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A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2286 Loma Alta Dr, Fullerton, CA 92633. \$2 per year due in October.

LILLY STALKS AGAIN:

An Article Stemming From A Search For Our Routes

In spite of high winds and the gas shortage, we had 39 people sign in Saturday and 34 Sunday for the June 9-10 Tahquitz (Lily) Rock trip. The winds tended to dampen people's enthusiasm, but there were still some good routes done both days.

On Saturday, Dick Mundwiler and Paul Morrill did El Whampo, and Larry Dennis, Kathy Crandall, and John Orange did the Chauvinist. Jim Hoste, visiting from Salt Lake City, made good use of the day: he and Bill McBride climbed Angel's Fright, Angle Iron Traverse, and the Ski Tracks. A full day was also put in by Mike Mulry and Eric Burkhardt, who climbed East Lark and Sahara Terror (about 16 pitches total), signing back in at 7:00 pm. The longest day, however, was that of Bob D'Evelyn, Don Westphal, and Deanna Gaudinear, who got back to Lunch Rock at 10:30 (see p. 3).

On Sunday, Virgil Shields and Bob Caswell climbed the Fingergrip. Two teams, Jim Hoste and Paul Morrill, and Larry Dennis and Sandy Williams, climbed Jensen's Jaunt, with Larry doing it in classic style by including the fall off Traitor Horn. Kathy Crandall and John Orange were last down on Sunday, getting credit for the rescue of a would-be solo climber on the Fingertip Traverse.

JM

A COLUMN IN SUPPORT OF A DOME

Thirteen RCSers, students, and guests spent a sunny day on June 16 climbing Dome Rock in the southern Sierra. The majority of the climbs were in the 5.10 category. Trip participants managed to find a few at a more desirable level. The most popular climbs were two left facing books and a knobby face climb. The level of climbing is rather high for the average student. The campground facilities at Quaking Aspen are outstanding. Sunday brought fog and we retreated to the Kern Slabs and Deli.

LR

ANOTHER BLAST-OFF FROM L(A)UNCH ROCK

Approximately twenty members and students enjoyed two sunny days of climbing at Tahquitz Rock July 7-8. Both days found climbers attempting short and long routes (early finishes were in order). New RCS member Nathan John and student Bob Havens climbed the left Ski Track. Other routes climbed were Jensen's Jaunt (Linn & Harvey, and John & Harris), the dreaded Fool's Rush (in where Angeles feared, two tried?-Ed.) (Klein & Willis), North Buttress (Linn & Harvey), Long Climb (Ripley & Halcomb), and Angel's Fright (Yount & Olsen). As a reminder to trip participants, each trip has an assistant leader. These assistants deserve thanks for their support. Dave Burdet was the assistant on this trip. Frances Cholewa is sponsoring trail walking lessons for interested persons.

LR

VIEW SPREADS FOR ACRES FOR GLENN AND FOR ACHERS ON FORAKER

Glenn Kaplan and four other climbers have made the second ascent of the Crosson-Foraker traverse in Alaska, crossing the summits of Mt. Crosson (12,800') and Peak 12,472', and reaching the summit of Mt. Foraker (17,400') via the NE ridge. They reached the top on June 23 at 4:30 pm, after an 11 hour ascent from the 11,400' point on the ridge. A total of 20 days was spent on the climb. This route had been unsuccessfully tried by 18 parties before, the first ascent being made this past March by three Alaskan climbers. A slide show will be arranged for a future date.

GK

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was held Tuesday, June 12, at the home of John Wedberg; also present were George Shinno, Barbara Lilley, Cliff Cameron, Doug Mantle, and R. J. Secor.

Old Business: As yet no new Mugelnoos meeting place has been found.

New Business: Formation of an Alpine Ski Touring Committee in lieu of the Ski Mountaineers Section will be delayed until the next schedule to allow more input (see pp. 4, 5, 6); D. Mantle volunteered to send out information sheets. Sam Roberts and Owen Maloy were made Qualified Leaders. A list of "Qualified Skiers," both members and nonmembers, will be made available to ski tour leaders next year. Host, program, and refreshment assignments for Mugelnoos Meetings were made, and the winter schedule was set up. The meeting then adjourned.

BL

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR for July John Ripley
MUGELGRAPHER Mark Cole
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NEXT ISSUE: August 21, 1979
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MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Dept. of Water & Power Aud., 111 N. Hope, downtown LA. Parking free. Program, refreshments, conversation Climbers, skiers, guests all welcome!

C A L E N D A R

JUL 21-22 - Sat-Sun. Mt Goode rock climb: Dick Mundwiler (714) 737-7718.
AUG 11-13 - Sat-Mon. Kings Canyon rock climb: Emory Yount (714) 525-5196.
See below for more information.
AUG 21 - Tue. Mugelnoos Meeting: the NW Face of Half Dome by Ian Carter.

Additional Information for Kings Canyon

Emory Yount has campsite reservations in Moraine Campground in Cedar Grove-- Site No. 43 for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights; Site No. 41 for Saturday and Sunday. There is a small charge for each person. There will be climbing on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. This is a good trip for families. NOTE: gasoline is available at Cedar Grove; no odd/even system. Gas is also available in approach towns, but is scarce. John Moore, 714-541-8886, will be the assistant leader.

NEW ADDRESS

Wally Azbill, 2821 Amby Place, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254, 372-3385. JS

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEER

George Coleman, 4321 Alta Rd #2, Marina del Rey, CA 90291, 823-1053. BL

NEW RCS MEMBERS

Ruth Carter, 1903 Nowell Ave, Rowland Hts, CA 91748, 965-9316.
Paul Harris, 1115 1/2 Maple St, Sta Monica, CA 90405, 396-6236.
Nathan John, 1030 Isabella Ave, Monterey Park, CA 91754, 280-9468.
Russ Kirkpatrick, 18233 Newburgh St, Azusa, CA 91702, 332-0462. AF/JS

PROSPECTIVE RCS members are reminded to send in their completed Safety Test forms, as soon as they qualify for membership, to RCS Sec-Treas Jim Sharpsteen, 1916 Bluebird Rd, Glendora, CA 91740. AF

BOTANY LESSON: If P. Morrill and N. John climb in style at Lily, overcoming a stigma, what do we call it? Answer: Paul 'n' Nathan (or is this ovary optimistic?).

APOLOGY: Whoever was at the June Mugelnoos meeting and gave me their address in order to receive information on alpine ski touring, please drop me a postcard--I lost it! Sorry. --Barbara Lilley, 8421 Lindley Ave, Northridge 91325.

NOTE FOR TAHQUITZ LEADERS

Leaders of Tahquitz trips should use RCS as their initials when purchasing Ticketron reservation tickets. The campground posts the sites by initials, so the use of RCS will enable climbers to locate the reserved sites easily. LR

NEW MUGELMAILER LATCHES ON

The Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbers are fortunate to have obtained a new volunteer Mugelmailer: Dove Menkes, 2286 Loma Alta Drive, Fullerton, CA 92633, 714-525-7291. Send address changes to Dove; section members should also send changes to the secretary of the applicable section(s). When sending in subscriptions, please make checks payable to "Mugelnoos."

Many thanks to Dove and to outgoing Mugelmailer Phil Bruce, who got things so well organized. --Mugelnoos Committee

MISCELLANEOUS PERSONALS

John & Ruth Mendenhall spent four weeks in May/June touring the Balkan countries, including Greece and Turkey. The book transcribing their interviews for the Sierra Club Oral History program is done and should be available soon.

Howard Gates, the first Mugelmailer, was at the June meeting. He is a life member of the Nature Conservancy, according to the bulletin of that organization.

Nate Clark, former Sierra Club President and old time SMS chairman, showed movies at a recent Friday Dinners meeting.

Nick Clinch, RCS member and head of the Sierra Club Foundation, got the prize for best costume at the annual club banquet at SF in May; look in the July Bul.

Carl Jensen of "Jaunt" fame is living in San Diego with his new wife.

ISSUES OF ASCENT AVAILABLE

The Angeles Chapter History Committee has obtained a limited quantity of Ascent magazines, 1973 and 1974. This is a good opportunity to get these award-winning Sierra Club climbing journals if you missed them the first time around. The prices are \$3 for 1973 and \$2.50 for '74. John Ripley will have them at Mugelnoos meetings, or you may order by mail--send your check to Sierra Club Angeles Chapter History Committee, 140 Healy Trail, Chatsworth, CA 91311. Part of the proceeds go to help the committee's work.

MORE BOOKS AND MAGS...

The revised Tahquitz Guide is out and should be available locally soon. It may also be ordered directly by sending \$8.00 plus 75¢ shipping to American Alpine Club, New York, NY 10028.

Off Belay says it needs to expand its subscription base by 25% to continue. They are soliciting new readers.

THE MOUNTAIN SHOP has taken over the Kelty Northridge location, 9066 Tampa.

ROUGHHOUSE IN ROCKHOUSE

Ten hearty souls braved the gas shortage, long dirt roads, and unknown climbing terrain to explore the northeastern Dome Land area of Sequoia National Forest over the Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28. The drive into Rockhouse Basin from the Kennedy Meadows road involved about 15 miles of sometimes rocky dirt road. Dick Mundwiler, Paul Morrill, and Abe & Helen Siemens arrived Friday afternoon, while, according to passengers Ruth Carter and Carol Cooper, Russ Kirkpatrick's truck was airborne over parts of the road around midnight. Dick DeRusha arrived early Saturday morning, having pedaled (?) his 600 cc Honda car, thereby making this a ski outing, since he reportedly slid great distances on the center hump.

John Halcomb and leader Ripley finally arrived at 8:30 or so, and the group took off en masse toward the apparent best climbing area, south of Trout Creek. The Kern had to be waded, the first of many such crossings during the weekend. A rattlesnake was discovered just across the river, but the group sensibly left this behind and headed cross-country through open, semi-arid woodland up Trout Creek. At length we went up a side canyon toward some promising looking rocks.

Wrong Fork, Dome-Kopfs

By the time we stopped for lunch, the rocks above could be seen to be much less meet for climbing than had been hoped. The day had grown a bit hot, and some opted to stay at the lunch spot. DeRusha and Ripley followed Halcomb up a 1-pitch lieback (about 5.7), while Morrill and A. Siemens did a nice looking small face (1 pitch). We discovered from the top a vast view of limitless domes and formations to our west, all along the south side of Trout Creek from Woodpecker Mdw down to our location near the closest approach of Fish Creek to Trout Creek.

We also spotted a classic dihedral ("Domesday Book"?) on the north peak of Peak 7640' (Steamboat Rock or Stegosaurus Fin). A tired and hot crew waded and bathed in the Kern on our return to camp, which was at the junction of Trout Creek and the Kern.

To Fill 'Er Up, Just Wade in Line

We noted that "if only" we could drive across the high Spring water of the Kern, we could drive along Trout Creek on road 23S37 to the very base of the best area. After the baths, Kirkpatrick took along Morrill and Ripley to "take a look" at the crossing. The short of it is that we crossed OK, could not make the hump just beyond the river, and had to back up across the Kern. This went fine, though admittedly the Scout pulling tow chains from the bank compromised the sporting aspect. Russ's truck got considerable water and sand in the cab, but the major effect was that the brakes did not work during the return to camp. Russ didn't seem to notice.

Domes Within Our Sphere

Sunday a few chose sunning, fishing, etc. DeRusha and Morrill went up to try the dihedral on Peak 7640', finding it would need aid a pitch up. Dick has interesting stories about the applicability of chocks to this crack. Retreat was followed by return to camp.

Halcomb, Cooper, A. Siemens, and Ripley hiked to "Columbia Dome" (Ref Mar/Apr 78 Climbing Mag.), using, like DeRusha and Morrill, road 23S37. The area thereabouts has huge potential, but the foursome found a pleasant but uninspiring 2 pitch route of about 5.0 on the north side of Columbia. The rock quality was very good.

The end of Sunday found everyone drained, so we slept in and all left Monday morning. We caravanned out because Ripley's car had broken a wheel lug stud on Sunday and confidence waned; no problem arose, however.

This part of Dome Land will provide many excellent trips in future years, especially in the Fall, when the river is low. Leader Ripley thanks Dick DeRusha for filling in as assistant and the participants for a good trip--one which broke the ice to open a new region to the Rock Climbing Section.

JR

N E A R L Y B I V O U A C K E D

by Bob D'Evelyn

We in the RCS are sometimes criticized by nonmembers as being old, lethargic, and overly safety conscious. An experience at the Tahquitz outing during June 9 and 10 justifies, in my opinion, the RCS emphasis on mountaineering safety.

Our chosen route on Saturday was the East Lark. We knew it was a long climb on which one could get lost. Our approach was to set up 2 separate climbing parties of 3 climbers each, with an RCS member as the rope leader. The leading party knew the route. We made several mistakes: the first was starting up at 10:30 am; the second was that none of us had a flashlight.

We progressed up the rock face steadily but slowly, arriving at the last belay stance in the exit chute about 7:45 pm. Still plenty of light left, right? Wrong! The last pitch through the chute turned out to be the most difficult.

Due to a dearth of belay space at the bottom of the chute, the rope leader (a student) of the previous pitch was in an ideal position to lead the last pitch. He started up the chute. At the top of an eight foot vertical section, he became psyched out--something that happens to all of us. He could neither progress nor climb down.

At this point our safety training paid off. The rope leader found another anchor and managed to maintain his position. The belayer tied him off and belayed me.

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NEARLY BIVOUACKED Continued from Page 3.

I climbed past the belayer, attached one of my prusiks to the rope of the anchored climber, and managed to negotiate the 8 foot chimney with my day pack still on. After exchanging the pack for the rack of hardware, I utilized the last 15 minutes of daylight to "bulldoze" up the rest of the chute to the notch.

By now it was totally dark, and the wind was gusting so we could shout to each other only during the brief lulls. My belayer now disconnected her anchor, picked up the gear, and struggled up the chute in the darkness with the howling wind. Finally we belayed the other climber up. It was now 9:30 pm.

The moon was climbing in the sky, so we started down the back side. A short way down we saw a bobbing light coming toward us. It was none other than the trip leader, John Moore. He had given up a steak at the Charthouse to come up and find out what had happened. We were grateful for his lantern and concern.

In retrospect, the chute episode was a bit much for beginners. Had we not had the RCS safety training, we might have had to spend the night in that chute trying to keep warm. Deanna said she would have kept us warm; did we miss something?

WHY A COMMITTEE - A REBUTTAL

by Barbara Lilley

In response to R. J. Secor's letter in the June Mugelnoos regarding the change of the Ski Mountaineers from a section to an "Alpine Ski Touring Committee," it might be appropriate to point out that prior to attending a couple of tours this year, he had been out of state and inactive with the SMS for 4 years and is hardly qualified to have an understanding of the situation. As a matter of fact, the need for Committee status had been discussed with Central Committee members and with participants on Spring 1979 tours, with most in general agreement or neutral. (It is not for discussion at Mugelnoos meetings; these are social, not business meetings and a "section" meeting is unrealistic as membership is too widely scattered.)

Most of the section activities described in the latest (1972) bylaws, such as ski tests, "Big Badge" tests, even elections, are simply no longer possible, nor is finding 6 members to serve on a Central Committee for a year--even though interest is continuous, there is a high turnover due to the special nature of alpine ski touring. A committee requires no formal bylaws (although safety rules can and would be established) and only a chairman, appointed by the Executive Committee, who in turn can call meetings of those members currently active, to plan the scheduled activities for an appropriate time period. As previously mentioned, it is intended to continue most of the present SMS activities--provide information and schedule introductory and overnight alpine ski tours for experienced "downhill" skiers interested in touring with alpine equipment--and of course retain the affiliation with the Mugelnoos meetings and newsheet.

Alpine ski touring has indeed become more popular thanks to the availability of Ramer bindings; yet at the same time its users can simply go on their own private trips with their friends without having to turn to an organized group for help and information as in the past. But the main reason for the small number of new members is, of course, due to the Sierra Club's opposition to downhill skiing resorts--because most downhill skiers, the best source of potential new members, are extremely reluctant to be associated with any activity connected with the Club--and downhill skiing skills are a necessity for alpine ski touring. As this situation is unlikely to change, it is felt that the more flexible and informal structure of a committee has a far better chance of maintaining this small but continuing interest in alpine ski touring within the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club and that it is far better to "end a 44-year tradition" than to end the opportunity for both new and long-time members to continue to enjoy this activity.

However, formation of this committee has been postponed to permit more opportunity for input from members; any comments should be addressed to Cliff Cameron, 2990 Topaz Ave, Simi Valley, CA 90363, within a reasonable period of time.

FROM THE FILES OF THE MUGELNOOS

10 Years Ago--July 1969. Mugelnoos reported on the untimely death of Ed Lane in the Yukon. An RCS trip to Rock Creek in the Sierra over the 4th saw two parties climb the North Buttress of Bear Creek Spire.

20 Years Ago--July 1959. Frank Hoover, Don Wilson, and Pat Kirby spent a week rafting on the Colorado River. George Harr, Ray Van Aken, and Lyn Gray spent two weeks in the Bugaboos and did Crescent and Bugaboo Spires.

30 Years Ago--July 1949. The RCS spent the 4th in Yosemite Valley. Chuck Wilts, Spencer Austin, and Harry Sutherland made the third attempt on the unclimbed East Buttress of El Cap. The Park Service advised climbers not to "yodel, call, or make any sounds" not essential to the climb because of the traffic jams which resulted.

40 Years Ago--July 1939. Hut work parties were very popular. Money was being raised for the Keller Hut Annex as work progressed. The RCS spent the 4th at the Minarets, where John Mendenhall and Ruth Dyar were forced to bivouac part way up Banner. This has since been considered a pivotal event, as they were married two months later.

(Continued on page 5)

--Ed.

THE FIRST SECTIONS

It may interest Mugelnoos readers to know when and how special activity sections started in our chapter. While our Ski Mountaineers Section has sometimes been called the first, it really wasn't.

Actually, the chapter had a "Nature Study Section" in the late 1920's, but I have not yet been able to determine whether this group had membership requirements or trip

There is no doubt, however, about the RCS. Our RCS took its cue from the Bay Chapter RCS, which started in the Fall of 1932. The Bay RCS had a management committee called the Rock Climbing Committee, whose chairman (Dick Leonard) was appointed by the chapter Executive Committee. S. C. members had to attend two climbs to join, and had to have four climbs per year to stay active. They ran many scheduled trips.

Our Southern California (now Angeles) RCS was organized in the Fall of 1934. The operation and membership requirements of the Bay RCS were adopted; Art Johnson was appointed the first chairman. New members were voted in by the Rock Climbing Committee. The RCS was not the only section at that time. A Junior Section (like today's Youth Section) was organized about 1933; it folded in the late 1930's.

The first RCS trip was to Eagle Rock on November 3, 1934. Four days later, an organizational meeting took place, the first in a series that led to formation of the Ski Mountaineers as an independent club. The fourteen founders "railroaded an election on December 10th (1934), and came up gasping the results to an eager public, composed chiefly of Dawson's pet canary...." Walter Mosauer was elected "President."

The SM came into the Sierra Club on October 7, 1935, when the Chapter Executive Committee made the transfer official. Thus, the Ski Mountaineers became the third section in existence at that time--but with a twist. Though expressly subject to the authority of the Executive Committee, the section was allowed to elect its own officers. This democratic mode of operation ultimately became universal in our chapter. The RCS adopted bylaws providing for elected officers in November 1936.

So, one may state that of the present sections, the SMS was (apparently) the first to be democratically governed, while the RCS is the oldest; neither was the first.

--Editor

LONG LIVE THE SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION!

by Joan D. Clark

So "the Ski Mountaineers Section will become inactive at the end of the current season." In addition to Barbara Lilley, who says so? Nobody asked me. According to the SMS bylaws, "In order to maintain active membership in the section, a member must continue Sierra Club membership and subscribe to the Mugelnoos." As one who meets these requirements, I very strongly object to this airy way of abolishing one of the oldest sections in the chapter.

"A committee can more easily adjust to the fluctuations in the levels of activity and interest, etc.--well, no mere committee is going to be able to adjust the snow depth level, which has always been "seasonal and weather dependent," not only in Southern California. How nice: they will "of course retain an affiliation with the Mugelnoos newsheet and meetings." What meetings, if there is no SMS?

When B.J.L., the May editor, omitted the timely article about a reunion of "Old Ski Mountaineers," she probably didn't know that the roster of invited guests included two dozen Big Badge members, and many other still active skiers--a lot more, in fact, than the total mentioned in recent alpine ski tours.

In my active skiing days, most of us worked 5½ days a week and earned subminimum salaries. My alpine ski touring was by necessity restricted to the Baldy Bowl and Keller Peak. However, because we couldn't afford fancy equipment (it hadn't been invented yet) and spend our time on tours to faraway places, we built the ski huts, which are still enjoyed year round by numerous club members.

If they must have official status, let the proposed "Alpine Ski Touring Committee" become a committee of the Ski Mountaineers Section; but let's keep the section--whatever its ups and downs (sometimes called mugels).

Who knows, next year there may be dandy snow at Pear Lake, but no gasoline to get there.

WHO'S WILLING TO PAY FOR THIS RAG?

A survey was made some time ago of the Mugelnoos subscription list, providing a snapshot, so to speak, of the group of paying readers as of July 1978. The results, though now a year old, probably give a fairly accurate picture of present conditions. Affiliations of the 360 paid subscribers could be traced as follows:

RCS	56%	SMS	29%	Neither	28%
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The total is 113% because of the overlap between the two sections. The RCS got credit for currently enrolled (1978) students, but not the many students from previous classes who still were on the list. Ex-RCS members who still subscribed were treated as RCS, since "retired" Ski Mountaineers who still subscribe are still members. Those with ties to both sections were counted twice.

Some subscribers are willing to pay more for the Mugelnoos than is required. Last Fall, Robert L. M. Underhill and Wilford Finch made substantial donations, and quite a few others sent in more than \$2.00. Underhill is entitled to free Mugelnoos as an honorary RCS member! Obviously, interest in the Noos is strong. --Editor

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION -- PAST AND FUTURE

by Ruth D. Mendenhall

I was astounded to read in the May 15, 1979 Mugelnoos the statement by Barbara Lilley that the Ski Mountaineers Section would soon be replaced by an "Alpine Ski Touring Committee." The Ski Mountaineers bylaws state that no change can be made without a vote of the membership; yet apparently few members have been consulted. According to the June Mugelnoos, even the Central Committee had not discussed the matter. As a member of SMS since 1937, and active in the section till I moved to Seattle last summer, I protest such a change.

B. Lilley stated: "...For a long time now the number of active members, both new and old, has really not been large enough to justify its continued existence as a section, especially since its scheduled activities are so seasonal and weather dependent." I must comment that the SMS was for decades a large, strong, active section NOT because most of its members took part in alpine tours, but because it provided varied trips and activities for anyone interested in skiing; and that it attracted members with widely varied abilities and interests because they had such good times.

As related in Mugelnoos many times, the Ski Mountaineers was formed in 1934 by 14 students who were interested in ski touring in California's mountains (there were no tows then). In 1935 the group joined the Sierra Club and became one of its first special activity sections. Five years later, the group had increased to 300 members, only a handful of whom were skilled alpine type skiers, who were welcomed for what they could contribute.

During the 1930's--in the Depression--the members financed and built three ski huts (the first one on Baldy burned). Many nonskiing Sierra Club members helped. For over 30 years, the SMS managed and maintained the huts. Committees took over the management for a time; and recently the Angeles Chapter assumed responsibility when the Sierra Club directors assigned lodges to the chapters most involved.

Besides the ski huts which have given so much pleasure to many over the years, the section's numerous and varied activities included:

1. Work parties at the huts; central commissaries summer and winter at the huts.
2. Winter parties at the huts (not necessarily just for skiing).
3. Giving ski lessons in the same spirit that the RCS gives climbing lessons.
4. Fund raising "ski rallies" in town.
5. The Mugelnoos, started in January 1938 and published regularly ever since (the SC's first newsheet), which became the joint publication of the SMS and RCS in April 1938.
6. Classes in ski mountaineering, first aid, rescue, and other skills related to competent ski mountaineering. These classes helped less accomplished members work up to "Big Badge" status, and thus qualify for more difficult tours.
7. Conducted Fourth and Third class (and also Sierra Club) ski tests.
8. Scheduled easy tours for neophytes.
9. Scheduled alpine type tours for Big Badge members only.
10. Held races on difficult courses at San Antonio and San Geronio.
11. Held an annual ice skating trip to Dollar Lake in the late Fall.

Activities naturally changed with tows and resorts and new technologies in skiing. In recent years, however, it appears that the section has dropped almost all activities except alpine tours. It seems to me that instead of the Ski Mountaineers section being disbanded, it should try for a few years to widen its interests and activities along the traditional lines of the group while adapting to modern ski interests and equipment. Such activities might include:

1. Alpine tours, on alpine terrain, with alpine equipment only.
2. Instructional tours (rather than mere "check-out" tours) to help those interested learn about safe alpine touring; and similar tours for Nordic skiers.
3. Nordic tours. It is accepted knowledge that there is much variety in Nordic equipment, and certainly there is terrain in California where Nordic tours more difficult than so-called "snow touring" would have a place. There are also SMS members who are accomplished and interested in such tours.
4. Occasional "mixed" Nordic and alpine tours where varied terrain permits, so the different members could camp together if not ski together.
5. Other types of gatherings, such as "old timer" parties at the ski huts (after all, it is unrealistic to expect older members to often participate in difficult alpine tours!).

In addition, I think that more courtesy to newcomers, more discreet and tactful ways of helping those who blunder into a trip for which they are not prepared, and a better spirit of good times for all, would gradually rebuild the strength of this old and valuable section. The Ski Mountaineers have brought many loyal and valuable members into the Sierra Club, who have turned out to be dedicated conservationists. Long may the section live!!

IN OLDEN DAYS

John D. Mendenhall's name was for years associated with ski hut work parties. Recent research has revealed that he could not escape this duty because on every such trip, someone must Mend an' haul. It may also be recalled that John met Ruth on Tahquitz Rock, with a view towards Marryin'.

Along these lines, climbers in those days were strong and silent in action, as evidenced by the Rock's name, from the observation "Talk quits for climbing." --Ed.