

No. 522 - June 16, 1976

A newsheet published by & for the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the S.C.'s Angeles Chap. Send address changes to Tim Ryan, 710 Loma, Hermosa Beach 90254.

WILLIAMSON NORTH FACE -- NEW ROUTE

=====

A new route was put up on 14,375' Mt. Williamson's N. face over the Memorial Day weekend by Tim Ryan, Fred Wing and John Mendenhall. The party camped above The Pot Hole at 11,000, below Shepherd Pass. Sun. they crossed the 12,450' divide S. of Shepherd Pass; descended to the foot of Williamson's N. side escarpment (11,600'); and cramponed up a steep diagonal to the right, directly toward the summit. Tim led the crux pitch on aid chocks. At dark (that's what's known as Pitch Black: Ed.) they were on a narrow ledge at about 13,880', where they tied on for a chilly night.

Mon. the climb was completed. Ryan reached camp well ahead of the others; loaded the entire batch of equipment on his back, and Paul Bunyaned out! Vertical gain for the weekend: 10,485'. This is apparently the first new route on Williamson's N. face since John & Ruth Mendenhall first climbed it in 1957. (JDM)

CLIMBER'S HARNESS BREAKS AT ANCHOR POINT

A Mountain Safety Research (MSR) climbing harness broke at the anchor point when the belayer caught a simulated leader fall at the RCS safety tests May 24. Dave Perkins was anchored to a tree at ground level, with a carabiner joining his harness to a sling. When he caught the weight of the "bucket" fall, he flew through the air as if propelled by a catapult. The incident was observed and the harness examined by members of the RCS Safety Committee who were giving the tests. The harness had parted where it went over the carabiner. Polypro

The harness was made of MSR 2-inch black "Polypro," which is sold through the MSR (Pemberthy) catalogue in two forms: either as a pre-sewn harness, or for the climber to tie his own. It is described in the 1975 MSR catalogue as a "light comfortable harness for general rock and glacier climbing. Design tested by ten drops of a 220-lb. torso dummy at shock forces of 1200-2800 lbs." (The RCS "bucket" used for practice in holding leader falls weighs about 80 lbs. and is dropped with varying amounts of slack in the rope. Although old ropes are always used, no other equipment failure has ever been reported). MSR's '76 catalogue adds, "Intended for average climbing."

Close Second Failure

Dave's harness was two years old, but had never suffered the shock of a fall, or any stress beyond being clipped to a chest loop in prussiking. His model was self-tied. Another belayer also holding simulated leader falls was wearing a pre-sewn model of the same material. Hers was partly torn by the end of the exercise (three "leader falls"); as the material had stretched and had holes in it. (RDM)

RCS SAFETY TESTS

Fourteen prospective RCS members took the safety tests at Mt. Pacifico May 24, under the direction of Safety Com. Chairman Hans Lees and ten other Safety Com. & RCS members. Those giving tests were Emory Yount, Phil Bruce, John & Ruth Mendenhall, Bob and Barbara Schuppe, Fred Wing, LeRoy Russ, John Moore and Herb Null.

SAFETY COMMITTEE TO CLIMB WITH MEMBERSHIP APPLICANTS

June 26-27 is the weekend scheduled for would-be new RCS members to climb with Safety Com. members as the last requirement on the Safety Test. Applicants planning to participate should phone Ruth Mendenhall at 793-0806 to be assigned to a rope.

P H I L B E R N A Y S P A S S E S

Philip S. Bernays, who served the Sierra Club for 70½ of its 84 years and was a friend of John Muir's, died at Leisure World May 24 after a short illness. He was 90 years of age.

Bernays and Muir first met in the early 1900's at Three Rivers. Muir had just completed an arduous trip through the Sequoia Park area (then under military rule). When Bernays took a leading role in establishing a lodge in Big Santa Anita Canyon for the use of So. Calif. (Angeles) Chapter members, he wrote Muir for permission to name the lodge after him. Permission was granted and a sizeable contribution made.

Bernays served on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club from 1919 to 1953, and as Club President from 1931 to 1933. (B.G.)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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\$2 a Year A 6-page issue

NEXT EDITORS: Bob & Barbara Schuppe
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NEXT ISSUE: July 21, 1976
DEADLINE: Fri., July 16, 1976 (earlier
if possible!!)

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: 3rd Weds. each month,
8 p.m., Lemon Grove Recreation Center, 4959
Lemon Gr. Av., LA, just off Hwd. Fwy near
Melrose exit. Trip news, program, laughs,
etc. Climbers, skiers, guests welcome.

C A L E N D A R

June 26-27 - Tahquitz (T) - RCS
July 3-5 - Minarets (T) - RCS
July 21 - Mugelnoos meeting, 8 p.m.-RCS, SM
July 24-26 - Tahquitz (T) - RCS

RCS ODDMENTS

CARPools FOR YOUTH: "Our training classes
this year have given us a half-dozen very
young proficiency card holders (13-16 yrs.
old)" states RCS Ch. Emory Yount. "I'm
asking members etc. to be generous with
rides to Tahquitz so we can keep them ac-
tive."

ROUTE SHEET NEWS: The route sheet of May
16 indicates that Baker & Kropk are still
climbing Little Murders. Please, sign in,
sign out. (LR)

YOUNT/RUSS EXPEDITION: Join the Yount/Russ
scouting expedition to the Buttermilk Coun-
try & Bass Lk-Oakhurst areas. Students and
RCS members welcomed. June 28-July 4. Call
LeRoy (295-9703) or Emory (714-525-5196).

ENTRAINED FOR FUTURE? RCS & Training Com.
officers state that enrollment in the RCS
'76-77 training course will be by mail on-
ly. Prospective students may start send-
ing requests for application blanks to Le-
Roy Russ (with stamped self-addressed en-
velopes) after July 15; no earlier. The
deadline for returning the forms will be
Sept. 23.

The July Mugelnoos will carry a detail-
ed report from Tr. Com. Ch. Tom Jeter on the
last season's training program.

ON THE LEVEL

TJ mused in the May Mug. as to the
Byar-Mendenhall '38 meeting at Tahquitz.
The True Facts are that they met, with
their feet on the ground, below the Finger-
tip Traverse. One of the first times they
roped up together was on an early attempt
on the Traitor Horn route. What can one
make of that? (RDM)

NEW ADDRESS: Pete White,
8914 Cadillac Street
LA 90034. Phone, 559-7756

WHO CAN JOIN THE AAC??

You don't have to be a Hillary to join
the American Alpine Club, as some seem to
believe. Competent climbers interested in
American mountaineering are welcome and
needed. Annual dues are \$25 (\$20 if you
are under 24, or \$12.50 if you're a spouse)
+ initiation fee. Members receive the AA
Journal, News, & Accident Report, etc.

For an application blank giving details,
contact R. Mendenhall, or the AAC offices
at 113 E. 90th St., N.Y. 10028. The AAC
celebrated its 75th Anniv. this May, and
will continue to celebrate it at the An-
nual Members' Meeting in Berkeley Dec. 4-5.

THIRTY YEARS ADD UP TO LIFE

A little-known advantage of becoming an
old-timer is that Sierra Club members who
have belonged for 30 years are eligible
for a free life-membership. However, this
is not automatic -- the S.F. Sierra Club Of-
fice must be specifically informed, & such
life membership requested.

ON THE DECLINE?

Cal State Fullerton has scheduled an
all-day \$35 seminar June 26 for "all ama-
teur athletes and for people above age 30
who do not wish to limit their activities
in their declining years."

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

From the BMTC information folder for
1976: "Physical Conditioning: Insofar
as backpacking and mountaineering are con-
cerned, it is difficult to underestimate
the importance of physical conditioning."

STOKE UP YOUR MIND

Who was that man Stokes, of litter and
breathing fame? Turns out there were two.
Cheyne-Stokes breathing was named after
John Cheyne (d.1836), the Scottish physi-
cian who first described it, and William
Stokes (d.1878), Irish physician who also
noted it. The Stokes Litter was named
after Charles F. Stokes (d.1931), an Amer-
ican naval officer who invented it.

MT. BAKER STEAMED UP

Spies report a mild earthquake in Seat-
tle May 15. One effect was apparently to
stir up Mt. Baker, which next day was
sending up steam in a 600' column.

SUE BLANCHARD DIES IN FALL

Sue Blanchard, wife of Smoke Blanchard
of Bishop, was fatally injured in a fall
suffered while hiking in Death Valley in
mid-May. She and Smoke have hiked and
climbed together in many parts of the
world. (From Inyo Register)

"Can I horn in?
Say MOO-gul-noos --
not Mugg or Miew."
(Mugel means a
bump in the snow,
now incorrectly
called "Mogul" by
lesser publications.
"Noos" is supposedly
news with a German
accent.)



RDM

SUICIDE ROCK -- RCS -- May 15-16

The scheduled RCS climb at Suicide May 15-16 was the first climb of the year for the beginners who had undergone the winter training program. The choice of Suicide Rock made it more difficult to find easy routes, but plenty of RCS members turned out to lead novices. Tim Ryan led a small group to Tahquitz and the rest went to Suicide. A total of 36 climbers signed in on Sat. and 25 on Sun. (JMCP)

Accident Occurs

On Sat., Stan Klein, a climber from the Loma Prieta Chap. RCS who has moved to IA, was making his second climb of the day with Jim McPherson. Stan led the last pitch of Graham Crackers. He completed the move at the top of the pitch and was walking off the sloping summit toward a belay position when he slipped and fell back over the edge of the wall.

All except one point of protection (chocks) failed. His belayer stopped the falling climber ten feet off the ground. That is about a 200-foot fall, and Stan had struck the rock several times.

A climbing doctor who was in the immediate area supervised as Stan was carried by stretcher to the roadhead ($\frac{1}{4}$ mi.). An ambulance transported him to the Hemet Hosp.

His injuries were amazingly light considering the severity of the fall and the fact that he was not wearing a helmet. They amounted to a broken left ankle, broken right foot, and many abrasions. Stan is now back at work. (JMCP and EY)

RUMORS UNSCRAMBLED

This episode has started rumors that many serious accidents have occurred this year on RCS climbs. According to RCS Chairman Emory Yount's detailed trip reports, covering 15 climbing days from the end of Dec. up to now, the other accidents on RCS scheduled climbs have been as follows:-

(1) Mt. Mopah, Dec. 27-29, 1975: The second man on a 2-man rope was struck on his upper back by a rock, and suffered a small fracture of the shoulder blade. He was climbing again in 2 weeks. (2) Joshua Tree, Mar. 13-14, 1976: A proficiency card holder, climbing 2nd on Lost Horse Wall, fell while attempting a mantel and pendulumed into an open book. He suffered a minor scalp wound and was climbing again next weekend. (3) Joshua Tree, Apr. 3-4: Al Toering was leading the 2nd & last pitch of Overhang Bypass on Intersection Rock when he fell. He suffered a simple fracture of the fibula near the ankle and a torn ligament in the same leg. The 2-man rope rappelled and climbed down to the ground. Al wore a cast for about 2 weeks but the ligament healed more slowly. Al's analysis of the accident is that, after sitting on belay in the shade on a cold windy day, without a jacket, he lost too much strength to do the overhang. His partner said the belay was good (the belayer was a proficiency card holder).

KINGS CANYON REVISITED

Twenty four and a half persons came out for this combination family car camp and climb. All were accommodated by a group campsite in a wooded area close to the towering cliffs and the cool Kings River.

Sat. a.m. saw 3 groups attempting routes up North Dome. While these climbers were discovering how deceptive a route can look from the road, the non-climbers toured nearby Boyden Cave or relaxed in camp. That evening there was a campfire at which stories, wine, and popcorn were shared.

Go North, Young Man

Sun. a.m. a group again tried the elusive N. Dome. Two other groups climbed rts. on the Broken Face near Roaring River. Another group climbed the "Broken Arm Route" of last year's fame. Mon. only one party climbed, again N. Dome the goal. Other climbers were heard to say they were going to "do the cave" on the way home, but as they didn't sign out for this route, it is not possible to say for certain if they did.

A few climbers reported seeing hardware and slings, but most routes appeared to have seen little if any traffic. The weather was pleasant, and the Park Service said they would be glad to see the RCS return to the Park on another occasion. (AF)

HOW OTHERS SEE US?

From Reader's Digest via Newsweek: -- "The Thrill Seekers. They are a growing breed, entrusting their fate to the whim of swirling currents, churning water, hidden depths or unyielding cliffs. They may be nature lovers or daredevil showoffs, action-starved office workers or middle-aged housewives. But America's thousands of hang gliders, white-water paddlers, rock climbers and divers share a zest for life--enhanced by the real and chilling possibility of injury or death.

"Hundreds have perished in pursuit of thrills... Yet, for believers, the esthetic joys seem to be augmented by the hazards. 'Once you've flirted with death... life becomes more meaningful....."

"Attacking a sheer rock wall with nothing but climbing gear and guts may strike some as an unpromising quest. But intense, athletic climbers and advancing technology are making rock climbing more rewarding than ever."

(....Pardon us brave rock climbers, but how about judgment, techniques and skills? The man ought to be forced to earn a proficiency card. Ed.)

HERE AND THERE
WORLDWIDE PROBLEMS?

Vivian Mendenhall, recently returned from 4 years in Scotland, has had letters from friends that show climbing-skiing problems bear a family resemblance 6000 miles from California.

From Sempach, Switzerland

"...I nearly forgot to tell you about our recent big discovery: we bought us some crosscountry-skis and have been hunting for snow ever since. The usual (down-hill) skiing has become such a popular folk-sport here in Switzerland. There isn't a single mountainslope left where you haven't got to queue up.

"The whole sport has become one huge rush hour. Kids wear helmets to be safe from mindless racers, and grownups are disguised with monumental plasticboots that make it impossible to walk further than from the carpark to the chairlift. We just got fed up. Now we walk gently about like in good olde times. Going up is as much fun as going down." (Cross-country skiing in German is Skilanglaufen.)

From Dundee, Scotland

"(The two fellows *) have had a very poor winter season. They only got 8 climbs done all winter. The weather was very mixed. It froze for a while and people started falling off, then it thawed and people got caught in huge avalanches. It snowed again and caused more havoc, and for about two weeks the police were trying to stop people (skiers & climbers) going to the hills. The Mountain Rescue teams were on permanent duty. There were a lot of deaths this year and a large number injured, but no one from our group was involved." (* Top Scottish ice climbers.)

COMMUNION WITH NATURE

A review of "The Man Who Skied Down Mt. Everest," from the Sacramento Bee, states among other things: "In 1970, skier Miura decided to tackle Everest, setting off with many aides, much equipment and 800 Sherpas. (The film) is a dazzling visual treat that is also a mystic celebration of man's communion with nature.. For his historic run Miura was equipped with a special oxygen supply, a crash helmet with a two-way radio, a special ski suit and parachute designed to slow down his speed."

Shades of John Muir as to communion with Nature!!!

MT. GARBAGE ATTACKED

Under the direction of Willi Unsoeld, who has climbed Mt. Everest (and has also climbed with the RCS) six Evergreen State College students from Olympia, Wash., have been attempting to demolish or reduce the mountain of garbage that covers approaches to Everest.

The local people have been glutted with plastic and tin containers from Everest expeditions, according to Unsoeld. Also 5000 mountaineering-type tourists a year have added to the garbage pile. The group has dug 4 deep trenches for debris at one site, and carried out 1500 lbs. of trash from another. (From the Seattle Times.)

THEN AND NOW

"PROVIDING HOMES FOR WANDERING STUDENTS" IN 1912

From a 1912 newspaper clipping: "An interesting sidelight upon student life in Germany is given in the U.S. Daily Consular Reports describing the studenten and schueler herbergen. There are 576 of these in Germany & Austria, places provided by the government to furnish lodging & breakfast free of charge to all high school & University students over 16 who have the proper card of identification.

"It has become customary in Germany for a large number of students to spend their vacation making foot tours through the picturesque parts of the Fatherland. During 1912, there were 11,080 students who applied to the herbergen for these accommodations. The wandering clubs are thoroughly organized, and the herbergen have for one of their main objectives keeping these young people out of the public inns and taverns. The student pays 2 marks (50¢) for a membership card, & can use it 20 times."

38 YEARS AGO

Mugelnoos No. 14 (6/9/38), when all skiing was ski mountaineering, reported that Joe Momyer found the snow on San Gorgonio's lower slopes pitted & sticky; but there was fine spring snow on the N. face E. of the Big Draw which should last through June. Good spring snow was found on top of San Antonio, ideal corn snow at Bishop Pass at 11,000', and snow at Mammoth Lakes "like under-done cream of wheat."

At the same time, to join the RCS required attendance at two scheduled climbs, an expression of a desire to join, and the payment of 25¢!!

MOMYER CREEK

Lost Creek, on the S. side of San Bernardino Peak in the San Gorgonio Wilderness, has been renamed Momyer Creek. The recently published Forest Falls 7½' USGS quad shows the new name, which honors the late Joe Momyer, long-time member of the Ski Mt. Sec. and a force in establishing the San Gorgonio Wilderness. (JR & RDM)

SKI MOUNTAINEERS BANQUET

An unexpectedly numerous throng (43) converged on the Smokehouse May 25, 1976, for the Ski Mountaineers banquet. While the Wilts family giggled (and giggled, and giggled), the Sections own movie ("White Horizons") was previewed, giving us enjoyable faces from the past amid some really excellent ski sequences. Outgoing Chairman Mark Goebel managed to garner an exciting Colo. powder skiing flick to round out the evening. Any complaints should be directed to G. Wilts Field in Seal Beach. (D.M.)

Mark Goebel adds thanks to Doug Mantle for arranging the affair, and especially to Pete White for editing & delivering the SMS film (which still needs work and money).

ALPINE SKI TOURS AND DRY WATER

Calif. is experiencing one of the driest years on record (in case you hadn't noticed). The Inyo Register recently stated that according to the May 1 report of the Dept. of Water Resources, the snowpack water content in Mono & Inyo Counties was 35% of average (last year it was 200%); the Oct.-April precipitation averaged 65% of normal; and runoff for the 1975-76 water year will be about 45% of average. However, the Ski Mountaineers report a good series of Alpine tours (scheduled & rescheduled).

ALPINE SKI TOUR, May 15-15 -- DISCOVERY AND DISAPPOINTMENT

To take advantage of the vanishing snowpack, two Ski Mt. Sec. tours were compressed to one weekend May 15-16, with a car camp. Sat., after some difficulty in finding the proper (unmarked) trailhead on the June Lake Loop road, 6 carried skis up the 3-mi., 1400 elev. gain trail to Fern Lake (9000'). Snow was continuous above 9200', and 5 reached the summit of San Joaquin Pk (11,600) for lunch. This effort was rewarded with a 2500' ski descent on good spring snow, a tour well worth rescheduling, perhaps even for overnight. Parker Parkers

After a night at the Fern Lk. trailhead, the group drove to the start of the Parker Canyon trail for a hoped-for repeat of last year's successful tour. However, after the skiers had to carry skis 3 mi., bashing through 200' of willows & aspen in full spring strength, they were so demoralized to see all the fine ski slopes below the waterfall bare of snow, that after a meager 600' ski run on a 100' wide snow patch, they returned to the car. At least the weather was the best of the year for touring. Due to special conditions required to make Parker Can. worthwhile (i.e., enough snow to mash down the vegetation), this area should serve only as a back-up alternate in heavy years. (It will take some Nosy Parkers to find out. Ed.) (BL)

ALPINE SKI TOUR, ROCK CREEK, May 22-23 -- FOR REAL

This was the last "real" ski tour of the season (rescheduled from June 5-6), and the six participants enjoyed the season's best. It was an easy 3½ mi. backpack on bare trail to the campsite at 10,000' below Treasure Lakes; continuous snow began at 11,000'. Sat. one person climbed Mt. Dade (13,600'+) while his "support party" climbed to 12,200' in the Dade Couloir & made several runs. At first the surface was good spring corn; then a sudden hour-long snowstorm dropped enough so the last run was in powder! The weather cleared, and an evening campfire on dry ground pointed up some compensations in drought years. Tinkle Tinkle Little Snow

Sun., 3 climbed Bear Creek Spire (13,713') while the others went to 13,000' on skis & made several runs in the bowls below the Spire on a type of spring snow which is perhaps the rarest & most beautiful to be found -- an inch of powder melted into the base, providing a shiny, smooth, fast surface which "tinkles" and follows the skier down the hill. With great reluctance the skiers headed out, leaving behind several "shining" bowls still untracked. They judged this a surprisingly successful ski touring season, and were already counting the months till the next one. (BL)

MT. LYELL SKI TOUR, May 29-31 -- DRY RUN

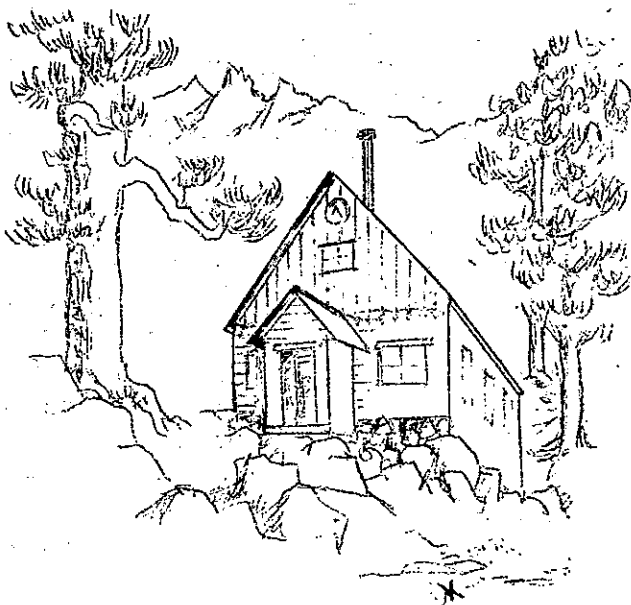
In the Alps skiers continue their sport into summer on glacial snowfields. The 1976 Memorial Day weekend to Lyell was not originally planned to include only glacier skiing, but that is how it turned out. Two hard-core, never-say-die Ski Mountaineers (B. Lilley & B. Feldmann) carried skis from the Silver Lake roadhead, while 7 others (R. J. Secor, M. Brandsma, G. Field, M. Goebel, M. Omberg, R. Shepherd, & J. McNamara) hiked along to the Lyell Glacier. Hard & Soft Cores

Sat. the group hiked to the John Muir Trail & established camp 2 mi. S. of Donohue Pass. Skiable snowfields were still far away, but the scenery was outstanding. Sun. everyone trekked over Donohue Pass, and 8 climbed Lyell (13,114') before lunch. With a cold wind and dark clouds, neighboring McClure was also climbed by 5 of the non-skiers. At this point, the 2 hard-cores were finally able to do something other than carry their skis, and enjoyed 1½ runs on smooth spring snow down the glacier. For the rest, the return to camp was marked by sliding, wading, sinking & crawling. Mon. a.m. 3 went after a few more peaks (there were now 3 hard-cores), and the rest moseyed back to Silver Lake. All in all, it was a delightful trip; and everyone was positive he had made the right decision regarding skis. (MG)

ON THE SECRET LIST? The 1976 Ski Mt. Sec. membership directory is being sent to Ski Mt. members with this issue. If you think you are a member but don't get a membership list, remember that Ski Mt. Bylaws require dropping non-Sierra Club members (also non-Mugelnoos subscribers). If you fall into either category and rejoin (or resubscribe), notify Ski Mt. Sec. B. Lilley and request reinstatement.

SAN ANTONIO (BALDY) SKI HUT WORK PARTY

Seven persons showed up for the Baldy work party June 5-6: Jim & Betty Powers, Steve Wilkie, John Wedberg, Jim Galley (chain-saw expert), Russ Hansen, & Charles Robinson. The group cut wood, and rerouted the last 200 yards of trail. Betty Powers reinstalled freshly-cleaned slip covers, and served a gourmet curried-lamb dinner. Steve Wilkie remodeled the outdoor front water system, building a grotto which he provided with underground water which he says will allow sedges and similar plants to form a meadow in that vicinity. (JW & RDM)



BMTC ICE AXE PRACTICE
AND THE SAN ANTONIO
(BALDY) BOWL AREA

The following motion in regard to BMTC (Basic Mountaineering Training Course, also called MTC) ice axe practice in the Baldy Bowl near the San Antonio (Baldy) Ski Hut, was passed at the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee meeting June 2, on the recommendation of the Chapter Council which considered the matter May 24:--

"The MTC be directed to change the location of its 1977 ice axe practice to the area between Troop Peak & Mt. Hawkins. If such area is determined unsuitable, the

Baldy Bowl may be used." (It didn't say who determines unsuitability.)

The Way It Was

A brief rundown on the history of this problem is in order. The San Antonio Hut was built in 1936, burned down, and was rebuilt the next year on the same site -- at 8400' elevation in San Antonio Canyon. First a trail was built with a 2500' elevation gain in 2 1/2 miles. Members of the Ski Mountaineers Section conceived the Hut, built it (carrying everything up on their backs), financed and operated it for many years for the use of all Sierra Club members. They reported directly to the Sierra Club Lands & Lodges Committee in San Francisco, which was recently dissolved -- all S.C. lodges were assigned to the chapters most involved (Angeles Chap. in this case). For the last few years, the Hut has been under the management of a Hut Committee, which originally was appointed by the Ski Mountaineers Sec. officers and confirmed this spring by the Angeles Chapter Exec. Com.

BMTC's Place In The Picture

Some years ago, the BMTC routinely held its ice axe practice sessions on snow-camping trips in various parts of the Sierra. Later these sessions were moved to the Baldy area. The Hut (designed for 20 occupants) became overnight headquarters for instructors and a daytime retreat for students, effectively closing the Hut to use by skiers, Harwood hikers, or anyone else during the few weekends of good snow. The BMTC classes involve about 1000 students (about 200 per weekend).

Partial Change

This situation seemed unfair to other Sierra Club members, and was hard on the 40-year-old Hut. The Council last fall directed that BMTC students not use the Hut during its ice axe sessions -- a directive which definitely improved matters but was not always strictly adhered to. The Council also directed the BMTC to look for alternate practice sites, a task undertaken by John Finn for BMTC & John Wedberg for the Hut Committee. They found what appeared to be an excellent site just E. of Islip Saddle near Mt. Hawkins, with reliable firm snow on a north-facing slope, extensive enough to accommodate 200 easily, with safe runouts, etc. At the recent Council meeting, those who inspected the area described it as superior to Baldy Bowl in many respects (the Bowl faces south, the snow is often soft, and rolling rocks have caused one death and several injuries).

Fair Trial

In spite of this report, the new area was never tried out. This was due in part to the late snow and ensuing road conditions in 1976, and in part to the reiterated opinion of some of the BMTC staff that the Bowl is "the most suitable place in the local mountains for conducting ice axe practice."

About 975 Too Many

Speaking editorially, Mugelnoos hopes that BMTC will give fair trials to other areas, and that any needed help in finding proper locations will be forthcoming from those who are concerned about problems at the Baldy Bowl, and the nearby Hut. These problems include damage to a fragile timberline area; the large groups' shattering of any form of winter quiet in the vicinity of the traditionally peaceful Hut; sanitation; extensive damage to the trail by students, who may ascend by switchbacks but are prone to trail-cutting going down (how about BMTC enforcing trail etiquette?). This particular trail, which goes along crumbly steep hillsides and in and out of monstrous gullies, was built and is maintained entirely by Sierra Club labor.

A Wise Move

With the Sierra Club scheduling smaller and smaller trips (down to 25 or less), with access limitations in Nat'l Parks and Wilderness areas, and with other measures in recent years to reduce or at least thin out people impact, it seems very wise of the Angeles Chapter to have directed this change. (Ruth D. Mendenhall)

SKI PATROL FOUNDER DIES: Charles ("Minnie") Dole, founder of the National Ski Patrol System in 1938, and an organizer of the 10th Mountain Division, died on May 14 in Greenwich, Connecticut, at the age of 76. (BG)