

No. 521 May 19, 1976

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes to Tim Ryan, 710 Loma, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 Subscriptions \$2 per year, due in October

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This is a 6 page issue

### SKI MOUNTAINEERS BANQUET TO BE HELD ON MAY 25

You may still have time to plan to attend. Call Doug Mantle at 776-3343(days) It will be at the Smoke House, 4420 Lakeside Drive, Burbank. Members and guests all welcome. Installation of officers and SPECIAL FEATURE: World Premiere of the Ski Mountaineers own movie--at last! Cocktails at 6:30 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM. Cost of steak dinner \$6.50. Price includes "snowthinking" for next season! BL

### BALDY SKI SEASON TERMED "SATISFACTORY"

The consensus among the SMS attending the ski tours on Mt. San Antonio this year was that they had seen better conditions in years past but that they had seen alot worse, too. Actually, the best tour was the first one. It was scheduled in Feb. and as it happened the first big storm of the season moved in that week. Wise ski mountaineers know to ignore Baldy until after at least 7-10 days of sunshine has a chance to condition the unique snow there, so everyone (save one, the tour leader) went elsewhere on Feb. 14-15. The lone participant reported the best skiable snow seen on Baldy for so early a date; he skied all the way down to the car on the final run. The very next weekend SMS'ers M. Goebel, D. Mantle, R. J. Secor and J. Wedberg tried Baldy again, finding it very skiable. The explanation was that, unknown to us city dwellers, the parting shot dealt by that first storm was rain; this, of course, accomplished the compacting process, creating "instant spring snow" as soon as the sun appeared. The other scheduled tour at the Baldy Hut was on March 13-14. About 10 SMS members enjoyed a weekend of sunshine and fairly good skiing, mostly on the southeast facing slopes of "West Baldy", about an hour's climb above the Hut, with one really good short run on a west facing ridge on the back side of the "Sugarpine Bowl".

The latter tour was marred by the presence of the BMTC ice ax practice, who continue to claim that the only snowbanks in So. Calif. satisfactory to their purpose lie in the "Baldy Bowl" adjacent to the Hut. Contrary to an agreement made last fall, they milled around the Hut, clad in their rain gear (to protect them from Baldy's wet, soft snow), used the outhouse, broke down the Hut trail by taking short cuts both up and down and generally detracting from the winter wilderness environment of the area. Most of the SMS members attending the second tour at Baldy were long-time, experienced all-around mountaineers and they all expressed the opinion that floundering around in the soft snow for a few hours was of questionable value with respect to ice ax training. Efforts are still underway to get the BMTC off of Baldy and keep them off. (Maybe its time to "go national"-ed.) JW

### SMS PURCHASES DAN'S INVENTORY

Dan Eaton's Mountain Shop is going out of business and in response to a call from Dan, John Wedberg flew out to Palmdale to survey the remaining ski mountaineering equipment he had for sale. With prior approval from the Central Committee, Wedberg examined the inventory and purchased it on the spot. He and Dan loaded it into the plane and its now at Wedberg's place for anyone who would like to look. Some of the items: 7 skins (mostly Vinersa) 185's, 190's, 195's, 210's, 215's; one complete Trima attachment set and many broken sets; three complete Marker Clou's, one Marker Rotomat TR, 2 Remey Securis toes, many front throw mechanisms, guides, cables, etc. The SMS bought them at a discount and plans to sell them at retail to help the treasury. Contact George Shinno if you want to purchase any of these items. JW

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: June 16, 1976  
 DEADLINE: Friday , June 11

CALENDAR

May 22-23: Ski Tour, Rock Creek  
 SMS Barbara Lilley 886-4154  
 May 25: SMS Banquet. D.Mantle 776-3343  
 May 23: Safety Tests (days)  
 RCS Hans Lees 591-4687  
 May 29-31: Mt. Lyell Ski Tour  
 SMS M. Goebel 820-1962  
 May 29-31: Kings Canyon Rock Climb  
 RCS Andy Fried 466-0480  
 June 5-6: San Antonio Hut Work Party  
 Betty Powers 596-8543  
 June 12-14: Yosemite Valley Rock Climb  
 RCS (3 days) Mark Cole 391-5555  
 June 16: Mugelnoos Meeting 7:30 PM

FOUND!

At Stoney Point after April 25 climb:  
 Navy-blue nylon jacket. Tickets to model  
 railroad show in pocket. Contact  
 Mendenhalls, 793-0806 or reclaim at  
 Mugelnoos meeting. RDM

FOR SALE

EB's Climbing Shoes, used twice, good  
 condition, size 38 (about 7 in regular  
 shoes). Owner needs to buy larger shoes!  
 Best Offer. Call Glenn Grabiell (714)  
 963-3755 or write to 1855 E. Riverside,  
 #365, Ontario, CA 91761.

WHO DID IT?

Frank Meyers is still missing a couple  
 of carabiners with FJM stamped on the  
 gate from the Stony Point RCS practice  
 last year. Anyone with information can  
 call him at 883-1893.

OWENS VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

A groundbreaking ceremony for an Inter-  
 agency Visitors Center was held on April  
 20 at the site, which is located at the  
 intersection of U.S. Hwy. 395 and State  
 Rt. 136, south of Lone Pine. It will be  
 constructed and managed through an Inter-  
 agency Cooperative Agreement and will  
 provide a convenient stopping point for  
 tourists entering the Owens Valley.  
 Visitors will be able to obtain infor-  
 mation pertaining to recreational oppor-  
 tunities, wildlife and scenic resources,  
 historical and cultural background of  
 the area, as well as permits, weather  
 information and road conditions. In  
 addition, general information about local,  
 state and governmental agency responsi-  
 bilities in the Owens Valley will be  
 available. (Inyo Register, 4/15/76).

SKI TOUR REPORT

Considering its the lowest snow year in  
 the Sierra since the SMS was formed, ski  
 tours are going pretty well as planned,  
 except that, as forwarned in last Mugel-  
 noos, Rock Creek was moved up to May 22-  
 23 and the Memorial Day tour will be last  
 one for the season. Now that we've had  
 our "drought year", next year's ski  
 season should be great! THINK SNOW! BL

S.M. DIRECTORY TO APPEAR

A Ski Mountaineers Membership List will  
 be published with the June Mugelnoos. Any-  
 one with a new phone no. (since June 1975)  
 or who has failed to notify the Mugel-  
 mailer (Tim Ryan) of a change of address  
 or who has re-subscribed to Mugelnoos and  
 wishes to be reinstated as a member of the  
 S.M. Section should notify B. Lilley,  
 8421 Lindley Ave., Northridge, CA. 91342  
 by June 5, 1976.

MOLEHILL GUIDES OFF & RUNNING

Den Lauria, Dick Sykes, Dennis Hennek and  
 Ivan Couch have launched an enterprise  
 known as Molehill Mountain Guides and for  
 a fee they will take a client on anything  
 from local boldering to world-wide wall  
 climbs--rock, ice or snow. Some of the  
 things they do to keep themselves in  
 shape for their clientele are: Run a  
 mile in less than 6 mins., ride a bike  
 200 mi. in a day or do the entire Muir  
 Trail in winter! JW

CLYDE'S MINARET ROUTE CHANGES

In 1973 we found that the Class 3 route  
 variation (Mountaineer's Guide to the  
 High Sierra) that goes below the great  
 south cliffs of Clyde Minaret was blocked  
 by a huge chockstone. Apparently the  
 route used to go underneath, but that pas-  
 sage is now blocked by rubble. The south  
 side has a multiple sling rappel anchor  
 placed for the 50-foot drop on descent.  
 The normal Class 3 route description of  
 the Guide is also misleading; it appears  
 that from the north end of Amphitheater  
 Lake one goes east, joining the blocked  
 route near the notch just south of Clyde  
 Minaret. FM

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

SMS Qualified Leader Dave Field suffered  
 a cracked fibula while skiing at Mammoth  
 on April 19 (he was trying out for the Ski  
 Patrol!). Cast is to be removed around  
 the end of May and he should be back ski-  
 ing next season. Pete Moritz and Fritz  
 Moritz will be working on the Mammoth  
 Mountain Ski Patrol next season.  
 Change of Address: Nick Clinch  
 PHONE 2001 Bryant St.  
 415-321-8534 Palo Alto, CA 94301

RCS DISCOUNT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Monday, May 24, is absolutely the last  
 day to contact Tom Jeter and send him  
 your checks for discount climbing equip-  
 ment as explained in the last two issues  
 of Mugelnoos. Ph. 213-943-3112. TJ

MUGELMAILER MOVES!

Tim Ryan  
 710 Loma  
 Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

SONORA PASS SKI TOUR, May 1-2, 1976

The SMS ski tour this weekend was planned to take place on two peaks above Twin Lakes in the Bridgeport area. However, upon arrival Saturday morning at the Lake, the eight participants saw only dirt on the proposed ski slopes. Lack of altitude seemed to be the basic problem, so "Sierra Spring Ski-Touring" was again consulted and we drove on up to Sonora Pass, elevation 9626'. (Unusual for it to be open this early in the year!--ed.)

Saturday's tour took place above Sardine Falls just east of the pass, and on Sunday we started on the pass and climbed Sonora Ridge (11,245'). The ski terrain was excellent both days, about 2000' of downhill, and we were on snow right from the road (except for an "interesting" stream crossing--ed.). The entire area abounds with many fine beginner to advanced alpine touring possibilities, all easily accessible on one-day tours. Camping is available in both campgrounds (Leavitt Meadows C.G.), and unimproved areas along the road.

The good spring snow on Sunday made the long drive worthwhile, and in fact, this leader had a hard time getting the skiers off the hill. The area will definitely be considered for a future 3-day Memorial Weekend trip. MG

A BREAKTHROUGH IN PREVENTING MOUNTAIN SICKNESS?

For the past 4 years, Mountain Safety Research (MSR) has been coordinating a group of climbing doctors interested in mountain sickness into an Acute Mountain Sickness Study Team, attempting to find both an explanation and a preventative. The work is being done mostly in the field, on Mt. Rainier itself when possible (upon one occasion a camping permit was denied to the Team even though it was necessary to maintain a certain schedule for test purposes to compare against previous trips--sort of in the same category as denying permits for crevasse rescue practice).

Recent tests have indicated that while climbing there is a shift toward the acid side of the acid/alkaline balance, probably because an insufficiency of oxygen and a high demand for energy in the absence of enough carbohydrate results in excess organic acid formation as body fats are burned for energy. This excess acid may be a main contributing factor causing acute mountain sickness (AMS). This may be why Diamox aids in preventing AMS; as a diuretic it stimulates the kidneys to pass more water which carries with it the excess acid. Drinking more water is itself a diuretic (they recommend 4 quarts a day over 8000 feet). Vomiting also helps get rid of this excess acid. And the Team has found that by simply taking anti-acid Rolaids, the excess acid can be eliminated and the acid/alkaline balance can be maintained (as determined by testing urine on pH test paper), thus possibly preventing AMS from occurring. Rolaids contain sodium carbonate which combines with the excess chloride to form common salt and also contain an aluminum compound to act as a buffer. (Tums contain calcium carbonate which they consider to be not as good.) (Those who don't want to give up the acid-type beverages such as Wylers and beer could take Rolaids at the same time to counteract their effect!--ed.) BJJ  
(excerpted from MSR Newsletter, March 1976)

PEAR LAKE SKI TOUR, April 24-25

In this "year of the drought", 11 optimistic skiers backpacked Saturday from Wolverton parking lot to a campsite on a large patch of bare ground upstream from the Pear Lake Hut. Not unexpectedly, skis had to be carried to Heather Gap but snow was nearly continuous from there on. The skiers were horrified to see that there was very little snow left on their favorite Sat. afternoon west-facing ski slopes, so while 2 climbed Alta Peak and several played slalom among the rocks on the fairly good spring snow that was left, others made a scouting climb of the "winter summit" and skied heavy snow back to camp to report that the snow required for the traditional super-fantastic spring snow ski run down the south side was missing! So, as has been done in previous "drought" years, the skiers climbed "true" Alta Peak (on the SPS Peaks List) Sunday morning. There was plenty of snow on north-facing slopes above Pear Lake but unfortunately a cold front came through with a strong cold wind on Sunday that kept the snow from thawing out. (Those staying in the Hut had reported good morning skiing the previous day on spring snow.)

Thanks to Chuck Wilts' expert route finding down the "Rock Garden" route, they were able to ski to within 2 miles of the cars, on some of the best snow of the weekend. Justice was done to the usual excellent Chinese dinner at Gang Sue's in Porterville as all resolved to do a better job of "Thinking Snow" for next year!

BL

## 25 April 1976 - RCS PRACTICE CLIMB - STONY POINT

John & Ruth Mendenhall presided over the 6th and last Practice Climb of the season at Stony Point, which saw 35 eager students greeted by 14 RCS instructors, for a student/instructor ratio of 2.50 to 1. This Practice Climb was especially enjoyable for students and instructors alike, as the inept and unmotivated students had long before disappeared from the scene. Accordingly, our instructors introduced their students to some of the more interesting routes as a prelude to the climbing season ahead of them. Student Greg Stevens experienced one of the hazards of climbing at a popular bouldering area, as he grabbed for an overhead handhold on boulder '2' only to discover it was covered with broken glass. Greg is going to be a good one, as undaunted, he tackled Beethoven's Wall in the afternoon with a heavily bandaged finger (courtesy of Ruth Mendenhall).

The student signoff in prussicking was a spectacle indeed, as teams of four prussickers simultaneously inched upward to negotiate the 40 foot overhang. One had only to imagine knives between their teeth to complete the picture of a Pirate band boarding some unsuspecting merchantman in the dark of night! The situation was ripe for gambling men, as the instructors placed bets on which students would finish first. Yours truly thought he was going to clean up, betting heavily on Vertical Caver Donna Lou Mroczkowski using her one legged 'Texas method.' Donna Lou did indeed finish first but unfortunately the other instructors had read April Mugelnoos and Donna Lou only paid \$2.30 to win, \$2.20 to place and \$2.10 to show. Participating instructors were: John & Ruth Mendenhall, Herb Null, Dave Erskine, John Ripley, Wally Azbill, Phil Bruce, Tom Jeter, Jack Bradford, Randy McDonald, Frank Meyers, Jim Erb, Jeff Lash, Horton Johnson.

TJ

## ONION VALLEY SKI TOUR, April 10-11, 1976

Eleven diehards turned out for the Onion Valley ski (?) tour. All were surprised to find excellent skiing both Saturday and Sunday, even though skiing was limited to "low snow year" runs. Saturday morning we drove to the roadhead, marveling at how little snow there was. Can you imagine hiking in the Sierra, in the summertime, in ski boots carrying skis up and down the Kearsarge Pass trail? We were sure that was what the weekend had in store for us. To top it off, Dr. George, Ch. 7 weather reporter, had predicted miserable weather for the weekend.

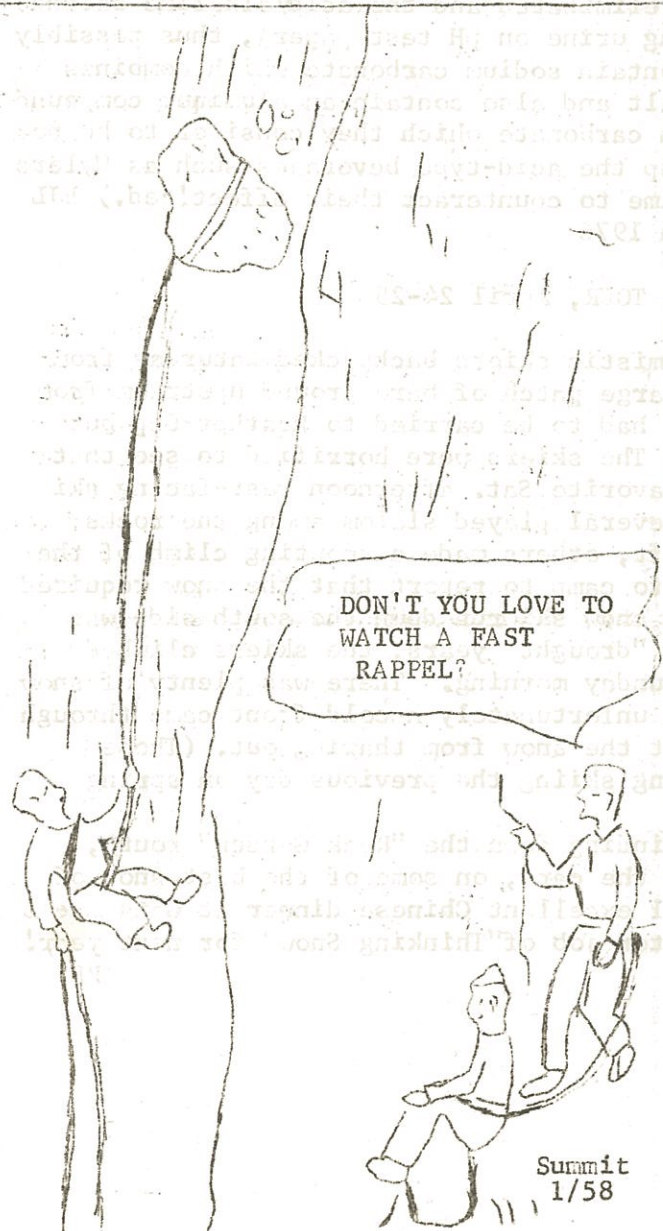
Saturday we headed up Robinson Basin to "the moraine" (11,200') where we lunched. No one mentioned the (so we thought) inevitable 1001 kickturns all the way to the parking lot, amongst the pine needles, willows, manzanita bushes, etc.

etc. But--the run turned out to be exquisite from top to bottom--snow conditions ranging from powder to spring corn--right down to the parking lot. They retreated to 7 Pines Campground for the night.

Sunday the weather deteriorated but 9 true diehards set out again, this time toward Kearsarge Pass. The skiing on the "low snow year" slopes was tremendous (again powder to spring)--zipping (and I mean zipping) through the trees, rocks, bushes, down to the parking lot.

The run was so good that six true-true diehards, upon reaching the parking lot, stashed packs and headed back up ("just to the top of that little ridge") toward Robinson Basin. The "just to the top of that little ridge" turned into "halfway to the moraine." But the skiing down was so fantastic--on the best spring snow possible--(this time flying through the trees), that a few true-true diehards were heard comparing it to the best, "the backside of Alta". (Pear Lake, that is-ed.)

(GW)

Summit  
1/58

ROCK CLIMB, SESPE GORGE - April 17, 1976  
(Leaders: F. Wing, E. Nissen)

It is an ancient rockclimber  
Who leadeth ten and six  
Upon the soaring sandstone cliff  
Beside the Sespe Crick

The Vans are met, the Datsuns set,  
Upon the shoulder ample  
Thence issue forth the loony horde  
The crags and cracks to sample.

The Treeline route, with branch to boot  
Beguiles eleven stalwarts  
Eight climb the first pitch full direct  
Three start by traverse leftwards.

Two ropes, four men, the Zigzag Main  
Surmount by rockcraft cunning  
One, linking trine, prefers a line  
Up Zigzag e'en more stunning.

The Gully Overhang, to right  
Attracts young Bragg and Lindgren  
While to the left the Pipeline cleft  
Succumbs to Cole and Nissen

And to all ears, amid the cheers  
For jam or mantle 'xtrod'n'ry  
Come yowls forlorn, in despair born  
From Wing's chained pooch so ord'n'ry. FW

(Now I know what they mean by poetic license!-ed.)

RCS CONDITIONING HIKE

There have been rumors that the RCS chooses its climbs with a bias towards very little hiking and nearby good restaurants. While this may, in fact, sometimes be the case, it is not the rule. Some RCS types even like to hike and so it was that Sat. A.M. May 1 saw members Jim Endo, LeRoy Russ, Andy Fried and candidates Dave Erskin, Carlos DeLatorie and Paul Phau strolling up George's Creek to Mt. Williamson. The party was impressed by several possible routes on the canyon walls but not having the hardware continued on to base camp at 11,100'. At 5:30 AM Sunday they departed for the summit (14,375) via the ridge. The view of the Owens Valley from the top was well worth the climb (P.S. Sorry, Warren Harding, you did not make the first winter ascent). The group returned to the car before 6:00 PM and headed back to L.A.

It was further reported that more than one party member was seen walking with a peculiar gait on the following Tuesday. AF

HUT NOW BELONGS TO THE CHAPTER

Under a ruling by the Sierra Club Board of Directors last year, the Lodges and Lands Committee as we knew it was abolished and all property except Clair Tappan Lodge was either disposed of or given to the chapter in which the property was located. Thus, the San Antonio Ski Hut is now under the aegis of the Angeles Chapter. Previously the Baldy Hut Committee reported directly to San Francisco.

The Angeles Chapter has indicated that they would appoint the present Hut Manager (Jim Powers) as the Chairman of the San Antonio Hut Committee, and Powers in turn would select the present members to continue serving on this Committee. In other words, apparently no practical or visible changes would occur due to the switch in accountability. JW

SIERRA CLUB PARTICIPATES IN YOSEMITE PARK'S SUMMER PROGRAM

The Sierra Club will again open Le Conte Lodge this summer for a series of children's environmental education programs. The programs will be presented by Club members volunteering their time through the Sierra Club Northern Conservation Committee. Last summer's pilot project proved exciting and drew standing room only crowds for puppet shows, owl walks and other events which helped the young visitor to better see the natural world in the Valley. Plan to stop at the Lodge if you're in the Valley--its the round stone cabin just below Glacier Point, built by the Club in 1903 as a memorial to Joseph Le Conte, early Sierra explorer and conservationist.

(from S.C. newsletter of 4/30/76)

## YOSEMITE TASK FORCE --UPDATE

According to a Sierra Club newsletter dated 4/30/76, the Park Service is still in the process of reviewing the more than 20,000 responses to the Yosemite National Park Master Plan Workbook. (Meanwhile, Congressional Subcommittees investigating the NPS have concluded that the concessionors have a "disproportionate degree of influence" in relation to that of the general public over management of our national parks and that this influence interferes with the NPS's responsibility to protect the natural resources of the parks.)

As might be expected, the Sierra Club Task Force's major recommendations are quite stringent. Examples which may be of interest to Mugelnoos readers:

Under Visitor Use: "Eliminate contrived recreations (golf, tennis, swimming pools, etc.)" Editor's Comment: One guess what the "etc." includes, even though they recommend for Badger Pass only not to expand the ski facilities or services at the ski lodge.

Under Backcountry: "Develop strict permit system to direct and limit backcountry use consistent with carrying capacity studies." Editor's Comment: See reprint of Abe Siemens' letter below. Those who agree are urged to write to the national Sierra Club Council.

Under Hetch Hetchy: "Remove O'Shaughnessy Dam and drain Hetch Hetchy Valley (allowing it to return to its former pristine beauty\*) pending successful search for acceptable alternate sources of water and power."

\*Editor's Comment: How many hundred years would that take? NO FURTHER COMMENT!

The following letter appeared in the Nov. 1975 issue of the Southern Sierran pointing out the ambiguous situation which now exists between the existence of BMTC and the Club's current philosophy regarding backcountry use.

"Editors: Carl Lundquist's letter regarding an incident involving 50 to 100 BMTC members at the San Antonio Ski Hut has prompted me to write. The solution to Carl's problem is simple--abolish BMTC. I say this not with tongue in cheek but because BMTC is a program which has long since outlived its usefulness.

At a time when the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service are restricting the use of the wilderness areas, BMTC is encouraging additional use by training new users. If the supply of wilderness is already inadequate, why increase the demand? The concept of encouraging wilderness use makes as much sense as conserving petroleum by encouraging the use of automobiles.

Some would say that if BMTC members would be wilderness users irrespective of BMTC training, training such people in intelligent use reduces their adverse environmental impact. I think the premise is invalid; hence, the conclusion does not follow.

In the Sierra, a wilderness experience today is a far cry, qualitatively, from what it was twenty years ago. The quality of the wilderness experience may be inversely proportional to the number of users. As practicing conservationists, our goal should be to preserve something better than a wilderness suffering from over-use and trampled to near extinction."  
Abe Siemens

ROMANCE BLOSSOMS AT TAHQUITZ

I was intrigued to read in May Southern Sierran that John and Ruth Dyar Mendenhall met while climbing at Tahquitz with the RCS in 1938. Surely, this is a climber's dream come true. I find myself speculating on the circumstances and route that began this happy acquaintanceship. Did a coy Ruth arrange the meeting to take place on White Maiden's Walkaway, or did John persuade her to join him on Devil's Delight? Could Ruth have read John's intentions doing Open Book and as a result turned away his every advance on Uneventful? Maybe John fared better than this and managed to steal a kiss when Ruth was looking the other way on Hoodenett, then gently nibbled her ear on the Vampire. Perhaps John thought he could do better at ground level and contrived to walk with Ruth hand in hand around the base of Tahquitz all day, ostensibly looking for the Climb with no Beginning. At any rate, John is well known as a master tactician on rock; we bachelor climbers would like to learn his technique.  
TJ

ALPINE TOURING GEAR FOR NEXT YEAR

Both Kelty stores (Glendale and Northridge) plan to rent skis and skins for Alpine ski touring, with the new Alpine Research multi-purpose safety binding. They also sell climbing skins. The Sports Chalet sells plastic "buckle-on" anklets to give better skiing control than the usual ski mountaineering boots provide. The smaller type is designed to be used only with Lowa boots; a larger type (currently out of stock) can be used with any boot. Price is between \$30 and \$40 so start saving your money!