pass)r

r r r r

Peak 12,806 (12,851n, 1 SW of Cardinal Mtn.)

r

r Class 1. First ascent August 5, 1945, by A. J. Reyman via the southeastr ridge.r

r r

Peak 13,046 (13,080+n; 0.7 NE of Mather Pass)

r

r First recorded ascent August 16, 1922, by Chester Versteeg from Matherr Pass along the north side of the ridge. He found a cairn.r

r r

Peak 12,674 (12,680+n; 1.8 SW of Mather Pass)

r

r First ascent August 12, 1922, by Chester Versteeg, Mrs. Versteeg, Valr Ellery, and Rudolph Berls, from the pass north of the peak.r

r r

Observation Peak (12,375; 12,322n)

r

r First ascent July 25, 1902, by Joseph N. LeConte and Curtis W. Lindleyr from Dumbbell Lakes. It was climbed in 1926 by Marjory Hurd via ther northwest ridge.r

r r

Peak 12,147 (12,151n; 1 NW of Observation Peak)

r

r First ascent July 20, 1930, by Francis P. Farquhar, Mary Lou Michaels,r Doris Drust, Lorna Kilgariff and Robert L. Lipman.r

r r

Windy Cliff (11,100+; 11,132n)

r

r No record of ascent is available.r

r r

Peak 11,192 (11,265n; 1.7 NW of Observation Peak)

r

r This peak is a USGS benchmark so it has been climbed.r

r r

Peak 12,835 (12,860n; 3/4 E of Dumbbell Lakes)

r

r Class 3. First ascent August 12, 1945, by Art Reyman from Lake Basin.r Ascend open benches and approach from the southwest. Go beyond ther lake lying southeast of the peak and ascend the difficult couloir on ther r r r east face. Several routes develop as the climb progresses, all being ratherr difficult and exposed, but a way is open to the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,316 (12,320+n; 1.7 N of Marion Lake)

r

r Class 2. First ascent August 12, 1945 by Art Reyman from Lake Basinr up the south slope. No specific route is needed to reach the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,775 (12,811n; 3/4 N of Mount Ruskin)

r

r Class 2. First ascent August 13, 1945, by Art Reyman from Lake Basinr via the west slope.r

r r

Peak 12,100+ (12,080+n; 1/2 NE of Mount Ruskin)

r

r Class 4. First ascent July 22, 1939, by Bruce Meyer, Charlotte Maukr and Dave Brower. They climbed the east face and the arête from ther notch to west. They roped down to the south from the west notch. It hasr been called the Saddlehorn.r

r r

Mt. Ruskin (12,800+; 12,920n)

r

r *Route 1: Northwest ridge.* First ascent August 7, 1895, by Bolton C.r Brown. From Cartridge Pass he climbed the ridge running to north tor the junction of it and the ridge running southeast to Ruskin, then out it.r The ridge became steep and narrow so he dropped down to the southwest. The other side is a sheer precipice. He then crossed the flutedr west face and ascended the south spur. This last portion was termed byr Brown to be the most aerial climbing he had ever attempted. Probablyr class 3.r

r r

r *Route 2. West slope.* Class 3. First ascent August 13, 1945, by Art Reyman. Ascend the west slope to the couloir on the west face, ascend thisr to class 3 rocks which lead to the summit.r

r r

Peak 12,139 (12,162n; 1/3 SW of Cartridge Pass)

r

r Class 1. Ascended prior to 1930. It is an easy short climb from Cartridge Pass.r

r r

Peak 12,100+ (11,920+n; 1/4 SW of PK 12,139)

r

r First ascent August 9, 1922, by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Peak 11,527 (11,520+; 1/3 E of Marion Lake)

r

r First ascent August 6, 1895, by Bolton C. Brown from Cartridge Creekr (presumably via the west slope). He descended the south side to Marionr

r r r r Lake. On July 22, 1902, Joseph N. LeConte and party climbed it byr circling Marion Lake. They termed the climb an easy scramble.rr r r

Peak 12,368 (12,361n; 1 NE of Marion Peak)

r

r Class 2. First recorded ascent August 11, 1945, by Art Reyman. Her found what may have been a cairn. Traverse from Marion Peak andr ascend the south slope.r

r r

Marion Peak (12,686; 12,719n)

r

r *Route 1. East slope.* First ascent July 22, 1902, by J. N. LeConte andr Curds Lindley. From Marion Lake ascend the east slope to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest ridge.* Class 3. First ascent August 11, 1945, byr Art Reyman. From the knapsack pass to northwest follow the knife-edger ridge, then go over difficult rocks to the summit.r

r r

Red Point (11,851; 11,840+n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent August 11, 1945, by Art Reyman. From Marionr Lake ascend to the pass south of the point on the knapsack route, thenr up the south ridge.r

r r

Peak 12,529 (12,524n; 3/4 N of State Peak)

r

r First ascent probably in 1935 by a Sierra Club party who “climbedr peaks of Cirque Crest.”r

r r

Peak 11,742 (11,760+n; 1 NE of Horseshoe Lakes)

r

r First ascent July 13, 1935, by a Sierra Club party.r

r r

Peak 11,182 (11,150n) (Windy Point)

r

r First ascent unknown, but as it is a USGS benchmark it was climbedr by a survey party. It can be reached by following Windy Ridge to itsr northwest end. A fine view is obtained from this point.r

r r

Windy Peak (8,872; 8,867n)

r

r No record of ascent is available.r

r r

State Peak (12,609; 12,620n)

r

r First ascent probably in 1935 by a Sierra Club party who “climbedr peaks of Cirque Crest.”r

r r r r r

Dougherty Peak (12,234; 12,244n)

r

r First ascent in 1935 by a Sierra Club party.r

r r

Peak 12,004 (11,920+n; 1 SW of Dougherty Peak)

r

r First ascent probably in 1935 by a Sierra Club party who “climbedr peaks of Cirque Crest.”r

r r

Goat Crest (11,779; 11,7970)

r

r No record of ascent is available.r

r r

Goat Crest (12,055; 12,000n)

r

r No record of ascent is available.r

r r

Kid Peak (11,443 11,458n)

r

r First ascent July 2, 1940, by a Sierra Club party of 18 led by Normanr Clyde and Dave Brower from Paradise Valley.r

r r

Goat Mountain (12,203; 12,207n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent apparently July 22, 1864, by James T. Gardinerr and Charles F. Hoffmann from Granite Basin. It has been ascendedr several times from Copper Creek via the south ridge. Apparently class 1.r

r r r

West of the Crest

r

r (South Fork of Kings Rives to Bubbs Creek)r

r r r

Peak 12,776 (1 NW of Mt Pinchot)

r

r First ascent July 23, 1939, by Madi Bacon and Tom Noble.r

r r

Mount Pinchot (13,471; 13,495n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent in 1905 by either Charles F. Urquhart of ther USGS, or George Davis, both of whom climbed it in that year. It is easilyr climbable from almost any direction.r

r r

Mount Wynne (13,100+; 13,179n)

r

r First ascent in 1935 by a Sierra Club party. It is climbable from almostr any direction. The traverse from Mount Pinchot has been used.r

r r

Peak 12,601 (12,480+n) (1/2 N of Crater Mountain)

r

r As this peak is an old USGS benchmark it had been climbed by a survey party prior to the first recorded ascent in 1925 by Norman Clyde.r

r r r r r

Crater Mountain (12,800+; 12,874n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 19, 1922, by W. H. Ink, Meyers Butte, Frankr Baxter and Capt. Wallace. The best routes are from the east or northeast.r This peak is not a crater as the name implies.r

r r

Peak 12,600+ (12,560+n; 1/4 NE of Peak 12,938)

r

r First ascent July 25, 1939, by Art Argiewicz, Cyril Jobson, Don Kauffman, Keith Taylor and Bob Wickersham from the cirque southeast ofr Bench Lake.r

r r

Peak 12,938 (12,968n; 1.3 NW of Crater Mountain)

r

r First recorded ascent July 25, 1939, by Art Argiewicz and party fromr the cirque southeast of Bench Lake. They found evidence of prior ascent.r

r r

Peak 12,044 (12,000+n; SE of Bench Lake)

r

r First ascent August 12, 1922, by W. Sloane and J. Sloane.r

r r

Arrow Peak (12,927; 12,958n)

r

r *Route 1. Northeast spur.* First ascent August 8, 1895, by Bolton C.r Brown. He climbed the northeast spur from the base to the top. It isr a simple ascent, but most of it is serious climbing. There are some narrow, knife-edge spots. Brown descended the southeast spur and returnedr to the South Fork of the Kings.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest ridge.* First ascent June 1902 by Joseph N. LeConte,r Tracey Kelley and Robert Pike from the head of Arrow Creek. Theyr ascended the south slope to the top of the ridge. A false summit oner quarter mile south of the peak is separated from it by a knife-edge ridge.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southeast ridge.* Class 2. First ascent possibly August 20, 1930,r by Walter A. Starr, Jr. from Bench Lake. From the west end of Benchr Lake head for the rock slide at the pass southeast of the peak. Ascendr this and then go westerly over talus to the summit.r

r r

Arrow Ridge (12,166; 12,188n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent August 8, 1945, by Art J. Reyman on a traverser from Arrow Peak.r

r r

Pyramid Peak (12,740; 12,777n)

r

r Class 3. First ascent July 21, 1942, by Art Reyman on a traverse fromr Window Peak. The ridge narrows to a class 3 knife-edge. The climbr r r is class 2 except the knife-edge. The final summit is reached by ascendingr the south ridge.r

r r

Peak 12,200+ (12,160+n; 1/2 SE of Pyramid Peak)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 21, 1942, by Art Reyman while on a traverser from Window Peak to Pyramid Peak.r

r r

Window Peak (12,002; 12,085n)

r

r First ascent July 5, 1940, by Art Argiewicz and Bob Jacobs. Theirr route is not known. They found that the window measures four by fiver feet. The peak has been climbed from Castle Domes via the broken connecting ridge. Another route has been followed by Art Reyman on ar descent via the north ridge to Pyramid Peak.r

r r

Castle Domes (11,415; 11,360+n)

r

r The highest dome is an old benchmark, so the first ascent was probably made in early years by a USGS survey party. The first ascent of ther second most prominent dome was made July 5, 1940, by Art Argiewiczr and Bob Jacobs. From Woods Creek the east slope and the northeastr ridge afford a class 1 route. It can be climbed on a traverse of the connecting ridge from Window Peak.r

r r

Peak 12,332 (12,372n; 1 W of Colosseum Mountain)

r

r Class s. First ascent August 25, 1935, by Norman Clyde. The southeastr slope is class 1.r

r r

Peak 12,329 (12,349n; 2.7 W Of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 2. First recorded ascent July 4, 1940, by Jim Harkins, Bob Jacobsr and Don Heyneman. They found evidence that it had been climbedr before. Their route is not known. It can easily be climbed from the saddler to east.r

r r

Peak 12,786 (12,804n; 1.7 NW of Mount Baxter)

r

r *Route 1. East ridge.* Class 2. First ascent July 1935 by a Sierra Clubr party led by Norman Clyde on a traverse from Peak 13,167.r

r r

r *Route 2. From northwest.* Class 2. First ascent July 21, 1948, by Fred L.r Jones from Woods Lake. Ascend the ridge leading to the east edge of ther plateau west of the peak, then go up the west slope to the summit. Ther descent was made by a class 2 route via the west ridge to the saddle eastr of Peak 12,329.r

r r r r r

Peak 12,885 (12,852n; 1.7 W Of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 1935 by a Sierra Club party led by Normanr Clyde on a traverse along the north ridge from Mount Baxter. Theyr continued on to Peak 12,786.r

r r

Peak 13,167 (13,189n; 3/4 W of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 2. First ascent July 1935 by a Sierra Club party led by Normanr Clyde on a traverse from Mount Baxter. The east ridge has been reachedr by Fred L. Jones via the saddle to east from both the north and south.r The route to the saddle from the north is class 3 and from the southr class 2. Clyde continued the traverse down the west ridge, also class 2.r

r r

Peak 11,503 (11,520+n; 1.7 NW of Mount Clarence King)

r

r First ascent July 5, 1940, by Ken Hartley and Don Roberts.r

r r

King Spur (12,158; 12,160+n)

r

r Date of first ascent unknown. First ascents on the two most northerlyr points of the ridge were made from the north on July 6, 1940, by Jimr Harkins, Bob Jacobs, Art Argiewicz and Bruce Meyer. Ropes were usedr on the summit monoliths. They saw a cairn on top of Peak 12,158.r

r r

Peak 11,081 (11,1204+n; 1.5 NE of Mount Clarence King)

r

r This peak is a benchmark, so it has been climbed by a USGS surveyr party.r

r r

Mount Clarence King (12,909; 12,905n)

r

r In July 1895 Bolton C. Brown attempted the north and east arêtes,r being stopped by vertical cliffs on both. On the east he reached to withinr one or two hundred feet of the summit. The following year he successfully climbed the south face, this approach being the only one by whichr the summit has been reached to date.r

r r

r Class 3. First ascent 1896, probably in August, by Bolton C. Brownr via the south ridge. From the head of Gardiner Creek or Sixty Laker Basin proceed to the saddle south of the peak. From Sixty Lake Basinr the route follows either a ledge in the cliff or a rockslide further south,r and is class 3. Proceed north on the flat talus slope. Walter Starr's choicer of the best route is as follows: at the top of this slope, next to the easternr drop-off, is a small hole under the rocks just large enough to squirmr r r up through. This hole is in line with the summit, Mount Cotter andr Mount Stanford. The last 50 feet requires rock climbing. Ropes shouldr be used. The summit is composed of big slabs.r

r r

Mount Cotter (12,703; 12,721n)

r

r Class 2. First ascent August 6, 1922, by Bob Fitzsimons from Sixty Laker Basin.r

r r

r The north peak of Cotter was first climbed on July 8, 1940, by a Sierrar Club party led by Dave Brower on a traverse of the north ridge. Anr exposed 20 feet wall which had to be descended was the only obstacle.r Ropes are needed. Probably class 3.r

r r

Mount Gardiner (12,903; 12,907n)

r

r Two of the most prominent Sierra mountaineers of all time, Joseph N.r LeConte and Bolton C. Brown, met by chance on the lower summit ofr the peak in July 1896 and joined forces to share in its first ascent.r

r r

r *Route 1. South slope.* Class 3. First ascent July 1896 by Joseph N.r LeConte and Bolton C. Brown. The south slope from Charlotte Creekr to the summit of the lower peak is an easy ascent. A knife-edge ridger separates the summit of the highest peak. Probably class 3.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southeast ridge.* On July 7, 1940, Paul Estes and Jack Pointekir traversed the southeast ridge between Mount Gardiner and Peak 12,565,r though they didn't specify which way.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northeast face.* First ascent July 9, 1940, by a party led byr Norman Clyde. They ascended the glacier to the summit.r

r r

Peak 10,667 (10,690n; 2 SW of Mount Gardiner)

r

r First ascent July 15, 1940, by Neil Ruge and Florence Rata.r

r r

Peak 12,565 (12,560+n; 1 SE of Mount Gardiner)

r

r First ascent July 7, 1940, by Paul Estes and Jack Pointeki. They traversedr between it and Mount Gardiner, though the direction of travel is notr known.r

r r

Peak 12,553 (12,560+n; 2 E of Mount Gardiner)

r

r First ascent in 1899 by Bolton C. Brown. A map of his route showsr that he crossed the summit using the south and north slopes, though hisr direction of travel isn't indicated.r

r r r r r

Peak 11,904 (11,942n; 3/4 S Of Fin Dome)

r

r Class 2. Date of the first ascent is not known, but it was prior tor July 6, 1940. An old USFS shovel handle was found then by Paul Estes.r The ascent from the north is class 2, by inspection.r

r r

Fin Dome (11,627; 11,693n)

r

r First ascent 1910 by James Rennie, route unknown, though probablyr similar to route 1.r

r r

r *Route 1. West face.* Class 3. Ducks lead to the easiest route on the westr face, directly under the dome. It is a high-angle, zig-zagging trail ofr sand, gravel and small blocks between large slabs and boulders. If oner didn't stay on the easiest route ropes would be needed. There are severalr good routes for ropes.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Class 4. First ascent July 7, 1940, by Sierra Club party led byr Dave Brower. Traversing north from Peak 11,904 they established ar class 4 route. Details are not known.r

r r

Peak 12,409 (12,400+n; 1/2 W of Mount Rixford)

r

r First ascent probably July 1896 by Bolton C. Brown. It is readilyr climbable from the south, west or east.r

r r

Peak 12,238 (12,160+n; 3/4 W of Mount Rixford)

r

r First ascent in 1909 by William G. Morgan and party from Bullfrogr Lake. They traversed north to Peak 12,409.r

r r

Mount Rixford (12,856; 12,890n)

r

r First ascent in 1897 by Dr. Emmet Rixford and two others. Their router is unknown. Several routes have been used: from Bullfrog Lake, class 1;r from Peak 12,409 to the west, class 2; from Mount Gould, mostly class 2r but the sharp ridge up Mount Rixford from the east may be class 3. Ther northeast face has been descended by Bolton Brown, who described itr as dangerous.r

r r

Peak 12,700+ (12,800+n; 1/2 E of Mount Rixford)

r

r First ascent August 19, 1900, by John Fox and 9 others.r

r r

Peak 12,067 (12,126n; 1/2 N of Mount Rixford)

r

r This is the Painted Lady. First ascent July 1931 by Robert Owen.r

r r r r r

Mount Bago (11,868; 11,869n)

r

r Class 1. First ascent either July 1896, by Joseph N. LeConte andr W. S. Gould, or July, 1896, by Bolton C. Brown and Lucy Brown. Bothr parties were in the area at the same time. Ascend from Charlotte Lake.r

r r

Peak 11,440 (11,360+n; 1 E of Mount Bago)

r

r First ascent July, 1896, by Bolton C. Brown, Lucy Brown, Dr. Woodr and Dr. Little from Charlotte Lake.r

r r r

East of the Crest

r r r

Birch Mountain (13,660; 13,665n)

r

r No record of the first ascent is available, though Norman Clyde hasr climbed it several times. The best route is from Birch Lake up the chuter leading southwest to the col west of the peak, then east to the top. Thisr route is probably class 1 or 2 at worst. The north face affords class 2 andr class 3 routes among the many ribs and chutes. The south slope is class 1r or 2. Clyde has descended the east slope on snow in the spring.r

r r

Peak 12,543 (named "Mount Tinemaha," 12,561n)

r

r First recorded ascent July 1, 1937, by Chester Versteeg. He climbedr from Tinemaha Creek to the top of the ridge west of the peak, then wentr east on it to the summit. It can also be climbed from the saddle on ther main crest north of Split Mountain via the southerly slope of the ridge.r The west end of this ridge and several steep ribs are class 3. From Redr Mountain Lake the gravelly southwest slope gives a class 2 route.r

r r

Goodale Mountain (12,767; 12,790n)

r

r *Route 1. From the west.* Class 2. First recorded ascent July 23, 1939,r by Norman Clyde, Allan A. MacRae, and Albion J. Whitney. Apparentlyr they climbed it from the saddle to the west. This saddle can be reachedr easily from Taboose Pass.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Woods Creek.* Class 3. First ascent August 1, 1948, byr Fred L. Jones. For details see Route 3 up Striped Mountain. From ther saddle to the east the class 2 west slope is followed.r

r r

r *Route 3. East slope.* Class 1. The east slope of Goodale Mountain canr be climbed from the road ends between Taboose and Goodale Creeks andr apparently has been by deer hunters.r

r r r r r

Peak 11,764 (11,765n; 1.3 E of Mount Perkins)

r

r Class 2. First recorded ascent July 31, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. A cairnr was found but no record. The top of the connecting ridge was followedr from the crest.r

r r

r It was ascended May 11, 1951, by Fred L. Jones via Division Creekr from Scotty Spring. The lower part of Division Creek canyon is class 3r in places, the upper part class 2. The peak was descended via the bigr chute on the northeast face, which is class 2.r

r r

Sawmill Point (9,460; 9,416n)

r

r Class 3. First recorded ascent January 11, 1953, by Art J. Reyman andr Fred L. Jones via the northeast ridge. Leave the Sawmill Pass trail abover the red cinder cone north of Sawmill Creek. Ascend the spur above tor the east edge of the summit ridge. At the notch directly east of the summit cross to the north side and regain the top of the summit ridge justr west of the summit. Climb east to the top. Two old cairns were found,r but no record. An easier ascent can be made by following the trail intor Sawmill Creek until under the peak on the north side.r

r r

Lookout Point (10,160; 10,144n)

r

r First ascent 1926 by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Peak 11,511 (11,520+n; 1 SW of Lookout Point)

r

r Class 2. First ascent October 31, 1926, by Norman Clyde, probablyr from Sawmill Lake, as was the second ascent, also by Clyde in 1935. Her descended into Black Canyon. The peak was ascended July 26, 1948,r by Fred L. Jones on a traverse from Peak 12,411 by going west of thatr peak, then dropping to the head of the basin to north and crossing itr to the top of the ridge south of 11,511. The route was class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,411 (12,400+n; 1 NE of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 2. First ascent September 4, 1935, by Norman Clyde from Sawmill Pass by going southeast across the intervening cirque. The peak wasr climbed from Mount Baxter on July 25, 1948, by Fred L. Jones by keeping to the top or north side of the intervening ridge (see Route 4 upr Mount Baxter). The route is class 3. The peak was climbed from Thibautr Creek on October 16, 1948, by Fred L. Jones by keeping to the top orr south side of the ridge between Thibaut Creek and Black Canyon. Ther r r r route is class 3. The descent into Thibaut Creek was made via a class 2r chute from the summit.r

r r

"Indian Rock" (12,200+; 12,160+n)

r

r This locally named prominence lies on the ridge between Black Canyon and Thibaut Creek about three-tenths of a mile southeast of Peakr 12,411. Looking southerly from Highway 395 just north of Aberdeen,r it is the prominent tooth on the skyline directly over the highway.r

r r

r Class 3. First ascent October 16, 1948, by Fred L. Jones. From the headr of Thibaut Creek ascend the chute to the base of the northwest face andr then go directly up this to the broad top.r

r r

Peak 11,810 (11,844n; 3/4 E of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 3. First ascent September 16, 1935, by Norman Clyde. Fromr Thibaut Creek he ascended the crest of the ridge to east of the peak andr climbed west to the summit. It is mostly class 2. An easier ascent is westr from Thibaut Creek and up the easy northwest slope. Clyde descendedr south into the basin at the head of the Little North Fork of Oak Creek.r The route is class 1.r

r r

Peak 10,643 (1.8 SE of Mount Baxter)

r

r Class 2. First ascent September 16, 1935, by Norman Clyde. He ascendedr north from the head of the Little North Fork of Oak Creek. It is an easyr ascent via the south slope from the Baxter Pass Trail about one miler above the second creek crossing.r

r r

Peak 13,031 (13,045n; 1 NE of Black Mountain)

r

r First ascent probably September 14, 1935, by Norman Clyde who priorr to and after that date was climbing in the near vicinity, though his allusion to the main crest is obviously incorrect: “On Peak 13,031, on mainr crest, at an altitude of 11,500 feet picked up a pair of weathered (mountain sheep) horns. No recent evidence except a bed and droppings onr the saddle west of peak.”r

r r

r The next recorded ascent was August 19, 1948, by Fred L. Jones onr a traverse from Black Mountain. The route was class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,710 (12,720+n; 3/4 W of Kearsarge Peak)

r

r First ascent in 1925 by Norman Clyde: “peak west of Kearsarge.” It isr easy from the east, though a deep notch to the west is difficult.r

r r r r

Kearsarge Peak (12,650; 12,598n)

r

r First recorded ascent in 1925 by Norman Clyde. This peak is traversedr nearly to the summit by mining trails and is an easy class 1 ascent byr them. It has been descended by a more varied route by Art Reyman,r Mary DeDecker, Joan DeDecker and Carol DeDecker. Take the steepr chute due south of the second or third rocky point from the summit,r which ends in a fall below the mine. Climb out of the chute to ther north above this and descend by the South Fork of Independence Creekr trail to Onion Valley.r

r r

Peak 11,988 (12,000+n; 1 E of Mount Gould)

r

r First ascent 1925 by Norman Clyde.r

r r r

References

r

r *Text (mostly historical): SCB*, 1895, 221-237; 1896, 241-253, 293-313; 1897, 19, 20, 45-47, 79-81, 85, 106; 1900, 137-147, 153, 168; 1903,r 178-183, 190, 191, 259, 261-263; 1904, 3, 7-10; 1905, 229, 232, 234, 280,r 284; 1907, 100, 102, 104, 106, 115-127; 1909, 1-22; 1914, 160-163, 188,r 189; 1916, 86-92; 1923, 421-426; 1940, 32-34; 1941, 127-129, 142; 1950,r 29-76.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, year and facing page as shown. Arrow Peak: 1896,r 306 (sketch); 1911, 17; 1926, 317; 1940, 14; 1949, 14. Mount Sago: 1910,r 238. Mount Baxter: 1950, 36. Black Mountain: 1907, 106; 1911, 71; 1950,r 36. Cardinal Mountain: 1896, 308 (sketch); 1940, 14. Mount Clarencer King: 1896, 241, 245 (sketches); 1900, 137, 138 (sketches); 1926, 245;r 1936, 30; 1949, 14. Mount Cotter: 1900, 137, 138 (sketches). Diamondr Peak: 1911, 71. Dragon Peak: 1900, 145 (sketch); 1911, 71. Fin Dome:r 1900, 138, 142, 146 (sketches); 1907, 102; 1911, 10, 49, 64; 1941, 14,r Mount Gardiner: 1896, frontispiece; 1897, 81; 1900, 136 (sketch); 1944,r 46. Goat Mountain: 1905, 284. Observation Peak: 1912, 280. Mountr Rixford: 1900, 142, 145 (sketches); 1907, 102; 1910, 183; 1911, 16, 17,r 65, 71; 1914, 60, 61; 1919, 431. Mount Ruskin: 1903, 261. Split Mountain: 1896, 308 (sketch); 1903, 261; 1930, 71; 1940, 14. Striped Mountain:r 1896, 308 (sketch). Mount Wynne: 1949, 14. Peak 11,527: 1896, 301.r Peak 11,904: 1900, 138 (sketch); 1907, 102; 1911, 71. Peak 11,950: 1900,r 137 (sketch). Peak 12,067: 1900, 142, 145, 147 (sketches); 1907, 102;r 1910, 183; 1911, 16, 17, 65, 71; 1914, 60, 61; 1919, 431; 1936, 31. Peakr 12,409: 1900, 145, 147 (sketches); 1907, 102; 1910, 183; 1911, 16, 17;r 1919, 431. Peak 12,553: 1900, 140, 141 (sketches). Peak 12,786: 1936, 30.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Kearsarge Pass to Army & Franklin Passes •r Contentsr • Previous: Kings Canyonr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/palisades_to_kearsarge_pass.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Kings-Kern Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Palisades to Kearsarge Passr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Kearsarge Pass to Army and Franklin Passes

r r r

r IN THIS southern part of the Sierra the loftiest peaks are found, butr a little farther south the range declines in both height and ruggedness. For this reason the Guide does not discuss peaks south of Armyr Pass on the main crest nor south of Franklin Pass on the Great Westernr Divide, although there are a few worthy peaks in the excluded area.r

r r

r Much excellent climbing is to be found here. The east wall of ther Sierra near Mount Whitney is one of the outstanding regions for climbing in the United States. The Kings-Kern Divide contains many finer peaks in a small area. The Kaweahs have a reputation for challengingr faces of friable rock, contrasting with the granite peaks to the north andr west in the Great Western Divide.r

r r

r Most of this section, south of the Kings-Kern Divide, and west of ther main crest, is within Sequoia National Park, and therefore boasts somer fine trails, including the southern end of the Muir Trail, the Whitneyr Trail, and the High Sierra Trail which runs eastward from Giant Forest.r The trails are described in more detail in the individual areas below,r which are as follows:r

r r

r

r *The Kings-Kern Divide and the Adjacent Crests.* Included are ther main crest from Kearsarge Pass to Shepherd Pass, the Kings-Kernr Divide, and the northern end of the Great Western Divide.r

r r

r *The Whitney Region.* This covers the main crest from Shepherd Passr to Army Pass and adjacent peaks east of the Kern River.r

r r

r *The Kaweahs and the Great Western Divide.* This describes ther Great Western Divide south from the point where it is joined byr the Kings-Kern Divide to Franklin Pass, the Kaweah Peaks ridge,r and adjacent peaks to the west.r

r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Kings-Kern Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Palisades to Kearsarge Passr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/kearsarge_pass_to_army_franklin_passes.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The Kings-Kern Divide >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Whitney •r Contentsr • Previous: Kearsarge Pass to Army & Franklin Passesr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Kearsarge Pass to Army and Franklin Passes

r

The Kings-Kern Divide and the Adjacent Crests

r r r r

Hervey Voge

r r

r THE RUGGED ridge of the Kings-Kern Divide connects the mainr crest of the Sierra with the northern part of the Great Western Divider r r r r like the bar in a giant letter *H.* To the south of this bar lies the highr plateau where the Kern River starts, while on the north the tributariesr of the South Fork of the Kings River flow northward in several canyonsr between the subsidiary ridges which jut out from the divide. The Muirr Trail crosses the Kings-Kern Divide at Foresters Pass.r

r r

r The Kings-Kern region has much to offer climbers of various tastes. Ther main peaks range from easy to moderate by the standard routes, andr are without exception very fine viewpoints. The precipitous Kearsarger Pinnacles, the crags north of Mount Ericsson, and many of the north andr east faces of the larger peaks present real challenges to rock climbers.r

r r r

Historical

r r

r Recorded climbing started in 1864 with the explorations of the partyr of the California State Geological Survey. This party was led by Williamr H. Brewer and included Charles Hoffmann, Clarence King, andr Richard Cotter. Brewer and Hoffmann ascended and named Mountr Brewer, while King and Cotter made their way from Roaring Riverr across the Great Western and Kings-Kern Divides to Mount Tyndallr and back in the classic trip described in King'sr *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada*.r King's narrative relates climbing adventures in ther dramatic style of the Nineteenth Century, and two of the most excitingr passages concern the Kings-Kern Divide. The first of these describes ther crossing of the divide, from north to south, somewhere between Thunderr Mountain and Mount Jordan, in the course of which crossing the adventurous climbers at one time pulled themselves up by a lasso thrownr over a partially loose spike of rock thirty feet above, and at anotherr time descended by rope-downs when neither forward nor return progressr was certain.

The other dramatic episode occurred when the two climbers,r on the return journey from Mount Tyndall, passed around the south endr of what is now called Lake Reflection. Here they encountered a sheerr bluff which could only be passed by ascending a steep tongue of icyr snow and climbing a cliff at its head. After an unsuccessful attempt byr King, Cotter led up the cliff and seated himself at the top. He calledr down to King and said, “Don’t be afraid to bear your weight on ther rope.” Thus reassured King made the climb unaided, only to discoverr that Cotter had a very precarious perch and that the least pull wouldr have dragged him over.r

r r

r John Muir climbed several unidentified peaks near the Kings-Kernr Divide in 1873. The region was more thoroughly explored by Boltonr r r r Coit Brown, J. N. LeConte, and others in 1896 and thereafter, and byr E. T. Parsons in 1903. (The early history of the Kings River Sierra hasr been described by Francis P. Farquhar, *SCB*, 1941, 28). In later yearsr many have climbed these peaks, Norman Clyde alone having at oner time or another visited most of the major summits.r

r r

Geography

r r

r The arbitrary region here considered extends about eight miles alongr the crest from Kearsarge Pass to Shepherd Pass, westward along ther Kings-Kern Divide to the Great Western Divide, and north along ther latter divide to its terminus. The rock is mostly granite, but some dark,r metamorphic rock is found on Center Peak, the Videttes, and in a fewr other areas. The granite varies from firm material in some places tor rather badly decomposed rock in others. Sketch 21 is a map of the area.r

r r

Approaches

r r

r *From Independence. Kearsarge Pass (11,823).* From the end of the roadr in Onion Valley at 8,900 feet a good horse trail leads over Kearsarger Pass to Bullfrog Lake. Just below Bullfrog Lake this lateral joins ther Muir Trail, which ‘may be followed south to the upper regions ofr Bubbs Creek, Center Basin, and the Kings-Kern Divide at Forestersr Pass. East Lake may be reached by following west down Bubbs Creekr (leaving the Muir Trail at Vidette Meadow) to just below the juncturer with East Creek at a spot called Junction Meadow, whence a trail leading up East Creek climbs southward.r

r r

r *Shepherd Pass (12,000+).* The Shepherd Pass trail starts at an elevation of about 6,500 feet at the end of a road which leaves U.S. 395 atr Independence. The rather poor trail leads over Shepherd Pass to ther Tyndall Creek plateau just south of the Kings-Kern Divide. Knapsackers may turn north at an elevation of about 10,500 on the east sider of the, pass and follow the old Junction Pass trail across Junction Passr (13,200) into Center Basin. The Junction Pass trail is not recommendedr for animals.r

r r

r *From Kings Canyon.* The Bubbs Creek trail leaves the Kings Riverr Canyon at 4,800 feet and follows the creek until the Muir Trail isr reached at 9,700 feet in Vidette Meadow. At Junction Meadow, at anr elevation of about 8,500 feet, the trail to East Lake leaves the Bubbsr Creek trail and goes south up East Creek.r

r r r r r r

r r

r
r r r

r Sketch 21. Map of the Kings-Kern Region.r r

r r r r r r r

r *From the North.* The Muir Trail leads over Glen Pass (11,900+) andr to the foot of Bullfrog Lake, from which point various routes may ber followed as described for the approach over Kearsarge Pass.r

r r

r *From the South.* The Muir Trail traverses the high plateau east ofr the Kern River and crosses the Kings-Kern Divide at Foresters Passr (13,200). From the pass the trail descends to the headwaters of Bubbsr Creek and Vidette Meadow.r

r r

r *From the West.* Several routes to the high peaks are possible fromr the west. Either the trail up Sphinx Creek or that from Big Meadow mayr be followed to Moraine Meadow, Scaffold Meadow or the headwatersr of the Roaring River. These trails are described in more detail in Starr'sr *Guide* (1951). Knapsack routes lead from these points via Brewer Creekr or Longley Pass to East Lake or Lake Reflection.r

r r r

Campsites

r r

r Camps suitable for knapsackers may be found up to about 11,300 feetr elevation in nearly all the valleys. Popular camping spots for thoser traveling with animals are situated at Bullfrog Lake, along Bubbs Creekr from Vidette Meadow to the lower part of Center Basin, on East Creekr from East Lake to just below Lake Reflection, and on the south sider of the divide along Tyndall and Milestone creeks.r

r r r

Passes

r r

r Besides the main trail passes mentioned under approaches, several othersr are of interest to climbers and knapsackers.r

r r

r *Junction Pass (13,200).* Class 1. This pass crosses the main crest andr connects Center Basin to the head of Shepherd Creek. It was once ther main horse trail for north-south travel in this region, but is no longerr maintained. Parts have been obscured by slides, and the trail is notr well marked, so that knapsackers following it should pay close attentionr to the topographic map.r

r r

r *Harrison Pass (12,600+).* Class 1 to 2. This pass across the Kings-Kern Divide leads from East Lake to Lake South America. It has occasionally been crossed by pack animals, but like Junction Pass is onlyr

recommended for foot travel. The trail is not clearly marked over ther higher portion of the north side, but the place of crossing the divide isr not especially critical. Steep and sometimes icy snow may be met on ther north side, but the south side in this region is very easy walking.r

r r r r r

r *Lucy's Foot Pass (12,500+).* In 1896 Bolton Coit Brown and his wifer Lucy crossed the Kings-Kern Divide just west of Mount Ericsson, andr since that time the pass has borne her name. There is no trail, andr considerable rough talus is encountered, but the route is class 1.r

r r

r *Milly's Foot Pass (12,300+).* Perhaps the most direct route from Laker Reflection to the broad flats of the Upper Kern is the saddle just northr of Mount Genevra. This was crossed in July 1953 by Mildred Jentschr and Sylvia Kershaw. The cliff on the northwest side is not as difficultr as it appears, for a cleft passes diagonally up through it. Class 2.r

r r

r *University Pass (12,700+).* Class 2. This is a climber's pass fromr Onion Valley to Center Basin; it is the lowest point between Universityr Peak and Peak 12,910. There is a steep snow gully on the northeast sider and a long rocky chute on the southwest side.r

r r

r *Brewer Creek to East Lake Pass (12,800+).* Class 1 to 2. This passr crosses the ridge between Mount Brewer and South Guard, and leadsr from Brewer Creek to East Lake. It is for foot travel only. The routesr are about the same as for Mount Brewer, Routes 1 and 2, except thatr the summit of Brewer is bypassed.r

r r

r *Longley Pass (12,600+).* Class 1. This foot pass leads from the streamr below South Guard Lake on the west to Lake Reflection on the eastr side of the Great Western Divide, and passes between Peaks 13,232 andr 13,021. On the west it is quite easy, and on the east not difficult exceptr for a possible, seasonal, steep snow bank. There is a trail part of the wayr on the east side.r

r r

r *Deerhorn Saddle (12,800+).* Class 1. The saddle east of Deerhornr Mountain provides a feasible knapsack route from the basin north ofr Harrison Pass to Vidette Creek.r

r r r

Routes and Records for the Principal Peaks

r r

r The descriptions of routes and records are arranged in the followingr order:r

r r

r Peaks of the main crest (north to south)r
r Peak east of the main crestr
r Peaks of the Great Western Divide (north to south)r
r Peaks west of the Great Western Divider
r Peaks of the Kings-Kern Divide (west to east)r
r Peaks north of the Kings-Kern Divider
r Peaks south of the Kings-Kern Divider

r r r r r r

Peaks of the Main Crest (North to South)

r r r r

Nameless Pyramid (1/4 S of Kearsarge Pass)

r

r A small pyramid of rather monolithic granite stands on the mainr crest south of Kearsarge Pass and above Pothole Lake. It was firstr ascended in July 1952 by Ted Matthes, Frank Tarver, and Phillip Berry.r The approach by the ridge from the pass, or from the northeast, or fromr the west, is class 3. The northern side of the pyramid is class 4 to 5.r

r r

Peak 12,423 (3/4 S of Kearsarge Pass)

r

r Ascended by Norman Clyde, April 4, 1926.r

r r

University Peak (13,588)

r

r *Route 1. From the northwest.* Class 1. First ascent July 12, 1896, byr J. N. LeConte, Helen M. Gompertz, Estelle Miller, and Belle Miller.r From the environs of Bullfrog Lake proceed southeast up the basin between the Kearsarge Pinnacles and the main crest to the upper Kearsarger Lake and continue toward a low gap in the ridge west of Universityr Peak, passing over rough, giant talus and some snowbanks (seasonal)r to the gap. From the gap the easiest route is to traverse around andr up on the sandy southwest slope of the peak. It is also feasible to proceed from the gap to the ridge running northwest from the summit andr to follow the ridge to the top; this variation (Walter Starr, Jr.) isr class 2-3.r

r r

r *Route 2. South face.* Class 1. From Center Basin the long, rather easyr slope to the summit may be climbed by a number of routes.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* About class 3. First known ascent by Normanr Clyde, prior to 1928. From the group of lakes at the northern base, atr about 10,500 feet (Slim Lake) climb up a steep, rocky slope, severalr thousand feet in length, to the eastern end of a knife-edge which canr be followed to the summit with comparative ease.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast face.* About class 3. Climbed by Norman Clyde,r Sept. 29, 1928. He described it as a good but not very difficult rockr scramble.r

r r

r *Route 5. Southeast ridge.* Class 2. From University Pass (see above,r section on passes) the ridge may be followed easily if one stays somewhat on the south side.r

r r

r *Route 6. Northeast ridge.* It is reported that this ridge was climbedr in 1947. Class 3 to 4.r

r r r rr r

Center Basin Crags (about 12,700-12,800)

r

r The sharp crags standing on the main crest between Peak 12,910 andr Mount Bradley have been numbered from north to south. Crag I is ar fairly broad one, while Crags 2, 3, and 4 are sharper and are groupedr together. Crag 5 is less steep. (See Sketch 22.)r

r r

r *Crag 1. South arête.* Class 5. First ascent August 29, 1953, by Philr Berry and party.r

r r

r *Crags 2, 3 and 4.* First ascended in July 1940 in a class 4 traverse byr David R. Brower and L. Bruce Meyer. A long rope-down was used atr the end. Crags 3 and 4 were ascended again in August 1953 by Browerr and Phil Berry. They proceeded from Center Basin toward the notchr south of Crag 4 and then crossed northward to the notch betweenr Crags 3 and 4; from this point both crags were climbed. Class 5.r

r r

r *Crag 5.* The north ridge is class 2. First ascent by unidentified party.r

r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 22. The Center Basin Crags from the southwest.r r

r r r r r

Mount Bradley (13,280)

r

r *Route 1. West face.* Class 2. First ascent July 5, 1898, by Mr. and Mrs.r R. M. Price, J. Shinn, and Lalla Harris. The summit can probably ber reached by any one of a number of chutes leading up from Center Basinr to the main ridge. The easiest way is to climb straight up the talusr chute below the main summit. When the chute forks about three-fourths of the way up, take the branch to the right, which leads to ther saddle between the two summits. From the saddle go around behindr (E of) the main summit, which is the left or northerly one, and ascendr a narrow, easy chute to the top. The party of the first ascent took fourr hours from camp in lower Center Basin to the summit.r

r r r r

Route 2. Northwest ridge. Probably class 3 to 4. This ridge was followed from peak 12,910 on Aug. 31, 1948, by Fred L. Jones.r

r r

Route 3. East ridge. Probably class 2. Climbed Oct. 27, 1948, by ther east ridge from Symmes Creek by Fred L. Jones.r

r r

Peak 13,370 (3/4 NE of Mount Keith)

r

r All but the last 15 feet was climbed July 15, 1940, by Paul Estes. Ther summit is a difficult and exposed monolith.r

r r

Mount Keith (13,990)

r

r *Route 1. Northwest face.* Class 1 to 2. First ascent July 6, 1898, byr R. M. Price, J. E. Price, J. C. Shinn, and C. B. Bradley. Time from campr in Center Basin to the top was four hours.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest ridge.* Class 2 to 3. The sharp ridge from Junctionr Pass was followed by two Sierra Club parties in 1916, and it was thoughtr that this route had not been used in any previous ascents.r

r r

r *Route 3. South face.* About class 2. According to Norman Clyde ther ascent from about 10,000 feet on the Shepherd Pass trail is comparativelyr easy.r

r r

Junction Peak (BM 13,903)

r

r *Route 1. South ridge.* Class 2. First ascent August 8, 1899, by E. B.r Copeland and E. N. Henderson. Ascend the west wall of Diamond Mesar near the lower (southern) end and proceed north along the sandyr plateau and along or somewhat to the west of an easy knife edge leadingr to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 2. From Foresters Pass follow the ridger eastward, passing over or to the south of one small subsidiary peak. Onr the main peak stay to the south of the northwest ridge, and proceedr southward and upward from one chute to another as convenient.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southeast ridge.* On August 21, 1929, A. R. Ellingwood followed the ridge from Shepherd Pass to the summit.r

r r r

Peak East of the Main Crest

r r

Independence Peak (11,773)

r

r This may be climbed by the north slope from Onion Valley. Normanr Clyde ascended the peak three times in 1926 and twice in 1927.r

r r r r r

Peaks of the Great Western Divide (North to South)

r r

Cross Mountain (12,140)

r

r Ascended in 1929 by Walter L. Huber.r

r r

Peak 12,871 (3/4 NW of North Guard)

r

r First ascent July 17, 1932, by Sierra Club parties, including Normanr Clyde, Thomas Rawles, Lincoln O'Brien, and eleven others, from Sphinxr Lakes. The climbers said that it was a splendid peak and that the highestr point was a large slab almost overhanging the steep east face.r

r r

North Guard (13,304)

r

r First ascent July 12, 1925, by Norman Clyde. The summit is a large,r sloping obelisk, which overhangs the east face.r

r r

r *Route 1. South ridge or slopes.* Class 1 to 2. From the north fork ofr Brewer Creek proceed to the saddle between Brewer and North Guard,r or up the south slopes of the peak.r

r r

r *Route 2. East and north faces.* Class 4. Climbed May 28, 1934, byr David R. Brower and Hervey Voge. From East Lake proceed up Ouzelr Creek and tributaries to the northeast flank of the mountain andr ascend this wall to the prominent shoulder or col north-northeast of ther summit. From the col climb a thirty-foot V crack on the nose of ther ridge to a platform, and from this platform go to the right (W) onr broken ledges on the north face and ascend a second difficult crack tor the easier rocks leading to the summit.r

r r

r *A subsidiary peak* north-northeast from North Guard, about 13,100,r was climbed from Ouzel Creek Aug. to, 1948, by James Koontz andr two others.r

r r

Mount Brewer (13,577)

r

r *Route 1. West slopes and south ridge.* Class 1. First ascent by W. H.r Brewer and C. F. Hoffmann, July 2, 1864. From Roaring River orr Moraine Creek go up Brewer Creek to the notch just south of Mountr Brewer and follow the easy ridge of broken rock to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East slopes and south ridge.* Class 1 to 2. First ascent byr Bolton C. Brown and A. B. Clark, 1895. From East Lake proceed upr Ouzel Creek, taking the middle fork which leads almost directly towardr Mount Brewer. From this fork, in one of several possible places, climbr the ridge to the south. Alternatively, the ridge may be climbed overr r r r rounded slabs at its foot from the junction of the first fork of Ouzelr Creek shown on the map. This ridge joins the main south ridge ofr Mount Brewer at about the southern edge of the summit pyramid.r Where this subsidiary eastern ridge joins the peak, work to the left (S)r through a small notch to the main south ridge, and proceed northwardr up this to the summit. Time from East Lake to the top is about fourr hours.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest slopes.* Class 1 to 2. Climb from the north fork ofr Brewer Creek.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northeast couloir and north ridge.* Class 2 to 3. Ascendedr August 4, 1940, by Oliver Kehrlein, August and Grete Frugé, E. Hanson,r L. West, R. Leggett, and A. Mulay. From the east side of the mountainr ascend a steep couloir filled with snow and (or) ice which leads to ther base of the main pyramid of the mountain on the north side, and thenr climb the north ridge or face to the top.r

r r

Peak 13,232 (3/4 E of South Guard Lake)

r

r This peak may have been climbed by Clarence King and Richardr Cotter on July 4, 1864.r r Clarence King wrote, inr *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada*,r that from the notch just south of Mount Brewer "withr very great difficulty we climbed a peak which surmounted our wall justr to the south of the pass . . ." From this peak they attempted to followr the Great Western Divide southward, but soon descended to the east.r

r r

Peak 13,021 (1.5 W of Mount Jordan)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde in 1925.r

r r

r Climbed August 8, 1940, by Oliver Kehrlein and five others fromr Lake Reflection by ascending the east side of the Great Western Divider somewhat north of Peak 13,021, and traversing along the divide, fromr

north to south. Several minor summits were climbed before Peak 13,021r was reached.r

r r

Peak 13,110 (1/2 N of Thunder Mountain)

r

r First ascent August 8, 1940, by Oliver Kehrlein and five others whor traversed along the north ridge of the peak from Peak 13,021 (see above).r

r r

Thunder Mountain (BM 13,578)

r

r First ascent August 1905 by G. K. Davis of the U.S. Geological Survey.r The second ascent was made on July 27, 1927, by Norman Clyde. Ther customary route of ascent has been from the southeast, from a laker r r r just under the mountain, which drains into the northern branch ofr Milestone Creek. There are three pinnacles on top which increase inr difficulty from east to west. Class 3.r

r r r

Peaks West of the Great Western Divide

r r r

Peak 12,680 (1/2 W of South Guard Lake)

r

r There are no records available regarding this peak.r

r r

Peak 12,620 (1.5 W of Thunder Mountain)

r

r No records of any climbs are available.r

r r r

Peaks of the Kings-Kern Divide (West to East)

r r r

Peak 13,241 (3/4 E of Thunder Mountain)

r

r First ascent unrecorded. Second ascent by the east face, August 1939r by Fritz Lipprnann, Dave Nelson, Don Woods, and Edward Koskinen.r

r r

Peak 13,102 (1/2 S of Mount Jordan)

r

r Norman Clyde, July 5, 1931, climbed the first pinnacle south of Mountr Jordan, and found no cairn.r

r r

Mount Jordan (13,316)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde, July 15, 1925, evidently of the lowerr north peak.r

r r

r *Route 1. From the south.* Class 2. In 1936 two Sierra Club parties, ledr by Lewis Clark and Carl Jensen, made the ascent. They found a cairn onr the northern summit and also climbed the interesting southernmostr pinnacle, which is the higher. It bore no evidence of any previousr ascent. The intermediate points were not climbed.r

r r

r *Route 2. North face.* Class 3. Climbed August 3, 1940, by Art Argiewicz and six others from Reflection Lake and a basin to the southeastr of the lake. A delicate five-foot leap was made to attain the final summit,r but this was not necessary as the summit pinnacle can be climbed (class 4)r by its east face. The north face of Jordan can be reached from Laker Reflection by passing either east or west of Peak 12,047.r

r r

r *Route 3. West face.* Descended August 3, 1940, by Art Argiewicz andr party. About class 2, except for summit.r

r r r rr r

Mount Genevra (13,037)

r

r First ascent July 15, 1925, by Norman Clyde, who also climbed it inr 1927. A Sierra Club party led by Lewis Clark and Carl Jensen made ther ascent from Milestone camp in 1936.r

r r

r *Route 1. East face.* Ascended August 6, 1939, by Dave Nelson, Earlr Jessen, and Hal Leich.r

r r

r *Route 2. North ridge.* Class 2. On August 3, 1940, Robert Schonbornr led a party of six to the top from East Lake by way of Lucy's Foot Passr and the north ridge. As an alternative from Lake Reflection a goodr class 2 route leads to Milly's Foot Pass (12,300+) just north of Mountr Genevra.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 3. Ascended July 19, 1951, by Bill Bade,r Barbara Lilley, and Franklin Barnett up the north face by way of a snowr chute leading to the ridge just west of the summit.r

r r

Mount Ericsson (13,625)

r

r *Route 1. West ridge.* Class 1 to 2. First ascent August 1, 1896, byr Bolton C. Brown and Lucy Brown. From Lucy's Foot Pass follow ther easy ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East ridge.* Class 1 to 2. Descended August 1, 1896, by Boltonr C. Brown and Lucy Brown. From Harrison Pass climb the east ridge.r

r r

r *Route 3. South ridge.* Class 2 to 3. Climbed by Lewis Clark and Carlr Jensen in 1936.r

r r

r *Route 4. Northwest couloir.* Class 3 to 4. Climbed in July 1946 byr Norman Clyde, Robert Breckenfeld, 'Jules Eichorn, Joe Brower, andr Danny Kaplan. From Lake Reflection ascend toward Lucy's Foot Pass.r Climb the rocky chute which heads between Mount Ericsson and ther first crag to the north. About one hundred feet below the head of thisr chute turn left (S) and ascend a steep, icy couloir which leads to ther Kings-Kern Divide somewhat west of the summit of Ericsson. An icer axe is necessary in the couloir. From the divide climb the west ridger or the southwest slopes to the top.r

r r

Gregory's Monument (about 13,960)

r

r *Route 1. West or southwest slopes.* Class 1. First ascent July 1894 byr Warren Gregory, Emmet and Loring Rixford, and W. Sanderson. Thisr peak is the south and lower peak of Mount Stanford and is separatedr from the latter by a jagged, class-three ridge about one-fourth of a miler r r r long. Technically speaking, the many who have ascended only to thisr point have not climbed Mount Stanford.r

r r

r *Route 2. North ridge.* Class 3. Follow the ridge from Mount Stanford.r See routes on the latter in the section on peaks north of the Kings-Kern Divide.r

r r

r *Route 3. East face.* Class 3 to 4. Descended July 23, 1929, by Walterr Starr, Jr., who wrote: "Left summit at 4:30 and descended to Centerr Basin via the first chute (lowest gap next to the peak) on the Junctionr Peak side. Bad rock climb down to ledge. From ledge descended steepr snow chute, and from bottom snow in talus along stream to Centerr Basin and down Bubbs Creek. Arrived at Vidette Meadow 7:45 P.M."r

r r

Peak 13,800+ (1/2 SE of Stanford)

r

r Climbed August 17, 1938, by Bob Irwin. In July 1939 Jack Sturgeonr traversed to this point from Peak 13,844, which is about one mile to ther south. Class 2 to 3.r

r r

Peak 13,826 (1 NW of Junction Peak)

r

r This is the highest point on the divide between Junction Peak andr Gregory's Monument. First ascent June 3, 1934, by David R. Browerr and Hervey Voge. Class 3. From the lake on the south side of Forestersr Pass they ascended the southeast face of the peak to the ridge betweenr Gregory's Monument and the peak proper, reaching the ridge at nearlyr its lowest point. They then proceeded eastward along the west arête tor the top. Descent was by way of a shallow chute which led down ther southeast face from the ridge just east of the summit, and included ar rappel of about twenty feet.r

r r r

Peaks North of the Kings-Kern Divide

r r

South Guard (12,964)

r

r First ascent July 26, 1916, by Walter L. Huber, Florence Burrell,r Inezetta Holt, and James Rennie. They followed the south fork ofr Ouzel Creek to the snow field of its upper basin, and finding the snowr too hard for secure footing, climbed the rocky northeast ridge of ther peak, described as a very thin knife-edge of very loose rock. This ridger led them to the summit. To avoid the slow ridge, descent was mader by ledges of the north face to the snow, and down the snow. Probablyr class 2 to 3.r

r r r r r r

Peak 11,844 (1.5 NW of East Lake)

r

r Ascended from East Lake by Art Argiewicz and seven others onr July 30, 1940.r

r r

Peak 12,610 (1.5 W of East Lake)

r

r Traversed May 26, 1934, by David R. Brower and Hervey Voge whor proceeded from Ouzel Creek to the saddle between the peak and Northr Guard and then ascended the west ridge. Descent was by the southr face. Both routes are class 2.r

r r

Peak 11,597 (1/2 SW Of East Lake)

r

r This is actually a long ridge which extends northeastward fromr South Guard; it offers interesting and convenient climbing.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest ridge.* Class 2 to 3. David R. Brower and Herveyr Voge, May 28, 1934. From the upper portion of the south fork of Ouzelr Creek climb to the ridge and follow it eastward, weaving among smallr towers, blocks, and knife edges.r

r r

r *Route 2. South face.* Class 2 to 3. David R. Brower and Hervey Voge,r May 28, 1934. An entertaining climb, just below the difficulty requiringr a rope.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Climbed August 3, 1940, by parties led by Alanr MacRae and Oliver Kehrlein.r

r r

Peak 11,593 (1/2 NW of Lake Reflection)

r

r The north face of this cleaver-shaped peak was climbed on July 31,r 1940, by Oliver Kehrlein and six others.r

r r

Peak 12,311 (3/4 W of Mount Jordan)

r

r First ascent August 8, 1940, by Peter Friedrichsen and three others.r

r r

Peak 12,047 (1/2 S of Lake Reflection)

r

r Ascended prior to 1952 by M. Roth and Calkins Fletcher. Class 3r from the saddle to the south.r

r r

Ericsson Crags

r

r There are three main crags on the north ridge of Mount Ericsson.r Crag 1 is that closest to Ericsson, and Crag 3 that farthest away. Theser crags are most readily accessible by way of the rocky chutes which leadr r r up to the ridge from the west. The crags offer challenging climbing andr there are many possible routes and minor pinnacles that have not yetr been explored.r

r r

r *Crag 1. (About 13,000.)* Southeast face. First ascent August 4, 1939, byr Edward Koskinen, Don Woods, and DeWitt Allen. Ascend the chuter which goes up from the west between Crag I and Ericsson. About two-thirds of the way up this chute branches. Take the left or north branch,r which will lead to a broad shoulder on the ridge just south of the top-most portion of Crag 1. A smaller and rather difficult crag (climbed inr 1939 by Voge, Waller, and Woods) separates this shoulder from ther north face of Mount Ericsson. From the shoulder a rather open chimneyr leads up the southeast face of the crag, but at the bottom the chimneyr ends in an overhanging crack. The climbable portion of the chimney canr be reached by a delicate, downward traverse from a little arête just tor the left (W) of the creek. This pitch would require a piton for safetyr except for the fact that it is possible to provide adequate upper belaysr without one. The route then leads up the chimney, over several larger steps, and finally up the northwest side of the summit block.r

r r

r *Crag 1W.* This is a formidable looking crag quite a distance out onr the ridge running west from Crag 1. There are no records of any attempts. The most feasible route appears to be on the north and northwest faces.r

r r

r *Crag 2. (About 12,950.)* Class 3 to 4. First ascent August 3, 1939, byr David R. Brower and Hervey Voge. Ascend the main rocky chute comingr down to the west between Crags 2 and 3. From this climb the next tor the highest chute which enters this main chute from the south andr which leads to the northwest face of Crag 2. Take the right (W) branchr of this next-to-highest subsidiary chute and climb out of it just to ther left (N) of some caves by means of a class-4 pitch. From there rather easyr slopes lead to the top.r

r r

r *Crag 3. (About 12,900.)* Class 3 to 4. First ascent prior to 1939. Ascendr the main chute coming down to the west between Crags 2 and 3. Whenr nearly to the top of this chute cross a rib to the left (N) by a band ofr broken rock and continue up the next chute to the north. Leave this byr means of a rather delicate chimney which leads to the crest of the southr ridge of the crag. Proceed along the east side of the ridge to a littler arête running east from the top of the crag. Climb up the arête to ther main ridge and follow this to the top. The climb can also be made byr way of the southwest slope from the main chute.r

r r r r r

Peak 12,222 (3/4 NE of East Lake)

r

r First ascent Sept. 19, 1926, by Norman Clyde. Climbed July 30, 1940,r by William Morrison and four others from East Lake, by way of ther lake basin at the foot of Deerhorn.r r

r r

West Vidette (12,229)

r

r First ascent August 1920 by Norman Clyde and Louis Schichter.r This peak is class 1 to 2 from the southeast from Vidette Creek. Ther north face may offer interesting climbing.r r

r r

West Spur Peak (12,500+, 1/2 S of West Vidette)

r

r First ascent Sept. 19, 1926, by Norman Clyde, who climbed the Westr Vidette and the peak to the south.r

r r

West Spur Peak (12,685)

r

r On July 14, 1940, Dick Goldsmith and Anna Shinn stopped 50 feetr from the top. On August 8, 1940, William Morrison and three othersr made the ascent from the west, from East Lake.r

r r

The Minster (12,200+, 3/4 W of Deerhorn)

r

r This is a jagged ridge of grotesque spires extending westward fromr Deerhorn Mountain. A complete east to west traverse was made onr August 3, 1939, by Ted Waller, Don Woods, and Edward Koskinen,r who found no records of previous visits on any of the spires.r r

r r

Deerhorn Mountain (13,275)

r

r The twin peaks of Deerhorn make it an easily recognized landmark.r The southeast peak is slightly higher. The first recorded ascent wasr made on July 8, 1927, by Norman Clyde, who found no cairn on ther southeast peak, but possibly one on the northwest peak. Various routesr have been used; those listed below are not necessarily arranged in chronological order.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest chute.* Class 3 to 4. Ascend the chute which headsr between the twin peaks of Deerhorn. The most difficult portions arer near the bottom and near the top. From the notch the southeast peakr may be climbed by its north face or its northwest arête. This peak hasr a small, steep top, and in 1939 a party of three was so cramped therer that they lost the can containing earlier names down the north face.r

r r r r

r *Route 2. West ridge.* Class 3. From the trail to Harrison Pass, at aboutr 11,000 feet, ascend the southwest slopes of the ridge to a point a littler east of the lowest point on the ridge between The Minster and the westr gendarmes of Deerhorn. Proceed eastward on the ridge, staying morer on the north side than on the south. Ascend the northwest peak of Deerhorn on cluttered ledges. Descend to the notch between the two peaks,r and climb the southeast peak by its north face. This route was followedr by Norman Clyde, Hervey Voge, and Ted Waller on August 5, 1939.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest basin and west ridge.* Class 3. Climb into ther basin almost due east of East Lake and proceed from its upper end tor the west ridge of Deerhorn, which may be traversed as noted above tor the summits. Route done by W. Morrison, R. Kauffman, and Normanr Roth on August 5, 1940.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southwest face.* Class 3 to 4. From the Harrison Pass trail atr about 11,000 feet climb the southwest face of the mountain, aiming forr a point just west of and about 300 feet below the northwest peak. Fromr here work around to the north and climb to the top of the northwestr peak. The traverse may then be made to the southeast peak. It is alsor possible to climb directly up the west face of the northwest peak, whichr for 300 to 400 feet is quite airy but not really difficult. This route wasr made by Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn, Robert Breckenfeld, and others,r in July 1946.r

r r

r *Route 5. North buttress.* About class 4. This buttress leads from upperr Vidette Creek directly to the northwest peak of Deerhorn. It wasr climbed by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Subsidiary Peaks of Deerhorn Mountain

r

r To the east of Deerhorn there are two sharp subsidiary peaks. Nor records exist regarding the double-pointed peaklet nearest the mainr southeast peak. The next peaklet to the east was climbed August 3, 1939,r by DeWitt Allen and Fritz Lippmann by the southwest chute. Theyr used a piton a number of times for safety in the wet chute.r

r r

r An arête running north of Deerhorn somewhat west of the northwestr peak was traversed by Norman Clyde, David R. Brower, and eightr others on July 13, 1940. No record was found of previous ascent ofr peaks on the arête.r

r r

East Vidette (12,742)

r

r First ascent by a Sierra Club party in 1910.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast ridge.* Class 2 to 3. A variation of this route is ther r r r ascent of the north side of this ridge and the traversing of the upperr portion of the ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. North side.* Class 3 to 4 up north or northwest face.r

r r

East Spur, Peak 12,722

r

r Climbed for the first time by Jim Harkins and Pat Goldsworthy onr July 14, 1940.r

r r

Peak 12,288 (1.5 W of Center Peak)

r

r There is no record of any ascent.r

r r

*Peak 13,440 (3/4 E of Deerhorn)*r

r Climbed by Boynton and Edith Kaiser, August 7, 1948. This peakr may possibly have been traversed by Norman Clyde and David R.r Brower on August 4, 1939, during a descent from Mount Stanford. Itr was climbed from Vidette Creek by the Kaisers, who went up ther northwest slope, staying somewhat northeast of the ridge leading fromr 13,440 to the low pass to the west.r

r r

Mount Stanford (13,983)

r

r This peak is separated from Gregory's Monument (see peaks of ther Kings-Kern Divide) by a knife-edge ridge about one-fourth of a miler long.r

r r

r *Route 1. South ridge.* Class 3. From Gregory's Monument follow ther ridge, with minor deviations to one side or the other. The crossing takesr about 20 minutes. First ascent August 1, 1896, by Bolton C. Brown.r

r r

r *Route 2. West face.* Class 3. First descent August 1, 1896, by Bolton C.r Brown, who went down the chute where the knife-edge from Gregory'sr Monument joined the peak of Stanford (just S of the final peak). Her went down the chute for about one thousand feet and then proceededr downward and toward the south from chute to chute to the cliff baser near a small lake below Harrison Pass.r

r r

r *Route 3. West face and north ridge.* About class 3. The west face mayr be ascended to the ridge north of the summit and the ridge followedr southward to the summit. This route was followed by Art Argiewiczr and three others in August 1940.r

r r

r *Route 4. North ridge.* About class 3. This route was descended byr David R. Brower and Norman Clyde, August 4, 1939. They traversedr the north ridge from the summit to the saddle east of Deerhorn.r

r r

r *Route 5. East face.* About class 3. A steep couloir or chute usuallyr r r r filled with snow descends almost directly from the summit of Stanfordr toward the basin west of Center Peak. The face to the south of thisr chute may be ascended to the summit, or the chute itself may be followed, if one keeps to the north side. These climbs were made inr August 1947 by James R. Harkins and several others. In 1948 Beckettr Howorth and party ascended the "east ridge."r

r r

r *Route 6. East arête and north ridge.* Class 3. Ascended in 1953 byr High Trip party. About one-half mile north of the summit an arêter extends eastward. Climb this to its junction with the main mass, andr ascend a chimney leading to the north ridge.r

r r

Kearsarge Pinnacles (about 11,700 to 11,967, 12,009, etc.)

r

r These sharp little pinnacles are numbered consecutively from southeast to northwest, numbers i through 12, after the 1939 system ofr Edward Koskinen. Several numbering systems have been applied in ther past, and the numbers on the summits, if any, may differ from thoser given here. The minor summits are not numbered. The pinnacles mayr be identified from the accompanying Sketch 23. From the north ther notches 3-4, 5-6, and 9-10 are rather readily reached, while 4-5 andr 8-9 are harder.r

r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 23. The Kearsarge Pinnacles from the north.r r

r r r r r

Pinnacle 1. First ascent July 28, 1935, by May Pridham, Miles Werner,r and Pan Coffin.r

r

Pinnacle 2. First ascent as for Pinnacle 1.

r

Pinnacle 3. First ascent August 1, 1939, by Ted Waller, Don Woods,r David Nelson, and Edward Koskinen.r

r

Pinnacle 4. First recorded ascent as for Pinnacle 3.

r

Pinnacle 5. Records unknown.

r

Pinnacle 6. Records unknown.

r r r r

Pinnacle 7. This pinnacle has been climbed numerous times.

r

Pinnacle 8. Class 5. Best climbed from the south notch (7-8 notch).r First ascent in July 1932 by Glen Dawson, Thomas Rawles and Hansr Leschke.r

r

Pinnacle 9. First recorded climb July 25, 1924, by R. Howard. It isr easy class 4 from the northeast. Climb up the chute to the high V-notchr between 8 and 9, go around to the south side of the ridge, and climb upr the face, reaching the lower summit first. An ice axe may be needed inr the chute. Or climb from the 9-10 notch.r

r

Pinnacles 10, 11, 12. All have been climbed many times. First ascentr probably by Glen Dawson, Owen Ward, and Hans Leschke in 1932.r They may be approached from the northwest end of the ridge, fromr the north, or from the 9-10 notch.r

r r

r Besides the ascents mentioned above, climbs of unidentified pinnaclesr were made earlier. In 1932 jack Riegelhuth climbed up the nearestr chimney from Vidette Meadow to the top of “the highest pinnacle.”r On July 28, 1935, a Sierra Club party including Peter Grubb and Neilr Ruge climbed “a few” of the northwestern pinnacles.r

r r

Center Peak (12,767)

r

r First ascent July 5, 1898, by C. G. Bradley, by an unknown route.r Two hours to the top from the meadow at the foot.r

r r

r *Route 1. North face.* Class 3. David R. Brower and Hervey Voge,r May 22, 1934. Three chutes discharge prominent talus fans into Centerr Basin northwest of the peak. Take the center chute and climb well upr within the mountain wall; then turn to the right (SW) up a chuter which leads up to the northwest buttress of the peak. Follow along ther buttress to a saddle, and there cross to the west side of the northwestr ridge and climb upward close to the ridgetop to within two hundredr feet of the summit, then cross to the north face for a short way, backr to the west, and then to the top.r

r r

r *Route 2. East face.* Class 1 to 2. This face may be ascended in severalr places from about 11,500 feet in Center Basin.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest face.* Class 3. Ascended by Phil Berry and Frankr Tarver, July 26, 1952. South of the talus fans mentioned under Route 1,r and about 100 yards south of the sheerest part of the face, proceed directly up the face to a tunnel at the top of the face. From the tunnelr ledges lead to the summit.r

r r r r r r

Peaks South of the Kings-Kern Divide

r rr r

Peak 12,492 (3/4 SW Of Mount Genevra)

r

r This peak was climbed from Milestone Creek in August 1939 byr Fritz Lippmann, Dave Nelson, Don Woods, and Edward Koskinen.r

r r

Peak 13,844 (1.3 W of Junction Peak)

r

r Climbed by Norman Clyde, June 22, 1926.r

r r

Peak 13,028 (1.3 W of Diamond Mesa)

r

r Climbed July To, 1939, by Jack Sturgeon.r

r r

Diamond Mesa

r

r Strictly speaking there is no summit of the Mesa, since it rises continuously toward Junction Peak. It was climbed July 10, 1898, by Boltonr C. Brown and a companion in an attempt on Junction. It may ber ascended by the west face, especially near the southern end, and mayr also be reached by following the ridge from Junction Peak. There is ar meadow and a stream on the Mesa’s lower end.r r

r *References*r

r r

r *Text: SCB*, 1895, 214; 1896, 289; 1897, 21, 83, 92; 1899, 272; 1900,r 109, 154, 172; 1903, 242, 278, 290; 1907, 159; 1912, 163; 1917, 230, 237;r 1922, 252; 1923, 378; 1926, 307; 1927, 42220; 1928, 32, 88; 1929, 87; 1932,r Ito 1933, 126; 1934, 97; 1935, 69; 1936, 93; 1937, 105; 1940, 124, 130;r 1941, 127, 129, 134; 1947, 99.r

r r

r *Photographs: Sierra Club Bulletin* magazine numbers, year and facing page as shown: Mount Bago: 1910, 236. Mount Brewer: 1897, 17, 20r (sketches); 1902, 95 (from Kearsarge Pass, from Bullfrog Lake); 1903,r 278, 281 (on climb from East Lake), 282 (view from); 1907, 162 (fromr Brewer Creek); 1917, 206 (from east); 1926, 237 (from Kearsarge Pass);r 1941, 94-5 (from Mount Gould); 1945, 62 (from east). Center Peak:r 1923, 378; 1933, 14; 1941, 14-15. Deerhorn Mountain: 1913, 25 (fromr southeast); 1930, 67 (from north). East Vidette: 1903, 282; 1911, 13r (from north); 1917, 179 (from north); 1930, 67 (in winter); 1941, 14.r Foresters Pass: 1923, 23. Mount Ericsson: 1897, 92 (sketch from west, withr crags); 1913, 25 (crags). Mount Jordan: 1911, 15. Junction Peak: 1917,r 178 (from east); 1933, 15. Kearsarge Pinnacles: 1894, 100 (from north, asr are most of the following); 1902, 95; 1910, 237; 1911, 12; 1917, 190,r r r r 207; 1919, 407; 1926, 220; 1941, 94. Kings-Kern Divide: 1897, 21, 22, 26r (sketch maps); 1917, 207 (from Mount Gould); 1945, 62 (peaks abover Lake Reflection); 1941, 95. North Guard: 1903, 278. South Guard: 1897,r 20 (sketch). University Peak: 1910, 238-9 (from north in winter);r 1912, 285; 1917, 190, 191 (from Kearsarge and Pothole Lakes); 1944,r 46 (from north). West Vidette: 1912, 274 (from Junction Meadow);r 1941, 94 (from Mount Gould).r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Whitney •r Contentsr • Previous: Kearsarge Pass to Army & Franklin Passesr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/kings-kern_divide.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r The Whitney Region >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Kaweahs & Great Western Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Kings-Kern Divider** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Kearsarge Pass to Army and Franklin Passes

r

The Whitney Region

r r r r r

John D. and Ruth Mendenhall,r Arthur B. Johnson, Braeme Gigas, andr Howard Koster (1941)r
r John D. and Ruth Mendenhall (1953)

r r r

r THE WHITNEY REGION, that portion of the crest of the Sierrar Nevada lying between Shepherd Pass and Army Pass, is a spectacularr display of mountain sculpture. Rising west of Lone Pine, in Owensr Valley, and following the northeast border of Sequoia National Park,r this jagged thirteen-mile escarpment includes seven of California's fourteen peaks exceeding 14,000 feet in elevation: Mounts Tyndall, Barnard,r Williamson, Russell, Muir, Langley, and the culminating summit, 14,495-foot Mount Whitney, highest peak in the United States excluding Alaska.r The 10,000-foot scarp of the Mount Whitney fault block forms impressive eastern precipices. Deep glacier-cut canyons, glacial cirques pluckedr out among the peaks, moraine deposits in the valleys, sharp ridges,r myriad glacial lakes, alpine trails and passes, beautiful timberline campsites—these provide a wilderness of variety for the climber. Indeed, oner of the finest rock climbing areas in the Sierra is concentrated in the sixr miles between Mount Russell and Mount Langley.r

r r

r In 1864, members of a California State Geological Survey party,r Clarence King and Richard Cotter, viewed the region from the northr and gave to the highest point the name of their chief, Whitney. Yearsr later, after two unsuccessful attempts, King reached the summit, onlyr to learn that he had been preceded a few weeks by several parties fromr Owens Valley. A. H. Johnson, C. D. Begole, and John Lucas had, onr August 18, 1873, been the first to reach the top. During the yearsr r r r r following, the summit rocks have known the tread of countless climbers,r singly, in groups, in mass ascents. They have been visited by worldr travelers, by trail builders, by survey parties. The trail to the summit wasr completed in 1904, and a stone shelter was erected on the peak in 1909.r

r r

r Mount Whitney has naturally received the greatest share of attention,r both from climbers and from historians. Little, therefore, is known ofr the early history of the other 14,000-foot peaks of the region, except forr Mount Tyndall. This first came to attention in 1864 when King andr Cotter made their famous ascent sor r

dramatically described in King'sr *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada*.r Of recent years, dating specifically from the introduction of modern roped climbing on the East Facer of Mount Whitney in 1931, the mountaineering approach to the regionr has been somewhat altered.r

r r

Topography and its Relation to Climbing

r r

r A mountain mass of fault-block origin usually possesses a precipitousr face contrasting with a gentle approach. This characteristic is exhibitedr to a striking degree in the region surrounding Mount Whitney, for ther general contour rises gently from the west, only to break off in huger cliffs toward Owens Valley on the east. Accordingly, the majority of ther difficult climbs are found east of the crest. For details of topographyr refer to the Mount Whitney and Olancha quadrangles of the Unitedr States Geological Survey map, or the Sequoia Kings Canyon Nationalr Parks topographic map. A sketch map (Sketch 24) shows knapsackr routes and some local names not on the USGS maps.r

r r

r In general, the most exposed faces are quite firm; eternal vigilance,r however, must be exercised to avoid mishap. The general dependabilityr of the cliffs does not extend to the chutes. Some members of an inexpertr or careless party may readily find themselves subjected to a deadlyr barrage, usually caused by the climbers above. In addition, rockfalls andr snow avalanches occur from natural causes, and any leader conductingr his party without due regard for this contingency is guilty of negligencer or poor judgment. Unsettled weather, accompanied by hail storms, oftenr occurs during the summer, and will, of course, affect climbing conditions. Climbers are also reminded that many of the routes involve ar length of time and altitude well in excess of that normally encounteredr in the Sierra. The Whitney Region contains no glaciers, and ice equipment is unnecessary in late summer and fall. One must remember thatr r r r r r

r r

r

r r r

r Sketch 24. Map of the Mt. Whitney Region.r r

r r r r r r r r the climbs are classified upon the basis of most favorable conditions, andr that the season or adverse weather can raise the class of an ascent byr one or two grades.rr r r

Approaches and Climbing Centers

r r

r The Whitney Region is most accessible by Inyo National Forest trailsr from the east; here the grandeur of the range is an inspiring sight, ther most lofty summits towering well over 10,000 feet above Owens Valley.r

r r

r *From Independence.* From U.S. 395 at the south end of Independence,r drive to the Symmes Creek road end (5,900). Follow the arduous trailr which starts up Symmes Creek, and leads over to and up Shepherdr Creek, where one can camp at timberline (10,400) below Shepherdr Pass (12,030). Mounts Williamson and Tyndall can be climbed fromr the pass.r

r r

r *From Manzanar.* Take a dirt road just north of Manzanar, and followr to the second road branching right. This passes through a gate, andr just beyond take the right-hand road. Drive to a level spot below a veryr steep hill (impractical for standard cars). Walk one-half mile to ther end of road. Hike up a faint trail on the south side of George Creek tor a waterfall about half-way to timberline. Cross below the waterfall andr continue up the north side. Just below timberline, the stream forks. Ifr Williamson is the objective, ascend north (right) branch to timberliner camp. If Barnard is to be climbed, go up south (left) fork to camp justr below a small lake.r

r r

r *From Lone Pine.* Drive up Lone Pine Creek to Whitney Portal (8,350),r where a Forest Service campground is maintained. The Mount Whitneyr horse trail leads up the Middle Fork to Bighorn Park (10,355), Mirrorr Lake (10,650), and continues to the summit of Mount Whitney by wayr of Whitney Pass (13,600+).* The John Muir Trail junction is near ther pass. Most convenient bases for the East Face and Mountaineer's routesr upon Mount Whitney are at East Face Lake (12,850), or on the Northr Fork of Lone Pine Creek to the southeast and at a slightly lower elevation. These sites lack firewood. Some climbers prefer to camp at Mirrorr Lake, which is supplied with firewood, cross Pinnacle Pass, climb Whitney's East Face, and return via the horse trail in a long day.r

r r

r * Do not confuse with pass (B.M. 13,335) formerly crossed by trail.r

r r

r East Face Lake or the upper North Fork campsites may be reachedr from Mirror Lake via Pinnacle Pass, or by climbing directly up ther North Fork. The first route possesses the advantage of an excellent trailr r r r as far as Mirror Lake, but involves a subsequent trailless climb of 1,600r feet and a steep descent of 300 feet.

The North Fork route is morer direct and primitive, but occasionally obscure. Ascend the foot trail,r which starts at the highest point of the road. Where the trail joins ther horse trail, turn left for Mirror Lake or right for the North Forkr near-by.r

r r

r North Fork Route: Proceed up the south side of the stream for approximately one-half mile after leaving the trail. Beyond a large triangularr rock, cross the fork and ascend a steep, narrow slope. This is the firstr break in the cliffs, and is marked by large pines. After approximatelyr loo feet of climbing, a narrow ledge running downstream will be found.r Follow this up and to the right almost to the end, where it will ber possible to turn left and follow another shelf upstream. This way (Ebers-bacher Ledges) replaces the route south of the stream. Remain on ther north side of the fork to Clyde Meadow, a lovely bowl graced with ar tarn amid foxtail pines. Beyond the meadow, recross to the south side ofr the main stream and ascend large talus blocks. At the crest of the slope,r recross to the north side and ascend to a point about three-quarters ofr a mile east of the great walls of Whitney. Gravel will provide reasonablyr comfortable campsites.r

r r

r If it is desired to camp at East Face Lake, proceed onward to a pointr just beyond a stream coming from the right (N). Turn right andr ascend the steep but rather firm rocks (less tiring than the talus fartherr upstream). East Face Lake is a short distance beyond the crest.r

r r

r *From Cottonwood Creek.* Drive up the Lone Pine-Carroll Creek roadr and ascend Cottonwood Creek via trail. Numerous campsites will ber found in the vicinity of Cottonwood Lakes. Mount Langley is easilyr climbed from this trail, which leads over Army Pass.r

r r

r *Other Approaches.* Entry into the Region from Kings Canyon National Park is gained via Foresters Pass (John Muir Trail), or overr Colby Pass and down the Kern-Kaweah. From the Giant Forest, climbr via the High Sierra Trail over Kaweah Gap and across the Big Arroyo.r A long pack-in can be made up the Kern River from the south. Ther accompanying map should be studied for location of higher campsites.r

r r r

Principal Passes

r r

r The Whitney Region is crossed by three passes having stock trails. Theser are Shepherd and Army Passes, bounding the region to the north andr r r r south, and Whitney Pass, south of Mount Muir. Other passes are undeveloped, suitable primarily for knapsack parties.r

r r

r *Tyndall Col (13,100+).* Class 1. Connects the Bowl with Wrightr Creek.r

r r

r *Whitney-Russell Pass (13,300+).* Class 1. The notch provides convenient passage between the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek and Whitney Creek. East to west: Ascend talus northwest of East Face Lake, andr climb into the notch at the corner of the wall north of lake. Westr to east: Front the bowl at the head of Whitney Creek, climb talus, keeping to right to higher (S) of two notches through headwall. The lowerr notch is too steep on the east side to be feasible.r

r r

r *Arc Pass (13,000+).* Class 1. This saddle offers a direct route betweenr Consultation Lake, in the Middle Fork of Lone Pine Creek, and upperr Rock Creek. *North to south:* Pass the lake on the east and climb ther talus to the south, keeping high up to the left until it is convenient tor follow a ledge back to the right into the pass. *South to north:* Fromr Sky Blue Lake, ascend talus to the northeast into a small cirque; thencer directly north into the pass.r

r r

r *Tuttle Pass (12,700+).* Class 1. This route involves a long trek alongr the south fork of Tuttle Creek, and is recommended only for sturdyr knapsackers.r

r r

r *Crabtree Pass (12,800+).* Class 1. A convenient link between Crabtree Creek and Rock Creek recess.r

r r

r *Pinnacle Pass (12,200).* Class 2. *South to north:* Pass north of Mirrorr Lake and ascend a broad, sloping canyon to northwest, keeping nearr the base of cliffs to north. After three-quarters of a mile, ledges on ther right lead up to the pass, 1,600 feet above Mirror Lake, just right of ar prominent pinnacle visible from Mirror Lake. The first part of ther descent, eastward, is moderately difficult rock work; below, descendr diagonally west. The lower portion and the basin floor are composedr of very rough talus. Proceed diagonally toward Mount Whitney to ther right side of canyon. Camp on sheltered gravel beds, or ascend to ther East Face Lake plateau by going to a gully a short distance beyond ther point where a stream comes down the right slope. *North to south:* Fromr the North Fork canyon, ascend talus at the first place where it risesr appreciably against the south wall. At the high point of the talus (300r feet above the stream), follow ledges right and upward into the pass.r

r r r r r

Principal Peaks (North to South)

r r

Mount Tyndall (14,025)

r

r *Route 1. North face.* Class 3. First ascent July 6, 1864, by Clarencer King and Richard Cotter. From a point between Shepherd Pass and ther saddle leading to the Bowl, ascend the rib in the middle of the facer (or the gully to its right) over granite slabs, to the arête. Proceed eastr among the gendarmes to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest ridge.* Class 2. Leading the Shepherd Pass trail,r climb the ridge at the junction of north and northwest faces. Ascendr to the arête of Route 1 and follow it to the summit. Variations: Climbr any gully to the south of the northwest ridge, traverse the south facer of the north peak 100 feet below its crest, and ascend to the arête, thencer to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southwest slopes.* Class 2. First descent July 6, 1864, byr Clarence King and Richard Cotter. Mount talus above the highest laker on Wright Creek.r

r r

r *Route 4. East face.* Class 4. First ascent August 13, 1935, by Williamr F. Loomis and Marjory Farquhar. Climb the first prominent open chuter on the east face of the north ridge. The principal difficulty is enteringr

r r

r the chute.r *Route 5. Southeast ridge.* Class 4. First ascent August is, 1939, by Tedr Waller and Fritz Lippmann. The ascent from the east of the southeastr wall of the third large chute southeast "of Tyndall involves 500 feet ofr class 4 climbing. The rest of the route follows the nivated southwestr slope of the ridge to the top.r

r r

r *West Peak of Tyndall (13,533).* Class 2. First ascent unrecorded. Ther oddly sculptured northwest face offers varied scrambles of similarr difficulty, all on excellent granite.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1894, pl. 11; 1933, 30 (east face).r

r r

Point 12,350 (Tawny Point) (N of Bighorn Plateau)

r

r First ascent July 12, 1946, by A. J. Reyman; class 1 from the south.r Class 1 and 2 from the north. Minimum class 3 up a steep gravel andr rock couloir on the west side, meeting ridge one-half mile north ofr summit.r

r r

Mount Williamson (14,384)

r

r Standing apart from the crest, Williamson offers one of the finestr r r views of the eastern escarpment, and is one of the most imposing peaks,r to be seen from Owens Valley. Although first described as "an inaccessibler cluster of granite needles," the summit has now been reached by,r many routes. The mountain is so complex that it is easy to get off the,r route and into difficulty. Accordingly it is well to have a rope available,r even though the actual climbing problem on most of the routes is,r moderate in degree. Williamson

from the northwest, with marked routes,r is shown on Sketch 25.r

r r r r

r r r r

r Sketch 25. Mount Williamson from the northwest.r r

r r r r

2 Route 2.	R Red talus
B Black stains on rock	NNN Northwest buttress
S Summit	NF North face (lowerr r portion hidden byr r northwest buttress)
SL Small lake	
V Variation on Route 2.	

r r r r r

Route 1. Southeast ridge from George Creek. Class 2. First ascent inr 1884 by W. L. Hunter and C. Mulholland. A nine-hour, almost traillessr climb up George Creek brings one to a timberline campsite (aboutr 11,500) on the north fork of the creek. From here ascend north-northeastr to the gradual slope of the southeast ridge, following this to the base ofr the steeper slope. Here it is possible to cross the east slope past a smallr lake and then go diagonally upwards; but “much the easier climb is tor keep on . . . the backbone of the ridge . . . There is not very muchr difficulty in either direction.” (A. W. Carroll)r

r r

Route 2. From the Bowl. Class 3. First ascent by this approach wasr in July 1896 by Professor Bolton Coit Brown and Mrs. Lucy Brown.r The 1,800-foot west face of Williamson has provided varied routes tor the summit, and, to less experienced climbers, many cul-de-sacs. Afterr approaching from Shepherd Pass, follow the top of the low ridge whichr separates two lakes in the floor of the Bowl. Proceed along the ridge,r avoiding cliff by passing to the right. After passing the rise in the centerr of the basin, and beyond the second of two lakes to the right of ther ridge, move straight toward the summit of Williamson. Ascend to ther right on talus toward black marks on rock caused by snow water, andr enter the chute above. This is a double chute separated at its mouth by ar lower buttress, which resembles an inverted shield with a rectangularr column superimposed on top of it. Ascend the right branch of thisr double chute, which soon branches above; continue up the left branch.r Near the top avoid a broad slope to the left. Climb a chimney andr emerge on top of a high plateau which slopes gently toward the summit.r

r r

Variations. Another, perhaps more frequently used, route lies well tor the south. From the Bowl climb up red talus. Ascend the southernmostr of abundantly scree-filled chutes, keeping to firmer rock along eitherr wall, to the notch in the southwest ridge. Cross into an open chute inr the upper south face, and climb ledges in zigzag route marked withr ducks to the nivated summit slope. Several other variations have beenr worked out by Norman Clyde and others, sometimes unintentionally.r The southwest arête may be followed to the summit, but this is almostr class 4. The west face chutes north of Route 2 have been used frequently, but involve much more scree and route-finding. The abundantr scree in these chutes can simplify the descent—provided one chooses ther correct chute.r

r r

Route 3. Northeast ridge. Class 4. First ascent 1925, by Homer D.r Erwin. This involves an arduous trailless approach up Williamson Creek.r From timberline ascend a chute heading on the nivated slope on ther r r r northeast ridge of Williamson and follow the ridge over Peak 14,150r and Peak 14,211 (see *East Peak of Williamson*) to summit. Normanr Clyde has followed the northeast ridge from Owens Valley—an 8,000-foot, waterless climb from the mouth of the Shepherd Creek gorge.r

r r

r *East Peak of Williamson (14,211).* Class 4. First ascent by Leroyr Jeffers. From the summit of Williamson descend northeast along ther summit plateau; drop 200 feet to the notch below the plateau by traversing diagonally down the southeast side of the notch; ascend a chuter to the crest of the sharp east peak arête; and drop 100 feet down ther opposite side, whence a minimum class 4 pitch leads to the summit.r Variations of this route are possible, the purpose of all of them beingr to avoid following the spectacular arête itself. The same applies to ther ascent of Peak 14,150 to the northeast.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1904, plate 10 (from Owens Valley); 1910, plater 38 (from south).r

r r

Trojan Peak (13,968)

r

r *Route 1.* Minimum class 3. First ascent June 26, 1926, by Normanr Clyde, via west side.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Maximum class 2, by north ridge from saddle south ofr Williamson.r

r r

r *Route 3.* Class 2, from south.r

r r

Mount Barnard (14,003)

r

r Class 1. First ascent, September 25, 1892, by John and William Hunterr and C. Mulholland. This is a high granitic plateau rising from ther south. The east summit (13,747) lies at the crest of the great easternr ramparts, which form an impressive 2,200-foot cliff. Mount Barnard canr be easily ascended from Wright or Wallace Creeks, via the southwestr ridge or the south slopes. The northwest slope and the north ridge offerr convenient class 2 routes to the summit, and involve less scree. Fromr the northeast an ascent may be made by a broad couloir above Georger Creek to the wide plateau. Climb class 1 talus slope to summit.r

r r

r *Peak 12,393,* one and one-half miles west of Barnard, is class 1 via ther southwest ridge.r

r r

Tunnabora Peak (13,593)

r

r First ascent August 1905 by George R. Davis. Class 2 by the southr slope from the headwaters of Wallace Creek.r

r r

r *Point 13,008,* three-quarters mile north, is class 1 from Tunnabora.r

r r r r r

Mount Carillon (13,571)

r

r Class 2. This peak lies northeast of Mount Russell and one-third miler southeast of Tulainyo Lake. First ascent 1925, by Norman Clyde.r

r r

Mount Russell (14,190)

r

r This peak presents a formidable appearance from almost any direction, and was one of the last of the major Sierran peaks to be climbed.r The south wall is deeply fluted, consisting of four buttresses separatedr by deep couloirs. The outer ribs rise to nearly identical heights, makingr the summit a twin-horned arête. The north face is more regular, beingr cut by a series of horizontal ledges with steep smooth rises. The westr summit is slightly higher than the east peak.r

r r

r *Route 1. East arête.* Class 3. First ascent June 24, 1926, by Normanr Clyde. From Tulainyo Lake, ascend the 500-foot wall to the south. Continue along a ledge on the north side under the crest of the arête, tor summit of east horn (*SCB*, 1927, 382).r

r r

r *Route 2. North arête.* Class 3. First descent June 24, 1926, by Normanr Clyde. From the moraine bench just west of Tulainyo Lake, follow upr the rib that leads into the north arête. Difficulties of the arête can ber turned by keeping to right along ends of north face ledges.r

r r

r *Route 3. West arête.* Minimum class 3. First descent July 1927 byr Norman Clyde.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southwest face-west arête.* Class 4. First descent July 1932r by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, Walter Brem and Hans Leschke. Fromr near the head of Whitney Creek, climb the narrow couloir just left ofr the buttress that rises sheer to the summit of the west horn. This couloirr heads on the west arête; proceed thence by Route 3 to summit.r

r r

r *Route 5. South face-west chute.* Class 3. First ascent July 1932 by Julesr Eichorn, Glen Dawson, Walter Brem and Hans Leschke. From ther head of Whitney Creek, or Whitney-Russell Pass, follow up the talusr into wide chute occupying the center of the south face. Halfway up,r the chute divides. Take the left (W) branch to near the end, whencer ascend the right wall. Attain the arête, which terminates in the summitr ridge just east of the west horn.r

r r

r *Route 6. South face-east chute.* First ascent was made in 1928 by A. E.r Gunther. From the branch in the chute of Route 5, continue up ther right (E) couloir to the headwall. There are three variations from here:r *Gunther variation.* Class 3. Climb the second chimney right (S) of ther headwall to the crest of southeast arête, thence on to east side of arêter r r r and up blocks to summit of east horn. *Chimney variation.* Class 4. Firstr ascent July 29, 1932, by James Wright. Climb the first chimney on ther right (at corner), passing over loose overhang near top, to a shelf onr the east face of the southeast arête, thence by Gunther variation.r *Face variation.* Class 3. First ascent August 7, 1931, by Howard Sloan, Frankr Noel, and William Murray. Climb the headwall by a ledge leading diagonally up the face to the left, ending at midpoint of the summit arête.r

r r

r *Route 7. Southeast face-east arête.* Class 3. First ascent June 19, 1927,r by Homer D. Erwin and Fred Lueders, Jr. From Clyde Meadow, go upr the right (N) canyon of the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. Near ther head, a long talus slope leads east into a short but prominent chimney,r which ends at a high mesa. Cross the plateau westerly to the east arêter of Russell proper. From this point, the way is a variation of Route 1..r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1927, 384 (from north, and west peak); 1928,r plate 31 (from northeast).r

r r

r *Point 13,938.* This peak rises just west of Mount Russell. First ascentr June 27, 1926, by Norman Clyde. A class 2 traverse from Mount Russell.r

r r

Mount Hale (13,493)

r

r Class 1. First ascent July 24, 1934, by J. H. and Mildred Czock viar the south slopes.r

r r

Peak 12,808 (W of Wales Lake)

r

r Class 2. First ascent September 5, 1935, by Chester Versteeg via ther north ridge, from northwest.r

r r

Mount Young (13,187)

r

r This peak is a long, rounded granite mass with a sheer north wallr broken by avalanche chutes. An excellent view is obtained of the Whitney crest, the Kaweahs, the Great Western Divide, and the Kings-Kern Divide.r

r r

r *South slopes.* Class 1. First ascent September 7, 1881, by Frederickr Wales, William Wallace and J. Wright. Ascend from Crabtree Creekr into the low saddle visible from the trail. Proceed to the summit overr talus.r *Peak 12,820,* five-eighths mile west, is minimum class 2 from ther south.r

r r

Mount Whitney (14,495)

r

r This peak provides an exceptionally wide range of climbing difficulty.r r r r One route is a horseback trail (Route 1, class 1), and entails nothingr more than time and stamina. Scrambles, difficult to various degrees, mayr be made from the west and north (Routes 2 and 3). Block climbingr and couloir scrambling are found on the Mountaineer's Route (Route 4).r Hardy and thoroughly experienced rock climbers can attack difficult andr exposed routes up the East Face (Routes 5 and 6) and from the southeast (Route 7). The accompanying Sketch 26 shows East Face routes.r

r r

r *References: SCB*, 1935, 81; 1936, 64; 1937, r; 1947, 75.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1894, plate 14 (from west); 1904, plate 13 (fromr west); 1904, plate 18 (East Face cliffs); 1909, plate 13 (down East Face);r 1910, plate 37 (East Face); 1928, plate 30 (from north); 1937, plates 5, 6r (aerial) and 21 (crest trail); 1938, plate 40 (climbing); 1947, oppositer 86, 87 (summit). *American Alpine Journal,* 1931, 416 (East Face). *Sierrar Nevada: The John Muir Trail.* By Ansel Adams, 1938, plate 43 (Dayr and Keeler needles, East Face).r

r r

r *Route 1. The trail.* Class 1. The path leaves the Whitney Pass trailr about 300 yards from the pass on the west side of the crest. The wayr swings high on the west slope of the pinnacles, skirting the notches thatr give impressive views down the great eastern precipices. The final peakr is surmounted from the southwest. Trail distance from the roadhead tor the summit is thirteen miles.r

r r

r *Route 2. West slopes.* Class 2. First ascent August 18, 1873, by A. H.r Johnson, C. P. Begole and John Lucas. Leave the lower lake in ther glacial basin at the west foot of the mountain. Climb steep talus andr pass through any of the numerous chutes. Then proceed directly tor the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. North slopes.* Class 2. From near the head of Whitney Creek,r or from Whitney-Russell Pass, climb west over talus and large blocks.r Keeping well under the wall of the north arête, ascend into any of ther shallow chutes leading to a 50-foot wall of broken blocks. Pass throughr the wall and climb directly to summit. *Note:* Avoid the lower portionr of the west half of the north face, for it is covered by steep, smoothr glacial slabs, involving class 4 climbing.r

r r

r *Route 4 (Mountaineer's Route). Northeast side.* Class 2. First ascentr generally credited to John Muir on October 21, 1873. A large couloirr separates the north arête from the great East Buttress. This couloir leadsr directly from East Face Lake to a notch, the junction of the north arêter with the main massif. From the junction, go left directly up 400 or 500r feet of steep large blocks (often icy) to a large cairn on the crest. Ther summit is 200 yards southeast.r

r r r r r

r r r r

r r r
r Sketch 26. East face of Mount Whitney.r r

r r r r

1	First Tower	SW	Summit of Whitney
2	Second Tower	M	Mountaineer's Route
T	Tower Traverse	S	Start of southeast facer r route
W	Washboard		
F	Fresh Air Traverse	G	Gendarme
K	Portion of Keeler Needle	C	Whitney-Keeler Couloir
P	Peewee		

r r r r

r *Route 5. East buttress.* Class 4, with one class 5 pitch. First ascentr September 5, 1937, by Robert K. Brinton, Glen Dawson, Richard Jones,r Howard Koster and Muir Dawson. From East Face Lake, climb the talusr and ledge to the left of Route 4 for 500 feet, reaching a notch betweenr the First Tower and Second Tower on the face of the east buttress. Roper here and work right, up the face of the Second Tower. Turn it to ther right 15 feet below its summit, thus gaining the second notch. On ther first pitch above the notch, two pitons are needed for safety. Above thisr point, the route roughly follows the arête of the east buttress to a pointr below the "Peewee," a huge, precariously-placed block of granite overr halfway up the buttress. Climb

past the right side of the block. Ascendr directly ahead, or swing to right, up to summit blocks (*SCB*, 1938,r 105, 106).r

r r

r *Route 6. East face route.* Class 4, with two class 5 pitches, or oner class 5 and one class 6 pitch. First ascent August 16, 1931, by Robertr L. M. Underhill, Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn and Norman Clyde. Fromr East Face Lake follow Route 5 to notch behind First Tower. Rope upr for the exposed *"Tower Traverse,"* class 4 (first ascent August 17, 1934,r by Jules Eichorn and Marjory Bridge [Farquhar]). Traverse left (S)r face of Second Tower by narrow out-sloping ledge leading steeply upward for 25 feet. The shelf then traverses for 25 feet to the bottom ofr a 15-foot crack. This is followed by a series of scree-covered ledges, ther Washboard. Climb the Washboard to a cliff at the upper end, andr move left, up an easy pitch. Descend to a wide ledge leading right andr into the angle formed by the Great Buttress and the face proper. Mountr about twenty-five feet on easy rocks. Three routes present themselves,r namely (left to right): *"Fresh Air Traverse," "Shaky-Leg Crack,"* andr *"Direct Crack."*r

r r

r *"Fresh Air Traverse,"* minimum class 5, 100 feet. Traverse left (S)r around a large rectangular block, cross a gap in the ledge requiring ar long step, and work out about 20 feet to the left. At this point climbr upward over a rather smooth face to a steep, broken chimney leadingr gradually back to the right. Ascend the chimney and traverse right atr the head. The lead ends almost directly above the start. The climber isr now in the angle at the foot of the Grand Staircase, a series of shelves.r

r r

r *"Shaky-Leg Crack,"* class 5, very strenuous. First ascent June 9, 1936,r by Morgan Harris, James N. Smith and Neil Ruge. Climb a few feetr above the beginning of the Fresh Air Traverse. The belayer should ber anchored on a narrow, partly overhung ledge. A shoulder-stand will ber advisable, and the difficult crack above merits at least two safety pitons.r

r r r r

r *"Direct Crack,"* class 6. First ascent July 4, 1953, by John D. Mendenhall. The crack splits the wall about forty feet south of the right-handr cliffs, and requires about four pitons.r

r r

r Above any of these three variations, climb the Grand Staircase to ther wall at its head, and move left into a narrow squeeze chimney or crackr (one piton advisable). A register will be found after the pitch is conquered. Traverse upward and right until easy rocks lead to the summitr above. *Ortenburger Variation:* ascend blocks above the register to ther ridge, thence north to summit. (References to Route 6: *SCB*, 1932, 53;r 1935, 109. *American Alpine Journal,* 1931, 415.)r

r r

r *Route 7. Southeast face.* Minimum class 5. First ascent October 11,r 1941, by John D. and Ruth Mendenhall. North of the base of the longr couloir separating Whitney and Keeler Needle rises a buttress cappedr by an impressive gendarme. The buttress is separated from the easternr precipices of Whitney by an overhanging chimney. Ascend the buttressr on easy class 4 rocks until one can traverse into and cross the chimneyr above the overhang. The thousand feet of rock remaining requires butr two anchor pitons. The couloir between

Whitney and Keeler is dangerously unsound, having claimed three lives. (Reference to Route 7: *SCB*,r 1942, 131.)r

r r

Keeler Needle (14,128)

r

r This is the first needle south of Mt. Whitney. *West side.* Class 1. Firstr ascent unknown. A short climb over small blocks from the Mountr Whitney trail.r

r r

Day Needle (14,110 approx.)

r

r This is the second needle south of Mt. Whitney. *West side.* Class 1.r First ascent unknown. From the Mount Whitney trail, climb easy blocksr to the summit.r

r r

Third Needle (14,100 approx.)

r

r *Route 1. West side.* Class 1. First ascent unknown. Make a short climbr over easy blocks from the Mount Whitney trail to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. East buttress.* Class 4 and 5, with one class 6 pitch. Firstr ascent September 5, 1948, by John D. Mendenhall, Ruby Wacker andr John Altseimer. Walk up glaciated slabs west of Mirror Lake, south ofr Pinnacle Ridge. Ascend easy blocks where the Ridge ends against ther east buttress of the Third Needle. Rope up and ascend the south edger of the rib to about 13,600 feet elevation, where one crosses to the eastr face and climbs the class 6 chimney. Some distance above, traverse rightr r r into a rotten, bottomless chimney. The rib eases off, and one shiftsr from the south to the north side via a convenient cleft. A providentialr ledge leads to easy rocks just north of the summit (*SCB*, 1949, 145).r

r r

r *Route 3. East face.* Class 4, with one class 5 traverse. First ascent September 3, 1939, by John D. Mendenhall and Ruth Dyar (Mendenhall).r Follow Route 2 to roping-up point. Class 3 climbing leads upward andr to the left into an easy gully, which is capped by an abrupt overhangr above the half-way point. Turn the difficulty by a short class 5 traverser to the right. Climb directly to the summit of the ridge by class 4 rocks,r emerging upon the watershed between Third Needle and Day Needle.r Routes 2 and 3 are recommended for those desiring roped routes combined with maximum accessibility (*SCB*, 1940, 129).r

r r

Pinnacle Ridge (13,050)

r

r This serrated ridge separates the middle and north forks of Lone Piner Creek. A class 4 traverse of the ridge can be made in either directionr (John D. Mendenhall and Nelson P. Nies, July 10, 1935). The views arer among the finest in the entire Sierra, for the eastern battlements ofr Mount Whitney tower above, and Thor Peak dominates the view tor the east.r

r r

r *Pinnacle Pass Needle (12,300).* Northwest of Pinnacle Pass. Maximumr class 4. First ascent. September 7, 1936, by Robert K. Brinton,r Glen Dawson and William Rice. Ascend a severe crack on the corner facing Whitney. Traverse a short arête to the summit.r

r r

Thor Peak (12,301)

r

r This spectacular wall, separating the middle and north forks of Loner Pine Creek, towers to the north of Bighorn Park. The south face provides interesting climbs. Routes 1 and 4 are shown on Sketch 27 ofr Thor's south wall.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest side.* Class 1. First ascent by Norman Clyde. Climbr ledges north of Mirror Lake to a sloping, sandy plateau southwest of ther peak. Mount talus and scree to the notch south of the peak, and traverser to the northeast side, thence to summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. West arête.* Class 2. First descent September 7, 1936, byr Robert K. Brinton, Glen Dawson and William Rice. A pleasant router to the summit over large granite blocks.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southeast chimney.* Class 4. First ascent September 7, 1936,r by William Rice, Robert K. Brinton and Glen Dawson. Climb to treesr on the wall north of Bighorn Park. From a point near the highest trees,r r r r traverse along a ledge to left. Ascend a very difficult vertical chimney.r Follow ledge back to right. Mount cracks and ledges to a large red-tinged pinnacle standing out from the wall. Between the pinnacle andr the main face, traverse right to a gully sloping up to left. An unusuallyr well-defined ledge to left leads to summit.r

r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 27. South wall of Thor Peak.r r

r r r r

1 Route 1 P Pink Perch

4 Route 4 V Variation, Route 4

r r

r *Route 4. South face.* Class 5. First ascent September 4, 1937, by Howard Koster, Arthur B. Johnson and James N. Smith. Follow the Mountr Whitney trail above Bighorn Park to top of switchbacks. A broad, brush-covered talus fan leads up to the right. Mount into a crack separatingr the main peak from Mirror Point to the southwest. Ascend the crackr for two pitches, and traverse east along a series of ledges. Climb viar a crack to the "Pink Perch," a high reddish ledge. Descend a crackr eastward for a hundred feet. Two or three delicate steps place one in ar vertical crack a few feet out on the face. Climb two pitches upward inr the crack to a shelf behind a gendarme. Turn to the right and maker a delicate face climb of 15 feet; easier going completes a 70-foot lead.r Climb another pitch on fine, high-angle blocks, then traverse west highr above the Pink Perch. Follow a series of ledges, which lead up intor r r a recess under a 10-foot wall of cornice blocks, and emerge upon ther arête a few hundred feet east of the summit (*SCB*, 1938, 105).r

r r

r *Variation.* Class 4. First descent September 3, 1940, by Carl Jensen,r Howard Koster, Wayland Gilbert and Elsie Strand. The Pink Perchr may also be reached by a small gully from the east. Take the trail fromr Bighorn. At top of switchbacks, leave trail and go up broad gully tor where a wide ledge comes in from the right. Follow this ledge aboutr two-thirds its length, then take a steep narrow gully leading diagonallyr left across the face directly to the Pink Perch.r

r r

r *Mirror Point.* This is the southern buttress of Thor Peak, rising immediately north of Mirror Lake.r

r r

r *Route 1.* West side. Class 1.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Southeast face. Maximum class 4. First ascent September 6,r 1936, by William Rice and Robert K. Brinton. Mount the talus sloper northwest of Bighorn Park (northeast of Mirror Lake) to an apron.r Climb up and around the apron to the left, ascending series of cracksr above. The most difficult pitch is an overhanging 20-foot crack. The router works gradually to the left (S).r

r r

Mount Muir (14,025)

r

r This peak provides a most impressive view of the entire region.r

r r

r *Route 1. West face.* Class 2. First ascent unknown. A monument ofr rocks stands in a shallow chute at the point where one leaves the Mountr Whitney trail. The summit, 400 feet above, is plainly visible. Climbr over loose talus and blocks, and head for the ridge to the right, at ther point where the talus blends into the summit rocks. Traverse to the leftr and up a short crack to the small summit cap.r

r r

r *Route 2. East buttress, north side.* Minimum class 4. First ascent July 11,r 1935, by Nelson P. Nies and John D. Mendenhall. The route lies upr the well-defined buttress that interrupts the sweep of the east wall. Rapidr climbing will be encountered by maintaining a course just to the rightr of the ridge. When approximately half-way up the rib, swing left intor a well-fractured chute that climbs back to the right, between twor gendarmes. Behind the gendarmes, turn left and ascend large blocksr to notch beneath summit. Keep slightly to left and attain summit viar steep trough (*SCB*, 1936, 100).r

r r

r *Route 3. East buttress, south side.* Class 4. First ascent September 1,r 1935, by Arthur B. Johnson and William Rice. From near the start ofr Route 2, climb the face of the buttress for a few pitches. Where ther r r r blocks become difficult, traverse down a ledge into a gully under ther south face of the arête. Follow the trough to its head, where a 70-footr vertical crack appears in the very corner. Ascend the crack and steepr blocks to the arête. Work right and up under gendarme to a fracturedr chute, and rejoin Route 2 (*SCB*, 1936, 101).r

r r

Peak 12,811 (Wotan's Throne)

r

r This point rises in cliffs from the southwest shore of Mirror Lake.r *Northwest arête.* Class 2. First ascent 1933, by Norman Clyde. Fromr flats north of Consultation Lake there is a prominent class 2 couloirr leading directly to the summit. *East Chimney.* Class 2. First ascent byr Chester Versteeg July 10, 1937. Climb northernmost of three short chimneys that breach the southeast wall of summit rocks.r

r r

Point 13,777 (Discovery Pinnacle)

r

r Immediately south of new Whitney Pass. First ascent September, 1873,r by Clarence King and Knowles. Class 2 from the south.r

r r

Mount Hitchcock (13,188)

r

r Class 1. This has a long, ascending nivated slope rising from the southwest. The northeast side is a steep, impressive cliff. The first ascent wasr claimed by Frederick Wales, September 1881. Ascend the west shoulderr from Crabtree Meadows and proceed along the plateau to the summit.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, 1910, plate 40; 1937, plate 3 (from Whitney).r

r r

Mount McAdie (13,800)

r

r The mountain consists of three summits. The north peak is the highest, with the middle next in elevation.r

r r

r *North peak.* Class 3. First ascent 1922 by Norman Clyde. From ther slopes north of Arc Pass climb nearly to the summit of the middle peak.r Descend to the col between the middle and north summits, traverser to the west side of the north peak, and climb upwards.r

r r

r *Middle peak.* Class 2. First ascent June 1928 by Norman Clyde. Fromr the slopes north of Arc Pass, ascend directly to the summit.r

r r

r *South peak.* Class 2. First ascent June 12, 1936, by Oliver Kehrlein,r Chester Versteeg and Tyler Van Degrift. From Arc Pass, ascend chimney on southeast face to summit. A class 3 traverse of a knife-edge enablesr one to attain the middle summit.r

r r r r rr r

Mount Mallory (13,870)

r

r *Route 1.* Class 2. First ascent June, 1925, by Norman Clyde. Fromr Mount Irvine, go around the east shoulder of Mount Mallory to the easyr south slope.r

r r

r *Route 2. From south of Arc Pass.* Class 2. From south of Arc Pass,r go up one of several chutes just to the north of the prominent peak onr the edge of the LeConte plateau. Then follow Route 1.r

r r

r *Route 3. West side.* Class 3. First ascent July 18, 1936, by Oliverr Kehrlein, Chester Versteeg and Tyler Van Degrift. Ascend a wide couloir from Arc Pass to a point northwest of summit. Mount talus blocksr to a horizontal crack running north to south. Class 3 rocks lead fromr upper end of crack to summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. Traverse from the north peak.* Class 3. First ascent July 26,r 1931, by Howard Sloan. Traverse from the head of the chute betweenr Irvine and Mallory along the crestline, over the north peak, and intor the notch between the north and main peaks. Thence climb to the summit. A variation is to climb about half-way up the north peak, andr traverse by a series of easy ledges across its east face, onto the arête ar hundred feet above the notch, and thence into notch and up north arêter of main peak.r

r r

r *Route 5. East side.* Class 2 from Tuttle Creek.r

r r

Mount Irvine (13,790)

r

r This ragged granite peak can be climbed by any of the chutes leadingr from Arc Pass to the high plateau east of crest, from which the summitr is easily accessible.r

r r

r *Route 1.* Class 1. First ascent June, 1925, by Norman Clyde. From Arcr Pass, ascend a deep chute to the ridge to the east. Cross the ridge, descending slightly. Go around to the southeast side and ascend final easy rocksr to summit.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Class 1. The peak can be climbed directly from the Middler Fork of Lone Pine Creek.r

r r

Peak 12,004 (Mt. Candlelight)

r

r This peak is south of Whitney Portal.r

r r

r *Route 1.* Class 1. First ascent August 31, 1940, by Chester Versteeg.r From Lower Meysan Lake, east of the peak, ascend a scree slope southr of the prominent rock face to the saddle, thence to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Class 3. Ascend the rock face directly above Lower Meysanr r r Lake, up a chimney. Traverse left on a broad ledge for 25 feet, andr follow an orange-colored dike to within 10 feet of top. Traverse rightr on a narrow ledge for 10 feet, then ascend 500 feet of scree to the summit.r

r r

r *The north face* (above Whitney Portal Campground) offers interesting class 5 climbs, as yet uncompleted.r

r r

Lone Pine Peak (12,951)

r

r This is an imposing summit when seen from Lone Pine; from ther west and northwest, the northeast arête presents an interesting profile.r

r r

r *Route 1.* Class 1. First ascent 1925, by Norman Clyde. Climb to a pointr west-southwest of the peak and ascend a talus slope to the high plateau,r which presents a steep front to the east. Follow the plateau to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. North-northeast ridge.* Long class 5 (6 pitons). First ascentr September, 1952, by A. C. Lembeck and Ray W. Van Aken. From Whitney Portal drive east to summer home tract. Follow Meysan Lake trail,r and take left branch where it divides. This trail drops to stream. Ascendr north talus of Lone Pine Peak, bearing easterly. Cross under the ridge,r gain the ridge's crest, and follow (class 3) to first large step (visiblr from Lone Pine). Ascend step, bearing to right (1 piton). The nextr pitch is strenuous (2 pitons). Climb an overhanging slab with laybackr to a platform, which is followed by a smooth chimney (3 pitons). Easyr class 3 and 4 climbing over towers leads to the final summit blocks.r Traverse horizontally east for 10 feet under the overhang, then upwardr by means of a crack. Make a hand traverse of crack to chimney. Ascendr chimney, cross ridge to west, and follow minimum class 4 rocks tor summit.r

r r

Mount Newcomb (13,484)

r

r Class 1. First ascent August 22, 1936, by Max Eckenburg and Bobr Rumohr. Ascent made from Mount Pickering. Follow down north ridge,r across saddle, skirt pinnacles on the west, thence up southwest ridge tor summit.r

r r

Mount Chamberlin (13,173)

r

r First ascent by J. H. Czock, date unknown. Class 1 by west arête.r

r r

Mount Pickering (13,481)

r

r Southeast arête. Class 2. First ascent July 16, 1936, by Chester Versteeg,r Tyler Van Degrift and Oliver Kehrlein. Climb from Rock Creek Basinr r r r past Primrose Lake via the southeast arête to the plateau, thence tor summit.r

r r

Joe Devel Peak (13,328)

r

r Class 2. First ascent September 20, 1875, by Wheeler Survey party,r route unknown. Climbed July 7, 1937, by Owen L. Williams via ther southeast arête. Records from 1875 to 1908 were found. The ascent isr class 2 from the south or southwest.r

r r

Mount Guyot (12,305)

r

r Class 1. This mountain lies west of the main crest and affords a finer view of both the Whitney Region and the Great Western Divide. Firstr ascent 1881 by William Wallace.r

r r

The Miter (12,784)

r

r *South face.* Class 3. First ascent July 18, 1938, by R. S. Fink. Fromr Rock Creek, ascend a low ridge just south of Iridescent Lake and followr this to a saddle on the south side of the mountain. Climb many ledges,r bearing slightly to the west. Then go in an easterly direction on ther upper slope.r

r r

Mount LeConte (13,960)

r

r *Route 1. Northwest ridge.* Class 2. First ascent June 1935 by Norman Clyde. “Followed ridge running southeast from Mount Mallory;r thence on ridge around to southwest “shoulder of mountain, encountered 20-foot drop, retraced shelf for 100 yards, dropped down to andr came up chimney, passing below 20-foot drop, thence to summit.” Ther head of the chute near the summit is the most difficult part of the climb.r This route is still used by parties approaching the peak from the north.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northeast face.* Class 3. First ascent September 7, 1952, byr Steve Wilkie, Barbara Lilley, Wes Cowan, George Wallerstein and Juner Kilbourne. From Meysan Lake, ascend a loose, narrow chute to ther plateau between LeConte and Mallory (also readily accessible fromr northwest). Cross the plateau to the cairn at the base of LeConte.r Traverse easterly 200 yards. Now on northeast face but short of the eastr arête, ascend directly to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. East arête.* Class 3. First recorded ascent June 12, 1937, byr Gary Leech, Bill Blanchard and Hubert North. Follow Route 2 to ther cairn. Traverse for 450 or 500 yards to a chimney on the east face andr r r r follow up the chimney to a point near the summit; leave the chimneyr and complete climb on east arête.r

r r

r *Route 4. From the west.* Class 4. First ascent July 17, 1936, by Oliverr Kehrlein, Tyler Van Degrift and Chester Versteeg. Climb talus fanr about 200 yards north of the east end of Iridescent Lake, the only laker in the recess; thence up a long couloir to a point below crest. Traverser to the northwest for 60 feet, at which point climb directly east towardr the summit about 400 feet distant.r

r r

r *Route 5. From the west.* Class 2. Follow Route 4, except that ther traverse northwest is followed until a difficult chute in north face leadsr to summit.r

r r

r *Photograph: SCB*, 1896, plate 32 (Summit rocks).r

r r

Corcoran Mountain (13,733)

r

r This is one-half mile south of Mount LeConte, and the most northerlyr of three summits just south of LeConte.r

r r

r *Route 1. From the north.* Class 1. First ascent 1933, by Howard S. Gates.r Climb from Iridescent Lake up a chute to the saddle in the crest northr of peak; thence up easy rocks to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. From the south.* Class 2. First ascent July 20, 1938, byr R. S. Fink. Ascend west side of the main crest to the notch just southr of the peak, thence up south ridge.r

r r

Mount Langley (14,042)

r

r First ascent 1871, by Clarence King and Paul Pinson.r

r r

r *Route 1. From Army Pass on the south.* Class 1.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Rock Creek on the west.* Class 1. Climb a wide chute,r one-half mile south of a point directly west of the summit, to a levelr bench. Thence follow an easy arête in a northeasterly direction to ther summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 3. First recorded ascent August 1937 byr Howard S. Gates and Nelson P. Nies. From a bench south of Tuttler Creek, climb to the base, thence southwest to a chimney blocked at ther head. Climb out of the chimney to the south ledge, thence traverse southeast, then southwest to a ridge. Follow the ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. East-southeast ridge.* Class 3. From the northernmost larger Cottonwood Lake, ascend talus to the westernmost of two saddles inr the east-southeast ridge. Follow the crest of the broad ridge and plateaur to the summit.r

r r

r *Photograph: SCB*, 1910, plate 39.r r r r

Peak 12,819 (2 SE of Mount Langley)

r

r First ascent July 16, 1938, by R. S. Fink, who established Routes 1r and 2.r

r r

r *Route 1.* Class 1. From Diaz Creek climb southwest in a chute to ther col on the main ridge west of the peak, thence east around the southr slope to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2.* Class 1. From approximately 11,200 in Diaz Creek, ascendr the north slope, bearing slightly east, and thence to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. From Cottonwood Lakes.* Class 1. First ascent 1938 by Billr Roberts. From the lakes, climb the south slopes to the summit.r lr

Peak 12,437 (The Major General)

r

r Rising northwest of Army Pass, this peak was first ascended by Chesterr and Lillian Versteeg August 8, 1937. From Rock Creek, climb shallowr couloir slightly northwest of summit, thence up rock mass. Final pinnacle is short class 3.r

r r

r *Photographs:* Of the Whitney Region in general: *SCB*, 1894, plate 6r (from Williamson); 1929, plate 22 (from Langley), plate 21 (from Mallory); 1937, plate 4 (north from Whitney), plate 7 (from southeast),r plates 8, 9 (aerial from east); 1938, plate 39 (climbing); 1947, opposiiter page 31 (along Whitney trail); 1950, 36-37 (Sierra Crest from Langley).r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Kaweahs & Great Western Divide •r Contentsr • Previous: Kings-Kern Divider** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r The Kaweahs and the Great Western Divide >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: References & Maps •r Contentsr • Previous: Whitneyr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r

Kearsarge Pass to Army and Franklin Passes

r

The Kaweahs and the Great Western Divide

r r r r

Mildred Jentsch* and Arthur J. Reyman

r r r

r * Acknowledgment is due the late Oscar A. Cook for his counsel and criticism of this section of the Guide.r

r r

r EXTENDING from north to south through the central part of Sequoiar National Park is the middle portion of the Great Western Divide andr its eastern spurs, Kern Ridge and the Kaweah Peaks Ridge. This highr barrier forms the western watershed of the Kern River, the southernr watershed of the South Fork of Kings River, and the eastern watershedr of the Middle and East Forks of the Kaweah River. The name "Kaweahr River" might be considered a misnomer, for although the Kaweah Riverr was once thought to drain the Kaweah Peaks ridge, later explorationr revealed that this was not the case, and that its drainage was reallyr from the Great Western Divide.r

r r r r r

History and Geography

r r

r The French and Spanish sheepherders were undoubtedly the earliestr mountaineers in this region. They drove their flocks up the grassy canyons of the Kern and Kings rivers and tended them on the mountain slopes of the large basins of the tributary streams. The earliestr known ascent was on Sawtooth Peak (then called Miner's Peak) inr 1871 by Joseph W. Lovelace while deer hunting. In 1881 Mount Kaweahr was climbed by James A. Wright, Wm. B. Wallace and Rev. F. H. Wales.r Wallace did much of the early exploration of the Kings-Kern Divider and the headwaters of the Kaweahs in his search for gold, silver, andr copper during the 1879 mining excitement in Mineral King.r

r r

r It was not until July 1896 that Prof. Wm. R. Dudley ascended Sawtooth Peak and perceived the fact that the Kaweahs were not alongr the main crest of the Great Western Divide. He also traced the Kaweahr River and discovered that its drainage did not include the Kaweahr Peaks. Upon further excursions in 1897 he climbed Mt. Kaweah, thenr believed to be 14,140 feet, and named Kern-Kaweah River, Milestoner Bowl, Red Spur and Picket Guard Peak. The Divide itself has hadr several designations since 1865 when the Whitney survey referred tor it as the western ridge. John Muir in 1891 called it Greenhorn Ridge andr LeConte in 1893 regarded it as the Great Western Ridge. In 1896 it hadr two names—Western Divide according to W. R. Dudley and Great Western Divide according to LeConte's map.r

r r

r Further description of the geography, of the ridge is presented byr Mr. King in his account of the view from Mount Tyndall: "From Mt.r Brewer to Kaweah Peak, the two culminating points of the westernr ridge, for a distance of fifteen miles there is nothing that can be calledr a separate mountain; it is, rather, a great mural ridge, capped by smallr sharp cones and low ragged domes, all covered with little minarets."*r

r r

r * J. D. Whitney, *Geological Survey of California,* Vol. I, 1898, pp. 382, 386.r

r r

r The above quotation is a misrepresentation of the geography as it isr known today. Actually the western ridge or Great Western Divider is a lofty chain of boldly carved peaks varying in shape from spire-like Milestone Mountain to flat-topped Table Mountain and pyramidal Sawtooth Peak. Each canyon leads up to a magnificent amphitheater, or cirque, with steep granite walls frequently a thousand feetr or more high. In these barren wastes of rock and snow are found manyr small glacial tarns. The canyons, in sculptured forms and polished rocks,r r r r give convincing evidence of the vigorous action of the glaciers they oncer contained. The Kaweah Group is formed as a jagged spur jutting fromr the Great Western Divide just south of Triple Divide Peak. The Kaweahr group of peaks exhibits a color change from black to red which further enhances the spectacular quality of its sky-piercing crags andr minarets.r

r r r

r Generally most of the peaks present little difficulty of ascent for theyr have at least one moderate slope of rocky talus or scree. Many of them,r however, do have precipitous faces which call for caution since theyr are loosely composed and are exposed. Along the Kaweah Peaks Ridger one encounters some of the more challenging aspects of climbing. Ther northeastern exposures are breath-takingly sheer. The structure is looser and therefore extreme caution must be employed in climbing. As yetr no ascents of the Kaweah Peaks from the Kaweah Basin are recorded.r The southwestern aspects vary from the tremendous rock piles of Mountr Kaweah and of the Red Kaweah to the foreboding-looking, cavernousr route up the Black Kaweah and the spiny upward projections of lesserr points all along the ridge. In short, climbing in this region is what your make it!r

r r r

Approaches

r r

r *From the west. From Mineral King* (7,830), a small mountain villager situated 60 miles east and a little north of Visalia, there are five well-constructed trails that lead east and north to the high peaks by variousr passes. 1) *Timber Gap* (9,400) renders the country to the north accessible after a two-mile switchback trail from Mineral King. A goodr horse trail leads north to Redwood Meadow and thence north and eastr over a long, steep ascent through rugged rock walls of the majesticr Hamilton Lakes region to Kaweah Gap (10,800). 2) *Black Rock Pass*r (11,400) is reached by a trail which leaves the Timber Gap trail in Cliffr Creek Canyon to proceed eastward into Little Five Lakes and the Bigr Arroyo. This pass affords a magnificent view of Kaweah Peaks, Bigr Arroyo and Chagoopa Plateau. The trail is steep and rough. The westr side rewards the traveler with views of Upper Cliff Creek, Sawtoothr Peak and Columbine Lake. 3) *Sawtooth Pass* (11,400), 4.0 miles fromr Mineral King, is approached from the west by a rocky trail that becomesr a steep descent to beautiful Columbine Lake on the east. It is recommended for foot travel only. The choice of direction from Columbiner Lake may be either east down Lost Canyon or north over a knapsackr r r route (see below, Glacier Pass) to the Black Rock Pass trail and thencer to Little Five Lakes. 4) *Franklin Pass* (11,400) cuts over the divider and serves to join Mineral King (5.1 miles north and west of the pass)r with Rattlesnake Creek. The pass is through scree and rocks and isr reminiscent of sandy desert travel for a short distance. A trail junctionr one mile east of the pass renders the areas to the south, east, and northeast accessible. The trail cutting past Little Claire Lake to Soda Creekr from Rattlesnake Creek presents a little difficulty to animals on ther steep south bank of Soda Creek. 5) *Farewell Gap* (10,588) is 6.0 fromr Mineral King. It is gentle and green and is the gateway into the morer southerly reaches of the Great Western Divide. Livermore calls this ar friendly pass (*SCB*, 1942, 59).r

r r

r *From Giant Forest* (6,500), 52 miles from Visalia and 95 miles fromr Fresno, a park road leads two miles from headquarters to Crescentr Meadow where the High Sierra Trail starts. This trail goes eastwardr to Bearpaw Meadow, passes along and literally through sheer graniter walls of the Hamilton Lakes region, and over Kaweah Gap into the Bigr Arroyo.r

r r

r *From the roadhead on the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River,* six milesr above the Ash Mountain Park Headquarters, a trail contours to meetr the Timber Gap trail north of Redwood Meadow.r

r r

r *From Big Meadow* (7,659), about two miles east of General Grantr Grove Section and about four miles above the northern boundary ofr Sequoia National Park, a trail leads eastward from the forest campground to Rowell Meadow and to Roaring River where the trail divides.r One route follows Deadman Canyon over Elizabeth Pass (11,200), ar rough, steep talus climb, to the Kaweah River. The other route followsr Cloud Canyon and its southeast tributary to Colby Pass (12,000). Thisr pass is rough and steep on both sides.r

r r

r *From Cedar Grove* (4,631), on the South Fork of the Kings River, ar trail climbs up the south wall of the canyon to Summit Meadow andr joins at Rowell Meadow the Big Meadow Trail, which may be followedr to either Elizabeth Pass or Colby Pass (see above). Another trail fromr Cedar Grove may be followed up Bubbs Creek to the Sphinx Creek trail,r and so to Scaffold Meadow on Roaring River; thence up Cloud or Deadman Canyon. Continued travel up Bubbs Creek and over Foresters Passr or over Harrison Pass (a knapsack pass) into the Kern River Canyonr brings one into the area ultimately from a more northerly direction.r

r r

r *From the north.* The Muir Trail leads over Foresters Pass (13,200)r r r r and descends to Tyndall Creek where a lateral may be taken north tor Milestone Basin or south to junction Meadow.r

r r

r *From the east.* From Lone Pine on US 395 a road extends to Whitneyr Portal, the starting point of the Mount Whitney Trail. The trail leadsr over Whitney Pass (13,000) and joins the High Sierra Trail which leadsr to the Kern River Canyon. Further south, Siberian Pass (10,800)r and Army Pass (12,000) give passage to the east flank of the Kern Canyon.r

r r

r *From the south.* There are long approaches from Kernville and Fairview on the Kern River and slightly shorter ones from Balch Park,r Wishon Camp, and Camp Nelson over various routes.r

r r r

Campsites for Climbing and Exploring

r r

r At the head of the *Big Arroyo* in the timber below Kaweah Gap is ar good vantage spot for climbing Mount Stewart, Eagle Scout Peak, B.M.r 12,022, Kaweah Peaks, Black Kaweah, Red Kaweah, Lippincott Mountain, and other peaks, unnamed. From here many charming lakes andr recesses may be explored also.r

r r

r From *Little Five Lakes* one gets a fine view of the Kaweah ridger and one can find delightful camping areas. Lippincott Mountain, Mountr Eisen and peaks. south of Big Five Lakes furnish interesting material.r A peak that is especially noteworthy is the one which looks like twor fingers pointing skyward.r

r r

r A camp at timberline in *Lost Canyon* may be a base for a third orr fourth class ascent of Needham Mountain. Sawtooth Peak is within easyr range, as is “Two Fingers” peak.r

r r

r Florence Peak and Peak 11,730 west of Little Claire Lake and the undesignated one east of it can be reached readily from the upper regionsr of *Rattlesnake Creek* or *Little Claire Lake.* The latter is a scenic spot forr parties without animals, and the mountains about it reward the explorer with very curious rock and foxtail pine formations.r

r r

r *Moraine Lake* is a popular and convenient campsite. From it one getsr a view of the large lake with the impressive back drop of Mount Kaweah.r From the rim of the canyon a panorama of the Big Arroyo and its drainage basin presents itself. Mount Kaweah may be ascended from here asr well as other points along the ridge.r

r r

r From the environs of *Mineral King* itself, Sawtooth Peak, Mineralr Peak; and Florence Peak may be reached.r

r r r r r

r Camps with pasture for stock may be found at Junction Meadow andr Upper Funston Meadow on the Kern River, on the Kern-Kaweah Riverr in many meadows along its entire length, along Milestone Creek, inr Cloud Canyon, in Deadman Canyon, along Big Arroyo, and at Morainer Lake.r

r r r

Knapsack Passes

r r r

r *Copper Pass (12,330),* at the head of the divide between Cloud andr Deadman Canyons takes honors for roughness. For a way it traversesr an elevated ridgetop along the divide, affording a sweeping viewr of the Kaweah Peaks, Milestone and Table Mountains, and beyond.r

r r

r *Lion Rock Pass (12,000).* Class 2. The low saddle just east of Lionr Rock affords a convenient route between Nine Lake Basin and the basinsr of Lion Lake and Tamarack Lake.r

r r

r *Kern-Kaweah Col (12,100).* Class 2. This is a rough knapsack passr from Nine Lake Basin to the upper Kern-Kaweah River. It has beenr dubbed Pants Pass by mountaineers because of the destructive effect onr trousers when descending. The pass is east-northeast of the large (second)r lake on the stream draining the northwest side of Nine Lake Basin.r From this lake a small peak is seen to the northeast. North of this peakr is a fairly low notch that is easily approached from the west, but whichr connects with a steep, rocky, class 3 chimney that descends betweenr cliffs on the east. The recommended pass lies south of the little peak;r it is a little higher and steeper on the west, but still quite feasible, andr much better on the east side. From the east this pass is reached from ar lake about a mile north of the cirque at the head of the Kern-Kaweahr River. The steep chimney leading to the lower pass is easily identified,r and the better pass is south of this.r

r r

r *Kaweah Pass (12,500).* Class 1 on the south, class 2 on the north. Leaver the High Sierra Trail at about 10,000 feet elevation, proceed northwardr over the Chagoopa Plateau, and follow the easternmost branch of Chagoopa Creek to the low gap just east of Mount Kaweah. Descend at ther lowest point, go west of a lake and then through the Kaweah Basin southr of the two smaller lakes and north of the larger lakes. Cross the graniter bluff north of the large lake and work across to Picket Creek, which isr descended on the west side. The Colby Pass trail on the Kern-Kaweahr River is met about three miles west of Junction Meadow.r

r r

r *Glacier Pass (11,000).* This is a route connecting the Monarch Laker Trail leading into Mineral King and the Black Rock Pass Trail on Cliffr r r Creek. The northern approach is a gradual ridge leading to the pass justr east of the reddish knob. The south approach is the old Glacier Pass Trailr which is in fair condition.r

r r r

Routes and Records for the Principal Peaks

r r

r The descriptions of routes and records are arranged in the followingr order:r

r r

r Peaks of the Great Western Divide (north to south)r
Peaks of the Kaweah Group (northwest to southeast)r
Peaks east of the Great Western Divide (north to south)r
Peaks west of the Great Western Divide (north to south)r

r r r

Peaks of the Great Western Divide (north to south)

r r r

Table Mountain (13,646)

r

r The first ascent was made on August 25, 1908, by Paul Shoup, Fredr Shoup, and Gilbert Hassel.r

r r

r *Route 1. North face.* Class 3. First ascent by Norman Clyde and partyr on July 26, 1927. The only route up this face is a steep chimney whichr usually contains snow and ice well into the summer.r

r r

r *Route 2. South side.* Class 3. Ascended by Norman Clyde on July 29,r 1927. This is a shelf and chimney climb of moderate difficulty. The important thing is to change shelves, for each dips at a hazardous angler after a certain point is reached.r

r r

r *Route 3. East side.* Class 2. Ascended by Norman Clyde and a party ofr five persons in July 1932. The ascent began in a cirque on Milestoner Creek.r

r r

Peak 13,682. "Midway Mountain"

r

r The first ascent was made in 1912 by Francis P. Farquhar, Wm. E.r Colby and Robert M. Price. The east face is an ordinary rock climb withr no difficulties (class 2 to 3).r

r r

Milestone Mountain (13,643)

r

r First ascent on July 14, 1912, by Francis P. Farquhar, Wm. E. Colby,r and Robert M. Price. They climbed from Milestone Bowl.r

r r

r *Route 1. Northeastern side.* Class 3. Ascended in 1912 by a party fromr the head of Milestone Creek.r

r r

r *Route 2. South side.* Class 3. Milestone Bowl route. Traverse underr the south face of Milestone Mountain to the ridge whose main axis pointsr r r r southwesterly and then go up this ridge, which trends northeasterly tor the summit cairn.r

r r

r *Route 3. Northwest face.* Class 3. The route of Walter A. Starr, Jr.,r September 19, 1931. From the northwest, ascend talus slopes and chutesr to the southwest ridge and follow this to the final spire.r

r r

Peak 13,350 (1/2 SW of Milestone Mountain)

r

r First ascent by Francis P. Farquhar, Wm. E. Colby, and Robert M.r Price in 1912. A class 1 ascent from Colby Pass.r

r r

Peak 12,600 (1/3 SW of Colby Pass)

r

r *Route 1. Northeast ridge.* Class 3. First ascent by Jules Eichorn, Kenneth May and A. Tagliapietra in 1936.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest ridge.* Class 2. Ascended by Carl P. Jensen andr Howard Gates in 1936 while traversing the ridge.r

r r

Peak 12,660 (1 SW of Colby Pass)

r

r First ascent by Carl P. Jensen and Howard Gates in 1936 on traverser from Peak 12,740. The southwest slope is class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,740 (3/4 NE of Triple Divide Peak)

r

r First ascent on July 21, 1926, by George R. Bunn and R. C. Lewis. Classr 3 by southwest slope.r

r r

Triple Divide Peak (12,651)

r

r First ascent in 1920 by J. S. Hutchinson. and Chas. A. Noble. Ascendr from the basin east of the Whaleback to the saddle northeast of Tripler Divide Peak, and follow the northeast ridge. About class 2.r

r r

Lion Rock (12,400)

r

r First ascent by Dave Winkley, William Curlett and Earl S. Wallace onr July 7, 1927.r

r r

r *Route 1. West slope.* Class 2. From Tamarack Lake ascend the broadr western slope and the west ridge to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southeast face.* Class 3. From Nine Lake Basin climb to Lionr Rock Pass and enter the chute between the two peaks and ascend ther southeast face of the north peak to the summit.r

r r

Mt. Stewart (12,202)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde on August 14, 1932.r

r r r r r

r *Route 1. From Kaweah Gap.* Class 2. Traverse over talus. Time required from the Gap is about 2 to 3 hours.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Nine Lake Basin.* Class 2. Ascend a grassy gully atr the north end of the first lake in the basin. Time is about 3 to 4 hours.r

r r

Eagle Scout Peak (12,000+)

r

r First ascent on July 15, 1926, by Francis P. Farquhar and Eagle Scoutsr Frederick Armstrong, Eugene Howell and Coe Swift. The peak wasr named on this ascent. It is class 2 from the Big Arroyo, and the timer is about 2 hours.r

r r

Peak 12,022 (1/2 S of Eagle Scout Peak)

r

r A U.S. Geological Survey Bench Mark. The east slope is class 2 fromr the Big Arroyo by way of the lake basin southeast of the peak; the timer is about 2 hours. The south and southwest cliffs appear to be fourthr or fifth class.r

r r

Peak 12,200+ (3/4 S of Eagle Scout Peak)

r

r First recorded ascent by A. J. Reyman on August r, 1951. He found ar few rocks on the summit that may have been an old cairn. Class 2 byr southeast slope.r

r r

Peak 12,200+ (0.6 N of Lippincott Mountain)

r

r First ascent unknown. A. J. Reyman found an empty cairn on the summit on August 1, 1951. The east ridge.is class 2. Ascend the low notchr from the lake basin northeast of the peak and walk along the east ridger to the rocky summit.r

r r

Mount Lippincott (12,267)

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde in 1922.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast slope.* Class 2. An easy ascent from either the Bigr Arroyo or the Little Five Lakes.r

r r

r *Route 2. East ridge.* Class 2. Ascend the east ridge from the basinr north of the peak and walk along the east ridge to the summit over larger blocks.r

r r

Peak 11,660 (1 SE of Lippincott Mountain)

r

r First ascent July 15, 1936, by Sierra Club Party of seventeen personsr led by Jules Eichorn.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast slope.* Class 2. An easy ascent from Little Five Lakes.r

r r r r

r *Route 2. Southwest slope.* Class 2.r

r r

Mount Eisen (12,200+)

r

r First recorded ascent on July 15, 1949, by Howard Parker, Mildredr Jentsch, Ralph Youngberg, Martha Ann McDuffie.r

r r

r *Route 1. From Little Five Lakes.* Class 3. Go around the large laker of the north branch of Little Five Lakes. Contour on the north side onr granite to the highest shelf which has an unmapped lakelet. Proceed tor the south notch between the two peaks, and thence north to the peak.r Caution: the lowest notch is reached by a high angle scree slope andr the rocks are very loose; therefore avoid this route. There is a possibler fourth class route on the east face.r

r r

r *Route 2. West side.* Class 1. A walk over scree and talus.r

r r

Peak 12,100+ (1/3 N of Black Rock Pass)

r

r First ascent by Neil M. Ruge on June 29, 1935. An easy ascent fromr the Black Rock Pass Trail about a mile below the pass on the east side.r Class 2.r

r r

Sawtooth Peak (12,340)

r

r The first ascent was made by Joseph W. Lovelace while deer huntingr in 1871. It is climbed several times each year by virtue of its accessibilityr and rewarding view. Follow Monarch Lakes Trail and go up the westr side of the peak on the old Glacier Pass Trail. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 11,900+ (1.3 S of Sawtooth Peak)

r

r First ascent unknown. A. J. Reyman found a mineral claim monument on the south slope below the summit on August 11, 1951.r

r r

r *Route 1. South slope.* Class 2. An easy ascent from Franklin Lake viar the south slope.r

r r

r *Route 2. Via Crystal Lake Trail.* Class 2.r

r r

Rainbow Mountain (11,975)

r

r First ascent on July 15, 1942, by Oliver Kehrlein, Jack Allen, andr “Black Bart” Evans.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southeast ridge.* Class 2 from Franklin Pass.r

r r

r *Route 2. Southwest slope.* Class 2 from Franklin Lake.r

r r

Florence Peak (12405)

r

r First ascent unknown.r

r r r r

r *Route 1. From Franklin Pass to the saddle between the two peaks.*r Class 2.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Rattlesnake Creek over huge talus blocks near ther top.* Class 3. About two hours.r

r r r r

Peaks of the Kaweah Group (northwest to southwest)

r

(See Sketch 28)

r r r

r *Peak 12,547 (1.7 N of Black Kaweah)*

r

r First ascent by Norman Clyde in July 1922.r

r r

r *Peak 13,100+ (1 N of Black Kaweah)*

r

r First ascent on July 11, 1924, by G. A. Gaines, C. A. Gaines, andr H. H. Bliss.r

r r r r

r r r

r r r

r Sketch 28. The Kaweah Ridge from the west.r r

r r

1 Black Kaweah
2 Pyramidal Pinnacle
3 Koontz Pinnacle
5 Michael Pinnacle
6 Squaretop Kaweah
7 Pinnacle SE of Squaretop

r r r

r *Route 1. Southeast ridge.* Class 2. Loose rock.r

r r

r *Route 2. North arête.* Class 2.r

r r

r *Route 3. Southwest slope.* Class 2. A climb over loose rock from Niner Lake Basin.r

r r

r *Peak 13,434 (1 NE of Black Kaweah)*

r

r First ascent by Gerald A. Gaines, C. A. Gaines, and H. H. Bliss onr July 11, 1924. The name “Kaweah Queen” has been suggested.r

r r

r *Route 1. Southwest slope.* Class 2. A loose rock climb from Niner Lake Basin.r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest ridge.* Class 2. A traverse from Peak 13,100+ overr shaly, loose rock.r

r r r r

Black Kaweah (13,756)

r

r First ascent by Duncan McDuffie, Onis I. Brown, and J. S. Hutchinsonr on August 11, 1920, by Router (*SCB*, 1921, 131).r

r r

r *Route 1. Northwest ridge and south slope.* Class 3. Ascend the northwest ridge until a deep notch is encountered. Descend to below ther notch and work eastward along the south slope toward the main peakr and ascend the largest of several chimneys leading in the general direction of the summit. This is a sixty degree angle chute and great carer must be exercised to prevent a rock slide. Upon reaching the ridge ther chimney swings toward the southeast and narrows considerably. Ascendr the small buttress leading southwest from the main peak and climbr to the summit (*SCB*, 1921, 131).r

r r

r *Route 2. Northwest ridge.* Class 3. First ascent by D. G. McAllisterr and K. Campbell on September 1, 1927. They kept at all times withinr about 100 feet of the crest, climbing on ledges around the numerousr chutes and fins which form the western face (*SCB*, 1928, 87).r

r r

r *Route 3. East ridge.* Class 3 to 4. First climbed by Neil Ruge andr James Smith in June, 1935 (*SCB*, 1936, 99). Ascend to the ridge between the Black and Red Kaweahs, not at the lowest point of the ridge,r but at the second small notch toward the Red Kaweah. From this workr around the east side to the lowest point. Then follow the ridge westward,r only descending to the sides to avoid gendarmes. Near the top of ther Black Kaweah, as viewed from this ridge, there is seen a ledge running partly around the peak. Go to this ledge, crossing several couloirs.r Keep to the left and climb a chute which leads to the summit.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southwest face.* Class 3 to 4. First ascent July 26, 1921, byr Philip E. Smith, Marian Simpson, and Irene Smith. Ascend to the laker in the cirque below the peak and continue up the high angle slope ofr loose rock at the base of the mountain. Here two chutes, inclined at anr angle of about 60° go up toward the summit. Enter the right handr chute and after about 100 feet cross over to the left chute which canr be followed nearly to the summit. Snow or ice are likely obstacles inr the chute. About two or three hours are required to the top.r

r r

r *Route 5. Southwest ridge.* Class 3. Climbed by A. R. Ellingwood andr Carl Blaurock, August 1928. Ascend the southwest ridge from the Bigr Arroyo and keep to the crest until the west ridge is reached. Climb ther west ridge to the summit.r

r r r r r

r *Pinnacles between Black and Red Kaweahs (see Sketch 28)*

r r

r *Pyramidal pinnacle.* Class 3 to 4. Probably first climbed August x,r 1932, by Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn. An ascent was made in Augustr 1953 by Jim Koontz and companions, who traversed from the southeastr face of the Black Kaweah along the ridge toward the Red Kaweah andr up the pyramidal pinnacle. They then returned down the Black Kaweahr side, traversed under the west wall of the pinnacle, and descended ther chute south of the one heading between the pyramidal pinnacle and ther next one to the southeast (Koontz Pinnacle).r

r r

r *Highest pinnacle (Koontz Pinnacle).* Class 3. First ascent August 26,r 1953, by Jim Koontz, Pete Murphy, and Fred Peters. From the westr ascend the first chute south of that which descends directly from ther notch between the pyramidal and Koontz pinnacles. Traverse from ther chute over to the notch and climb to the summit.r

r r

Red Kaweah (13,754)

r

r First ascent in 1912 by Charles W. Michael. The west side is class 3.r

r r

Michael's Pinnacle (just south of the Red Kaweah)

r

r First ascent by C. W. Michael in 1912 by an unknown route. Ther second ascent was made August 28, 1953, by Jim Koontz, Pete Murphy,r and Fred Peters. Class 3 to 4 from the lake to the west. They climbedr to the ridge north of Squaretop and climbed over the pinnacles between Squaretop and Michael's Pinnacle. No cairns were found on ther four major pinnacles on this ridge. From the southeast side of ther fourth pinnacle they worked around the west side on a narrow ledger which petered out in a steep couloir. They descended this about thirtyr feet until it joined the next couloir and then worked back up ontor the ledge and so to the col between this pinnacle and Michael's. Fromr the col they ascended a wide talus ledge on the northeast side of ther ridge to some easy rock which led back to the ridge. From here it wasr a walk to the summit.r

r r

Squaretop (square pinnacle between Red Kaweah and Peak 13,728)

r

r First ascent June 26, 1935, by Jim Smith and Neil M. Ruge. Classr 3 to 4 from the west via the col between this pinnacle and the one tor the southeast. Climb directly to the col from the lake at the base ofr the ridge, staying on as solid rock as possible. From the col work upr the southeast face on exposed narrow ledges to a broad 100-foot ledger r r r leading to the next series of exposed ledges which bring you to the summit. The rock on this pinnacle is much firmer than that of the Blackr Kaweah.r

r r

Pinnacle southeast of Squaretop

r

r First ascent by Jim Koontz, Fred Peters and Pete Murphy on Augustr 27, 1953. Class 3 from the col between this pinnacle and the squarer pinnacle, climbing directly to the summit. Descent was made on ther south.r

r r

Second Kaweah (13,728)

r

r First ascent in 1922 by Norman Clyde. The south slope is class 2.r Three pinnacles on the northwest ridge were first climbed August 29,r 1953, by Jim Koontz, Fred Peters and Pete Murphy. Class 3.r

r r

Mount Kaweah (13,816)

r

r First ascent in September, 1881, by Judge William B. Wallace, Captain James Albert Wright and Reverend F. H. Wales. The south sloper from Chagoopa Plateau is class 1.r

r r

Picket Guard Peak (12,311)

r

r First ascent on August 1, 1936, by C. Dohlman, H. Manheim and B.r Breeding. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,996 (1.7 N of Second Kaweah)

r

r First ascent by A. J. Reyman on August 16, 1951. The southeast sloper is class 2 from Kaweah Basin.r

r r

Peak 13,186 (Red Spur)

r

r First ascent by Jules Eichorn, Virginia Adams, Jane Younger andr Carl P. Jensen on a traverse from Peak 13,200+ in July 1936. Traverser the southwest face to the south face and ascend the large chute whichr ends at a ledge. Follow the ledge around the summit rock to the southeast side. Climb to summit on the east side. There is loose rock on ther entire climb.r

r r

Peak 12,771 (Red Spur)

r

r Ascended in 1916 by Walter L. Huber. Class 1.r

r r r r

Peak 12,800+ (3/4 NW of Red Spur)

r

r First ascent by A. J. Reyman on August 15, 1951. The northwest sloper is a loose rock climb from Kaweah Basin. Class 2.r

r r

Peak 13,291 (1.3 NE of Mount Kaweah)

r

r First ascent on July 17, 1936, by Jules Eichorn, Virginia Adams, Janer Younger and Carl P. Jensen. The south slope is class 2.r

r r

Peak 13,200+ (1.7 NE of Mount Kaweah)

r

r First ascent was on July 17, 1936, by Jules Eichorn, Virginia Adams,r Jane Younger and Carl P. Jensen on a traverse from Peak 13,291. Ther southwest ridge is class 2.r

r r

Peak 13,075 (3/4 NE of Mount Kaweah)

r

r First ascent by A. J. Reyman on August 14, 1951, on a traverse fromr Peak 13,291. Class 2 by the southeast slope.r

r r r r

Peaks East of the Great Western Divide (north to south)

r r r

Peak 12,673 (1.8 E of Table Mountain)

r

r First ascent in July, 1936, by Sierra Club party.r

r r

Peak 13,560 (3/4 SE of Milestone Mountain)

r

r First ascent by W. F. Deane, Otis B. Wright, Harry C. Dudley, W. R.r Dudley on August 3, 1897.r

r r

Peak 13,206 (Kern Ridge)

r

r First ascent unknown. May Pridham found a cairn but no recordsr in July 1936.r

r r

Peak 12,749 (Kern Ridge)

r

r First ascent on August 1, 1936, by Oliver Kehrlein, H. Manheim andr B. Breeding.r

r r

Peak 12,808 (Kern Point)

r

r First ascent on July 25, 1924, by William Horsfall and C. Laughlin.r

r r

Peak 11,845 (2 E of Spring Lake)

r

r No information is available.r

r r r r

Peak 11,600+ (1/2 SW of Peak 11,845)

r

r The names “Fault Peak” or “Two Fingers” are suggested. From ar distance this peak resembles two fingers pointing skyward. At closer range a large east-west fault is discovered into which one may look ar long way down. The north side of the peak is precipitous, but the southr side is a gentle scree slope. The two summit blocks seem to be composedr of solidified scree. On an ascent made July 13, 1949, David R. Browerr and Jim Harkins found a cairn but no register.r

r r

r *Route 1. From Little Five Lakes.* Class 3. Go to the knapsack pass 1r mile south of Black Rock Pass and along the ridge toward the summit.r

r r

r *Route 2. From Big Five Lakes.* Class 3. Climb up the north face.r

r r

Needham Mountain (12470)

r

r First ascent in July, 1916, by M. R. Parsons, Agnes Vaile, H. B. Graham,r and Edmund Chamberlain.r

r r

r *Route 1. North slope.* Class 2. Climb the north slope from Lost Canyonr to the notch between Needham Mountain and Sawtooth Peak. Proceedr along the west slope to the summit. This route was done on July 28,r 1949, by R. R. Breckenfeld, Emily Frazer, and Donald Scanlon.r

r r

r *Route 2. North face.* Class 3. Ascended on July 28, 1949, by Howardr Parker and Helen Parker. Ascend the north couloir to the ridge andr traverse westward to' the summit.r

r r

r *Route 3. North face.* Class 3. Mildred Jentsch climbed from Lostr Canyon on July 28, 1949, directly up the face.r

r r

r *Route 4. Southeast slope.* Class 2. Ascended by A. J. Reyman onr August 8, 1951, on a traverse from Peak 12,300.r

r r

r *Route 5. South slope.* Class 2.r

r r

Peak 12,300+ (3/4 E of Needham Mountain)

r

r Ascended August 8, 1951, by A. J. Reyman by a class 3 traverse ofr the south ridge from Peak 12,000+.r

r r

Peak 12,000+ (1 SE of Needham Mountain)

r

r Ascended August 8, 1951, by A. J. Reyman. A class 2 climb by ther southwest slope from Soda Creek.r

r r

Peak 11,730 (1/2 W of Little Claire Lake)

r

r First ascent unknown. Class 3 by the north slope and a chimney upr the north face.r

r r r r

Peak 12,000+ (1 E of Little Claire Lake)

r

r First ascent by Richard Olhausen, Robert Olhausen, and B. A. Olhausen on July 14, 1942. The south slope is scree and the southwest ridger from Little Claire Lake is class 1. The weathered rock and foxtail pinesr present interesting formations. The north face may be class 3.r

r r

Peak 12,036 (3 E of Little Claire Lake)

r

r First ascent on July 15, 1942, by a Sierra Club party of fifteen personsr led by Weldon F. Heald. The west ridge is a class 1 traverse from Peakr 12,000+.r

r r r

Peaks West of the Great Western Divide (north to south)

r r r

Peak 12,230 (Glacier Ridge)

r

r First ascent in July, 1936, by E. Grubb, May Pridham and D. Vonr Lobensels. Class 2 to 3.r

r r

Peak 12,163 (Glacier Ridge)

r

r Surveyor’s Bench Mark.r

r r

Peak 12,467 (Glacier Ridge)

r

r No records are available.r

r r

Peak 12,330 (Glacier Ridge)

r

r First ascent by Walter A. Starr, Jr. in 1930.r

r r

Whaleback (11,739)

r

r First ascent on August 5, 1936, by May Pridham and Adele Vonr Lobensels.r

r r

Peak 10,400 (2 W of Mount Stewart)

r

r First ascent unknown. On July 7, 1949, Jules Eichorn, Jim Harkins,r Howard Parker, Tom Kendig and Mildred Jentsch climbed fromr Hamilton Lake and found a cairn below the summit. The southeastr slope is class 3. Climb up a rocky, wooded ridge onto smooth granite,r and thence onto a ramp on the north side to the five-foot-wide summit.r

r r

Peak 9,757 (2 WNW of Eagle Scout Peak)

r

r First ascent in 1936 by D. Johnson and party.r

r r r r

Towers above Eagle Scout Creek

r

r On the north and south walls of Eagle Scout Creek there are somer fine rock towers, about 9,500 to 10,000 feet, offering 4th and 5th classr routes. A number were climbed by the Loma Prieta Rock Climbingr Section of the Sierra Club in 1953.r

r r

Peak 11,530 (3/4 NW of Glacier Pass)

r

r There is a mineral claim on the summit, which can be reached byr a class 2 climb from Glacier Pass along the southeast ridge.r

r r

Mineral Peak (11,535)

r

r First ascent on August 3, 1937, by Chester L. Errett and Don A.r McGeein. Class 2 by the northeast slope and the east ridge from Monarchr Lake.r

r r

*References*r *Text: SCB*, 1898, 185; 1903, 301; 1909, 27, 99; 1912, 163; 1913, 1, 18;r 1921, 118, 128, 131; 1928, 10, 86; 1933, 126, 128; 1936, 99; 1937, 58;r 1941, 130; 1942, 59; 1950, 80.r

r r

r *Photographs: SCB*, year and page as shown: Kaweahs: 1903, 304;r 1905, 297; 1909, 27, 30, 38; 1913, 3; 1917, 198; 1921, 132, 133, 172; 1923,r 1; 1928, 1, 17, 24, 25, 92; 1933, 39, 46; 1937, 62; 1948, 102. Tabler Mountain: 1928, 29; 1933, 126; 1937, 30. Milestone Mountain: 1913,r 3-6; 1933, 31; 1937, 30. Whaleback: 1921, 120; 1928, 33. Eagle Scoutr Peak: 1928, 80. Mount Stewart: 1937; 62. Sawtooth Peak: 1909, 103;r 1928, 21.r

r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: References & Maps •r Contentsr • Previous: Whitneyr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/kaweahs_great_western_divide.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber's Guide to the High Sierra >r References and Maps >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Index to Named Peaks •r Contentsr • Previous: Kaweahs & Great Western Divider** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

References and Maps

r r r

r THE LIST below has been selected to include books that may ber of particular interest to climbers. For the most part these booksr are concerned with early history and exploration, geology, or generalr descriptions and tourist information. Very little is to be found in themr about Sierra climbing. A number, however, contain outstanding collectionsr of photographs that can be very valuable to those who wish tor climb or explore.r

r r r r r

r Adams, Ansel.r *Sierra Nevada and the John Muir Trail.* 50 plates. Archetyper Press, Berkeley, 1938.r

r r

r ———. *My Camera in Yosemite Valley.* 24 plates. Houghton Mifflin, Boston,r 1949.r

r r

r Adams, Ansel and Virginia.r *Illustrated Guide to Yosemite Valley.* Stanfordr Univ. Press, 1952.r

r r

r Brower, D. R.r (ed.). *Manual of Ski Mountaineering.* Univ. Calif. Press, 1947.r

r r

r ———. *Going Light—with Backpack or Burro.* Sierra Club, 1951.r

r r

r Colby, W. E.r (ed.).r *John Muir's Studies in the Sierra.* Sierra Club, 1950.r

r r

r Farquhar, F. P.r *Place Names of the High Sierra.* Sierra Club, San Francisco,r 1926.r

r r

r ———. "Exploration of the Sierra Nevada," *California Historical Society Quarterly,* vol. 4, 3-58 (1925).r

r r

r ———. *Yosemite, the Big Trees, and the High Sierra: A Selective Bibliography.* Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley, 1948.r

r r

r ———.r *Up and Down California in 1860-1864: The Journal of William H.r Brewer.* Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1930; Univ. Calif. Press, 1950.r

r r

r Hall, Ansel F.r r *Yosemite Valley: An Intimate Guide.* National Parks Publishing, Berkeley, 1929.r

r r

r King, Clarence.r *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada.*r First edition, 1872.r Later edition (F. P. Farquhar, ed.), W. W. Norton, New York, 1946.r

r r

r LeConte, J. N.r *A Journal of Ramblings through the High Sierra* (in 1870).r Sierra Club, 1930.r

r r

r Livermore, N. B., Jr.r "Collecting Sierra Passes," *SCB*, 1942, 59-64.r

r r

r Matthes, F. E.r *Geologic History of the Yosemite Valley.* (U.S.G.S. Professionalr Paper 160.) U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, 1930.r

r r

r ———. *The Incomparable Valley: A Geologic Interpretation of the Yosemite.* 51r photographs. Univ. Calif. Press, 1950.r

r r

r ———. *Sequoia National Park: A Geological Album.* 125 photographs. Univ.r Calif. Press, 1950.r

r r r r r r r

r McDermand, C.r *Waters of the Golden Trout Country.* Putnams Sons, Newr York, 1946.r

r r

r ———. *Yosemite and Kings Canyon Trout.* Putnams Sons, New York, 1947.r

r r

r Muench, Josef and Joyce.r *Along Sierra Trails: Kings Canyon National Park.*r 146 photographs. Hastings House, New York, 1947.r

r r

r Muench, Josef.r *Along Yosemite Trails.* A collection of photographs. Hastingsr House, New York, 1948.r

r r

r Muir, John.r *My First Summer in the Sierra.* Boston, 1911.r

r r

r ———.r *The Mountains of California.*r New York, 1894.r

r r

r ———. *Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada.* Selected writings of John Muir and 64r photographs by Ansel Adams. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1948.r

r r

r Peattie, Roderickr (ed.). *The Sierra Nevada: The Range of Light.* Vanguardr Press, New York, 1947.r

r r

r Russell, C. P.r *One Hundred Years in Yosemite.* 52 illus. Univ. Calif. Press,r Berkeley, 1947.r

r r

r Starr, W. A., Jr.r *Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region.*r Sierra Club, 1934, 1943, 1946, 1951, 1953.r

r r

r White, J. R., and S. J. Pusateri.r *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.*r Stanford Univ. Press, 1949.r

r r

r Wolfe, Linnie Marshr (ed.). *John of the Mountains: Unpublished Journals ofr John Muir.* Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1938.r

r r r

r There are a number of maps of the High Sierra region that showr trails and road approaches. Some of these are issued by the Nationalr Park Service, some by the U.S. Forest Service, and some by private publishers. The latter are designed primarily for hunters and fishermen.r The map in Starr's *Guide* shows trails and some knapsack routes butr does not give topographic detail. By far the best maps for the climberr are the topographic maps of the U.S. Geological Survey. They may ber purchased from a number of bookstores or sporting shops, or fromr Survey offices in Washington, Denver, or Sacramento. The original mapsr on a scale of 1:125,000 (30-minute series) cover the entire High Sierra.r The quadrangles, in correct geographical

arrangement, are as follows:r

r r r

Dardanelles	Bridgeport		
Yosemite	Mt. Lyell	Mt. Morrison	
	Kaiser	Mt. Goddard	Bishop
		Tehipite	Mt. Whitney
		Kaweah	Olancha

r r

r Larger maps on the same scale are combined for Yosemite Nationalr Park, which includes most of Dardenelles, Bridgeport, Yosemite, andr Mount Lyell; and for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, whichr includes most of Mount Goddard, Bishop, Tehipite, Mount Whitney,r and parts of Kaweah and Olancha.r

r r r r r

r A remarkable Special Map of Yosemite Valley, 1:24,000, is also published by the U.S. Geological Survey.r

r r

r A fine new series of photogrammetrically based maps has been startedr by the U.S. Geological Survey. These maps are much more accurate thanr the old maps. They are published for the High Sierra region on a scaler of 1:62,500 (15-minute series). A partial list of these new maps, in correct geographical arrangement, follows:r

r r

Mt. Conness	Mono Craters			
Merced Pk.	Devils Postpile	Mt. Morgan	Casa Diablo Mtn.	
Shuteye Pk.	Sharktooth Pk.	Mt. Stanford	Mount Tom	Bishop
Shaver Lake	Huntington Lake	Black Cap Mtn.	Mt. Goddard	Big Pine
	Patterson Mtn.	Tehipite Dome	Marion Pk.	Mt. Baxter

r r

r Of these maps, only four have been issued in final form to date (March,r 1954), namely, Mount Tom, Mount Goddard, Bishop, and Big Pine,r which cover the eastern half of the old Mount Goddard quadrangle andr the western half of the old Bishop quadrangle. The other maps may ber obtainable in preliminary form from the U.S. Geological Survey, Sacramento. All of them, as well as additional maps of the new series, willr be published within the next few years.r

r r

r The table shows the USGS maps of both the old and the new seriesr that will be needed to cover the various climbing areas. It should ber noted that only four of the new series maps have as yet been issued,r and that on final issue the names of some may be changed.r

r r r r

TABLE OF MAPS

r r

Abbreviations: YNP = Yosemite National Park Sheet
SKCNP = Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Sheet

r r

Climbing Area	**Maps of Old Series**	**Maps of New Series**
	1:125,000	1:62,500
Sawtooth Ridge	Bridgeport or YNP	Matterhorn Peak
Bond Pass to Tioga Pass	YNP or Dardanelles + Mt. Lyell + Bridgeport + (Yosemite) *	Tower Peak + Matterhorn Peak + Mt. Conness + (Hetch-Hetchy East)
Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley †	Yosemite Valley
Cathedral Range	Mt. Lyell or YNP	Mt. Conness + Mono Craters
Clark Range	Mt. Lyell or YNP	Merced Peak
Minarets	Mt. Lyell or YNP	Devil's Postpile
Mammoth Pass to Mono Pass	Mt. Goddard + Kaiser + Mt. Morrison + (Mt. Lyell)	Mt. Stanford + Sharktooth Peak + Mt. Morgan + (Devil's Postpile)
Mono Pass to Pine Creek	Mt. Goddard	Mt. Stanford + Mt. Tom
Humphreys Region	Mt. Goddard or SKCNP	Mt. Tom + (Mt. Goddard)
LeConte Divide	SKCNP or Mt. Goddard + (Tehipite)	Black Cap Mtn. + (Tehipite Dome)
Evolution Region	Mt. Goddard or SKCNP	Mt. Goddard + (Black Cap Mtn.)
Palisades	SKCNP or Mt. Goddard + Bishop	Mt. Goddard + Big Pine
Kings Canyon Region	SKCNP or Tehipite + (Mt. Goddard)	Tehipite Dome + Marion Peak + (Black Cap Mtn.)
Palisades to Kearsarge	SKCNP or Bishop + Tehipite + Mt. Whitney + (Mt. Goddard)	Big Pine + Marion Peak + Mt. Baxter # + (Mt. Goddard)
Kings-Kern Divide	SKCNP or Mt. Whitney	Mt. Whitney + Mt. Baxter #
Whitney Region	Mt. Whitney or SKCNP	Mt. Whitney + (another)
Kaweahs	SKCNP or Tehipite + Mt. Whitney + Kaweah	Triple Divide Peak + Mt. Whitney + Needham Mtn. + (Kern Peak)

r r

r * Parentheses indicate that this map is needed for only a minor portion of ther area named.r

r r

r † Special Yosemite Valley sheet, scale 1:24,000.r

r r

r # The Mt. Baxter sheet will probably be renamed Mt. Pinchot when issued.r

r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Next: Index to Named Peaks •r Contentsr • Previous: Kaweahs & Great Western Divider** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/references_maps.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Index to Named Peaks >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Next: Index to Passes •r Contentsr • Previous: References & Mapsr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Index to Named Peaks

r r r

r **r** Next: Index to Passes •r Contentsr • Previous: References & Mapsr r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/index_named_peaks.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r Index to Passes >r

r r

r

r r r

r **r Contentsr • Previous: Index to Named Peaksr** r

r r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r r r

r r r

Index to Passes

r r r

r r r r
r r

---

r r

r **r Contentsr • Previous: Index to Named Peaksr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/index_passes.htmlr

r r r r r r r

---

r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra >r

r r r

r

r r

r **r Next: coverr** r

r r

---

r r

A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra (1954), edited by Hervey H. Voge

r r r

r **Warning:**r This guidebook is for historical reference only.r Routes and terrain may have changed since this guide was written in 1954.r Bring and use a up-to-date guidebook instead, such asr R. J. Secor's *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails* (2009).r From the original guide book:r r

> r *A guidebook is not a substitute for mountaineering skill,r nor can it make climbing safe for those who do not practicer the principles of safety. It is urged that inexperienced climbers avail themselves of the instruction and training given byr the Sierra Club or other organizations before attemptingr difficult ascents.*r

r

r r

r r

About the Editor

r r
r *Hervey Voge*r (fromr
r Steve Roper, *Camp 4*)r

r r Hervey Harper Voge was born June 29, 1910.r He earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from University of California,r thenr received a chemistry fellowship in 1935 from the National Academy of Sciences.r Voge was a Sierra Club member and mountaineer and started climbing in the early 1930s while he was a student at Berkeley, California.r Voge made first ascents of multiple peaks,r including Washington Column from below.r He climbed with other well-known area climbers of the day, includingr David Brower, Norman Clyde, Bestor Robinson, Dick Leonard, and Jules Eichorn.r Fellow student David Brower joined the Sierra Club in 1933 at the suggestion of Voge.r In 1934,r Voge and Brower traversed the High Sierra from Kearsarge Pass area to Yosemite, climbing 59 peaks in 69 days.r Voge named two peaks, Norman Clyde Peak and Muriel Peak.r While climbing peaks, he made a effort to preserve peak registers and record first ascents.rr

r Dr. Voge lived in Berkeley, California.r He married and had at least one daughter, Tamara.r Professionally, Voge was a chemical engineer for Shell Development.r His work includes heading a team that developed a rocket fuel for use in the vacuum of outer space.r Voge was issued 25 US patents for his research work.r He died in the Caribbean Islands on June 20, 1990.r

r r

---

r r

Bibliographical Information

r r

r Hervey Harper Voge, editor (1910-1990),r *A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*r 1st ed.r (Sierra Club, 1954),r Copyright 1954 by the Sierra Club.r LCCN 54014261.r 301 pages. Illustrated. 20 cm. Bound in dark blue board with silver lettering.r Library of Congress call number F868.S5 S47 1954.r

r r

r *Other editions.*r This book first appeared in serial form in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for 1937-1942.r A "preliminary edition," edited by David Brower, appeared in 1949 (118pp., paper wrappers).r The first complete edition in book form, used here, appeared in 1954.r Voge also edited a revised 1965 edition.r In 1972, another edition appeared (with the title changed to *Mountaineer's Guide*), but it was not edited or authorized by Voge,r although he's listed as a co-authorr (*Am. Alpine J.* 22:530).r

r r

r Book review: *Sierra Club Bulletin* 39:28 (1954).r

r r

r Converted to HTML by Dan Anderson, April 2009,r from a copy in my personal library.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r
r —Dan Anderson, www.yosemite.ca.usr

r r r
r

---

r r

r **r Next: coverr** r

r r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/climbers_guide/r

r r r r