

# THE BALDWIN

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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 Pat Holleman, 1838 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 \$7 per year due in October.

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## CALLING ALL BALDY HUT PEOPLE:

GALA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT  
HARWOOD LODGE JUNE 27 - 28

Everyone who loves the San Antonio Ski Hut is invited to a celebration of its 50th year of existence. On June 27-28 at Harwood Lodge we will host a gathering of the original hut builders and other old-timers from the 1930's, as well as anyone who has ever visited the beloved little structure and holds a fondness for the place.

There will be slides, movies, albums, snapshots, and a gourmet dinner and breakfast by Jim & Betty Powers. On Sunday, for those who can make the hike, we'll toast and reminisce up at the Hut.

Special invitations have been sent to everyone we could think of, but if you know of an old-timer who hasn't been contacted, please do so. Make reservations for the weekend with Jim Powers, 175 Wilson St, Sierra Madre, Ca 91024. (I am unsure of the nominal cost, but you could pay at Harwood. The Baldy Hut treasury is underwriting part of the cost.)

(JW)

## BASECAMP NOSTALGIA -- 1939-87

Forty-eight years ago, the coeducational, cooperative Griffin Avenue Basecamp was established by six somewhat penniless, unmarried ski mountaineers and rock climbers who longed for a real home. It lasted on a hard-working, hilarious basis for two-and-a-half years, till the draft blew most of the personnel away to war. In May 1939, friends and relatives said, "It won't work." But on May 9, 1987, twenty-two former denizens and their friends held a reunion at Howard and Ruth Koster's exotic new condo in Pasadena. Most weren't quite as agile as way-back-then, but jokes, laughing and friendship predominated over the misfortunes and tragedies that are part of a long life.

In 1939, Depression economics still held sway. Skiing was cheap (no lifts; huts instead of resorts); ditto climbing (ropes and hardware provided by the RCS). The well-furnished 9-room house at 4343 Griffin, L.A., rented for \$75 a month, icecream was often 5¢ a pint. The Perfect Landlady was Grace Shults, providentially a cousin of Aurelia Harwood. She and her husband, Clarence, lived in a small attached apartment, and adopted the six members of the (then) So. Calif. Chap. of the Sierra Club.

(Continued Pg. 4)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: See front page.

MEETINGS: SMS/SPS: Second Wednesday of month.
RCS: Third Wednesday of month.
Both meetings at 7:30 PM at the Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., LA

CALENDAR:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Location, and Leader. Includes dates from June 13-14 to July 25-26 and locations like Needles, Tahquitz, and Sequoia Nat. Park.

? Trips without two qualified leaders will be cancelled, so check before going out. Volunteers welcome!

July 17th RCS PROGRAM: BAFFIN ISLAND EXPEDITION! "The land that never melts." Peter Klika will present his slide show of his trek through the arctic wilderness with jagged, granite peaks, deep valleys and spectacular fjords.

MORE STUDENTS, PLEASE

Students who've gotten all their signoffs except leader protection placement are welcome to second instructors on multi-pitch climbs. They needn't lead pitches to climb, nor will anyone snicker if they don't opt to lead pitches. Some of us went for our first year seconding every pitch, not to mention those who've gone their first decade as very experienced seconds. (Snicker.) Students should call trip leaders a week ahead of time so leads can be arranged, especially so for Sierra climbs.

FIRST AID KITS

Any person who has in her or his custody an RCS first aid kit should call Mike Jelf (213-326-3430) so he can arrange to replace outdated items. Overdue returns will be treated in utter confidence.

SAN GORGONIO O.K!

When the entire world thought there was no more snow left in Southern California, Greg Jordan, Eddie Nunez and Pete Matulavich decided to give San Gorgonio one last try on Sunday, May 3rd, and discovered excellent conditions for Spring skiing.

Coverage on the slopes was about 60%, with abundant corn found in the bottom 2/3's of most of the chutes. We bagged San Gorgonio and then enjoyed a couple of good runs in the Draw. The best thing about the trip was that the road was open all the way to Poop-Out.

Quote of the day from Greg Jordan explaining telemarking to a couple of hikers we met on the summit:

"When the snow is good, we look good.
When the snow is bad, we look bad.
When the snow is average, we look bad."

NOTE:

SMS MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

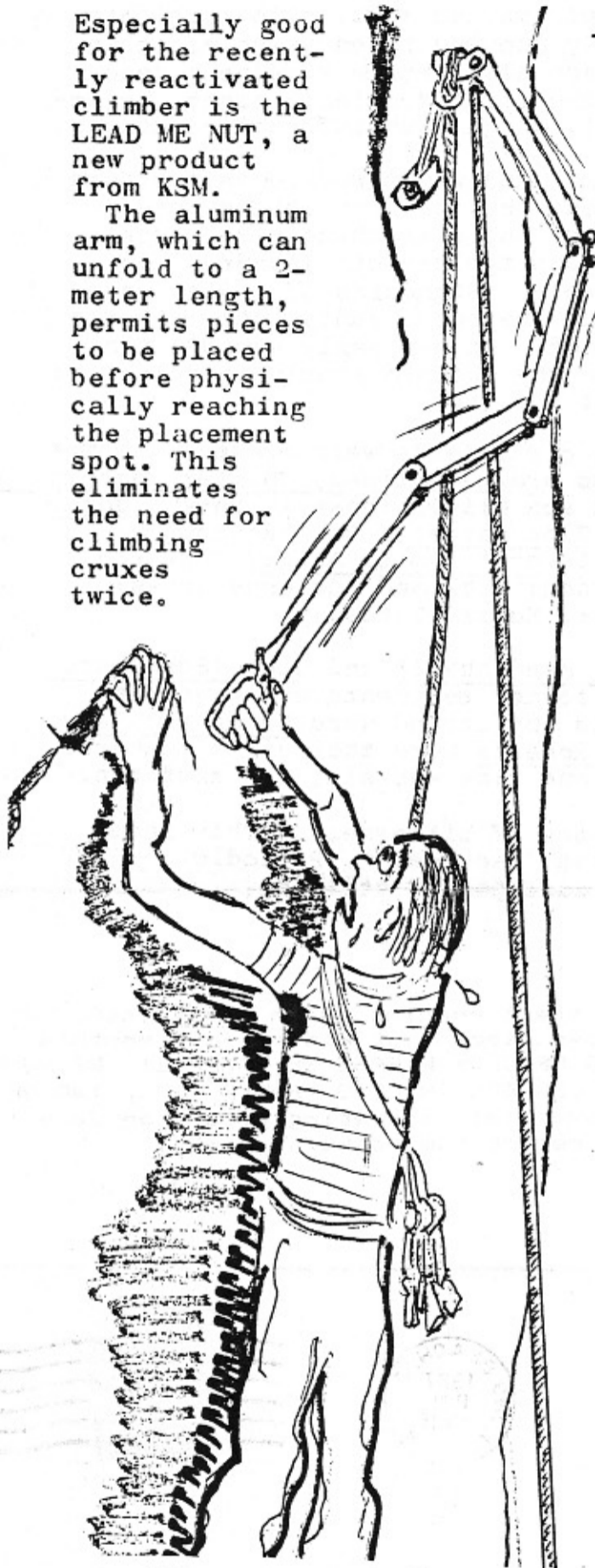
The SMS member and subscriber page included in the April Mugelnoos contained an error. The block of names from Joan Jones to Mike Layland is out of order and should be inserted between Thomas Jenkins and Ruth Lert. This can easily be done by encircling the whole block and drawing an arrow to the correct spot.

# INVENTORS:

KITCHEN SINK MOUNTAINEERING IS LOOKING FOR A FEW UNNEEDED IDEAS.

Especially good for the recently reactivated climber is the LEAD ME NUT, a new product from KSM.

The aluminum arm, which can unfold to a 2-meter length, permits pieces to be placed before physically reaching the placement spot. This eliminates the need for climbing cruxes twice.



In dim years past climbing was a simple matter of hammer, pins, 'biners, and rope. Yankee ingenuity and social organization had yet to be unleashed full-scale upon the peaks. The out-of-doors, in fact, was where odd lots went to escape machinery and red tape, even with the Sierra Club.

As recently as a quarter century ago, Los Angeles climbers smirked at the clipboard-and-coach's-whistle complication of the Seattle Mountaineers. (RCS proficiency cards didn't exist. Two practice climbs qualified you for Tahquitz, Tahquitz qualified for the Sierra; if you'd met the requirements someone would recognize you.)

In those innocent days another source of mirth was the offering of unique alpine products in the Little Gem Catalogue, an occasional cartoon seen in the Sierra Club Bulletin (later reglossed Sierra). Those products of the fertile imagination of May Pridham, sketched by David Brower, included rubber pitons (Why carry a hammer?), the exposure collar (to prevent downward glances) and the first sun block for skiers (a personal travel tent with eye holes).

Clever as these offerings were, they suffered the limitations of their day. Afflicted by habits of elegance and economy once endemic to the alpine craft, Little Gem's staff couldn't achieve the elaboration the modern marketplace demands.

It was to meet the need of the modern climber for an ever more complicated and expensive array of gadgetry (and to fill space in Mugelnoos) that Kitchen Sink Mountaineering was founded in 1984. The staff are gratified by the many comments received on Rackaway ®, the helium-filled rack lightener; Electri-Pro ®, the nuts which melt ice out of cracks; Pro-Tractor ®, the retriever of previously-placed protection. But we can't rest on our laurels (or inflatable Little Gem ice axe cushion). If you have ideas of your own, feel free to forward them. KSM will be happy to steal the most superfluous ideas it gets.

BASECAMP NOSTALGIA (Continued from Pg. 1)

Thrilled with the homey atmosphere, residents reveled in their new life. They worked hard all week at their paying jobs, club work, and the housework. On weekends, they really "poured it on" with mountain pursuits and hut work parties. The place also became Mugelnoos Headquarters (seventy-five guests came to the first Mugelnoos night, bringing the food and tidying up afterwards), and a Club information center.

To accomplish all household chores, a man and woman worked as partners for three weeks. Each week they changed jobs, of which there were three: - cooking (the worst); dishwashing; and everything else (such as floor-washing, garbage, and sheets and table-cloth laundry in the antique washing-machine, and yard work). Standards of living were high. There were many guests -- friends, parents, aunts, etc. At the end of three weeks, partners were changed. It was early Women's Lib. One male visitor said, "I just don't see why the men should be compelled to cook." He did not become a member of the group.

At the May 1987 reunion, the following old friends were present. Names of those who actually lived at Basecamp are underlined; Charter Members rate a \*. Ruth and Howard\* Koster and son Oliver (hosts); Nate & Joan\* (Dyar) Clark; Ruth (Dyar) Mendenhall\*; Glen Warner\*; Bob MacConaghy; Dan and Dot\* (Barlow) Taylor; Vere and LaVere\* (Root) Aulie; Chet and Evelyn Errett; Glen and Mary Helen Dawson; Dick and Adrienne Jones; Dean and Louise Ashcraft; Merlin Thayer; Howard Gates.

Two Charter Members have died, John D. Mendenhall\* and Olga (Schomberg) Hanson\*. Elsie and Dottie Strand are former residents who have also died. Other former residents who could not attend were Homer and Mary (Bennett) Fuller. John Voss and Ned Roberts were short-term members. The fewest to live at Basecamp at any one time was six, the most ten.

A stuffy guest once remarked with a trace of bitterness, "This seems to be the kind of place where people say 'Tee-hee.'" Periodic reunions in after years show that the same people still do.

RDM

COMING: The RCS "Safety Column" will start running again next month. The first columnist will be Mark Cole (whose piece just missed this month's issue). MEANWHILE, WILL OUR BEGINNING LEADERS PLEASE BE CAREFUL! WE HAVE HAD THREE SERIOUS LEADER FALLS BY NEW LEADERS IN LESS THAN A YEAR, TWO OF THEM IN THE PAST MONTH. The Safety Committee is meeting after the June 17 Mugelnoos meeting to consider ways to reduce the risks. MK

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1987 RCS-P