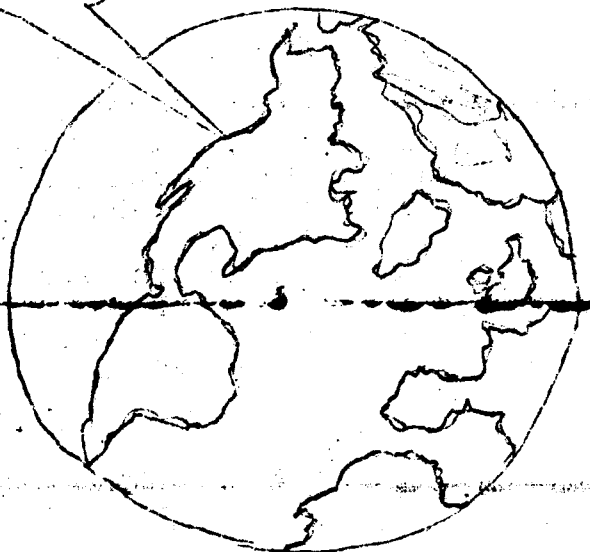


Bear Track

Stop the planet,
Lou wants off! *



* When Lou Goodman objected to singin "Venezuela" as a round, Greg Smith made this statement.

VOL. 22, NO. 3

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
HIKING CLUB

DECEMBER, 1969

TAHQUITZ AT THANKSGIVING

With calculated malice and reasoned delight the seven Bay Area climbers in John Shogle's Thames bus drove into the Riverside County Campground at Idylwild at 7 a.m. November 27 after riding all night and proceeded to wake up the collapsed members of Ray Lucas' car group, who had climbed into sleeping bags an hour and a half before. Thus started a climbing holiday which lacked sleep but nothing else.

Nearly twenty people from northern California - Sierra Clubbers, UCHCers, and just plain climbers - made the trip south to be joined by more than that number from the L.A. area. The newcomers learned that Tahquitz is a round rock with many corners, the sun climbs only the southern routes, and there is some awfully good climbing if one can make it to Lunch Rock. Exactly who climbed what cannot be told here, but suffice it to say the trip produced its share of triumphs and minor tragedies. Most people got up what they aimed for, but even those who got off one route ended finishing another. Then there were the people who got on the right route but backed off muttering about dog leg cracks resembling no known breed. These wrongs could be taken to the campfire, where warmth and wine awaited, and righteous wrath could there declare all printed descriptions faulty. About the greatest campground tragedy was Roger Hope's jar of jam which broke inside his well-filled duffle bag.

Thursday and Friday the northern climbers had Tahquitz pretty much to themselves. Thursday the Ski Tracks had parties three deep waiting to try theout, the Fools' Rush had plenty of reckless people, the Switchbacks, Gallwas' Gallop, the Orange Peel, the West Lark and many more were done. Friday was more of the same but without the wind which had been with us the day before. By Saturday there were so many people about one could climb on the southwest buttress of the rock and count fourteen other people also climbing between the Finger Trip and Jensen's Jaunt. That was the last day of our stay, as Sunday was devoted to the trip home.

The trips down and back - over 600 miles each way - would have to be related in book form to do them justice. It seems if one gets going at the hour one aims for, one has an auto accident before making the city limits. However, one's car can run with dented fender and a wheel out of align, so one keeps going. Then if one stops for dinner in Chowchilla, one must allocate a good hour to get served. But nothing can equal the motherly waitress in Banning who takes after one Honeychile Pratt. All in all, 'twas a grand trip. -- Marcia Lightbody

A mountain rescue group has been formed with a nucleus of UCHC members. Persons interested in joining should examine the information on the M.S. bulletin board. Climbers, cavers, and caring hikers can be useful. -- W.D.L.

PINNACLE POINT CAVE TRIP (NOV. 22)

About 2 A.M. Sunday morning we embarked from Deena Zonlight's folk sing with Ann Dacey, Bob Buddemeier, Howard Sturgis, Helen McGinnis, Tom Aley, Kathy Connell, Al Kaplan and Lou Goodman, all packed happily in the Blunder-Bus. We arrived at a field in the area of the cave at 6 A.M. Howard and Lou left immediately for nearby Wool Hollow Cave and the rest of the party slept until 9 A.M. After picking up Howard and Lou, as they were completing their exploration, we proceeded to Pinnacle Point. Howard and Lou were still hungry, as they missed breakfast, so they stayed at the car to eat while the rest went up to the cave. About half way there, Tom said he knew a short cut. With the infamous words "follow me" we left the trail. After a nearly vertical ascent up a scree slope using dried poison oak bushes for hand and foot holds, we reached the cave. Howard, who didn't know any better, and Lou who did, followed the trail and arrived shortly after we did.

The entrance to the cave is a twelve foot descent followed by a twenty five foot ladder drop. A small crawlway then led to a large horizontal room whose far end contained a lake. We had been warned to take bathing suits along (supposedly to swim in the Stanislaus) but Kathy had forgotten, so clothes and all..... The lake depth was neck high on Ann and Kathy and the bottom was covered with a foot of ooze. Twenty feet across the lake is a small inverted U-shaped passage way about nine inches wide and about fifteen inches space above the waterline, with three to four feet of narrow water filled chimney below the water line. This passage quickly led to a mud room with a steep, sloping, slippery mud floor. A mud covered crawlway led down to still another mud room which contained some extensive box-work. Tom had the foresight to bring a submersion suit and he laughed at the discomfort of the rest of us.

As we were preparing to leave the box-room, a familiar voice complaining with an even more familiar "Grumphf" signaled the arrival of Ray de Saussure and party, who were also wearing submersion suits. On the way out of the box-room, the downward crawlway became upward, much to the annoyance of some of the taller cavers. There were, however, some sharp rocks sticking through the mud providing for some painful toe-holds. The water didn't seem so cold on the way back, perhaps because of the warming thought of dry clothes on the other side.

On arrival at the other side, Lou Goodman was found stretched out fast asleep. When he woke up he told of his exploration of a tight series of passages near the bottom of the ladder. He said that in one particular passage he had just passed through a tight place (he knew it was tight as it crushed some flash bulbs he had in his shirt pocket), when he stopped as he thought he heard someone approaching. He fell asleep in this position. On waking up he left this section, meeting Ray as he came in and went to the room nearest the lake where he waited for the group to return (falling asleep in the process).

Ray asked Tom if he had any excess condensation in the dry suit, to which Tom replied no. Ray then said with a Grumphf that he had, as he poured several quarts of water out of the bottom of his suit.

The exit was remembered because Kathy's wet clothes made a slippery passage for all who followed her (as well as making the way very cold for her). Howard decided he didn't want to climb the ladder out; he would rather climb the rock. He finally succeeded after half an hour, an eventual belay, many falling rocks, and increasingly louder protest of "I hate chimneys." We left the cave at 5:30 and arrived home at 10 P.M.

John Faust

THE EDITOR will try to revive a long dead section of the Bear Track, the Gossip Column. If you have any information about club members, past or present, that would be of interest to their friends in the club, drop a note into the Bear Track envelope in Room C.

" Castle Crags ? What, me go?"

After practically loosing everybody and ending up with enough for a party of four, the time to leave was set for 5:00 AM on Fri. Morning from Ann Morton's. At 5:00, however, we discovered that Mike Ruddenmam (the) driver) had over slept and would not arrive till 6:00. At 6 when he arrived Anne and I loaded the car with our gear. We were ready to go; however, Eetsy Robertson, the fourth member of our party, had not shown up. Finally after trying to call and finally going over to her apartment we found that she had decided not to go.

Thus it was at about 7:00 that we finally departed from Berkeley after almost deciding not to go, then almost deciding to go to Yosemite, but finally deciding to go to Castle Crags as planned. We arrived about 1:00, found our camp and then hiked up the Crags trail to view the scenery and look over the climbing. The end of this trail is in amongst several high peaks which promised good climbing the next day. We hiked back and returned to camp.

Once in camp we gathered firewood and built a campfire. We then made a common pot of individual commissaries and followed with various stories.

The next day we almost climbed up to the top of one of the peaks but the time limit forced us to retreat. Back at camp when I went over to start the stove up, I almost tripped over a 4th sleeping bag. On inquiry Don McGrew poked his head out and blinked sleepily. It turned out that he had hitch hiked up. Thus this evening's meal was even more interesting as we had 4 individual commissaries to draw from.

The next day when Don, Mike and Anne went up to 7 lakes basin, I stayed in camp and enjoyed myself. About one o'clock 5 people come into a nearby camp where a stationwagon had been parked since we arrived there. One of the 5 turned out to be Phil Scott who had hitch hiked up on Wed, and had met up with a group from Sanford with whom he had been backpacking and climbing. He returned with them and about 4:30 the rest of our group returned and so we had a musical return to Berkeley.

I only wonder why more people don't go up to do this area, which affords beautiful scenery and marvelous climbing.

Lou R. Goodman

Proposing a UCHC Spare-time and Unofficial Walking Society

In view of the fact that the HC is primarily for people who like outdoors, and with the knowledge that a good number of the members who like the outdoors cannot partake of most of the club's scheduled for a full day, overnight, a weekend or longer (because of jobs, families, or studying, we would like to propose a list of members who would be interested in "short" walks, hikes, climbs, bike hikes, etc. at odd hours and days of the week to local parks, roads, and rocks (for instance, some of the members have Thursday afternoon free from 4 PM to 7 PM. They could ride to Tilden and hike along some of Tilden's trails.

We would like to make these trips impromptu, relatively short, and at complementary times to the clubs scheduled activities, and use as little equipment as possible.

Unless the participating members desire otherwise, it might be best to remain unofficial, without any "organized" leadership, and with little pre-scheduling.

The purposes of the Society will be:

1. To permit more participation in short trips during the weekends the club has scheduled long trips;
2. To propose a means for more active participation by those whose weekends are not free, and in doing so;
3. To provide more active member-participation by those who otherwise cannot benefit from membership in the club.

We have started a list of people interested. The list is in Room C.
John Faust, Barbara Litz

AN OPEN LETTER:

It has come to our attention that this Hiking Club does not hike. We propose to remedy this by the formation of a Hiking Section. A special section is necessary because this Hiking Club, which purports itself to be an outdoor oriented group, has a very limited scope. Most Activities are confined to more or less specialized fields, i.e., caving, rock climbing, and backpacking, all of which require special skills, equipment, and large amounts of time. This drastically limits the participation of those carrying heavy study or outside work loads, or those interested simply in hiking. This is evident in the large membership roll compared with the actual number of active participants. The large group of non-participants must have paid their dollars for more than just the privilege of receiving the Bear Track. There have been almost no activities for them. Their interest has been shown by the increased participation when hikes have been offered. This is not to say that we advocate the dissolution of the Caving and Mountaineering Sections. We feel that they have their place and purpose in this club. But, at the same time, should not crowd out those interested in hiking.

The purpose of the proposed Hiking Section would be to sponsor and organize low cost one day or week-end trips in the local area. Also, to provide a means for those interested to contact one another for impromptu spare-time hikes. Would all interested persons please drop by Room C (in the basement of Eschleman Hall), and let us know of your interest. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Greg Smith, John Faust, and Barbara Litz

Such a section already exists in the club, the Hiking Committee, whose purpose is just that of the proposed Hiking Section would be. So far only five people have bothered to sign up; two of those are not primarily hikers. Only one of the people who has shown interest in joining the Walking Section belongs to the Hiking Committee.

This semester only three day hikes were planned, admittedly too few. The blame lies with the hikers last semester who didn't bother to press for more hikes. The hiking schedule for next semester has been tentatively planned; a meeting will be held Monday December 14, at noon in the club office to approve or change it. Let's see all the hikers here. If you can't make the meeting but would like to see a particular kind of activity scheduled next semester, or could lead a hike, leave a note on the bulletin board addressed to the Hiking Committee.

Editor

FROM THE HIKING COMMITTEE: IN-BETWEEN SEMESTERS' TRIP

The possibilities for this trip have been tentatively narrowed to two: either to northern Baja California or to the Arizona desert (probably the Chiricahus Mountains). Baja California, visited by the club three years ago on one of our most unforgettable trips, usually offers plenty of sunshine (except when the club was there in '57), an opportunity to visit Mexican people, day hikes in a variety of country-deserts, pine forested mountains, and beaches, and possibly backpacking.

Climbers, cavers, and hikers would all find plenty to keep them busy in the Arizona desert. If enough people show interest, a desert knapsacking trip may be planned.

In any case, most cars will probably leave around January 26 or 27 and return February 3 or 4 in time for registration and pre-enrollment.

A meeting of the Hiking Committee and all others interested will be held Wednesday noon, December 16, in Room C to decide where we are going and hopefully to choose a leader(s). If you are planning to be on the trip, come to the meeting or indicate where you would like to go on the sign-up sheet provided. We are especially interested in meeting members who may be acquainted with either region and would like to help lead a trip there.

WISHING YOU A VERY

Merry Christmas

FROM THE BEAR TRACK STAFF

PINNACLES

Twenty-nine enthusiastic members of the UCHC tackled Pinnacles National Monument's trails, caves, and of course pinnacles, the week-end of November 14-15. Fall colors were not evident as the first contingents struggled in shortly after midnight. The first sign of life noticed was the "friendly" racoon snarling and barking at the intrusion. More racoons appeared than human visitors.

"Bright and early" Saturday morning such Hiking Club stalwarts as Tom Aley, Keith Howard, Ray Lucas, Lou Goodman, and Charlie Raymond, not to mention our esteemed president, Bill Gardner, struggled into their climbing gear for the ascent of the beckoning pinnacles. Actually the sun had reached its zenith before the climbers clambered successfully on their way. Hikers such as Lev A.... roamed the trails of the monument.

For me the most satisfying moments came when Lou, Ray, Elizabeth Robertson, and other "experts" whose names slip me now, belayed me up a pinnacle for my first (after five years in the club) climb! I kept demanding tension on the rope and grabbed it several times as I slipped and slid up and across the rock---but I made it. In one crevass I noticed a blooming sticky monkey flower. This impressed me deeply due to its contrast to the vegetation on the level which had shrivelled and dried up to an ugly dusty brown. The view of the soaring pinnacles of reddish lava was spectacular from above. They looked like a march of gigantic spires. The golden glow of the setting sun turned all sights into an unforgettable golden orange.

Breaking away from personal feelings, I ought to comment that the traditional tire fire attracted all to a highly successful evening of folk singing featuring Tom Aley and other accomplished guitarists and Ann Lacey and other warbling folk singers. That same evening, before the tire ritual, Tom Aley (not soused) led the traditional scramble through the Caves.

Sunday proved to be another beautiful sunny day, and another day of hiking and climbing tempted all. Sunday night Dick and Vi Armstrong, who now reside in Campbell, entertained thirty hungry hiking clubbers at a sumptuous "feast."

Martin J. Zonligt

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 13 Bike Hike
 Tuesday, Dec. 15 General Meeting, 2nd floor lounge, Stephen's U.

Slides of Central America, taken by Ray Lugas on a hitchhiking trip in 1958 and on a motorcycle trip early this year, will be shown. Each trip included all the countries of Central America except British Honduras. After the show, Ray will answer questions about travel in this area, and the club's new officers will be introduced.

Friday, Dec. 18 Christmas Party

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Dec. 26 or 27? Ski touring-snowshoe trip
 Inquire in Rm. C.

BACKPACKING Dec. 30-Jan. 3

There will be a backpacking trip over New Year's leaving Wednesday evening, Dec. 30th, and returning Sunday evening, Jan. 3rd.

We'll be crossing the Santa Lucia Mountains near Carmel, starting at Big Sur State Park and ending at Los Padres Dam in the Carmel Valley.

Elaborate equipment is not needed; although the distance is long, it is over established trails. Food will be bought for the group.

Please call Don Wainwright at TH 1-4239 if you are interested.

ACHTUNG !!

Alle von du Fun Lovin' People. Der Christmas Partei willt am 18 Dec. (Friday) geheld. Maeten at der westlich gaten at 6:00 haben gewordan sein (usw.). Bringen sie ein presenta, si vous please (liken der schale von schildkrota), und signen sie in der Roomen C, so dass die kocken dann tellen how many (ist ein progressender dinn)

typen start) (11 cho

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - MT. DIABLO HIKE

Here's your last chance to forget the trials of civilization--final exams--! Come along and enjoy a trail which is a stranger to tin cans, papers, and people. We'll start halfway up lunch at Lovers' Leap, ascend to the drinking fountain, and leave the tourists behind when we start on the North Peak Trail. There's even a little sliding and rock scrambling you can take in, so hiking boots aren't amiss, but tennis shoes will do. On a clear day the view extends from the snow-covered (I hope there is snow by then) Sierra to the East, to Mt. Tam to the West, Mt. Hamilton to the Southeast, and Napa Valley to the North. If the skies look clear Sunday morning, shorts and a sweater are in order, if not use your own discretion.

Bill Gardiner

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS !!

The UCHC has just bought a new scrap book, and we hope to bring it up to date. If you have any photographs you have taken of club activities, I'm sure others in the club would enjoy seeing them. The club will pay you for the prints.

Editor

MEMBERSHIP LIST. CORRECTIONS

Crasno, Paul M.....TH 5-4364

NEW MEMBERS

Bookman, Bruce.....2650 Durant Ave.....TH 1-6313
ext. 400 Putnam

Burns, Carol.....2732 Durant Ave.....TH 5-9181

Gagnon, Ralph.....2420 Ridge Road.....TH 5-9430

Kent, Patricia.....2390 Parker, #12.....TH 8-8746

Kray, Susan.....2650 Durant Ave.....TH 1-6313
ext. 411 Cheney

Smith, Virginia.....765 San Diego Road.....LA 4-6012

Suckman, Larry.....2650 Durant Ave.....TH 1-6313
ext. 405 Putnam

White, Matt.....2626 College.....no phone

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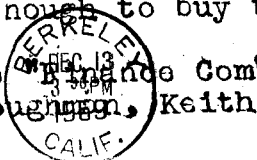
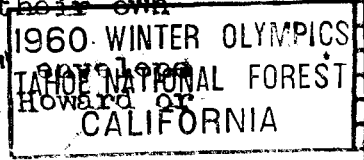
Mimeographers: Howard Sturgis,
Keith Howard

ATTENTION PARSIMONIOUS SPENDTHRIFTS! !

The club has \$150 to spend. We want your ideas on how to spend it. We have a couple of ideas:

- 1. A mountain tent (this is an expensive item for one individual to have to buy just to use a couple of times a year);
- 2. Some inexpensive sleeping bags with washable liners, so that those new members who don't yet know if they like to sleep out well enough to buy their own can find out if they do.

If you have any comments, put them in the Finance Com' envelope on the bul-board, or see Bill Loughman, Mike Loughman, Keith Howard or John Faust.



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Bill Gardner
2020 Art # 2 Debiwane
Berkeley

