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A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and the Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$5/year due in October

### JIM SHARPSTEEN 1923 - 1982

As many of you know, Jim died at his home in Glendora on Sunday, September 5th, after a hard and eventually losing battle with cancer. To all who knew him, even casually, his going is a real loss. But it truly leaves a deep chasm in the lives of those RCS members who had the good fortune to have climbed, hiked, and camped with him or known him as a section officer and training leader - some of the ways he contributed so unsparingly of his time and intelligence. We knew him as a skilled and dedicated mountaineer who to the last kept broadening his understanding of the mountains; and we also knew him as a loyal and generous friend.

Those RCS'ers who, along with hundreds of Jim's friends from other aspects of his life, attended the very moving memorial ceremony on September 10, were made increasingly aware of the fact that Jim quite simply loved mountains; he lived on a mountainside and he and his wife Mickey traveled, camped, hiked, and climbed in them as often as possible.

Jim also had other interests - a surprising variety of them - but there isn't space for them all. One was music, to which he brought the same devotion and intelligence that he gave to climbing. He never stopped studying and endeavoring to be even better at it. He was for many years a member of the Dixieland group that played so beautifully at the memorial service.

As was stated in the Memorial Meditation, it is difficult - perhaps impossible - to find logic in the fate that brought to an end such a useful and joyful life as Jim's.

Our deep sympathy goes to Mickey and all of their family.

FW

### MIDDLE PAL TRIP...THE RCS SNOW TOUR

14 climbers, some from Arizona, signed in at a snowy camp located across the lake from Palisade Crest. A storm shortly before the trip added to an already substantial spring snow pack. As a result, few 5th class rock routes were climbed.

RCS members Tidball & Ryan were equipped to handle any condition, having brought skis, ropes, and rock gear in addition to the usual backpacking things. Thus equipped, they toured Mt. Gayley, and Mt. Sill. Others less equipped climbed Gayley, Temple Crag, or Clyde Peak. The Somoano family attempted an ice climb on the East Couloir of Sill-

AF

### ANNUAL RCS PURGE

Once again as the sullen winds cast their dampness upon the passing memories of summer and hail the approach of Autumn, we joyously gather in accord with the rituals of Fall to cast out those who do not humble themselves before us. The RCS "Rite of Passing" haughtily referred to as the Annual Business Meeting, is approaching. At the time of this ritual we will demonstrate to those RCS members who have not attained their required annual four days of climbing with our section that we are greatly concerned about their welfare. After due consideration we will summarily kick them out. Of course, we do allow and desire plea bargaining, for we are just and merciful. One member (potential victim) who appeared before this tribunal of fun-loving friends likened it unto the early Christian in a Roman arena pleading with the starving lion for mercy. Other young and old pre-adolescents other than RCS members may attend as observers of our festivities so that word may be spread of the folly to be visited upon those who decide to grow-up and be serious. This august event will commence at 7pm on Wednesday, October 27 in the Orange Room of the DWP in downtown Los Angeles.

(con'd)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor for September - Kathy Crandall
Mugelgrapher - Margo Koss
Mugelmailer - Dove Menkes
Reporters: Andy Fried, Tom Jeter, Margo Koss, Don Pies, Virgil Shields, Fred Wing, and Emory Yount

RCS NOTES

An assistant leader is needed for the Thanksgiving Holiday climb at J.T., Nov 26-28. Contact Virgil Shields.

Next Editor: Tom Jeter
#C-7
321 E. Orangewood Ave
Anaheim, CA 90024
(714) 750-2590

The Owens Ridge trip will be conducted across private property, so contact leader re details.

Next Issue: October 19
Deadline: Wednesday, October 13

The Leadership Training Program lectures will be given on the weekend of Oct 16-17. You must attend these lectures to obtain a leader rating to lead RCS trips. Contact Leadership Training Committee for details; infor in Angeles Chapter Chedule (Gary Franklin rates them 9 1/2 on a scale of 1-10. Compare your rating systems! 3d)

CALENDAR

Sept 18-19, Tahquitz, RCS, Bayless/Koss
Sept 25-26, Suicide, RCS, Lindgren/Lees
Oct 9-11, RCS, Yosemite Valley, Russ/Peters
Oct 17, RCS, Sespe Gorge, Wing/Houpt
\* Oct 23 SMS and Potluck Crandall
\* Oct 24 RCS Picnic, Big Rock, Shields/Jeter
Oct 30-31, RCS, Owens Ridge, Perkins/Moore
Nov 13-14, RCS, Joshua Tree, Yount/Mundweiler
Nov 26-28, Joshua Tree, Russ/Harris
Dec 19, Stoney Pt., Training Committee
\*Note new date - was Dec. 12.

RCS COURSE

RCS members recommending a candidate for the training course should provide Leroy Russ with the applicant's name no later than September 30. LR

Safety Test.

The Safety Test was cancelled because only two eligible proficiency card holders applied for membership. Remember, after climbing with the RCS for a season you can join and enjoy all the privileges of membership. (Such as editing the M'noos) LR

October Mugelnoos Program

The October Mugelnoos meeting will feature a "potpourri" (Ed. Honest) of slides from this year's climbing season. Everyone - even hard core derelicts - is invited (requested, urged, cajoled) to bring up to ten slides of this year's events (or the dog, cat, kids, etc).

Carpooling
Even though the price of gas is dropping, every effort should be made to carpool. The Tuolumne trip showed a definite lack of carpooling by participants. Besides the gas wasting, we are running the risk of having problems result from the excessive number of cars per campsite (almost 30 per site at Tuolumne!) Trip leaders are provided with a carpool sheet. When you call the leader, advise him/her if you can take riders or want to carpool with someone. Carpooling is better for your health, bank account, and social life! LR

ADVENTURE UNLIMITED

As well as a worthy goal, this is the name of the shop which has picked up the fall-out from Rock and Ice. Run by student, climber, and entrepreneur Larry Ladd, A U features limited markup on all climbing equipment. Larry is offering discounts on many items to RCS members, e.g. Friends from \$30 - \$39, with extra 10% discounts to RCS'ers. This months special is a six fall, 165' 'edelrid 11mm rope for \$89.00 Call for other prices and the month's special. Shop is located at 2426 W. Whittier Bl, La Habra. 90631. Phone 213-691-1161, T-F 5pm-9pm; Sat 9-5.

Stragglers

Some RCS have threatened to get together and develop a repertoire of dire retributions to wield against climbers who are inconsiderate enough to stay out past the leader's time limit on the last day of the trip. Please be timely. Either that or sign up for LTP so you can experience the problem from the other side. MK (or VS?)

LOST LOST LST
Blue shovel at Tuolumne - by Greg Vernon
12006 Mitscher, Ridgecrest 93555

POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK

Ski Mountaineers are reminded that the annual hike and potluck will be held on October 23rd. Beginning with assembly at Kathy Crandall's home at 1025 E. Woodbury Rd in Altadena at 9:30 am for a local hike (location will depend on what's open in the front range), we will return in time for cocktails and a potluck dinner eventually resulting in setting up the spring SMS schedule. Call Kathy to confirm attendance.

PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC
The Annual RCS Picnic will be held at Big Rock on Sunday, October 24. This is for members, students, proficiency card holders, family, but not, alas, dogs. It will commence at 9:30am or so and continue till the beer, food, and sun disappear. Bring salad or dessert for eight or main course for four. If you would like hot dogs or hamburgers, bring those - we'll supply the buns. Anyone with a hibachi is requested to bring sam. RCS will supply drinks, paper goods, and charcoal. Guitars, violins, banjos/pianos, and other musical instruments especially welcome!

Purge cont'd

A little known occurrence at these meetings is the levation of present and past members of considerable repute to an honorary member status. It has been rumored that probable nominations will include Nick Clinch, the perennial RCS sacrificial lamb (observed in the mob at Tuolumne this year - in good voice).

Awards for the best climb, the most climbs, and the funniest (most humiliating) climbing experience involving an RCS member will be decided at this time. Winners will be nominated and voted upon by those in attendance.

At the conclusion of this event will be the sacrificial rite referred to as the election of officers for the coming year. A nominating committee has been appointed consisting of Fred Wing, Don Pies, and Emory Yount. These members may be approached with nominations for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. Remember, those who fail to attend constitute the best pool when it comes to selection of officers (Ed: Where was Virgil last year?) VS

And ON THE OTHER HAND...NEW AND REINSTATED RCS MEMBERS and PROFICIENCY CARD HOLDERS. (After the required grovelling)

Jim Campbell (12/71-10/81, 9/82)  
9102 Woolley St.  
Temple City CA 91780  
213 286-9751 (H)  
213 356-3950 (W)

Greg Vernon (8/82)  
2006 Mitscher  
Ridgecrest CA 93555  
714 446-5724

Alois Smrz (8/82)  
4201 Via Marina #246  
Marina del Rey CA 90291  
213 823-8628

Nelson Willis (8/82)  
450 Entrada Dr  
Santa Monica Cyn CA 90402  
213 459-6922

Bob Harvey (Proficiency card)  
P.O. Box 1366  
Idyllwild CA 92340  
714 659-5260

THE GOOD NEWS

Due to the outstanding success of Reaganomics, the inflation in Mugelnoos subscription cost has decreased from 33% in 1981 to a more manageable 25% in 1982. In terms of real cash flow, \$5.00 must flow from your pockets to the coffers of long-suffering Dove Menkes in October. Remember when you could mail a letter for less than it cost to hand deliver it? Ed.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF COLORADO (or ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOW)

Twelve days of tripping  
Eleven patches blue sky  
Ten wet EB's  
Nine climbers climbing,  
Eight soggy pitches,  
Seven gullies gushing,  
Six tons of hailstones,  
Five rainy days,  
Four wet ropes,  
Three bedraggled women,  
Two steamy cars,  
And a single dry climbing day!

(in Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park and Boulder)  
(Anna's, Jane's, Margo's and both pairs of Paul's) (those four, plus Mike, Liz, Becky, Becky's sister, and a stray man) (climbing routes transformed into waterfalls (dumped on us while leading a face)  
(Jane's, Margo's, and both of Paul's!) (guess who)  
(when Mike, Anna, Paul and Margo climbed Bastille Crack in Eldorado Canyon-- before the deluge) MK

Tuolumne Meadows

Up to 77 people signed in each day at the campground. With family and other added, the group was well over 100. Several parties climbed Cathedral Peak, Po<sup>139</sup> Dome, Lembert, Stately Pleasure Dome and Mammoth Peak.

Saturday night found RCS musicians entertaining well into the night while RCS kids played D&D or joined in the merriment. All went well and the latest return went to Tim Ryan who arrived around 8pm. (Second place to trip leader Andy Fried & co) (Special thanks to Andy for taking over as leader from Fred Wing when Fred's wife became ill and needed to be brought to low altitude. ED)

Tuolumne (kon'd)

Our thanks to Park rangers who did not complain when we were so obviously over the camp limit of 30 per site. In future we will try to secure additional group sites, under different names if need be. (Theoretically groups are limited to two sites.) It should be noted that dogs are allowed only in camp sites in pet section. Perhaps next year we should try to get an RCS site in this section as well.

AF

### THE BALLS

Ten climbers, two guests, and a bear attended the RCS climb at The Balls, August 14-16. This climbing area consists of a series of granite dome-like rocks stretching for two miles along Beasore Road, about 30 miles northeast of Bass Lake. The climbing ranges from top rope practice areas to multi pitch class 5. Three significant routes (5 to 7 pitches) were completed on the western-most dome by Baca - Powers - Wirt and Koss - Russ. The bear raided our camp site on Sat. night; we gave him all of Mike Baca's food supply and he went away happy. Thanks are hereby forwarded to Royal Robbins for providing us with route descriptions.

EY

### Idyllwild Hydro Climbing - Round Two

Participants of the August 21-22 Suicide climb experienced a repeat performance of the weather that prevailed on the RCS trip to Tahquitz in July. Saturday brought a few light sprinkles by mid-day and Sunday's climbing ended early with a downpour. Bob Harvey reports that the area's unusually wet year has made the summer quite boring for the local fire department.

The muggy weather and threatening storm on Saturday did not seem to dampen spirits. Twenty-six climbers charged up most of the usual routes plus the more infrequently climbed Delila, the 5.9 variation on Hernia, Flower of High Rank, and Clam Chowder. The level of climbing was impressive; 20% of the ascents were below 5.6, 38% were 5.6 or 5.7, and 42% were 5.8 or 5.9. Somebody is training somebody right!

Teresa Casacky wins the Sand Bag award for portraying a timid beginner at the roadhead. She then polished off Guillotine in good style (her first 5.8). Maureen Powers gets the Blushing Granite award after verbally abusing the rock on Breakout. Fortunately, no one climbing with the RCS deserved the MACH 1 Award. An unknown person climbing next to us did qualify for this dubious honor by taking a 50 foot leader fall. Although the climbing difficulty was clearly above his ability, he apparently felt secure since he was using fancy climbing gear. The bottom line to survival - the leader must not fall. (Ed: Especially 25' out) DP

### IF THIS ISN'T TRUE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO LIE BACK

In the interest of making something perfectly clear, we would like to take this opportunity to lecture certain members who, perfect in every other way, are taking undue liberties with language on the rock. Climbers, no more than followers of any other pursuit, are subject to the rules of good grammar. Even possessors of a bona fide poetic license (available at the DMV - ED) will only exercise their privilege with discretion, lest it be revoked through abuse. We are talking about "lieback".

Now lieback is a noun deriving from that troublesome verb "to lie," which means to recline. Principal parts are lie, lay, lain and lying, not to be confused with "to lay" (no chuckles please), which means to set down, principal parts being lay, laid (stop laughing) and laying. And please confuse neither with lie, lied, lying, which means to tell a fib. The first verb, for you cognoscenti, is intransitive, the second, transitive (takes a direct object), and the third lie (fib) again intransitive.

So you have your basic lieback, which, at 5.7 or so, gives a true boost to the ego. You just have to have faith in that grip even though your tootsies are right up there next to your fingers. It will get you up many a dihedral. (One of our members recently expressed revulsion at the word dihedral. I don't think he knows what it means -- but we'll save that for our next lecture.

So, just as you have passerS-by and motherS-in-law, when you do a lieback, you are LYING BACK, not liebacking! A simple concept, though it'll take some practice

LIES con'd

before you blurt it out properly under stress. Try repeating it 100 times or so before going to bed at night instead of counting the bolt placements on EL Cap. And please please please please please, don't let's make a blithering adjective out of this perfectly innocent verb noun. The next time I hear someone speak of a "liebacky" pitch, I swear I'll jump off the rock. Well, son second thought...

Underground Grammarian

Ed. Note: Some might wonder why O.G. couldn't be more laid back about this lying business. Perhaps we'll soon hear he's joined that elite group of grammarians who indicate to their partners that they are at the other end of a taut rope by saying "That is I!"

#### SURVIVING CLIMBING SEMANTICS

Why is it that a Sunday afternoon on a popular rock face often sounds like the Tower of Babble? Turning back the pages of climbing history a few years, I recall a day at Tahquitz when Leroy Russ and myself were roped into (pun intended?) teaming up with an individual who claimed to have just learned climbing from a local college. Despite his academic efforts at this institution of higher education, he appeared confused by the belay calls. He was not sure which was the belayer's correct response to a climbing signal: "Roger" or "10-4". LeRoy asked him if he had read any books on climbing methods. He said, "Yes, Warren Harding's Downward Bound."

Situations like this are not surprising. Just try climbing abroad. A Californian visiting a British climbing area soon learns to refer to 5.9 climbing by the distinguished rating Hard Very Severe. As he travels south to the Alps and adopts the UIAA system, the same level of difficulty is defined "extremely difficult" or given a Grade VI rating. Upon returning to Yosemite, if he mistakenly agrees to make a climb by this UIAA rating, he will likely find himself on the Pacific Ocean Wall. Spanish climber Miguel Rodriguez and I recently experiences the linguistic dilemma of forming an international climbing party.

During the early part of our climb on The Prow, Miguel would use the Continental expression "Rope" to tell me that he wanted me to let more rope out. I explained that in America "Rope" is short for "Up Rope", meaning pull the rope in, and "Slack" instructs the belayer to let rope out. Miguel quickly adopted the new system, so whenever he wished me to pay out rope, he would yell "Slack". Likewise, whenever he was belaying and I yelled "Slack", he would reiterate the call and feed me rope.

As we were nearing the end of the route, the climbing looked easy, so I led off with a small rack of equipment. I was stopped at a point where the route followed a deep crack over a small overhang. Without enough direct aid gear to ascend the overhang, I reverted to free climbing an awkward looking horizontal crack to the side. This alternative required careful attention because a slip would result in a serious pendulum fall. Even though I had brushed away all the rotten rock from the crack's surfaces, a second layer of rock began to disintegrate when I leaned back on my fist jams. Feeling the sudden loss of control and the threat of a big fall coming, I screamed with fear and frustration the words "f--k, f--k". The unexpected response heard from below was ... "SLACK?" DP  
(ed: He should have liebacked it - oops. lied it back? laid it back? lain it back?)

#### TAHQUITZ IN JULY (24-25)

A dramatic weekend of climbing awaited 36 RCS climbers on Saturday and 27 climbers Sunday. To begin with, seldom have RCS climb leaders shown such dedication to duty as did Jim McPherson and Tom Jeter on this occasion! Jim had been on business in Mexico City and had reluctantly flown back the day before solely to fulfill his obligation to the RCS. Tom Jeter, with equal reluctance, had cut short his vacation in French Polynesia, and was still in Tahiti shock as he arrived at Humber Park clad only in a flowered pareo tied in the style favoured by paddlers in the long polynesian war canoes. By his side was his new long dark-haired wahine friend, Chris, also wearing a pareo and her gentle Bora Bora smile.

The climbers were duly informed that Tahquitz had seen afternoon thunder-showers every day for the last week. 15 rope teams were assembled, which assaulted the rock posthaste, climbing with some anxiety and an eye toward the gathering clouds. However, not a drop fell all day. Sheila Szymanski led Stephen Pay and Rick Davis up Uneventful, Larry Tidball with Scott Beoberg and Bob Maher did East Lark, Jim McPherson took Ray Emerick & Mike Lorr up the Trough, and LeRoy Russ negotiated the North Buttress with Teresa Casacky and Maureen Powers. Jim Bryla

July Tahquitz (con;d)  
 with Nelson Willis and Nick Smith with Robert Norvell climbed Piton Pooper, Tony Bird and John Orange did Fools Rush, Bob Harvy and Phil Thomas teamed on Trader Horn, and Glenn Kaplan did Fools Rush with Eric Callow. Ken Lee teamed with Don Pies on a Lark, and Tom Jeter & Rodney Schaerer did the Fingertip Traverse. Climbing Jensens Jaunt with Kent Withers and Scott Bailey, Rich Banister let loose with a bomb in the front of a Tahquitz guidebook, which fell from his back pocket while negotiating the squeeze chimney. The book floated down amongst a party on El Camino Real who were heard to comment "What the hell is this?". Tom Jeter later that afternoon climbed up to recover the book off a ledge, and for a small fee (analogous to a salvage fee in maritime law) will return the book to Rich at the next mugelnoos meeting. Last (to come down - 6.45 PM) but not least were John Peters, Phil Rabichow and Rudolpho Iturriaga, who started on the Error, made a routefinding error, and finished up Sahara Terror. I'm told Birdie Peters greeted John with a rolling pin in town for his tardyness; it costing him a big steak dinner feed at the Chart House to make thing right!

Sunday morning found asst. leader McPherson speedily on his way back to Mexico City, after recruiting John Peters to assume his leadership responsibilities. John held down the fort at Lunch Rock while 9 RCS rope teams lustily assaulted the routes. Yours truly found himself on a rope with Rodney Schaerer and my old friend Dan Eaton (remember the good old days under RCS Chairman Dan? He is happily back amongst us now, having recently moved to San Diego from Seattle). Unfortunately, the skies opened up with a vengeance around noon, drenching our climbers with cold rain amidst much thunder and lightning. While Bryla and Willis, and Pies, Klenk and King managed to finish their climbs (Finger Grip and Fingertip, respectively), everyone else retreated safely via multiple rappels.

At Mountain Center only 5 miles away, a man was killed by one of the lightning strikes this same afternoon while standing under a tall tree in the large flat area of Lake Hemet. While lightning did not strike Tahquitz Rock itself on Sunday, it can - and did last summer, paralyzing a climber belaying from the large tree at the end of the North Buttress route. He survived because his heart was restarted within minutes by knowledgable paramedics who happened to be nearby. In conclusio, I'd like to remind RCS'ers that a CPR and artificial respiration course is highly recommended for all climbers. In addition, I wonder if a member of our Safety Committee might not review in Mugelnoos the do's and dont's of being caught out in a lightning storm.

TJ

P.S. Lost - one water bottle(Leroy Russ) red string attaching cap.  
Found- one water bottle - Early Winters (you tell me color).

(Ed. note: Unfortunately, this was cut slightly due to lack of space.)

Dove menkes  
 2530 Coventry Circle  
 Fullerton, CA 92633